



ASHOKA NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2025

ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH

R. I. President: Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

District Governor: Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CLUB

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026



As we approach the close of the first six months of this Rotary year, it is both gratifying and humbling to reflect on the journey we have undertaken together. These months have been truly fruitful—marked by impactful community projects, enriching and thought-provoking speaker meetings, and fellowships that strengthened our bonds beyond Rotary.

What stands out most is the collective spirit with which our members have stepped forward—giving their time, expertise, and resources selflessly. Each initiative, whether

in service, fellowship, or learning, has reinforced the core values that define Rotary Club of Delhi South.

While we take a moment to reflect, we also look ahead with renewed purpose. There is still much to be done. We have been deeply blessed to receive Global Grants and meaningful CSR contributions, which will allow us to further strengthen and scale our flagship projects—Leprosy Care and Rehabilitation, Gift of Life, Nari Shakti and Atmanirbhar initiatives, Cervical Cancer prevention, and skilling programs that restore dignity and independence. These opportunities place a greater responsibility on us, and I am confident that our club will rise to the occasion.

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support, guidance, and encouragement we have received from our District Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani. His vision, leadership, and constant motivation have been instrumental in enabling us to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Much of what we have been able to achieve would

not have been possible without his steadfast backing.

RCDS stands tall and strong because of its committed members and their enduring philanthropic spirit. Together, we continue to translate compassion into action and intent into meaningful, measurable change.

As we celebrate the season of Christmas, may it bring peace, joy, and abundant blessings to you and your loved ones. May the New Year usher in good health, renewed energy, and many more opportunities for service, fellowship, and collective growth. Thank you for your continued trust, participation, and support. Together, we will continue to serve with purpose and pride.

"Service Above Self"

Wishing you all joyful Happy New Year, filled with good health, happiness and continued fellowship as we move forward together in the true spirit of Rotary.

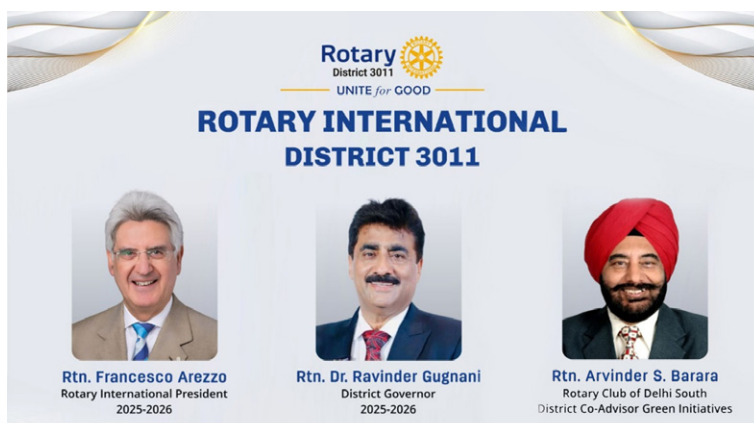
Warm Regards and Happy Cheer.

**Rtn Kaval Verma &
Rtn Shailen Verma**
President 2025–26
Rotary Club of Delhi South

OUR FUTURE LEADER

December 1, 2025

Rtn. Arvinder S. Brara has been selected as District Co-Advisor Green Initiatives for RY 2025-26 - under the leadership of Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani, DG 2025-26 for District 3011.



DISTRICT EVENT - SISTER B. K. SHIWANI

December 7, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Awakening your
BEST SELF

BK Shivani
International Motivational Speaker

7th December 2025
4.30 PM - 7.00 PM

**VENUE: SIRIFORT AUDITORIUM,
AUGUST KRANTI MARG, NEW DELHI**

Organised by-
Brahma Kumaris
Hosts
Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani & Monika Gugnani
District Governor 2025-26
R.I. District 3011

Rotary Club of Delhi Central
Rtn. Dr. Neelam Sethi
Club President
Rtn. Amit Modi
Club Secretary

Rotary Club of Delhi Central Next
Rtn. Dr. Priyanka Sethi
Club President
Rtn. Gaurav Gupta
Club Secretary

On 7th December 2025, the District Governor organized a motivational seminar on Awakening Your Best Self by Sister B. K. Shiwani from Brahma Kumaris. The seminar was very well attended with a full house at Siri Fort Auditorium.

