



FOR PRIVATE  
CIRCULATION



# Rotary Club of Bombay West

*In Service of Humanity.....  
Since 1954*

# THE FLYING CARPET Club Bulletin

RI President: **Francesco Arezzo** | Dist. Governor: **Dr. Manish Motwani** | President: **Jayant Sanghvi** | Secretary: **Dr. Kamal D'Mello** | Hon. Editor: **CA Siddhant Bhide**

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## From the President's Desk

*Dear Fellow Rotarians,*

*As we usher in the New Year, I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you and your families. The beginning of a new year offers us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and recommit ourselves to the ideals that define Rotary. While the world around us*

*continues to face uncertainties – be it social, economic, or political – it is during such times that our role as Rotarians becomes even more significant. With optimism and collective resolve, we must look ahead and embrace the opportunities this year presents to strengthen our fellowship and expand our service to those in need.*

*The New Year also calls upon us to renew our energy and sharpen our focus on the goals and projects we have set for our Club. Through meaningful service initiatives, increased member engagement, and stronger community outreach, we can continue to make a positive and lasting impact. Let us strive to enhance participation, nurture leadership within our Club, and uphold the highest standards of Rotary service and ethics.*

*As we prepare to celebrate Republic Day, we are reminded of the values enshrined in our Constitution – unity, equality, responsibility, and service to the nation. These values resonate deeply with Rotary's guiding principle of Service Above Self. Republic Day is not only a celebration of our democratic heritage but also a call to action for each of us to contribute responsibly toward the progress of our society.*

*Let us, therefore, recommit ourselves to working with renewed dedication, strengthening our bonds of fellowship, and serving our community with compassion and integrity. Together, let us make this year one of purposeful action, meaningful service, and collective growth for our Rotary Club.*

*Yours in Rotary,  
Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi*

## A Step Ahead

**21<sup>st</sup> January, 2026**



The meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> January, 2026, was an inspiring talk by Ms. Nalini Gupta, Managing Director of Lotus Destinations and ClickMy Cruise, whose four-decade journey through aviation, travel, and cruise industries offers both a personal masterclass in leadership and a strategic roadmap for developing cruising in India.

Ms. Gupta opened with reflections on the influences that shaped her professional ethos, her mother's values and a joint-family upbringing that taught delegation, listening, and teamwork, and early roles at Air India that instilled grit, customer-first service, and a willingness to seize opportunities.

These formative lessons – be willing to do the unglamorous work, stand out through consistent effort, and lean into service – recur throughout her story and inform how she builds teams and businesses.

Her career arc – from traffic assistant to airline management, to leading CSR projects and later running South African Airways' India operations – illustrates an ability to pivot, learn new skill sets, and identify underserved markets. At South African Airways, she applied creative, cost-effective marketing – leveraging Bollywood, cricket, and targeted partnerships – to move South Africa from an obscure option to a top tourism destination for Indian travelers. Anecdotes from that period highlighted Ms. Gupta's hands-on problem-solving: from securing emergency visas to orchestrating multi-agent ticketing for major events, she emphasized that small acts of service often yield the deepest loyalty. Her time with the airline industry gave her the opportunity to assist

*contd. on page 2*

**LET'S  
INSPIRE !**

## PROGRAMMES

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 : Union Budget Analysis by CA Shailesh Haribhakti**

**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**



contd. from page 1

a daily wage worker to reach the middle east when there was no computerization or to assist the late Mr. Murli Deora with a visa, she did it all.

The core of the meeting focused on Ms. Gupta's entrepreneurial leap to founding Lotus Destinations and ClickMy Cruise and her campaign to awaken India's cruise potential. She recounted pioneering work to bring international cruise brands to Indian shores, enabling the historic 2016 ship visits that offered powerful visual marketing – nothing, she argued, sells cruising like seeing a ship in port. Ms. Gupta explained the regulatory and operational challenges encountered: unclear cabotage and customs rules, prohibitive 5% customs deposits on high-value vessels, and port draft limitations that restrict access for larger ships. Her recounting of direct engagement with government ministers and agencies showed how a mix of technical knowledge, persistence, and advocacy changed policy and unlocked opportunities for future calls.

Ms. Gupta also reflected candidly on setbacks – market-timing issues in earlier attempts, the severe interruption to cruise growth caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the practical limits of India's

port infrastructure. Nevertheless, she remains optimistic: consumer appetite exists, India is a vast untapped market, and government action to modernize ports and clarify regulations is beginning to align with industry needs. She highlighted practical priorities: enabling smaller-draft vessels, modernizing port facilities, simplifying customs and financial requirements, and sustained consumer education to mainstream cruising as a travel choice.

Closing on a personal note, Ms. Gupta underlined the value of lifelong work and mentoring – her daughter's entry into the business signals continuity and next-generation commitment. For stakeholders in government, ports, travel distribution, and hospitality, her message was clear: India has the market, the enthusiasm, and the opportunity – what remains is coordinated policy, targeted infrastructure investment, and continued market development. The meeting left attendees energized and equipped with concrete lessons in advocacy, marketing, and operational problem-solving from one of India's most influential pioneers in the cruise industry.

