

THE GATEWAY

Rotary
Club of Bombay



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

The 10-day festival of the elephant-headed god Lord Ganesha, also known as Ganapati, began with the installation of idols in private homes, public places, with Ganesh Chaturthi on September 2nd amidst chants of 'Ganapati Bappa Morya', with 'Gauri Visarjan' on September

7th. The festival ended with Anant Chaturdashi on September 12th amidst chants of 'Ganapati Bappa Morya, pudhchya varshi lavkar yaa' and the *visarjan* (immersion) of idols. In Maharashtra, this probably is amongst the biggest and most popularly celebrated festival. Idols are installed and worshipped for varying durations of one to 10 days before they are immersed in water bodies.

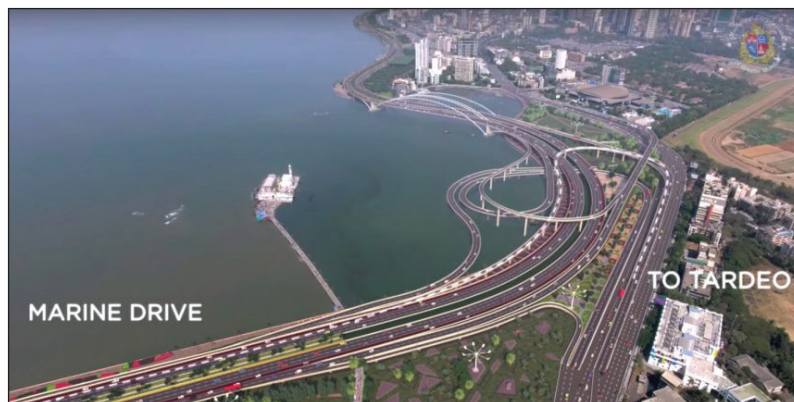
Lord Ganesha is also known as the *Vignaharta*, the remover or demolisher of obstacles. As the God of Beginnings, Lord Ganesha is honoured at the start of rites and ceremonies. Lord Ganesha is also invoked as patron of letters and learning during writing sessions. He is associated with *buddhi* (cleverness) and love of intelligence.

Popular throughout Asia, and now also becoming known in the West, Lord Ganesha has many names and symbols. A great deal of importance and emphasis are placed upon him in the traditions of Asia, not just in India, but also in Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Thailand, Mauritius, Bali (Indonesia), Bangladesh, China and Japan. In fact, the 20,000 Rupiah note in Indonesian currency has a picture of Lord Ganesha, revered as the God of wisdom, art and science.

To fight the twin challenges of water and air pollution during the festival and to protect and conserve the environment, an eco-friendly Ganesha festival celebration is encouraged. Awareness has increased in recent times but this needs to be followed by one and all who participate in this festival – to enjoy it in its true spirit while preserving the environment.

On September 8th, 2019, we learnt of the demise of Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India – Mr. Ram Jethmalani – at the grand old age of 95, just a few days short of his 96th birthday. A man who strode the courts of law in India as a colossus and a legal luminary, in whose presence opponents worried and judges tended to become deferential. A lawyer at an unheard of early age of 17 years, through an exception made by court, when the minimum age for practicing as a lawyer was 21 years. Right from the famous Nanavati (Prem Ahuja murder) case in 1959, Mr. Jethmalani's legal career never looked back or plateaued and kept scaling higher peaks, taking on cases which others considered unwinnable or unpopular. As a politician, a maverick, he was blunt and outspoken in his inimitable way. As a colourful, witty, charming person with indefatigable energy and life, he had many friends and was immensely respected. Our club indeed has had the good fortune of having Mr. Ram Jethmalani as a Guest Speaker.

President Preeti Mehta

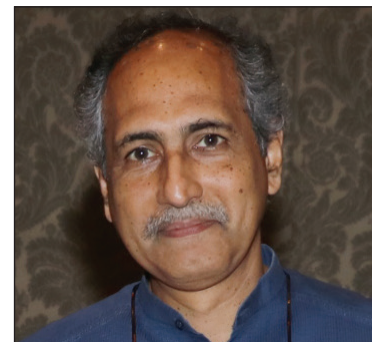


A ROAD AWAKENING

Architect **Rahul Kadri** who spoke to Rotarians at the last Tuesday meeting emphasized that the needs of the many must outweigh development decisions that benefit a few

SIX PILs were filed against Mumbai's Coastal Road development. **Architect Rahul Kadri** visited the Rotary Club of Bombay on September 3, 2019, and spoke about the plan and some alternatives.

