

THE GATEWAY

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Rotary Club
of Bombay



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■ DON'T STAY AWAY FROM STRAYS



Life for stray animals and their caretakers before the pandemic and lockdown was challenging. It was full of ignorance and apathy at its best and cruelty and violence at its worst. Currently, the plight of

strays during these trying times is worse than normal in many ways with a growing number of hit-and-run accidents and cruelty cases, abandonment of pets on the streets, difficulty to feed and treat starving animals with ever-changing and arbitrary restrictions, unfounded fear in terms of Covid transmission etc. Many already overburdened shelters and NGOs are now understaffed, overpopulated and face considerable financial strain. Yes, the lives of these animals is

far too shocking and moving to ignore or overlook.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court in 2011 passed an order asking the police to provide protection to dogs and dog feeders and has made it a punishable offence if anyone restricts, prohibits or causes inconvenience to any person feeding a street dog or resorts to removal or dislocation or killing of a dog.

It is in these trying times that the human spirit of kindness, helping, sharing and doing right is truly tested. We must be kind, in the very least, to our own community animals, but even better that by donating in whatever measure, meagre to large, towards supporting organisations that are continuing their good work, in the face of extreme adversity, negativity and lack of support.

In ancient literature and scriptures the human species relationship with and proximity to care for animals has been spoken of and examples quoted galore. There must indeed be great merit and substance in it.

During testing times like the present, when we humans are seriously re-evaluating and restructuring ways in which we preserve nature and use it in a sustainable way, this issue, too, has presently spoken out to us, amplified the urgent need for our care and compassion, and our respect for all life.

President Framroze Mehta

#tuesdaythoughts

"There may be days when I can't help an animal in need, but the day will never come that I won't try." — Paul Oxtan

#numbercrunching 35 million

The number of dogs on India's streets, a number that's grown by 17 per cent since 2016.

#caughtintheweb



ARTIST, SCULPTOR AND ENTREPRENEUR, ROUBLE NAGI TALKS ABOUT MAKING INDIA WHOLE, ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

HOW DID YOUR FOOD AND ART JOURNEY BEGIN?

Travel played a huge role in my creativity as I am an army officer's daughter. A different language every few kilometre, people who look different, eat different food, dress up different.

Dad was posted in Kolkata; those two years were bliss because we went to Shanti Niketan and that was the first turning point. My dad wanted me to become

a doctor but I told him that I needed to create something. That is where my art journey began, in school, and I started experimenting. I mixed mud with metal, ceramic with polyceramics. I started painting and sculpting.

I have been married and in Bombay for 20 years, and I decided to take it seriously and study art. I went to London and studied art and political science because I like to study. Now, I have

applied for an MA. Age should not be a barrier for learning.

WHAT WAS THE THOUGHT BEHIND MISAAL MUMBAI, A HUGE PROJECT THAT TRANSFORMED THE MUMBAI SLUMS?

When Misaal started in January 2018, we decided to go to slums, paint them, waterproof them, and repair them. The aim was not just to colour the walls of slums because

TODAY: PARSİ NİTE VARIETY PROGRAMME AT 6.50 PM ON ZOOM



Rtn. Aashish Contractor

colours would fade away but the main idea was to bring a positive change as to why residents should keep the area clean, learn about hygiene and waste management, and minimise the use of plastic.

While I had worked in slums previously, that was more in the area of education for children, through the Rouble Nagi Art Foundation, which aims to take every Indian child to school. It began in Balwadis, which are learning and skills centres for children. The focus of Misaal Mumbai is education and employment along with these workshops that we do. We began with our first one in Jaffar Baba Colony, Bandra, in continuation with our two-year-old initiative called Paint Dharavi. From one area to another, Misaal Mumbai became Misaal India within a year because we expanded to almost 80 per cent of the other states in the country.

We went to villages being deserted by youngsters due to lack of employment and resources. We wanted to keep them in their villages by providing them a means of employment by skilling them, because I take the Indian population as a boon.

