

# THE GATEWAY



Vaishali Shadangule  
Details inside



Call to  
Action

Rotary Club  
of Bombay



Volume 65  
Issue No.31  
March 5, 2024  
For private  
circulation

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay  
<http://rotaryclubofbombay.org/>



## Filmmaker Subhash Ghai, recipient of Rotary Club of Bombay's Kalpana Sham Munshi Lifetime Achievement Award in Performing Arts

You see, asking for words of wisdom is too big for me; you need three lives to understand wisdom. Because one life is too little to understand the world, life, society, people, and the universe.

Whenever I meet Rotarians, I feel they are specially blessed people. You can be fortunate in becoming a billionaire, you can be fortunate in becoming a lead star or a lead cricketer. But you cannot be fortunate without serving society. And the way you serve society and share your success with deprived people, that makes you God's children, real children. And hats off to all of you. Thank you very much for honouring me with this award, and especially to my great friend Farhat to whom I can never say no. We have known each other for so many years, and there are so many friends here. They know my story.

[Article continues on Page 2](#)

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



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When I was in college, I used to stage plays, write plays, read plays, and read stories. So, when my father said, “What next,” I said, “Next is the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune.” He said, “Go ahead.”

At the university, I saw world cinema for the first time, because I was an ordinary, simple boy from Delhi, the son of a doctor. And I was quite impressed by Hindi cinema myself. But when I saw world cinema, I could connect with the world. There is so much power in cinema and it tells you about people, their culture, the police officer, lawyer, doctor, etc. It tells you about what they are, what they think, how they think, how they react, how are their kids, how are their parents. You can't read this in a book or newspaper. Whatever you read, you make your own perspective. But cinema gives a different perspective of people in their society.

I still remember one thing: how cinema is effective to each nation. I have been to America many times since 1970. Before 1985, I remember, they used to treat us like Indians in immigration, side mein khade ho jao; you all have been there. And particularly you come to

[Article continues on Page 3](#)

know your reality at the immigration point. They think that we are East Indians. They think that we are Pakistanis. You must have heard this. And I used to feel very humiliated for that. If I belong to India, why don't they recognise India? And one day, it happened. In 1985, I think, when I went to Los Angeles, there was an immigrant point, and the immigration officer saw my passport and he said, "Okay, okay, okay. Oh, you are a film director." I said, "Yes, sir." "Did you make *Gandhi*?" I said, "No, I did not make *Gandhi*." "What a great film and what a great country – India." He gave me my passport. And after this, I could see that India had been introduced to the Americans.

**THE FILM *GANDHI*, PLEASE NOTE IT DOWN, ONE FILM CHANGED THE WHOLE PERSPECTIVE OF AMERICANS AND WESTERN PEOPLE ABOUT WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE.**

We are rich people, we are fortunate people, we are unfortunate people, we are poor people, fine, but what kind of people we are. I remember seeing *The Ten Commandments* in my childhood and I was introduced to Christianity, and it told me what kind of people they were, what commandments they had and how they lived and we started respecting the Pope. I'm talking about when I was in the sixth standard.

So, films become representative of the perspective of the people's school of thought. We may be very critical, we may be fighting, we may be different. We may be having debate between ourselves on social, political, and other different platforms. Fine. Every country has that. But, if we see the world where we stand today, we really stand there. And when they say you're Indian, they look at you with respect. So, let's give a big hand to cinema also.

The films we make are a reflection of society; 1940s films were a different kind, '60s are different and '80s are different. So, if you see the values changing for the last 100 years and today's generation, we have improved 15-20%. But kids today are about three generations ahead of us. Three generations ahead. And I'm sure that all of you must be facing that kid who is 10 years old and thinks he knows better than

you. He doesn't care for you; you are history for them. You're a historical human being for them.

Then, this has happened because there is the digital evolution or revolution or whatever you can say, the net, and it is bringing the whole world closer. But the fact is that we have to accept that this generation has changed.

