

The Gateway



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 43, MAY 6, 2025

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THIS TUESDAY

Advocate Puneet Bhasin will address the Club: Are your devices spying on you? Staying secure in the era of cyber risk.

COMING UP

May 13th, 2025

Sandeep Kumar, Founder & CEO of DigiSwasthya Foundation, will address the Club on Bridging the healthcare gap in rural India: A journey of purpose and impact.

May 17th, 2025

Rotary Super chef. Details inside

May 20th, 2025

Nanhi Kali NGO to be felicitated with Rotary Club of Bombay's Anita Parikh Award for Women Empowerment.

June 3rd, 2025

Leena Gupta, transformational life coach, will speak on the Next Frontier: Happiness beyond success, in a session moderated by Rtn. Rina Deora.

June 24th, 2025

Shukriya Nite. Details inside

July 1st, 2025

Rotary Club of Bombay's installation ceremony of incoming President PE Bimal Mehta and his Board of Directors. Details inside

ROSALIND PEREIRA, CO-FOUNDER OF PROJECT AAMHI, RECEIVES RCB'S TARU LALVANI AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



Thank you so much for this honour. I never imagined that I would be standing here accepting the award for something that most people would not even think about — garbage — but here we are. And I couldn't be prouder. I thank Swati for the introduction. I don't know about everything she said about me, but Aamhi truly deserves it, so thank you all.

I've been told that I have to talk a little bit about Aamhi, and I would like to. But we've all had lunch, and I thought it would be easier to have your attention if we had something on film. So we've put together a little film on what we do, to give you a perspective on the problem and how we look at it — the Aamhi way.

EXCERPTS FROM THE VIDEO:

We, at Project Aamhi, have always collected data. But our touchpoints now have increased to almost 11 villages, approximately 5,000-odd homes. So our data was becoming extremely unmanageable, and that's where Tres — our CSR partner who has committed to 1,000 hours of CSR service of their employees — came in. They've developed a very interesting dashboard which tells us the waste composition, where we collected it from, the periodicity of the collection, and the kind.

This helps in understanding our processes, in our partners' understanding of the transparency of it,

and what exactly we collect, and then go towards creating an impact.

To map the waste and where it comes from, we assigned different colours to different villages. So, the waste that comes from, say, Nagaon would be marked in a bag which has a green colour. When it comes to the centre, we have a collection form that gets filled — that collection form is fed into this dashboard.

You can see the number of villages that we have serviced, the number of *safai-sathis*, bags collected by the *safai-sathis*, the number of bags collected through door-to-door collection, and the total number of bags. This is only from October to date.

You can see that in Nagaon we have collected 2.8K through door-to-door collection, and 1.81 through the *safai-sathi* collection. It also gives you the trend. It also says that our bag collection was most in Feb. Based on this, we can actually see which village we need to emphasise more in terms of IEC education, increasing our touchpoints — and it gives us some good insight.

Our segregation dashboard tells you what is the waste that we collect. It gives you the total amount — you can actually even go and set a range to the actual monthly figures. But it shows all the waste that

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we collect, all the different components that we collect. From here we can look at — and it's very easy to make a statement — that what we collect is low-value waste.

You can see the glass bottles, beer bottles, etc are the most within the 50 metric tonnes that we have collected from October to date. Showing it transparently is also important when we are looking at partners because it is a confidence-building measure, and the partner is aware of the exact processes — what are the segments and what one is collecting.

One of my key responsibilities is leading fundraising efforts through CSR and donors. Our participation in the Tata Mumbai Marathon serves as a dynamic platform to raise awareness, mobilise resources, and build a wider network of supporters.

I'm also actively liaising with the Alibaug Solid Waste Management Association (ASWM), facilitating funding opportunities, stakeholder engagement, and collaborative support for Aamhi.

Project Aamhi is supported by the Zilla Parishad of Raigad. With the Zilla Parishad's help and the MoU signed with it, we are able to penetrate into villages beyond our hub. The Zilla Parishad also gives us infrastructure — in fact, we had two incineration machines given to us by the Block Development Officer. These will be used to burn sanitary waste.