"Six PILs were filed as per the Coastal Road is concerned and the Bombay High Court found that the work and many serious procedures were not followed in accordance with the law of the country. The High Court has stopped work until requisite permissions have been got. That is where the project is now – it has been declared illegal. It has not got the environmental clearance that it needs, has violated the Wildlife Act of India and ignored a lot of issues mentioned in the Wildlife Act. Fortunately, as a country, we believe in system, and things are connected: if you do something at one end it affects the other end. We have acts like the Wildlife Act, Environmental



Act which acknowledge this systematic approach that the country believes in."

On the other hand, one hears citizens ask what is wrong with reclamation? Rahul reminded Rotarians that a law has been passed banning reclamation in the city. He says, "After Nariman Point and Cuffe Parade were reclaimed, they understood their mistakes. Reclamation in the south actually affected Juhu beach. When I was very young, Juhu beach was a very deep beach. If you go there now, it is less than one-third of that

TODAY'S SPEAKER: MADHAV NALAPAT ON GEO POLITICS AND US, CHINA AND INDIA POWER SHIFTS.



President Preeti wishes Rtn. Ashok Jatia for his birthday



Rotarians Farhat Jamal, President Preeti, Manish Reshamwala and Ritu Desai with speaker Rahul Kadri



Rotarians Mohit Jain, Soheli Shikari and Pulin Shroff



Rotarians PP Ramesh Narayan, PP Rumi Jehangir and Sameer Kaji



Rotarians Peter Born, Tanya Sood and Jagdish Malkani with speaker Rahul Kadri



Rtn. Ptn. Yasmin Divecha, PE Rtn. Framroze Mehta with Samira and Bonnita Bulchandani

depth. Reclamation done for the Bandra-Worli Sea Link at the mouth of the Mithi river affected Dadar beach – it has almost disappeared. So, when you reclaim, it affects tidal movements.”

“One of the things the High Court said was that adequate studies had not been done to show the tidal movements or how the fish spawn. The 38 km of length has a lot of rocky shore suitable for the fish to spawn. So, a lot of fish that we get, which can be caught in the deep sea, is actually spawned on the shore. So pomfret, Bombay duck, red snapper and rawas – a lot of their eggs are spawned on the shore. They live deeper but they come in and they go out. That is also why, in the month of May and June, no fishing is allowed and the mother is actually allowed to spawn and go back. That is an overview of the HC order and why the work has been stopped.”

“Speaking of transportation, let me use the analogy of

human beings as packets of energy, arteries as transportation networks and our organs as places of work. For an artery to remain clean, you need to take ensure your triglyceride levels are not too high; they are the ones that clot the arteries. But we love to eat simple sugar which is the problem. Likewise, the simple sugar that clogs the arteries – the transportation network in a city – is the private car.”

“We love private cars but they are the sugar of the transportation network; you can have it but you need to restrict it. The car occupies maximum amount of space in comparison to public transport. A minibus occupies 17 metre of the road. If that bus is full, with 30 people, what happens when you take those 30 people and put them into cars? It is going to occupy 250 metre. That is the amount of bloat. So when we say that there is a traffic problem. It is the cars that are the problem.”

“If we think in terms of system, even in the bloodstream, they are now saying that fats give you energy slowly and they are fairly dense. So they are most efficient carriers of energy. Similarly, if we talk about the system of transportation, there are five ways people take – walk, take the bus, take local trains, BEST bus, and then there are private cars.”

“Does anyone know how many people walk to work? 50 per cent! It is government-verified data. Why is it so high? In older parts of the city, where they have shops or workshops, they are right there. Your driver, house-help might live nearby. So Bombay is healthy, in that sense. Next is local trains, 22-25 per cent, followed by 10-12 per cent on BEST buses. It keeps fluctuating. It had gone down but after the ticket prices being reduced, it has doubled in the last six weeks. Private cars have increased from 3 per cent to 6 per cent. Shared cabs have come up.

Bikes have increased. So bikes constitute about 1 per cent. Cycles are at about a half per cent.”

