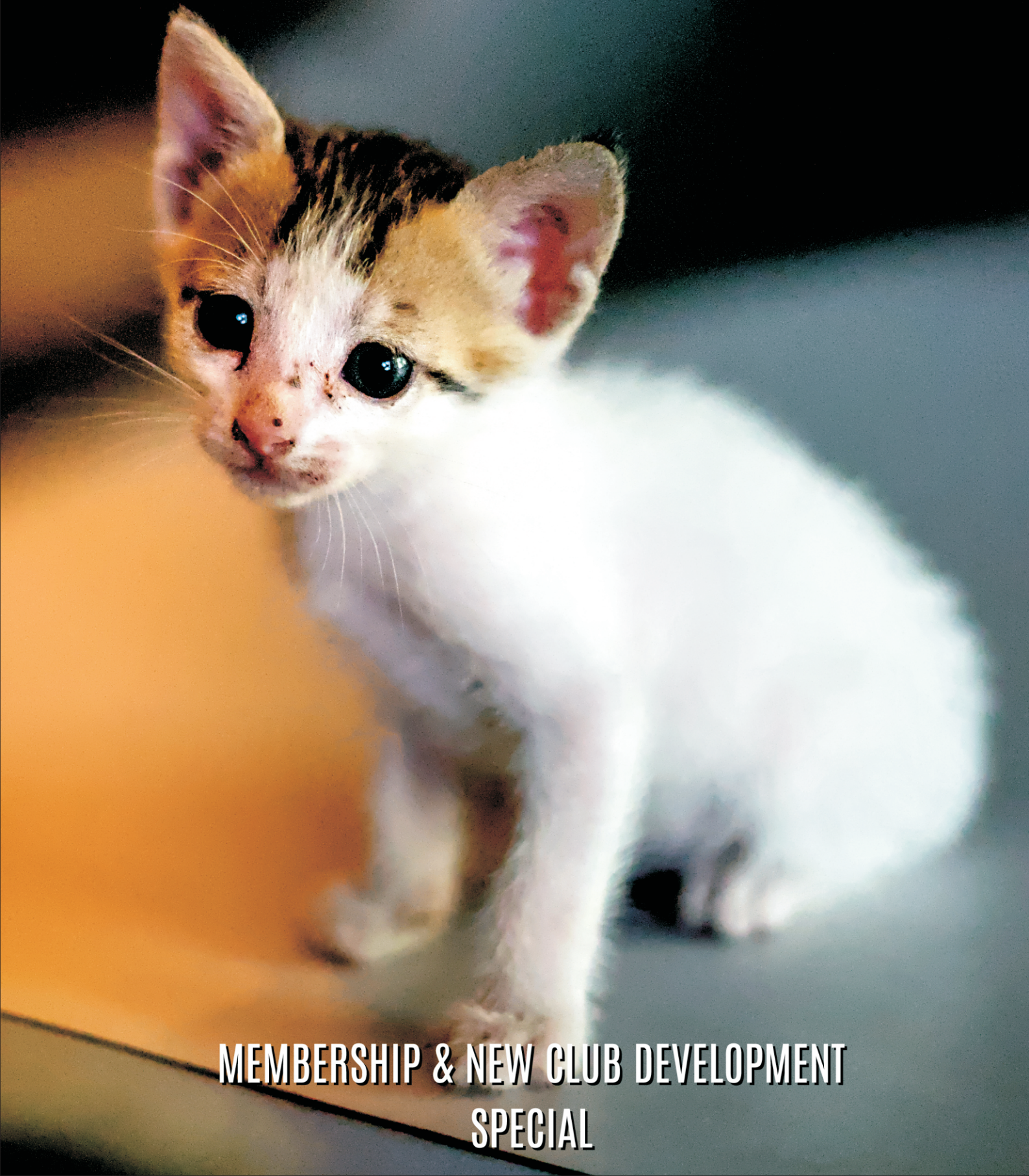


AUGUST EDITION, 2025



RODEO REACH

CLUB MAGAZINE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DEONAR

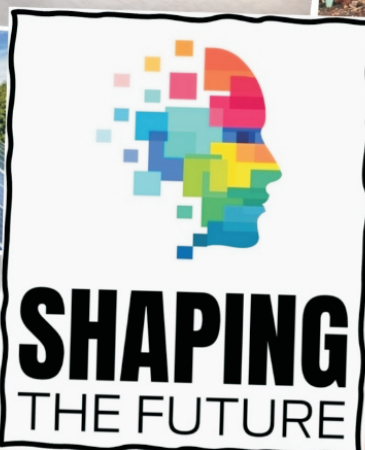


**MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT
SPECIAL**

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

LET'S
INSPIRE !

Rotary
Club of DEONAR
RID 3141



Rotary Club of Deonar

Inspire . Empower . Transform



Published by Rotary Club of Deonar

2025-26 Vol 1

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Editor: Prakash Pujare

Editorial panel: Nayana Das, Alisha Angre, Gunjan Jain

Club meets every alternate Thursday 7:00 pm

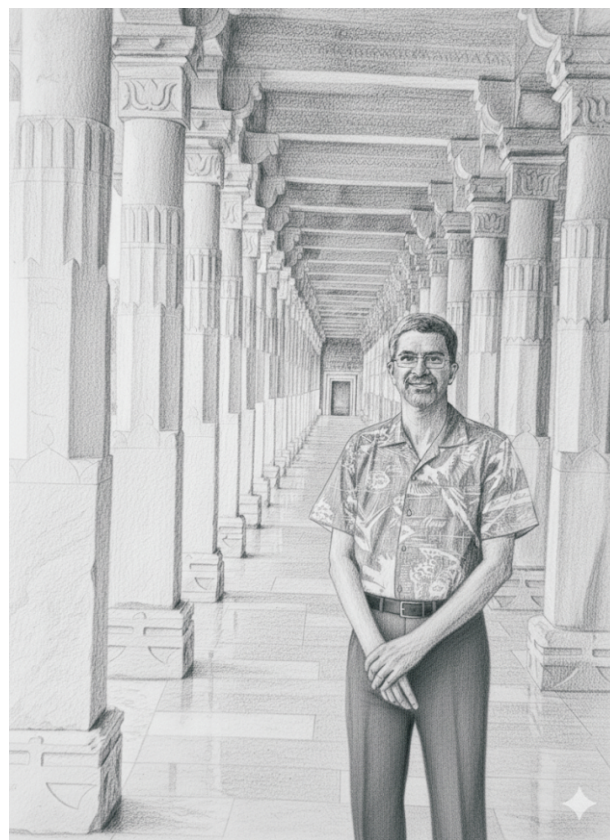
The cute kitten on the cover of this issue attracts attention. It signals new energy; it generates a warm feeling of wanting to pull her close. It aptly conveys the theme for the month of August - membership and new club development. A Rotary club is all about coming close, about constantly finding energy through new membership, about a great sense of fellowship and playfulness. This can quickly lead on to a higher purpose of service before self, in its various forms of engaging with the larger community.

This is exemplified so well in the work our club has been doing in the greening of Mumbai through Miyawaki forests - read about this as described by Prabodh Sharma.

