

Rotary Club of Bombay West

THE FLYING CARPET

CLUB BULLETIN



IN SERVICE OF HUMANITY... SINCE 1954

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SPECIAL DLA ISSUE

What a wonderful start to this District Learning Assembly. Do you all agree that Rotary Club of Bombay West has done an outstanding job in organizing this event? Bombay West, please rise and be recognized. Please give Rajul and the whole of Bombay West a big round of applause for their wonderful organization.

Dr. Bharat Pandya began his keynote address with these words of appreciation for Bombay West



Chief Guest
Dr. Bharat Pandya
TRF Trustee Vice Chair

Event's Resounding Success : A Testament to our shared vision

DLA & GMS hosted by us is a unique story of acceptance, then strong rejection followed by one convincing call by our District Governor Elect Chetan Desai coupled with well versed and experienced Convenor Aslam Merchant with co convenor Hima Dalal and Tejas Sura that converted this event into one of the most successful learning assemblies.

It was an excellent team effort from registration desk lead by Usha Jayachandran to the technology support by Yazdi Tantra, each of our members contributing to the flawless execution of this event.

For me personally to welcome everyone was the most enriching and most memorable moments of my presidential year!! Thank you DGE Chetan Desai and the Vibrant team for this opportunity.

I am delighted to share with you the highlights. Held at The Lalit, with a total attendance of close to 550 Rotarians, it was a testament to our collective commitment to learning, growth and community service. The assembly was marked by insightful discussions, engaging workshops, and invaluable networking opportunities. Rotarians from across the district came together to exchange ideas, share best practices, and strengthen our bonds of fellowship.

One of the hallmarks of the event was the exceptional hospitality provided by The Lalit, with sumptuous breakfast, lunch and high tea, ensuring that our members were well-nourished and energized throughout the day. I am particularly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm displayed by each and every Rotarian in attendance. Your active participation contributed to the success of the assembly and reaffirmed our shared vision of making a positive impact in our communities. As we reflect on the success of this event, let us carry forward the spirit of learning and collaboration into our future endeavors. Together, we can continue to inspire, innovate, and transform lives for the better.

Thank you once again to all who contributed to the success of the District Learning Assembly. Your passion and commitment are truly commendable.

PRESIDENT
RAJUL DOSHI



FROM 'NO' TO 'LET'S DO IT': MY JOURNEY AS A CONVENOR

"No, I don't want to be a Convenor again," I declared emphatically. The weight of the assignment loomed large, and I hesitated. But then, something magical happened — a convergence of charm, leadership, and purpose.



Club President Rajul Doshi and District Governor Elect Chetan Desai

wove their persuasive spells. Their passion for service, their unwavering commitment to Rotary, and their infectious enthusiasm began to sway my resolve. Suddenly, the "NO" that had echoed in my mind transformed into a resounding "YES."

And so, I stepped into the role of Convenor for **District Learning Assembly & Grant Management Seminar** successfully held on Sunday, 14th April, 2024 at The Lalit, Mumbai where 550+ Rotarians from across Mumbai and Palghar District participated. The journey was exhilarating — a whirlwind of planning, coordination, and tireless effort. As the day-long event unfolded, Rotary Club of Bombay West stood tall, leaving an indelible mark. The accolades poured in, and with each one, my heart swelled with pride.

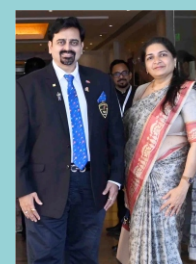
Why did I change my mind? Because Rotary isn't just about tasks; it's about impact. It's about weaving threads of service into the fabric of our community. It's about saying "YES" to making a difference, even when the path seems daunting. So here I am, grateful for that pivotal moment — the moment when I embraced the challenge, when I let the combined charm of Rajul and Chetan guide me toward a rewarding endeavour. The satisfaction of contributing to something larger than myself is immeasurable.

From "NO" to "YES, Let's Do It" — that shift defines my journey as Convenor of one of the prestigious Rotary annual event. And I wouldn't have it any other way.

The rest is history, as they say... Hima and Tejas joined me as Co-convenors and all the registered participants from our Club came forward whole-heartedly to volunteer by taking up roles and responsibilities assigned to them which they all performed with perfection. As usual, Usha Jayachandran took up the most challenging task of managing the Registration Desk which she accomplished brilliantly.

My heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of the participants-cum-volunteers from our Club for playing their respective roles perfectly. My sincere thanks to our Club's Board of Directors for trusting me. And last, but not the least, thanks to DGE Chetan Desai and his Vibrant Core Team for supporting us in every which way to make the event a success.

- Aslam Merchant



WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS!

