

# THE GATEWAY

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay | For private circulation only | [www.rotaryclubofbombay.org](http://www.rotaryclubofbombay.org)  
Volume No. 61 Issue No. 34, April 14, 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Fellow Rotarians,**

Very Warm Greetings! I hope we all are safe and sound.

From time immemorial, music has formed part of

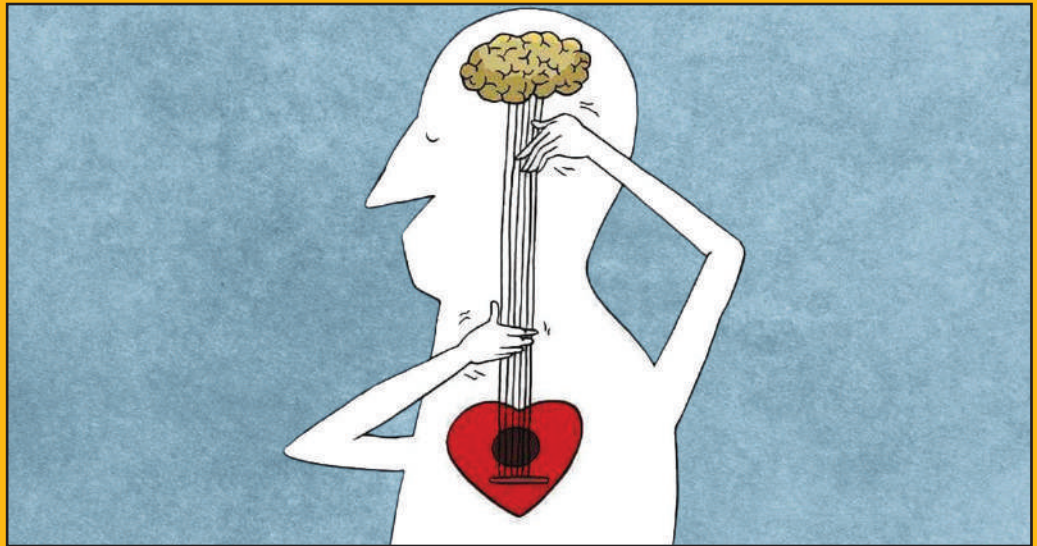
our evolution history as human species.

Music is a pattern of sounds. Music is found wherever the human species inhabit, in every known geographical region, culture and religion, past and present, varying widely between times and places. Since all people of the world, including the most isolated tribal groups, have some form of music, it could be concluded that the history of music is as old as humanity itself.

Archaeologists have found primitive flutes made of bone and ivory dating back as far as 43,000 years, and it's likely that many ancient musical styles have been preserved in oral traditions. It's almost impossible to definitively know just how long music and musical compositions have been around, since humans only started writing music down around the 14th century B.C. "Hurrian Hymn No. 6", an ode to the Goddess Nikkal, is presently considered the world's earliest melody, but the oldest musical composition to have survived in its entirety, is a Greek tune known as the "Seikilos Epitaph", dating as far back as 200 B.C.

There are many possible functions for music, such as dancing, entertainment, expression, communication, devotion or ritual. However, the major reason that music arose and persists is probably that it brings people together. It is said that music leads to bonding, such as bonding between mother and child or bonding between groups. It has been suggested that music, in causing such bonding, created not only the family, but society itself, bringing individuals together who might otherwise have led solitary lives.

A culture's music is influenced by all other aspects of that culture, including social and economic organisation, and experience, climate, access to technology and what is the religion believed in. The emotions and ideas that music expresses and the situations in which music is played and listened to vary between regions and periods.



Indian music is one of the oldest musical traditions in the world, as is evidenced from sculptures depicting dance and musical instruments like the seven holed flute from the time of the Indus Valley Civilization and the various types of stringed instruments and drums recovered from Mohenjo Daro and Harrappa excavations.

Coming to more recent Indian musical traditions, which are primarily classical, of which two major ones are, the southern Carnatic music and the northern Hindustani classical music. India's classical music traditions remain important in the lives of Indians even today, as a source of religious inspiration, cultural expression and entertainment.

