



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

ASHOKA
NEWSLETTER
JULY, 2025

ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH

R. I. President: Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

District Governor: Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CLUB



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Spouses

It is with great humility and heartfelt gratitude that I have taken on the role of President of the Rotary Club of Delhi South for the year 2025-26. I am honoured by the trust you have placed in me and energized by the journey we have started — together.

This year, we rally around a powerful theme: "Unite for Good." These three simple words carry a profound message — that when we come together with shared purpose and compassion, we create lasting change.

Rotary has always been about more than service — it's about connection, collaboration, and community. My vision this year is to deepen those bonds — among members, with our community, and through the impactful projects we take on. Whether we are working to improve education, support health initiatives, protect the environment, or empower the underserved — let's do it together, as one united force for good.

Let us celebrate our diversity, respect each other's perspectives, and work in harmony to turn ideas into action. In unity, we will find strength. In service, we will find purpose.

I invite each of you to bring your passion, your voice, and your presence into everything we do this year. Let's make 2025-26 a chapter of compassion, action, and enduring fellowship.

Yours in Rotary,
Kaval Verma
President 2025-26

First Light The Ashoka Awakens

A new dawn breaks with purpose clear,
Ashoka rises in the RCDS sphere.
Pages unfold like dreams once spun,
A journey of impact has just begun.

Voices of service, stories of grace,
Smiles that brighten every place
In every word, in every line,
Echoes a pledge — to serve, to shine.

With heart and hope, we now declare,
This year's first call — Unite for Care.
From trees we plant to lives we heal,
Ashoka shares what members feel.

So read, rejoice, let spirits steer,
The magic begins — Ashoka is here.

SCHOOL VISIT & TREE PLANTATION MCD SCHOOL

July 2, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : Basic Education and Literacy ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH ADOPTS A MCD SCHOOL

A new Rotary year begins — and with it, a renewed commitment to #UniteForGood!

RCDS proudly launches its flagship initiative: “Transforming Futures, One School at a Time” by adopting an MCD school in Malviya Nagar to develop into a vibrant Model School. From better infrastructure and sanitation to digital tools and joyful learning spaces, we aim to empower every child.

We kicked off with a tree plantation and goodie distribution — a heartwarming morning filled with smiles, hope, and the unwavering support of our seniors.



Tree Plantation MCD School

AREA OF FOCUS : ENVIRONMENT – Tree Plantation in Our Adopted School

The Rotary Club of Delhi South (RCDS) conducted a tree plantation drive at its adopted MCD primary school in Malviya Nagar, with 20 members and enthusiastic participation from young students. 20 trees were planted. The initiative symbolized growth, learning, and sustainability — planting trees as a metaphor for nurturing young minds. Involving the children instilled a sense of responsibility and care, reflecting RCDS's commitment to creating a greener, more hopeful future.



CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS CAMP

July 5, 2025

FOCUS AREA - DISEASE PREVENTION

On July 5, 2025, we had the pleasure of being part of our first RCDS Awareness Camp on Cervical Cancer Prevention for the Rotary year 2025–26. This important initiative was conducted under the able leadership of Rtn. Ms. Vandana Bhalla, District Director of Rotary International District 3011.

The camp was organized at Banasthali Public School in Vikas Puri, where we were heartened to see the enthusiastic participation of over 150 parents, all eager to learn more about safeguarding their daughters' health and future.

Through informative sessions and open dialogue, we were able to dispel common myths around cervical cancer, highlight the importance of early screening, and explain the protective benefits of the HPV vaccine. The parents showed genuine interest and a strong inclination to take timely preventive steps for their children.

It was inspiring to witness such collective commitment to awareness and proactive health care. Together, we are moving closer to our vision of a community where no woman or girl succumbs to a preventable disease.

Saving lives, one at a time.



ORAL HEALTH CAMP

AREA OF FOCUS : MOTHER AND CHILD HEALTH Dental Health & Awareness Camp

Rotary Club of Delhi South conducted a dental screening camp at Sankalp Shiva Camp Basti, reaching over 100 children. Alongside check-ups, we raised awareness about the dangers of tobacco use, promoting healthy habits from a young age. This was all with the support of our Dr. Shweta Javali, Hony Secretary and Dant Pari Foundation.

Together, we strive for a healthier, brighter future for every child.



MOVIE FELLOWSHIP

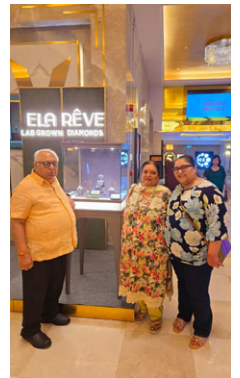
July 5, 2025

Dino... In Metro at PVR Promenade

What a delightful evening it was! Over 60 members of RCDS came together for a movie fellowship that was filled with laughter, joy, and the warmth of true camaraderie. The shared moments, the smiles, and the vibrant energy made it a truly unforgettable experience. It's evenings like these that strengthen the bonds of friendship and fellowship within our Rotary family.

