



Neo Vista

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Kashmir to Kanyakumari



A Tandem Bicycle Odyssey

ROTARY OBSERVES
NOVEMBER AS
**ROTARY
FOUNDATION
MONTH**

NOVEMBER IS



**ROTARY
FOUNDATION
MONTH**

"If we can conquer space, we can conquer childhood hunger."
Buzz Aldrin

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

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FROM THE VIBRANT NEO PRESIDENT



Sridhar Ramasubramanian

Dear Neo-kars,

OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Rotary supports investments in people to create measurable and enduring economic improvement in their lives and communities. Building the capacity of entrepreneurs, community leaders, local organizations, and community networks to support economic development in impoverished communities; Developing opportunities for productive work; Reducing poverty in under-served communities; Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to economic and community development.

And true to our strength, we endeavored on all above areas and delivered some projects in the month.

'The Race to Vision' awareness campaign from Kashmir to Kanyakumari covering a distance of 3758 kms by a specially made cycle for the blind, created a world record despite various

challenges faced by the Cyclists. RCMN supported the specially abled through our own Rotarian being part of the mission.

"Roots of Remembrance" project through tree plantations for environment and economic development, "Entrepreneurship session" with the young students of St Lawrence School demonstrated our vision for creating future Entrepreneurs. "Supported studies" through Donation of Ideal App, for students of Class X, who can't afford tuitions/ tutorials to prepare themselves for their board exam. "Enabling the Specially abled" drive happened through distribution of 15 wheel chairs to the Cricket/Basketball specially abled players and also conducted a T10 cricket tournament. The Rotaractors from LS Raheja College of Architecture participated with much enthusiasm.

We continued our regular monthly projects in the area of "Annapoorna Kitchen and Meals", Blood donation camp, Old age homes care through provision and other accessories distribution, "Bottles to Benches" environment project, Donation of specs for school students etc.,

A super collective involvement of all members, help in driving project resulted with a 7 projects in a day (26/10/24) across various part of the city.

Am personally very proud to see 101 projects getting completed in 123 days and this would not have been possible but for the passion and efforts of Neokars.

Wishing all Neokars, their families and friends a very happy and prosperous Diwali.

Sridhar Ramasubramanian

President, Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo 2024-25

Project	Date	Type	Avenue	No of Beneficiary	No of Volunteers	Man Hours	Cost	Sponsor	Comments
1	02-Oct-24	"Roots of Remembrance"- Tree plantation at Rustomjee Ozone, Goregaon West in collaboration with RC Mumbai City and Rustomjee	Non Medical	25	5	15	45,000	NGO	Madhavi, Kala
2	02-Oct-24	"Project Annapoorna" at Andheri East on Auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti and Sarva Pitru Amavasya. Donor Murli Iyer (ref Rtn Jyoti Hariharan) sponsored 100 meals. Distributed at Sahar Road, Andheri East.	Non Medical	100	2	8	12,000	Donation	Murali Iyer, Jyoti H.
3	03-Oct-24	"Bottles to Benches" Awareness kick off project at KES School ICSE, SSC, Gujarati Sections in collaboration with RC Bombay Airport	Non Medical	75	2	8	2,000	NGO	Natasha
4	04-Oct-24	"Support to Old Age Home"- Donation of a very good double bed by Rtn Jyoti (through her friend) & Sofas/ Furnitures by Rtn Mehek Wadhwa (through her friend) and installed at Rathod old age home, Kandivali.	Non Medical	100	4	12	30,000	Donation	Rtn Jyoti, Rtn Mehek
5	04-Oct-24	Donation of Ration kits by Ms. Rupa- Friend of Rtn Mehek Wadhwa to Rathod old age home	Non Medical	100	2	6	27,000	Donation	Rtn Mehek
6	04-Oct-24	"Project Annapoorna" at Andheri East Donor Rakesh Kumar, Anuradha Kumar sponsored 100 meals.	Non Medical	100	4	8	12,000	Donation	Rtn Rakesh, Rtn Anu
7	04-Oct-24	Distribution of 80 Novels to JM Patel College Library. Donated by Rtn Madhavi's friend	Non Medical	100	2	6	2,500	Donation	Rtn Madhavi
8	07-Oct-24	Dental Camp at multipurpose school, Ghatkopar- Follow up test for those diagnosed dental issues	Medical	15	2	6	-	NGO	Rtn Daksha
9	07-Oct-24	Empowering Inclusion -Celebrating Diversity at Bandhan, hosted an interactive event to recognize & appreciate the exceptional contributions of our Specially staff.	Non Medical	25	2	6	-	Donation	Rtn Rita
10	09-Oct-24	Distribution of spectacles to 145 students at Versova Welfare Association, Versova. Mega camp done in August 2024	Medical	145	3	12	1,45,000	NGO	Rtn Hemang, Rtn Arun
11	10-Oct-24	On the occasion of teachers day, Teachers from the BMC schools in and around Andheri were felicitated with certificates and Gifts	Medical	375	3	12	58,275	Donation	Rtn Hemang, Rtn Arun
12	10-Oct-24	"Team Race to Vision" - Race across India 2.0 from kashmir to Kanyakumari by 2 blind people in a cycle, for creating awareness of the specially abled skilled people. Special cycle and T shirts sponsored by Members	Medical	100	3	240	5,75,360	Donation	Rtn Arun, Rtn Sridhar, Rtn Anand
13	12-Oct-24	"Dussehra Celebration" at St. Judes Child Cancer centre @ Kharghar with Children	Medical	47	8	16	10,000	Donation	Rtn kala
14	15-Oct-24	"Entrepreneurship" session to students of St Lawrence High school, Kandivali by Rtn Alok Ranjan. Lead club RC Mumbai Mokabo	Vocational	100	2	10	2,000	RCMN	Rtn Alok Ranjan
15	18-Oct-24	"Mega Blood Donation Camp" at Andheri West station along with 12 other clubs. Total beneficiaries are 66	Medical	6	2	2	1,950	RCMN	All
16	18-Oct-24	Donation of Gas stove, clothes to Rathod Vrudhasharam old age homes, Kandivali. Donated by Rtn Jyoti Harihara	Non Medical	50	2	4	2,000	Donation	Rtn Jyoti
17	19-Oct-24	Medical camp - Co host for the medical camp conducted @ Juhu Scheme, Vile Parle West, along with RC Bombay Airport	Medical	200	3	8	5,000	NGO	Rtn Hemang
18	23-Oct-24	Donation of the mattress to Rescue foundation - ngo for women and girls rescued from forced prostitution.	Non Medical	20	2	4	500	Donation	Rtn Rakesh, Rtn Anu
19	24-Oct-24	Distribution of snacks and sweets at Saidham old age home during Navratri by Rtn Kala Sridhar	Non Medical	140	3	5	15,000	Donation	Rtn Kala
20	24-Oct-24	"Project Annapoorna" meal distribution to slums near RTO office, Andheri West	Non Medical	300	2	5	18,000	Donation	Rtn Daksha
21	25-Oct-24	Blue star water cooler with dispenser donated at BHN old age home, Amboli, Andheri.	Non Medical	8	2	5	8,000	Donation	Rtn Madhavi
22	26-Oct-24	Ideal study aap to 85 students in versova English Medium school in collaboration with Bravehearts.	Non Medical	85	2	5	2,500	NGO	Rtn Hemang
23	26-Oct-24	Ideal study aap to 46 students in versova Marathi Medium school 3 in collaboration with Bravehearts.	Non Medical	46	1	2	1,500	NGO	Rtn Hemang
24	26-Oct-24	Ideal study aap to 50 students + 19 Teachers in vidya Vikas School in collaboration with Bravehearts.	Non Medical	69	1	2	2,500	NGO	Rtn Hemang
25	26-Oct-24	Distribution of 15 wheelchairs to the players before the match ..Donor is Hindustan Colas	Non Medical	15	4	4	2,55,000	Donation	Rtn Kala
26	26-Oct-24	Cohost for the Wheelchair Cricket tournament held at PASI Turf in Ghatkopar SSS School	Non Medical	40	4	8	15,000	Donation	Rtn Kala
27	26-Oct-24	Distribution of Diwali sweets to peons and other staff at SSS Multipurpose School.	Non Medical	25	4	4	25,000	Donation	Rtn Daksha
28	26-Oct-24	"Bottles to Benches"- Collected waste plastics weighing more than 25 kgs through RN shah international school Students, Juhu	Non Medical	100	2	6	5,000	Donation	Rtn Natasha
				2,541	78	429	12,78,085		

