

THE GATEWAY

Rotary
Club of Bombay



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Volume No. 61 Issue No. 7, August 13, 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Very warm greetings.

The Monsoon Session of our 17th Lok Sabha began on June 17th, 2019. Scheduled to end on July 26th, 2019, it was extended until August 7th, 2019 (and is probably the longest session in the past 14 years) in order to complete

legislative business. During this session, Lok Sabha had sittings for 281 hours in 37 days. The Rajya Sabha had sittings for 35 days. This is termed as one of the most productive sessions of the Parliament in decades, with the passage of 32 Bills in 35 sittings in the Rajya Sabha in this session.

We saw the passage of several Bills, including The Jammu and Kashmir (Reorganisation) Bill, 2019, The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019, Jammu & Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, The Aadhar and Other Laws (Amendment), Bill 2019, etc. Many of these Bills, such as those relating to the areas of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh, as also, debates in public on the state of the economy in India, have become hot topics of public and private discussions, views, comments and opinions. Several issues and questions have been raised and, hopefully, we shall avail of the benefit of experts at some of our weekly meetings to be better informed.

The last two months have witnessed extreme weather conditions, from no rains initially to delayed rains and now, after much delay, a vigorous onset of monsoons and incessant rains, making some say – far too much rain. Many people in the earlier part of this year said that the 'El Nino' effect would have a severe and adverse effect on rains this year, and adversely impact agriculture and water levels, creating a crisis. But then such are the forces of nature and quite difficult to predict with any degree of certainty and accuracy!

While we, in Mumbai, are evidencing the various doings of nature, its complexities, intensity and crisis are truly felt by others in various parts of the country. I am more than certain that each one of us is extending their helping hand in whatever way possible to people in distress. I would urge all to pray for the well-being of everyone.

A polite reminder once again: we have our Club's high voltage fund-raiser show – Sonu Nigam – Live in Concert on Tuesday, August 27th, 2019 at the Tata Theatre, NCPA, from 6 pm to 9.30 pm. Ticket sales have been brisk and only about 80 to 90 tickets remain to be sold. However, we certainly could do with much more in terms of sponsorship, advertisement and donation. All of these will help fund our Club's projects, making them meaningful and more effective with a wider reach.

President Preeti Mehta



THE MEANING OF CONSERVATION

Conservation architect **Vikas Dilawari** warns that meaningful restoration is suffering from indifference

EXPERIENCE counts and so it was a delight to hear Conservation Architect Vikas Dilawari at the Club meeting last Tuesday. Vikas's beautiful presentation packed fabulous images of before and after restoration works that kept the audience engrossed.

The conservation movement started with the World Wars and the Industrial Revolution, when the need for reviving arts and crafts was felt. Vikas defined conservation as an elephant left to the interpretation of blind men. "Historians don't want change; developers want full change; society is unconcerned; for the government, development is on the agenda but conservation is never; ordinary FSIs are happy to break an old building and construct high rises and just a miniscule number of conservationists like me try to bridge the two extremes – architectural historians and builders."



"The reality is our cities are not maintained because of the Rent Control Act. So, we have low rents and frozen rents. Preservation is restricted to monuments, restoration is just emerging, and skilful repairs are missing," Vikas pointed out. With decades of experience behind him, Vikas shared the basic fundamentals followed by conservationists:

- Minimum intervention
- Use of like to like material
- 6 inches - 6 yards concept
- Documentation of complete work

TODAY'S SPEAKER: ANANT GOENKA, MD, CEAT ON 'WHERE THE RUBBER HITS THE ROAD'

02 THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



PE Rtn. Framroze Mehta wishes Rtn. Sorab Javeri for his birthday



Rotarians Ajit Surana, Vandan Shah and Rajesh Shah



Rotarians Ashok Jatia, Pulin Shroff, Abhishek Saraf and Siddharth Bhimrajka



Rotarians PE Framroze Mehta, Pradeep Chinai, Manish Reshamwala, PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan and Elisabeth Prager

Vikas said, "We always advise reversible intervention which is more difficult to follow" The most important fundamental is to avoid experimentation.