A big thank you to each one of you who joined us and made the event so special with your presence. And a very special shoutout to Dr. Manish and Dr. Sheetal for your flawless planning and coordination - your efforts ensured everything was just perfect!

Looking forward to many more such joyous gatherings!



DISTRICT INSTALLATION

July 6, 2025

A very successful District Governor and President's Installation Ceremony hosted DG Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani and First Lady Rtn. Monica Gugnani on July 6, 2025.

The event was an inspiring celebration of Rotary's purpose—to serve humanity with compassion, integrity, and fellowship. From the gracious welcome to the delightful arrangements, every detail reflected the vision and dedication of our District Governor. It was truly an unforgettable evening, widely appreciated as one of the most memorable installations in our District's history.

Our sincere gratitude to DG Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani and First Lady Rtn. Monica Gugnani for installing Rtn. Kaval Verma as Club President on such a remarkable platform and with such grandeur.



SPEAKER MEETING

July 13, 2025

The July Speaker Meeting of Rotary Club of Delhi South was held on 13th July 2025 at CSOI, New Delhi, with 65 members in attendance. The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Kaval Verma. At the President's request, PP Rtn. Lalit Sawhney led the gathering in reciting the Four-Way Test.

PP Rtn. Pramod Agarwal introduced the esteemed guest speaker for the evening, Mr. Akhil Chaturvedi, Executive Director & Chief Business Officer, Motilal Oswal. Mr. Chaturvedi delivered a compelling and heartfelt presentation on "Macro-Economic View and India". His talk was both insightful and engaging, sparking a lively interactive session with questions and reflections from members.

Rtn. Raghubar Atroley extended a warm vote of thanks. PP Rtn. Tridibes Basu presented a token of appreciation to Mr. Chaturvedi on behalf of the Club. Mr. Chaturvedi and his team graciously joined members for post-meeting fellowship over drinks and dinner, where informal conversations continued.

A special highlight of the evening was the celebration of R'anne Rajni Dua ji's 75th birthday, adding a joyful note to the occasion. The evening concluded with a delectable dinner enjoyed by all — with the Chaat counter being a particular favourite!



TREE PLANTATION AT BUDDHA JAYANTI PARK

July 20, 2025



On the morning of July 20, 2025, the tree plantation at Buddha Jayanti Park was a truly uplifting experience. As always, PP Anil Agarwal ji's meticulous arrangements ensured everything went perfectly.

We planted graceful Amaltas trees and heard about their rich background — a meaningful connection to nature.

A warm fellowship followed with so many RCDS members in attendance, and we enjoyed a lavish sumptuous breakfast that added to the joy of the morning. Great time together.

Tree is Life. Let's keep planting hope, one sapling at a time.



RCDS RINGS IN A NEW ERA AS KAVAL VERMA TAKES THE HELM

July 27, 2025



On the evening of July 27, 2025, the Rotary Club of Delhi South (RCDS) marked a historic and joyous occasion with the installation of Rtn. Kaval Verma as its 57th President. The evening was marked a significant milestone in RCDS's proud legacy — for the first time in 56 years, the club was to be led by a woman.

The evening commenced with the Governor's Official visit. The RCDS Board of Directors met with the District Governor and the dignitaries. It was a robust meeting with receiving great support for our projects.

During the Installation ceremony that followed, from the outset, the energy was electric. Guests were welcomed into elegantly arranged banquet halls. Emcees Rtn. Kriti Makhija and Rtn. Dr. Shweta Javali brought their trademark warmth and wit to the proceedings, captivating the audience with musical notes, lighthearted quips, and humorous trivia. Their chemistry on stage transformed what could have been a formal installation into a vibrant, engaging Rotary family evening.

Adding texture to the ceremony was the beautiful lamp-lighting ceremony accompanied by a traditional Ganesh invocation by R'anne Rita Kumar, reminding everyone of the spiritual and cultural heritage that binds Rotary service.

The ceremony was graced by a distinguished array of Rotary leaders: DG Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani and First Lady Rtn. Monica Gugnani as Chief Guests, IPDG Rtn. Mahesh Trikha and Rtn Sujata Trikha, DGN Rtn. Dr. Pushpa Sethi and Dr. Ashok Sethi, PDGs Rtn. Deepak Kapur, Rtn. Hemant Ahuja, Rtn. Ashok Kantoor, AKS Vivek Gaur along with Assistant Governors and District Officers. Each offered their congratulations, with special mention of RCDS's consistent leadership in the Rotary community. DG Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani, in his warm address, acknowledged the club's legacy and promised full district support for the Club projects.

The heart of the evening was, of course, the installation of President Kaval Verma, who accepted the collar from DG Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani amidst thunderous applause. Her address was both poised and passionate. She said, "It's about embracing collective strength, about unity, and about standing on the shoulders of those who served before me." She laid out her vision for Rotary Year 2025–26 — themed "Unite for Good" — emphasising collaboration, inclusion, and sustainable impact.

A dynamic Board of Directors for 2025–26 was introduced with a blend of humour and pride. With a mix of seasoned Rotarians and newer faces, the team reflects the club's evolving DNA — rooted in tradition.