RCMN SUPPORTS WORLD RECORD SETTING VISUALLY IMPAIRED CYCLISTS



Rakesh Kumar

Welcome, Neo-kars!

Rotary Club of Mumbai Neo is proud to be associated with a world record breaking cycling expedition. Named 'Race Across India, Race for Vision', it was a remarkable feat of resilience and determination. A team of visually impaired cyclists has made history by completing a journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Covering nearly 3,758 kilometers across 12 states of India, this extraordinary group of cyclists, supported by sighted pilots on tandem bicycles, embarked on this ambitious expedition to raise awareness about disability inclusion and break barriers around physical limitations.

The journey, which began from Kashmir on October 10 and ended at Kanyakumari on October 19, saw the team pedaling through diverse terrains and weather conditions, from the mountainous regions of Kashmir to the flat plains and tropical climates of southern India. What makes this achievement even more

inspiring is that the cyclists not only covered this vast distance but also set a new world record for the longest tandem bicycle journey by a team of visually impaired riders.

This historic expedition supported by RCMN was led by Santosh Sansare – an honorary member of RCMN. Sridhar, Arun and Anand from our Club donated a tandem cycle for the expedition. RCMN sponsored two visually impaired cyclists – Sagar Vasant Bodke and Ajay Lalwani – both from Nashik. The expedition proved that disabilities are not limitations but challenges that can be overcome with perseverance and the right support.

Throughout the journey, the cyclists faced a series of challenges, from rough roads to fluctuating weather conditions. However, their determination and teamwork kept them going. The sighted pilots on each tandem cycle navigated the route while the visually impaired riders pedaled with equal strength and enthusiasm, demonstrating the power of collaboration and trust.

The cyclists made stops along the way to spread the message of inclusivity and the need for better opportunities for people with disabilities in sports and beyond. At each stop, they were greeted by cheering crowds, local dignitaries, and supporters, further energizing their mission. The Rotary spirit and signage were visible throughout the expedition.

By achieving this world record, these visually impaired cyclists have set an inspiring example for all, showing that physical limitations do not define one's capabilities. They have redefined the limits of possibility, opening doors for future athletes and adventurers with disabilities. The participants, including defense personnel and doctors, showcased the diversity and unity of the team. The spirit of Rotary was underlined all the way.

Rakesh Kumar
Editor, Neo Vista

DIWALI DHAMAKA: A CELEBRATION OF LIGHT AND TOGETHERNESS

By Jyoti Hariharan



The event began with a warm welcome from our President Rtn Sridhar highlighting the importance of unity and collaboration. A festival that brings families and communities together in a grand celebration of light, joy, and unity. As twilight descends, homes and streets glitter with countless diyas and fairy lights, turning the night into a spectacle of radiance.

Friends and family gather, sharing laughter, stories, and of course, a sumptuous feast. It's a time for reconnecting with loved ones, for cherishing old bonds and forging new ones. The warmth of these connections is as illuminating as the lights that adorn every corner. Performances add a vibrant pulse to the celebrations. From traditional dance and music to modern interpretations, every performance is a burst of creativity and talent.

And then, the dressing—the kaleidoscope of colors that everyone dons. People wear their finest attire: women in bright, shimmering saris and lehengas, adorned with intricate jewelry; men in elegant kurtas and sherwanis. The vibrancy of the clothing reflects the festival's spirit, turning the gathering into a living rainbow of tradition and festivity.

