

The DownTowner

Vol 002 | August 2025

Table Of Contents

Charter Date: 7th May 2008

Club Meetings 2,3,4,5,6

STEM Project Announcement 7

DG Installation Ceremony 8,9,10,11

Project - Blood Donation Camp 12

Project – Matoshree Medical Camp 13,14,15

Doctors Day Celebration and Felicitation 16, 17

Project – Tree Plantation 18

Fellowship @ The Mahavarkar's Farmhouse 19,20

Project – Distribution of School Kits 21

Project – Stress Management Workshop 22

District Shukriya 23,24,25

Induction of New Member 26

Club Shukriya 27,28,29

Highlights: Club Members in Action 30,31

Happy Announcements 32

Club Meetings

5th July 2025 – The club meeting was held at Satkar Residency, Thane West. Marking the first official gathering of the Titen Year, the evening featured the **AG Assembly and Budget Presentation**. AG Randhir Singh Rathod had the honor of pinning **CS Prashant Karkhanis** with the **Paul Harris pin**. **Club Treasurer Amol** presented the proposed budget for **Rotary Year 2025-26**.

The highlight of the evening was the heartwarming **"Ghar Vapasi"** of **Past President Ashutosh Bhalerao**, who was formally inducted back into the club by **DGN Chandrahas Shetty**.



"Rotary meetings aren't just gatherings—they're where ideas spark, friendships grow, and service begins."

Club Meetings

12th July 2025 The club meeting held at Satkar Residency featured a spiritually enriching session by **Ms. Anushree Anil Lotlikar**, who has been honored by **Shringeri Peetham** as a *Bhagavad Gita and Sant Sahitya Abhyasak*. She spoke on the theme **"Krishnam Vande Jagat Gurum"**, offering profound insights into the relevance of the **Bhagavad Gita** in today's context. The speaker was warmly introduced by **Rtn. Aparna Shet**, and a heartfelt vote of thanks was delivered by **PE Biju Gopalan**.

"कृष्णं वन्दे जगद्गुरुम्" (Krishnam Vande Jagadgurum) is a Sanskrit phrase that translates to "I bow to Krishna, the Guru of the Universe".



Krishnam refers to **Lord Krishna**, a revered figure in Hinduism known as a divine prince, hero, and spiritual teacher.

Vande means "I bow to" or "I offer my salutations", expressing deep respect and devotion.

Jagadgurum translates to **"Teacher of the Universe,"** emphasizing Lord Krishna's role as a universal guide and source of timeless wisdom.

Club Meetings

19th July 2025 –The weekly club meeting was held at **Satkar Residency, Thane**. The speaker for the evening, **Ms. Anuja Karande**, delivered a compelling and insightful talk on **Travel Experiences**. Her presentation shed light on the deeper meaning of travel and its vital role in shaping **India's economic strategy**, leaving the audience both enlightened and inspired.



**"Take only memories,
leave only footprints"**



Club Meetings

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary
Club Thane Down Town



10
TITEN

Weekly Meeting 26 July 2025 (Saturday)
Induction of Dr. Dhiraj Agrawal in our Club

Topic : Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Speaker : Mr. Shayak Mazumder

Brief about Speaker

- Visiting Professor at Various Universities
- Key Note Speaker AI, Digital Transformation & Leadership.
- CEO & CTO of Adya AI regarded as world's most advanced agentic - AI Platform



Fellowship 7:30 am to 8:00 am

Meeting 8:00 Am to 9:00 Am

@ Satkar Residency Pokhran RD 1 Thane

26th July 2025—A captivating session on **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** was held at **Satkar Residency** at 8:00 AM, featuring **Mr. Shayak Mazumder** as the guest speaker. A **former Naval Commander**, Mr. Mazumder is widely recognized for his expertise in AI, his leadership in digital transformation, and his stature as a highly sought-after speaker.

He was introduced by **President Sunil**, and the **vote of thanks**, along with a **Mid-Day Meal Certificate**, was presented by **DGN Chandrahas Shetty**.

Mr. Shayak Mazumder, who spoke on the evolving world of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. He explained that while **AI** refers to the broad concept of creating intelligent machines capable of human-like tasks, **Machine Learning (ML)** is a subfield that focuses specifically on teaching machines to learn from data without explicit programming. Simply put, **AI is the ultimate goal**, and **ML is a means to achieve it**.

