

THE GATEWAY

Rotary
Club of Bombay



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Very warm greetings.

An area that has evoked keen global interest is environment protection and sustainable growth. This is, indeed, an area of deep concern the world over with extreme weather patterns,

drought and increasing instances of seawater carrying traces of micro plastic residue, pesticide residues in fruits, vegetables and milk.

Human progress over the past several years has had the unintended consequence of adversely impacting our environment which provides the basic conditions for life on earth to exist. Our excessive use of certain chemicals has depleted the ozone layer which protects us from harmful radiation.

Pollution and water scarcity seem to be the most critical issues of today. We all know about Delhi's extreme pollution levels and danger to its residents. Mumbai may be some shades better but, still, very polluted.

Access to potable water is witnessing a critical decline – there are no systems in place for the regular supply of water; for example, in urban slums, seasonal unavailability of water for certain sections of society and rural areas where people depend on natural sources of drinking water that are fast becoming inaccessible because of pollution and environmental changes.

While technology has its very many advantages and can help us cope with the environmental stresses being faced by human society, our tech-centred orientation is also one of the primary causes of our alienation from nature, leading to complex issues like climate change.

Another question we may ask ourselves is whether we need to redefine our needs, and address issues arising out of increasingly consumeristic lifestyles across the globe which are unintentionally causing environmental imbalances. We must ponder how human "need" impacts the earth's finite resources. It is time for introspection by one and all. Let not our needs and aspirations leave the needs of other sections of society unfulfilled.

Environment and climate change are the most serious issues today and unless we recognise and accept that these serious health hazards will soon result in being killers, we will end up choking our home city.

President Preeti Mehta



President Preeti thanks Sarosh Bana for addressing the Club

ARMS AND THE MAN

Sarosh Bana, Executive Editor, Business India, speaks about the race to arm India

AT LAST Tuesday's meeting, Sarosh Bana, Executive Editor, Business India, spoke about 'Arming India: Concerns of National Security'. He said: As far as India is concerned, defence has a wide connotation. India was the largest importer of arms in 2018, just behind Saudi Arabia according to SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) India.

Sarosh also reminded Rotarians that India has the second-largest standing army (3.5 million) in the world, just behind Russia (3.6 mn). He added: "It also has second-largest population in the world after China and is the seventh-largest country in the world. This means that it has a lot of people and a lot of territory to defend. About 1.33 million people of various ethnic and

religious diversities, caste and creed, all crammed together in an area which is just 3.29 sq km territory. It has two adversaries on the frontiers and yet the country has held itself remarkably well, which is a tribute to our nation. We have two neighbours that are particularly hostile towards us – China and Pakistan. All of the three countries are nuclear powers and have systems that can deliver nuclear warheads at targeted sites."

"We have threats from China and Pakistan, but it has to be borne in mind that if we have any hostilities breaking out with Pakistan, it will most probably bring in China as an interceder and that will be a little difficult because China has strong and formidable armed forces."

TODAY: AGM FOLLOWED BY JENNIFER JONES, TRUSTEE, TRF ON ROTARY IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

"We should also realise that Indian and Pakistani troops square up virtually at the Siachen glacier, the highest, harshest and toughest battlefield in the world. Most of the soldiers died not of bullets but due to the harsh weather."

"We often have Chinese troops invading our territory across the borders and making pickets there and threatening our troops and villagers and making access roads and helipads. Often, there is nothing much we can do about that. The beautiful terrain of Jammu and Kashmir has been completely ravaged by years of cross-border terrorism. So we have to deal with all these circumstances. The situation is compelling for a more massive modernization programme for our armed forces and making India the largest purchaser of arms."

Russia had been the largest provider of arms for India but Sarosh Bana brought to light some interesting trends over the last few years: "The export of arms from Russia to India in the last five years was seen going down from 76 per cent to 58 per cent. And, in the same five years, arms from America to India have grown five-fold. American arms today constituted 50 per cent of India's armory. This is the reason we have to play to the Americans and keep good with Trump because we have great aspirations and Americans can help us validate those aspirations."

"We have seen India stretching out its maritime domain from east Africa to Malacca and seeking to heighten its profile and presence in the Indo-Pacific by allying with other powers. Washington has, for instance, returned the favour by renaming the US PACOM which is the United States' President's command, the largest command and which governs a huge territory of the world, to US-Indo PACOM."

