



# REFLECTIONS

*In Giving, We Receive*



## from the horse's mouth

Rajiv Punater  
President

***"The most important thing  
is to try and inspire people  
so that they can be great  
in whatever they want to do."***

*- Kobe Bryant, Basketball legend (RIP)*

Dear SOBOites,

It was a terrific **Rotary VISION year** that came to a close with panache and style on 30th June 2021. Our Charter and Installation ceremony created ripples across the Mumbai Rotary District and we sure stood out shining and smiling.

Many clubs aspire to change the world, but very few have commitment, expertise, perseverance, and a spirit of immersing themselves in a plethora of selfless acts. The past five months of our successful narrative is testimony that we have all of these in abundance.

Our Tribe has increased to new heights bringing with it experience and diverse skillsets. This is the catapult needed to start the new innings of our **DREAM year** with zeal and determination. It's always **THE PEOPLE** that make things happen, collectively and cohesively.

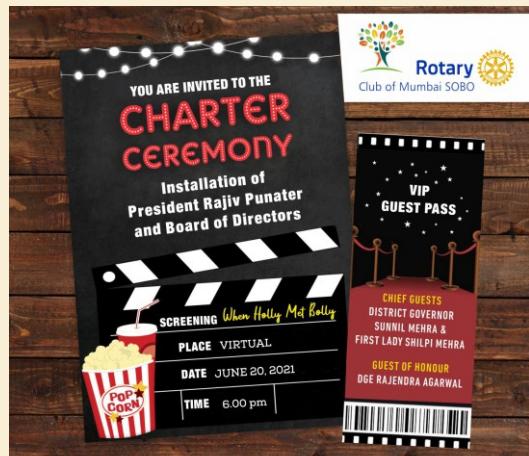
To paraphrase a quote from Oscar Wilde, "We need to believe in the impossible and remove the improbable."

While we have seen great success, our thirst to do more starts with a vision and a DREAM, to be a wolf pack in everything we take up and do, to use our imagination for the greater good, to ideate, bond with our fellow members, identify our purpose, be givers instead of getters, commit to service, and be dreamers with a realistic approach.

One for all and all for one, I call this the 'karmic' connection.

In gratitude,

Rajiv



## Hunger Warriors: The Will is More

by Heather Kaikini

Hunched wearily under tarpaulin sheets, or walking confidently in the rain, much of Mumbai is hungry. As a modest yet scaling initiative, Hunger Warriors of Rotary SOBO steps up to address this cause, from Sion to Mahalaxmi, distributing hot meals to those most in need. On a recent rainy afternoon, 75 meals were distributed in the lane opposite the Willingdon Club. Visceral was the backdrop of underprivileged juxtaposed with the lush rolling greens of the Club's golf course, a thin metal fence seemingly the only barrier to a different life. Two women proudly declined the meals, already having prepared their own dinners and not wanting to waste; certain young men had just completed shifts at Mumbai's bustling construction sites, remnants of cement still caked to their clothing, faces becoming alight with the offering of a hot meal.

**As the Hunger Warrior program continues to evolve and target those most in need, please consider donating to the cause. You may contact Sheetal 9820502437 for further details.**



## Mission: Grains, Rains & Rations

by Heather Kaikini

Amidst the rains and washed away hopes of a fully unlocked Mumbai, in the imminent future, Rotary SOBO took to the streets to help those most affected by the pandemic and lockdown by distributing rations. **Dharavi**, recognized as one of the largest slums in Asia, was the initial target for distribution of 500 ration kits, dispersed in organized fashion at the onset of June. The next needy community identified was the **Vaidu nomadic tribal community** in Jogeshwari East, Mumbai – an amalgam of garbage collectors, street vendors, snake charmers, balloon sellers, drivers and more. 250 ration kits were distributed here. Continually highlighted in June were affected **Transgender and Sex Workers**, receiving hundreds of ration kits at Kamathipura at Grant Road intersection and Chembur camp – their plights amplified with health concerns and mitigated by HIV tests given in exchange for ration kits.

**Be a part of the Rotary SOBO community that creates positive change in many lives: Donate to the "Grains & More" Ration Kit Distribution drive – contact Jaishri 9323502141 or Saurav 9892305766 for more details.**



## RoSoBo walks down the dark alleys to incentivise CSWs to take HIV tests

by Rittesh Seth

As though HIV was not bad enough, the prolonged spell of the pandemic has been a double whammy for the underground Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs) living in the slums. While clientele is at all time low, camouflaging their CVs (they live clandestine lives) leaves them with little hope to find alternate blue collared jobs.

