

THE GATEWAY

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY | WWW.ROTARYCLUBOFBOMBAY.ORG
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Rotary Club
of Bombay



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE EVERY WARRIOR COUNTS



What a time to be living in the world today with illness, dread, and desperation all around. The Covid-19 pandemic is far from over – the second wave is overwhelming us and the prophets of doom are proclaiming

the onset of a third wave. How does one react to this; how does one cope; how does one survive – questions that have no specific answer. It seems to be testing our sanity, strength and resolve, pushing us to give up and give in.

No, we cannot and must not keel over and admit defeat. As one, we must endure and persevere and encourage one another to fight against these

unbeatable odds. And each one of us, in our own way, has and will continue to do our utmost to alleviate the suffering of those less fortunate and without the means to weather this storm.

For more than a year now, we have concentrated on raising resources for our Covid relief activities and I am proud and happy to state that so many of our family, friends and acquaintances have dipped into their savings and donated generously. We are also very fortunate to belong to the international fraternity of Rotary, which has been in the forefront of all such relief work around the globe.

But the battle isn't over yet – we need more hot meals and rations, more PPEs, gloves, masks and hand sanitizers for our front line warriors, more ICU beds and monitors, ventilators, High Flow Nasal Cannulas, oxymeters, dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators, for the multitude that are suffering.

Besides the physical discomfort of millions, there are also tens of thousands that are severely mentally stressed and they must be encouraged to seek counsel from professionals. Above all, we need to ensure that each and every one of us, young and old, has access to centres to get vaccinated.

Through the ages humankind has survived, reinvented the wheel and thrived. This battle against Covid is now a full-fledged war and we, its proud foot soldiers, determined to conquer and beat it.

Let's keep up the good fight, every warrior counts.

President Framroze Mehta

#tuesdaythoughts

"Be a warrior, not a worrier."
- Anonymous

#numbercrunching

58.7%

The highest percentage of fully-vaccinated people in the world in any one country is in Israel. Meanwhile, 2.6% of India's people are fully vaccinated (source: ourworld.indata.org). This data is only available for countries which report the breakdown of doses administered by first and second doses.

#caughtintheweb



DIVIA THANI, GLOBAL EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, CONDE NAST TRAVELLER, & RECIPIENT OF THE UMA JAIN YOUNG WOMEN ACHIEVERS AWARD, ON THE FUTURE OF LUXURY TRAVEL, IN CONVERSATION WITH RTN. FARHAT JAMAL

HOW HAS THE PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED THE LUXURY TRAVEL INDUSTRY?

I don't think any of us has spent so much time thinking of travel as we have done in the last year. We have had the chance to think about what it means to us, experienced lack of travel, felt what it is like when you are cooped up at home and realised how integral travel is to rejuvenate and refresh ourselves. This is in addition to travelling to meet our extended families, friends and business partners.

When the pandemic ends, very few of us are thinking about

the next piece of jewellery or handbag they are going to buy. I think we are all thinking of where we would like to be and with whom.

That is indicative of a positive growth for the travel industry. While the last year has been terrible, I am optimistic about where we are heading.

WHAT IS THE GLOBAL PERCEPTION OF INDIA AS A LUXURY TRAVEL MARKET AND HOW CAN A MAGAZINE LIKE CNT REPRESENT INDIA AS SUCH?

The Indian luxury travel space has evolved in the last 10 years.

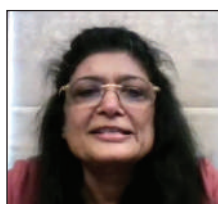
We now have travel products that compare with the best of the world in terms of hotels, food, fashion, restaurants, luxury and shopping. But, when you look at inbound travel, there are a few ground realities. We don't get luxury travellers from our surrounding neighbouring countries. For most countries in the world with strong inbound tourism coming, a majority of it is from their neighbours. Unfortunately, we don't have that kind of relationship with our neighbours to allow luxury travel.