*In the 1940s, pati was parmeshwar. In the '60s, jab ladka ladki ko haath lagata tha in the film lagta tha inki shaadi hojayegi. In the 1980s when a girl would hug the boy, ya baarish mein bheegtey thhey, toh bolte thhey inki shaadi hojayegi. In the 1990s, ladka ladki ne hug bhi kiya, kiss bhi hua, pata nahi shaadi hogi ya nahi. In 2010, shaadi hone wali hai, par kabhi bhi mandap se bhaag sakti hai ladki.* So, today's generation: Why do you need marriage? We can be in a live-in relationship. So, the things have changed, and cinema looks at that. We have to understand the changing society.

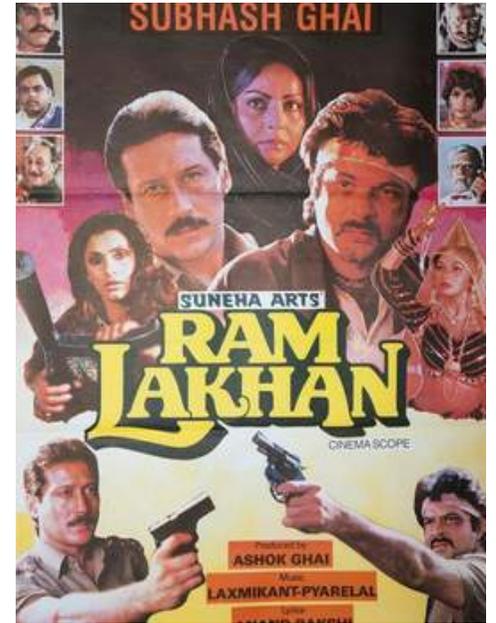
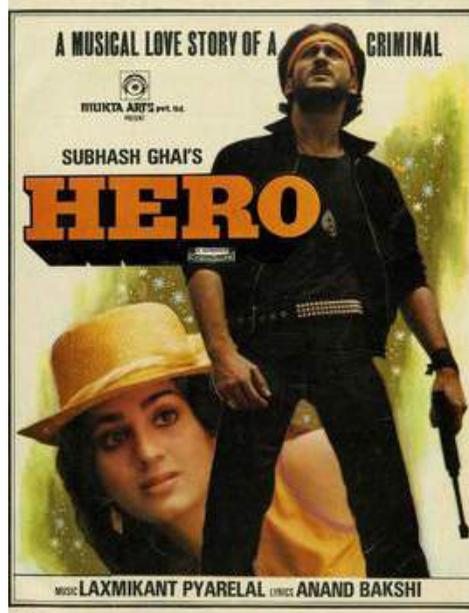
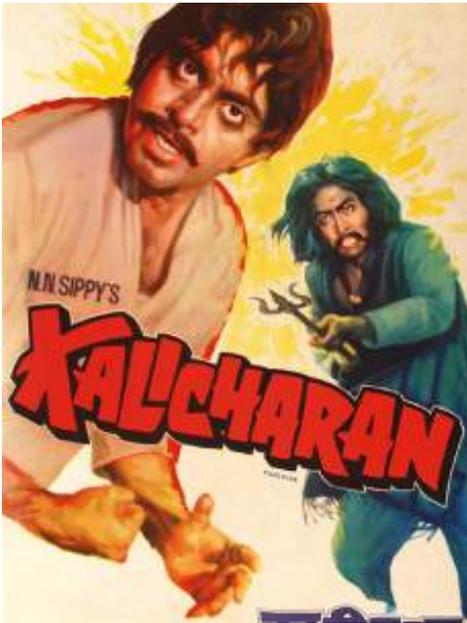
And, there are two things. One is the *shashvat*, one is the *kshanic*. *Shashvat* is the *sadhayva*. *Sadhayva* means forever, like sun, moon, mountain, life, birth, death, old age, child. These will continue forever, for a thousand years, and it will remain for a thousand years. Those are called *shashvat*, *sanatan*.

But there are changes which are called *kshanic*. The moment to moment, year to year, after every decade, you will find a change. And I personally feel very strongly, that in 2070, when we are not there, we will have a huge photograph in our home. In 2070, children will be speaking in Sanskrit. Ask me why?

Since 1947 after Independence, we have been speaking English for a long time. One who speaks English is intelligent, why? Because English medium schools were lying empty, and we sent our kids to them. It became a preferred language. The privileged language was English. We will have our mother tongue, but the privileged language will be English and is still going to be for another 30 years.