Speaking of green, Yashas Chattree takes us on an exhilarating tour of Serengeti and shows us through his roving lens, a side unknown to most of us in a fascinating photo feature.

While the greening of city spaces helps clean the external environment and our physical well being, we also need to address the dark corners within us - Gunjan Jain uncovers the brewing epidemic of neglected mental health especially in urban settings and how to tackle this neglected "cracked window" inside us.

August is the month when our beloved Ganapati Bappa arrives and showers his bounty on us all. This is also the month when our nation celebrates its hard-earned independence: especially poignant in this age of global one-upmanship, cynicism and despondency. Nayana Das remembers her father's valor under extreme adversity in a touching tribute.



Returning to the theme of club membership, Prabodh Sharma outlines Rodeo plans for membership development. Arya's evocative poem brings out the underpinning of club membership - which at its core, is about friendship.

Membership comes from networking, and speaking of networking of another sort, Rotary-Ann Nandini tells us about the next big thing for all of us, the extensive network which is the Mumbai Metro.

Read about soirees held by small "families" of our club done so far, about how together kicking a ball around can breathe meaning into kids' lives. And to lighten the mood, enjoy the quiz and haikus at the end.

Before signing off, thank you to Sarawat Infotech for supporting us.

Happy reading!

Prakash Pujare

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Celebrating Membership: Growing Together, Giving Together



Dear Rodeos,
If there's one thing that keeps Rotary vibrant and impactful, it's our members. Each of you brings your own spark, your network, your talents, and your energy into this movement — and together, we create magic that touches lives far beyond our imagination.

This year, we are placing a special focus on Membership Engagement and Development. Why? Because when members feel connected, inspired, and valued, they naturally become ambassadors of Rotary. And when we grow in strength and diversity, our projects grow in reach and impact.

To add a dash of fun and bonding, we've launched Rodeo Soirées — a new initiative that blends fellowship with flair. Imagine an evening of conversations, laughter, music, ideas, and of course, that warm Rotary spirit we're known for. These soirées are designed to help us know each other better, welcome new friends, and create a space where potential members can experience Rotary not as an institution, but as a family.

Adding to this spirit of collaboration, our district has also launched another exciting initiative — Rotary Verified Business. In the words of our District Governor, Dr. Manish

Motwani: "If we can do projects together, bond together, serve together... why can't we do business together?" Doing business with a fellow Rotarian comes with the assurance of integrity, quality, trust and a sense of comfort that we normally develop over the years of working together. It's a wonderful way to strengthen ties within our Rotary family while supporting each other's professional journeys.

To our members — thank you for your commitment and enthusiasm. Keep engaging, keep connecting, and keep spreading the joy of Rotary. To those outside our circle — come join us, not just to be part of a club, but to be part of a movement that transforms lives, starting with our own.

After all, Rotary is more than service. It is friendship, it is growth, and it is belonging. Let's continue to celebrate that spirit together.

Yours truly,

Alka Murli
President 2025-26

GREEN REVOLUTIONS IN CONCRETE JUNGLES

The Miyawaki Method: A Revolutionary Approach to Afforestation

Passionate about greening of Mumbai, Rodeo Prabodh Sharma shares his insights as Rotary Club of Deonar nears a milestone of 10,000 trees planted through its Urban Forest projects, since 2020

Developed by Japanese botanist Dr. Akira Miyawaki, the Miyawaki method involves the dense planting of native tree species in a small area - often more than 3 to 5 saplings per square feet - to create self-sustaining, biodiverse forests which grow ten times faster than traditional afforestation methods. The tight spacing forces saplings to grow faster as they compete for sunlight and nutrients. The interlocking root systems stabilizes the soil, supports underground water recharge, and ensures high survival rates with minimal maintenance after 2 to 3 years.

Urban Forests of Rotary Club of Deonar

Around November 2020, Rohan D'Souza, then Community Services (non-medical) Director at Rotary Club of Deonar, saw opportunity in a dusty, unused space at Nutan Vidya Mandir's playground in Mankhurd, for a greener future. By January 2021, with the active collaboration of the Inner Wheel Club of Deonar, the Rotary Club of Deonar planted nearly 1000 saplings of the native species of trees. Rodeos Rohan, Shivani, Alka, Liladhar, Ravishekar, Jaydeep, Herzel, and many more made this possible - along with support from the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Deonar.



Rtn Rohan on survey visit to the NVM site before execution of the Project

Inaugurated early 2021, by the Rotary District Governor Sunnil Mehra and Amala Mehta, today the average height of the trees has exceeded 20 feet.



Pooja being performed at NVM before starting the plantation work at NVM, Dec 2020

For the school children this Urban Forest is a daily reminder that change begins with a single idea and a single seed.



First Urban Forest being inaugurated by then Dist Governor Sunnil Mehta and Inner Wheel District Chairman Amala Mehta.

After the success of its first Miyawaki Forest at Nutan Vidyamandir, the Rotary Club of Deonar has been instrumental in creating four more thriving Urban Forests at:

- Shahjinagar Tamil Municipal School, Trombay, Mumbai
- Sanjay Nagar Municipal School no. 4, Shivajinagar
- Ulwe, Navi Mumbai, and the latest at
- Pandit Madanmohan Malviya Shatabdi Municipal General Hospital

where 3000 trees are thriving. 5000 more are proposed within the current Rotary year 2025-26.

We acknowledge the support of SBI CSR for enabling our latest Miyawaki Urban Forest at Shatabdi Hospital, Deonar-Chembur



And now: The Miyawaki Forest at NVM in June 2022



Before the planting at Shatabdi Hospital, Deonar-Chembur



After planting of 3000 saplings

Environmental Impact

The tangible benefits of these urban forests in Mumbai are numerous.

- They act as natural air filters, absorbing pollutants and releasing fresh oxygen, thereby improving air quality in congested urban areas.
- The forests also help mitigate the "urban heat island" effect by creating microclimates that reduce ambient temperatures.
- Their dense root systems enhance the soil's ability to absorb rainwater, promoting groundwater recharge and reducing urban flooding and soil erosion.
- Each forest also becomes a micro-habitat, promoting biodiversity by attracting birds, butterflies, and other pollinators, which in turn helps with seed proliferation.
- Once mature, these forests require no irrigation, fertilizers, or human intervention, making them more sustainable and economical than traditional gardens.

Education and Community Engagement

Rotary Club of Deonar's approach lays strong emphasis on education and community engagement. By involving schools in the plantation and maintenance process, the club ensures that children gain a firsthand understanding of biodiversity and sustainability. Through interactive sessions, nature walks, and plantation drives, students are empowered

and inspired to become future environmental stewards. Community members are also involved in post-plantation monitoring, which fosters a sense of ownership and pride in these local green spaces and cultivates an environmentally conscious society.

Replication – urban and rural areas

The club's structured, community-driven model is scalable and can be replicated by other organizations across India to create thousands of "urban lungs," helping the nation move closer to its net-zero emissions goals. These forests can also be used in rural areas to reclaim barren lands, create green buffers along highways, and support agroforestry. With strategic partnerships, similar clubs and NGOs across India can replicate this model to create thousands of such green lungs.