"There are many challenges in this field as we have been at it for just three decades. Whereas, Britain has done it for two centuries. Clients are not aware of the conservation aspect. There has been a disconnect and loss of tradition and skill as traditional materials are not easily available. Poor appreciation of work leads to poor remuneration for the craftsman."

"Every project tries to revive craftsmanship. But we don't get traditional materials, so new materials are being used. Is that conservation? If you see the recent example of CST station, the traditional glass was something else and what has been used now is something else. There is no historic study so we lose continuity."

"Most of the conservation work in Mumbai is under the disguise of beautification. Beautification is quick, conspicuous, expensive and undesirable. The bureaucrat who commissions it is happy to see it complete in his tenure, but the building is unhappy. Conservation is slow, inconspicuous, economical and desirable. It will certainly not happen in the tenure of a bureaucrat."

Next, Vikas moved to some alarming statistics. Mumbai was the first city to have a Heritage legislation and the first list (later revised). Mumbai has two heritage sites and one National Park unlike any other city. The

heritage works up to only 7.5 per cent of the city but unfortunately with the new DCPR, 203-04 half of the grade 3 building do not need to come under heritage committee. So, 7.5 per cent has been reduced to 3 per cent and it is very miniscule.

Interestingly, when Mumbai developed during the 19th century, the new development of then became today's World Heritage site while today's development is certainly not going to be one in the future. "We do have problems," said Vikas, "we have more than 16,000 properties that are over a hundred years old and the Rent Control Act does not allow them to be looked after."

"The government does not want to address the Rent Control Act, but the other proposals are to invite private builders, leading to a redevelopment such as Bhendi Bazaar which is cited as a good example of cluster development." Vikas feared the ability of Mumbai city to cope during any disaster. "This is the reason why conservation comes into the picture," he said.

Vikas, through a PowerPoint presentation, gave a brief and chronological outline of his experience of restoring heritage private and public buildings/structures. Starting from the American Express Bank, Amarchand Mansion - residential building, Simone Departmental stores, restoration of the Army Navy building, Rajabai Tower-restoration of glass by using minimum intervention.

The Intach Mumbai Chapter approached him after the

FACT: During World War I, Rotary in Britain increased from 9 to 22 clubs, and other early clubs in other nations included those in Cuba in 1916, Philippines in 1919 and India in 1920. In 1922, the name was changed to Rotary International. By 1925, Rotary had grown to 2,106 clubs worldwide with 110,500 members.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY **03**



Rotarians Pankaj Baliga and Farhat Jamal flank speaker Vikas Dilawari



Rtn. Manjeet Kripalani asks a question



Rtn. Priyasri Patodia introduces guest speaker Vikas Dilawari



Rtn. Ptn. Beena Yargop, Rtn. Sherebanu Baldiwal and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain



Rtn. Ashrafi Matcheswala gives a vote of thanks

fire at BMC building hall in 2001, and had Vikas involving craftsmen to restore small details, arches, the gold guild and ceilings of the building damaged in the fire. Vikas also shared experiences while restoring the Aga Khan palace in Pune which was declared unsafe by the PWD. What was unsafe was a toilet portion, easily fixable. The team got the colour scheme back and made it functional again. The Bhau Daji Lad Museum, an excellent example of public-private partnership, was transformed too. There is a lot of trial and error and experimentation in the process, lots of referencing and with the right archival materials you can get back to the original, he said.

Not just public buildings, Vikas does private bungalows too. One at Matheran was

restored by Vikas and team in 2008 with simple things in an economic way. Hira Baug, a simple building in Bhuleshwar is close to Vikas. While they were working on it, they found some stencil marks and they found HB written on it (which stood for Hira Baug). The Elphinstone building which caught fire was challenging for restoration as there was no open space, but yet was successfully done by replicating the roof exactly as it was.

Conservation is not just about Heritage buildings but also the rundown buildings. Vikas showed slides of a functional toilet, totally rundown but after two years of hard work, the restoration was beautifully completed. The residence of Jamshedji Tata, too, was restored. It took Rs

3 crore in 10 years to restore the building, the grand images were jaw-dropping.