Mr. Mazumder emphasized the importance of **building your own AI**, rather than being a passive user of it. He urged the audience to learn how to build AI—but with caution—so as **not to be consumed by it**, reminding everyone that **human empathy remains irreplaceable**.

Cont.....

"AI will not replace humans, but those who use AI will replace those who don't."

– Ginni Rometty,
Former CEO of IBM.



"The future of AI is not about replacing humans, it's about augmenting human capabilities."

– Sundar Pichai,
CEO of Google.



Club Meetings

He introduced key concepts such as **Large Language Models (LLMs)**, the **difference between workflows and agents**, and an emerging idea: the **Super agent**. A live demonstration of Super agents added a dynamic touch to his session.

He also shared insights into the **"Known Known, Known Unknown, and Unknown Unknown"** framework, leaving the audience with much to reflect on in the fast-paced world of AI.



Our Club meetings are held on all Saturdays at Satkar Residency, Thane west. Club Members and their families are encouraged to join in large numbers. 7.30 am to 8.00 am fellowship. 8.00 am to 9.00 am Club Meeting. Looking forward to seeing you all !!!

Announcement of STEM Project

5th July 2025 - DGND Chandrahas Shetty announced that the club successfully partnered with USF last year and will be continuing the project this year as well. In the previous year, CSR funding was secured with the support of Rtn. Nikhunj Zaveri, while this year, the support comes from our very own Rtn. Prakash Guhaji.

Amid the vast landscape of educational initiatives in India, Universe Simplified Foundation (USF) is emerging as a leading force in STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). According to the Future of Jobs Report 2023 by the World Economic Forum, essential workplace skills now include analytical thinking, creativity, adaptability, and agility—skills that must be nurtured from an early age.

The New Education Policy (NEP) has brought a much-needed shift towards holistic, experiential, and critical thinking-based education. However, access to inquiry-driven STEM learning remains limited to elite institutions—representing less than 0.1% of schools in India.

USF has been working for the past 8 years to bridge this gap by establishing low-cost, portable Innovation and Technology Hubs in under-resourced government schools.

These hubs aim to provide equitable STEM learning opportunities, on par with those offered in privileged settings. The focus is not only on technical skills but also on cultivating a growth mindset and 21st-century competencies like critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and local problem-solving.

A major highlight of the year was the outstanding performance of Zilla Parishad school students at both District- and State-level Hackathons, hosted by DIET Thane and SCERT Pune. In addition, STEM fairs were held across all partner schools, culminating in a grand Vigyan Mahotsav—a celebration of student innovation and learning.

Installation Ceremony of DG Harsh Makol

The installation ceremony was held at IRitz, Navi Mumbai, on 5th July 2025, with a vibrant theme centered around Ashadhi Ekadashi. The event began with a traditional Dindi procession, marking the grand entry of District Governor (DG) and First Lady Priya.

The Rotary Club of DownTown (RCDT) was honored with a Special Club Recognition Award, celebrating its outstanding contributions. The ceremonial lamp lighting was led by DGN Chandrahas Shetty, setting the tone for an inspiring evening.

RID, Flt Lt K P Nagesh addressed the gathering and shared key Rotary initiatives and aspirations:

- **Connecting People** - Rotary continues to connect individuals of action across the globe, united by a shared mission to create lasting good in the world.
- **Grow India** - This year, Rotary envisions India moving to the next level. The goal for the next five years is to double the number of Rotarians in the country, while also increasing the involvement of Rotaractors and Interactors to strengthen membership further.
- **Divide and Grow** - By expanding the number of districts and clubs, Rotary aims to foster organic growth and deeper local impact.
- **Mission 5000** - District 3142 has set an ambitious target of adding 5,000 new members this Rotary year.
- **Lead 25** - A regional conference is scheduled to take place in August at Hyderabad, uniting leaders across the zone.
- **Lead Governor** – IPDG Dinesh Mehta has been selected as the Lead Governor for Zone 4. He will mentor and guide Governor-Elects within the zone.
- **Grow CSR** - India is poised to become a USD 100 million giving nation. CSR partnerships are expected to play a pivotal role in scaling up contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

