

# THE GATEWAY

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,  
Very warm greetings to each of you.  
Over two months have passed since I took over as President of

our wonderful Club, and how time flies! I am delighted to see the great vigour and commitment with which many of our Committees are functioning. Ananda Yaan Committee, Bhavishya Yaan Committee, Child Welfare and the Water Committee need special mention for the work done by the teams in their areas of community services.

Our afternoons at weekly meetings have been well spent with interesting speakers organised by the Programme Committee – the most recent one being our guest speaker on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Mr. Madhav Nalapat, who shared his views on a very significant topic 'Geopolitics and US, China and India Power Shifts' – having the audience enthralled – an afternoon well spent.

We have enjoyed the Pondicherry trip and the Parsi Nite celebrations thanks to the great work by the Fellowship Committee. The Fund Raising Committee too has been making all efforts to raise funds for our projects, despite the difficult economic situation.

At the District level, too, our Club is well represented and commendable work is being done by some of our Past Presidents, particularly, PP Rtn. Sandip Agarwala and PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan.

Introspecting and analysing the issues that need to be addressed – our Club's membership needs to be increased with induction of more quality and committed members. We also need to encourage and connect to our existing members to increase their attendance at Club meetings and more so participation in our projects. And of course, the efforts for fund raising should be ongoing, by one and all.

President Preeti Mehta



## GET WITH THE PROGRAMME!

Professor of Geopolitics, **Madhav Nalapat** spoke to Rotarians yesterday about the need to accept the shifting world order

**MADHAV** Nalapat, India's first professor of geopolitics, is modest about the number of achievements that follow his name. "He is the right person for this talk – Geopolitics and US, China and India power shifts. He understands the world very well!" said Rtn. Manjeet in his introduction.

Madhav said: "We are talking about the US and China, where does India come in to the picture? This country is on track to being the third biggest economy of the world in terms of purchasing power. China is, of course, the biggest economy and the USA is the second-biggest economy. These three are going to be big for a very long time. In that sense, it's apt to talk about the three of them."

"In 1991-92, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was talk of a unipolar world. When we talk of a unipolar world, we mean a unipolar idea, too. Idea is



the idea of government mechanism, its function, management, military, security, etc. The collapse of the Soviet system removed the only rival to the US system. That rival system was effective, many countries opted to go Communist; some countries like India adopted the Soviet model which, in my view, was regrettable. We demolished the private sector in India in the '50s when it was more robust than the private sector in Japan or South Korea. So, the Soviet Union had an impact but it collapsed."

**TODAY'S SPEAKER: ZULFIQUAR MEMON ON THE EVOLUTION OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME AND THE LEGAL PRACTICE.**

"In media, the leader of the market gets practically 50-60 per cent of total advertising. The guy second gets about 20-35 per cent. The remaining 10 per cent is shared by everyone else. So it is very important to come first. You see all these kids going to KFC, McDonald's, making a bee line for Hollywood movies, listening to American music, wearing denim etc. But, I believe, America is a quadri-continental country: it has elements of South American, African and Asian culture but some elites believe it is entirely European and other cultures do not belong to America, which is not true. It is very important to be number one in the world because that gives you tremendous soft power and financial power."

The US dollar, for example, is the currency used for world transaction. It is much stronger because the US is a top country. Now, another country recognised, early on, that if you are the top country, you get enormous leverage on other countries. So after the short period, during which Americans felt that their system had won, today, a new system has come up in the 21st century that is challenging the America-led system in the manner the Soviet Union challenged them, '50s onwards. That is the Chinese system."

"Today, democracies across the world are choosing strong leaders because they see the effect of an authoritarian structure on China, which can by no means be called a democracy. My theory is that China is growing because of its authoritarian nature. The Chinese communist party has such tight control and that is why it has had double digit growth. In other words, it is authoritarianism that has promoted Chinese growth. Voters are turning to strong leaders across the world, whether in Turkey, Russia, the US or India. It is the China effect. Chinese companies are taken seriously because the country is moving up the rankings. It is set to become number one in any metric. When that happens, the demonstration effect in economics, politics and geopolitics will become very profound."