Sanitary waste is a huge problem in these areas, and typically, it is either chucked into the sea or burned. A project sponsored by Hexaware looks at recycling and upcycling marine waste textiles. We have, as of date, made over 8000 double-layered bags. Now, each of these double-layered bags has the potential to replace 700 single-use plastic bags. And all of this is made by marine textiles that have been cast away or

would have been left in the environment for many years to come.

A lot of the waste that we collect cannot be recycled because there is no calorific value. Marine spaces collect a lot of footwear that gets washed away. It gets stuck in mangroves and on the beaches. We collect almost 600 to 700 kg of footwear and non-recyclable items every month.

Typically, the practice would have been to just get it together and chuck it into a landfill or to burn it openly in the open. Instead, we collect this non-recyclable component and send it to waste-to-energy factories. We're really grateful to Godrej Industries, who sponsor our transportation cost from here to the recycling and incineration-based energy factories. Transportation cost itself would make this whole process unviable.

Finding recycling partners close by is not possible because we are 160 kilometres away from any recycling hub. Most of this material has a huge volume, so compressing it into bales is what we've always wanted to do — and we're thankful to the Bombay Education Society, which has given baling machines. So we compress it into bales, and that reduces our transportation costs and makes recycling more viable.

ROSALIND PEREIRA:

We work with 12 villages and as of date, we have collected 300 metric tonnes of waste. To just put this into perspective, one truck would carry around 5 metric tonnes. So we have extracted around 74-odd trucks from a small part of rural Alibaug. This should just indicate the waste — the problem of waste — that we're looking at.

If a rural area can give us this kind of waste, can you imagine how much waste there is in Bombay?

Waste is not a glamorous thing to do. We clean up well, but 'waste' is the long hours of work. We start work at 8:15 and we work till 7. It's very low in terms of return, and the gap between selling the waste and the cost of collecting it, segregating it, and sending it for recycling — the gap is ₹32 for every kg of waste that we collect and recycle.

Waste has to be a priority when we look at development, and typically, it's often ignored. We just hope that now that we have the attention of the audience and the recognition, that we look at supporting initiatives like this, which are important, especially in rural areas. Because in rural areas, the habit of waste is a recent phenomenon, and so it's easier to make inroads, to make changes in behaviour.

Finally, this award is not mine. It belongs to this incredible team of *safai-sathis* and the guys who support us — the people who show up whether it is rain or shine, who do the right thing even when nobody is watching.

It also belongs to the communities that sort and recycle the waste when they could easily burn it or chuck it. In rural areas, it's so easy to burn or chuck it — so, in the rural areas that support our initiative, we're grateful for that.



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VISIT TO SOMCHAND PARIKH ELDERS DAY CARE CENTRE



Rtn. Gautam Doshi, Rtn. Mudit Jatia and Jr. Hon. Secy. Akhil Sanghi

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TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



President Satyan Israni, Rtn. Renu Basu and Mrs. Hansu Pardiwala, co-founder of Aamhi Swaach Charitable Foundation



Rtn. Swati Jajodia, Mrs. Hanshu, Rtn. Poonam Lalvani, PDG ARRFC Sandip Agarwalla, Speaker and Awardee Ms. Rosalind Pereira and Rtn. Ptn. Vishal Jajodia



Rotarians Anirudh Chowdhary, Anjani Rawat, Mihir Mody, Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil Sanghi and PP Kalpana Munshi



Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil, President Satyan, Sr. Adv. Shiraz Rustomjee and Rtn. Mihir



Rotarians Mihir, Ami Jagtiani, Renu, President Satyan and Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil



Rtn. Suresh and Rtn. Ptn. Aruna Jagtiani with Rtn. Roda Billimoria



Rotarians Ritu Prakash Desai, Renu, Swati and Samina Khorakiwala



Rotarians Farhat Jamal, Puneet Wadhwa and PP Arun Sanghi



Rotarians Amit Banka, Arish Dastur and Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Shom Jagtiani for his birthday



Rtn. Sherebanu Baldiwal proposes a vote of thanks



Rtn. S.V. Prasad, Rtn. Arish, PP Shernaz Vakil and Mrs. Hansu



President Satyan thanks Speaker and Awardee Ms. Rosalind for her time spent addressing the Club

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PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MUSINGS

APRIL: ACTION PACKED AND FORWARD FOCUSED!

