

## BULLETIN of ROTARY CLUB OF SURAT WEST



# Spark

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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**26/2024-25**

## NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**

Rotary  

PDG. Rtn. Devendra Shastri  
President

Rtn. Tinish Modi  
Hon. Secretary

**MUSICAL  
ANTAKSHARI**

MARCH  
**26**  
2025

EIGHT O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING  
**CRAZY BITE, BANQUET HALL**  
PRECEDED BY DINNER

**Anchors: Ann Mausam Jalan  
Ann Meeta Kapoor**

**\*Rotarians and Spouses are welcome.**

### Wedding Anniversary Greetings

RTn. Sanjay- Ann Mausam Jalan -**March 12**

RTn. Rajesh- Ann Dimple Agrawal-**March 13**

### Birthday Greetings

March 10: **Ann Gita Sandeep Mongia**

March 20: **Ann Archita Raghav Khaitan**

March 22: **Rtn.PP. Shilpa Shah**

March 24: **Ann Ritu Gaurang Goel**

March 26: **Ann Kinjal Krunal Mehta**

March 28: **Ann Kavita Mitesh Bhagat**

## **Forthcoming Projects and Programs**

- \*Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> March** : Eye Cataract Campat Center for Sight Eye Hospital
- \*Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> March** : Meeting of club Board of Directors
- \*Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> March** : Rotary no Chhayado Project
- \*Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March**: Antakshari Fellowship Evening
- \*Wednesday, 09<sup>th</sup> April** : Presenration by Rotary Youth Exchange Students and Rtn. PP. Shilpa Shah
- \*Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April.....**: 30<sup>th</sup> CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION.

### **PDG Bharat Solanki is no more..**



**My Friend PDG Bharat Solanki left for heavenly abode leaving countless well-wishers and friends and family behind him. He was a national merit scholar and won many Gold medals in his college studies. He was Charter Secretary of Rotary club of Surat Round town in 1974-75.**

**He was unanimously elected as District Governor of our District for the year 1984-85.** During this year, our district achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Membership growth in India. He served as member of Rotary International Membership committee for 3 years.

Ever smiling, humble, helpful and no-controversial, Bharat was my very good friend, and we used to call up each other every second day and talk about stock market, Rotary and life in general. Bharat and Anarben were charming couple and were enjoying retired life with lot of enthusiasm and spirit. His passion for good food and pleasant interaction with leaders and grass root level Rotarians earned him many friends. **PDG Bharat's last visit to our club was my Installation as President of our club on 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024**

**"Spark" joins me in conveying our heartfelt condolences to Smt. Anarben, Son Gaurang, daughter Kanan and Solanki family. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace. Om Shanti.**

**Obituary by President PDG Devendra Shastri**

# One small act



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**M**arch is here, and for Rotary International, that means celebrating Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month — a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most transformative areas of our work.

This month is an opportunity to reflect on *The Magic of Rotary* and the profound impact we create when we come together with determination and purpose.

Years ago, I experienced this magic firsthand in the Dominican Republic. When a group of members helped people install water filters, three children watched with amazement as dirty water entered one end of a filter and clean water emerged from the other. When we paused the demonstration, one child tugged at my sleeve and pleaded, “Show me the magic again.”

To them, it felt magical. It was also the result of countless hours of effort — planning, transporting, and installing the filters — alongside local partners who were dedicated to making clean water accessible. In that moment, I realised that what seemed like a small act could change residents’ lives. That is *The Magic of Rotary*.

This story is a testament to the incredible potential of our global family to create change. Water projects exemplify our reach, our partnerships, and our unwavering commitment to improving lives. Consider Rotary’s work with USAID. That partnership has enabled us to work with communities and governments to improve access to sustainable water and sanitation

services for thousands of people in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, the Philippines and Uganda.

Partnerships remind us that Rotary’s impact is amplified when we work together. Through our strategic alliance with the United Nations Environment Programme, we’re advancing the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. This programme equips Rotary members with the tools and resources to protect, restore, and sustain freshwater ecosystems.

When we make use of Rotary grants and advocate for clean water in our communities, we create a ripple effect that extends far beyond individual projects.

As we embrace the spirit of the month, I encourage every Rotary member to seek out new partnerships. Collaboration multiplies our efforts and helps us reach more people in need.

