# THE GATEWAY Rotary Club of Bombay





VOLUME NO. 62 ISSUE NO. 3 JULY 21, 2020

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### ■ WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN



You either love jazz or hate it! You simply cannot be a bystander unless you are tone-deaf.

For the musical mathematician in you, the syncopatic swing beat can drive you

delirious and make you want to jump with joy or like it made my friend in the US ask: "why do these musicians play different notes instead of playing cohesively and in unison."

Years ago, in the early 80s, I was sitting at the Jazz Yatra at Rang Bhavan and my neighbour in the next seat turned to me (after a Polish band had finished playing a number) and said, "I say, when will the band stop tuning instruments and start playing seriously?" So, it is clear from the above that jazz is simply not for everybody!

You have to be a musician to really understand jazz, especially when you are jamming with likeminded musicians and find out how different

instruments arrive at a junction to make a glorious soul stirring sound.

A few genres of jazz like Fusion and Avantgarde are only for a handful of dedicated jazz lovers. In fact, these are the genres that have put off many first-time listeners. My sincere plea to DJs all over is to initiate curious listeners to Swing, Dixieland and Blues which make them tap their feet and bring them to the dance floor.

Continued on page 4

### #tuesdaythoughts

"A man is the sum of his actions, of what he has done, of what he can do. Nothing else."

- Mahatma Gandhi

### #numbercrunching \$10.3 billion

The amount required by United Nations (UN) to fight the coronavirus pandemic, failing which Covid-19 will undo decades of development and set the world back, warned Mark Lowcock, UN's under-secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs.

The appeal is directed mainly at rich countries and shareholders of international financial institutions, whose efforts, Lowcock says, have have been "grossly inadequate and dangerously short-sighted.

### #caughtintheweb





"The last two-three months have been about understanding how to recalibrate." Entrepreneur Ronnie Screwvala in conversation with Rtn. Dr. Prakriti Poddar

#### WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO TO BUILD THIS **ECONOMY?**

The last two-three months have been a situation of understanding how to recalibrate, now that one is forced to.... Part of the challenge is parental pressure to pursue degrees which lead to job opportunities, but we miss out on soft skills. In India, soft skills are as important as hard skills. However, two-thirds of our population goes into the work force for socio-economic reasons without tanking up with the right kind of knowledge. Therefore, the only option for them is online. That is how UpGrad happened. The core idea is that all of us, including every single person here, will have to undertake formal learning and specialisation of some kind every three to four years.

However, there is no question that we have been struck with something uncertain. For the younger generation, reducing uncertainty can bring about balance. It could be the steps that every organisation takes. For example, within months we told everyone, including social workers, in all our companies that we would be working from home till at least December 2020. That allowed people to acclimatize, go back to their families, let go of their PG accommodation or do whatever they needed to do. So, 20 per cent of certainty and balance comes into your life.

The second one is that performance is going to be important. We are not going to lay off people but we might not be able to do increments or we will do pay cuts so the certainty comes about and I think today, more than ever, leaders need to be candid,

TODAY: HARISH BHAT, BRAND CUSTODIAN AT TATA SONS, IN **CONVERSATION ABOUT HIS BOOK, THE CURIOUS MARKETER** 

THE WEEKLY MEET July 21, 2020 THE WEEKLY MEET 3



President Framroze Mehta



Rtn. Dr. Prakriti Poddar



IPP Preeti Mehta



PN Vineet Rhatnagar



Rtn. Farhat Jamal

not inspirational or polite. The younger generation is looking at real and candid comments. They want to know that the person on the top knows what they are talking about, and is not telling me one thing today and something else after a month. Removing uncertainty, bringing balance, and enhancing trust is a step by step process. There is no such thing as over communicating at a time like this for colleagues or team members.

YOUR SWADES FOUNDATION SPENT RS 49 CRORE ON UPLIFTMENT AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES ALONE, AND, IN THE LAST YEAR, YOU LOOKED AT THE INNOVATIONS SPACE AS WELL. HOW WAS THE JOURNEY?

