



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: Rita Anup Achalere

Candidate's Office: Division Director

District Number: 98

Toastmasters member since: 1st Apr 2022

Education:

- 1) B.E. in Electronics & telecommunication from Cusrow Wadia Institute of Technology, Pune
- 2) Diploma in Industrial Electronics from Walchand college of engineering, Sangli
- 3) Education as a Toastmasters - DL5 (Dynamic Leadership completed), Engaging humour is in progress

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

- 1) Area A3 Director (Program Year 20240-2025) at Toastmasters International District 98
- 2) Club VP Membership (1st July 24 to Dec24) at Charismatic Speakers Toastmasters Club
- 3) Club VP Membership (1st Jan25 to June25) at Charismatic Speakers Toastmasters Club
- 4) Club Presidents (1st Jan24 to 30th Jun24) at Charismatic Speakers Toastmasters Club
- 5) Club VP Education(1st Jul23 to 31st Dec23) at Charismatic Speakers Toastmasters Club
- 6) Club Secretary (1st Jan 23 to 30th Jun23) at Charismatic Speakers Toastmasters Club

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

- 01) Excellence in education during my tenure as VPE
- 02) Power Up award to the club during my tenure as VPE
- 03) Express Club award to the club during my tenure as VPE
- 04) Gem of D98- Silver to CSTM during my tenure as President
- 05) President distinguished club award to CSTM during my tenure as President
- 06) Phoenix Club award to CSTM during my tenure as President
- 07) Power Up 2.0 award to CSTM during my tenure as President
- 08) I am grateful to be part of the D98 judges squad. I have served as VJ & CJ for 8 to 10 contests relentlessly.
- 09) Mentoring for members outside the club
- 10) Editor & designer of Division A magazine (Received recognition)
- 11) Major contribution to back end support for various contests at club, area & division level
- 12) Bull's Eye Award (Platinum -October 2024)
- 13) Renewal Rock-star
- 14) Elevating growth of all clubs under area A3

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

As an electronic hardware engineer in a fast-growing company, I thrive in a dynamic work culture that requires strategic thinking, project management skills, and quick decision-making. My ability to respect individuals, coupled with strong interpersonal and leadership skills, ensures effective collaboration. Being an IATF-certified internal auditor, I understand the importance of following protocols and procedures—critical for planning and executing Area and Division events with precision. Additionally, my technical proficiency with tools like Canva and Microsoft Teams aids in seamless communication and creative execution. My passion for photography complements my ability to capture moments and create engaging visual content. These experiences, combined with my strategic and diplomatic approach, equip me to support Area Directors, empower members, and contribute to the growth and success of Division A as a Division Director.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

As an electronic systems engineer, I have honed my strategic planning skills through managing new product development cycles, from initial inquiry to production launch. This process requires navigating change management challenges, setting clear objectives, and executing plans to meet timelines and quality standards. I've effectively translated this experience into my Toastmasters journey, especially as an Area Director and VP Membership. Whether it was strategizing for club growth, achieving excellence goals, or guiding teams, I've consistently planned and executed initiatives to deliver success. I aim to further sharpen these skills as a District leader, where strategic planning and consistent efforts will drive progress and create inspiring success stories for members and clubs alike.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I've come to understand the critical importance of finance in ensuring success and sustainability. I began exploring this area by managing my personal investments and gaining insights into financial planning. In Toastmasters, as a VP Membership, I worked closely with the Treasurer to maintain accurate records and manage membership renewals seamlessly. I also leveraged technology, such as Google Forms, to automate record-keeping, ensuring efficiency and transparency. Later, as a Club President, I collaborated with the Treasurer to prepare and manage the club budget effectively, which contributed to achieving the Transparency in Treasury award. These experiences have strengthened my understanding of financial processes, and I look forward to leveraging these skills in future leadership roles to ensure sound financial planning and execution at the District level.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

I believe in focusing on process to achieve great results. Being an IATF-16949 certified internal auditor, I have closely observed manufacturing processes and procedures. I've seen firsthand how process is key to successful projects. Well-refined procedures and protocols play a crucial role in defining the process. I particularly appreciate how TI clearly defines each procedure, which not only helps us navigate difficult pathways but also aids in developing leadership skills. I am deeply aware of the importance of procedures and their impact on managing change.

