

# THE GATEWAY

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay

VOLUME 67 ISSUE NO. 13 SEPTEMBER 23, 2025



*Celebrating 96 Years of Service*

**This Tuesday, Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Diipa Buller Khosla & Oleg  
Buller Khosla in conversation  
with Rtn. Priya Tanna

**UPCOMING**  
**September 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Let's Play Some Bridge**, Royal  
Bombay Yacht Club.

**Medical camp & check-up** for  
the inmates and staff of Mumbai  
Central Prison, Arthur Road.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>**



Pr. Additional Director General,  
DRI – **Pashupati Nath Pandey**  
will address the Club on  
Countering drugs trafficking,  
smuggling, and national security  
threats.

**October 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Anand Chulani**, Founder and  
creator of the Absolute Champion  
Methodology, will address the  
Club on Mindset of a Champion.

## **ZERO CIRCLE FOUNDER MS. NEHA JAIN, RECEIVES THE TARU LALVANI AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION**



It's truly an honour to be here and receive this recognition from the Rotary Club of Bombay under the Taru Lalwani Environmental Protection Award. Thank you for giving Zero Circle this platform.

Thirteen years ago, I started a service that delivered to any part of Mumbai, even in the dead of night, through the rains, past the smell of the Arabian Sea, and around the cats. Cats everywhere, scattered through the streets. But the other litter — the kind that does not vanish and tragically appears in the dump yards of Deonar — that was the Bombay I could not love.

I knew I wanted to fix our air, so I started fixating on solutions: permaculture, direct carbon capture, the list went on. One day, I found seaweed. It grows faster than anything on land. It was perfect. I couldn't bring a forest to Mumbai, but we had our own sea.

I desperately scouted for the right spot. I went to fishing villages. I convinced a few punters to join my expedition. But I knew I needed an experienced eye. That's when I met Dr. Reddy, a marine scientist and a biologist. I asked him,

half naïve, half hopeful, questions like, "Can we set up a seaweed farm in Juhu?"

Once the knowledge bar was set low, I couldn't stop asking questions. Endless questions about what seaweed could do. Those journeys across Maharashtra's coastlines turned into a scientific inquiry. That inquiry became a shared anger towards the endless dumping at Deonar. And that anger became fuel.

Dr. Reddy introduced me to chemists and PhDs — people who took my dream of this beautiful, flowy seaweed and began shaping it into soft, flexible material that mimics plastics. Nestlé accelerated the idea in 2020, and then COVID hit. While the world was baking banana bread, we were cooking seaweed....

So, as I close, I want to leave you with this. The future is going to be shaped by the materials we choose every single day. And the question I ask myself, and I invite you to ask yourself, is a simple one: if the materials I'm using today are going to end up inside my body or a child's body, would I still choose them? That, to me, is where the real change begins.

## ROTARIANS ASK

**Q1: I am Devparna, I head Communications and Marketing at Zero Circle. I'll just start the ball rolling because I know this is, apart from an awareness and award ceremony, also about knowing more about the work that we do.**

**So, my first question to you, even though I know these things, would be this: I think most people are very interested to know the thought process that went behind designing the main properties of this material. Because we are talking about a very cheap, durable, voluminous product like plastic, right? Can you take us through the thought process? What was behind designing the main properties, and what were the deciding factors? How did you decide that those should be the properties of the material?**

Neha Jain: Thanks. So, we've designed this backwards. When something does not degrade, it takes up space on this planet forever. So, it should be made of materials that know how to go back to nature. Plastics, with time, break down into microplastics, and we all know that. It enters our food stream. The fish mistake it for food. And in the cycle of life, it becomes our food. Vegetarians are not spared either, because when microplastics enter soil, plants absorb them, and then they reach our plates.

So what we were very, very sure about was that when plastics enter our body, they need to break down. We've designed this material to be biocompatible. Even if it ends up through plants, through fish or by air, it breaks down in our body and passes like any organic matter.