Another building close to Vikas' heart was a building at Meadow Street. The developer-owner approached Vikas to transform the building to be rented. The transformation was wonderful which stemmed the improvement of the surrounding buildings.

Talking of fountains, the Mulji Jetha Fountain which did not see any water spouting from it in the last 50 years has now been made functional and owners of nearby hotels are looking after the fountain. Willingdon Fountain too has been restored to its marble and brass materials. The Flora Fountain was restored hopefully now to be taken good care of by Municipal

Corporation. Thus, big and small, private and public, glamorous and rundown, Vikas has restored all with minimum intervention and all with heart.

Finally Vikas concluded with four points,

1. Can today's architecture be tomorrow's heritage?
2. Conservation economics is an important in a developing nation like ours.
3. Change is an inevitable part of nature. Change for need is permissible but not for greed. Need base change integrates well into development. It's the latter that creates conflict.
4. Least bad compromise rather than the best possible solution is a practical way forward.

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Sit down lunch at Maison Perumal, Pondicherry



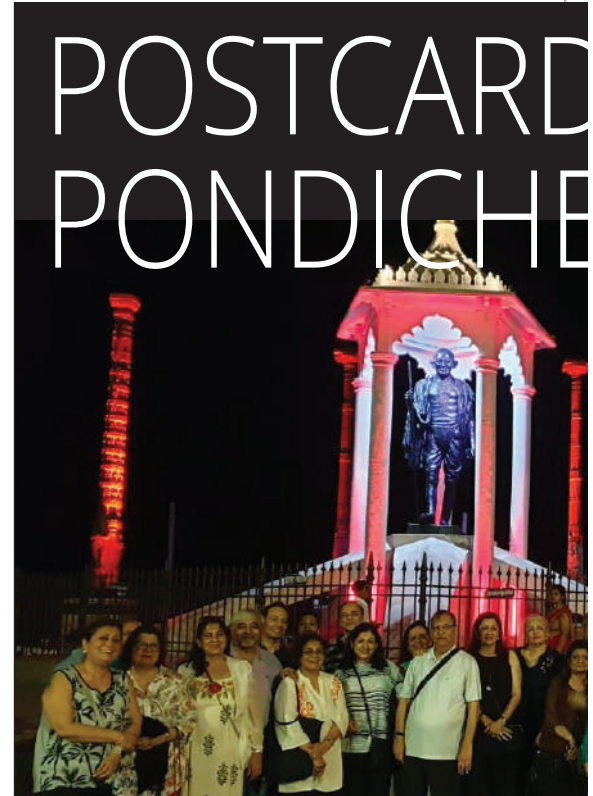
The Jatis discover their rhythm



The silvers – fully participative



On a rickshaw cycle in White Town



At the Pondicherry Promenade in the backdrop of the centuries' old granite pillars brought from Gingee



Many flavours of cheese, inside Auroville



At the Matri Mandir

CAMARADERIE, bonhomie and fun were the lietmotif of the three-and-a-half day Rotary trip to Pondicherry (Puducherry) and Mahabalipuram (Mamalapuram).

The early morning flight landed in Chennai to a sumptuous breakfast awaiting the 36 Rotarians/Rotarian Partners at Radisson Blue GRT. Then, a super luxury Volvo sped to Pondicherry's beach-side Le Pondy Resort, getting us there by early evening.

The convivial mood was evident on the bus: riddles (Sharmi Bhansali), songs, food (Sweta and Kanan) and good-humoured chatter made the journey seem shorter.

Later, we walked along Pondicherry's pier and beach front area, taking in the city's landmarks and happily clicking away photos as well. The day ended with a fabulous dinner at the much reputed 'Palais de Mahe'. A delectable meal, flowing drinks and live Indian

music saw day one ending on a high note.

