

Midtowner

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF RAJKOT MIDTOWN • CLUB 31287 • R.I. DISTRICT 3060

rotaryclubofrajkotmidtown
/RotaryClubofRajkotMidtown

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2024 - 2025

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WE ARE PROUD TO BE HOSTING THE PRESTIGIOUS DISTRICT AWARD FUNCTION FOR 100 CLUBS OF DISTRICT 3060 ON 29TH JUNE 2025. WE HUMBL Y URGE EACH ONE OF YOU TO MAKE AN EARNEST EFFORT TO HELP US SECURE A PREMIER SPONSOR. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE CAN ONCE AGAIN DELIVER AN EVENT THAT REFLECTS THE SPIRIT, EXCELLENCE, AND TRADITION THAT MIDTOWN IS KNOWN FOR.



MEETING DETAILS

There is no meeting this week.



ANNIVERSARY WISHES - Wishing wonderful years of togetherness and happiness!!

Bhavika and Rahul Dangar
24th April

Komal and Vikrant Shah
2nd May

Dr. Gauravi and Dr. Animesh Dhruva
9th May

Viral and Dr. Ashish Shah
11th May

Neela and Dharmendra Mehta
15th May

Bharti and Pankaj Buddhdev
27th April

Neha and Dr. Jagdish Dhakaan
2nd May

Shridevi and Rajesh Tamboli
9th May

Varsha and Shailesh Goti
14th May

Heena and Bharat Patel
15th May

Dr. Pratima and Dr. Niranjan Parikh
30th April

Jigna and Haren Goda
7th May

Neha and Dr. Bhavesh Shah
9th May

Preeti and Dr. Gajendra Odedra
15th May



CLUB NEWS

1. MEETING MEIN:

A blissful and healing Sunday morning with the Sound healer Aarti Mandauliya was something that depleted the heat of the mind in this hot month of May!

With the Himalayan singing bowls to the Raining stick, from the Tam Tam gong to the Hapi drum -Sound healer Aarti Mandauliya presented to the participants a variety of healing rhythms and chimes from her repertoire.

The Midtowners experienced Altered State of Consciousness as they lowered their brain waves from beta to alpha and finally the delta state.

A harmonious getaway worth experiencing-Sound bath definitely is relaxing and a stress reliever. A huge thanks to our very own Midtowner, Aarti Mandauliya to bring this therapy to our Midtown family.

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SERVICE PROJECTS

1. JOY OF GIVING

RCRM and Gujarat Paryavaran Trust: On 4th May 2025, RCRM donated Rs. 60,000/- to Gujarat Paryavaran Trust. The donors from RCRM for this noble project are Dr. Rajnibhai Mehta (Rs. 25,000/-), Virenbbhai Patel (Rs. 15,000/-), Dr. Ashvinbhai Joshi (Rs. 10,000/-), Dr. Banuben Dhakan (Rs. 5,000/-) and Dr. Kairavee Jivrajani (Rs. 5,000/-). A great gesture by all our benevolent donors. President Divyeshbhai Aghera, Dr. Kairaveeben Jivrajani, Shaileshbhai Desai, Dr. Ashvinbhai Joshi, Anilbhai Jasani, and Rajenbhai Popat were present.



2. 20 large sized umbrellas were distributed to small road side vendors in this blazing summer month. This contribution is by RCRM through our District project. Kudos for this thoughtful project.



2. Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown Check Dam Project

In collaboration with Geer Ganga Trust, Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown is launching the "Check Dam Project" at Saurashtra University to promote water conservation and environmental care.

Project Cost: ₹25 Lakh

Approval from authorities is in process and final confirmation is awaited. We invite you to support this noble cause.



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3. Cyclofun in Governor 's Monthly Letter

A proud moment for Midtowners as Cyclofun receives an extensive coverage in GML. Applause for the whole team of Cyclofun!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS:

Honolulu, Hawaii, no longer host city for 2027 Rotary International Convention

Regrettably, the 2027 Rotary International Convention will no longer be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, as planned. This is due to a recent decision by the Hawaii Convention Center to extend the schedule for a series of critical upgrades and repairs across the facility. Rotary is now actively scouting a new city with the necessary infrastructure to host an event of our convention size and scope. We will provide timely updates to our members about the progress.

Honolulu was selected as the site of the 2020 Rotary convention, but it was ultimately canceled because of the COVID pandemic. Local Rotary members and partners worked diligently to return the convention to their beloved city. While this is unfortunate, we sincerely appreciate their tremendous efforts and commitment.

— April 2025

ROTARY PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD : MEXICO

Dogs, cats, rabbits, and other pets took center stage during a Blessing of the Animals event co-organized by the Rotary Club of Tehuacán Granadas in Puebla state in January. "Around 1,000 pets and approximately 3,000 people attended the event this year," reports Paola Ortiz Gómez, president of the club, which partnered with TAC Una Protección al Entorno A.C., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection of animals. Since 2022, the club has organized and promoted the special Mass. "We all believe that by fostering a culture of respect for nonhuman life, it teaches us to respect human life as well," she says. "It fills us with satisfaction to see that entire families attend and not only receive a blessing for their pet but at the same time receive veterinary care," learn about animal adoptions, and donate to the care of homeless animals.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACCOLADES

1. Big congratulations to Team Atmaneem! On a successive year, winner of the prestigious TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice award for 2025! Placing it in the top 10% resorts worldwide!!

