THE GATEWAY

UNITE FOR GOOD

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay

DISTRICT 3141
Celebrating 96 Years of Service

VOLUME 67 ISSUE NO. 18 NOVEMBER 4, 2025

This Tuesday, Nov 4th

Mr. Shubham Saraff, Futurist, AI TEDx Speaker, in a fire chat with Rtn. Uday Sanghani on 'From Mumbai to Palo Alto: What AI Means for Indian Business and Society'.

UPCOMING

November 5th

Launch of the Galaxy Rotary Dialysis Centre in Mulund.

In-camera session with Tanvi Jindal Shete and Rtn. Aditya Somani as part of a visit to the Museum of Solutions (MUSO).

November 8th, 10 am

Free Medical camp at the Cotton Green clinic.

Guided walkthrough at Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum.

November 9th, 7 pm

Festa di Amicizia, a celebration of friendship.

November 11th, Tuesday meeting

The Strength to Soar: **Rhea Chakraborty** on 'Rising above and Moving forward', in conversation with **Rtn. Priva Tanna.**

November 13th, 5 pm

Club Assembly at Babubhai Chinai Hall, IMC Churchgate.

The RCB PV Gandhi Awardee for Excellence in Public Life - Mr. Niraj Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Auto, in conversation with Ms. Devna Vora Gandhi.



Ms. Devna Vora Gandhi: Welcome, everyone. It is such an honour to be here today. I'm seeing so many people after so many years — many of whom I relentlessly chased during my days at NDTV, including Mr. Bajaj — who were all so kind to me. This is truly an honour. Congratulations on winning this award. What does it mean to you?

Mr. Niraj Bajaj: This is, of course, a great honour. I'm delighted to see so many familiar faces here. I'm coming to Rotary for the first time, and I'm very happy to meet so many people. Rotary does such great work all over the world.

I also had the privilege of knowing Pravin Bhai a little. He was truly a giant of a man—a Padma Bhushan awardee, Chairman of Dena Bank, and Chairman of several newspapers. His contribution of 60 years to the IMC was tremendous. What people may not know is that it was his vision which created the IMC Ramkrishna Bajaj National Quality Award. The total credit goes to him, and today I believe it has become possibly the most prestigious National Quality Award in the country. It was

all thanks to him. And of course, now Ram Gandhi is doing a great job at the IMC. So, thank you very much.

We have to dial back to what makes you tick. So much has been said about your sporting achievements, so let's start there. You're possibly the only industrialist of your stature who is also an Arjuna Awardee — the highest recognition in Indian sport — for table tennis. How did that journey begin for you? And is it true that you didn't have a coach for most of your career?

Yes. I don't know from where you get all your information, but given your past expertise, I'm not surprised! We were always a joint family — my parents, my brothers, and I — and we had a table tennis table at home. Rahul Bhai was the eldest, I was the youngest, and there were brothers in between. They used to play table tennis, and when I was seven years old, I was desperate to play, but nobody would play with me. Elder brothers are usually bullies, so they never played with me.

Sometimes, if I did errands for them, they'd agree to play. If an errand took ten minutes,

MAKING HEADLINES





રોટરી ક્લબ ઑફ બોંમ્બે પ્રવીણચંદ્ર વી. ગાંઘી એવોર્ડ ફોર ઍક્સલન્સ ઇન પબ્લિક લાઇફ એવોર્ડ બજાજ ઑટો લિ.ના ચેંરમેન નીરવ બજાજને સ્ટમી ઑક્ટબરે, મુંબઈની ઇ તાજ મહેલ પેવેસ હોંટેલ ખાતે ચોજાચેલા રોટરીના કાર્ચક્રમમાં અપાચો હતો. આ પ્રસંગની તસવીરમાં (ડાબેથી) આનંદ દલાલ, બિમલ મહેતા, નીરજ બજાજ, મિનળ બજાજ, ભારતી ગાંધી, રિદ્ધેશ ગાંધી અને દેવના ગાંધી. જાહેર જીવનમાં ઉત્કૃષ્ટ પ્રદાન બદલ પ્રવીણચંદ્ર વી. ગાંધીની સ્મૃતિમાં દર વર્ષે આ એવોર્ડ એનાયત કરાય છે

they'd play for ten minutes. It was hard-earned play, and when a child is deprived of something, he wants it even more. For example, Shekhar Bhai used to love having a head massage. So I had to give him a head massage for ten minutes, and then he'd play with me for ten minutes. And you can see the result — what's happened to his hair now! That's a little revenge.

