

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

LET'S
INSPIRE !

Rotary
Club of Bombay Powai
District 3141



POWAI TARANG

JANUARY, 2026 || VOL 7 || YEAR 35

MAGAZINE



THEME: VOCATIONAL SERVICES
THE COVERPAGE IS AI GENERATED

In This Issue

Note from the Editor	03
Message from the President	04
Fashionista - Mangesh Balkhande	05
Let's Play Sudoku	08
Couple Goals-Sudha and Harish Iyer	09
Projects of the month - December	13
Powai Fest Diary	23
Solved Sudoku and winner	28

Contributors:

Anju Ahluwalia : Concept
Ruchi Shrivastava: Sudoku
Vivek Govilkar: Proof reading
Savita Govilkar: Annapurna Photographs
Yogesh Gupta: Medical Photographs
Smita Madgavkar: Powai Fest Photograps

Note from the editor



Hello RCBP Family,

Here we are with a brand new edition. The theme of this issue is Vocational Services, and the cover page reflects some of the meaningful projects we undertake – medical assistance, beauty parlour courses, jewellery-making courses for transgenders, sewing machine training, and computer laboratories for schools and colleges. Once again, technology proved to be a wonderful partner in helping create a charming and vibrant cover page.

In this edition, our Fashionista is Mangesh. Despite his remarkable personality, he remained wonderfully modest while answering the questions – making the interview an absolute delight.

Our Power Couple for this issue is Sudha and Harish Iyer – truly gems of people. Capturing their journey on paper was not easy, as I was constantly mindful of doing justice to the depth and emotion of the story they so generously shared with me.

As always, I seek your love and encouragement. You have always been very kind in showering it. I hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

And yes, RCBP rocks!!

Krutee Ranpara

Inside the mind of

PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

Every January, Rotary clubs across the world celebrate Vocational Service Month. At the Rotary Club of Bombay Powai, vocational service is truly the heartbeat of our work. We believe that professional skills are not just tools for personal success, but powerful means to serve communities, foster goodwill, and uphold ethical standards. Our club is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards in every vocation, ensuring that our work contributes meaningfully to humanity. We recognize and honor all professions, and we encourage members to use their talents with creativity and compassion to meet community needs.

We guide and mentor the next generation, helping them inherit both knowledge and values.

We celebrate the dignity of all vocations, affirming that every skill has the power to make a difference.

Above all, vocational service is about how we use our professions to serve humanity. RC Bombay Powai has touched countless lives by providing vocational skill training to women, students, transgender individuals, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and the second generation of sex workers.

As we mark Vocational Service Month, let us recommit ourselves to this noble avenue of service, ensuring that our vocations remain pathways to peace, progress, and purpose

सब का साथ, क्लब का विकास .

*Yours in Rotary Service,
Rtn. Anju Ahluwalia
Inspire President*

fashionista

Stylish, spirited, and strategically sharp

Mangesh Balkhande

where the discipline of sports and martial arts meets a dynamic and purposeful life.

Do you believe in fashion, or is comfort more important to you?

I believe in fashion a little, but I don't follow it strongly. Comfort always comes first for me. Whether I'm at home or stepping out casually, I prefer clothes that feel easy and natural—mostly T-shirts, shorts, or comfortable jeans. If I feel good in what I'm wearing, that's enough.

