



ROTARY CLUB  
OF MUMBAI

# Neo Vista

R.I. President: Rtn. Stephanie A. Urchick • DG 3141: Rtn. Arun Bhargava • President: Rtn. Sridhar Ramasubramanian • Editor: Rtn. Rakesh Kumar  
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## NEW BEGINNINGS...



ROTARY OBSERVES  
JULY AS  
**NEW LEADERSHIP  
MONTH**



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# FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT TO NEO CHARTER MEMBERS



**Stephanie A. Urchick**

President, 2024-25  
Rotary International

03 June 2024

The Club Presidents of Rotary year 2024-25

Dear Club Presidents,

I congratulate you on your installation to the office of club Presidents of Rotary Clubs in District 3141.

Rotary needs your leadership now more than ever if we are to make every club and district an irresistible experience. By following Rotary's Action Plan and making sure all members feel a sense of belonging in your club, you have a special opportunity to inspire members to new heights of service.

Our ability to create lasting change begins with our family of Rotary. Together, it is within our power to bring healing in a divided world.

Join me in making Rotary a source of strength for those who need it most, within and beyond our membership. Let this be the year we harness The Magic of Rotary, and let Rotary be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people we serve.

It is within your power to help make your club a beacon of goodwill and fellowship in your community.

I look forward to working beside you as we change the world with The Magic of Rotary.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie A. Urchick". The script is elegant and cursive.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**

Rotary International President, 2024-2025

## MESSAGE FROM RI PRESIDENT



**R. Gordon R. McNally**

President, 2023-24  
Rotary International

1 June 2024

Dear charter members of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo, Maharashtra, India.

I am incredibly pleased and proud to welcome your Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo into the Rotary family.

Rotary clubs provide a place for those with a passion for community service to connect, share ideas and discover how to make a difference in the lives of others. I am delighted that your club will join us as we confront some of the world's most critical and widespread humanitarian issues.

Chartering a new club is exciting and challenging. The key to success is building a strong, engaged membership dedicated to the idea of service, ranging from local community-based projects to major global initiatives. Together, we will accomplish great things as we serve local and international communities as we Create Hope in the World.

Congratulations again to the Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo. I wish you great success for many years to come.

Thank you, in advance, for all you will do for Rotary and the people we serve, please know I appreciate it greatly.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gordon R. McNally', written in a cursive, flowing style.

**R. Gordon R. McNally**

President, Rotary International 2023-24



## MESSAGE FROM VIBRANT DG

**Ignite the Magic of Rotary: Building Vibrant Clubs, Vibrant Communities!**



**Chetan Desai**

District Governor,  
Rotary International District 3141

**Dear Vibrant President and Club Members,**

As your District Governor, I'm thrilled to embark on this Rotary year together, fueled by the inspiring theme – **The Magic of Rotary**. This theme isn't just a slogan; it's a call to action to ignite the magic within each of us and create a lasting impact on our communities.

My vision for this year is to build on this magic and make our clubs truly **Vibrant**. Vibrant clubs are those where members are **engaged, enthusiastic, and empowered** to make a difference.

Rotary District 3141 boasts a rich tapestry of service projects — from **Vibrant Anganwadis** nurturing young minds to **Breast Cancer Detection** empowering women. We champion **CSR initiatives**, **sustainable tribal welfare**, and transform lives through "**disability to ability**" programs. We care for the **elderly** with compassion, and bring hope with **pediatric heart surgeries** and **eye surgeries**.

Let's not forget the importance of mental well-being — **mental health** initiatives are crucial. **Neonatal projects**, **water projects**, **railway projects**, and the fight against **anemia and thalassemia** — each project holds the potential to transform lives. **Samavesh**, our national integration project in Kashmir, reminds us of our duty to integrate kashmir' people with main stream of India.

**The magic Lies in YOU!** Your participation and dedication breathe life into these projects. I urge you to **embrace these opportunities** — attend club meetings, participate in service projects, and share your ideas. Together, we can weave a vibrant tapestry of service that leaves a lasting impact.

Let's ignite the magic, build vibrant clubs, and create vibrant communities!

**With Rotarian Spirit,**

**Chetan Desai**

District Governor,  
Rotary International District 3141

## FROM THE VIBRANT NEO PRESIDENT



### Sridhar Ramasubramanian

President,  
Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo 2024-25

#### Dear Neo-kars,

Let's begin our new journey with a few inspirational quotes of Rotary World.

