

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Very warm Greetings!!!

Holi, the festival of colours, typically marks the full moon day of "Phagun", the 12th month of the Hindu calendar. Underneath the colourful chaos and dancing lies a unique and deeply-rooted tradition of culture and mythology.

As per ancient Hindu Vedic scriptures,

Holika was a demon, who was reduced to ashes with the help of Lord Vishnu. Holika Dahan (Holika's death in the fire) signifies the triumph of good over evil. The Holika bonfire is ignited the night previous to Holi, giving way to a free-for-all carnival of colours and fun on the following day. The scientific reason is that fire kills the bacteria (which are on the rise during the transition period from winter to spring) in those performing 'parikrama' (circumambulation) around the fire.

Holi has different forms across India – a few that stand out as unique are: the Lathmar Holi Festival in Barsana where men with shields are beaten by women with bamboo sticks. During the celebration, the men attempt to fight the women off by sprinkling them with coloured chalk. And, there is Jaipur's Holi Elephant Festival, featuring elaborately painted elephants, elephant polo, and tug of war.

Some people toast Holi with "bhaang" – a milky beverage mixed with a paste of the buds and leaves of cannabis, grown high in the Himalayas. Consumed for 3,000 years, this weed milkshake is supposed to connect through mythology to Lord Shiva.

Holi finds great significance in Bollywood movies, either adding to the plot or breaking the monotony of a serious line-up of events. Whatever it be, Holi probably does make the canvas colourful, and even sometimes becomes the highpoint of the movie with songs thrown in.

In the '70s, a typical formula film had to have a Holi song and thanks to that, we have some good songs that capture the mood of this bright and bustling festival of colours, fun and celebration.

Bollywood buffs will always remember the song "Holi ke din" which came as a relief amid the high-octane dacoit drama of *Sholay* and Gabbar's iconic dialogue "Holi kab hai", which became the trademark of the festival and comic spoofs. Bollywood also gave us the iconic song "Rang barse" in *Silsila*.

"Aaj na chhodega" from *Kati Patang*, of course, had a clear romantic angle but what came across as even more powerful was the love for fun and life.

Our senior citizens will recall, with nostalgia, famous Bollywood Holi songs of the past, such as "Holi aayi re Kanhai", sung by Shamshad Begum in *Mother India*, "Jogira Holi khelat Nandlal" picturised on Mehmood and other co-artists in *Godaan* and "Arrey ja re hat natkhat" picturised on Sandhya in *Navrang*.

In recent years, a good visible change that has been observed is the shunning of toxic colours and unsafe Holi practices to an eco-friendly and safe celebration.

May the colours of Holi make your life colourful and happy always and may we Rotarians continue to always reach out to others adding colours of joy, giving happiness.


President Preeti Mehta



Swami Swatmananda, Head of Chinmaya Mission, Mumbai, redefines success for Rotarians

As my teacher Swami Chinmayanand says, 'Success is a tribute that life pays to excellence'. When we cultivate an excellence of mind, then success is a natural offshoot. And, so, everybody desires success. Each one aspires to be successful; many become so because success makes us feel good about ourselves, gives a sense of accomplishment and makes us feel happy. So while success is an important part of life, how we define success is also an important connotation. If we say that achieving the goal is success, then no doubt it is a part of success; but our culture also says – very beautifully – that the means we adopt to gain success are as important as the goal.

In Ramayana there is a very simple incident where Ravan kidnaps Sita and while he is taking Sita, Jatayu fights with him and tries to save her. He is valiant but is deeply injured and falls down. In a sense, it could be



Swami Swatmananda says that personal growth is an important milestone to success

said that Ravan was successful in kidnapping Sita and Jatayu failed. But Jatayu gets liberated and Ravan is eventually killed. The means are thus as important as the goals. In all our scriptures, this was illustrated very well.

Along with the achievement of the goal, how much one has grown is an important aspect of success. So, it is not enough to have more and more in life, it is important to grow higher in life. From a spiritual standpoint, that is what redefining success means.

RCB'S WEEKLY TUESDAY MEETING OF MARCH 17 AND MARCH 24 ARE CANCELLED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR MEMBERS



IPP Vijay Kumar Jatia, Ms. Swati Jajodia, President Preeti Mehta, PE Framroze Mehta and Rtn. Jaidev Merchant



Jt. Hon. Secretary Rtn. Satyan Israni makes the Club announcements



Ms. Darshana Doshi, Rtn. Naresh Kumar Jain, Rtn. Suresh and Rtn. Ptn. Indira Kotak, PP Nalin Parikh, Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain, PP Shailesh Haribhakti and Rtn. Chandra Singh Lodha



President Preeti Mehta wishes PP Shailesh Haribhakti for his birthday



Rotarians Christopher Bluemel, PP Nandan Damani and Khurshed Poonawala



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn. Swati Mayekar for her birthday



President Preeti Mehta wishes Rtn Akhil Sanghi for his birthday

Take the acronym HIGHER.

