

# THE GATEWAY

Rotary Club  
of Bombay



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY | WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFBOMBAY.ORG  
VOLUME NO. 62 ISSUE NO. 8 AUGUST 25, 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■ SAFE TRAVELS



Remember what airport security was like after 9/11?

Removing shoes and belts at airport security and that cumbersome rule about no liquids in hand luggage?

Well, now that's part and parcel of air travel and we are so used to it that we cannot even remember anything less stringent.

With the slight resurgence of travel, the luxury travel market has seen the opening of key properties around the globe as the Covid numbers diminish.

So if you are itching to get out, but nervous about where or what's in store, here's what a couple of big names, at India's favourite destination - Thailand, are doing to keep guests safe and happy.

Pimalai Resort & Spa Krabi: Iconic luxury Thai resort, Pimalai Resort & Spa has enhanced its hygiene and

safety protocols in line with the "new normal" of travel and hospitality. "Pimalai Care" is an initiative that includes innovative measures such as 24-hour vacancy periods between bookings, three disinfection tunnels, ozone sanitisation in the guest rooms and heat cleaning in the kitchens. "At Pimalai, the health and safety of our guests and staff is always our highest priority," said Patrice Landrein, Pimalai's General Manager. "That is why we are stepping up all our precautionary measures, in line with the recommendations of the World Health Organization and the Thai authorities. A dedicated Hygiene Manager has been appointed to implement and monitor "Pimalai Care". Thanks to these new protocols and our unique secluded setting, customers can book in complete confidence. We look forward to welcoming guests back to paradise," he added.

In terms of hygiene and sanitisation, "Pimalai Care" includes the decisive step of leaving a 24-hour vacancy between two bookings. During this period, a deep cleaning following hospital standards and ozone

sterilisation of guest rooms will take place. The same protocols will apply in all public areas using hospital-grade sanitizers. In the kitchens, Pimalai will use electrical heat to disinfect its equipment.

Chiva-Som: Transitioning to the 'new normal', heightened hygiene measures include Covid-19 testing and quarantine for contact staff as well as temperature checks upon arrival, deep cleaning of guest rooms, frequent disinfection of all equipment, social distancing - as needed, and complimentary hand sanitizer and masks for guests. After reopening on June 12th, new additions in the wellness journey are available - specifically targeting post lockdown concerns including the revival spiritual, mental and physical health.

Safe travels to all you adventurous people!

President Framroze Mehta

### #tuesdaythoughts

"If you think adventure is dangerous, try routine, it's lethal" ~ Paul Coelho

### #caughtintheweb



## With the spirit of Elvis in the house, Rotarians celebrate PARS! NEW YEAR

TODAY: RISHAD TOBACOWALA, SENIOR ADVISOR, PUBLICIS GROUPE



President Framroze Mehta  
with Rtn. Ptn. Zarina



PE Shernaz Vakil



PN Vineet Bhatnagar



Rtn. Khurshed Poonawala  
with Rtn. Ptn. Meher



PP Ramesh Narayan



Rtn. Jimmy Pochkhanawala with Rtn.  
Ptn. Navaz

you alone to choose the path of heaven or be condemn to reside forever with Ahriman (evil spirit) Our entire liturgical prayers revolve around this single theme and I choose to describe our very first prayer and the shortest, it is called the Ashem Vohu. It is written the ancient Avestan language and translates this way: Righteousness (To think a good thought, to speak a good word, to do a good deed) is the best good (that any human can do) good and it is happiness. Happiness is to him/her who is righteous for the sake of the best righteousness.

**THE LEAD MOTIVE THAT RUNS THROUGH OUR PRAYERS, KNOWN TO MOST OF YOU; MANASHNI GAVASHNI, KUNASHNI OR HUMATA, HUKHTA, HVARSHTA TRANSLATED AS GOOD THOUGHTS, GOOD WORDS, GOOD DEED. THAT IS ALL THAT IS THERE IN THE ZOROASTRIAN PRAYERS. EVERYTHING ELSE REVOLVES AROUND IT.**

leaving all our quirks and idiosyncrasies, leaving aside our profanity, deep down the Parsi from his birth is groomed to be virtuous. What sets us apart, in my respectful submission, is our capacity to assimilate, our friendliness, our broad and progressive way of thinking, our some what western standards, our love for good food and good wine. These are all part of folklore and I need not go further. But, what are the characteristics of a true Parsi? Charity, Professionalism, Excellence in Business and Service to Society. Generally, you will find that all things being equal most people gravitate to the Parsi lawyer or the Parsi accountant and especially the Parsi doctor. Most people agree that to po the Parsi way of doing business - value for money, you buy good products and if you are not well, well, then the Parsi family is producing the vaccines for you - the Poonawala family in Poona.