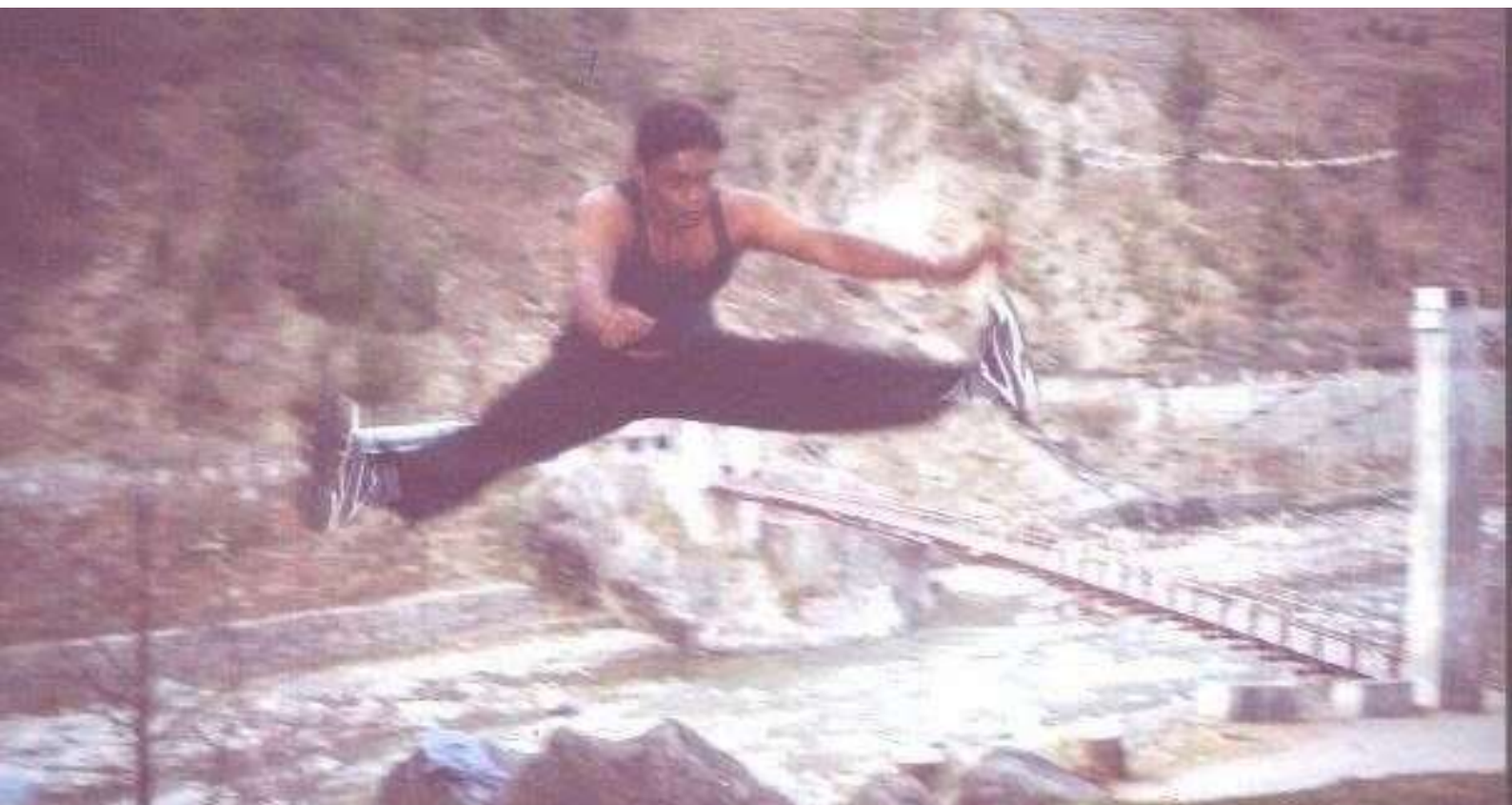


How would you describe your personal style today?

My style is simple and practical. Over the years, work culture and technology have made casual wear more acceptable, and that suits me perfectly. I'm choosy—I don't buy too many clothes. Whatever I buy must be comfortable and give me that "feel-good" factor. Style, for me, is about being confident and not pretending to be something I'm not.

Are you brand or colour conscious when it comes to clothing?

I am a bit brand conscious when it comes to comfort fits. Jack & Jones is my go-to brand, especially for T-shirts and casual wear. Colour-wise, I like blacks, blues, light blue. Yellow—not consciously, but because they make me feel good. Vidya once got me yellow and I liked it. Any new colour if I am wearing, it has to be introduced to me by Vidya. If something appeals to me and feels right, I'll go for it, regardless of the brand.