This means India has become

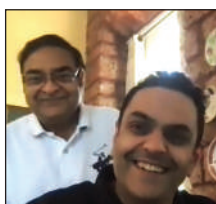
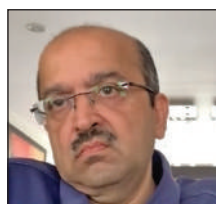
TODAY: JAYA ROW, CREATOR, VEDANTA VISION & INITIATOR - MANAGING TRUSTEE, VEDANTA VISION ON: FATE, FREE WILL & THE LAW OF KARMA. ON ZOOM AT 1 PM



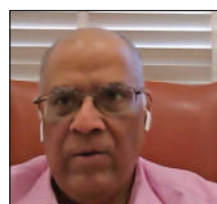
Rtn. Farhat Jamal



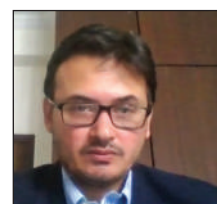
IPP Preeti Mehta

PP Dr. Mukesh Batra &
Rtn. Dr. Akshay Batra

PP Nirav Shah



PP Vijay Jatia



Rtn. Anand Dalal

a long-haul travel destination. All our luxury travellers are coming from Europe and UK, Germany, France, and US. For all of these travellers India is a long journey. For most, it is a once-in-a-lifetime journey, and, for that, they have the whole world: Egypt, Sri Lanka, China... In India, there is a problem of logistics, connectivity, and safety.

While we are focussed on changing the image of the country, it is more important to focus on what we can fix to make it a more appealing destination. And, focus on marketing. When you have friends who have been to a country and have come back raving, it makes you want to take that trip.

What is happening in the country right now is a stark reality that is not helping any traveller to plan a visit to India. So, fix what needs to be fixed. The last few years, before all of this began, travel was on the rise. We are lucky to have a massive, beautiful country, it doesn't matter what we want to do – go on a safari or skiing or go to beach, you can have anything and everything in India. I hope the domestic market is able to take advantage of all that the country has to offer.

WHAT ROLE DO FOOD, DRINK, AND AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL CUISINE INFLUENCE TRAVELLERS?

Indian travellers, more so than any other in the world, admire food. It continues to be something that we are passionate about. We have experiences being crafted around food now that is amazing. The pandemic put the focus on farm-safe products. Visitors are able to see where their food comes from, how fresh it can be, see how their food grows, understand the

process and how it ends up on their plate, and interact with the chefs.

There is also a tremendous interest in regional cooking and that is exciting. There are a number of regional cuisines that many people don't know about and that has become popular. That is going to remain important after the pandemic. Lots of people have no interest in cooking at home and are taking an interest in figuring out where their food comes from and how to stay healthy while keeping it tasty.

AS A GLOBAL EDITORIAL DIRECTOR FOR CNT, WHAT CONVERSATIONS DO YOU HOPE TO START AROUND TRAVEL LIFESTYLE JOURNALISM?

When people think about travel journalism and writing, they think about places with gorgeous infinity pools and fancy spas. The truth is travel boils down to people. It is a service industry. Often, when we come back from some of our best trips, we talk about is how beautiful the place was but you remember it because of someone who went the extra mile to make your meal special. Or, when you have a guy in the forest, everything boils down to how they are, how beautifully they explain things and what you are seeing around you.

Travel to me is as much about people as it is about places and that is something I want to highlight. It gives us an opportunity to see the point of view of a different person, to be able to understand how different cultures function and why – it bridges the gap.

Nothing in the world is more important than travel. It is seeing the world from a different

perspective. I always say travellers are the ones who will save the world because they are the ones who are seeing the world, they are the ones who know what is at stake. You have been on a cruise on the Amazon, and you will understand and be more invested in what happens to these places whether it is political point of view or an economic one. You will be more invested in saving them or ensuring that the policy goes in the right direction and the people are protected.

These are the sorts of conversations that I hope we can stir with the CNT.

WHAT ARE YOUR PREDICTIONS ON WHEN WE CAN START SAFE TRAVELS?

I'd say, let's stop for now and have a little more data and as soon as it becomes safe, then, of course, none of us can wait to hop on to a plane. But, to be honest, at this point, your guess is as good as mine. I would air on the side of caution. Since the start of the pandemic I have not been telling people to travel unless I was doing it myself. And, at this point, I would not do it, so, I would not recommend it either.

IS THERE A CONVERSATION HAPPENING ON THE COVID PASSPORT OR VARIOUS DOCUMENTS BEING CREATED FOR EASE OF TRAVEL?

The Aarogya Setu and CoWin apps allow you to have your vaccination certificate online, that is the most important thing. At the moment there is no global agreement on a vaccine passport and that is partly the problem that the travel industry is facing. Every country is talking about its own version of a vaccine passport and that at

the moment all that can be used domestically, it is also used in UK and Europe, where you show your certificate, and you are allowed to eat out or watch a concert.

