

January 2026

Beyond Borders

Monthly newsletter from Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport

Rotary



District 3170

Synergy Passport

PEOPLE OF ACTION

ENVIRONMENT



ENVIRONMENT



PEACEBUILDING AND
CONFLICT PREVENTION



DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

**ROTARY'S
AREAS OF
FOCUS**



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE

BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

INSIDE, WE ALSO TALK ABOUT:

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Rotary



District 3170
Synergy Passport

Vrunda speaks...

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

Warm greetings to each one of you as we step into a brand new year with renewed energy, purpose, and commitment to Service Above Self. It gives me immense pleasure to pen this message for the seventh issue of the Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport, which also marks our first issue of 2026.

The past months have truly reflected the spirit of Rotary—where dedication meets compassion and ideas turn into impactful action. Our club's journey so far has been one of teamwork, fellowship, and meaningful service. Every project undertaken, every meeting held, and every hand extended in service stands as a testament to what we can achieve together.

As we begin this new year, let us recommit ourselves to Rotary's core values—integrity, leadership, diversity, service, and fellowship. 2026 brings with it new opportunities to innovate, collaborate, and create lasting change in our communities.

Let us continue to strengthen our bonds, empower one another, and work with enthusiasm towards sustainable and inclusive projects.

I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our District leadership, fellow club members, and partners for their unwavering support and dedication. Together, let us make this year one of growth, impact, and inspiration—both within Rotary and beyond.

Wishing you all a year filled with good health, happiness, and purposeful service.

With pride and gratitude,
Rtn. Vrunda Khanolker
President (2025–26)

Service Above Self in Action: Stories That Inspire Change

At the heart of Rotary lies a simple yet powerful philosophy—Service Above Self. It is more than a motto; it is a way of thinking, planning, and acting that places community needs at the center of every initiative. Across Rotary clubs and districts, this philosophy comes alive through stories of service that inspire change and create lasting impact.

Every Rotary project begins with a desire to make a difference. Whether it is supporting education, promoting health and safety, empowering teachers, or creating inclusive spaces for those with special needs, these efforts reflect Rotary's commitment to addressing real challenges with compassion and responsibility. What makes these initiatives meaningful is not only the resources invested, but the intent to build dignity, opportunity, and self-reliance within communities.

Rotary's strength lies in its people. Rotarians bring diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives, transforming service projects into collaborative efforts driven by shared values. When professionals unite with a common purpose, solutions emerge that are practical, innovative, and sustainable. This spirit of teamwork ensures that service extends beyond short-term assistance and moves towards long-term transformation

Equally important are the partnerships Rotary fosters—with schools, local institutions, community leaders, and volunteers. These collaborations enhance the reach and effectiveness of projects, ensuring that the benefits are inclusive and far-reaching. By working together, Rotary creates a ripple effect where one initiative inspires many more acts of service.

The stories that truly inspire are those where lives are touched in meaningful ways—where a child gains access to better learning, a teacher feels empowered with new skills, or a community finds confidence through support and guidance. These moments remind us that service is not measured only in numbers, but in the positive change it brings to everyday lives.

As Rotary moves forward, the commitment to Service Above Self continues to guide every step. Through thoughtful action, empathy, and collaboration, Rotarians everywhere are proving that service has the power to inspire hope, strengthen communities, and build a better future for all.



Rotary's two official mottoes

Service Above Self and One Profits Most Who Serves Best, Rotary's official mottoes, can be traced back to the early days of the organization.

In 1911, the second Rotary convention, in Portland, Oregon, USA, approved He Profits Most Who Serves Best as the Rotary motto. The wording was adapted from a speech that Rotarian Arthur Frederick Sheldon delivered to the first convention, held in Chicago the previous year. Sheldon declared that “only the science of right conduct toward others pays. Business is the science of human services. He profits most who serves his fellows best.”

The Portland gathering also inspired the motto Service Above Self. During an outing on the Columbia River, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, talked with Seattle Rotarian J.E. Pinkham about the proper way to organize a Rotary club, offering the principle his club had adopted: Service, Not Self. Pinkham invited Rotary founder Paul Harris, who also was on the trip, to join their conversation. Harris asked Collins to address the convention, and the phrase Service, Not Self was met with great enthusiasm.

At the 1950 Rotary International Convention in Detroit, Michigan, USA, two slogans were formally approved as the official mottoes of Rotary: He Profits Most Who Serves Best and Service Above Self. The 1989 Council on Legislation established Service Above Self as the principal motto of Rotary because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. He Profits Most Who Serves Best was modified to They Profit Most Who Serve Best in 2004 and to its current wording, One Profits Most Who Serves Best, in 2010.



A name badge from the 1928 Rotary International Convention features Rotary's mottoes.



