



# REFLECTIONS

*In Giving, We Receive*



## from the horse's mouth

Rajiv Punater  
President

My favorite letter is →  
because I...



### Rejoice in the little things.

The first time the virus mushroomed in our lives, it helped us **rediscover** the “things” that mattered. **Reconnecting** with old friends and family brought unbounded joy as we **relived** the fond memories, truly priceless.

When I hear somebody sigh, “life is hard,” I am tempted to ask, “compared to what?” So **relax**, **rejuvenate** and **rewind** the beautiful moments when SOBOites were able to meet each other and **reshape** our goals to service a cause.

Seize the moment, live in the present.

I am inspired as I read these words today. We moved from zoom to a room and are now back to zoom. A key takeaway – its extra time given to us to **recharge** our energies, **reimagine** our future plans; and bounce back **renewed** with a zest to do better.

I take joy in **resetting** my vision and strongly **resonate** with the beautiful proverb, “just when the caterpillar thought the world was ending; it turned into a butterfly.”

What **resolutions** do we make as a community this year?

**“Let’s light up the darkness, all you got to do is give a little... Bob Marley.”**

Warmly,

Rajiv

I'll look back on this  
and smile  
because it was  
**LIFE**  
and I decided to  
live it

## Meals Distribution.

*By Jaishri Kimmatkar*

Total **1500** meal packets of rice with vegetables, **600** sheera packets and **600** chaas packets were distributed. Special thanks to our volunteers Anjali Adik, Akshata Nigam, daughter of Kamad Nigam, Umang Parasarampuriya, Bhawana Biyani, Bhawana Goel, Misha Mirchandani, Anita Saraf, Swati Barve and her children.

Our meal distribution program to Nair Hospital once a week from past 6 months has been appreciated and accepted. As per commitment made by our Club, food packets sourced from Ratnanidhi Charitable Trust at Khetwadi are distributed to staff and patients of Nair hospital. Our volunteers are carrying out the distribution ensuring COVID protocols.



## Door Step School

School on wheels – Mid-day meals



As per our ongoing meals distribution to Door Step School at Crawford Market and Wadi Bunder, we had an opportunity to celebrate Christmas with kids. We gave sets of tiffin-box, water bottle, pencil box, drawing kit and Santa caps. Kids were elated and expressed their joy and happiness. On our Club President Rajiv Punater's birthday, they presented a beautiful card with loads of wishes.

We would request volunteers to support the cause with any kind of donations for facilitating education and also in coordination on daily basis for the project as per their availability.



## PAWZ - the pet cause

ROSOBO played Santa to our furry friends at the Welfare for Stray Dogs (WSD) kennels by donating treats, dry food and groceries for them. Permanent inmates of the kennels got their wish list gifts of collars, shampoos, etc. The idea was to create awareness about the kennels and spread good cheer, which we totally achieved!

Thanks to all involved: Premal Sanghvi, Avanti Honawar, Diya Suri, Sargam Thakkar, Aanchal Sheth, Niharika Malik and several enthusiastic children with a big heart!



## Urja Trust



Rotary SOB0 have started supplying grocery items and other goods to the beneficiaries of Urja. We have also sponsored a full year of remuneration fees for a counsellor of Urja who counsels the inmates on regular basis.

Urja has opened a new centre in Chembur on 18th December 2021 whose inauguration was attended by our President Rajiv Punater and Non-medical Director Saurav Purkayastha. Our President has promised to intensify our engagement with Urja. We have also handed over two computers to them and have asked them to let us know if there is anything further they would need.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting

By Ritika Agrawal

The First Annual General Meeting (AGM), a notable calendar event for every Rotary club was held on 9th December, 2021 at the Jetha Compound which was graciously made available to the Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO by fellow Rotarian Mr. Yakir Jetha. The AGM was attended by 63 members. Key Projects undertaken by the club were communicated in terms of sourcing, outlay & impact by President Rajiv Punater. The financials of the club (for the period Feb 2021 to Nov 2021) were succinctly presented and compiled by Treasurer Rtn. Sheetal Idnani, assisted by fellow member Rotarian CA Swati Shah. The incumbent Board of Directors (July 2022- June 2023) were also elected and introduced. The AGM was a crisp, precise, well-articulated meet followed by an informal dinner, some social tête-à-tête and some food for thought for the attendees to be able to work with any project which resonates with them.