This is exactly how RCBW approached the DLA and ensured its success. Our planning began in early December when Aslam was appointed as a Convener, and Hima and I were brought in as Co-conveners for the DLA event. We started by exploring suburban hotels, with Taj Land's End being a strong contender due to RCBW's positive past experience. Despite our best efforts in negotiating with their marketing team, we were unable to meet DG Chetan's expectations in terms of pricing. In the meantime, Rtn. Sandeep Kedia came up with an attractive proposal from The Lalit, which we quickly confirmed. By mid-January, Aslam had the payment gateway and hotel contract in place.



We kicked off our marketing efforts at the Insightful Arrival event at Jade Garden, Worli, where I announced the attractive pricing and secured about 50 reservations. We continued to promote the event at DISCON by setting up a counter. By the end of March, Aslam had posted a document outlining the Volunteer Teams needed for DLA. We matched registered members to these teams and actively encouraged more members to register, knowing their participation would be crucial for the success of DLA. We had a Volunteers meet 5 days before the event, explained the roles and formed the teams.

My involvement increased when the menu was to be finalised. The excitement heightened when I attended two meetings at the Lalit to finalise the venue and menu details. Hima and I had identified desired menu items, and they were similar to what Sandeep Kedia listed. So, the menu was finalised in a jiffy! We also faced many hurdles—a small registration area, 30-40 minutes to install a partition in the plenary session to divide it into 2 rooms, no sponsors, potential sponsors being roped in directly by the District Team, and so on.

A week before the DLA, frequent meetings took place—we met about four times to finalise the details. Two days before the event, crazy things were happening (the event schedule was released, presentations were received, and guest facilities were added); there were so many things to do in so little time! Aslam was the backbone of the effort. He stood like a pillar and arranged for everything to be ready the day before. Hima and I supported him.

The registration desk was so well organised that we had no issues registering over 500 participants in one hour. I had fun with Mahesh Kokate in the back office, handing over the badges to the rest of the registration volunteers. I sat at the AV counter during the plenary session, ensuring that all presentations were being played and that club volunteers were available for the main stage activities. I always communicated any issues to Hima and Aslam. It was a pleasant surprise that all 3 of us were individually called

along with Rajul and Rahul and handed over plaques of appreciation by DGE Chetan Desai.

Thanks to Rtn. Manish Gyani, for the second time, I presented at the DLA as part of the TRF team in front of 200 attendees and confidently delivered the presentation on Individual recognition. The lunch area was crowded but had sufficient space to allow 450 attendees to have food. Later in the afternoon, I helped Shirish with the mementoes in the Grant Management Seminar and TRF sessions. The day was tiring but memorable, ending with high tea and the closure of the event. It was enjoyable working with fellow club members to achieve the success of the event while maintaining the reputation of RCBW and managing such district events smoothly.

- Tejas Sura
Co-Convenor

DISTRICT LEARNING ASSEMBLY

What an excellent event hosted by RCBW. DGE Chetan's call to convince RCBW for hosting this event as done in past with meticulous planning. We took a lead with PP Rtn Aslam Merchant as Convener with Rtn Tejas Sura and me as Co-conveners.

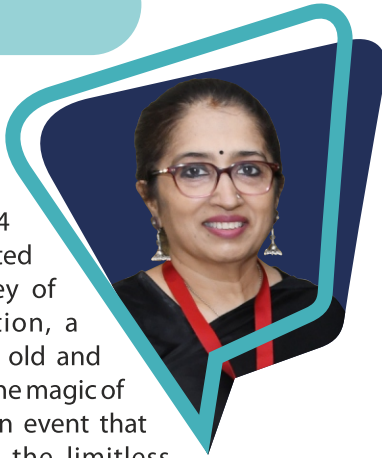


Planning started very early with President. Our club President Rajul Doshi helped us with her great connections, and we finalised Lalit International. Members of the RCBW had come together whole heartedly to take this event to make it great success. Everyone from the district has appreciated our work. It was a truly enriching experience for me and club. Looking forward for many more event like DLS.

- Hima Dalal
Co-Convenor



LEARNING GOVERNANCE THE ROTARY WAY



The Rotary Club of Bombay West organised and hosted the District Learning Assembly (DLA) of District 3141 on Sunday, 14th April 2024 at The Lalit. The DLA can be touted to be a one-of-a-kind journey of empowerment and inspiration, a gateway that helps Rotarians, old and new, senior and junior, unlock the magic of service through Rotary. It is an event that provides information about the limitless possibilities for social work for the incoming President and his/her Board of Directors leading the important committees and projects. Be it local and global projects, fellowships and fund raisers, Club Bulletins and social media handles, you name it and you are trained for it.