H - Highest Vision; what will bring out one's potential to the fullest and make a difference to society. What is it that is going to help one to manifest one's potential and how does it benefit one in a positive way. Dr. Kalam said, 'A small aim is a crime. When we think small, we become small. When we think big, our potentials manifest.' This thinking, whether big or small, is not just in terms of targets, it is in terms of how selfless one has been that one is able to make a difference to the people around. Such a person is called 'Parth'. In Gita, one name of Arjun is Parth – one who aspires for the highest.

When an ordinary person finds an inspiring idol in life, the extraordinary potential manifests from that person. Narendra was an ordinary college-going youngster, but the mighty Vivekananda was born out of him when he found the ideal that he wanted to empower other people with the knowledge of Vedanta. Jamshedji Tata transformed the Indian industry, and we are here in this Taj Hotel because he had the vision for his country. Anyone who is able to find such an altar of dedication where they become insignificant and the cause becomes supreme, that person achieves success as well as makes a big difference.

I - Integration; body, mind and intellect – there are three aspects of personality. To achieve the highest version that in one's personal life as well as in the society, one has to learn to act in integration. Generally, when one is sitting or doing some work, the body is in one place, the mind is somewhere else and the intellect is thinking something

else. So, the personality is scattered. Yog means to unite the body, mind and intellect. One of the best ways to do this is to do what Swami Chinmayananda used to say: bring your mind where your hands are which, today, we know as mindfulness. So, mindful eating, mindful talking, mindful walking, etc. Today, there is a lot of research that shows that multitasking is a myth that dissipates a lot of one's energy, one's error rate goes up, one's enjoyment goes down and one spends much more time. So, doing one thing at a time is an important aspect of integrating one's body, mind and intellect. One of the criteria of success is integration; with it, the goal of life can be experienced in every moment. Right here and now my mind is fully in the present, I experience peace and happiness here and now. Such a mind can meditate beautifully and that mind also discovers supreme peace within one's self.

G - Great fortitude; higher the goal, greater the obstacles. True success is in the ability to not give up and strive continuously towards whatever goal one has in spite of the obstacles that may arise, the single pointed effort that one wants to achieve without giving up hope. I will achieve what I want to achieve. Objective or subjective, there will be a lot of challenges that will have to be overcome. Negative approach, being pessimistic or giving up hope never serve anybody. Even in the most difficult situation, the one who is positive and equanimous is wise and successful. Kalidas said, in a Sanskrit verse, that whose mind does not get disturbed even in the most provocative time, that person is a wise person. It is true success

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



PP Arun Sanghi asks a question



President Preeti Mehta wishes
PP Pradeep Saxena for his birthday



Rotarians Ateeq Agboatwala, Pranay Vakil,
Jaidev Merchant and Anand Dalal



President Preeti Mehta thanks Swami Swatmanandaji for his time
spent addressing the Club

when one is able to cultivate equanimity of time. One is able to have fortitude and retain one's inspiration of achieving the goal.

H - Happy team; how does one build good teams because one has to work with people. The biggest challenge in team-building is personal attachment and ego. Why are people not able to work with each other harmoniously? Because, ego comes out and spoils everything. How one keeps one's ego aside and works harmoniously in a team that shows true success. One may achieve success but if there is no one with you, if there is no team, one is not able to live harmoniously with people around one's self, then what use is that success? I read, somewhere, your

success is determined by the smiles on the people around you. Are the people around you happy? Are the teams that you built happy? Are they inspired? Do they feel loved? We do a lot of corporate programmes. Swami Chinmayanand was the earliest to bring Vedanta in the corporate world. One of the topics we address, many times, and which becomes a challenge also, they always say that Swamiji please come and motivate and teach us how to work together as a team and stay together as a team. In this, the one point that comes up is: treat employees as humans. It is such a simple point but that point often takes precedence because people are not people; they treated as a means to achieve

goals. So, success truly is how I treat people around me and work together. In our culture it is symbolised by Yagya, this is not just a ritual – it is a cooperative effort where everybody brings their best, somebody brings firewood, somebody brings flowers, somebody brings ghee. Everyone performs the act for a common goal, sinking their differences because the goal is important. If my country is important to me, I will keep aside all differences and work together for the growth of my country. Like, polio eradication by the Rotary Club of Bombay – everyone comes together because the cause is important, keeping aside their differences. That is success.

E - Efficiency; to achieve what we want. There should not be lethargy, procrastination. Whatever I know I should be able to implement. It is the capability to bring proficiency into experiment. What I know I am able to apply. How do we cultivate this ability? It comes when I consciously remove all those barriers to my being dynamic and active, and which is my comfort zone. Success is how much I am able to break away from my comfort zone, challenge myself. It could be sleep, enjoyment, habits like browsing on the

net or phone, efficiency is identifying all my comfort zones which are not allowing me to give my best and eliminating them.