RoSoBo's hunger warriors got a glimpse of this grim reality during a joint drive in Sion's red light area on June 2nd alongside Mumbai District's AIDS Control Society (MDACS). If it is not the stigma, it is the ostrich syndrome that keeps the CSWs in their burrows during HIV tests and prevention camps.

At first, there were no takers for the HIV testing. The ladies were lured out to take the HIV test by the promise of Ration Kits. No sooner did the van arrive bringing the Ration Kits, that things shook up, with the ladies falling over each other to take the HIV test.



## Community Injection

by Heather Kaikini

Once upon a time, "vaccine required" would send a surge of anxiety into everyman...today, "stock depleted" holds a similar sway. "My daughter Aditi had given up trying to book a slot on the Covin app...she got the first shot this morning at Hinduja hospital and was full of praise for the way in which it was organised"...and so began the avalanche of praises shared with Rotary SOBO for their inaugural administrative sponsor of Covid vaccines at Hinduja Hospital in June 2021. With a total of 400 vaccines administered to Rotary families, the SOBO team spent several days and countless advance hours to ensure flawless execution. "Systematic, Hygienic, Organized" attendee descriptors reflected a smooth unfolding and meticulous planning, now synonymous with RoSoBo. Heartiest congrats for orchestrating the need of the hour - and proudly building the club reputation for excellence through meaningful impact in the community.



### Appreciation from people who got Vaccinated...

"Thank you so much for the smooth process. My vaccination got done in a very efficient manner. Very well organised. Really grateful to Rotary club." Thanks and Regards.

-Aditi Misra

"Hassle free and so well organised." Thank you.  
-Pooja Naik

"Thank you very much for the COVID vaccine initiative by Rotary club. The registration process and the vaccination process was so well organized and smooth. It made us feel comfortable through this stressful process. We are really greatful to the members who dedicated their time for the organisation of the entire drive."

-Ankita Bhatia

## The Rotary Foundation - Project research at Alibaug

by Ravi Mullick & team

Five Rotarians - Jasmine, Shweta, Ravi, Pankaj and Shantanu met with representatives of Ziraad village and Raigad district, within the Alibag precinct to discuss the ways in which Rotary could help with the upliftment of village folk as well as upgradation of the decrepit infrastructure in these villages.

In view of the prevailing pandemic conditions, the most pressing need identified was organization of vaccinations for the BPL Adivasi tribals indigenous to the area, and to assist with the augmentation of healthcare infrastructure by setting up a healthcare clinic within the village. The clinic, once ready, is intended to be used as a Covid care center immediately and an in-patient healthcare / nursing home facility thereafter.



Additionally, a number of other initiatives were discussed, including construction of a filtration unit and waterpipes for drinking water, helping to achieve self-reliance in energy needs by using solar power, resources and vocational training for Women Empowerment, eco-friendly garbage disposal, redevelopment of school buildings and planting and protection of trees.

The scope of activities envisaged here call for the adoption of the village by Rotary and running multi-phase projects over the coming months and years to make a fundamental difference to the lives of the residents.

First steps in this regard, include focusing on the immediate needs including facilitating mass vaccination and augmentation of the Covid/healthcare center facilities.



**What's brewing at SOBO?**

**Do you have an IDEA for projects, events, interest clubs?**

**Let's meet over Coffee on Thursdays 6.45 pm - 7.15 pm before the weekly meeting**

**Meeting ID: 812 0910 0648**

**Passcode: SOBO**

**OR E-mail us at:**

**[admin@rotarymumbaisobo.org](mailto:admin@rotarymumbaisobo.org)**

## Team Spirit with WINGO game night

by Sheetal Idnani

Friday, 11th June was an exciting and fun filled fellowship evening organised by Swati Jatia for Rotary SOBO members, with over 50 participants playing the popular online game WINGO.

For a long time before lockdowns, Friday used to be the evening for Rotarians to meet up, interact in person and have some fun. These events eventually led to lasting friendships. Building this spirit is something we continue to endeavour for in today's online world and after a dreary lockdown week, WINGO night, with its exciting build up and team participation, was the perfect way to unwind.