As Sister Shivani teaches us, happiness is not given by people or situations—it is created by our own mind. The moment we expect others to behave a certain way for us to remain happy, we give away our power.

People may hurt us with their words or actions, but they can disturb us only if we allow their negativity to enter our mind. Pain may come from outside; suffering begins within. When we choose not to react emotionally, we protect our peace.

Our karmas can remain pure in every situation when our responses are guided by awareness, not ego. Anger creates anger; calmness dissolves it. Firmness without bitterness is purity in action. The mind is extremely powerful. One thought can create peace or unrest. When we underestimate the mind, it controls us. When we train it consciously, we become free. Remaining positive does not mean denying problems—it means facing every circumstance with inner stability and acceptance. When the mind is strong, circumstances lose their power.

We are the creators of our thoughts, our karmas, and our happiness.

This inspiring seminar was attended by PP Rtn Vinod Poddar, R'anne Rekha Poddar, Rtn Amarnath Goyal, Rtn Vaneeta Kapur, R'anne Rita Kumar, Rtn Shailen Verma and Prodent Rtn Kaval Verma.



CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

December 10-11, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

Building a Safer, Healthier Generation

Under the visionary leadership and guidance of our District Governor, Dr. Ravi Gugnani ji, we are pleased to share that Rotary District 3011 and Rotary District 3000 (Tamil Nadu) joined hands to successfully vaccinate 1,074 children across Dindigul, Theni, and surrounding remote villages of Tamil Nadu on 10th and 11th December 2025.

The programme reached children in schools and colleges located in remote and underserved areas, ensuring access to preventive healthcare where it is most needed.

Rotary Club of Delhi South had the privilege of being the

Lead Club, with valuable support from Rotary Club of Delhi South East and Rotary Club of Faridabad One.

We express our sincere gratitude to our generous donors, Macawber Beekay and Serum Institute of India – Schott Poonawalla, whose support made this impactful initiative possible. This camp primarily covered the second dose of vaccination and was executed smoothly, marking it as a significant success.

Another meaningful step forward in our collective commitment towards the health, welfare, and well-being of children, truly reflecting the spirit of Service Above Self.



CHILDREN'S EYE CHECK CAMP

December 11, 2025 - Sankalp Munirka

AREA OF FOCUS : MOTHER & CHILD

Rotary Club of Delhi South conducted a very successful eye-screening camp today at the Sankalp School Centre in Munirka, in collaboration with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Over 200 children aged 5-10 years were screened, and those requiring correction will receive eye glasses free of cost. The camp was well organised by President Rtn Kaval Verma and was truly impactful for the community - a meaningful step towards child health and education.



NAI DISHA - BOOK DISTRIBUTION

December 12, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY

Rotary Club of Delhi Douth is closely associated with Nai Disha NGO, where we have been privileged to support the education of children of ragpickers and daily-wage labourers—children who strive for a better future despite significant challenges.

As part of this commitment, RCDS contributed Rs. 25,000 towards books for these underserved children, which were distributed to the students on 12th December 2025 by President Rtn Kaval Verma and PP Rtn Pramod Agarwal.. It was truly heart-warming to meet the children, interact with them, and witness their enthusiasm for learning. Observing their classrooms and co-curricular activities was a powerful reminder of the transformative impact that access to education and basic resources can have on young lives. Moments like these reaffirm our belief in Service Above Self and strengthen our resolve to continue supporting initiatives that nurture education, dignity, and opportunity for every child.



NAI DISHA - BOOK DISTRIBUTION

December 12, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : MOTHER & CHILD

Rotary Club of Delhi South has established a Skill Centre – Sewing at Nai Disha NGO. We are proud to share that we have donated sewing machines through which over 40 girls are currently receiving training. Even more inspiring is that their learning has now progressed to advanced fashion-stitching skills. President Rtn Kaval Verma and PP Rtn Pramod Agarwal were at the Skill Centre on 12th December 2025. On completion of their training, each participant receives an official certificate from Singer, adding strong credibility to

their skill set. The products these young women create are truly impressive—high-quality items that are being produced for bulk sale and even export.