A Greener Tomorrow, One Forest at a Time

With the ongoing threats of climate change, deforestation, and urban sprawl, the importance of afforestation cannot be overstated. The Urban Forest Project led by Rotary Club of Deonar is not just a local initiative—it is a scalable model with national and global relevance.

Since 2020-21, Rotary Deonar has continued to expand the Urban Forests initiative through the support of all the Rodoes as well as Past Presidents A V Suresh, Sudhir Mehta, Sangeeta Shahani, Vidhya Subramanian, Padma Kapoor and IPP Rajashri, and District Avenue Chairman for Environment, Rtn Rajesh Chaudhry.

*For more information, contact **Rtn. PP Prabodh Sharma**, Rotary Club of Deonar, District 3141, Mumbai India. Email - rtnprabodh.sharma@gmail.com*

Wings Over the Serengeti

Yashas Chattree, passionate wildlife enthusiast, son of Rtn. Gunjan Jain, takes us high up for a bird's eye view - it's about wings as much as about paws and claws.



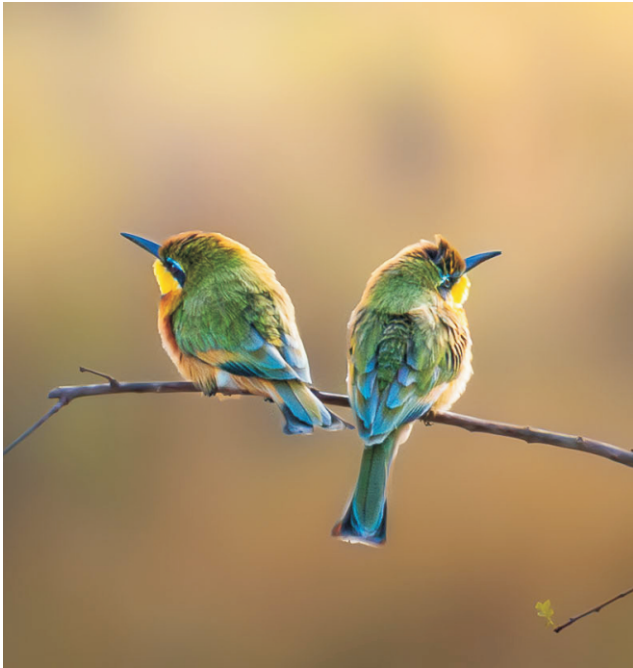
When you think of the Serengeti, chances are your mind jumps straight to the big guys, lions draped lazily across termite mounds, elephants trudging in slow motion through tall grass, or wildebeests kicking up dust during the Great Migration. I'll be honest: I arrived with the same images dancing in my head. But once I settled in with my camera, I realized something: the Serengeti is just as much about wings as it is about paws and claws.

I couldn't take my eyes (or my lens) off the birds. Everywhere I turned, there was a new splash of color, a curious call, or some dramatic bit of behavior that felt like a performance put on just for me. By the end of my trip, I had just as many bird photos as I had lions or leopards. Maybe more. And trust me, they tell the story of this landscape in ways that the megafauna never could.

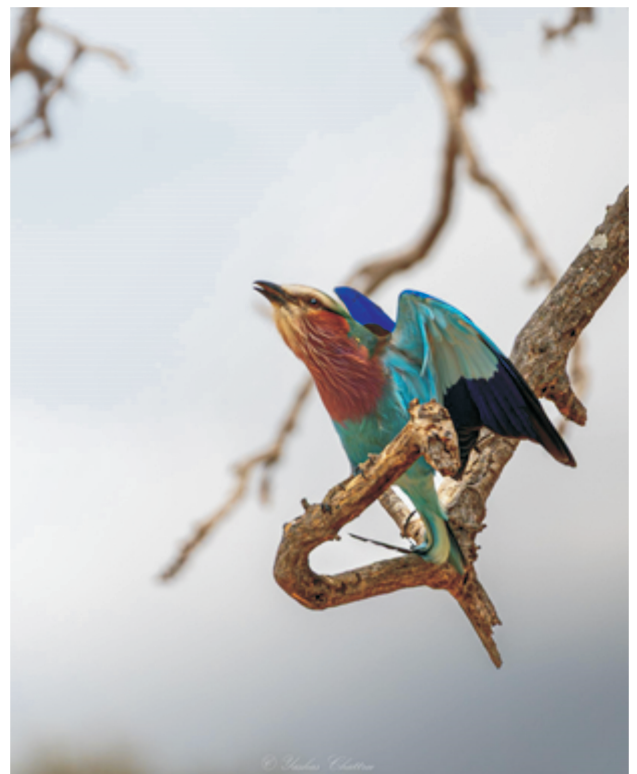
The Serengeti National Park itself is enormous, about 30,000 square kilometers of grassland, woodland, and river valleys, stretching into the horizon. It's part of a larger ecosystem that even spills into Ngorongoro Crater where life gathers around alkaline lakes. Between these two landscapes, more than 500 bird species thrive. From neon-colored show-offs to grim-faced scavengers, each one has a role in keeping the wheel of life spinning.

The Jewel-Toned Performers

One golden morning, the sky yet soft with first light, I found two tiny bee-eaters perched on a twig. They flicked their heads left and right, feathers glowing green, turquoise, and yellow. With marvellous aerial skills to grab insects, these guys are nature's pest control, without them, the Serengeti would be a buzzing, swarming nightmare.



