



Rotary International President-elect Olayink Babalola announced the theme for the Rotary year 2026-27. He called on Rotarians to **Create Lasting Impact** by making their clubs more welcoming, carrying out impactful projects, and allowing their Rotary experiences to transform them personally.

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

“Rotary has changed us. It has shaped who we are and made us better people” Babalola said at Rotary’s International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 12 January. “We often talk about changing the world. We talk about ending polio, about building peace. We do not think enough about how Rotary transforms us.”

“As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future,” he said. “To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact.” RIPE Olayinka Hakeem Babalola has an outstanding journey of service, built on commitment, vision, and true Rotary values. His leadership is a source of pride for Africa and for the global Rotary community. We are confident his term will inspire, unite, and strengthen the spirit of **Service Above Self**.

From the Editor's Desk

Dear Fellow Rotarian,

One of the quiet strengths of being human is our ability to adapt and change our minds. Yet, paradoxically, it is also something we resist the most. We often treat our opinions and habits as possessions which we are reluctant to lose. In an everchanging world where new information emerges every day, the willingness to rethink, revise, and relearn is no longer optional - it is essential. We need to understand and evaluate evolving circumstances and embrace change when necessary.



At the heart of changing our minds lies the simple, often underestimated act of listening. Listening with an open mind means more than just hearing quietly; it means genuinely considering perspectives different from our own. When we listen without defensiveness, we allow new ideas to enter. When we listen instead of planning what we are going to say next, we make space for different ideas. Even when we do not immediately agree, if we listen we may be able to challenge assumptions we may not have realised we were holding onto.

Learning something new does more than add to our store of knowledge, it reshapes how we see the world. When we open ourselves to fresh ideas, we also open doors to new opportunities. A changed perspective can lead to better decisions, deeper empathy, and probably even unexpected paths we might never have considered. A lot can happen when we are willing to listen, to try new things, new technologies, new habits, new ways of engaging with people and problems.

Changing our minds and ways is not a sign of weakness. On the contrary, it reflects confidence and intellectual honesty. It can be a sign of growth!. Trying something new carries the risk of failure, but it also carries the promise of progress. Every attempt expands our understanding of what is possible.

The danger lies in remaining stuck in comfort zones. When we cling to the things we keep doing day after day, we risk closing ourselves off from reality. Rigid thinking narrows possibility and keeps us trapped, blinding us to opportunities.

When we are willing to change it means that we are holding our beliefs with humility, listening generously, and forever staying willing to learn. When we allow the world to transform us, we keep ourselves open to a future shaped by curiosity and opportunity rather than fear and convenience.

Yours in Rotary

Daksha Bhat

“The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man”

