



# Neo Vista

**LET'S  
INSPIRE !**

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

R.I. President: Rtn. Fransesco Arezzo • DG 3141: Dr Manish R. Motwani • President: Rtn. Anand Bhadkamkar  
Chief Editor: Rtn Rakesh Kumar • Co-Editor: Meera Ramachandran • Design and Publication : Arun Wadhwa & Team Envisage  
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**Journey of Ability,  
History, and Heart:  
Utsah 2025**

Photo Credit:  
Santosh Sansare

**ROTARY OBSERVES  
DECEMBER AS  
DISEASE PREVENTION  
AND TREATMENT MONTH**



# WHAT'S INSIDE?



*I grew up in a carefree world with no fixed goals.*

R.I. President:  
Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

DG 3141:  
Dr Manish R. Motwani

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## PRESIDENT SPEAK



### Anand and Pallavi Bhadkamkar

**Dear Neokars,**

*“Rotary is not just about service—it’s about transforming lives, starting with our own.”*

#### **Service, Fellowship & Festive Spirit in Full Swing**

November began on a high note with the District Initiative – Rotary Service Week (RSW). Neokars participated with enthusiasm in the week-long activities, culminating in our cornerstone program – Utsah – the Trek for Disabled. This initiative truly reflected our commitment to inclusivity and service. You will find details of our contributions in the Impact Table and Projects section, showcasing the impact we created together.

Coming on the heels of Diwali celebrations, the fellowship continued seamlessly into this month. RSW provided yet another avenue for members to connect, collaborate, and strengthen the bonds that define our club.

#### **Passion in Action**

Every time I interact with our members, I am inspired by the passion each Neokar brings to their chosen causes. What stands out is the willingness to support projects initiated by

fellow members, all while managing personal and professional responsibilities. This is the true Rotary spirit—service above self in action.

#### **Strategic Progress**

This month, we revisited our club constitution documents to align with the evolving environment. Additionally, we have initiated the process of establishing a dedicated Trust for the Club, a strategic move that will enable us to drive long-term projects and access CSR funding from corporates and major donors.

#### **Leadership Beyond Neo**

While we are only in our second year, our members are already making their mark at the district level. Kudos to Kala, Sridhar, Hemang, Rahul, and Arun for taking on leadership roles;



Arun and Natasha leading RMB Club in addition to their current responsibilities. A special congratulations to Rtn. Arun on being appointed Assistant Governor (AG) for the next Rotary Year—a proud moment for all of us!

#### **Looking Ahead**

As we move toward the calendar year-end, let’s continue to embrace opportunities for fellowship and service. Every initiative we undertake adds to the legacy we are building together.

Wishing all our members a life filled with good health, happiness, and meaningful achievements.

