

The DownTowner

Vol 009 | March 2026

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Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

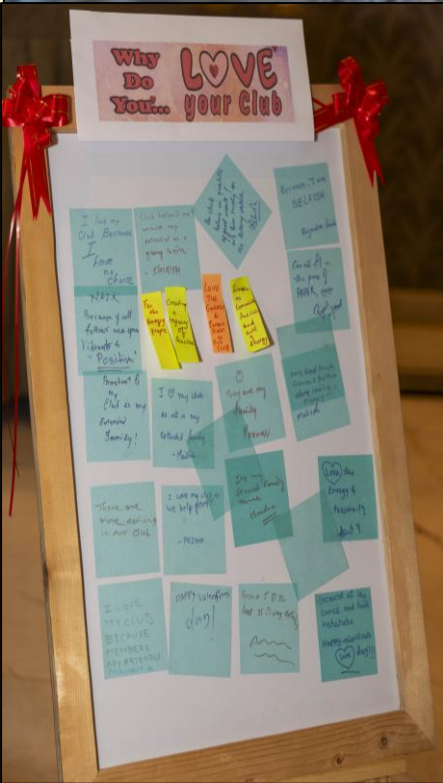


Club Meeting

7th February 2026: "Love Your Club This Valentine" was celebrated from 6:30 PM onwards at Tadka 1, Satkar Residency. The event was hosted by DGN Chandrahas and Rtn Bharti Shetty. Event management was handled by Biju's, with support from Ann Sonali, Ann Anita, and Ann Julie.




Club Meeting



Club Meeting



Club Meeting

<p>UNITE FOR GOOD</p> <p>Rotary Club Thane Down Town</p> <p>10 TITEN</p> <p>Weekly Meeting on 14 February 2026 (Saturday)</p> <p>Our Guest Speaker : Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad AFIP, EFIP, AFIAP.</p> <p>Topic In to the nature & wildlife with Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad !</p> <p>About Speaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical Doctor & renowned wildlife Photographer / Birder / Mentor.• A wildlife newspaper columnist with over 300 articles• Author & recognised conservationist• Award-winning conservation communicator• Recipient of many International and National awards <p>Fellowship 7:30 am to 8:00 Am Meeting 8:00 to 9:00 Am @ Satkar Residency Pokhran Road 1 Thane</p>	
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The meeting was held on 14th February at 7:30 a.m. at Satkar and centered on an energetic and engaging theme—Into Nature and Wildlife—featuring Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad. We had the privilege of an inspiring interview session with Dr. Sudhir Gaikwad Inamdar, a renowned wildlife photographer, mentor, author, and recipient of numerous national and international awards.

He took us through his remarkable journey across dense forests in India and abroad, sharing rare encounters and offering deep insights into nature, forests, birds, and wildlife beyond just tigers. His stories, visuals, and perspectives were truly enriching and eye-opening.

It was indeed a rare opportunity to learn from one of the most respected experts in the field of wildlife.

Rotary Club meetings are regular gatherings where members come together to plan, discuss, and review service activities. These meetings provide a platform for sharing ideas, strengthening fellowship, and coordinating community initiatives. They often feature guest speakers who offer insights on diverse and inspiring topics. Through these interactions, members stay informed, motivated, and engaged in meaningful service. Overall, Rotary meetings play a key role in fostering unity and driving impactful projects.

Project: Skill Development



We are delighted to share that we have received the next tranche of CSR funding from ASHIDA Electronics today, amounting to ₹6.21 lakhs. These funds will be used to upgrade the Dress Making & Tailoring Lab at the Girls' ITI, Dadar.

This initiative will enable the installation of 20 new industrial sewing machines. As these advanced machines require a stable power supply and a clean, dust-free environment for optimal performance, the lab will also be enhanced with proper electrification and air-conditioning systems to ensure smooth and uninterrupted operations.

This project is expected to create a transformative impact on nearly 100 girls each year, particularly those from economically weaker sections, and will significantly contribute to women's empowerment.

