



# REFLECTIONS

*In Giving, We Receive*



## from the horse's mouth

Rajiv Punater  
President

### *Citius - Altius - Fortius Faster - Higher - Stronger*

#### Dear SOBOites,

The Tokyo International Olympic Committee decided to change the original Olympic motto this year by adding the word "**Together**." The reasoning behind this was that 'solidarity fuels our mission to make the world a better place through sport. We can only go faster, we can only aim higher, we can only become stronger by standing together'.

The spirit of sportsmanship saw many of our members taking up Golf for the first time and going on the monsoon Trek. The love for the game and adventure forged bonds amongst us.

Witty, humorous, happy and service driven are few words that jump off the profiles I have been reading each morning. I see a leader in each of you. Be genuine, be real, be truthfully you and model humility. SOBO is fortunate to nest leaders who lead with a heart.

I remember singing this to my children..... 'Row Row Row your boat, gently down the steam, merrily merrily merrily, life is but a dream.' There is a child in each one of us. Let us continue to be limitless in our aspirations, our dreams and goals!

In gratitude,

Rajiv

★ \* JULY 2021 \*

#### Initiatives at Rotary SOBO

##### PROJECTS

- Blood donation camps organised at Lodha Park and Lodha World.
- Sessions on public speaking, with a foray into the MUNA format organised for children of the Akanksha Trust.
- 9th Interact school brought into the SOBO Family-Goldcrest International School.
- Hot meals distributed to people in need at Nair hospital and Kasturba hospital.
- Books and stationery distributed to children at Swan for Change.
- Furniture donated to NM Joshi Police Marg Station.
- Fruits sent to an orphanage, Anand Niketan on a weekly basis. Plant-based pasta packets donated as well.
- COVID Vaccination drive conducted for Rotary SOBO members, friends and families.
- Mega Walkathon 2021- Co-Hosts. Raised funds for pediatric heart surgeries.

##### BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

- Started building a relationship with the Rotary Club of Edgware & Stanmore, UK.
- Had our Joint-Secretary and President-Elect Els Reynaers visit the Rotary Club Bruxelles Erasme, Belgium.

##### SPEAKERS

- We continued our series of conversations with eminent speakers, starting the Rotary year aptly with Mr. Rajan Singh of Habit Strong on 'Habit Building and Focus'. We also had a ringside view of the 'Landscape of COVID Testing' with Mr. Rahil Shah, CEO of NM Medical.

##### FELLOWSHIPS

- Musical extravaganza night for members with performer extraordinaire Sandeep Damania.
- Golf Fellowship for members at 9-Aces Golf Club, Karjat.
- Trek organised for members across a nature trail.
- The Book Club, Wine Appreciation Society and our newly minted Holistic Health Hub conducted meetings.

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

## Non Medical – July 2021 Project: Hunger Warriors

by Jaishri Kimmkar, Director– Non Medical

Our meal (lunch) to distribution drive has been doing rounds at two locations i.e every Wednesdays at Nair Hospital and Saturdays at Kasturba Hospital from July onwards. This will be a commitment for a period of three months by Rotary Club of Mumbai SoBo. We will add a third location once we streamline our volunteers. We pick up 200 packets of food, at no cost from Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust at Khetwadi and distribute to the above-mentioned locations. Our volunteers in groups of 2 or 3 are helping in distribution. Thanks to our team consisting of Rtn.Jaishri, Rtn.Saurav, Rtn.Swati S, Rtn.Priti who are the support system in making this drive successful.



