

THE GATEWAY

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay

VOLUME 67 ISSUE NO. 12 SEPTEMBER 16, 2025



Celebrating 96 Years of Service

This Tuesday, Sept 16th

Neha Jain, Zero Circle will receive the Taru Lalvani Award for Environment

UPCOMING September 18th

Decoding Dharma - unravelling how Indian epics are relevant even today, by author and myth-buster **Ms. Ami Ganatra**.

September 23rd

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



September 27th

Let's Play Some Bridge, Royal Bombay Yatch Club.

Medical camp & check-up for the Inmates and Staff of Mumbai Central Prison, Arthur Road.

September 30th

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



BMC MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER & ADMINISTRATOR, MR. BHUSHAN GAGRANI ON VISION FOR THE MUMBAI CITY.

city. There may be many more beautiful cities in the world than Mumbai. There may be many more organised cities than Mumbai. But there is no more diverse city in the world than Mumbai. Whatever you say about Mumbai, the opposite is equally true. This is what Mumbai is: diverse and challenging.

BMC, of course, is the prime civic body. The numbers are staggering: a 20 million resident population plus a couple of million floating population. These overwhelming challenges are managed on a small landmass where we must provide services. The building in which you live is approved by BMC. The water you drink is provided by BMC. The roads on which you drive are designed and maintained by BMC.

I am not here to list what we do or to boast of our commitment. In a gathering like this—where almost half the Rotarians are already working with BMC projects in health or education—I would prefer a bilateral exchange. Instead of me talking, I would like to hear what is on your mind about how Mumbai will transform.

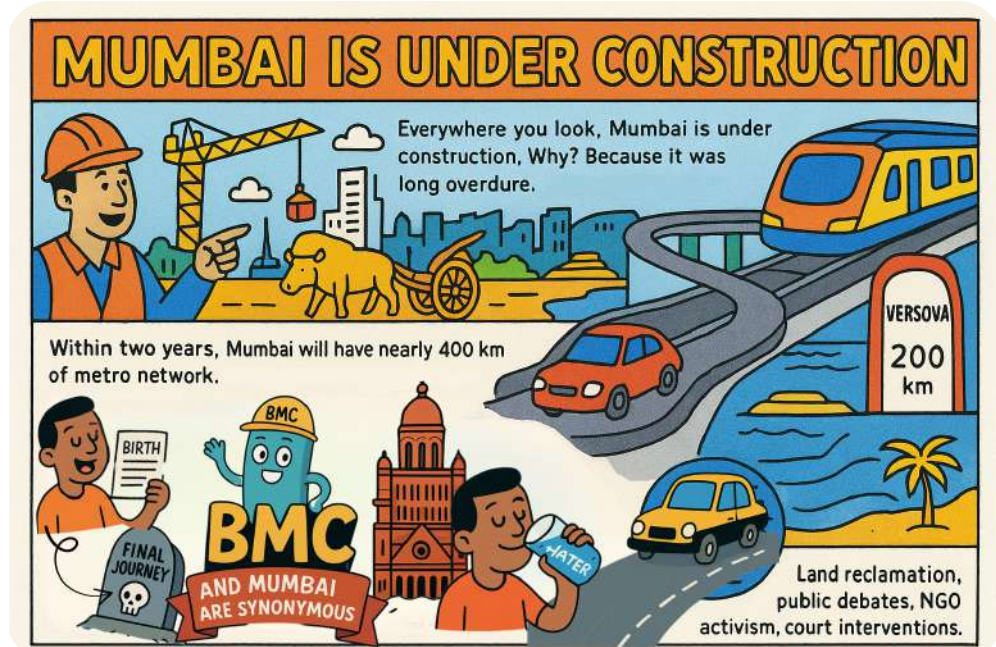
Still, to put things in context, I will mention a few points. Right now, we are passing through a transition. Every major city in the world goes through life cycles. Mumbai has seen cycles in 1820, the 1860s, the 1950s, and in 1960 when Maharashtra was established. Today, we are experiencing another major cycle: a total facelift of the city, both public and private infrastructure.