If our population was skilled, that would be the biggest advantage. The biggest change we wanted to bring into people's mind, through



President Framroze Mehta

the RN Art Foundation and Misaal Mumbai, was that cleanliness is as important as making the youth and women independent. I have seen women's enthusiasm – all you have to do is show them the platform and support them.

The Misaal Journey began when we started connecting people from every slum and village. Today, we are present in over 300 areas of the country and we have a big team.

The aim was not just to colour or beautify, but how so many different things that can be done through art. At first, I would go to a slum and say 'I want to teach your kids, your youngsters, let's see what kinds of jobs they can get', people would be like 'where has she come from? Why is she talking about all this?'

So, we don't do that for the first five-six days. We just colour. In that last two and a half years, we have done 20 homes, and had 200 people standing behind me wanting to know what's going on. They'll ask what I am doing and whether the slums are going to be demolished. That is when you sit with them, converse with them, tell them why you are there. Slowly, gradually, when they understand that this work is grassroot level work and that I am there to help them in whatever way I can, that is when we became one family.



Rtn. Hormusji Cama

I don't call Misaal Mumbai an initiative anymore, I call it one big happy family because we have so many volunteers and people connected. It is their love, support and josh that has brought Misaal to this level.

We started with the name Misaal Mumbai because Maharashtra itself has many slums and within a year it became Misaal India because we received so many requests to replicate the model elsewhere.

YOU HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN CULTURE, PAINTING, RN ART FOUNDATION, MISSION MISAAL, HOW DO YOU DABBLE WITH ALL THIS AT THE SAME TIME?

I give full credit to my Misaal India team. We started with 38 people in the first slum and today have a million volunteers. Not everyone can come every day but anyone who can give time over the weekend can join us. Someone from HSBC Bank, who was earning quite well, quit his job and joined us, not for lakhs but whatever we could pay.

In his interview, I asked him if he was sure because he had a family to look after. He insisted and said, 'Give me at least five years'. The original 38 team members are still with us. That was our aim of the initiative – it was not just colouring, it was about connecting people.



Rtn. Jagdish Malkani



Rtn. Ashok Jatia



Rtn. Anand Parikh



Rtn. Ashok Chinai



Rtn. Dushyant Dave



Rtn. Farhat Jamal

I don't get too much time to do art now. My last show was at the Rashtrapati Bhavan three years ago. I have not been inspired to paint since then. So I am picking up very few projects when it comes to art, like all the Metro Station art work. I am picking up large-scale projects where I don't need to be timed.

The Rouble Nagi 10 years ago was a different Rouble Nagi and the Rouble Nagi you see today is completely different. We do a lot of activities in Balwadi which keeps them focussed on continuing school. In most government schools, there is an almost 23 per cent dropout rate. There are different reasons: poverty, accessibility, availability, but now, we have their data base because 80 per cent of those kids were also studying with us in the Balwadis. So if we see a kid not going to school due to something for a few days, we address it with the parents, take it back to the teachers. You don't want to stop kids at 8th standard, you want minimum 12th standard. Once there, they don't want to not continue, they want to do graduation.

We live in the 21st century but some people don't know what to do after the 12th. They don't know which college to go to, they don't know what to take Arts or Science or Commerce, how to apply. We guide wherever we can. So many of them want to join the army or air force but they

don't know how to do it.

HAVE YOU SEEN VISIBLE CHANGE WITH PEOPLE GETTING JOBS FROM YOUR EDUCATION INITIATIVE?

The Rouble Nagi Art Foundation has worked in rural India and urban slums for 10 years. My boys and girls are working all over India at amazing posts and some of them are connected with us today as well. We have reached the 50 per cent employment mark with our kids.

It is not that as soon as you are done with your education and studies, you get a job immediately. I tell the youngsters that they need to work hard, be patient, there are about thousands behind you who want the same thing. So, don't give up. Youngsters get demoralised, their hearts are broken too easily nowadays. I always tell them that no world was built in a day. Sooner or later you will get there.

