

INSPIRATION

ISSUE 3, OCV EDITION 2025-26

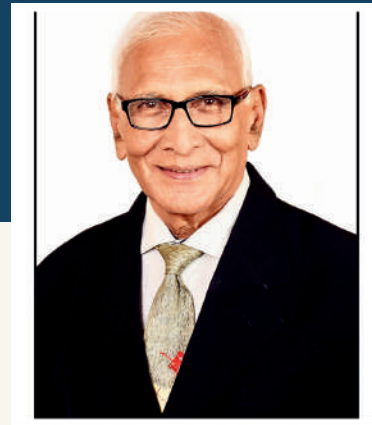
RCBN MAGAZINE



OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

Guidance, Grace and Growth

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



August marked a meaningful milestone for our club with the publication of the first hard copy of Inspiration. It was not merely the launch of a bulletin, but the beginning of a documented journey—one that captures our thoughts, actions, and collective intent. From September onward, Inspiration evolves into a living chronicle of our projects, events, and reflections, allowing us to look back with pride and move forward with clarity.

The last six months have been intense, demanding, and deeply fulfilling. Our calendar was full, weekends were often committed, and yet the energy and enthusiasm of our members never faded. Medical service continued to be a major focus area. Through multiple medical camps, Thalassemia awareness and detection initiatives, and highly impactful corrective eye and plastic surgery camps, our club touched lives in a very direct and meaningful way. These were not routine activities; they were interventions that restored confidence, dignity, and hope.

Among all these initiatives, the Manav Foundation program remains especially close to my heart. The wide publicity ensured that the message reached beyond the venue, while the presence of an excellent panel of experts elevated the quality of discussion and understanding. My sincere gratitude to Suresh Gandhi for sponsoring this initiative and for supporting Operation Restore—projects that truly reflect Rotary's ability to transform lives through committed service.

"When care meets commitment, healing truly begins."

Our engagement extended well beyond club-level activities. Members actively participated in RODEL, the UN Assembly, quiz contests, and the Rotary Walkathon. Such participation strengthens our exposure, reinforces Rotary values, and reminds us that we are part of a much larger movement working toward shared global goals.

Vocational service emerged as one of the most emotionally rewarding areas of service this year. The felicitation of teachers from ten Adivasi schools was a sincere expression of respect toward educators who quietly shape the future. In addition, the felicitation of a poet and an education officer acknowledged the role of creativity, thought leadership, and administration in building a strong educational ecosystem.

Sports and fellowship added a vibrant dimension to our activities. Competitions organized for our members strengthened bonding and healthy competition, while the sports event conducted for tribal students at the Igatpuri Sports Complex offered exposure, confidence, and inclusion. For many students, it was not merely a competition, but an opportunity to discover their own potential.

"Respecting those who shape minds is the highest form of vocational service."

Our commitment to sustainability was reflected in steady progress on water and energy-related initiatives. More than 2,000 solar lamps have already been distributed, bringing light and extended productivity to households where darkness once limited opportunity. I thank Gautam Gandhi for his generous support. I also appreciate PP Nafisa Khorakiwala's focused efforts toward implementing a water project for an entire village—an initiative that promises long-term impact and sustainability.

One of the quiet strengths of our club this year has been the planning and execution of speaker meetings. Scheduled well in advance—often three months ahead—these meetings covered a wide range of subjects catering to the diverse interests of our members. The smooth conduct of these sessions reflects teamwork and discipline.

ATTENDANCE IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Over the last few months, attendance at morning speaker meetings has shown a declining trend. This is a matter of serious concern and is being actively discussed by many senior members. While I have personally tried to reach out to members, the true strength of Rotary lies in each member recognizing their responsibility and commitment to the club. Attendance is not merely physical presence—it is participation, ownership, and respect for the collective effort of the club.

The response to fireside meeting sponsorships was extremely encouraging. However, due to time constraints and a project-heavy calendar—almost every Sunday being committed—we could conduct only two such meetings. I am confident that with better scheduling, the coming quarter will allow more informal interactions that deepen personal connections within the club.

All projects were duly reported in the Pre-OCV, and future initiatives were communicated transparently. I urge all members to register for DISCON 26, as such platforms provide inspiration, learning, and networking. It is a matter of pride that our own PP Habil Khorakiwala is one of the speakers.

Before I conclude, I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation for the editorial team that has worked tirelessly to bring Inspiration to life. A special word of thanks to Dr. Vidya Mukund for her dedication, attention to detail, and quiet leadership in shaping the content and presentation of this bulletin. The quality and consistency of this publication reflect her commitment and the collective effort of the team.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I also invite all members to share their feedback—what you liked, what can be improved, and what you would like to see more of in Inspiration. Your suggestions will help the editorial team align the bulletin more closely with member expectations and make it a platform that truly belongs to all of us.

Let us move ahead with renewed commitment, stronger participation, and open communication. Rotary is not defined only by the number of projects we undertake, but by the sincerity with which we participate, reflect, and grow together.



Rtn. Kamal Choksi
President 2025-26

"IN SERVICE, IN SYNC: A CONVERSATION WITH OUR SECRETARY"

Rtn. Dr. Girish Walavalkar
Hon. Secretary 2025-26



1. As the Secretary of the Rotary Club, how would you describe your role in one sentence?

It is the backbone of Rotary activities.

2. What does a typical month look like for a Rotary Secretary?

It is interesting with preparation of agendas, weekly meetings, birthday wishes and board meetings.

3. What has been the most rewarding part of holding this position?

When you work sincerely and club members appreciate- that is the best reward.

4. What are some unseen or behind-the-scenes, responsibilities that members may not realize?

Infact a lot of unseen responsibilities. Right from smooth functioning of weekly meetings to fellowships. Choice of projects, to make sure maximum people are benefitted, convince the board for the budget and make sure it is utilized to its optimum.

5. What inspired you to take up the role of Secretary?

Club has given me a lot. It's my way of returning back and be useful.

6. Was there a moment when you truly felt, "Yes, I made the right decision"?

Yes everytime when I look back at a meeting gone well or a project completed I feel I made the right decision.

7. What has been the most challenging aspect of your role ?

Coordination, convincing board members and the president.

8. What key lesson has Rotary taught you through this responsibility?

Patience.

9. What qualities do you believe make a good Rotary Secretary?

Patience, be a good listener. Have a vision and be able to communicate at different levels with clarity and conviction.

10. Can you share a memorable project or meeting that stays close to your heart?

Pediatric cardiac surgeries which are conducted at Wockhardt Hospital and Sai Siddhi Sanjeevani Hospital where pediatric cardiac surgeries are carried out. How Rotary has transformed the lives of kids and the parents who cannot afford these treatments.

11. Does documentation and reporting strengthen the club's legacy?

It is extremely important. It makes all activities transparent.

12. How do Rotary's core values reflect in your day-to-day work as Secretary?

They don't just reflect, they have become part of life. We follow the 4 way test in all aspects of our day to day functioning.

13. How do you see the role of Rotary evolving in today's times?

Rotary has become a necessity these days. One of the best organization that is working towards human service.

14. If you had to describe your Rotary journey in one word, what would it be?

Its a fantastic journey.

15. What is your advice to the in- coming secretary?

Be patient, communicate thoughts with clarity and conviction.