In Rotary Service,

**Rtn. Anand Bhadkamkar**

President, Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo 2025-26

## IMPACT TABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

By Jyoti Hariharan

Project	Date	Type	Avenue	No of Beneficiaries	No of Volunteers	Man Hours	Cost	Sponsor	Comments
1	03-Oct-25	Sacred flowers from Durga Pandal were sent to Keshav Shrushti for making agarbattis and compost.	Non-Medical	-	3	Yet to confirm	yet to confirm	Sponsored	Kala
2	08-Oct-25	Pres Anand donated for AMC of 10 Laptops for Aesthesis Foundation for Visually Blind.	Non-Medical	10	2	2	21,600	Sponsored	Anand, Rita
3	11-Oct-25	Basic Banking and Financial Literacy session conducted by Rtn Kala Sridhar, for St. Stanislaus school students.	Non-Medical	121	2	5	-	Sponsored	Kala, Mehek
4	11-Oct-25	Waste Composting project initiated by Rtn Sharika in her Society in Malad.	Non-Medical	540	15	25	-	Sponsored	Sharika
5	14-Oct-25	Rtns Kala and Natasha coordinated diversion of surplus sanitary material from Omkar Builders to Sanskardham School at Goregaon.	Non-Medical	100	2	6	54,000	Sponsored	Kala, Natasha
6	15-Oct-25	Monthly Blood Donation Camp organized in Andheri West Station; 63 units collected.	Medical	63	1	1	808	Sponsored	
7	15-Oct-25	Eye check-up camp organized at Potentia Counselling Center, Sion. Project was identified by Rtn Rakhi with the support of 3 Volunteers.	Medical	112	1	20	57,000	Sponsored	Rakhi
8	15-Oct-25	Waste clean-up drive organized at SNGP by Rtn Natasha.	Non-Medical	45	1	4	-	Sponsored	Natasha
9	17-Oct-25	'Bridging the Digital Divide' held at Vidya Mandir School Auditorium, Dahisar. Laptop donation to 81 underprivileged students. Rtn Kala was present, and one laptop was donated by her son Kishore Iyer.	Non-Medical	1	1	5	50,000	Sponsored	kala
10	17-Oct-25	Pop - up Diwali Activity by Speshally through Aesthesis foundation (NGO) held at FCB agency.	Non-Medical	100	2	15	-	Sponsored	Rita, Hari
11	17-Oct-25	Rtn Sharika conducted a session on home violence and how to cope with trauma at home. Also Donated clothes to 40 young girls.	Non-Medical	40	2	5	-	Sponsored	Sharika, Daksha
12	17-Oct-25	Magnanimous donation by Rtn Rahul to Adhar, Badlapur. Steel cupboard, BP monitor, Electric Nebulizer. A 45" Samsung TV with tata sky set up box, a small TV, bag of stuffed toys, bag of woolens.	Non-Medical	250	3	15	-	Sponsored	Rahul
13	18-Oct-25	2 ceiling fans donated to Sanskardam School by Rtn Sridhar.	Non-Medical	2	1	2	5,000	Sponsored	Sridhar
14	27-Oct-25	Rtn Roshmi donated some essential items like Glucometer, Medical Compression Stockings, Carpet, Bedsheets to Holy Angels Foundation old age home at Charkop.	Non-Medical	15	2	2	8,000	sponsored	Roshmi, Kala
15	20-Oct-25	Waste collection at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar - 600kg of paper and plastic waste to be diverted towards waste recycling. Plastic collected from Indian Institute of Packaging.	Non-Medical	-	3		25,000	Sponsored	Kala, Natasha Elizabeth (Furever NGO)
16	21-Oct-25	Used Clothes collection at Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar.	Non-Medical	100		5	-	Sponsored	Kala, Natasha, Elizabeth (Furever NGO)
17	31-Oct-25	In continuation of eye checkup Camp on 15 Oct 2025, handed over 8 Spectacles to the needy.	Medical	8	6	10	8,000	Sponsored	Rakhi, Meera, Anand, Roshmi
				1,507	44	122	2,29,408		

# EMPOWERING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED



**Rakesh Kumar**

Rotary District 3141 has made inspiring strides in empowering persons with disabilities, consistently weaving inclusion, empathy, and opportunity into its service fabric. Under its special initiatives in various avatars like 'Able to Ability', the district has mounted several impactful programs from awareness to active rehabilitation, and has helped bring about meaningful change in the lives of differently-abled individuals.

For example, a significant event has been the celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, organized in partnership with local NGOs and various Rotary clubs in the district. Rotarians and caregivers come together for sessions ranging from laughter therapy to mental health panel discussions, creating a space for dignity, healing, and community. The district also honors exceptional individuals — para-athletes, dancers, and

disability rights activists — recognizing their grit and relating their stories to inspire others.

In line with its inclusion mission, District 3141 has been encouraging vocational training to hearing- and speech-impaired youth. For instance, a Rotary Club ran a computer training program, benefiting batches of speech- and hearing-impaired students. Physical mobility has also been addressed: for example, the gift of a specially designed wheelchair to para-athlete Geeta Chouhan, helping her continue to compete nationally and globally.

**Rotary Club ran a computer training program, benefiting batches of speech- and hearing-impaired students. Physical mobility has also been addressed.**

Beyond direct service, the district has worked to sensitize society. In one notable project, disability-rights activists like Neenu Kewlani and Sunita Sancheti were involved. Neenu, who uses a wheelchair since childhood, and Sunita, who is paralyzed below the waist, have used Rotary's platform to advocate for accessible infrastructure and inclusive mindset. Sunita

organized a 'Badminton on Wheels' exhibition match: a powerful, public demonstration that physical disability need not limit one's ambitions.

The district's presence in this space is not tokenistic — it is rooted in long-term commitment. For example, a Rotary Club assisted in supporting the weddings of five differently-abled couples, providing not just celebration, but dignity through household essentials.

These efforts reflect District 3141's heart: recognizing the inherent talent, strength, and dignity in every individual, regardless of physical or mental challenges. By combining awareness, training, celebration, and advocacy, the district is not only empowering persons with disabilities — it is building a more inclusive Rotary community and society.

Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo has always been at the forefront of programs empowering the differently abled. In May it helped in organizing a wheelchair basketball tournament. In November, our club launched a major initiative during the Service Week on the day earmarked for programs for the differently abled. This project, aptly christened 'Utsah', received tremendous response and accolades. The project is covered in detail elsewhere in this issue.