Glimpses of a Grand Evening: DG Installation Highlight



Rotary District 3142 | UNITE FOR GOOD | 10 TITEN

SPECIAL CLUB RECOGNITIONS

CLUB	AMOUNT in USD
RC Thane Northend	5000
RC Thane East	5000
RC Thane	5000
RC Thane Skyline	5000
RC Thane Downtown	5000

Glimpses of a Grand Evening: DG Installation Highlights

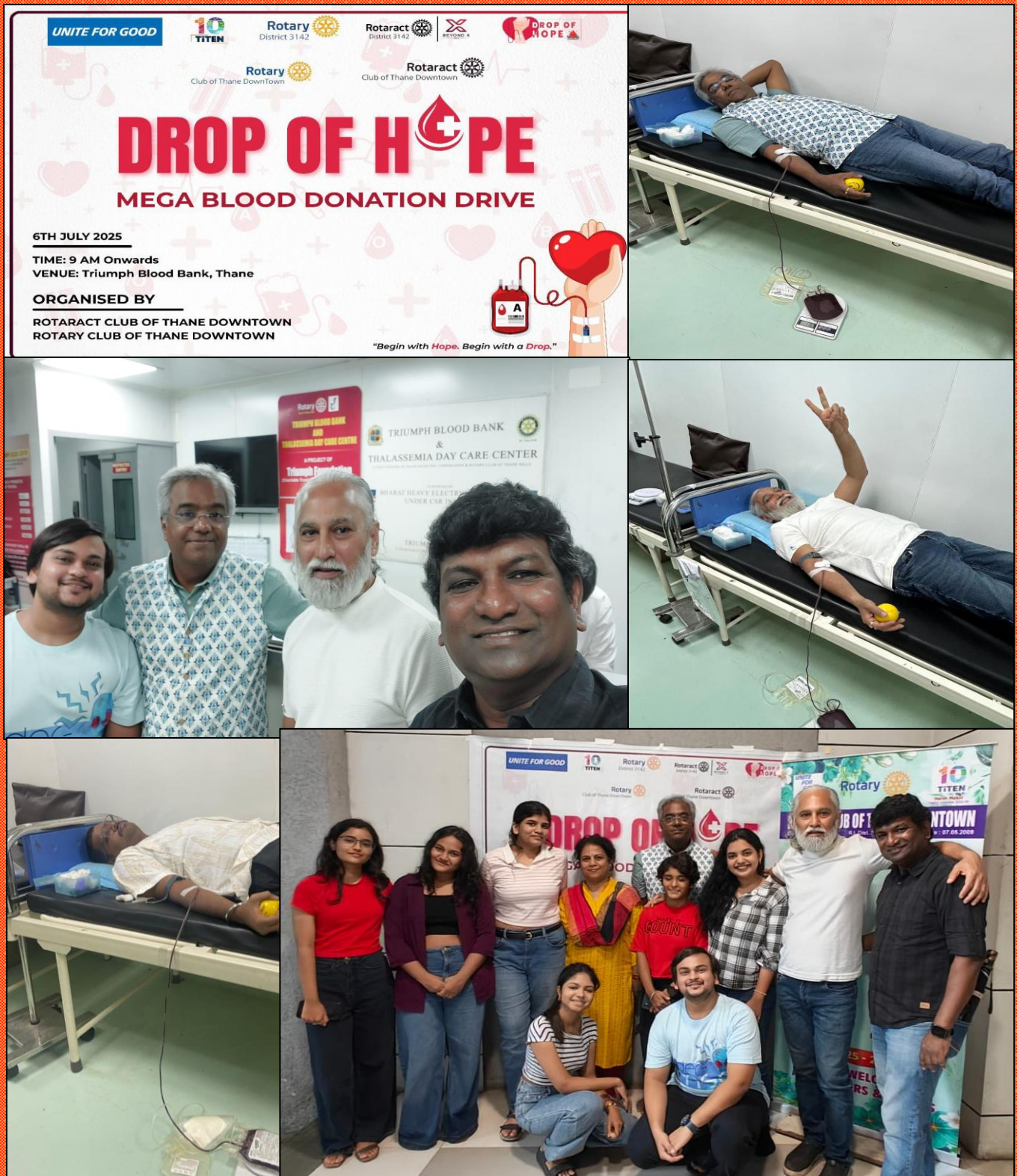


Glimpses of a Grand Evening: DG Installation Highlights



Blood Donation Camp

On 6th July 2025 blood donation camp was successfully held at **Triumph Blood Bank, Thane**, starting at **9:00 AM**. The event was a joint initiative, organized in collaboration with our **Rotaract Club**, and marked a commendable effort in community service.