Another property of this plastic is its interaction with the marine environment, rivers and oceans. When it enters rivers or oceans without any proper waste management, it enters our drinking water streams. And when it enters our drinking water stream, it will eventually enter our body. So it was very important that we designed this chemistry to signal the materials in such a way that, when it enters the water stream, with time it breaks down and becomes water, leaving no fragments behind.

Another property we have designed is not just for human health and biodiversity, but also for climate change. A lot of people think that plastics, because they come from oil, are heating up the planet. But it's actually their end of life that heats up the planet in a much bigger way than just their source.



Because when plastics break down in water, they settle on the upper surface of the sea and block the ocean's ability to breathe. And the ocean is responsible for 50% of the oxygen we breathe. Every other breath you take is actually coming from the ocean. When you restrict that ability, the oceans die. And when oceans die, the oxygen disappears.

So we're not just talking about reducing carbon dioxide, we're also making sure our oxygen remains. That's the thinking process behind the material and its properties.

**Q2: Neha, I'm still not sure — what exactly does Zero Circle do? You spoke about seaweed, you spoke about your visit to Juhu, and the Deonar waste dump. I'm still not clear — how does it work?**

Neha Jain: At Zero Circle, we make the ingredient material, which is essentially a lookalike of plastic pellets. These go into plastic machines and turn into a bottle, a coating, or a flexible film. We're actually changing the core material that makes the plastic.

Today we're able to make flexible films. We're able to make the invisible coating that sits on the surface of bakery products or anything you order from Swiggy or Zomato. When the box arrives, it's coated with plastics. We're also replacing that invisible layer of plastic.

We're also working on developing the engineering behind making hard plastics — for example, the caps of PET bottles. PET



bottles are highly recyclable, but the HDPE caps are not easily recyclable and usually find their way into the ocean. So we're designing materials that can go into a flexible system, into a rigid plastic system, or into a coating system. All these materials are made from seaweed, the hero material is seaweed.

**Q3: That's great work, Neha. Tell me, where is it being used currently, and what is the cost of this?**

Neha Jain: Sure. I started in 2020. We made our first prototype in six months. In about four years, we scaled it enough to start hitting the industry and industrial-scale production. We launched our products in Europe this year, for the first time in the world, in March. We're working with distributors, wholesalers and manufacturers in Europe. Europe was chosen because compliances are stronger and policies are clearer.

However, we knew we wanted to launch in India as well. This summer we launched in India with Zomato and Swiggy, in Mumbai, Bangalore and NCR. We're also launching with names I can't reveal today, but which will probably be going live soon — fast food chains and coffee shops. In fact, we've launched with about 100 coffee shops already.

Coming to your last question, which is about cost. I was telling someone else: about five years ago, we were 10 times the cost of plastics. Two years ago, we were at least...





# SATELLITE CLUB'S FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

Members of the Satellite Club gathered at Permit & Co., Lower Parel, for a vibrant evening of speed networking. With 19 new members joining this Rotary year, the event was designed as a fun ice-breaker to help everyone connect more meaningfully.


The format encouraged members to rotate across tables every 15 minutes, engaging in conversations that went beyond the usual introductions. Guided by prompts such as “What is the best part about your job?” and “What is the most exciting project you’ve worked on?”, participants explored new dimensions of their fellow Rotarians — from professional achievements to personal passions.

The structured interactions seamlessly transitioned into an evening of fellowship, dinner, and laughter, ensuring that by the end of the night, every member left with new friendships and stronger bonds. The event set the tone for the year ahead, highlighting Rotary’s spirit of camaraderie, collaboration, and community.



