# THE GATEWAY

Rotary Club of Bombay





Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Bombay | For private circulation only | www.rotaryclubofbombay.org

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Our Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, said, "A clean India would be the best tribute India could pay to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary in 2019," as he launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan / Mission at Rajpath in New Delhi. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is the most significant

cleanliness campaign with various dimensions and initiatives, such as eradication of open defecation, building of toilets, sanitation programmes, zero waste, banning of single use plastic, etc. by the Government of India with about 30 lakh government employees across the country joining in this pledge.

Lauding the Prime Minister for improving sanitation in the country through the Swachh Bharat Mission, Microsoft cofounder Bill Gates said now is the time to build on the success of the movement. It is the duty of every citizen to participate in this most significant issue which is the dire need of the hour.

The Prime Minister has brought the issues to the limelight and it is for the entire country to support. The recent 'Global Goalkeeper' award by the Gates Foundation to this initiative and programme augurs well for it.

I am glad to say that RID 3141, including our Club, has taken the initiative in this regard with cleanliness drives at railway stations, beaches, etc.

Also, as the country prepares for a complete ban on single use plastic from October 2<sup>nd</sup> under the Swachh Bharat Mission, RID 3141, including our Club, is already leading by example by undertaking initiatives in this regard.

Once again, we had an interesting and informative weekly meeting listening to our Guest Speaker Mr. Zulfiquar Memon who addressed the Club on "The Evolution of White Collar Crime and the Legal Practice".

Also, on September 21st, our Club was well represented at the TRF Seminar. I am happy to share that both our Club and our members and donors were well acknowledged and recognised.

'Fall Prevention Week' is a tremendous idea and initiative for awareness on the subject of educating elders on preventive measures to avoid falls and consecutive fractures and injuries. As part of the 'Fall Prevention Week', on September 24th, under the leadership of Dr. Mona Shah and our PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, an infotainment program was organised for the underprivileged elders of Ananda Yaan and other centres. A unique initiative to educate elders on fall prevention and avoiding fractures and injuries interspersed with entertainment. Our MC Rtn. Ptn. Ekta Shah was remarkable. And, of course, the evening couldn't have been complete without listening to the melodious songs sung by our very own nightingale, Rtn. Ptn. Vandana Daga. A very well organised evening giving the elders an experience they couldn't have dreamt of. Ananda Yaan Team... take a bow. A special thank you to our very own Rtn. Indu Shahani and the Rotaractors of ISME for the superb arrangements and their warm hospitality.

President Preeti Mehta



## CEO ON THE OTHER SIDE

Lawyer and Managing Partner MZM Legal, **Zulfiquar Memon** spoke to Rotarians about the nature of white collar crime

"THE nature of white collar crimes is such that you cannot trust anybody. It is like a classic thriller scene where you never find out what happened. The most important ingredient in any frau

ingredient in any fraud is greed. And greed is something you cannot negotiate, it's not something that you can sit down and speak to somebody or talk about."

"Last year, I got called to Nigeria by an Indian businessman who was very well settled there. They had sent a plane, I was very excited. After a little probing, I got to know that he was the largest drug and narcotics smuggler in Africa. I couldn't run away from there or tell him to his face that I don't do this. I came on his plane, I had to go back on his plane."



"There were 30 to 40 armed men standing by my side. In my four-hour conversation, I had to eventually muster up the courage to tell him that I could

do this. On my way back, I was assessing what drives this guy to commit such offences... is it money? Is it power? For him, it was territorial power: acquiring more and more territory. He had just started supplying to the US and they had initiated extradition proceedings to extrude him from Africa. That is where he wanted my assistance. I refused. A couple of months back, I heard that the US picked him up in the middle of golf and he is now at the US Central Jail."

"In all of these classic, sophisticated crimes, the most important ingredient

TODAY'S SPEAKER: ACTOR BOMAN IRANI ON HIS JOURNEY, FROM THE STRUGGLE TO THE STARDOM

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is greed. The offence is greed-driven. The complexity, magnitude and scale of corruption has added fuel to fire. Nobody is spared, everybody is involved."

