

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Dear Friends,**

Very warm greetings.

On November 26<sup>th</sup>, we had another wonderful meeting in the afternoon. It was a special occasion to recognise, honour and felicitate our very own PP Rtn. MK Sanghi (popularly known as Mahendrabhai) on his being awarded the 'Pravinchandra Gandhi Award for Excellence in Public Life'. The event

was further enhanced with the presence of his charming wife, Rtn. Ptn. Mrs. Manju and members of the Sanghi family.

The Prime Minister of India, since quite some time, has been speaking about two things. First, ease of doing business and second, ease of living in India.

The World Bank carries out an annual survey of countries for 'Ease of Doing Business'. As being one of the contributors for such survey for the last several years, I am happy to note that over the last few years, India has been improving its global position in ranking in this area.

What about the second viz. 'Ease of Living'?

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India launched the 'Ease of Living Index' on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, which aims to assess the ease of living of citizens in our cities, across three pillars of (i) quality of life, (ii) economic ability; and (iii) sustainability, spread across 14 categories and which has now been taken to the next level by launching an even more comprehensive frame work for 'Ease of Living' in 2019.

Many of us at RCB have been fortunate and privileged to travel abroad and one thing that strikes us – is the 'ease of doing things and getting things done', which then sub-consciously or consciously makes us wonder about the state of affairs in our country, on 'Ease of Living'. The simplest of things require a lot of effort, a great deal of time, complex and complicated requirements, which leave us drained, agitated, and dissatisfied. It's time that we, as citizens of this great and uniquely diverse country, join in, participate and contribute to this initiative in a meaningful way and with a positive attitude, irrespective of the final outcomes.

Let us not say, 'they don't listen', let's not say 'chalta hai'; instead, let us say 'we will make them listen'.

We, as active Rotarians and Rotarian Partners, are familiar with the Rotary 4 way test in which one of the questions of the things – we think, say or do is – 'will it be beneficial to all concerned' and one of 5 the Avenues of Services Rotary is 'Community Service'.

Also, we, as citizens and residents of India, require to send to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India with regard to State, Central and local governments and authorities, written suggestions on solutions to issues and problems, which can help in smoothen life and make progress in 'Ease of Living' a reality, not only in our cities, but also throughout our country.

I would urge each one to play our role as responsible and concerned citizens.



President Preeti Mehta



Rotarians Satyan Israni, Farhat Jamal, President Preeti Mehta and Ram Gandhi present PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi an award for Excellence in Public Life

## THE VERY PUBLIC PRIVATE LIFE OF MK SANGHI

RCB bestowed the Excellence in Public Life Award to  
**PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi** last Tuesday

**LAST** Tuesday, PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi was bestowed the 'Excellence in Public Life' Award by the Rotary Club of Bombay. In his speech, Sanghi said: "Frankly, I'm slightly embarrassed to be receiving this award because Rotary is such an essential part of me. Some of my deepest friendships have sprouted and blossomed here. As a former President of this Club, I have stood here and conducted weekly Tuesday meetings along with so many of you. I am part of you and you are a part of me. This award makes me feel somewhat separate from you, hence the discomfort."

"Don't get me wrong. I am honoured by the Rotary Club of Bombay – bestowing the 'Excellence in Public Life' Award on me. I am also grateful to the jury members who considered



PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi

me worthy of this honour. With fond memories and love, I accept this award as a blessing from Shri Pravin Bhai!"

"There are four reasons this award is so special to me."

"First, it carries the name of Shri Pravinchandra Gandhi who was, for many years, my friend, philosopher, guide and an example for all of us. I looked up to him as my mentor during

**TODAY'S SPEAKER: SAROSH BANA**

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my years of involvement in the Indian Merchants' Chamber and ASSOCHAM. Both Pravinbhai and his son, Ram, have been a tremendous source of support and inspiration during my stint in public life."

"Second, a cursory glance at the list of previous recipients includes many illustrious and accomplished names. The list is almost a veritable who's who. I am honoured to be included among them."

"Third, I am a strong believer and admirer of what Rotary Clubs across the world stand for. I have experienced, first-hand, how committed Rotarians are. They are dedicated people with a genuine passion for community and fellowship. Receiving this award in the presence of Rotarian friends, whom I have worked with over so many decades, means a lot to me."