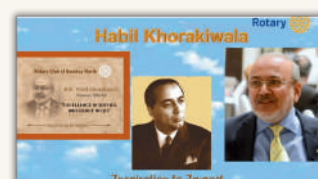
"ICONS BEYOND TIME: OUR PRESIDENTS IN REFLECTION"



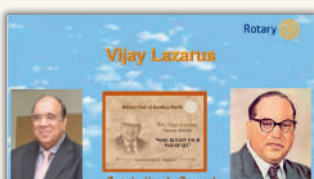
Babulal Todi — Mahatma Gandhi
As Gandhiji was the moral compass of a nation, guiding with calm conviction, Babulal ji anchored our club with the same serene leadership.



Feroz Kachwala — Ronald Reagan
Reagan steered America through economic reform with steady resolve. Feroz safeguarded and strengthened our Trust Funds with equal foresight.



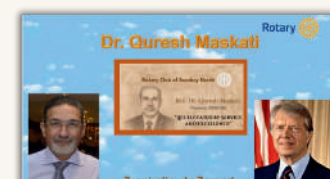
Habil Khorakiwala — Dr. Homi Bhabha*
Dr. Bhabha was a visionary who redefined India's scientific landscape. Habil Khorakiwala has done the same in healthcare, pioneering with innovation.



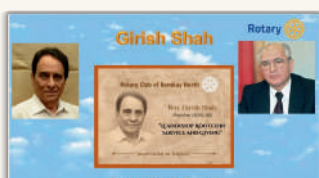
Vijay Lazarus — B.R. Ambedkar
As Ambedkar stood for justice, equality, and inclusion, Vijay Lazarus embodied fairness and respect for all within the club.



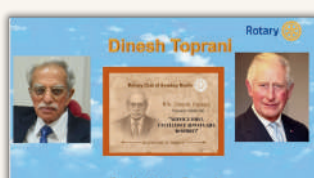
Vijay Jalan — Vikram Sarabhai
Sarabhai propelled India's space dreams skyward. Vijay Jalan, as Governor, launched TRF collections to similar soaring heights.



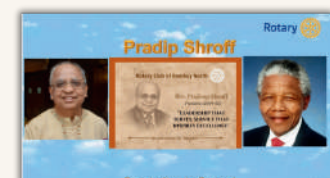
Dr. Quresh Maskati — Jimmy Carter
Carter's legacy was humility and humanitarianism. Dr. Quresh, too, is cherished for his compassion and simplicity.



Girish Shah — Mikhail Gorbachev
Gorbachev championed peace among nations. Girish Shah kept harmony alive within our club family.



Dinesh Toprani — King Charles III
King Charles has devoted his life to charitable causes. Dinesh Toprani likewise pours heart and soul into every project.



Pradip Shroff — Nelson Mandela
Mandela became the global symbol of unity and reconciliation. Pradip Shroff, too, nurtures unity, ensuring differences never divide.



Mahendra Kothari — George Washington
Washington secured the young nation's financial foundation. Mahendra Kothari ensured our club's finances remained equally strong.

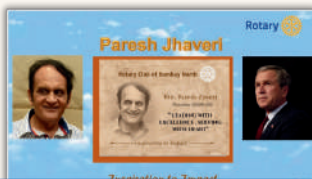


Zain Quettawala — Abraham Lincoln
Lincoln fought for freedom and upliftment of the oppressed. Zain Quettawala championed the cause of the underprivileged with equal zeal.



Suresh Gandhi — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
Patel integrated a diverse nation into one. Suresh Gandhi has been that unifying force in Rotary and beyond.

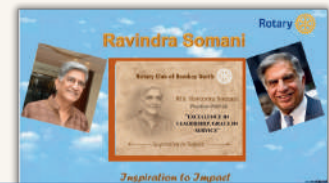
"ICONS BEYOND TIME: OUR PRESIDENTS IN REFLECTION"



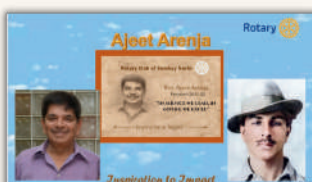
Parash Jhaveri — George W. Bush focused on security, prosperity, and opportunity. Parash Jhaveri secured our standing in the District while creating opportunities for members.



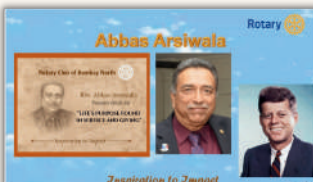
Dr. Satya Agarwala — A.P.J. Abdul Kalam was humble, warm, and universally respected. Dr. Satya Agarwala reflects the same humility and universal goodwill.



Ravindra Somani — Ratan Tata transformed education and healthcare initiatives. Ravindra Somani left a similar legacy through the Somani school.



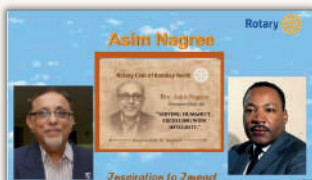
Ajeet Arenja — Bhagat Singh stood for courage and conviction. Ajeet Arenja led with quiet resolve, guiding the club with purpose.



Abbas Arsiwalla — John F. Kennedy Kennedy inspired with charisma and vision. Abbas Arsiwalla led with the same charm, during Rotary's era of peace-building.



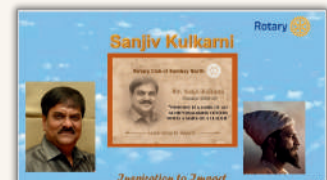
Mahendra Thacker — Jawaharlal Nehru Nehru uplifted rural India with development. Mahendra Thacker worked with equal passion for tribal communities.



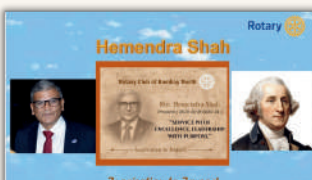
Asim Nagree — Martin Luther King Jr. King Jr. gave voice to fairness and justice. Asim Nagree carried that same voice of fairness into every decision.



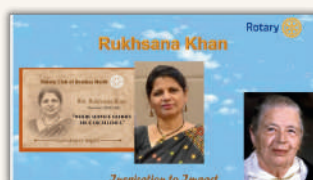
Dr. Ashok Ajmera — Winston Churchill Churchill was a statesman of conviction and words. Dr. Ashok Ajmera is that commanding orator and leader for Rotary.



Sanjiv Kulkarni — Chhatrapati Shivaji Shivaji united people of all backgrounds under one fold. Sanjiv Kulkarni led our club with the same inclusive vision.



Hemendra Shah — Franklin D. Roosevelt Roosevelt guided his nation through multiple terms with strength. Hemendra Shah likewise steered our club with steady hands across two tenures.



Rukhsana Khan — Golda Meir Golda Meir broke barriers as her nation's first woman leader. Rukhsana Khan, our first woman President, led with grace and determination.

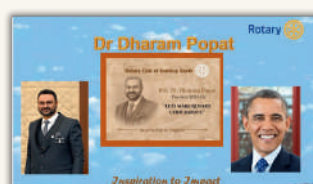


Nafisa Khorakiwala — Mother Teresa Mother Teresa symbolized compassion in action. Nafisa Khorakiwala mirrors that selflessness through her foundation's outreach.