We, at the Rotary Club of Thane Downtown, extend our heartfelt gratitude to PP Rtn. Srikrishna Naik Saheb and ASHIDA Electronics for their continued support and trust in us.

Further updates and details will be shared after the upcoming BOD meeting, which is scheduled in the next 5–6 days.

Thanks, and best regards,

Sunil

Project : Igatpuri Milk Support

****Support for Milk Requirements at Igatpuri School – Successfully Completed****

Dear Fellow Dntowners,

For many years, we have been supporting the Igatpuri school, which cares for around 130 special children, by providing food grains. While their grain requirements were already being met, the school had an urgent need for support towards their monthly milk expenses—an essential part of the children’s daily nutrition.

We are happy to share that we successfully extended support for their milk requirements for three months, amounting to ₹84,000. This initiative has helped ensure proper nourishment and care for these special children.

****Contributions received:****

- * Sunil S. Joshi – ₹10,000
- * Sunil D. Joshi – ₹11,000
- * Pranav – ₹7,500
- * Sujit – ₹10,000
- * Bharti Shetty – ₹5,000
- * Anita Mittal – ₹2,000
- * Rajat & Friends – ₹20,000
- * Additional – ₹10,000
- * Jyoti – ₹2,500
- * Varsha – ₹6,000


We sincerely thank all our generous members and donors for their wholehearted support in making this initiative a success.



Project : Matoshri Medicines

CP Prakash Rao successfully carried out the regular monthly delivery of medical supplies to Matoshree Vrudhashram, ensuring the facility remains well-stocked to meet the ongoing healthcare needs of its residents.

Project with Rotractors: Library



Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown

BEYOND X

MEGA BOOK DONATION DRIVE

For Primespire Library

We are building a library for the underprivileged school of Zilla Parishad School, Dahivali, Murbad, Thane.

- We urge you to donate books for underprivileged school students
- Our Target - 800 Books

POST YOUR DONATIONS at

- 17/403, Glenmark, Highland Residency, Dhokali-Balkum Road, Thane 400607

For Queries, Contact:
Rtr. Kshitij Raut
8369107916

****Library Project for Zilla Parishad School, Dahivali – Successfully Completed with Rotractors****

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown, along with the support of our members, successfully completed the initiative of building a library for the underprivileged students of Zilla Parishad School, Dahivali (Murbad).

With a target of collecting 800 books, we are proud to share that the project was successfully accomplished through the generous contributions of our Rotarians and well-wishers. The donated books—ranging from storybooks and educational material to reference books in good condition—have opened new avenues of knowledge and learning for these young minds. This meaningful initiative has created a valuable resource for the students, bringing them closer to a brighter and more informed future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed and supported this project, helping make a lasting difference in the lives of these children.

Project : Global Grant




The Global Grant Project was successfully inaugurated by PDG Milind Kulkarni, marking an important milestone in our club's commitment to impactful and sustainable community service.

This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with Rotary partners, aims to create long-term benefits for the community by addressing critical needs and improving quality of life. The project reflects Rotary's global vision of service above self and its focus on meaningful, measurable outcomes.

We are proud to share that our club contributed USD 3,000 towards this Global Grant, reaffirming our dedication to supporting large-scale initiatives that bring lasting change.


The inauguration ceremony was a significant occasion, highlighting collective efforts, strong partnerships, and our shared commitment to making a difference in the community.

Primespire Library Initiative: Empowering Young Minds Through Books



Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown


BEYOND X



Primespire Library
Hope through education

Join us in building Primespire Library and give children access to knowledge that can transform their lives.

DONATE HERE



For Queries, Contact:
Rtr. Kshitij Raut 8369107916

The Rotaract Club of Thane Downtown proudly launched its flagship initiative – *Primespire Library* 

Under this initiative, a library with over 700 books was successfully set up at Zilla Parishad School, Dahivali, Murbad (Thane), with the aim of encouraging reading habits and supporting quality education for underprivileged children.

