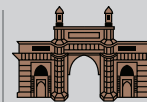


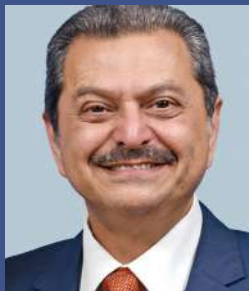
# THE GATEWAY

Rotary Club  
of Bombay



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY | WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFBOMBAY.ORG  
VOLUME NO. 62 ISSUE NO. 33 MARCH 9, 2021

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TAKE BACK THE POWER



Hillary Clinton said: ".....human rights are women's rights - and women's rights are human rights. Let us not forget that among those rights are the right to speak freely - and the right to be heard".

Unfortunately it has been easy for women to get lost in history. Swimming against the current, women have had to speak louder to get their voices heard. Even today, some people in power are pushing women 'back into their place' continually. Women from minority and under-

represented groups are especially susceptible to this. All women are worthy of respect, fulfilment, and love.

Being a woman of today means living true to her values, and being empowered as a woman to create change. We are at a pivotal time, where women have a voice and are being recognised through their own form of creative expression - whether that be values, beliefs, business, art, etc.

Zozibini Tunzi's reply in the Q&A round of Miss Universe sums up where we stand today with regards to women: "I think the most important thing we should be teaching young girls today is leadership. It's something that has been lacking in young girls and women for a very long time,

not because we don't want to but because of what society has labelled women to be. I think we are the most powerful beings in the world and that we should be given every opportunity and that is what we should be teaching these young girls, to take up space, nothing is as important as taking up space in society and cementing yourself."

The most important part of being human is protecting, standing up for, fighting for, believing in, and raising up each of us. We need to strive together towards a world that honours us all.

President Framroze Mehta

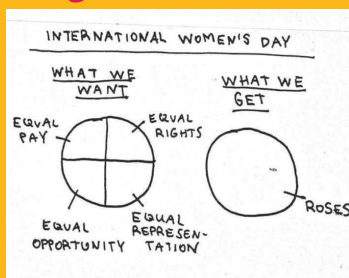
### #tuesdaythoughts

"We need to reshape our own perception of how we view ourselves. We have to step up as women and take the lead." -Beyoncé

### #numbercrunching 2%

The percentage of women CEOs in India in 2019. Stats for the same year: women held only 8% of management roles and 9% of business management roles. India has the third-lowest global representation of Women Managers, ahead of only South Korea and Japan. (Source: Credit Suisse Research Institute, 2019)

### #caughtintheweb



## EMINENT LAWYER & TAX EXPERT YOGENDRA PREMKRISHNA TRIVEDI ON WHY YOU SHOULD PAY YOUR TAXES

**THIS SUBJECT IS OF SUCH A WIDE AMPLITUDE THAT I CAN ADJUST A SERIES OF LECTURES ON THAT.**

The question that should be asked is, why should I NOT pay my taxes? Because, as in the same case of Commissioner of Wealth Tax vs Arvind Narottam Das, the Supreme Court Justice Sabyasachi Mukharji said that people were feeling, by and large, that there was so much corruption and pretentious expenditure, so much mediocrity, why should they pay taxes which were going for all these useless expenditures? But, at the same time, paying taxes, according to me, is one

of the bounding duties of the citizens.

Cicero addressing the Roman Senate had said that these taxes are sinews of the state and I am never happier than when I am paying my taxes because that is the price that I am paying for mighty relations.

This is the actual field of taxation but how do taxes have to be collected? Our ancient philosophers and rishis gave a prompt reply. Chanakya in his Arthashastra said that a king should collect his taxes like a bee collects honey. It collects honey but it doesn't destroy the flower.

In the same manner, when the king should collect taxes and when the king doesn't do that, he tries to destroy not only the flower (people) but also the branch, then people are certainly aghast. There was a time when we were paying Income Tax at the rate of 97.75%. On the top of the concept of integrated tax system, there was wealth tax, gift tax, expenditure tax, estate duty and the total of all of this would come to more than 100% of your total income. Naturally, people become desperate, they can't afford to do this, they can't become poorer every day and that is why they are finding

**TODAY: VINITA BALI, CHAIR, GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION, ON WHY NUTRITION MATTERS. ON ZOOM AT 12 NOON**



President Framroze Mehta



PP Rajnikanth Reshamwal



PP Vijay Jatia introducing Rtn. Aditi Shah



Rtn. Sameer Tapia



Rtn. Ulhas Yargop

ways and means to avoid taxes within the framework of law and thereafter some people step further and said forget the framework of law, we will generate black money.