This initiative stands as a shining example of “Our Women, Our Strength.”

We are also pleased to announce that a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp will soon be conducted at the centre, further strengthening our commitment to women's health and empowerment.



NARI SHAKTI ATMANIRBHAR LAUNCH

December 12, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Atmanirbhar and Nari Shakti Vocational Program Launch

The inaugural ceremony of our Atmanirbhar and Nari Shakti Vocational Program of Rotary Club of Delhi South on 10th December 2025 was truly heartening and inspiring. This is an empowering initiative supported by the Global Grant. The program went exceedingly well and reflected the collective commitment of RCDS, Arya Samaj and Etasha Society. President Rtn Kaval Verma and PP Rtn Pramod Agarwal also warmly welcomed the new batch and wished them every success as they begin their journey toward self-reliance. A heartfelt thank you to PP Rtn Som Dua, R'anne Rajni Dua, Rtn Inderjeet Singh, PP Rtn Lalit Sawhney, PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal, R'anne Sarita Kapoor, and Rtn Shailen Verma whose presence, support and encouragement made this program meaningful and memorable. Together, we continue to live the true spirit of Service Above Self!



CHILDREN'S EYE CHECK CAMP

December 14, 2025 - Shiva Camp Vasant Vihar

AREA OF FOCUS : MOTHER & CHILD

Rotary Club of Delhi South conducted a very successful eye-screening camp today at the Sankalp School Centre in Munirka, in collaboration with Dr. Shroff's Charity Eye Hospital. Over 200 children aged 5-10 years were screened, and those requiring correction will receive eye glasses free of cost. The camp was well organised by President Rtn Kaval Verma and was truly impactful for the community - a meaningful step towards child health and education.



DIGITAL VITTIYA AND CYBER SURAKSHA SHIVAR LAUNCH

December 17, 2025 - Shiva Camp Vasant Vihar

AREA OF FOCUS : COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

With immense pleasure and pride, we launched our Digital, Vittiya and Cyber Suraksha Shivar on 17th December 2025. This is an empowering JOINT INITIATIVE OF ROTARY CLUB DELHI SOUTH, ACRE AND ETASHA SOCIETY. In this initiative, we will be training 2500 adults of over 40 years of age from underserved communities, for Digital Literacy and Cyber Security, enabling them to navigate the digital world with confidence and safety. This CSR will also cover 100 youth for our Nari Shakti and Atmanirbhar programme. The inaugural session was attended by 50 women and men from under served communities, who engaged actively in learning about digital literacy, basic financial awareness, and cyber safety. This initiative aims to empower individuals with the knowledge needed to use digital tools safely and confidently. We wish the new batch of trainees all the best as they embark on their journey toward self-reliance and dignity.



CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP - NOIDA

December 21, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 21st December 2025, Rotary Club of Delhi South organised a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at Bal Bharati School, Noida. A total of 152 children (boys and girls) were successfully vaccinated with the second dose, taking another firm step towards cancer prevention and long-term community health. A special note of appreciation to Kaval Verma, President, Rotary Club of Delhi South, for personally being present and efficiently executing the project on ground. We also acknowledge the committed efforts of Vandana Bhalla and Shailen Verma, whose support were instrumental in the smooth conduct of the camp. Together, we continue to advance Rotary's mission of Disease Prevention and Treatment, protecting our children and strengthening our communities



CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

December 29, 2025

AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 29 December 2025, the Rotary Club of Delhi South, in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Delhi, conducted a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at DAV Public School, Shreshta Vihar under a Global Grant. A total of 172 children received their second dose of the HPV vaccine. The camp was supported by Rotarians from both clubs and was efficiently executed by the medical team from BLK Max. The Rotary Club of Delhi South was represented by Rtn. Vandana Bhalla, who coordinated and oversaw the on-ground execution of the programme.



CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

December 21, 2025 - Shiva Camp Vasant Vihar



The Rotary Club of Delhi South had planned an exciting Christmas Fellowship at the outdoor patio of Panchshila Club on 21st December 2025, eagerly anticipated as the final fellowship of the year. However, just a day before the event, with a high AQI and extremely cloudy, cold weather, President Rtn. Kaval Verma grew concerned about the comfort and well-being of our members. True to her thoughtful leadership, she immediately put on her thinking cap and reached out through her network to identify an alternative venue that would still capture the festive spirit while ensuring everyone's comfort.