My father used to feel very bad that nobody would play with me, so he got me a coach, Bomi Amalsadvala — a very good coach. He trained me for about a year and a half. Then something very silly happened. My brothers and parents had gone on holiday to East Africa, while I stayed back to play table tennis. Bomi told me to write a letter to them, but I delayed it by two days. He was a very strict coach and said, "I don't want to talk to you anymore." I was nine years old and heartbroken.

When my father came back from East Africa and heard the story, he was very upset. He said he would call Bomi and ask how he could treat a nine-year-old like that over a delayed letter. But I told my father not to speak to him. I didn't want him to take a favour from anyone — to plead on my behalf. I told him, "I'll go back to him the day he knows I don't need him anymore."

And that's exactly what happened. For ten years, I didn't have a coach. It was all about thinking, learning, talking to people, watching, and figuring things out from within. Nobody in the family was particularly interested in sports, so it was just me and my determination. People can't believe how I managed to play world-class table tennis without a coach for ten years.

When I reached my peak — I was captain of the team, an Arjuna Awardee, and part of the ping-pong diplomacy trip to China (the first Indian entry into China after the war, in 1973) — they gave us friendship towels. I came back and sent him one. Both of us cried. I said, "How could you treat a nine-year-old like that?" But that's how it was. So yes, for ten years I had no coach — but God is great.

Amazing. And how different parenting was in those days! Today, parents, grandparents, kakas, kakis, everyone would line up to plead with that coach. But you took that call yourself, and your father allowed you to take it.

And he respected that, which I think was really great of him.

You've had incredible moments over your career, but I want to ask you about the match with the reigning world champion at that time, which you came very close to winning.

Yes, that was against the reigning world champion, Xi Enting — you can still Google him. This was in China, in front of a crowd of 30,000 people, mostly Chinese, in pin-drop silence. No Indian has ever beaten a reigning world champion till today. There were 22 tables, and I still remember — 21 tables stopped playing. They couldn't believe that a reigning world champion could be losing to an Indian player. I led 20-17 in the decider — it was a 21-point game — and had three match points. And the fact is, I lost. It would have been the greatest moment in the history of Indian table tennis. You can imagine the heartbreak and disappointment. But then you have to get up and play again the next day. It was such a great learning experience for me — it taught me never to give up. You can recover from any setback. That lesson has stayed with me throughout my life — personally and professionally. Sports has given me that strength.

So on that note, what lessons do you think sport has taught you about life, business, integrity, and hard work?

Sports teaches you a lot. You don't have to be a champion for that — just playing sports makes you a better human being. When you play, you don't differentiate — everybody is equal. There's no rich or poor, no caste or creed. We're all players, all equals. That was a great lesson for me throughout my life: treat people with dignity no matter your position or privilege.

The second lesson is about focus. My first All India Championship was the biggest moment for any sportsman. I was 17, unseeded, and I beat the 16th seed, the 8th seed, the 4th seed, and the top seed to reach the finals. From the other side, too, my opponent was unseeded. And I lost to him. I was frustrated — how could I beat all those top players and then lose to an unseeded one? He was a defensive player, and I couldn't handle his style.

For the next two months during the off-season, every morning at 6:30, I practised for nearly two hours with a defensive player, just to master those shots. I felt so upset about that loss that I wanted to make sure it never happened again. And it worked. For the next five years, until I retired, I never lost to a single defensive player in the world. That taught me the value of deep focus — of going all in on an issue with determination. That lesson has helped me throughout my life.

One more quick lesson: when we do well, we often think it's all our doing. But when things go wrong, we tend to blame others. The truth is, good things happen because of many factors — luck, fate, blessings of elders, and the contribution of hundreds or thousands of people. It's never just us.

I remember the first time I became All India Champion — the greatest moment for any sportsperson. I was playing against Dilip Raj Saxena. We had played seven times before, and he had beaten me all seven times. Clearly, he was the better player. In the finals, he won the first game easily. In the second game, I was down 19-15 in a ...

