



District Grand Lodge of India

Under the Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of Scotland



Grand Chapter United Scottish Royal Arch Freemasonry in India & Ceylon

Under The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI : ISSUE 5
OCTOBER 2026

*Edited by Bro./M.E.C. Noshir Godrej Paghdiwalla, D.S.M.,
District Grand Master (District Grand Lodge of India S.C.)
Hon. Junior Grand Warden (Grand Lodge of Scotland)
Past Depute Grand Superintendent & Grand Scribe Ezra
Hon First Grand Standard Bearer (Scotland)*



This Newsletter is only meant to convey the news and events under the jurisdiction of the Scottish District, but is not its official periodical. The views expressed herein are solely that of the Editor, and not necessarily that of the Scottish District.

Continuity, Leadership and Service: Installation of the New District Grand Master

Address of the District Grand Master after being Installed at the Hands of The Grand Master Mason and his team on 17th October 2026 at the Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai.

Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason, Distinguished Brethren, Worshipful Masters, Office Bearers, and Brethren all,

Today, I stand before you with a heart filled with humility, gratitude, and a profound sense of responsibility.

The honour that you have bestowed upon me by electing me unanimously as your District Grand Master is one that I shall cherish for the rest of my life. Your confidence in me is not merely an endorsement of an individual; it is a sacred trust placed in my hands, and I pledge to dedicate all my energies, experience, and commitment towards serving our beloved District and the Craft we all hold dear.

This moment is especially meaningful because it comes after one of the most turbulent and challenging periods in our history.



Bro. Noshir Godrej Paghdiwalla – Rt. Wor. District Grand Master

Over the past several years, we have endured trials that tested our resolve, our patience, and, at times, even our faith in the future. The legal proceedings that we were constrained to contest, brought uncertainty, division, and considerable strain upon our District. Matters that should have remained within the harmonious framework of Freemasonry found their way into courts of law, creating challenges that affected every Lodge and every Brother in some measure.

Yet, through all these storms, the spirit of Scottish Freemasonry in India did not falter. The District remained steadfast because of the unwavering loyalty, dignity, and perseverance displayed by our Lodges and our Brethren. When confronted with adversity, you chose principle over expediency, unity over discord, and loyalty to the Constitution over personal interests. For this, I salute each and every one of you.

I must also express my deepest gratitude to the Grand Lodge of Scotland. During my twelve years as District Grand Secretary, I had the privilege of working closely with our Mother Grand Lodge. Throughout every challenge we encountered, the Grand Lodge extended invaluable guidance, unwavering support, and constant cooperation. Their confidence in our District and their steadfast commitment to preserving the integrity of the Scottish Constitution in India provided us with the strength and direction necessary to navigate some of our darkest days. To the Grand Lodge of Scotland, I offer my sincere thanks and assure them of our continued loyalty, respect, and dedication to the noble principles of Scottish Freemasonry.

I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the support extended to us by our Brethren under the English Constitution. At critical moments, when circumstances appeared overwhelming, they stood beside us with friendship, understanding, and fraternity. Their encouragement reminded us that the bonds of Freemasonry transcend constitutions and jurisdictions, and that true brotherhood manifests itself most meaningfully during times of adversity.

Brethren, our challenges were not confined merely to administrative and legal issues. As many of you will recall, we were confronted with the devastating consequences of the fire that severely damaged our cherished premises. The destruction caused by that calamity imposed enormous financial burdens and operational difficulties. The restoration and rebuilding process demanded immense effort, resources, and perseverance. We were compelled to address not only the physical reconstruction of a building but also the emotional and financial repercussions that followed.

Many dedicated Brethren worked tirelessly to ensure that our heritage was preserved and that our future remained secure. Their labour, sacrifices, and commitment deserve our deepest appreciation. The rebuilt structure stands not merely as a restored building but as a symbol of resilience, determination, and hope.

Looking back, it is remarkable how many adversities we have faced simultaneously. Challenges emerged both from within and from without. There were moments when the path ahead appeared uncertain and the burden seemed almost insurmountable. Yet each obstacle strengthened our resolve. Every challenge taught us valuable lessons. Every setback reaffirmed the enduring strength of our fraternity.

