

The Gateway



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 45, MAY 20, 2025

[HTTP://ROTARYCLUBOFBOMBAY.ORG/](http://rotaryclubofbombay.org/) FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION



THIS TUESDAY

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

Authors Pushpa and Raghu Palat will address the Club.

COMING UP

May 27th, 2025

A fireside chat with Rtn. Manjeet Kripalani and Ravi Kant, author and former CEO, Tata Motors on Leadership model for the 21st century: Leading from the Back.

June 3rd, 2025

Dr. Mickey Mehta will address the Club on Serious ailment management.

June 10th, 2025

PP Haresh Jagtiani and Sharan Jagtiani will address the Club on the Lighter side of Law.

June 17th, 2025

Chef Nitin Minocha to be felicitated with Rotary Club of Bombay Bravery Award.

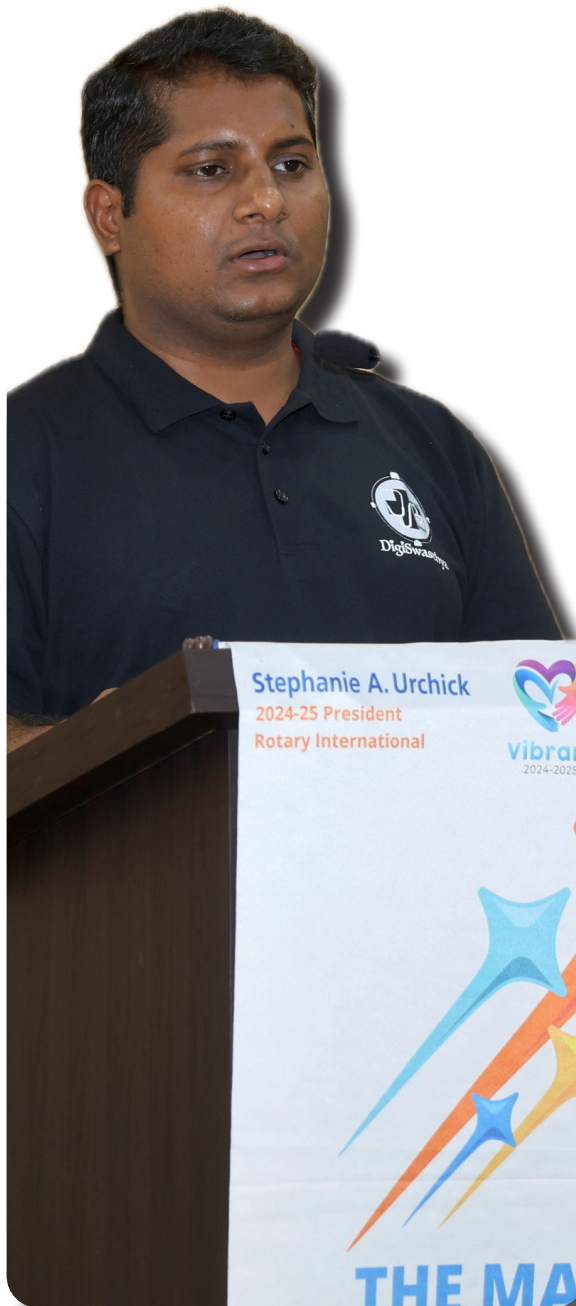
June 24th, 2025

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](#)

Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Founder and CEO of DigiSwasthya Foundation, on Bridging the healthcare gap in rural India



Ladies and gentlemen, a very warm thank you to everyone. Today, you have allowed us to share our journey with you. The vision and objective of the DigiSwasthya Foundation is to reach those places where healthcare services are either minimal or severely limited. With this very thought, we began this foundation, with a small idea: to serve where the need is greatest.

We begin recounting our journey with a story — the story of Manisha.