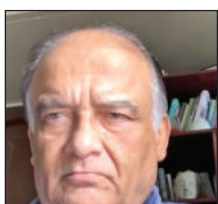
It depends on where that country is in dealing with the virus. At the moment, India is quite far from that, we have vaccinated less than 2% of the population so I can't imagine we are close to this.

However, India is an extremely important outbound travel market, so, a lot of countries will be looking at bringing Indians back in and they will therefore force the government to have a recognised vaccine passport. Linking it to the Aadhar card and Aarogya Setu was very smart but as a government we will just have to see how it is accepted internationally and it is too soon to say at this point.

ROTARIANS ASK

DO YOU FOCUS MORE ON INTERNATIONAL TRAVELLERS INTO INDIA OR INDIAN TRAVELLERS WITHIN INDIA? AND WHICH IS CHEAPER LUXURY TRAVEL IN INDIA COMPARED TO OVERSEAS TRAVEL BECAUSE I HAVE TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY IN INDIA AND WHILE THE PROPERTIES ARE EXCELLENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE HAS IMPROVED A LOT, STILL THERE ARE LOT OF RESTRICTIONS IN TERMS OF TIMING TO VISIT MONUMENTS, SANCTUARIES, AND SOMETIMES PEOPLE SPOIL THEM FROM OUTSIDE WHERE AS IT IS NOT SO OVERSEAS. COMMENTS.

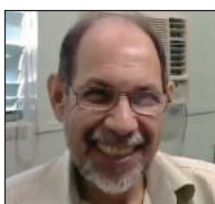
You are absolutely right. For example, people who come to Agra to see the Taj Mahal – they drive from Delhi, go to see the Taj



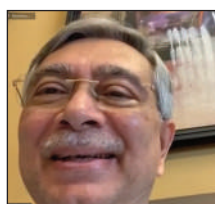
Rtn. Ashok Chinai



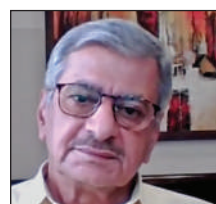
Rtn. Dilip Dalal



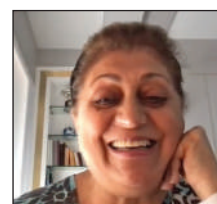
Rtn. H. N. Cama



Rtn. Jairaj Purandare



Rtn. Kasimali Merchant



Rtn. Zinia Lawyer

and then there is nothing else to do and so they come right back to Delhi.

There is no attraction or experience to create around that and it is not good for the travel industry. I think the silver lining is that there is a great opportunity. Somebody went and built an exquisite restaurant in Agra and got people to stay there for a night and have a meal that is a very superb experience.

I think there is so much opportunity in the country and so I always tell young entrepreneurs that space for travel is so wide open, we can do anything. But yes, we need to build an ecosystem, we need to make sure that there is ease to do business and that is something that the government is trying. A lot of public-private partnerships are coming up, the monuments are preserved, the roads are kept clean, all of that. So, we have long way to go.

In terms of the first question, CNT focusses on the Indian audience and we talk to them for travelling domestically as well as outside the country. CNT in general has editions all around the world. All the issues focus on their particular region and country and hence each is different from one another. Travel is specific to where people are coming from, what their particular interests are, what time of year they want to travel, as couple or large family, and so on,

we create all of the content specific to the country.

HOW DO YOU PROTECT SITES AND MONUMENTS FROM OVER-TOURISM? WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR GETTING THIS IN ORDER?

It is a huge challenge. It is not just our hill stations that face this issue but elsewhere in the world, like Venice, Paris and a lot of other destinations. The issue is glorifying just one place. Unfortunately, we have a generation of Instagrammers who want one picture, take it and leave which does not really contribute to the environment.

If you look at a country that has done it brilliantly, look at Bhutan. Bhutan is focussed on preserving everything, it makes people want to visit, they have made the barriers into challenges, they have everything in place, you have to have a certain amount of money as tax, the number of airlines is restricted, the hotels being built are restricted. So, there is a great vision and knowing that makes it an important destination.

In my mind, India is a much larger country and has a larger population but if you ask me the number one thing, I would do, is change the way we measure our success. At the moment, we measure it with footfalls, but the truth is few actually contribute to the economy. They are actually

just putting a strain on the infrastructure.