"One of our priorities is to fast track the infantry modernisation; another key priority is to induct 110 fighter aircrafts to bridge the gap of our requirements. Navy has big plans for us; they now have 132 ships, 220 aircrafts, 15 submarines and want to heighten these. It's a



President Preeti Mehta and PP Rtn. Paul George with Night Study Centres students who are scholarship recipients



Rotarians Meera Alreja, President Preeti Mehta and Gaurav Nevatia handing out scholarship cheques to students who have performed well



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani for his birthday



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn. Rahil Shah for his birthday



Rtn. Ashok Jatia asks a question

massive plan. One also has to keep in mind that most of our procured plans are years and decades behind schedule and that is the reason we will end up in a situation where when we replace certain platforms like MIGs from Russian in the 1980s to Rafael. The time by which we acquire new aircraft, it is already obsolete alongside the obsolete platforms that we are replacing. It is a very sad situation."

"India's doctrine has always been minimal credible deterrence but our defence Minister Rajnath Singh made a comment this year that in the future we need to review this policy because we always talked about the no first-use policy and we might renew it as we were opposed to mutually-assured destruction. So we have to think in terms of that."

"India is the only non-permanent UNSC member country that has a sea-based nuclear deterrent. According to the US Federation of Nuclear Scientists, India has 130-140 nuclear warheads, Pakistan has 140-150 and China has 280 nuclear warheads. To manage and administer the nuclear stockpile, the Vajpayee government in 2003 set up Strategic Force's Command which comes under the nuclear command authority. The hostilities confronting India have greatly strained national resources, diverting vital funding to the military at the cost of impoverished millions."

"The Union Budget 2019-20 lavished a phenomenal Rs 4.31 lakh crore on defence which is four and a half times on education, seven times allocation on public health and three times of allocation on agriculture. Apart from that, the Ministry of Home Affairs secured 1.20 lakh crore to oversee internal security. People say that India's defence budget is proportionally far lower than that of Pakistan or China when measured in proportion to GDP."

"Recently, a newspaper reported that not one of the major Make in India projects in the defence arena, from new generation submarines Minesweeper to infantry combat vehicles, transport and

FACT: The 4-Way Test was formulated by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor who, in the summer of 1932, had a serious business problem. In 1968, Taylor wrote: "I leaned over my desk, rested my head in my hands, and prayed... Then I wrote down the 24 words that had come to me: "Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" The "Four Way Test" was adopted by Rotary International in January of 1943.

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Rtn. Jagdish Malkani asks a question



Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani asks a question



Rtn. Satyan Israni asks a question

fighter aircrafts, have taken off in the last six years, which is a very sorry state. These long-pending projects are collectively worth Rs 3 and a half crore and they have been stuck at various stages. Also, in the Indian context, defence procurement is largely apolitical rather than one premised on military and security considerations. This has a deep impact on our force levels and, by extension, on our national defence."

"Dassault Aviation, Rafale Jet fighter deal is the most famous case in point. There are many questions that this case raised, primarily, because the government maintained that it is the government that professes transparency in governance and transparency in decision making. You may all recall Prime Minister Modi had gone to France to sign this deal for 7.87 billion Euros and he somehow annulled the previous deal made by the UPA government which was for 126 Rafale aircraft at a much cheaper price."

"Why was it done in secrecy? The Parliament was not informed, it was not discussed in the Parliament, neither did the Finance Minister or the defence minister know anything about this. When Modi was actually signing the deal, the then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar

was inaugurating a fisheries exhibition in Goa. So, eyebrows were raised. Rafale was chosen from a grouping of six contenders. One may recall that the Rafale deal was actually because the Indian Air Force in 2005 gave an undertaking that they immediately required a large assemblage of aircraft to fill in the gap left by the obsolete MiG aircrafts of 1980s to fight wars on two fronts. Thus, although today we have the sanctioned strength of 44 squadrons in Indian Air force, we only have 26 and in the next 2 years we will only have 26 squadrons. That's a huge gap to fill."

"India's Defence ministry acknowledges that military population has become the key driver in the Indo-US bilateral relations. In 2016, US recognised India as a major defence partner to liberalise arms and technology transfer. The US also conducts more military exercises with India than with any other country, the US senate also recently passed a diversion of National Defence Authorization Act that confers on India the status of a NATO ally."

"As far as air strikes in Balakot are concerned, Balakot somehow betrayed a glaring inadequacy in Indian Armed forces because in the first two days, India had already lost one plane, a MiG 21, India

also had one of its pilots captured by the Pakistanis and the worse was that 100 km away from the launch of air strike, one helicopter MiG 17 of India was caught down by friendly fire and it led to the death of six security

personnel and one person on the ground. So we were ill prepared foreign exercise of this sort. This was only in the first two days so imagine what if it would have been a full-fledged war and the Chinese did not even intervene at



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ROTARIANS PLAY FOOTY

The Rotary Club of Bombay's Fifth Annual Football Tournament was held on Saturday November 30th, 2019, at the NSCI. As with previous years, this was a fun, enthusiastically contested event.