"This would be a complete transformation of geopolitics and, not unnaturally, people in the US are very concerned about this, especially President Trump. I would have been very happy if PM Modi would have chosen one or two people from this group at the PM's office for key positions. I would like to see people who did something without government support and without the exchequer funding them."



President Preeti thanks speaker Madhav Nalapat for his talk



Rotarians Farhat Jamal, President Preeti Mehta, Jagdish Malkani and Manjeet Kriplani with speaker Madhav Nalapat



Rotarians PP Nirav Shah, Gautam Doshi, Anand Parikh and Ashish Jalan



Rtn. Nanik Rupani asks a question

"Donald Trump has got it: the day China becomes number one in GDP terms – that is the day China is going to find it much easier to break American allies, control or logistics chains, and also American's financial chains. The Yen is indeed going to start catching up to the dollar. Thus, the trade war with the United States is part of the existential struggle between two systems. We saw one with the US and Soviet Union in which the US won. That's it! No challenger in the ring. The reality is, this has now become a formidable existential challenge for the US; a large part of US's economy is based on perception. It is like a bank, consultancy and so many other service industries. Perception drives reality and itself forms a reality. Once the US surrenders that position and the Chinese take over, it will lead to change in perception that will very severely impact the United States."

"From the American point of view, when the people told me about the trade war in 2018, my prediction was that it would last for generations. Then, I went to China in 2018 and there were reports that Trump wants the Chinese to buy more soyabean, condos, hotel rooms etc. On the American side, I was very clear that it is going to be a fight to the finish. On Chinese side, when I asked about the trade war, they gave me a book to read: On Protracted War by Mao Zedong. In it, Chairman Mao wrote, 'I want two sets of people to be completely eliminated from the leadership of our party; one: the ones who do not believe that we are going to win. Anybody who thinks we are going to lose should be eliminated. Two: anybody who believes it is going to be easy to defeat the Japanese is as dangerous to the party. It is going to be a very long, hard struggle but, make no mistake, our side is going to win.' That book was given to me by a very top official in China as an illustration of what they regarded as having been launched, which is a fight to the finish where it's either China or the US."

"This battle will end once the US ensures that China falls too far behind to catch up in a generation. I think that is the





Rotarians Pulin Shroff, Gautam Doshi, Akhil Sanghi and Mohit Jain



Rotarians are engrossed with guest speaker Madhav Nalapat's breakdown of the world's changing geopolitical scenario

intention of Trump, Peter Navarro (Assistant to the US President, and Director of Trade and Manufacturing Policy). Today, we have two military blocs like we did in the past. One is led by China and the other is led by the US. Russia, Pakistan, Turkey, Venezuela, Iran and some other countries are very much part of the China military bloc."

"I would like to believe, that in our case we do not have a choice, we have to go to the US military bloc and have no place in a China-led military system. The Chinese have now started to dominate the Eurasian landmass. The Belt and Road system is a brilliant idea of President Xi Jinping. In my view, Mao unified China and the country became bigger than every other emperor of China had managed before him. Then there was Deng Xiaoping. Frankly, if you go to China and ask them about Karl Marx, they'd think he is some Hollywood star – that has happened to me."

"In this kind of battle we have to take sides. And, let us be honest, today's Russia is not the Soviet Union of the past. Long time ago, there was a man called Durga Prasad Dhar – he worked out a military-style agreement with the Soviet Union. My grandfather got in to a bit of argument with him then and asked why he had signed that pact with Russia. He said, 'We will have to militarily intervene in East Pakistan and takeover that place to help the Bengalis. If we do that, the Americans will make sure that China jumps on our back and try and

break it. The only way to keep China out is by having an alliance with the Soviet Union and I am doing it because of that'."