"Lastly, it is being given to me on my home turf of Bombay. While the city of Jodhpur was my janmabhoomi, my karmabhoomi has always been Bombay. I was cradled in this city's loving arms by public organisations such as the Rotary Club, Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Bombay Red Cross and Assocham. My personal, professional, business, family and public life have evolved and flourished in this messy, yet magnificent, metropolis. Most of my relationships and friendships are very much products of Bombay."

"So, a big thank you, to each one of you, for this moment of honour. Let me also take the opportunity to convey my gratitude to my wife, Manju, and my children - Vidhi, Vaibhav and Ashwin, who stood by me and were my pillars of strength throughout my stint in business as well as public life. They always felt a sense of pride in my participation in public life and inspired me to achieve more."

"There is a humorous proverb that says: 'Everyone has three lives – a public life, a private life and a secret life.' Funnily enough for me, all three have merged at various points of time."



Rtn. Meera Kumar, Rtn. Ptn. Bharti Gandhi, Rtn. Camellia Panjabi, PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi, Rtn. Tarjani Vakil, Rtn. Rajyalakshmi Rao, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain and Rtn. (Dr.) Aashish Contractor



PP Rtn. (Dr.) Rahim Muljiani, PP Rtn. Vithal Palekar and Executive Secretary Eruch Irani



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn. (Dr.) Aashish Contractor for his birthday



Rotarians Abhishek Saraf, Ajay Garg and Ashwin Didwania



Rotarians PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi, President Preeti Mehta, Rajyalakshmi Rao and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain

"My public life was my business and my participation in organisations and public bodies. This led to fellowship and even deep friendships that constituted my private life. The boy from Jodhpur who secretly harboured a wish to be accepted into Bombay suddenly found that his secret life was in perfect alignment with his public and private lives. I am grateful to each one of you for enriching each of my lives."

"There is a difference between living and existing. I have often found that some people merely 'exist'. They go through the motions of life with little happiness or satisfaction. On the other hand, there are those who 'live' rather than 'exist'. They enjoy each moment, each step, each gain, each loss, each lesson and each relationship to the fullest. I never went abroad to earn a fancy degree nor did I attempt to be the next big business sensation."

"However, I can proudly say that I would not have derived even a quarter of the education, network, or satisfaction of achievement that I gained through public life. It was public life that made me live rather than merely exist."

"Whether we like it or not, we are living in a world of immense challenges: As businessmen, we often wonder whether it will ever be possible to navigate India's bureaucratic hurdles."

"As professionals, we wonder whether public infrastructure will ever match our expectations."

"As citizens, we wonder whether social development indicators such as education, health and literacy will ever improve."

"As voters, we wonder when we will have governments that are worthy of our vote."

"As human beings who live on earth, we wonder whether issues such as climate change, religious extremism and economic disparities will ever get the sort of attention that they should."





Rotarians Ram Gandhi, PP Mahendra Sanghi, President Preeti Mehta, Satyan Israni and Farhat Jamal

"If one falls into any of these compartments – which is pretty much all of us – the next question that must be asked is this: what can I do about it? The asking of that question is the very first step into public life. For me, it came in the form of the Junior Chamber – or Jaycees – that used to hold their meetings next door at the non-air-conditioned Taj Sea Lounge. I was just 24 years old."



Ashwin Sanghi, PE Rtn. Framroze Mehta, Vaibhav Sanghi and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain et al

"Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving many public bodies. I was personally enriched by the learning that I gained; by the friendships that I have made; and the contributions that I could make."

"There is often debate about what age one should enter public life. I feel, we do not need to limit ourselves by factoring age. There are so many amongst you



Rtn. Ptn. Manju Sanghi et al

Rotarians who started as young Rotaract members. One can contribute at any age, no matter how young or old one is."

"I am reminded of the words of Rotary founder Paul Harris, who said, 'Rotary changes us and those whom we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time.' Frankly, his words apply to all public life. Ultimately it must necessarily be about changing ourselves and the world around us for the better."

## QUOTE HANGER: NANIK, SANDIP & ASHWIN ON MAHENDRABHAI



"I can talk volumes, all day, about M K Sanghi: he is the man on the ground. I don't think he can say 'no' to anybody, he is always ready to help. He always gives credit to others. I am grateful to have a towering personality like Mahendra bhai and I am proud to have him as my mentor."