The trust started in the late '80s and 1990s. We did not have much then but we said that we would like to give back 10 per cent of what we do. So, from our 10,000 sq. ft. rented office space, we allocated 1000 sq. ft. to a creche and an old age home. It was a culture-making movement because the whole company adopted this 1,000 sq. ft. One could see that magic. I was very young, and I didn't have resources. But sweat equity is as important as any other cheque.

In 2012, when we divested the company; Zarina was a little more heartbroken to move out from the media and entertainment business than I was. So. she went out to do a Teach For India 10-day course and when she came back. she said she was going to join Teach For India. I got a little worried at that stage. When I asked her why she didn't do something within our organisation, she said I was not serious. In response I said to her 'why don't we lift a million people out of poverty in the coming six to seven years?' This is one of the most expensive retention statements I have ever made. She looked at me and asked, are you serious about this? Serendipity is a strong word for me – sometimes, you walk into a situation and do things that are least planned. The mission statement literally got done because I wanted to retain Zarina and ensure she stays with us. That is how it started. We met so many incredible people across India. We met an organisation called BRAC in Bangladesh which had a holistic model.

In my opinion, it looked after 25 per cent of the GDP of Bangladesh because, as the number one dairy plant, it was for the people and by the people. It made us realise a couple of things:

a) We did not want to cut a cheque, we wanted to be fully involved. b) We were entrepreneurs and we wanted to build an organisation and do it in our own way. c) With my obsession of scale, whatever problem we wanted to solve — especially if it was in the non-profit space, did I want to do it at that scale?

I was obsessed that I needed an exit plan to go into geography and you should be able to exit it in 6 to 7 years. The first few months that I started using the word 'exit', everyone talked me down, saying that the word 'exit', in non-profit, would have people assume you were doing to abandon them some day. So, we changed the word to empowerment. But those were our four fundamentals.

Take the holistic geography of 2000 villages that we took in seven blocks of Raigad, all consecutive and fully related and solve the problem. Our key mission was that we would ensure water with two taps in each home. This decision took three months of deliberation because the community was upset about digging and the cost became 20 per cent extra more. But we convinced them that it would be much more liberating and would raise the self-esteem of the people there.

Next was to provide an attached individual toilet for each home. We do a lot in terms of thinking in terms of community toilets but we were clear that they wouldn't use it if it is not an individual toilet.

In education, it came down to spending money on brick and mortar vs augmenting the teaching system. There are about 1200 schools and 800 anganwadis geographically and we installed libraries in 500 of them. Those were attendance-moving, needle-moving magical moments. It took some time because the principal had to accept that a period would have to be taken out for the purpose of the library.

Lastly, career counselling. I don't think



PP Ashish Vaid

anybody in the rural area asks the kids there what they want to do.

My final, magical one, is that I feel all

roads lead to livelihood. We look at the geography with a GDP approach; about 30 per cent of our people earn below Rs. 50000 per annual income for the whole household, about 40 per cent earns between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,50,000 and some of the others are about that but less than Rs 2.5 lakh. We wanted to quadruple their income in the next five years – and that was our goal – to empower and exit. The reason for empowerment was that if they did not have money in their pocket, they would look for charity and they would not be in control. People in control of their destiny need an NGO, don't need the government. That has been our approach. But 30-35 per cent of the households don't have an earning member and they don't have land. How do you solve a problem like that? We get into having a long-term income propensity. Therefore, communities need to be built. So, three years into our learning, village development committees came about.

One of the things that we did wrong in the beginning was to set our own targets because, as business people, we are used to setting our own targets. But when you are doing something for the community and when you are doing something in the not-for-profit space, you have to understand the targets they have set for themselves.

Today, just to sum up the livelihood part, whatever we invest, when Swades puts Rs 50 crore in to livelihood, the next year onwards there should be equivalent of another Rs 50 crore of augmented livelihood for those households on a



PP Dr. Mukesh Batra

recurring annual basis and that has been our benchmark. We can only do that and measure that with the GDP approach. Some of these have been really tough, incredible amounts of failures, a lot of resistance, but it has paid off.