Manisha was 20 years old at the time when a lump developed on her right leg. That lump gradually grew, and after medical tests, it was confirmed to be cancer. She was taken to the Tata Centre in Varanasi for treatment, where chemotherapy was initiated. However, when it was time for surgery, doctors informed the family that there was a possibility that Manisha's leg might have to be amputated. Hearing this, her entire family became frightened. The thought of losing her leg terrified them so much that they discontinued her treatment and took her to a 'Baba' in Rajasthan for alternative therapies.

Around two months later, we came to know about Manisha through another patient who was receiving treatment in Varanasi. During our conversation, she said, "Bhaiyya, Mum told me not to tell anyone, but we've stopped the hospital treatment because the doctors said the leg might have to be removed." I was stunned to hear that even in the middle of active treatment, the family had walked away from it and chosen a different path.

I then spoke to her uncle, and later to her mother. Eventually, we brought Manisha to Mumbai for a second opinion and showed her to a renowned orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Manish Agarwal. After that, she underwent the surgery, treatment resumed, and her leg was saved. A knee replacement was done, and she made a full recovery. She then underwent two more cycles of chemotherapy.

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YOUTUBE



X (TWITTER)

After completing her treatment, Manisha resumed her studies and worked with DigiSwasthya for two years. Today, we are delighted to share that just last month, she joined the recently operational Tata Hospital in Muzaffarpur, Bihar and is now employed there under the Government of India.

Perhaps, had we not met her at that time, had we not spoken, the story would have turned out very differently.

My own journey began in 2007, when I was diagnosed with bone cancer. A lump had appeared on my right arm. What followed was a long and uncertain road — visiting hospital after hospital, one doctor after another. I wandered relentlessly.

After around eight months, I went to Gorakhpur, nearly 60 kilometres from my home. The doctor there said my arm would have to be amputated. Not only that, they also said they could not guarantee my survival even after amputation.

When my father came out of the OPD, he broke down in tears. I couldn't understand what had happened, what went so wrong with me. The very next day, he said, "We need to go to Mumbai." And so, we came to Mumbai and reached Tata Memorial Hospital. My treatment began there — several tests were conducted, and then a 14-cycle chemotherapy regimen was initiated. The treatment was long, but the doctors gave us a lot of courage. They said, "We'll do our best to save the arm."

Months passed with multiple cycles of chemotherapy — pain, exhaustion... but with the support of my family and the unwavering efforts of the doctors, things started to turn around. Eventually, I underwent surgery, and my arm was saved. The humerus bone was replaced, and gradually I began to recover.



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After treatment, I slowly started returning to a normal life. I resumed my studies and began to rebuild myself. But that experience changed me completely. I came to understand what a patient and their family truly go through — the fear, the uncertainty, the mental and financial stress.

All this had happened to me by the time I was just 12 years old, and back then, I had no idea what I wanted to do or how I would move forward. Once the treatment was complete, I returned to my village. I completed my education there and later came back to Mumbai.

In 2015–16, I did a short course at TISS. After that, I began working with a few NGOs in Mumbai, including CanKids, ICS, Axis Life, and We Care Foundation. While working with them, I returned to my village during the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, I had the opportunity to observe and understand the lives of people around me in depth.

Even 17 years after my own treatment — nearly two decades later — I noticed that people are still facing the same issues: no timely or accurate diagnosis, and a severe lack of awareness. Patients are still going from one hospital to another in search of answers.

The struggles were especially evident among women. Many couldn't even tell their husbands or guardians about the pain and suffering they were enduring. When they experience discomfort, they first try balms, oils, or home remedies — or buy some pain relief tablets from a medical shop. Only when the pain becomes unbearable do they speak to their families, by which time the disease has often progressed significantly.

Some people do manage to reach the city for treatment, but despite our best efforts, we are not always able to save them. So the question arose: What more can we do?