"Share the gift of blood"

Project –

Medical Camp @ Matoshree Vrudhhashram

A free medical camp was organized at Matoshree Vruddhashram, **Khadavli** with the objective of promoting the health and well-being of the senior residents. The initiative provided comprehensive routine health checkups, medical consultations, and essential medications to support the elderly.

A committed team of doctors and volunteers offered services including:

- General health check-ups
- Blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring
- Eye examinations
- Physiotherapy consultations
- Distribution of basic medicines

The camp was a resounding success, bringing comfort, smiles, and a deep sense of care to the residents. **Rtn. Dr. B.K. Mahavarkar**, along with **Dr. Dushyant Bhadlikar**, **Dr. Atul Gajare**, **Rtn. Dr. Rajesh Butala**, **Dr. Bandana Butala**, **Rtn. Dr. Milind Kokate**, **Dr. Sneha Kokate**, and **Dr. Dhiraj Agrawal**, in collaboration with the **Matoshree staff**, successfully conducted the medical camp.

We are especially grateful to **Dr. B.K. Mahavarkar** for his generous **donation of medicines** for the camp. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the healthcare professionals and volunteers who selflessly contributed their time and expertise to this meaningful cause.

The **Medical Check-up Camp at Matoshree Vruddhashram** is a long-standing initiative pioneered by **CP Prakash Rao**, who has been consistently leading and supporting the project over the years with dedication and compassion.

Project – Medical Camp @ Matoshree Vrudhashram



Project –
Medical Camp @ Matoshree Vrudhhashram



We sincerely thank all the volunteers who generously gave their time, energy, and heartfelt support during the Medical Camp at Matoshree Vruddhashram.

“Whatever Rotary
may mean to us, to
the world it will be
known by the results
it achieves.”
Paul Harris,
Rotary founder



ROTARY MONTHLY THEMES

MONTH	DESIGNATION
JULY	No Special Designation
AUGUST	Membership & New Club Development
SEPTEMBER	 Basic Education and Literacy
OCTOBER	 Community Economic Development
NOVEMBER	Rotary Foundation
DECEMBER	 Disease Prevention and Treatment
JANUARY	Vocational Service
FEBRUARY	 Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention
MARCH	 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
APRIL	 Maternal and Child Health
MAY	Youth Service
JUNE	Rotary Fellowships