Music is said to give one relief and is kind of a stress buster. It is considered as a powerful therapy that makes people calm down and, in moments of joy, it even makes people cheerful, a kind of mood elevator. A common and oft use phrase 'It's music to my ears', when something said brings some positive and good information.

And on the negative side, music is also known since ages to be used as an effective tool in war, and when misused and abused result into a cacophony.

In recent years, researchers have shown great interest, as to how listening to music can benefit in numerous ways.

Studies have shown that music can even fend off depression. It can improve blood flow in ways similar to statins, lower ones levels of stress-related hormones like cortisol and,

even ease pain. It is also said that music can even improve post-surgery outcomes, such as reducing pain and anxiety because listening to music triggers the release of opioids in the brain, the body's natural pain relievers. Also, studies and experiments are ongoing on benefits of music during critical brain surgeries.

Recently, there is a lot of discussion on 'music therapy', which focuses on using music to improve patient outcomes.

Certain songs have the ability to remind us of certain periods or events in our lives – some that make us smile. With this in mind, researchers are increasingly investigating whether music may aid memory recall. Some studies seem to suggest music may aid memory recall for adults in the early stages of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Research also indicates that music can help aid recovery from strokes, where patients have shown to have improved speech recovery following a stroke.

It has also been suggested that music may help treat epilepsy.

So whether it is for therapeutic reasons or just for relaxation or entertainment, the importance of music can never be overstated specially in today's humdrum life.

So let's always have Music ... the Sound of Music and Love for Music ....

**President Preeti Mehta**

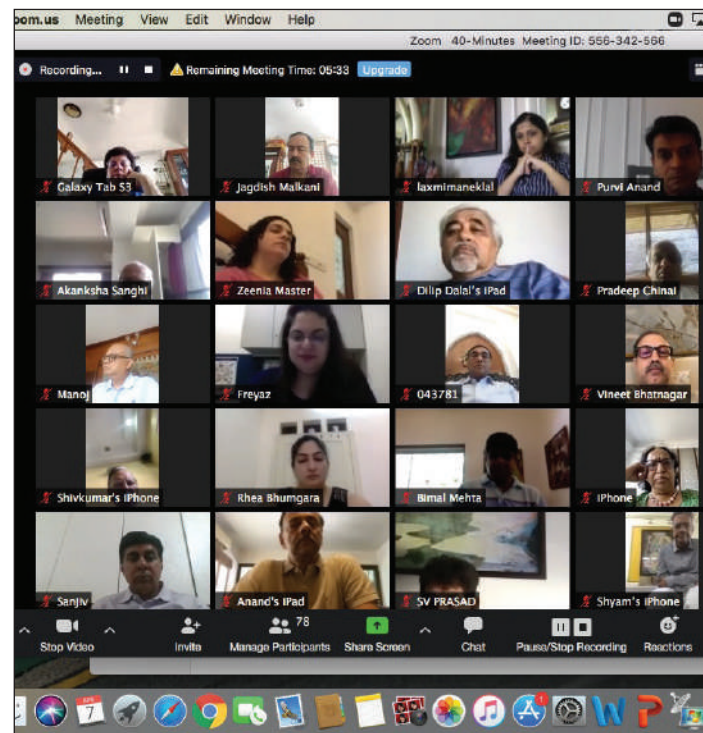


# TAXING TIMES AHEAD

**Rtn. Shariq Contractor talks about government policies during the Covid-19 lockdown.**

There are many changes that have been brought in during the Covid-19 lockdown. The first that was announced recently was that the due date of filing returns has been extended to June 30th. This has been postponed not only with reference to Income Tax but a number of taxes, for example the wealth tax act income tax, the BENAMI property transaction act, the security transaction act, black money act, equalisation levy and the Vivad se Vishwas scheme that the Government has announced. The filing dates have been extended for all of these and now, these notifications have been referred to as Relief Notification. But we must understand that when the government says it's Relief, it means relief to the taxpayer, of course, but also to the tax officer.

There are time constraints to the officer to complete various proceedings and pass orders. For example, there must be something for which there is a time limit for getting sanction from the higher authority, in all these situations even the officer gets extension of time limit till June 30th. So, it is not a one-way street. For example, the due dates for reopening an assessment proceeding for financial year 2014-15 was expanded to March 31st and now it gets extended to June 30th.