Within the framework of law, I got many incidences, some of them very hilarious, I will restrain myself to a few. I remember a person who had a very petite secretary who demanded a fur coat. So he went to a lawyer who was a tax expert and asked him for a deduction for the fur coat. The lawyer came out with a solution. In the IT return, he wrote it off as something he required for covering his computer. As there was no specification on what materials could or could not be used for covering the computer, he got the deduction. But, ultimately, we should think of a system of law which is understandable and acceptable to people. This is why I have also mentioned it on the floor of Parliament that any articulate system of taxation should have three characteristics: i) it must be simple. I know an IT law cannot be as simple as a lullaby but at the same time it should not be very complicated. I always advise my clients who suffer from insomnia to read the Income Tax Act at night, they will fall asleep within two hours. The point is the Act is very complicated. The 1961 Act was brought to simplify the previous legislation of 1922 but, from '61 to today, it has enabled more than 5000 amendments. And, if you ask anybody, what was the state of the law at a particular time, they would have to go through the provisions and books to tell you what was the exact position of the law at that particular time and year. So, a law cannot be this

complicated.

There was a time when they wanted to introduce an income tax score. I was a Member of Parliament at that time and I had openly supported it. One of the most desirable legislations is simply to have an income tax score. But somehow, like all government measures, it got shelved nobody is trying to bring it back. One of the requirements of an ideal tax system is that it should be simple. A man walked into a book store to buy the Income Tax Act and said: "Please give me a copy of the Income Tax Act". The owner said, "Sorry! We don't deal in periodicals." So, that is the state, with so many amendments, today's act cannot be the same for even six months.

The second requirement is that the law must be uniform. Today we have so many High Courts – every time a state is carved out it gets a new High Court. Now, all these high courts get different interpretations of the same provisions, explanation to proviso is a proviso to explanation and as if the syllabus is not sufficient, the sections which are 245 M, 245 X, like that there are so many things and there is no uniformity. Now these days when they have come out with this faceless representation at Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, they asked me to head the movement that this is not proper because justice is not a personal virtue, it should be open to all. Now if you have a faceless litigation and if you only give representation in writing, it is like going to a temple where you cannot ring the bell and where you have to give your prayers only in writing. That cannot happen. So, all people of India wanted to make representation and pardon me, I

will tell you very frankly, I don't want to name them, but they would say things like, 'let's find a High Court which is most easily available and where we can get the verdict in our favour.' This is because different High Courts give their verdicts differently, so, there must be some uniformity.

The third thing, people's willingness to pay, you can't ignore that. You should keep in mind how taxes are to be collected, it is something like the sun which is drawing water from the ocean gives back in the form of clouds and rains, in the same way when the taxes are collected, they should go back to the public for their betterment. Today nobody knows how the money is spent and the way the money is wasted, one just wonders. Taxes are necessary, we can't survive without taxes but it is necessary to see how much people are able to pay. It has to be reasonable; it can't be so stupid as 97.75%.

People will just not pay and it will be an idle exercise on paper. Sometimes, I think, because of the bold suggestion given by Subramaniam Swami that the IT Act should be abolished, is it practical or not? I think it is worth considering. It can be substituted like what is happening in many other countries that are tax free like Dubai and others, you have some sort of Indirect Tax on withdrawal from banks where you take tax from the hands of the company. Abolish income tax, and there will be no black money left because there will be no question of black money. Corporate tax remains, but IT Act should be removed. So, somebody has to give it a serious thought. If you want to retain the IT Act then it is necessary

that you simplify and that can be understood by people and if you want to abolish the IT Act, keep Corporate Tax. IT only contributes 6% of the total revenue and the expenditure incurred on collecting these taxes must be so high. All this will happen later. Till then let us pay our taxes and maintain our civilisation, society and maintain our culture.