-George Bernard Shaw



JANUARY 2026

02 Eye Camp -Burnside Estate Kotagiri

04 Fireside 2nd Group
Weekly Meeting

13 Weekly Meeting
Speaker Meeting

19 Eye Camp -Ulikal hatty

20 Weekly Meeting

26 Eye Camp -Miliden Hatty Kotagiri

27 Weekly Meeting
Eye Camp -Mallanur Estate Coonoor

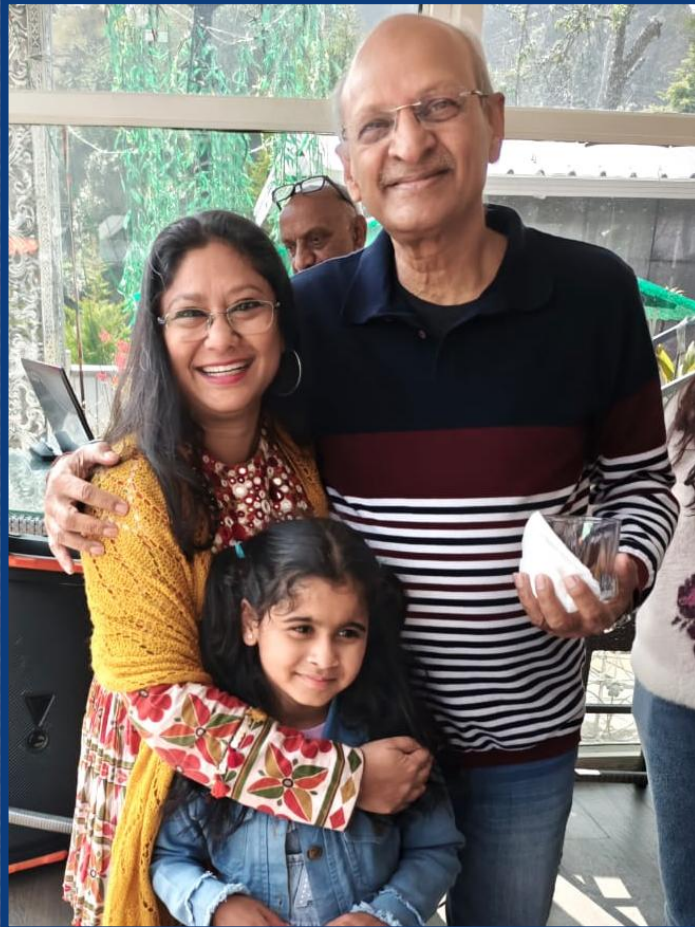
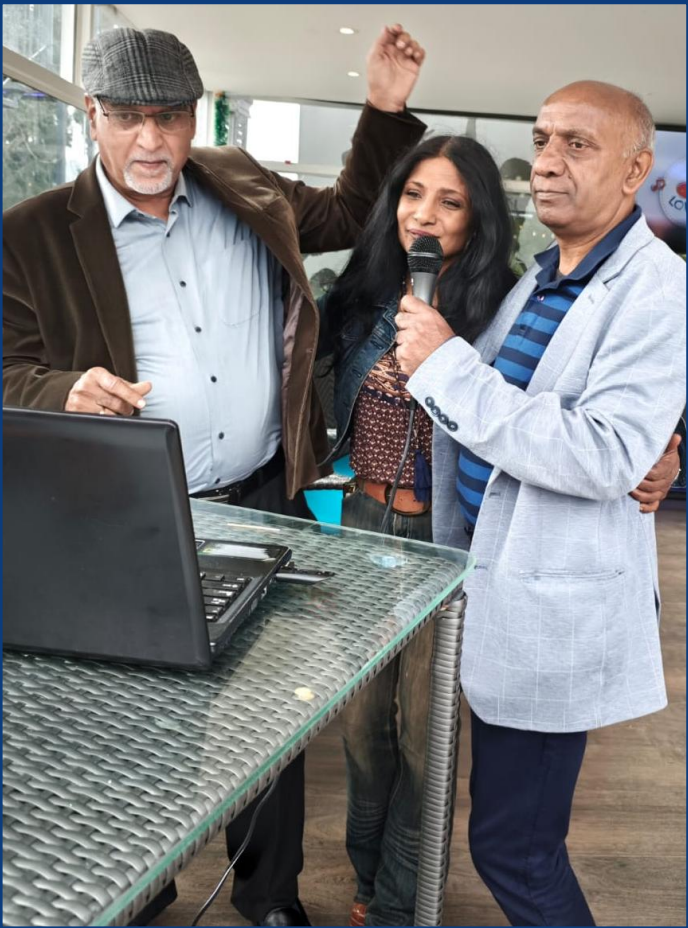
29 Visit of Kotak CSR team to PUMS Bettati
Interact District Conference
Eye Camp -Mount Road Coonoor

The year 2026 started off with a bang, thanks to the wonderful fireside planned by Group 2. We had the pleasure of inducting the 50th member in our club. This was a great way to welcome Rtn. Sanyogeeta Kulkarni and the New Year!



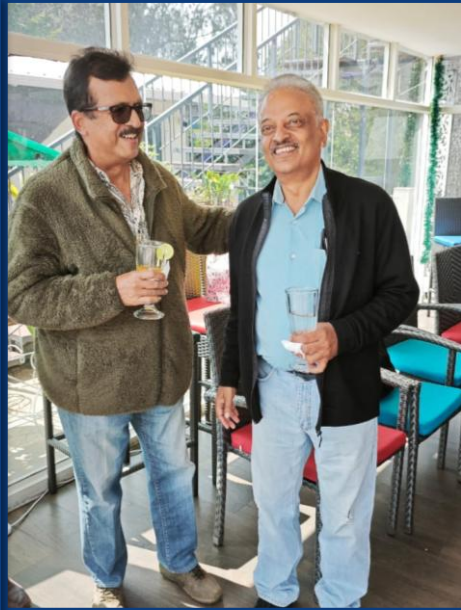






Fun frolic and fellowship with some awesome music! 🎵





Future Rotarians participated too



Events



Rtn Sheela Bhasin shared some lovely photos of the presentation of the AKS certificate to Rtn Shirley at Illinois, Chicago.

FEBRUARY

Rotary
The Nilgiris



Peacebuilding &
Conflict Prevention Month

B

Interact

The First Interact District cultural event competition & conference was conducted at Palaniappa International Sr Secondary School Avinashi. The conference was attended by over 800 Interactors from various schools across Rotary District 3203.

Around one hundred Interactors from Nilgiris participated with full vigor in the event. The enthusiasm and commitment of the Interactors was commendable.

🏆 Unique Public school Ooty won the first prize in debate as well as dance competitions & were awarded the overall championship with a cash prize of Rs 25000.

🏆 Brindavan Public school Coonoor won the third prize in dance, an event where the challenge was quite stiff and all students performed exceedingly well.

Gift hampers were given to 800 students. Rtn Raunak Jain provided Eucalyptus oil & Ooty Varky was provided by Rtn Murali of Moddy's.