Before becoming Commissioner, I was a Mumbaikar, and afterwards also I will remain a Mumbaikar. The only difference is that I am now looking from the inside, and I would like to share some glimpses with you, so you can peep into what the BMC is doing for the city of Mumbai.

BMC and Mumbai are synonymous. They cannot be differentiated. You may love BMC, you may hate BMC, but you cannot ignore BMC. The entire bandwidth of life—from birth to departure—comes under BMC. The birth certificate is given by BMC and the final journey certificate is also given by BMC.

But how do you describe Mumbai? I have never fully understood. There are hundreds of fictional and non-fictional novels on Mumbai, countless Bollywood films and songs, yet everyone has their own interpretation of the

BMC's primary role remains civic services, but in recent years we have invested heavily in infrastructure. In fact, 52% of our capital budget is dedicated to it. Yes, BMC is financially strong, but with that comes responsibility. We carry 150,000 employees with us—50,000 of them sweepers who keep the city clean. With infrastructure growth & private redevelopment, we are on the cusp of a new city with the old spirit.



Everywhere you look, Mumbai is under construction. Why? Because it was long overdue. Take one example: 1857 is remembered for the first war of independence, when freedom fighters rode horses with double-barrel guns and swords. That same year, London began constructing its first metro near Paddington. London now has 400 km of metro network. Within two years, Mumbai will also have nearly 400 km. We are trying to achieve in 10–12 years what others did over 150 years. This pace must be sustained, and I am glad that every Mumbaikar is supporting it.

No project remains on the drawing board. Every project is under execution. South Mumbaikars are already enjoying the Coastal Road, which will extend to Versova, then to Bhayandar, Dahisar, Virar, and finally connect to the ambitious Wadhwani Port. This port alone has the capacity to transform not just Maharashtra, but the Indian economy in the next five to seven years.

Other major projects include the Navi Mumbai International Airport and Atal Setu. Completion dates are often delayed due to operational issues, but projects are steadily progressing. At the same time, the private sector is contributing through redevelopment projects. Debates continue about whether we can sustain such redevelopment, but the trajectory resembles New York's in the mid-19th century. Land reclamation, public debates, NGO activism, court interventions—Mumbai is going through the same trajectory. The transformation of Mumbai is truly on the horizon.

BMC's primary role remains civic services, but in recent years we have invested heavily in infrastructure. In fact, 52% of our capital budget is dedicated to it. Yes, BMC is financially strong, but with that comes responsibility. We carry 150,000 employees with us—50,000 of them sweepers who keep the city clean.

Mumbai was once known for its underworld. Today, its real underworld is in terms of infrastructure. BMC provides more than 4,500 MLD of potable water daily, 365 days a year. We own seven dams across Thane, Palghar, and Nashik, along with the entire supply network, much of it underground and invisible to citizens.

The Sewage treatment project is underway. Until recently, 3,000 MLD of minimally treated water was discharged into the sea, damaging beach quality. By December 2027, seven new sewage

treatment plants will be operational, releasing water treated to near-potable levels. By 2028, we expect significant improvement in sea-water quality around Mumbai's beaches.

With infrastructure growth and private redevelopment, we are on the cusp of a new city with the old spirit. I will pause here, as I would rather respond to your queries than give a monologue. Thank you very much, and I take this opportunity to thank the Rotarians for their noble projects in health, education, and rehabilitation, in partnership with Mumbai and BMC.

ROTARIANS ASK

Hi Bhushanji, welcome to our club. Thank you for the work you are doing. You are doing a fabulous job. We also saw during Anand Chaturdashi how smoothly things went. So thank you so much. Just two small questions. One: you said we have about 150,000 employees—are we doing something to automate our services to reduce the cost burden? And second, why do we play musical chairs with our roads?