**RTN. NANIK RUPANI**

"I have known Mr Sanghi since my teen years as he was a family friend. Born in Jodhpur, he is blessed with entrepreneurial skills



and is a quintessential family man. He loves his food, culture and squash, and never forgets his origins. The biggest NGO he helped is the Rotary Club of Bombay. MK was the first and perhaps the largest contributor to the office fund of RCB in which we are currently housed. MK, may your steadfastness, dignity and selfless giving be the guiding part to your children and all of us."

**PP RTN. SANDIP AGARWALLA**



"What do I say about my own father? Everyone loves their father. Twelve to 15 years ago, I had returned after having earned an MBA and dad having invested a substantial amount of time and money to train me to a typical business life. And, I turned around and said, 'Dad, I think I want to write novels.' Most fathers would say, 'What is wrong with you? Or you are mad.' But, my dad said, 'If you are lucky in life then you get to do what you want and what you love. And if you

are a little luckier, then you get to do what you love and you are also good at it. But if you are really lucky then you do what you love, you are good at it and someone is willing to pay for it. So let's see whether you can fit into that category. What is the worst that happens? If you don't make it, you always have me to fall back on.' That was dad.

"One thing I learned from him is that strength is not about lifting weights in the gym, it is about picking yourself up off the floor every time life knocks you down. He is one of the nicest people with the whole world around him. My greatest award and the greatest reward is to call myself MK Sanghi's son."

**ASHWIN SANGHI, AUTHOR**



# UNIQUE UZBEKISTAN!

Twenty-four Rotary Club of Bombay members and their spouses made a lifetime of memories during the outstation fellowship to unique Uzbekistan! Over four action-packed days, Rotarians marvelled at the country's spellbinding architecture and the rich cultural heritage of its ancient cities. Intricate Arabic carvings, immaculate layout of shimmering turquoise tiles, larger-than-life Madrasahs (Islamic schools), minarets, and mosques dot the country.

## DAY 1:

The trip started in snowy Tashkent – the first snow of the season and rather unexpected this early – where the group was welcomed by their local guide Jamshyd. A young economics student, Jamshyd accompanied the group through the course of the trip giving local insights into the fascinating history and culture of the Silk Road and Uzbekistan's evolving status as one of the richest countries in the 13th and

14th centuries to becoming a Soviet Union country in the early 20th century to its independence in 1991.

After checking into the luxurious Hyatt Regency, centrally located within walking distance of all major Tashkent attractions, and enjoying a delicious lunch at the hotel, the trip started with a visit to the famous Chorsu Bazaar, popular for its spices and dry fruits. Speaking of delicious food, all meals were enjoyable affairs

with plenty of vegetarian and meat options. Each restaurant visited through the course of the trip had its own charm including local dance performances, live music with songs from the Raj Kapoor era, and some performances from our very own talented Rotarians!

## DAY 2:

The Tashkent city tour on this day was full of history and interesting facts and included visits to the Lal Bahadur





Shastri Memorial, a memorial to the Victims of Repression, and Independence Square. The day ended with a glimpse of the beautifully designed Metro stations from the Soviet era and a stroll through the buzzing Broadway street with its many small cafés and street vendors including puppet makers, wood carvers, and tile painters.

#### DAY 3:

A day trip to Samarkand followed, a two-hour express

train ride away. One of oldest, continuously-inhabited cities in Central Asia, Samarkand was filled with exquisite, blue-tiled mosques, and dreamy, teal-coloured domes – a sight to behold! Registan Square (among the world's oldest, preserved madrasahs) was awe-inspiring for its sheer scale and Gur-e-Amir, a mausoleum for Amir Timur (Timurlame) reminded one of the Taj Mahal in its design. Some brave Rotarians also climbed up to admire the Ulugh Beg Observatory

despite the heavy snowfall.

#### DAY 4:

The trip ended with a drive to the snow-capped Chimgan Mountains where Rotarians enjoyed a ride up the ski lifts for some breathtaking views on a perfect, clear day. This was followed by a visit to the mesmerising Charvak Lake with clouds magically appearing to rise from the water.

The Uzbeks love Indians and

are crazy about Bollywood. Group members were greeted with 'namastes' everywhere and, often, a polite request for a photo, making one and all feel like celebrities!