The Funkiest Moment?

Back in 2005, during a college trip to Manali, I was asked on the spot, to do something different in front of 40–50 people. I was wearing a jacket in the cold, asked to take it off, and perform martial arts. Something I had learned in college but wasn't practicing then. No preparation. No excuses. I did it anyway. That moment still stands out. It has been captured very well too.

What about traditional wear? How often do you wear it?

Not very often. I usually avoid kurta-pyjama and prefer pairing a kurta with jeans if needed. Comfort is still the priority. Of course, there are occasions, especially after marriage, where you have to wear traditional attire, and I do, but only for a short time.

How do your children view your fashion sense? Do they follow your style?

Actually, they do. My daughter, who's 15, isn't very fashion-conscious either—though that may change soon! My son, who's in 5th grade, is almost my height. Both wear my T-shirts. Now, most of the T-shirts I buy end up being shared between both kids. I think they've picked up the same comfort-first approach from me.



What does style mean to you?

*Style, for me, is simple:
You should feel good.
You should feel confident.
You should never hesitate to be yourself. Style is who you are and what you want to show the world without pretending.*

let's play!!

SUDOKU

				5				
			7				8	
	4		6			2		
								7
	2				3			
		6						5
					8		4	
5		7						9
		1						

SUDOKU RULES (STANDARD 9X9 GRID):

1. EACH ROW MUST CONTAIN THE NUMBERS 1 TO 9, WITHOUT REPETITION.
2. EACH COLUMN MUST ALSO CONTAIN THE NUMBERS 1 TO 9, WITHOUT REPETITION. THE GRID IS DIVIDED INTO NINE 3×3 BOXES (ALSO CALLED REGIONS, BLOCKS, OR SUBGRIDS).
3. EACH 3×3 BOX MUST ALSO CONTAIN THE NUMBERS 1 TO 9, WITH NO REPEATS

 **SOLVE. SCREENSHOT. WIN!**

SOLVE THE SUDOKU PUZZLE, TAKE A SCREENSHOT OF YOUR SOLVED GRID, AND SEND IT TO ANJU ON WHATSAPP AT +91 98203 10486 TO CLAIM YOUR PRIZE!

His calm grounds the moment, her spark lights it up.

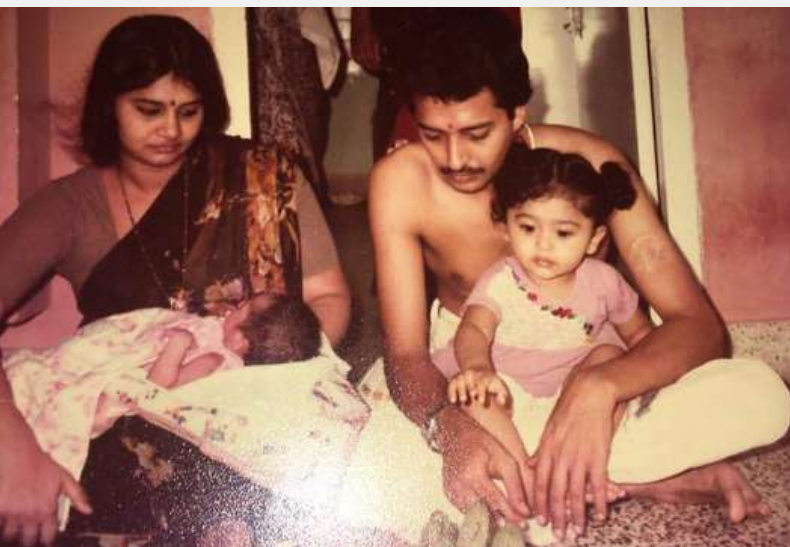
SUDHA AND HARISH IYER



How did you Meet?

S: We were second cousins, so our families already knew each other well. I first noticed him at a Hanuman temple during a cousin's wedding in Bombay. It was my first visit to Mumbai from Chennai, and everything felt big and glamorous. Then I saw this "North Indian hero-type" young man in gumboots – his presence was so striking that I was instantly intrigued. Little did I know that the man I was casually admiring would one day become my husband.