In essence, Diwali Dhamaka is more than a festival; it's an explosion of light, culture, and community. It's a reminder of the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Through fellowship, perfor-

mances, and colorful dressing, the celebration weaves together the old and the new, creating a tapestry of unity and joy that lights up the soul.

Fellowship is at the heart of Diwali Dhamaka and it was well celebrated by:

1. Honoring the participants of Navaratri Celebration.
2. Induction of New Members
3. Celebrating the achievements of our club till date.

Navaratri 2024 Best Dressed Award Winners

Navaratri 2024 was not only a celebration of devotion and dance but also a showcase of vibrant fashion. The event concluded with the announcement of the best-dressed male and female participants.

Best dressed male: Dattatraya Bhagwat perfectly blended tradition with elegance, making him the best-dressed male of the evening.



Best dressed female: Daksha's attire truly embodied the spirit of Navaratri, earning her the top spot as the best-dressed female.

Two more prizes were given for the audience poll to Meera and Jyoti.

Performances add a vibrant pulse to the celebrations. From traditional dance and music to



modern interpretations, every performance is a burst of creativity and talent.

Induction Ceremony for New Members

The ceremony conducted by Rtn Hemang marked a significant milestone, as we embraced fresh faces, new talents and boundless enthusiasm. Each new member was introduced with a brief background and experience they bring to our Club. This evening was filled with heartfelt speeches, joyful interactions and shared vision for the future.

Achievements of RCM Neo

The ongoing projects achievement highlighted RCM Neo's commitment to making a positive difference in the world through service, fellowship and ethical leadership.

The arrangements for Diwali Dhamaka were well taken care of by Club Admin Kala Sridhar ending with a sumptuous feast and Karaoke singing by a few talented members, making the celebrations even more memorable.



DIWALI DHAMAKA EDITORIAL ADDITION

On this occasion of Diwali Dhamaka, Meera Ramachandran made a passionate appeal to members to read the monthly Neo Vista and post their comments. She lauded the contribution of the Chief Editor Rakesh Kumar for his zeal in elevating, what could just be a news bulletin, to the level of a magazine with a rich and diverse fare. She also thanked Arun Wadhwa for



providing design, setting and for the production of the magazine. The October issue contained a supplement featuring all contributions from members, Rotaractors and guests on the

question, 'Is it desirable to have a separate category for women in international chess championships?' Meera summarized the various positions taken by the authors and the great learning that they provided, and thanked them for their efforts.

Neokars, dressed in white, the colour of the day, enjoyed a veritable feast consisting of all the popular dishes of Tamilnadu, and shamelessly.

GREAT FELLOWSHIP AT GOLU GET-TOGETHER

By Meera Ramachandran



The first couple of Neo once again opened their heart and home for a wonderful fellowship during the navrathri Golu. Golu, celebrated in south Indian homes, is an arrangement of dolls of diverse kinds in a colourful display around different themes. It represents the visit to the 'maike' of devi, when she gets to play with all her childhood friends. Kala's golu this time had an interesting display of Lord Krishna multiplying himself to play a cricket match, a tam-braham wedding scene and prankster Krishna hiding the clothes of gopis when they were



bathing in the river.

Neokars, dressed in white, the colour of the day, enjoyed a veritable feast consisting of all the popular dishes of Tamilnadu, and shamelessly invited themselves for a repeat next year! Thank you so much Kala and Sridhar for your warm and generous hospitality.

SUNIL ZALMI



I am a member of the Bar Council of Maharashtra & Goa practicing law since 2008. I am a co-founder Partner of De Zalmi & Associates, a boutique firm, advising clients in the field of intellectual property, media and entertainment, real estate, and testamentary matters.

I completed my elementary education in Goa. After obtaining my L.L.B. (Hons.)

degree from the V. M. Salgaocar College of Law, Goa, I completed my Masters [L.L.M (Business Laws)] from the University of Mumbai. I was felicitated by the Nani A. Palkhivala Trust with the Nani Palkhivala Gold Medal for securing First Class First at Master of Laws [L.L.M (Business Laws)] from the University of Mumbai. I have also been honored by the Yashwantrao Chavan Pratishthan for securing First Class First at Master of Laws [L.L.M (Business Laws)] from the University of Mumbai.

Apart from my academic pursuits, I am a trained percussionist and an avid

follower of Hindustani Classical Music and love to read non-fiction literature like autobiographies, biographies and political history.

I am married to Sarmistha De, and we have two children, Reyaansh and Anaahita.



KAUSHIK DESAI



I am a Financial Consultant with extensive experience in various sectors, including trading, stock broking, financial services, and insurance broking. I began my career in 1978 with the trading of printing materials at Universal Trading Company. From 1986 to 1998, I worked as a Stock Broker Member of the Rajkot Stock Exchange. I then became a member of the Project

Implementation Committee at Interconnected Stock Exchange Ltd., Mumbai, from 1998 to 2003.

Currently, I serve as a Director at Havmore Insurance Brokers Pvt. Ltd. since 2018. I am also a Business Associate with

Emkay Global Financial Services Ltd., a member of both the BSE and NSE. Between 2014 and 2017, I was involved in marketing Company Secretarial Compliance Software. From 2003 to 2014, I worked at the Arbitration Desk at Haven Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., an NSE member.

My expertise spans financial planning, regulatory compliance, performance evaluation, and business management, having served as a member of the Multi-commodity Exchange of India Ltd., Mumbai. I hold a Bachelor of Commerce from Siddharth College of Commerce and Economics, a Law Graduation from K.C.



College, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Vedanta Philosophy from the University of Mumbai.

Outside my professional life, I am passionate about listening to and singing old Hindi songs. I live with my wife, Nisha Desai, a bridal makeup

artist who runs her own training academy. Our son, Alok Desai, is a master in computer applications and a qualified UI/UX designer working with a Hong Kong-based fintech. Alok is also an independent musician who has launched his music album.