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RTN. REKHA TANNA ADDRESSING THE ROTARY CLUB OF JUMEIRA MEETING IN DUBAI



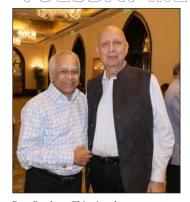








TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



Rtn. Pradeep Chinai and Rtn. Pashupati Advani



Rotarians Gautam Doshi, Akhil Sanghi, Anirudh Chowdhary, PP Nandan Damani and Rtn. Jagdish Malkani



Rtn. Vikram Daiya, PP Manoj Patodia, Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani, President Bimal Mehta, Rtn. Anand Dalal and Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal



Rtn. Rajas Doshi, Rtn. Dilip Dalal, Rtn. Sameer Kaji and Rtn. Vikram Daiya



Rtn. Jagdish Malkani, visiting Rtn. Bernhard Steinruecke, Rtn. Albert Almeida and Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal



Rtn. Pranay Vakil, Guest Riddhesh Gandhi, Guest Devna Vora Gandhi and Rtn. Pashupati Advani



Rtn. Pilloo Aga and President Bimal Mehta exchanging flags



President Bimal Mehta presents Club's flag to visiting Rtn. Tom Cohen



Rtn. Vita Dani, Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani, Rtn. Anand Dalal, PP Arun Sanghi, Guest speaker Mr. Niraj Bajaj, Rtn. Ptn. Bharti Gandhi, Mrs. Minal Bajaj and Hon. Secy. Farhat Jamal



Rtn. Dr. Dinesh Daftary and President Bimal Mehta





President Bimal Mehta, Rtn. Uday Sanghani and Rtn. Paritosh Rungta

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Rotarians,

I trust you had a wonderful Diwali filled with joy, light, and laughter. As we move forward, let's carry the spirit of Diwali with us, spreading happiness and positivity in all that we do. Wishing you and your loved ones continued prosperity and success.

Speaking of Diwali, we celebrated Diwali Nite, on October 12th hosted by the Jatia family and PP Vineet and Rtn. Ptn. Rangita Bhatnagar, with 240 guests enjoying great food, music, and company. Thanks to the entire Fellowship Committee, especially Vijaybhai and Vineet, for a wonderful evening.



Another notable event this month was the formation of the Rotaract Club at the Institute of Hotel Management (IHM), Mumbai. The club received its charter and commemorated its inauguration with a distinguished ceremony on October 13th, attended by members of the RCB team and District Officials. I extend my best wishes to the entire club team, led by President Rtr. Raunak Agarwal, and assure them of continued support from RCB. Special appreciation to IPP Satyan

Israni and Hon. Secretary Farhat Jamal for their instrumental roles in bringing this initiative to fruition.

Several noteworthy events were scheduled throughout the month. On October 11th, a group of 14 dedicated singers provided members of Ananda Yaan at E Moses Road with an engaging musical experience. The two-hour programme brought considerable enjoyment to the elders, who participated enthusiastically by dancing to Bollywood music. We extend our sincere appreciation to PP Ramesh Narayan and the entire AY team for organising this event.

On the same day, the Biodiversity Committee led by Rtn. Ptn. Avaan Vakaria organised a memorable morning at the Kalina Biodiversity Park, located on the Mumbai University campus in Kalina. The event was attended by 25 Rotarians and their children. Following a guided tour of the park, participants were served a sumptuous breakfast. It was a fun-filled Saturday morning.

This month, we conducted two noteworthy animal welfare initiatives. On October 4th, members of our Satellite Club visited the Panjrapole cow shelter, where they participated in feeding fresh grass and laddus to the animals, fostering a sense of compassion and care. On October 17th, RCB facilitated the donation of a blood bank to BPSCA, Bombay. We extend our sincere appreciation to Rtn. Tara Despande for her generous contribution.

In addition to the aforementioned programmes, we held vibrant Diwali celebrations at our BY schools. Our Satellite members also spent an inspiring afternoon at KGSS School, supporting initiatives for girls' education.

Our weekly meetings this month had an array of interesting speakers. On October 7th, Dr. Shailendra Chaubey delivered an engaging presentation on vitality, Ayurveda, and overall quality of life. The following week, we had the privilege of listening to a very important topic on cyber security from none other than Mr. Yashasvi Yadav, Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra Cyber Security. Cyber security awareness is crucial in today's digital age and our members benefited immensely from this engaging session.

On October 27th, RCB presented the Pravinchandra Gandhi Award for Excellence in Public Life to Mr. Niraj Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Auto Ltd. The award ceremony was followed by an engaging fireside chat between Mr. Bajaj and Devna Vora Gandhi. Nirajbhai spoke candidly about his journey and experiences, offering inspiring insights to the audience.

November promises to be an exceptionally busy month with multiple project inaugurations, a medical camp at our Cotton Green Clinic, a legal awareness camp for tribals in Palghar, an engaging in-camera event and a heritage walk.