Of course, in our own case, the filing of the appeals and rectification application, due date to filing a belated return for 2018-19, or filing a revised return for 2018-19, will all get extended till June 30th. That is the good part, you have extension time. Similarly, all your withholding tax or TDS returns required to file, now get extended till June 30th. Essentially, the relief is that all due dates between March 20th and June 29th are shifted to June 30th.

Interestingly, there is also a time given for investment. For example, before, many would invest in Provident Fund before filing a return on March 31st, or LIC, and claim that as a deduction in our returns. Now, that time, too, has been extended to June 30th. So you can make your Public Provident Fund payment in April or May and

you would have an option to decide whether you want to claim it as a benefit for your tax purposes in the year end of March 20-21.

Similarly, donations made – for instance towards Covid-19 – a corporate can give the donation and claim the ATG exemption for the year already gone by. The important thing to remember here is that though the ordinance is deferring the date of filing the return, it is not deferring the rate of interest. So, one would still have to pay the rate of interest on the above laws if you don't pay the interest within the due time. Of course there is some relief given there, interest would be paid only to the extent of nine per cent rather than 18 per cent as at other times. Similarly, if you have not paid your TDS dues, interest

of nine per cent will be applicable.

This makes things very interesting because an employer can pay the TDS to avoid the interest burden and the employee can invest in Public Provident Fund or other relief measures to get tax rebate which means that the higher tax will be deducted by the employee initially and the employee may later make a special investment to get a lower tax, and therefore he may have to file his return to get a refund. The other important thing to understand and remember is that the relief is given only if the interest payment is due between March 20th and June 29th. So if there was an old default before March 20th, then there is no relief, not even during this period, and the full 18 per cent interest would have to be paid.

Similarly, if you don't make your payment by June 30th, then you lose the entire relief and even during this period you will not get the relief of nine per cent interest. It is important to make tax payments in time. In case, due to cash flow reasons, you cannot make it, ensure you do so by June 30th. If you don't, you are much worse off in having to pay 18 per cent right from the rate on which the default occurred.

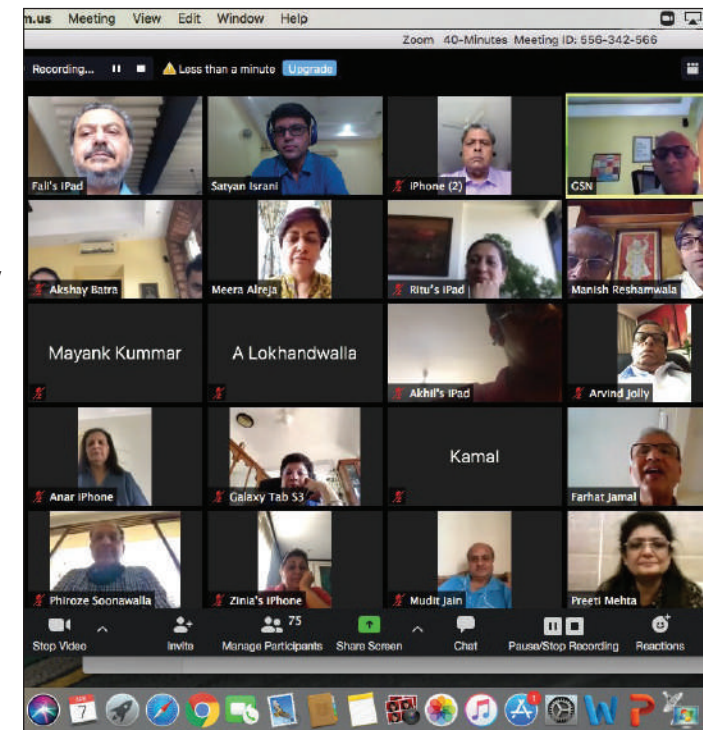
Then I go to the GST extension, an extension is given on filing the annual return which was to be filed in the financial year 2018-19. The due date earlier was

APRIL 14, 2020

March 31st, now June 30th. Similarly, the monthly and quarterly returns that were required to be filed, there has been a waiver of late fees and reduction in payment of interest. So let me have been waived but the interest has been reduced, not completely waived. Except in cases where the turnover is less than Rs 5 crore, then there will be no interest if the payment has been made before the end of June 29th. But if your turnover is more than Rs 5 crore, then in that case you must pay your interest and file your returns within the 15 days of the due date if you don't want the burden of interest. You can extend it to June 30th then you pay only nine per cent of interest but if you go beyond it, you'll have to pay full 18 per cent right from the day from which the default occurred.

