



UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

**ASHOKA**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
FEBRUARY, 2026

## ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH

R. I. President: Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

District Governor: Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CLUB

#### Holi Greetings & Rotary Reflections

Dear RCDS Family,  
Holi arrives not only as a festival of colours, but as a celebration of renewal, unity, and the triumph of positivity over all adversity. It dissolves barriers, rekindles bonds, and fills our hearts with joy and fellowship.

In many ways, the spirit of Holi reflects the very essence of Rotary Club of Delhi South.

Each colour represents diversity — of thought, profession, culture, and compassion. Individually, we are distinct; collectively, we create a vibrant canvas of service. Through our initiatives in healthcare, community welfare, youth development, and humanitarian outreach, we continue to live the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self in its truest form.

February has been particularly meaningful for our Club. We were privileged to host an exceptional Speaker Meeting, where we heard insights that inspired us, challenged our thinking, and reinforced the importance of leadership rooted in courage and purpose. Such

engagements elevate our fellowship and remind us that Rotary is not merely about projects — it is about ideas, values, and transformative conversations.

As we look ahead, the Club Assembly was an opportunity to collectively reflect upon and share the achievements of our Club. It will be an opportunity to review our progress, celebrate milestones, and align ourselves with renewed focus for the months ahead. Transparency, participation, and shared ownership are the pillars that strengthen a vibrant Rotary Club like RCDS.

Holi symbolizes forgiveness and fresh beginnings. Let us embrace this spirit as we continue to work together — harmoniously, respectfully, and purposefully — for the greater good.

May the colours of Holi inspire us:

- To spread joy where there is despair
- To bring hope where there is uncertainty
- To strengthen fellowship through understanding
- To lead with integrity and serve with compassion

Wishing you and your families a vibrant, safe, and joyous Holi.

With Warm and Colourful Rotary Regards,

**Kaval Verma**

President 2025–26

Rotary Club of Delhi South



# ABHYUDAYA

February 1, 2026

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISTRICT CONFERENCE



The District Conference Abhyudaya, held on 31st January 2026 and 1st February 2026, was a truly memorable and meaningful experience for all who attended. Our District Governor, Rtn. Dr. Ravinder Gugnani ji, along with his dedicated team, went the extra mile to curate an exceptional conference—bringing together outstanding speakers, a warm and elegant ambience, excellent food, and meticulous attention to every detail. His vision of making the conference special for everyone was clearly realised.

The curation and execution of the two-day conference raised the bar to an entirely new level. The impressive lineup of Rotary dignitaries, eminent speakers, Bollywood personalities, and gifted singers made the sessions enthralling, inspiring, and thoroughly entertaining.

RCDS is proudly represented by our PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal in the inaugural session, to have got the Hon'ble Governor of Haryana and all the three Awardees to participate in the District Conference. Kavi Chirag Jain was also arranged by our PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal.

We are deeply grateful for the enriching two-day experience and the beautiful memories created. The conference was attended by President Rtn. Kaval Verma, PP Rtn. Arvinder Brara and R'anne Dolly Brara, PP Rtn. Lalit Sawhney, PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal, PP Rtn. Pramod Agarwal, Rtn. Dr. Neeraj Bhalla, and Rtn. Vandana Bhalla. We are especially proud to have showcased our impactful projects on Cervical Cancer Awareness and Skill Development, reflecting Rotary's enduring commitment to service above self.

# SPEAKER MEETING

February 14, 2026

## AREA OF FOCUS : SPEAKER MEETING



On 14th February 2026, the Rotary Club of Delhi South hosted an engaging Speaker Meeting at The Viceroy, The Claridges.

The meeting was called to order by PP Rtn. Rajiv Gujral in the absence of President Rtn. Kaval Verma. PP Rtn. Rajiv Gujral extended a warm welcome to everyone present and gave special acknowledgement to the distinguished guest speaker, Mr. Inderjit Singh, a pioneer of adventure tourism in India. He also informed the members that President Rtn. Kaval Verma, Hon. Secretary Rtn. Dr. Shweta Javali, and Treasurer Rtn. Naman Agarwal were unable to attend the meeting due to family exigencies, and members prayed for the well-being of their families.

PP Rtn Rajiv Gujral gave an introduction for our speaker. Our speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Inderjit Singh, widely regarded as one of the pioneers of adventure tourism in India. Over four decades, his professional journey has traversed sporting travel, adventure leadership, sustainable ecotourism, and international expedition management.

Born in the North East, Mr. Singh's formative years were deeply influenced by his father's military career with the Assam Rifles. He shared compelling anecdotes of growing up amidst armed

convoys, frontier postings, and historic battle sites — including evenings spent overlooking the famed “tennis court” battlefield of the Burma Campaign. These early exposures to military history, geography, and frontier life ignited a lifelong passion for exploration.

