



**LET'S
INSPIRE !**

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Neo Vista

R.I. President: Rtn. Francesco 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
For Private Circulation Only. Please send your contributions to rakesh.r133@gmail.com

BACK TO OUR ROOTS



**ROTARY OBSERVES
NOVEMBER AS
ROTARY FOUNDATION
MONTH**



WHAT'S INSIDE?



The Neo Vista Awards

R.I. President:
Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

DG 3141:
Dr Manish R. Motwani

President:
Rtn. Anand Bhadkamkar

Chief Editor:
Rtn Rakesh Kumar

Co-Editor:
Meera Ramachandran

Events Reporter:
Narinder Madan

Design and Publication :
Arun Wadhwa & Team Envisage

• NEO MESSAGES	3
- President speak, <i>by Anand Bhadkamkar</i>	
- Impact Table for September 2025, <i>by Jyoti Hariharan</i>	
• NEO MUSINGS	5
- Neo Musings, <i>by Rakesh Kumar</i>	
• COVER STORY	6
- Back to our Roots, <i>by Kirti Mishra</i>	
- Who Let These Kids Out? <i>by Suresh Jayaram</i>	
• NEO FELLOWSHIP	9
- Neokars Celebrate the Festival of Lights, <i>by Narinder Madan</i>	
- A Vibrant Evening, <i>by Suresh Jayaram</i>	
• NEO QUIZ	11
- Guess the Neokar – Season 2	
• NEOKARS' DIARY	12
- Many Americas, <i>by Meera Ramachandran</i>	
- Himachal: Where the Mountains Speak and Sing, <i>by Suresh Jayaram</i>	
- Toronto Diaries – A Journey of Heart, Nature, and Connection, <i>by Rita Rego</i>	
- Sridhars Celebrate Golu, <i>by Rakesh Kumar</i>	
- Neokars' Diary in Brief, <i>by Narinder Madan</i>	
• NEO PROJECTS	17
- Round-up of Projects in September-October, <i>by Narinder Madan</i>	

PRESIDENT SPEAK



Anand and Pallavi Bhadkamkar

Dear Neokars,

Festivities, Fellowship & Forward Momentum

September and October have truly been months of celebration—filled with family bonding, reconnecting with friends, and embracing the festive spirit. Neokars have mirrored this joy through vibrant fellowships, impactful community service, and enthusiastic participation in district-led events. I'm sure you'll enjoy reading about the incredible work our members have accomplished in this edition and future issues of Neo Vista.

On behalf of Pallavi and myself, I extend our warmest wishes to you and your families for a very Happy Diwali and a joyful, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Service with Scale & Purpose

In this Inspired Year, we've already completed and planned projects worth nearly ₹25 lakh—a remarkable milestone. September alone saw Neokars execute 14+ projects across medical and non-medical avenues, and October continues with similar momentum. These efforts

reflect our club's unwavering commitment to service and impact.

Strengthening Our Foundation

Our club stands strong—built on mutual trust, friendship, and shared purpose. As we approach the second half of the Inspired Year and prepare to enter Neo's third year, I urge each of you to introduce at least one new Neokar to our fold. Let's grow together and expand the reach of our mission.

Upcoming Highlights

November brings with it Rotary Service Week (RSW) from 2nd to 9th November, and our club is taking the lead in several initiatives. The highlight will be our flagship event – Utsah: Trek for Persons with Disabilities on 8th November. I encourage all Neokars to participate wholeheartedly and support this noble cause—both through presence and fundraising.

A Continued Call to Action

At the cost of repeating myself—let's continue to nurture the bonds of fellowship and execute projects that reflect our shared values and aspirations. Each initiative, each gathering, and each act of service adds to the legacy we are building together. Let's also continue to celebrate through picnics, fellowships, and events that deepen our friendships and strengthen our club.

Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with light, laughter, and lasting memories.

Together, let's keep the Inspired Year truly inspiring!

