

PRESIDENT: RTN. BRIG. PK MURALIDHARAN RAJA | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. SAGAR KHANDELWAL EDITOR: RTN. BEHZAD RANDERIA | ASSISTANT EDITOR: R'ANN SONIA RAJORE VOLUME NO XLI/24 | DATED: JANUARY 11, 2025

## From The President's Desk



#### Dear Rotarians & R'Anns,

January, being Rotary Vocational Service Month, has given us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and honour the spirit of vocational excellence. As part of this, we organized a memorable vocational visit to the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA) at Khadakvasla. The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all members who participated. We had the rare privilege of meeting Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh, AVSM, NM, the Commandant of NDA. He

graciously spent half an hour with us, sharing fascinating anecdotes about the NDA, leaving us inspired and in awe of this premier institution.

Tomorrow, January 12, 2025, marks a momentous occasion for our Club - our 41st Charter Anniversary! We are celebrating this milestone at 6.30 PM at the Poona Golf Club Terrace. It promises to be an evening of joy, camaraderie, and celebration. We sincerely invite all members and their families to join us in large numbers to make this event truly memorable.

In yet another impactful initiative, yesterday afternoon, we had the honour of installing a new Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Ghorpadigaon. As the RCC's inaugural project, school uniforms were distributed to 300 children (boys and girls) of Swami Vivekanand Semi English Primary School in Ghorpadi, Pune. Witnessing the joy and happiness on the faces of these children as they received their new uniforms was a profoundly humbling experience for all of us.

As we reflect on the success and vibrancy of our Club within Pune District RID 3131, it is heartening to see our collective efforts yielding impactful results. However, it has been a matter of concern that we have not had the pleasure of meeting some of our members and their spouses since the start of the Rotary year. We understand that busy schedules and commitments can sometimes take precedence, but we would truly love to reconnect and see you at our events.

Let us make tomorrow evening a memorable one! Join us at the Poona Golf Club Terrace at 6:30 PM on 12 January for our 41st Charter Anniversary celebration—a special occasion filled with fun, fellowship, and cherished memories.

Warm regards,

Brigadier PKM Raja, President RY 2024-25

CLUB NUMBER : 021813 | RI DISTRICT : 3131

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# 41<sup>st</sup> RCPC Club Birthday on January 12, 2025

We are delighted to announce that our **CLUB'S 41st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION** will take place on **SUNDAY**, **JANUARY 12, 2025**, at 6.30 p.m. at **THE POONA CLUB** — **GOLF COURSE**, 6, Airport Road, Shastrinagar, Yerawada, Pune, Maharashtra 411006. (Google Map - <u>https://goo.gl/maps/aVYidQSkZDTkrxkE9</u>)

Immediately after a short meeting at 7.00 p.m and induction of two new members, the cake cutting ceremony will take place, followed by Cocktails and Dinner accompanied by a **Live Musical Night**.

Our Fellowship Committee are making every effort to ensure that this evening is enjoyable and memorable for you. As usual there will be delicious snacks and dinner. Any members with special dietary requirements such as Jain food, etc., may please contact the Fellowship Committee chairperson.

Considering the present weather conditions, woollens are recommended.

#### Timings:

Date: Sunday, January 12, 2025 Timings: 7 — 7.30 pm Club Meeting 7.30 pm onwards — Celebrations Begin Venue: The Poona Club — Golf Course Terrace Dress Code: Party wear Highlights: Live Musical Night

Additionally, there will be a half-hour Pre-Meeting Fellowship starting at 6:30 PM, with the meeting officially commencing at 7:00 PM.

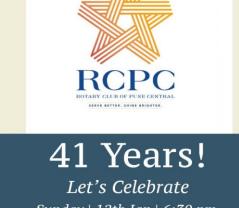
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Please do come and enjoy this Club Birthday Celebration together!