Dear Members,

If February was frenzied and March manic, then April truly delivered on its promise of being action-packed! Our club buzzed with purpose and fellowship, showcasing the incredible dedication and impact we collectively create.

We were privileged to listen to two insightful speakers this past month. Freemason Worshipful Brother Shreevardhan Sinha illuminated the fascinating world of Freemasonry, sharing its teachings, influence, and symbolic ceremonies. Later in the month, we welcomed former CNBC anchor Tanvir Gill, who captivated us with her journey through the dynamic world of business, offering invaluable lessons gleaned from interactions with the most successful leaders.

April also shone a spotlight on impactful contributions through our prestigious awards. Ameet Hariani was deservedly felicitated with the Rotary Club of Bombay Indira Suresh Kotak Award for his exemplary work in Conflict Resolution through Mediation and Conciliation. Furthermore, the Aamhi Swaach Charitable Foundation received the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award in recognition of their commendable efforts towards Environmental Protection. These awards underscore our club's commitment to recognizing and encouraging positive change in our society.

Our project activities continued with remarkable energy. The Summer Camps across our Bhavishya Yaan schools and the Lighthouse project culminated in stunning performances by the children, a testament to their talent and the dedication of our educators. Our Ananda Yaan members enjoyed a delightful fine dining experience followed by a vibrant Rajasthani musical evening, creating cherished memories. We proudly celebrated the second anniversary of our immensely successful HDFC Dharamshala Project with a well-attended event that included a project tour and a delicious lunch prepared by WithAarya, the dedicated caterers for the residents. The Fellowship cum project visit to the Talwada Medical Centre was particularly significant, with District Governor Chetan Desai inaugurating the Breast Cancer Awareness Drive and distributing Well Baby Kits, highlighting our focus on healthcare initiatives. Finally, the Scholarship Committee organized a truly inspiring gala awards evening to celebrate the remarkable achievements of the young scholars we support.

April fostered strong bonds of fellowship through a diverse range of events. The Bahrain F1 Fellowship offered an exhilarating experience with pulsating



race track action, electrifying music, cultural immersion, and vibrant nightlife. Back home, Rtn. Abhishek and Radhika Saraf generously hosted a warm Assimilation Dinner, playing a crucial role in integrating new members into the rich culture of RCB. We also embarked on an insightful visit to the JNPA – Vadhavan Super Port, gaining valuable understanding of its operations.

Looking ahead, I was delighted to announce the formation of our Centenary Committee, which will be expertly led by PDG Sandip Agarwalla. This committee will be instrumental in ideating, planning, and executing memorable projects and events as we approach the momentous centenary year of our club in 2028-29.

Furthermore, several dedicated members actively participated in the District Learning Assembly for the incoming Rotary year 2025-26 held at the YB Chavan Centre, demonstrating their commitment to future leadership and service.

Adding to our successes, I was thrilled to learn that our Cotton Green Medical Centre achieved record-breaking numbers in the month of April, a testament to its vital role in our community.

Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to all the other committees and projects that continued their invaluable work with unwavering zeal and fervour, consistently upholding our commitment to the cause of humanity.

April's dynamism serves as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and impact of the Rotary Club of Bombay. Let us carry this momentum forward into May and continue to make a meaningful difference.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Satyan Israni

President, Rotary Club of Bombay

FLAME OF RCB CONTINUES TO SHINE AT TALWADA



On Sunday, April 27th, 2025, the Rotary Club of Bombay (RCB) lit up Talwada once again with two impactful mega projects held at the Talwada Medical Centre. The projects — a breast cancer detection camp and the distribution of Well Baby kits — were inaugurated by District Governor Chetan Desai. These initiatives, especially the breast cancer detection camp, are among the District's key focus areas this year.

What made the event especially memorable was the enthusiastic participation of over 25 members, including Rotarians, Rotarian Partners, Rotaractors, and Rotary staff, all led by President Satyan Israni. This strong turnout not only demonstrated the Club's commitment to service but also added a joyful sense of fellowship, as the group spent the day visiting PRVEC and the Taparia College after the camp.