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	01-Sep-25	8 Iron beds distributed to Nityanand Ashram. Coordinated by Kala.	Non-Medical	8	1	5		A well-wisher thru Kala	Kala
2	01-Sep-25	CPR training sessions at Kheranicha Samrat Sakinaka - Ganesh Mandals.	Medical	50	2		12,500	RCMN	Arun, Hemang Kala
3	03-Sep-25	Spectacles distributed to 20 students at St Catherine's School, coordinated by Hemang.	Medical	20	2	15	20,000	Sponsored	Arun, Hemang
4	03-Sep-25	Waste management awareness at Mother Theresa School; collected 40Kg waste.	Non-Medical	720	3	10	9,700	Sponsored	Natasha
5	05-Sep-25	Presentation on waste management to 9 Ganpati Mandals.	Non-Medical	450	3	27	11,500	Sponsored	Natasha
6	15-Sep-25	Mega Blood donation camp at Andheri Station. 53 units collected.	Medical	53	1	4	825	Sponsored	Anand
7	07-Sep-25	Collected discarded sacred flowers from day 1 to 10 of Ganesh festival. Kala coordinated with Dist Environment team.	Non-Medical	-	2	200	1,408	Sponsored	Kala, Madhavi
8	14-Sep-25	Roshmi sponsored food for underprivileged children at Arya Samaj.	Non-Medical	75	2	3	5,000	Sponsored	Roshmi, Narinder
9	17-Sep-25	Awareness session at Mother Theresa School for 720 students, on waste and its impact on Marine Pollution.	Non-Medical	720	1	5	2,700	Sponsored	Natasha
10	20-Sep-25	Menstrual hygiene lecture by Dr Nilima, organised by Kala at Adarsh Vidyalaya.	Medical	72	2	8	850	Sponsored	Kala
11	20-Sep-25	Collected 240 Kg waste from Adarsh Vidyalaya	Non-Medical	750	3	2	800	Sponsored	Natasha
12	21-Sep-25	Food distribution for 75 underprivileged children at Arya Samaj, sponsored by Meera.	Non-Medical	75	2	4	5,000	Sponsored	Meera, Narinder
13	05-Sep-25	Rita's NGO Aesthesis launched job readiness training for persons with disabilities. RC B Airport supported with 10 laptops. Facilitated by Hemang.	Non-Medical	10	3	4	-	Sponsored	Hemang, Rita, Rajesh Agarwal of RCB Airport
14	27-Sep-25	700 students wove waste plastic bags into mobile holders at Adarsh Vidyalaya.	Non-Medical	750	1	2	800	Sponsored	Natasha
				3,753	28	289	71,083		

ROTARY MEANS FELLOWSHIP (RMF)



Rakesh Kumar

October has come and gone. Phew... what a month it was! Full of festive fervor, fun, frolic, and fellowship (alliteration intended).

So why does Rotary celebrate fellowship? Why not just do some projects to help the disadvantaged?

The answer lies at the very heart of what Rotary is and why it endures. Service is indeed our purpose, but fellowship is the spirit that gives that service its soul. Projects, after all, are about what we do; fellowship is about who we are. Without the bond of friendship, Rotary would be just another NGO executing good works. With fellowship, it becomes a living community of caring hearts – people who give not out of duty, but out of shared joy and connection.

From the earliest days of Paul Harris and his friends meeting in Chicago in 1905, the idea of Rotary was built around friendship and mutual respect. Their first meetings were

simply about coming together as professionals who enjoyed each other's company. The idea of service came later – but when it did, it grew naturally out of those friendships. They discovered that when friends work together, they can achieve far more than individuals working alone.

That spirit continues to define Rotary today. Whether we are planning a health camp, a literacy drive, or a vocational training project, the real strength of our work comes from the bonds we share. Fellowship is the invisible glue that holds Rotary clubs together through changing times, leadership transitions, and differing opinions. It transforms meetings into gatherings of enthusiasm, not obligation; it turns 'volunteers' into friends for life.

Fellowship also sustains us in ways that numbers and reports never can. When Rotarians gather – over a project, a game of table tennis, a Diwali party, or a picnic – there is laughter, learning, and a sense of belonging. These moments recharge our spirits and remind us why we joined Rotary in the first place. The joy of shared purpose and friendship is what keeps us coming back, month after month, year after year.

Moreover, fellowship is not separate from service – it enhances it. When bonds are

strong, teamwork flourishes. When trust exists, ideas bloom. When camaraderie deepens, generosity follows. A club that enjoys each other's company inevitably works better together, delivers stronger outcomes, and radiates positivity into the community it serves.

In a world that often feels divided and transactional, Rotary's model of fellowship-based service is both timeless and revolutionary. It tells us that meaningful change begins not with grand speeches or large budgets, but with genuine human connection – with the willingness to listen, laugh, and share.

So yes, we celebrate fellowship – because through it, we rediscover the joy of serving. We build bridges across professions, cultures, and generations. We learn empathy by understanding one another. And we remind ourselves that Rotary is not only about doing good in the world – it's also about becoming better people through friendship and shared action.

As we move forward into new months and new projects, let us carry September's spirit with us: the fun, the laughter, the bonds, and the belief that fellowship is not just a Rotary tradition – it is Rotary's greatest strength.