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# TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



PP Framroze Mehta, Rtn. Pashupati Advani and Rtn. Poonam Lalvani



PP Nirav Shah and Rtn. Rina Deora



Rtn. Rina Deora, Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal, speaker Neha Jain and guest



Rotarians Abhishek Saraf, Laxmi Maneklal, Miral Shah, Madhusudan Ruia and PP Nirav Shah



Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala, speaker Neha Jain, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, Rotarians Ujjwala Singhania and Rina Deora



Rtn. Sanjiv Saran Mehra, Rtn. Shom Jagtiani and Rtn. Abhishek Saraf



Rotarians Arish Dastur, IPP Satyan Israni and Shom Jagtiani



Rotarians Murad Currawalla, Dinesh Daftary and Sameer Kaji



Rotarians Poonam Lalvani, Jt. Hon. Secy. Rhea Bhumgara and Awais Noorani



President Bimal Mehta wishes Rtn. Shyamniwas Somani on his birthday



Rotarians Shom Jagtiani, Abhishek Saraf and Gautam Doshi



Visiting Rtn. M. R. Currawalla, Rtn. Sameer Kaji and Rtn. Murad Currawalla





## AGA FAMILY CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY AT ELDER CARE CENTRE



The Somchand Parikh Elders Day Care Centre in Awas, Alibag, recently welcomed the family of Rtn. Pilloo Aga for a special tea party. The event was held to celebrate the ninth birthday of her grandson, Zahaan Aga.

Joined by her children and grandchildren, Rtn. Pilloo Aga organised the tea party as a unique way to mark Zahaan's

special day, sharing the joy with the residents of the elder care centre. The group spent quality time with the elders, bringing smiles and warmth to the centre. The celebration served as a thoughtful reminder of the importance of bridging generational gaps and fostering community connections. It was a heartwarming occasion for all those involved.

## A HEARTFELT CELEBRATION AT RCB LIGHTHOUSE

The children of RCB Lighthouse, Machhimar Nagar, joined in a touching celebration with Mrs. Poonam Gupta, who commemorated the 75<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of her late father, Mr. Sushil Somani, in their midst. Honouring his memory and his affection for children, Mrs. Gupta, accompanied by her daughter and cousin, shared her joy by distributing water bottles, samosas, and sweets to all 120 students.

The lively gathering was filled with warmth as Mrs. Gupta spent meaningful time with the children, engaging with them beyond the festivities. In return, the children offered a heartfelt handmade card, a gesture that reflected their appreciation. Alumna Pratibha further expressed gratitude through a touching note, highlighting the impact of such kindness.

The celebration embodied the love and generosity that defined late Mr. Sushil Somani, while also creating cherished memories for the Lighthouse children, leaving a lasting imprint of compassion and togetherness.







# *Let's play some* **BRIDGE**

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2025

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# MEDICAL CAMP AND CHECK-UP

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2025

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**Adult Literacy Committee**

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# BHAVISHYA YAAN, GK MARG SCHOOL

## YOGA FOR GROWTH AND WELL-BEING

As part of the Rotary Club of Bombay's Bhavishya Yaan Project, the children of Ganpatrao Kadam Marg BMC School were recently introduced to the transformative practice of yoga through a special session conducted by Mr. Hitesh Sharma, renowned yoga teacher, sound healer, Pranic healer, and founder of Achintya Wellness Centre, Rishikesh.

The interactive session focused on building focus, balance, and strength through simple yet powerful yoga postures, breathing techniques, and mindfulness practices. Mr. Sharma's holistic approach helped the children experience how yoga can nurture not only physical well-being but also mental clarity and inner calm.