Satyan, you met me on Sunday. At that time you did not give any hint that you would be asking questions to me. See, the number of employees and the total population, if you see the ratio, if you see in isolation, 150,000 looks like a very big number. Of course, it is big. I am not saying that it is a small thing. But it is catering to about 22 million people. So, the majority of it, almost one-third of it, is conservancy staff which is taking care of maintenance of the infrastructure, including sweeping and sanitation.

So, a lot of automation is already in operation. For example, I will...



ROTARY FLAG EXCHANGE IN VIENNA



The Rotary Club Wien holds a special place in Rotary history. Founded in 1925, it was among the very first clubs established in Continental Europe and went on to host a Rotary Convention



Rtn. Peter Born recently visited Vienna, where he had the opportunity to meet with members of three distinguished Rotary Clubs: Wien-Mark Aurel, Wien-Stadtgarten, and the honourable Rotary Club Wien.



as early as 1931 — a remarkable achievement for its time.

During his visit, Rtn. Born presented our new banner design, which was received with great appreciation by the clubs.

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TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



Jt. Hon. Secy. Rhea Bhungara, PP Vineet Bhatnagar and Rtn. Rina Deora



Rtn. Ramon Kripalaney, guest speaker Bhushan Gagrani, Mrs. Sheetal Gagrani and guests



Rtn. Vivek Kothari, Rtn. Dr. Cyres Mehta and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain



Rtn. S V Prasad, Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad, Rtn. Ashok Jatia, Jt. Hon. Secy. Rhea Bhungara and President Bimal Mehta



Rtn. Vita Dani, guest speaker Bhushan Gagrani, Rtn. Anant Singhania, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, Rtn. Poonam Lalvani and Rtn. Puneet Wadhwa



Rtn. Vivek Kothari, IPP Satyan Israni, Rtn. Rina Deora, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain and Rtn. Ptn. Suresh Deora



Visiting Rtn. Bernhard Steinrneche, Rtn. Puneet Chhatwal and President Bimal Mehta



Rtn. Gautam Doshi, Rtn. Siddhart Bhimrajka, President Bimal Mehta, Rtn. Akhil Sanghi and Jt. Hon. Secy. Rhea Bhungara



President Bimal Mehta wishes Rtn. Rina Deora for her birthday



Rotarians Dushyant Dave, Pranay Vakil, Rtn. Ptn. Rajul Parikh, PP Preeti Mehta, Rtn. Renu Basu, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, Rtn. Ptn. Sweta Vakil and Rtn. Anand Parikh



President Bimal Mehta thanks Mr. Bhushan Gagrani for his time spent with the Club



Rose



Join us at The Mezz



For an In-camera session with
Author and myth-buster **Ms Ami Ganatra**

who will talk to us about

**Decoding Dharma - Unraveling how our Indian
epics are so relevant even today**

18th September 2025

from 6.00pm to 9.30pm

RSVP: Rashmi Kotian +91 97691 40141

The House of Rose, Darabshaw House,
Ballard Estate, Mumbai

RISE UP GIRLS AND BOYS

INSPIRING SOFT SKILLS WORKSHOPS AT BHAVISHYA YAAN NMJ SCHOOL



The much-anticipated Rise Up Girls and Boys soft skills workshops and AI Tutor inauguration at Bhavishya Yaan, NM Joshi School, were successfully held on 4th and 5th September, after six months of planning and preparation.

On September 4th, three classrooms were beautifully decorated with posters created by students and teachers, setting the stage for workshops on Artificial Intelligence, Public Speaking, and Emotional Intelligence. These sessions were specially designed for students from Standards 7 to 10 and were conducted by management students of SP Jain School of Global Management.

Despite the Ganapati holidays, 80 eager students arrived on time, excited to learn from their new 'teachers.' They were joined by 15 management students, accompanied by Prof. Nada, Prof. Firdaus, and Amitesh from Rotary's E-Club of Switzerland. Students were divided into three groups and rotated through the workshops, ensuring that every participant experienced all three

sessions back-to-back over three hours.