In the run up to the AGM, the present managing team/ Board efficiently disseminated information on the Agenda, the elections and nomination process, the financial statements, club accounts with explanatory notes to keep the members well informed and actively engaged in the activities of the club.



## Flag exchange with Rotary club of Singapore

By Els Reynaers



On 29th December, 2021, representatives of Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO had the pleasure of meeting Rtn. Vineet Iyengar, India coordinator, Rotary Club of Singapore, and his wife, Rtn. Sonali Sinha, an active Rotarian in her own right. As per the wonderful Rotary tradition, we exchanged flags of our clubs! Vineet and Sonali, members of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Queen's Necklace, before their move to Singapore, shared their vast experience with Rotary projects over the years. The Rotary Club of Singapore, set up in 1930, has an exciting history, but also impressive experience with over 120 Global Grants. Vineet, Vice President & GM (ASEAN), Advanced Customer Services at Oracle, and Sonali, an investment banker and business coach, also worked in the non-for-profit sector prior to joining Rotary, making their insightful observations on successful long-term projects all the more relevant. We thank them for having taken the time during their family visit back "home" and look forward to many more fruitful interactions and collaborations between our clubs!

## Proud of our Donors!!

Heartiest Congratulations to our large hearted samaritans

1. **Saroj & Sunil Siraslewala**  
- AKS member for donation of over USD 250,000
2. **Rashi & Divya Siraslewala**  
- Major Donor level 2
3. **Darshana & Umesh Chhazzed**  
- Major Donor level 1
4. **Rajiv Punater**  
- Major Donor level 1

for being awarded at the felicitation ceremony on Wednesday, 15th December 2021 evening by Rotary Intl. President Shekhar Mehta and Dist. Governor Rajendra Agarwal.



## Bollywood-themed Charity Gala organised by the Rotary Club of Marbella-Guadalmina, Spain

By Els Reynaers

On Saturday, 4th December, 2021, the Rotary Club of Marbella-Guadalmina, Spain, organised an extremely successful Bollywood-themed Charity Gala in support of projects centred around children in the Mumbai area. The event drew over 170 participants and credit for the meticulous planning of this impressive Gala soir  e goes to Rtn. Rani Lakhani, Rtn. Pamela Lake, Rtn. Joanna Chrzanowska and Rtn. Lorraine Powell, who put their heart and soul into ensuring this would be a night to remember!

Rotarians and their friends who attended were dressed up in Indian evening wear and accessories. They were entertained by professional dancers who performed on Bollywood music, and duly appreciated the project videos put together by Rtn. Dilip Chabria and the tailored messages from Bollywood stars arranged by Rtn. Rajiv Punater. This clearly struck a chord with the audience who generously supported two projects identified by our club focused on the welfare and education of children.

The Bhavdhara Academy, a non-for-profit organisation set up in 2003 in Vasai, Palghar District, offers excellent education to underprivileged children. However, because of the COVID pandemic the Bhavdhara Academy for the first time in its history seriously struggled financially, because most of the parents whose children attend the school lost their jobs, which made it impossible for them to pay the tuition fees of the children. In turn, this made it very challenging for the Bhavdhara Academy to pay their teachers.

The impressive work undertaken by the OSCAR Foundation in Mumbai also resonated with the Rotary Club of the beautiful Andalusian region. The OSCAR Foundation uses football as a tool to deliver education and life skill sessions to underprivileged children. Indeed, children have to be regular in attending school to be allowed into the soccer program. Through the means of regular practice and competitions, the girls discover a world of possibilities and appreciate that through hard work and regular practice, one can achieve a lot. This translates to better results in their academic performance and many of the children who've followed the OSCAR Foundation's program go on to attend college and find a job subsequently. Truly inspiring!

All of us at the Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO are truly grateful to the Rotary Club of Marbella-Guadalmina for having organised such a well-planned Gala event in support of children here in Mumbai. Your generous contributions will mean the world to each one of them!



## Humanitarian work in Dharamshala

Rotary SOBO visited Amritsar & Dharamshala in November - December 2021 with District officials led by Governor Rajendra Agarwal, President's and Board members of over 45 Rotary clubs from Bombay district 3141.

The clubs of district 3070 that comprises of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir areas hosted the 7 days charitable visit by the Bombay clubs.

The primary reason of the visit was to champion the cause of providing a helping hand to the marginalised and underprivileged communities of North India.