Now we come to some of our idiosyncrasies. I have no hesitation to say that if something is wrong, a Parsi will invariably not tolerate.



PP Ashish Vaid with Rtn. Ptn. Gopi



IPP Preeti Mehta with Rtn. Ptn. Gautam



Rtn. Zinia Lawyer

### **“PARSIPAANU” BY RTN. JIMMY POCHKHANAWALA**

In order to understand what Parsi stands for, it is necessary to harp back to our most ancient of monoethical religions – Zoroastrianism. Our prophet was Spitama Zarathustra. He was the first prophet to preach that there is universal one God and God is said to have revealed Zarathustra, the simplest truth of the world namely, that the universe consists of two competing forces, the force of goodness and the force of evil. The force of right and righteousness or the force of darkness. Therefor Zarathustra preached that it is You, Zoroastrians alone, who can seek the light and can be rewarded by Ahura Mazda, that is, there is one God in heaven, and it is up to



Rtn. Hiren Kara with Rtn. Ptn. Bijal



Rtn. Jamshed Vakharia with Rtn. Ptn.  
Aavan



Rtn. Farhat Jamal



Rtn. Manjeet Kripalani





Rtn. Mudit Jain with Rtn. Ptn. Malti



Rtn. Jayesh Jhaveri



Ms. Avi Dastoor



Rtn. Sabira Merchant

It is said that to right even a perceived wrong, the last Parsi left on earth will look into the mirror and fight with himself. As far as possible, doing what is right not consciously causes harm or grief to another, solid honesty, zest for life and goodwill towards all. These are the traits of the Parsi-panu and I respectfully submit that these characteristics endear us most to our non-Parsi friends.

So now enough seriousness, here comes the real secret of our Parsis. Our distinctiveness is manifested best in our idiomatic and colourful language. Having migrated to Surat from Sanjan, where we landed from Iran, we became pakka Surati Parsis and Surati Parsis cannot speak a sentence without embellishing it with some idiom or the other that is often off colour, as an example, if a Parsi lawyer has his name plate, Jimmy Pochkhanawala, Bar at Law, I guarantee you that a Parsi friend will scribble beneath, 'toh andar ketlo?'

People say that all Parsis got ahead in life during the British Raj because they sucked up to the Brits. Nothing of that sort. We pretended to suck up out of Brits and made monkeys out of them. The Brits believed that we were their chosen ones. Example: a Britisher asked a Hindu gentlemen, 'You, Mr. Hindu, what is your favourite flower?' the Hindu answered, 'The sunflower, it reminds us of Arunachand' and the Brit said, 'Ah! I wipe my backside with sunflower.' The Brit asked a Muslim gentleman responded the same way. He finally came to a Parsi, 'You Parsi, what is your favourite flower?' and the Parsi dripping with sarcastic supplication said, 'Cactus flower your Lordship!' and continues in Gujarati, 'ave tari g\*nd poshine batav ni'.

The important thing to remember is that this is not restricted to a small pocket or bad year or a high quality or low quality Parsi. This is universal Parsi language whosoever you maybe from the Lord side to the under

on the street. This is the way a Parsi is and I will give you a concrete example on this. Legend goes that Sir Jamshedji Jeejeebhoy once invited a world famous Parsi violinist to his home, Mazagaon Castle for dinner. There were other high society guests as well. After dinner, the violinist obliged and entertained the audience with a few pieces. When he finished Sir Jamshedji who had a smattering of knowledge of the violin grabbed the Violin and said, 'ave hu vagaruch' and the notes he produced were such cacophony that the family down began to howl. Sir Jamshedji grabbed that violin, that multi-million-dollar violin from its neck and said, 'chup maadar\*\*\*\*' and the entire audience laughed at a damn good time.