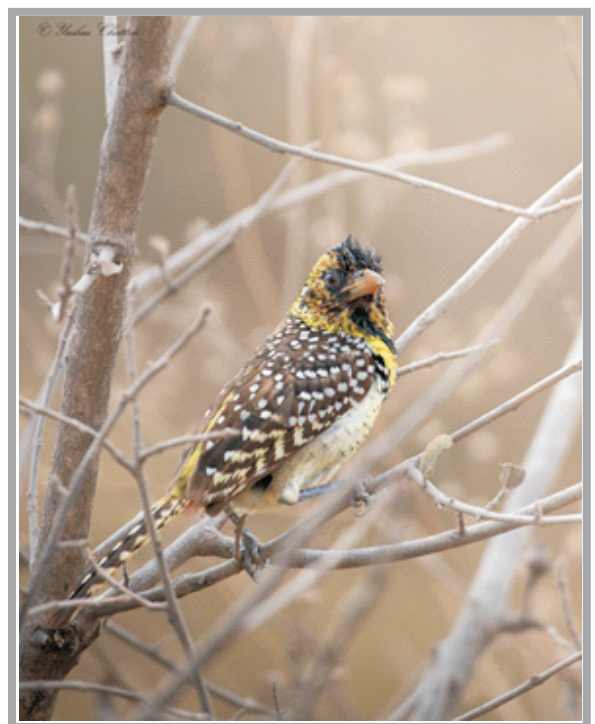
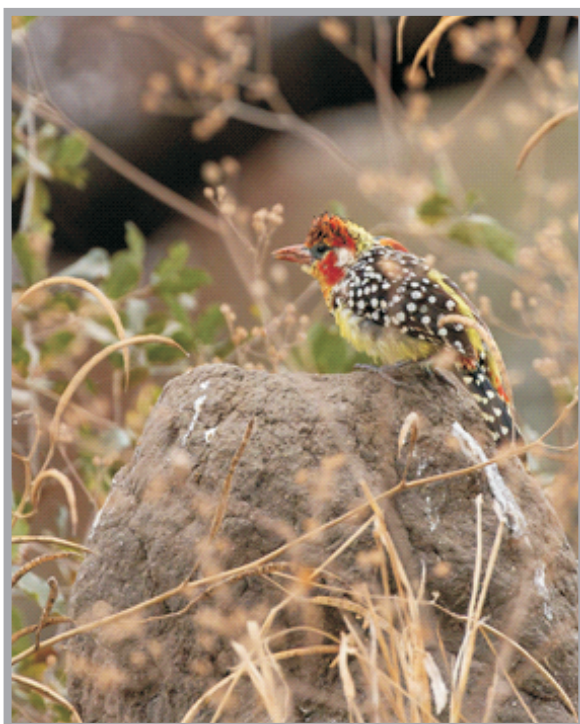
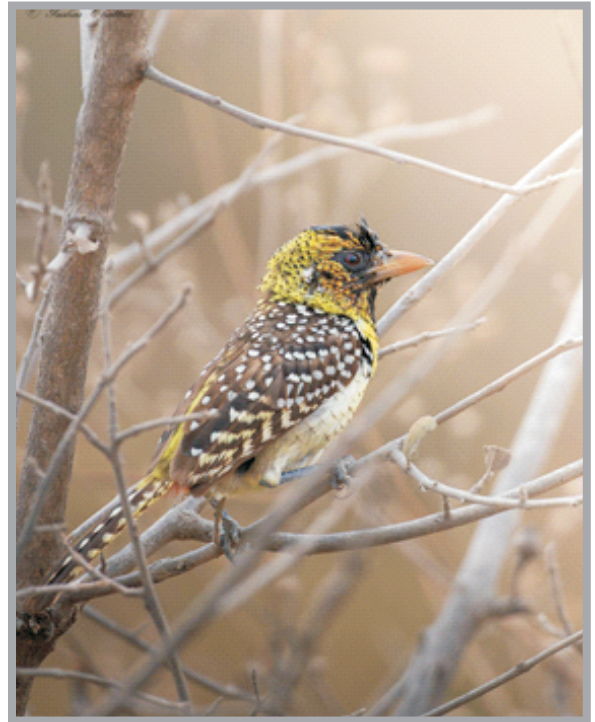
Not far away, a lilac-breasted roller sat high up on a branch, like someone spilled a paintbox over its feathers, violet chest, blue wings, turquoise belly long tail streamers. It knows it's stunning. If lions are the kings of the land, rollers are surely the divas of the sky.



The Earthy Storytellers

Then there were the barbets, chunky little birds with spotted backs and bold yellow throats. I found them

perched on termite mounds and dry shrubs, busy as ever. Their loud, rolling calls echoed through the dry air, a sound that felt like the Serengeti's background music.



Elsewhere, I stumbled upon a small flock of Fischer's lovebirds. They were perched close together on a branch, green wings and orange faces glowing against the grey sky, chattering nonstop. Their bond is so tight it's almost impossible to photograph just one. To me, they represent the social heart of this place: in a land where survival is tough, sometimes community is everything.



The Grim Undertakers

Of course, the Serengeti isn't all color and song. Death is as much a part of life here as sunrise. Enter the vultures and storks. High above, a



lappet-faced vulture circled, massive wings slicing the sky, a bald head scanning the ground for any hint of a carcass. Up close, it's not exactly "pretty," but there's raw power in its honesty. These scavengers are the cleanup crew. Without them, disease would spread through the plains faster than the migration itself.

Even stranger is the marabou stork. One evening I caught it perched against a blood-red sunset, its silhouette as haunting as it gets. With its heavy bill and ragged throat pouch, it looks like it stepped straight out of a gothic novel. And yet, this bird plays a vital role, erasing death, recycling nutrients, and keeping the ecosystem clean. It's not glamorous, but it's real.



Giants on the Ground

Speaking of not glamorous, let's talk ostriches. Watching one stride across the plains was like watching a dinosaur brought back to life. Its pink neck

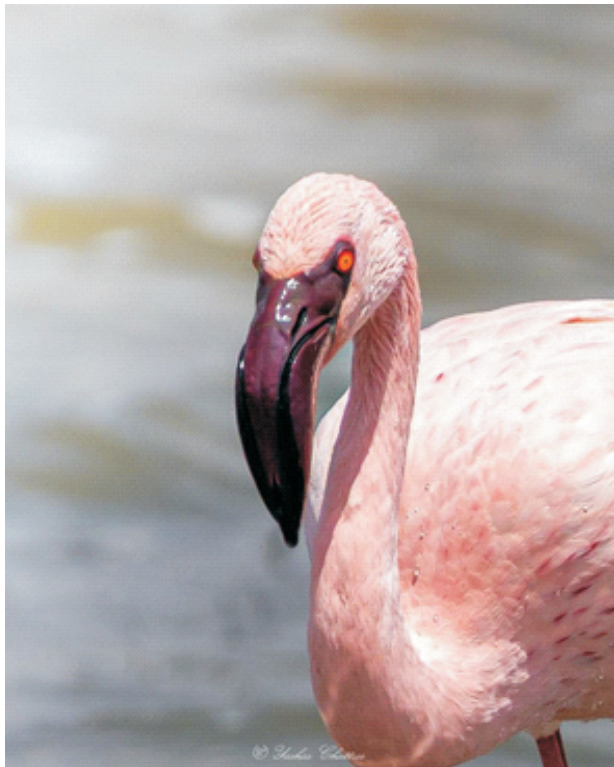


stretched high above the grass while its legs moved with surprising grace. For a bird that can't fly, the ostrich is no underdog, it dominates the horizon in its own way. And when it decides to sprint, you'd better believe it leaves most predators in the dust.



Then there are the more understated ground-dwellers: thrushes, sparrows, and starlings. The superb starling, in particular, stole my heart. With its metallic blues and chestnut belly, it looked almost unreal, perched proudly among acacia thorns. Its eyes, bright and unblinking, seemed to challenge me directly, as if to say, we may be small, but we're not invisible.

At the Water's Edge



The wetlands and lakes tell a whole different story. In Ngorongoro Crater, I watched as entire flocks of

flamingos painted the water pink. Their eyes were burning orange, intense in a way I hadn't expected from such elegant birds. Flamingos don't just bring color to the lakes, they shape the



entire ecosystem, keeping the balance of life at the water's edge.

Yellow-billed storks were never far away, stalking the shallows with their saffron-colored bills. Nearby, grey herons stood statuesque for what felt like hours, only to explode into action with a lightning strike at an unsuspecting frog. One heron I photographed held its prize wriggling in its beak, the drama of life and death playing out in miniature.



And then came the crowned cranes, pure elegance with their golden halos and graceful movements. They're not just beautiful; they're symbols of fidelity for the Maasai people. Watching a pair move in near-perfect unison across the grass made me believe in the poetry of partnership.