# TALKING OF MIGRANT WORKERS, CAN YOU HIGHLIGHT WHAT STRUCTURE AND SUPPORT SYSTEM YOU HAVE PUT IN PLACE?

For the past five years, we have been pushing for reverse migration and the reason is that even in our Raigad district and in most places, 30-35 per cent of households in the villages are locked because the people come here. For the last five years, we have met people in Mumbai from Raigad District and find out that 95 per cent of them are not that happy. But the main reason they would not go back to the village is because it would be like admitting defeat. Further, they live here on a monthly salary of Rs 10-12,000 but they cannot send back more than a thousand. And they live in abysmal surroundings here. Corona was a massive impetus for everyone to get the hell out of the city because they were not going to get their salaries for a couple of months.

The migrant population in India is ignored because they are neither urban nor rural and even politicians could not have anticipated the level of that migration instinct because they have forgotten about them. We have been working with them and we got about 150-160 people reversed back to Raigad in our blocks. That would have been a big moment for us but then we had 75,000 people from our geography that migrated back in three weeks. The villages were incredible in organising the quarantine process. At the end of that,



PP Sandip Agarwalla

we had only 17 Covid cases and four deaths. Then, the next surge that came in took numbers from 75000 to 1,98,000 and that gave us a lot of challenges.

All of us feel that if they come back, they might be in a better position because they will demand higher wages, whether in construction or real estate or F&B. 65-72 per cent want to come back when the jobs open up but a lot of them want to come back with 30-40 per cent hike in their salaries.



Rtn. Karl Divecha



Rtn. Dushyant Dave



Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani

This was the tone and tenor when I was growing up with the Big Bandstand sounds and dance halls of the '60s and '70s.

Jazz was not born overnight. It was born in the form of the Blues in the Black shanties of New Orleans in the late 1800s , it was the lament of the cotton pickers and the rhythmic chants of the jailbirds and slave gangs breaking stones in the quarries. This was really the birth of the Blues.

No one knows when the Blues were born, the Clarinetist Louis Nelson says: "There ain't no first blues – The Blues always been". Hunger, empty pockets, a mean boss, a cheating spouse or some such misery – very much a part of life in those days helped the blues roll along. Sydney Bechet, one of the pioneers, put it best when he said: "In the Baptist church, people clapped their hands and that was the rhythm." The Black spirituals and the Blues were one prayer. One was praying to God – the other was praying to what's human. It was like one was saying - 'Oh God let me go' and the other was saying -'Oh Mister let me be me.'

This inadvertent musical expression of the African American man in the deep south was where the jazz seed was sown. We can A lot of these white musicians were safely say that Ragtime, Gospel and The Blues were the genres from which jazz was themselves out to the Devil's music.

Jazz is a style and not a composition. Any kind of music may be played in the style of

Jelly Roll Morton did just that and helped popularize the genre by styling his own compositions to marching band tunes of Souza and' popular Italian, French and Spanish songs of the era.

Other legends of jazz who were the pioneers were Joe King Oliver, W. C. Handy, Sydney Bechet, Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, and Buddy Bolden. It can be said, with certainty, that without these giants there would be no jazz!

These pioneers were the pantheon of

Gods on the Altar of which later giants like Armstrong, Ellington, Basie, and Goodman would pray. So much of their early work has sadly gone with them to their graves! Jelly Roll Morton changed all that when he started writing down the score. This helped the music move from inner cities to major towns in Louisiana and Mississippi where it took on regional chartbusters and gave us numbers like The St Louis Blues, The Memohis Blues, The Louisiana Blues and Basin St Blues.