"ICONS BEYOND TIME: OUR PRESIDENTS IN REFLECTION"



Nafisa Kachwala — Indira Gandhi
Indira Gandhi embraced the nation's leadership with a broad, interconnected vision.
Nafisa Kachwala embraced the club leadership with a wide people-centric vision.



Dr. Dharam Popat — Barack Obama
Obama inspired with warmth, popularity, and purpose.
Dr. Dharam Popat, too, won the hearts of the members and thus had wholehearted support from them during his term.

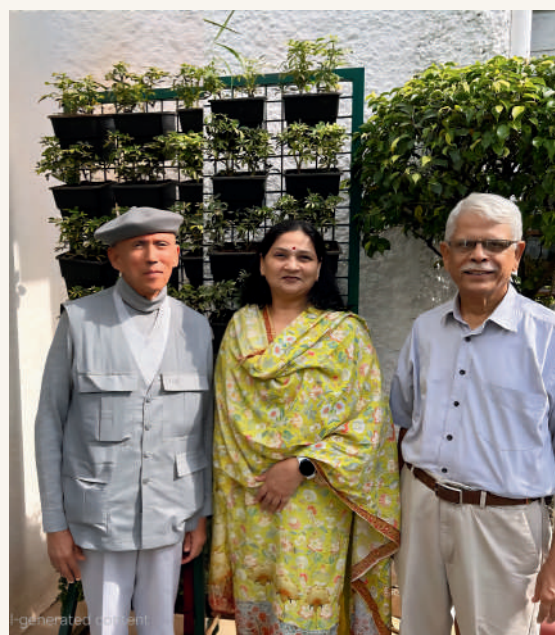
From the Editor's Desk

Inspiration—the very word captures the essence of what we endeavour to bring to our readers. It is a reflection of ideas, emotions, and stories that motivate, connect, and leave a lasting imprint.

With the successful release of six e-bulletins and one physical edition commemorating our Charter Day, and a special edition in memory of late Rtn. Dr. Rajendra Agarwal this journey has been one of both pride and quiet fulfilment. Each edition has been a learning experience—challenging yet rewarding—shaping not just the magazine, but also the editor behind it.

There are moments when one must simply push the envelope, walk in with resolve, and let one's gravitas speak. To treat every experience—pleasant or otherwise—as a cornerstone of progress is perhaps the most valuable lesson this role has imparted. What may appear effortless on the surface often involves navigating a complex conundrum: balancing diverse opinions, unspoken sensitivities, and creative expectations, all while staying true to the spirit of Inspiration.

With six more e-bulletins in the pipeline and two forthcoming physical editions—one for the Official Club Visit (OCV) and the other for Shukriya—my team and I look forward to completing this responsibility with purpose and integrity. It is our sincere endeavour to do justice to the trust reposed in us and to ensure that each issue continues to inspire, inform, and resonate.



SILVER JUBILEE PRESIDENT- RTN. PP VIJAY LAZARUS.

A YEAR ETCHED IN SILVER, A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

1987-88

The **Silver Jubilee President VIJAY LAZARUS** had a galaxy of Rotary Stars as his **Board of Directors** ↓

After 39 years Board Members still at RCBN are :

- Charter Member Babulal Todi.
- Then IPP Habil Khorakiwal, Chairman of the RCBN Charity Trust and now an AKS Member.
- Then Rtn. now PDG Vijay Jalan !
- Then Rtn. Baldev Arora now AKS Member !
- Dr.Quresh Maskati then & even now sparkles as the -'light of our Club'!

Having celebrated our Silver Jubilee , the foremost thought that came to my mind was "Roots".

Friends, all the years that led to Bombay North's Silver Jubilee , during my Presidency 35 years ago, were years dedicated to consolidate the depths of the roots of our Club which has ensured the good fruits we all enjoy today !

Let me tell you ,the 1st of the 3 major aspects that contributed in strengthening Bombay Norths roots over its first 25 years was its Human Resources its Members, the 2nd the people the Club associated with and 3rd. the choice, the scale and reach of our Projects , in all avenues of service.

We associated ourselves with as Chief Guests , Invites , Speakers Benefactors or Beneficiaries - were the likes off ; The President of India Dr. Radhakrishnan ; Indias first and longest serving

Our association with these and many more such renowned personalities deepened the roots of the stature of our young Club.

The 2nd aspect that consolidated the depths of our roots was our choice of projects their scale , and their their outreach ; I mention just a few of the many many many such projects we implemented during the first 25 years of our Club. : a project that immunised over 300,000 children ; a project that render unique vocational help & support to more than 100,000 challenged persons ; we sent 100 plus Children of Rotarians for the 1 year International Youth Exchange Program and enjoyed a warm relationship with our sister Club in Kobe Japan. Finally the Club introduced and launched a high powered and robust communication and fellowship strategy.

Our choice of projects Friends , established the deep roots of equal and large scale Club Activities in every avenue of service ; many of them , for example Fellowship even resonates today.

The 3rd and the most important aspect that consolidated the deep roots of our Club was the priceless asset of Human Resources the real deep roots that pastured Bombay North to its present Glory - Our Members :

We remember stalwarts like Ashok Piramal ; Dr. K.K. Datte , Hakubhai Kapadia, Dr. Purandare, Hussinebhai

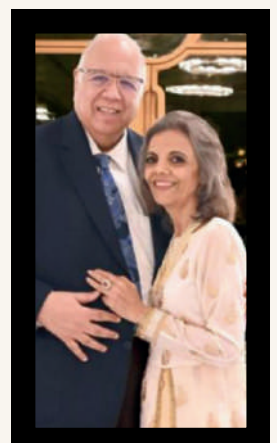
Khorakiwalla , Ram Batra, S.P.Mandalia and the likes of many more. We fondly recall 4 of our member going on

to become District Governors ; our Founder President Soli Pavri ; M.P. Apte ; Surubhai Shah & Badar Maskati and to crown it all Soli Pavri becoming the First ever and only Rotary International Director from Bombay North all this achieved within our first 25 years. Strangely today we have 25 Members who were there then and who are with us now ; Some of the exceptionable contributors still with us are our Charter Members , Sultan Fazalbhoys and Babulal Todi ; Members of The Silver Jubilee Board of Directors Habil Khorakiwalla , Baldev Arora , Vijay Jalan , Quresh Maskati and yours truly.

But Rotarians sans their spouses is like music played without sound. Our spouses , most , if not all , were enthusiastic active Members of a vibrant Inner Wheel Club and in the earlier year Mumtaz Kachwalla and in the following year my beloved wife Shirley were Presidents and in that year Nafisa Khorakiwala was

President Elect of our Inner Wheel Club and who today is the President Elect of our Rotary Club.

Friends , it was , for me , a pleasure and a privilege of being the President in the Silver Jubilee year and it has been our Projects , our association with the right people and our Members and our Spouses , who consolidated deep, yes very deep the roots of our Club; its stature , its influence; its relevance and it is these roots that have stood us in good stead.