We should focus on getting fewer people but those should be people who spend more money. We should measure tourism by revenue and not footfalls. This way, we can focus on high-end tourism coming in the country. We will make sure that we are only giving these to tourists therefore we can assure safety, contribute to economy. But also, we need to be seen that a lot of it is an infrastructure issue, access there is a nightmare, just getting up one tiny road is a problem. We need to be strict of who we allow in.

WHY HAVE NONE OF THE INDIAN AIRPORTS BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AS GLOBAL TRANSPORT HUBS? DON'T YOU THINK IT COULD BE A GAME-CHANGER FOR THE INDIAN TRAVEL INDUSTRY?

We need to be realistic about where we are situated, geographically. At the moment, we are a transit point for people coming in if they want to visit Sri Lanka or Maldives but beyond that we haven't been able to establish ourselves as a hub. The opportunity does exist but we have connectivity issues even within our country and you have to have a strong market to justify an airport as a hub.

The idea of making India a global hub is still far off, but I do think

that airports have changed for the better over the last decade and the government has done a good job.

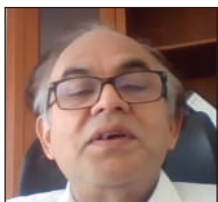
HOW DOES CNT ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL AND SUSTAINABILITY?

The idea of responsible and sustainable travel has been one of the pillars of CNT for the last couple of years. We educate our travellers on the kinds of things that they need to think about if they want to be responsible travellers. Sustainability is important; the travel industry right now is one step even beyond sustainable travel and is called regenerative travel.

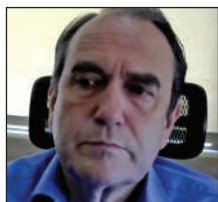
The difference is: when you go to a place, you leave less carbon footprint, you ensure there is no negative impact. Regenerative tourism is about ensuring that you have left it better than when you went there.

It is incredibly creative, opening a world of opportunity to take that extra step. So, go and meet the locals and see what you can do, try and speak to them and understand what they are doing, see what they are cooking in their kitchen, go out and a lot of the hotels will create and facilitate these experiences for you.

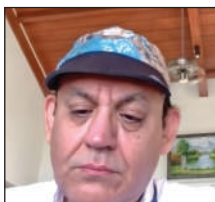
The mindset is shifting. But it is challenging because it is necessary to do the homework and double-check about everything.



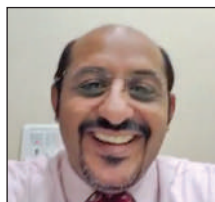
Rtn. Partha Ghosh



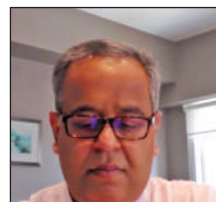
Rtn. Peter Born



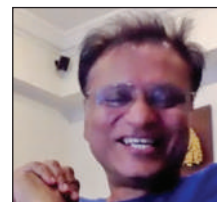
Rtn. Ravi Fotedar



Rtn. Dr. Rustom Ginwalla



Rtn. Sameer Tapia



Rtn. Vandan Shah

'VAX LIVE' MOBILIZES US\$ 302 MN

IN INDIA, VAX LIVE – GLOBAL CITIZEN ARE PARTNERING WITH ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY, VIACOM 18 AND WIZCRAFT INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT IN INDIA – TO RAISE FUNDS FOR COVID RELIEF WORK IN THE COUNTRY.

VAX LIVE — the first large-scale music event for a COVID 19-compliant audience composed of fully-vaccinated frontline health care and essential workers — brought together artists, entertainers, and world leaders to support vaccine equity.

Hosted by multi-platinum recording artist, actress, and producer Selena Gomez, and featuring VAX LIVE campaign chairs Prince Harry and Meghan, The Duke and Duchess of Sussex, the event saw more than 20,000 fully-vaccinated health workers and first responders come together for the live taping of VAX LIVE: The Concert to Reunite the World on May 2 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, to unite to end the COVID-19 pandemic and celebrate a hopeful future.

Airing in more than a hundred countries and streamed globally on YouTube, the event featured performances from Jennifer Lopez, Eddie Vedder, Foo Fighters, J Balvin, and H.E.R., with appearances by Ben Affleck, Chrissy Teigen, David Letterman, Gayle King, Jimmy Kimmel, Nomzamo Mbatha, Olivia Munn, and Sean Penn.