“So, what is going to change? About 80 lakh people travel by train everyday. The metro is going to change everything. It is going to come alive in the next two to three years and revolutionise the way we commute because it is going to get 20 lakh seats into the system. Unfortunately, the metro is a slightly expensive way of travelling and is also modern and air-conditioned. So, the price is going to be higher. People using the bus or local may not switch but people going by 1st class in local trains or AC trains can. Metro 3 alone is going to have, in the first phase, 14 lakh seats and in the next phase 17 lakh seats. It is going to be from Cuffe Parade to Seepz and for the first time there are going to be stations at areas not connected by local trains (Worli, Cuffe parade, BKC, Nariman point, Airport, Seepz).”

FACT: During Nazi rule, Rotary Clubs did not appear to have had a unified policy towards the fascist regime: while several German Rotary clubs disbanded their organizations in 1933, others practiced a policy of appeasement or collaborated. In Munich, the club removed a number of Rotarians, Jewish and non-Jewish, who were politically unacceptable to the regime, including Thomas Mann (already in exile in Switzerland). 12 members resigned in sympathy with the expelled members.



Speaker Rahul Kadri



Rtn Zinia Lawyer asks a question



Rtn. Oleksandr Shypka from Rotary Club LVIV - Centre Ukraine with President Preeti Mehta



Rtn. Ritu Desai



Rtn. Shanta Chatterji asks a question

“A government report says, that of the 14 lakh seats, 4 lakh are going to be of people switching from car to metro. It is very likely to happen because the areas that the metro connects to serve about 30 million people. So it is of very well planned and going through the densely populated areas of the city. Even a slight shift is going to be a huge change on the road. It is going to free 30 per cent of road space. Keeping that in mind and comparing what a public transport does and what a coastal road does, the coastal road is the most expensive road ever built in the history of humankind. It will cost Rs 1300 crore per kilometre. It is a complete waste of money. If you look at how many people it will serve, it will serve a population of 1 lakh people – that’s all.”

“The Sea Link was designed to serve 1.2 lakh people a day as per the project report. In the last 10 years of its existence, it has never crossed 58,000 cars a day. And 38,000 is

the average. So this 38 km road to be built at Rs 12700 crore till Dahisar, and by the time it nears the end, it will reach Rs 40,000 crore. The Metro III which serves 14 lakh people, even the more costly infrastructure of the underground metro, is costing only Rs 23,000 crore. So you can see the difference. In terms of efficiency or investment or environment, the Coastal Road does not make sense. Ultimately, cars going on the coastal road will have to come on to city roads creating more traffic jams. So you are going to spend Rs 40,000 crores for traffic jams? In terms of pollution, development, location or any parameters, it does not make sense for the city. It is sugar which we like but we don’t need.”

“It is important that we make sure everything around the Metro is well-integrated. The MMRDA has to work with the BMC to develop these areas since there will be 112 new stations. These stations are going to become points of

development and the density of population is going to increase in those areas. Metro runs every three minutes which means that about 250 people will be coming in and coming out from the stations every three minutes. Every station is going to need a lot of development.”

Also, Rahul suggested we spend time making footpaths walkable as they were servicing 50 per cent of the population. He gave the example of Japan in the ’80s and present. There was tremendous traffic earlier. Now, they have 10 lanes of metros and cars have reduced to a mere 1 per cent with amazing landscape and wide footpaths fringed by beautiful trees. We need footpaths. We also need to modernize BEST. In the ’60s, there was a monopoly with BEST to supply electricity and hence fares were subsidised. After the monopoly was abolished, the subsidy was lost and there has hardly been any investment since. There are almost 3,000 buses running

but no investment. Why not subsidize BEST?”

“The other least costly and effective way is the BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit) – 20 cities have already started doing it. If we manage to give road space, there can be a huge difference. Also, if at all we want anything to get on the roads, it should be tunnels. It is not expensive and will deal with all traffic issues. We also lack the intelligence to give feedback and evaluate investments and improvements. There are many bodies working individually, not one collectively. We need a transportation cell that gets all the data and is constantly updated.”

“To maintain balance, we need to adjust and invest in things that are healthy. So invest in electricity, AC buses, trains. Democracy is always struggle between individual good and public good. Elites would always want the individual good but a balance is what we need.”