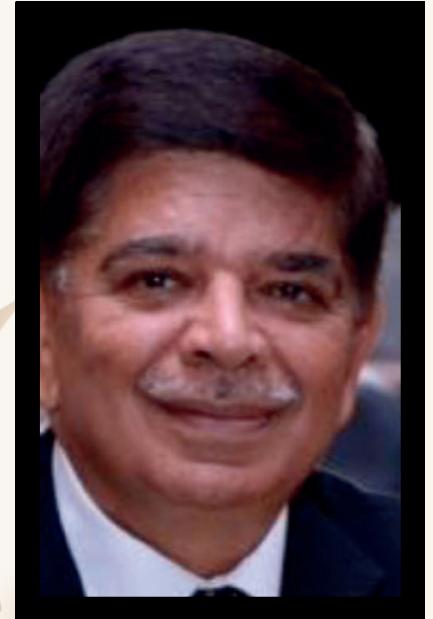


Remembering the Golden Jubilee Year (2011–12)

I had the privilege of leading the Rotary Club of Bombay North during its Golden Jubilee year, 2011–12—a responsibility I initially hesitated to accept. It was the faith and gentle insistence of senior predecessors, particularly District Governor Vijay Jalan and our Silver Jubilee President Vijay Lazarus, that finally persuaded me. Their confidence proved well placed, for what followed became one of the most defining chapters in the Club's history.

The year was marked by an extraordinary and rare confluence of milestones.

Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee—our very own Indian RI President—was at the helm of Rotary globally. District Governor Vijay Jalan, RCBN's fifth PDG following the late PDGs Soli Pavri, Surubhai Mehta, Badar Maskati, and M. P. Apte, was leading District 3140. And most significantly, the Club was celebrating 50 glorious years of service. With the wholehearted support of our members, these forces came together to deliver a year worthy of RCBN's proud legacy.



One of the most unanimous and landmark decisions taken during the year was to shift our weekly meetings from South Mumbai to the more centrally located Wellington Club. The move brought greater accessibility, serenity, and prestige, along with the introduction of a relaxed Saturday breakfast meeting format that members and spouses warmly embraced.

To commemorate this new phase, a refreshed Club logo incorporating the Worli Sea Link was unveiled—an identity that continues to represent RCBN to this day.

What followed was a complete rejuvenation of the Club. There was renewed pride in belonging, a marked increase in spouse participation, and an elevation in the quality of every engagement. Champagne breakfasts, meetings at five-star venues, formal invitations, curated music, and consistently high attendance became the norm. RCBN set new benchmarks in fellowship and presentation. All major events during the year were graced by RI President Kalyan Banerjee, DG Vijay Jalan, and representatives from clubs across District 3140, reinforcing RCBN's standing within the Rotary fraternity.

The undisputed highlight of the Golden Jubilee year was DISCON 2011–12, ably chaired by PP Vijay Lazarus and driven by a dynamic and committed committee. Widely acknowledged as one of the finest District Conferences ever held, DISCON blended substantive Rotary content with eminent speakers and an unforgettable two-night, three-day entertainment extravaganza. Innovative initiatives such as the Tanishq jewellery exhibition added sparkle, while robust fundraising ensured a surplus contribution to the District Trust corpus. Carefully curated fellowship programmes and themed events further strengthened bonds among Rotarians and celebrated legacy venues.

A particularly significant achievement of the year was the receipt of FCNR approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs—after nearly 50 years of sustained effort. This milestone enabled the Club to receive foreign currency donations and collaborate more meaningfully with international Rotary partners. It strengthened ongoing projects and paved the way for enduring initiatives such as Teach India for adult English education, a Computer Academy in partnership with Bhartiya Vidya Mandir, Helping Mumbai See Better for taxi drivers with WIAA and Titan EyePlus, and the groundwork for an ambitious vision correction programme aimed at reaching 60,000 underprivileged children.

GOLDEN JUBILEE PRESIDENT- RTN. PP AJEET ARENJA.

"GOLDEN YEARS, TIMELESS VALUES"

As I reflect, I realize that just as I inherited a progressive and vibrant Club built by decades of visionary leadership, the Golden Jubilee year infused fresh energy that continues to inspire RCBN even today. This collective success was made possible by the unwavering commitment of every member—ably supported by Hon. Secretary Asim Nagree; DISCON and Fellowship Chair Vijay Lazarus with Nitika; senior pillars Ashok Ajmera and Quresh M.; and above all, the steadfast guidance of PDG Vijay Jalan.

The year also marked an extraordinary achievement in Rotary philanthropy. RCBN raised USD 679,855 for The Rotary Foundation, ranking No. 1 in India and second globally. District 3140 raised an unprecedented USD 3.47 million—the highest in the world—earning international recognition at the RI Convention in Bangkok, 2012.

Together, during that Golden Jubilee year, we walked a path of excellence—one that honoured our past, celebrated our present, and continues to define the spirit and stature of the Rotary Club of Bombay North.



A Moment etched in Rotary Memory

The Rotary year 1978–79, when District 314 still carried a three-digit identity, was a very different era. The district was vast—embracing all of Maharashtra and parts of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh—yet it comprised barely 75 clubs. Distances were long, communication slower, but the spirit of fellowship was immense.

For a prestigious district like 314 in those days, the RI President's Representative was almost invariably a senior American Past District Governor, and our District Conference was no exception. Rotary International President that year was Clem Renouf of Queensland, Australia, whose inspiring RI theme was "Reach Out." In perfect alignment with this global call, District Governor Badar Maskati gave the district its own resonant theme—"Each One Reach One," reinforcing the belief that individual commitment could create collective impact.

The District Conference was held at Shanmukhananda Auditorium at Sion, then the largest and most prestigious venue in the city. The Conference Secretary was PP Raman Patel, whose meticulous planning ensured an event that would be remembered for decades.

The star attraction was none other than Mother Teresa. Persuading her to attend was no small feat. She had a crucial engagement in Surat the very same evening, and District Governor Badar Maskati had to make extraordinary arrangements to ensure her presence. A private charter was organized to fly her from Juhu airport immediately after her address—generously facilitated by a leading industrialist who stepped in at the eleventh hour.

Mother Teresa's speech left the packed auditorium in tears. With quiet authority and deep compassion, she urged Rotarians who had travelled hundreds of kilometres to be there:

"Give till it hurts."

And she added gently, "If you cannot give money, give your time. Wipe a tear. Spread a smile."

It was a moment etched forever in Rotary memory—a powerful affirmation that true service is not measured by scale alone, but by sincerity of heart and willingness to reach out.

Rtn. PP Quresh B Maskati

DIAMOND JUBILEE PRESIDENT- RTN.

PP RUKHSANA KHAN.

“SIXTY YEARS, ONE UNBROKEN SPIRIT”

2021-22

Diamond jubilee. As President of Rotary Club of Bombay North during 2021-22 which was Diamond jubilee year for the club. Everyone was happy and excited to have first lady president of RCBN during the 60th year of club's existence. There was immense support from everyone. Projects and Fellowships saw its maximum participation of the members and spouses.

There are so many stories however projects for Interactors(schools), Heart surgeries. Cancer surgeries, squint eye operations and igatpuri blossom are very close to my heart. The smile on the face of children and their parents definitely reflects on us.

I have been a member for more than a decade and received support from the members and their spouses for the projects. It's like a family

I'm a member for 10 years only. It's difficult to evaluate changes in the last 62 years. In each year, President does the best and reaches the new heights of achievement.