R - Result Acceptance; success is not just achieving the result, success is also to accept the result as it comes, positive or negative. Often, positive results make us feel happy but when the result is not up to the mark, one feels devastated. India is one of the youngest countries of the world yet it is one of the depression and suicide capitals of the world. So many youngsters are attempting suicide. Why? Because sometimes the pressure of performing is so much, lack of acceptance of results. How do I learn to accept the results as they come? When I understand that my actions govern life, not just results. In the Gita we say, Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam, yogah is the efficiency in action. Do the best, leave the rest. Whatever result comes, let me learn to accept with humility, gratitude and cheerfulness and if I have to introspect, I should be able to do that so that next time I will be better. But non acceptance of the result brings agitation and pessimism. So while I may feel disappointed I should know how to bounce back.

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Rotarians Rohini Chowgule, Ashokkumar, Tarjani Vakil with Rtn. Partners Indira Suresh Kotak and Chitra Ashokkumar



Rotarians Shyyamnivas Somani, Arif Lokhandwala, PP Harry Singh Arora, PP (Dr.) Rumi Jehangir and Naresh Kumar Jain



Rtn. Ptn. Beena Yargop, Rtn. Roda Billimoria, PP (Dr.) Rumi Jehangir and Rtn. Meera Alreja



Rtn. Suresh and Rtn. Ptn. Indira Kotak receiving the birthday certificate on behalf of their son, Hon. Rtn. Uday Kotak



Rtn. Mudit Jain, Rtn. Ptn. Bijal Kara, PP Nirav Shah, Gautam Agarwal, Rtn. Satyan Israni, PP Nandan Damani, PP (Dr.) Mukesh Batra and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain



Rotarians Dilip Piramal, Farhat Jamal, President Preeti Mehta, Satyan Israni and Abhinav Aggarwal with Swami Swatmanandaji

Ananda Seva

Ananda Seva is a new initiative from Ananda Yaan whereby you can sponsor any activity with our elders in either of 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 (Laughter Therapy, Origami 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:
 • Vrinda 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

According to research, when people become successful their brains are used much less, compared to those who failed because when a person fails, a person starts thinking where did I go wrong and what should I do better, how do I improve in future. Hence it is very important not only to aspire for success but to learn to handle failure and maintain balance.

These are the few beautiful aspects of success that whatever we have is a gift from the lord, what we do with what we have is our gift to the lord. And, hence, if each of us able to truly understand success not in terms of goals that we want to achieve but in terms of life itself that the more and more we aspire to live the higher way of life, the more and more we will be happy, successful, make a big difference to the society

and when we drop the body, there is no regret but only fulfilment that I have done great and lived a happy life, I have made a difference to society and I lived happily.

So how we experience fulfillment which in Vedanta we call as moksha, the true success of life is to experience that fulfilment, where there is not thirst to become something more, there is no sense of incompleteness, the question of what next has been dissolved because one has experienced that inner bliss.

*Duniya mein kamaaye kya
Heere kya Moti,
Duniya mein kamaaye kya
Heere kya Moti,
Yaaron ye yaad rahe ki Kafan
mein Jeb nahin Hoti.
Woh bhi Gaye Khali hath Jo
Mulkon ke waali the,
Sikandar gaya jahan se tab
dono haath khali the.*

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PICTURE PERFECT MOMENTS FOR BY



Dr Batra's Foundation unveiled the 15th edition of its photography exhibition Magic Moments with this year's theme being 'An Aussie Dream of Sunny Sands and the Offbeat Outback' on March 3rd, 2020 at the Piramal Art Gallery, NCPA. The annual charitable exhibition, supported by the Tourism Board of Western Australia and Pan Pacific Hotel Perth, features a series of 75 photographs by Padma Shri and PP Rtn. (Dr.) Mukesh Batra and watercolours by Lene Makwana - a Western Australian visual artist and graphic designer originally from Norway.

As part of his philanthropic outreach, Dr. Mukesh Batra also invited around 50 children from Bhavishya Yaan to visit the exhibition. While there, the children participated in a painting contest in association with Ishin, Faber-Castell and Fonterra Future Dairy where they were shown a photo of which they painted their own interpretation. The competition was flagged off by President Preeti Mehta. Dr. Batra thanked all Rotarians for their participation in making the exhibition a success with a special thanks to Rtn. Charu Agarwal who contributed in a big way by

providing T-shirts and goodie bags for each child present. Over the last 14 years, Dr. Batra has turned his passion for photography into an avenue for philanthropy by donating the proceeds from the exhibition to the visually impaired. Proceeds from the exhibition will be donated to support the restoration of bush fire-affected areas in Australia. Commenting on the exhibition, Dr. Batra said, "I was glad to discover and capture the hidden gem that is Western Australia and bring its beauty to the people of India. Being invited as a guest of the state is a

testament of my growth as a photographer and my passion for photography. I hope that through this exhibition, we are able to contribute to the recovery and rehabilitation of the bush fire-affected areas." Commenting on the exhibition, collaboration and initiative, Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Tourism said, "From the ancient and other-worldly landscapes of the Pinnacles and fields of vibrant wildflowers in bloom, to the spectacular views of our city from Kings Park, Dr. Batra has captured some of Western Australia's unique natural beauty and stunning scenery."