The worthy causes that were organised jointly by Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust and both Rotary District's were:

1. Distribution of 166 custom-built prosthetics to the differently abled
2. Books 5,000 numbers to 50 happy school libraries
3. Assorted garments 780 numbers for the cold weather to the local population

Rotary SOBO humbly contributed 45 prosthetics giving mobility and a fresh lease of life to the needy. It was a joy to watch the recipients being fitted with an arm or a foot, the pictures speak a 1,000 words of the satisfaction the attendees from our club experienced. President Rajiv Punater and project head Mahera Goel were felicitated in a beautifully crafted ceremony along with Rajiv Mehta of Ratna Nidhi Trust for his pathbreaking contribution to society. Rotarians Monisha and Ravi Mullick represented SOBO in this visit as good Samaritans too.



## There is no greater joy than contributing to the world around us.

By Mahera Goel

Interactors from the Ram Ratna International School took up the cause of building a Toilet Facility for the Gramin Vikas Mire Adivasi School, a school for the Adivasi and the underprivileged children, as they felt it very important for all students to have access to proper toilets. Open defecation is detrimental to the household, society and the planet as a whole. The overall aim is to build 6 toilets for the school. 3 cubicles for boys and 3 for girls. The students had no choice but to defecate in the open because a huge tree fell on the one facility that existed.

**34** Interactors raised funds to the tune of **5,12,000** from **457** funders.



**LET'S HELP CONSTRUCT A TOILET FACILITY FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS.**



## A Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO initiative.

Students of RAM RATNA Intl. School are helping construct a TOILET FACILITY.



AVANI PRAVIN KOKATE'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO CONSTRUCT A TOILET



JANHAVI GANDHI'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO CONSTRUCT A TOILET FACILITY.



SANSKRITI CHELAMBAT'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO CONSTRUCT A TOILET



HONEY PARMAR'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO CONSTRUCT A TOILET FACILITY.

## Planting a seed and harvesting a new life for the farmers

By Mahera Goel

**Ascend International School Interactors ran a crowdfunding campaign and raised 2.85 lakhs to support the fruit tree plantation project led by District 3141.**

### Background of the Project

Many farmers in Maharashtra's Palghar and Marathwada districts struggle with a meagre monthly income of around INR 3000-4000 per month. There is depression and hopelessness among the farmers and their families. Low yield, low production and poverty are common problems. They end up taking loans, which leads to a vicious cycle of being unable to pay their debts, leading to suicides, depression, migration to cities, etc. So how do we make agriculture sustainable and remunerative for them?

The Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO, in partnership with the NGO Global Parli, are on a mission to transform the lives of these marginal farmers and their families by giving them fruit-bearing trees. These trees are planted instead of the traditional crops they grow ( sugarcane, rice, soya etc.) and yield much better incomes. The trees would be

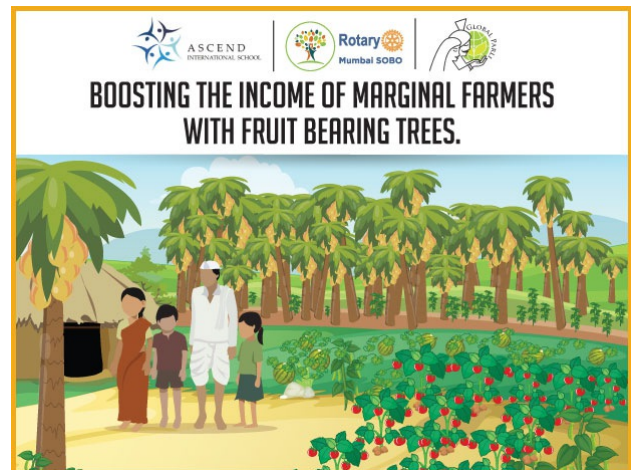
given to farmers with 1 to 2 acres of land yet struggle with low yield and productivity. The income levels are expected to rise 10-20 times through this. This would be transformational, and their lives would change dramatically.

Planting a single fruit-bearing tree

costs INR 25.

Just INR 12,500 will help transform the life of one farmer. So let's all come together and do our bit.