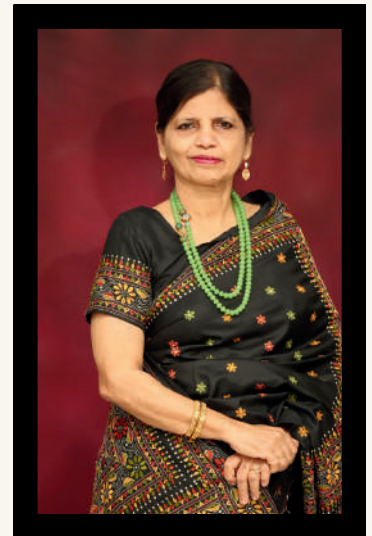
In each year, President does the best and reaches the new heights of achievement. Charter members

1. Late Sultan Fazalbhoy who guided and supported us and participated in many projects inspire of his age and illness
2. Babulal Todiji has been a light house of knowledge.

There are many. However I will mention few names ; Firoz kachchwala, Late Dr Rajendra Agarwal, Dr Sonal Agarwal, Suresh Gandhi, Dr Quresh Masqati, Baldev Arora Ashok Doshi and many more

Bonding is very important factor in smooth working of the club. We are very lucky that RCBN has a strong backing of bonding. Thanks to Fellowships .

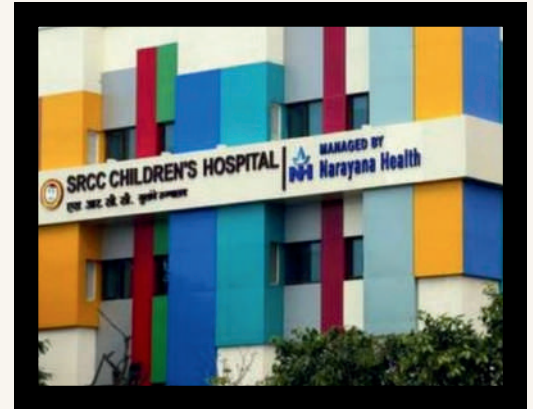
During my year of Presidentship, During Diwali celebration, we had organised Master chef competition which was sponsored by Nick Israni, concept by Sakina shakeer and participated by almost all the RCBN members and Spouses. It was memorable experience for all the members.



TRANSFORMING PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CARE AT SRCC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Every year in India, more than 2.5 lakh children are born with congenital heart disease (CHD)—a diagnosis that arrives quietly but carries overwhelming consequences for families already struggling with limited resources. For nearly one-fifth of these children, the defect is critical and life-threatening, demanding urgent intervention within the first year of life. Without timely treatment, many of these little hearts simply give up.

Despite medical advancements, only a fraction of children with CHD in India receive timely and appropriate care. Specialized pediatric cardiac centers are few, largely private, and concentrated in metropolitan cities. For families in rural, tribal, or economically vulnerable regions, the journey to treatment is often as daunting as the disease itself—filled with fear, financial uncertainty, lost livelihoods, and impossible choices.



It is within this challenging landscape that Rotary Club of Bombay North (RCBN) has chosen to step in—not merely as a donor, but as a compassionate partner in saving young lives.

The Reality on the Ground: Challenges Beyond Medicine

The burden of pediatric heart disease in India is not limited to medical complexity alone.

Delayed diagnosis remains common due to lack of awareness and limited screening, especially in rural and semi-urban areas.

Geographical inequity forces families to travel hundreds of kilometers, often leaving behind jobs, homes, and other children.

Financial hardship is the single greatest barrier. Medical insurance for congenital defects is rare, and even government schemes cover only a limited range of surgeries.

Social challenges—including discouragement from elders, gender bias, and fear of surgery—often prevent families from seeking timely care.

SRCC Children's Hospital: Where Hope Meets Expertise

At SRCC Children's Hospital, under the leadership of experienced pediatric cardiologists like Dr. Supratim Sen, and pediatric cardiac surgeons like Dr. Pradeep Kaushik, children receive world-class, fully pediatric cardiac care—often when all other doors have closed.

Many children deteriorate while waiting. Some become inoperable. Some are lost forever.

SRCC performs 80 pediatric heart surgeries and 50 cardiac interventions per month, including highly complex and high-risk cases.

The hospital accepts referrals from other major centers and often takes on patients who have developed complications after surgery elsewhere.

With less than 3% mortality, even among critically ill newborns weighing under 2 kg, SRCC stands among the finest pediatric cardiac centers in the country.

The average cost to save a child is approximately ₹75,000, with the remaining burden shared by government schemes, hospital concessions, and charitable support.

A dedicated patient dormitory houses up to 200 families, ensuring that no parent is left without shelter during their child's treatment.

Yet even with excellence in care, the ability to treat these children depends heavily on timely financial support.

RCBN's Impact: Turning Compassion into Lives Saved

Between January 2024 and December 2025, the Rotary Club of Bombay North enabled the treatment of 215 children with complex congenital heart defects at SRCC.

₹1.60 crore contributed by Rotary

₹1.75 crore supported through government funding

₹1.30 crore in hospital concessions provided by SRCC

Average Rotary support per child: ₹75,404

These numbers reflect not just financial assistance—but 215 second chances at life.

Because of Rotary's support, SRCC has been able to accept critically ill children who were otherwise turned away due to lack of funding or complexity beyond standard government coverage. These are children who could not afford to wait.

Beyond Surgery: The True Impact on Lives

For a child struggling with CHD, life before surgery is often filled with breathlessness, repeated hospitalizations, poor growth, and delayed development. For parents, it is a period marked by helplessness, fear, and endless waiting.

But timely cardiac intervention changes everything.

Within days, oxygen levels normalize. Within months, the child begins to grow, play, learn, and thrive like any other child. Developmental milestones are regained. Parents return to work. Families heal.

And when these children walk back into the hospital for follow-up visits—healthy, playful, smiling—the relief and gratitude on their parents' faces tell a story no statistic ever can.

Rotary's True Legacy: Transforming Futures

Pediatric cardiac care is uniquely rewarding—not only for doctors and nurses who witness miraculous recoveries, but also for donors who make those recoveries possible. Rotary's contribution extends far beyond funding a surgery. It restores dignity to families, hope to parents, and a future to children.

By supporting pediatric cardiac care, Rotary is not just saving lives—it is reshaping society, one healed heart at a time. This is Rotary's compassion in action.

This is service that truly matters.



Rtn. Dr Supratim Sen

Senior Consultant Pediatric Cardiologist
SRCC Children's Hospital, Mumbai.

😊 “Rotary is the only place where the meeting starts late... but the service always reaches on time.”

😊 “In Rotary we don’t say ‘volunteer’ — we say ‘Please just do it, you’re very capable.’”

😊 “The Rotary pin weighs nothing... but comes with lifetime responsibility.”

😊 “Once you join Rotary, even your free time gets community service.”

😊 “Rotary teaches punctuality—mainly by discussing it at the end of every meeting.”

😊 “Our meeting attendance is 90% in spirit, 75% on WhatsApp, and 50% in person.”

😊 “Rotary meetings end on time... only the discussions extend into fellowship.

😊 “We come for fellowship, stay for service, and leave with more work.”

😊 “Rotary projects succeed because someone finally says, ‘Okay fine, I’ll do it.’”

😊 “In Rotary, small projects take big hearts—and very long WhatsApp messages.”

😊 “A Rotary President learns leadership, diplomacy, time management, and how to say ‘Yes’ gracefully.”

😊 “Past Presidents don’t retire... they just advise louder.”

😊 “The best qualification for Rotary leadership? The inability to say NO.”