## Induction of Members

Thanks to our members' support, more of which is required, we are in celebration mode on Sunday January 12, 2025. This is because we are welcoming two members into our RCPC Family. Induction of these new members will be done during Sunday January 12, 2025's regular meeting at Poona Club – Golf Course Terrace at 6.30 p.m.

A brief Introduction of the new members are given below:



Sunday | 12th Jan | 6:30 pm @ Poona Club - Golf Course Terrace



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#### Mr. Gurvinder Singh Patheja



Mr. Gurvinder Singh P is the Founder and Chairman of Itus Sports and Safety Pvt. Ltd., a company that specializes in disaster management, rescue training, equipment supply, consulting, and rescue services. With a diverse career spanning multiple industries, Mr. Patheja is also a former industrialist and served as a Director at Patheja Forgings. Presently, he is in the process of establishing a Biotech company, BhuShakti Biotech LLP.

With 28 years of experience as an industrialist, Mr. Patheja owned and directed the Patheja Group, an engineering company that achieved annual

sales of Rs. 640 Crore in 1996-97 and employed over 5,800 individuals. Under his leadership, the company earned a reputation for engineering excellence, innovative management practices, and a relentless focus on continuous improvement. The Patheja Group became known as a trusted partner in resolving complex engineering challenges. Mr. Patheja has since founded and led various organizations focused on improving the quality of life for individuals by enhancing the environments in which they live, work, and play.

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In addition to his industrial achievements, Mr. Patheja has spent 11 years as a founder, mentor, and advisor to various organizations, providing leadership and strategic guidance to multiple ventures. His commitment to social impact is further reflected in his work with numerous organizations that aim to serve society in diverse ways.

Mr. Patheja holds a Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) degree in Mechanical Engineering.

He is married to Mohini, who is a housewife and also a partner in BhuShakti Biotech LLP, where she plays a key role in the production of organic fertilizers. Mohini holds a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Chemistry and a Master of Arts (MA) in Literature. In addition to her involvement in the family's business ventures, she also contributes to various organizations in a supporting role.

Gurvinder and Mohini have two sons: Amarprit Singh and Gurpavit Singh Patheja. who have been recognized as "Leaders of Tomorrow" by The Economic Times. Furthermore, they are the founders of Hotfut Sports and ILESEUM Clubs, which are dedicated to promoting community development through wellness, health, sports, and social engagement.

Gurvinder was member of RCPC from June 1991 to December 1992.

We welcome Gurvinder and Mohini to Rotary!

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#### Mr. Rajeev Pittie



Rajeev was born, brought up and educated in Pune. He was in St. Vincent's High School followed by Ness Wadia College, passing out in 1980. He started building his business acumen from a very early age by training at the Century Mills, Mumbai. Later, he joined the family business at The Raja Bahadur Motilal Poona Mills Ltd. In 1987, he entered the field of plastics culminating into his present company, Pittie Polymers Pvt Ltd, a very successful manufacturer of plastic products. He married the very soft spoken Madhulika, a Kolkata resident, in 1982. She is very interested in the Vedanta philosophy and Indian Classical music. Rajeev believes in fitness and keen in outdoor sports. Both he and Madhulika love travelling.

They have two sons, Pranav aged 41 who is married, and Prashant who is 36 years old. While Pranav is with his father in the plastics business, Prashant, based in London, is into manufacturing very fine woollen garments with his main market being Europe.

Rajeev is not new to Rotary and was a charter member of the Rotary Club of Poona Downtown some time ago. He would like to start his Rotary innings once again by joining Pune Central and has expressed his desire to be involved in the various projects of the Club.

We welcome Rajeev and Madhulika to Rotary!

# The Week That Was – January 5, 2025

#### (From Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal)

This past week, our club had the privilege of visiting the prestigious National Defence Academy (NDA), Khadakwasla. It was a day filled with camaraderie, exploration, and a deeper appreciation for the commitment and discipline that shape our nation's defenders.

A heartfelt thanks to our President, Brig. PKM Raja, for facilitating this extraordinary experience, making it an unforgettable event for all attendees.