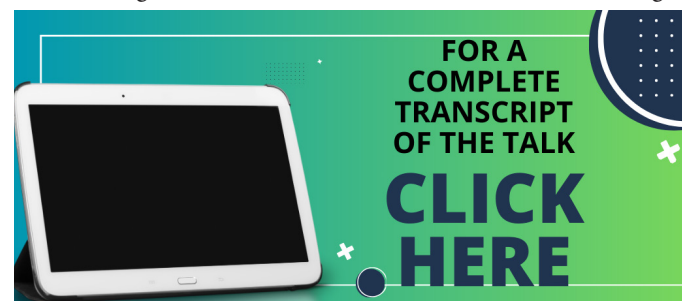
We delved deep into this. We studied the situation around us, combed through government data, and examined the condition of rural healthcare. And it was from that point that a new journey began.

But before I tell you more about that journey, I'd like to share a short video with you — a 90-second film. In 2023, I had the honour of representing India in Ireland and, during that time, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) created this video.

VIDEO (transcript)

Access to timely and appropriate medical care in rural areas has long posed a challenge, leading to compromised health outcomes and heightened vulnerability to a range of diseases. Sandeep Kumar experienced this first-hand in 2007. He fell seriously ill but was unable to receive a timely diagnosis. Owing to a lack of qualified doctors and inadequately equipped hospitals in his region, it was only after several months of uncertainty that he was finally diagnosed with bone cancer.

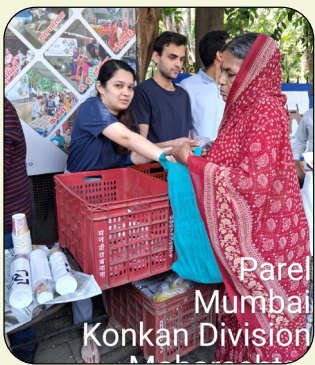
Determined to turn his difficult experience into something meaningful, Sandeep chose to dedicate his life to supporting others facing similar healthcare access barriers. Understanding...



**FOR A
COMPLETE
TRANSCRIPT
OF THE TALK**

**CLICK
HERE**

Meals distribution by Satellite Members on May 9th and 10th, 2025



Meals distribution on May 7th, 2025



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TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



President Satyan Israni wishes PE Bimal Mehta for his birthday



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Jamshed Banaji for his birthday



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Rajendra Bhambhani for his birthday



Rotarians Mudit Jain, Mahesh Khubchandani, Dushyant Dave and Farhat Jamal



Rotarians Rajendra, Rina Deora, President Satyan and Vrinda Rajgarhia



Rotarians Pulin Shroff, Pradeep Gujarathi, PP Ashish Vaid and Mudit



Rotarians Vrinda, Dr. Rohini Chowgule, Rajyalakshmi Rao and guest Shibani



Rtn. Ptn. Priyanka Jatia, Rotarians Khurshed Poonawala, Rina, Jagdish Malkani and Ashok Chinai



Rtn. Vandan Shah asks a question



PP Ashish introduces the speaker



President Satyan thanks speaker Sandeep Kumar for his time spent addressing the Club



BY Internship Programme enters its second year

Empowering Alumni with hands-on experience and professional confidence

The Bhavishya Yaan Internship Programme, launched to great acclaim last year, has now entered its second year—continuing its mission to equip young, driven alumni of the BY programme with practical skills and professional exposure to enhance their employability.

This year has seen a notable interest in Finance as a preferred career pathway. Many interns have chosen to work in Chartered Accountancy firms or within the finance departments of various companies, reflecting a growing confidence in navigating complex, professional environments.

Among the interns is Anil Lambhor, an alumnus of the Colaba school and a current BAF student at Lala Lajpat Rai College. Anil has embarked on his internship at RC Reshamwala and Co., under the mentorship of PN Manish Reshamwala. He is gaining hands-on experience in auditing and using accounting software such as Tally. Anil has already begun accompanying his seniors on audit assignments and has made meaningful connections within the firm. His responsibilities include verifying financial documents and handling tasks such as bank book reconciliation, cash book balancing, and checking bank statements and expense vouchers.