Similar exemptions have also been made in the excise and customs and service tax regime. So Central excise returns can also be filed by June 30th now. Similarly for appeals, refunds and applications. So the entire plethora is that the filings have been extended to June 30th, in case of GST it is in the last week of June. However the payment of taxes has to be done by the due date. In a simple way if it is not done by the due date, you may still have to pay interest of nine per cent if you pay taxes by June 30th, if you delay beyond that, then full 18 per cent.

Then there is this Vivad se Vishwas scheme that the government has announced with a lot of fanfare. There was high expectation that a huge amount of taxes



would be collected by the government, now that obviously has gone out of the window and the government has had to extend that scheme. Earlier as you know the scheme was March 31st you pay the full tax, you don't have to pay the interest and penalty, but if you pay by June 30th after pay 10 per cent extra. Now they have extended this particular scheme also to June 30th. And this is sort of a dispute resolution scheme, if appeals or litigations are pending against you, you can go under the scheme and pay your taxes in full. Interest and penalty would have completely waived.

So those are the direct tax amendments, there are many more but I am picking some of the important ones considering the time constraints that we have. Also the RBI has issued a notification, a clarification to say that there will be a moratorium on all payments

of term loans, cash credits and overdrafts. So interest and loan repayments will be differed by 90 days. During this period banks will not insist on the payment of loan installments or of the interest. Again interest will not stop, if you do have the cash flow and better off making the payment, it is important to make payment. Similarly on credit cards, there is deferment of payments but again the interest charge would continue.

The next is provisions related to company law. They issued a circular under what they called CFSS scheme. That is between April 2020 to September 2020, there is a moratorium period on levying any late filing fees or additional fees for filing any returns, statements, documents, etc by companies or even LLP. If you have not filed these statements, you will have relief, you can file them during this period; there are no late fees. Here what

you need to know is that even mass fees will be condoned, even if there were pre-Covid defaults, it would also be filed and you can get the benefit. They have opened the floodgates, all your past sins will be wiped off if you make your filings before September 30th, 2020. Also any appeals to be filed due between March 1st and May 31st, there is an extension 121 days to file an appeal.

The board meetings as they have to hold in every quarter, within a period of 120 days under section 173 Act, this has been extended to 60 days. Which means you can now have a gap between two board meetings of 180 days. Earlier it was 120 days now the board meetings can be held apart upto 180 days. Again independent directors were required to hold meetings without the presence of non-independent directors, members of management and for this purpose again if the meeting was not held it was considered the violation of the company law board, now they have clarified that because of this reason if you have not been able to hold the meeting, then it will not be treated as violation by the registrar of companies. So this meeting can be postponed ahead and held in the next year.

This has brought about an interesting change. There are a lot of companies that could hold the meetings virtual through video conferencing, but certain items had to be concluded or resolved through a regular meeting. For example, approval of financial statements, approval of a board's report, approval



## FEEDING THOSE IN NEED

### A COOKED MEAL DISTRIBUTION INITIATIVE

BY

UPDATE: 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2020

The Rotary Club of Bombay & Rotary Club of Mumbai Versova have been providing meals to the migrant labour, daily wage earners and homeless of Mumbai City.

**TOTAL MEALS: 1,50,000+**

**DAILY MEALS: 16,000+**

#### AREAS OF INTERVENTION

All 24 Municipal Wards in Greater Mumbai. Also in Kamathipura, Alexandra Cinema Area - Byculla, Agripada, Nagpada, Versova

Saffron Hospitality Services  
Marol Naka, Andheri (E)

HVB Global Academy,  
Marine Drive

#### FIND OUR KITCHENS

Shri Rajasthani Seva Sangh College,  
JB Nagar, Andheri

Roha Group- Malad East  
Komal Caterers (courtesy Sunderdevi  
Hastimal Rathi Charitable Trust) -  
Dadar East

Thacker's - Chowpatty  
Chef Talk

#### SUPPORTING KITCHENS

BMC | NGOs  
RC of Bombay Bandra  
RC of Mumbai Downtown Sealand  
RC of Bombay Chembur West  
RC of Mumbai Western Elite  
RC of Bombay West  
RC of Bombay Peninsula  
RC of Mumbai Queen's Necklace  
KVN Foundation NGO  
Rotary Club of Mumbai GenX  
Rotary Club of Mumbai Kalakar

#### PARTNERS

### DONATE NOW!

Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No. 3 | HDFC Bank Ltd.