Rakesh Kumar
Editor, Neo Vista

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

A BONDING DAY WITH OUR EXTENDED FAMILY AT VILLAGE MONTERIA

By Kirti Mishra

We rolled out of Mumbai in a cheerful bus bound for Village Monteria, Karjat, picking up members along the way. The aisle became a corridor of hellos; *antakshari* took the front half, banter and snacks took the back, and soon the whole bus was a rolling chorus of laughter and songs.

hut tucked into green pockets that practically asked us to sit and exhale. Bags went down and voices rose—hellos looping into laughter, plans forming without anyone calling them plans. It felt effortless. Morning carried us through the village lanes—potters coaxing shapes from clay,



Some days arrive softly and leave a glow behind. Our #BackToRoots picnic at Village Monteria was one of those—unhurried, generous, and filled with the kind of conversations that remind us why NEO feels like home.



Some days arrive softly and leave a glow behind. Our #BackToRoots picnic at Village Monteria was one of those—unhurried, generous, and filled with the kind of conversations that remind us why NEO feels like home.

We checked into the Kabila cottages; each

bamboo work coming alive. Somewhere between mud-pot water sips and those first handmade souvenirs, the city's noise fell away. There were the nostalgic banta soda and long-lost simple games—the kind that turn a walkway into memory lane.

By midday, the mood turned playful. Some of



us strapped in for the rope courses and zipline, and some tried the giant swing, while the rest cheered like it mattered (because it did). Others chose the gentler rhythm of boating and slow walks, finding corners for photos and longer chats. Nothing rushed; everything easy.

Lunch at the cafeteria was a chorus—chairs scraping, plates passing, “try this,” “save space for that,” and the comfortable buzz of friends who know how to linger. We squeezed in some fun and mingling time back at the Kabila cottages before heading out again.

Then came pool time. Some of us swam, some hovered at the edge with legs in the water, and some settled into side-bench conversations that stretched in the best way. A few splashy dares, a few gentle laps, and more than a few “okay, one

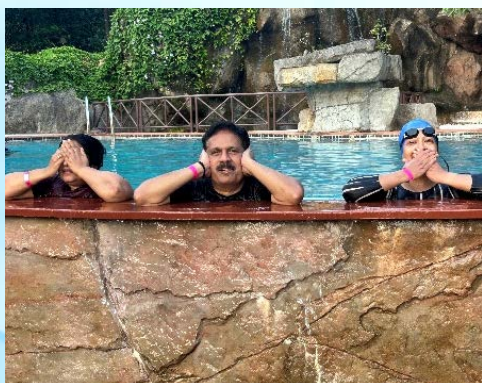
last photo” moments. Others opted for a fish foot spa and an old-school *champi*, letting the day’s routine dissolve into laughter and lightness.

After tea-time—proper *chai pe charcha* with heartfelt conversations—we circled back to the cafeteria and then drifted to our address for the evening: Cottage 413. That’s where the jam began. We set out snacks, split into quick group games, and the room warmed with good-natured banter. Teams formed, rules shifted, and the laughter grew round and full.

As dusk settled, the cottage shifted tempo. Someone hummed a first line; another caught the tune. Suddenly we had an unplugged sing-along—no stage, no mics, just shared rhythm and smiling faces. Palms stung from clapping; feet tapped without asking. The playlist wandered, and so did the memories it pulled up; for a while, nothing existed outside that circle.

Dinner at the cafeteria closed the day softly—seconds on the plate, shared smiles, and an easy quiet after a day well spent. We wandered back to our Kabila cottages for the night and, the next morning, rolled out of Monteria—bags a little heavier, hearts a lot fuller, still humming the bus songs.

We went Back to Our Roots and found them in familiar places: bus-ride sing-alongs, poolside laughs, chai chats, cafeteria meals, the games, and music spilling from the cottage. One journey, one place, one plan—bonding time with our Neo family—and the memories we carried home.



WHO LET THESE KIDS OUT? ...OOPS – TURNS OUT THEY WERE NEOKARS!

By Suresh Jayaram

On the 12th of October, we discovered what Neokars truly are:

Kids

Naughty

Messy

Bindass

Loving

Unmanageable

All Over the Place

Irrational

In short: wonderfully chaotic and absolutely unforgettable.

What a marvelous overnight picnic it was!

We danced.

We fought.

We argued.

We laughed.

We loved.

We messed around.

We played.

We swam.

— all in high spirits... and with actual spirits flowing!