Not just job-seekers, we have made young business entrepreneurs. We have started water filter pumps for them, garages and automobile centres. Some people don't want to work for anyone else. When that person starts doing business, they employ five more people. That is how it becomes a change. We are still trying, we are trying from lots of corporates and multinational

companies. Not just India, we also are trying to reach some of the outside groups. Like we have got from Spain, France, Bangladesh, Jordan. In fact, now we are planning to take Misaal international. We would have done it this year if Covid had not happened, but next year we will go to different countries.

DO YOU HAVE A ROLE MODEL? WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO?

In art, I was inspired by Amrita Sher Gil's work. In Kolkata, dad took us to visit galleries, museums and the art just kind of gets to you. I never knew that I would probably be an artist, get married and go to a family where you don't really need to work outside.

I met Mother Theresa when I was in school in Kolkata. I remember her telling my father that your daughter will do something. I have always looked up to her and it was a dream come true for me to be sitting next to her. Those five to six minutes with her were amazing.

PLEASE SHARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES.

At one point, people came to beat us up because they thought we were from some political party and had come to take their land. I am very daring; I was brought up with two elder brothers, so I was treated as a third boy. I have told people to not think that I

needed other people to do my work for me.

I had my room in every slum that I worked in and I slept there at night when it got late at work. Sometimes my son asked me if I was not coming home and I would say no, I am with my other kids today.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF MISAAL MUMBAI IN A FEW YEARS? DO YOU HAVE A ROADMAP FOR THAT?

Like I said, Misaal Mumbai is now not only Misaal Mumbai, it is Misaal India and we are going internationally, we would have done it this year. So, the main thing is more and more kids in school, generations of employment, making women come to the forefront rather than them being only in the background.

We want them to come forward and join us, show their capability, and become more independent. We promote high sanitation and waste management. We still have eight more states to go, that is the future, so that will complete the entire map of India for us in all states.

HAS COVID-19 MADE ANY IMPACT ON YOUR WORK?

Covid time has become busier for us. It was much easier earlier when everyone was physically able to go and teach. During Covid, we have touched almost two lakh families. From day 1, we have



Rtn. Hiren Kara



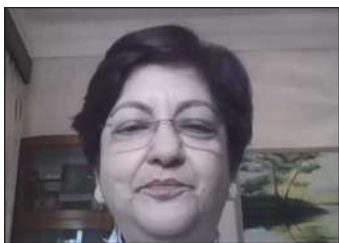
Rtn. Ashok Minawala



PP Kalpana Munshi



Rtn. Khurshed Poonawala



Rtn. Meera Alreja



Rtn. Nirav Shah



PE Shernaz Vakil



Rtn. Zinia Lawyer



Rtn. Pashupati Advani



IPP Preeti Mehta



Rtn. Rajyalakshmi Rao



Rtn. Rituprakash Desai



Rtn. Dr. Rustom Ginwalla

given them hygiene kits and rations because right now, the most important thing was that nobody should sleep hungry in our country. Our team has done a phenomenal job. They have reached areas that could not be reached by Gram Panchayats. My Rajasthan girls distributed 20,000 masks to eight-nine villages, they connected to Alwar district. In Hyderabad, Bihar, Kerala they did it. My team has gone door to door distributing stuff to everyone.

Covid has also been tough; we lost a very senior team member, an artist from Hyderabad as well, which is heart-breaking but this is something you cannot do anything about. All you can do is wear your mask, maintain social distancing and just be careful and educate people. Many people don't know what to do because they don't have television, and they do not operate phones.

HOW DO YOU MANAGE FUNDS?

We do different CSR activities with corporates, we do BPCL, ONGC, we have a lot of CSR programmes and also fundraisers. That is the main source of our funding. We are open to donations from Rotary. (Laughing)

DOES YOUR FAMILY SUPPORT YOU COMPLETELY IN THIS ENDEAVOUR?