The District Learning Assembly enables the participants to take a deep dive into the mission at the heart of the Rotary movement, gives them the opportunity to engage with Rotary stalwarts, who are the trainers for the day, and learn about the various avenues of service that their club could engage in to contribute to social upliftment.

RCBW is well-known for its meticulous and immaculate planning of events. The RCBW team led by President Rajul Doshi, PP Aslam Merchant and Co-Convenors Tejas Sura and Hima Dalal as well as PE Rahul Goenka, along with the whole team of RCBW volunteers, put their best foot forward and hosted a memorable, enjoyable, enriching and unforgettable District Learning Assembly 2024-25 for all the incoming Presidents and their teams for District 3141's new Rotary year.

At the registration desk that morning, we experienced a bonhomie and excitement of a special kind. Arriving early by 6.45

a.m. to setup the registration desks at The Lalit, we were very well organised and ready to take on the 500 odd Rotarians who had registered for the event. The idea of giving each registered person a unique number ID was the clincher! The whole registration process went off very smoothly. Even during the one-hour peak registration period between 8 to 9 a.m. when there was a complete deluge of people wanting to get their registration cards, lanyards and food slips, not one person had to wait for longer than a minute and voila their registration was done!

Crossing spot registrations of over twenty was a feather in our caps, speaking volumes about how the event is valued by Rotarians. Manned by around ten volunteers in a highly organised manner, the whole registration process was effortless and stress free! Senior Rotarians who were part of the welcome committee facilitated the smooth registration of the invited dignitaries.

Besides the registration desk experience, the opening session with the RCBW national anthem video being played and making each of us swell with pride, the planning and flow of the event, the fellowship and interactions experienced by the participants, the breakout sessions and the information shared therein, the efficiently executed power point presentations, the thoughtfully planned food menu including fasting food and the hospitality of the RCBW members, made the event a powerfully charged and value generating experience. Many a compliment has been received by the Club for its untiring efforts in organising the DLA 2024-25. Let us all take a bow while we continue our committed work with Rotary through our beloved RCBW! It is always a privilege for a Rotary Club to host the DLA and Bombay West is honoured for having been given the responsibility to do so once more.

Three cheers for the Rotary Club of Bombay West!

- Usha Jayachandran





Hearty congratulations to Convenor PP Aslam, Co-convenors Hima and Tejas, President Rajul, President Elect Rahul as also the entire organising team for conducting the District Learning Assembly flawlessly and bringing laurels to our Club. Well done, Team DLA & GMS.

- Shirish Rege

As Shirish has mentioned the event was superbly organised. Full credit to Convener Aslam, Co-convenors Hima and Tejas. Constant information sharing made job easy for everyone. Congratulations to Rajul and Rahul for agreeing the task.

- Mohan Joshi



Congratulations to Aslam for leading and executing a successful Rotary District Assembly! Along with Hima, Tejas. It's clear that his hard work and dedication have made a positive impact.

- Apurva Nanavati



Yes, Congratulations to Aslam, Hima and Tejas for leading the very successful planning and execution of the DLA & GMS

- Shalin Divatia

Congratulations to Aslam, Hima and Tejas. Well managed event.

- Jayant Sanghvi



Congratulations to Aslam, Hima and Tejas for flawless execution of a wonderful event.

- Yazdi Tantrai



Fully agree - all the planning really worked in making sure the event went off smoothly.

- Keyuri Singh



Congratulations to ROTARIZE DLA & GMS 2024 Convenor Aslam and Co-Convenors Hima and Tejas for a successful event

- Rahul Goenka





DISTRICT DIGNITARIES SPEAK

Insights from Our Leaders



Arun Bhargava
District Governor

My compliments for organizing the event most successfully.



Chetan Desai
District Governor Elect

Dear Host Club RC Bombay West, Convenor Aslam, Co-Convenors Hima & Tejas, President Rajul, PE Rahul. Jwala joins me in our sincere appreciation for the tremendous success of the Rotarize - District Learning Assembly & Grants Management Seminar held today at the Lalit Hotel, Airport.

The event was a resounding success, and a large part of the credit goes to the dedication and hard work of your entire team. Once again, thank you for making Rotarize such a grand success. I am confident that the knowledge and skills gained at the seminar will have a lasting impact on our District.



Harjit Talwar
District Learning Facilitator Designate

Dear Aslam, Hima, Tejas, Rajul, Rahul & Team Bombay West, It was a grand show today at ROTARIZE, DLA & GMS - Kudos to your meticulous planning & flawless execution. Excellent venue & ambience, good attendance, warm hospitality of hosts, delicious food and well curated program. Participants went home satisfied and well informed after this mandatory Rotary learning event. Thanks for everything!