The next day, following a lavish breakfast, we left for Auroville. Our guide Gopi was fabulous; an Aurovillian himself, he described the city's ethos and egalitarian way of life. Within Auroville, we took in the unusual activities: a music centre that built instruments from stone, wood and metal to create soothing sounds whilst putting unemployed youth to good vocation; wood-craft

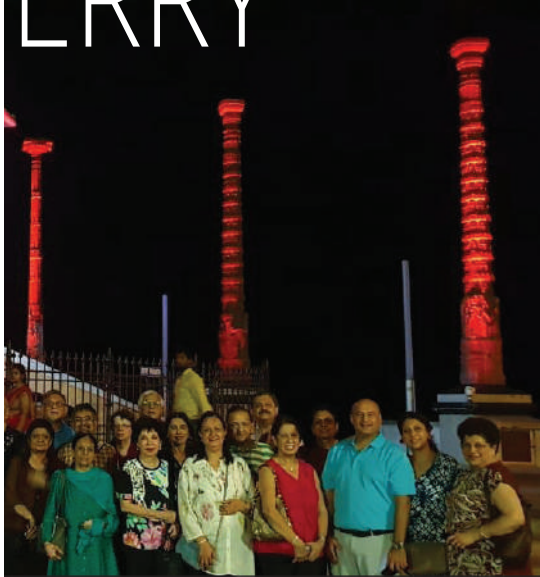
of exceptional quality, and a fashion centre as well. The visit ended with a trip to the famous and must see 'Matri Mandir' - the heart of Auroville and soul food for all. This was followed by lunch at another eating place of repute 'Maison Perumal'.

We then visited Auroville Ashram, which has the samadhis of the Mother and Aurobindo Ghosh. This was followed by a surprise treat: cycle rickshaws ferried us in twos to the delights of White Town: the charming

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THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 05

DS FROM ERRY



the famous Gandhi Statue surrounded by



At the Matri Mandir



Our 'inputs' to the Rathas of Mahabalipuram!



Enjoying the sunset at the private beach –
Ashok Bond and the bevy of beauties



Law and Forex together



A happy family is one which eats together



Don Gautam and Donna President Preeti

lanes, shops and cafes had everyone longing for more. There was shopping too. Many aboard the bus on the return journey to the resort were laden with bags of purchases made at Auroville and White Quarter.

Back at the resort, an evening of music and song awaited us. A live band played while many of our members – Rtn. Sudha Malhotra (a Padma Bhushan awardee), Rtn. Pranay Vakil, Rt. Ptn. Sweta Vakil, Rtn. Pratap Padode, Rtn. Ptn. Falguni Padode and Rtn. Ptn. Rajul Parikh – sang a variety of songs, entertaining the group. Meanwhile, dear Munna – Rtn. Aziz Jhaveri – rediscovered his love and passion for drums and accompanied the group. The setting and

the vibe made for a great evening!

Credit must be given to President Rtn. Preeti Mehta for empowering the team headed by Rtn. Ashok Jatia (can Rtn. Ptn. Vatsala be far behind?) who did a fabulous job! Rtn. Ptn. Kanan Fotedar and her friend Ami Gandhi, worked in tandem with team leader Ashok to keep everyone – from the youngest to the oldest – at complete ease. Care was taken at every juncture – especially with the seniors – to anticipate and address their needs.

The last day, we left for Mahabalipuram by bus: the sights included the Five Rathas, the Shore Temple, while the hotel – The Intercontinental Mahabalipuram – was

luxurious, large and well spread out. An early evening on the hotel's private beach enjoying the sunset and sundowners was followed with a wonderful Bharat Natyam performance in the centre of the water body – Lily Pond area within the hotel. And then, more songs and merriment followed! Rtn. Pratap, Rtn. Munna, PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Ashok Jatia and Rtn. Pravin Bhansali regaled everyone, while Rtn. Sabira Merchant broke into impromptu Shakespearean monologue!

The next day was pack-up time. It was an extremely memorable trip with new bonds explored and more in the offing. Definitely looking forward to the next one!



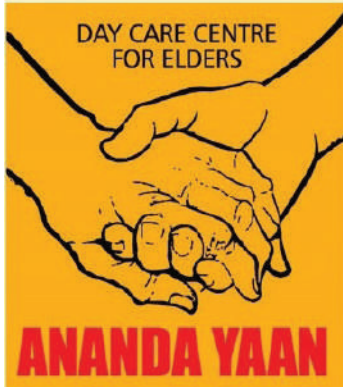
We are active on social media with over 6,500 followers. Find us on facebook, twitter and instagram with the handle @rcb1929. Find us on linkedin and youtube with the handle rotary club of bombay. Please follow us and like/share the posts.