"It was not so in the early 90s when I had just started practicing with my father, a criminal lawyer. A criminal lawyer was a one-man army going to court, filing bail applications, filing witness statements, filing police complaints, conducting trials, upholding social rights. Bail was the rule, jail was an exception. Then came liberalisation. Large companies came in and the media started playing a very important role. Everything became sensationalised and glamorised. Every bit of news was processed and dissected on TV. With the change in crime, we started witnessing large-scale fraud."

"The classic UTI scam – Rs 20,000 crore - the first time we had heard these numbers, not many know how to even calculate them. Investors committed suicide. Eventually the government had to bail them out. Many scams like that followed, the fodder scam, agriculture, real estate, stock market. People lost thousands of crores. Can we blame anybody? Yes, the system! There was corruption and manipulation. But with it there was technology, growth, progress and with them came all of these money laundering offences. Large scales of money were looted. Can someone spend Rs 20,000 crore in his lifetime? It is just greed; it is about territorial power. It is the greed to acquire. The government is facing new challenges, trying to bring more legislation, more amendments. It is making the life of the layman difficult but it is the need of the hour."

"In the 90s, when all of these scams began to come to light, criminal lawyers suddenly started getting all the wealth and fame. In the last few years, I have interviewed hundreds of law students who have no idea of criminal law but wanted to join white collar crime. It is just because of the glamour and media, everything looks so fancy. But it is not like that, it is very dark."



Speaker Zulfiquar Memon



Rotarians Dr Mehernosh Dotivala, Jayesh Vora and Suresh Jagtiani



Rotarians President Preeti Mehta, Abhishek Saraf, IPP Rtn. Vijay Kumar Jatia and Abhinav Aggarwal



Rtn. Sanjay Aggarwal introduces the speaker



Speaker Zulfiquar Memon with Rotarians Farhat Jamal, President Preeti Mehta, Jagdish Malkani and Sanjay Agarwal

"I remember the Telgi scam. Classic case! What manipulation! I remember Anna Hazare walking in to our office with a one rupee coin, my father was at his peak as a defence lawyer then. Anna Hazare gave him the rupee and said, 'I want to use your expertise and I want to be a whistleblower and unearth this scam. It is such a complex scam, it is going to be difficult for people to understand.' It was challenging, we took it up. My father filed the PIL under Anna Hazare's instruction and we unearthed this massive scam."

"Abdul Karim Telgi had managed to get access to the government press, to print stamp papers. The idea was that they were not fake stamp papers but unauthorised. They were distributed by a network of 173 officials all over India: 18 cities, 120 bank accounts, wrongful gains of 200 crore a month. These stamp papers were distributed to banks, real estate companies, financial organisations, corporations, business houses, massive 1000-crore deals signed on stamp papers made by Abdul Karim Telgi. How do you undo it? Of course the PIL was successful. It was an image saver for criminal lawyers and we managed to bring down many people in high positions."

"Things have evolved, the entire structure of white collar crimes has become complex. We work closely with forensic experts, digital forensic experts, there are new methods and technology. It is a task to even comprehend a scheme. In another case, it has taken more than three months for us to understand how the paper work was done. My point is, it is no more as simple as when you got the documents, went to the lawyer and said, 'please defend me'. You have to be a scientist, you have to understand the client and the complexity of how he did it. In most cases, they say they are not wrong and there is a crack in the system of which they have taken advantage. But we all are responsible people; we all have to go back to society and see where the cracks need to be repaired. Another massive scam is about to happen in crypto-currency. I am already in talks with the Singapore law

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firm and that is going to run in billions of dollars. Why? Because people like us want to invest in opportunities. Greed! It's everywhere."

"We become victims of these frauds. We don't want to go to the lawyers because we want to save money. But you need us before you get into anything, not after, because the recovery of money in this country is zero. EOW (Economic Offences Wing) set up a pecuniary jurisdiction of Rs 50 lakh. Within no time, they increased it to Rs 2 crore because every household has a Rs 50 lakh matter. Now it is Rs 6 crore and still they are overburdened. We are talking of thousands of crores, what is the EOW going to do? Media is not even interested in Rs 500-600 crore scams any more. The EOW is doing whatever it can but when victims come for recovery, the money is gone. That makes the job of a lawyer more difficult because there is expectation of recovery of money. Criminal law does not allow recovery of money, it allows for penal offences and punishment."