As the drinks flowed, so did we

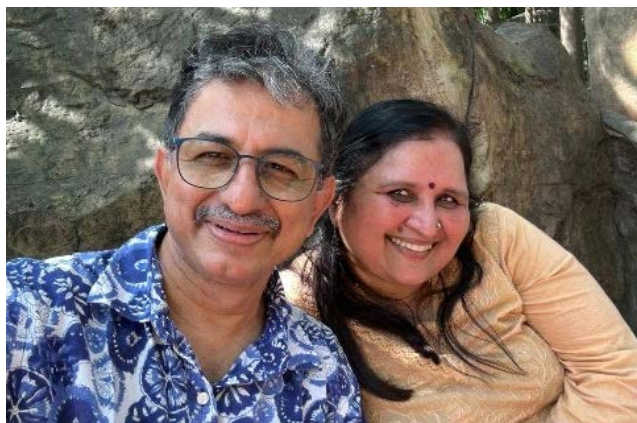
We burned calories laughing and doubled them back eating. It was the perfect blend of madness and magic.

The vibe? Immaculate.

The service? Eager and warm — we were pampered beyond expectation.

Every single Neokar brought their most mischievous self to the table.

There's no standout performance — because everyone



— straight into the pool, dancing and shouting like there was no tomorrow.

From *champis* (head massage) to *kulhad chai*, from *paan* to ice *golas*, from pottery to carpentry, we did it all — and then some.

was exemplary in being outrageously fun. Huge shoutout to Rakhi and Meera for the epic games that brought out our best (and most street-fighting) responses!

A heartfelt thanks to Nidhi and Rahul for recommending such a perfect venue — you gave us the gift of being kids again.

From the *podu idlis* in the bus to *mukhwas* on the way back it was a fun trip!

This, right here, is what fellowship looks like. Neokars rock!

NEOKARS CELEBRATE THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

By Narinder Madan

Neokars celebrated Deepawali on October 16 at The Club. The ambience was warm and lovely, topped up with gusto and enthusiasm. We were joined by a few guests who added to the fun and frolic, specially the two young girls.



The laughter riot broke out as the questions asked by the team members were so funny, you literally rolled out of your chair. The last game was a test for all the Neokars for their general knowledge. Every team had to select an episode from the epic Ramayan and

The celebrations started with a bang when Rtn Meera and Rtn Kala announced the evening's competition. It sent out a wave of enthusiasm among members. The judges for the evening were Rtn Kala and President Anand. At the mike was the evergreen Rtn Meera conducting the show. Four groups, viz., Hearts, Spades, Diamond and Clubs were made based on lottery draw.

enact it. One could be crazy and funny in enacting the act. This sent all the teams in a huddle as choosing a scenario from Ramayan was tough. All the teams came out with scene and skit, and twisted it to make it funnier. All the teams made sure it was hilarious. At the end the judges declared the results.

The Master (or Miss) of ceremonies, Rtn Meera, announced the winners of the last month's Neo



The first game was to make a rangoli with glass bangles, flowers, diyas and crayons provided to all members on a chart spread on the table. The judges were going around to observe. The Neokars got busy to put in their creative best to make the rangoli. This was followed by a guessing game. One member from every team, by rotation, was invited to come and select a photo card from Rtn Meera. He/she was to respond to his/ her team members by nodding or shaking head to the clues so that his/ her team could guess the selected card. The team members could ask only three funny questions based on which the answer was to be guessed. Any direct hint meant disqualification for the

Vista Quiz. The first-round winners were Rtn Datta, Rtn Jyoti, Rtn Mehek and Rtn Kala. The second round was won by President Anand. This was followed by prize distribution. The prizes were purchased from Adhar, as a goodwill towards that excellent institution. Thanks to Rtn Hemang Jangla for sponsoring the prizes for the Diwali games.

Club Secretary Rtn Jyoti made announcements of the forthcoming programs, birthdays and anniversaries of Neokars. Everyone later joined for the finger licking dinner. The drinks were sponsored by Rtn Pradeep. The biggest surprise of the day was the return gift. A big thank you to Rtn Arun Wadhwa!

A VIBRANT EVENING

By Suresh Jayaram

Neo continues to rock! The Diwali celebrations on October 16 were nothing short of spectacular — a vibrant evening brimming with enthusiasm, laughter, and a true sense of togetherness. From the very start, the spirit of Diwali lit up the atmosphere, with joy and colors filling every corner.

25-dish dinner spread — truly, aur kya maange kaainaat se? Hats off to Club Admin Nidhi, whose expertise in this subject remains unchallenged!