LOVE SHARED IS LOVE MULTIPLIED



ANANDA SEVA

DAY CARE CENTRE
FOR ELDERS



An initiative by



ROTARY CLUB
OF BOMBAY

Managed by

DIGNITY
FOUNDATION

Ananda Seva is a new initiative from Ananda Yaan whereby you can sponsor any activity with our elders in either or both of our Ananda Yaan centres at Byculla or E. Moses Road.

If you want to celebrate any special occasion like a birthday, anniversary or death anniversary and want a specific activity too we are happy to help you curate it. We urge you to give generously.

For it is in giving that we receive - St. Francis of Assisi

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN SUPPORT

1. Snack	Rs. 5,000
2. Bhajan & Satsang	Rs. 5,000
3. Activity (Laughter Therapy, Origami etc.)	Rs. 5,000
4. Lunch (Chaat, Dosa, etc.)	Rs. 8,000
5. Festival Celebration	Rs. 8,000
6. Health Check Up	Rs. 8,000
7. Cultural Program	Rs. 10,000
8. Picnics & Outings	Rs. 30,000

To book any of the above please contact:
Vrinda Rajgarhia – 98201 28480
Ekta Shah – 77387 60230
Cheques to be made in favour of:
Rotary Club of Bombay Charities No. 3



RTN. PTN. EKTA SHAH availed of **Ananda Yaan's** Ananda Seva to celebrate her birthday.

Members of RCB's Byculla Ananda Yaan Centre, in partnership with Dignity Foundation, experienced the pilgrimage of a lifetime. On July 18th, 2019, Byculla Centre members visited not just one or two but four holy places in a span of 12 hours!

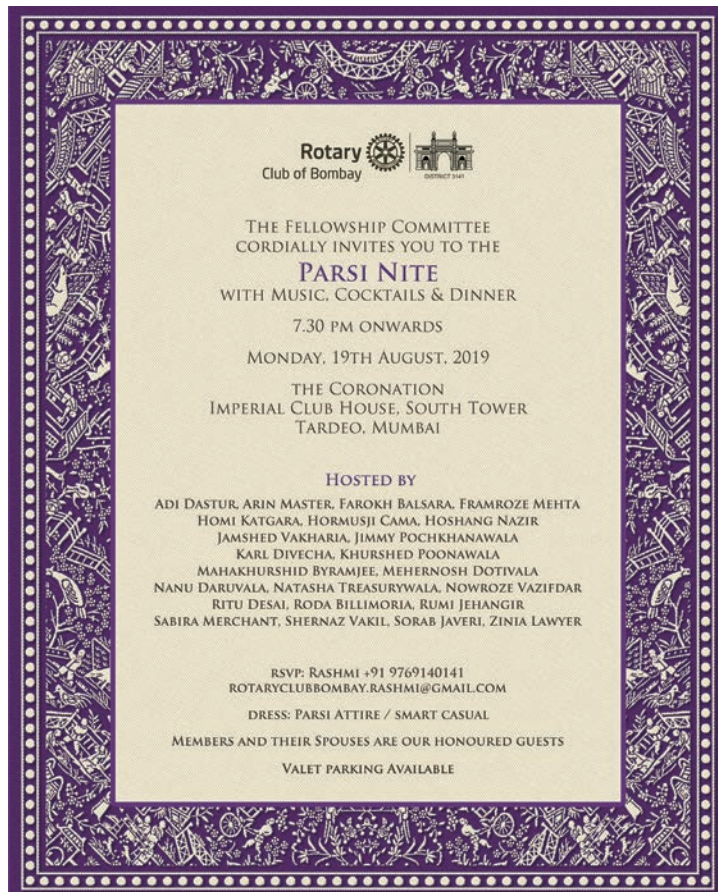
Fifty-eight senior citizens travelled over 250 kms in a single day and covered four places: Gagangiri Maharaj Samadhi, Pati Shirdi Mandir, Tukaram Maharaj Samadhi and Anandi Mandir. These



places were around the Pune district. There were no delays or waiting anywhere, the elders travelled seamlessly from one location to another. The trip seemed to have the blessing of the weather gods too. Senior citizens were well organised, they made groups of 10 to look after each other and made sure everyone stayed on schedule.