We also have the privilege and honour to host the RI President, Francesco Arezzo, and First Lady, Anna Maria Criscione, on Sunday, November 9th. On behalf of our District Governor Dr. Mahek Motwani, I am pleased to formally invite you all to attend this special occasion.

We are pleased to announce that our first Club Assembly will be held on November 13th. This event offers an excellent opportunity to members, especially new members, to gain insight into our projects and future plans. I strongly encourage all members, particularly those who have recently joined the Club, to attend.

As I write this message, our Rotarians are participating in the first outstation fellowship event in Sri Lanka. Judging by the wonderful photographs, they are thoroughly enjoying their time — with excellent food, camaraderie, and beautiful sights. I would like to extend my gratitude to PP Vineet and Aradhana for putting so much love and effort in organising such a memorable trip. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to health reasons. We are currently planning our next fellowship trip, which will be announced soon.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you at our projects planned this month. I would request you to participate in large numbers.

Best wishes, Bimal Mehta President 2025-26 Join us for

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5TH NOV 2025

10:30 am | Galaxy Superspeciality Hospital

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Galaxy Superspeciality Hospital, CTS No. 1124, VB Phadake Rd, near Maratha Mandal, Ambedkar Nagar, Tata Colony, Mulund East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400081

Rtn. Ajit Lalvani appointed President of the Sydenham Alumni Association



Sydenham College, a 112-year-old institution, has long been recognised as one of India's premier commerce colleges – once regarded among the finest in Asia. Its illustrious alumni include Deepak Parekh, Uday Kotak, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Neeraj Bajaj, Ronnie Screwvala, Falguni Nayar and many others.

In 2021, Rotarian Ajit Lalvani, along with his batchmates Shyam Kotak and Hosi Charna, founded the Sydenham Alumni Association with the vision of "making Sydenham great again." Under his leadership, several initiatives have been introduced – revival of student societies, appointment of professional sports trainers, creation of modern smart classrooms, and institution of Student of the Year Awards carrying cash prizes and trophies.

The Association also launched The Sydenhamite, a monthly newsletter, and hosts annual alumni reunions. New degree courses in FinTech and Luxury Retail Management reflect the college's evolving focus. Through Ajit Lalvani's commitment, Sydenham continues to thrive as a forward-looking centre of excellence.



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A VISIT TO





If you have school going children and grandchildren, join us for deep insights on how YOU can expand their minds and make them future-ready through the MuSo's founder, Tanvi's journey.



TANVI JINDAL SHETE

Founder, Museum of Solutions Director, JSW Foundation

in a fireside chat with

RTN. ADITYA SOMANI





MuSo (Museum of Solutions)

Victoria House, Victoria Mills, 6, Lower Parel, Mumbai

5 pm - 6 pm: MuSo Tour 6 pm - 6: 30 pm: Fellowship 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Fireside Chat

Register with Rashmi +91 97691 40141

Lighthouse session on healthy & unhealthy food

The Lighthouse – Child Welfare Committee organised an engaging session on the topic "Healthy and Unhealthy Food" to help children understand the importance of good eating habits. They learnt that healthy food gives us energy, helps us grow, and keeps us strong, while junk food, though tasty, can harm our body if eaten too often. Teachers explained the difference using examples of healthy foods such as fruits, vegetables, milk, and chapati, and compared them with junk foods like chips, chocolates, and cold drinks.

As part of the learning experience, the children participated in the "My Healthy Lunch Box" activity, bringing nutritious food from home to share with friends and completing a worksheet on the topic.

An exciting Oil and Junk Food Test experiment demonstrated how junk foods contain more oil than healthy ones. Items such as chips, fries, biscuits, apple, and cucumber were placed on tissue paper. The children observed that tissues under junk foods turned oily, while those under healthy foods stayed clean and dry.

Through these interactive activities, the children discovered that healthy foods keep the body clean, strong, and energetic, while junk foods can make it weak and tired.



BOMBAY COTTON MERCHANT & MUCCADAM ASSOCIATION









8 November 2025 10 am - 4 pm at Cotton Green Clinic

The Camp includes:

- Homeopathy Diagnostic and Treatment
- Paediatric and Child Care
- Dental Care
- General Practitioner & Diabetes
 Check-ups
- ECG Monitoring
- Complete Eye Check-ups with Free Spectacles
- Skin Ailments Diagnostic and Cure
- Gynaec Check-ups

(Team will be available with a mobile van with diagnostic equipment.)