"Prevention is better than cure, we all need to be intelligent and wise and make sure that our books are in order and not get carried away by fancy scams or business proposals that are thrown at us everyday. We are vulnerable to these things."

"Towards the end, with all these scams that happened, there is one that changed the way we looked at scams because this is where law enforcement agencies played an important role: the 2G scam. We were fortunate to represent a couple of people

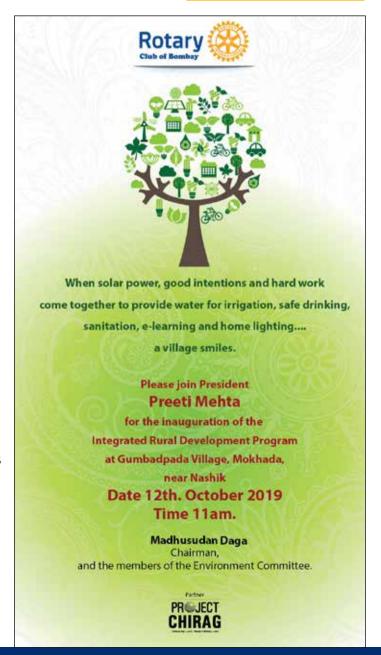
in the scam; for six years, we religiously conducted the trial and towards the conclusion, every single accused was acquitted. This is not because they were too smart: this is because the investigation was shabby, with all respect to the CBI. Sensationalism by the media puts so much pressure that irresponsible journalism goes to the extent of passing judgement. The whole case is narrated in a graphic view of how it all happened. And we, as lawyers, think that may be these guys should be in the court and make a presentation before the judge and perhaps be the judges and pass verdicts, like they do on their news channels."

"The 2G case was a victim of the pressure by the media. Every accused was paraded, arrested, caused massive set backs. Ministers were arrested and eventually, at the end of the day, did it stand the test of trial? Thus, it is not just about unearthing an offence or blaming someone, but about investigation. Law enforcement agencies and citizens have to work hand in hand to enhance knowledge of legal happenings and update our systems. We have to make sure that our books are clean. There are new legislations which make sure that everybody should go back and check their policies otherwise we are exposing ourselves to more scams. The menace is spreading so fast from smallest to largest places due to greed and corruption. And we are all part of it."

"Finally, before I end, I want to read out certain Supreme Court Orders. In light of all this media sensationalism, the SC has passed an order in a case of anticipatory

bail rejection where in the SC has gone to the extent to pass an order and commented that "... offenses of these nature and white collar crimes do not deserve anticipatory bail". That order has now armed every single prosecutor who is going to wave that order on the face of the judge where people like me and vou are made the accused in a wrongful FIR and if you go for an anticipatory bail. Power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely."

MR MEMON READ OUT THE STATEMENT OF SPECIAL CBI JUDGE O P SAINI WHO WAS THE **FULCRUM OF THE 2G TRIAL:** "I may also add that about the last seven years, on all working days, summer vacation included, I religiously sat in the open court waiting for someone with some legally admissible evidence in possession. But in vain. Not a single soul turned up. This indicates that everybody was going by the public perception created by rumour, gossip and speculation. However, public perception has no place in judicial proceedings. By this all the accused are acquitted'."



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# RCB AT TRF SEMINAR









**THE** TRF Seminar was held at the Trident Hotel, Rooftop, Nariman Point on September 21st, 2019, Saturday. It was a great event with amazing energy and enthusiasm. It is, after all, the 100th year of Rotary in India.

PRIP K. R. Ravindran (Sri Lanka) and RID (Dr.) Bharat Pandya both attended the meet, their addresses inspiring and motivating. The Rotary Club of Bombay was the co-host along with other Rotary Clubs of District 3141. The lead host was Rotary Club of Bombay Central.

The event was attended by 300 Rotarians and partners.