Today, as we turn a new page in the history of our District, we must resist the temptation to dwell solely on the difficulties of the past. Instead, we must draw inspiration from them.

The future now calls upon us. The task before us is clear: to restore and enhance the prestige, influence, and glory of the Scottish District in India. We are the custodians of a rich and distinguished heritage, built through the dedication and sacrifices of generations of Brethren who came before us. We owe it to them—and to those who will come after us—to ensure that our District not only regains its former eminence but reaches even greater heights.

To achieve this objective, we must focus on unity, harmony, growth, and relevance. We must strengthen our Lodges, deepen our commitment to Masonic education, encourage greater participation, and foster an atmosphere where every Brother feels valued and inspired.

Most importantly, we must actively engage our younger Brethren. The future of our District rests in their hands. Their energy, ideas, enthusiasm, and leadership will shape the next chapter of Scottish Freemasonry in India. I therefore call upon our younger members to step forward, participate actively, assume responsibilities, and contribute their talents to the advancement of our Craft. Let us create opportunities for them to learn, lead, and flourish. Let us empower them to become the torchbearers of our traditions while embracing the opportunities of a changing world.

Brethren, no District Grand Master can succeed alone. The journey ahead will require collective effort, mutual trust, and shared purpose. I seek your continued guidance, your counsel, your support, and your prayers. Together, let us heal old wounds, strengthen our bonds of brotherhood, and move forward with renewed confidence and determination.

I need to officially express my gratitude to all but especially to some who spent their valuable time and resources to stand by the District in times of need and covering long distances to assist us. With gratitude, I refer to Bro. Jatinder Singh from Hyderabad, Bro. Zubin Amaria from Solapur, Bro. Furrokh Santoke from Mumbai, Bro. Farokh Chinoy from Pune, Bro. Mohan George from Chennai, Bro. Mangesh Patel from Udvada, Bro. Shree Sinha from Mumbai and last but not the least my dear Bro. Gautam Hingorani from Pune who stands as a rock besides me.

In Gautam, Swapnali, Shiraz, Machindra and Dharmesh, I am fortunate to have a dedicated staff ever ready to co-operate and toil at my behest, with special mention of my District Grand Secretary and Office Executive whose support has been invaluable.

Let us replace division with unity, uncertainty with purpose, and adversity with achievement. As I accept this great responsibility, I do so with humility, conscious of the challenges that lie ahead but confident in the strength of our Brethren and the enduring values of Freemasonry.



May we work together in harmony, guided by wisdom, strengthened by brotherly love, and inspired by the highest ideals of our Craft.

Thank you, my Brethren, for your faith, your trust, and your confidence. May the Grand Architect of the Universe bless our District, our Lodges, our Brethren, and all our endeavours.

Thank you, one and all.

A Historic Homecoming of Brotherhood

**The Grand Master Mason of Scotland Arrives in Mumbai
for the Installation of Bro. Noshir G. Paghdarwalla as District Grand Master for India**

"Where Brethren meet in harmony, tradition finds its living voice; the light of Masonry shines undimmed across generations."

There are moments in the annals of Freemasonry when history seems to pause, tradition gathers its splendour, and the bonds of Brotherhood shine with a radiance that transcends the boundaries of nations. Thursday, the 15th of October 2026, was one such memorable occasion for the District Grand Lodge of India, Scottish Constitution, as we prepared to welcome the Grand Master Mason of Scotland and his distinguished team to Indian shores for the Installation of Bro. Noshir G. Paghdiwalla as the District Grand Master for India.

THE RECEPTION
At the Foyer

At the Freemasons' Hall



At DGLI Office



At the Airport



Greeted by DGM



The arrival of the Grand Master Mason and his accompanying delegation from Scotland was far more than a distinguished visit by eminent Masonic personages. It represented the renewal of a historic covenant of fellowship between the Mother Grand Lodge in Scotland and its venerable District in India—a living testament to the enduring strength of an Institution whose principals have travelled across oceans, flourished through changing generations, and continued to unite men in the pursuit of moral excellence, charity, and universal Brotherhood.