**Rakesh Kumar**  
Editor, Neo Vista



# JOURNEY OF ABILITY, HISTORY, AND HEART: UTSAH 2025

**By Natasha Dcosta**

“Oh God, forgive me when I whine. I have two feet and the world is mine.” – Red Foley.

Few lines capture the essence of gratitude and human resilience as beautifully as this. And this year’s Utsah—organized by NEO as part of Rotary Service Week—proved exactly why.

At 8:00 am sharp on November 8, the adventure began.

The flag-off saw an inspiring turnout. Fourteen Neokars stood tall—President Anand, Jyoti, Kala, Sridhar, Daksha, Rita, and Alok among them. Co-host Presidents Pankaj Gupta and Rtn. Mithoon Gada arrived along with their club members, supported by Rotary Service Week dignitaries Indumati Gopinathan, Rajendra Unnikrishnan and Sandip Kedia.



A total of 160 participants joined the initiative:

95 physically challenged

27 visually impaired

25 intellectually challenged

20 able-bodied volunteers, including 5 from Neo: Arun Wadhwa, Mehek Wadhwa, Datta Bhagwat, Santosh Sansare, and Natasha Dcosta.

## ***The Road to History: Ghodbunder***

Our first stop: Ghodbunder—once the Portuguese gateway for Arabian horses. Every coastal fort across Mumbai, stretching along the old trade route, had a singular purpose: ensure that every ship paid its taxes. If they didn’t, the chain of forts would signal each other with light and fire across the sea.







The Marathas tried to capture Ghodbunder multiple times but never succeeded.

What makes the region even more fascinating is its past: marshland villages, once constantly flooded, built protective 'bunds' on higher ground. Over time, these grew into two- and three-storeyed shelters, where soldiers stood guard from upper levels while villagers lived safely below. What began as protection became architecture and community.

### ***Lunch with Purpose: Bang Seva School***

Warmth awaited at Bang Seva School, Vasai.

Under the care of Ms. Cynthia Baptista and Fr. Michael Gonsalves, volunteers arranged chairs, served meals and handled cleanup like clockwork. The school is a learning haven for specially-abled children. Their magazine said it best: "Impossible simply means I'm possible."

During introductions, our participants proudly took the mic—sharing that many had travelled from Nagpur and beyond just to be part of the trek. If heaven has addresses, it is found in places like this—where kindness meets courage, and community embraces everyone.

### ***The Mighty Vasai Fort***

Our final destination: The 110-acre Vasai Fort, once known as Fortaleza de São Sebastião de Bacaim—a jewel of Portuguese India.

Centuries ago, while Goa served as the Portuguese capital, Vasai was their holiday retreat. Soon it evolved into one of the most strategic strongholds in Western India—surrounded by water on three sides, with land walls over six feet thick, impossible to blast through in the 16th–18th centuries.

A quick journey through time:

Originally under Bahadur Shah, Sultan of Gujarat. In 1534, the Portuguese signed a treaty, rebuilt it, and made Vasai their main naval base and

shipbuilding center.

The fort housed churches, a hospital, a mint, and a bustling township.

Though grand, it also witnessed wars, sieges and resistance.

By 5 pm, after exploring its remnants—cathedrals, barracks, cottages, community spaces—we boarded the bus. The Envisage Team surprised everyone with thoughtful snacks. A special thanks went to the expert guide arranged by Santosh Sansare, who filled every corridor of stone with life.

And then came the trivia everyone loved:

The Marathas, shorter in stature than the Mughal army, used short swords that sliced swiftly at ground level—leaving opponents unable to rise again.

And yes—Shivaji was one of the few Indian rulers with a true naval fleet.

### ***More Than a Tour***

It was a day of discovery. But more than history and architecture, the real monument was human spirit.

To walk beside those whose challenges never stopped their courage... To watch a community come together not out of sympathy, but companionship... To listen, laugh, learn—and be humbled...

It reminds us that life is ability wrapped in different forms.

### ***To Sum It Up***

Spending a day with these beautiful souls helps us embrace life in all its forms—  
with courage, fragility, joy, and gratitude.

Heart full of courage,

Strength and fragility,

Fueled by love of humanity and family—

All wrapped with a tag that reads: ABILITY.

# VASAI AND GHODBUNDER FORT EXCURSION FOR THE DIFFERENTLY-ABLED

By Santosh Sansare



A one-day historical excursion to Vasai and Ghodbunder Forts was organized on Saturday, November 8 for differently-abled friends — including the visually impaired and those with limited mobility — through the BeingUp Foundation, with the whole-hearted support of Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo.