The day began early for the Mumbai contingent, with a 6:30 a.m. departure by bus. The journey was filled with warm camaraderie, sandwiches, wafers, chocolates, and a traditional stop at Shree Dutt for refreshments and *vada pav*. By 10:45 a.m., the group had reached ADMC, where both projects were formally inaugurated in the presence of the District Governor, although by then, the screening had already begun, with a large number of women taking advantage of the breast cancer check-up facilities.

Adding to the significance of the

occasion, a new Biochemistry Analyzer was also inaugurated, further enhancing the capabilities of the pathology lab at ADMC. Attendees were then given a guided tour of the medical centre's various departments, where long queues of patients reflected the scale and reach of the day's initiatives. Families had travelled from remote villages, underscoring the importance of such camps in rural healthcare outreach.

Particularly heartwarming was the distribution of the Well Baby kits, given to mothers and children after examination by Dr. Apte. Alongside the kits, mothers were counselled on the correct use of the items and the benefits of early child care, leaving many visibly reassured and grateful.

The group then moved to PRVEC, where Chairman Emeritus PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir shared stories of the centre's evolution and the many contributions by past doctors and donors. The visit was a reminder of how deeply rooted RCB's legacy is in Talwada, with PRVEC standing as a true symbol of what Rotary can achieve. Members visited the patient dormitories, the operation theatre, and the OPD areas — each space bearing testimony to years of dedicated service.

The final leg of the visit took the group across to Taparia College, where the teachers shared insights into the institution's offerings, including its chemical laboratory. The visit helped forge stronger bonds between RCB and

the educational facilities in the region.

By the end of the day, over 100 individuals had directly benefited from the medical camp and baby kit distribution — a testament to the lasting impact of these projects. For everyone present, it was an enriching and fulfilling experience that reaffirmed their commitment to the Rotary motto of Service Above Self.

The Talwada project continues to shine as the Kohinoor of RCB's initiatives.





NMJ BHAVISHYA YAAN: SUMMER CAMP FINALE

On Wednesday, April 30th, 2025, NMJ School brought the academic year to a close with an exuberant celebration — the grand finale of the Bhavishya Yaan Summer Camp. The camp, which commenced on March 25th, 2025 ran for over a month and was rooted in the theme of 'Environmental Sustainability and Conservation,' a topic both timely and crucial for the future guardians of our planet — the children.

THE SUMMER CAMP

The core aim of the camp was to instil in students from Class 3 to Class 9 a deep understanding of how small, conscious actions can lead to significant positive change for the environment. Rather than beginning with a list of rules to follow, the camp took a more impactful approach — educating the students first on the catastrophic consequences of environmental neglect. Children were shown the devastating effects of natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, floods, and forest fires, all of which can be intensified by human irresponsibility.

This immersive and thought-provoking introduction aimed to move students beyond passive learning. By witnessing the brutal outcomes of environmental degradation, they were inspired to take real action. The camp organisers understood that when children know why they should act, the how becomes more meaningful.

In addition to these explorations, the students learnt about the top five countries leading the way in sustainability — Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Austria and Norway. The campers were fascinated to discover how these nations have embedded environmental consciousness into everyday life. These examples served not only as inspiration but as practical models to emulate in their own small yet powerful ways.

The focus then shifted to practical actions that students could take in their own environments. Simple yet effective habits such as switching off lights and fans when not in use, planting saplings, and reusing materials were discussed and encouraged. Students engaged in several hands-on activities — poster making, vocabulary exercises, worksheets, and creative crafts — all geared towards reinforcing the message of sustainability in an enjoyable way.

Despite it being exam season, the enthusiasm of the students remained undimmed. Each morning, they participated in three-hour sessions filled with learning, art, creativity, and rehearsals for the finale. Even the Class 10 students, who had completed their examinations, returned daily to assist as volunteers — a testament to the spirit of community and dedication cultivated through Bhavishya Yaan. One of the performances was, in fact, scripted and directed entirely by these senior students.