RAKHI DESAI



I was born and raised in the vibrant city of Kolkata, often referred to as the "City of Joy." Growing up amidst the lively culture, delectable cuisine, and the warmth of family and friends shaped much of my early life. After completing my formal education, getting married, and having a child, we decided to move to Mumbai nearly 24 years ago. The city's dynamic work culture and the open-minded nature of its people immediately drew me in, though I still cherish my roots and miss the familiar flavors and bonds back home. In Mumbai, I live in a close-knit nuclear family with my husband, a businessman, and my niece, who practices as an advocate in the High Court. I have been happily married for almost 30 years, and we have a son who is currently working in Bangalore as a Senior Software Engineer with MakeMyTrip.

With nearly three decades of professional experience, my career has been versatile and fulfilling, encompassing roles in teaching, business, retail management, training, counseling, graphic designing, and artistry. Each chapter has brought unique challenges and learning experiences, enriching my journey and shaping my perspective on life.

Today, I work as a Mindset Reset Coach, empowering individuals and groups to bring about positive transformation in their lives. Additionally, I offer youth counseling services to guide young people and their parents towards better life choices and stronger relationships. I also conduct soft skills training for corporate teams and educational institutions, equipping people with the tools to communicate effectively and grow professionally.

Community service has always been close to my heart, reflected in my 14 years of involvement with Ladies Circle India, a non-profit organization akin to Inner Wheel. Serving on the national board for three years, I took on leadership roles such as National HR Head and

Area Head, traveling across cities to inspire women to step into leadership positions. I have also contributed to Inner Wheel for a year and Angels Express Foundation for another year.

My passions extend beyond coaching and community work. I am an avid traveler who enjoys the thrill of driving to new places, and a dedicated artist who has been painting for several years. Inspired by Van Gogh, I love creating textured, semi-impressionistic artworks. One of my dreams is to find a sponsor for my very own solo art exhibition someday.

I believe in sharing knowledge generously, trusting that the universe rewards such acts with abundance.



SURESH JAYARAM



My profile reflects my journey from “God’s Own Country” to “Land of Marathas”. I was born in Kerala and was part of a vibrant joint family which you may visualize seeing in family themed south movies. Six families under one roof, having our own fields, a backyard which yields jackfruits, pepper, mangoes and few servants who were outstanding help to my grandparents.

To Mumbai for schooling in St.Xaviers followed by college in Bharatiya vidya bhavan and later progressing to Management studies at Narsee Monjee Insititue of Management Studies. Banking and Commerce was my closest soulmate. I was always eager to be part of the banking journey as it evolved over years. This might be an influence of my father being a Lloyds Banker and mom a housemaker.

1988 was a year of pride. I joined my dream job with ANZ Grindlay’s Bank, now Standard Chartered Bank. Who else can share banking trivia better

than what I have seen, felt and experienced in my 37 years of Banking. I was fortunate to witness the evolution of Banking from manual ledgers to the introduction of computers followed by NetBanking, ATM and Credit Cards and now to Digital and AI. More than a decade with Standard Chartered was in Middle East and Singapore – two regions which was a dream come true in my corporate life. Standard chartered gave me the opportunity to explore areas of Business Generations, Channel Management and Anti money laundering / Sanctions. The exciting journey continues with me overseeing Global Governance for Corporate Affairs and Marketing spreading across 52 geographies. This banking journey also gave me the best gift of life – Saraswathi Suresh.

Saraswathi now a social entrepreneur and a proud



founder of the NGO “FAVMI” – Families Voice on Mental Illness. We, the family are now determined to give back to the community by supporting family carers of their loved ones with mental illness through the advocacy chapters. Saraswathi and myself are family carers to our elder son and he has given us a purpose in life.

This family career journey helped us with our “Ikigai” and linked us with nature. We created a Kerala home in midst of dense Karjat. The nature now reciprocates with lots of flowers in front of the house and vegetables in back yard. This space connects us to simplicity and spirituality – we may call it “Nirvana”. I am not religious but love to be connected to spiritualism and various teachings that can inspire my way of living today.

Now, the two gems in my family – Siddanth – an honors grad from the University of Chester and Sushanth – masters from NEW York University. Both are passionate in the areas of Designing and Integrated Marketing. A creative world exists within the family.

For hobbies, I love watching movies- any cadres that gives a smile and “whistle podu” moments and love playing / watch cricket / tennis.

My chapter of serving community joined with flavor of spirituality, travel, entertainment and sports is now being drafted.

ALOK RANJAN



I am a Storyteller specializing in the areas of MarTech (Marketing technology), AI, Startup Mentorship, and Health transformation. Growing up in the Silk City of India, my educational pursuit took me to the southern states of India for higher studies, where I was mesmerized by the cultural and culinary opulence of the region, each new place adding a layer to my story.

My journey into the professional world began as a non-techie, joining the century-old ITC's software division. It was my first brush with the world of technology, and I became part of the industry. I soon found myself diving deeper into tech, thanks to opportunities in leadership roles with Sify Technologies, Vodafone, and Tata Communications. Each position sharpened my skills and deepened my understanding, not just of technology, but of how it could shape the future of marketing

as technology marketing lead. In 2023, I took a career transition step and founded Fiterobic, a health tech venture with a mission to harness technology to create healthier lives for everyone. Fiterobic strives to impact 10 million lives by the end of 2030 helping them lead a healthy life. My decision to start Fiterobic was inspired by personal experiences and family emergency.

Alongside, I co-launched Tauran Advisors, a consulting firm specializing in digital transformation, marketing strategies, startup advisory, and research. These ventures let me combine my love for technology with my passion for health and strategy.

My wife and I are working to set up a marketplace 'mrujaa' for sustainable products. At present, mrujaa works with weavers from across India to design and manufacture handmade sarees that weave the story of thread. More at: mrujaa.in The ventures enhance my learning each day as I find a solution to newer problems

and provides me a multi-dimensional perspective to things around me.