Whether it’s joining forces with local organisations, forming alliances with international agencies, or mobilising your community, every step we take together brings us closer to a world where everyone has access to clean water and safe sanitation.

*The Magic of Rotary* shines brightest when we work in harmony with others to create lasting good. Together, we can turn dreams into realities that transform lives and communities. The result may feel like magic at times, but we know it’s from the power of our collective commitment and compassion. Let’s harness this magic to make a difference this month and beyond.

**Stephanie A Urchick**  
President, Rotary International

# Ekta Ka Maha Kumbh - The Beginning of a New Era. January 14- February 26, 2025



## **History and Major Bathing Dates**

The **origins** of the Kumbh Mela are rooted in Hindu mythology. According to the **Samudra Manthan** (churning of the ocean) story in the ancient Hindu scriptures, the gods (Devas) and demons (Asuras) fought over the **Amrit** (nectar of immortality). During this celestial battle, **drops of the nectar fell at four locations**—Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik—where the Kumbh Mela is now held, with the Maha Kumbh occurring once every **144 years** at Prayagraj. Historically, the Maha Kumbh Mela has been referenced since ancient times, with records dating back to the **Maurya** and **Gupta periods**. It received royal patronage from various dynasties, including the **Mughals**, and was **documented** by **colonial administrators** like James Prinsep. Over centuries, it evolved into a global spiritual and cultural phenomenon. Recognized by **UNESCO** as an **intangible cultural heritage**, the Kumbh Mela symbolizes India's enduring traditions, fostering unity, spirituality, and cultural exchange among millions worldwide.

The **timing** of each Kumbh Mela is determined by the **astrological positions** of the **Sun, Moon, and Jupiter**, believed to signal an auspicious period for spiritual cleansing and self-enlightenment. The festival embodies a confluence of faith, culture, and tradition, attracting ascetics, seekers, and devotees alike. The event's grandeur is marked by **Shahi Snans** (bathing rituals), **spiritual discourses**, and **vibrant cultural processions** that reflect India's deep spiritual heritage.

**\*Triveni Sangam:** The sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati, offering a deeply spiritual experience.

**\*Ancient Temples:** Hanuman Mandir, Alopi Devi Mandir, and Mankameshwar Temple, showcasing the city's religious heritage.

**\*Historical Landmarks:** Ashoka Pillar, University of Allahabad, and Swaraj Bhawan, reflecting India's rich history and colonial-era architecture.

**\*Cultural Vibrance:** Bustling streets, markets, local art, and cuisine providing a glimpse into the city's life.

**\*Kalagram:** Kalagram, set up by the Ministry of Culture in Sector-7 of the Maha Kumbh district, is a vibrant cultural village showcasing India's rich heritage. Designed around the themes of Craft, Cuisines, and Culture, it offered an immersive experience through performances, exhibitions, and interactive zones.

**\*Akhara Camps:** Spiritual hubs where sadhus and seekers engaged in meditation, discussions, and philosophical exchanges.

**\*Immersive Digital Experiences:** Inspired by Kumbh 2019, ten stalls facilitating the pilgrims with this experience were specially set up at prime locations in the Kumbh Mela to show videos of major events such as Peshwai, auspicious bathing days, Ganga aarti, etc.

**\*Drone Show:** A Grand Drone show was organised by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department featuring hundreds of drones creating vibrant shapes in the sky. Devotees were mesmerized by the divine depiction of the Samudra Manthan (churning of the ocean) and Gods drinking from the Amrit Kalash.

**\*Cultural events at the Ganga Pandal:** It saw renowned artists from across the country mesmerize devotees with grand presentations of music, dance, and art from 7th - 10th February. The main highlights of the event included performances by famous artists like Odissi dancer Dona Ganguly on 7th; renowned singer Kavita Krishnamurti and Dr. L. Subramaniam on 8th; Suresh Wadkar and Sonal Mansingh on 9th; and, on 10th, celebrated singer Hariharan. In addition, prominent artists from various Indian classical dance and music traditions made the evening musical and grand.

**\*International Bird Festival:** Held from February 16-18, 2025, showcasing over 200 migratory and local birds, including endangered species.