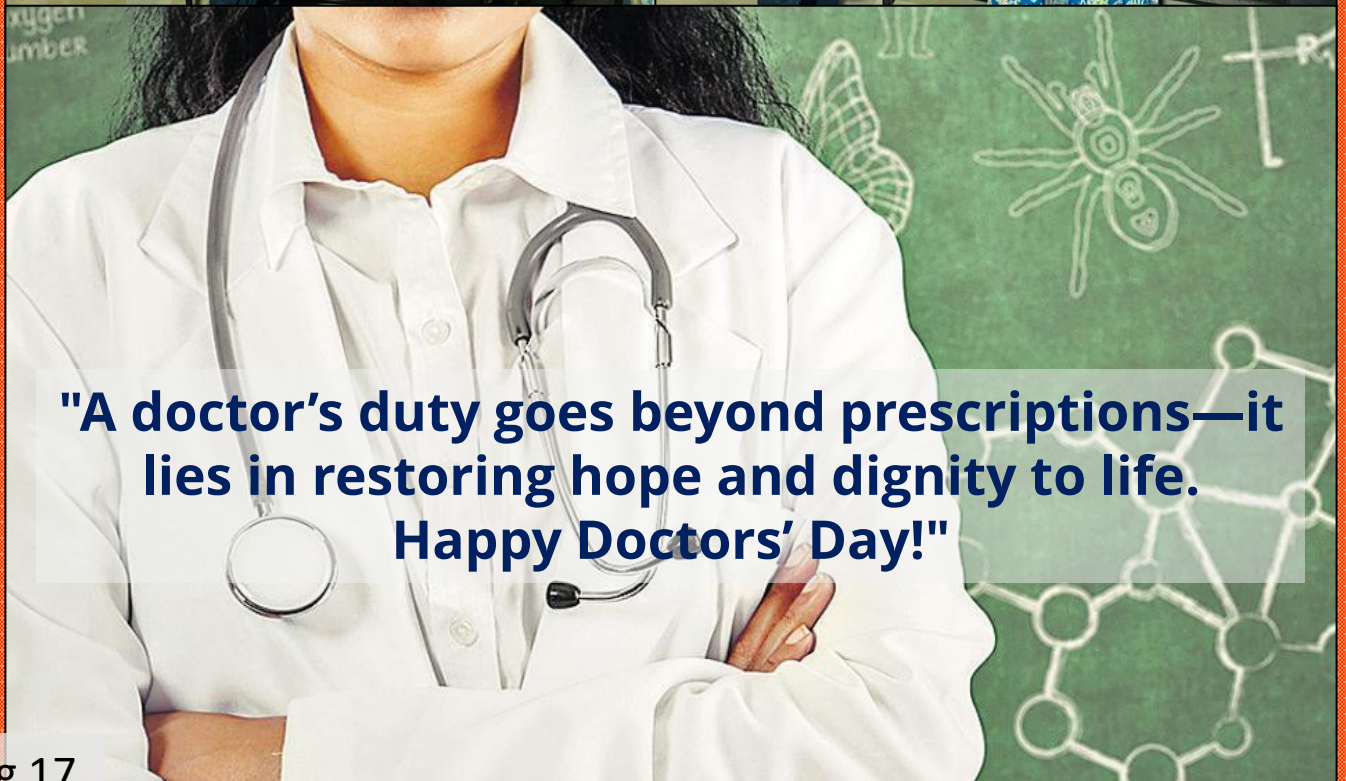
Doctors Day Celebration

13th July 2025 – *"Doctors are the silent heroes—healing with their hands, listening with their hearts, and serving with compassion."*

In a heartfelt gesture of gratitude, a special felicitation ceremony was organized to honor the dedicated doctors and medical staff who generously offered their time and expertise. Titen President **Mr. Sunil S. Joshi** presented certificates and expressed sincere appreciation, acknowledging their invaluable service to society. The event radiated warmth, empathy, and a strong sense of community, leaving a lasting positive impression on the elderly residents.



Felicitation of the Doctors



"A doctor's duty goes beyond prescriptions—it lies in restoring hope and dignity to life. Happy Doctors' Day!"

Tree Plantation Drive

13th July 2025 - "Trees are the lungs of the Earth—let's help them breathe."

In a heartfelt initiative to promote environmental sustainability and ecological balance, a tree plantation drive was carried out with great enthusiasm. Saplings of **Pipal, Guava, Amla, Behada, and Tamarind** were thoughtfully planted. Each tree symbolizes a step toward cleaner air, richer biodiversity, and a healthier planet. The event not only aimed to green the surroundings but also to inspire collective responsibility toward nature and future generations.



"झाडे लावा, झाडे जगवा - निसर्ग वाचवा!" "एका वृक्षाची लागवड, शाश्वत भविष्यासाठी पावले उचललेली."