Generous contributions in the form of books and funds helped turn this vision into reality.

A wide range of school-level academic books, educational resources, and student-friendly fiction novels were collected to enrich the library.

Additionally, funds exceeding ₹20,000 were raised, which enabled the construction of 6 bookshelves for the library.

Every contribution, big or small, played a vital role in the success of this meaningful initiative.

Rotaractors are enthusiastic young leaders who come together through Rotaract clubs to serve the community and develop their skills. They actively participate in projects focused on education, healthcare, environment, and social welfare, creating a meaningful impact on society.

Working closely with Rotary clubs, they gain valuable experience in leadership, teamwork, and project management. Along with service, Rotaractors build strong networks and friendships, guided by the values of integrity and service above self, while striving to create a positive change in the world.

DISCON 2026

****DISCON 2026**** was held on 28th February and 1st March 2026 at Hotel Sahara International, Mumbai.

The conference brought together Rotarians from across the district for two days of learning, fellowship, and inspiration. It featured engaging sessions, insightful discussions, and opportunities to exchange ideas on service initiatives and leadership.

Set in a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere, DISCON 2026 served as a platform to strengthen connections, celebrate achievements, and reinforce the spirit of Rotary, leaving all participants motivated and enriched.



DISCON 2026

Rotary District 3142 **UNITE FOR GOOD** **10 TITEN**

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DO 'Craft Stories

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 2
1st March 2026
Story of the Story Tellers

Deepa Bhatia
Film Editor

DARE 'for Dignity

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 2
1st March 2026
Journey with Nomadic Community

Mittal Patel
Social Activist

Rotary District 3142 **UNITE FOR GOOD** **10 TITEN**

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DARE 'Ancient Wisdom

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 2
1st March 2026
10:15-11:00 AM
Restoring Faith in Humans in an AI World

Devdutt Pattanaik
Mythologist & Author

IGNITE 'Climate Change

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 2
1st March 2026
Youth Participation in Climatic Change

Riddhima Pandey
Youth Climate Activist

Rotary District 3142 **UNITE FOR GOOD** **10 TITEN**

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DO 'Smart Commute

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Start up
The Founders table

Sankalp Kelshikar
Co-Founder, Cityflo

DREAM 'India's Softpower

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
India Canada
Friendship

Dinesh Patnaik
Indian Ambassador to Canada

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DARE 'The Future

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Cyber Crimes in the Age of AI



Advocate
Dr. Prashant Mali
Cyber Law Expert & Advocate

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DARE 'Creative Disruption

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Mumbai Then Vs Mumbai Now



Bharat Dhabolkar
Advertising Guru & Theatre Personality

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DO 'Digital Transit

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Start up The Founders table



Sachin Teke
Founder, mIndicator

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DARE 'To Dream

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
PANEL DISCUSSION



Uday Kumar
DEI Thought Leader

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DARE 'The Future

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
AI Curious To AI Serious



Raul Aju
Future Strategy Expert

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

DO 'Bold Journalism

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Ru Ba Ru with Rajat



Rajat Sharma
Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, India TV

DISCON 2026



DISCON 2026



DISCON 2026 of District 3142, held at Sahara Star, Mumbai, was graced by the presence of renowned actor, director, screenwriter, and producer Mahesh Manjrekar. Best known for his acclaimed films **Vaastav** (1999), **Astitva** (2000), and **Viruddh** (2005), he is also a National Film Award winner for **Astitva** and was the popular host of **Bigg Boss Marathi** from 2018 to 2023.

In an engaging interview with Rtn Prasanna Karnik and Sudha S, he shared inspiring insights from his journey. He emphasized that there is nothing wrong in being a “jack of all trades” as long as one has the courage to pursue their dreams—success may not come in everything, but it will surely come in something.

He spoke about his diverse talents, mentioning that he has been a good cricketer, a fairly good singer, and even ventured into politics. Reflecting on his work, he shared that making **Natasamrat** was particularly challenging due to its strong theatrical legacy, while reaffirming that theatre has always been his true calling.

