

THE GATEWAY

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay

VOLUME 67 ISSUE NO. 9 AUGUST 26, 2025



Celebrating 96 Years of Service

This Tuesday, Aug 26th

Ashish Hemrajani,
Founder and CEO,
BookMyShow will
address the Club.

COMING UP

Sept 2nd, Tuesday Meeting



A fireside chat between **Milind Deora and Cyrus Broacha** on India at the Crossroads of Culture and Power.

Sept 9th, Tuesday Meeting

Mr. Bhushan Gagrani
Municipal Commissioner will
address the Club on Vision for
Mumbai City.

Sept 16th, Tuesday Meeting

Neha Jain, Zero Circle, will
receive the Taru Lalvani
Environmental Protection
Award.

*"You are never too
old to set another
goal or to dream a
new dream."
~ C.S. Lewis*



**NAZIM SHAIKH, LIFEGUARD, MUMBAI
WATERFRONT, GATEWAY OF INDIA
FELICITATED WITH RCB
BRAVERY AWARD**

Rtn. Anand Dalal introduces guest Nazim:

Nazim is an extraordinary human, born and brought up in Mumbai and lives here with his family and four children. Today, he has also brought his brother Mohsin, who is amongst us. As a day job, he sells pav and bread from home to home, especially in Khusro Bagh. But what he does voluntarily and selflessly is extraordinary – his ability to save lives. That is why we chose him for this award.

He quietly operates at the Gateway of India and saves the lives of people who have fallen into the sea. He is the point of first contact there. Even the police call him before any other officials. He has become that well-known. The guards at the Taj Mahal Hotel also know him well. It is not only in calm waters – he jumps into dangerous ones too, probably even today, and I am surprised that he has not received a call and is here with us.

His motto is very simple: he says God has given him the ability to save lives, and he does not want anything in return. It is the will of God. He says he was also present when the bomb blast took place in the taxi at the Gateway of India. At that time, too, he was a first responder, even before other authorities arrived to help. He recalls saving the lives of people, sometimes even three in a single day. He is present at Apollo Bunder and never hesitates to jump into the waters to rescue those in need.

He thanks God for the strength and bravery he has been blessed with to save people.



**MS. ELIZABETH MEHTA, FOUNDER-
DIRECTOR OF MUKHTANGAN FELICITATED
WITH RCB SOMCHAND PARIKH AWARD
FOR BEST TEACHER**

I want to thank you very much for this honour. In doing so, I think you are also honouring hundreds of people who have helped me grow over the years, and I am very grateful for that.

I want to share a few ideas as an educationist with a passion for education. I could talk for two hours, but I assure you I will not. I have had a wonderful life travelling in rural areas, travelling back and forth to Pakistan and to East Africa, and looking at education. What amazed me was that I was the only one who could get to the Aga Khan University in Pakistan to represent India, and I have done so on countless occasions. It has been a very interesting life.

Now, since the award is for teaching, let me talk about that. I always say I am not a teacher; I am a learner. I have learnt from everybody, especially from observing children. During our teacher training – which I did after teaching for 22 years because I thought it was time I got a teaching qualification – one of the things we had to do was observe the syllabus being delivered in the classroom. Often, the children were bored, and I began to realise that we were observing the wrong thing.

Every child is different, with different experiences and interests, but we put them into a formal classroom, teach from a textbook, and they get bored. In all my work, I have stressed the need for child observation. I have learnt that all of us are natural learners. We are curious, we can be creative, but something happens. I went to a formal school where they thought a blackboard, a teacher, and rows of desks were

all you needed. We were all taught in the same way.

Although I had already taught for 22 years and was called a teacher, I asked myself: how should I actually view myself? Could I become a genuine learner, facilitating the natural learning journeys of my students? I have never been comfortable with the word “teacher”. Immediately, people say, “You’re only a teacher” – low status. But I say it is the wrong word. We are there to facilitate, to create an environment in which children are keen to learn. To do that, you need to be an observer and a facilitator, creating an environment which enables each child to follow their own innate interests and potential.

We all know what happens when a child enters school: “I am the teacher, I know what you need to learn, I will teach you.” But learning does not happen that way. Even as adults, we continue to learn until the day we die. Many people have come to us in Muktangan asking, “Can you train our teachers in classroom management?” But why do you need to manage children? Management implies control. And why is control needed? Because you have put 40, 50, even 100 children in a classroom with a textbook. It is an impossible situation, so the poor teacher has to control them.

