



## Chapter 51

### **District 25 – India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal (1990–2019) .<sup>1</sup>**

Since 1920, Zonta International has grouped clubs by district. The following is information on the formation of District 25. As of January 2020, District 25 has 15 clubs in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka

#### **History of District 25**

District 25 was formed after the division of the original District 17. It comprises the Zonta clubs in India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal.

During the presidency of Dilruba Ahmed from Bangladesh from 1992 to 1994, the Zonta Club of Chittagong appointed the first club Honorary Member in the district: a woman judge from District 25.

In 2003, International Liaison Janice Bowman could not attend the seventh District Conference in Mumbai due to a medical emergency. As a result, Past District Governor Mano Muthukrishna from the Zonta Club of Candappa of Colombo attended in her place.

In June 2007, during the presidency of Perviz Mistry from the Zonta Club of Bombay III in India, ex-sheriff of Mumbai, Shri Kiran Shantaram, was the first male appointed as an Honorary Member of the club.

District 25 has a strong history of inviting men to become members. The first male member to join was the late Ramprasad Ruia (Bombay I), followed by Ajaz Syed (Zonta Club of Bombay III), Errick Elavia (Zonta Club of Bombay I) and Kamal Kothari (Zonta Club of Bombay I). The Zontians of the Bombay I club were proud to see Errick Elavia elected for the 2018-2020 Biennium as the district's first male Lieutenant Governor.

As an International Board director from 2006 to 2008, past District 25 District Governor, Dilruba Ahmed, was appointed as International Liaison to District 25, attending the 2007 District Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in this capacity.

In 2018, the Zonta clubs of Colombo I and Dhaka I celebrated their Golden Jubilees and in April 2019, the Zonta Club of Bombay I (the second club in District 17 and the first club in

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<sup>1</sup>. Research and text by District 25 Governor 2014–2016 Mahazaver and Past Governor Manthri Perera, District Historian, with additional research compiled by Eva Nielsen.

District 25) celebrated the 60th anniversary of its Charter Night. Another cause for celebration in 2019 was the chartering of the youngest club in District 25, the Zonta Club of Pokhara in Nepal.

### **International service projects**

In the period between 1982 and 2018, Zonta International has had seven biennial International Service Projects located in the District 25 region.

### **District service projects<sup>2</sup>**

The service projects have covered all of the themes recommended by Zonta International: education, leadership training, recognition of achievements of women, health, sanitation and empowering women through service and advocacy.

- Clubs have built schools and assisted schools in improving the space. They have also offered scholarships to female students. District nominees for the Young Women in Public Affairs Award and the Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship have gone on to become International recipients
- Clubs have built, renovated and maintained hospitals for the care of women and children with special attention given to mothers during pregnancy and childcare
- Drinking water and toilets for schools and communities have been provided by clubs
- Projects have empowered women through skills development and programs addressing microfinance, adult literacy and awareness of legal issues
- Zontians worldwide have reached out to victims of floods, tsunamis, and earthquakes in the affected areas of all four District 25 countries: India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka
- Counseling and support for victims of domestic violence has been provided and supported at centers, women's hospitals and shelters for victims
- Advocacy to end human trafficking and child marriage has been a principal focus, as well as advocating for women's rights as human rights and supporting the Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women campaign, especially during the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence
- Clubs have also supported projects focused on leadership training and recognizing achievements of local women at both the club and district levels.

### **Z and Golden Z clubs in District 25**

All of the countries in the district have Golden Z and Z Clubs. The Colombo Golden Z and Z Club have won the Emma L. Conlon Service Award twice. Many members of the clubs have joined Zonta on completion of their education.

### **District 25 Zontians serving at the International level**

- Past District Governors Janaki Krishnan of the Zonta Club of Madras, Dilruba Ahmed of the Zonta Club of Chittagong and Past President May George of the Zonta Club of Madras have been elected Zonta International Directors.
- Past District Governors Mitha Shroff, Mano Muthukrishna Candappa, Anwari Kabir and Sarwari Rahman, as well as long-serving members May George and Khorshed Madon, were appointed Centurions<sup>3</sup>.