Arthur Frederick Sheldon, the Rotarian whose convention speech inspired “One Profits Most Who Serves Best”

Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport Spreads Knowledge

We're thrilled to share that we donated library cupboards to 4 schools in Vasco!

- Shree Vishwanath Arlekar Memorial Higher Secondary School, New Vaddem
- Govt High School, New Vaddem
- Govt High School, Vademnagar
- Govt High School, Zuarinagar

Each school received 2 cupboards to boost their library facilities!

A big thank you to Rtn. Manisha Sardesai for sponsoring one cupboard



Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport's Wall Paper, Poster, Wealth Out of Waste, and Slogan Writing Competition was a huge success at RNMGHSS on 21st January 2026!

Huge thanks to Rtn Karuna Sharma for coordinating this amazing event!

Students showcased their creativity and talent, and we loved seeing the innovative ideas!



Millet Festival Delight!

Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport organized a yummy Millet Festival at RNMGHSS, Baina on 22nd January 2026!

9 contestants whipped up delicious millet dishes::

- Ragi Manni
- Jowar cup cakes
- Finger millet satva
- Millet magic laddoo
- Satvachi kapa
- Ragi sangatti
- Ragi n jowar Ladoo
- Jowar roti
- Ramdana chikki

Project coordinator Rtn Karuna Sharma highlighted the importance of millets in our daily lives.

A tasty way to promote healthy eating!





Empowering consumers, empowering change! Interact Club of SVAM Synergy took to the streets of New Vaddem, Vasco to spread awareness on consumer rights!

- 👉 Distributed pamphlets and spoke to people about their rights
- 👉 Handed out paper bags with our club logo and "Jago Gahrak Jago"
- 👉 Slogan chants echoed through the streets! 📣

Kudos to the Interact team for their enthusiasm and dedication!



We made a mark at the District Conference!

1. For Polio Contribution \$500+ : Certificate + Pink Monkey
 2. For TRF Contribution of \$1000 : Certificate
 3. Top 3 Polio Contribution
 4. Medals for Polio Chair & President
- Proud of our club's generosity & efforts by TRF Chair **Navneet Shukla** and Polio Chair **Shrinivas Kurundwad**!

Polio shirt and pin given to **Rtn. Praveen Kumbhojkar** for joining in polio plus society membership (commitment of 100\$ to polio every year)



7th Jan'26 - Glass Half full / Empty

A highly engaging and impactful mental health session received an excellent response from participants. **Ms. Sonal Joshi**, Counselor and Therapist with over 15 years of experience, shared valuable insights on mindset, emotional well-being, and positive outlook towards life. Her interactive approach resonated well with the audience and encouraged meaningful reflection and discussion.

