

# BULLETIN of ROTARY CLUB OF SURAT WEST



Rotary Year **2024-25**  
Charter Date : **30-4-96**  
R.I. Dist. **3060** Zone **4-B**  
Club No. : **31549**  
Vol. **29**

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**02/2024-25**

## NEXT MEETING

**\*Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**Time: 8.00 Pm**

**Subject: AG's visit and Club Assembly**

**Venue: The Amore, "The Meet room".(3rd Floor)**

- The meeting is **open for Rotarians ONLY**

## District Event

Rotary District 3060

### INTERCITY FORUM

Hosted by Rotary Club of Dhule Cross Road

**DATE & VENUE** 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> JULY' 24  
Topline Resorts, NH-3, Near Toll Naka, Dhule

**REGISTRATION CHARGES** ₹ 2100/- Single Registration \*Without Accommodation

**BANK DETAILS**  
Name: Rotary Club of Dhule Cross Road  
Bank: Union Bank of India  
Branch: Dhule  
A/C No.: 324002010162944  
IFS Code: UBIIN032401

Rtn. Tushar Shah DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
Rtn. Manoj Chaudhary HOST CLUB PRESIDENT  
PDG Devang Thakore DISTRICT LEARNING AND SERVICE  
Rtn. Ashish Patwari EVENT CLUB  
Rtn. Vilas Wani HOST CLUB SECRETARY

## Birthday Greetings

July 17: Ann Binny Chirag Gandhi

July 19: Rtn. Anant Agrawal

July 23: Ann Hem Tinish Mody

July 27: Rtn. Sham Shah

## Forthcoming Programs

- **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July: Online meeting of Board of Directors**
- **Wednesday, July 24: AG'S Visit cum Club Assembly**  
**Meeting open for Rotarians only.**  
**Venue: The Amore, 3rd Floor. (The Meet Room)**
- **Sunday, July 28.....: 0945 to 11.15 Am: Visit to Shree Modheshwari Old People' Home, Near Hanuman Temple, Bhatha.**  
**Musical Morning.**
- **Wednesday, 07<sup>th</sup> August: (Tentative)**  
**Induction of Ms. Shalini Agrawal, Commissioner, Surat Municipal Corporation as Hon. Rotarian.**

## **INSTALLATION CEREMONY – WEDNESDAY JULY 03, 2024**

**The installation ceremony of Rotary President PDG Devendra Shastri marked a significant event in our Rotary club.**

**PDG Devendra Shastri's induction as the President of our Rotary Club symbolizes a new era of service, leadership, and community engagement.** The Installation Ceremony of President Rtn. PDG Devendra Shastri and his team for the Rotary year 2024-2025 was held with Pomp, dignity, and grace on Wednesday July 3 rd at The Amore, Opera Hall.

The ceremony was a grand affair, attended by members of our club along with the Anns, distinguished guests, and well-wishers, along with **PDG Bharat Solanki, PDG Kulbandhu Sharma, PDG Himanshu Thakker, PDG Hitesh Jariwala, PDG Santosh Pradhan, AG Tejas Gandhi, with host of district dignitaries and club presidents & Secretaries of Surat area. PP. Ashit Kothari eloquently introduced all Invited guests.**

**Prior to meeting called to order, MOC Shilpa Shah mentioned about messages received from RI President Stephanie Urchick, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, PRID Dr. Manoj Desai, PDGs Ashok Panjwani, Dr. Nilax Mufti and Mayur Vyas.**

The meeting kicked off with **prayer dance by Rtn. Dr. Shikha Samaiya and Ann. Sukruti Vaidya.** Followed by outgoing President Sonal Shah extending a cordial welcome to one and all. **Hon. Secretary (2023-24) Meeta Kapoor** presented Annual Activity Report by presenting highlights of major activities and projects done during Rotary year 2023-24.

It was then time for **outgoing President Sonal Shah to say "good Bye"** through her Farewell address in which she thanked Rotary Surat west family for their unflinching support. She expressed gratitude to club members and touched upon various service projects and achievements in the Rotary year.

**RTN.PN. Dr. Vijay Shah then introduced the chief guest** of the evening Shri. Nilesh Mandlewala ( President- Donate Life)

After which, **PP. Hitendra Mody, introduced the incoming president PDG Devendra Shastri,** who hails from three generation of Past district governors, as a pillar of strength and a beacon of hope within the Rotary community. His journey in rotary began almost 55 years ago, marked by unwavering commitment, visionary leadership, and a deep passion for community service.

MOC PP. Shilpa Shah, introduced the Board of Directors for the Rotary year 2024-25 and each one of them came up near the dais and then the moment that we all were waiting for arrived as our outgoing **President Sonal Shah exchanged the presidential collar with the incoming President PDG Devendra Shastri, amidst thunderous applause from appreciative audience.**

**President PDG Devendra Shastri moved the motion** putting on record outstanding services rendered by **Rtn. Sonal Shah as President (2023-24)** and support given by first gentleman RTN.PP Bhavesh Shah. The motion was cheered by giving standing ovation to our club's first couple of the year 2023-24.