The interactive presentations were simple, engaging, and full of valuable lessons. The Emotional Intelligence workshop particularly resonated with the students, with its colour-coded approach to emotions leaving a lasting impression. The enthusiasm and energy in the classrooms—both from learners and facilitators—were inspiring to witness.

At the close of the day, students received stationery kits and snacks, their smiling goodbyes reflecting both gratitude and joy. Some even shared their personal reflections on the workshops, adding heartfelt touches to the event.

Faculty later gathered to reflect on the day's success, unanimously agreeing that the initiative had surpassed expectations. With students asking for more, the consensus was clear—Rise Up Girls and Boys must return to Bhavishya Yaan soon.



AI TUTOR INAUGURATION AT BY NMJ SCHOOL - A TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

On September 5th, NM Joshi School was abuzz with excitement as students and Bhavishya Yaan teachers gathered for the much-awaited inauguration of the AI Tutor. The school was beautifully prepared, with posters at the entrance created by students and teachers, setting the mood for the celebration.

The programme began with a warm welcome speech by Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad, Mentor of Bhavishya Yaan at NMJ School, who outlined the AI Tutor initiative and shared highlights from the workshops held the previous day. Standard 10 students Yogita and Yashraj then took charge as comperes, guiding the event with confidence and flair.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the lamp, followed by the ribbon-cutting and unveiling of 38 brand-new tablets donated by SP Jain School of Global Management. These tablets, equipped with AI Tutor, will support the students' learning journey. Girish Rao of Infotroopers, the Computer Skills Knowledge Partner, gave a demonstration of the AI Tutor, having been closely involved in the project from the outset.

The celebrations continued with a vibrant cultural programme. Highlights included a Ganapati dance, a speech by Disha from Standard 8 imagining AI as a classroom robot, patriotic and classical performances, a Robot Dance by Standard 6, and creative sustainability acts in rap and mime by Standard 10 students. A humorous skit portrayed the AI Tutor as a helpful friend, replacing heavy school bags and 'Google Auntie.'

The day was also special as it coincided with Teachers' Day. Students expressed their gratitude with a heartfelt vote of thanks, led by Yogita and Yashraj.

Rotary extends sincere appreciation to Professor Dr. Nada Sayrah, Amitesh, Rohini, Rtn. Mudit Jain, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, and all distinguished guests from the Rotary Club of Bombay for gracing this memorable occasion.



HONOURING MR. PUNEET CHHATWAL AND TAJ



Rotarians gathered to celebrate the outstanding leadership of Rtn. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and CEO of Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL). Under his stewardship, the Taj brand has reached extraordinary milestones, being recognised as India's strongest brand for the fourth consecutive year and fifth time overall, and as the world's strongest hotel brand for the fourth year in a row, according to the Brand Finance Report 2025.

Mr. Chhatwal has transformed IHCL into a "house of brands" with more than 550 hotels and diverse verticals, blending innovation with the Tata Group's timeless values. His recent appointments to the boards of Tata Digital and Titan highlight Tata Sons'

confidence in his vision. Notably, IHCL's warm and collaborative partnership with both Rotary and the BMC strengthened further during the pandemic, when the company provided unwavering support.

Looking ahead, Rotarians expressed excitement for the partnership between Mr. Chhatwal and Mr. Bhushan Gagrani in bringing to life Taj Bandstand, India's most iconic upcoming hotel. As a token of admiration, Mr. Chhatwal was presented with a specially designed memento by talented Rtn. Khurshed Poonawala.

In his address, Mr. Chhatwal warmly thanked Rotarians and colleagues past and present, acknowledging that Taj's

success is rooted in generations of emotional connection. "Taj is not just a brand—it has become an emotion," he remarked, recalling how families have celebrated life's milestones at Taj properties for over a century.