All in all, this was one of the most memorable outstation Rotary fellowships and a special thank you to Rtn. Kanan Fotedar and Rtn. Ashok Jatia for their immaculate planning and arrangements to make this trip such a success.





# A BAG OF NEW TRICKS FOR AY

## ZUMBA GOLD FOR AY MEMBERS

**CHANCES** are you've heard about Zumba — the new fitness dance programme that has become increasingly popular across the globe. Currently, over six million people take Zumba classes each week in one of 50,000 locations in 75 countries. But what you may not know is that Zumba isn't just for the young and fit. It's a great way for older adults to get in shape too.

In fact, the creators of Zumba recently introduced Zumba Gold, a new version of the Latin-inspired workout, tailored to the needs of elders. Just like Zumba, it incorporates dance/fitness routines to Latin and international rhythms but is performed at a lower intensity. Zumba Gold is specifically targeted to the older generation and beyond. Zumba Gold was born out of the fact that there were a lot of people who wanted to do Zumba but couldn't keep up with the



fast-moving pace or handle the impact of the regular version. This version is a little gentler on the body but you still get the full effect of the Latin flavour and the benefit of the moving and the dancing.

Zumba came to Ananda Yaan (a joint venture between The Dignity Foundation & the Rotary Club of Bombay) in October this year. RCB was lucky to find Roshan Singh and his team. He was a licensed Zumba instructor and a member of the

Zumba Instructor Network. The Club needed someone experienced and, more importantly, empathetic and patient with seniors. Having got his certificate in 2010, AY seniors were in good hands. Even though AY members were more than double his age, they connected with each other very well. Roshan shared why he wanted to teach at the Ananda Yaans: when he was learning Zumba, it had been difficult for him to arrange the high fees. So he had to borrow and work at the same time. After going through such trying situations, he wanted to give back. He shared that seniors at Ananda Yaan have no access to such opportunities, he wanted to do something for them. He discovered another family at Ananda Yaan.

Anand Yaan members have broad smiles and laugh like little girls while they're doing Zumba because it's a whole lot of fun. That is why they insisted that AY introduce Zumba twice a week. Exercising for them has never been so entertaining.

## SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY OUT

**SAAND** *Ki Aankh* - a biopic based on the life of India's oldest sharpshooters showed senior citizens at Ananda Yaan that the body may age but not the mind.

Senior citizens of Ananda Yaan's Byculla Centre (in association with Dignity Foundation) got the opportunity to watch the widely-acclaimed movie *Saand Ki Aankh*, produced by Anurag Kashyap. Members were most grateful of the generosity of the Rotary Club of Bombay which had arranged for the movie tickets and their transport to the theatre. As a matter of fact, it has been almost two and a half years since some of them have been to a cinemplex to watch a film. Last time, too, a Rotarian had sponsored the outing. Going to the theatres is now



out of the question for members of AY's Byculla Centre due to astronomical ticket prices.

They had not heard about *Saand Ki Aankh* and were amused by its title. But, as the movie played out, they were astounded by the courage and tenacity of the two lady protagonists in the

film. The line most often repeated in the movie — the body ages but not the mind — stayed with them. Our Ananda Yaan centres go by exactly this line. Members enjoyed the movie and the theatre ambience. The senior citizens left the movie hall with renewed vigour and gusto, and looking forward to taking up new activities at the Ananda Yaan centre.

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## ROTARIANS MAKING WAVES

### A POSTCARD FROM MIRAMAR CLUB



Rtn. Mudit Jain and Rtn. Hiren Kara visited the Rotary Club of Miramar, Goa. While Mudit addressed members and spoke on wellness, Hiren spoke on kindness. In the picture, they exchange flags with Miramar and give RCB's Club literature.

### LETTER FROM RIPN SHEKHAR MEHTA

To: Gulam A. Vahanvaty

Cc: Sandip Agarwalla - Rotary

Rashi and I are back with some fond memories of the felicitation ceremony held at Mumbai organized so very well by Bharat and you. Thank you so much also for that outstanding lunch in the warmth of your home along with your family. It was nice meeting your family. We will cherish that lunch for a long time. Please convey my compliments to Sandip for the meeting well organized and well conducted.

