

INSPIRATION -RCBN



*Let's
Inspire!*



PRESIDENT 2025-26

R.I. President's Message for the Month of September 2025



When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.

FRANCESCO AREZZO

President, 2025-26
Rotary International



TOGETHER, WE SEE A
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OURSELVES.



THE FACE BEHIND THE PDG Rtn. Vijay Jalan ROLE

A Life of Service, Leadership and Legacy



Vijay's life reflects an enduring commitment to service, leadership, and community impact. Born into a family that valued integrity and generosity, he embraced these principles from a young age and carried them into every aspect of his personal and professional journey.

After completing his education in Bombay, he built a successful business in logistics management. Yet, his true calling lay in service to others. In 1984, he joined Rotary—a decision that became the foundation of his lifelong dedication to humanitarian work.

Through vision and perseverance, Vijay rose to the highest levels of leadership within Rotary, serving as District Governor of District 3141 in 2011–12. His tenure was marked by record achievements in membership growth and contributions to The Rotary Foundation, earning him recognition on the global stage. He went on to serve as Rotary Regional Foundation Chair (RRFC) and Rotary Coordinator (RC), making him the only Governor in his district to hold both positions consecutively.

Over the years, he has been honored with Rotary's most distinguished awards, including the Service Above Self Award and the Distinguished Service Award, acknowledging his exceptional commitment to humanitarian initiatives. In 2024, he was inducted into the Arch Klumph Society, reaffirming his lasting dedication to philanthropy and service.

Beyond titles and accolades, Vijay is known for his humility, compassion, and hands-on approach to giving. He continues to contribute personally and meaningfully to initiatives that uplift and support those in need.

A devoted family man, Vijay draws strength from the unwavering support of his wife Kiran and takes pride in his children, Vrinda and Siddharth, who embody the same values of integrity and service.

Vijay's story is not only one of accomplishments but also of purpose—a life dedicated to making a tangible difference in the world and inspiring others to lead with service at heart.

He was the youngest President of the Bombay Management Association in 1993, and was nominated the western Regional Chairman of All India Management Association for 2 years.

ANN-TASTIC MOMENTS ...

A Journey - Shaped by Conscious choices. Vandana Chandramohan Bhagavatula



My Journey

I am a true Mumbaikar, having lived in this city all my life and seen it evolve from the quieter days of my childhood to the bustling hub it is today. My journey has been shaped by conscious choices—balancing family, profession, and service. The words of Robert Frost always comes to my mind—“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less travelled by, and that had made all the difference.”

After completing my Chartered Accountancy, with two young children at home, I chose to set up my own practice rather than pursue a corporate career. This allowed me to manage my time, be present for my children, and still build a successful firm.

I joined Aneja Associates as Director for BFSI audits and subsequently served as Vice President in HDFC Bank's Compliance team, directly engaging with RBI. Losing my mother to COVID and my father in 2024 made me realize the importance of financial awareness for families, especially around nominations, wills, and related matters.

I hope to one day set up an NGO to address these challenges.

Today, I serve as Independent Woman Director and Audit Committee Chairperson at Shakti Pumps (India) Ltd., supporting their mission of empowering farmers through solar pumps and government schemes. More recently, I was appointed Shareholder Director on the Board of Punjab National Bank, the country's second-largest public sector bank, where I also chair the Audit Committee. I also advise the Kamala Sundaram Foundation's Sundaram Natarajan Blind-Free India Project (SNBIF), which is dedicated to eradicating all forms of preventable blindness.

While I sometimes wonder how life might have been had I pursued a corporate path earlier, but now I take pride in the love and blessings I have received from family, and in raising two grounded and compassionate children as well as a nine year old pet. I love travelling, exploring new languages, and have recently rekindled my passion for Carnatic classical music. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of my husband, Mr. Chandramohan. Through him, I am also associated with Rotary as an Anne, where I enjoy contributing to programs and participating in the club's activities, which always feels like family filled with warmth and togetherness.



From the Editor's Desk

“Keep Turning the Page!”

Two e-bulletins and one grand Charter Day issue later... and I must confess—I am in complete awe of what a little push, a tiny nudge, and a spark of Inspiration can create! It's proof that when ideas meet enthusiasm (and may be a dash of deadlines), magic happens. Each issue is not just about news and updates—it's about capturing our spirit, our laughter, our milestones, and the stories that keep us together as one family.

So, as we gear up for the next edition, I invite you to keep sharing, keep dreaming, and most importantly—keep inspiring. Because who knows... the next little story, picture, or thought you send might just light up someone's day.

After all, Inspiration is not just a magazine—it's a movement!

Touching Lives- One Project At A Time



**21st Sept'25- Solar lamp distribution
at MOKHADA.**



**28th Sept'25-
Charter Day
Rotaract Club of
Churchgate**



**27th Sept'25 -
Installation of
Rotaract Club
Southern Empire
at YMCA**



Once a week - Rendezvous



**6th Sept'25- Your DNA on a plate:
How food talks to your genes.**



**13th Sept'25- Together we can make a difference -
A fresh perspective on Mental Health**



**20th Sept'25- Jamal Mecklai- Impact of Trump Tariffs on the Indian
economy**

Once a week - Rendezvous

RCBN Sports Day



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