



Rotary 
Club of Bombay West

THE FLYING CARPET

CLUB BULLETIN

IN SERVICE
OF HUMANITY...
SINCE 1954

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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION

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A message
from President
**RAHUL
GOENKA**

Anybody can be a Rotarian, Just need the right Spirit....

To beat the traffic, I asked my driver to take the car home from SOBO, while I took the local train in the afternoon. I was travelling on the local train after a long time. Seeing the crowd inside, I realised I was being over adventurous, perhaps. There was no place to sit.

Just then, a person vacated his seat. The man standing next to the vacant seat could have sat there, but instead he offered the seat to me. A very ordinary looking person, probably a clerk at a big organization in SOBO, returning home after a long day at work. At the next stop, the same thing happened again. He gave his possible seat to another. This happened few times during the entire journey.

As the journey progressed, with a few more stops to my station, my curiosity got the better of me and I struck a conversation with the gentleman. "Why were you giving your seat to another person every time you got a vacant seat?". His words surprised me more than the calming tone of his voice...

He said, "I have not studied much in my life nor do I know many things. I do not have much money either. So I do not have anything much to give to anyone. That's why I do this every day. It is something I can do easily..."

"After working all day I can stand for a little longer. I gave my seat to you and you said thank you. It gave me satisfaction that I did something for someone.

"I do this daily and feel I am contributing in some way. I go back home refreshed and happy every day that I gave something to someone."

I do not know if he would ever choose to be a Rotarian, but I am sure Paul Harris would agree with me that this gentleman certainly had the right Spirit... As I got off my stop, only one thought crossed my mind...

How easy it is to be rich from within!

Your Companion in your journey to Serve the Community and the Club



**Thanks to our beloved founder
on his Birth Anniversary**

19th April

Paul Percy Harris

Paul Percy Harris (April 19, 1868 – January 27, 1947) was a Chicago, Illinois-based attorney. He founded the club that became the humanitarian organisation Rotary International in 1905.

Harris was born on 19 April 1868 in Racine, Wisconsin, USA. At age 3, he moved to Wallingford, Vermont, where he grew up in the care of his paternal grandparents. He attended the University of Vermont and Princeton University and received his law degree from the University of Iowa in 1891.

In 1896, Harris settled in Chicago and opened a law practice. Four years later, he met fellow attorney Bob Frank for dinner on Chicago's North Side. They walked around the area, stopping at shops along the way. Harris was impressed that Frank was friendly with many of the shopkeepers. He had not seen this kind of camaraderie among businessmen since moving to Chicago

and wondered if there was a way to channel it, because it reminded him of growing up in Wallingford.

"The thought persisted that I was experiencing only what had happened to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others in the great city. ... I was sure that there must be many other young men who had come from farms and small villages to establish themselves in Chicago. ... Why not bring them together? If others were longing for fellowship as I was, something would come of it."

Harris eventually persuaded several business associates to discuss the idea of forming an organization for local professionals. On 23 February 1905, Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr's office in downtown Chicago for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting.

In February 1907, Harris was elected the third president of the Rotary Club of Chicago. Toward the end of his presidency, he worked to expand Rotary beyond the city. Some club members resisted, not wanting to take on the additional financial burden. But Harris persisted, and by 1910, Rotary had expanded to several other major U.S. cities.

Harris recognized the need to form a national association with an executive board of directors. In August 1910, Rotarians held their first national convention in Chicago, where the 16 existing clubs unified as the National Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International). The new association unanimously elected Harris as its president.

At the end of his second term as Rotary president, Harris resigned, citing ill health and the demands of his professional practice and personal life. He was elected president emeritus by convention action, a title he held until his death.

In the mid-1920s, Harris became actively involved in Rotary again, serving as the public face of the organization. To promote membership and service, he attended conventions and visited clubs throughout the world, often accompanied by his wife, Jean.

Harris died on 27 January 1947 in Chicago at age 78, after a prolonged illness. Before his death, he made it known that he preferred contributions to The Rotary Foundation in lieu of flowers. By coincidence, days before he died, Rotary leaders had committed to a major fundraising effort for the Foundation.

Upon news of his death, Rotary created the Paul Harris Memorial Fund as a way to solicit these donations. Rotarians were encouraged to commemorate the late founder of Rotary by contributing to the fund, which would be used for purposes dear to Harris' heart. In the 18 months following his death, The Rotary Foundation received \$1.3 million, which helped support the Foundation's first program — scholarships for graduate study abroad.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/history-paul-harris-rotary-founder>

Speaker Meeting on 9th April, 2025

Dr. Gaurav Shah - Advances in Cataract Surgery

Dr. Gaurav Shah, a renowned eye surgeon, gave an informative talk on technological advances in cataract surgery. He was felicitated for the invaluable support in setting up the Eye Donation Centre for RCBW. Under his expert guidance and his dedicated team at Eye Life, including Optometrist Riddhi Parmar and Nurse Komal Mhatle, Rotary Club of Bombay West has successfully established an Eye Donation Centre. The team has worked tirelessly to ensure the centre's registration under the Human Organ Transplant Act and has forged a crucial partnership with the EBCRC Eye Bank.

The partnership with EBCRC Eye Bank has enabled our centre to:

1. Train our technicians in eye collection and preservation techniques.
2. Utilize the bank's infrastructure for collecting and processing eye donations.
3. Receive an amount of Rs. 500 per eye collected, which helps sustain our centre's operations.

Despite our extensive efforts to promote our eye donation mobile number, we still receive a significant number of calls through the EBCRC Eye Bank.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Gaurav Shah and his team at Eye Life for their invaluable support in:

1. Renewing our centre's registrations and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.
2. Providing expert guidance throughout the eye donation process.

Their contributions have been instrumental in establishing our Eye Donation Centre as a reputable and effective facility for promoting eye donation and supporting the noble cause of restoring vision to those in need.

The ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY WEST "EYE DONATION CENTER" represents a significant step forward in our community's commitment to improving lives through selfless acts of giving.



Annadan

Annadan a sacred tradition of donating food, particularly to the needy is considered a highly pious act. This noble initiative by RCBW was implemented in the following places:

1st April

5:00 pm

Gautam Nagar, Aarey Colony



5th April

12:00 pm

Slums of Veet Bhatti, Goregaon east



7th April

11:30 am

Acworth Municipal Hospital for Leprosy, Wadala



10th April

5:00 pm

Tata Memorial Hospital



**BIRTHDAY AND
ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS**

Rotarian Birthdays

04 April : Rtn. Mahesh Kokate

04 April : Mr. Manoj Viswanathan

09 April : Rtn. Gaurang Mehta

Anniversaries

08-April : Rtn. Keyuri & Aniljit Singh