So now your grandson or your son's grandson, when he speaks Sanskrit, other people will feel that he has a privilege. That will be a privileged language prevailing in society. Because there is the philosophy

[Article continues on Page 4](#)



and psychology of ancient wisdom, the solution of many problems about which we are confused. We are confused on Twitter, Instagram, everything. But it has solutions for everything. So that will be connected with the ancient wisdom and ancient language, because it is the mother language of all the languages.

So, that is why I calculate as a dramatist. I am a playwright. I write plays of human interaction.

**WHAT IS MY PROFESSION? I WRITE ABOUT THE PSYCHOLOGY OF VARIOUS PEOPLE. I WRITE THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE, THE JOURNEY OF THE PEOPLE. HOW DO THEY MOVE? HOW DO THEY FEEL ABOUT THEMSELVES? SO, PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY ARE OUR MAIN SUBJECTS, WHICH PUSH US TO WRITE PLAYS AND STORIES OF VARIOUS KINDS. WE NARRATE IT AS THE AUDIENCE LIKES, BECAUSE WE ALSO WANT TO SURVIVE.**

So, I belong to a very beautiful profession. Because I know you all. I know religious people. Villagers also. I know the street girls. I know the lift men also. I know, I mean, every man, every farmer of this country, how does he feel? Because I have lived in villages. I've seen them. So, I can write their stories. I can write with their mind. A person who is not educated can be smarter than the person who is educated.

Our 11 top pillars in India – Birla, Tata, etc., who have become economic pillars also – their fathers and grandfathers were not educated. They never went to university. They came from villages to the urban city. They wanted to make Rs 10 into Rs 100, and then 100 into 300. They found people to understand different things. They had wisdom. They had common sense, intelligence, and wisdom to use the knowledge of other people to benefit themselves. Look at the people, the roots.

Our great-grandfathers were not educated, they were wiser people. Now we are in a competition of intellect, competition of the various kinds of races, economic races, political races, power races. So, we are different people now and the younger generation is going to be totally different. So, the change is inevitable, it will always happen. That, as a filmmaker, is my study.

*And baaki rahi meri baat...*

Everybody is a starter; I also started as a struggler. I also went through the humiliation, opposition, acceptance, but I went on working hard, I went on learning. The one basic quality which I had was that I have always been a great student; even today I am a student. Trust me, today I run an institute, a film school of India, called Whistling Woods. It has 1,100 students and 3,000 students have passed who are dominating today's whole media industry. They

[Article continues on Page 5](#)

are at top positions in the media industry, part of the Whistling Woods Alumni.

I used to make films, I was proud of it, but I am prouder that today I am making film makers. I asked my mother one day, "What is the final success?" She said, "Final success is when you get success in your profession and then you share your knowledge, experience and money with other people, that is called success." And that is why Rotarians are here.

That's why I feel honoured and privileged to be with you. But you have to be determined to groom this younger generation. I remember when I introduced newcomers into stardom, like Madhuri Dixit... Do you know that Madhuri Dixit did not know how to dance? Are you surprised? I had cast her in one of my initial films called *Uttar Dakshin*, I produced and then later cast her in *Ram Lakhan* because I had reintroduced her to the industry and groomed her as an actor. *Bahot bholi thi, sabhya ghar ki ladki. Filmon ka kuch nahi pata tha usko. Bass kathak vagaira seekha tha. Toh ek baar*, during the *Uttar Dakshin* shoot, Saroj Khan called me. She was introduced in the film *Hero* by me. She called me to Chennai, saying this girl can't dance. So, I reached Chennai, saw the shoot, saw her dance and that she didn't have the body language to dance. And she was looking really, very, very, raw.

I went to her, and asked, "What is the problem, Madhuri?" She said, "I do not know what she is saying, Saroj Khan." I said, "Follow her and do exactly as she is doing." And trust me, that girl who worked so hard, she has become the top dancer on the big screen. Today she's a big star.

### ROTARIANS ASK

**With due respect to the word Bollywood, can't we remove it and find something indigenous? Why do we keep insisting on Bollywood being considered as Indian cinema?**

We all have been very upset about the whole concept of Bollywood. It happened in 1987, when *Ram Lakhan* was released and a few of my friends were also there. That time, the BBC asked me if they could cover my party and I said they were welcome.