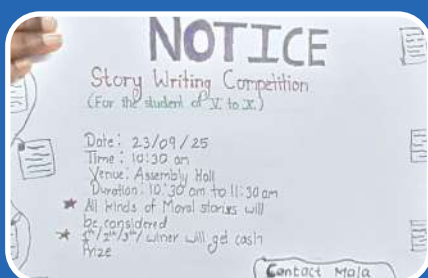
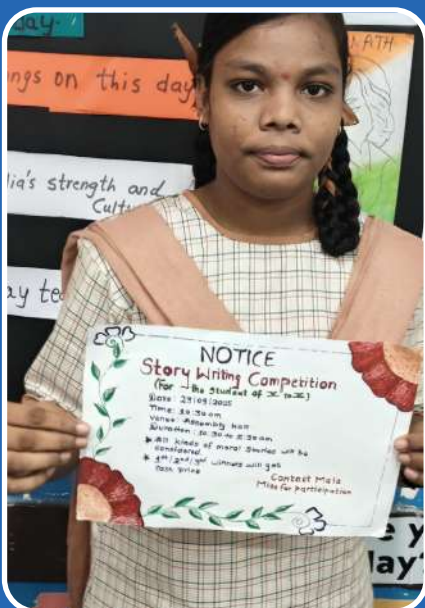
Beyond the immediate experience, the session aimed to empower students with lifelong tools for resilience, self-awareness, and overall growth. By integrating yoga into their young lives, these children gain the ability to manage stress, enhance concentration, and cultivate a positive mindset—skills that are invaluable for their academic journey and personal development.







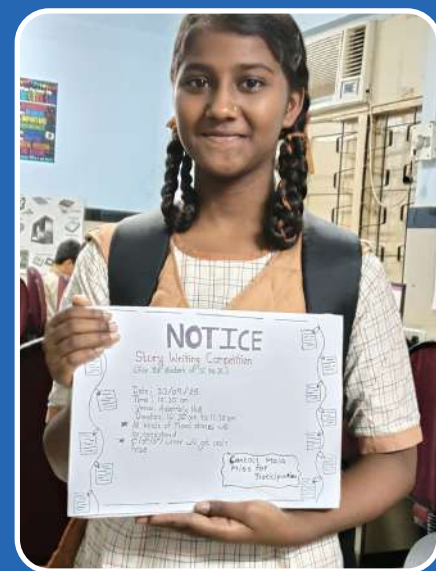
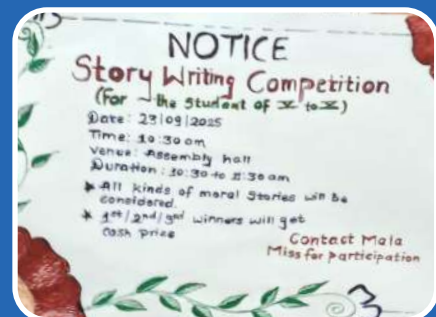
## STUDENTS PRACTISE NOTICE WRITING



As part of their Spoken English class, the students of Std. 8 at GK Marg Bhavishya Yaan's School engaged in a practical exercise on notice writing, focusing on a Story Writing Competition. The activity aimed to help them understand the formal structure of a notice, including its format, key elements, and purpose.

Guided by their instructor, the students were encouraged to include all essential details such as the event name, date, time, and venue. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that the notice remained clear, precise, and informative for its intended audience.

This engaging session transformed a simple textbook exercise into a functional communication skill. It not only strengthened the students' understanding of English but also highlighted how notices act as an effective tool for sharing information in real-life contexts. The activity reflected the Bhavishya Yaan initiative's commitment to equipping children with practical, confidence-building skills for their future.







## HEALING THROUGH SOUND AT ANANDA YAAN

Wellness comes in many forms, and for the senior citizens at Ananda Yaan, it recently arrived through the gentle power of sound healing. Known to calm the mind, ease physical discomfort, and uplift the spirit, sound healing is especially beneficial for elders, helping to improve sleep, reduce stress, and create deep inner peace.

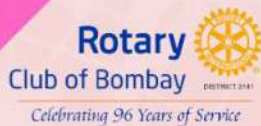
The members were fortunate to have Mr. Hitesh Sharma, a renowned yoga teacher and sound healer, conduct a free session. His compassionate presence, combined with the soothing vibrations of his instruments, filled the room with harmony, leaving everyone relaxed, rejuvenated, and smiling.