Now we have certain words, the non-Parsi friends might not be familiar with these words but all Parsis are; when someone talks rubbish, the Parsi simple says, 'fui ni g\*\*d' or 'gathlo'. The listener understands immediately that he is talking



Rtn. Anar Shah



Rtn. Dr. Sharukh Golwala



Rtn. Ulhas Yargop and Rtn. Ptn. Beena



PP Vijay Jatia



Rtn. Darios Irani with Rtn. Ptn. Ketayun



Rtn. Ajit Lalvani



PP Arvind Jolly



Rtn. Chandra Singh Lodha



Rtn. Anand Parikh with Rtn. Ptn. Rajul



Rtn. Ritu Prakash Desai

Rtn. Manoj Patodia with  
Rtn. Ptn. Nandita

Rtn. Dushyant Dave

Rtn. Kasimali Merchant with Rtn. Ptn.  
Samira

Rtn. Anuj Arenja



PP Dr. Mukesh Batra



PP Nandan Damani



Rtn. Peter Born with Rtn. Ptn. Erika



Rtn. Ramesh Mehta



Rtn. Renu Basu



Rtn. Dr. Rustom Ginwalla

**AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, DOING WHAT IS RIGHT NOT CONSCIOUSLY CAUSES HARM OR GRIEF TO ANOTHER, SOLID HONESTY, ZEST FOR LIFE AND GOODWILL TOWARDS ALL. THESE ARE THE TRAITS OF THE PARSIPANU AND I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THAT THESE CHARACTERISTICS ENDEAR US MOST TO OUR NON-PARSI FRIENDS.**

nonsense and he should shut up. Now you can't look for the explanation or the connection as to why you refer to the father-sisters posterior when you are describing this but that is the way the Parsi speaks. Sometimes it can be taken to a laughable and ridiculous extent. One Nowruz evening, a well-known Parsi doctor of yesteryear enacted the play Hamlet in Gujarati. The play was auto-driven and when Hamlet's father came on stage and said, 'Hamlet, hoon tara baap no bhoot' somebody from the audience shouted, 'ne hoon tari maa'. The play ended there because the audience couldn't stop laughing. If someone spills ink on an antique table. The Parsi is not going to say, 'oh khodai' the Parsi will say, 'avi saras table ni kone mai behen kari naki' and the message will go. When a Parsi had a battle with his lady neighbour, the Parsi gloated that he won without uttering a single word. He said in

gujarati, 'apre toh Surati wakil ubho kari didho' while tying his lehenga's nada.

We Parsi associate anatomical parts with real Parsi names therefore Behram is the posterior, Machesar means a female's frontal endowments and Temur means a male's endowment. In a matrimonial dispute in the Bombay HC during the British days, the lady's letters to her lover were being read out in court and all those letters ended with loving endearments to her darling Temur. The British judge thundered suddenly, who is this Temur? And why is he not a co-respondent? Both side lawyers had to approach the bench and whisper, my lord, in Parsi Gujarati, Temur is a euphemism for the male organ. The British judge collapsed.

Our MCs and BCs our GCs, are never meant to hurt, absolutely never. They are only for what we call, Badam pista embellishments to

our talks. We take these expressions in our stride, no offence meant and no offence taken. Our unique words and phrases are sometimes untranslatable. Example: in the firm where I signed my articles, we had a Parsi panchayat as client, Lady Jehangir was the chairperson and letters had to be addressed to her starting with Maiji, Maiji. One such letter was a letter from a lady who wrote, 'hoon ek haram harkela, akkha kharus Parsi ne lachar baai cheu.' The partners could not translate haram harkela, akkha kharus Parsi. But all of us knew exactly who is a haram harkela, akkha kharus Parsi. You may say good for nothing, but that is just not enough.

So I will conclude by wishing you much joy, happiness and safety in these times and the next year. As we Parsis say, 'hasta ramta dara jaaye ani je rare eni behen\*\*\*\*\*'





Rtn. Ajai Kumar



Rtn. Dilip Dalal



Rtn. Vasant Manohar



Rtn. Sheila Bulchandani



The Rotary Club of Bombay's "Parsi Nite" was held on August 18, 2020. It was held on Zoom and members participated with great enthusiasm! Over 150 members and their partners attended and many were dressed in traditional Parsi attire.

The Fellowship Committee had organised an innovative evening with a variety programme consisting of a humorous talk: "Parsipaanu" by Rtn. Jimmy Pochkhanawala followed by some songs by Elvis Presley by Mehmood Curmally.

The highlight was a rib-tickling Parsi natak "Pretty Boman" by Silly Point Productions.