My mission in life is to create classrooms where students are engaged. If they are engaged in what they are learning, you do not need classroom management. That has been part of my journey.

For me, the most important factor is the relationship between the teacher and the child, and the child with the peer group. That is where children truly learn.

Let me share a story. There was a massive World Bank-funded project in India called the District Primary Education Programme. In the Aga Khan network, we were partnering with the government. The Secretary of Education, Maharashtra, asked us to get involved in Nanded district. This was when I was in Aga Khan.

We went on a needs assessment in Nanded District during the peak summer heat. The government jeep arrived late, and when we reached the school – a typical U-shaped village school with the Indian flag – the children had been standing at attention for two hours in the blazing sun. We arrived as honoured guests, and the children sang a song about joyful learning. Then we all danced with them and with the teachers.

When we went into the classroom, the children were sitting on benches, the teacher writing on the blackboard. This was supposed to be a quality improvement programme. The children were copying questions and answers from the board. I asked the project director if I could speak to the class. I do speak Hindi, a little bit peculiar, but I speak it. I asked the children to draw a picture of themselves and write one sentence. They stared at me blankly. It was not my Hindi – the gentleman said they only spoke Marathi. So I drew a picture of myself, wrote a sentence in Hindi, and said, “Now you do it.” Within five minutes, every child had copied my picture and my sentence.

That is when I realised that the programme was talking about two components: increasing access – which the government was doing well – and improving quality. But there were no models of quality. Unless teachers had seen quality, how could they bring it about? That, in a way, was the origin of Muktangan.

At that time, I was about to retire at 59. We started Muktangan by taking women from the local marginalised community in G South Ward. They were educated to 10th standard – pass or fail, it did not matter. We trained them in a child-centred, well-researched



preschool methodology and opened our first preschool. It was meant to be a small retirement project.

But the community embraced it. Parents noticed that while their older children cried about going to school, the younger ones cried on weekends because they wanted to go to school. The community and the BMC demanded that Muktangan expand into primary. Eventually, we gave in. We started six more schools, each beginning with preschool and growing to 10th standard. Today, we have around 2,500 alumni.

These children have been taught by members of their own community in English-medium schools. Most of our teachers themselves had poor-quality education in vernacular schools, yet they got their students through the 10th standard. The children excelled. Our schools often top the BMC rankings in board exams.

The teachers have become leaders, rising from within the community. The demonstration schools are now recognised nationally and internationally, generating interest as intended. We have shown that good quality, inclusive education can be developed at an affordable cost in the mainstream – the very schools where 95% of Indian children study.

The outcomes have been remarkable: committed community teachers who have risen to leadership positions, and empathetic children who are excelling in diverse fields – medicine, accountancy, music, art, even teaching. I am especially proud of those who choose teaching, because vocational guidance rarely encourages it. Our children are fantastic – they spend weekends helping other children. In colleges, professors tell us, “We know the Muktangan children – they are the ones who ask questions. Others remain silent.”

Today, we have 17 academic departments built on our learnings over the last 22 years.

And they are not only helping the Council improve the internal schools, but also going out for outreach and advocacy with great commitment. We have a forum in Wadala – 12,000 square feet of rented property – where we have brought all the departments together for our outreach and advocacy programme.



SINGER KAVITA SETH MESMERISES ANANDA YAAN



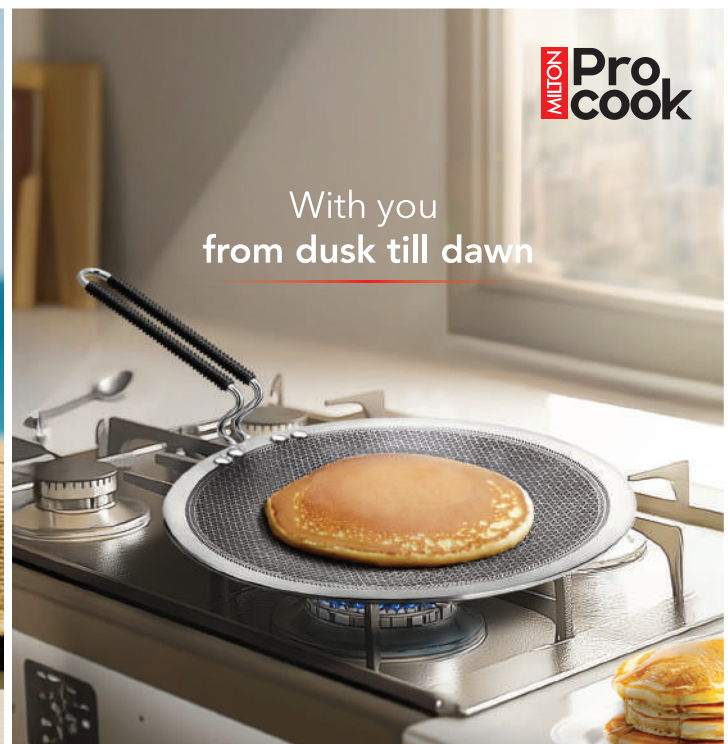
Members of the Dr. E. Moses Centre of Ananda Yaan were treated to a soulful and unforgettable evening with the renowned singer Kavita Seth at the Nehru Centre on 16th August 2025. Her mesmerising performance filled the hall with music and joy, leaving the audience deeply moved. The event was made more special with