I thought they would cover how filming has changed, upgrading, and styling. So, BBC made

it and my cousin who taped it, said, that in it, the anchor said, "In India, in Bombay, the people there only know how to copy from Hollywood. They imitate our films, our style, our suits." And she had shown all the purses and shoes of the ladies, clothes, hairstyle. And she made fun of the whole party. Then, she said, "When they are imitators, why not call them Bollywood rather than Hollywood. They are the copy of Hollywood." So, they insulted us, but we are funny people. We took it as an honour, and we said, we are Bollywood.

**The influence of films is very much on weddings now; weddings imitate films. Any comment on that?**

Like I said, the '40s and '60s were different. Love is one thing, weddings are one thing and *dekhava* is another thing. The world has become cosmetic, more on the exhibition side. I am spending so much money. The competition is between richer people. I have no idea what the exhibition is. It has become a business; it has become show-business now. Let us not mind it, let us enjoy it. Thank you.

**10-20 years back, we would go to see who the director is, the maker is; it was a Yash Chopra film, Subhash Ghai film, Mani Ratnam film. Today, the audience has become fragmented. With the influx of OTT, the audience has become fragmented. Is it just marketing?**

In the '90s and 2010, there was an era of filmmakers. When the trade used to respect, trade means the investor, the investor used to respect filmmakers. And people also used to watch the filmmakers. After that, after the corporatisation, post-corporatisation, so many companies came over. Though I was the first, Mukta Arts was the first company, but I wanted to open a film school. I wanted to educate the younger generation. But when they came, they came from the stock exchange with public money. Now, when the public money comes, you need to answer every quarter. You need to answer every year, balance sheet. The moment the whole business went into the balance sheet, things changed. All the executives came from the FMGC sector, so the whole business went from filmmaking to numbers. So, it has become an industry of stars today who bring numbers. That is why directors have taken a backseat.



**TUESDAYS WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY**





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Club of Mumbai SOBO





# Palghar is on the road to 100% literacy with Rotary Club of Bombay

The Rotary Club of Bombay along with our Computer Based Functional Literacy (CBFL) solution partner TCS, successfully trained and certified 11,500 beneficiaries via 460 prerikas over a period of eight months ending March 2024.

Completion of our Adult Literacy Programme results in confidence, employment, upliftment for the family and society as a whole, improved political representation, later marriages, smaller families, poverty reduction and so much more!

The graduation ceremony was held at Vikramgad on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Apart from the numerous beneficiaries and prerikas, the attendees also included CDSL Board member Mrs. Rajeshree Sabnavis, CDSL Chief Risk Officer Mr. Vinay Madan, TCS CSR Region Impact Lead Mr. Satish Kalidindi, TCS CSR Literacy as a Service Head Mr. Kishan Gopal Laddha, IPDG Sandip Agarwalla, IPP Vineet Bhatnagar, Adult Literacy Programme

Head of the Rotary Club of Bombay, Rtn. Runit Shah and PP Bhagwan Patil (Rotary Club of Palghar) and other members of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

The prerikas were felicitated with recognition certificates from TCS for empowering community members with functional literacy. Beneficiaries were also awarded graduation certificates for successfully completing the course. Many of them came up on stage to share their experiences and the impact the programme has had on their daily lives and livelihood.

Since the inception of this initiative at the Rotary Club of Bombay, we are proud to share that we will have successfully educated 28,000 women by May 2024! RC of Bombay is targeting another 30,000-40,000 women to be trained in the next 6 months.

It is our avowed intent to make Palghar completely (100%) adult literate over the next 18-24 months.



# RCB welcomes DG to Talwada: A journey of compassionate medical service



On February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Rotary Club of Bombay had the privilege to host DG Arun Bhargava and District Secretary Sandip Kedia at the Club's flagship project at Talwada.

At Talwada, they spent an afternoon with PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir, PP Framroze Mehta, PP Vineet Bhatnagar, Rtn. Sheela Kerkar, Rtn. Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala, Rtn. Ravi Fotedar, Rtn. Akhil Sanghi and Rtn. Mihir Mody.



The visit commenced at the Phiroze Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC) where they interacted with doctors of different specialties who run their respective OPDs at the Centre and provide much needed medical care to those who come from far and near.