"Today, the PM and Amit Shah have said that we have to take over the PoK which, I think, is very important and for that you need a friendship with Afghanistan and you need the US to keep China off your back. Taking hold of PoK is strategically important for us. Today's Russia is not the Soviet Union of the past. It was anti-US, anti-Russia, anti-Pakistan. Today's Russia is the closest military ally of China and therefore a close military friend of America. Today's America certainly doesn't like Pakistan. That is why we need an alliance with the US because it is today ready to transfer its entire defence platforms to us and make us the most significant partners they have. For the simple reason that ensuring China remains peaceful, ensuring control over the oceans, ensuring control over space, cyberspace. That is why, I say, geopolitics has shifted, let's not be romantic about the past, let's be very hard-headed, let's trade with China and have a security alliance with the US."

#### ROTARIANS ASK

**Apart from allying, where are we going? How would you advise us to improve ourselves?**

I had expectations of Modi 1.0 to bring a change in the colonial system of government. I strongly believe in minimum government and we can

respond best to that; the stronger the government, the weaker the Indians. So, I am hopeful for Modi 2.0.

#### What is your view of the US-China trade war?

I think it is a great opportunity for India. Taiwanese companies want to relocate; very few are coming in India because it is difficult to do business here. There are a lot of red lines invisible to the naked eye. Crossing them has become jail-able. It is scary to do anything. We need more public opinion.

#### What is your take on Hong Kong protests?

I think China is acting smartly in terms of Hong Kong. In my view, the President is giving a very long rope to Hong Kong and the people there are never going to be free from China. To prove we believe in one country, two systems, and two to create revolution among Chinese that Chinese would say, if this is a democracy, I don't want democracy.

#### PoK is very important for India, but I don't see a remote chance to venture there because of the nuclear threats.

There is no chance of any nuclear war with Pakistan because there are 46 sites in Pakistan which are at the direct range of Indian Nuclear retaliation. We may suffer for 15 years but they will suffer for eternity. They are not going to risk their homes to nuclear attack at the cost of their country.

# ROTARIAN GOES MEDIEVAL

## RCB VISITS THE HISTORIC TOWN OF ASCHERSLEBEN IN GERMANY

By Christopher Bluemel

Aschersleben is a smaller town in Eastern Germany of 30,000 or so inhabitants. It would not be surprising if most readers have not yet heard about the place. It is not exactly the centre of the world but it has a lot of history to offer and makes for a good understanding of how the Germany of today actually came about.

Around 500 AD, the big migration of Germanic people in Europe came to an end. Many of them settled in the eastern side of the Harz Mountains (somewhere in the middle of Germany). Their main leader was known as Ascger. Christianity had made it across Europe in those days. Many turned into God-fearing people. In fact, so God-fearing were they that in order to do nothing wrong, the self-proclaimed chosen ones placed themselves ideally right next to God. Ascger was no different and thus added to his name in a Godly fashion: "Ascegeres lebe!" (Asceger may live forever!). Over the centuries and many people moving in and out, dialects coming and going, the name has changed a little, but essentially still exists in its old form from 1600 years ago. Today, that same place is called: Aschersleben



For 25 years, Aschersleben has also been home to Rotary and has another interesting story:

In the old GDR times (1949 to 1989), there was no Rotary in East Germany.

After the wall came down in 1989, there was again an increasing interest in Rotary and carrying on that legacy (which pre-World War II already existed and was very much a culture) The RC Leipzig for instance was formed in the same year as our RC Bombay: in 1929!) It was a Governor in West Germany who encouraged a partnership between the West German Club of RC Peine to

form RC Aschersleben.

Today, the RC Aschersleben has already celebrated its



Chris Blue, RCB, handing over our RCB flag to PP of RC Aschersleben

silver jubilee and enjoys an excellent reputation much across the Aschersleben city limits. With some 50 members, RC Aschersleben in its District 1810 has a very active Club life: right from many note-worthy social projects to speakers and fellowship.