Our Master of Ceremonies Meera had everyone on their toes with three engaging games that perfectly matched the festive vibe. Whether it was the creative use of props that tickled our intellect, the expressive card games that brought out our playful sides, or the impromptu skits that awakened the hidden actors among us — the energy was unmatched. The celebrations were elevated by an exquisite

Our Judges for the day were Pres Anand Bhadkamkar and Rtn Kala Sridhar, who kept a close watch on all the participants. Thanks to Rtn Hemang Jangla for sponsoring the prizes for the games. Not to forget the prizes for Neo Vista Quiz Round 1 winners Dattatray, Jyoti, Kala, and Mehek; and Round 2 winner Anand Bhadkamkar. Thanks to the Neo Vista team for the prizes. And just when

we thought it couldn't get any better, we were surprised with thoughtfully packed goodie bags from Arun, filled with warmth and love.

Our new motto? Let's make some noise and have fun! And when it comes to that, Neokars are leading the way — setting the benchmark for what true fellowship looks like. Yeh dil continues to maange more!

GUESS THE NEOKAR - SEASON-2

Here are photos of some cherubic children who have grown up to be naughty Neokars. How many can you recognize?

Every photo is numbered. Please email the names against these numbers, to Meera and Rakesh. Maximum correct answers will be rewarded. The last date for receiving your entries is November 12.

Please feel free to call and exchange notes with fellow Neokars.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



MANY AMERICAS

By Meera Ramachandran

When an Indian visits the US, an inevitable comparison of the two countries occurs in his mind, often resulting in a depression and a yearning on return. Perhaps the fault lies in our comparing the best of America with the worst of India – a gap which we can never hope to fill. I recently visited the US. It was my third visit and I had already seen the most famous tourist spots in my earlier visits. So, sans the euphoria that one feels during a first visit, I observed the country through a critical lens this time. I realized that just as we have polarized perspectives of Bharat and India, the US too offers different Americas.

Most older Indians visit their children settled in the US, often living in spacious 'single family homes' (what in India would be known as bungalows) in suburbia. And this part of America is the most idyllic. The homes have woods in the backyard where deer, coyotes and a variety of birds move around freely. Tall deciduous trees such as maple, oak, poplar turn into a riot of colors in the autumn, while the coniferous like the pine retain their green color. They can indeed give you a sense of oneness with nature. As one drives around suburbia, one sees a model small town, with well-maintained roads, a sense of vastness and natural beauty. However, one

hardly sees a human being on the road. For an urban Indian, used to jostling crowds, the hustle and bustle all around, the silence in American suburbia can be eerie and even unnerving.

At the opposite end and in many ways much like Mumbai, is Times Square in Manhattan. Concrete jungle, jostling crowd, bumper to bumper traffic, over-flowing garbage bins, beggars and pavement dwellers made the place seem like home. New York provides immigrants from diverse nations to carve out their own cultural spaces within the city – little Italy, China town, the Jewish quarter, to name a few. All these areas are densely populated and along with density come some of the woes that we find in Indian cities.



Chinatown



Suburbia

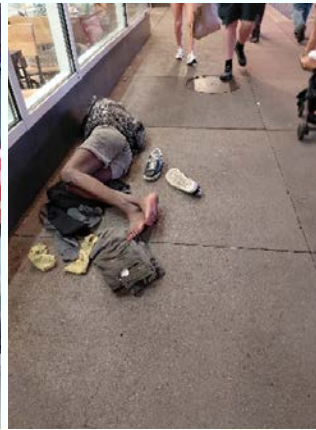
And then in every city there is the old quarter with narrower streets, not so tall buildings, congestion and evidences of relative poverty. However, the gap between the old and the new sections of the city in the US is much less spectacular than what one finds between the walled city of Delhi, that houses Chandni Chowk and Lutyens's Delhi with its Diplomatic Enclave, the majestic Rashtrapati bhavan, the lawns of India Gate and the bungalows of ministers and bureaucrats in neatly laid rows on broad streets.



Bumper to bumper



Beggar in Manhattan



Homeless



Garbage

There are many comforts in our daily lives in India, which are absent in America. And yet we have much to feel sorry for. What we need is citizen vigilance to make civic

authorities accountable. We need citizens themselves to claim the neighborhood as an extension of one's home. Where do we begin?