The campaign, launched earlier this year as part of Global Citizen's broader Recovery Plan for the World campaign, aims to end the COVID-19 pandemic by ensuring COVID-19 vaccines are made available to everyone, everywhere, and to inspire vaccine confidence around the world.

More than 26 mn COVID-19 vaccine doses were committed from countries around the world for the most vulnerable populations worldwide

COVAX aims to deliver 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses by the end of 2021 to end the acute phase of the pandemic. Unless more than half of the world's population is immunized, an end to the pandemic is nowhere in sight.

Part of the Global Citizen's broader

Recovery Plan for the World, the VAX LIVE campaign was launched to provide equitable and urgent COVID-19 vaccine access to vulnerable communities around the world and support the work of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, the global mechanism dedicated to the equitable and coordinated procurement of vaccines, tests, and treatments and universal access to affordable COVID-19 vaccination.

CANADA pledged an additional CA\$375 million (US\$299 million) to the ACT-Accelerator to provide vaccines, tests, and treatments to the poorest countries. With this pledge, Canada's total contributions to ACT-A will be nearly CA\$1.35 billion, making it only the second G7 country to give its fair share.

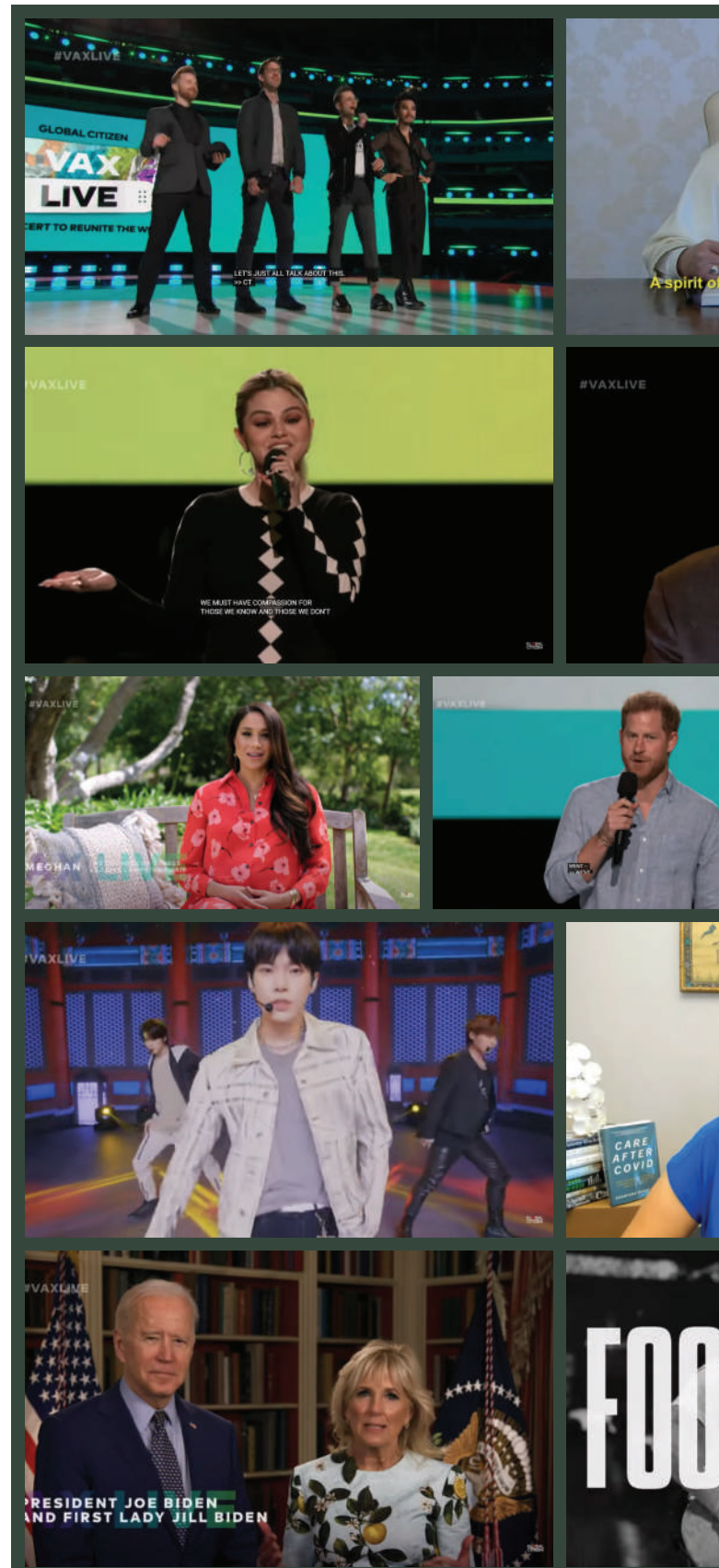
CROATIA pledged as part of the VAX LIVE campaign to share 50,000 doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, as part of a bilateral agreement in coordination with COVAX via the European sharing mechanism. The doses will go to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Kosovo. Croatia also committed €500,000 (US\$600,000) to COVAX.