**President PDG Devendra Shastri in his acceptance speech** said that enviable fellowship, team spirit and harmony are hallmarks of our club and appealed to Rotary Surat west family to share their suggestions for better functioning of the club and get involved in Projects and activities to be undertaken during the year.

**Chief guest Shri Nilesh Mandlewala, President – Donate Life**, explained with detail the importance of donating organs and saving multiple lives. Organ donation, an act of kindness, can significantly improve the life of the recipient. For example, a kidney transplant can free a person from dialysis, while a corneal transplant can restore eye sight. Organ donation is a legacy of compassion.

In exemplary gesture, **Rtn. PP. Rajani Marfatia** came forward to sponsor the cost of **200 Cataract surgeries in the year 2024-25**. This announcement was received with loud applause.

After the Birthday and Wedding anniversary greetings, by **Ann Nilima Shastri**, President PDG Devendra Shastri presented a memento to Chief Guest Shri. Nilesh Mandlewala. **Hon. Secretary PP Tinish Mody, made announcement** with details of next meeting and the meeting came to a close after Vote of Thanks by Rtn. PE. Dr. Parag Shah.

**Rtn. PP. Shilpa Shah** served with distinction as master of Ceremonies which added much grace and dignity to the function. **Ann. Yukti Garg and Ann. Madhvi Mevcha** were in charge of attendance register records. **Those who walked extra mile to contribute the success are Hon. Secretary PP. Tinish Mody, Hon. Jt. Secretary PP Ashit Kothari, Sgt-At-Arms Rtn. Anirudh Garg and Rtn. Vijay Mevcha.**

**The installation ceremony of Rotary President PDG Devendra Shastri was a resounding success, characterized by a spirit of unity, purpose, and service. As he embarks on his tenure, PDG Devendra Shastri brings with him a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to furthering the mission of Rotary.**





## Message from RI President Stephanie Urchick



**Stephanie A. Urchick**

President, 2024-25  
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01 July 2024

Rtn. PDG Devendra V. Shastri  
Rotary Club of Surat West

I congratulate you on your installation to the office of club President at the Rotary Club of Surat West, Gujarat, India.

Rotary needs your leadership now more than ever if we are to make every club and district an irresistible experience. By following Rotary's Action Plan and making sure all members feel a sense of belonging in your club, you have a special opportunity to inspire members to new heights of service.

Our ability to create lasting change begins with our family of Rotary. Together, it is within our power to bring healing in a divided world.

Join me in making Rotary a source of strength for those who need it most, within and beyond our membership. Let this be the year we harness *The Magic of Rotary*, and let Rotary be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people we serve.

It is within your power to help make your club a beacon of goodwill and fellowship in your community.

I look forward to working beside you as we change the world with *The Magic of Rotary*.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie A. Urchick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie A. Urchick  
Rotary International President, 2024-2025



## Blood Donation and Eye Check-up Camp Joint Service Project of 6 Rotary clubs in Surat Area-July 10



The blood donation camp organized on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July morning jointly by 6 Rotary Clubs of Surat area including our club; has begun with great enthusiasm. RC Udhna President Rtn Praveen Kakkar and NJ India Invest team led by Rtn Niraj Choksi and Jignesh Desai looked after complete logistics of the camp.

DG Tushar Shah accompanied by first lady Rtn Nehal inaugurated the first service project of our club for the year 2024-25.

Rtn. Vijay Mevcha and Rtn. PP Tinish Mody kicked the beginning with blood donation.

Successful programme details 📌

**\*Blood Units Collected = 224\***

**\*Eye Check-up beneficiaries = 133\***

Rtn Alok Tulsian also volunteered to donate blood but due to medical history, he could not donate blood. Employees of Rtn Rakesh Mandlewala also came forward to donate blood.

Those who attended the 1<sup>st</sup> service project of the year 2024-25 were;

**PP. Setu Gandhi, PP Tinish Mody, PP Ashit Kothari, PN Dr. Vijay Shah, PP Shilpa Shah, Rtn. Vijay Mevcha, Rtn. Alok Tulsian and President PDG. Devendra Shastri.**

## Words of Wisdom from RI President Stephanie Urchick

Dear Rotary member,

For most of us in Rotary, what matters most is our personal club experience. When I joined Rotary, my club made me feel like I belonged. I couldn't wait for the next meeting, and I found a new purpose in the service projects we completed together. To me, this sense of meaning and belonging defines Rotary. As president, I feel a special commitment to help every member in every Rotary and Rotaract club feel like an essential part of our family.

I'm writing today to thank you for being a member and making Rotary part of your life. And I want to share a tool that can further enhance your experience with Rotary — our Action Plan.