The Rotary Club of Bombay and Ananda Yaan extended heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Sharma for his generous Ananda Seva. His gift of wellness served as a reminder that healing is not only about health, but also about kindness, connection, and care within the community.





**EXCLUSIVE**

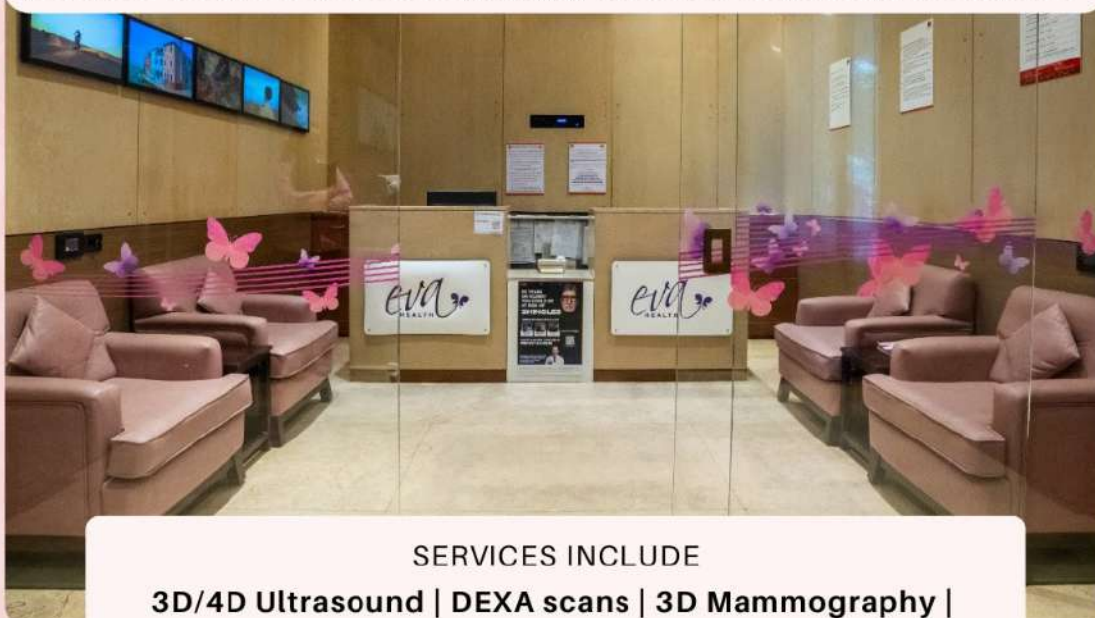


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# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION [TRF] THANKS ITS DONORS

*The Rotary Foundation was created in 1917 by Arch C. Klumph, Rotary International's sixth president, originally as an endowment fund with the purpose "to do good in the world."*



*Its mission: to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.*





## THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY, DISTRICT 3141



*Rotary Club of Bombay actively contributes to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus initiative, supporting Rotary International's mission to eradicate polio worldwide.*

*The Rotary Club of Bombay, founded on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1929, is one of India's pioneer Rotary Clubs (the second oldest in India) and undertakes numerous community service projects.*

*The Rotary Club of Bombay runs many ongoing projects which align with the Rotary Foundation's goals, such as Bhavishya Yaan (education), Adult Literacy, Cancer Aid, Child Welfare, Dialysis Centres, Integrated Village Development, etc.*





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*Rotary Club of Bombay*

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# ELLIE VISITS INTERACT CLUB OF BHARDA SCHOOL



On September 18<sup>th</sup>, Ellie, Asia's first robotic elephant, visited the Interact Club of Bharda New High School, Fort. Around 200 students attended the PETA workshop, where Mrs. Meenakshi, the speaker, shared the heartbreaking story of Ellie and her rescue. She encouraged students to be empathetic towards animals, to love and care for them.