FREE EYE CAMP FOR SENIORS

On February 8th, 2020, the Rotary Club of Bombay arranged an Eye Camp at our Ananda Yaan Dr. E Moses Road Centre (a joint venture between Dignity Foundation and Rotary Club of Bombay). This was our second eye camp here. The last one was held over a year ago.

Again, we collaborated with the Aditya Jyot Foundation for Twinkling Little Eyes. This time, staff at the centre decided to do an extended

outreach and invite senior citizens from adjoining communities too.

What made this camp special was unexpected support from a well-wisher who wished to celebrate her late mother's birthday; her donation ensured free prescription spectacles for senior citizens. A number of new faces could be seen which meant that the outreach drive worked. A record 125 senior citizens underwent an eye check-up. Prescription spectacles were distributed to 43. Approximately 49 seniors were asked to visit the Aditya Jyot Foundation at Dharavi for further investigation.

RCB GOES PLACES



Rotary Club of Bombay was represented by IPP Vijay Jatia and Siddharth Bhimrajka at the Kolkata Rotary India Centennial Celebrations. They also took on the mantle of displaying our landmark projects there.



BY explores science

Around 60 students of Bhavishya Yaan , G K Marg , from grade 5 to 9, visited the Nehru Science Centre on February 25th, 2020. These young explorers had a great time exploring various science exhibits installed in the park and learning about them.

They learned about famous Indian scientists and were ecstatic to see the dinosaurs. The highlight of the programme was them experiencing a film on dolphins in a dome-shaped screen! An awesome day with learnings and lots of fun.





SOUTH INDIAN FLAIR FOR FELLOWSHIP

Post the stupendous success of the festive Rotary fellowships for Parsi nite, Diwali nite, and Xmas nite, our Club needed a fellowship that could provide a similar level of bonhomie and fun. The fellowship hosted by Rtn. Bimal and Rtn. Ptn. Aradhana Mehta on February 20th upon the sprawling lawns of their house provided just that.

With a turnout of more than a hundred Rotarians and spouses, including many new members and also many Rotary Club of Bombay stalwarts, the fellowship provided a perfect setting for members to interact with each other. The open-air atmosphere, music in the background, fully-stocked bar, and delicious South Indian food all added

to the aura of the evening. Bimal and Aradhana went out of their way to ensure that each and every guest was made comfortable and many new members concurred that this was one of the best assimilation gatherings. Everyone is now looking forward to the upcoming exciting South America fellowship in March.

PANCHGANI EXCURSION FOR PRESIDENT ELECT

By Framroze Mehta

I recently spent a long weekend in Panchgani with 12 school mates reminiscing our youth and the wonderful and carefree days at St. Mary's School (ISC). Laughter, jokes, unabated banter and bonhomie, which can only be achieved over nearly 60 years of friendship, made the trip so very worthwhile.

We stayed at Hotel Prospect, a recommended destination to one and all, which is owned by the Javanmardi family. They will feed you till your stomach feels like it's going to burst; their service is ultra friendly and courteous; the accommodations are spacious, clean and comfortable and their positive attitude of "Yes, of course we can" to everything was most refreshing.

Rtn. Shahram Javanmardi, who runs Hotel Prospect, is the current President of the Rotary Club of Panchgani



(Dist. 3132) which was formed on March 28th, 1961. The Club has a membership of 45 and meets every Wednesday evening. Their focus is on multi-diagnostic medical camps and as they head towards their Diamond

Jubilee, the Rotary Club of Panchgani, alongwith the Nargis Dutt Foundation and Apollo Hospital, offers medical service opportunities to the community of Panchgani and its neighbouring villages. Visiting paediatrician at ADMC, Talwada, Dr. Bijoy Apte is also a member of RCP.

RCP, with the cooperation of the community, has organised "I Love Panchgani" Festival which has strived to get the entire local community united and entertained since the past four consecutive years. Several Interact and Rotaract Clubs, under RCP, also encourage youngsters to join as partners in service.

Meeting Rotarians during one's travels is always gratifying and if ever one is in Panchgani on a Wednesday, if only to get away from the office, one must strive to attend a RCP weekly meeting, whilst also enjoying the delightful weather and long scenic walks.



ANANDA YAAN SPORTS DAY

The Rotary Club of Bombay's Ananda Yaan Centres – Dr. E Moses Road and Byculla (a joint initiative by Dignity Foundation and RCB) had their first-ever Sports Day on February 22nd, 2020. Over 100 senior citizens participated. We invited the Rotaract members of ISME School of Management to curate and organise the races. Care was taken to ensure that all the races were safe for seniors and, at the same time, a lot of fun. We booked the ground next to our Byculla centre to ensure that our senior members would not have to travel too far in the morning. Timing was the key to the successful event as with rising temperatures, we had to safeguard that all the performances and races went like clockwork to finish by noon before the sun hit its peak.