Over at Square Foot, Satish Saroj—a Prabhadevi school alumnus now studying at Keerti College—is learning the fundamentals of accounting. His internship has been made

possible through the support of Rotarian Abhishek Saraf, who has helped create a welcoming and educational environment.

Meanwhile, Kush Rathod, also from Colaba school and a former intern at GEPL, has returned this year to deepen his skillset—this time in the field of coding. Under the guidance of PE Bimal Mehta at Vakils Media, Kush is working as a front-end developer, contributing to real client software projects. He has even embarked on an independent project to create a website, showcasing both initiative and growing expertise.

The programme has also expanded into new sectors, with some interns preparing to explore areas as varied as Pharmaceuticals and Social Work, further highlighting the programme's growing diversity and reach.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our Rotary partners, whose support has been instrumental in shaping this initiative. Their efforts in facilitating paid internships have provided our alumni with invaluable exposure to professional work settings. This experience not only enhances their technical abilities but also instils a sense of confidence, a renewed enthusiasm for learning, and a stronger drive to grow and realise their full potential.

As Bhavishya Yaan steps into its second year, it continues to be a beacon of hope and opportunity—transforming aspirations into achievements, one internship at a time.



List of commitments for Pediatric Heart Surgery and Pediatric Cancer Care

Sr. No.	Pediatric Heart Surgery	No. of Surgeries	Amount
1	Agarwala Dr. Nisheeta	1	1,00,000
2	Anonymous	1	1,00,000
3	Almeida Albert	1	1,00,000
4	Anand Sunish	1	1,00,000
5	Balsara Farokh	1	1,00,000
6	Bhatnagar Vineet	2	2,00,000
7	Bhimrajka Siddharth	5	5,00,000
8	Bulchandani Sheila	1	1,00,000
9	Daiya Vikram	1	1,00,000
10	Dalal Dilip	1	1,00,000
11	Deora Rina	1	1,00,000
12	Doshi Gautam	1	1,00,000
13	Doshi Rajas	5	5,00,000
14	Gupta Rajan	1	1,00,000
15	Jain Mudit	1	1,00,000
16	Jajodia Swati	1	1,00,000
17	Jatias (VKJ, Mudit & Sidhant)	6	6,00,000
18	Jhaveri Jaymin	1	1,00,000
19	Karnani Laxmi	1	1,00,000
20	Khubchandani Mahesh	1	1,00,000
21	Lalvani Poonam	1	1,00,000
22	Maneklal Laxmi	1	1,00,000
23	Mayekar Swati	1	1,00,000
24	Mehta Framroze	2	2,00,000
25	Merchant Sabira	1	1,00,000
26	Patodia Priyasri	1	1,00,000
27	Saraf Abhishek	1	1,00,000
28	Saraf Amrita	1	1,00,000
29	Shah Anand	5	5,00,000
30	Tanna Rekha	1	1,00,000
31	Tapia Azim	1	1,00,000
32	Treasurywala Natasha	1	1,00,000
33	Vakil Shernaz	2	2,00,000
	TOTAL	53	53,00,000

Sr. No.	Pediatric Cancer Care	No. of Patient	Amount
1	Agarwala Dr. Nisheeta	1	1,00,000
2	Almeida Albert	1	1,00,000
3	Balsara Farokh	1	1,00,000
4	Bhatnagar Vineet	3	3,00,000
5	Billimoria Roda	1	1,00,000
6	Bulchandani Dr. Vandana	1	1,00,000
7	Bulchandani Sheila	1	1,00,000
8	Daiya Vikram	1	1,00,000
9	Dalal Dilip	1	1,00,000
10	Doshi Gautam	1	1,00,000
11	Doshi Rajas	5	5,00,000
12	Gupta Rajan	1	1,00,000
13	Israni Satyan	1	1,00,000
14	Jain Mudit	1	1,00,000
15	Jajodia Swati	1	1,00,000
16	Jalan Siddharth	1	1,00,000
17	Jatias (VKJ, Mudit & Sidhant)	4	4,00,000
18	Khubchandani Mahesh	1	1,00,000
19	Lalvani Poonam	1	1,00,000
20	Maneklal Laxmi	1	1,00,000
21	Mayekar Swati	1	1,00,000
22	Mehta Bimal	1	1,00,000
23	Mehta Framroze	3	3,00,000
24	Merchant Sabira	1	1,00,000
25	Anonymous	2	2,00,000
26	Saraf Amrita	1	1,00,000
27	Sharma Ratna	1	1,00,000
28	Singhania Ujjwala	1	1,00,000
29	Vakil Meher	1	1,00,000
30	Vakil Shernaz	2	2,00,000
	TOTAL	43	43,00,000