Ellie's presence brought immense joy, as students and teachers were delighted to hear her speak and watch her express. Everyone also had the opportunity to click pictures with Ellie. PETA distributed animal colouring books carrying meaningful messages for the students. A heartfelt thank you was extended to the Rotary Club of Bombay for organising this wonderful session for the Interact Club of Bharda New High School.



## REMEMBERED TALES BY MADHVI PAREKH

On Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m., the Heritage Art and Culture Committee and members of our club were invited by DAG for the grand opening of legendary artist Madhvi Parekh's latest collection of works, Remembered Tales.

A self-taught artist whose career spans decades, Madhvi Parekh spent her childhood in rural Gujarat, and her work is deeply rooted in scenes and memories from her experiences of that time.

There is a distinctive freshness to her compositional style that infuses life into aspects and vignettes of rural living in her vibrant paintings. Although her art and inspiration come from simple village life, it is a testament to her artistic

mastery that these works are now celebrated on a global stage.

Around 20 Rotarians, partners, and guests also had a close look at her personal sketchbooks filled with spontaneous drawings of everyday objects, domestic motifs, and village scenes.

This was a unique opportunity to meet and chat with living legends such as Madhvi Parekh and her equally famous husband, artiste Manu Parekh, and to experience her latest works. It was truly a memorable evening of art, fellowship, inspiration, and appreciation.







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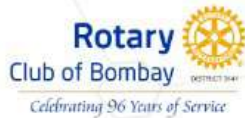
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# INDIA - PUNJAB FLOOD RELIEF

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, a mega flood relief material distribution camp was organised by all the Rotary Clubs of Ferozepur, Punjab, India, at Village Tendiwala near the Hussaniwala International Border (with Pakistan), in which 100 mattresses, 100 pillows, and 520 blankets, received from the Rotary Club of Bombay, were distributed among flood-affected persons.

Mr. Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, along with Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi, ex-Minister of Punjab, inaugurated the camp. Special gratitude is extended to PDG Sandip Agarwalla from RID 3141, President of the Rotary Club of Bombay, Bimal Mehta, and PDG Dr Manmohan Singh from RID 3080, as well as the generous members of the Rotary Club of Bombay. Thanks are also due to all Rotarians of Ferozepur for their tireless efforts in distributing the material.

– PDG Vijay Arora, D3090

Camp: Ferozepur





*Thanks to PDG Sandip Agarwalla and India Humanity Foundation we distributed more than 2000 oreo cookie packets to kids at RCB's children centric projects!*



Rotary  
Club of Bombay  
Celebrating 90 Years of Service



BY G.K. MARG



BY PRABHADEVI



LIGHTHOUSE



BY NMJ



CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE



SALAAM BAALAK TRUST

# Annapurna Food Project

We have gifted 2390 biscuit packs and counting!

With the support of India Humanity Foundation and the India FoodBanking Network, the Rotary Club of Bombay shared joy with children across Mumbai and Palghar, distributing biscuit packs at the Child Welfare Committee, our Lighthouse Programme, Bhavishya Yaan schools (NMJ, G.K. Marg, Prabhadevi), Salaam Baalak Trust, IT Innovation Labs and AWMH programmes. A small treat and big smiles!



AWMH



BYCULLA

- IT INNOVATION LABS WADA
- PALGHAR
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- DAHANU