Branch Address:

HDFC Bank Ltd., 101-104 Tulsiani Chambers, Free Press Journal Marg,  
Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021

Branch: Nariman Point

Branch Code: 0001

Account Type: Savings Account

Account Number: 00011000043340

IFSC Code: HDFC 0000001

For remittance in INR from a foreign country, the Swift Code is HDFCINBB

CONTACT FOR MORE DETAILS: VIJAY JATIA +91 98200 95782 | SANDIP AGARWALLA +91 98210 10417

of books of accounts and such matters related to merger and restructuring, require a physical meeting. Now the company law board has clarified that this can also be done virtually. So a lot of liberalisation has taken place in the way the meetings can be held. I think and this is going to change things perhaps post Covid. Perhaps we may continue to allow people to hold meetings virtually.

Also the company's auditor's reports were made applicable for financial year 2019-20. Now it has been extended to 2020-21. From the Rotary perspective another interesting amendment that has brought about is the amendment related to CSR spending. Covid-19 expenditure is eligible as a CSR activity and they have said that in Schedule 6, there are a number of items eligible for CSR spending and the government has said that these are very broad-based and it can be interpreted liberally to also cover Covid-19 spendings.

During this period March 24-25, the finance act was passed. So this also falls among the major structural or policy changes that took place in the country during the Covid period. The two major amendments of this act were: the definition of Non Resident; the finance bill was proposing that a citizen of India or a person of Indian origin who is outside of India, and he comes for a visit to India, and he stays in India for 120 days or more, then he will be treated as a resident. There are other conditions to be satisfied as well but we are sticking to this. Now when the finance act has been passed by the Parliament and has been given the assent, it is provided that this threshold of 120 days will be applied only to the visiting Indians and persons of Indian origin if their income in India exceeds Rs 15 lakh.

APRIL 14, 2020

### Singing a note of hope for AY and BY

We keep seeing celebrities wishing their fans well. One of the many well-wishers of the Rotary Club of Bombay is musician Shankar Mahadevan who is involved with our Bhavishya Yaan and Anand Yaan projects. Shankar sent this heartfelt note for children and senior citizens of these projects. This makes us realise how well these projects have done for RCB.

#### SHANKAR MAHADEVAN:

"This message is for the children of the Bhavishya Yaan project and also the Shankar Mahadevan Academy senior citizens of the Ananda Yaan project of the Rotary Club of Bombay, here's wishing them well. I hope all of you are staying home, staying safe, and here are two lines for you:

*Ae watan watan mere abaad rahe tu*

*Main jahaan rahoon jahaan mein yaad rahe tu*

*Ae watan, mere watan, mere watan."*

### Feeding strays

Rtn. Priyasri Patodia, Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee, Rotary Club of Bombay, is happy to inform members that thanks to Director Framroze Mehta and President Preeti Mehta, RCB is donating Rs 1 lakh to Abodh Aras or WSD for the purpose of feeding strays who have been left hungry due to the epidemic.

Thousands of stray cats and dogs in India depend on food and waste from markets, restaurants and grocery shops. But with coronavirus sending people into isolation and public establishments shutting down, strays are having a hard time finding food. Even individuals who feed are confined to homes.

Abodh Aras or WSD, to whom RCB and our Animal Welfare Committee have been attached for five to six years and who is also known to many of us, has made this request.

WSD takes the responsibility of giving us a report of usage of the food they will distribute to individuals or other smaller NGO s who feed strays.

## EACH ONE, REACH ONE

Call up an elder in your society or neighbourhood who lives alone, to help with their daily needs or to simply check on them. Spread the love.

Not the virus.



#Stay Safe. Stay Home.