H: Our families had already begun quietly discussing the match. I was 25 then. When I rang the bell at home the day before meeting Sudha, her 14–15 year old sister opened the door, and for a moment I thought she was the girl I was supposed to marry! I joked with my mother about preparing for my jail visit. She laughed and said, "Sabr ka phal meetha hota hai." Later that evening, I met Sudha at the temple when her grandfather introduced us and I fell for her the moment I saw her.





Formalisation of the Relationship

S: Throughout the wedding, my cousins kept congratulating me. I was puzzled – after all, it was my cousin who was getting married! Then one of them quietly told me that discussions about my engagement to Harish were already underway. I was the eldest in my family, a focused engineering student with strong career plans and marriage was not on my immediate agenda. But when I saw Harish, something simply felt right. I had neither the heart nor the reason to say no, and in that moment I agreed.

H: We were attending our cousin's wedding, and by the third day our engagement was arranged. Everything happened very quickly. The very next day after the engagement, Sudha returned to Chennai for her examinations, and within two months we were married. She completed her engineering after marriage.

Then...

S: That's when our era of letters began. In those days, even writing frequently needed planning and budgeting – inland letters, postcards, whatever was affordable. I still remember taking my grandfather's help to draft my very first letter. I wanted to impress Harish and worried more about my English being flawless than the content – something I haven't told him till date! Each letter carried thought, care, and a little nervous excitement. And Harish wrote wonderful letters too – simple words, but full of warmth and sweet nothings.



Sudha's Unique Way of Expressing Her Love

S: Harish would always reply with a letter better than mine, so I felt I had to do something truly special. One day, I decided to write an entire letter in reverse – every word written backwards so it could only be read in a mirror. It was my little surprise for him. I carefully wrote it in one go, determined not to make a single mistake. The letter “Z” confused me the most, but in the end, I completed it perfectly.

The Most Difficult Phase

H: Six years into our marriage, I was betrayed by a trusted business partner who forged documents and took over the company. What followed was a legal battle that lasted 27 years. I was pushed out of my own business, facing financial instability and deep humiliation. Everything I had built seemed to vanish overnight.

S: There were threatening late-night phone calls that filled our home with fear. My father-in-law and I would often wait outside the building close to midnight, anxiously hoping Harish would return safely. The stress slowly changed him – the once carefree and generous man became cautious and guarded, finding it difficult to trust again.

H: Every day felt uncertain, as if something worse might happen next. I tried every possible way to resolve the matter. In my desperation, I even considered seeking help from the mafia – something I never imagined I would think about.

S: Those years transformed Harish. Within a few years, the strain began to show physically – he had lost much of his hair. We lost money, many friends, and some family members quietly drifted away. More than anything, we lost our sense of security and happiness for a long time.



A Turning Point

H: A call from the Taj Group changed everything. They invited us to manufacture soap independently, giving us the chance to rebuild. Slowly, we restarted. In 1990, we moved from Sion to Hiranandani.

S: The move was more than just relocation – it became an emotional reset, bringing new friends, new beginnings, and a new identity.

How do you imagine the years ahead together?

H: Today, I seek peace more than ambition. After years of struggle, I feel ready for a simpler life – spending more time in Lonavala, enjoying quiet mornings, good health, and meaningful conversations. Having seen both turbulence and stability, I now truly value calm and contentment. It feels like the peace we have earned.

S: I see this phase a little differently from Harish, and sometimes that difference does create small moments of friction. For me, growing older doesn't mean slowing down completely. I believe in living life fully – travelling, meeting new people, and exploring new places together. I want to feel loved and cherished, keep creating moments, and make fresh memories while life still gives us the chance.