The ISME, Rotary and Dignity teams reached the ground early in the morning; the event was scheduled for 10 am. All three teams got to work and speedily set up a pandal, the race tracks, the podium and arranged equipment for the different races.

We had invited the Hon. MLA Yamini Jadhav to be our Chief Guest and Municipal Corporator Ramakant Rahate to be the Guest of honour. President Preeti Mehta and Dignity Foundation Founder Sheilu Sreenivasan graced the occasion. Both felicitated the Chief Guest and Guest of honour. Rtn. Ptn. Gautam Mehta, PP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Ptn. Devi Narayan, Rtn. Madhusudan Daga, Rtn. Manish Reshamwala, Rtn. Rajesh Shah, Rtn. Alok Sekhsaria, Rtn. Ptn. Ekta Shah, Rtn. Vandan Shah, Rtn. S V Prasad, Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad, Rtn. Varsha Daiya, Rtn. Pranay Vakil, Rtn. Poonam Lalwani, Rtn. Ajit Lalwani, Mr. Ramnath and Ms. Rashmi Bapna also attended. It was a colourful sight with over 150 people donning red caps with the Ananda Yaan logo. Our senior citizens were most excited, some of the ladies had even worn shoes borrowed from their children.

Before the races started, the senior citizens put up Zumba and Bollywood dance performances. The seniors sure knew how to shake a leg and swing an arm.

ISME Rotaractors had arranged for 10 fun-filled races. Races like Lemon & Spoon, Balloon race, the three-legged race, a shopping race and a football race were a big hit. It was wonderful to see their resilience; A few seniors, due to physical challenges took longer to their complete their 20 meters but they did not give, step after step, each and every race was completed. The crowds cheered them on. It was true sportsmanship and perseverance.

Looking at the gusto of the seniors, President Preeti Mehta, Dignity Foundation Founder Sheilu Sreenivasan, MLA Yamini Jadhav, Municipal Corporator Ramakant Rahate, PP Ramesh Narayan and others participated in an impromptu race.

Gold, silver and bronze medals along with shawls and water dispensers were presented by the Rotarians to the winners. Rtn. Poonam Lalwani, Rtn. Charu Agarwal and Rtn. Ptn. Miloni Sampat generously arranged for and donated the shawls and water dispensers. As a matter of fact, we



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had a photo-finish in one race; we had to see the video to judge who came first. The entire race management was done professionally.

The final event was the tug-of-war between Dr. E Moses Road and Byculla centres. It was just supposed to be 15 people on each side but each and every senior citizen from the centre wanted to participate. Finally the rope could accommodate only 30 people from each side. After much heaving, tugging and lots of screaming, the Dr. E Moses Road centre won. It was amazing to see the merriment.

The Day ended with the bottle, bucket and water game by ISME Rotaractors. All the seniors and dignitaries cheered them on. We successfully ended the event before noon. All the seniors took their lunch packets and were safely on their way home. A special thanks to Riya Jain and team of ISME College and Rahul Ursekar of Dignity Foundation to connect all the dots that aced the event.



JAL JEEVAN FOR DHULE



By PP Sandip Agarwalla

Bleary-eyed we boarded the early morning flight, yesterday, March 6th, 2020 to Aurangabad from Mumbai at the unearthly hour of 4.45 am ! Immediately after landing our group of five persons from the Rotary Club of Bombay – myself, my wife, Malini, Rtn. Abhishek Saraf and his wife, Radhika and Rtn. Abhishek Sharman set off for Dhule (Dhulia) on the well-worn and often bumpy roads for a tedious 4 ½-hour drive.

There, we branched into two teams dividing ourselves to inspect and inaugurate the two Jal Jeevan Safe Drinking Water facilities we had installed at the Lamkani and Sarwe villages (totally we've created 35 such facilities in 35 villages across Maharashtra). Greeted enthusiastically by the ever-grateful village

populace we were welcomed amongst much fanfare and dance performances by the children. After the perfunctory cutting of the ribbons and speeches, we indulged in the usual tete-a-tete sessions which is my favourite part of the entire activity. Besides an opportunity for relationship building it gives us a chance to understand how our rural brethren are faring and what other needs they may have.

A pattern which has emerged of late is the demand for chillers to deliver cold water to the consumers in 20 litre jars which I found a bit "jarring" (pardon the pun!). I explained that if it was a glassful, it made sense but how would chilled water in a 20 l jar to be consumed over the next 24 hours and thus lose its cooling, make sense ? But the villagers insisted and persuaded us to promise

them a retrofit of these chiller units. It will be interesting to assess its outcome. I suspect it would be of immense popularity in the torrid heat of the coming summer months where temperatures routinely hover between 40-45 degrees C. We promised them a library each too for their effervescent and giggling youngsters.