The volunteers and staff joined our guests for lunch, sharing their experiences of being associated with the Talwada Centre. At PRVEC, PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir while sharing its proud history including the tremendous contribution of its founder PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani, conducted a walk through the Centre including the operation theatre and the patients' ward area.

They next visited the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC) where the doctors were, by then, already



attending to patients in the dental, pulmonary, paediatric and general OPDs. At ADMC, PP Dr. Rumi and Dr. Apte explained the working of the Centre and shared the efforts being put in to reach out to the maximum number of beneficiaries possible and also increase the number of specialties as per the requirement.

Both DG Arun and District Secretary Sandip shared their experiences of working on similar projects and provided inputs through which the Centre could further continue to carry out its activities in a diversified manner. They also commended the work put in by all those who have spared time and offered their service to the Centre.

The afternoon ended with the Rotarians, doctors and volunteers thanking DG Arun and District Secretary Sandip for visiting Talwada.

By providing comprehensive medical care to the under privileged local population of the Vikramgad and surrounding districts for over 40 years, treating over the past few years an average of 15000-18000 patients annually, this project truly imbibes the Rotary motto of Service Above Self.



# Rtn. Manoj Israni's generous donation paves way for Textile Gallery renewal at CSMVS



In a significant development for the preservation of cultural heritage, the Rotary Club of Bombay's Urban Heritage Committee has achieved a major milestone in its fundraising campaign for the renewal and re-adoption of the Textile Gallery at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS). This achievement comes through a generous donation of Rs. 25 lakhs from Rtn. Manoj Israni, underscoring his unwavering commitment to supporting initiatives that promote and preserve India's rich cultural heritage.

The Textile Gallery, which first opened its doors to visitors in 2015, has been a beacon of exploration and appreciation for the intricate tapestry of Indian textile traditions. With Rtn. Manoj's substantial contribution, the gallery is poised for a transformative renewal that will ensure its continued role as a vital cultural landmark.

The donation from Rtn. Manoj will support various aspects of the gallery's renewal, including conservation efforts, technological enhancements, and educational programs aimed at fostering greater awareness and appreciation of Indian textiles.

As the Textile Gallery embarks on this transformative journey, the Urban Heritage Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to Rtn. Manoj Israni and all supporters who have contributed to this noble cause. Their generosity and dedication serve as a testament to the enduring importance of preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage for generations to come.

With Mr. Israni's generous donation leading the way, the renewal of the Textile Gallery promises to be a milestone in the ongoing efforts to safeguard India's cultural legacy and ensure its continued appreciation for years to come.





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present

# Architects and Firms That Built Modern Bombay

An exhibition honouring the architects and their firms who built the city through the 1930s-50s, with a progressive vision for a modern way of life.

**Exhibition open from**

**2 March 2024 | Saturday | 1.30 pm to 6.00 pm**

**3 - 10 March 2024 | 10.30 am to 6.00 pm**

Durbar Hall, Asiatic Society of Mumbai.

Supported by **Rotary Club of Bombay.**



# RCHR hosts puppet workshop for kids of RCB's Lighthouse Project



On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Rotaract Club of H.R. College organised an engaging activity named “Katputli” at the Rotary Club of Bombay’s Lighthouse Project. The objective was to foster creativity and improve fine motor skills among 30 children through an interactive puppet-making workshop.

Alongside 20 committed members, we guided the children in crafting their own puppets using materials such as socks, pom-pom balls, googly eyes, and wool.



The workshop provided a platform for our members to connect with the children, establishing strong bonds of trust and understanding. Subsequently, a delightful puppet show was presented to the children, filling the room with laughter and joy.



Witnessing the immense pleasure on the children’s faces affirmed the impact of the simple yet engaging activities. The Rotaract Club of H.R. College extends heartfelt appreciation to the Lighthouse Committee and the Rotaract Committee of RCM for their invaluable support in making “Katputli” a truly memorable and enjoyable experience.