DECEMBER PROJECTS



ANNAPURNA PROJECTS



1. KEM Hospital
Date: 3rd December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 85
Cost: Rs. 3000

2. Sawali Cancer Care Center
Date: 4th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 85
Cost: Rs. 3000

3. Saidham Vruddhashram
Date: 6th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 22
Cost: Rs. 3000

4. SEED Foundation
Date: 6th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 122
Cost: Rs. 3000

5. Asha NGO
Date: 10th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 150
Cost: Rs. 3000



7. Rathod Vruddhashram
Date: 11th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 46
Cost: Rs. 3000

8. Saidham Vruddhashram
Date: 18th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 22
Cost: Rs. 3000

9. Ekata Mahila Samitee
Date: 18th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 250
Cost: Rs. 5000



10. SEED Foundation
Date: 24th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 125
Cost: Rs. 3000

11. Nityanand Old Age Home
Date: 25th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 110
Cost: Rs. 4000

12. Nityanand Old Age Home
Date: 25th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 110
Cost: Rs. 3000





MEDICAL PROJECTS

L&T Realty in collaboration with Rotary Club of Bombay Powai and under the aegis of LTPCT organized a Free medical checkup camp along with Implementation Partners JV Gokul Trust and Family Planning Association of India. Services offered in this camp were: (1) Doctor' Consultation (2) Medicines Dispensing (3) NCD Screening (Diabetes, Anemia, High Blood Pressure) (4) Eye Check-up & Spectacles distribution (5) Family and Reproductive Health Education (6) Referral Services. General Health check ups, blood parameters like Hbg and Sugar levels were checked. Vision screening with Cataract detection and cataract surgery referrals was done.



Aditya Vardhan co-operative
Housing Society
Date: 6th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 105

Shree Ayyappa Temple
Date: 7th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 166



Mazdoor Manzi
Date: 10th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 162

Gandhkuti Buddhavihar
Date: 11th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 195



Avior Corporate Park
Date: 12th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 160

Near Godrej Enclave
Date: 12th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 141



DSK Madhuban
Date: 12th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 108

N.G. Complex
Date: 13th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 141





Jyeshtha Nagarik Sevadhari
Date: 14th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 54

Ramabai Nagar
Date: 14th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 91



Avior Corporate Park
Date: 20th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 170

Dnyandeeep Seva Mandal High School
Date: 20th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 226



Seawoods
Date: 21st December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 214

Powai
Date: 21st December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 171



Gyan Mandir School
Date: 27th December, 2025
Beneficiaries: 80

Financial Literacy Camp

Rotary Club of Bombay Powai organises Free Financial Literacy Program in association with Suryoday Foundation, CSR arm of Suryoday Small Finance Bank, for the underprivileged community to create awareness about the various government schemes like Ayushman Bharat, Eshram card, Ladki Bahin yojana etc. The lead was taken by Rtn. Punit Jain and Rtn. Jyoti Shiralee.



Camp in action, Day 1 and Day 2

A two day camp was held on December 12 and 13, 2025.

Location: Verona, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai.

Cost: Rs. 36000

Beneficiaries : 100

OTHER PROJECTS



Grocery at Rupvan old Age home
Date: 02nd December, 2025
Beneficiaries : 45
Cost: Rs. 45000



Donation of Grooming Equipment for Sr. Citizens
Date: 06th December, 2025
Beneficiaries : 15
Cost: Rs. 2600



Sarathi (Kandivli) and Sawali (Dombivali)
Date: 22nd November, 2025
Beneficiaries: 80
Cost: Rs. 53500

Donation of groceries at BMC Hospital
Date: 19th December, 2025
Beneficiaries : 85
Cost: Rs. 67000





CLUB SERVICES



- 1.Date: 15th December, 2025.
Trustee Meeting
- 2.Date: 15th December, 2025.
BoD Meeting
- 3. Date: 16th December, 2025.
Annual Meeting





CLUB SERVICES



Voice of Powai – Finals

Voice of Powai (VoP) is a premier singing competition held in Mumbai, organized annually by the Rotary Club of Bombay Powai (RCBP) as a signature event of the Powai Fest
Date: 14th December, 2025

Powai Fest – Funstreet

Powai Fest is an annual fundraise initiative organized by the Rotary Club of Bombay Powai, aimed at supporting community-focused causes such as women empowerment and girl child development. Conducted across multiple dates in December and January, the festival brings the community together through engaging events.
Date: 20th December, 2025.