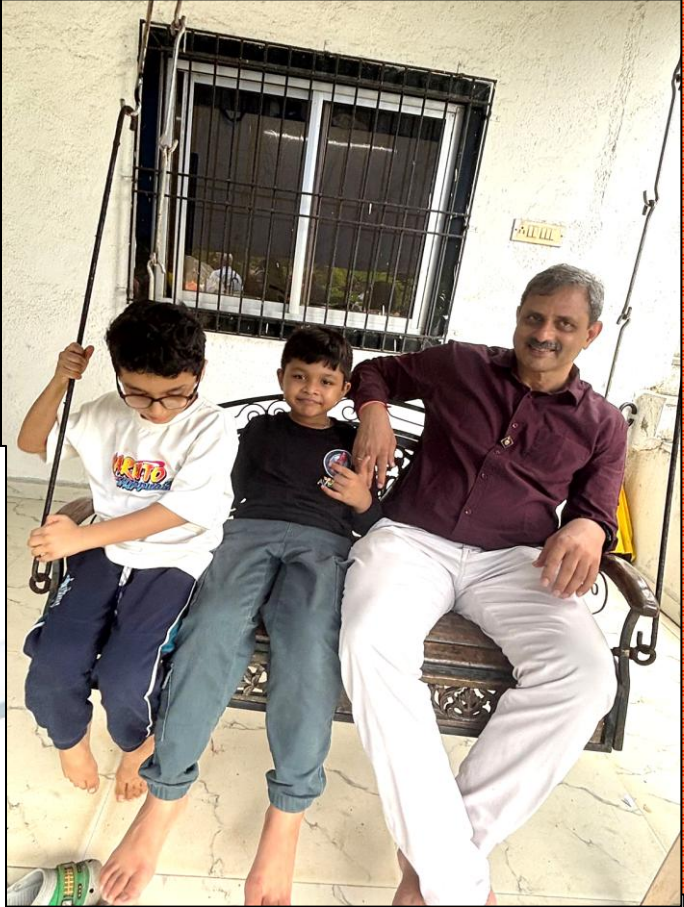
Fellowship at The Mahavarkar Farmhouse

After the medical camp at Matoshree Vruddhashram, the felicitation of doctors, and the tree plantation drive, we all proceeded to Rtn. Dr. B.K. Mahavarkar's farmhouse to enjoy a time of fellowship. A heartfelt thank you to Rtn. Dr. B.K. Mahavarkar and Gayatri for hosting such a wonderful lunch and happy hour. Your warm hospitality and thoughtful generosity made everyone feel truly welcomed and appreciated. From the delicious food to the inviting atmosphere and delightful company, every detail was perfect. The gathering not only allowed us to unwind and connect but also greatly strengthened the spirit of fellowship among us all. Thank you once again for bringing us together—it was deeply appreciated!



"Through fellowship, we build friendships that become the fuel for service."

Pg 20



"Rotary friends are those rare people who come into your life and stay—not just in meetings, but in moments that matter."

Distribution of SCHOOL KIT for Katkari Children.

27th June 2025 – Spreading Smiles at Kadav, Sudhagad Pali.

President **Sunil Joshi**, Community Service Director **Prashant Karkhanis**, and **PP Rajesh Mittal** visited **Kadav, Sudhagad Pali** for a meaningful outreach initiative, originally spearheaded by **Rtn. Pranav Bhosekar**. A total of **150 school kits** were distributed to students from **five different schools**, in the presence of their parents and teachers.

The project focused on supporting children from the **Katkari tribe**, which has been declared an endangered tribal community by the Government of Maharashtra. The joy on the children's faces and the heartfelt gratitude expressed by teachers, staff, and parents made the moment truly memorable.

A sincere thank you to all the donors for your generous contributions, it will have a lasting impact on the lives of these young learners.



"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give." - Winston Churchill

Anxiety & Stress Management Workshop



12th & 19th July 2025 – PE Biju Gopalan Conducted Workshop on Anxiety & Stress Management for 9th and 10th Grade student at Yashodhan School.

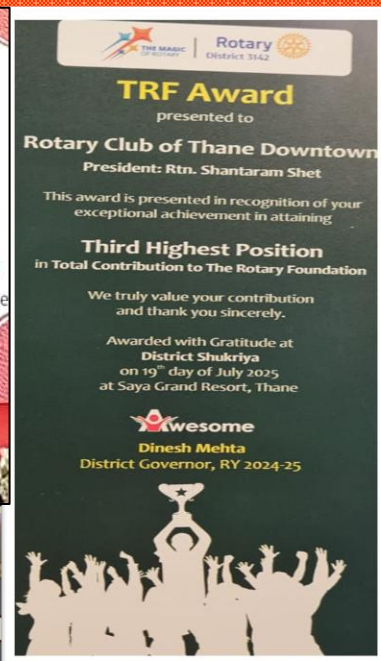
Rotarian Biju Gopalan, an accomplished Life and Success Coach, conducted two impactful sessions on managing anxiety and stress. With empathy and insight, he connected deeply with the students, offering practical tools to manage pressure, overcome fear, and build emotional resilience.