14th Jan'26 - Mind & Diet - 6

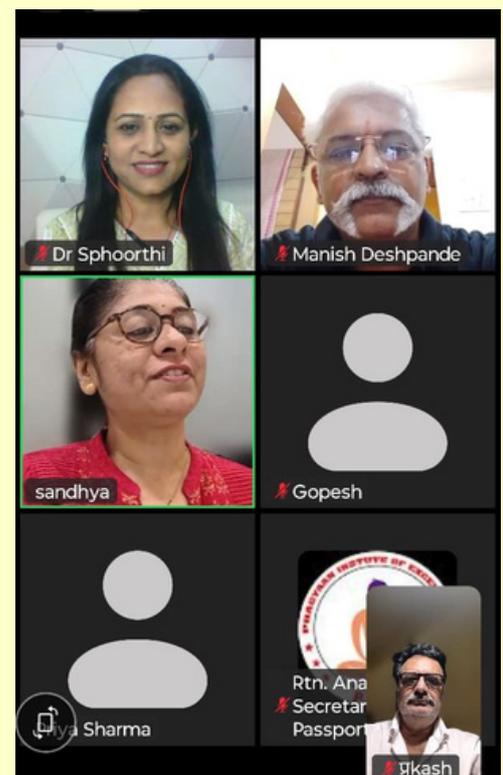
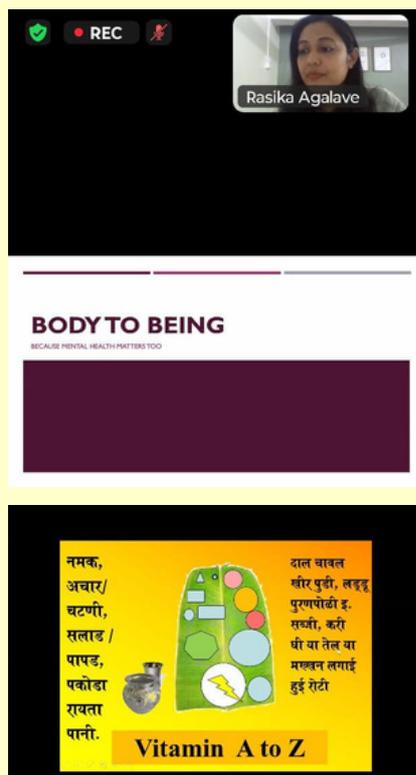
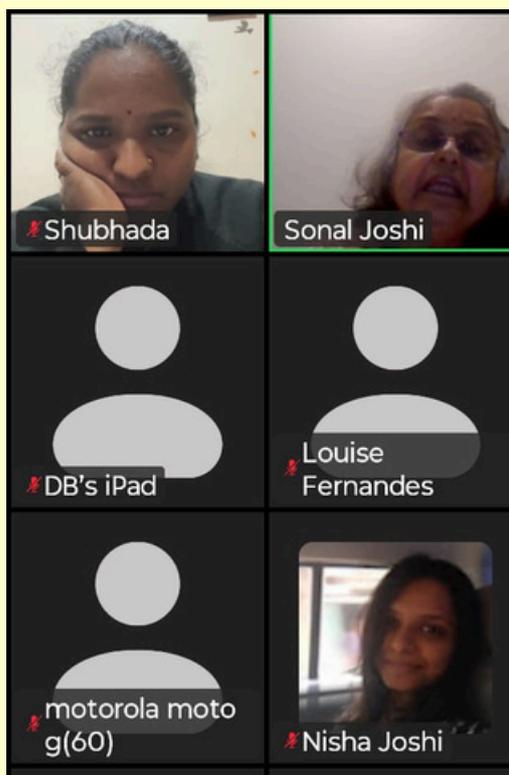
The session titled “मन आणि आहार – Mind and Diet (Part 6)” by **Vd. Suvinay Damle** focused on the vital connection between mental well-being and dietary habits as part of the ongoing wellness series Driving Minds to Wellness.

21st Jan'26 - From Body to being

The session titled “From Body to Being” was led by **Ms. Rasika Agalave**, HR & Counselling Psychology Expert, who shared valuable perspectives on holistic well-being and inner balance.

28th Jan'26 - Sleep = Sanity

The session on the insightful topic was delivered by **Dr. Sphoorthi Mastiholi**, who highlighted the crucial role of quality sleep in maintaining mental well-being. The talk offered practical guidance, scientific insights, and simple lifestyle tips to help participants understand the deep connection between sleep, emotional balance, and overall wellness.



Know your members:



Sameer

Sameer Gangatikar is a dedicated electronics engineer and the visionary founder of Om Lighting Solutions, a company specializing in innovative lighting design and turnkey electrical and electronic solutions since 2003. His company offers a wide array of services expertised in lighting design, providing illumination systems & lux audit, Design-based turnkey electrical & electronic projects in industrial & infrastructure, Solar roof top systems & innovative day light harvesting technology.

With a strong focus on sustainability, Sameer integrates eco-friendly technologies into every project. His passion for nature and environment is reflected in his commitment to promote energy conservation and renewable energy.

His spouse Kirti is acting partner in Om Lighting Solutions who looks after admin, accounts & back office. Sameer is also a passionate fitness lover. He has participated in numerous marathons and treks & loves to travel various places. Sameer always believes that discipline, dedication & determination are three major pillars that channelizes his entrepreneurial abilities.



Satish

Satish Dakare is a Chartered Accountant, Partner of Dakare Patil & Co. Experienced Business Consultant with Tax Compliances and Value Addition for your Business, Company Audit, Tax Audit, Internal Audit. Specialised in Start Up and Project Financing and Transaction Consulting (Mergers & Acquisitions).

Has held various position at Regional Council Central Council, currently baing a Member of Central Council Committee of Members in Practice of ICAI New Delhi.

Associated with Diwan Consultantants Private Limited, and Urjakranti Business foundation an NGO working for the Entrepreneurship & Skill Development.

He Joined Rotary District 3170 Synergy Passport as Charter Treasurer and has held the Post for 2 Consecutive Years & Secretary for a Year. His spouse Bhakti is an Advocate by Profession and having Masters in Social Work and Promoter of TAXeBPO.



Shrijeet

Shrijeet Muchandi a resident of Kolhapur is a commerce graduate and partner in their construction firm S.S. Muchandi, Engineers and Contractors dealing with Government contracts related to Irrigation projects, mining activities covering states of Maharashtra, Goa , Karnataka.

A total people's person who loves wildlife photography, travelling and exploring places and wildlife sanctuaries with keen interest in music, art and artefacts.

His daughter is pursuing her Law degree in Jindal global university, Sonapat.