This was an emotional journey for most of them as it was their first visit to these places. Overwhelmed, they showered their blessings upon the Rotary Club of Bombay and Dignity Foundation for facilitating the trip.

AUGUST 13, 2019



Rotary
Club of Bombay

THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE
PARSI NITE
WITH MUSIC, COCKTAILS & DINNER
7.30 PM ONWARDS
MONDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 2019
THE CORONATION
IMPERIAL CLUB HOUSE, SOUTH TOWER
TARDEO, MUMBAI

HOSTED BY
ADI DASTUR, ARIN MASTER, FAROKH BALSARA, FRAMROZE MEHTA,
HOMI KATGARA, HORMUSJI CAMA, HOSHANG NAZIR,
JAMSHED VAKHARIA, JIMMY POCHKHANAWALA,
KARL DIVECHA, KHURSHED POONAWALA,
MAHAHURSHID BYRAMJEE, MEHERNOSH DOTIVALA,
NANU DARUVALA, NATASHA TREASURYWALA, NOWROZE VAZIFDAR,
RITU DESAI, RODA BILLIMORIA, RUMI JEHANGIR,
SABIRA MERCHANT, SHERNAZ VAKIL, SORAB JAVERI, ZINIA LAWYER

RSVP: RASHMI +91 9769140141
ROTARYCLUBBOMBAY.RASHMI@GMAIL.COM
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MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSES ARE OUR HONOURED GUESTS
VALET PARKING AVAILABLE

THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

07

ROTARIANS MAKING WAVES

RTN. SHEKHAR MEHTA,
Rotary Club of Calcutta,
Mahanagar, Past RI
Director, is the choice of the
Nominating Committee
to serve as RI
President 2021-22.

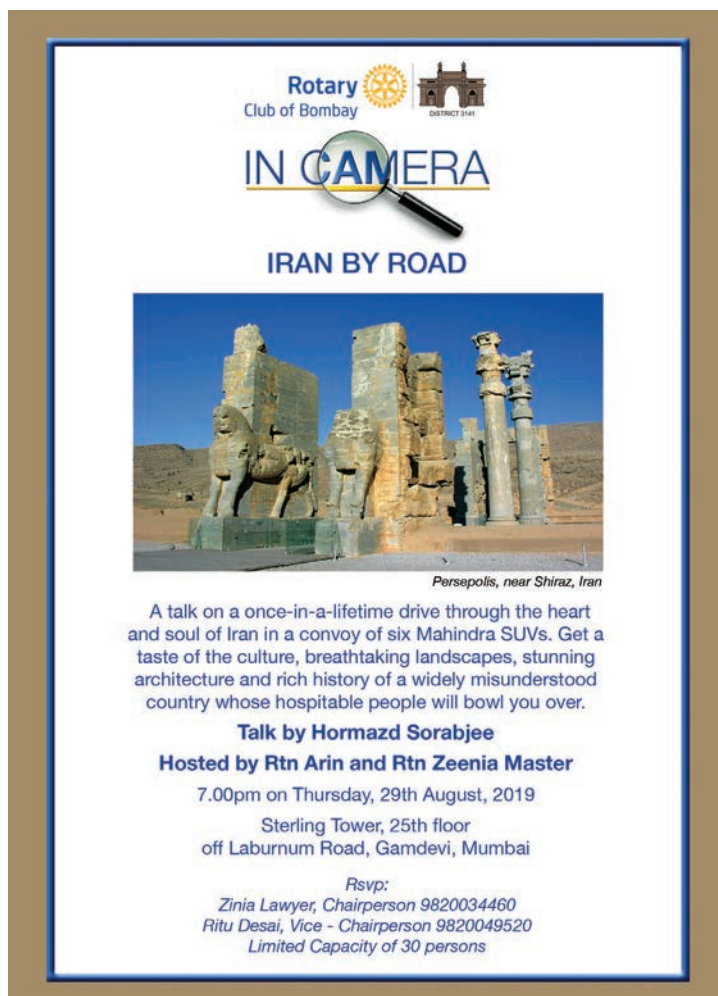
Mehta acknowledges that present participation patterns are a challenge and says that membership development should be Rotary's most noteworthy need. He accepts that concentrating on local plans, effectively progressing Rotaractors into Rotary Clubs, and expanding assorted variety and female members could yield a five per cent net growth in membership each year. Mehta, an accountant, is chair of the Skyline Group,