#### An Unforgettable Experience

Accompanied by family members of all ages—elders, adults, and children—the visit showcased the finest of NDA's hospitality and grandeur. The serene campus, surrounded by lush greenery and the picturesque Khadakwasla Dam, set the perfect stage for a day of learning and bonding.

The guided tour offered fascinating insights into the NDA's rich history and legacy. Members were captivated by the Sudan Block, the iconic headquarters symbolizing Indo-African friendship, and the Habibullah Hall, showcasing a remarkable collection of artifacts.

#### **Exciting Activities**

The highlight of the day was the opportunity to ride on Navy training ships in the tranquil waters of the Khadakwasla Dam. This exhilarating experience left everyone in awe, especially the children, who marveled at the life of naval trainees.

Additionally, members got a unique chance to sit in the cockpit of a real aircraft. It was a thrilling moment that inspired curiosity and admiration for the rigorous training of Air Force cadets.

#### **A Culinary Feast**

The visit concluded with a delightful meal hosted by the academy, offering a perfect blend of flavors and hospitality. Members exchanged stories and reflections over lunch, cementing the bonds of fellowship.

#### **Gratitude and Reflection**

This visit not only deepened our respect for the armed forces but also reinforced our sense of community. It was a day of inspiration, and we are grateful to the NDA for their warm welcome and to our President for making this possible.



# 'She Can And She Will' (Boxing)

Ms Samiksha Abhiman Suryawanshi 12th (Sci) from S. V Union High School And Jr.College, who is part of the RCPC sponsored 'She Can & She Will' (Women Boxing) project won the silver medal at School State Boxing Championships held at Akola (2024). Wishing her good luck for her future competitions!







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# Installation of RCC and Distribution of School Uniform

Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Ghorpadigaon was Installed on 11 January 2025 at the Swami Vivekanand Semi English Primary School with 11 Charter members. Distribution of School Uniforms to 300 children was undertaken as the first project of this newly chartered RCC Ghorpadigaon.





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## **Upcoming Rotary Project Events** Contributed by Rtn Oni Kakajiwala

We have two important events scheduled for our Rotary project:

#### Wednesday, January 15th

- Time: 12:00 noon
- Event: Distribution of Specs
- Location: Ralegaon (specs collected by a teacher)
- Note: The principal has been requested to delay distribution until our team arrives.

#### Saturday, January 18th

- Event: Distribution of Specs and Devices & Follow-up Check-ups
- Location: Jagruti School, Alandi
- Focus:
  - o Distributing specs and devices to students
  - Conducting check-ups for 12 girls who were missed during the previous visit



## Vocational Awards

### From Rtn. Arun Shroff, chairperson Vocational Award Committee

Every year we recognize and honour those who have risen beyond themselves and served their vocations meritoriously and selflessly, be it from your own organisation or any another. Additionally, the philosophy of giving and caring is an integral part of Rotary. Fortunately, there are wonderful and amazing people and organisations who battle enormous odds and make great personal sacrifices towards excelling in their vocations.

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#### These individuals should demonstrate one or more of the following attributes:

- Goes above and beyond to serve others with a positive and willing spirit.
- Demonstrated leadership or an ability to motivate others in pursuit of excellence.
- Considered situations and problems from novel and diverse perspectives; addressed challenges in an innovative manner.

We need your assistance in identifying such people/organisations for this year's **Vocational Awards**. Nominations can be from the fields of Business, Industry, Health, Environment, Education, Livelihood, or Empowerment and Advocacy. These awards are not about winning or losing. They are about sharing, encouraging, and inspiring.

If you know anyone doing **exemplary** work, please nominate him/her and email their details for our consideration in the nomination form attached. The least they deserve is recognition of their effort.

You may send your recommendations to Gajanan on his email ID: <u>office@rcpunecental.org</u> with a copy to me on my email ID <u>shroff.pune@gmail.com</u> or on Gajanan's WhatsApp no. +91 95277 16505.