### **District 25 conferences**

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<sup>2</sup> 2014 – 2016 Governor Mahazaver, based on the brochure from the 14th District 25 Conference in Dhaka in October 2017

<sup>3</sup> In 1990, Zonta International established a Century Club, a group of one hundred "mentor" Zontians who had demonstrated lasting commitment to Zonta's growth and extension and who might serve as a resource for fledging or struggling clubs. Members were called Centurions (de Langis, p. 33).

- 1991: Mumbai, India
- 1993: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 1995: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 1997: Chennai, India
- 1999: Chittagong, Bangladesh
- 2001: Chennai, India<sup>4</sup>
- 2003: Mumbai, India
- 2005: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2007: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2009: Chennai, India
- 2011: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- 2013: Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2015: Mumbai, India
- 2017: Dhaka, Bangladesh

### **Timeline of district history highlights**

**1990:** Due to the rapid increase in membership, District 17 was divided into:

- District 17: clubs in Hong Kong, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand.
  - Singapore should have been in the new District 25, however, members asked to remain in District 17
  - Malaysia was added to District 17 in 1996 and Macau in 2014
- District 25: clubs in Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka
- District 26: clubs in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan (Republic of China).

**1990:** Eight clubs with a total of 93 members.<sup>5</sup>

**1995:** 11 clubs:

- nine in Area 01
- two in Area 02.

**1998:** 11 clubs

- six in Area 01 (India and Sri Lanka)
- five in Area 02 (Bangladesh).

**2002:** Ten clubs:

- five in Area 01
- five in Area 02.

**2010:** 12 clubs:

- seven in Area 01
- five in Area 02.

**2012:** Nepal joined District 25.

**2016:** 14 clubs in two areas:

- seven in Area 01
- seven in Area 02.

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<sup>4</sup> The planned conference location was Colombo, Sri Lanka, but due to political instability in Sri Lanka, the conference was moved to Chennai, India.

<sup>5</sup> *The Zontian* 1990–1992 Program Issue

**2018:** 440 members<sup>6</sup> in 15 clubs in two areas:

- eight in Area 01
- seven in Area 02.

**2019:** 528 members<sup>7</sup> and a new club chartered in Nepal.

### History of the formation of District 25 clubs.

#### Bangladesh

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2019	Closed
1968	0601	Zonta Club of Dhaka I	02	
1981	0991	Zonta Club of Dhaka II	02	
1992	1356	Zonta Club of Dhaka III	02	
1992	1364	Zonta Club of Chittagong	02	
1994	1483	Zonta Club of Dhaka IV	02	
2012	1903	Zonta Club of Greater Dhaka	02	

#### India

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2019	Closed
1960	0462	Zonta Club of Bombay I	01	
1966	0566	Zonta Club of Madras		2018
1969	0635	Zonta Club of Bangalore		1980
1975	0769	Zonta Club of Bombay II		1999
1979	0877	Zonta Club of Bombay III	01	
1991	1312	Zonta Club of Bangalore		1997

#### Nepal

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2019	Closed
2012	1909	Zonta Club of Kathmandu	02	
2019	1990	Zonta Club of Pokhara	02	

#### Sri Lanka

Year Chartered	Club Number	Club Name	Area as of 2019	Closed
1966	0567	Zonta Club of Colombo	01	
1968	0602	Zonta Club of Kandy Region 1		1980
1994	1494	Zonta Club of Colombo II	01	
2006	1815	Zonta Club of Kandy	01	
2008	1842	Zonta Club of Colombo III	01	
2013	1913	Zonta Club of Negombo		2016
2017	1964	Zonta Club of Colombo IV	01	

<sup>6</sup> Zonta International Directory online

<sup>7</sup> Zonta International Directory online