13.25 million COVID-19 vaccine doses were pledged from Norway, Spain, New Zealand, Croatia, and the UAE to share doses regionally, and to vulnerable countries around the world.

\$39.6 million in commitments pledged by corporate and philanthropic partners in support of COVAX, the worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines. These pledges have been matched in funding to the value of \$23.6 million, totalling \$63.3 million. This funding is set to help procure almost 12.66 million COVID-19 vaccines.

Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, called for citizens to publicly donate to COVAX, and at the time of writing their initiative has mobilized \$535,000, which will help purchase 107,000 COVID-19 doses.

The special also featured messages from His Holiness Pope Francis, US President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden, US Vice President Kamala Harris, European Commission President Ursula von der



More than 26 mn COVID-19 vaccine doses were committed from countries around the world for the most vulnerable populations worldwide



Leyen, Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez, President of France Emmanuel Macron, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, and Prime Minister of Croatia Andrej Plenkovic.

In support of the campaign, His Holiness Pope Francis called for “a spirit of justice that mobilizes us to ensure true universal access to vaccines, and a temporary suspension of intellectual property rights. A spirit of communion that allows us to generate a different economic model that is inclusive, just, and sustainable.”

In 2021 alone, at least 2 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses are still urgently needed, and unless at least 60% of the world’s population gains access to the vaccine, an end to the pandemic is nowhere in sight.

The world must remain firmly focused on reducing the equity gap in COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Rich countries with just 13% of the world’s population have cornered the vaccine market.

Dose sharing is being seen as the only strategy to improve equitable vaccine access for nations unable to facilitate their own country-led vaccine rollouts. Global pharmaceutical companies are being advised to act with extraordinary purpose, responsibility, and leadership in response to the global equity crisis by providing COVID-19 vaccine doses to COVAX at not-for-profit pricing.

Only if pharmaceutical companies and the world’s leaders work in solidarity to end the opposition to the temporary suspension of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccine patents will global vaccine production increase and provide universal access.

Since the campaign’s launch in February, Global Citizens have taken 100,000 actions to call on the world’s leaders to step up and fully fund the ACT-Accelerator. Global Citizens around the world tweeted, signed petitions, and took other actions to urge world leaders and corporations to donate enough funds and vaccine doses for health workers on the front lines in the world’s poorest countries, and call on pharmaceutical companies to commit to fair pricing for COVID-19 vaccines.

REVISED DATE



IN CAMERA



image courtesy Foy Nissen / JNAF

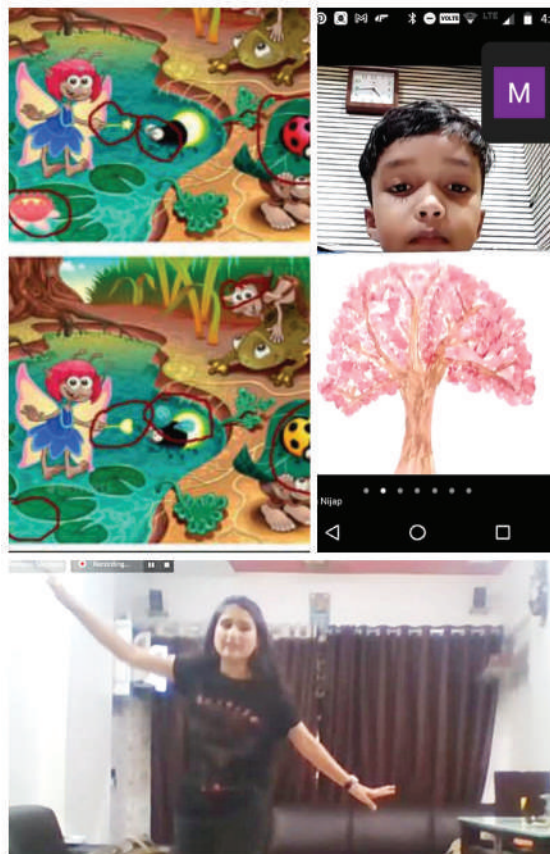
CITY OF HIDDEN GEMS: INVISIBLE BOMBAY BY MEHER MARFATIA

At a time of despair, there is always hope. And Bombay springs tender surprises at every step. Unlike Delhi with its open treasures, ours is a city of half-hidden places and people waiting to be discovered.