# The Annual Jain Phoolon ki Holi !

*Dear Rotarians,  
We look forward to your presence*



*On Monday, 25th March 2024,  
10 am - 1 pm*

*Venue : 44 Ashok Bhavan, 14th Rd Khar,  
Behind Satguru on Linking Road.*

*Live music, flavours of Dilli ki chaat,  
shower of Rangeen flowers, kesar and gulab.*

*Rtn. Naresh Jain, Rtn. Mohit Jain, Radhika Jain  
R.S.V.P. Sarita - 9867803058*

# Bhavishya Yaan NMJ bids goodbye to 10<sup>th</sup> standard kids

Last week, students of the 10<sup>th</sup> standard at Bhavishya Yaan, located on N.M.J. Marg, bid farewell to their school days. They reminisced about their experiences, sharing anecdotes and expressing gratitude to their teachers and the school for their guidance and support throughout the years.

Each teacher extended their best wishes to the students for their upcoming exams starting on March 1st, offering valuable advice on exam preparation. As a tradition, exam kits containing a large transparent envelope for exam materials, a pouch, pencils, pens, and erasers were distributed to each student.

The event concluded with a communal lunch served for all attendees.



Members, please note that we have tied up with Masina Hospital for a great discount for our members, family, and friends.

To avail discount kindly contact PP Vijay Kumar Jatia on email along with a brief medical history: [vkj.rotary@modernindia.co.in](mailto:vkj.rotary@modernindia.co.in)

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9 to 5 / ९ ते ५

Eye Clinic / डोळ्यांचा दवाखाना

9 to 5 / ९ ते ५

9 to 5 / ९ ते ५

Dental Clinic / दाताचा दवाखाना

9 to 5 / ९ ते ५

9 to 5 / ९ ते ५

GP & Child Care Clinic / जीपी आणि लहान मुलांचा दवाखाना

2 to 5 / २ ते ५

2 to 5 / २ ते ५

Blood Tests / रक्ताची तपासणी

9 to 12 / ९ ते १२

9 to 12 / ९ ते १२





Rotary Club of Bombay

Rotary Club of Bombay  
**Uma Jain Award**  
for Young Woman Achiever



**Vaishali Shadangule**  
Indian designer, Founder of label Vaishali S – a brand

5 March 2024

THE GATEWAY ROOM  
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)

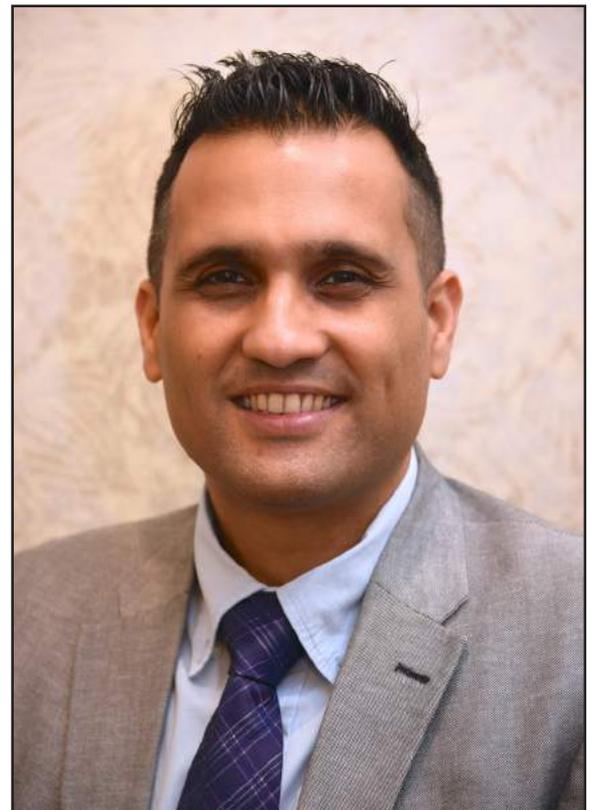
NEXT WEEK

**RAVI SHROFF, MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
EXCEL INDUSTRIES LTD**

Ravi Shroff is an entrepreneur and the Managing Director of Excel Industries Ltd, founded in 1941 by his grandfather. Qualified as an Engineer and Scientist, Ravi has expertise in business strategy, finance, technology and new product development. He is good at spotting new opportunities and giving them shape in the form of new ventures. He has founded 6 ventures in mobile marketing, waste management, fund management and cutting-edge healthcare. In addition, he invests in startups in D2C, waste management and healthcare. Ravi is a part of Mensa, the global high IQ society.