Having satiated our thirst for reactions and knowledge, we set off once again. Some of us trundled back to Aurangabad but the majority of us decided to drive another four hours and landed up in the holy town of Shirdi. Today, we eagerly await the darshan and blessings of Shri Sai Baba after which we connect back to Mumbai via the evening flight which leaves us the Sunday of the weekend to reflect and recover from what was an exhausting trip, what with us putting in more

than 10 hours on the road in one day. This is what makes Rotary worthwhile and the fun and bonding on such trips between members are the memories which linger forever. No one remembers the rigour or fatigue ! This marks the completion of Phase 2 of our Jal Jeevan drive in rural Maharashtra.

Great work all around by Abhishek Saraf, Abhinav Aggarwal, Abhishek Sharman, unsung heroes and members of team Jal Jeevan of the Rotary Club of Bombay, our sponsor Rtn Dilip Piramal and VIP Industries, our social worker and project manager Nikhil, our NGO partner AVGSS and of course the indefatigable Joel from Eureka Forbes so ably supported by his colleagues Samiran, Pradeep, Vandana and Rajib !

Now, onwards to Phase 3 !

READY MONEY FOR AY

India Post Payments Bank visited the Ananda Yaan centres (a joint venture between Dignity Foundation and Rotary Club of Bombay). The Government of India, through the India Post Payment Bank, is giving under-privileged people access to banks at their doorstep.

Not only can one open an account from the comfort of home, one can avail other banking facilities too. This is especially needed for under-privileged and other house-bound invalid senior citizens. Not many senior citizens know about these facilities, though.

We, at Ananda Yaan, not only give senior an opportunity for a productive life but also provide access to information, especially central and state government schemes and facilities. Ananda Yaan acts as a channel or forum to help under-privileged senior citizens avail facilities either from the private sector or



the government.

Our senior citizens were amazed at the facilities with India Post Payments Bank. The day before we invited India Post representatives, we asked our members to get their Aadhaar cards. Some members were amused, others were curious and some simply annoyed. But when the presentation started, our members couldn't believe what they were seeing and hearing.

The India Post representatives did a live demonstration of how Indians could withdraw money from our bank

accounts through finger-printing and the Aadhaar authentication machine carried by India Post Payments Bank. If one's bank account is linked to the Aadhaar card, one need not go to the bank to withdraw money. One simply asks the local postman to carry the cash needed. Then one authenticates Aadhaar and finger-print on the device and the postman hands over the cash.

One need not even open an account with a Nationalized Bank and go through the cumbersome process of

submitting documents. One can open a bank account with India Posts Payment Banks with just the Aadhaar card and a finger-print scan. One doesn't need a single document. Many of our senior citizens hadn't visited a bank in many years. Either it was too far or the access was difficult. They were always dependent on someone to withdraw money for them.

Many of our senior citizens are not educated enough to fill out a withdrawal slip and don't know how to operate ATMs. It was a huge relief for them to know that such a facility exists. More than 20 senior citizens opened a zero-balance bank account with India Post during the demo. All they needed was Rs 100, to open it. Many others excitedly withdrew money; it was hard for them to believe it was so easy. Our members were appreciative that they finally got to know about this facility which was started by the GOI almost two years ago.



CAREER GUIDANCE FOR 10TH STD. STUDENTS AT BY

A meeting was held to apprise BY students and parents of the activities organized by Bhavishya Yaan for the students post their board examination to assist them with their future goals.

Jaya ma'am chaired the meeting with 10th standard students and parents. Naseem teacher also attended the meeting. The parents were

very happy with the above programmes and will ensure that the children attend the same.

Programmes planned were:

- 1) Finishing school
- 2) Aptitude test and career counselling for students along with parents
- 3) Summer camp
- 4) May internship for students
- 5) Scholarship for students scoring more than 60 per cent
- 6) Monthly alumni programme for students on one Saturday.

JOIN THE DOTS

AKS Member Manoj Israni talks about his experiments with art and the meaning of charity

Some people go with the flow and others spot the next big wave a mile away and ride it. Art collector Manoj Israni does both exceedingly well. However, it is his boys Edward and Oliver – a cocker spaniel and a beagle – whose scrutiny the Gateway bulletin team must pass through as we enter Manoj's Breach Candy bungalow.

Many woofs and wags later, we tear ourselves away and advance through an entrance foyer showcasing an Anish Kapoor concave mirror. Further up, a stairway that is lined with the who's who of the Indian Progressives masters leads to a living room housing items chosen personally chosen by Manoj to populate his surroundings.

"I look for works I like and can live with," says Eddie and Ollie's adoptive father – Rotarian and Arch Klumph member, Manoj Israni, President of Blue Cross Laboratories.

Manoj stumbled into an interest in art in the early 2000s, quite accidentally. He had just purchased his flat in Samudra Mahal and wanted elements similar to his childhood home. "My dad had an M F Husain painting in the centre of his living room so I wanted one too. I could not afford something big so I bought a small one for a couple of lakh. A few



"I strongly believe that unless you give first, you don't get back. The right money has to be given to the right cause. So I leave it to RI"

months later, the art gallery I had bought it from wanted it back and so they bought it back for three times the original amount."