## ROTARIANS ASK

**Chanakya said, tax should be 1/6th of your income, just now take petrol and diesel the taxes are over 200%, so, what would you say of Chanakya's wisdom of 1/6th to now of a plethora and ridiculous rates?**

I agree, it is draconian, there is difference between direct and indirect taxes. Direct taxes are which when you encounter a gangster on the road, he holds on a gun at your head and you give money, that is direct taxes. Indirect taxes are when you are sleeping, your wife takes away your purse and your money, and you don't know it. I agree petrol and diesel prices need a second look. When I was in Delhi, I heard this discussion and when this pricing was made totally free then something should have been ironical that if in Delhi petrol costs 100 Nepal it costs 50? People have been smuggling petrol from Nepal to Delhi? Unthinkable, what are the economists doing? It should be pulled in GST list, excise duties, it should all be abolished.

**If we go back to History, in any civilisation, the major source of revenue was taxation of agriculture because there was no industry. Now, given that, don't you think there should be some thought in mind even if you look at in modern terms**





Rtn. Peter Born



Rtn. Kitit Kamdar



Rtn. Gautam Trivedi



Rtn. Akshay Batra



Rtn. Prashant Popat



Rtn. Ram Gandhi

**the GDP has 3 components: manufacturing, services and agriculture. Agriculture must be less than 15-20% of the overall GDP but that has been used as an escape to convert the black money into white. Your thoughts.**

As they say, food economics is bad politics. Tax exemption on agricultural income is a nightmare. Why is it necessary? Most of the people who are earning income beyond their expectation are having a great time. Today I was told by a Mercedes dealer that it may be difficult to sell a Merc in urban areas but if I go to sell in a rural areas, it won't be a problem, they are very prosperous. You may keep the level high but beyond a particular level why should these politicians be allowed to keep their black money converted into white money by saying it is an agricultural income? It is unthinkable, there are agricultural IT acts in some states because it is a state subject. In most states they have it but they don't implement it because it hurts them. It is like taxing the politicians themselves. So, I think I agree with you and agricultural income of maybe beyond Rs 5 lakhs should be brought to tax.

**Do you think the current scenario of government pushing the farm laws bring that income into regime?**

I think, personally, all three bills are very good, they are in interest of the farmers, the agitations are misguided but if 10% of time was spent in explaining laws before they were legislated, it would have been better. People don't understand what it is, all three bills are very good for farmers and they will reap the harvest after sometime.

President Rtn. Framroze Mehta of Rotary Club of Bombay,  
President Rtn. H.P. Singla of the Rotary Club of Mumbai. Ghatkopar.  
Dilip Mehta, President of North East Zone Chemists Education  
& Welfare Trust

Invite you to the inauguration of  
the "ROTARY SAMARPAN DIALYSIS CENTRE" at Ghatkopar West

#### CHIEF GUEST

Mr Ganesan Sonaimuthu  
COO (SBI Mutual Funds Management Pvt. Ltd.)

#### GUESTS OF HONOURS

DG Sunil Mehra | PDG Dr. Bal Inamdar | DGN Sandip Agarwalla

#### SPONSORS

SBI Mutual Funds Management Pvt. Ltd.

DATE: Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

TIME : 11:00 AM onwards

#### ADDRESS

Rotary Samarpan Dialysis Center, 1st floor, Good Wood Building,  
Patanwala Estate, Off L. B. S. Marg, Opp. Brand Factory/Shreyas Talkies,  
Next gate to H. P. Petrol Pump, Ghatkopar West, Mumbai 400086