ENGAGEMENT WITH KIDS

ENVIRONMENTALLY-SAFE PAPER GANESHAS



THE Child Welfare Committee sent a group of 13 street children from Salaam Baalak for a Paper Ganesha workshop at CSVSM by renowned artist Arzaan Khambatta. We thank him and artist Brinda Miller for including our children in this wonderfully innovative and creative session, teaching them to make their own idol in an environmentally-friendly way.

DROPS OF LIFE – A BLOOD DONATION CAMP



Students of the ISDI WPP School Of Communication organised a Blood

Donation Camp on August 31st, 2019, in collaboration with the Breach Candy Hospital. The donation was organised in memory of two students: Pankti Parikh and Kevin Kapadia, who passed away in a car accident two years ago. They loved helping others and serving society. The day's events were organised, keeping them in mind, by three of their fellow students – Vignesh Shanbhag, Mehak Bhatia and Ayra Kulkarni.

ISDI invited 35 **Bhavishya Yaan** children from the GK Marg BMC School to their campus and they spent the afternoon playing games, colouring and dancing. Doctors from the Breach Candy Hospital created awareness by telling the children about the importance of blood donation. We thank ISDI and Pankti and Kevin's parents for arranging return gifts and snacks. The children were motivated, and sensitised to important issues that surround them today.

ART COMPETITION FOR BY



"Art is the expression of the profoundest thoughts in the simplest way" – Albert Einstein

Ten students of **Bhavishya Yaan** from the GK marg and NM Joshi schools participated in an art competition at CCI Club on August 9th, 2019.

The Rotary Club of Bombay thanks CCI Committee members Ramesh



Daswani, Suresh Gurnani, Heena Kapadia, Kartikeya Khatau and Silloo Medhora for organising this and giving an opportunity to 85 under-privileged students to express their thoughts. A special mention for CCI President Premal Udani who spent time encouraging the children and appreciating their work. The judges, Ms Poonam Agrawal and Ms Sonali Iyengar, studied all the paintings in great detail.

Bhavishya Yaan kids from GK Marg made us proud in both the girls and boys categories. Sara Sansare from GK Marg bagged the first prize and Adarsh Kori from GK Marg got second prize. Sara was appreciated by senior members of the CCI Club for her painting 'Freedom with Responsibility!' under the topic 'Independence Day'.

She said: "Independence Day gave us freedom but we got it through peace, not war. So, I used the dove as a metaphor. The bird symbolises peace and any bird by itself has the freedom to fly anywhere. This is the freedom one should have and explore but keeping country first, and that is why I put two flags in the bird's hands. That, even if we, in India, are free now – we should do things keeping India first in our minds."

The CCI Club Committee took special care in arranging breakfast and lunch for the children. Each child also received paints and a certificate of participation.

SOUTH AMERICA CALLING

THE Fellowship & Assimilation Committee is pleased to announce its International Fellowship Trip to South America from March 7th to March 24th, 2020, for 18 days !

It will visit 4 countries: Peru, Chile, Argentina and Brazil. It will cover all the bucket list places that we have always heard about: Lima, Cuzco, Sacred Valley, the ruins of Machu Picchu, Torres Del Paine, the breath-taking expanses and glaciers of Patagonia, the mighty Iguazu Falls, Santiago, Buenos Aires, the gigantic statue of Christ the Redeemer, the experience of the samba-fuelled nightlife and the glamorous beach culture of Rio de Janeiro is only a part of many other fabulous and exciting experiences that we have put together.

Accommodation will be in four/five star international hotels everywhere and we



will engage the services of the best local guides and top class transport facilities. In fact, in Peru and Brazil, we will staying at the world-famous five-star Belmond Hotel properties everywhere. We will get a chance to savour the lovely and varied South American cuisine and many options will be available for vegetarian travellers too.

South America Tour - 3 Options - Starting March 7th, 2020:

Option 1 - Peru - 6N/7D - USD

2200 Per Person on DBL Occupancy / USD 3130 Per Person on SGL Occupancy Highlights: Lima - Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu - Cusco - Vistadome Train - Hotel Belmond Experience

Option 2 - Peru, Chile, Argentina - 13N/14D - USD 4200 Per Person on DBL Occupancy / USD 5805 Per Person on SGL Occupancy Highlights: Lima - Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu - Cusco - Vistadome Train - Santiago - Torres Del Paine - El Calafate - Perito Moreno - Buenos Aires

Option 3 - Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil - 16N/17D - USD 5200 on DBL Occupancy / USD 7285 Per Person on SGL Occupancy Highlights: Lima - Sacred Valley - Machu Picchu - Cusco - Vistadome Train - Santiago - Torres Del Paine - El Calafate - Perito Moreno - Buenos Aires - Iguazu Falls - Corcovado Beaches - Sugar Loaf - Christ The Redeemer

Note - Airfares will be subject to availability depending on option selected.