Her efforts led to the perfect choice—the elegant and festive Cedar Clubhouse at Connaught Place.

The evening unfolded beautifully, with members enjoying lively games, hearty laughter, and the warmth of true camaraderie. The snacks and dinner were excellent, adding to the overall experience. With over 50 members in attendance, the fellowship concluded on a high note, leaving everyone with smiles, happy memories, and a wonderful sense of togetherness.

It was indeed a perfect way to close the year—celebrating fellowship, care, and the spirit of Rotary.



DIVINE KIRTAN - BY BHAI CHAMANJEET SINGH JI LAL

December 21, 2025 - Organised by our DG, Dr. Ravi Gugnani

On 21st December 2025, President Rtn. Kaval Verma, PP Rtn. Tridibes Basu, and R'anne Sanghamitra Basu attended the Divine Kirtan by Bhai Chamanjeet Singh Ji Lal, organised by our District Governor, Dr. Ravi Gugnani, at Gugnani Farms. The soulful rendition and spiritually uplifting kirtan were truly celestial, immersing all present in a serene and deeply moving spiritual experience. The kirtan touched our hearts and filled the atmosphere with peace, devotion, and divine grace.

Following this transcendental beginning, the evening seamlessly transitioned into a vibrant and joyous Christmas celebration. The fellowship was warm and engaging, marked by thoughtful attention to every detail—be it the food, music, décor, or overall ambience. Rotarians came together in a spirit of camaraderie, fully immersed in the festive cheer.

District Governor Dr. Ravi Gugnani ji and the Gugnani family personally interacted with each member, inspiring everyone to embrace the joy, togetherness, and true spirit of the season. It was an evening that beautifully blended spirituality with celebration, leaving all present with cherished memories.



REMINISCENCES OF MAYO



Imposing Main Building



Receiving a prize from Mrs. Vijalakshmi Pandit



My middle school hostel - Colvin House



My senior hostel - Ajmer House, with my "Chatri" on the first floor in the foreground

My Alma Mater, MAYO COLLEGE, has just completed 150 years, having been founded in 1875 by the 6th Earl of Mayo, and is known as the 'Eton of the East' for its elite origins. It was originally established for the education of Indian Royalty, but later evolved to serve a broader spectrum of students, maintaining colonial-era architecture and rich traditions.

Though it has been 56 long years since I passed out of Mayo, I clearly recall numerous interesting experiences as if they happened only yesterday, some of which I am penning down :

- a) Though called a 'College', it is actually only a 'School', which originally had all its students from the numerous Princely Kingdoms of Rajasthan. It later attracted boys from diverse backgrounds, including children of top Defence Officers, IAS Officers, State Governors, Railway Board Chairman, and Bollywood, and ofcourse still quite a few from Princely families !
- b) Mayo, located in Ajmer, has a very picturesque surrounding, with two hill masses on either side – Taragarh (on the slopes of which is the famous Dargah Sharif), and Madar on the other (see photo).
- c) I spent a really wonderful 5 years in Mayo, having joined in January 1965, and passed out in December 1969.
- d) When I joined, the Head Boy was Jaideep Samarth, the younger brother of actresses Nutan and Tanuja. During this time the movie 'Chhabili' was screened in School, which was made by their mother Shobana Samarth, to launch the younger daughter Tanuja (mother of Kajol). This had Tanuja frolicking around in a frock, which obviously led to Jaideep being quite embarrassed !
- e) Other celebrities who studied in Mayo include K Natwar Singh, Vivek Oberoi, Vir Sanghvi, Karan Kundra, Sawai Man Singh II of Jaipur, Hari Singh of J&K, Jaswant Singh, and Sultan Said Bin Taimur of Oman.
- f) The well-known Restaurateur and food columnist Jaspal Inder Singh Kalra (Jiggs Kalra), was our portly Basketball Captain, whose most famous Restaurants include 'Masala Library', and 'Farzi Café'.
- g) Many of us joined Mayo at the age of 11, and being away from home for the first time in our lives, obviously home sickness did initially set in. Being extremely busy from early morning to late evening Monday to Saturday, it was on Sunday when loneliness occurred. Our principal, the Englishman Jack Gibson, had devised the perfect solution - on the first Sunday of the January term he made all us new boys hike up to the top of Taragarh, and in the July term to the top of Madar !
- h) When war loomed in September 1965, we were made to dig trenches in the expansive lawns of our hostels. Quite a few times air raid sirens went off, and we were forced to scurry into the trenches. Ajmer was listed as a potential target for Pakistan, with a large strategic railway workshop being located in the city.
- i) During the period of the war, our dinner was served at dusk,