Rajith Menon
Chief Learning Officer Designate

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for hosting a successful Rotarize- the Vibrant District Learning Assembly and Grant Management Seminar. True to your reputation of being a great host, RCBW ensured that all the arrangements were at their best. My compliments to Convenor Aslam, Co-Convenors Hima and Tejas, President Rajul, President-elect Rahul and each involved member for their tireless effort in coordinating and hosting an event of this magnitude.

I would like to especially thank Aslam, Hima and Tejas for their excellent coordination during the event. I must also thank and compliment all the members who were session coordinators in each hall. Your timely presence and the logistical arrangements made in coordination with your core team were key elements in the success of the event. Together we have been able to provide a satisfying and enriching program to all the attendees. Vibrant DG Chetan Desai and Vibrant DLF Harjit Singh Talwar are elated with the outcome and resounding success of the event. Once again, kudos to the entire team and best wishes to you for the Vibrant year.



Ram Kotak
RC of Mumbai Nova

Really enjoyed the DLA sessions today. Well planned, good content and crisp presentations. The food was also very good. This is the result of excellent leadership by you.



Khuzem Sakarwala
RC of Mumbai Bravehearts

It was a very well thought out program with each and every resource person well chosen. Each and every presentation / talk was well structured so as to give very good understanding about the subject.

Congrats to DGE Chetan, PDG Harjit, the Host Team Bombay West led by Convenor Aslam Merchant and the Vibrant team involved in making this such a super DLA & GMS.



Girish Mittal
RC of Mumbai Borivali East

DGE Chetan and Host Club RC of Bombay West, kudos for the superb DTA & GMS.



Preeti Shah

Congratulations for the smooth & seamless arrangements. Well organised DLA & GMS.



Anand Ramnani
RC of Mumbai Parleshwar

Congratulations to you all for excellent DLA & GMS full of learning and opportunities. A grand event, well planned and executed. I enjoyed it to the fullest, sumptuous food, good networking, excellent motivational talk by PDG Bharat Pandya, DGE Harjit Talwar, PDG Gurjeet Sekhon..



Mayank Desai
RC of Borivli

Excellent Informative DLA & GMS. Congratulations DGE Chetan, Harjit, Rajith, Deepak, Aslam, Rajul, Rahul & all the members of the DLA team & Bombay West. Well planned sessions taken by able leaders. Large turnout is testimony of confidence in DGE Chetan & Vibrant team. Venue & food were icing on the cake.



Mona Shah

RC of Mumbai Juhu Beach

DGE Chetan and host club RCBWest kudos for the superb DTA. It was a precisely thought out program with each and every resource person well chosen.



Nilima Inamdar

Thank you DGE Chetan & DLF Harjit for giving us a VIBRANT DLA & GMS. A great learning session. Thank you RC Bombay West and Convenor Aslam for good venue, food and hospitality



Sree Nandy

RC of Mumbai Kalakar

Wonderful DLA, just as Vibrant as the year promises to be. Learnt and enjoyed. Thanks to DGE Chetan, DLF Harjit, CLOD Rajith, PAD Deepak, the Host Club (RC of Bombay West) and the entire team that has tirelessly brainstormed and worked in putting together a training session of this magnitude.



Dr. Sadhana Edvankar

Vibrant President, RC of Bombay Kandivli

What a grand ROTARIZE DLA+GMS event!! Meticulously planned and executed at one of the finest Venue "The Lalit". Kudos to each and every member who was directly or indirectly involved to make the ROTARIZE DLA+GMS event a big success.



Vinod Thakkar

RC of Mumbai Dahisar

Vibrant DGE Chetan, DLF Harjit, CLOD Rajith, PAD Deepak, the Host Club – RC of Bombay West - and the entire team for creating amazing training session. Majja as Gaya !!! Wish you good luck for 24-25.



Krishna Kumar

RC of Mumbai Khar

DGE Chetan n Vibrant team nice show. Altogether a different DLA full of learning n networking. Kudos to Host Club RCB West for all arrangements. . .



Nirav Shah

Chair – Endowment & Major Gifts, RC of Bombay

The DLA & GMS was unique & different. TRF is one of the most important focus areas for DGE chetan. The session was like Koffee with Karan. It was done prior to lunch and after main motivational speaker TRF Trustee Vice Chair Bharat Pandya was super. The district projects were divided into TRF's 7 areas of focus. All in all simply fabulous. Jai ho !! & god bless. Yours in rotary. Kudos to the Host Club – RC of Bombay West for a well organized DLA & GMS. Jai Ho