This year's expedition included 160 participants. Volunteers from the Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo and the BeingUp Foundation played a vital role in its success. Kachru Chambhare, a skilled mountaineer and headmaster from Beed, visited the event to witness the efforts firsthand and was deeply impressed by the organization. He was entrusted with explaining the history of the forts to the participants. Additionally, Shridatta Raut, a renowned historian and conservationist

of Vasai Fort, guided and provided valuable insights during the event.

The success of this program was made possible by the dedicated efforts of Santosh Sansare (BeingUp Foundation) and Arun Wadhwa (Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo), along with their entire teams.

## **About the Author**

Santosh Sansare has been organizing mountaineering expeditions and nature treks for differently-abled people since 2001. Since 2008, his friends, family, various companies, and organizations like RCM Neo have been sponsoring these large-scale events. Sansare himself is a trained mountaineer, having completed training from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi. Over the years, between 20 and 150 differently-abled individuals — including the blind or physi-

cally challenged — have successfully participated in these unique expeditions every year. Organizing a large-scale adventure activity for differently-abled people — with trained mountaineers, doctors, ambulance support, safety regulations, and individual insurance — entirely free of cost and with such responsibility is unheard of globally. Social worker and mountaineer Rtn Ashish Patankar introduced Sansare to the Rotary movement in 2016.

## **About BeingUp**

The BeingUp Foundation was originally founded at the request of visually impaired cyclist and mountaineer Sagar Bodke. The foundation is open to all types of differently-abled persons — the only requirement is that you should be able to walk a little and have a bit of courage. The rest — encouragement, support, and





confidence — is provided by the foundation's team.

From 2001 to 2025, over 25 years, the foundation has organized: 4 expeditions to Kalsubai Peak,

2 to Raigad, 3 to Lohgad; treks to Naneghat, Shivneri, Rajmachi, Rayreshwar, Sagargad, Harishchandragad, Kalavantin Durg, Girnar

Parikrama, Rajgad and others; 4 cleanliness drives across Mumbai forts (Sion, Shivdi, Worli, and Bandra); expeditions to Adi Kailas (Himalayas); 18 consecutive years of trekking from Khandas (Karjat) to Bhimashankar; 15 years of Brahmagiri Parikrama. To date, 2,510 differently-abled participants have benefited from these initiatives.

## A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE

### *By Some Participants*

Gadkille Safar is an extraordinary experience that connects us, people with disabilities, to Maharashtra's rich history. Thank you for this courageous effort!

Maharashtra is unique, with forts across the state, each with its own history and geographical significance. A 16-year-old youth vowed to establish Hindavi Swarajya and made history. Many brave warriors fought, repelled invasions, and contributed to Swarajya.

These forts testify to our rich history, and we, people with disabilities, should experience them firsthand, climb them, and soak in the surroundings.

Rotary Club Mumbai Neo and BigUp Institution's founder, Santosh Sansare Sir, and family take us on treks to historical forts every year. We thank you for this and appreciate your continued efforts.



Congratulations to participants with disabilities who joined with great enthusiasm and determination!

Jai Shivray! Jai Maharashtra!

**By Vilas Bhagojirao Agare, Bhalchandra Yashwant Chachale, Suhas Vitthal Rane, Purushottam Vaikule**

**Utsah Participants**

## WHEN THE HEART LEARNS TO HEAL

By **Saraswathi Suresh**



(Rtn Arun recently interviewed Rtns Saraswathi and Suresh for a podcast on behalf of District 3141. The podcast is available at:

<https://youtu.be/adSxM-QIYw4?si=4V0jwkQ876NIhd84>

*This article was written after the interview by Saraswathi at the request of Neo Vista.)*

I never planned much in life. I grew up in a carefree world with no fixed goals — yet I thrived, excelling in studies and later in my corporate career. Marriage and motherhood weren't part of my plan, but life, as always, had its own flow.

When my elder son arrived, life became an adventure — filled with bedtime stories, Disney movies, travel, and creativity. Our home echoed with laughter and imagination. A few years later, my second son was born — my sweet little joy. Life grew busier with career and family, and though time felt stretched, my heart was full. My elder son was thoughtful, kind, and responsible beyond his years, often stepping in to help without being asked.

He was bright, with a brilliant mind and a gentle soul. But in 2011, my world shifted when he was diagnosed with schizophrenia. The storm came suddenly and left me shaken. He dropped out during his final semester — just one paper short of graduation. His once vibrant energy dimmed; routines broke down, thoughts scattered, and the atmosphere at home turned heavy.

No parent is ever ready for such news. The years that followed tested every ounce of strength I had. Confusion, fear, guilt, and

sleepless nights became constant companions. But slowly, I found my way — one step at a time. Acceptance didn't come overnight, but once I reached it, everything began to change.