Gentle Self-Deprecating Rotary Humour

😊 “Rotary made me a better person—busier, more tired, but happier.”

😊 “We joined Rotary to serve society... and society immediately knew whom to call.”

😊 “Rotary meetings are proof that friendship can survive agenda points.”

😊 “They say Rotary changes lives—and after joining Rotary, I can confirm... it definitely changed mine!” 😊

BIRTHDAY'S OF ROTARIANS / SPOUSES

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
ROTARIAN	DATE	ROTARIAN	DATE	ROTARIAN	DATE
VASANT KELKAR	5	DIPAK HIMATSINGKA	1	FEROZ KACHWALA	2
NAVALKISHORE SARAF	7	UPENDRA KULKARNI	2	MANRAJ DEEP SINGH	3
SANJIV KULKARNI	8	DR. GIRISH WALAVALKAR	6	CHANDRU THADANI	4
ABBAS ARSIWALA	18	JAGMOHAN SEKHSARIA	10	YASHODHAN M KALE	4
MANDAR M TAMBE	20	ASHVIN SHAH	11	VIJAY LAZARUS	10
KAMAL LAKHOTIA	20	DR. VIDYA MUKUND	21	DR. QUERESH MASKATI	13
DR. HABIL KHORIWALA	22	NICK ISRANI	30	HEMANT THAKKAR	22
SURESH GANDHI	25	DR. ANIMESH SHAH	31	DR. SHARAT TUGNAIT	24
NARAYAN CHHABRIA	26	SPOUSES		HEMENDRA SHAH	25
SPOUSES		SHIVANI M SHAH	1	SURESH MITTAL	29
VEENA THAKKAR	10	VIDYA JAGMOHAN SEKHSARIA	3	SPOUSES	
SHILPA SARAF	10	SULOCHANA B SEKHSARIA	6	DIPIKA PRAKASH SHAH	4
SHOBHA KELKAR	14	RENU SWARAN BEHL	9	MONICA ASVIN SHAH	8
ABHIJAT TANNA	15	MAITREYEE MANDAR TAMBE	10	PALLAVI ANIMESH SHAH	8
PRAGATI AJMERA	16	SHAKERA QUETTAWALA	13	DR. NASEEM PADARIA	12
KUSUM CHADDA	17	SHABBIR BAGASRAWALA	17	ASHA LALIT KANODIA	16
ALKA WALAVALKAR	21	TASNEEM NAGREE	23	UMI M SHAH	20
BHARATI GAUTAM GANDHI	23	KAMALA BABULALTODI	28	SHAFAT KHAN	21
SHISHIR DESAI	30	ANURADHA TARE	28	BEEJAL BHUPENDRA MEHTA	24
		AMISHA POPAT	28		
DECEMBER		JANUARY		DATE	
ROTARIANS	DATE	ROTARIANS	6		
PRADIP SHROFF	6	DR. SAROSH MEHTA	16		
MADHAVI TANNA	6	DR. REIYAL GOVEAS	18		
ASHOK AJMERA	9	BRIJMOHAN SEKHSARIA	19		
VISHAMBER SHEWAKRAMANI	9	SOHINI PATEL	21		
SUGRA BAGASRWALA	11	RASHMI CHOKSHI	22		
DINESH TOPRANI	14	HITESH SHARMA	28		
KAMAL CHADDA	23	RAVINDRA SOMANI			
SHREEKANT ADHIYA	24	SPOUSES			
JUMANA SARIA	25	CHIRANGI UPADYAY	3		
SPOUSES		SANGEETA KULKARNI	13		
NINA SANJAY SHAH	21	JAYSHREE LAKHOTIA	21		
		CHANDRIKA GIRISH SHAH	23		
		RUPAL ASHISH GANATRA	23		
		NALINI V SHEWAKRAMANI	24		
		ROHINI DIPAK HIMATSINGKA	26		
		SALIM KACHWALA	30		
		SARLA SURESH MITTAL	31		
		SAIFIDDIN SARIA	31		

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARIANS

SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER	
DR, VASANT & SHOBHA KELKAR	26	RUKHSANA & SHFAAT KHAN	3	KAMAL & RAGINI CHOKSI	12
		DR.VISPI & DAISY JOKHI	10	DR. LALIT & ASHA KANODIA	19
		DR. GIRISH & ALKA WALAVALKAR	17	MANDAT & MAITREYEE TAMBE	21
				ZAIN & SHAKERA QUETTAWALA	27
				HITESH & RENUKA SHARMA	30
DECEMBER		JANUARY			
A K VISHWANATHAN & JAYASHREE	3	RAVIT & MIKI KEDEM	1		
BALDEV & USHA ARORA	6	MADHAVI & ABHIJAT TANNA	7		
DR.REIYAL & AVNI GOVEAS	7	SWARAN& RENU BEHL	18		
ABBAS & FEMISA ARSIWALA	7	DINESH & JYOTI TOPRANI	20		
FOROZ & MUMTAZ KACHWALA	7	PRADIP & MALINI SHROFF	24		
SHABBIR & SAKINA SHAKEER	7	HEMENDRA & BHAVNA SHAH	27		
DR. DHARAM & AMISHA POPAT	10	JAGMOHAN 7 VIDYA SEKHSARIA	30		
VIJAY & KIRAN JALAN	13				
GAUTAM & BHARTI GANDHI	13				
DR.JINISH & CHIRANGI UPADHYAY	14				
DR. SUPRATIM & NIVEDITA SEN	15				
ASHISH & RUPAL GANATRA	19				
JUMANA & SAIFUDDIN SARIA	19				
SOHINI & SURENDRA PATEL	25				
DR. QURESH & SAJEEDA MASKATI	25				
SAIF & TASNIM ATTAR	26				
HEMANT & VEENA THAKKAR	29				



1. Who is current RI President?
2. Whom was to be the RI President RY 2025-26, but resigned before joining?
3. Rotary News is published in which city?
4. Rotary Foundation has been receiving highest rating. What is the rating?
5. Is honorary membership permitted in more than one club?
6. What is a satellite Club?
7. In a club who is responsible for furtherance of RI objectives etc.?
8. Who are the members of RI?
9. Expand DRFC.
10. What is the tenure of RI Director?

Ramesh Vyas
Avenue Chair
Club Service Group III
RY 2025-26

Need of Funds Support for Paediatric Heart and Oncology Surgeries, and Bone Marrow Transplant



According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Health Expenditure database of 2010 to 2015, in India, 85.5 % to 89.0 % of expenditure on health care is self-paying. High medical bills and the lack of access to affordable healthcare push nearly 3.9 out of every 100 people into poverty. Around 200,000 children are borne with CHD every year and in 40 to 50,000 cancer cases are detected every year in children below 18 years. Many lives are lost each year due to the inability to pay for life-saving surgeries and procedures.

Hence there is a felt need to provide quality and affordable health care to this poor population at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, especially for expensive treatments for non-communicable diseases including surgeries and related diagnosis in India.

Narayana Health SRCC Children’s Hospital (SRCC) Managed by Narayana Health strives to live up to the tenet of not turning back any disadvantaged patient for lack of funds. It is one of the very few standalone children’s hospitals. Through the Initiatives & Multispecialty Paediatric Hospital, Narayana Health is committed towards provision of healthcare to patients from the lower socio-economic strata of society. The poor patient support program was conceptualized to enable corporates, philanthropic institutions and individuals to join Narayana Health in its journey towards providing monetary support such patients facing catastrophic medical expenses.