HIMACHAL: WHERE THE MOUNTAINS SPEAK AND SING

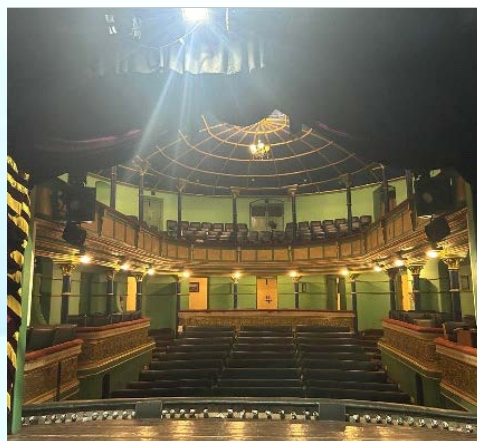
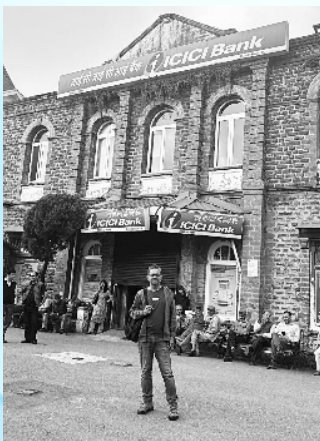
By Suresh Jayaram

"The hills are alive with the sound of music, With songs they have sung for a thousand years..."

This evergreen classic plays in my mind each time I visit the mountains. And if there's one place I never tire of revisiting, it's Himachal Pradesh. With every trip, its charm deepens, weaving new stories into the old ones.

Himachal, the "Dev Bhoomi" or "Land of the Gods," is a mesmerizing blend of natural beauty and spiritual energy. Nestled in the lap of the Himalayas, its forests, peaks, and temples radiate peace. For me, Himachal is more than just a destination — it's a connection of my soul.

My personal bond with Himachal began in 1988, when I started my corporate journey with a three-month stint in Shimla. Back then, the photo with the local bank had a rather grand backdrop — ANZ Grindlays Bank on the iconic Mall Road. This charming street, free of vehicles, remains a hub of culture and connection. The British-era architecture — the magnificent Grand Theatre and the timeless Christ Church with its 1860 clock still ticking strong — give Shimla a character that's hard to match. I often wonder why more cities don't adopt the concept of a traffic-free promenade. It just makes life better.





And then, there are the apples. If cherries were apples, they would grow here. Himachal's famed red apples, gleaming like cricket balls ready for the first over at Lord's, are a sight to behold. Pluck one straight from the orchard, take a bite, and you taste pure bliss — sweet, crisp, and fresh as mountain air.

Though there are many popular sights across Himachal, I often skip the commercial stops and curated souvenir stalls. Instead, I seek moments with trees, birds, clouds, and flowers



The Himalayas, especially the Shivalik ranges, hold a magnetic vibe. Lately, my search for purpose — my Ikigai — has led me to explore more treks. Among them, the 12-kilometre hike to Shali Tibba (9500 feet) stands out. A solitary peak, Shali offers a breathtaking 360-degree view of the surrounding ranges. Standing above the clouds, away from city noise and chaos, one finds a rare sense of calm. It's a space that invites meditation and reflection — a natural medication to the soul. Earlier, my hunger for glimpsing the snow-clad Himalayan ranges had been satisfied at Hatu Peak in Narkhanda, another serene vantage point that only deepened my love for these mountains.

— unfiltered, undisturbed. Nature, in its purest form, offers the best nourishment for the mind, body, and soul.

My next destination? Jhanjheli, Himachal — a hidden gem, especially in winter. I'm planning my visit when the snow falls. Himachal will always be there, waiting — peaceful, powerful, unforgettable. I hear them speak and sing.



TORONTO DIARIES – A JOURNEY OF HEART, NATURE, AND CONNECTION

By Rita Rego

Some journeys aren't just about the places we visit — they're about rediscovering joy, warmth, and the deeper beauty of life itself. My recent trip to Toronto, Canada, was exactly that — a heartfelt blend of breathtaking landscapes, soulful reunions, and memories that will forever hold a special place in my heart.

As a nature lover, this trip will always remain one of the strongest pages in my life's story. Toronto embraced me with its open skies, calm energy,

Toronto's beauty isn't just in its skyline but in its spirit — peaceful churches that invite reflection, charming neighborhoods that celebrate diversity, and people whose kindness stays with you long after you've said goodbye. And then, of course, there was the magnificent Niagara Falls — a sight so powerful, it took my breath away. Standing there, watching the water thunder down, I felt small yet deeply connected to the vastness and wonder of creation.



and streets lined with majestic maple trees, their autumn leaves painting the city in shades of red, orange, and gold. Every long walk felt like a quiet conversation with nature — soft winds, golden sunlight, and the whisper of leaves that reminded me how beautiful change can be.

The most emotional and unforgettable part of the journey was meeting my son. That first hug — full of love, comfort, and unspoken emotion — made every mile worth it. Time stood still as we laughed, talked endlessly, and simply enjoyed being together again. Reconnecting with friends and family added even more joy, filling my days with warmth, laughter, and a deep sense of belonging.