Therapy and medication became part of our new rhythm. I learned that healing is not just for the individual but for the entire family. Family therapy helped us communicate again, replacing frustration with patience and empathy. With spirituality and mindfulness, we found a new rhythm and rediscovered joy in small things. Today, my son smiles more, works with dedication, and follows a balanced lifestyle. He also completed his BA (Hons) in Graphic Design and continues to enhance his skills with passion and focus. The light in his eyes has returned, and with it, peace has returned to my heart.

Looking back after eleven years, I see how far I've come. Challenges didn't break me — they transformed me. My son's journey taught me that love is not about control, but about presence. Healing is not about forgetting, but about accepting.

### ***The Birth of Families Voice on Mental Illness - FAVMI***

Out of those long years of struggle emerged a deep realization and a larger mission — families need support as much as the person living with mental illness. When family carers are guided, heard, and empowered, the recovery journey transforms.

With this belief, and alongside Dr Sachin Ganorkar, we founded FAVMI. It began as a small initiative to bring together family carers who often suffer in silence. We wanted to create a platform where families could share, learn, and advocate together — turning pain into purpose.

Our goal was clear: to bridge the gap between mental health professionals, policymakers, and families; to amplify the family carer's voice; and to ensure that no family ever feels alone in this journey.



## ***From Personal Healing to Collective Hope***

Through FAVMI, I've witnessed how shared stories can heal. Each conversation — whether in a support meeting or on our podcast or in webinars — is a reminder that strength is found in connection.

In my recent podcast episode, I spoke about how acceptance was the turning point — both for my husband and me. The moment I stopped thinking “why us” and began to focus on “what next,” everything changed. Healing began with faith, continued with patience, and blossomed through community.

What began as one mother's story has grown into a collective movement of compassion and advocacy.

## ***Moving Forward***

Our journey is still unfolding and today, I live with deeper faith, stronger patience, and immense gratitude. Life's flow may be unpredictable, but I've learned to trust it — because even in the hardest chapters, there is always beauty waiting to be found.

We will continue to learn, to share, and to build a world where persons with mental illness and their families find hope and dignity.

## NEO QUIZ

### A YEAR-END QUIZ

***By Meera Ramachandran***

Here is an exercise for quick thinking, alertness and above all for expressing your position in utmost brevity.

1. An aria in an opera is sung by how many people?
2. Fill in the blank: “it takes \_\_\_\_\_ to tango”.
3. How many Gods are there in the Hindu trinity?
4. How many players make up the card game Contract Bridge?
5. How many sensory organs does a human have?
6. How many sides does a hexagon have?
7. How many ‘sisters’ make up India's North East States?
8. How many planets are there in the solar system?
9. Which number is called out as ‘Doctor's order’ in the game of Tambola?
10. By rule how many players of the bowling team of cricket come to the field?
11. Which is the smallest two-digit number?
12. How many zodiac signs are there?
13. Which number is referred to as ‘the baker's dozen’?
14. How many years did Lord Rama spend in the forest?
15. Which date in March is referred to as the ‘Ides’?



The answers to all the above questions must be stated in one sentence, which should not contain more than twenty words. Weightage will be given for succinct but clear expression. Please DM your answer to Chief Editor Rakesh or to Co-editor Meera. The first four correct entries will be given a tie breaker, the result of which will determine the winner.

## WINNERS OF ‘GUESS THE NEOKAR – SEASON-2’

The following members participated in the Quiz, which evoked tremendous interest:

- |           |           |             |            |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 1. Jyoti  | 2. Datta  | 3. Alok     | 4. Daksha  |
| 5. Roshmi | 6. Suresh | 7. Narinder | 8. Kaushik |

It was a close contest, and the first six were close enough to be declared winners of the awards.

# THE TAJ MAHAL JOURNEY: 3800 KM OF “ARE WE THERE YET?”

By Ajay Dcosta



Our family loves the outdoors, but a simple Taj Mahal visit felt...no!

So, I casually suggested, “Let’s drive there... through Gujarat and Rajasthan.”

Family: “WHAT?!” Later: “SO WHAT?”  
Eventually: “WHAT NOW?”

And boom—plan finalized.

We managed to squeeze our epic trip into a mini write-up. Meet us in person for the uncut dramatic replay!

**18 Oct – Ahmedabad:** Hit the road before sunrise. Visited Sabarmati Ashram, Gandhiji and Kasturba’s abode for a short while. We learned how to spin thread from a cotton ball. We got distracted by squirrels, parrots, and peacocks who clearly owned the place.