A Walkathon for Organ Donation Awareness

A Walkathon for Organ Donation Awareness was organized in Powai on Sunday, December 28, 2025, with the aim of promoting awareness about the importance of organ donation. The walk took place from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM, starting and concluding at the Verona Fountain, Powai. Multiple Rotary Clubs came together for this meaningful initiative, uniting the community in support of a noble cause.
Date: 28th December, 2025.

Powai Fest 2025

From the Diaries of President Anju Ahluwalia



A Journey of Teamwork & Inspiration

Every Rotary year begins with a dream—the dream of making a difference, of creating memories, and of hosting a successful Powai Fest, our flagship fundraiser. As I stepped into my year as President, I carried this dream with one great advantage: a passionate team ready to put up the best show forward.

Setting the Foundation

On 28th September 2026, Powai Fest Chair **Rtn. Amit Sheth** rolled the ball, and soon after, our first core committee meeting was held on 9th October at Adonia Hall, organized by **Rtn. Hanuman Tripathi** and **Rtn. Susan Tripathi**. That meeting set the tone: every activity must contribute to revenue generation. Some events were streamlined, others added, ensuring balance between creativity and financial sustainability. Even decisions like dropping the Kavi Samellan—to avoid overlap with a Kavita-themed Holi party—became lessons in leadership, transparency, and respect.





THEME- SANGAM

The next milestone was choosing the theme. **Rtn. Smita Madgavkar** suggested Sangam—a name that beautifully symbolized the coming together of Sangam of food, music, and culture. The idea was embraced with joy, and soon - creatives followed, with **Rtn. Susan Tripathi and Rtn. Mangesh Balkande** presenting designs that captured the spirit of the fest. Hoardings, banners, were planned across 20 locations, setting the stage for visibility and excitement. Smart and exciting Invitation were made. Put up on RCBP groups for forwarding to their building groups and friends.

A good publicity makes an event a grand success. Our team and members left no stone unturned. The result was phenomenal.

Voice of Powai – Talent Meets Legacy

Led by **Rtn. Vanamali**, Voice of Powai quickly gained momentum. With striking creatives and online entries pouring in, the semifinals were held on 7th December at Gopal Sharma School Mini Auditorium, followed by the grand finale on 14th December.

Trophies, certificates, and promotions spread across Mumbai, building anticipation. Voice of Powai became more than a competition—it became a legacy:

“Voice of Powai—where talent found its voice, and Rotary Club of Bombay Powai found its pride.”

Inspire Carnival – A Dhamakedar Celebration

Rtn. Farida Thankur and her team brought the carnival alive in true dhamakedar style. Interact schools joined enthusiastically, with one school band leading a vibrant road show. Nearly 200 students, NGOs, and even senior citizens performed, filling the streets with rhythm, dance, and joy.

The Inspire Carnival was inaugurated by **Dr. Mahek Motwani, Inspire Year’s First Lady**, who walked alongside us. With balloons, music, and laughter, the carnival announced the grand arrival of Powai Fest.

Fundraising – The Power of Partnerships

Rtns. Hanuman Tripathi, Amit Sheth and Nikhil Madgavkar set the tone for fundraising. On 17th November, Nikhil broke the good news of confirmed support from Club Mahindra and Godrej Agrovert—a huge morale booster. Soon, partners like Hiranandani, WNS, Mahindra & Mahindra, Godrej Foods, AU Small Finance Bank, and many more joined in.

“Powai Fest fundraising has been a spectacular success, thanks to the unstoppable spirit of our team and the incredible support of our partners.”

Stall Booking– A One-Woman Army

Stall booking was led tirelessly by **Rtn. Sunita Sainani**, who, starting on 11th November.