Mumbai; Where Scottish Tradition Meets Indian Heritage, that magnificent city of cosmopolitan splendour, occupies a place of particular distinction in the history of Scottish Freemasonry in India. Its connection with the Grand Lodge of Scotland reaches back to the earliest years of organised Scottish Craft Masonry in the country.

The first Scottish Masonic Craft District in India was formed on 1 January 1838, with Bro. Dr. James Burnes serving as its first District Grand Master. In November 1992, the Western and Eastern Indian Districts were reunited to form the District Grand Lodge of India, embracing the extensive jurisdiction that continues to bind Scottish Masonic Lodges across the country.

Against this distinguished historical backdrop, the arrival on 15 October 2026 acquired a significance that reached beyond the immediate occasion. The city that had witnessed nearly two centuries of Scottish Masonic endeavour once again became the meeting ground of heritage and hope, of ancient observance and renewed purpose, of the Scottish Masonic tradition and the vibrant spirit of Indian Brotherhood.

One could scarcely imagine a more fitting setting for the commencement of a new chapter in the life of the District. *"Tradition is not merely the inheritance of the past; it is the sacred trust by which the wisdom of yesterday becomes the inspiration of tomorrow."*

Our Distinguished Guests

The arrival of the Br. Alexander C. G. Moncrieff - Most Wor. Grand Master Mason of Scotland, accompanied by Bro. James Bell – Past Depute Grand Master and the ever-popular Bro. William Semple – Rt. Wor. Grand Secretary brought an atmosphere of exceptional anticipation and fraternal warmth to Mumbai. For the Brethren of the District, the occasion represented an opportunity to express their reverence for the Grand Lodge under whose ancient authority their Masonic journey is pursued, and to reaffirm the affection that binds the District to its Scottish origins.



The visit symbolised the remarkable continuity of an Institution whose strength lies not simply in its longevity, but in the constancy of its ideals. Across geographical distances and cultural distinctions, Freemasonry has continued to cultivate the virtues of integrity, benevolence, tolerance, and mutual respect. The warmth of such a welcome is best understood not as a matter of ceremony alone, but as an expression of a fraternity in which esteem is offered sincerely, loyalty is cherished deeply, and Brotherhood is practised as a daily obligation.

A New Chapter Begins; The central purpose of this historic visit was the Installation of Bro. Noshir G. Paghdiwalla as the District Grand Master for India—a momentous milestone in the distinguished journey of the District Grand Lodge. The assumption of the District Grand Master's office is an honour of considerable dignity, but it is also a

solemn undertaking. It calls upon its incumbent to safeguard the inheritance of those who came before, to guide the present with wisdom and impartiality, and to prepare the Institution for the aspirations of those who will follow.



This office is not merely a distinction conferred; it is a trust accepted. Its true measure lies in the strength of the Brotherhood it nurtures, the welfare it promotes, the harmony it preserves, and the example it sets.

Bro. Paghdiwalla brings to this new chapter an established association with the work of the District, while his official message as District Grand Master expresses a deep sense of humility, gratitude, and responsibility in undertaking the stewardship of the District. His own words offer an especially fitting reflection upon the spirit in which the new administration is to proceed:

"The journey ahead is not one that I undertake alone. It is a journey we undertake together."

These words, drawn from Bro. Paghdiwalla's published message, convey a philosophy of leadership grounded not in personal eminence, but in collective endeavour. They recognise that the vitality of a District is measured by the participation of its Brethren, the wisdom of its senior members, the enthusiasm of its younger generations, and the goodwill that sustains them all. The Installation therefore marks not simply the elevation of an individual to high office, but the opening of a fresh chapter in the collective life of the District Grand Lodge of India.

"Let Unity be our foundation, Strength our resolve, and Bonhomie our abiding spirit." In his message to the Brethren, Bro. Paghdiwalla articulates an aspiration that resonates with the noblest traditions of the Craft: Few sentiments could better express the hopes accompanying a new District Grand Master.

Unity is the cement that binds the stones of the Masonic edifice into a structure of enduring strength. Without it, even the finest individual efforts remain fragmented; with it, differences become opportunities for understanding and collective purpose becomes a source of achievement.