He also recounted the significant role his father played in the strategic planning related to the escape of Tenzin Gyatso into India — a historical episode that further shaped his worldview.

Professionally, Mr. Singh's journey began with Mountain Travel Nepal and Tiger Tops India, after which he founded Tiger Paw Adventures in September 1982. At a time when India lacked even a five-day work week, 4x4 vehicles, satellite television, mobile phones, or credit cards, promoting adventure tourism was no small challenge. It took nearly five years to convince a major company to support weekend adventure programmes.

He conducted some of the earliest white-water rafting training programmes for the Indian Army and later led expeditions for the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy. His rafting expedition on the swollen Ganga in 1988 with expert Canadian river guides marked a turning point in professional river expeditions in India.

His company also organized

mountaineering expeditions for the British Army and Royal Air Force, and he pioneered outdoor management, team-building, and leadership programmes for multinational corporations such as American Express, HSBC, ABN Amro, Philip Morris, as well as leading educational institutions in India, the UK, the US, and Australia.

Today, Mr. Singh runs an eco-wilderness lodge on the Ganga — Spashram River Mountain Retreat — where he has nurtured nature and sustainable hospitality for over three decades. He continues to lead special interest expeditions to Central Asia and Africa, reflecting his enduring commitment to exploration and ecological stewardship.

The session was inspiring, informative, and deeply reflective — a reminder that vision, persistence, and courage can carve entirely new industries. It was an afternoon that resonated strongly with Rotary's spirit of leadership, service, and purposeful living.

The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Rtn. Hardeep Singh Anand, who expressed gratitude to the guest speaker and all members for their presence and participation. A token of appreciation was presented to the speaker by R'anne Neeraja Khanna.



# PP RTN ANIL K AGARWAL

February 20, 2026

## AREA OF FOCUS : PUBLIC IMAGE



At the request of Mr. Nirmal Minda, the newly elected President of ASSOCHAM, PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal have been actively supporting & mentoring him over the past few weeks to strengthen the organization's strategic direction.

On 20th February 2026, at the MC meeting in Ahmedabad, PP Rtn Anil K

Agarwal has been elevated to be a part of the Special Executive Committee (SEC) - the apex body that oversees the Managing Committee and supervises all aspects of ASSOCHAM's functioning. He has also been appointed, Chairman- International Affairs of ASSOCHAM.

Enclosed are a few photos with the Chief Guest of the function : Shri Harsh Sanghavi Ji, Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister, Shri Manoj Das, Chief Secretary and Business leaders of Gujarat .

We wish Anil ji all the best for his successful tenure and earning more and more accolades..

# MAGICAL MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA, SUR UTSAV

February 23, 2026

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISTRICT EVENT

23rd February 2026 marks a very momentous day for Rotarians worldwide. On this day Rotary completed 121 years of Service Above Self. To commemorate this significant milestone, Rotary District 3011 came together to celebrate a magical musical extravaganza, Sur Utsav, 7 Notes 7 Focus areas. It was an unforgettable nite where our



Rotarian singers transformed the Seven Focus Areas of our esteemed organization into living melodies. Singers from several clubs of District 3011 sang their hearts out as each performance carried emotion, commitment, and the spirit of service that defines Rotary. The enthusiastic response of the houseful audience created even more excitement and fun to the evening.

Rotary Club of Delhi South was represented

by R'anne Rita Kumar who chose the focus area of Mother and Child. Rita sang the Bhajan Jai Jag Janani Devi. Ma Durga is the universal mother of entire humanity and protects, nourishes and gives us strength to live life in the most spiritual way. Our District Governor Rtn Dr Ravi Gugnani ji and his team felt it fit in perfectly with the theme as well as the Invocation song. The rendition of the Devi Stuti set the right atmosphere for the special evening. All the 34 singers sang with great passion. Some singers chose the karaoke route. Others were supported by live musicians on the keyboard, guitar and percussion.

At the conclusion District Governor Rtn Dr Ravi Gugnani ji congratulated all the singers and gave a heartfelt appreciation to Rtn. Preeti Gugnani, District Chair Events, whose thoughtful conceptualization gave the evening its structure, soul, and purpose. Rtn. Binita Kakar anchored the evening with warmth and dignity. The jugalbandi by Mona Puri and Vandana Vadhera as Lata and Asha was very entertaining.

The collective Rotary pledge resonated



deeply, reminding us that our strength lies in unity and action. The esteemed judges were Dr. N. Subramanian and Dr. Lalitha Subramanian, whose wisdom, fairness, and encouragement elevated the spirit of the competition. The recognitions and awards gave a lot of encouragement to the singers.

The function concluded with fellowship and exquisite dinner that strengthened bonds within Rotary world of NCR. It reminded us that Rotary is service in action, leadership in commitment, and fellowship in celebration.