Every day, students were served fresh fruit and snacks courtesy of Bhavishya Yaan, ensuring they stayed energised and cared for during the sessions.



THE GRAND FINALE

The summer camp culminated in a vibrant series of performances spread across three distinct shows. The first, held on April 28th, 2025, was presented to President Satyan Israni. He graciously viewed the entire showcase and took the time to congratulate the students for their passionate and thoughtful performances. President Satyan also distributed awards to winners of the quiz and elocution competitions and recognised Snehal Godse from Class 7 for her outstanding attendance and participation. Snehal shared how she had applied the principles of conservation at both school and home, particularly in saving water and energy. She received a special certificate for her commendable efforts. The President also handed out letters of appreciation to the Class 10 volunteers who had contributed meaningfully to the success of the summer camp.

The final shows were conducted on April 30th, 2025 — first for the Rotarians and subsequently for the Principal and BMC teachers. The programme opened with a powerful street play conveying the urgent message of environmental preservation. This was followed by a charming skit by the primary school students. A beautifully executed mime performance by the secondary students struck a poignant chord with the audience, as the children expressed complex emotions and environmental themes without a single word.

Adding a cultural dimension to the programme, the primary students performed a show themed on European countries. This was followed by spirited European folk dances presented by both primary and secondary students, showcasing not just their talent but also their global awareness.

Students from Classes 6 to 9 delivered articulate speeches on environmental degradation, deforestation, and actionable solutions for a greener future. Their confidence and clarity were lauded by all in attendance.

One of the programme's highlights was an energetic and original rap performance on recycling — a first in the history of Bhavishya Yaan events. The catchy lyrics and vibrant delivery had the entire audience clapping and cheering in support of the young rappers.

A CELEBRATION OF TALENT AND DEDICATION

The finale was graced by numerous dignitaries and supporters including PP Nowroze Vazifdar and Rtn. Ptn. Niloufer Vazifdar, PP Framroze Mehta, PP Vineet Bhatnagar, IPP Manoj Patodia, PE Bimal Mehta, Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil Sanghi, Rotarians Jagdish Malkani, Alok Sekhseria, SV Prasad, and Pilloo Aga. Rtn. Ptn. Zainab Lokhandwala and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain also attended, along with representatives from NGO Vidya — Ms. Jhanvi Vissanji and Ms. Deepa Sethia — and Ms. Sneha Pawar from Protean. Mr. Girish Rao from Infotroopers had attended the earlier show on April 28th, 2025. Their enthusiastic applause was a source of joy and encouragement for the young performers.

The anchoring of the event by Yogita and Yashraj from Class 9 was especially well received. Their poised presentation and fluent English made a strong impression on both guests and faculty alike.

The Principal and teachers expressed their happiness at seeing the students communicate so confidently in English — a skill that had clearly blossomed through their camp participation.

A FITTING CONCLUSION

The celebration concluded with a hearty brunch for all, featuring an array of snacks including *samosas*, wafers, *dhoklas*, mini *idlis*, biscuits, a special cake donated by Jt. Hon. Secy. Akhil Sanghi, and Frooti and biscuits provided by Rtn. Pilloo Aga. Heartfelt thanks were extended to them for their generosity.

Mentor and Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad, along with the dedicated teachers, played a pivotal role in making the NMJ Bhavishya Yaan Summer Camp a resounding success. For the 100+ students who participated, it was not just a camp — it was a joyful and educational journey, one they will surely cherish and carry forward as environmentally responsible citizens of tomorrow.





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Rotary Super Chef

**AN EVENING OF OF CULINARY
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Date: Saturday 17th May 2025

Time: 4.00 P.M. to 7.00 P.M.