Ravi has founded his latest venture in the space of Gut Health, particularly focusing on testing the Gut Microbiome through a first-of-its-kind gut microbiome test available online on <https://www.microbiome.in>. His startup is at the forefront of the fast developing science of the gut microbiome.

Ravi believes that improving gut health is the key to improving overall health.



## Rotarian Member Birthdays



**MARCH 10**

Rtn. Akhil Sanghi



**MARCH 11**

Rtn. Niloufer Lam



**MARCH 11**

Rtn. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla

## Rotarian Partner Birthdays

**MARCH 6**

Rtn. Ptn. Priyanka Jatia

**MARCH 7**

Rtn. Ptn. Emma Lalvani

**MARCH 7**

Rtn. Ptn. Matthew Taff

**MARCH 9**

Rtn. Ptn. Rukshana Bilimoria

**MARCH 11**

Rtn. Ptn. Akshay Singhania

## Anniversaries

**MARCH 5**

Rtn. Ptn. Sudha & Rtn. Ashok Gokal

**MARCH 6**

Rtn. Ptn. Vandana & PP Ajay Kanoria

**MARCH 7**

Rtn. Ptn. Subhabrata & Rtn. Renu Basu

**MARCH 7**

Rtn. Ptn. Navaz & Rtn. Farokh Guzder

**MARCH 8**

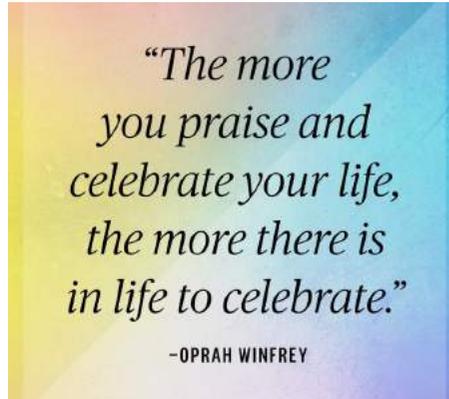
Rtn. Ptn. Nita & Hon. Rtn. Mukesh Ambani

**MARCH 9**

Rtn. Ptn. Cyrus & Rtn. Pilloo Aga

**MARCH 11**

Rtn. Ptn. Arti & PP Arun Sanghi



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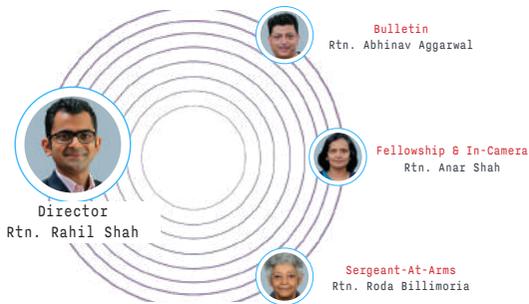
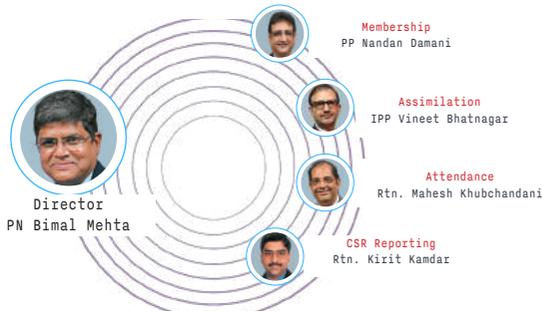
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Bimal Mehta



