

Shanta was inspired by the late Governor Dr. Manohar Joshi, whose memory she further strengthened

with her husband, a business consultant, and their two daughters, who are well-established in Singapore and London.

Currently, she serves as an Independent Director on the boards of five companies. However, it is her unwavering dedication to empowering marginalized communities—particularly transgender individuals and persons with disabilities—that distinguishes her.

During the pandemic in 2020, Shanta and a group of friends began distributing food to those in dire need, seeking a platform to expand their efforts. Shanta turned to Rotary—a space where action and leadership could align with her personal belief: "If my mind can conceive it and my heart can believe in it, I know I can achieve it."

She went on to found the Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire with a clear mission to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), empower persons with disabilities (PWD), and support health, the environment, and sustainable community development.

She credits leaders like Rajendra Agarwal (RC Queen's City), Vikram Zareen (RC Queen's Necklace), and Sandip Agarwal (RC Bombay) for rallying behind the vision of her club.

One of Shanta's most impactful initiatives involves supporting trans individuals as they transition out of sex work and into lives of dignity and inclusion. As Charter Secretary of her club, she executed this mission with full commitment, fostering strong district relations. Within six months of the club's inception, she became its President. By 2021, she had already served as Avenue Chair for DEI and Co-Chair for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in District 3141.

Under her leadership, the club initiated Tahirah Patel, the first transgender member of Rotary in District 3141. Together, they launched the first Transcife in Lohandwada—a space run by trans individuals to meet their unique needs and aspirations. For Shanta, the goal is clear: to empower people—especially transgender and differently-abled individuals—as boldly as, "I am also relevant."

Zamuda Patel, now DEI Avenue Chair (2025-2026) for District 3141, notes that Transcife is a non-profit model that is now expanding to other Indian cities.

RC Mumbai Inspire also supports three key NGOs: a vocational training center in Mahape, Adhar (The Association of Women of Special Ability) in Badlapur, and a facility in Nank that provides lifelong care for disabled adults. The club also provides scholarships

to deserving students at Vignya Vidya Mandir and Gresham English School in Andheri West.

A passionate advocate for women in the workforce, Shanta remains committed to mentoring and inspiring the next generation. This year, her priorities include promoting financial literacy among girls and women, supporting education, and

expanding club membership.

She speaks warmly of her Rotary journey, highlighting the strength found in collaboration and the extended family she has gained. With her signature energy, clarity of vision, and commitment to inclusion, Shanta Vaidury Gaudhi is poised to lead her club to new heights.



Shanta Vaidury Gaudhi, RC Mumbai Inspire

Redefining Life and Leadership through Rotary

BY MAGGIE MAYNARD

Shanta Vaidury Gaudhi, President of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Inspire, is living proof that intervention is not only possible—it is a powerful path to fulfillment after a successful corporate career. Having transitioned from leadership roles in corporate banking and human resources, she now lives on her own terms, focused on creating a lasting social impact.

Fresh from a transformative experience at the sacred Maha Kumbh Mela, Shanta spoke to GML about the serenity and renewed sense of purpose it brought her. She describes herself as authentic, passionate, and impactful—qualities that have defined both her professional life and her Rotary journey.

With deep affection for both London and Mumbai, Shanta balances her life

with her husband, a business consultant, and their two daughters, who are well-established in Singapore and London.

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about taking a sabbatical to focus on the lives of those who need it most.