More than 100 per cent. If it wasn't for my husband, I don't think I would have been able to do anything. He has been the pillar of my work since day one.

WHAT IS THE CONNECTION BETWEEN YOUR NAME AND THE RUSSIAN CURRENCY?

Rouble means light, in Arabic and in Sanskrit both. So, my father, probably when he saw me, he was not even there when I was born, he was on the border. Mom delivered me in the house.

Even now when we sit together in the evening, she jokes that you were too eager to come, you couldn't even let me reach the house. Your dad was coming the next day. So, I was born in a very small village, mum didn't have a concrete room at that time, she had a mitti ke banaa ghar.

I was born in the hands of Dai maa and my father's elder brother's wife. So, my father came the next and saw me and he said when I looked at you, I said, "this is my Rouble." So, I said to him, I hope you knew the meaning of Rouble, he said yes it meant light. I don't know how the spelling went around as the currency. The name meaning is Light.



Rtn. Sabira Merchant



Rtn. Satyan Israni



Rtn. Sherebanu Baldiwal



Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani



Rtn. Vineet Kedia

RECYCLE, REUSE, REFURBISH

ROTARY DISTRICT 3141 (ROTARY IN MUMBAI) HAS BEEN DOING SOME EXTRAORDINARY HUMANITARIAN WORK FOR THE COMMUNITY SINCE DECADES WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

Rotary has supported various causes including education for the poor, providing midday meals for school children, peace, medical projects: have free medical clinics for the tribals in villages around Mumbai, environmental projects, projects for women empowerment, projects for street children, differently-abled, providing water to villages around Mumbai and Maharashtra

Creating aangan & bal wadis for slum children

Recreational centres for senior citizens

During the Covid crisis, Rotary in Mumbai has done work worth more than Rs 80 crore to provide food and water and other necessities for the migrants and assisted those who need to get to their homes in their respective villages. To support such causes and much more, Rotary District 3141 has launched a unique project called Giver's Gain - a simple way of giving through unused, old and discarded items.

In Giver's Gain, you can donate products from your home, office or factory premises

which would be reused, recycled or refurbished and the proceeds from sale of these items will fund The Rotary Foundation for the various Rotary initiatives as per above.

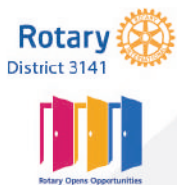
We are starting the first phase with recyclable donations. Those keen to contribute through this initiative can go to the link below and fill up the form. You will receive a call from the vendor who will come and collect the same from your home/ office/ factory (as specified in the form) at a mutually convenient time and value of the same will go as your generous contribution to the Rotary Foundation.

At this time, the need for organisations like Rotary is more than ever before. Let's all come together to donate generously and ensure that we help and assist those who are less privileged than us.

This is a way of giving without pinching your pockets and your small contributions can change the lives of many.

You will also be able to get rid of your unused things without having to pay anybody to clear from your home as the vendor will come and collect the things from your building lobby so this will be contactless.

Let's join hands with Rotary to Serve Mankind.