Our winners for the evening - Sulabh, Geetanjali, Bhawna and Mausmi received fantastic gifts (courtesy Swati Jatia), but in Geetanjali's words the mental stimulation, the competitive spirit, the cheering and "dimag lagane wala gaming" was the most exciting part.



### PROJECTS

- COVID Vaccination drive conducted for Rotary SOBO members, friends and families, which saw 400 people get vaccinated.
- Ration kits distributed to 2000+ families under the Grains & More project. Recipients include daily wagers, commercial sex workers, slum dwellers, balloon sellers, snake charmers, transgenders, etc.
- Over 1200 hot meals distributed to people in need, under the Hunger Warriors project.
- Fruits sent to an orphanage, Anand Niketan on a weekly basis.
- Poster competition organised by Youth services to mark World Oceans Day.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Charter and Installation Ceremony conducted with flair with a 'When Holly met Bolly' theme, balancing Rotary tradition with SOBO spice.

### BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS

- Collaborated with the Rotary Club Marbella-Guadalmina, Spain to raise 800 euros for COVID relief efforts.
- President Rtn. Jean-Luc Vanraes and the Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Kalpesh Barot of the Rotary Club Bruxelles Erasme (Belgium) joined us for our club meetings, wine club fellowships and the Charter ceremony.

### SPEAKERS

- Heard from illustrious speakers Ms. Charulata Ravi Kumar, MD of Accenture on 'Lockdown Learnings'; and from Lt. Gen. Shokin Chauhan on 'Achieving Peace in the North East'.

### FELLOWSHIPS

- Pinning Ceremony for members attending in small numbers over few days, to receive their Rotary pins from the Club President.
- Golf Fellowship organised for members at Golden Swan Country Club, with staggered sessions over 3 days.
- Game Night had members enjoying playing WINGO, a game of skill and chance, online.

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

## ROTARY CHARTER & INSTALLATION CEREMONY - A SNAPSHOT

by Dilip Chabria



The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO under District 3141 conducted its most important virtual meet with its Charter Installation ceremony. The 90 minute online event was hosted through Zoom video conferencing and was attended by over 170+ members of various clubs, district officials and their families. The ceremony included tête-à-têtes with wonderful comperees, entertaining videos and live interactions.

It was a well thought out virtual meet, fraught with jittery moments but carried out with enthusiasm and the primary objective was to keep the audience entertained, informed and proud of being a part of this noble club. The event preparations and backstage chaos had been ongoing with 10 days of planning, content shooting and rehearsals, and the team delivered a fabulous event that kept the audience glued to their seats. Behind the scenes of the many performances to make the ceremony a virtual blockbuster, were the anxious and excited faces of the participants hoping to make this virtual meet, one of a kind. The theme of the event was "**When Holly Met Bolly**", which created a sense of fun and allowed the audience to dress up as their favourite film characters and live up to their filmy avatars. The event flow was cinematically linked by the wonderful comperees who brought some famous Hollywood and Bollywood characters to life. The conclusion was a short clip of candid behind the scenes of how the event was created, followed by a vote of thanks.

The audience were shown videos of the official member pinning ceremony, the President Rajiv Punater's installation and the appointment of the board of directors. Along with that, they were also shown a Prayer invocation followed by a few entertaining videos like the Jerusalema Flash Mob, dance and song performances by our own members of Rotary SOBO, plus a short enactment from the film Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara. The meeting was attended by Rotary dignitaries like DG Sunnil Mehra, DGE Rajendra Agarwal, AG Amrish Daftary, Dr. Indumati Gopinathan and Dr. Manish Motwani.

This charter ceremony was a first for many of us from Rotary SOBO and a great experience.