I have been recognized among the Most Innovative MarTech Leaders and awarded with CMO of the Year. These milestones encouraged me to keep pushing the boundaries. I also pursued certifications in nutrition and fitness through the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) and American Council on Exercise (ACE), which deepened my connection to health and wellness.

As a half-marathoner and host of the FitnessProChat podcast, I connect with listeners worldwide, discussing health, fitness, and personal growth.

My journey's guiding mantra is to become a better version of yourself, every day.



NAVIGATING GLOBAL AI REGULATIONS IN 2024: KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

By Alok Ranjan



In recent years, governments worldwide have actively pursued regulatory frameworks for artificial intelligence (AI), particularly for generative AI, to address ethical concerns and establish a balance potential to influence society and the need to manage its risks effectively.

Lawsuits against major AI companies like OpenAI have underscored the critical need for clear guardrails in the use of vast datasets, especially as large language models (LLMs) continue to rely on extensive and sometimes copyrighted content for training. These legal actions highlight the urgency of regulatory measures to protect intellectual property and ensure ethical AI usage.

Notable Cases against AI Companies using Large Language Model:

- **Getty Images vs. Stability AI** - Getty Images filed a lawsuit against Stability AI, alleging unauthorized use of over 12 million images to train its AI model, Stable Diffusion, a popular text-to-image generator.
- **Authors Guild vs. OpenAI** - In a class-action suit, the Authors Guild and several authors, including notable novelists, sued OpenAI for using their copyrighted works to train ChatGPT without permission.

- **Thomson Reuters vs. ROSS Intelligence** - Thomson Reuters sued ROSS Intelligence, alleging that the company used Westlaw's proprietary legal data to train its AI-based legal research tool without authorization.
- **Copilot (GitHub and OpenAI) and the Software Developers' Lawsuit** - GitHub Copilot, an AI code generator trained on publicly available code from GitHub, faced a class-action lawsuit from software developers who alleged that their code was used without consent.

In response to these rising concerns, countries are implementing more rigorous policies and protocols around AI.

Global AI Regulations and Guardrails

Europe leads the AI regulatory front with its comprehensive **AI Act**, a pioneering regulation that uses a risk-based approach to categorize AI systems based on potential societal impact. High-risk AI applications face stringent requirements, including data privacy, algorithmic accountability, transparency, and ethical guidelines. The framework mandates emergency shutdown mechanisms for high-risk systems to safeguard users, emphasizes auditing for compliance, and promotes cross-border cooperation to ensure consistent enforcement across EU member states.

The United States has several regulatory bodies, including the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), actively contributing to ethical AI development. NIST's **AI Risk Management Framework (RMF)**, though non-binding, is an industry-agnostic guide addressing risk mitigation in AI. It promotes trustworthiness through principles like fairness, accountability, and resilience. With the

rise of sector-specific initiatives, the U.S. regulatory landscape is evolving to manage data protection, copyright issues, and cybersecurity risks associated with AI systems.

In **Asia**, countries like **Japan** have developed policies centered around “human-centric AI” under their **Society 5.0** initiative. The Japanese government enforces guidelines for transpar-

ency, data protection, and fairness, though these are not legally binding.

China, a significant player in AI, has introduced ethical guidelines and drafted specific AI-related laws targeting deepfake regulation, while **South Korea** emphasizes transparency and ethical AI use through its AI Ethics Committee.

Recent AI Regulatory Developments and International Initiatives

Region	Initiative	Focus Areas	Status & Key Details
European Union	AI Act & Digital Services Act (DSA)	Transparency, risk management, compliance, accountability, cross-border collaboration	Effective February 2024, with a focus on Very Large Online Platforms (VLOPs) and Very Large Online Search Engines (VLOSEs)
	Council of Europe's AI Framework Convention	Legally binding agreement on AI ethics, human rights, and the rule of law	Adopted in September 2024, marking the first international binding AI framework
United States	AI Bill of Rights & NIST's AI RMF	User rights, fairness, data privacy, discrimination prevention, algorithmic transparency	The Bill of Rights remains voluntary but includes principles for safe, effective AI
	CPPA Automated Decision-Making Regulations (California)	Consumer rights, ADMT transparency, opt-out provisions	Draft regulations issued in 2024; grants consumers pre-use notice and opt-out options
	SEC Proposed AI Rul	Conflict of interest in financial services, transparency for brokers using AI	Expected release in 2024, focused on AI in financial decision-making
United Kingdom	Bletchley Declaration	Trustworthy AI, international cooperation, general-purpose AI concerns	Signed in November 2023 with 27 countries; promotes a unified AI governance dialogue
China	Algorithm Provisions	Deepfake regulation, transparency, user data privacy	Draft phase since March 2023; aimed at addressing algorithmic misinformation and user protection
India	AI for Public Services	Generative AI in agriculture, personalized public services	India's government focuses on practical applications rather than strict regulation for now
Global	UN's AI Advisory Board	AI governance, international agreements	Established in October 2023; set to release guidelines in 2024 for a unified global approach
Brazil	ANPD Projects on AI & Personal Data	Data privacy, notification requirements, legal basis for AI use	Published in September 2024 with compliance projects aligned with the General Data Protection Law (LGPD)

Future Plans and Recommendations

Despite these efforts, AI regulation remains in its nascent stages, requiring global collaboration and continuous evolution to stay effective. The European Union is working to expand its regulatory reach, intending to set global standards for ethical AI practices. The U.S. aims to make NIST's framework a global benchmark, focusing on AI trustworthiness, safety, and fairness.

India is emerging as a unique case in AI regulation, focusing on generative AI for sectors like agriculture to bridge digital divides. With initiatives like KissanGPT, India leverages AI to enhance rural productivity, underscoring the need for tailored frameworks that consider socioeconomic diversity.

A four-phase roadmap is proposed, combining regulation, education, stakeholder involvement, and a supervisory authority to monitor AI implementation and ensure responsible AI development.