**19 and 20 Oct – Udaipur:** Stayed in a hill-hugging hotel. We had to do a small invigorating trek! Visited Saheliyon Ki Bari— a royal water park from the 1800s. Water from hidden springs was guided into waterways and fountains. Kids got drenched; thank God for spare clothes. Then the City Palace at night! Stunning. Got a good guide. Saw swords, elephant-skin shields (yes, really), and met artists using squirrel hairbrushes for micro-precision. Fancy stuff.

**21 Oct – THE TAJ MAHAL:** Finally! White, shiny, perfect. 20 years to build and gorgeous stones

from around the world. Only the Jaisalmer stone was from Rajasthan! The Taj Mahal was enormous, with etching in the marble stones made in the 1600s. Truly remarkable.

**22 Oct – Jodhpur:** An artistic blue village – almost a smurf town! Heritage hotel with cooling holes in floors and ceilings (ancient AC). Royal vibes everywhere. Dinner on a terrace with live Rajasthani folk music.

**23 Oct – Jaisalmer:** Desert madness: dune-bashing jeep ride, camel safari, folk dance show, and sleeping under the stars. Counted 21 shooting stars because we’re overachievers.

**24–25 Oct – Santhore:** Met Peera Ram—the superhero mechanic-turned-animal rescuer. On his 10 acres he’s saved 1000+ injured animals over the years. We stayed on his farm, heard his stories, and now must figure out how to help this legend. He has nourished more than 50 neem trees where more than a thousand parrots nestle at night. At dawn you wake up to the cacophony of parrots flying amongst the trees – from one to another! Peera needs funds. He and his wife singlehandedly are raising these animals. They run an NGO for their care. We have been contributing to this cause.

**26 Oct – Mumbai:** Reached home sunburnt, sandy, satisfied, and still talking non-stop. Not bad for a ‘simple’ Taj Mahal trip!



# NEOKARS' DIARY IN BRIEF

**By Narinder Madan and Meera Ramachandran**

**Satyanarayan Puja:** On 9th November Arun hosted Envisage's anniversary celebration with a Satyanarayan Puja. Neokars were privileged to have a grand darshan, enjoy delicious Mangalorean

cuisine and merry mingling. The devotion to Lord Vishnu of the Wadhwa family and their warm hospitality is commendable and we wish his enterprise greater achievements in the future.



**Holy Angels Foundation:** On 24th October Roshmi donated clothes and medical items to the Holy Angel Old Age Home in Charkop, Kandivli. Items included a machine to monitor blood glucose, a bubble beds, shawls, sweaters and towels. The beneficiary was identified by Kala.



for ethical business practices. The certificate was awarded by RI President Francesco Arezzo, with DG Manish Motwani looking on with appreciation.

**Global Award for Alok:** On 18th November Alok received The Fabulous Marketeer Award from the CEO Asia of the World Marketing Congress at Taj Land's End. Hearty congratulations Alok.



**Arun Bags the First RVB:** It was a proud moment for Neo and for Arun Wadhwa, when he became the first recipient of the certificate for Rotary Verified Business, which is a recognition



**RMB Synergy Symposium:** Neo congratulates Alok and Kirti for their contribution to the RMB (Rotary Means Business) Synergy Symposium held on 15th November at Taj President Cuffe Parade. The theme was *Applications of AI in Agriculture and Smart Construction*. Alok, our in-house expert on AI, shared his knowledge at a session, while Kirti moderated another. Kudos to this smart couple.



**Help to Cerebral Palsy Patient:** On 13th November Sharika, along with our Honorary member Santosh, visited Manasvi, a student of class 9, affected with cerebral palsy and living in a low-income housing at Jogeshwari. The girl needs both encouragement and funding for continuing with her studies. Sharika is actively involved in her progress. We appreciate your noble mission Sharika and wish you all the best.



## NEO MEETS

### CLUB MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6

*By Meera Ramachandran*

A feature of the Club Meeting held on 6th November was a yoga session conducted by Mehek. Holding their palms in the hriday hasta mudra pose, members felt recharged with a few minutes of silent meditation. This was followed by a crisp and purely business meeting. An election was conducted for the club's choice of DG Nominee and of a member for the Council of



Legislators of RI for 2028-29. Changes in club by-laws for formation of Trustees when the club's Charitable Trust comes into being and for formation of the club's Board of Directors and Officers were discussed and approved. Kala, Arun and Natasha presented briefs on the ongoing Rotary Sewa Week. There was the usual bonhomie at the dinner that followed.