He also expressed his heartfelt dream of starting a residential cricket and tennis academy for Adivasi children, showcasing his commitment to nurturing young talent.

Compiled by Rtn Varsha Likhite

DISCON 2026



Rotary District 3142 UNITE FOR GOOD 10 TITEN

TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

IGNITE 'Naya Bharat'

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
The Jaamvant Effect



Deepak Vohra
Former Indian Ambassador



Deepak Vohra, a distinguished retired Indian diplomat from the Indian Foreign Service, has served as India's Ambassador to Armenia, Poland, and Sudan. He also held the role of Technology Advisor to former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao.

During his address, he presented compelling statistics highlighting India's remarkable progress across multiple domains, including leadership, diplomacy, military strength (ranked 3rd globally), economy (also ranked 3rd), education, and infrastructure.

Emphasizing India's rising global stature, he quoted, *"No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come,"* reflecting the nation's unstoppable momentum. He passionately conveyed that *"Bharat is on fire"* and urged collective efforts towards achieving the vision of *"Viksit Bharat 2047"*.

Compiled by Rtn Varsha Likhite



TITEN DISCON
DREAM | DARE | DO
CONFERENCE SPEAKERS
DO 'Bold Journalism

VENUE
HOTEL SAHARA STAR
DAY 1
28th FEBRUARY 2026
Ru Ba Ru with Rajat

Rajat Sharma
Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, India TV



****RuBaRu with Rajat Sharma – *Aap Ki Adalat*, hosted by Vijay Shetty****

In an engaging and insightful session, veteran journalist Rajat Sharma shared his remarkable life journey and experiences. He spoke about his humble beginnings in Delhi, where he grew up in a small 10x10 room with nine family members, without basic amenities like water and electricity. Determined to rise above poverty, he often studied under streetlights. Inspired by his father's words—not to watch TV at a neighbor's house but to become a TV personality himself—he turned that dream into reality.

His journey was marked by struggles and resilience. As a young student during the Emergency, he joined a movement that led to his imprisonment in Tihar Jail. Rather than discouraging him, the experience made him fearless and strengthened his resolve.

Rajat Sharma began his journalism career as a researcher in the late 1970s, later joining *Onlooker* magazine as a trainee and rising to become its editor by 1985. He went on to edit *The Sunday Observer* and *The Daily*, establishing himself as a respected media professional. His first episode of *Aap Ki Adalat*, featuring Lalu Prasad Yadav, was a major success despite several challenges.

DISCON 2026

Rajat Sharma contd.....

He emphasized his approach of never insulting guests, instead making them comfortable and allowing them to speak freely, assuring them of editorial fairness. One of the most notable episodes he recalled was with Arun Jaitley after demonetisation, where meaningful and balanced discussions took place.

Known for his trademark calm smile during tough questioning, he shared that this is not a strategy but a natural instinct, and highlighted the importance of maintaining composure and positivity through challenges.

On the entrepreneurial front, he spoke about building India TV into a leading media network, reflecting his vision and determination. He concluded by sharing his belief that true success should be measured by personal satisfaction rather than money or position.

Compiled by Rtn Varsha Likhite



WHAT IS DISCON

The District Conference (DISCON) conducted by Rotary is a flagship annual event that brings together Rotarians from across the district. It serves as a platform for learning, inspiration, and fellowship through engaging sessions, keynote speakers, and cultural programs. Members get the opportunity to share ideas, celebrate achievements, and strengthen bonds within the Rotary family. DISCON also reinforces Rotary's vision of service above self, leaving participants motivated to create a greater impact in their communities.



****Bharat Dabholkar****

Bharat Dabholkar is a well-known Indian ad filmmaker, actor, director, and author, widely recognized for creating the iconic Amul butter advertisements. Interestingly, he is also a trained lawyer.

Sharing insights from his journey, he mentioned that advertising has trained him to communicate effectively within just 30 seconds, often making it challenging for him to speak at length. He also highlighted that humour needs to be used thoughtfully, as it may not be received the same way across different platforms and audiences.