## Charter event – Sunday 20th June

by Els Reynaers

Our Charter event was blessed with the presence of many seasoned Rotary visionaries and well-wishers from our District 3141. The Assistant Governor, Rtn. Amrish Daftary, aptly dressed for the Holly meets Bolly occasion, introduced our Chief Guest, District Governor Rtn. Sunnil Mehra in his usual witty fashion. Our DG, with his trademark flair and unique words of wisdom encouraged each one of us to dream big and always adopt a can-do attitude when identifying and executing community service projects. The Guest of Honour, District Governor Elect Rajendra Agarwal, shared his genuine appreciation of everything our Rotary Club had achieved in such a short timespan and Dr. Manish Motwani, our New Club Advisor, truly believes the sky is the limit for us! The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO thanked all other dignitaries, including the District Governor Nominee, Sandeep Agarwala and the Vision District Secretary Saurabh Sonawala and Assistant Trainer Rajesh Shroff for their continuous guidance; as well as the Dream District Secretary Radhika Mehta and Assistant Governor Sunil Siraslewala for making the time to join us for this special occasion. We also duly thanked our Parent Club, the Rotary Club of Mulund Hill View, including their President Mahima Menda, and Treasurer Shilpa for their unflinching support throughout all our activities. Special thanks went out to Dr. Indumati Gopinathan for always sharing her invaluable experiences and to our Honorary Member Ritu Chhabria, for being our kind and humble guide. We were genuinely touched by the presence of our international Rotary friends as well, including President of the Rotary Club of Bruxelles Erasme, Belgium, Jean-Luc Vanraes, its Sergeant-at-Arms, Kalpesh Barot, and the President of the Rotary Club of Novorossiysk, Russia, Galliamov Rais, and their ever active member Nadedja Strelnikova.



## BEHIND THE SCENES

- glimpses of the madness which went into the making of "When Holly Met Bolly"

by Diya Suri and Sheetal Idnani

While The 'Rotary SOBO Charter Installation' was the main event, for some of us the cherished memories will be everything that went into putting it together, and the beginning of new friendships. Some unforgettable moments - Princess Leia switching to become Hansaben. Rajiv insisting on a convertible for the ZNMD shoot. Yakir's quaint bungalow and hot Nagori chai with vada pav, pizzas and biryani.

The preparation for the Charter ceremony started ten days prior to the main event. The excitement and fun was no less than what we felt as students putting together our college events and we surely enjoyed creating and watching it together.

Most definitely, the part we enjoyed the most was the practice for the Jerusalema flash mob. Members, in true RoSoBo spirit, danced in unison. The energy was contagious and it will be the anthem that will get our members on their feet in times ahead.

The mayhem at the Pinning ceremony will not be forgotten. The lighthearted spirit, the fun and frolic & the props and costumes sportingly worn by our members, who let their hair down and had a rollicking time in front of the camera. A weekend where strangers became friends.

The meticulous work at the editing table, the numerous rehearsals for the final performance of the MCs, the impromptu acts, all added to the magic unleashed on the charter day when it finally went live in front of the camera.



## BECOMING HANSA

by Sargam Thakkar



It was on a whim that I agreed to play emcee in the role of Princess Leia for the Charter Installation, but as soon as I heard there was someone already in place, I sighed with relief, and tucked myself back under the rock that has been my dwelling place for almost 25 years.

Things pivoted somehow. I found myself turning up at rehearsal clutching cue cards and secretly berating myself for my short memory. "I don't know these people, I wonder what they'll think" - was the constant nagging voice. I was riddled with performance anxiety, as someone had let it out that I was an actor.

The ambience at the outhouse, not only blew away my inhibitions, but also found me boldly changing my character to "Hansa"- a role I've always wanted to play. Everyone in that room, (some of whom I didn't even know earlier) were so warm, that I never realised I had stepped out of my comfort zone to embrace the actor I once was; reminding me of the thrill that used to course through these veins.

I didn't care that I had shattered my "propah" self-image, or that I had only 2 days left to prepare, or that my kids were going to watch me make a fool of myself for the first time ever! I just went ahead and had the time of my life.

Niharika, Rajiv, Diya, Sunayana, Saurav, Mahera, Arvind, Monica, Sheetal, Dilip, Sanket, Amit, Faraz and Ali, I cannot thank you enough for the laugh-a-minute vibe that really made me 'become' the unselfconscious Hansa, and create some indelible memories. You have no idea what you did for me; I'd happily do it all over again in a trice.

While signing off, I urge each one of you, who haven't yet experienced the camaraderie of RoSoBo, to get out there and push your boundaries, whether it's for food distribution, or trying your hand at an unfamiliar sport or even to enlist support for a new cause you care about. There's always someone here who believes in you. Being in RoSoBo truly feels like coming home.

## Audience comments

by Amit Parikh

The Charter and Installation event saw 170+ viewers enjoy the evening. The formal parts of the ceremony were interspersed with fun elements in true SOBO fashion.