### **Cyber Security at Maha Kumbh**

More than **65 crore** devotees have visited the **Maha Kumbh Nagar**. To ensure that such a large number of devotees are well-informed, the Uttar Pradesh government had decided to utilize every platform, including **print, digital, and social media**. **Cyber experts** have been actively monitoring online threats and investigating gangs exploiting platforms such as **AI, Facebook, X, and Instagram**. A **mobile cyber team** was also deployed for **large-scale public awareness campaigns**.

Special cyber security arrangements were initiated to safeguard devotees from across the globe:

**\*Deployment of 56 dedicated cyber warriors** and experts for cyber patrolling.

**\*Establishment of a Maha Kumbh cyber police station** to counter cyber threats like fraudulent websites, social media scams, and fake links.

**\*40 Variable Messaging Displays (VMDs)** installed in both the fair area and the commissionerates for raising awareness about cyber threats.

**\*Formation of a dedicated helpline number, 1920,** and promotion of verified government websites.

**For detailed information and statistics on Maha Kumbh, Please click the following link;**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=2106476>

## Rotary honors six People of Action: Champions of Peace



**Rotary recognized six members and alumni as People of Action:** Champions of Peace in January. This honour celebrates the recipients' work to build peace around the world. Their ambitious and wide-ranging efforts include teaching technical skills to refugee children and promoting sustainable agriculture. The honourees exemplify Rotary's values and the dedication it takes to make a lasting impact.

**For More Information, please click the following link;**

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1092211919583714&set=a.430802499057996>

## Rotary Wisdom



**Rotary**

**Rotary Club meetings** are a special privilege of Rotary membership. They provide the occasion to visit with fellow members, to meet visitors we have not known before, and to share our personal friendship with other members.

IMAK'20



**THERE IS  
NO CHANGE  
WHERE THERE  
IS NO ACTION**

**Rotary**

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## Rotary Youth Exchange 1975-2025



**Rotary Youth Exchange as an official program of Rotary International. Over the past five decades, students have experienced new cultures, developed lasting friendships, and become global citizens.**

If you've volunteered to support Rotary Youth Exchange in your club or district, you've likely seen the tremendous effort it takes to facilitate the program. Providing a valuable, positive experience for students hosted abroad by Rotary members and non-members requires substantial time and effort from both the students and the volunteers.

**What does that mean on a global scale? Well, on average since 2018, it takes 25,000 volunteers to support 7,500 exchange students each year.**

If you want to know more, read the blog post about celebrating 50 years of service in Rotary Youth Exchange.