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Management Studies**

Location: <https://rb.gy/1hti3j>

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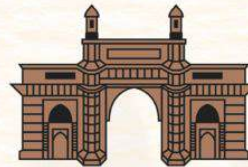
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**SHUKRIYA
NITE**

AFTER-PARTY WITH
DJ SUKETU
KING OF BOLLYWOOD REMIXES





Celebrating 96 Years of Service



DISTRICT 3141

INSTALLATION *Ceremony*

FOR INCOMING PRESIDENT
BIMAL MEHTA
& HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



SAVE THE DATE

01 | July
2025

MAY 13TH, 2025:

SANDEEP KUMAR, FOUNDER & CEO OF DIGISWASTHYA FOUNDATION, WILL ADDRESS THE CLUB ON BRIDGING THE HEALTHCARE GAP IN RURAL INDIA: A JOURNEY OF PURPOSE AND IMPACT



Sandeep Kumar is the Founder and CEO of DigiSwasthya Foundation, a non-profit organisation committed to delivering accessible and affordable healthcare to underserved rural communities in India. A childhood cancer survivor and person with a disability, Sandeep's own struggles with delayed diagnosis inspired his mission to bridge healthcare gaps through innovation and empathy. Under his leadership, DigiSwasthya has adopted a unique phygital model—combining physical outreach with digital solutions—to connect rural patients to doctors in Tier 1 hospitals. Since its inception in 2021, the foundation has impacted over 2.1 million people through telemedicine, health camps, and community outreach. A Forbes 30 Under 30 honouree, One Young World scholar, and Acumen Fellow, Sandeep is recognised globally for championing healthcare inclusion and systemic change. He continues to represent India on international platforms, sharing insights on leadership, disability inclusion, and technology in healthcare.

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MAY 6
Rtn. Dr. Sheela
Kerkar



MAY 6
Rtn. Jyoteendra
Kothary



MAY 6
Rtn. Ajit
Surana



MAY 7
Rtn. Ashwin
Thakkar



MAY 8
Rtn. Arish
Dastur



MAY 8
Rtn. Vinay
Sanghi



MAY 9
Rtn. Ateeq
Agboatwala



MAY 9
Rtn. Sam
Katgara



MAY 12
Rtn. Siddharth
Bhimrajka

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MAY 6 MAY 9
Rtn. Ptn. Rtn. Ptn.
Sudesh Dhir Thrity Javeri
MAY 7 MAY 12
Rtn. Ptn. Rtn. Ptn.
Radhika Reshma
Jain Vazirani

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 6
Rtn. Ptn. Vishal &
Rtn. Swati Jajodia
MAY 7
Rtn. Ptn. Mina &
Rtn. Shyamniwas Somani
MAY 8
Rtn. Ptn. Suman &
Rtn. Kishore Bang
MAY 9
Rtn. Ptn. Madhavi &
Rtn. Suhail Nathani
Rtn. Ptn. Asha &
Rtn. Rajesh Shah
MAY 10
Rtn. Ptn. Sanjay &
Rtn. Dr. Nisheeta Agarwala

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2024-25

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Ananda Yaan	Kaushal Mehta
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Director Rahil Shah

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Panchatattva Gale Village	Vinti Gajree
Urban Nature Habitat	Jamshed Vakharia
Heritage, Art & Culture	Aditya Somani
Animal Welfare	Priyasri Patodia

Director Gautam Doshi

Bhavishya Yaan	Akhil Sanghi
IT Innovation Labs	Abhishek Saraf
Adult Literacy for Women	Runit Shah
EVS Curriculum	Nikhil Bhatia
Programme	Rina Deora
Vocational Training & Night Study Centre	Wrinda Rajgarhia

Director Renu Basu

RCB Medical Centre, Talwada	Chairman Emeritus PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
	Mihir Mody
Cotton Green Clinic	Dr. Mehemosh Dotivala
Cancer Aid	Farokh Balsara
Committee for Neurodivergent Children	PP Shernaz Vakil
Dharmshala	Naresh Pachisia & Miral Shah
Dialysis	Swati Jajodia

Director Mudit Jatia

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Bulletin	Abhinav Aggarwal
Fellowship & In-Camera	Ritu Desai
Assimilation	Vineet Suchanti
The Rotary Foundation	PP Vijay Jatia

Director Jaymin Jhaveri

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Paediatric Heart Surgeries	Natasha Treasurywala
Rotaract Clubs	Sidhant Jatia
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
Interact Schools	Mudit Jain
Scholarships	PP Preeti Mehta

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