After an hour-long match split into two halves, Team A, comprising Rotarians Raj Ajmera, Anand Dalal, Mehernosh Dotivala and Jamshyd Vazifdar beat Team B, comprising Rotarians Sanjiv Saran Mehra, Satyan Israni, Anuj Arenja and Mohit Jain by a one-goal margin, with the score at the end being 7-6. Rtn. Mehul Sampat played

one half for each team. Rtn. Moy Biswas, the referee, kept the match running smoothly.

At the conclusion, Director Moy and Sports Committee Chairman Sanjiv thanked all the participants for making the event a success and handed out the trophies.

The highest goal-scorer trophy was given to Sanjiv Mehra for his tally of five goals, the best all-round player trophy to Anand Dalal for his great play during the match, and the best goalkeeper trophy to Anuj Arenja.



Sarosh Bana: Diplomacy plays a very important role in military strategy

this point. Adding to this was the then air force Chief making a statement that if we had Rafales, the entire situation would have been very different. It is a very dangerous statement to make for an air chief because there are many implications to that. One is, what was he trying to make a comment about the Indian air force that the fleet at his disposal is not measuring up to the fleet of his enemies? Second, he was making a political statement that endorsed a deal which was signed."

Sarosh concluded by saying, today, India needs to focus more on future technologies. people say that the next battle will be fought more on the internet than on the battlefield because cyber warfare can entirely disable and



Speaker Sarosh Bana

knockout your infrastructure. It can have a mark on your armed forces preparation and capabilities. We have seen that many arms of Defence ministry has been hacked by cyber fosters, criminals from other countries. Even the Minister of State for Home has made a statement that we are leagues behind China as

far as cyber war is concerned. The competition is ever increasing.

As far as the entire set up of defence ministry is concerned, We have come with a post of Chief of Defence staff for the three services to integrate them into decision making processes. It was originally proposed in 1982 but has finally taken shape now. The Chief of Defence will facilitate jointmanship and be a single point advisor for the Government of India. But India should also be aware that diplomacy plays a very important role in military strategy and it will be good for India to perceive a diplomatic path and to have amicable relations with our neighbourhood countries.



THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A
CHRISTMAS DINNER

MONDAY, 23RD DECEMBER, 2019

AT THE CLEARING HOUSE

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THREE FOR ONE AT BY

By Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad

OPEN HOUSE FOR KIDS



An open house parent-teacher meeting took place at NMJ to share the students' half-yearly progress. Over 75 parents attended the meeting in spite of their individual work pressures and daily struggles.

- 1) After a brief introduction, children from fifth to 9th standards showcased what they had learned during their Diwali camp. This was conducted in the form of skit by standards 8th and 9th, a puppet show by 6th & 7th and story-telling on R K Narayan's *Malgudi Days* by the 5th standard.
- 2) Mrs. Jasbir Sodhi from SEBI was invited as a guest speaker to talk on 'Financial Education'.
- 3) Medals, certificates and trophies were awarded to the top five students from each class based upon attendance record, academic performance and overall excellence.
- 4) All the parents were given a half-yearly report card.

MUSEUM VISIT AND WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL

The change of weather has been conducive to students' exposure to various events in Mumbai. The ninth standard students of BY's NM Joshi Marg school were taken, on a Sunday



morning, for an outing. Infotrooper Teacher Vidya, alumnus Harshad, Rtn. S V Prasad and I took them for an outing.

It began with an exciting trip down to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya. Away from Parel, Lower Parel and Dadar areas, this was the first time most students had visited south Mumbai. The day started with a foot-tapping 'Children's International Music Festival' at the same venue.

The students enjoyed the show, which culminated in a crescendo, with the singers making the children dance to their tune and beat. This was followed by a visit to the exhibit of the 'Book Worm', initiated by our own Rtn. Priyashri Patodia. Last but not the least, was a good, satisfying knowledge-filled over two-hour tour of the museum. It was great to explain the nuances of the various exhibit especially the miniatures of various eras currently on display.

GREAT SUNDAY!



It's always a pleasure to see the smiling, happy faces of the children. Some pictures of a Sunday morning with stress management and strategy talks:

Two new alumni, Prasad and Hrutik, from Vedant and Vaibhav's batch also attended the meeting.

The session started with me asking them what caused them stress during exam-time. Students gave different answers: some got blank during exams, others ate more or less due to stress, some stressed about bad results while yet others worry their inability to revise all topics.

I gave them tips: Put in your hard work by putting aside two hours regularly, every day, for studies. Whenever you attend a lecture, always, read about the topic the professor is going to teach, the previous day. This way, when you attend the lecture, you'll be able to clear the concepts very well. Thereafter, revise once more when you go home. Change your attitude towards stress, take it as a challenge. Don't worry if you make mistakes.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 07

IN BERGISCH GLADBACH

Rtn. Christopher Bluemel visited the Rotary Club of Bergisch Gladbach in November. Bergisch Gladbach is a city in western Germany and might not be known to many. The most famous person born and raised in Bergisch Gladbach is Heidi Klum, a German model and business woman.