Strength, in the Masonic sense, is not the assertion of authority for its own sake, but the steadfastness to uphold principle, the courage to act with integrity, and the perseverance to continue in the service of worthy ideals. Bonhomie—the genial fellowship that gives Brotherhood its warmth and humanity—is the spirit that transforms an assembly of individuals into a family united by affection and mutual regard.

The vision expressed by Bro. Paghdiwalla also embraces the younger Brethren, whose energy and participation are indispensable to the future of the Institution. His stated aspiration that every Brother, from the junior-most to the senior-most, should feel that he belongs is a reminder that the true grandeur of a Masonic District is found not merely in its distinguished offices or historic buildings, but in the strength of its human relationships. Under such a philosophy, the District's past becomes a foundation rather than a burden, its present an opportunity rather than a resting place, and its future a shared responsibility rather than a distant promise.

The historic arrival of the Scottish delegation also invited reflection upon the enduring relationship between Scotland and India within the Masonic world. Separated by distance yet united by the principles of the Craft, the Grand Lodge of Scotland and the District Grand Lodge of India exemplify the capacity of Freemasonry to bridge geography through shared ideals. The journey from Scotland to Mumbai is measured in miles; the fraternal connection it represents is measured in generations of service, fellowship, and fidelity to Masonic principles.

The visiting delegation's presence for the Installation of the new District Grand Master symbolised the importance of that relationship and the continuity of the traditions entrusted to the District.

"The true monument of Freemasonry is not raised in stone alone, but in the character of its Brethren, the generosity of its deeds, and the harmony of its fellowship."

Every Installation of a District Grand Master is, in its own way, a passage between eras. One chapter draws to its close, another opens, and the accumulated wisdom of the past is placed in the hands of a new custodian. The arrival of the Grand Master Mason of Scotland and his team on 15th October 2026 lent this transition a special historical resonance. It brought the heritage of the Grand Lodge of Scotland into direct association with a new chapter in the life of its Indian District, reaffirming the enduring value of continuity, service, and fraternal solidarity.

For the Brethren of India, the occasion offers a renewed invitation to participate wholeheartedly in the work of the Craft, to support one another in the discharge of Masonic obligations, and to ensure that the light entrusted to the present generation continues to shine for those yet to come. The grandeur of the occasion will ultimately be measured not only by the distinction of the visiting dignitaries or the solemnity of the Installation, but by the enduring fruits of the Brotherhood it inspires.



Lighter exchanges prior to the meeting

The historic arrival of the Grand Master Mason and his distinguished team from Scotland in Mumbai on 15 October 2026 shall stand as a memorable milestone in the unfolding story of the District Grand Lodge of India, Scottish Constitution.

It was an occasion that brought history into the present, united the affection of Brethren across continents, and cast a hopeful light upon the administration entrusted to Bro. Noshir G. Paghdiwalla.

As the District embarks upon this new chapter, may the ancient principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth continue to illuminate its path. May its Lodges flourish, its charitable endeavours prosper, its younger Brethren find inspiration in the wisdom of their elders, and its senior Brethren find renewed joy in the fellowship they have so faithfully nurtured.

And may the bond between Scotland and India remain as steadfast as the pillars of the Masonic Temple—rooted in history, strengthened by service, and crowned by the enduring fellowship of men united in a common purpose.

For, in the final reckoning, the noblest achievement of Freemasonry is neither the splendour of its ceremonies nor the antiquity of its records, but the quiet and lasting transformation of character through the practice of its virtues.

May this historic occasion herald an era of renewed unity, enlightened leadership, generous service, and ever-deepening Brotherhood for the District Grand Lodge of India.

So mote it be.

Editorial note: The historical background and quotations attributed to Bro. Paghdiwalla are drawn from his cited District Grand Lodge publications. The ceremonial descriptions and reflective passages are literary narration prepared for the Newsletter; they should not be taken as verbatim accounts of speeches or specific events.