– Rtn. Tejas Sura & Rtn. Neevia Bhathena

## RYPEN: Enriching Young Minds through Teamwork & Talent

10<sup>th</sup> January, 2026

The Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN), inspired by the success of HOONAR, was successfully organized on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., with the objective of providing a meaningful platform for young minds to discover, exhibit, and nurture their aptitude and talent. The program was conducted for Interact schools with excellent support from the Rotaract Clubs of Andheri and Bombay West, reflecting strong inter-club cooperation within the Rotary family.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Interact Clubs – Raja Ramdev Podar Shala, Anandilal Podar Vidyalaya, Podar International School, Lilavatibai Podar School, Chatrabhuj Narsee School, and K.D.N. Shruti School, which also partnered as the venue host. The target participation was successfully achieved, marking the event as a well-planned and impactful initiative.

The day began with registration, breakfast, and a warm welcome. The inauguration was proudly conducted by the Interact Presidents, encouraging leadership and ownership among the youth. Engaging ice-breaking activities were led by the Interact Club of Lilavatibai Podar, ably supported by Rotaractors, and judged by Group Avenue Head for Youth Rtn. Ashmi Parekh and Rtn. Rushabh Shah, who ensured high energy and active participation.



An insightful and motivating speaker session by PDRR Rtn. Om Chawla inspired students with valuable lessons on leadership, confidence, and personal development. The post-lunch session featured fun-filled and competitive activities such as Crazy Marble & Pipe, Australian Walk, Tug of War, and Tyre Pass Over, all designed to strengthen teamwork, coordination, and problem-solving skills.

The event was thoroughly enjoyed by students, parents, and teachers alike. Seamless coordination by Rotaract Clubs of Andheri, Bombay West and UPG College played a pivotal role in the success of the program, emphasizing the core Rotary value of Teamwork. The day concluded with a deep sense of satisfaction – truly a day of “Enrichment” by investing in our next generation.

Two winning teams were awarded clipboards and compass boxes, while blankets were sponsored by Rtn. Mahendra Wadhwani, participation certificates, buttermilk, and biscuits were distributed to every Interactor.

Special thanks are due to President Rtn. Jayant Sanghvi, Ms. Pradnya Vedak, Principal of Rotary KDN Shruti School; Dr. Khushboo, President, Giants Group of Juhu; President Shobha Bhatia; teacher coordinators Jachintha Ma'am, Ashwini ma'am, Sunita Ji, Joan Miss, Sanghamitra ma'am, and Yogendra Sir; Rotaractors Sania, Raina, Kumkum, Mohit, Nandini, Jash, Divya, Tanisha, and Kirti; the supportive parents, school staff, caterer Haribhai, and Mr. Nupur Patel for preparing game props. Their collective efforts made RYPEN a memorable and impactful success.

– PP Rtn. Dr. Samapti Patel, Director Youth Service





# Regal Welcome: DGE Rajan Dua & FLE Preeti Dua – A Night of Inspiration and Momentum

22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2026

On 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2026 at Sunville, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, District 3141, gathered to welcome DGE Rajan Dua and FLE Preeti Dua – an evening that blended celebration with a clear strategic agenda for the coming year. Beginning at 6:45 PM, the event was both a heartfelt felicitation and a call to action for all Regal Presidents. PP Rtn. Aslam Merchant and PE Rtn. Tejas Sura represented RCBW in this programme.

## A PERSONAL AND POIGNANT START

The evening opened with warm tributes to Rajan and Preeti, noting that their wedding anniversary fell on the same day – a gesture that underscored service before self and family support for leadership. Speakers recounted Rajan's long Rotary journey since 1999, his leadership roles, and his capacity to execute large-scale projects, from high-profile fundraisers to expansive service trips. These anecdotes established both his credentials and the high expectations for the year ahead.

DG Dr. Manish Motwani advised DGE Rajan and FLE Preeti that at Orlando, they learnt about the future of Rotary; henceforth, they have to chart the future of District 3141 and execute it.

## PREETI'S PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

FLE Preeti Dua shared insights from the International Assembly, highlighting spouse participation in training and breakout sessions. Her reflections emphasized how partner engagement strengthens the governor's team and fuels club-level motivation – reinforcing that a governor's success is magnified when families are actively involved.

## GLOBAL INSIGHTS FROM ORLANDO

Rajan recounted key takeaways from the International Assembly in Orlando: world-class organization, the Rotary Action Plan (Impact, Expand, Engage, Adapt), and a firm directive to prioritize membership growth and retention. He relayed RI's ambitious target – 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030 – and stressed that membership is fragile: retention, inclusion, and member experience must be prioritized.



He urged Clubs to benchmark against their best past year (the last 7 years) and aim to surpass it.

## INDIA'S GROWING STATURE

The gathering celebrated India's visibility at the Assembly – especially the opening of the Symbiosis Peace Centre in Pune. Rajan also highlighted inspirational Indian philanthropy showcased at the event, underscoring the nation's increasing role in global Rotary initiatives.