2. Congratulations to team Setu for the summer camp for mentally challenged. Students learnt craft and vocational skills.

Setu summer camp was sponsored by Rotary Club of Rajkot Midtown. Rtn Ajaybhai Patel gave his New Era school premises for hosting the camp. He also arranged a picnic at his farm for all the students with transport. A dinner was arranged to conclude the function.

Many thanks to Rtn Ajaybhai! Wonderful work every year for Setu camp.

3. Congratulations to the Super talented and hard working Dr. Kairavee Thakkar for the amazing feat-Phd in Systems Biology and Bioinformatics from the University of Cincinnati. What a proud moment for the Achiever Thakkar family specially- Dr Ketanbhai Thakkar and Dr. Bijalben Thakkar. A strong family is always an answer to the tough equations that life presents! Thakkar family is a shining example of the same. Wishing a bright illustrious career ahead



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4. Annette Takshi Mehta (Hetal & Ashishbhai Mehta's daughter) conducted a fireside chat with Mr. Vallabh Bhansali, the co-founder of Enam Group, renowned venture capitalist and investment banker. Kudos!!



5. Gupta Family Foundation from USA, led by Rtn Vikram Sanghani's US business partners have announced the following new donations for year 2025: Manjul US \$ 20,000, RMC School Project \$ 15,000 and Swashray \$ 8,000. A total of US \$ 43,000. Over the years the Gupta Family has donated in excess of US \$ 250k (Rs. 2 Crore) to Rotary Midtown! We thank the Gupta Family Foundation and Rtn. Vikrambhai Sanghani!!

6. Dr. Dhvani Vachharajani performed classical vocal solo in two concerts organized by Sangeet Sabha Bandra East and Khayal Trust, Mumbai on 26th and 27th April 2025 respectively. Among the artists she was the only one from Gujarat. All others were from Mumbai.. Commendable.. congratulations!!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Contributed by : Dr. Ketanbhai Thakkar

The American Dream and India's Forgotten Parents:

In the 1980s and 90s, as India grappled with economic challenges and a slower pace of development, a new aspiration quietly took hold in the minds of its middle-class families — the dream of America. The United States, with its promise of opportunity, prosperity, and upward mobility, became the shining ideal for millions of young Indians and their parents alike.

To have a child "settled in the US" became a mark of success, a source of immense pride, and for many families, the ultimate validation of having "made it." But like every dream built solely on material progress, this one too came with a cost — one that an entire generation of Indian parents is now quietly paying. Walk through any Indian city today and you'll find countless elderly couples living in large, empty homes, their children oceans away. These are the parents, who once worked relentlessly to ensure their children had the best education, the right coaching, and the means to fly abroad. They sacrificed personal comforts, curbed their own desires, and devoted themselves to building a future for their children — a future that, ironically, has left them behind. What began as a temporary ambition — to study, work, and return — morphed over the years into permanent migration. The children found jobs, built homes, married, and raised families in foreign lands.

The distances once bridged by letters and annual phone calls are now managed through fleeting video calls and festival greetings.

For the parents, however, time has moved differently. Health deteriorates, loneliness creeps in, and the longing for a familiar face, a shared meal, or a simple conversation grows heavier with each passing year.

This quiet epidemic of elderly loneliness is one of India's most unspoken social tragedies.

Neither side is entirely to blame. The children who left have built lives that are difficult to uproot — careers, mortgages, and children, who identify more with the country of their birth than the one of their heritage.

Returning to India isn't always an option. Yet, for the parents, the reality remains unchanged: they miss their children. And increasingly, they are left to fend for themselves — through illness, isolation, and the slow erosion of the very family fabric that once defined Indian life.

There's an old story from Hindu mythology that offers a poignant lesson here. When Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati asked their sons, Lord Kartikeya and Lord Ganesha, to circle the world three times to prove who was wiser, Kartikeya immediately set off on his peacock to traverse the three worlds. Lord Ganesha, however, quietly circled his parents and declared, "You are my world." It's a story our generation might do well to remember.

As a society, we need to pause and re-examine what we define as progress. Monetary success, global mobility, and professional achievements are valuable — but they should not come at the cost of human connection, responsibility, and compassion.

In our pursuit of better futures, we must not abandon those, who made our present possible.

India today urgently needs community ecosystems that care for its elderly, and perhaps, more importantly, a cultural shift that revalues human presence over digital connection. For those living abroad, it's a call to find ways to stay truly connected — through regular visits, emotional presence, and genuine involvement in their parents' lives.

At the end of it all, life isn't measured in the number of dollars earned, but in the warmth of the relationships we nurture and the memories we leave behind. May we, as a generation, not forget that.

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