Every moment in Canada was a gift — from crisp morning walks to cozy evenings filled with shared stories, from the beauty of nature to the warmth of humanity that I felt everywhere. The weather was just perfect — cool enough to refresh the mind, gentle enough to fill the heart. As I look back, I carry with me not just photographs, but feelings — of gratitude, peace, and the simple joy of being surrounded by love and beauty. This trip to Toronto was more than a holiday; it was a journey of the heart — one that reminded me how precious life's connections truly are.

"Some trips end, but their memories bloom forever."



SRIDHARS CELEBRATE GOLU

By Rakesh Kumar

Golu is a traditional South Indian festival celebrated during the nine-day Navaratri, featuring an artistic arrangement of dolls and figurines on tiered steps. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and celebrates cultural heritage and divine presence. The dolls depict scenes from Hindu epics, mythological figures, gods, and goddesses, as well as everyday life

and contemporary themes.

Rtns Kala and Sridhar put in a lot of efforts every year to arrange their figurines and invite their friends and fellow Rotarians to their house. The South Indian repast they offer to the guests is the icing on the cake. This year, they celebrated Golu on September 25 with the usual enthusiasm and religious fervor.



NEOKARS' DIARY IN BRIEF

By Narinder Madan

Obituary

With deep regret, we announce the passing away of Rtn Nidhi's mother, Mrs. Vijay Kumari Jain, on September 18.

Alok Conducts AI Sessions

Rtn Alok conducted a session on Artificial

Intelligence at FCB India on September 26. He conducted a similar session on September 25 at RMB Garima.

10 Years of ARK

Rtn Kala Sridhar celebrated 10 years of ARK Events, her event management company, on September 11.

Kalagurjari Hosts Raas Garba

Raas Garba was organized at Dinanath Mangeshkar Hall, Vile Parle on September 27 by Kalagurjari. Rtn Hemang Jangla is President of Kalagurjari.



ROUND-UP OF PROJECTS IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

By Narinder Madan

Nirmalya Recycling

On September 7, the environment group of our club collected 550 kg of flowers from various Ganpati pandals for recycling. These flowers were sent for making compost and agarbatti instead of going to the landfill. The project was coordinated by Rtn Kala Sridhar and President Anand Bhadkamkar. More flowers from Durga pandals were sent to Keshav Shrushti on 3rd October for recycling into agarbattis. Rtn Kala Sridhar coordinated the project.

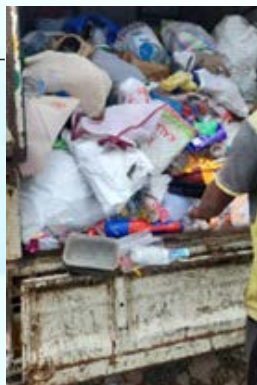


Rise up, Women

Our member Rakhi Desai conducted an online webinar on September 20, 'Rise Up, Women!'. It was to educate women not to hold back but enjoy freedom. It was well attended.

Pads for Dignity

Rtn Mehak Wadhwa joined hands with FSH Foundation in raising funds through a program 'Pads for Dignity' for young school-going girls. Many such girls have to miss their school when they reach puberty and mensural cycles begin. These girls do not have resources and use unhygienic methods. The foundation helps in providing hygienic alternative sanitary pads.



Dry Waste Recycling

On September 20, Rtn Natasha collected 240 kg of dry waste from Adarsh Vidyalala, Goregaon for recycling into useful products.

RCMN Participates in RODEL

District 3141, under its program Rotary Debate League (RODEL), organized a debate on the topic 'Renewable Energy – A Competitive Tool'. The program was held on October 7. The Neo team included Rtn Alok, Rtn Natasha and Rtn Arun.

Mobile Holders from Waste



A project was conducted by Rtn Natasha at Adarsh Vidyalaya where 700 students participated. They were engaged in making mobile holders using plastic bags. The project was conducted on September 27.

District Sports Day

District 3141 organized a sports tournament on 6th October 2025 at Juhu Gymkhana. Our club members participated in Badminton, Table Tennis, etc. It was a day full of fun and excitement.



Clothes Distribution

Neokars are always ready to help the under-privileged. Our member Sharika Kaul led a clothes distribution project on September 17. The project was organized for young girls and women at Ramayani Grahak Seva Kendra, Dindoshi. Rtn Daksha Bhagwat extended a helping hand in ensuring a grand success of the project. Many beneficiaries came to collect the clothes. The smiles on their faces speak about the success of the project. Congratulations to Sharika and Daksha.