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



SBI MUTUAL FUND  
A PARTNER FOR LIFE



# A ROTARY BIRTHDAY FOR KIDS

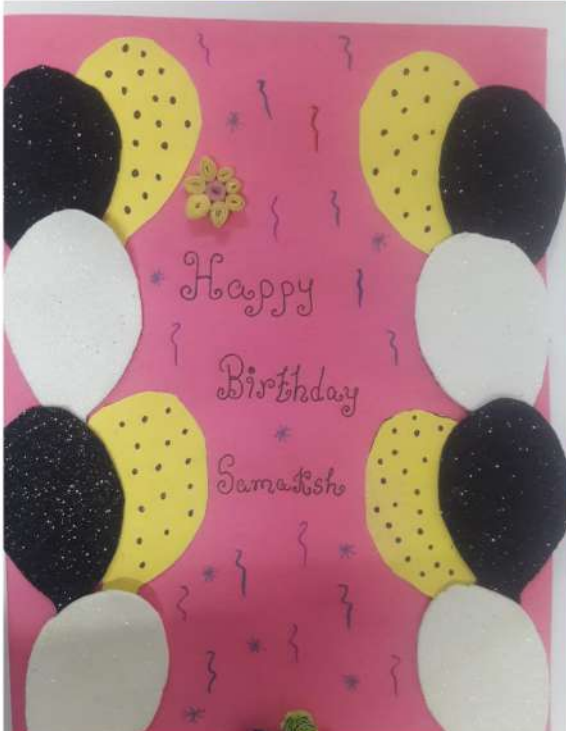
**THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY'S CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE WAS OVERJOYED TO PLAN AN EVENT FOR RTN. SATYAN ISRANI'S SON SAMAKSH AND WISHES HIM A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE.**

As Master Samaksh Israni turned seven, he shared his special day with the street children of Salaam Baalak supported by RCB.

And when we say birthday party,

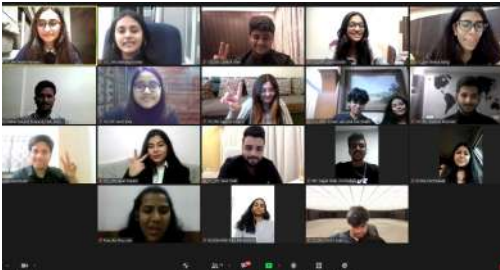
we are talking about the whole nine yards – there was music, games, kulfi ice cream, idli and unlimited dosas – with a variety of them made on a live station in front of the kids in order of their preference.

RCB also thanks Ms Agnes and Ms Vidya of NGO Salaam Baalak for organising the flow efficiently taking care of all covid norms.





# RCISME HOSTS TALK SHOW



IN CONVERSATION WITH WAS RCISME'S VERY OWN TALK SHOW, WHERE WE INVITED THE ROTARACT CLUB OF HINDUJA AND THE ROTARACT CLUB OF LALA LAJPATRAI COLLEGE AS GUEST CLUBS.

In true RCISME spirit, we did a grand showcase of our guests through a virtual red carpet where we didn't just introduce them but also broadcasted their videos. Each club described one of their grandest upcoming projects, taking this platform that we provided them to invite other enthusiastic Rotaractors to join them for it.

The YouTube live stream began with our hosts introducing our panel members (the 3 Presidents) and handing the floor over to them. From talking about their individual journeys to their experiences in the past year with the lockdown - the Presidents had us engrossed in their easy flowing conversation almost as if we were watching a movie or an actual national talk show. It was emotional to hear them talk about the support and love that Rotaract offers, but it didn't take long for them to share stories that made us laugh too.

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



DISTRICT 3141

# SAVE THE DATE

7.00 pm  
Thursday,  
March 25, 2021

Celebrate Holi  
with a  
Musical Evening  
of Evergreen  
Hindi Songs  
on Zoom



# RCISME VOLUNTEERS WITH LIGHTHOUSE

MOSAIC ART, DANCING, MANNERS AND ETIQUETTE – ALL THESE WERE COVERED DURING SESSIONS CONDUCTED BY VOLUNTEERS FROM RCISME (ROTARACT CLUB OF INDIAN SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP), FOR OUR LIGHTHOUSE CHILDREN, RECENTLY.

Sessions were spread over four weeks with each group of volunteers assigned a specific class – K.G., 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th. From public speaking and singing to a quizzes and word games, volunteers introduced our children to a wide range of activities. It was heartening to see collegians patiently

encouraging the shyest of participants and rewarding the smallest of efforts with applause and praise. At the end, volunteers shared that they loved interacting with our children and the time they spent at Lighthouse was also rewarding for them.

The Child Welfare Committee of RCB thanks the RCISME team for their time and effort and looks forward to more collaborative efforts.