The sessions encouraged open dialogue, allowing students to share their concerns and feel heard in a safe, supportive environment. Teachers and staff also appreciated the initiative, recognizing its importance in nurturing emotional well-being among adolescents.

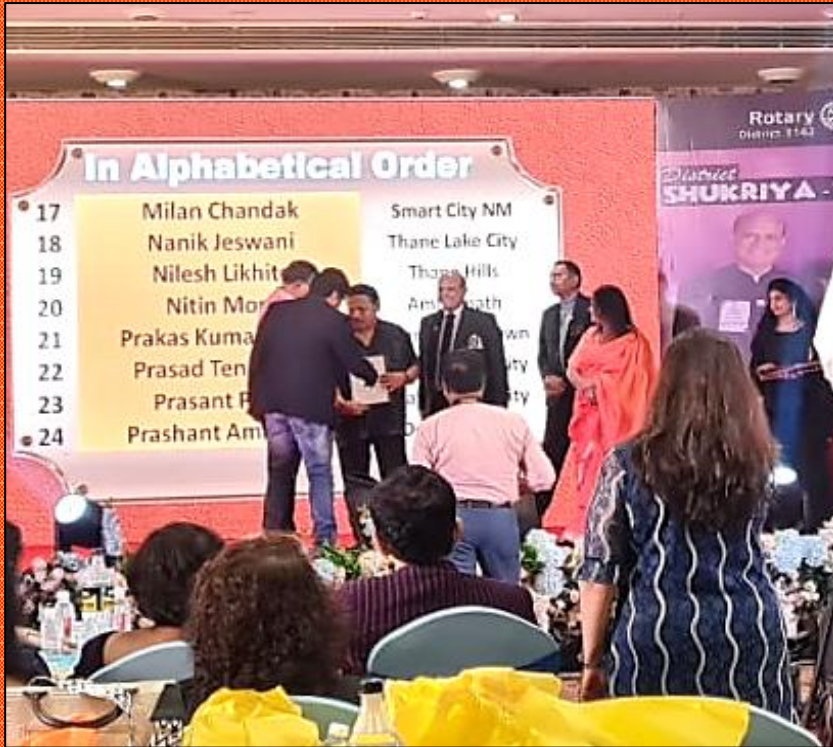
His thoughtful guidance equipped the students with coping strategies and ignited a renewed sense of hope, clarity, and confidence—leaving a lasting impression on every young mind present.

District Shukriya

19th July 2025 – A Grand Celebration at 'Awesome District Shukriya RY 2024-25' @ Saya Grand, Thane!
It was a proud moment as **DGND Rtn. Chandrahas Shetty** was honored with the *Citation of Meritorious Service Award*. Our **Immediate Past President** had the privilege of receiving the first award of the evening, setting the tone for a night of recognition and celebration. We're delighted to share that our club was recognized among the **Top 3 Contributors** in the district—a true reflection of our collective efforts and commitment!



District Shukriya...cont.



Rtn. Prakash Guha MD & CEO of Zuventus Healthcare Ltd. being awarded for his contributions.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to **PP Rajesh** for being an integral part of the backstage team at the District Shukriya event, alongside **PP Ajay Dhurve** and **CP Prakash Rao**. Your support and behind-the-scenes efforts helped make the event a grand success!



DGN Chandrahas Shetty and Rtn. Bharti Shetty were proudly recognized among the **Top 3 Individual Contributors**—a testament to their unwavering dedication, generosity, and commitment to the ideals of Rotary. Their consistent support and inspiring leadership continue to make a significant impact within the district and beyond. Congratulations to both for this well-deserved honor!

District Shukriya...cont.

Message from IPP Shantaram Shet :



Dear DownTowners,
It gives me great pleasure to inform you that our club has been recognised as the top 9 clubs in District 3142.(Best amongst the best - Awesomely Awesome). Kudos to all DownTowners, and BOD for the recognition.

Also our club came 3rd in TRF giving in the district. (\$ 1,29,000). Rtn. Prakash Guha won the District Service Award for his generous contribution under CSR. He was there to receive it and was very pleased. (A moment of pride for us).

DGN Chandrahas Shetty and Rtn. Bharti Shetty won 4 awards including Rotary's 2nd highest award(Citation for Meritorious service).