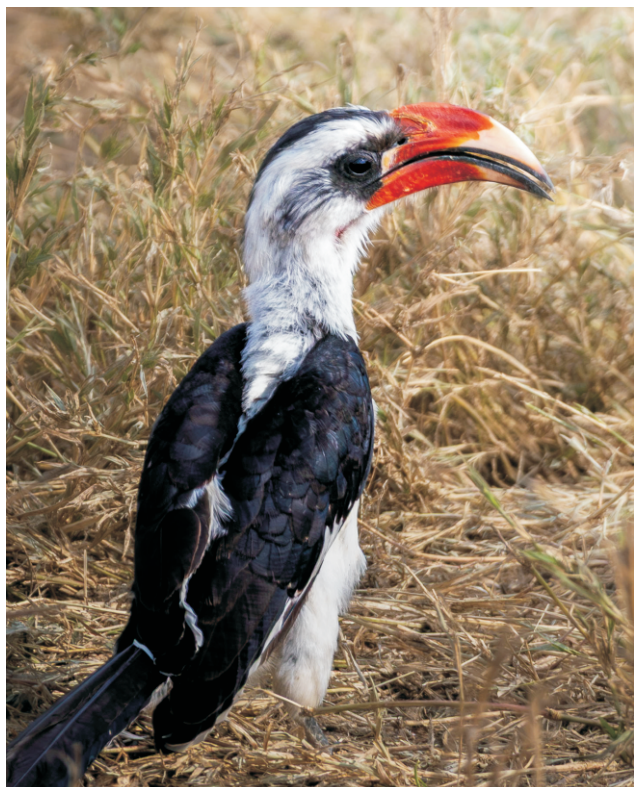
The Hunters in the Trees

While the big cats prowl the grass, the trees belong to another kind of hunter. Kingfishers perched quietly on thorny branches, their bright red bills betraying their patience. Unlike their river-dwelling cousins, these woodland hunters wait for the right moment before swooping down on unsuspecting prey.



Nearby, hornbills carried themselves with awkward charm, their oversized beaks looking almost cartoonish against their lean bodies. They're noisy, social, and endlessly curious, a reminder that humor and survival often go hand in hand.

And then there are the weavers, restless little architects who build massive hanging nests. Watching them dart back and forth with strands



of grass, I was reminded of human villages, everyone working together, everyone contributing to a home that outlasts them.



The Bigger Picture

By the time I left the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, I had thousands of photos stored in my camera. Lions roaring, elephants bathing, wildebeests in endless lines, but it's the birds that captivated me the most. They're the unsung narrators of this ecosystem.

The rollers and bee-eaters bring color to the sky. The barbets and lovebirds stitch songs into the silence. The vultures and storks remind us of the raw truth of death. The ostriches and cranes dominate with size and elegance. And the smaller hunters and weavers fill in the in-between spaces, making sure no niche is left unattended.

The Serengeti is often described as timeless. But what makes it feel eternal isn't just the sight of lions hunting or wildebeests migrating, it's the chorus of wings, songs, and silhouettes that fill every corner. Out here, wings don't just carry birds across the sky, they carry the very story of life itself.

Yashas Chattree, all of 17 years, son of Rtn. Gunjan Jain, is a passionate wildlife enthusiast. He is set to begin his journey as a medicine student in the UK. Follow him on Instagram @lensed_irl

The Cracked Window Within

The Cracked Window on the 7th Floor: A story of yours and mine everyday in Mumbai

Rodeo Gunjan Jain draws on the metaphor of visible signs of neglect to explain how mental health issues build up if ignored.



It starts small.

A missed local train during peak hours. A milk packet that burst open. A child's homework left incomplete. A boss's curt reply in the morning stand-up. These are the tiny cracks, annoyances we wave off, like the cracked window on the 7th floor of a high-rise in Chembur that no one ever got around to fixing. But, over time, these cracks add up.



The "Broken Window Theory," originally coined by social scientists James Q. Wilson and George Kelling, talks about how visible signs of neglect, like a broken window left unrepaired, can lead to a sense of disorder and bigger social problems. Applied to urban mental health, the metaphor is striking: when small stresses are neglected, they compound into chronic anxiety, burnout, and a silent erosion of well-being.

The Mumbai Middle-Class Mindspace

Mumbai, India's city of dreams, runs on ambition and deadlines. But behind its glittering skyline and local train hustle lies a quiet epidemic. The National Mental Health Survey of India (2015-16) found that nearly 1 in 10 Indians suffers from some form of common mental disorder -mostly anxiety and depression. And while urban centres like Mumbai have better access to healthcare, stigma and time poverty keep middle-class working professionals from even acknowledging their emotional overload.

A 2022 survey by ICICI Lombard on mental health revealed that 71% of working Indians report experiencing stress at least once a week, and 62% say they have no time to deal with it. Among them, mid-career professionals between ages 35-50 top the charts, a demographic trying to juggle EMIs, aging parents, demanding jobs, and parenting in a city where time and space are both luxuries.

But here's the thing. Not every mental health concern needs a psychiatrist or medication. Many of them are "daily dents" that, when acknowledged early, can be smoothed out with mindful life tweaks.

So, how do we fix the cracked window before the storm hits?

Let's look at some common, manageable sources of mental fatigue in a Mumbai middle-class household, and what we can do about them:

1. Commute-Stress Is Real, Rewire It

Data point: The average Mumbai commuter spends 2 to 3 hours daily in traffic or trains (Mumbai Mirror, 2023).

Fix: Make your commute a time for you, not just a transfer between work and home. Try:

- Switching to audiobooks or podcasts instead of doomscrolling.
- Practicing breathwork while seated (simple 4-7-8 technique).
- Using the time to mentally declutter: reflect, don't react.

2. Decision Fatigue at Home

Why it matters: By evening, most working parents have already made 100+ decisions at work. Choosing dinner, managing homework, or discussing bills becomes emotionally draining.

Fix: Automate where possible:

- Pre-plan weekly meals on Sunday.
- Delegate small tasks to children or spouse - shared responsibility reduces friction.
- Keep "buffer time" after work before jumping into family mode - even 15 minutes helps.

3. Toxic Positivity at Workplaces

Reality check: Many office cultures in Mumbai still reward stoicism. Expressing emotional exhaustion is seen as "weak."

Fix: Start with small shifts in language and boundaries:

- Replace "I'm fine" with "I've had a long day, I need 10 minutes."
- Normalize emotional honesty in safe spaces: talk to a colleague you trust, create "venting rules" with friends (e.g., no judgment, no advice).

4. Cluttered Spaces = Cluttered Minds

Data link: A study from Princeton University Neuroscience Institute showed that physical clutter competes for your attention and reduces productivity.

Fix:

- Try the "10-minute tidy" daily. One corner, one shelf, one drawer.

- Remove 1 unused item per day for 30 days. The sense of control builds mental space too.

5. No 'Me-Time' Is A Mental Sinkhole

Observation: Most middle-aged professionals report guilt when doing nothing, especially women (NIMHANS, 2021).

Fix: Rebrand self-care from "luxury" to "life-maintenance":

- 30 minutes of doing something just because - painting, gardening, singing old Kishore Kumar songs.
- Schedule it like a meeting. Block your calendar. Don't skip.