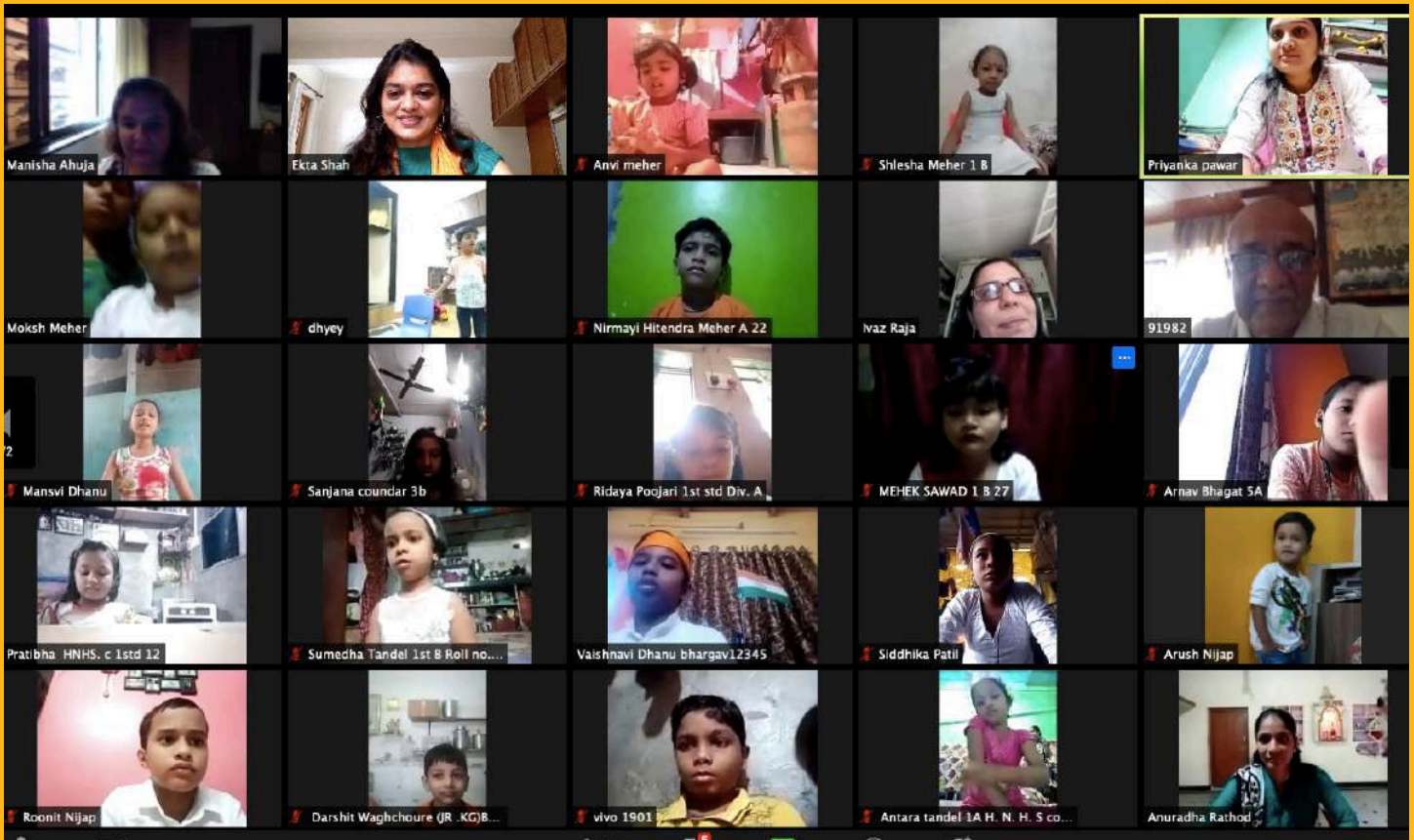


PLEASE NOTE THESE ITEMS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



HOW IT WORKS? FOR ROTARIANS





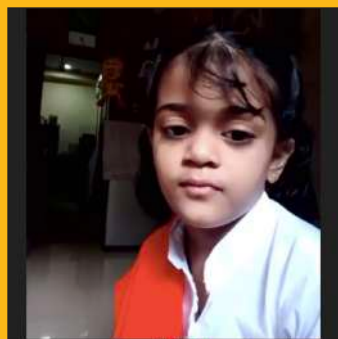
LIGHTHOUSE CELEBRATES I-DAY ON ZOOM!

“WE ARE INDIANS, BOLD AND FREE,” SANG THE K.G. TOTS OF THE LIGHTHOUSE CLASS ON AUGUST 15TH, 2020.