## ROTARY SERVICE WEEK

*By Narinder Madan and Meera Ramachandran*

RSW: The Rotary Service Week is a concept of District 3141 to bring clubs together to engage in diverse community service events in a collaborative, extensive and focused manner, in one week every year, in order to showcase Rotary's manifold activities to its own members and to the general public. The areas of service are determined in advance. This year the schedule was as follows:

### **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Focus: Eye camp.**

Neo observed this day a few days earlier on 31st October. Seven spectacles were provided to children, as prescribed in an eye camp conducted at Angel Foundation, Sion Centre last month. Donation was organized by Hemang and the center was suggested by Rakhi. The Foundation headed by Bijal Shah consists of a

team of dedicated women volunteers who provide coaching to children from Municipal Schools, after school hours.

On this day, Neo was co-host for a mega medical and eye-check up camp conducted at Shyamji Bapu Mandir Trust, Goregaon east. Also, Kala attended the inauguration of an eye-check up camp at Lotus Eye Hospital.



### **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Focus: Cyber Crime**

**Security:** 1) Our club arranged talks at Vasant Galaxy Society. Neokar Alok highlighted our

weaknesses that scamsters exploit, such as fear and urgency for quick solutions. His advice was to quickly switch off any untoward call,





don't answer unsaved numbers, report suspicious calls immediately and do not log into open WIFI's such as at airports and hotels.

Senior Inspector Ravindra Awhad and his team at Cyber Cell of Bangur Nagar police station also addressed the audience. He informed the audience of numbers to immediately contact in case of any suspicious activity: 1930 for financial fraud and 1945 for SIM card manipulation. Rtn Rajendran Unnikrishnan, Avenue Chair, 10 Neokars and residents of Vasant Galaxy were present at the event.

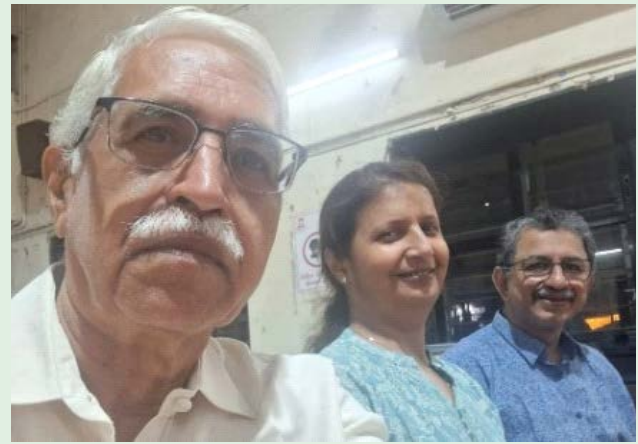
**2) Neokar Sridhar**, as Zonal Director North West for Cyber Crime, was invited to address RC Goregaon West.



**3) Our club join hands with Kala Gurjari** to make senior citizens aware of New Type of crime which are perpetrated in this new Digital world. Our government has also taken initiative to ensure that citizens are safe in the New Digital World by providing Cyber Police at important Police stations.



A lecture was held at Kala Gurjari Library at Vile Parle (W) on 3rd November on the "Cyber Security Awareness". The lecture was well attended by Kala Gurjari members and Neo



members Suresh, Mahek and Narinder. Of course, our member Hemang Jangla, who is also the President of Kala Gurjari had organized this event. Mr. Anurag Dixit, who is heading the Cyber Cell at Juhu Police Station gave an insight as to how the Cyber criminals operate and what precaution individuals should take to ensure their safety. It was a very informative and interactive session lasting almost an hour. The talk was preceded by a skit that graphically presented different kinds of scams that people have faced. Our Neo member Suresh, as a former banker, shared his experience with the members. The message delivered was "Do Not Panic" and report to the authorities immediately to avoid any financial loss.

## 4<sup>th</sup> November. Focus, Blood Donation:

Our club was co-host at a blood donation camp held at Metro station, Andheri. It was a proud moment for us when president Anand came forward as a donor.





**5<sup>th</sup> November. Focus: Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening.** Our club was co-host at a camp conducted at Datta Maternity and Nursing Home, Goregaon West. Pap smear was done on 61 women; 2 patients were referred for further investigation and 6 were recommended for sonomammography. 4 Neokars attended the event.



**6<sup>th</sup> November. Focus: Senior Citizens.** Several events were held at clubs and district level to honor senior citizens. Since Neo held its BoD and club meetings on this day, some senior citizens decided to pose for shutterbugs, just for the record!



**7<sup>th</sup> November. Focus: Vocational Awards for Unsung Heroes.** In every society there are silent workers who keep working without worrying for any rewards. A gala event was held at Y B Chavan auditorium on 7th November, to



recognize such heroes, in the presence of District Governor Rtn Dr. Manish Motwani and other district dignitaries. There were 75 entries received from various clubs, out of which 15 people were selected by the jury appointed for this. These individuals were felicitated at this event with a plaque and a certificate. The Neo club recommendation Dr. Mumtaz was one of the awardees. She was felicitated for her work in eye care department at Lotus Eye Hospital. Most of the awards were given to people connected with either education or health care for the under-privileged section of society.