## A REFRESHED, YOUTHFUL BRAND

A major theme was Rotary's push to modernize its image and attract younger members. Rajan described new messaging and multimedia campaigns portraying Rotary as energetic, impactful, and enjoyable. He noted how American districts emphasize fun alongside fellowship and service, and encouraged adopting approaches that make Rotary appealing to younger demographics.

## OPERATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Key operational changes were discussed: a likely zone reorientation affecting District 3141, and expanded grant allowances enabling Indian Clubs to undertake more global and CSR-linked grants. These shifts present new opportunities for District 3141

to scale projects and partnerships.

## A CLEAR CALL TO ACTION

Rajan's message was direct: DGE Rajan Dua will unveil the RI vision for 2026–27 and expects every Regal President to engage, align Club goals with district targets, and aim higher. His pledge to support presidents while demanding ambitious outcomes set a collaborative, accountable tone.

## PRACTICAL PRIORITIES FOR CLUBS

- Focus on member retention and experience.
- Engage partners and families.
- Leverage expanded grant flexibilities for larger projects.
- Use fellowship networks to sustain momentum.
- Make events and projects meaningful and fun to attract younger members.

The Regal Welcome was more than ceremonial – it was a roadmap. With leadership that marries vision and execution, District 3141 is positioned to convert global ambition into local impact. Presidents: attend, align, and act – 2026–27 is a year to set new records in membership and service.

– Rtn. Tejas Sura,  
President Elect & Director Club Service I

**SUNSHINE  
CORNER**

“Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes.”  
– Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose



# Interact Reporting: Science Lab Setup at BMC School and RYPEN

A total of 19 children from Grade XI with 3 teachers volunteered to set up the three Science Labs (Physics, Chemistry, Biology) for the school section of Kane Nagar CBSE BMC School at Antop Hill.

The children enthusiastically helped to set up all three labs from scratch with instructions from our Science faculty teachers.

All the models, microscopes, specimen bottles, physical apparatus, charts, glassware, chemicals, setups were arranged in place with a stock taking process with documentation of the same.

14 students visited Inspiring RYPEN alongside Ms Joan, Ms. Vijaya, Ms Sunita, and participated in the enrichment program of various Rotary-Interact teams of six schools.

The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the program and activities, including the welcome address by many Rotarians and also took part in interacting with fellow Interact Club members.

After 3.15 pm the children dispersed and reached home safely, and we deeply appreciate the gifts given to all the participants.



We thank you immensely for your support and outreach regarding the events, and for all of the attention and care you provide when it comes to aiding our Interact Club with its mission.

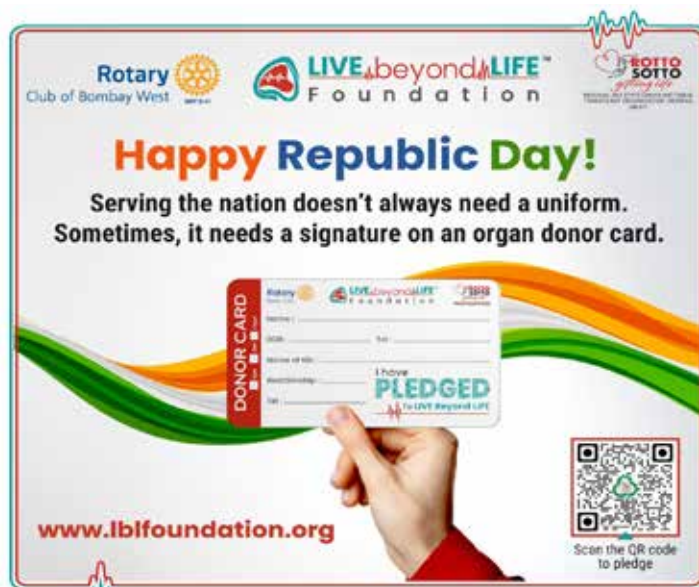
Regards,

**Aabir Banerjee, Secretary**  
**Interact Club of Lilavatibai Podar School**

## RCBW NEWS ROOM



Blankets were handed to Interact Club members on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2026. These were sponsored by Rtn. Mahendra Wadhvani. Blankets were also distributed to the support staff of Rotary KDN Shruti School. Special thanks to Rtn. Mahendra Wadhvani for this gesture of service!



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Rotarian Birthdays

31-Jan.	Rtn. Shyam Shah
05-Feb.	Rtn. Balkrishna Shroff
06-Feb.	Rtn. Dr. Kunal Sehgal

### R/Ann Birthdays

31-Jan.	R/Ann Sarita Rajendra Ruia
01-Feb.	Mr. Zoru Bhathena

### Anniversaries

30-Jan.	Rtn. Deepal Mody & Yash Mehta
01-Feb.	Rtn. Nandivardhan Jain & Deepali
05-Feb.	Rtn. Vivek Mehta & Mohinee
06-Feb.	PP Rtn. Arvind Shah & Pravina
09-Feb.	Rtn. Kishenkumar Agarwal & Nita
10-Feb.	Rtn. Apurva Nanavati & Usha