the presence of Rtn. Ptn. Rakhe Reshamwala, Rtn. Alok Sekhsaria, PE Manish Reshamwala, Rtn. Kaushal Mehta and Rtn. Ptn. Chhaya Mehta. It was a delightful celebration of music, companionship and community spirit, creating lasting memories for all attendees.



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TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



Rtn. Ujjwala Singhanian, Rtn. Swati Mayekar, President Bimal Mehta, First Lady Aradhana Mehta, guest Mrs. Elina Meswani and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain



President Bimal Mehta wishes Rtn. Dr. Viraj Sanghi on his birthday



President Bimal Mehta wishes Rtn. Dushyant Dave on his birthday



PP Nirav Shah, Rtn. Jyotivardhan Jaipuria, Rtn. Mudit Jain



PP Nirav Shah, guest Vinita Sanghi, First Lady Aradhana Mehta, Rtn. Ptn. Niki Sanghi, President Bimal Mehta, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain and Rtn. Dr. Viraj Sanghi



Rotarians Ritu Prakash Desai, Hoshang Nazir, Ashok Jatia, Khurshed Poonawala, PP Framroze Mehta and PP Vijaykumar Jatia



PP Arun Sanghi, Rtn. Dr. Darius Soonawala, and Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal



PP Nirav Shah and IPP Satyan Israni



Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal, Rtn. Akhil Sanghi, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, Rtn. Jagdish Malkani and Rtn. Mudit Jain

MONTHLY PATIENT COUNT FOR MONTH OF JULY '25

Director:

Rtn. Swati Jajodia

Committee chair:

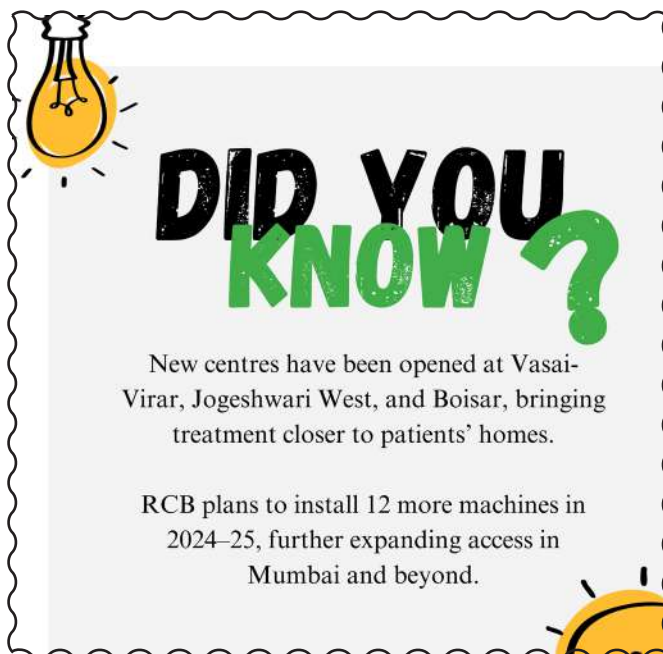
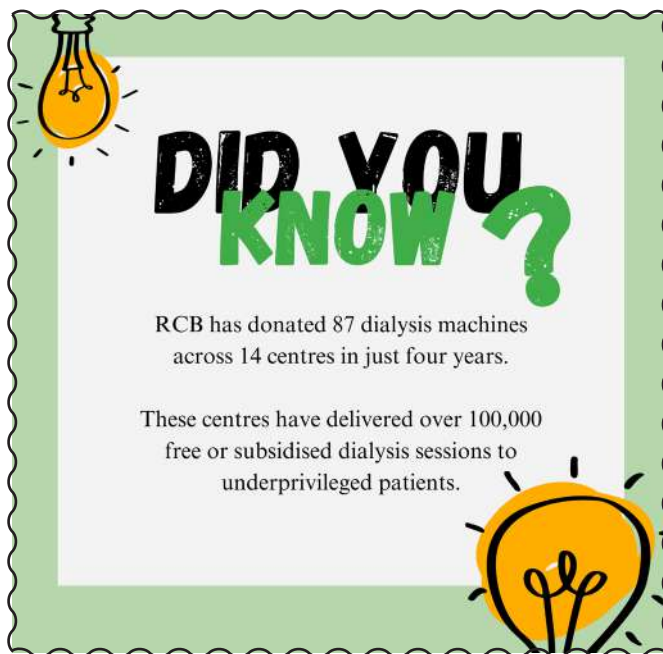
Rtn. Swati Jajodia