There was a musical show by a band of doctors, *The Tuning Folks*, which was highly appreciated. At the event about 40 clubs were present and the total number of attendees including guests, jury etc. was close to 400. Neokars who attended were Arun, Mahek, Sridhar, Kala, Jyoti and Narinder.

**8<sup>th</sup> November. Focus: The Specially Abled.** Our club's flagship project is Utsah, the annual trek undertaken with physically and mentally challenged citizens from various institutions. The event is driven by Arun Wadhwa and our honorary member Santosh Sansare. The event provides historical tourism, a healthy walking tour and above all an opportunity to bond with,





respect and admire the grit and determination of the especially abled. The project is covered elsewhere in this issue in detail.

Neokar Rita who runs a center for training and placement of Differently Abled attended an event at Lokmanya Tilak Sangh at Vile Parle East.



Neokar Kala, as project head for the specially abled under RSW, rendered the opening remarks at an event at Nehru Science Centre, highlighting Rotary's commitment to inclusiveness. She also had an opportunity to meet with RI President Rtn Francesco Arezzo, first lady Anna Maria and DG Dr. Manish Motwani, and showcase to them the artwork of the foot-and-mouth artist Bandenawaz. At the event, visually challenged girls of Kamla Mehta School performed a colorful Ghoomer, dazzling everybody with their grace and coordination.

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

District 3141

Service Week

LET'S INSPIRE!

Lead Host: Rotary Club of Mumbai Khar

Specially Abled

8<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

Venue : Lokmanya Tilak Sangh Vile Parle (East)

Co-Hosts

RC Bombay

Airport

RC Mumbai

Mahim

RC Mumbai

Coastline

Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani

DG 25-26

Rtn. Dr. Indumati Gopinathan

Group Avenue Head RSW

Rtn. Rajendran Unnikrishnan

Avenue Chair RSW

RI President

Francesco Arezzo

Rtn. Ajit Rohira

Secretary, RCMK

Rtn. Ketan Mehta

President, RCMK

Rtn. Husain Vakil

Treasurer, RCMK BKC

When asked which was the most memorable project he saw in the last two days, RI President spoke about the Specially Abled event. He also mentioned pink auto, Rotary Heart Hospital, and Eye Hospital projects.

## 9<sup>th</sup> November. Focus: Happy Streets.

Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled. Members hope that another opportunity will arise to experience the Zumba session, listen to our star singers and to view the products created by Rita's NGO, all of which were scheduled on that day.

# ROUND-UP OF PROJECTS IN OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

**By Narinder Madan and Meera Ramachandran**

**Study App distribution:** On 7th November Study Apps were distributed among students of class 10 at Versova Welfare School. This was arranged by Hemang through his contact with

the donor, Ms. Madhu Gupta, who is seen in the photograph below. Kala coordinated the event. We hope the students' academic performance will be greatly enhanced by this digital aid.





**Blood Donation:** On 18th November the monthly blood donation camp was held at Andheri Station, in which Neo was a co-host. Neo members extend a warm appreciation to Suresh for being one of the donors. 78 units were collected on this day. The total collection between July-November 2025, at Andheri station, is 387 units. We are proud of our in-house donors as well as of members who attended and participated in the awareness drive.



**Recycling of Waste:** Natasha, through her NGO Bhoomi Recyclers Foundation has been educating school children to channelize dry waste to reduce open dumping. This Sept to Nov Bhoomi Recyclers Foundation worked 3 schools: St Anthony's School Malwani, Mother Theresa School Malwani, and Adarsh Vidyalaya Goregaon. They conducted weekly sessions on waste management and how it is connected to our

food, to the animals and birds around us, to our health, to the growth of our economy. They encouraged children to reimagine open dumps / nullahs. Every week the students brought to school a weekly collection of waste from their house; thus, channelizing of waste started. St Anthony's school collected 678 kg, Mother Theresa School 256 kg, Adarsh Vidyalaya 674 kg.

**Prize Distribution at Adarsh Vidyalaya:** On November 20, Adarsh Vidyalaya was given a certificate for collecting 674 kg of waste, mitigating 1,820 kg of carbon dioxide. 916 children and staff were individually given a note book and a pen each, made from recycled

paper. 10 Neokars attended the event, led by Natasha. Meera, Roshmi, Daksha, Rakesh, Anu, Suresh, Rakhi, Santosh and Jyoti participated actively and enthusiastically. Daksha hosted lunch, for all Neokars present for the project, at her house.





To Know More: :

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