Suresh Rajani mentioned, *"I have attended lots of installation events. This was by far the best."*

Rizwana found it to be *"in filmy ishtyle, a true delight, making the best use of social platforms and bridging gaps between human creative imagination !!!"*

Heather thought *"the ribald humour a bonus" and felt the ceremony "seamlessly and stylishly reflected our achievements, aspirations, diversity and united vision."*

Jasmine found it to be a *"lovely well organized fun event"*.

### Winners of "When Holly met Bolly" contest:



Holly best couple

**Monisha and Ravi**



Bolly best couple

**Anjali and Umang**



Holly best dressed women

**Misha and Heather**



Bolly best dressed woman

**Kaushal**



Bolly best dressed Men

**Umesh Munot and Umesh Chhazzed**

Our  
Guest  
Speakers

## The Rotary Club of Bruxelles Erasme – exchange of flags & a warm welcome!

by Els Reynaers

The Rotary Club de Bruxelles Erasme, which was founded in 1972, feels like a closely-knit family with most members meeting on a regular basis, apart from their weekly club meetings. No wonder then that their first physical get-together after more than one year on 25th June, 2021 felt like a wonderful family reunion! The President, Jean-Luc Vanraes and the Sergeant-at-Arms, Kalpesh Barot, both whom attended one of our club meetings as well as our Charter event, were kind enough to invite me as Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO representative to their club's dinner meeting. One of the wonderful Rotary customs consists of the exchange of flags between Rotary clubs when they first meet, as a sign of friendship. There is a clear meeting of minds between our clubs and a reciprocal enthusiasm to undertake fellowships and projects together. It was a pleasure getting to know many fellow Rotarians in Brussels, including their Treasurer Thierry Percy and Secretary Robert Vandervelde. May this be the first of many such personal interactions between our clubs and we look forward to welcoming them here in Mumbai too!



## World Oceans Day - Poster Competition event led by Youth Services



### POSTER COMPETITION THE OCEAN: LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



The **Poster Competition** organised by the **Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO** to celebrate **World Oceans Day 2021** ended on 15th June with over 50 entries from young artists in Mumbai, Goa and Chennai. We commend them all for the creativity, enthusiasm and skills demonstrated in designing meaningful messages that celebrated the wonder of the ocean.

It was challenging for the jury to select the best as the standard was exceptionally high. The final prizes, honourable and special mentions are listed below. Certificates will reach winners and participants by email by 15th July 2021. Congratulations!

Thank you all for supporting this initiative and keep your creative caps on!

Regards

**Rajiv Punater**  
President

**Mahera Goel**  
Director - Youth Services

**Amita Kini-Singh**  
Project Lead

#### PRIZE WINNERS

**Juniors** (11-14 years)

1st Prize: Sakina Mandsaurwalla



Sakina Mandsaurwalla  
13 years | 1st Prize (Junior)

2nd Prize: Prachi Virendra Chaurasiya

3rd Prize: Sshana Shah

#### Honourable Mentions (in order of merit)

Diksha Sandeep Rane, Priyanshi Darji, Drasti Ashok Boricha, Mehr Easwaran, Karishma Thakur, Maira Mahadevia, Alexander Tadan

#### Special Mentions (in order of merit)

Anika Jain, Vivaan Kedia, Jessika Samani, Shreya More, Taisha Karsya, Sanika Daga

#### Seniors (15-18 years)

1st Prize: Twisha Mehta



Twisha Mehta  
17 years | 1st Prize (Senior)

2nd Prize: Pearl A. Shah

3rd Prize: V. Mythili

#### Honourable Mentions (in order of merit)

Aaliya A. Luswala, Avani Khandpekar, Ami Chandravadan Jayawala

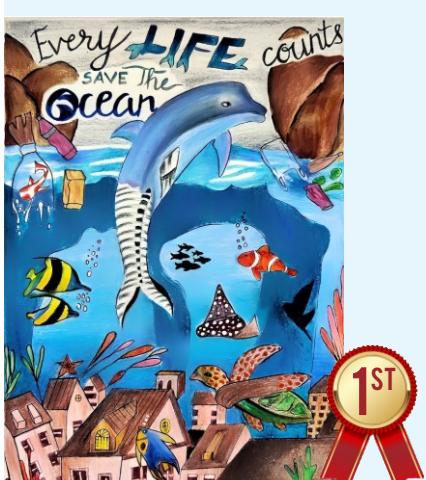
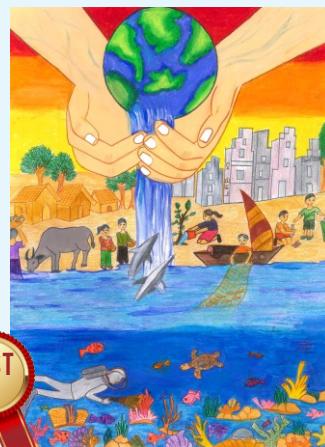