Co-chair:

PP Vijaykumar Jatia

Dialysis

PLATINUM HOSPITAL, MULUND	7
AASTHA HOSPITAL, MANOR	25
SUKH SAGAR HOSPITAL, DAHISAR	12
SHATABDI HOSPITAL, GOVANDI	109
SHATABDI HOSPITAL, KANDIVALI	18
SAMARPAN, GHATKOPAR	91
LIFELINE MEDICARE HOSPITAL CHARKOP	43
DR.M.L.DHAWALE MEMORIAL TRUST HOSPITAL, PALGHAR	36
K.J. SOMAIYA HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, SION	37
ACHARYA SHRI RAMESH DIALYSIS CENTRE, ANDHERI	60
ROTARY YODA DIALYSIS CENTRE, SYMBIOSIS	100
SWAMI SHRADDHANAND HOSPITAL, VASAI WEST	63
MALLIKA HOSPITAL, JOGESHWARI WEST	36
ADHIKARI LIFE LINE HOSPITAL, BOISAR	30
TOTAL	667





**DHANSAK,
DRAMA &
DELIGHT –
THAT'S PARSI
NITE!**





The resounding call of “Jamva Chaalo Ji” had Rotarians buzzing with anticipation. Then Parsi Nite arrived on August 8th, 2025 at the historic 150-year-old Allbless Baug, when more than 130 Rotarians and their partners waltzed in dress up in Daglis and Garas. The wonderful layout of the venue, with traditional toran and bouquets, together with a full bar and lively music had Rotarians singing impromptu oldies and dancing in the elegant room with beautiful chandeliers and portraits of Parsis from a bygone era.

The highlight was, of course, the sit-down patru, where sumptuous Parsi delicacies, served on banana leaves, had members enthusiastically munching away and washing it all down with the traditional Raspberry, Ginger and Orange. Thali enthusiasts also gobbled superb vegetarian cuisine that suited their sensitive palates, with eager aplomb.

Our sincere thanks to President Bimal Mehta, who welcomed guests alongside First Lady Aradhana Mehta and also to our gracious hosts Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Soonnu & Rtn. Farokh Balsara, Nirmala & Rtn. Jamshed Banaji, Rtn. Cama, Rtn. Ptn. Phiroza & Rtn. Dr. Aashish Contractor, PP Dr. Adi Dastur, Rtn. Arish Dastur, Rtn. Ptn. Yasmin & Rtn. Karl Divecha, Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Fernaz & Rtn. Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala, Rtn. Ptn. Dina & Rtn. Dr. Sharukh Golwalla, Rtn. Ptn. Pervin & PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir, Rtn. Ptn. Faryal & Rtn. Homi Katgara, Rtn. Zinia Lawyer, Rtn. Arin & Rtn. Ptn. Percy Master, Rtn. Ptn. Zarina & PP Framroze Mehta, Rtn. Anita Paymaster, Rtn. Ptn. Navaz & Rtn. Jimmy Pochkhanawalla, Rtn. Ptn. Meher Rtn. & Khurshed Poonawala, Rtn. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla, Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala & Rtn. Ptn. Franklin John, PP Shernaz & Rtn. Ptn. Firoze Vakil.