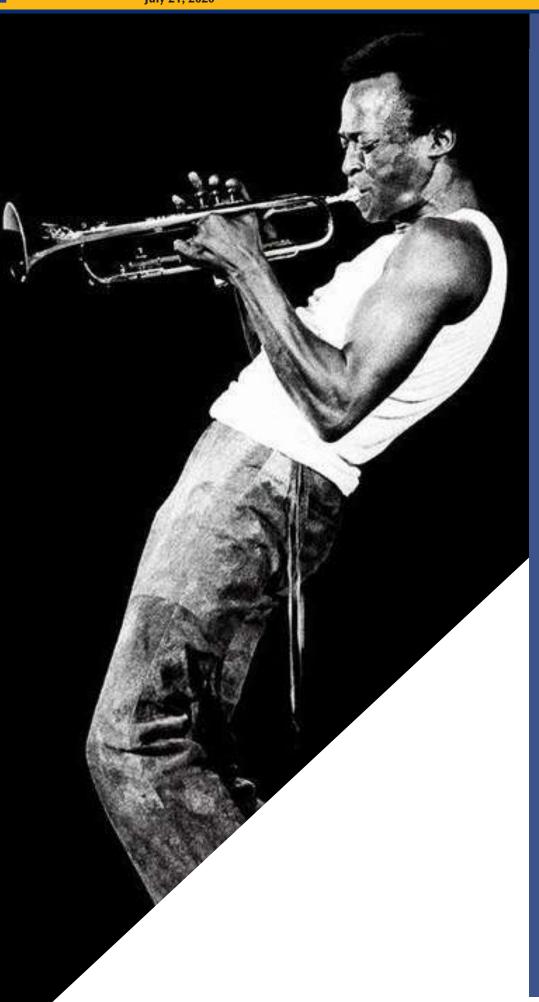
Then came musicians like John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters who were the first to electrify the Blues and add piano and percussion.

So now we clearly know that neither Blues nor Jazz had a single creator, it all began as a pot of giant gumbo stirred and seasoned by hundreds of hands!

Little Black bands were playing all over the south and this naturally attracted some serious white musical talent and music helps cement serious racial tension as between musicians there was no Black or White simply The Blues! shunned by their own folk for selling It did not matter to these small band of white musicians and they were attracted to this sound like moths to the light – they were sold to this new art form.

A man born on Perdido St. in New Orleans purchased a battered secondhand Cornet by borrowing 5 dollars and paying back the sum of 7 cents a week from his earnings. His soulful sound was coming to the notice of some band players and soon he was stealing the

This was the great Louis Armstrong. His rise was not meteoric, like all Black musicians of the day he played in marching bands and trios and one day came to the notice of the legendary



Sydney Bechet while playing solo on the famous tune 'High Society' and the rest is history!

The other giant Edward Kennedy Ellington or popularly known later as the 'Duke' was making his way by washing dishes at the Plaza Hotel in Asbury park in New Jersey. He started on the piano and swiftly made his way up. The novelist and music critic would write about him years later: "At its best, an Ellington performance sounds as if it knows the truth about all the other music in the world and is looking for something better. Not even the Constitution represents a more universally American statement and achievement than that."

called 'A Negro feeling put to rhythm and tune for the whole country."

Bands were now moving from New Orleans and Mississippi area to the rest of the south and even to areas as far as Chicago and New York and slowly becoming an all-American phenomenon. It wasn't easy, all-white bands refused to play on the same stage where Blacks had played and people walked out of cafes and dancehalls, but slowly word began to spread from the few who stayed back and had 'a good time' and then the crowds returned. Jazz had arrived.

On March 7th, 1920, the Original Dixieland Jazz Band cut the record Livery Stable Blues and that sold a million copies at 7 cents apiece. It sold more than any single record sold by Caruso or Souza. This was followed up by more recordings of The Jazz Band Ball, Fidgety Feet, Sensation Rag, Tiger Rag and the Clarinet Marmalade Blues.

This giddy sound would soon move across the pond to London and even the average Brit did not understand the American Negro but they were stomping their feet and shaking their leg and were surprised to see a plethora of white musicians sprinkled in the bands that came out to

One moment Jazz was unknown, the next it had a become a serious pastime of a hundred million people!

The story of Jazz is long to write or talk about and I would recommend for the afficionado to read thousands of books that have been written about these legendary names like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Bix Beiderbecke, Art Blakey, Thelonious Monk, Dave Brubeck, Dizzy Gillespie, Johnny Hodges, Lionel Hampton, Oscar Peterson, Miles Davies, Stan Getz, Charlie Parker, and The Legendary singers Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holliday.