The Action Plan challenges us to find ways to increase the impact of Rotary service, expand our reach by bringing more people together to share our vision, adapt to a rapidly changing world, and enhance the experience that you and your fellow club members have in tangible, meaningful ways

### Find strength in diversity



We know that most members are introduced to Rotary through friends, who may share the same values, background, or education. Let's grow Rotary by inviting people from a wide range of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives who also share our passion for community and service to join us and become people of action.

I challenge you to invite someone who might not share the same background as the typical member of your club or district to experience Rotary. If you need help expanding your club's reach, you can find several tools and resources in My Rota

*The Magic of Rotary* can have its greatest impact when Rotary members and community leaders come together to solve problems and transform lives. That magic starts with you, and now is the time to put it into action.

You have the power to bring about positive change, both in your club and in your community. When we move into the future united in a common purpose, there's no limit to what we can achieve.

Sincerely,

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
**2024-25 President**  
**Rotary International**



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA

Register today at [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)



## Statistics of Rotary and Rotaract clubs and members in South Asia

Highlights				
Membership figures as of 01 July 2024 **				
Country	Rotary Clubs	Rotarians	Rotaract Clubs	Rotaractors
Bangladesh	429	8,678	429	3,042
Bhutan	1	29	0	0
India	4,577	1,65,838	2,581	52,428
Maldives	1	43	0	0
Nepal	157	5,305	185	5,037
Pakistan	191	2,473	293	3,226
Sri Lanka	68	1,886	98	4,167
<b>Total</b>	5,424	184,252	3,586	67,900
<b>Worldwide</b>	<b>36,549</b>	<b>1,137,993</b>	<b>10,613</b>	<b>157,759</b>
** These are as of date figures and <b>not official starting figures</b> which is likely to be available in August 2024.				

### Top 5 Countries in contribution to The Rotary Foundation 23-24

2023-24 Top 5 Giving Countries (interim June update):

Rank	Country	Annual Fund	PolioPlus Fund	Other Funds	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions	Annual Fund Per Capita	Average Giving Per Member
1	United States	\$45,221,531	\$114,115,200	\$5,606,696	\$25,026,598	\$189,970,025	\$166.16	\$698.02
2	<b>India</b>	<b>\$8,210,471</b>	<b>\$2,129,395</b>	<b>\$18,115,128</b>	<b>\$3,245,917</b>	<b>\$31,700,911</b>	<b>\$50.03</b>	<b>\$193.18</b>
3	Taiwan	\$8,767,079	\$1,561,582	\$4,055,453	\$6,870,308	\$21,254,422	\$259.75	\$629.72
4	Korea, Republic of	\$16,142,065	\$692,450	\$1,433,517	\$2,876,146	\$21,144,178	\$257.26	\$336.99
5	Japan	\$11,122,744	\$2,607,522	\$374,031	\$2,486,334	\$16,590,631	\$135.48	\$202.09

### Countries with Highest Membership as on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

<b>Country</b>	<b>Clubs</b>	<b>Rotarians</b>
USA.....:	<b>7312</b>	<b>2,78,748</b>
<b>India.....:</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>1,75,090</b>
Japan.....:	<b>2215</b>	<b>84,662</b>
Korea.....:	<b>1693</b>	<b>68,368</b>
Brazil.....:	<b>2354</b>	<b>50,507</b>



## **TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.**

A little girl had been shopping with her mom in a departmental store. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence. It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there under the awning and just inside the door of the store.

We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day. I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day.

The little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance, we were all caught in; Mom lets run through the rain; she said.

What? Mom asked. Let us run through the rain! She repeated

No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit; Mom replied.

This young child waited about another minute and repeated: Mom, let's run through the rain; We will get soaked if we do; Mom said.

No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning; the young girl said as she tugged at her mom's arm.

This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?

Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said; If God can get us through this, he can get us through anything!

The entire crowd stopped dead silent. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain. We all stood silently. No one came or left in the next few minutes. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD lets us get wet, well maybe we just needed washing, Mom said.

Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling, and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles.

They held their shopping bags over their heads just in case.

They got soaked. But they were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars.

And yes, I did. I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.

**Take the time to live!!!**

## Rotary Wisdom

#RotaryFacts

# Rotary



Rotary is a vast, private United Nations, the most powerful, prestigious, important organization of competent community leaders the world has ever known. In the words of Albert Schweitzer, "Rotary is necessary for the future."

IMAK'20

@changemakerevanburrell



## Rotary

### DID YOU KNOW?

Countries around the world have honored the work of Rotary with commemorative postage stamps since 1931, when Austria printed the Rotary emblem on an official commemorative stamp for the Rotary International Convention in Vienna held that same year.



## Humour

Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. **And what starting salary are you looking for?**

The engineer replies; In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package. The interviewer inquires; **Well, what would you say to a package of five-week vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?**

The engineer sits up straight and says, **Wow! Are you kidding?**

The interviewer replies, **but you started it.**