A Grand Convocation of Brotherhood, Tradition and Celebration

***A Report on The Annual Installation Communication of the District Grand Lodge of India, S.C.
At the Freemasons' Hall, Mumbai - 17th October 2026***

There are occasions that transcend the confines of a formal gathering and become treasured milestones in the annals of Freemasonry. The Annual Election and Installation Communication of the District Grand Lodge of India, Scottish Constitution, held on 17th October 2026 at the venerable Freemasons' Hall in Mumbai, was one such memorable occasion — a magnificent confluence of tradition, dignity, fraternity and unbridled celebration. It was a day when the timeless tenets of Freemasonry shone in all their splendour, and the spirit of brotherhood brought together Masons from far-flung corners of India beneath one roof, united in purpose and bound by an enduring bond of fellowship.

The very sight of the Freemasons' Hall Overflowing with the Spirit of Brotherhood and packed to capacity and positively *chock-a-block* with brethren, spoke volumes about the stature of the occasion and the affection commanded by the incumbent. The very sight of the Freemasons' Hall Overflowing with the Spirit of Brotherhood and packed to capacity and positively *chock-a-block* with brethren, spoke volumes about the stature of the occasion and the affection commanded by the incumbent.

Masons from across the length and breadth of India descended upon Mumbai in impressive numbers, transforming the gathering into a veritable pan-Indian assembly of the Craft. The representation from the Lodges was both extensive and heartening, with most Lodges in India having their members present to lend lustre to the proceedings.

Adding further distinction to the occasion were the numerous deputations from sister Constitutions, whose presence in substantial numbers underscored the bonds of mutual respect, amity and goodwill that transcend jurisdictional boundaries. The gathering was not merely an assembly of Masons; it was a living tapestry of unity, where differences of geography and Constitution dissolved into the common language of brotherhood. The atmosphere was charged with anticipation, warmth and the unmistakable excitement of a landmark event in the life of the District.

The centrepiece of the Communication was, without doubt, the Installation of Bro. Noshir Godrej Paghdiwalla as the District Grand Master of India, S.C. steeped in Dignity and Tradition The ceremony was conducted by Bro. Alexander C. G. Moncrieff, Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, whose distinguished presence lent exceptional gravitas to the proceedings. He was ably assisted by Bro. James Bell, Past Depute Grand Master, serving as Chaplain, and Bro. William Semple, Grand Secretary, discharging the duties of Director of Ceremonies. Lending valuable support from within India were Bro. Manohar Palwankar and Bro. Asit Daru, who officiated as Grand Wardens. The distinguished team brought together experience, precision and ceremonial excellence, ensuring that the proceedings unfolded with impeccable dignity.

The Installation itself was a spectacle of Masonic elegance — solemn, stately and beautifully executed. Every movement, every response and every ceremonial detail reflected the discipline and reverence that are the hallmarks of the Scottish Masonic tradition. The packed assembly witnessed the unfolding of an ancient and cherished ritual with rapt attention, as the mantle of leadership passed into new hands.

Bro. Noshir Godrej Paghdiwalla acquitted himself admirably throughout the ceremony. Composed, confident and gracious, he rose splendidly to the occasion, demonstrating the poise and bearing befitting the high office he had assumed. His Installation was not merely the assumption of a distinguished title; it symbolised the renewal of commitment to the Craft, the acceptance of responsibility and the promise of purposeful leadership in the years ahead.

A Special Distinction from the Grand Lodge of Scotland

In a particularly memorable moment following the Installation, Bro. Alexander C. G. Moncrieff bestowed upon the newly installed District Grand Master the collar of Honorary Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

This distinguished honour added a special lustre to an already momentous occasion. It was a gesture of recognition that elevated the significance of the day and served as a powerful affirmation of the esteem in which Bro. Noshir Godrej Paghdiwalla was held. The presentation was warmly appreciated by the brethren present, many of whom would undoubtedly cherish the memory of witnessing this significant mark of distinction. The honour also provided a poignant reminder that the bonds between the District Grand Lodge of India and the Mother Grand Lodge in Scotland are not merely ceremonial. They are founded upon a shared heritage, mutual trust and a continuing dedication to the ideals that have sustained Freemasonry through generations.

While the ceremony paid fitting homage to tradition, the occasion also looked resolutely towards the future. A particularly noteworthy emphasis of the newly installed District Grand Master was the importance of bringing younger brethren to the forefront of Masonic life and leadership.