Recommendations for Robust AI Governance

1. *Enhanced Transparency and Data Privacy:* Regulators should mandate that AI systems explain their decision-making processes, allowing users to understand AI-generated outcomes. Compliance with data privacy standards, similar to GDPR, must be enforced to protect user data and mitigate privacy violations.
2. *Promoting Algorithmic Fairness:* AI systems often reflect the biases present in their training data, impacting fairness. Governments should incentivize the development of fairness-enhancing algorithms and require audits to ensure algorithms are free from biases, enhancing trust in AI outcomes.
3. *Content Moderation and Intellectual Property:* Intellectual property laws should address the ownership and copyright of AI-generated content, emphasizing transparency and proper attribution. Content moderation practices must be standardized to prevent the spread of harmful content and misinformation.



4. *Collaborative Global Standards:* Establishing global standards for AI ethics can harmonize disparate regulations, fostering international cooperation and reducing regulatory complexities for companies operating across borders. Nations should consider collaborative frameworks for ethical AI governance and share best practices to streamline AI policy implementation.
5. *Stakeholder Engagement and Education:* Effective AI regulation requires a balanced approach that involves government, corporations, and the public. Corporations should implement ethical AI practices and invest in transparency, while public awareness campaigns can educate users about AI rights and safety.
6. *Flexible and Evolving Regulations:* As AI technologies evolve, regulations must adapt. Governments should establish adaptive regulatory mechanisms that can respond to new developments, ensuring AI policies remain relevant and effective.

Wrap up

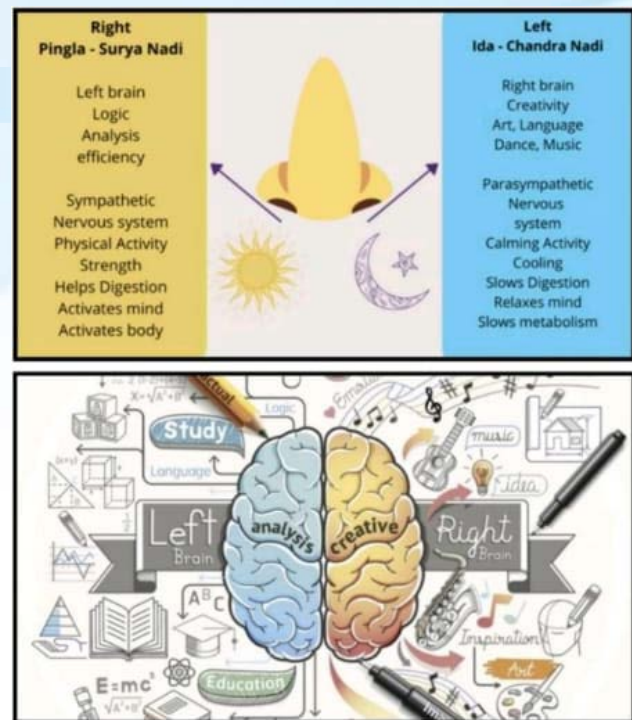
Generative AI presents transformative opportunities and complex ethical challenges that demand robust, adaptive, and globally harmonized regulatory frameworks. By focusing on transparency, fairness, content moderation, and international collaboration, countries can ensure AI serves society responsibly. The establishment of dynamic regulations, alongside industry and public education, will pave the way for an ethical and responsible AI landscape that supports innovation and safeguards public interests.

PRANAYAMA

By Mehek Wadhwa



We all breathe, yet how many of us are aware, of the details of how breathing consciously can help us in so many different ways. Simple pranayama practice of alternate nostril breathing popularly known as Anulom Vilom, activates and stimulates both the hemispheres of our brains and hence aiding in the logical, analytical, creative and emotional balance. Anulom Vilom when done regularly also helps in gaining mental clarity.



How about giving it a shot for those who haven't yet? And how about making it a consistent practice for those who yet dillydally to do so? How about sharing your experience, for those who do practice anulom vilom regularly, this may encourage and motivate others to follow your great habit?

NEO CONTEST

We have two brain teasers for our readers in this issue of Neo Vista:

1. Give Racy Captions and Win



Nice pics, heh! Suggest a suitable caption: the wittier, the whackier, the better!

2. Guess which Neokar is hidden in this tribute penned by Neokar Narinder Madan:

So Neokars, put on your thinking cap and get the chance to be acknowledged for your brilliance in the next club meeting!



वो संजीदा भी है और जिंदादिल भी,
वो कर्मठ भी है और दिलदार भी,
दुसरो के दुःख से होता है जो खुद दुःखी,
ऐसा मेरा यार देखा है कभी?

INDIAN PUBIC SPACES

By Ankita Patanwadia, *President Rotaract Club of L S Raheja School of Architecture*

Haven't we all, especially Mumbaikars, invariably cursed our streets? Its congestion, its noise and its chaos have often made us want to get away from this madding crowd to some haven of peace and beauty. We often compare Indian streets with public spaces abroad and wonder why we are so backward. But as is said 'beauty is in the eye of the beholder'. What to an ordinary man is a lump of clay, for the potter it contains the promise of a beautiful vase. Our budding architect and Rotaract President has presented such a positive and delightful angle to our chaotic streets that it will forever change our own vision of them, from an ugly jumble to a rich tapestry. Thank you Ankita this indeed is one kind of community service! And I can see great promise in you as an architect. God bless.

- Meera Ramachandran

In architecture, public space is frequently interpreted through parks, squares, or plazas. Yet, for me, the Indian street epitomizes public space in a far richer, multifaceted sense. Unlike the contained spaces of parks or squares, Indian streets are dynamic corridors of interaction, commerce, culture, and daily life. They are not mere conduits for movement but are places where diverse urban activities unfold, making them intrinsic to the fabric of Indian urban life. Indian streets function as socio-cultural spaces where daily life transcends the boundary between private and public realms. Streets here are adaptive, transforming throughout the day and across seasons. In the early hours, they might host vegetable vendors and newspaper stalls, while by midday, street food stalls, make-shift retail shops, and informal workers fill the sidewalks. By evening, they can become bustling bazaars or spaces for religious processions and festivities, turning the urban street into a cultural stage. This fluid adaptability of Indian streets demands architectural understanding that respects their complex, evolving role.