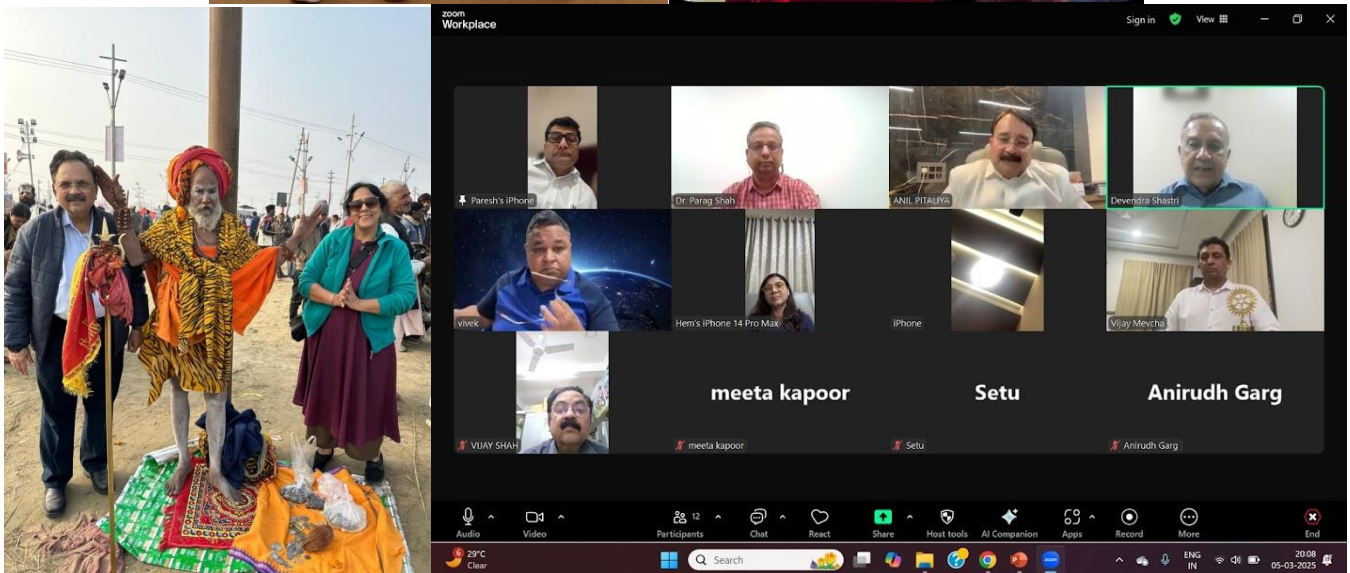
### Diya Parag Shah



Diya Parag Shah's placement as **long term Rotary Youth exchange Student** has been accepted by Multi District Ohio-Erie organization, USA. Information regarding her Host Rotary club should be coming very soon.

It is after few years that our club is participating in Long term IYE program. Our club will host rebound IYE student from USA in the ensuing Rotary Year 2025-26. **Congratuluons to Diya and Kudos to rpoud parents. Our club IYE Chair PP. Hitendra Mody played a very important role in documentation and preparation of Diya's District level interview.**

## Last Meeting- March 5



Last meeting was in virtual mode to listen to our fellow Rotarians and Spouses who were lucky to visit Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj in January-February this year. It was a very interesting interaction which all present indeed enjoyed.

**Those who shared their experiences in the meeting were.**

**Rtn. Anil Paliya**

**Rtn. PN. Dr. Vijay Shah**

**Rtn. Vijay Nihalani**

**Ann Hem Tinish Mody**

**Rtn. PP. Dr. Paresh and Sukruti Vaidya**



**Rtn. Anil Pitaliya and Ann Aaradhana** had holy dip on Makar Sankranti Day when Maha Kumbh started. **Rtn. PN Dr. Vijay and PP Shilpa Shah** visited Kumbh in last week of January. They also visited Ayodhya and Varanasi. **Ann Hem Tinish Mody** also visited all three places in early February. She had a fall in Varanasi and got her leg fractured. She went with her school friends. **Rtn. Vijay and Kajal Nihalani** had holy dip in middle of February. Rotarians of Prayagraj Rotary club had arranged for their accommodation at Maha Kumbh site. **Rtn. Dr. Paresh and Sukruti Vaidya** had holy dip in later part of February and had to undergo lot of issues including walking nearly 35 Kms in 2 days during their visit to Maha Kumbh and Varanasi.

**All speakers shared their personal experiences with photos which was very interesting.** One common feeling among them was the joy and bliss that they experienced in having holy dip and feeling the pulse of biggest religious gathering of the world, and there were no fights, no sexual harassment, no theft...only devotion to the almighty.


**President PDG Devendra Shastri** in the beginning of the meeting, shared the news of sad and untimely demise of **PDG BHARAT SOLANKI**, who has been our club's well-wisher since last 2 years. The audience observed one minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

**Rtn. PP. Vivek Goel** proposed a hearty vote of thanks to all speakers. **Rtn. PE DR Parag Shah and Sgt-At-Arms Rtn. Vijay Mevcha** readily helped in the logistics of the online meeting.

**-Report by President PDG Devendra Shastri**

## **International Women's Day- March 8**

FRIDAY 7 MARCH 2025 - LEIGHTON HALL, LANCASHIRE #AccelerateAction

pinklink  International Women's Day

A day of inspiration and knowledge

This event is to celebrate International Women's Day and to empower women in business to access key business support services, build authentic relationships, to develop, grow and thrive.

**At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, which is roughly five generations from now, to reach full gender parity, according to data from the World Economic Forum.**

Focusing on the need to **Accelerate Action** emphasizes the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

So, together, let's **Accelerate Action** to speed up the rate of progress worldwide.

**“Spark” joins all Rotarians in greeting our lady Rotarians and Anns who always bring colour, grace and dignity to our club activities and meetings.**