His vision of encouraging youngsters to step forward, participate meaningfully and assume greater responsibilities deserves special appreciation. The vitality of any institution rests not only upon the wisdom of its experienced members but also upon its ability to nurture, inspire and empower the next generation.

By creating opportunities for younger Masons to contribute their energy, ideas and enthusiasm, the District can ensure that the Craft remains vibrant, relevant and progressive without losing sight of its timeless principles. Such an approach promises to strengthen the continuity of leadership, invigorate Lodge activities and foster a culture in which merit, dedication and service are encouraged at every stage of a Mason's journey.

It was an encouraging message for a gathering so richly representative of the Indian Masonic fraternity — a reminder that the future of the Craft is best secured when the wisdom of experience and the promise of youth walk hand in hand.

If the formal proceedings exemplified dignity and decorum, the festivities that followed demonstrated that the bonds of brotherhood could be celebrated with equal enthusiasm and exuberance. The evening blossomed into a joyous carnival of camaraderie, music, dance and merriment.

A live band set the tone, filling the air with infectious rhythms and inviting the brethren to shed the solemnity of the day's formal proceedings in favour of spirited celebration. The dance floor soon became a lively meeting ground of generations, where familiar faces reunited, new friendships were forged and the sheer joy of belonging to one fraternity found uninhibited expression.

The celebrations continued well into the early hours, with the revelry carrying on until an astonishing 2.30 a.m. It was a fitting testament to the enthusiasm of the brethren and the extraordinary conviviality that permeated the occasion. The energy remained infectious, the smiles were plentiful, and the spirit of fellowship showed little inclination to call it a night.

The banquet, meanwhile, was a gastronomic delight. An array of delectable cuisine catered to the discerning tastes of the gathering, adding another dimension of pleasure to an already memorable evening. Good food, lively music and excellent company combined in a happy alchemy, making the post-Communication celebrations every bit as remarkable as the ceremony itself. Unity, Camaraderie and Bonhomie — The True Spirit of the Evening: Beyond the grandeur of the Installation, the distinguished presence of senior Masonic dignitaries and the splendour of the celebrations, what truly distinguished the occasion was the extraordinary spirit of unity and bonhomie.

Brethren from different Lodges, cities and Constitutions mingled with effortless ease. Conversations flowed freely, laughter echoed through the gathering, and the warmth of old friendships blended seamlessly with the excitement of newly formed associations. There was no divide between the formal and the festive, the senior and the junior, or the visitor and the host. All were united by the common ideals of brotherly love, relief and truth.

The deputations from sister Constitutions added a particularly heartening dimension to this fellowship. Their participation demonstrated that Masonic fraternity flourishes when mutual respect is translated into meaningful association and when the bonds between brethren are strengthened through shared experiences.

Indeed, the Communication served as a powerful reminder that Freemasonry is as much about the relationships it nurtures as it is about the rituals it preserves. The ceremony may provide the structure, but it is the spirit of the brethren that breathes life into the institution.

A Memorable Milestone in the Life of the District came to an end when the curtains finally drew on the festivities in the early hours of the morning, the Annual Election and Installation Communication of the District Grand Lodge of India, S.C., had firmly established itself as an occasion of exceptional significance.

It brought together an impressive cross-section of the Indian Masonic fraternity, showcased a dignified and meticulously executed Installation, celebrated a distinguished recognition from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and offered a glimpse of a future in which younger brethren would be encouraged to take their rightful place at the forefront.

Yet, perhaps its greatest achievement lay in the spirit it fostered. For one memorable day and a night that stretched gloriously into the early hours, the Freemasons' Hall in Mumbai became more than a venue for a formal Communication. It became a vibrant embodiment of the Masonic ideal — a place where tradition met aspiration, where leadership met responsibility, and where fraternity found its most joyful expression.

With Bro. Noshir Godrej Paghdwalla assuming the mantle of District Grand Master, the District embarks upon a new chapter, carrying forward the rich legacy of the Craft while embracing the promise of fresh ideas, youthful participation and renewed purpose.