Attitude Shifts That Build Resilience

Small attitude shifts can act like putty in those mental cracks. Here are three to start with:

1. **From Perfection to Progress:** Your child's messy handwriting or the unmatched bedsheets won't make it to Instagram. They're fine. So are you.
2. **From Reaction to Reflection:** Not every WhatsApp message or boss's tone needs a response. Sometimes, a pause is the most powerful choice.
3. **From Guilt to Grace:** Feeling overwhelmed is human. Don't add guilt to the load. Acknowledge, rest, resume.

Start With One Window

You don't need to solve everything. Just start with one "cracked window" in your routine. That 11 PM doomscroll, the overflowing kitchen drawer, the guilt trip over ordering takeout. Fix that. Then another. Then another.

Your mental wellness isn't a 5-star spa vacation or a luxury retreat in Lonavala. It's in the tiny rituals - the chai at your favourite corner stall, the laugh with your building's watchman, the playlist that makes your 7:13 AM local train ride tolerable.

Because in a city that never sleeps, you can still find your own moments of quiet repair.

-Rtn. Gunjan Jain

Club Secretary Rotary Club Of Deonar 2025-26

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A Daughter remembers

Rodeo Nayana Das reminisces on her father's extraordinary bravery and leadership at a time of extreme danger during the World War



Feb 15th, 1942...

A day at odds with nature. World War II was being waged with awesome ferocity.

Singapore, an island country in the east, was under British dominion, an Allied stronghold. Singapore was the major British military base in South East Asia and nicknamed the "Gibraltar of the East". The fighting in Singapore against the Japanese lasted from 8 December 1941 to 15 February 1942. And then Singapore fell! Prime Minister Winston Churchill described the fall of Singapore as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history".

The Japanese claimed to have taken 60,000 Imperial troops in Singapore - 16,000 British, 14,000 Australian and 32,000 Indian soldiers. They also captured a large amount of equipment.

The high number of prisoners was not surprising as the troops had been ordered to defend Singapore until the last possible moment so no major evacuation had been ordered.

Lt-Gen Percival, the British General Officer Commanding, said he had been forced to surrender when the loss of food, water, petrol and ammunition made it impossible to carry on the struggle.



Many of the British and Australian soldiers taken prisoner remained in Singapore's Changi Prison. Many would never return home. Thousands of others were shipped on prisoner transports known as "hell ships" to other parts of Asia, including Japan, to be used as forced labour on projects such as the Siam-Burma Death Railway and Sandakan Airfield in North Borneo. Many of those aboard the ships perished.

The Japanese were highly successful in recruiting Indian soldiers taken prisoner. From a total of about 40,000 Indian personnel in Singapore in February 1942, about 30,000 joined the pro-Japanese "Indian National Army", which fought Allied forces in the Burma Campaign. Others became POW camp guards at Changi. However, many Indian Army personnel resisted recruitment and remained POWs. An unknown number were taken to Japanese-occupied areas in the South Pacific as forced labor. Many of them suffered severe hardships and brutality similar to that experienced by other prisoners of Japan during World War II. About 6,000 of them survived until they were liberated by Australian and U.S. forces, in 1943-45.

It was on this fateful day that my father, Capt. Ramkrishna Gangadhar Karnik, a chief officer, aged 29 years, sailing the Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd. Cargo vessel M.V. JALA TARANG, found himself in Singapore Harbor, aboard his ship.

Pandemonium broke loose, when Singapore fell to the Japanese. Orders were barked to evacuate Singapore. Dad was in a convoy of 13 civilian cargo vessels that were in Singapore harbor, carrying a deadly cargo of ammunition.

In the ensuing melee that occurred, as the vessels tried to break away from the Singapore jetty and set sail, they perceived a grave problem in front of them. In a bid to protect Singapore from the Japanese who the Allies had thought would attack from the sea line, they had riddled the entry to the port with explosive mines.

As if this was not enough of woe, Dad's vessel suddenly had a quasi mutiny on board. The sailors or khalasis, had got frightened by what was happening on shore, and were making a rush for the lifeboats. The captain of the ship, a British National, had taken refuge in the hold of the ship, a quaking quivering mass of fear. Not to be seen or heard, forget commanding and leading his ship and his men to safety, in the face of fear and a certain death.

The situation had gotten out of hand.

Dad had to take a stance. He rushed for a crowbar and hit a crew unconscious. The panic and fear was quelled to a certain extent, and all the khalasis, now rushed for the hold of the vessel.

All this while, there were the ominous Japanese Bomber planes, circling overhead, trying to target the vessels below.

Captain R. G. Karnik now found himself alone on the bridge of the ship, the Jap fighter planes circling above, aiming at him with their artillery guns. Very often, I remember him recalling how the tracer bullets would just miss him and lodge themselves in the deck underfoot.

UTTER COURAGE

In these adverse and awesome conditions, my father along with one and only one Third Engineer steered the vessel out of Singapore Harbor.

Ahead of him, 10 of the vessels in his convoy were either not able to leave the jetty itself, as they got bombed while lifting anchor or they blew up on the mines and sank. Only 3 got out to tell their tale.

Dad's vessel too got damaged, and had a gaping hole in the starboard side. They did a patch up job with cement boxes while sailing, and somehow limped into Ceylon, where they went into the dry-dock for repairs.

Capt. R. G. Karnik was recognized by the British Government for this brave and heroic act, while doing his duty in the face of adversity. He was conferred the **MEMBER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE** for his act of courage and commitment to duty, by King George the VI, Emperor of Britain.

I do know that there was no other Sea Going Captain, from Bombay, who had been conferred an MB E.

Further, when India gained her Independence, we received a letter from our late President Rajendra Prasad. In this letter, Dad was instructed that although Indians, who had received the MBE from the British, were to hand back their medals, he was to retain his, as his Medal was earned for "Act of Utter Courage by a Civilian."



Late Capt. R. G. Karnik in ceremonial dress, sporting the member of the British empire medal on his lapel

Thought, I would share this tale with all you beautiful people, for it was courage & commitment, of the highest order.....and this was my Dad!

Dad,

I love you, I remember you, and I miss you.

Nayana.

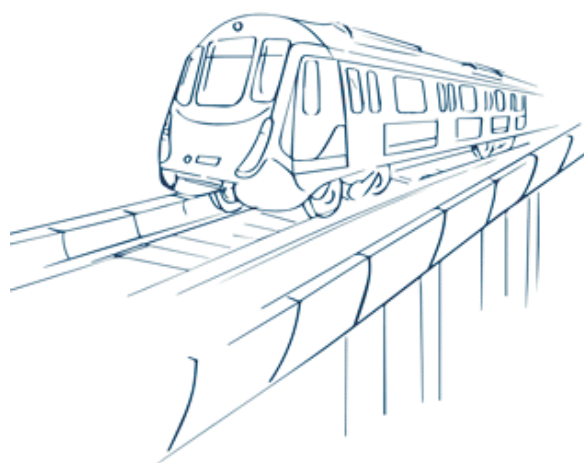
Mumbai's Lifeline Elevated: A Glimpse into the Metro's Transformative Journey

Rotary-Ann Nandini Pujare is a long time Mumbai resident and shares her excitement at the transformative changes happening to the daily commute



I recall the time in the mid-80's when Prakash, my husband, and I would practically saunter into the local train, sit and fully open the daily newspaper, and after a comfortable 30 minute ride, alight and go to work. This scenario is scarcely believable to the hordes of daily commuters who today risk life and limb just to get to work and back, forget travel for pleasure. Can the new Mumbai Metro help in bringing back those halcyon days?