I am thankful especially to Rtn. (Dr.) Hans-Matthias Vorbodt for inviting me and all Rotarian friends of the RC Aschersleben that made the evening a truly memorable one.



Chris Blue, RCB, handing over the RC Aschersleben flag to President Preeti Mehta



SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 05

## BACK TO SCHOOL



**BHAVISHYA** Yaan students participated in a back-to-school drive conducted by Rotaractors of HR College on September 14, 2019 at N.M. Joshi Municipal School.

Students from standards 4 to 7 answered questions on various subjects such as Maths, English, Science and Geography in exchange for goodies. They earned points for every correct answer in exchange for books,

crayons, stationery and tiffin boxes. It was a fun and interactive two-hour session as the super excited students went back with gifts and a smile on their face.

We thank our **Rotaract Committee**, Rotaract club of HR College and all the Rotaractors who gave their time and gifts for this drive. A special thanks to Rotaractor Saniya Jain for leading the drive.

## ADOPT A BOOK

**AT** the meeting on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019, Rtn. Sheila Bulchandani's granddaughter Samira appealed to the audience to Adopt-A-Book at the Asiatic Library. The initiative was started by our Club's **Urban Heritage Committee** four years ago.



minds around the world through digitisation.

Books may be adopted to commemorate an occasion, celebrate a milestone, or honour a great achievement, while supporting the

mission of the Asiatic Society. The process is simple:

1. Choose a book of your choice. (or you can request the ASM staff to pick the ones in dire need)
2. Fill in the form provided
3. Pay Rs. 7,000/ book.

You can either approach the library directly or through the Urban Heritage Committee or online (the link will be emailed to you by the office on request).

Every donation counts, no matter how small it is.

Samira explained that a shortage of funds at the Asiatic resulted in the inability to restore and preserve old manuscripts and books. As a result, the preservation of our heritage is at stake.

Donations allow the Asiatic Library to continue to build their collection, preserve it for future generations, and make materials available to curious

## Downloading ROW gives you access to :

- Club & District Directory
- Whatsapp Integration
- Club and District Calendar
- Birthday/Anniversary Reminders
- Club Events with RSVP
- Announcements
- Newsletters / Documents
- Gallery of all Club Activities
- Past Presidents & B.O.D History
- District Leader Board
- Rotary Showcase
- Rotarians Globally
- Club, District, Rotary, Fellowship and Website
- Free login for spouse
- Club Locator
- Use Rotary News / Blogs
- Rotary Global Rewards



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.

## 06 THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

# BIRTHDAY WISHES!

**THEY** say that you are only as good as your support system. And here at the Rotary Club of Bombay we are blessed to have staff who are not only hard-working and diligent but also supportive and as passionate about bringing about change as we are.

Here are Rashmi and Karuna celebrating their birthday with the Office Bearers. They are both always present at our weekly meetings and other events and ensure a smooth process is maintained while never losing their smiles.

Rashmi and Karuna celebrating their birthday with President Preeti Mehta



Dear all,

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

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](mailto:rotary.satyanisrani@gmail.com) / 9821220255



When solar power, good intentions and hard work  
come together to provide water for irrigation, safe drinking,  
sanitation, e-learning and home lighting....  
a village smiles.

Please join President  
**Preeti Mehta**  
for the inauguration of the  
**Integrated Rural Development Program**  
at Gumbadpada Village, Mokhada,  
near Nashik  
**Date 12th. October 2019**  
**Time 11am.**

**Madhusudan Daga**  
Chairman,  
and the members of the Environment Committee.





SEPTEMBER 24, 2019

THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 07

# EYE CARE CENTRE TURNS 41

**PHIROZE** Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC) is located at Talwada near Charoti, Maharashtra 150 Kms from Mumbai on NH 8.