Regards, Shekhar Mehta

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. 5000/-	5) Festival Celebration	Rs. 8000/-
2) Bhajan and Satsang	Rs. 5000/-	6) Health Check Up	Rs. 8000/-
3) Activity (Aughter Therapy, Games etc.)	Rs. 5000/-	7) Cultural Program	Rs. 10,000/-
4) Lunch (Chaat, Dosa, etc.)	Rs. 8000/-	8) Picnics and Outings	Rs. 30,000/-

To book any of the above please contact:  
 • Vinida Rajgarhia - 982 01 284 80  
 • Ekta Shah - 773 87 602 30  
 Cheques to be made in favour of:  
 Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No. 3

## Downloading 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



## NEXT WEEK: NO SPEAKER DUE TO AGM

### ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 3

RTN. RAHIL  
SHAH



DECEMBER 4

RTN. ASHOK KUMAR



DECEMBER 6

RTN. MAHESH  
KHUBCHANDANI



DECEMBER 7

RTN. ABHINAV  
AGGARWAL



DECEMBER 9

RTN. HUZAIFAH  
BAGASRAWALA



DECEMBER 9

RTN. TARA  
DESHPANDE

### ROTARIAN PARTNERS

DECEMBER 5

RTN. PTN. PRERNA JAIN

DECEMBER 6

RTN. PTN. MEENAKSHI KUMAR

DECEMBER 8

RTN. PTN. RAKHEE RESHAMWALA

DECEMBER 9

RTN. PTN. SUBHABRATA BASU

### ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 4

RTN. PTN. MRUDULA & RTN. HIRANMAY  
BISWAS

RTN. PTN. NANDITA & RTN. MANOJ  
PATODIA

DECEMBER 5

RTN. PTN. NEHA & RTN. PRAKASH JOTWANI

RTN. ARIN & RTN. PTN. PERCY MASTER

RTN. RAJYALAKSHMI RAO & RTN. PTN.  
(DR.) PAPA RAO MEKA

DECEMBER 6

RTN. PTN. SUSMITA & RTN. SUBRATA  
KUMAR MITRA

DECEMBER 7

RTN. PTN. AMITA & PP RTN. SHAILESH  
HARIBHAKTI

DECEMBER 8

RTN. PTN. REKHA & RTN. RAVINDRAKUMAR  
RUIA

DECEMBER 9

RTN. PTN. MILONI & RTN. MEHUL SAMPAT  
RTN. UJJWALA & RTN. PTN. AKSHAY  
SINGHANIA

## NEW INITIATIVE

There is no better deed than to feed a hungry person, especially a child. So to mark the event of each member's birthday the club will feed a child in your name.

If you wish to feed more children or for a longer duration, then the charges for feeding a child nutritious food is Rs. 500 per month per child.

Members (and/or their friends and relatives) wishing to continue beyond their birthday month can donate in multiples of Rs. 500 specifying the term or the number of children to the Rotary office.

The cheques would be required in the name of: "ROTARY CLUB BOMBAY CHARITIES TRUST NO. 3"

## Forthcoming events

**December 10:** AGM, no speaker



**December 17:** Minal Bajaj will receive the Anita Parikh Award for Empowerment of Women. She will speak on : Beyond Empowerment, My Story.

**December 23:** Christmas Fellowship/ Dinner and meeting. No Speaker.

**December 31:** No meeting.

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## ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

### TRUSTEES 2019-2020

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

### OFFICE BEARERS 2019-2020

President	Rtn. Preeti Mehta
Immediate Past President	Rtn. Vijay Kumar Jatia
President-Elect	Rtn. Framroze Mehta
President-Nominee	Rtn. Shernaz Vakil
Honorary Secretary	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Satyan Israni
Hon. Treasurer	Rtn. Jagdish Malkani

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Fellowship & Assimilation	Rtn. Ashok Jatia
Animal Welfare	Rtn. Priyasri Patodia

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Young At Heart	Rtn. Ramesh Mehta

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Urban Heritage	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
Environment	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga

### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. HIRANMAY BISWAS

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Yoga	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
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 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

### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. VINEET BHATNAGAR

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The Rotary Foundation & Global Grant	PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena
Gender Equality	Rtn. Arin Master
Skill Development	Rtn. S. V. Prasad

### DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. MEERA ALREJA

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