with numerous bedcovers covering the tall windows in the double height roofed Messes, and study time shifted to after dinner, again with full blackout protected windows.

- j) Every Saturday an open-air movie was screened, with students sitting on the steps of the cricket pavilion, and the movie projected onto a large white cloth screen in front. The servant community sat behind the screen, and so enjoyed a mirror image of the movie !
- k) On the movie day, we were served an early continental dinner, followed by 'stick-jaw' (chikki) to munch during the show.
- l) It was compulsory for all students to learn the art of Safa tying, in true Rajasthani style, with a long tail hanging till almost ankle length. Ladies, you only have to manage a 6 yard sari, whereas our Safas were all of 10 yard length !
- m) Participation in all intra-hostel activities was mandatory, which included carrom, chess, table tennis, English and Hindi Debates, and Room neatness !
- n) Every Sunday, with only Christians and Muslims exempt, we had to wear band-gala black coats and safas, and visit our Temple for an Aarti; in the summer months this was indeed a torture.
- o) We had numerous inter-hostel sports and other activity competitions on a regular basis, the most interesting of which was relating to Safa tying. In addition to a match between the best 5 students from each hostel, every hostel could also call upon the ostensibly weakest Safa tying student !
- p) Participation in the main seasonal sports such as Football, Hockey, and Cricket was compulsory, but we were encouraged to also take part in other sports including swimming, diving, boxing, cross country running, and athletics. Many of us also undertook training in Life Saving (Swimming), under the aegis of the 'Prince of Wales Royal Life Saving Society', and proudly hold Certificates to this effect.
- q) Every year in February we celebrated our Annual Day, which included a Prize Distribution awarding students for various activities. Our Chief Guests have included Presidents Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, and also Dr. Vijaylakshmi Pandit (see photo).
- r) Jaipur, being only few hours away, was also a port of call. The 61st Cavalry is a unique horse-mounted regiment of the Indian Army, renowned as one of the world's last operational non-mechanised cavalry unit, and boasts numerous battle honours, including the famous Battle of Haifa. On its Raising Day, it showcases its prowess in equestrian sports with burning mashals, and also tent pegging with the pegs in flames (soldiers galloping at full speed and picking-up burning pegs with their spears), all of which were an edge-of-the seats experience.
- s) With an immense campus, many of us used bicycles whenever permitted. On Sundays we would rope-in one of our favourite Teachers, in whose company we were allowed to go out on picnics, with poori-aloo packed from our Mess.



The surrounding desert region bore interesting features – wells close to each other but having vastly different coloured water, from red to blue, all with sweet perfectly potable drinking water !