PP Rtn. (Dr.) Rahim Muljiani who is the founder of the centre, first visited Talwada on August 28, 1978.



On this day, 51 patients visited Dr. Muljiani.

The centre was formally declared open on February 8, 1981.

It was called "Rotary Eye Centre" till Rtn. Akhtarali Tobaccowala generously donated Rs 50 lakhs in November 2002, towards the

corpus in honour of his late father. Thus, the Centre was renamed Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre (HTEC).

Last year, Dr. Thirty Talati donated a generous 4 crores in memory of her friend, Rtn. Phiroze Ratanshah. The centre was renamed Phiroze Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC).

## NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED FROM 1979 TO 2018

**OPD :** 4,52,833

**Spectacles distributed :** 47,350

**Operations performed :** 31,631

**Indoor Patients :** 4213

**Intraocular lens :** 13,874

**YAG :** 1817

**Keratoplasty :** 45

**Green Laser :** 143

Per year around 15,000 patients visit the centre in OPD and around 800 cataract / other surgeries are performed.

All Services Rendered to Patients at PRVEC are FREE OF CHARGE.

**MILTON**

**RISE TO THE BEAT**

Explore the Bluetooth enabled Speaker bottle range on [Flipkart.com](https://www.flipkart.com)

**treo**

UNBOX THE *freshness*

Check out the All Fresh glass tiffin range on [Amazon.in](https://www.amazon.in)

## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: ACTOR BOMAN IRANI

**BOMAN** Irani is an Indian theatre and film actor, voice artist and photographer of Irani descent, who works in Bollywood films.

After making his film debut with the 2003 anthology horror film *Darna Mana Hai*, Irani had his first commercial success with the 2003 comedy *Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.* He subsequently starred in several highly successful productions including *Main Hoon Na* (2004), *Veer-Zaara* (2004), *No Entry* (2005), *Don* (2006), *Heyy Babyy* (2007), *Dostana* (2008), *Housefull* (2010), *Cocktail* (2012), *Jolly LLB* (2013), *Bhoothnath Returns* (2014), *Housefull 3* (2016) and *Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran* (2018).

Irani's highest-grossing releases came with several films that rank among the highest-grossing Indian films of all time, including *Lage Raho*



*Munna Bhai* (2006), *3 Idiots* (2009), *Don 2* (2011), *Housefull 2* (2012), *Happy New Year* (2014), *PK* (2014), *Dilwale* (2015), *Sanju* (2018) and *Total Dhamaal* (2019).

His performance in *3 Idiots* won him the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor.

**Boman will speak about his journey from struggle to stardom.**

### ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



SEPTEMBER 24  
RTN. DILIP DALAL



SEPTEMBER 24  
RTN. JAMSHYD VAZIFDAR



SEPTEMBER 26  
RTN. RAJESH SHAH



SEPTEMBER 26  
PP RTN. (DR.) ZERXIS UMRIGAR



SEPTEMBER 29  
RTN. RAJASHREE BIRLA



SEPTEMBER 29  
RTN. ROHIT DHOOT

### ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 25

RTN. PTN. BLOSSOM PINTO

SEPTEMBER 26

RTN. PTN. REKHA JALAN

SEPTEMBER 27

RTN. PTN. ANITA PARIKH

### Forthcoming events

**OCTOBER 15:**



Wellness expert Mickey Mehta.

**OCTOBER 22:**



Writer, publisher and activist Urvashi Butalia.

**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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### ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

#### TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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PP Rtn. (Dr.) Adi Dastur	PP Rtn. Arun Sanghi

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Night Study Centre	Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar

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

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

Talwada Projects	PP Rtn. (Dr.) Rahim Muljani
Phiroze R. Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC)	Rtn. Homi Katgara
Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC)	Rtn. Tara Deshpande
Cancer Aid	Rtn. (Dr.) Ian Pinto
RCB – Medical Centre	Rtn. Manoj Patodia

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