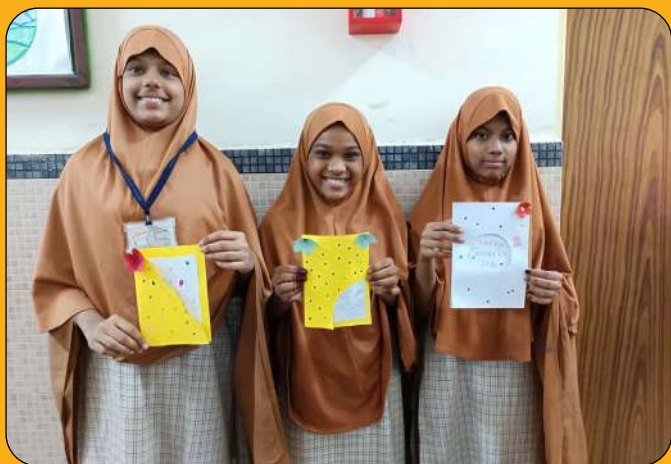
Speaking of the future, he emphasised the role of the BMC and Mr. Gagrani in enabling permissions for Taj Bandstand. With only the final clearance remaining, he expressed confidence that this project would create India's next global icon, comparable to Marina Bay Sands in Singapore or the Burj in Dubai.

The evening concluded with applause for Mr. Chhatwal's visionary leadership and for Taj's enduring legacy of excellence.





TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION AT BHAVISHYA YAAN BYCULLA SCHOOL



MONTHLY PATIENT COUNT FOR MONTH OF AUGUST '25

Director:

Rtn. Swati Jajodia

Committee chair:

Rtn. Swati Jajodia

Co-chair:

PP Vijaykumar Jatia

Dialysis

PLATINUM HOSPITAL, MULUND	7
AASTHA HOSPITAL, MANOR	21
SUKH SAGAR HOSPITAL, DAHISAR	12
SHATABDI HOSPITAL, GOVANDI	107
SHATABDI HOSPITAL, KANDIVALI	20
SAMARPAN, GHATKOPAR	97
LIFELINE MEDICARE HOSPITAL CHARKOP	46
DR.M.L.DHAWALE MEMORIAL TRUST HOSPITAL, PALGHAR	34
K.J. SOMAIYA HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, SION	37
ACHARYA SHRI RAMESH DIALYSIS CENTRE, ANDHERI	58
ROTARY YODA DIALYSIS CENTRE, SYMBIOSIS	100
SWAMI SHRADDHANAND HOSPITAL, VASAI WEST	62
MALLIKA HOSPITAL, JOGESHWARI WEST	32
ADHIKARI LIFE LINE HOSPITAL, BOISAR	30
TOTAL	663



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SEPTEMBER

27

2025

Royal Bombay Yacht Club

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Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm.

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MEDICAL CAMP AND CHECK-UP

for the
Inmates and Staff of
Mumbai Central Prison, Arthur Road

SEPTEMBER
SATURDAY **27** AT 11 AM
2025

Mumbai Central Prison, Main Entrance
Sane Guruji Marg, Mumbai 400011.

[CLICK HERE FOR DIRECTIONS](#)

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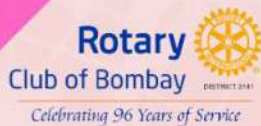
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Adult Literacy Committee