Today, Wynton Marsalis who is the Director of the Lincoln Center for Jazz in New York City is flying the flag high. He has followed In his own words, Ellington recalls what he the pioneering giants of the early and middle 20th century and moves jazz to the millions who listen to this all-American music.

> Jazz, of course, is now played all over the world and that is the legacy of the Second World War when American GIs left this artform in Europe and Japan. India has been no exception. Louis Armstrong came here in the early '60s and other great musicians have played at the Jazz Yatra and continue to do so even today, but alas it is to a very small audience!

> People in their '60s and '70s will recall the many bands playing at the Taj Mahal hotel and in restaurants all around the Churchgate area. Musicians like Louis Banks and bands Like Chic Chocolate and many others have kept the jazz flag flying in India.

I would like to recommend a serious book 'Jazz - A History of American Music' by the prolific Ken Burns. It is a comprehensive compendium written about America's greatest export to the world. I will end with a quote from one of my favourite comedians Billy Crystal who summed it up best when he said: "The thing about jazz is, it's free flowing and comes from the soul."

President Framroze Mehta

6 INTERNATIONAL SERVICE July 21, 2020 ATTENDANCE 7

# FROM ATHENS TO SINGAPORE: MAKING NEW FRIENDS

AFTER A VERY LONG TIME (MAYBE LONGER THAN MANY OF US CAN REMEMBER), RCB AGAIN HAS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE.

Our activities this year will circle largely around our – and 22 other Clubs – founding person: James Wheeler Davidson.

The RC Bombay was chartered on March 19th, 1929, largely thanks to the efforts of a single man.

# WHAT JAMES WHEELER DAVIDSON HAS DONE FOR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Experienced adventurer James Wheeler Davidson was instrumental in expanding Rotary to other countries in the early years, embarking on journeys to distant lands that resulted in the chartering of 23 clubs in 12 countries from Greece to Thailand, inclusive of India and RC Bombay.

Davidson, who as a young man joined Arctic explorer Robert Peary's second expedition to Greenland, travelled to Australia and New Zealand on his first trip for Rotary in 1921. A second and much longer journey took him through Asia and the Far East from 1928 to 1931. As a result, Rotary founder Paul Harris dubbed him "the Marco Polo of Rotary."

Davidson was born in Austin, Minnesota, USA, in June 1872 and was educated at the Northwestern Military Academy. After the Peary expedition, he served as a correspondent covering the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95. He stayed in Formosa (now



Taiwan) to work for the U.S. foreign service for several years before being transferred to Manchuria, then to Shanghai.

In late August, he set sail from Montreal and headed for Asia by way of Europe, accompanied by his wife, Lillian, and teenage daughter, Marjory, on what turned into a trip of two-and-a-half years. On 12th March 1931, Davidson and his family set sail from Yokohama, Japan, and their adventure finally concluded when they arrived in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, on 21st March

What RCB intends to do by furthering the JWD-spirit

Davidson started his fascinating journey into the largely unknown.

We intend – in a more contemporary context - to make something similar happen.

It could very well be the start of yet another fascinating journey.

The international committee will thus reach out to all other 22 Clubs and invite them for a "JWD-journey 2.0"

Such a journey could include the following joined projects / activities with the other 22 same rooted Clubs:

Knowhow-transfer of successfully executed service projects (environment, education, health, youth etc).

Joined meetings (especially during these troubled times where a lot happens on zoom and alike).

Fellowship: be part of the "Davidson community" and meet people from other walks of life that all have something special in common. Many other avenues can be explored.

The idea is to be an active part of something that is bigger than just a Club-on-Club association.

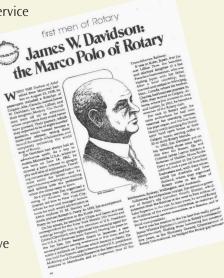
The international committee will explore this together with the other 22 JWD-founded Rotary Clubs and identify common grounds.

We already have common roots through a visionary man that set sail nine decades back to explore new grounds.

Bringing together different Rotary Clubs will further our primary objective of being a truly service oriented community.

And, who knows: maybe we are able to set sail for new horizons in this community. Just like 91 years ago...