Please note all the above costs are based on a minimum of 31 and a maximum of 40 persons travelling together.

Interested members may contact: Rtn. Ashok Jatia, Fellowship Chair ashok.jatia@rhythmrealty.in Rtn. Rahil Shah, Fellowship Co-Chairperson, rahilns@gmail.com

ASIATIC GETS A NEW PRESIDENT

The Rotary Club of Bombay has been actively invested in the Asiatic Society of Mumbai through its many funding and renovation interventions.

For the first time in its 215-year-old history, a woman has been appointed as the president of the Society. The announcement of 77-year-old Vispi

Balaporia's appointment was made on Saturday after she reportedly won 107 of 163 votes. Elections for the head post of the historical institution are held every three years and a person can serve only two terms. Along with Balaporia, the society also elected Meenal Kshirsagar, Yogesh Kamdar, Shehernaz Nalwalla and Vithal C Nadkarni as



vice-presidents. Surendra Kulkarni is the new secretary. Additionally, five members have been elected for the vacant seats on the managing committee. They include Mangala Sirdeshpande and Sanjeevani Kher. The Urban Heritage Committee looks forward to planning and working with Vispi and the entire Asiatic team on our existing as well as upcoming projects.



We are active on social media with over 6,500 followers. Find us on facebook, twitter and instagram with the handle @rcb1929. Find us on linkedin and youtube with the handle rotary club of bombay. Please follow us and like/share the posts.

RCB'S CARE FOR SENIORS

LAUGHTER YOGA FOR ANANDA YAAN ELDERS



LAUGHTER Yoga is the best medicine prescribed for seniors to keep them in good cheer. On August 23rd, 2019, one such session was conducted by Mr Rajat Dua, a certified yoga teacher with over 12 years of experience. Members of **Ananda Yaan** (Dr. E Moses Road centre) experienced joy and peace with Laughter Yoga and Guided Meditation for the first time. They forgot about all their problems for a moment and laughed their hearts out as kids do.

We thank Dr. Nootan Pakhare from Kaivalyadhama for arranging this session for our members. Our gratitude to Mr Rajat Dua for taking time out and he certainly has the blessings of our elders for giving them this wonderful experience.

WORLD PARENTS DAY FOR SENIORS



World Parents Day was celebrated at **Ananda Yaan's** Byculla and Dr. E Moses centres. The theme this year was – Honour Your Parents. A team of young and enthusiastic college

students called the Majji Band conducted the event at RCB's Byculla centre, and IB college students of B D Somani conducted the event at the Dr. E Moses centre.

The enthusiasm of these youngsters was infectious. Everyone played games and sang Bollywood songs. The students were also very keen to get to know the stories of our members and so a few members shared their life struggles and how they overcame them.

We thank our project partners Dignity Foundation for organising this and Ms Reesha Gandhi and her friends from B D Somani and Majji Band too for making a memorable and lasting connection.

ANANDA YAAN'S GOT TALENT



Bridging the Generations! Dignity Foundation's quarterly event was held at the Veer Savarkar auditorium on August 21st. The theme was "Dignity Generations".

Whereas, at last year's event, senior citizens showcased their talents on stage solo, senior citizens at this event performed with millennials, which was an absolute delight. Both the **Ananda Yaan** centres, Byculla and E Moses, participated in the event. A pair of seniors and juniors from the Byculla centre performed a Marathi Lavani while the E Moses centre presented a Koli dance.

Seniors deftly matched dance steps and voice modulations of their junior counterparts. You would be forgiven for thinking that this event was straight out of the show India's Got Talent. They practiced hard for weeks to put up a stupendous act. The focus of the event was to increase inter-generational interaction between seniors and youth and also to facilitate a greater understanding of senior citizens by the younger generation in India today.