As the Area A3 Director in Toastmasters, I have demonstrated my ability to develop and implement procedures in various ways. From chartering new clubs demo meetings and organizing successful conferences to securing members and planning demo sessions, I have worked to establish structured processes that support growth and continuous improvement. I am confident in my ability to prepare procedures and audit other departments to drive continuous improvement within the organization.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

Throughout my leadership journey, I've learned the importance of leading from the front and staying committed, no matter the challenge. As Area Director, I embraced networking with diverse individuals, which made my journey more enriching.

In my role as Vice President Membership (VPM), I realized that marketing works only when you are fully convinced of your message—everything is a process shaped by strategy and timing.

Serving as Secretary, Vice President Education (VPE), and President, I discovered my hidden potential and passion for selfless service toward others' growth. My commitment and approachability helped me navigate tough situations with support from fellow leaders. I learned that leadership is about creating strong bonds, even through conflict, and that teamwork is a superpower. Leadership is about having a clear vision and turning it into reality. It's like being the driver, guiding the team toward a goal. Behind the visible glamour of leadership lies dedication and enthusiasm, and I take great joy in seeing others grow. True leaders use their power to serve and commit to values like RISE.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

Leadership is not about positions; it's about purpose. I've discovered my hidden potential to lead and create an impact. This can only be realized with the guidance of higher authorities and a clear, value-based mindset to give back selflessly to others, even when it's difficult and doesn't yield immediate returns.

I came to this platform to learn communication, but I found a hidden potential within me. Today, I am a Toastmaster by passion, fully aware of the challenges ahead.

The transformation I've experienced here is thanks to the guidance of my leaders, mentors, and fellow Toastmasters who have served as leaders. Now, I want to give back that same experience to others by serving as a district servant leader. Every leadership role carries its own aura and power. Good leaders use that power to serve and better society, all while committing to a value system like RISE.

In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

The District mission focuses on building new clubs and supporting existing clubs in achieving excellence. As a district officer, I am deeply aligned with this mission. In my role as Area Director, I have worked to build new clubs and help them grow toward achieving the President's Distinguished status. I've successfully earned many prestigious awards at the club level by fully understanding the requirements and implementing them, all while embracing challenges with the core values of RISE. This experience will be instrumental in guiding and mentoring new clubs to reach excellence. My mission extends beyond just club success. I aim to mentor youth and struggling professionals to help them become strong leaders and make a positive impact in their lives. I particularly focus on supporting women who struggle to balance their careers with family responsibilities. Many of them give up despite having immense intelligence and potential. The Toastmasters platform offers them the opportunity to rediscover their confidence and make a meaningful impact.

Additional information about yourself:

I am a working professional with 16 years of experience in the automotive electronic product development domain, where I believe in value-driven development. My family—husband, son Aneesh (16), and in-laws—are all supportive of my dreams and journey on this platform. We live in Pune, and I strive to lead by example for my son, as I don't believe in parenting by micromanaging.

Outside of work, I am passionate about traveling to explore different cultures and people. I also enjoy nature photography, cooking, and experimenting in the kitchen, as cooking is a process that leads to different results with the same ingredients. And don't be confused, I'm a good cook! In my free time, I like painting, reading, and listening to long interviews of legendary leaders, which inspire me, whether I'm cooking or simply relaxing.

I am driven by the goal of leaving behind a legacy as a leader who makes a transformative impact in many people's lives. Embracing challenges is a key part of my journey, and I am committed to seeing it through with passion and dedication.

My linked in profile:

https://www.linkedin.com/in/rita-achalere?utm_source=share&utm_campaign=share_via&utm_content=profile&utm_medium=android_app