The evening was a resounding success and members embraced the "new normal" way of getting together with gusto. President Fali Mehta thanked the fellowship committee for organising this fellowship as well as the gracious hosts namely Rotarians Shernaz Vakil, Jimmy Vakharia, Zinia Lawyer, Khorshed Poonawala, Ritu Desai and Fali Mehta.



Rtn. Satyan Israni



Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani



Rtn. Dev Thukral



Rtn. Nirav Shah with Rtn. Ptn. Devina



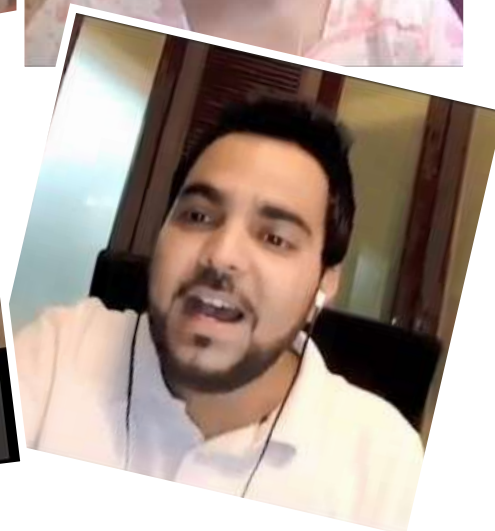
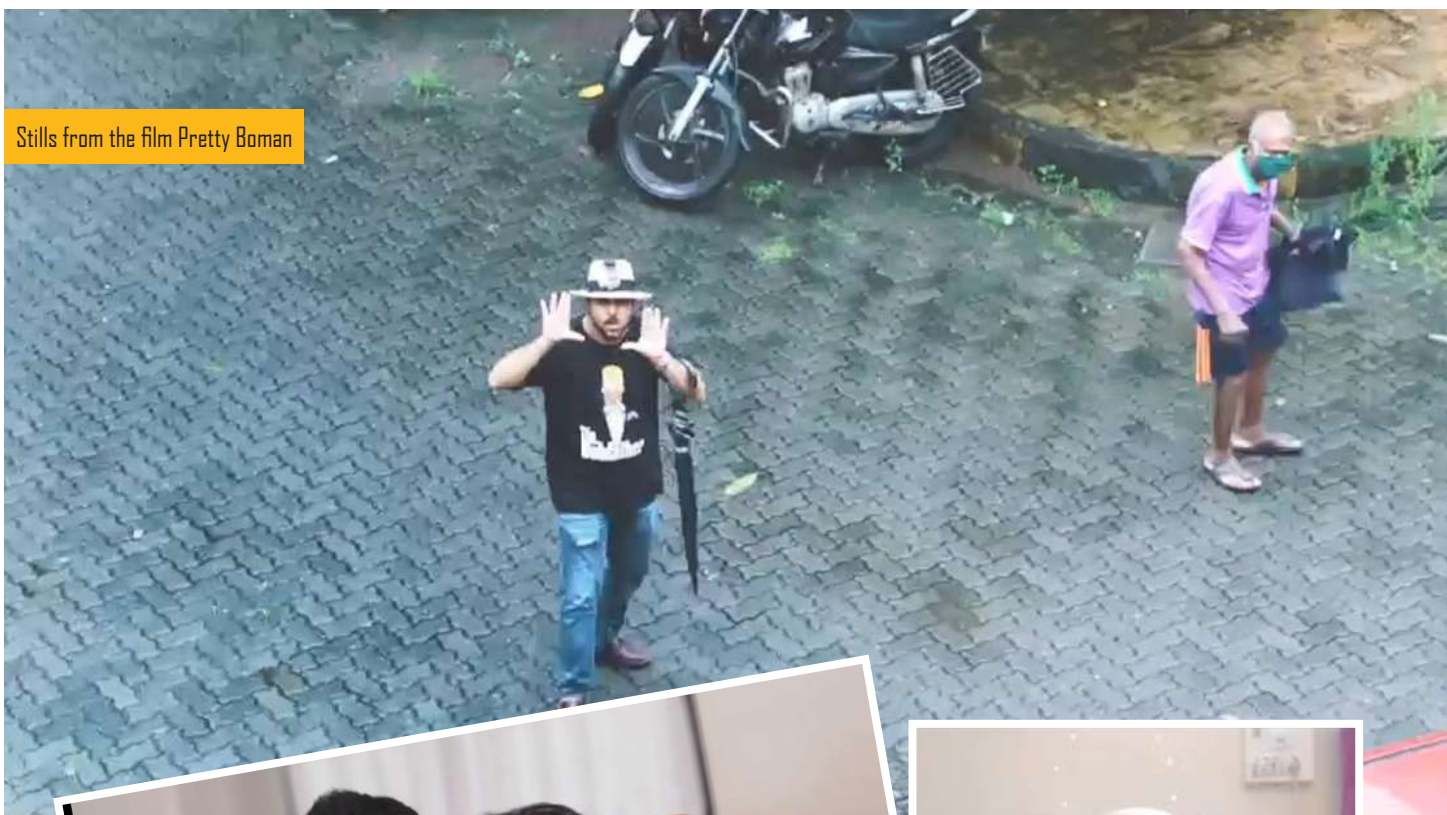
Rtn. Pradeep Chinai