"Rotary's strength lies in the sincerity of purpose of its members."

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, Service was Joy."

"Nothing is predestined. The obstacles of the past can become the gateways that lead to new beginnings."

"Be the CHANGE you wish to see in the WORLD."

"Everything we do opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere. "

"TOGETHER we see a world, where PEOPLE unite and take action to CREATE lasting CHANGE across the globe in our communities and in ourselves."

As we embark on this new journey, I would like reiterate our purpose, which resonates with the name of our club 'NEO'.

In the word NEO, if you make the last letter first you get ONE. In the movie The Matrix which speaks about The ONE that created the Matrix and has absolute control over it. He does not tolerate dissent and any variation from his set rules. This results in resetting the Matrix frequently, as errors or differences of opinion keep collapsing it. In the movie, NEO is the character that counter-balances The ONE. NEO brings stability to the brave new world.

Our Club should strive for providing our members with a NEO rotary experience where fellowship and service trump all other considerations. We will not brook politics, we will not have 'ONE' way of working but we will have a participative leadership, free and frank exchange of ideas. Neo will look to provide the cleanest and the purest form of rotary experience focused on community service and forging strong bonds with its members with fellowship and engagement.

Our collective approach and objective is to build strong bonding amongst all members and their families, be simple, humble, transparent. We will strive very hard to be true Rotarians, by involving in impactful projects. We will Co-Create (formation of ideas within a collaborative team space), Co-Design (an artform of participation) and Collaborate (act of coming together). We have experienced Rotarians amongst us, coupled with fresh initiatives and energy from our new members, supported by very strong NGOs, associations, and Partners in Service.

Am sure and confident that we will together take the Rotary agenda to newer heights with our Collective and Collaborative approach.

Wishing each and every one Neo-kar and their families the very best for a great beginning.

**Sridhar Ramasubramanian**

President, Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo 2024-25

## NEO MUSINGS

**Rakesh Kumar**

Editor,  
Neo Vista 2024-25

**Welcome, Neo-kars, to the world of Neo.**

**Have we joined a new club?**

**NO.**

We have 'created' a new club. Like hotelier and sculptor V. V. Kamat's famous sculpture 'A child gives birth to a mother', our members have given birth to Neo. It is an act of creation, qualitatively different from just 'joining' a club.

We have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to shape the ethos of a new club, imprint our DNA on it. Let's grab the opportunity and give it all we've got. Create a club that gives pure Rotary experience to us and other members. The experience of selfless service to humanity, and the joy of fellowship and bonding. Nothing else should matter.

In the film 'The Matrix', the protagonist Neo is the prophesied savior destined to free humanity from the control of the Matrix – a simulated artificial reality that has a compulsive desire to control everything. Neo starts as an ordinary person living in the Matrix. As 'The One', he discovers and harnesses extraordinary abilities to manipulate the Matrix. Neo's identity as 'The One' is an integral part of his character's journey and evolution within the story.

**Why did we create this club?**

To liberate ourselves from 'The One', and to transform him into Neo. This is the origin of our club's name. We shall live up to it, with the help of all our members.

RCM Neo shall encourage spontaneity and creativity, bereft of bureaucracy. Rules will be there to guide us – not to constrain the flow of our creative juices or to curb our natural urge to serve.

RCM Neo started the Vibrant year with a bang by carrying out three projects on July 1. They are described in the Neo section. The President and his team have plans to maintain the josh and the tempo throughout the year. Let's all participate wholeheartedly in all projects and fellowship events.

Neo Vista is your house magazine – of you, by you, for you. The editorial team will seek contributions in the form of articles, poems, photos and other material from you. Our objective shall be to deliver an eminently readable magazine, and to facilitate bonding between members and member engagement with the club. In addition, we shall keep you abreast of happenings in the Rotary world, District 3141 and our own Club. We shall keep seeking your inputs on Neo Vista so as to improve it continually.

Let the journey continue!

**Rakesh Kumar**  
**Editor, Neo Vista 2024-25**



# INCREDIBLE DISTRICT SHUKRIYA

*By Rakesh Kumar*

The annual District Shukriya was held at St Regis on the evening of June 29 to a full house. It was a glittering event, meant to felicitate Rotarians of District 3141 for the wonderful work done by them during the Incredible Year. Incredible DG Arun Bhargava and first lady Seema were their usual charming selves while lavishing praise on the awardees.