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INDIA HUMANITY FOUNDATION



India FoodBanking Network

Bridging the Food Gap



# ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



**Sept 23**  
Rtn. Mihir  
Mody



**Sept 26**  
Rtn. Rajesh  
Shah



**Sept 28**  
Rtn. Sushil  
Chandiramani



**Sept 24**  
Rtn. Dilip  
Dalal



**Sept 26**  
PP Dr. Zerkis  
Umrigar



**Sept 29**  
Hon. Rtn.  
Rajashree  
Birla



**Sept 24**  
Rtn. Jamshyd  
Vazifdar



**Sept 27**  
Rtn. Purvi  
Mehta



**Sept 29**  
Rtn. Rohit  
Dhoot

# ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

**Sept 26**  
Rtn. Ptn. Arpita Gupta

**Sept 26**  
Rtn. Ptn. Rekha Jalan

**Sept 28**  
Rtn. Ptn. Nusrat Memon

# ANNIVERSARIES

**SEPTEMBER 27**  
Rtn. Anjani & Rtn. Ptn. Siddharth Rawat

## NEXT TUESDAY:

**Pashupati Nath Pandey, Pr. Additional Director General, DRI will address the Club.**

Pashupati Nath Pandey, an IRS (C&CT) 1994 batch officer, is the Principal Additional Director General of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Mumbai Zonal Unit. He has served in senior roles with the Government of India, the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong, the World Customs Organization in Brussels, and the United Nations Security Council in New York. An accredited expert in supply chain security, risk management, cross-border trade, and counter-narcotics operations, he has travelled to over 135 countries. He received the Presidential Award in 2011 for extraordinary devotion to duty.



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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2025-26	
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PP Ashish Vaid	PP Framroze Mehta
Rtn. Ishraq Contractor	
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IPP Satyan Israni	PE Manish Reshamwala
PN Vineet Suchanti	Honorary Secretary Farhat Jamal
Joint Honorary Secretary Rhea Bhungara	Treasurer Manish Sampat
CENTENARY YEAR COMMITTEE	
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Additional Director PP Vijaykumar Jatia	
President Bimal Mehta	
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PN Vineet Suchanti	
Classification & Membership	PP Nandan Damani
Information	ARRFC & PDG Sandip Agarwalla
Overseas Scholarships	Rtn. Niloufer Lam
Director Pradeep Chinali	
Attendance	Mahesh Khubchandani
Programmes	Rina Deora
Sergeant-at-Arms	Khurshed Poonawala
Director Sherebanu Baldiwala	
Public Awards	Anand Dalal
International Programmes	Christopher Bluemel
Water Resources	Siddharth Bhimrajka
Animal Welfare & Wildlife conservation	Bipin Vazirani
Legal Aid and Awareness	Tahera Mandviwala
Director Siddharth Bhimrajka	
Child Welfare	Meher Vakil
Elder Day Care Centre, Alibaug	PP Ashish Vaid
Urban Nature Habitat	Jamshed Vakharia
Ananda Yaan	Kaushal Mehta
Transformation Salon	Ratna Kapoor Sharma
Director Renu Basu	
Rural Development	Pulin Shroff
Heritage, Art & Culture	Aditya Somani
Museum & Contemporary Arts	Priyarsi Patodia
RCB Medical Centre, Talwada	Chairman Emeritus PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
	Mihir Mody
Sports for all	Abhishek Saraf
Anusuya Devi Taparia College	PP Pradeep Saxena
Director Akhil Sanghi	
Bhavishya Yaan	Jagdish Malkani
IT Innovation Labs	Nikhil Sanghai
Adult Literacy	Runit Shah
ESS Curriculum	Gautam Doshi
Scholarships	PP Preeti Mehta
Night Study Centre	Jamshyd Vazifdar
Director Swati Jajodia	
Cotton Green Clinic	Dr. Mehernosh Dotiwala
Cancer Aid	Farokh Balsara
Early intervention in Neurodivergent Children	PP Shernaz Vakil
Dharamshala	Miral Shah
Dialysis	Swati Jajodia
Director Mudit Jatia	
Website, Social Media & Public Image	Laxmi ManeKlal
Bulletin	Abhinav Aggarwal
Fellowship & In-Camera	PP Vineet Bhatnagar
Assimilation	Akhil Sanghi
The Rotary Foundation	PP Vijaykumar Jatia
Director Jaymin Jhaveri	
Sports / Yoga	Hiranmay Biswas
Paediatric Heart Surgeries	Natasha Treasurywala
Rotaract Clubs	Ameeta Tanna
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
Interact Schools	Mudit Jain