PEDIATRIC HEART SURGERIES

Each year, over 2,00,000 children are born with congenital heart defects in India alone. Many of these children require medical intervention within the 1st year of life. Unfortunately, a significant number of these children come from rural areas where access to quality medical assistance, or even diagnosis, is not readily available. Compounding this issue is the fact that the families of these children are often unable to afford even basic medical tests, let alone life-saving surgeries if required.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY: A BEACON OF HOPE

The Rotary Club of Bombay is a beacon of hope for families in need by partnering with hospitals in Mumbai to offer subsidized rates for pediatric heart surgeries without compromising on quality. Patients with heart defects are identified through medical camps, vetted for eligibility, and provided ongoing support through detailed record-keeping.

TIMELY AND QUALITY HEALTHCARE

One of the primary aims of the Rotary Club of Bombay is to ensure that timely and quality healthcare is provided to every child in need. Whether a patient

requires a simple intervention or a complex surgery, the Rotary Club of Bombay ensures that the necessary care is provided without delay. Importantly, the cost of surgery is entirely borne by the Rotary Club of Bombay, thus eliminating a significant financial barrier for families in need.

Over the past 6 years, the Rotary Club of Bombay has supported over 1000 children ranging from just a few days old to 18 years of age. By providing financial assistance for pediatric heart surgeries, the Rotary Club of Bombay has given these children a chance to live long and healthy lives, free from the burden of congenital heart defects. The Rotary Club of Bombay is currently providing crucial support to three hospitals in Mumbai: Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, SRCC Children's Hospital, and Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital.

In conclusion, the Rotary Club of Bombay's commitment to providing hope and healing through pediatric heart surgeries is truly commendable. By partnering with hospitals, vetting patient documents, and covering surgery costs, the club has made a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of children in need. With their ongoing support, more children will have the opportunity to thrive and live healthy, fulfilling lives.

IMPACT -
In the current year
July 2024 – May 2025
(Till Date),
a total of 297
surgeries at a
total cost of INR
3,12,33,247.52/-
(Average cost per
surgery is INR
1,05,162/-)



SIZZLING SUCCESS AT THE ROTARY SUPER CHEF

The air crackled with culinary excitement recently at the Ramanath Payyade College of Hospitality Management Studies, as the Rotary Clubs of Bombay, Bombay Pier, and Mumbai Sion jointly hosted the highly anticipated Rotary Super Chef event. The college's own Principal, the esteemed Chef Yogesh Utekar, lent his expert palate to the stellar panel of judges, which also included the renowned Tony Singh from Pritam Hotels and the insightful Prakash Sanghvi of Delta.

The competition was fierce, with 13 enthusiastic teams vying for the coveted title. Each team, comprising three talented individuals, was challenged to create not one, but three distinct dishes—pushing their creativity and culinary skills to the limit.

Among the passionate participants was a strong contingent from the Rotary Club of Bombay, represented by the dynamic trio of Rotary Partners Perna Jatia, Priyanka Jatia, and Gauri Jatia. Their dedication and flair in the kitchen shone

brightly as they crafted flavourful and beautifully presented dishes that clearly impressed the judges. Their culinary prowess ultimately earned them the well-deserved title of 2nd Runners-up.