## CARING FOR THE ELDERLY

PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan is back with his campaign specially created for our elders. Kudos to his committed and sustained efforts towards spreading awareness.

The Covid-19 crisis has put the focus on the susceptibility of our elders to this virus. It is a time to specially take care of them. Our Non-Medical 1 Avenue of Service has done significant work in amplifying the needs of senior citizens in various media and in the process they have also contributed to the public image of Rotary in a big way.

They have, now, in partnership with the International Advertising Association, created a campaign.

I urge every member to share these messages,

one per day on all your WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms. Let's use the strength of our membership to spread this good word.





## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: MOUNTAINEER AND ENTREPRENEUR ADITYA GUPTA

Mountaineer and entrepreneur Aditya Gupta, who owns The Furniture Republic, will be our speaker on April 21st. Aditya will talk about scaling Mt. Everest at the youthful age of 50.



Does not matter if you are totally exhausted, dehydrated, freezing, hypoxic, hungry....

# LESSONS FROM EVEREST

Photo Essay and Teachings:  
An Expedition of a Lifetime

### ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 14  
RTN. (DR.) DARIUS  
SOONAWALLA



APRIL 16  
RTN. PUNEET  
CHHATWAL



APRIL 16  
RTN. (DR.) SANJAY  
DESAI



APRIL 16  
RTN. VIBHAY  
SINHA



APRIL 18  
RTN. MANISH  
RESHAMWALA



APRIL 19  
RTN. MUKESH  
AMBANI



APRIL 19  
RTN. SURESH  
AGARWAL



APRIL 20  
RTN. VIJAY  
DHAWAN



APRIL 20  
RTN. VINOD JUNEJA

### ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 14  
RTN. PTN. RASHMI JOLLY  
RTN. PTN. MANJULA SANGHAI  
APRIL 15  
RTN. PTN. NEERAJA BIRLA  
RTN. PTN. AVADHESH MANDELIA  
APRIL 20  
RTN. PTN. POONAM DAVE  
RTN. PTN. PERVIN JEHANGIR  
RTN. PTN. RITA SAGAR

### ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL 14  
RTN. KUMAR ASHOK  
RTN. JAMSHED  
VAKHARIA  
APRIL 15  
RTN. KESHUB  
MAHINDRA  
APRIL 16  
RTN. MIHIR SAGAR  
APRIL 17  
RTN. ARJUN JOLLY

### 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

#### OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

President	Rtn. Preeti Mehta
Immediate Past President	Rtn. Vijay Kumar Jatia
President-Elect	Rtn. Framroze Mehta
President-Nominee	Rtn. Shernaz Vakil
Honorary Secretary	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Satyan Israni
Hon. Treasurer	Rtn. Jagdish Malkani

#### SPECIAL DIRECTOR PP RTN. SHAILESH HARIBHAKTI

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE PE RTN. FRAMROZE MEHTA

Classifications, Membership & Information	PP Rtn. Nowroze Vazifdar
Fellowship & Assimilation	Rtn. Ashok Jatia
Animal Welfare	Rtn. Priyasri Patodia

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. MEHUL SAMPAT

Social media, Website & Bulletin	Rtn. Rhea Bhungara
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rtn. Hoshang Nazir
Interact	Rtn. Jaymin Jhaveri
Rotaract	Rtn. Zeenia Master

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. RAM GANDHI

Programme	Rtn. Farhat Jamal
Public Awards	Rtn. Suresh Kotak
Young At Heart	Rtn. Ramesh Mehta

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. PETER BORN

Water Resources & Sanitation	Rtn. Abhinav Aggarwal
Urban Heritage	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
Environment	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. HIRANMAY BISWAS

Sports	Rtn. Sanjiv Saran Mehra
Yoga	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
Vocational Training	Rtn. Varsha Daiya
Night Study Centre	Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. PRADEEP GUPTA

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

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. (DR.) ASHOK KIRPALANI

Talwada Projects	PP Rtn. (Dr.) Rahim Muljani
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

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. VINEET BHATNAGAR

Fund-Raising	Rtn. Pradeep Chinai
The Rotary Foundation & Global Grant	PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena
Gender Equality	Rtn. Arin Master
Skill Development	Rtn. S. V. Prasad

#### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. MEERA ALREJA

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