The Installation may have conferred an office, but the gathering celebrated a brotherhood. The ceremony may have honoured tradition, but the vision looked to tomorrow. And the festivities may have lasted until 2.30 a.m., but the warmth, memories and fellowship of the occasion will undoubtedly endure far longer.

Truly, it was an unforgettable celebration of Freemasonry — resplendent in dignity, generous in fellowship and exuberant in spirit — a magnificent reminder that while the rituals of the Craft may be ancient, its bonds of brotherhood remain forever young.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF GRAND CHAPTER U.S.R.A.F.I.C.

On 17th October 2026, just Prior to the Annual Communication of The District Grand Lodge, was held the Annual Convocation of Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.C., where M.E.C. Gautam Hingorani presided as the Grand Superintendent. The event was well attended by the Companions of the Daughter Chapters, some of whom were appointed as Office-bearers of the District.

Interestingly, in a reciprocal reversal of roles, he has appointed MEC Noshir Paghdiwalla to continue as the Grand Scribe Ezra of the District Grand Chapter.

We wish MEC Gautam a successful tenure in office and look forward to him being officially installed at the hands of the First Grand Principal and other Office bearers of the Supreme Grand royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, in the coming months.

Meanwhile we look forward to his support in his function s the District Grand Secretary of the District Grand Lodge of India S.C.



FROM RITUAL TO REVELRY

A SOJOURN OF BROTHERHOOD, FELLOWSHIP AND MERRIMENT IN GOA

There are occasions in the Masonry which, though conceived as an outing, transcend the ordinary dimensions of a social gathering and become cherished chapters in the annals of Masonic fellowship. The three-day sojourn in Goa, jointly organised by Lodge St. Andrews in the East No. 343 S.C., Lodge Cataract No. 909 S.C., and Lodge Royal Jubilee No. 742, Solapur between the 7th and 9th August 2026, was unquestionably one such occasion. Most importantly, the entire event was organised as an initiative of **“SCOT”** – abbreviated nomenclature of the youth wing of the District formed when unabridged, reads as **“Strategic Core Operational Team”**.

Graced by the enthusiastic presence of Brethren and their families, numbering nearly seventy-five, and further enriched by the participation of three of us from the District and three Brethren from Lodge Universal Peace No. 1208, Hyderabad, the gathering proved to be a splendid celebration of Brotherhood, camaraderie and family fellowship. It was, in every sense, an outing of rare distinction—outstandingly organised, wonderfully executed, and truly one of its kind.



The Backdrop on the stage



The motley gathering



Some of the fancy dress participants

Goa, with its sun-kissed shores, balmy evenings and unmistakable spirit of joie de vivre, provided the perfect canvas upon which this memorable Masonic gathering unfolded. From the very outset, the organisers had woven together an itinerary that left little to be desired and much to be remembered.



A particularly distinguished feature of the three-day programme was the joint Masonic meeting convened for the Passing of three Candidates to the Fellowcraft Degree. The Ruling Masters of each of the three organising Lodges occupied the Eastern Chair by turns and so also did the ceremony was performed by the participating Brethren. It was a magnificent demonstration of how the festive spirit of an informal Masonic gathering can coexist harmoniously with the solemnity, dignity and exacting standards of Craft ritual.

The Degree Working deserves special and particular commendation. The Brethren entrusted with the various offices and ritualistic responsibilities performed their duties with what could only be described as military precision.

Every movement was measured, every response delivered with confidence, and every ceremonial detail executed with meticulous attention. The coordination between the Brethren was remarkable, reflecting not merely careful preparation but also a profound understanding of the importance of ritual as the living expression of Masonic tradition.

The three Candidates were thus conducted through their advancement in an atmosphere of dignity and solemnity, surrounded by Brethren who demonstrated that, even in the midst of an otherwise joyous and informal gathering, the traditions and landmarks of Freemasonry remain inviolate.

The excellence of the Degree Working was a fitting reminder that Brotherhood is not merely expressed in convivial gatherings and shared celebrations, but is equally manifested in the dedication with which Brethren uphold the ceremonies and traditions entrusted to them.