The Sur Utsav was a grand success as we celebrated Rotary's 121st birthday in such a beautiful and meaningful way.

**R'anne Rita Kumar**



# CLUB ASSEMBLY

February 28, 2026

On 28th February 2026, the Rotary Club of Delhi South convened its Club Assembly marked by transparency, fellowship, and purposeful engagement.

President Rtn Kaval Verma presented a comprehensive project update covering Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, detailing the club's initiatives, service projects, fellowships, speaker meetings, off-site engagements, and district participation since the commencement of the term on 1st July 2025. The presentation reflected the scale, diversity, and structured execution of the club's activities, demonstrating alignment with Rotary's strategic priorities and measurable community impact.

She further outlined the roadmap for the next four months, sharing upcoming projects and fellowship initiatives designed to sustain momentum, deepen engagement, and strengthen the club's service footprint.

Rtn Naman Agarwal presented the financial statement for the Rotary year up until 27th February 2026, ensuring clarity and accountability in reporting. The transparent financial overview was well received and appreciated by members.

A proud moment of the evening was the presentation of Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) pins by PDG Hemant Ahuja and PDG Deepak Kapur to:

- Rtn Vaneeta Kapur
- Rtn Sanjeev Krishan
- Rtn Dr Neeraj Bhalla
- Rtn Rajinder Sehgal

The recognitions were met with warm applause and a strong sense of collective pride.

PP Rtn Anil K Agarwal commended President Kaval Verma for her leadership and the club's impactful achievements thus far. Special appreciation was also expressed for

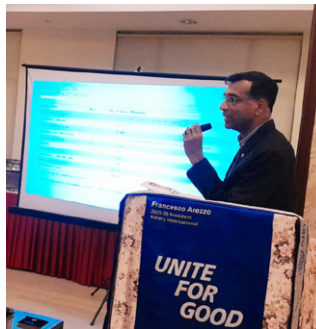
Rtn Vandana Bhalla for her unwavering dedication and commitment to the Cervical Cancer initiatives, which continue to create meaningful social impact.

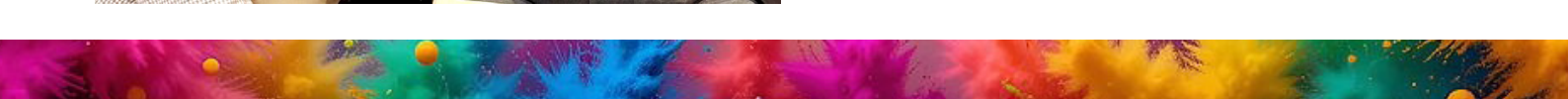
With over 50 members in attendance, the Assembly was characterized by vibrant interaction, constructive dialogue, and genuine camaraderie. Members actively participated, shared perspectives, asked insightful questions, and reinforced the spirit of shared ownership. The atmosphere reflected not just governance, but fellowship — strengthening bonds that go beyond projects and numbers.

The Assembly concluded on a note of optimism, unity, and renewed commitment — reaffirming that when Rotarians come together with purpose and trust, meaningful service follows.

Service Above Self

Unite for Good





# CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

February 3, 2026 - G D Goenka School, Model Town

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 3rd February 2026, we continued our commitment to preventive healthcare and community service by successfully conducting a vaccination camp at G D Goenka School, Model Town, where 84 girls were vaccinated. The enthusiasm and cooperation of both parents and young participants ensured that the programme was conducted smoothly, efficiently, and with meaningful impact. Initiatives like these reaffirm our belief that timely prevention, sustained awareness, and collective effort play a vital role in safeguarding health and building a healthier society. We are grateful to President Rtn Kaval Verma & Rtn Vandana Bhalla who contributed their time, support, and goodwill in making this programme a success.



# CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

February 4, 2026 - Salwan Girls' School, Rajendra Nagar

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 4th February 2026, Rotary Club Delhi South along with Rotary Club Delhi Safdarjung and Rotary Club of Delhi Qutub, jointly organised a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp as part of our continued commitment to preventive healthcare.

The camp was successfully conducted at Salwan Girls' School, Rajendra Nagar, where 154 girls were vaccinated. The programme witnessed excellent coordination among the participating clubs and wholehearted cooperation from the school authorities, parents, and students, ensuring a smooth and well-managed vaccination drive.

This collaborative initiative reflects Rotary's strength in partnership and its unwavering focus on early prevention, awareness, and community well-being. By protecting young girls at the right age, we are taking meaningful steps towards reducing the burden of cervical cancer and building a healthier future.



# CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS SESSION

February 13, 2026 - Ramjas School, Anand Parbat

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 13th February 2026, Rtn Vandana Bhalla held a Cervical Cancer Awareness talk at Anand Parbat Ramjas School. Around 200 parents have their Consent for vaccinating their children



# CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

February 20, 2026 - Sanatan Dharam School, Punjabi Bagh West

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On 20th February 2026, a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp was successfully conducted at Sanatan Dharam School, Punjabi Bagh West. During the camp, 120 young boys and girls were vaccinated as part of our continued commitment to preventive healthcare and early protection against HPV-related cancers. The active cooperation of the school administration, parents, healthcare professionals, and volunteers ensured smooth execution of the programme. Initiatives like these reaffirm our belief that awareness, timely vaccination, and collective action are critical in safeguarding the next generation. We remain committed to expanding our outreach and strengthening community health through sustained preventive initiatives.



# CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

February 23, 2026 - Mahamaya Balika Inter College, Noida

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT

On the occasion of World Rotary Day, celebrating 121 years of Rotary, the Rotary Club of Delhi South (RCDS) conducted a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at Mahamaya Balika Inter College, Noida. A total of 126 girls were vaccinated, reinforcing our continued commitment to preventive healthcare and the fight against cervical cancer through early HPV immunisation. This initiative reflects Rotary's enduring legacy of service, impact, and community wellbeing — truly living the spirit of Service Above Self.



# CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMP

February 24, 2026

## AREA OF FOCUS : DISEASE PREVENTION & TREATMENT



On 24th February 2026, the Rotary Club of Delhi South, under the leadership of Rtn. Vandana Bhalla, District Director – Cancer Initiatives (District 3011), successfully conducted a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp in Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

This impactful programme was a joint initiative of Rotary International District 3011 and Rotary International District 3000, reflecting the strength of inter-district collaboration in advancing preventive healthcare.

The camp was hosted at the prestigious Madurai Medical College, where an impressive 2,500 children were vaccinated — a significant milestone in our ongoing fight against cervical cancer through early prevention.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by PDG Raja Govind and Usha ji, along with the

Dean, senior doctors, faculty members, and students of the institution. Their presence underscored the medical fraternity's strong support for this life-saving initiative.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ravi Gugnani, whose consistent encouragement and strategic backing have strengthened this project across geographies.

This large-scale vaccination drive would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors — Mackaber Beekey and Schott Poonawalla. Their commitment to public health continues to enable meaningful, measurable impact.

Through collective effort, structured execution, and sustained commitment, Rotary continues to demonstrate that preventive healthcare at scale is achievable.

# FESTIVAL OF FADING COLOURS....

“Bura na mano, Holi Hai”, this famous Sholay dialogue used to be our calling card for this festival of colours. This held true for all generations and was accepted and reciprocated with huge smiles and blessings.

We held secret discussions during recess for our school celebrations, small containers containing “pakka rang” hidden deep in pockets along with water balloons which almost always burst in the chaos leaving telling colourful stains behind. This never stopped us as we continued to hunt innocent victims chanting our favourite slogan. This used to be an all inclusive festivity and parents did not question the organic origins of our goods. Teachers weren’t spared either though we chose carefully, marks were important, but the fun continued.

Amazing aromas wafted from the kitchen as recipes were exchanged. There were no fancy invites simply because this was like an open house, everyone dropped in from the whole colony along with their extensions with a small plastic bag of colour. Colourful greetings were followed by introductions, if one could be heard over the loud chatter and music. Somehow,

the infamous “bhang” would make its way into the plate of pakoras, so now we are forbidden to consume any. Our restless feet are calling, and we begin our annual parade calling out to the brave souls, mind you, by now we are worthy of an artist’s colour palette. Hours later with the fading sun, tired bodies but happy souls find their way back to their respective homes.

How times have changed! Everything is now planned, nothing is spontaneous anymore. Branded organic Gulal, each originating from a flower apparently, are not bright enough. Dress code, only white, which has to be spotless else the pictures against the colourful background won’t work. Instagram has taken over, filtered and edited. It seems it’s a festival more for the event planners than the people itself. While I support Eco Friendly celebrations with flowers, I wish the vibrancy of this festival of colours doesn’t fade into oblivion !

May each home reverberate with love, laughter and colour ... wish you all a Happy Holi !

**R’anne Monica Krishan**



**MARCH DESIGNATION IS**

Photo by Monika Lucinska © Rotary International. Illustration by Gilbert of the Rotary Club of Merit.

**WATER AND SANITATION MONTH**

*“Life is a perspective and for me, if a human being has access to school, clean water, food, proper health care, that is the basis of human rights.”*  
Gailina Bekele

**Rotary**

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Hemant Ahuja	03-Mar
Rashmi Datt	03-Mar
Garima Sultania	07-Mar
Sumit Makhija	07-Mar
Hardeep Anand	13-Mar
Dimple Singh	13-Mar
Lalit Kumar Sawhney	22-Mar
Priyanka Agarwal	30-Mar



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Vandana & Rajeev Seoni

11-Mar