A CULTURAL JOURNEY



THE In-Camera Committee's 'Iran by Road' was held on August 29th, 2019. The pictorial talk, by the car enthusiast and *Autocar* magazine editor Hormazd Sorabjee, was attended by many Rotarians and their spouses at the lovely home of Rtns. Arin and Zeenia Master. The presentation was humorous, engaging and showcased the rich culture and history of this often misunderstood country. The audience listened to interesting episodes about Iran and saw images of stunning landscapes and architecture. The programme ended with a lively Q&A session in which Rotarians who had visited Iran also shared their experiences. Rtns. Arin and Zeenia had thoughtfully provided cocktails and a delicious Parsi and Irani meal which paired well with the talk on Iran! The Chairperson and Co-chairperson of the In- Camera Committee, Zinia Lawyer and Ritu Desai, thanked the gracious hosts, the speaker and the members who attended this event.



MILTON

FRESH IS FUN



Explore the color variants of the insulated Steely Tiffin on [Amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)

treo

Relish the tasty parathas without gaining on the calories.



Check out the NON-STICK cookware range from Treo on [Amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: ZULFIQUAR MEMON

ZULFIQUAR began his career by assisting his father, a renowned Criminal Lawyer Mr. Majeed Memon. He was actively involved in two sensational matters: the Extradition of Nadeem Saifi in London and representing fashion designer Anand Jon in Los Angeles and New York who was accused in multiple counts of sexual abuse.

Zulfiqar is a Harvard-trained Negotiator. Sensing potential in the international white collar crime /



business crime industry, Zulfiqar incorporated MZM Legal, a specialised White Collar Crime Law firm in the year 2005 with a close friend. The firm today has metamorphosed into a Full-service Award winning Law firm with two fully

functional offices in India consisting of 40+ Lawyers and expertise over several verticals.

Under his dynamic leadership, the firm today boasts of having worked with leading Global Law firms and has executed assignments with "Baker McKenzie", "Paul Hastings LLP", "Foley and Lardner LLP" to name a few. He will speak on **The Evolution of White Collar Crime and the Legal Practice.**

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER 17
RTN. ASHWIN
DIDWANIA



SEPTEMBER 17
RTN. CYRUS
GUZDER



SEPTEMBER 18
RTN. KHURSHED
POONAWALA



SEPTEMBER 20
RTN. AZIZ
JAVERI



SEPTEMBER 21
RTN. SURESH
JAGTIANI



SEPTEMBER 21
RTN. SHYAMNIVAS
SOMANI



SEPTEMBER 22
RTN. (DR.) PERCY
CHIBBER

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 18
RTN. PTN. DR. SOONNU BALSARA

SEPTEMBER 20
RTN. PTN. CHETAN DAIYA

RTN. PTN. FERNAZ DOTIVALA

SEPTEMBER 22
RTN. PTN. GEETU KIRPALANAY

NEW INITIATIVE

There is no better deed than to feed a hungry person, especially a child. So to mark the event of each member's birthday the club will feed a child in your name.

If you wish to feed more children or for a longer duration, then the charges for feeding a child nutritious food is Rs. 500 per month per child.

Members (and/or their friends and relatives) wishing to continue beyond their birthday month can donate in multiples of Rs. 500 specifying the term or the number of children to the Rotary office.

The cheques would be required in the name of:
"ROTARY CLUB BOMBAY CHARITIES TRUST NO. 3"

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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

TRUSTEES 2019-2020

PP Rtn. (Dr.) Rahim Muljani	PP Rtn. Arvind Jolly
PP Rtn. (Dr.) Adi Dastur	PP Rtn. Arun Sanghi

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President-Elect	Rtn. Framroze Mehta
President-Nominee	Rtn. Shernaz Vakil
Honorary Secretary	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
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Young At Heart	Rtn. Ramesh Mehta

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Night Study Centre	Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar

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Attendance	Rtn. Bipin Kapadia
In-Camera	Rtn. Zinia Lawyer

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Phiroze R. Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC)	Rtn. Homi Katgara
Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC)	Rtn. Tara Deshpande
Cancer Aid	Rtn. (Dr.) Ian Pinto
RCB – Medical Centre	Rtn. Manoj Patodia

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The Rotary Foundation & Global Grant	PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena
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Skill Development	Rtn. S. V. Prasad

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Child Welfare	Rtn. Rajesh Shah
Anand Yaan / Elder Care	Rtn. Alok Sekhsaria
Scholarships	Rtn. Roda Billimoria