As it was not possible to hold a physical flag-hoisting ceremony due to the lockdown, it was decided to have an Independence Day assembly online using the Zoom platform. Over 30 students from K.G. to class 5 participated in the event, logging in on mobiles from far-flung locations across the country.

Students from each class sang a patriotic song in English and gave a short speech on topics ranging from national symbols to the meaning of freedom. Despite the fact that the programme was entirely

online, enthusiasm levels were high. It was heartening to see the youngsters appropriately dressed in tricoloured outfits



and speaking confidently.

Two of our teachers, Anuradha and Priyanka, are



still stuck in their villages in lockdown but they, along with Ms Ivaz, could prepare the children for this virtual assembly. Ms Manisha Ahuja from Vidya, our education partner, was the emcee of the I-Day assembly.

Chairman Rajesh Shah and Rtn. Ptn. Ekta Shah attended the event on behalf of Rotary Club of Bombay.



Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- ① Is it the **TRUTH**?
- ② Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- ③ Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- ④ Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Aug 25th Club Meeting



Rishad Tobaccowala

Senior Advisor Publicis Groupe



**Remaining Relevant in Changing Times: Thoughts on
how to grow yourself, your teams and company.
Live from Chicago**

Venue : Online at zoom.us (members only)

Time : 7:00pm

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 18

Rtn. Dr. Rustom Ginwalla



AUGUST 20

PP Rajnikant Reshamwala



AUGUST 24

Rtn. Manoj Israni



AUGUST 19

Rtn. Laxmi Maneklal



AUGUST 23

Rtn. Sanjay Agarwal



AUGUST 24

Rtn. Narinder Nayar



AUGUST 20

Rtn. Pradeep Gujarathi



AUGUST 23

Rtn. Dushyant Dave

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 19: Rtn. Ptn. Jyoti Doshi

AUGUST 19: Rtn. Ptn. Sujata Vaswani

AUGUST 20: Rtn. Ptn. Ruby Patch

AUGUST 20: Rtn. Ptn. Navaz Pochkhanwalla

AUGUST 21: Rtn. Ptn. Irma Chinai

AUGUST 21: Rtn. Ptn. Samira Merchant

AUGUST 22: Rtn. Ptn. Manju Sinha

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PP Dr. Adi Dastur	PP Arun Sanghi
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Immediate Past President	Rtn. Preeti Mehta
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President-Nominee	Rtn. Vineet Bhatnagar
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Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
Hon. Treasurer	Rtn. Kirit Kamdar
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DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE PE SHERNAZ VAKIL	
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Sergeant-At-Arms	Rtn. Hoshang Nazir
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Gender Equality	Rtn. Varsha Daiya
Child Welfare	Rtn. Rajesh Shah
The Rotary Foundation & Global Grants	PP Vijaykumar Jatia
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Programme	Rtn. Farhat Jamal
Public Awards	Rtn. Swati Mayekar
Young At Heart	PP Rajnikant Reshamwala
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RCB Medical Centre, Mumbai	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
International Service	Rtn. Christopher Bluemel
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. AJIT LALWANI	
Ananda Yaan	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga
Scholarships	Rtn. Zinia Lawyer
Fund-Raising	Rtn. Pradeep Chinai
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. PRATAP PADODE	
Bulletin, Social Media & Website	Rtn. Rhea Bhungara
Water Resources	Rtn. Abhishek Saraf
Bhavishya Yaan	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
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RCB Medical Centre, Talwada (PRVEC & ADMC)	PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani, Rtn. Homi Katgara
Cotton Green Medical Centre	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
Cancer Aid	Rtn. Dr. Ian Pinto
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Urban Heritage	Rtn. Samir Chinai
Animal Welfare	Rtn. Hiren Kara
Environment	Rtn. Priyasri Patodia
Sports	Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. BIPIN VAZIRANI	
Rotaract	Rtn. Murad Currawala
Interact	Rtn. Gautam Doshi
Vocational Training & Night Study Centre	Rtn. Mehul Sampat