Ceiling Fans for School

The streak of good work grew bigger as Neokar R. Sridhar, our past president, joined in donating two ceiling fans to Sanskardham school. The event took place on September 18. The students cheered as they will no longer have to suffer from summer heat. Three cheers for Sridhar.

Adhar Donation

The lovely couple of Rahul and Nidhi created a sparkle in the lives of residents of Adhar. Their donation included a 6.5 ft. cupboard, a BP monitor, a nebulizer, a large and a small TV set, stuffed toys and woolens. All this was wrapped in a box of kindness. No doubt, the residents will now enjoy watching TV without worrying about the winter cold.

Diwali for the Specially Abled

You make a difference when you work with specially abled people. Our Neokar Rita Rego is doing just that. Her NGO Speshally is creating waves by working with specially abled people. They celebrated Diwali by setting a pop-up at FCB India (a global advertising agency) to sell articles made by them, thanks to Rtn Hari.

Money Matters

On the 10th of October, Rtn Kala and Rtn Mahek conducted a financial literacy session for young students of St. Stanislaus school. Rtn Kala, an ex-banker, spoke about the banking system.

The young students participated actively in the question-answer session that followed.

Wet Waste Composting

On the 11th of October, under the leadership of Rtn Sharika, a waste composting project was initiated. The project was done in collaboration with the local BMC ward in her area. The waste collected from the housing society is used in the project. This not only helps the environment but helps in production of organic manure. Keep up Sharika!

Clean-up Drive

The 15th of October was a special day for Neokars. Many projects were executed on this day. One of them was led by Rtn Natasha involving students of Adarsh Vidyalaya. This project, related to the environment, was a clean-up drive at Sanjay Gandhi National Park. About 45 student volunteers were involved in this event.

Eye Camp

Yet another project was executed on the 15th of October. This time it was Rtn Rakhi who did wonders by organizing an eye check-up camp at AXF Sion for school children. The camp benefited about 112 children. Kudos to Rakhi for this wonderful work.

Blood Donation

Blood donation at Andheri Station is a regular monthly project that RCMN participates in. This time we were there on the 15th of October. A total of 63 units of blood was collected. There were three lead clubs, and 18 clubs co-hosted the project. Our club was a co-host. Rtn Arun has been coordinating the monthly blood collection drive.

Donation Drive for Orphanage

Neokars celebrated a donation drive in collaboration with FEI and Shailja Nair Foundation from 13th of October to 17th of October for Snehsadan Boys Orphanage. Clothes, stationery and grains were distributed during the drive. Rtn Hemang helped in organizing chocolates for Snehsadan boys.

Celebrating White Cane Day

On White Cane Day, October 15, Rtn Rita's NGO Speshally celebrated the independence, resilience and unwavering spirit of individuals with visual impairment.

Mental Health Podcast Series

The first episode of the Mental Health Podcast series, a District project, was released on October 10, which is celebrated as World Mental Health Day. Rtn Suresh features in this series, sharing his journey from frustration to acceptance, from struggles to strength.

Using Waste Material

Omkar Builders, Malad had some surplus sanitaryware that they wanted to discard. Sanskardham School, Goregaon was renovating their bathrooms and toilets. Rtn Kala coordinated diversion of the extra material, worth more than rupees half a lakh, to the school.



Clean up at SGNP worked with 45 students, 4 hours.



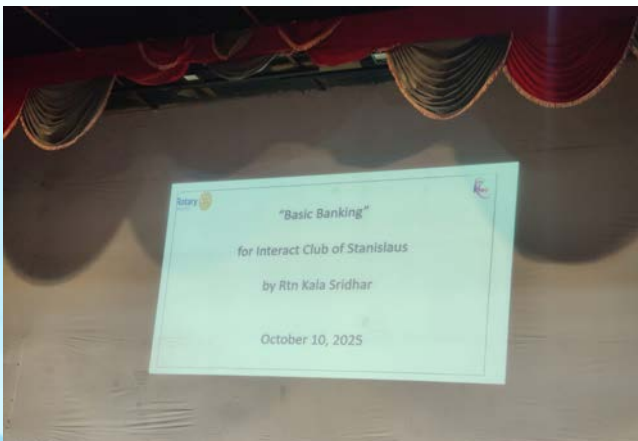
Distribution of Laptops



Eye camp



Talk on mental health



Basic Banking for Interact Club of Stanislaus by Rtn Kala Sridhar





To Know More: :

Neo President - Rtn. Anand Bhadkamkar

 98213 20061

 anandbhadkamkar@gmail.com