"To sell something at three times the amount was interesting to me. Even though I had not done an MBA, I was financially literate and I knew the difference between an appreciating asset

and a depreciating one." He then bought a Ram Kumar for Rs five lakh which he sold for Rs 80 lakh. "I made a little bit of money." Manoj started visiting all the galleries and buying up works by the Progressive Artists' Group. "I bought up a lot of Husains and Razas and also Laxman Shreshthas. But I also bought a lot of rubbish. At one time I

had about 500 paintings!"

He recalls a period in the early years when he wanted a Husain that cost Rs 18 lakh but did not have the entire amount. To the disbelief of those who knew him, or knew of him, he sold his Mercedes to raise the balance. People thought he had gone broke and, as most Indians have no filters when it comes to asking about personal matters, they asked him so. Perhaps it would have been better if they had thought him broke because when he said he had sold it to buy a painting, they thought he was mad.

Manoj went to great lengths to build upon, and gain from, his experiments with art. This was a trend he caught before it became big. He is proud to say that he worked for every penny of it. Gesturing to the collectibles around him, he says, "Nothing here is an inheritance; with my family, we have always been very clear about what is mine and what is yours. I never got hand-outs. Life is a do-it-yourself project. Anything else is a bonus."

"I go with the flow, take life as it comes. I don't make too many plans."

Manoj confesses he has tried to pass on some of his learnings to his son Rohit, who has been doing business administration in Cardiff. "But I am not that strict with him," he says. Manoj, on the other hand, had grassroots exposure to the country, right from his college days. "I was vice president student community

AIESEC in 1990. I travelled a lot by train and bus in those years." That was his first experience with charity and fund-raising. "Then, I was an executive director at dad's company for 15 years before I became President. I have been to every market in the interiors of India to understand its pulse. In these rural areas, the concept of hospital is very different from the big city. It means a person on a bed and there is an IV drip hanging by a nail on the wall."

"My professional milestone has been in creating my own team. Teamwork is my strength. I believe in learning through empowerment – 90 per cent of the team has been groomed by me." However, Manoj does not personally endorse the popular hire and fire culture. "I don't like discord, I try and sort it out first," he says. Like, when his driver of 15 years was going

through a rough patch, Manoj tried to help him resolve his problem over a year-long period. He was let go of only after it did not work out. "My secretary Bina has been with me for 30 years! Attrition is very low in my company, especially for women – that is the atmosphere I have created. Our style of working is Japanese – the hierarchy is more on paper. I believe that corporate governance starts at the top and trickles down. If you live a straight and clean life – that will trickle down to your company."

Manoj has donated several huge amounts to Rotary. He has given US\$ 750,000, "but not at one go," he clarifies, quickly. "In Rotary, I take Nirav's (Shah) guidance – he is passionate and says it straight. I strongly believe that unless you give first, you don't get back. The right money has to be given to the right cause. So I leave it to

Rotary International."

In addition, Manoj believes in sharing his wealth as and when the need arises. "If someone's son has gotten into a fancy school due to merit but he cannot afford it, then I'll pay the tuition fee. There are 3,000 people in my company – these are people to be taken care of. My secretary's daughter got into the top 10 schools of the US: Harvard, Yale, Columbia... I agreed to pay her tuition fee if she chose to go to Harvard. This person has given me 30 years of her life – how can I say I cannot afford to do this for her?"

His typical day is working nine to five and meeting someone from the art world after that. "I want to enjoy my art – I love art. But I get bored in Bombay, so I go to Dubai. It is easier to go to Dubai than Alibaug. I have a circle of friends in Dubai. I spend a lot of time in Dubai. When things

were normal (pre-Corona virus), I went to London once every quarter and to Dubai every month. I have rented space there."

Manoj refuses to do crystal-gazing and share what he foresees for himself in the future. All he can commit to is that he has stopped buying and selling art as much as he used to. "I must have something for my walls," he laughs.

Eventually, he might build a museum, "I am more of a go-with-the-flow kind of person. I have a spiritual side, in a way. I started meditation when I was 24 years old, about 20 minutes a day." After this, Manoj promptly shuts down all talk of spirituality, refusing to engage in a banal, coffee-table discussion of it.

His advice to young Rotarians: "Common sense means connecting the dots and being ahead of the game."



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CAKE WALK FOR LIGHTHOUSE KIDS



Lighthouse children visit Mongiland - Mongini's Andheri factory. Monginis is an Indian pastry and bakery chain based in Mumbai with outlets in different cities in India and Egypt.

Black forest, zebra torte, Ferrero Rocher cake, mixed fruit cake – these are just a few of the cakes confectionery giant Monginis produces everyday at their Andheri production unit. The facility imaginatively named Mongiland played host to 35 of our Lighthouse students aged 6 to 11 years on Saturday, March 7th.