P.S.: "Making new friends" is the title of Lilian's (JWD's wife) book, containing her personal diaries on the journey. After all those years, it is still a suitable motto that has remained relevant through the years.





AS A SECOND-GENERATION ROTARIAN, I WAS INVOLVED WITH THE WORLD OF ROTARY AS AN INTERACTOR FROM CAMPION SCHOOL AND AS A ROTARACTOR FROM THE ROTARACT CLUB OF BOMBAY. Both these clubs are sponsored by our Rotary Club. I have led both clubs and served on Rotaract District 314 for two years.

# HUNDRED PER CENT ROTARIAN

## In recognition of Rtn. Hiren Kara's 100% attendance

After leaving Rotaract I served in a few other organisations close to my heart like The International Vegetarian Union, Beauty Without Cruelty and Peta India amongst others when Rtn. Jimmy Pochkanawalla invited me to join our club.

I believe in the ideals of Rotary. Since joining, I have chaired a committee every

year besides
being a
member
of other
committees
and served on
the Board for

three years.

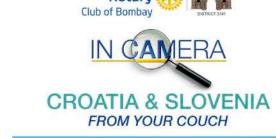
Getting involved is the best way of enjoying Rotary. In case I have not been able to attend our regular meeting, I make it a point to make up by attending other club meetings. Therefore, my attendance is hundred percent every year, from the time I joined 21 years ago. Some clubs have invited me

to address them.

Bijal (my better half ) joins me in serving Rotary through Bhavishya Yaan and Gender Equality. My father, wife, daughter and myself have all become Paul Harris fellows. I have made many good friends in Rotaract which continue today and in Rotary which we cherish.



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"





City of Split, Croatia

Join us for an interactive virtual talk which takes you through an 11 day wonder trip through the amazing countries of Slovenia and Croatia! The greatest Slovenian & Croatian treasures await you – in grand style!

Picture-perfect Slovenia and the sparkling waters of Croatia have snuck into everyone's Europe "must-sees" in recent years. Discover the most unique stories and experiences that you won't find anywhere else. Explore the culture and their natural heritage that they conserve. Enjoy the traditional cuisine and modern innovative dishes made with local ingredients produced in harmony with nature. Discover the charm of bustling towns, and the homely atmosphere of the countryside. Let yourself be inspired by the uniqueness of the region with all your senses and in an unforgettable way. In your own way.

Ana Gashu (local expert of the region ) looks forward to interacting with you, and will share the hidden gems about their region.

At 7.00 pm at your home on Friday 31st July 2020 Zoom link will be sent a day prior

Hosted by the Fellowship Committee

In co-operation with Holidays@Leisure

### @rcb1929 has over 4,000 followers on Instagram as of last week



# Jul 28th **Club Meeting**







**Aparna Popat Badminton Olympian** 



**Athletics Athelete** 



Adille Sumariwalla Anju Bobby George Long Jump Gold Medalist

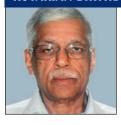


## **Recipe For An Olympic Medal**

enue: Online at zoom.us (members only)

Time: 12:00pm

#### **ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS**



**JULY 23** Rtn. Sushil Jalan



**JULY 24** Rtn. Vivek Gupta



July 26 Rtn. Vineet Suchanti



**JULY 27** Rtn. Peter Born

### **ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS**

July 25: Rtn. Ptn. Radhika Mehta July 26: Rtn. Ptn. Biba Arora

July 27: Rtn. Ptn. Soha Parekh

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| International Service                       | Rtn. Christopher Bluemel                    |
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| Ananda Yaan                                 | Rtn. Madhusudan Daga                        |
| Scholarships                                | Rtn. Zinia Lawyer                           |
| Fund-Raising                                | Rtn. Pradeep Chinai                         |
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| Bulletin, Social Media & Website            | Rtn. Rhea Bhumgara                          |
| Water Resources                             | Rtn. Abhishek Saraf                         |
| Bhavishya Yaan                              | Rtn. Manish Reshamwala                      |
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| Cotton Green Medical Centre                 | Rtn. Manoj Patodia                          |
| Cancer Aid                                  | Rtn. Dr. Ian Pinto                          |
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