## Project : Books distribution to children of Swan foundation

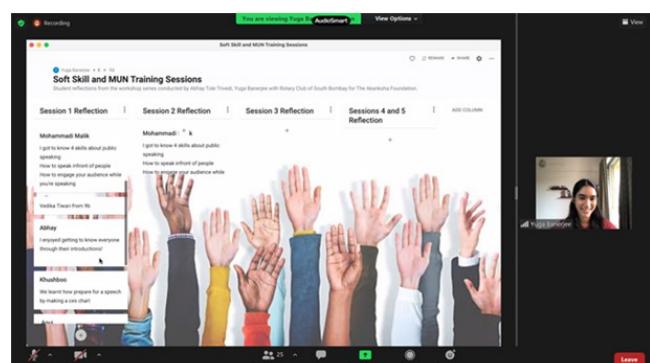
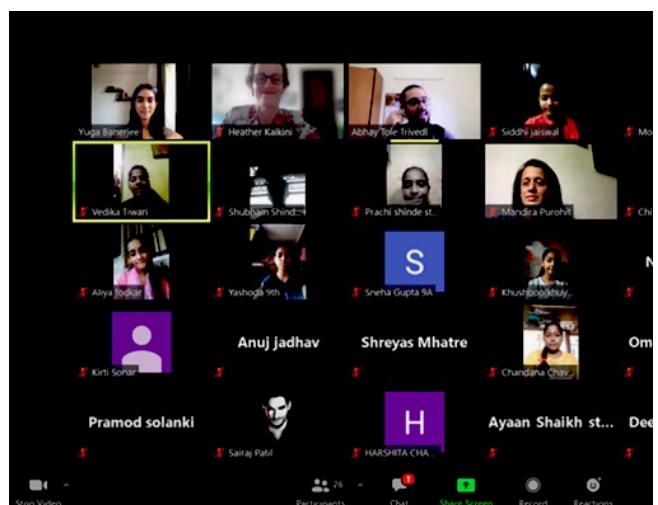
School books were distributed to 25 underprivileged children on 13 July at the Guru Nanak School at Sion. The children were residents of the adjoining Dharavi Slums and were in classes 1 - 8 at the local school. The distribution began at 3 PM and was followed by snacks for the children. Following the distribution, the children introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their career aspirations. This was followed by a brief motivational talk by Rtn Saurav P who represented the Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO. He was assisted by volunteers from the SWAN Foundation in the distribution of books and snacks. The event ended at about 5 PM. This event was possible because of the generosity of our own Rotarians. The SWAN Foundation looks forward to Rotary support for future events like this.



## MUN: Preparing India's Youth for a Seat at the Table

by Mahera Goal/Heather Kaikini

Recognizing the advantages to youth for holistic education, soft skills training and confidence in international forums, Rotary SoBo (New Gen Committee) has introduced the Model United Nations global platform to two Akanksha NGO schools – 20 students over five weeks. Through this academic simulation, students attempt to solve real world issues with the policies, perspectives of an assigned country, while gleaning skills in public speaking, research, global awareness, collaboration and leadership. Excited to be partnered with Akanksha and for the potential to scale up by exposing the students to MUN on a State and/or National Level!



Subtopic	Cause	Effect	Solution
Waste disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Solid waste from homes, public places etc.</li> <li>- Population growth and plastic usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Smell</li> <li>- Diseases (malaria, dengue)</li> <li>- Air pollution, soil, land pollution, toxic groundwater</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste management</li> <li>- 3 Rs</li> <li>- Less plastic usage</li> </ul>
Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agricultural, mining, construction, industrial activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land use changes at scales and constantly.</li> <li>- Less water generation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better waste disposal</li> <li>- Three R, go green</li> </ul>
Water Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sewage, industrial waste</li> <li>- Radioactive waste</li> <li>- Waste disposal in water bodies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contamination of scarce water, lack of clean water</li> <li>- Diseases like cholera.</li> <li>- Harmful to aquatic animals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Don't dispose garbage in water, reduce sewage.</li> <li>- Don't overuse pesticides.</li> <li>- Use water in moderation.</li> </ul>

## sMiles Ahead

by Reid Kaikini

Tears of joy and ripples of applause filled the air. Students at Fazlani L'Academie Globale School had crowdfunded the manufacturing of over 108 **prosthetic** limbs, empowering recipients at Ratnanidhi Trust at King George V Memorial in Mahalaxmi. With a holistic program - including limb provision, physical and emotional counselling, upskilling and vocational training - the Ratnanidhi NGO serves as one of four such benchmark organizations in India, independent of government aid. As Mahera Aunty noted, "Today the word sMILE encompasses MILES each of the beneficiaries will walk and we along with them in spirit."