PROJECT IMPACT REPORTS

**BY BIMAL MEHTA, PRESIDENT,
ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY**

This year, we have taken a significant step towards strengthening our relationship with those who make our work possible – our donors. I have initiated a proactive approach of sending detailed impact reports of our projects to every donor. These reports highlight how their contributions have been utilised and the tangible outcomes their generosity has enabled.

Transparency is not just a value we uphold; it is the foundation of trust. By sharing the story of every rupee spent and the lives it has touched, we reaffirm our commitment to accountability. These donor-specific reports are in addition to the independent impact assessments we already conduct for all our major projects, ensuring that every initiative we undertake meets the highest standards of efficiency and effectiveness.

Our aim is simple: to make our donors partners in change, not just contributors. When they see the difference they help create, their belief in our mission deepens, and together we can achieve far greater impact. This initiative is a key part of my vision for this year – to build enduring relationships based on transparency, trust and impact measurement.

Project **ANANDA YAAN**

"Mission to Happiness"



IMPACT REPORT

PREPARED BY
ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY
RY 2024-25



Rotary
Club of Bombay
Celebrating 96 Years of Service
DISTRICT 3141

Adult Literacy Program

Impact Report FY 2024-25



**FOR COPIES OF THE IMPACT PROJECT REPORTS,
CONTACT RASHMI AT THE ROTARY OFFICE.**

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Rotary
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Celebrating 96 Years of Service



Rotary Club of Bombay

ASIA GOLF CHALLENGE 2026

-3rd Edition

Supported by
SAFGR



LET'S TEE OFF FOR CHANGE...

PUNE, INDIA : 17 JAN - 18 JAN, 2026

PHUKET, THAILAND : 29 JAN - 2 FEB, 2026

MUMBAI, INDIA : 14 FEB, 2026

Start 2026 on a high note by participating in a series of global golf fundraisers. The monies raised will be used to fund the Rotary Club of Bombay's Adult Literacy Initiatives.

**WORLD
CLASS
GOLF**

**ONCE IN A
LIFETIME
EXPERIENCE**

**POWERING
THE INDIAN
ADULT
LITERACY
MOVEMENT**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GAUTAM DOSHI +919820623258 | GAUTAM@GDCAPITAL.IN rotaryclubofbombay.org @rcb1929



Honoured to receive **THE CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD**



The most significant award a Rotary club can achieve,
for 2024-25 from **Rotary International**.

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 31
Rtn. Vijay
Meghani



SEPTEMBER 1
Rtn. Rajas
Doshi

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 26
Rtn. Ptn. Dina
Golwalla

AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ptn. Neeraja
Taparia

AUGUST 29
Rtn. Ptn. Neetee
Chadha

AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ptn. Neelima
Baliga

AUGUST 28
Rtn. Ptn. Usha
Agarwal

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ptn. Shobha & PP Haresh Jagtiani

NEXT TUESDAY: A fireside chat between Milind Deora and Cyrus Broacha on India at the Crossroads of Culture and Power



Milind Deora, former Union Minister and Member of Parliament, entered the Lok Sabha in 2004 as one of India's youngest MPs. He has held significant roles on committees spanning Defence, Civil Aviation, Urban Development and IT, and served as Minister of State for Communications, IT and Shipping. Beyond politics, he pioneered digital public-private partnerships for underprivileged students. An alumnus of Boston University, he serves on international boards, writes extensively, and remains politically active. A passionate guitarist, he is married to entrepreneur Pooja Shetty.



Cyrus Broacha, is an Indian actor, television presenter, comedian, and author. Educated at Cathedral and John Connon School and St. Xavier's College, he began his career as a VJ before gaining recognition as the host of popular television programmes such as Bakra, Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa, and Fear Factor – Khatron Ke Khiladi. He has appeared in films including Jalwa, 99, and Fruit & Nut. An accomplished stand-up comedian, noted for his political satire and observational humour, Broacha has also authored books and maintains a strong presence on social media.



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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

ARRFC & PDG Sandip Agarwalla	President Bimal Mehta
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Additional Director PP Vijaykumar Jatia

President Bimal Mehta	
Fund Raising	PP Vineet Bhatnagar
Investments	Mehul Sampat
CSR, Reporting & Compliance	IPP Satyan Israni

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	Priyashi 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	Mirai Shah
Dialysis	Swati Jajodia

Director Mudit Jatia

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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	Amea Tanna
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
Interact Schools	Mudit Jain