From an architectural perspective, Indian streets challenge traditional definitions of zoning and public space. Here, boundaries between commercial, residential, and religious uses blur, making the street an open, multi-functional space. Architecture interacts with this environment by accommodating a range of activities—through shade-providing awnings, flexible kiosks, or verandas that extend onto the street, creating a shaded, comfortable buffer

between public thoroughfares and private interiors. This flexibility is a testament to vernacular design solutions that prioritize people over rigid zoning laws.

Moreover, Indian streets are places where social stratifications dissolve, at least temporarily. All levels of society use these streets, and interactions among people are inclusive. The chaiwala might share space with corporate employees on a busy Mumbai street, or in Delhi's lanes, shoppers from diverse backgrounds brush shoulders with tourists. These shared spaces foster spontaneous interactions and a sense of community, essential for socially sustainable cities.

Streets in India also reflect architectural resilience. Architectural elements like street-side shrines, banyan trees, and community water points integrate into the urban landscape, providing pauses within the chaos of urban life. These elements are not just functional but spiritual and symbolic, representing continuity amidst rapid modernization.

In essence, Indian streets are the heartbeat of cities—adaptive, resilient, and democratic spaces that embody public life in ways parks and squares cannot. This organic public space model challenges architects and planners to rethink public spaces that resonate with local cultures and accommodate diverse, ever-evolving activities. By embracing the richness of Indian streets as public spaces, architecture can better align with the vibrant, unplanned, and inclusive spirit of Indian urbanism.

SUCCESS OF BLIND FRIENDS IN INTERNATIONAL CYCLE COMPETITION

By Santosh Sansare



SANTOSH SANSARE

In Race Across India cycle competition, the distance of 3758 km from Kashmir to Kanyakumari was completed in 9 days 12 hours 4 minutes.

Blind friends Ajay Lalwani and Sagar Bodke participated in the competition. The Race Across India competition started from Kashmir on 10th October and successfully completed at Kanyakumari on 19th October on his tandem

cycle with the help of their teammates overcoming various obstacles.

Ulhas Kulkarni, Ambarish Gurav, Shivam Kharat and Sushil Sarangdhar helped Ajay and Sagar in this complete event as cycle relay riders. Navigation work by Sanket Bhanose, Dr. Anil Barkul's versatile work, Rameshwar Chavan, Satish Jadhav Masseur, Lakhan Lalwani, UTuber Mahesh, and Santosh Sansare handled the photography and other tasks well.

The following organizations lent a helping hand for this competition: Dr. Anil Barkul of Happy Humans Foundation, Beed himself came to help with his car; Sridhar, President of Neo Rotary Club Mumbai; Thane Rotary Club; Samarth Vyayam Mandir Dadar Mumbai; Nashik Cyclist; Saksham Nashik; NAB Unit Maharashtra; RC Bhushan Sansare of E-Education; Aisha Foundation; Blind Welfare; Manavdhan; Beengup Foundation; and Dr. Sandeep Bhanose of Garudzep Foundation.





CRICKET ON WHEELCHAIRS

By Kala Sridhar

Wheelchair cricketers are 70% to 90% physically challenged, they have major disabilities in their lower body. They do batting, bowling & fielding on wheelchairs. The team includes players with different disabilities like polio, spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy & even amputees.

Due to the current lack of financial resources, cricket cannot serve as their primary source of income, therefore, they also work. Some

players are delivery boys, bike mechanics, mixer mechanics, auto drivers & some run their small shops and other micro businesses. However, this does not stop them from playing & practicing regularly.

They carry their wheelchairs & cricket kits on their modified Activas & few of them also travel by train & bus to practice, in spite of the fact that public transport is not wheelchair accessible.



The winners trophy presented to the Captain of Mumbai wheelchair cricket team Rahul Ramugade.



Avenue Chair Rtn Kala speaking at the inauguration of the tournament.



Ms Pooja, captain of the ladies wheelchair cricket team recognising Rtn Kala Sridhar on behalf of the Wheelchair Cricket Association of India.



15 wheelchairs donated by Hindustan Colas at the event.



About Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team

Mumbai city is known as the cricket capital of India, Mumbai has set records by winning the prestigious Ranji Trophy 42 times. Mumbai has produced great cricketers like Ajit Wadekar, Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar, Rohit Sharma & many more who contributed to Indian cricket. Even in the Indian Premier League, Mumbai Indians have won more championships than any other team. Unfortunately, the city does not have its own Wheelchair Cricket Team for wheelchair cricketers of Mumbai & to change this Wheelchair Sports Association Mumbai has taken an initiative & formed the Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team. The Mumbai team will provide more opportunities to wheelchair cricketers across Mumbai & Maharashtra to play at the national & international levels.

Why we should promote these matches?

Just like the Indian female cricket team has got recognition, the wheelchair cricket team and the blind cricket team should also get some recognition. This can happen when there are lot of people to watch the matches and encourage them. Let's all work towards bringing this change in the system.

Disability to Ability Avenue of Our District had organised a T 10 match today between Mumbai wheelchair cricket team and the Maharashtra wheelchair cricket team. The entire coordination was done by Avenue Chair Kala Sridhar, Zonal Chair A V Suresh and Rahul Ramugade, the Mumbai wheelchair cricket team captain.

DG Chetan Desai was present at the opening ceremony and for the toss. Mumbai team won



the match by 9 wickets. Around 80 Rotarians and Rotracts were present during the match and the you tube live had 156 views.

DGE Dr Manish along with District coordinator Mona Shah, Avenue Chair Kala Sridhar, Zonal Chair AV Suresh handed over the trophies and medals to the winners.