He observed that given the sensitivity around religion in our country, he consciously avoids using religious humour in his work. Emphasizing creativity, he noted that the core principle of advertising is to think differently—an approach that can be equally valuable in everyday life.

Compiled by Rtn Varsha Likhite

DISCON 2026



****Sachin Teke – Creator of the M-Indicator Bus App****

Sachin Teke, an IT engineer and alumnus of the 2006 batch of VJTI, also holds an MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies.

He began his career working in a software firm, though his entrepreneurial journey initially did not have the support of his parents. Living in Nerul, Navi Mumbai, he faced a long and complex daily commute to SEEPZ—travelling by train from Nerul to Kurla, followed by a bus and then an auto-rickshaw. This challenging routine inspired him to develop the M-Indicator app.

Preferring to maintain a lean and efficient setup, he has consistently run his venture profitably. Today, his app boasts over 10 million subscribers, making it an essential tool for daily commuters.

Compiled by Rtn Varsha Likhite

DISCON 2026



****Sankalp Kelshikar – Cityflo Buses****

Cityflo was founded in 2015 by IIT Bombay alumni Jerin Venad, Rushabh Shah, Ankit Agrawal, and Sankalp Kelshikar. What began as a technology-driven venture soon evolved into an operations-focused service, where cleanliness, punctuality, and well-trained drivers became the core priorities.

Sankalp highlighted that the relationship between drivers and commuters at Cityflo has developed organically, with a strong emphasis on treating drivers with dignity and respect. He also shared that the four founders share a deep bond as both friends and partners, having grown together through the journey, with recognition coming more for their service than individual achievements.

Reflecting on entrepreneurship, he emphasized that choosing the right life partner is as important as choosing the right business partner. He credited his spouse for playing a significant role in keeping him grounded throughout the Cityflo journey.

Moments of Joy

****Happy Moments for the RCDT Family – Sunday, 22nd February 2026****

It was a joyous occasion for the RCDT family as we celebrated two wonderful weddings:

- Annet Abhijeet, son of PP Ajay and Ann Supriya Durve, got married.**
- Annet Maulik, son of PP Manish and Ann Minal Shah, also tied the knot.**

Heartiest congratulations and best wishes to both the couples for a happy and fulfilling married life!



A Proud Moment for the Club

We are delighted to share that Biju Gopalan has been appointed as the IFRM 3142 Chairman for the year 2027–2028.



Happy Announcements

Birthday's

01-Mar	Ann Dolon w/o Rtn Prakash Guha
01-Mar	Prisha d/o Rtn. Bhushan & Ann Maithili Patil
01-Mar	Manomay s/o Rtn. Bhushan & Ann Maithili Patil
02-Mar	Rtn Pranav Bhosekar
03-Mar	Supriya w/o PP Rtn Ajay Durve
05-Mar	Ann Sayali w/o Rtn Saurabh Joshi
06-Mar	Ann Manjiri w/o Rtn Pranav Bhosekar
07-Mar	Deepmala d/o Rtn. Kalyan & Ann Durga Karmakar
10-Mar	Anika D/o Rtn Ratul & Ann Trisha Lahiri
11-Mar	Saksham s/o PP Imshu & Rtn Aaruni Bansal
16-Mar	Drishti d/o Rtn Prakash & Jyoti Rao
19-Mar	Ann Sandhya w/o PP Sunil Joshi
20-Mar	Ann Bandana w/o Rtn Dr Rajesh Butala
22-Mar	Rtn Biju Gopalan
24-Mar	Ann Minal w/o Rtn Manish Shah
26-Mar	Shilpa d/o Rtn Shivram & Pramoda Shetty
27-Mar	Rtn. Prakash Guha
27-Mar	Annet Soham s/o PP Sunil D & Ann Sandhya Joshi
28-Mar	Rtn Kalyan Karmakar

Best wishes from

Rotary Club of Thane DownTown