Catastrophic expenses are especially pervasive in cardiac treatment. The financial burden induced by such procedures often ends up pulling families way below the poverty line towards destitution.

Objective of Fund Support Program

So far SRCC have done more than (1) 5000 + Paediatric Heart Surgeries; (2) 200 Oncology Surgeries and (3) 200 Bone Marrow Transplants. Over 100 new paediatric cancer cases are treated every year in the hospital.

Primary Objective of SRCC: “To Support families who would like to take treatment and expertise of doctors & facilities but fail in doing so as they are financially challenged & to Screen & identify all new-borns with cardiac diseases in order to provide timely identification, diagnosis and treatment from Maharashtra & all parts of country coming to treatment at Mumbai ,SRCC Children’s Hospital.



Hospital Facilities at SRCC



- 207-Bedded Hospital along with in house Dormitory for patients coming from far off areas.
- 87 Beds Dedicated Critical Care Unit.
- 7 state – of – modern art Operating Theatres & Bi-Plane Catheterization Lab.
- 3 Tesla MRI & 128 Slice CT scan.
- Bone Marrow Transplant Unit & Chemotherapy Unit.
- Transfusion Medicine Unit & PICU for Organ Transplant Unit.
- 2500 Sq. Ft Children’s Play Area with 24x7 ACLS Paediatric Ambulance facility.



Paediatric Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant

SRCC are a tertiary super specialty care hospital where children from across the country and even busy centers like Tata Memorial Hospital are referred for Bone marrow Transplant and intensive care support. High quality cancer care based on robust scientific evidence is delivered to these children by a large specialized multidisciplinary team.

SRCC has started its bone marrow transplant program in 2018 and has done 200 + transplants till date. Most of these cases have been uncommon conditions like osteopetrosis or Krabbe's disease or have been the clinically challenging transplant like haploidentical transplants. SRCC team holds expertise in haploidentical transplants which are considered to be the most challenging of all transplants.

SRCC have a good success rate which is comparable with other centres across India and internationally. For thalassemia, SRCC have done 4 TCR alpha beta depleted haploidentical transplants and have a success rate of 100%.

Our Relationship with SRCC

Our (Rotary Club of Bombay North (RCBN)) association with SRCC started in 2019-2020 by supporting Paediatric Heart Surgeries under the Global Grants. Prior to this, we were supporting heart surgeries at other hospital but around 1 to 5 surgeries per year. We also support Paediatric Oncology Surgeries and Bone Marrow Transplant at SRCC under the Global Grants.



Overview of SRCC Trust

In 1947, a group of dedicated volunteers began a small clinic in a doctor's waiting room, focusing on the treatment of children affected by poliomyelitis. The tireless efforts of these individuals led to the formation of the Society for Rehabilitation of Crippled Children (SRCC). Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru became a patron and played a key role in granting land to the society at Haji Ali. Since its inception, the society has served children from all sectors of Society. SRCC aims to organize hospitals and clinics for the diagnosis, care, and treatment of children, especially those in need of additional support. All services are designed to be child-friendly, promoting Health, Hope, and Happiness

Background of Narayana Health:

Narayana Health is headquartered in Bangalore and operates a national network of hospitals in India with a strong presence in the southern state of Karnataka and eastern India, as well as an emerging presence in western and central India. The first facility was established in Bengaluru with approximately 225 operational beds and the group has since grown to 27 facilities with 5442 operational beds as of January 2016 through a combination of greenfield projects and acquisitions.

The mission of “Narayana Health” is to deliver high quality and affordable healthcare services to the broader population by leveraging our economies of scale, skilled doctors and an efficient business model





Relationship Between SRCC Trust and SRCC Hospital

SRCC Children’s Hospital is a culmination of a very long cherished dream of the SRCC Trust and Dr Devi Shetty, Chairman- Narayana Health, to start a comprehensive Paediatric Super specialty Hospital in Mumbai.

The dream came to fruition 9 years back as the hospital became operational with the support of a lot of SRCC Trustee and partners who were organizations and Individuals aligned to this cause of furthering high-quality paediatric care under 1 roof in India.

SRCC Hospital was established in 2017 when SRCC Trustee and NH decided to open a dedicated children's hospital in Mumbai new set up work started in 2014, and finally the Services started in 2017 onwards with a intention to cater all segments of patients with special focus on Underprivileged kids.

The Hospital is managed by Narayana Health whereas the land and building belong to SRCC Trust. SRCC Trust and Kind Trustees of the said trust, are always supportive to the Hospital and this Hospital would have not been possible if Trust support was not there.



Overview of SRCC Hospital

SRCC Children's Hospital, managed by Narayana Health in Mumbai, is a premier medical institution focused on the care of children. Backed by Narayana Health, the hospital combines unparalleled paediatric medical expertise with world-class facilities to provide affordable, high-quality medical care for infants, children, and adolescents.

SRCC Children’s Hospital strives to live up to the tenet of not turning back any disadvantaged patient for lack of funds. Through the Initiatives & Multispecialty Paediatric Hospital, Narayana Health is committed towards provision of healthcare to patients from the lower socio-economic strata of society. The poor patient support program was conceptualized to enable corporates, philanthropic institutions, and individuals to join SRCC Trust in its journey towards providing monetary support such patients facing catastrophic medical expenses.

Services at SRCC Children’s Hospital

SRCC Children’s Hospital

The hospital offers a range of paediatric super-specialties, including Critical Care and Emergency Services, Cardiology, Cardiac Surgery, Orthopedics, Spine Surgery, Pediatric Surgery, Bone Marrow Transplant, Ophthalmology, Dermatology, Neurosurgery, Neurology, ENT, Neonatology, Neonatal Surgery, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Clinical Hematology and Hemato-Oncology, Maxillofacial Surgery, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, Paediatric Medicine, Endocrinology, Nephrology, Paediatric Liver Transplant, Paediatric Kidney Transplant, Medical Genetics, Psychiatry, Psychology, Developmental Paediatrics, Rheumatology, Plastic Surgery, Onco Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pulmonology.

To further enhance its services, the hospital has established a "Centre for Child Development," which aims to be a one-stop shop for children from diverse backgrounds across India. This centre provides various physical and mental therapies and treatment solutions all under one roof.

SRCC Children’s Hospital as JCI (Joint commission International)

The Vision of Narayana Health is “Committed to deliver quality & personalized care to improve the well-being of patients and communities we serve”. This vision commensurate with quintessence of “JCI enterprise accreditation”. The Joint international commission is the epitome of accreditation an organisation can be awarded with to ensure patient safety and Narayana Health has achieved this coveted accreditation.

Our contribution to Child Welfare

Our Rotary District 3141 were emphasising on supporting Paediatric Heart Surgeries and based on that in 2019-20 PDG Vijay Jalan decided to become prime mover for global grant to support more than 100 Paediatric Heart Surgeries. After several internal meetings etc., we decided to go ahead with SRCC to implement our global grant. In our second global grant also PDG Vijay Jalan decided to become prime mover.