Paul Harris Society (PHS) members, Major Donors Level 1 - 4 and Arch Klumph Society (AKS) members were recognised. Arch Klumph Society (AKS) members (cumulative giving of US\$ 250000 and above to TRF) from the Rotary Club of Bombay were present at the seminar. Thus, RCB was

represented by Rotarians Dilip and Shalini Piramal, Manoj Israni, Nirav and Devina Shah.

They were all recognised by the galaxy of Rotary International Leaders and DG Harjit Talwar for their generosity in donating to the TRF.





#### 05

# **VEDIC MATHS FOR KIDS**



**ON** September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the **Inner Wheel Club of Bombay** organised a Vedic Maths workshop for children of standard 7 of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar School, BDD Chawl, Worli. A hundred students, five school teachers

and 12 club members attended the workshop.

Mrs. Kapse (Superintendent BMC), Mrs Vidhya Yadav (Beat Officer) and Mrs. Sangeeta Shrivastava (Principal) were also present, and appreciated



this project undertaken by Inner Wheel Club of Bombay.

Masters in the field of Vedic Maths, Mrs. Sheetal Mehta and Mrs. Hemal Dedhia conducted the workshop flawlessly, showing ways to solve even difficult maths problems with ease. Notebooks, pens and juices were distributed to all students and teachers of the school.

### **HEALTHY AGEING FOR ALL!**

For Fall Prevention Awareness Week (September 22 – 28), the Smart Avenue Non Medical 1 team thought it was important to talk about factors that may increase one's risk of falling. They did their mandate proud in the infotainment experience they provided to 250 underprivileged elders and 50 guests at the beginning of Fall Prevention Week, on September 24th, 2019. This was an evening dedicated to the health and wellness of our elders.

President Preeti Mehta welcomed everyone warmly with a short and crisp speech in Hindi and a sweet smile. We thank Rtn. (Dr.) Indu Shahani for addressing the audience, enthralling everyone by her charm and poetry, giving full support to the programme through her college and the students of RC ISME.



At the event organised by the Ananda Yaan Committee of the Rotary Club of Bombay, Dr. Mona Shah, Chairperson of the District Avenue, spoke with clarity and passion about why elders fall and how these falls could be prevented. An audio-visual that gave tips on how to prevent falls was played.

Members of Ananda Yaan have been learning about the joys of music from the Shankar Mahadevan Academy. Debashree has been guiding them with affection and skill. Nine members of Ananda Yaan along with Debashree started the musical evening by singing the Bollywood song: "kal ho na ho." Many of them did not know how to read and learnt to sing by hearing the words and rhythms taught by Debashree.

This was followed by a musical medley presented by our own Rtn. Ptn.

Vandana Daga. Her singing left the audience spellbound and many in the audience could not help but dance to the tune. Her energetic voice inspired their young hearts to sway.

We thank Vandana for bringing smiles on the faces of our elders and creating a joyous atmosphere. Soulful Saturdays is a professional music group that stepped up to help good causes like ours as a labour of love. We are grateful to Mr. Rajesh, the leader of Soulful Saturdays, and every member of the band. A special word of thanks to Romita Wadhwani for helping us put this wonderful evening together. A special mention of Hansika Shahani, Assistant Programme Manager, ISME and her team, for coordinating the event with such ease and perfection.

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#### \*MODEL UNITED NATIONS FOR ROTARIANS IS HERE!\*

On November 9 & 10, 2019 at the Bombay Stock Exchange!

#### **EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- \*Rotarians\* to be allotted countries!
- All participants to wear the \*national dress of the country they represent\*!
  - \*Consulates\* to be invited!
- \*Exchange Students\* to participate!
- \*2 Resolutions\* to be debated over
   2 days with an Emergency session
   and a Crisis situation!
  - \*Training\* for participants on September 29 & October 26!



A Rotary Club can send any number of teams of 2 (Rotarian/Spouse/Family)!

#### **INVESTMENT (PER PARTICIPANT):**

- All meals for 2 days at the Bombay Stock Exchange!
  - -Training program & Kit!
    - Complimentary gift!