RCM Neo was recognized for being one of the nine new clubs chartered during the Incredible Year. The Neo-kars felicitated were Arun Wadhwa, Kala Sridhar, and Meera Ramachandran.

Uptown, Bombay Seacoast and Deonar were the Platinum Clubs in the 50-100 members category.

RCs Bombay, Bombay Airport, Bombay Bay View, Bombay Central, Bombay Kandivali, Bombay Mid-Town, Bombay North, Bombay Queen City, Bombay West, Borivali and Queen's Necklace were the Platinum Clubs in the 100+ members category.

Incredible Arch Klumph Society members were Paresh and Beena Dattani, Rtn. Noopur Desai and Kushal Desai, and Rakesh Puri and Sangeeta Puri



Among the notable awardees were the following:

RC Bombay Pier and RC Mumbai North End were declared Super Diamond Clubs.

RC Mumbai Juhu under the leadership of President Arun Wadhwa, and RC Manor Highway were the two Platinum Clubs in the under-50 members category.

RCs Mumbai Mahim, Mumbai Parleshwar, Kandivli West, Mumbai West End, Bombay Hanging Gardens, Bombay Powai, Bombay

Rtn Kala Sridhar was recognized for Club Service 1. Rtn Meera Ramachandran was recognized for Youth Service 3.

PDG Rajendra Agarwal was conferred the Service Above Self award. Rtn Prakash Ruia won a Citation for Meritorious Service.

IPP Rtn Arun Wadhwa was conferred a special recognition for his service to Rotary in the Incredible year 2023-24. The Incredible Rotarian Awards were bagged by RTNs Dilip Mulay, Sandeep Kedia and Rajan Dua.



# INSTALLATION OF DG CHETAN DESAI

*By Arun Wadhwa*

The installation of a new DG signifies the start of a new year, a new team takes guard and the event unveils a series of new plans and initiatives. This year marked the start of the Rotary Vibrant Year 2024-25.

RI 3142 DG Chetan Desai and his team was installed in a glittering ceremony on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 at Mukesh Patel Auditorium. The function preceded by the installation of the President, Harish Chandrana, and his Board of Directors of the host club – Rotary Club of Borivali. He unveiled a quite impressive plan for the coming year – increase in members, rolling out a impressive list of social initiatives. Their board

of directors had well defined responsibilities and targets which was quite well planned.

The ceremony then moved to the installation of the Vibrant DG, Chetan Desai and his core team of co-ordinators. The installation started with a energetic dance performance followed by the introduction of DG Chetan Desai. There were many aspects of his personal and professional life that were unknown to many Rotarians and the introduction AV ensured that the same was shared eloquently. Many AKS and PDG's were in attendance at the installation and all were recognised and felicitated. They ensure that the soul of Rotary stays the same and the core







keeps ticking along focussed on community service. The outgoing Incredible DG Arun Bhargava also delivered a stirring speech which encapsulated the strides taken by Rotary Dist 3141 during his term. The local community connect, and focus made Rotary more accessible, more known and more impactful in the community around us. His focus on this aspect ensured that Rotary and Rotarians all across the District were well appreciated by the local community which made Rotary stronger.

The Vibrant DG made a very good speech in which he laid out his vision for the Vibrant Year 2024-25. His vision was backed with a very credible team and also by a clear plan of action

with meticulous planning. DG Chetan Desai assured the gathered Rotarians that key initiatives like Project National Integration will be continued and strengthened in the Vibrant year. The DG unveiled the RI theme of 2024-25 - "Magic of Rotary" to lead us in making a positive impact. He urged the Rotarians to align under the call "Together we can, together we will build on this magic to make our clubs Vibrant and Irresistible."

The event was made more special by the presence of the Chief Guest past RI Director A.S.Venkatesh. His message to Rotarians to focus on the work and the impact of the projects through the year was quite inspirational.

## NEO FLAGGED OFF ON ITS MAIDEN JOURNEY

By Meera Ramachandran



June 25, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo was born and R. Sridhar was installed as the charter president by DG Arun Bhargava. 'Birth' and 'baby' were the recurring themes of the evening that gave

rise to much humor and laughter. The president in his inaugural address outlined a whole year's plan of projects, fellowship meets and membership development. He emphasized the responsibilities and contributions of members with a headmaster's rigor, signaling that the Neo babe had entered school already! AG Harminder Singh, Club Advisor Anand Ramnani and District Secretary Harish Choksi, while giving their blessings, accepted to be part of the extended family of the new babe. DG praised Incredible President Arun Wadhwa for his great contributions to his club and the community, and extended special gratitude for providing the digital infrastructure for all District events. Ten new members and one honorary member were inducted.