- t) During summers we used to sleep on our hostel lawns, complete with mosquito nets to ward off the thousands of the little pests, and with thick blankets – we could vouch for the fact that summer nights in deserts are really cold!
- u) Bathing was another experience. With the tap water being fairly saline, no soap or shampoo would generate any lather. Only on Sundays were we each given a bucket of hot sweet water, which enabled us to have a weekly hair wash !
- v) One of my good friends and classmate was Shunith Dutt, the son of the renowned fighter pilot Air Vice Marshall Ranjan Dutt. After divorcing his first wife, AVM Dutt married a Belgian lady Claude Marie, and they had a daughter Ayesha. They were our neighbours in the Cantonment of Shillong, when Ayesha was just 8 years old and wore frocks. Ayesha was later crowned Miss Young India 1980, married Jackie Shroff, and is the mother of Tiger Shroff.
- w) To an extent we were spoilt in Mayo – while our own clothes inside our individual cupboards were our own duty and had to always be kept very neat, the hostel staff called ‘Farash’ were assigned to make our beds, and also set-up our beds with mosquito nets when sleeping on the lawns in summer.
- x) Every year on a Saturday night in October, we had a ‘Chowkidari night’. That evening all students served a sit-down dinner to all the staff – cooks, waiters, and Farashes, and later that night all the boys were allocated 2 hour shifts to do ‘chowkidari’ at all our numerous teaching buildings and hostels, with the senior boys being assigned to post midnight shifts. Principal Jack Gibson made rounds the whole night in his maroon open air Willys jeep to check on us ‘chowkidars’; students found to be missing from duty or sleeping, were hauled up in front of the entire school during Assembly the next morning !
- y) During our holidays in summer and winter, the Railways operated special ‘Mayo Special’ trains between Ajmer and Delhi, with all First Class compartments. The train did not travel the traditional route via Jaipur, but instead on the chord line via Reengus and Rewari. At departure from Ajmer we were given packed poori-aloo by our Mess, and once we were seniors, we were able to manage to obtain tandoori chicken through our ‘Farash’s’ ! Alcohol and cigarettes were unheard of at our age in those years.
- z) I passed out in December 1969 in the last batch of Senior Cambridge, for which both the question papers and silky blank answer sheets came from England. While the lights out time used to be 9 p.m., during our last month prior to our final exams, we were permitted to study late. My room had a balcony with a ‘chatri’ in true Rajasthani palatial architecture, and to bear the very harsh winter temperature, that too on an open balcony, we used a element type electric stove on which we slowly boiled milk while studying and continuously stirring the milk, sitting in the open on a gadda draping a razai, the cold bearable thanks to the stove, and at the end of which we had freshly made ‘khoya’ to snack on !

With so many highly diverse experiences as above, my 5 years spent in Mayo were truly **‘UNFORGETTABLE’ !**

DECEMBER IN INDIA'S HISTORY

(Some shorts)

a) S.P. Marg - a ‘RUNWAY’

In end-November/early-December 1971, when war clouds loomed, practices were regularly held for air raid sirens and blackouts in many cities, including Delhi. On 2nd December, representing IIT Delhi, I played a semi-final squash match at the

St. Stephens courts. As luck would have it, we lost that match, and hence we did not have to travel on 3rd December evening for the final match all the way from Dhaula Kuan to the north campus after dark. That evening when Pakistan launched numerous pre-emptive strikes on our airbases, it would have been an uphill task driving the long way back during the total blackout. In spite of the air raid sirens blaring out and the entire city plunged into darkness, the streetlights on S.P. Marg somehow remained on ! The Defence authorities went into a tizzy, since a well-lit straight road could easily be mistaken for a runway ! Fortunately the problem was quickly corrected, and the enemy aircraft focused on attacking numerous actual fighter bases.

b) ‘IKKIS’

This month the movie ‘Ikkis’ is being released, which is based on India’s youngest, at 21, Param Vir Chakra awardee, 2nd Lt. Arun Khetrpal. The film has Amitabh’s grandson Agastya Nanda playing the role of the brave officer who destroyed numerous enemy tanks in the famous Battle of Basantar. In spite of being severely injured, heavily outnumbered, his driver killed, and ordered by his Commanding Officer to abandon his burning tank, he answered “No Sir, my main gun is still firing, and I will take these B..... with me”. He managed to destroy three more tanks, which left one Pak tank and his lone tank facing each other. In this one-on-one fight, one tank had to survive and not the other. Unfortunately Arun’s tank took a direct hit, and he succumbed to his injuries. The movie also has the legendary actor Dharmendra portraying the role of Arun’s Father, Brig. M.L. Khetrpal, which it turns out became his last onscreen performance. Most Indian Army Cantonments, and other cities, have training establishments, roads, or colonies, named after Arun in his memory (including Arun Vihar in NOIDA).