The Vocational Awards are scheduled to be distributed at our meeting on Saturday 01 March, 2025.

I would appreciate your revert latest by January 31, 2025.



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# 50 things every Rotarian should know about Rotary

(Inputs from Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant

#### **23 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

The Rotary district governor performs a very significant function in the world of Rotary He or she is the single officer of Rotary International in the geographic area called a Rotary district, which usually includes about 45 Rotary clubs. The district governors, who have been extensively trained at the worldwide International Assembly, provide the "quality control" for the 27,000 Rotary clubs of the world. They are responsible for maintaining high performance within the clubs of their district.

The district governor, who must make an official visit to each club in the district, is never regarded as an "inspector general." Rather, he or she visits as a helpful and friendly adviser to the club officers, as a useful counselor to further the Object of Rotary among the clubs of the district, and as a catalyst to help strengthen the programs of Rotary.

The district governor is a very experienced Rotarian who generously devotes a year to the volunteer task of leadership. The governor has a wealth of knowledge about current Rotary programs, purposes, policies and goals and is a person of recognized high standing in his or her profession, community and Rotary club. The governor must supervise the organization of new clubs and strengthen existing ones. He or she performs a host of specific duties to assure that the quality of Rotary does not falter in the district, and is responsible to promote and implement all programs and activities of the Rotary International president and the RI Board of Directors. The governor plans and directs a district conference and other special events.

# Some Interesting Things to take note of:

Contributed by Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir Kazi

#### Renowned Physician Rtn. Dr. Subhash Pallod Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

The Pune Branch of the Association of Physicians of India recently hosted its annual event at Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital on Sunday, December 15, 2024. This prestigious occasion saw five distinguished senior physicians receiving Lifetime Achievement Awards for their remarkable contributions to the field of medicine.

Among the esteemed awardees was Rtn. Dr. Subhash Pallod, a revered member of the Rotary Club of Pune Central (RCPC). Dr. Pallod's impressive accomplishments and philanthropic endeavours have made a profound impact, with RCPC being one of the grateful beneficiaries.

#### A Brief Overview of Rtn. Dr. Subhash Pallod's Illustrious Career

Dr. Subhash Pallod is an experienced physician with an M.D. in Medicine, having commenced his medical practice in 1975. Throughout his illustrious career, he has made significant contributions to various healthcare and research institutions, consistently demonstrating a strong commitment to charitable work and academic excellence. Some of his notable affiliations include:

- Founder Trustee, Poona Hospital & Research Centre
- Associations with various medical colleges and hospitals



#### Philanthropic Efforts: Kiran Pallod Foundation

Dr. Pallod is the founder of the Kiran Pallod Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting education and supporting philanthropic initiatives. The foundation's endeavors focus on empowering underprivileged communities through:

- Educational programs
- Healthcare access
- Charitable endeavors

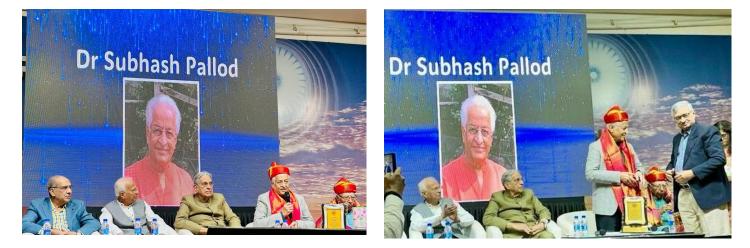
#### **Contributions to RCPC and Rotary Foundation**

Dr. Pallod has been an invaluable supporter of RCPC's service projects, contributing a substantial amount of:

- ₹9,62,000/- to various RCPC service projects over the last two years
- USD 4,110.55 to the Rotary Foundation

#### A Well-Deserved Recognition

The Rotary Club of Pune Central extends its warmest congratulations to Rtn. Dr. Subhash Pallod on receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. We wish him a long, happy, and healthy life, enabling him to continue his humanitarian service projects and make a positive impact on the lives of those in need.