For decades, the iconic Mumbai Local train network, a relic of colonial engineering, has been the city's pulsating artery, now carrying over 7.5 million commuters daily. While it is the backbone of Mumbai's public transport, its limitations – overcrowding, limited reach, and a constant struggle for modernization – have long cried out for a solution.



Enter the Mumbai Metro: a gleaming, elevated dream poised to redefine urban mobility and usher in a new era of connectivity for the Maximum City.



337 kms, 225 stations, 14 lines, 2 million commutes!

The sheer scale of Mumbai's ambition is evident in its meticulously planned metro network, a sprawling web of elevated and underground corridors, each line a vital thread weaving together disparate corners of the metropolis.

At present, 65 stns, 60 plus kms of operational lines -

- Blue - Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar,
- Yellow - Dahisar East - D.N. Nagar
- Red - Andheri East - Dahisar East, and
- Aqua - Aarey to Worli

have already begun to alleviate some of the pressure on the existing infrastructure. These lines, with their air-conditioned comfort and swift journeys, are a stark contrast to the often arduous experience of local train travel. All of this presages a vision of a city where every major hub is connected.

The network expansion is not just about adding lines; it's about creating a synergistic ecosystem where different modes of transport seamlessly converge.

On a lighter note, it's also amusing to hear the quaint sounding, hitherto unknown stations like Valnai-Meeth Chowky, ILFS, Mandale, Prem Nagar, Shangrila, Gaimukh, KonGaon, Mogra, Ovaripada. It's also a riot of colors - One line each Blue, Aqua, Pink, Magenta, two Yellow lines, three Red lines, four Green lines. And a gold line from current airport to the one at Navi Mumbai.

Reduced travel time

The most immediate advantage is the sheer reduction in travel time. The metro, unhindered by road traffic or railway crossings, offers significantly faster journeys, translating into precious hours saved for millions. This time can be reinvested in family, leisure, or simply getting more rest – a luxury often unheard of in Mumbai.

Greater comfort - no sweat!

Air-conditioned coaches provide a welcome respite from Mumbai's often sweltering heat and humidity, a stark contrast to the often packed and less comfortable local trains. The modern stations, equipped with escalators, lifts, and clear signage, are a far cry from the sometimes chaotic environment of older railway platforms. This improved accessibility is a boon for the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with young children.

Decongesting the existing local train network.

The metro will reduce the immense pressure on the local railways. This dispersal of commuters across two efficient systems will ultimately enhance the overall public transport experience for everyone. Furthermore, the metro's punctuality and reliability will reduce anxieties associated with unpredictable delays, a common frustration for local train users.

Transformation

In essence, the Mumbai Metro is more than just a transportation project; it's an urban renaissance. It promises to unlock new economic opportunities by connecting business districts with residential areas more efficiently, reduce air pollution by encouraging a shift away from private vehicles, and most importantly, enhance the quality of life for millions of Mumbaikars. While the local trains will forever remain an indelible part of Mumbai's identity, the metro is the future – a vibrant, modern, and efficient lifeline that will propel this dynamic city into a new era of urban excellence. The journey has begun, and Mumbai is moving forward, one metro line at a time.

Rotary Club of Deonar: Strength in Diversity, Unity in Service

Rodeo, Director Membership, Prabodh Sharma on the Rodeo magic, and the club's plans



I joined Rotary Club of Deonar (RCD) in 2014, being inducted during the Official Club Visit (OCV) by the District Governor Ajay Gupta. In my first year as a Rodeo (as the Deonar club members call themselves), it was dizzying to witness the dedication and time put in by the Club leaders. I resolved that, aside from minor roles, I would never take on a position that took up too much of my time and effort. And yet, by the year 2020, I was the President of Rotary Club of Deonar. This transformation was possible only because of the unique influence and inspiration of my fellow Rodeos, who became my close friends and my extended family.

RCD continues to shine as a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking club where service and fellowship go hand in hand. Our strength lies in the collective qualities of our members, the deep bonds we share, and our commitment - to build a stronger, more impactful future.

After all, at RCD, *we make it happen* - sometimes with planning, sometimes with improvisation, but always with heart.

Qualities That Define Us

Our DNA is Service, Fellowship, and Integrity

Rodeos embody the true spirit of Rotary:

- A steadfast commitment to service that drives impactful community initiatives.
- A diversity of professions, ensuring fresh perspectives and expertise in our varied projects.
- Strong fellowship and camaraderie, which makes our club a close-knit family.
- Leadership and integrity, reflected in both professional and Rotary endeavours.

(And yes, we somehow manage to keep smiling and having fun even when juggling all the above!)

The Bond That Unites Us

More than a club, we're family

More than just a service club, Rotary Club of Deonar is a community of friends. This unique culture of warmth and inclusivity ensures that every member feels valued and supported. Together, we make it happen!



Our Strength in Variety

Different talents, one purpose

Our shared purpose is to have:

- *Projects with Impact:* From healthcare to education, women's empowerment to sustainability, environment to rural development.
- *A Generational Blend:* Senior Rotarians bring wisdom and guidance, while younger members bring fresh ideas and energy.
- *Professional Range:* A mix of entrepreneurs, professionals, and thought.



Reflecting on Areas of Growth

Good clubs evolve. Great clubs grow together

As part of our continuous improvement, we recognise opportunities to:

- Increase active participation
- Strengthen member retention
- Attract younger professionals and more women
- Enhance internal communication (Because even Rotarians occasionally miss a Whats App message.)

Membership Vibrancy Plan

Energy. Engagement. Expansion.

Membership is the lifeblood of Rotary, and vibrancy is what keeps it flowing with energy and relevance.

This year, RCD's membership vibrancy plan will focus on:

Engaging New Members: We will sustain the buddy and mentorship system to ensure that new members feel at home and all members get active and engaged. "No one stands alone." (Unless they're on stage giving a talk, in which case we clap extra loudly.)

Planet Pods: Our Club Administration director PP Ravishekar has created smaller fellowship groups named after planets – Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, and so on. These pods will encourage intimate discussions, bonding, and creative project ideas, while still orbiting around the larger club vision.

“Small groups, big ideas.” (And no, Pluto is not excluded - it’s just our honorary rebel pod.)

Rotary Verified Business (RVB) Program: We will encourage Rodeos to actively participate in this district initiative to strengthen professional credibility and networking. Members can showcase their businesses, fostering trust, opportunities, and economic empowerment within the Rotary community. *“Where service meets success.”* (And where a handshake is still worth more than a LinkedIn connection.)

Creative Fellowship:

Beyond traditional events, we will experiment with book clubs, walking meetings, theme-based dinners, and inter-family activities that build bonds beyond the four walls of our meeting hall.



Building Coherence and Harmony

Together we sound better

Harmony in a club is like the music of an orchestra - each member may play a different instrument, but together, we create a symphony.

Rodeos will continue to:

- Encourage open dialogue and feedback loops
- Promote cross-generational collaboration.
- Make every member feel seen.
- Rotate meeting formats - formal, casual, and sometimes just plain fun.