#### **Entertainment!**

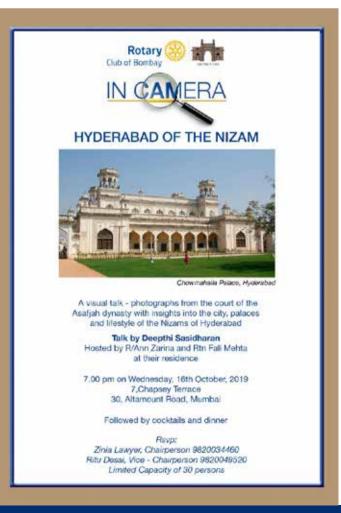
 Prizes for Best Speaker, Debator, Team and National Dress!

Only @ Rs. 1999 per person!

Please email / call / whatsapp Rtn. Satyan Israni to participate.

Contact Details: rotary.satyanisrani@ gmail.com / 9821220255





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# KIDS INTERACT IN SCHOOL



# PARTICIPATION IN SWACCH BHARAT ABHIYAAN AT SCHOOL LEVEL, ORGANISED BY INTERACT CLUB

**ON** September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019, students from standards 5 to 10 of the Interact Club, Convent of Jesus and Mary, Fort, actively participated in the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan project in their school. An

assembly was conducted in the Marian Hall, where students were informed about the importance of keeping school premises clean and the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.

Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan is a nationwide campaign in India for a period of 2014-2019. This campaign mainly aims to clean up streets, roads and infrastructure of India's



cities, towns, urban or rural areas. The campaign's official name is 'Neat and Tidy India's Mission'. The mission aims to achieve an open, defecation-free India by October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

On this occasion, the Interact Club had organised certain programmes in order to follow the objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Students and teachers cleaned the premises of the school including the community library, garden, ground floor, classrooms etc. Everyone participated in the activities. Students were taught to maintain cleanliness in homes, schools and in terms of their personal hygiene. The motivating thought of the day was: "Being green and clean is not just an aspiration but an action."



# ANNOUNCEMENT There is no meeting next week on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, on account of Dussehra! Happy holidays!

#### **ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS**



OCTOBER 1 OCTOBER 2
PRESIDENT PREETI RTN. SURESH KOTAK



OCTOBER 2
RTN. RAMESH
MEHTA



OCTOBER 2 RTN. PURNIMA SHETH



OCTOBER 5
RTN. ARVIND



OCTOBER 6 Rtn. Meera Alreia



OCTOBER 7
RTN. VIKRAM
DAIYA

#### **ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS**

OCTOBER 3

RTN. PTN. VATSALA JATIA RTN. PTN. REKHA RUIA OCTOBER 5

RTN. PTN. DIVYA MAFATLAL

OCTOBER 6

RTN. PTN. SWETA VAKIL

**OCTOBER 7** 

RTN. PTN. NEHA BHIMRAJKA

RTN. PTN. SWAPNA MURARKA

RTN. PTN. NILOUFER VAKIL

#### **GUEST SPEAKER ON OCTOBER 15:** WELLNESS EXPERT MICKEY MEHTA



MICKEY Mehta is an Indian holistic health, well-being, wellness, and fitness guru. He preaches the concept of holistic health and equipment free workouts and has done so by establishing a chain of Mickey Mehta Wellness Temples across Mumbai city. Mehta also aspires to build the largest social media base across as many platforms possible, to reach out to his audience. Mehta launches Yo workouts and Wellfie along with the Times of India at Marine Drive at the event of Yoga By The Bay.

#### **Forthcoming events**

OCTOBER 12:Inauguration of the Integrated Rural Development Programme at Gumbadpada Village, Mokhada, at 11 am.

OCTOBER 16: In Camera event hosted by Rtn. Ptn. Zarina and Rtn. Fali Mehta at their residence. 'Hyderabad of the Nizam,' a talk by Deepthi Sasidharan, at 7 pm,

OCTOBER 22: Writer, publisher and activist

Urvashi Butalia. **OCTOBER 23:** Diwali Nite

celebrations at Flamboyante, World Trade Center, Cuffe Parade.

OCTOBER 29: MD & CEO of KKR, Sanjay Nayar, on private equity giants like KKR and their crucial role in India's economy.

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