**VACCINATION DRIVE**

At: Hinduja Hospital, Mahim | Saturday 31st July, 2021  
Covishield Only

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- All age groups 18 yrs onwards eligible for either 1st or 2nd Dose
- 84-Day gap mandatory for 2nd Dose
- Cowin Registration mandatory (Carry your Aadhar Card)
- If filling form(s) for others, kindly enter their details
- Time slots for vaccination will be allotted between 3-4pm
- Message for time slot will be sent on mobile no. registered by you
- For queries email: [admin@rotarymumbaisobo.org](mailto:admin@rotarymumbaisobo.org)

■ Please click on the link below to register and pay Rs. 1000/ (all inclusive - for vaccine, payment gateway charges, facilitation and convenience charges)  
[www.ftcash.com/rotaryclubofmumbaisobovaccination](http://www.ftcash.com/rotaryclubofmumbaisobovaccination)



Private Drive organised by Rtn Ritu Chhabria & Rtn Rajiv Punater for friends & family of Rotary SOBO

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

**Vaccination Drive at Hinduja Hospital**



#service #rotary

## A Seed today... a lush green Farm tomorrow!

Palghar remains an underdeveloped district despite the proximity to Mumbai & Thane. Several villages are below the poverty line, predominantly consisting of the tribal population.

Farmers have been growing essential crops like paddy for decades in their ancestral land. Still, continued neglect of the agriculture sector, unfriendly farming policies, and changing climate conditions have put more farmers at risk. Many lands are vacant for years now, a harsh reality of the looming farming crisis.

Trees alone can bring several benefits to the people and the environment. Fruit-bearing trees generate additional income for the farmers. They improve biodiversity in a certain area, reduce soil erosion, and improve the capacity of the soil to hold water.

**"Fruit Tree Plantation" is one of the key projects of the current Rotary Dream year.** It is spearheaded by our Rotary Mumbai district, and knowledgeable people such as Rotarian Akshay Mehta and Mayank Gandhi have successfully carried out similar projects in Parli in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. Since 2017, thousands of farmers have benefitted by planting fruit trees where they initially grew cotton, rice, and soya, resulting in a considerable increase in annual income. The number of trees planted in the past 4 years are over 15 lacs.

**Current Rotary Project Location:** Wada, Jawahar, Mokhada and Vikramgad in Palghar district, near Mumbai.

**Feasibility Study:** Soil, water, and climatic conditions have been assessed along with the type of fertilisers, quality of saplings, water sources, and drip irrigation. With its in-depth knowledge of innovative farming methodology, United Phosphorous Ltd is a partner to the project and agricultural experts from Kisan Vikas Kendra's who have conducted numerous studies for this project.

### How will the farmers land be identified?

The project is underway and a team of over 50 people are on-site collating data of farmers with clear titles and 7/12 extracts with landholding of less than 2 acres. Farmers are made aware of the benefits of agro forestry, and after this, saplings are planted with them. Over 2,500 acres of land have been identified for the project till date, and phase 1 is to reach 5,000 acres within the next 30 to 45 days.

### Goals:

**Proposed fruit trees:** papaya, banana, mango, custard apple, lemon, sweet lime, orange, drumsticks/moringa.

Support over 3000 to 4000 farmers with landholding of less than 2 acres.

### Direct impact and Benefits:

- Income Generation to the farmers: from Rs 20-30 thousand to Rs 1.5 to 2 lacs/acre
- Mitigation of migration
- Alleviation of poverty
- Shelter and fodder for the animals and birds

### How can members help?

Your donation would enable us to provide and plant fruit saplings with farmers and support them with sustainable income:

- Contribute Rs 12,500 per acre for 500 trees (@Rs 25 per saplings)
- ROI: Rs 12,500 will become Rs 7.5 lakhs over five years for farmers

Alongside the fruit tree plantations, there are opportunities to develop schools, medical and community centres, provide vocational guidance to youth and women, sanitization, water irrigation, and create homes.



## Every drop counts & saves lives!

by Els Reynaers

What a success it was, RoSoBo's first blood donation camp organized jointly with Hinduja Hospital and the Saint-Amand team at Lodha Park, Worli on Saturday 24th July, 2021. Hospitals are in dire need of such blood donations given that many volunteers have shied away from visiting hospitals in these COVID times. Yet, there is a constant need for regular supply of blood since it can only be stored for a limited time. Such blood donations do help in saving lives! It's required in situations where women face complications during

childbirth, helps children with severe anemia or accident victims, and more generally all surgical and cancer patients. Therefore, we're most grateful to the many people who came forward during our blood donation drive as well as the enthusiastic and professional team of doctors and nurses from the Hinduja Hospital. Special thanks too to our AG, Sunil Siraslewala, for supporting this important event. Next up the Blood donation camp at Lodha World Towers on Saturday 31st July, and to many more!



Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO invites you to

**A musical evening with Sandeep Damania**  
An IT Engineer by profession and a passionate singer

Sandeep is a versatile singer and has performed across platforms in various genres like Retro, Ghazal, Sufi, Qawwali, Dancing and latest numbers. A singing SENSATION not to be missed.

Inviting all members, spouses and families to join us for a musical dhamaka, our maiden Fellowship in the new Rotary year.

**Thursday, 15th July at 7.15pm**  
Zoom details to follow

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO District 3141

**HEART TO HEART MEGA WALKATHON 2021**

July 28th to August 1st  
Impact App | League Code RCMSC

**Fitness and charity walk hand in hand.**  
Every step walked by an individual will be converted into points, which in turn will be monetized. The money will be donated towards pediatric heart surgeries for the underprivileged.

Members, friends, and family welcome to participate.

**Let's walk to save little hearts!**

Host Club: Rotary Club of Mumbai Western Elite  
Co-Host Club: Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO

**How to participate?**  
Fill the google form. Download the Impact App. Charity for a cause. Join the league | Password : RCMSC And you are ready to walk.

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO

**Wine Appreciation Meet**

Join us on Friday, 23rd July @ 7.30 pm.

Bring along a glass of your favourite wine  
For an interactive session on all things wine

Let's discuss our up coming in person meet for the month of August, not so far away vineyard holidays and everything in between.

A little exchange of theory and some light banter.

Looking forward to meeting everyone on zoom.  
Let's ideate over a bottle of wine. . .



## Bubble Meetings

by Sargam Thakkar

After recruitment then what? The question loomed large as every subsequent online meeting and resonated with the silence of the absentees. Committees seemed populated by only the usual suspects on the fatiguing online platform.

Bubble Meetings were conceptualised to engage and convert members from dormant to active by experiencing the inclusiveness of the club and eventually meld into the Know Your Club strategy vocalized by DG Sunnil Mehra.

Two successful meetings and a third in the pipeline demonstrated that not only do reticent members enjoy the in-person tete-a-tete in small numbers, but also revel in the chance to spend 10 minutes in the spotlight.

The feedback we garnered about the participants' achievements and interests, along with their suggestions for the club at large, are priceless. This data has been assimilated for the Avenue and Committee Heads so as to take each member forward in RoSOBO's collective quest to make a difference.



**Rotary Club of Bombay West** DIST.3141

Invites you for a talk & fireside chat

**"TATTOO WELLNESS"**  
*An Illuminated Path to Empowerment*

by

**Ms Friday Jones**  
International Celebrity from  
Divad, Montenegro, EU &  
Renowned Tattoo Artist





**21/07/21 @ 7.15 PM**

Zoom ID - 963 415 0249; PW- rcbw1234  
FB Live - @rcbw1

**Shardul Kulkarni**  
Chair, Programs

**Gautam Chande**  
President

**Tejas Sura**  
Secretary



## Join in conversation with RoSoBo

We chup, you chat

Share with us, your thoughts on:

- Fellowships
- Projects
- What excites you most about RoSoBo

A light-hearted & fun interactive session to bounce off ideas on all things ROTARY!



**Thursday, 22nd July, 7.15pm.**

Zoom meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81209100648?pwd=dIRwUFRoSWN3azNYSXIxeDdWRGsQT09>

Meeting ID: 812 0910 0648 Passcode: SOBO

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

## Vocational services

by Urja & Tata Strive

Vocational Committee Visit to Urja (NGO)



The above visit was on 3-07-21 by Foram, Monisha, Saurav & Jasraj to understand the requirements and needs of Urja.