Based on our interaction with officials of SRCC, we realised that apart from Paediatric Heart Surgeries there is a need for supporting Paediatric Oncology surgeries and Bone Marrow Transplant, as at that time and perhaps now also, very few rotary clubs were ready to support such surgeries/ transplant. This may be because these surgeries and transplant are very expensive and therefore number of patients we can support will be much less compared to heart surgeries.

Luckily, we managed to get non-member Executors Nimesh Kenia & Roshni Daruwalla to the estate of late Freny Kaikhushru Parakh and in case of second grant Dr. Sonal and Late Dr. Rajendra Agarwal to become prime mover.

Below is the details of four grants we are implementing at SRCC Children's Hospital.

RCBN Global grant projects at SRCC Children's Hospital					
Grant no.	Rupees*	Equivalent \$*	Prime Mover	No. of surgeries/ transplant	Status
1. Paediatric Heart Surgeries					
2099986	10,500,115.48	146,096.52	PDG Vijay Jalan	155	In progress
2349516	15,526,238.34	189,350.49	PDG Vijay Jalan	216	Complete
2. Paediatric Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant					
2234073	11,771,572.94	141,826.00	Executors Nimesh Kenia & Roshni Daruwalla to the estate of late Freny Kaikhushru Parakh	33	Complete
2575834	13,974,522.90	160,501.00	Dr. Sonal and late Dr. Rajendra Agarwal	minimum 14 surgeries and Transplant	In progress
	51,772,449.66	637,774.01			
* Figures do not include net bank interest earned and utilised for the same grant.					

There were many members who contributed to the above four grants. I give below the list, which although long, indicates the support our many members extended for this service to humanity.

Contributions for all the RCBN 4 Global Grant Projects executed at SRCC Children's Hospital

Donor Name	Amount (INR)	Donor Name	Amount (INR)	Donor Name	Amount (INR)
Kaikhushru Parak	8020000	Shabnum Kajiji	50,000	Dr. Habil & Nafisa Khorakiwala	1096000
PDG Vijay Jalan	4650000	Jamshed K delvadavala	41,000	PP Suresh Gandhi	574000
Dr. Sonal & Late Dr. Rajendra Agarwal	3990000	late Prof. Haradhan Purohit	38,500	Prof. Haradhan Purohit	388803
RCBNCT	2103000	Shibani Gandhi	38,500	Mahendra & Darshana Thacker / Hemendra Shah	334250
D. L. Shah Trust	2000000	Ashok Ajmera	25,000	Hemendra Shah	310250
Noorani Family	1722667	Jagruiti durani	25,000	Jagmohan Sakhseria	195000
Dhanalaxmi & Late Chandrakant Gandhi	1274000	Prakash Shah	25,000	PP Ajeet Arneja	129600
Gautam Gandhi	1245000	Rajgopal Balasubramaniam	25,000	Shama Juneja	300000
Animesh Shah	100000	Sanjiv & Sangeeta Kulkarni	25,000	Nafisa Kachwala	183000
Bhupendra & Beejal Mehta	100000	Vasant Kelkar	25,000	Madhvi Tanna	150000
Manraj & Juhi Singh	100000	Rukshana Saffat Khan	15,400	A. K. Vishwanathan	130000
Baldev Arora	77000	Dipak Himatsingka	8,200	Kamal & Kusum Chadda	102250
Firoz Kachwala	72000	RC Rajdhani , Nepal	360,000	PP Ajeet Arneja (2nd)	100000
Ashok Doshi	66500	District Development Fund (DDF)	10,925,242	Zain Quettawala	74500
Bharati Shah	50000	world Fund(TRF)	9,675,612	Ashwin Shah	72000
Chandra Mohan & Vandana	50000			Kamal Lakhotia	50000
				Rashida Anees	50000
				Ravindra & Sobha Somani	50000

Total Fund --5,17,72,450/-

Thank you to all the contributors and members and staff who have worked on these projects. To execute such large impactful projects, deserves kudos to RCBN and its members. Without RCBN members, support SRCC Trustee and SRCC's personnels' support, this could never have been achieved.

I sincerely hope that RCBN members, non-members, SRCC Trustee and SRCC personnels' support continues to execute more grants at SRCC.

Rtn. PP Hemendra L. Shah

Vibrant District Awards for the RY 2024-25

7 District Awards, 3 Golden certificates & 10 Platinum Certificates, taking the total to a whopping 20 Awards for the Rotary Club of Bombay North 🌟

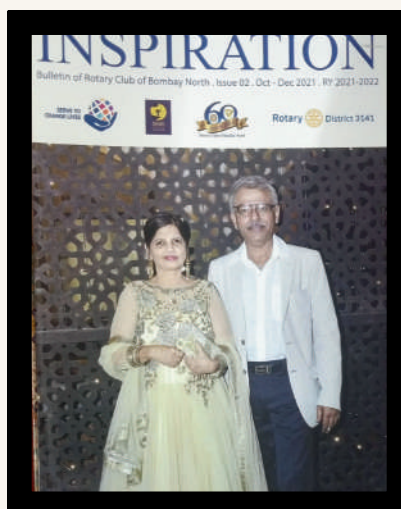
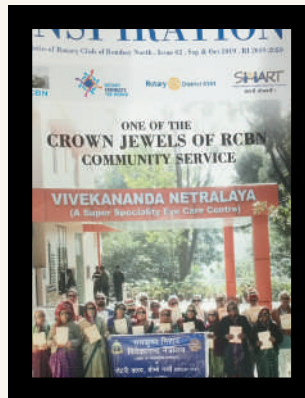
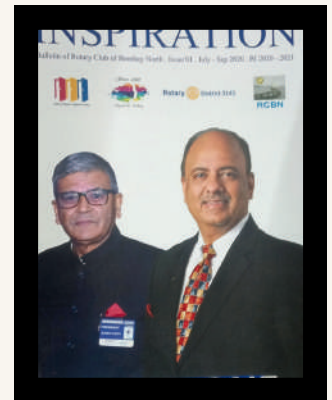
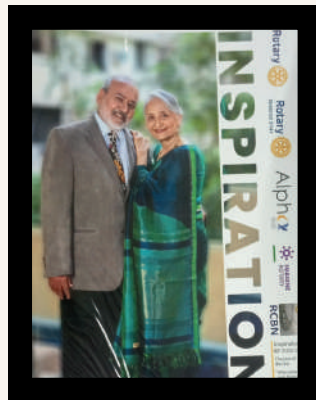
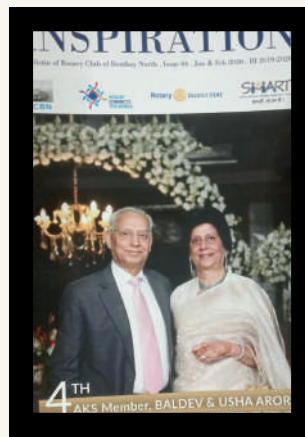
Counted amongst the top 10 ten clubs of District 3141, the District Awards were attended by 14 members from the club today.

I sincerely thank the entire team & every chairperson and member of every committee of our club of RY 2024-25 for their hard work & effort to keep our Club's banner flying high. 🙏🌟

Thank you, dear members and spouses, each and every one of you, for blessing me with your love & support ❤️🙏



Rtn. IIP Dr.Dharam Popat



EDITOR- RTN. DR.VIDYA MUKUND
MEMBERS- RTN. YASH KALE, RTN. SHIRISH TARE
Published by Rotary Club of Bombay North, For private circulation only.