PP Prakash Rao, PP Ajay Durve, PP Sunil D Joshi, PP Jayanta Dey and PP Rajesh Mittal won district recognition. All in all our club has emerged as a top club in District 3142.

Induction of New member

26th July 2025 – Welcoming a New Member to the RCDT Family. During our club meeting on 26th July, **Dr. Dhiraj Agrawal (MDS)** was formally inducted into the Rotary Club of Thane DownTown by **PP Dr. Govind Patkar**. He was introduced by **Mrs. Swati Y. Deshmukh**, a close friend of First Lady Harshada, with the introduction read by **Club Treasurer Rtn. Amol Yeola**. The induction address was delivered by **PP Rtn. Shirish Khanwalkar**, highlighting Dr. Dhiraj's professional achievements and commitment to service.

We warmly welcome **Rtn. Dr. Dhiraj Agrawal, Ann. Dr. Saloni**, and Annets **Rushika** and **Himanshi** to the **RCDT family**. We look forward to a journey of fellowship and service together!



CLUB SHUKRIYA

27th July 2025 –Shukriya by IPP Shantaram Shet ,Rtn. Aparna Shet and Annet Shaurya.



Thank you for your unwavering support, your time, your talents, and your tireless commitment to making our community—and our world—a better place. Rotary is built on the foundation of fellowship and service, and I have truly seen that spirit shine in all of you. To our board members and committee chairs, thank you for your leadership, your wisdom, and your countless hours behind the scenes. You've helped turn ideas into impact, and challenges into accomplishments.

To our new members, thank you for bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm into our club. And to our long-standing members, thank you for being the pillars of Rotary service and tradition.

This club is not defined by any one person—it is defined by us, together. Through fellowship, through action, and through a shared purpose, we are living the Rotary ideal every day.

Let us continue to serve, to lead, and to inspire—not just within our club, but in every community we touch.

Thank you all, from the bottom of my heart. Let's keep doing what we do best—serving humanity, together.

CLUB SHUKRIYA....cont.





"Rotary connects people who care, and through fellowship, we become family."



"Fellowship is the foundation of Rotary; service is its soul."

Highlights: Club Members in Action

IPP Shantaram Shet as GGR @ RC of Thane Northend on 1st July 2025



A GGR (Governor's Group Representative) is a senior Rotarian appointed by the District Governor to serve as a key link between the District and a cluster of Rotary clubs within a specific area, known as a "group." The GGR plays a vital role in supporting, guiding, and monitoring the clubs under their care, ensuring they align with the district's goals and initiatives. They assist with training, facilitate communication, and help in reporting and organizing club visits, especially when the District Governor is unable to attend personally. Typically, GGRs are experienced Rotarians, often past presidents or past assistant governors, who have demonstrated strong leadership and commitment within Rotary.

Highlights: Club Members in Action



On 13th July, a proud moment unfolded at Kuvega as our very own Rtn. Mahesh Gowande was installed as Chairman of IFRM (International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians). The installation ceremony was graced by the presence of DGN Chandrahas Shetty and Rtn. Bharti as Chief Guests, adding warmth and prestige to the occasion. Mahesh was joined by his dynamic Board of Directors, which includes our Rtn. Biju as Sergeant-at-Arms.

It was an evening filled with camaraderie, music, and inspiration. Let us extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Mahesh and his team for a meaningful and melodious year ahead!



Happy Announcements

Birthday's

05 Aug Shashank s/o Col Praveen & Ann Jayshree Kumar

05 Aug Ann Vrushali w/o PP Shrikrishna D Naik

06-Aug PP Sunil D Joshi

07-Aug Abhirup s/o PP Jayanta & Ann Bansari Dey

08-Aug Rtn. Ajay Durve

09-Aug PP Prashant Gujar

19-Aug Adi s/o Rtn Nilesh & Ann Julie Kadam

20-Aug Rtn Aaruni w/o PP Imshu Bansal

20-Aug Ann Bansari w/o PP Jayanta Dey

25-Aug Annet Subhankar s/o Rtn Sachin & Rtn Ketaki Salvi

26-Aug PP Shrikrishna.D.Naik

27-Aug Ann Mita w/o Rtn Mahesh Gowande

30-Aug Sanay s/o Rtn Shivram & Late Ann Pramoda Shetty

Best wishes from

Rotary Club of Thane DownTown