The Importance of Engaged Members

Active hearts make lasting impact

In the Rotary Club of Deonar, each Rodeo is a co-creator.

An engaged member:

- Brings energy and ideas that fuel projects.
- Strengthens the fellowship fabric.
- Attracts new members by being a walking ambassador of Rotary’s spirit.

Our less active members are only an opportunity awaiting the right moment - a gentle nudge, a new role, or a fun challenge is all that we may need. After all, engagement is contagious. Because as Rodeos, we make it happen - sometimes by plan, sometimes by persuasion, and occasionally with beer.

Vision for the Future

Orbiting with purpose, vibrancy, and joy

The Rotary Club of Deonar envisions becoming a hub of impactful service, harmony and vibrant fellowship. With a focus on quality membership growth and meaningful engagement, Rodeos are committed to transforming communities while nurturing leaders and lifelong friendships.

Together, we are building a club which is prepared for a brighter, more prosperous and more peaceful tomorrow - one that orbits with purpose, vibrancy, and joy.

And always, *we make it happen* - sometimes with strategy, sometimes with laughter, but always with love.

Rtn Prabodh Sharma

Club Membership Avenue, 2025-26

Companions of Forever

The souls we hold, who never part,
who keep their roots within the heart



Friendship begins like the dawn of light,
A warmth that turns the dark to bright,
A laughter shared, a soul set free,
A gentle bond of you and me,
It enters the heart without a call,
And suddenly life feels worth it all.

It asks for no crown, no throne, no fame,
It lives untouched by wealth or name,
A plant that grows with drops of care,
A child that thrives if love is there,
It needs no gold, no worldly shelf,
It only asks you to give yourself.

Yet fragile it stays, though strong it seems,
It can be broken like shattered dreams,
When masks appear, when envy hides,
When truth is lost and silence divides,
The heart that trusted feels the sting,
For friendship too has a fragile wing.

Still—those who remain when storms arrive,
They prove the soul can still survive,
Their presence heals, their truth restores,
They guard the heart, they open doors,
They are the reason hope will stay,
The breath of life along the way.

So let us tend this bond with grace,
With honest time and open space,
Let kindness flow, let patience live,
Let health return to all we give,
For friendship cares, it makes us whole,
And keeps alive the human soul.

Arya, Rotary Child, daughter of Nikhil Gurjar. Arya is a student and Vice Head Girl of DAV school, in Grade XI. She is a passionate photographer, published author and painter.

QUIZ

Test your knowledge of Rotary in India and worldwide

1. In 1905, Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris, started the club in what U.S. city?
 - (a) New York City
 - (b) Chicago
 - © Los Angeles
 2. The name "Rotary" came from the club's original practice of doing what?
 - (a) Rotating their leadership every month
 - (b) Meeting in a rotating schedule at members' offices
 - © Rotating their charitable projects
 3. What is the principal motto of Rotary International?
 - (a) "People of Action"
 - (b) "We Serve"
 - © "Service Above Self"
 4. In what year did Rotary International begin to admit women as members?
 - (a) 1987
 - (b) 1995
 - © 2002
 5. Rotary International's major initiative, PolioPlus - what country did the campaign start by immunizing six million children?
 - (a) India
 - (b) The Philippines
 - © Nigeria
 6. In 1968, the first Rotary club banner to orbit the moon was carried by which astronaut?
 - (a) Neil Armstrong
 - (b) Buzz Aldrin
 - © Frank Borman
-

QUIZ

7. Which city was home to the first Rotary club chartered in India?
8. Who is credited with starting the first Rotary club in India?
9. Who was the first Indian to be elected President of Rotary International?
10. Which Rotary project is famous for developing and distributing low-cost artificial limbs in India?

=====

HAIKU

Simple is best. Friendship, in three lines...

A loyal strong bond,
A helping hand through tough times,
Friendship is a gift.

A laugh in the dark,
A shoulder on which to cry,
A true friend is gold.

Sharing secrets deep,
Understanding with a look,
Friendship's quiet strength.

Walking side by side,
Through sunshine and through the rain,
Never all alone.

Soirées Update: Saturn & Uranus Set the Ball Rolling



Our newest initiative — Deonar Soirées — is all about fellowship, fun, and friendship. The idea is simple: break the large club circle into smaller, planet-themed groups so members and their families get a chance to know each other more personally. These informal gatherings are where bonds are built, stories are shared, and Rotary truly comes alive beyond projects and meetings

.The Soirée spirit is alive and sparkling! 🌟 Groups Saturn and Uranus recently came together for their very first meet — and what a wonderful evening it turned out to be. Members bonded over warm conversations, personal stories, and lots of laughter. It was the perfect reminder that Rotary is as much about friendship as it is about service.

Now it's the turn of other planets! Gather your group members and families, and plan your own little get-together. It could be as simple as coffee at a café, a cosy potluck at someone's home, or a night out at the theatre or movies. The idea is to connect, share stories, and build bonds beyond meetings.

Don't forget to click lots of photos and bring them to the next club meeting — along with your anecdotes and highlights. A little friendly “show-off” will surely inspire other groups to plan something bigger and better! Here's to many more happy times, laughter, and camaraderie through our Deonar Soirées. Let's keep the spirit flowing!

K Ravishekar,
Director Club Service

Football for Hope, Equality & Change



Get ready!

The Foxpassers Football League, supported by Rotary Club of Deonar, is back with renewed energy. For 16 years, this league has been more than just a game — it's a movement of hope, discipline, and opportunity for underprivileged children in Govandi. With Rotary Club of Deonar's involvement over the past 3 years, the league has found new wings to soar higher and reach further.

This year, with 340+ players, 28 teams, and growing girl participation, the season promises action, inspiration, and transformation!

Connect the with us for volunteering, mentoring & sponsorship opportunities.

-Rtn Rohan D'Souza

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. b) **Chicago** Rotary began with the vision of lawyer Paul P. Harris, who formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905.
2. b) **Meeting in a rotating schedule at members offices** The name was chosen to describe the practice of meeting in rotation at the members' various places of business.
3. c) **Service Above Self** This has been Rotary' main motto since 1989 .
4. a) **1987** After a 1987 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, Rotary officially allowed women to become members.
5. b) **The Philippines** Rotary Polio Plus campaign began in 1979 in the Philippines, with a project to immunize six million children against polio.
6. c) **Frank Borman** Astronaut Frank Borman, a member of the Houston Space Center Rotary Club, carried the first Rotary club banner to orbit the moon in 1968 during the Apollo 8 mission.
7. Calcutta (now Kolkata)
8. R.J. Coombes
9. Nitish C. Laharry
10. Jaipur Limb



भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking



Rotary
Club of DEONAR
RID 3141



To contribute to the various projects of the Rotary Club of Deonar, please use the above UPI code and connect with us once you have transferred the sum.

If you would like to participate as a facilitator or a service partner, please feel free to connect with the club team.

For those who would like to donate in kind, please connect with us and we could guide you on the same.

We welcome you consider joining our Rotary Club – please connect with Director - Membership Rtn Prabodh Sharma @9323185422

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Recon

Account reconciliation is the process of cross-checking a company's account balance with external data sources, such as bank statements.