The city of Bergisch Gladbach was born in 1975 when the namesake town and Bensberg merged during a territorial reform in North Rhine-Westphalia. Now, it's a rural, low-key kind of place just across the Rhine from Cologne.

Historically, one of the big employers in Bergisch Gladbach was papermaking. There's still a functioning paper mill in the city, and its name, Zanders, has more than two centuries of papermaking heritage.

Bergisch Gladbach's main art museum is in a 19th-century villa built for Maria Zanders, a paper industrialist's wife who had a love for Romantic art. There's no mystery where the pulp for papermaking came from because if you head out in any



Rtn. Chris Bluemel exchanges Club flags with the President of Bergisch Gladbach, Rene Lorenz



Chris gives the flag to RCB President Preeti Mehta

direction from Bergisch Gladbach, you'll find yourself in dense deciduous forest

And much before that, there is a rich history of several thousand years.

The Romans already understood the strategic relevance of the area and mined ore and zinc there, crucial raw material for their weapons and shields to support their territorial desires.

Many tens of million years before that and long before the Mediterranean Sea came into existence, it was in the same area where the tectonic plates of Africa and Europe collided. Recently-found tropical plants tell a story of a completely different era, long before various ice ages shaped the current hilly landscape (bergisches land), a name that the region still goes by.

The Rotary Club of Bergisch Gladbach meets on Monday evenings and in their social projects focusses strongly on education of the underprivileged and environment.

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ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER 10
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KAMDAR



DECEMBER 12
RTN. HIRANMAY
BISWAS



DECEMBER 12
RTN. NANIK
RUPANI

ROTARIAN PARTNERS

DECEMBER 10

RTN. PTN. SHREELEKHA DAMANI
RTN. PTN. NITI DESAI
RTN. PTN. SHAILAJA MOGUL

DECEMBER 16

RTN. PTN. VASUDHA ALIMCHANDANI
RTN. PTN. (DR.) NATASHA KHUBCHANDANI

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 11

RTN. PTN. KHORSHED & RTN. NANU
DARUVALA

RTN. PTN. HONEY & RTN. ANIL HARISH

DECEMBER 12

RTN. PTN. SARMISTHA & RTN.
PRAVINCHANDRA BHANSALI

RTN. PTN. KANAN & RTN. RAVINDRA
FOTEDAR

RTN. PTN. DIVYAA & RTN. MAYANK
KUMMAR

RTN. PTN. POONAM & RTN. AJIT SURANA

DECEMBER 13

RTN. PTN. SUDESH & RTN. RAMESH DHIR
RTN. PTN. KUSUM & RTN. CHANDRA SINGH
LODHA

DECEMBER 14

HON. RTN. PTN. SWATI & HON. RTN. AJAY
PIRAMAL

DECEMBER 15

RTN. PTN. DINA & RTN. DR. SHARUKH
GOLWALLA

RTN. SWATI & RTN. PTN. DR. SANDESH
MAYEKSR

RTN. PTN. SANDHYA & RTN. JAIDEV
MERCHANT

RTN. PTN. MANJIRI & RTN. JAIRAJ
PURANDARE

RTN. PTN. ARWA & RTN. SAMEER TAPIA

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: MINAL BAJAJ



Minal Bajaj will receive the Anita Parikh Award for Empowerment of Women. She will speak on : Beyond Empowerment,

Born and raised in Kolkata, Minal Bajaj was greatly inspired by her parents unparalleled dedication and commitment to Mother Teresa and their life of service. Marrying into the Gandhian and illustrious Bajaj family further cemented her passion for serving India's less fortunate, following the philosophy and legacy of Shri Jamnalal Bajaj and Smt Jankidevi Bajaj.

Today, Minal Bajaj actively heads various activities of the Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation (JBF) as its Honorary Director, since 2009. She is involved in every aspect of the Foundation's activities related to the Jamnalal Bajaj Awards initiative or looking into various potential developmental projects of other organization to provide financial aid. In 2012, Minal founded Hamaara Sapna, her NGO in Mumbai. It is a culmination of a long held dream to give these often illiterate and home bound women a sense of self respect, self-confidence and relevant skills to navigate an increasingly complex world. Along with English, yoga, self-defense and computers, these ladies are taught tailoring with Khadi, thus promoting the ideology of self-reliance and Swadesh which was the belief of the guiding hands of the Bajaj Family.

Forthcoming events

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

December 31: No meeting.

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ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

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

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| In-Camera | Rtn. Zinia Lawyer |

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