**WE'RE CHANGING  
THE FACE OF RURAL INDIA.**

**ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME.  
FIVE VILLAGES. 2003 PEOPLE. 339 HOMES.**



Join President  
**Framroze Mehta**  
as he celebrates our Integrated Rural  
Development Projects in these villages.  
Solar power, safe drinking water, sanitation,  
education, security, livelihoods. A whole new life.  
**20th & 21st March.**

**Priyasri Patodia**  
Chairperson,  
and the members of the Environment Committee.

Partner

**PROJECT  
CHIRAG**

# WOMEN'S DAY OUTING FOR AY

ANANDA YAAN AND COTTON GREEN COMMITTEE PLANNED A WOMEN'S DAY OUTING FOR A GROUP OF 35 SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE E. MOSES CENTRE. THEY VISITED AND GOT TREATMENT FREE OF COST AT COTTON GREEN CLINIC ON FRIDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2020.

31 got their eye tested by Dr. Mital Lalan, out of which 13 patients need to do a cataract and, in this regard, we are in communication to get it done free of cost. Some of them had a refractive error and a retinal problem. General physician Dr. Atique Ahmed treated 30 patients. Some of them had a permanent high



BP problem. Medicines were prescribed to them. Cotton Green Clinic also provided free Calcium and Vitamin tablets to the patients.

23 senior citizens got consultation from Dr. Rekha Dhandhukia

(Homeopathic) for their back and knee pain. Medicines were given free of cost by Dr. Batra's clinic.

Ananda Yaan committee is in gratitude of Cotton Green Committee for arranging this visit.

Ms. Shilpa Pawar, receptionist of Cotton Green Clinic, managed patients effectively and with love.

Consultation and treatment were done following all Covid Norms. None of this

would have been possible without the flawless coordination and follow up efforts of Ms. Pooja Shukla of Cotton Green Clinic.

Ananda Yaan Committee thanks all the doctors for giving their valuable time and the chairman of Cotton Green Committee, Rtn. Manoj Patodia for making this happen.

Rotary Club of Bombay thanks the Muccadam Association and Cotton Green Committee for its ongoing efforts and for giving our Ananda Yaan senior citizens (a project in association with Dignity foundation) an opportunity to avail the benefits.

## MILTON

Make the Matrix casserole  
the centerpiece  
of your dinner service!

STAINLESS  
STEEL INSIDE

HOT FOR  
LONG HOURS

EASY TO  
CARRY



Milton's tough and durable Matrix casserole not only keeps your food hot and fresh for hours but also adds a touch of elegance to your table when serving! Visit the stores near you to buy now!

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BY MILTON

Up your  
hydration  
quotient



Equipped with a strainer lid and detachable infuser, Treo Borosilicate Glass infuser bottle helps add a fruity flavour to your water the healthy way. Grab one today at stores near you!



# Mar 16<sup>th</sup> Club Meeting

Rotary  
Club of Bombay



## Darshan Mehta

President & CEO Reliance Brands Ltd



Redefining the New Meaning of Luxury

Venue : Online at zoom.us

Time : 12:00pm

## ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 10  
Rtn. Akhil Sanghi



MARCH 11  
Rtn. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla



MARCH 12  
PP Shailesh Haribhakti



MARCH 14  
Rtn. Swati Mayekar



MARCH 14  
Rtn. Dr. Ian Pinto



MARCH 15  
Rtn. Ram Gandhi



MARCH 15  
Hon. Rtn. Uday Kotak

## 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

## ROTARIAN ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 11: Rtn. Ptn. Arti & Rtn. Arun Sanghi  
MARCH 13: Rtn. Ptn. Rashna & Rtn. Soli Cooper  
MARCH 13: Rtn. Ptn. Justice Sujata & Rtn. Vasant Manohar  
MARCH 14: Rtn. Ptn. Jita & Rtn. Bipin Kapadia

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RCB Medical Centre, Mumbai	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
International Service	Rtn. Christopher Bluemel

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Ananda Yaan	Rtn. Madhusudan Daga
Scholarships	Rtn. Zinia Lawyer
Fund-Raising	Rtn. Pradeep Chinai

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Cotton Green Medical Centre	Rtn. Manoj Patodia
Cancer Aid	Rtn. Dr. Ian Pinto

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