For attending this programme, due to security considerations,
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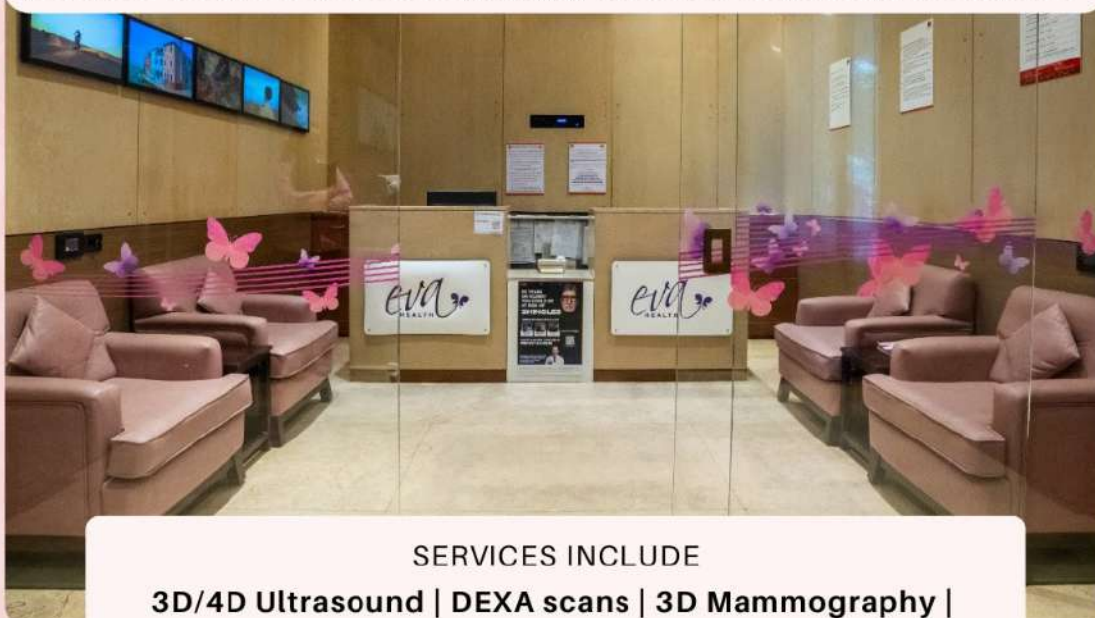


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LET'S TEE OFF FOR CHANGE...

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.

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GOLF**

**ONCE IN A
LIFETIME
EXPERIENCE**

**POWERING
THE INDIAN
ADULT
LITERACY
MOVEMENT**

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ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



Sept 16
Rtn. Pilloo
Aga



Sept 18
Rtn. Khurshed
Poonawala



Sept 21
Rtn. Suresh
Jagtiani



Sept 17
Rtn. Meher
Vakil Taff



Sept 20
Rtn. Aziz
Javeri



Sept 21
Rtn.
Shyamniwas
Somani

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS



Sept 18
Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Soonnu
Balsara

Sept 20
Rtn. Ptn. Dr. Fernaz
Dotivala

Sept 20
Rtn. Ptn. Chetan
Daiya

Sept 22
Rtn. Ptn. Geetu
Kirpalaney

NEXT TUESDAY:

Diipa Buller Khosla and Oleg Buller Khosla will address the Club



Diipa Buller-Khosla is a global beauty entrepreneur, social advocate, and digital trailblazer. Founder of conscious beauty brand indē wild, she blends Ayurveda with science. A human rights law graduate, she has represented global brands, spoken at WEF and the British House of Commons, and co-founded Post For Change.

Oleg is the co-founder of indē wild, a conscious beauty brand blending Ayurveda and science, and has successfully raised over \$4M in funding to scale globally. He also founded Post for Change, a non-profit leveraging social media and influencers to drive impact on women's rights, climate change, and mental health.



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PP Ashish Vaid	PP Framroze Mehta
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Khurshed Poonawala

Director Sherebanu Baldiwal

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Animal Welfare & Wildlife conservation	Bipin Vazirani
Legal Aid and Awareness	Tahera Mandviwala

Director Siddharth Bhimrajka

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Ananda Yaan	Kaushal Mehta
Transformation Salon	Ratna Kapoor Sharma

Director Renu Basu

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	Mihir Mody
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Director Swati Jajodia

Cotton Green Clinic	Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala
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Dharamshala	Miral Shah
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Director Mudit Jatia

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Director Jaymin Jhaveri

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Rotaract Clubs	Amea Tanna
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
Interact Schools	Mudit Jain