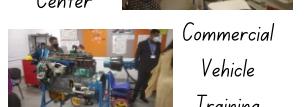
Vocational Committee Visit to Tata Strive 3/07/2021



Modern Classrooms



Retail Training Center



Commercial Vehicle Training



Electrical Training



Nursing Training



Starbucks Training Center



Vocational Committee Members

Visit by Rotarian Shilpa Daga and Jasraj Vidhani to distribute Pasta, Donated by Rotarian

Pradeep Todi and for restoration of the structure (Urja). 9/07/2021



## • BAAR BAAR• • YEH DIN AAYE



03 August - Sindhu Kotian

05 August - Shilpi Chandra

07 August - Premal Sanghvi

11 August - Ritu Saxena

12 August - Sateesh Datwani

13 August - Akkshata Niamey

14 August - Umang Rampuria

14 August - Rashi Siraslewala

15 August - Yakir Jethia

19 August - Mateen Dholakia

20 August - Ritu Shah

21 August - Amit parekh

22 August - Shantanu Sahai

24 August - Rohan Rai

24 August - Sachin Mehta

25 August - Ivy Roy

Save  
the  
Date

05  
AUG

In person fellowship:  
High Tea @ St. Regis:  
3pm-5pm

19  
AUG

Game night  
@7:30pm

10  
AUG

Book Club @9pm

21  
AUG

Blood camp:  
Lodha World  
Towers

11  
AUG

Bi-monthly  
Board Meeting  
@6:30pm

24  
AUG

Holistic Health  
Hub @7pm

12  
AUG

Speaker:  
Dolly Thakur  
@7:30pm

25  
AUG

Bi-monthly  
Board Meeting  
@6:30pm

12  
AUG

Speaker:  
Dolly Thakur  
@7:30pm

26  
AUG

Club Assemblly  
@7:30pm

15  
AUG

Trek with  
club members



## TALK OF THE TOWN

**Ajay Arora**







Making a hole in one is undoubtedly difficult. For pro golfers, the odds are stacked 3,000 to 1, while the odds of an average player making a hole in one jump to 12,000 to 1! One player making two holes in ones in the same round boasts 67 millions to 1 chance!

## Our interactions with Rotary Clubs around the world!

All great friendships consist of lots of smaller interactions! So what if we can't actually travel around the globe and plan an international Rotary Friendship Exchanges (RFE) as of now, this shouldn't stop us from interacting with other cultures! This is why we're planning an Indo-Russian musical evening with the Rotary Club of Novorossiysk, Russia, in September! Nadedja Strelnikova will ask her club – which counts many talented guitar players – to rehearse an Indian song and we've been gently prompted to learn the popular song Katyusha! You know the tune for sure, now we have to start learning the lyrics

Katyusha song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JW4l97lQYCO>  
A karaoke version for us will be shared shortly by Nadedja – let's show them what an amazing choir we are!

The Rotary Club Marbella-Gualdama, Spain, which already supported our oxygen concentrator drive earlier, will now also be holding a Bollywood-themed fundraiser in September in further support of the meaningful projects our club undertakes here in India! We thank Pamela Lake, President, and Rani Lakhani of the Rotary Club Marbella-Gualdama, for forging these significant new ties with us!

We've also extended our helping hand to the Rotary Club of Bruxelles-Erasme, Belgium, when they asked us to assist an Indian friend of one of their club members who needed an urgent medical opinion. Dr. Sameer Gaggar was swift in coordinating this. Rotary friendship at its best!

## Let's wander where the WIFI is weak....

by Sheetal Idnani

At ROSOBO, we are an adventurous lot. Walking in the forest amongst birds and insects, taking the less beaten path would be a given but to brave the thunderstorm, torrential rains this early Sunday morning, did not deter our young members, minted as the 'Special 26'.

On arrival at Karnala Bird Sanctuary, we began with a hearty local breakfast and some kadak chai, before we hit the trail. A serene walk in the greens, a breath of clear fresh air, sounds of the cuckoo's call through the air and pretty butterflies taking flight. Away from the humdrum of not so far away urban concrete jungle, we crossed flowing streams in, fallen trees and were led deep into the forest by our guide.

A pit stop at a scenic cascading waterfall where some of us soaked in the picturesque setting and others waded into the cold rushing stream.

Omelette sandwiches and Vada pav were wallop amidst laughter and many a jokes.

The gushing sound of the waterfall, The flowing stream in the middle of the lush green forest and lack of network gave a feeling of eutierria.

A sole less bond. A Fun and light moment, where 3 of our members lost the soles of their shoes and braved the rest of the trail, sole less. It led to a laughable Kodak moment at the end of the trail.

We headed back home with a bag full of delightful selfies. Our thoughts on, where the next adventure with the dynamic set of diverse, vibrant, multifaceted young minds of ROSOBO would lead us to?



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