a real estate development company he founded. He is also a director of Operation Eyesight Universal (India), a Canada-based organisation.



Mehta has been actively involved in disaster response and is a trustee of ShelterBox, UK. After the 2004


Indian Ocean tsunami, he helped build nearly 500 homes for families affected by the disaster. Mehta pioneered a programme that has performed more than 1,500 life-changing heart surgeries in south Asia. He is also the architect of the TEACH Program, which promotes literacy throughout India and has reached thousands of schools.



Rotary
Club of Bombay

IN CAMERA

IRAN BY ROAD

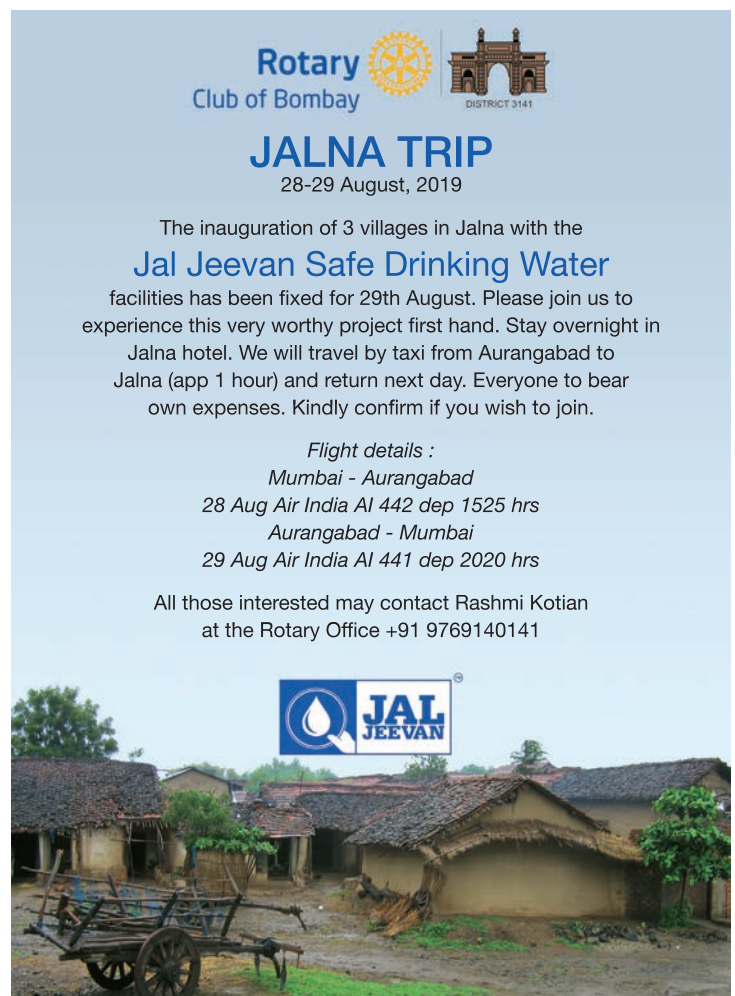


Persepolis, near Shiraz, Iran

A talk on a once-in-a-lifetime drive through the heart and soul of Iran in a convoy of six Mahindra SUVs. Get a taste of the culture, breathtaking landscapes, stunning architecture and rich history of a widely misunderstood country whose hospitable people will bowl you over.