## Food For The Soul

#### Let's Cook!

# Steeped in Tradition: A Recipe for Authentic Indian Chai and Crispy Bhajiya

In the heart of India, where warmth and hospitality reign supreme, two comforting staples bring people together: chai (spiced tea) and bhajiya (crunchy fried fritters). This timeless duo, often served at social gatherings and street food stalls, embodies the spirit of Indian community and tradition.

Our recipe combines the rich, aromatic flavors of chai with the satisfying crunch of bhajiya, inviting you to experience the authentic taste of India. As you savor the soothing warmth of the chai and the golden, spicy goodness of



the bhajiya, you'll be transported to the vibrant streets and cozy homes of India, where every sip and bite is a celebration of love, family, and community.

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#### Recipe: Chai and Bhajiya (Indian Tea and Fried Fritters)

#### Chai (Indian Tea) Recipe

#### **Ingredients:**

- 2 teaspoons loose-leaf black tea (Assam or Darjeeling)
- 1 teaspoon grated ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup milk (dairy or non-dairy)
- 1 cup water
- Honey or sugar (optional)

#### Instructions:

- 1. In a medium saucepan, combine water, ginger, cinnamon, cardamom, black pepper, and salt. Bring to a boil.
- 2. Add loose-leaf tea and reduce heat to a simmer. Let it steep for 3-5 minutes.
- 3. Add milk and stir well. Bring the mixture to a simmer again.
- 4. Strain the tea into cups using a fine-mesh sieve or tea strainer. Discard the solids.
- 5. Add honey or sugar to taste, if desired.

#### Bhajiya (Fried Fritters) Recipe

#### Ingredients:

- 1 cup gram flour (besan)
- 1/2 cup chopped onions
- 1/2 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/4 cup chopped green chilies
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1/4 teaspoon red chili powder
- Salt, to taste
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- Water, as needed
- Oil, for frying

#### Instructions:

- 1. In a large bowl, combine gram flour, onions, cilantro, green chilies, cumin, coriander, turmeric, chili powder, and salt.
- 2. Add lemon juice and mix well.
- 3. Gradually add water to form a thick batter.
- 4. Heat oil in a deep frying pan over medium-high heat.
- 5. Using a spoon, drop small portions of the batter into the hot oil.
- 6. Fry the bhajiya until golden brown, turning occasionally. Drain excess oil on paper towels.
- 7. Serve hot bhajiya with steaming cups of chai.

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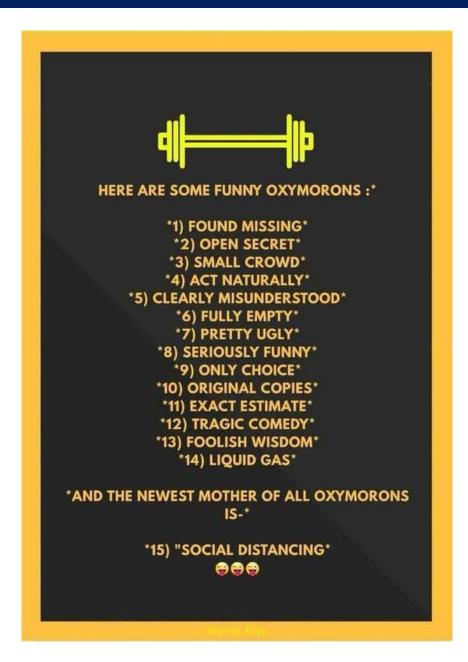
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#### Tips:

- Adjust the amount of spices and chilies according to your taste preferences.
- For an extra crispy coating, you can chill the bhajiya batter in the refrigerator for 30 minutes before frying.
- Enjoy your homemade chai and bhajiya with friends and family!