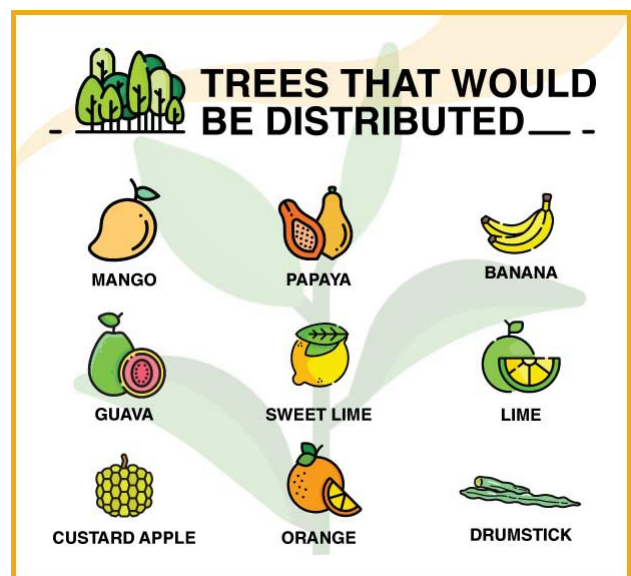
If you would like to contribute to this project, please connect with President Rajiv Punater.



**INR 12500 FUNDS 500 TREES AND WILL HELP TRANSFORM THE LIFE OF ONE FARMER.**

#### FOR EXAMPLE:

- INR 25,000 HELPS 2 FARMERS (IMPACTS 2 ACRES).
- INR 50,000 HELPS 4 FARMERS (IMPACTS 4 ACRES).
- INR 1,25,000 HELPS 10 FARMERS (IMPACTS 10 ACRES).



## A Rotary Club of Mumbai SOBO initiative.

Students of ASCEND Intl. School are transforming the lives of FARMERS.



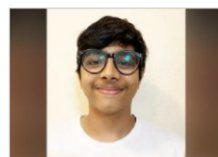
RAGHAV SHARMA'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO SUPPORT FARMERS ACROSS MAHARASHTRA.



AARYAN CHOKSY'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO SUPPORT FARMERS ACROSS MAHARASHTRA.



ISHITA AMBEKAR'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO SUPPORT FARMERS ACROSS MAHARASHTRA.



ISHAAN RAJAN'S CAMPAIGN WITH ROTARY SOBO TO SUPPORT FARMERS ACROSS MAHARASHTRA.

## Trash to Treasure

Gurleen Sahani - CNMS Interact Advisor

In association with RUR Green Life, sustainable Waste management Non-Profit Organisation, the CNM School Interactors organised a sachet collection drive from 18th November 2021 to 3rd December 2021. Students collected empty sachets (shampoo, tea, sugar, chocolates/ tetra cartons (milk, juice). The initiative was aimed at waste reduction and converting trash into treasure.



## First Special Movie Screening

**Spider-Man** screening at IMAX PVR at phoenix mills on Friday, 17th December 2021.

Our very own first movie night-out at Rotary SOBO.

**101** movie enthusiasts, families & friends viewed the blockbuster.

To many more viewings in the future.



**BAAR BAAR.  
YEH DIN AAYE**



**Rishi Bhasin - 06/01**

**Geeta Makhija - 12/01**

**Mazhar Arif - 16/01**

**Sameer Gaggar - 18/01**

**Gaurav Dangwal - 19/01**

**Dewang Neralla - 24/01**



**SOBO Youth Services  
WEBSITE**

**Launching soon...**



## JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022 CALENDAR

DATE	PROGRAMME
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>	
Sun 9th	Beach cleanup followed by breakfast (7 am to 10 am)
Thu 20th	Fellowship meet with Rotary club of Worli @ 7.30 pm
Wed 26th	Community immersion (Om trust) - Karjat - day trip
<b>FEBRUARY 2022</b>	
Sun 6th	(in lieu of Thur 3rd) - Member Football match followed by breakfast (NSCI) 7am - 10 am
Tue 22nd	(in lieu of Thursday 17th) - Charter Birthday celebration (details to follow)



**Wishing all our  
members a very  
happy New Year**

## Calendar for January 2022 Club Meetings on ZOOM:

DATE & TIME	PROGRAMME
Jan 6th @ 7:15pm THURSDAY	Project discussion and 2022 update into the new year
Jan 20th @ 7:15pm THURSDAY	Speaker meet with Rtn. Willem Falter of the global EndPlasticSoup Rotary initiative

President: Rajiv Punater | Secretary: Niharika Malik

### Team PR & Communication

**Newsletter:** Rajiv Punater, Sujata Goel & Sunayana Vora

**Social Media:** Suparna Madan & Rohan Rai

**Website:** Kaushal Shah

**Ideating & Editing:** Monisha Mullick & Ritika Agarwal



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