Beyond the intense competition and delectable creations, the Rotary Super Chef event proved to be a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all involved—fostering camaraderie and celebrating the joy of food within the Rotary community.



CLICK HERE
FOR MORE PICTURES

Rotary
Club of Bombay
Celebrating 95 years of service
Celebrating 95 years of service



DISTRICT 3141

SAVE
THE
DATE
SHUKRIYA
NITE
TUESDAY
JUNE 24, 2025
DETAILS TO FOLLOW

SAVE THE DATE
24TH JUNE 2025

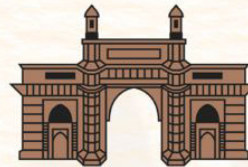
PRES. SATYAN'S SHUKRIYA NITE

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

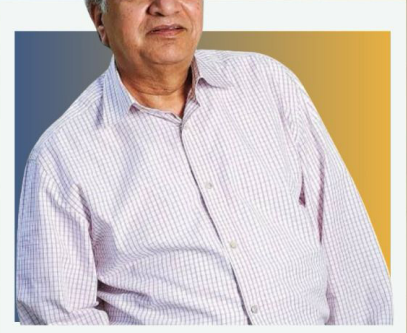


SAVE THE DATE

01 | July
2025

NEXT WEEK


A Fireside Chat with the Author



RAVI KANT
FORMER CEO, TATA MOTORS



with our esteemed moderator



Rtn. MANJEET KRIPALANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, GATEWAY HOUSE

27 MAY 2025

The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel
Lunch at 1 pm. Meeting at 1.30 p.m. Guest attendance charges apply. Visiting Rotarians - ₹300. Guest - ₹400 (Additional charge for Lunch)

Rotary Club of Bombay
Celebrating 96 Years of Service

TUESDAY
SPEAKER GALLERY

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MAY 25
Rtn. Dr. Ambrish
Dalal



MAY 26
Rtn. Dr. Rajiv
Agarwal



MAY 26
Hon. Treasurer
Rtn. Mehul
Sampat

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MAY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Anshuma Shah

MAY 22

Rtn. Ptn. Geeta Dhawan

MAY 26

Rtn. Ptn. Ritika Arenja

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 20

Rtn. Ptn. Divya & Rtn. Pradeep Mafatlal

MAY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Prerna & Rtn. Sidhant Jatia

MAY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Prafulla & Rtn. Dr. Sheela Kerkar

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2024-25

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PP Nandan Damani	PP Ashish Vaid
	Ishraq Contractor

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IPP Manoj Patodia	PE Bimal Mehta
PN Manish Reshamwala	Honorary Secretary Rhea Bhungara
Joint Honorary Secretary Akhil Sanghi	Treasurer Mehul Sampat

Additional Director PP Framroze Mehta

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Information	ARRFC & PDG Sandip Agarwalla
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Roda Billimoria
Legal Aid and Awareness	Tahera Mandviwala

Director Venkat Ramaswamy

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International Programmes	Christopher Bluemel
Taparia College	PP Pradeep Saxena
Fund Raising	PP Vineet Bhatnagar

Director Siddharth Bhimrajka

Water Resources	Siddharth Bhimrajka
Lighthouse	Vandan Shah
Elder Day Care Alibaug	PP Ashish Vaid
Ananda Yaan	Kaushal Mehta
Trans Salon (DEI)	Ratna Sharma

Director Rahil Shah

Integrated Village Development with Chirag	Ravindra Fotedar
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	Vrinda Rajgarhia

Director Renu Basu

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

Director Mudit Jatia

Website, Social Media & Public Image	Laxmi Maneklal
Bulletin	Abhinav Aggarwal
Fellowship & In-Camera	Ritu Desai
Assimilation	Vineet Suchanti
The Rotary Foundation	PP Vijay Jatia

Director Jaymin Jhaveri

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