Do please contribute your recipes to <u>Behzad.randeria@gmail.com</u>

## Just for Fun!



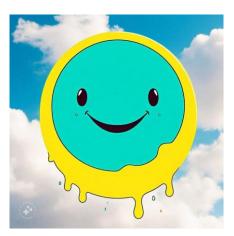
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## Some HA-HA-HA Riddles

Here are some humorous jokes:

- 1. Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!
- 2. Why don't eggs tell jokes? They'd crack each other up!
- 3. Why did the tomato turn red? Because it saw the salad dressing!
- 4. What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta!
- 5. Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field!
- 6. Why don't lobsters share? Because they're shellfish!
- 7. What do you call a can opener that doesn't work? A can't opener!
- 8. I told my wife she was drawing her eyebrows too high. She looked surprised.
- 9. Why don't some couples go to the gym? Because some relationships don't work out!
- 10. Why did the bicycle fall over? Because it was two-tired!



## Beyond Coincidence: Unveiling the Uncanny Connections That Defy Explanation

Coincidences are a part of everyday life, but some events are so extraordinary, so improbable, and so inexplicable that they leave us stunned and searching for answers. From the eerie similarities between unrelated individuals to the inexplicable connections between seemingly unrelated events, these remarkable coincidences challenge our understanding of the world and our place within it.

In this collection of remarkable true stories, we delve into the fascinating world of coincidence, exploring the strange, the surprising, and the unexplained. From reincarnation and twin connections to mysterious events and unsolved enigmas, these incredible coincidences will leave you wondering about the intricate web of connections that binds us all.

Here are some remarkable real-life coincidences:

- 1. The Twin Brothers: Jim Lewis and Jim Springer, identical twin brothers, were separated at birth and reunited 39 years later. They discovered that they had led eerily similar lives, including:
  - \* Both married women named Linda
  - \* Both had sons named James Allan
  - \* Both worked as part-time mechanics
  - \* Both enjoyed woodworking and stock car racing
- 2. The Titanic Coincidence: Morgan Robertson, a writer, penned a novel called "Futility" in 1898. The story was about a massive ship called the SS Titan that sank in the North Atlantic after colliding with an iceberg. Fourteen years later, the RMS Titanic sank under identical circumstances.
- 3. The Assassination Connection: Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy, two U.S. presidents, share a series of striking coincidences:
  - \* Both were elected 100 years apart (1860 and 1960)
  - \* Both were succeeded by vice presidents named Johnson (Andrew Johnson and Lyndon B. Johnson)
  - \* Both were assassinated on a Friday

#### ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL

- \* Both assassins (John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald) were killed before trial
- 4. The Hotel Room Coincidence: In 1953, a man named Bunker Hill checked into a hotel room in New York City. As he was unpacking, he noticed a strange coincidence: the man who had previously occupied the room had the same name as him Bunker Hill.

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5. The Lightning Strike: In 1973, a man named Roy Sullivan was struck by lightning for the seventh time. This unusual coincidence earned him a place in the Guinness World Records.

These remarkable coincidences show that sometimes, life can be stranger than fiction.

## From the Editor

Dear Rtns and R'Anns

As we continue on our journey together, I am excited to share with you another edition of our publication.

Our mission is to inspire, educate, and uplift our community through the stories and ideas we share. We believe in the power of connection, the importance of kindness, and the impact one person can have on the world.

May the words and stories within these pages motivate you to make a difference, to chase your dreams, and to spread joy and positivity wherever you go.

Thank you for being part of our community!

Warm regards, Behzad Randeria

## What to Expect in the Next Four Weeks

- January 18 Winter Picnic for RCPC Members in MPN Holiday Club, Bhor / Internal Program
- January 25 Rtn PP Uday Dharmadhikari Sub Group Program
- February 1 'Lets Think Out of the Box' by R'Ann Sonia Rajore's Students
- February 1 and 2 RID 3131 District Conference "DiScOn T25"
- February 8 Club Assembly

### Birthdays and Anniversaries



**Rtn / R'Ann** Rtn. Surendra Shroff R'Ann Jasma Asher **Birthday** January 14 January 15