Rtn. Meera Alreja



Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani







# SENIOR CITIZENS BECOME TECH-SAVVY

## A SPECIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY AT ANANDA YAAN BYCULLA, WITH PRESIDENT FRAMROZE MEHTA!

The spirit of Independence was felt at our Ananda Yaan centre at Byculla (a joint initiative of Dignity Foundation and Rotary Club of Bombay) where over 30 senior citizens broke the shackles of the lockdown and celebrated Independence Day with the help of technology!

Yes, our very own members used Zoom for the first time and came together virtually; the images were virtual but the spirit and fervour were real. Rtn. Ptn. Ekta Shah of Rotary Club of Bombay and Rahul Ursekar and Dilip Chauhan of Dignity Foundation laid the ground-

work by creating a WhatsApp group to get the members together and then guiding them on how to download and use Zoom.



We began with our National Anthem, led by Ms. Rashmi Bapna who also sang a song for our members. The Chairman of the Ananda Yaan



Committee, Rtn. Madhusudan Daga and RCB President Framroze Mehta also joined in the celebrations. Both of them interacted with the members and were happy to see the excitement amongst them. This was followed with a motivational video in Hindi made by Sandeep Maheshwari and patriotic songs by three of the members.

Other Rotarians who joined in the celebrations included PP Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Ajit Lalwani, Rtn. Charu Agarwal, Rtn. Vrinda Rajgarhia, Rtn Ptns. Vandana Daga and Ekta Shah. Rahul Ursekar and Dilip Chauhan represented Dignity Foundation at the event.

The programme concluded Jai Hind!

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup>  
Club Meeting**

Rotary Club of Bombay

**Parimal Gandhi**  
Motivational Speaker



**Can Surmount - How I overcame Cancer, Blindness and Other Challenges to Find Light at the End of the Tunnel.**

Venue : Online at zoom.us (members only) Time : 12:00pm

## ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 27  
Rtn. Ranjit Singh



AUGUST 31  
Rtn. Vijay Meghani

## ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 27: Rtn. Hareesh and Shobha Jagtiani

## ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 26: Rtn. Ptn. Dina Golwalla  
AUGUST 27: Rtn. Ptn. Neelima Baliga  
AUGUST 27: Rtn. Ptn. Neeraja Taparia  
AUGUST 28: Rtn. Ptn. Usha Agarwal  
AUGUST 28: Rtn. Ptn. Sujata Manohar

**Celebrate special days in a meaningful way.**

**Ananda Seva**

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) Bhojan 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 (Chapati, 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**




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PP Dr. Adi Dastur	PP Arun Sanghi
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Immediate Past President	Rtn. Preeti Mehta
President-Elect	Rtn. Shernaz Vakil
President-Nominee	Rtn. Vineet Bhatnagar
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Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
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Public Awards	Rtn. Swati Mayekar
Young At Heart	PP Rajnikant Reshamwala
Rotary Vision Panchatattva	Rtn. Poonam Lalvani
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RCB Medical Centre, Mumbai	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
International Service	Rtn. Christopher Bluemel
DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. AJIT LALWANI	
Ananda Yaan	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga
Scholarships	Rtn. Zinia Lawyer
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Water Resources	Rtn. Abhishek Saraf
Bhavishya Yaan	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
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Cotton Green Medical Centre	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
Cancer Aid	Rtn. Dr. Ian Pinto
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Environment	Rtn. Priyasri Patodia
Sports	Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas
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Rotaract	Rtn. Murad Currawala
Interact	Rtn. Gautam Doshi
Vocational Training & Night Study Centre	Rtn. Mehul Sampat