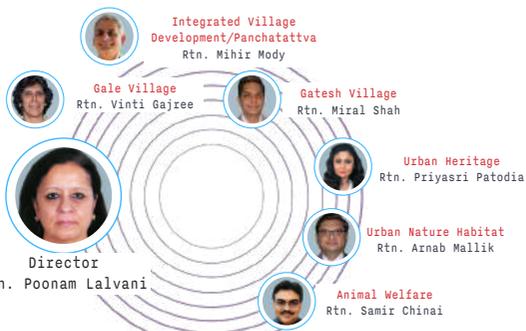
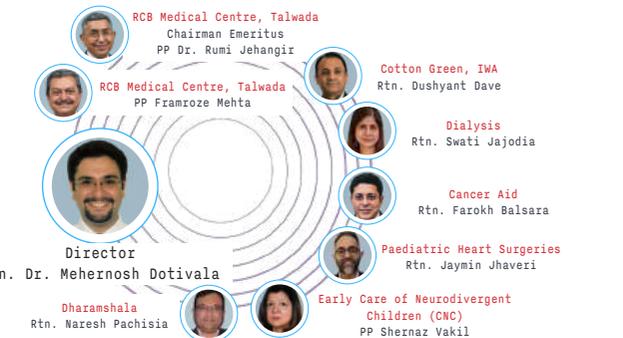
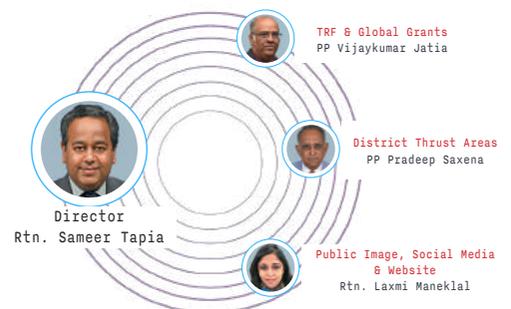
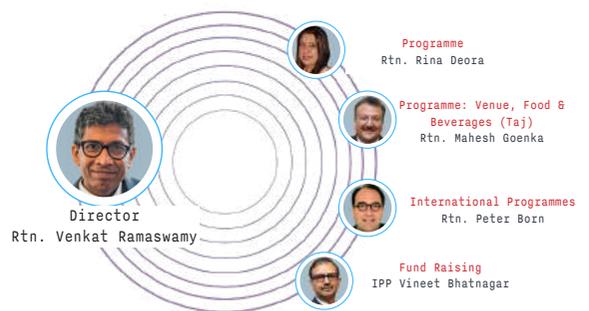
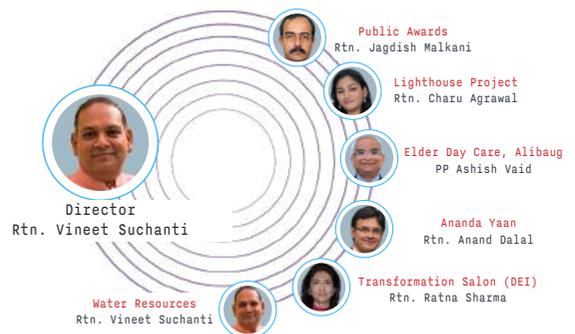
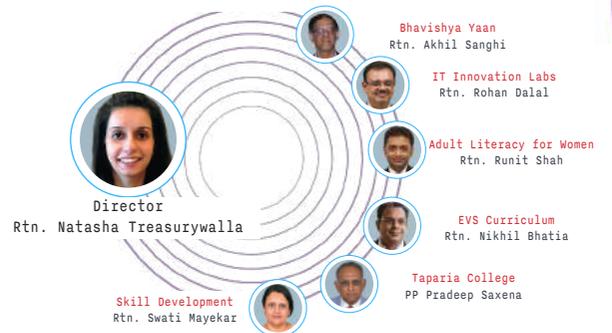
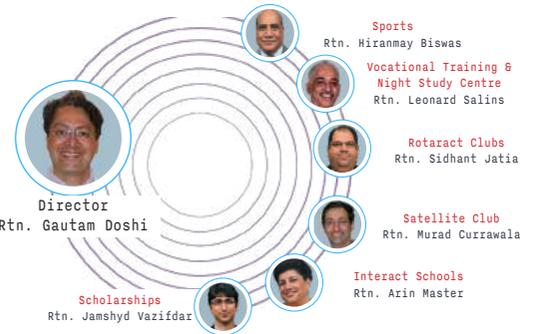
**Hon. Secy**  
Pradeep Gupta



**Hon. Jt. Secy**  
Sunny Pariyaram



**Hon. Treasurer**  
Kirit Kamdar



PUBLISHED BY  
PRESIDENT MANOJ PATODIA  
FOR ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY;  
CONTACT@ROTARYCLUBOFBOMBAY.ORG

EDITORIAL CONTENT, DESIGN & LAYOUT BY  
THE NARRATORS (THEWRITEASSOCIATES@GMAIL.COM);

REGD NO. MCS/091/2015-17; R.N.I NO. 14015/60.  
WP P LICENSE NO. MR/TECH/WPP-89/SOUTH 2015;