The days and evenings were a delightful kaleidoscope of activities. A Theme party with Participants clad in imaginary outfits brought forth an astonishing display of imagination, elegance and good humour, while lavish meals at some of Goa's exotic restaurants provided ample opportunity for Brethren and families to let their hair down on the dance floor. The conviviality continued with exuberant poolside parties, where the cares and routines of everyday life seemed delightfully distant.

And then there was music—music in abundance! There was dancing galore to the accompaniment of either a live band or via Karaoke, with young and old alike surrendering themselves to the irresistible rhythm of the evening, producing performances that ranged from melodious to magnificently enthusiastic! Laughter, applause and good-natured banter formed the delightful soundtrack to these unforgettable evenings.

The American auction and Tombola added another dimension of excitement and spirited participation with the proceeds donated being earmarked for charities, while the thoughtful presentation of gifts to the children ensured that the younger members of the Masonic family felt every bit as much a part of the celebration.

Yet, amid all the revelry and merriment, the very heart of the gathering remained unmistakably Masonic.

Perhaps the greatest achievement of the Goa gathering was that it brought together not merely Brethren, but Masonic families. Wives, children and families participated wholeheartedly, transforming what might otherwise have been a Lodge outing into a truly collective celebration of the wider Masonic family.

The atmosphere throughout was one of warmth, spontaneity and effortless fellowship. Old friendships were renewed, new friendships blossomed, and conversations that began over a meal often continued long into the evening. The boundaries between Lodges seemed to disappear, replaced by that larger and more beautiful bond which Freemasonry seeks to cultivate—the bond of Brotherhood.

There was something for everyone: exquisite cuisine for the gourmands, music and dancing for the energetic, sightseeing for the curious, games and auctions for the competitive, poolside revelry for the carefree, and gifts and entertainment for the children. Above all, there was the simple pleasure of being together.

The meticulous planning and flawless execution by the organising Brethren under the dynamic leadership of Bro. Gautam H. from Pune merits the highest appreciation. To coordinate a programme of such variety, while ensuring that every age group and every interest was accommodated, is no small achievement. The seamless manner in which the entire programme unfolded was itself testimony to the dedication, foresight and organisational ability of those who worked behind the scenes.

As the three days drew to a close, The Goa sojourn demonstrated beautifully that Freemasonry can bring people together not only within the walls of the Lodge, but also beyond them—creating friendships, strengthening fraternal bonds and extending the warmth of the Craft to the families who form such an integral part of our Masonic lives.

The solemnity of the Lodge was complemented by the laughter of families; the precision of the Degree Working by the spontaneity of the dance floor; the grandeur of the formal gatherings by the informality of conversations beside the pool. In that harmonious blend lay the true magic of the occasion.

For the three organising Lodges, this memorable gathering will surely occupy a special place in their collective history. It was three days of laughter, music, friendship, fine food, adventure, ritual and unrestrained merriment—a splendid tapestry woven with the golden threads of Masonic fellowship.

And when the music has faded, the tables have been cleared, the costumes put away and the suitcases unpacked, what will remain is something far more enduring: the memory of seventy-five souls sharing joy, Brotherhood and fellowship in the enchanting surroundings of Goa. Indeed, this was not merely a three-day outing. Rather, it was a celebration of life, of friendship and of Freemasonry—and a truly unforgettable sojourn which shall remain etched, in the fondest colours, upon our memories for many years to come.

May this be a precursor to many further initiatives ventured by 'SCOT'.

EXTOLMENT

Our heartiest congratulations to Bro. Devesh Hingorani -an initiate in 2004 of Lodge St. Andrew in the East No. 343 S.C., Pune, on being appointed as the next District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Bombay by the United Grand Lodge of England. Simultaneously, he has also been appointed as the Grand Superintendent in and over Bombay of the English District Chapter.

He and his Bro. Gautam H. are third generation Masons, both of whom have rendered yeoman services to our Scottish District in the recent past. Though Devesh has also acquitted himself creditably as the Deputy District Grand Master of the English District for the past few yes, Gautam has continued to remain associated with the Scottish District only and has been rendering his mite whenever called upon.

Our reminiscence of the past decade cannot but recollect their creditable performance at our District Communications and we look forward to their continuing the same.

The Hingorani Brothers-Devesh & Gautam



=*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*_*