RCM Neo was the Coordinating club along with RC Deonar. There were 13 clubs and 2 donors who supported this event. Rtn Daksha was appreciated by the District team for the venue coordination for the event. The posters were designed by Envisage Team of Rtn Arun Wadhwa. Donors from RCM Neo for this tournament were Nailesh Masaru, Dholakia family and Rtn Kala Sridhar.

Before the start of the match 15 wheelchairs sponsored by Hindustan Colas under their CSR were distributed to the players and they played

the match in their new Specially designed wheelchairs. Our Club attendees included Pres Sridhar, Sec Datta, PE Anand, Rtn Meera, Rtn Arun and Rtn Kala.

Another Award for Rita Rego



*Another feather in Rita's cap.
Hearty congratulations and best wishes...*

ROUND-UP OF PROJECTS – OCTOBER 2024



October 2, 2024 – “Roots of Remembrance” - 25 Trees plantation (Mango, Pulp, Guava, Jamun, Fragrances etc.,) at Rustomjee Ozone, Goregaon West in collaboration with RC Mumbai City and Rustomjee. Project led by Rtn Madhavi and Rtn.Kala. President R Sridhar, attended along with Rtn Hemang, Rtn Meera.



October 2, 2024 - "Project Annapoorna" at Andheri East on Auspicious day of Gandhi Jayanti and Sarva Pitru Amavasya. Donor Murli Iyer (Ref. Rtn Jyoti Hariharan) sponsored 100 meals. Distributed at Sahar Road Andheri East.

October 3, 2024 - "Bottles to Benches" – Environment awareness kick off project at KES International School, Kandivali- ICSE, SSC, Gujarati Sections in collaboration with RC Bombay Airport. Led by Rtn Natasha.



October 4, 2024- “Project Annapoorna ” – Distribution of 100 meals for the underprivileged at Andheri, donated by Rtn Rakesh Kumar and Rtn Anuradha Kumar.



October 4, 2024 – “Support to Old Age Home”- Donation of a very good double bed by Rtn Jyoti (through her friend) and Sofas/Furnitures by Rtn Mehek Wadhwa (through her friend) and installed at Rathod old age home, Kandivali . Ms. Rupa (Rtn Mehek’s friend) also donated varieties of Ratio for the old age home worth Rs.27000/-. The old age home was affected by heavy rains and needed these badly.



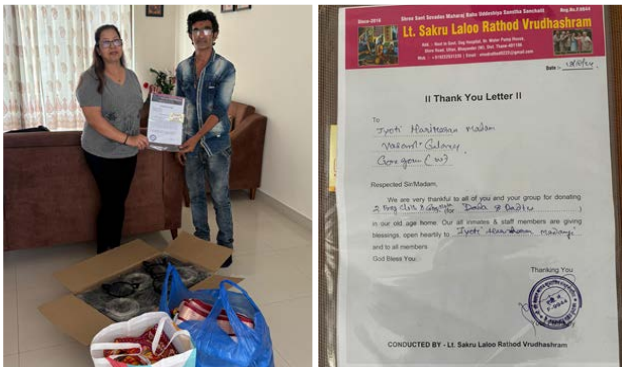
October 9, 2024- “Spectacles distribution to students @ Versova Welfare School – A mega eye camp was done in August 2024 for 2000+ students. Out of them 145 were diagnosed for treatment and spectacles. Rtn Hemang, Rtn Arun distributed the specs to the students attended by dignitaries and school management.



October 12, 2024 – Dusshera Celebration with children at St. Judes Child care center, Kharghar. There were 47 children in the centre. The volunteers (friends) distributed Fruits, drawing books, board games, craft materials and sketch pens to the children. Project coordinated by Kala Sridhar.



October 10, 2024 – “Certification of appreciation to 3375 BMC school teachers in and around Andheri. Rtn Hemang, Rtn Arun felicitated them by going across to all schools. Rtn Arun sponsored the gifts for the teachers appreciating their contribution to the youth. It established and renewed bonds with many teachers. It was heartening to listen to their views and their challenges. They felt nice that they could share their challenges with us.



October 18,2024 – Donation to Rathod Vrusharam old age home – Rtn Jyoti Hariharan and Rtn Hariharan donated one gas stove and 2 bags of cloths to the old age home at Kandivali.



October 23, 2024 - Donation of the mattress to Rescue foundation -ngo for women and girls rescued from forced prostitution. Contributed by Rtn Rakesh and Rtn Anuradha.



October 18,2024 – Donation to Rathod Vrusharam old age home – Rtn Jyoti Hariharan and Rtn Hariharan donated one gas stove and 2 bags of cloths to the old age home at Kandivali.





October 19, 2024- Medical camp co host- RCMN participated in the medical camp for all tests for the slum areas of Nehru Nagar and surrounding along with lead host RC Bombay Airport. More than 400+ people took benefit of this which had eye, dental, ENT, Thyroid (RCMN) and other general tests. Coordinated by Rtn Hemang and Rtn Kala



October 25, 2024- Old Age home support - Blue star water cooler with dispenser donated at BHN old age home, Amboli, Andheri. Rtn Madhavi coordinated through a donor.



October 24, 2024 – Project Annapoorna Meals – distribution to 300 poor family members, at Slums near RTO office, Andheri West. Rtn Daksha donated towards this cause.



October 26, 2024 – Educational support – 200 Ideal study app was distributed to Std 10 students, of 3 schools viz., Versova English Medium School, Versova Marati Medium school, Vidya Vikas School and to teachers also. RCM Bravehearts was the lead host and RCM Neo were cohosts identifying the students/ beneficiary and ensuring distribution. Rtn Hemang coordinated in all from RCM Neo end.

100TH PROJECT OF RCM NEO



October 26, 2024 – Donation of household gift to staff members of SSS School,, Ghatkopar West. Rtn Daksha donated gifts to 25 staff members of the school. Rtn Anand, Rtn kala, Rtn Arun, Rtn Kala, Rtn Datta and Rtn Daksha were present.

ROTARY CLUB
OF MUMBAI

Neo Vista

To Know More: :

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