The evening could not end without humour and poetry. Rtn. Deepak Kapoor, known for his eloquence, delivered the Vote of Thanks in his inimitable shayari style — blending rhyme, reverence, and gentle humour, summarising the sentiments in the room.

Followed by a delectable dinner of Indian and Oriental multi-cuisine delicacies, the aroma of which wafting through the air, the stage was set for an evening that would be both memorable and meaningful.

This wasn't just an installation — it was a celebration of togetherness, of leadership with heart, and of Rotary at its very best.

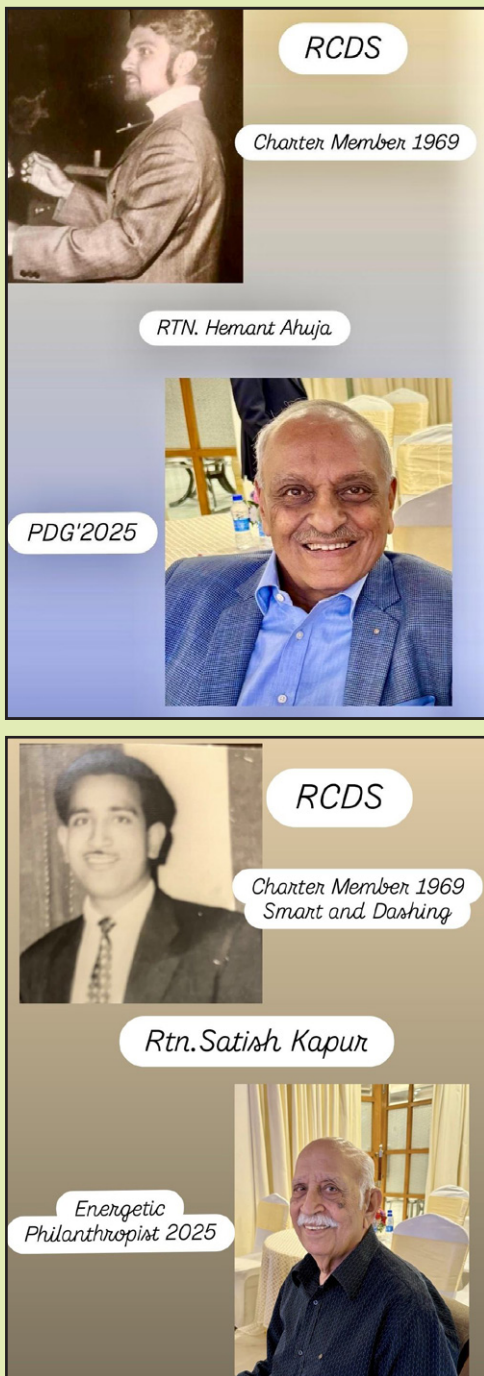
As RCDS steps boldly into 2025–26, under the leadership of President Kaval and her Board, one thing is certain: the club remains committed to impactful service, inclusive leadership, and a deep sense of Rotary fellowship. With strong District support, passionate members, and a roadmap of high-impact projects, the new year holds immense promise.

And as one Past President aptly put it over dessert: "We've had 56 great years — and now we begin the golden era."



GLORIOUS REFLECTIONS

"Smiling and handsome then. Smiling and handsome now"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Reenu Kochhar	06-Aug
Pankaj Chadha	10-Aug
B. K. Garodia	13-Aug
Dharam Batra	13-Aug
Rita Bhasin	20-Aug
Ajay Kumar	29-Aug



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Kausy & S Madhavan	26-Aug
Dimple & Amarjit	26-Aug

WHY DO ROTARIANS SHAKE HANDS SO OFTEN?

Ever wondered why Rotary meetings are filled with so many handshakes? It's not just politeness — it's tradition!

In the early 1900s, when Rotary was still young, members would greet each other with a firm handshake to symbolize trust, equality, and fellowship. Unlike formal bows or hierarchical gestures, the handshake reflected Rotary's core principle: Service Above Self — on equal footing.

Bonus trivia: Paul Harris, Rotary's founder, believed that personal friendship was the cement that held the organization together — and what better way to begin a friendship than with a handshake?

So next time you greet a fellow Rotarian, remember — you're part of a century-old chain of connection!

FUN FACT OR LIFE HACK? YOU DECIDE!

Did you know... your brain uses the same energy as a 10-watt bulb while you're awake? That's right — even when you're just sitting and thinking about whether to eat that second piece of cake, your brain is glowing with power (figuratively, of course).

But wait — here's a twist:

Your brain is also most creative when you're a little sleepy. So the next time you're lying in bed, half-asleep and you think of a million-dollar idea... maybe do write it down. (Just don't trust it till morning.)

And while we're at it —

- Bananas are technically berries.
- Tomatoes went from being feared (once thought poisonous!) to pizza royalty.
- You can't hum while holding your nose. (Tried it, didn't you?)

Life's little curiosities are everywhere — and they're what keep us young at heart, curious in spirit, and occasionally distracted in meetings.

So stay curious. Stay quirky. And never stop asking, **"Wait, is that really true?"**