## FOR A NEW BEGINNING, BY JOHN O'DONAHUE

(This poem was set to choreography and performed by Anaiya at the Installation)



In out of the way places of the heart  
Where your thoughts never think to wander  
This beginning has been quietly forming  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.  
For a long time it has watched your desire  
Feeling the emptiness grow inside you  
Noticing how you willed yourself on  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.  
It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the grey promises that sameness whispered  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent  
Wondered would you always live like this.  
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream  
A path of plenitude opening before you.  
Though your destination is not clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is one with your life's desire.  
Awaken your spirit to adventure  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.









## ARK EVENTS SHOWCASES MUSICIANS

Rtn Kala Sridhar's event management company, ARK Events, organized a musical evening named 'Teri Yaad Mein' on June 24 at the ISKCON auditorium. Unlike most such events that showcase singers, keeping musicians in the background, this evening was dedicated to recognizing the talents of musicians – espe-

cially Raj Sodha (Saxophone) and Samit Pednekar (Conga).

Sponsored by Shailaja Nair Foundation that was founded by Pratap Nair, the event was a treat for music buffs. Compered by DJ Amit in his usual inimitable way, it delighted the house full audience.



## ANAIYA PERFORMS AT JIO WORLD

It was an evening of superb performances. Anaiya Dcosta gave memorable performances to a full house on June 23 at the prestigious

Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre – a part of Jio World Centre. Titled 'The Mixed Bill' – a ballet, contemporary and Kathak event

curated and produced by Pia Sutaria and performed by the Indian Youth Dance Company, the event consisted of four performances. Anaiya featured in two of them – La Sylphide Act 2 (a ballet) and the premiere of Sukshma (contemporary).



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## NEO HITS THE GROUND RUNNING IN VIBRANT YEAR

The Vibrant Year started on July 1. And RCM Neo hit the ground running by executing three projects on the very first day. Watch this space every month for a round-up of projects during the month.

### NEO HOSTS MEGA BLOOD DONATION CAMP

*By Sridhar Ramasubramanian*



RCM Neo was a lead host for a mega blood donation camp on July 1 at Andheri station (West).

Neo-kars President Sridhar and Rtns Datta, Daksha, Santosh and Hemang attended the event.

### PROSTHETICS CAMP

*By Kala Sridhar*



RID 3141 and Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust together aim to make Mumbai disability free. 73 beneficiaries were fitted with mobility aids at the Camp held on July 1 as the first project of

the Vibrant year. Rajiv Mehta of Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust has promised disability aids for 1000 beneficiaries. Neo-kar Kala Sridhar is Avenue Chair, Disability to Ability.



## VIBRANT PERFORMANCES WITH MUCH ANAND

**By Meera Ramachandran**

Vibrant Anand was a mega project of District 3141 held right on the first day of the new Rotary year, on July 1, in which RCMN was a silver co-host. It provided a platform to the institutional-

organization of the event as an Avenue Chair of Disability to Ability. Savita Govilkar Avenue Chair Baghbaan also played a crucial part in the event. A directory of NGO's providing home and training



ized senior citizens, hearing and speech impaired and, the visually and physically challenged, to sing, dance and mimic. The enthusiasm of the performers was delightful and moving. Kudos to our own Kala Sridhar for her dynamic part in the

to these underprivileged was released by the chief guest, DG Chetan Desai. Other Neo-kars who attended the event were President Sridhar, and Rtns Arun Wadhwa, Narinder Madan and Meera Ramachandran.

## NATASHA CARRIES OUT FIRST PROJECT OF NEO



Rtn Natasha and her family spent the last week-end of June on a trek – an activity close to their hearts. In village Katwan nestled in the foothills of Matheran, they “moved into

the valley to sleep in the clouds”. While having lots of fun as a family – which they often do – they expressed their Rotarian spirit by gifting clothes and toys to 20 odd



children staying in the village, and playing cricket with them.

ROTARY CLUB  
OF MUMBAI

# Neo Vista

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