"The world, when seen through the eyes of children is a beautiful place. Many of the submissions were skillfully executed. The entries in the junior category were especially delightful and I am amazed at the abundance of talent in these young people."

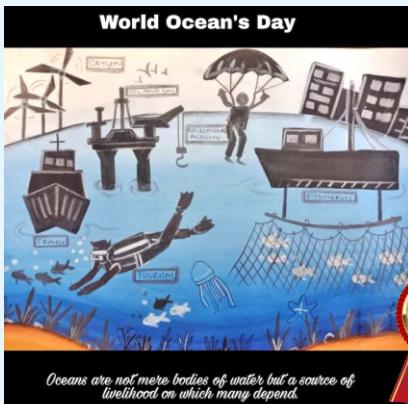
- Shanthi Kasi.

Our jury was chaired by Mumbai-based artist and photographer Shanthi Kasi, who left a successful corporate career to pursue her passion for the visual arts, and complete her BFA and MFA from the Sir JJ School of Fine Arts. Thank you Shanthi for your time and your diligence!

### JUNIOR CATEGORY



### SENIOR CATEGORY





NIHARIKA & DIYA

SOBO would like to formally express gratitude for the fantastic work you both have accomplished as the execution team leads for the Covid Vaccination Drive on 6th June 2021. The all-important drive spearheaded by President Rajiv posed a new level of responsibility and leadership, and you performed exceptionally well in shepherding the entire project to successful completion.

Your ability to work round the clock through unforeseen challenges and collaborate well with the rest of the team is impressive. It shows expertise, exceptional work ethic, and commitment to our club's success.

Thank you for working so diligently, snowballing into presenting the club as professional and efficient, which our beneficiaries valued just as much as we do!

by Mahera Goel



SHEETAL

The Goliath of the SOBO tribe,  
Spirited and gleeful is her vibe;  
Calling the shots with finesse on the set,  
Dances and performances are her expertise we bet.

She pulled off the Charter event with sheer grace,  
Juggling between scripts and actors at a rapid pace;  
Working behind the scenes was her shy and coy call,  
But indeed all of us did end up having a ball.

Huge appreciation to you for your unstinting and unbounded energy to work tirelessly. You made our Charter and Installation ceremony a runaway success. The bonding it created before, during and after the event was priceless.

by Rajiv Punater



<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 10px;"> <b>01 JULY</b> Speaker: Rajan Singh, HabitStrong             </div> <div> <b>04 JULY</b> Golf Fellowship             </div>	<div> <b>03 JULY</b> Golf Fellowship             </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 10px;"> <b>08 JULY</b> Member interaction on project development &amp; related FAQs, Guest: IPDG, Sunnil Mehra             </div>
<div> <b>12 JULY</b> Pre-BOD Meeting             </div> <div> <b>14 JULY</b> Monthly BOD Meeting             </div> <div> <b>18 JULY</b> Trek with Club members             </div>	<div> <b>13 JULY</b> Book Club - 9pm             </div> <div> <b>15 JULY</b> Musical Evening             </div> <div> <b>22 JULY</b> Club Assembly             </div>
<b>29 JULY</b> Speaker: Rahil Shah, CEO & Director, NM Medical	



**02 July** - Sangeeta Pandhi  
**04 July** - Sanjay Marwah  
**09 July** - Shilpa Lakdawala  
**10 July** - Rajesh Doshi  
**12 July** - Shilpa Daga  
**12 July** - Ajay Nilawar  
**13 July** - Umesh Chhazzed  
**19 July** - Avinash Rajpal  
**27 July** - Monisha Mullick

## entertainment entertainment entertainment



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**Co-ordinator:** Sunayana Vora

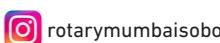
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**Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO**

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