During Planning time we worked on the stall size, PF Chair Amit and Sunita came up with a business idea, suggested to resize the stalls and rates for stalls bookings. The Idea sparked and

By early December, every stall was booked. Her adaptability and drive ensured record-breaking numbers, making stall booking synonymous with her name.



Stage Show & Lucky Draw

The stage show, led by **Rtn. Heena Srivastava**, was dignified, precise, and beautifully orchestrated. From presenting Voice of Powai awards to honouring partners with plaques alongside dignitaries, every moment was managed with grace.

Once formalities concluded, the entertainment segment unfolded with vibrancy, leaving a lasting impression. The lucky draw, managed by **Rtns. Jaishankar, Rtn. Yogsesh Gupta, Rtn. Sushmita Chandra, Rtn. Mangesh Balkhande, Rtn. Dhananjay Mande, and Rtn. Zill Savla**, added excitement with prizes ranging from mobiles and Bluetooth speakers to vouchers and holiday packages.



TShirts – A Record-Breaking Effort

The record-breaking T-shirt bookings, managed in just one week, were a shining example of teamwork. Our Club Secretary **Rtn. Nalini Raghavan** ensured smooth coordination, while **Rtn. Sunita Sainani** delivered beautifully designed T-shirts within days. Members collected them on time, showering compliments on the designs and colors.

The night before Powai Fest is charged with anticipation—an evening of butterflies in the stomach and restless energy. Nearly 25 dedicated members are on duty, managing stalls, fine-tuning stage decorations, and offering last-minute suggestions. The atmosphere feels like the tense wait for 12th board exam results, with every face reflecting both nervousness and hope. Silent prayers rise from all corners, united in one wish: that tomorrow's event unfolds as a resounding success.





Event Manager Mr. Avddhut J Rege and his company “Shamang Event LLP managed the stalls and stage providing us all the support we needed for the fest.

Leadership & Legacy

Behind the scenes, Powai Fest Chair Amit steered the entire show with vision. Club Treasurer Dilip managed accounts with quiet precision, Club Secretary Nalini gave her support. Together, they exemplified the spirit of service, creativity, and excellence—making Powai Fest not just successful, but truly memorable.

As Club President I was there with all, offering my support and praying each day for huge success for the Inspire Powai Fest. Indeed the fest turned out to be a grand success in all aspects.

“Powai Fest 2025 -26 was more than an event— it was a celebration of teamwork, inspiration, and the Rotary spirit.

“Although I would have loved to mention each name individually, space does not permit me to do so. I extend my heartfelt thanks once again to all the teams and organizers whose efforts made Powai Fest such a resounding success.”

A special thanks to my husband, **Cmdr. B. K. Ahluwalia**, whose support and encouragement kept me motivated through the Powai Fest planning days.

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks to our Inspire Year District Governor, Rtn. Dr. Manish Motwani, for gracing the occasion as Chief Guest. His presence, support for our club, and generosity in presenting the trophies and plaques to the winners added immense value and prestige to the celebration.”

I have not mentioned team members names here, But I respectfully and humbly thank all the teams and team members for your support.

LAST EDITION ANSWER:

SUDOKU

3	1	8	5	7	2	9	4	6
5	9	6	1	4	8	2	7	3
7	4	2	9	6	3	1	8	5
4	8	5	6	9	1	7	3	2
2	6	1	4	3	7	5	9	8
9	7	3	8	2	5	4	6	1
8	2	9	7	5	6	3	1	4
1	5	4	3	8	9	6	2	7
6	3	7	2	1	4	8	5	9

WINNER: VIVEK BHIDE



LET'S
INSPIRE !



Inspire Year President Anju Ahluwalia
of Rotary Club of Bombay Powai
appeals to you to support the noble
cause of “Polio Eradication”
Donate as much as you can – *Every
contribution COUNTS.*



Merchant Name : Rotary Club of Powai Trust
Mobile Number : 9987154034

Please mention “polio” while donating and send a
screenshot to
President Anju at +91 98203 10486.