Near Cotton Exchange Building, Opp. Ram Mandir, (5 min walk from Cotton Green Railway Stn), Cotton Green (East), Mumbai – 400 033







GUIDED WALKTHROUGH

SATURDAY, 8TH NOV 2025 | 4:00 PM

Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum and Art Deco Alive! present Ocean Drive to Marine: Mapping a Century of Deco | Miami Beach-Mumbai (1925-2025).

The exhibition is conceptualised by Art Deco Alive! in collaboration with Curator Atul Kumar, and partnered by pioneering preservation institutions Art Deco Mumbai Trust and the Miami Design Preservation League.

Venue: Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, Special Project Space & Plaza







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SCAN AND MESSAGE ON WHATSAPP FOR BOOKINGS

Rtn. Pilloo Aga Joins RC Margao Sunrise for Polio Awareness Run

The Rotary Club of Margao Sunrise successfully organised the Polio Awareness Run on Sunday, October 26th, at Ravindra Bhavan, Margao, under the leadership of President Rtn. Coney D'Cruz. The event saw an enthusiastic turnout, with over 200 participants taking part in the 3 km walk, 5 km run, and 10 km cycle race.

The event was inaugurated by PDG Dr. Lenny Da Costa, who, along with Assistant Governor Rtn. Pallavi Karmalkar of the Rotary Club of Vasco Port Town and Rtn. Pilloo Aga, flagged off the races. PDG Dr. Lenny also exchanged Rotary flags as a gesture of fellowship and unity among clubs.

At the conclusion of the event, Rtn. Pilloo congratulated all

participants, awarded them medals, and encouraged them to embrace Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self' by joining the movement to eradicate polio.

A special contribution was made by Rtn. Pilloo, who donated funds for the purchase of water tables placed along the route—an initiative that will continue to benefit all future events organised by the Rotary Club of Margao Sunrise.

The event was a resounding success, spreading awareness and reinforcing Rotary's enduring commitment to a poliofree world.

















DISTRICT GOVERNOR DR. MANISH MOTWANI & FIRST LADY DR. MAHEK MOTWANI

cordially invite you to





An Evening with
RI PRESIDENT
FRANCESCO AREZZO
and Signora
ANNA MARIA CRISCIONE

SUNDAY, 9TH NOVEMBER 2025

7 pm | The Rooftop Trident Hotel, Nariman Point, Mumbai

Hosted by:





8





President Bimal Mehta

President Kamal Chokshi

Convenor: PDG Sandip Agarwalla

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Rotary Club of Bombay

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2026 -3rd Edition





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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.

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ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



Nov 4 Rtn. Aditya Somani



Nov 7 Rtn. Kasturbhai Sheth



Nov 10 Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala



Nov 5 Rtn. Laxmi Karnani



Nov 9 Rtn. Ratna Kapoor Sharma





Nov 5 PP Dr. Sonya Mehta



Nov 9 Rtn. Jagdish Vora

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

Nov 4 Rtn. Ptn. Vandana Daga

Nov 4 Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Huzaifa Khorakiwala Nov 7 Rtn. Ptn. Nayna Chinai

Nov 9 Rtn. Ptn. Sudha Javeri Nov 9

Rtn. Ptn. Pooja Sanghani

Nov 10

Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Sonia Kothari

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 4 Rtn. Ptn. Vera & PP Dr. Zerxis Umrigar Nov 5 Rtn. Ptn. Neelima & Rtn. Pankaj Baliga

Nov 9

Rtn. Ptn. Pooja & Rtn. Uday Sanghani

NEXT TUESDAY: The Strength to Soar: Rhea Chakraborty on Rising Above and Moving Forward, in conversation with Rtn. Priya Tanna



Rhea Chakraborty is an Indian actress, former VJ, and entrepreneur behind her brand Chapter 2, admired for her grace, strength, and authenticity. Over the years, she has faced intense public scrutiny yet emerged as a symbol of resilience and self-belief. With her inspiring outlook and unshakable spirit, Rhea continues to redefine what it means to rise after adversity. Through her empowering journey and Chapter 2, she encourages people to embrace healing, hope, and new beginnings.



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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
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Museum & Contemporary Arts	Priyasri Patodia
RCB Medical Centre, Talwada	Chairman Emeritus PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
NOD medical centre, lawada	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 Dotivala
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
The Kotary Foundation PP Vijaykumar Jatta Director Jaymin Jhaveri	
Sports / Yoga	Hiranmay Biswas
Paediatric Heart Surgeries	Natasha Treasurywala
Rotaract Clubs	Amee Tanna
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
	Mudit Jain
Interact Schools	