c) INDIA'S AIRBORNE ASSAULT

On 11th December 1971, the Indian Air Forces led the sub-continent’s first major airborne assault – the Tanguil Airborne Assault. It is regarded as one of the largest – if not the largest – airborne operation since World War II. Various aircraft including AN-12’s, Fairchild Packets, and Dakotas paradropped a 750 strong 2 PARA battalion group, opening the axis to Dhaka, effectively cutting off Pakistan Army’s 93rd Infantry Brigade, which was attempting to withdraw to Dhaka to bolster its defence.

d) THE DEFENDER OF SRINAGAR

Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon was a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force, and when the Pakistan Air Force attacked the highly strategic Srinagar airfield, he was the only aircraft which got airborne in time. He famously defended the Air Base all alone on 14th December 1971, engaging six highly superior enemy Sabre jets in his obsolete Gnat fighter aircraft, destroying some, and fighting till his own aircraft was shot down. By his action he gave time for more Indian fighter aircraft to join the air battle. For his exemplary bravery, he was awarded the highest gallantry award, the Param Vir Chakra, posthumously – till today he remains India’s only PVC Air Force Officer.

e) SURRENDER OF 93000 SOLDIERS

By mid-December 1971, the Pakistan Army in East Pakistan had suffered enormous losses, and a complete loss of will to fight on. They were surrounded by Indian Armed Force, as also the Mukti Bahini, with the fear of reprisals by the locals as a result of the torture they had inflicted on them.

Pakistan’s surrender to India happened on 16th December, 1971 in Dhaka, marking the end of the Bangladesh Liberation War. On this day, 93,000 Pakistan’s soldiers, led by Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi, signed the instrument of Surrender to Lt. Gen. J.S. Arora, GOC-in-Chief of Indian and Bangladesh forces, leading to East Pakistan becoming the independent nation of Bangladesh it is today. This was the largest surrender of troops since World War II, with the war lasting only 13 days.

Rtn Alok Bhargava



SOM DUA ENTREPRENEURSHIP MEETING

AREA OF FOCUS : COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship Programme, BYST

As part of Entrepreneurship Programme, BYST conducted Training Program in collaboration with CII on the subject of BUILDING CYBER AWARENESS AND FINANCIAL HYGIENE on 28th November 2025 at Faridabad.

About 50 Participants & Entrepreneurs participated. Senior Mentor from BYST, PP Rtn Som Dua introduced BYST Entrepreneurship Development Program & Role of Entrepreneurship for Inclusive Growth, Prosperity, Sustainability & Self Reliance. BYST Trainer Kaushal Kishore explained the need for adoption of Digital Technology & Cyber Security required. Participants showed great interest in question answer session.

Program was concluded with vote of thanks for BYST, CII & Participants.



RESTORING HEALTH TO REBUILD LIVELIHOOD



Smt. Ram Sukhi is a survivor of severe domestic abuse, which resulted in permanent hearing loss in one ear. Doctors advised urgent surgical intervention to prevent further complications. Coming from an extremely vulnerable background, she was unable to afford the cost of medical treatment. President Kaval Verma was approached by Rtn. Kriti Makhija to assist Smt. Ram Sukhi in this humanitarian case.

Recognising the urgency of her situation, President Kaval Verma personally intervened and explored multiple avenues to ensure that Smt. Ram Sukhi received timely medical care on an FOC (Free of Cost) basis. In keeping with the service ethos of the Rotary Club of Delhi South, President Kaval reached out to Rtn. Alok Agarwal at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, seeking support for the case.

Smt. Ram Sukhi was evaluated by Dr Alok Agarwal, who successfully performed the required surgery on 7th December 2025. Her stitches and dressing were removed on 13th December 2025, and the surgery was declared a success.

This intervention not only addressed Smt. Ram Sukhi's urgent medical needs but also restored a sense of dignity, hope, and livelihood — reaffirming Rotary's commitment to compassionate service for the most vulnerable.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Suneel Bhasin	05 Jan
Deepak Kapoor	07 Jan
Dolly Brara	11 Jan
Simi Bhatia	14 Jan
Ashima Agarwal	24 Jan
Rajeev Seoni	27 Jan



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Rashmi Datt & Vivek Narayan Gour	03 Jan
Kiran & Anil K. Agarwal	22 Jan
Geeta & Rajiv Gujral	24 Jan
Garima & Hemant Sultania	26 Jan