First on the agenda was a factory tour and the little ones gazed in wonder at the tempting array of cakes and pastries on display as guide Mr. Tejas proudly showcased the newest innovations – Green forest cake – to celebrate nature and pastry cups in falooda, rasmalai and gulab jamun flavours. “Wow! It’s like magic” was what the little ones exclaimed as they watched an ordinary-looking piece of sponge being transformed into a delectable cake right before their eyes and instantly fell in love with the cute marzipan animals perched atop the cakes in the Special Orders dept.



Afterwards, the group adjourned to the playroom where children watched a short film showcasing the Monginis brand and its various offerings.

This was followed by a quick tutorial on garnishing and finally the piece de resistance – each child got a chance to design his/ her own little cake for a loved one. Snacks were served and, yes, each



child got generous slices of Monginis' famous chocolate and vanilla cream cakes.

After a boisterous session in the kiddie gym area, it was time to return home. The youngsters headed back with a case of sweet treats, a souvenir apron and happy memories of an enjoyable afternoon.

MARCH 17, 2020

THE BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

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TENTH STD. KIDS GET A SEND-OFF



On February 28th, there was a send-off for the out-going tenth standard, organised by the Principal and the teachers of the NMJ school.

As the school is very impressed by the work of Bhavishya Yaan, they invited Bhavishya Yaan staff and requested BY Mentor Jaya ma'am to be the chief guest to express their appreciation in felicitating them.

Along with the BY Mentor, computer teacher Vidya Promod and the CC Lima Fernandes were given a pen and bouquet of flowers each by the 10th standard students.

Some of the out-going students shared their feelings and emotions of leaving NMJ after 10 years and their excitement in starting a new academic college life.

It was overwhelming to hear the students expressing their appreciation, learning and their experience of being part of Bhavishya Yaan.

Students excelling in various fields were awarded a certificate and a pen and every out-going student was handed over an examination pad all donated by the BY Mentor.

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ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 10
RTN. AKHIL
SANGHI



MARCH 11
RTN. (DR.) PHIROZE
SOONAWALLA



MARCH 12
PP RTN. SHAILESH
HARIBHAKTI



MARCH 14
RTN. SWATI
MAYEKAR



MARCH 14
RTN. (DR.) IAN
PINTO



MARCH 15
RTN. RAM
GANDHI



MARCH 15
RTN. UDAY
KOTAK



MARCH 17
RTN. SATYAN
ISRANI



MARCH 18
RTN. PRADEEP
MAFATLAL



MARCH 19
RTN. ANIL
HARISH



MARCH 21
PP RTN. (DR.) RAHIM
MULJANI



MARCH 25
RTN. (DR.) RAJESHWAR
BALI



MARCH 25
RTN. JOSEPH
KOSHY



MARCH 25
RTN. ASHRAFI
MATCHESWALA



MARCH 25
RTN. (DR.) ANAND
SOMAYA



MARCH 28
RTN. SHARIQ
CONTRACTOR



MARCH 28
RTN. LEELA
DESHPANDE



MARCH 30
RTN. DEVENDRA
KOTHARI



MARCH 30
RTN. NANDAN
MALUSTE



MARCH 31
RTN. SUBASH
GOGIA

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 11
RTN. PTN. AKSHAY SINGHANIA
MARCH 12
RTN. PTN. GEETA RUPANI
MARCH 14
RTN. PTN. NASREEN
CONTRACTOR
MARCH 15
RTN. PTN. MUNIRA JEHANGIR
MARCH 16
RTN. PTN. MEENAL PATODIA
MARCH 19
RTN. PTN. NAVAZ GUZDER
MARCH 24
RTN. PTN. RASHNA COOPER
RTN. PTN. DIVYAA KUMMAR
MARCH 26
RTN. PTN. BERRYL HIRANI

MARCH 28
RTN. PTN. SWATI PIRAMAL
RTN. PTN. MINA SOMANI
MARCH 29
RTN. PTN. GAURI DAIYA
MARCH 30
RTN. PTN. SUDHA GOKAL
MARCH 31
RTN. PTN. RADHIKA KAJI

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 11
RTN. PTN. ARTI & PP RTN.
ARUN SANGHI
MARCH 13
RTN. PTN. RASHNA & RTN. SOLI
COOPER
RTN. PTN. SUJATA & RTN.
VASANT MANOHAR
MARCH 14

RTN. PTN. JITA & RTN. BIPIN
KAPADIA
MARCH 17
RTN. PTN. HEMLATA & RTN.
DR. DEVENDRA SAKSENA
MARCH 19
RTN. PTN. NILUFER & RTN.
MURAD CURRAWALLA
MARCH 21
RTN. PTN. ZARINE & RTN.
DARABSHAW DAVAR
MARCH 25
RTN. PTN. PINKY & RTN.
SHREEPAL DALAL
MARCH 28
RTN. PTN. RADHIKA & RTN.
DIPAN MEHTA
MARCH 29
RTN. PTN. VERA & RTN. DARA
MEHTA

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2019-2020

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