Meher Marfatia, writer-publisher of the book "Once Upon A City", shares interesting stories behind some never-before finds she has unearthed on the streets of the city we love. Let's make "little Mumbai" matter.

7.00 pm
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
Zoom link will be sent a day prior

GOING FAR FOR LIGHTHOUSE



FUN, LEARN 'N' GROW WAS A FOUR-DAY SUMMER CAMP CONDUCTED BY THE ROTARACT CLUB OF HINDUJA COLLEGE (RCHC) FOR LIGHTHOUSE STUDENTS OF ALL AGES – AND LEARN AND GROW THEY DID!

The online camp was conducted from April 29th, 2021, to May 3rd, 2021, by Rtrs. Palin Rathor and Riya Jain. From cotton painting to spot the differences, language games and crosswords, the students were kept happily engaged throughout.

The four-day camp was well organized.

The collegians took pains to research age-appropriate activities and take suggestions from teachers before each session. We loved the way they encouraged all students to participate, irrespective of age or ability.

On the last day, the children jived to a sequence from 'How Far I'll Go' from the Disney film Moana, choreographed by well-known dance instructor Prachi Bhanushali. Child Welfare Committee of Rotary Club of Bombay thanks Palin and Riya for the time and effort they put in to make the camp a success!

**"IT'S UP
TO US TO
CHANGE
THE
CONVERSATION."**

Michelle Obama

OUR BEST SHOT
AT A SAFER WORLD
IS YOU

#GETVACCINATED

 
Rotary Club of Bombay

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Welcome the mango mania!



With summer comes the most delicious phase of the year - the mango season!
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May 18th Club Meeting



Dr. Vijay Yeldani

Head of Infectious Diseases and Public Health - SHARE INDIA



Covid 19 - Myths and Realities

Venue : Online at zoom.us

Time : 1:00pm

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MAY 12

Rtn. Siddharth Bhimrajka



MAY 14

Rtn. Hans Khimji



MAY 15

Rtn. Christopher Bluemel



MAY 16

Rtn. Soli Cooper



MAY 16

PP Mahendra Sanghi



MAY 17

Rtn. Jamshed Banaji



MAY 17

Rtn. Partha Ghosh

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MAY 12: Rtn. Ptn. Reshma Vazirani

MAY 14: Rtn. Ptn. Vasudha Shah

MAY 16: Rtn. Ptn. Lovey Pariyaram

MAY 17: Rtn. Ptn. Damini Kamdar

MAY 17: Rtn. Ptn. Shama Thukral

ROTARIAN ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 15: Rtn. Ptn. Mehroo & Rtn. Dr. Rajeshwar Bali

MAY 16: Rtn. Ptn. Amita & Rtn. Jagdish Malkani

MAY 16: Rtn. Ptn. Gautam & IPP Preeti Mehta

MAY 17: Rtn. Ptn. Neeraja & Hon. Rtn. Kumarmangalam Birla

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2020-2021

TRUSTEES 2020-2021

PP Dr. Rahim Muljani	PP Arvind Jolly
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
Hon. Secretary	Rtn. Satyan Israni
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala
Hon. Treasurer	Rtn. Kirit Kamdar

SPECIAL DIRECTOR PP ASHISH VAID

DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE PE SHERNAZ VAKIL

Classification, Membership & Information	PP Nandan Damani
Fellowship, Assimilation & In-Camera	Rtn. Ritu Prakash Desai
Sergeant-At-Arms	Rtn. Hoshang Nazir

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Gender Equality	Rtn. Varsha Daiya
Child Welfare	Rtn. Rajesh Shah
The Rotary Foundation & Global Grants	PP Vijaykumar Jatia

DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE RTN. RAM GANDHI

Programme	Rtn. Farhat Jamal
Public Awards	Rtn. Swati Mayekar
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