The 4 way test

Rotary
The Nilgiris



of the things we think, say, and do

- is it the **Truth**
- is it **Fair** to all concerned
- will it build **Goodwill** & better friendships
- will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned

DB

Events



Jan 13, 2026, 12:27

20 blankets received from Mrs Jyoti Agarwal of Coimbatore, courtesy Rtn Deepika Unni, were donated to MN Trust and gratefully accepted in this unusually cold weather. 13th Jan



Rotaractors Farhana and Cerena addressed members and presented an orientation about Rotaract and its various aspects. Rotaractor Cerena spoke about the activities of the Rotaract club of JSS Ooty 20th Jan





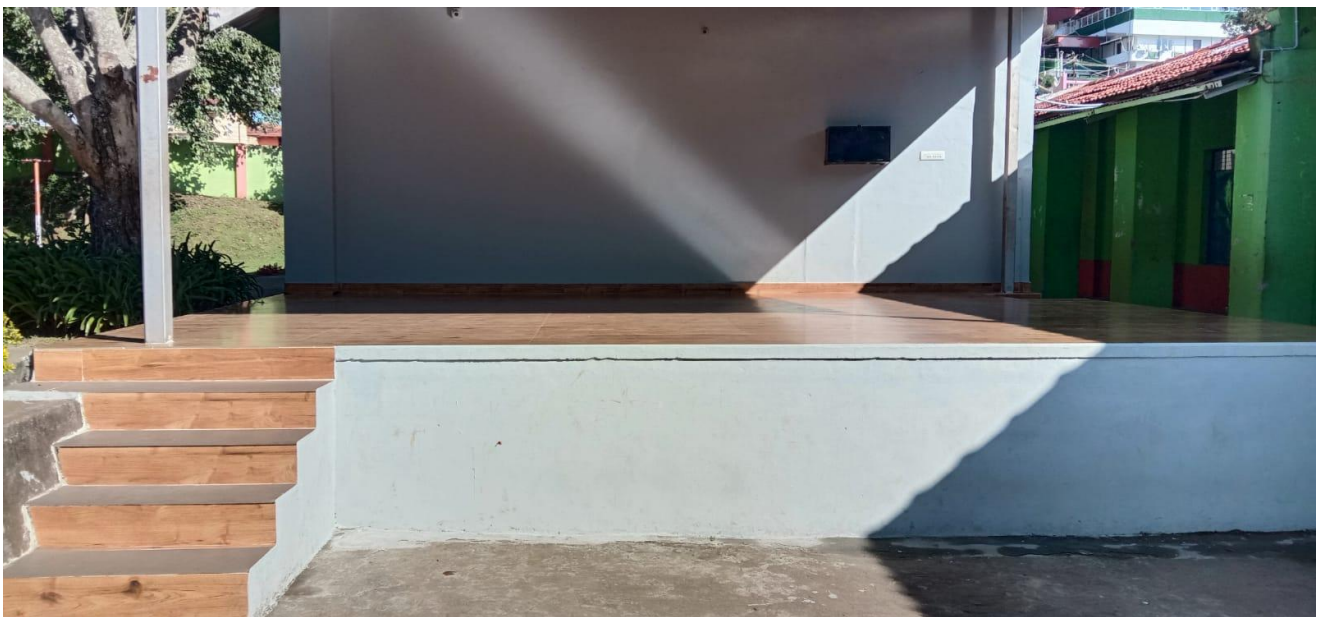
The Kindergarten classroom coming up

A CSR team from Kotak Mahindra visited the school at Bettatti. They were very pleased, appreciating the value that has been added to the lives of the people of the Nilgiris.

This was followed by a detailed briefing on the school and an inspection of each of the facilities provided.

An extensive interaction with the children in their respective classrooms was a highlight as it brought out the impact of our joint endeavour very effectively.

The further planned works, with cost estimates was also shared with them. Feasibility of partnership in future medical projects was discussed.



The stage renovated and tiled.

Eye Camps



Burnside Estate Kotagiri



Mount Road Coonoor



Mallanur Estate Coonoor



Miliden Hatty Kotagiri



Ulikal Hatty

February



Birthdays

04 Ann Shahin Spouse of Rtn Tini Korah

10 Rtn Sunaina Mathews

13 Annet Girish Son of Rtn Venkatraman C R

19 Rtn Falguni Chakravarty

20 Ann J T Mathews Spouse of Rtn Sunaina

24 Rtn Mohan Kumar P R

Rtn Krishn Dev T M

27

Annet Andrew Son of Rtn Norman Wood

(29) Ann Diana Spouse of Rtn. Pradeep Pandiaraj

Anniversaries

05 Rtn Mukund J

Rtn Krishn Dev T M

08

Rtn Sushil Shanthilal Parekh

Rtn Sunaina Mathews

20

Rtn Norman Wood