Talk by Hormazd Sorabjee
Hosted by Rtn Arin and Rtn Zeenia Master
7.00pm on Thursday, 29th August, 2019
Sterling Tower, 25th floor
off Laburnum Road, Gamdevi, Mumbai

Rsvp:
Zinia Lawyer, Chairperson 9820034460
Ritu Desai, Vice - Chairperson 9820049520
Limited Capacity of 30 persons





Rotary
Club of Bombay

JALNA TRIP
28-29 August, 2019

The inauguration of 3 villages in Jalna with the
Jal Jeevan Safe Drinking Water
facilities has been fixed for 29th August. Please join us to experience this very worthy project first hand. Stay overnight in Jalna hotel. We will travel by taxi from Aurangabad to Jalna (app 1 hour) and return next day. Everyone to bear own expenses. Kindly confirm if you wish to join.

Flight details :
Mumbai - Aurangabad
28 Aug Air India AI 442 dep 1525 hrs
Aurangabad - Mumbai
29 Aug Air India AI 441 dep 2020 hrs

All those interested may contact Rashmi Kotian
at the Rotary Office +91 9769140141

Important



"All blocked tickets for the Sonu Nigam fund-raiser need to be paid for by August 14th, 2019. Those that remain unpaid by then will be released for public purchase on Book My Show on 14th evening."

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 14
RTN. JAYESH
JHAVERI



AUGUST 15
RTN. (DR.) SHAILESH
RAINA



AUGUST 17
RTN. SUNITA
MANDELIA



AUGUST 17
RTN. SUNNY
PARIYARAM



AUGUST 19
RTN. LAXMI MANEKLAL

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 13

RTN. PTN. SHALINA ADVANI
RTN. PTN. MRUDULA BISWAS
RTN. PTN. KULSUM JAMAL
RTN. PTN. ARADHANA MEHTA
RTN. PTN. MINAL VAGHANI

AUGUST 14

RTN. PTN. RINKU SUCHANTI

AUGUST 15

RTN. PTN. SANGITA ADVANI
RTN. PTN. KETAYUN IRANI

AUGUST 18

RTN. PTN. RANJIT SHAHANI

AUGUST 19

RTN. PTN. DANIEL TENNEBAUM
RTN. PTN. JYOTI DOSHI
RTN. PTN. SUJATA VASWANI

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST 14

RTN. PTN. BIBA & PP RTN. HARRY SINGH
ARORA

Next week's speaker



ASHWIN
Sanghi ranks among India's highest selling English fiction authors. He has written several

best-sellers (*The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant*, *The Krishna Key*, *The Sialkot Saga*, *Keepers of the Kalachakra*) and two New York Times bestselling crime thrillers with James Patterson — *Private India* and *Private Delhi*.

Included by Forbes India in their Celebrity 100 and winner of the Crossword Popular Choice, Ashwin has also mentors, co-writes and edits titles in the immensely popular 13 Steps series.

Ashwin and PP (Dr.) Mukesh Batra will talk on their book - 13 ways to Bloody Good Health, moderated by Rtn. Tara Deshpande.

Forthcoming events

AUGUST 19: Parsi Fellowship Night at Imperial Club House, Tardeo from 7.30 pm onwards.

AUGUST 27: Sonu Nigam Fund-raiser

AUGUST 28-29: Rotary Club of Bombay heads to Jalna to inaugurate Jal Jeevan Safe Drinking Water in 3 villages. All interested in joining contact Rashmi Kotian on 9769140141.

AUGUST 29: In-camera event: Talk by Hormazd Sorabjee on Iran By Road. Hosted by Rtn. Arin & Zeenia Master at Sterling Tower, Gamdevi, at 7 pm.

SEPTEMBER 3: Dr. Ashok Kriplani Growing War, Deteriorating Patient-Doctor Relationship

SEPTEMBER 10: Cyrus Guzder & Rahul Kadri: Discussion on Development vs Environment.

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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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

OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

President	Rtn. Preeti Mehta
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President-Elect	Rtn. Framroze Mehta
President-Nominee	Rtn. Shernaz Vakil
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Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Satyan Israni
Hon. Treasurer	Rtn. Jagdish Malkani

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Urban Heritage	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
Environment	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga

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Yoga	Rtn. Sitaram Shah
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 Muljiani
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
Gender Equality	Rtn. Arin Master
Skill Development	Rtn. S. V. Prasad

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