THE GATEWAY Rotary Club of Bombay





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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

■ FACELESS SUPERHERDES



Last week my office boy had a fever. A chest scan showed that he had Covid + pneumonia and had to be checked into a hospital. Within 48 hours the hospital was running out of oxygen and had no supply of Remdisivir. As his health declined, he needed an ICU bed and none were available in

his current hospital.

My entire staff, family, friends, colleagues, acquaintances and even kind strangers online pitched in.

We found an ICU bed, an ambulance with oxygen supply and 2 doses of Remdisivir after thousands of calls over 2 days. We were just so lucky.

But throughout the whole ordeal the one thing that was

always prevalent was the amazing resilience of every single person who answered my calls.

They were ALWAYS polite, ALWAYS apologetic if they couldn't help, ALWAYS assured me they would get back to me, ALWAYS remembered my name when they called back, ALWAYS polite and empathic to my panic and patient with my list of questions, ALWAYS checked in when they had fresh supply in case I hadn't managed to get it from a different source.

The BMC war-room called and gently guided me as I hunted through all the medical reports, noting all the details patiently. The doctor at the first hospital took time out of his overloaded schedule to explain to me exactly what medical terms I would need to convey to secure an ICU bed. He was also open to listening to what another doctor had recommended and even thanked me for giving him an alternative. The on-call doctor at the new hospital stayed in touch with me via WhatsApp till 10 pm so he could send me updates on the transfer. The ambulance service organizer, driver and coordinator

were amazing, getting on conference calls at the drop of a hat, assuring me that they would carry extra oxygen to account for traffic and even called to tell me the patient was stable.

This was more than healthcare workers doing their job. These are men and women going out of their way to not just help but handhold in spite of all the trauma they witness and the pressures under which they work day-in and day-out.

I can never repay this generosity and kindness extended by these faceless superheroes. 'Thank you' seems just

President Framroze Mehta

#tuesdaythoughts

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost. — Arthur Ashe"

#numbercrunching 3,102,410 The number of deaths

reported to the WHO globally, as of 12:17 pm CEST, April 26th, 2021. There have been 146,689,258 confirmed cases of COVID-19. As of April 21st, 2021, a total of 899,936,102 vaccine doses have been administered.

#caughtintheweb





TO EXAMINE THE ROLE THAT SUCH (CULTURAL) **INSTITUTIONS PLAY IN** TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT, I WOULD BEGIN BY ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE **CULTURE. IF YOU SEARCH** THE WEB YOU WILL COME **ACROSS ANY NUMBER OF DEFINITIONS. I HAVE CHOSEN** THE FOLLOWING, BECAUSE **IT ENCOMPASSES A WIDE ENOUGH RANGE. LET ME READ IT TO YOU:**

Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people, encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social habits, music and arts.

PROF. VISPI BALAPORIA, PRESIDENT, THE ASIATIC SOCIETY OF MUMBAL ON 'CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS: A STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL'

... Thus, it can be seen as the growth of a group identity fostered by social patterns unique to the group. It also encompasses concerns that arise from what is

regarded as excellent in arts. letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, which contribute to the best in the arts, and the development or improvement of the mind by education or training.

With this in mind, let us examine how 20th century man sees himself. Looking at all his discoveries and achievements, he is filled with a sense of pride at having improved the

world, enabling human beings to live in comfort and luxury, with advances in medicine, science, technology, industry. Without denigrating any of these achievements, we would also need to be honest enough to see the terrible disasters that have occurred, the suffering it has brought to millions, and that we are continuing to see today.

So, in my opinion, modern man must shed some of his hubris, and turn towards the past to recognise what we have inherited. I believe in the adage that man does not live by bread alone. And even when life is

TODAY: AUTHOR & HISTORIAN ARCHANA GORADIA ON LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM INDIAN WOMEN RULES. ON ZOOM AT 1 PM







PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir



PP Dr. Mukesh Batra



PP Vijay Jatia



President Framroze Mehta



Rtn. Ajai Kumar

difficult, some inner spark ignites the spirit,

I have chosen just one example to illustrate this.

And I will need to take you back some 22,000 years to Paleolithic man and the cave art of Altamira. One would think that these people would have only been concerned with their physical needs of survival. But even so, some artists had found self-expression in the beautiful paintings on the walls of their caves. This is the earliest known example of human art, which mainly depicts animals (horse, buffalo, deer); later we do find other signs and symbols. But we wonder at the pigments and colours that have hardly lost their vitality, and wonder how these were created.

Such art also demonstrates how ideas develop, gradually leading to the establishment of cultures, and if we search we can find historical nexus. In making such discoveries dare I suggest that we might discover ourselves?

However miserable their circumstances, human beings do respond to art and music. It lightens their burden and lifts their spirits. On beholding a Grecian urn didn't the poet Keats say "A thing of beauty is a joy forever"? And his message was "Beauty is truth, and truth beauty, That is all ye know, and all that ye need to know".

So, to bolster my argument, let me take the Asiatic Society of Mumbai as an illustrative example, and take you on a tour, albeit a virtual tour on this Zoom platform. I had intended to show you some videos, but time limitations have prevented me from doing so. Let my words, then, conjure up the

images in your mind's eye.

I now invite you to congregate at Horniman Circle. As you may know, Horniman Circle has more than one gate for entry and exit, so I would ask you to gather at the gate facing the steps that lead up to the Town Hall. These steps are famous, and you must have caught glimpses of them in films, and in advertisements. These steps are also popular as meeting place for the youth, besides providing a well lit spot for the earnest student or reader. Once you have admired the façade, you can cross the road to access the building. But, in your eagerness, do not start climbing the 30 steps that will lead you to the doors that could provide entry to the building, because you will find them shut. And, even if one of them was open, it would provide access to the main hall of the Central Library, not the Asiatic Society. But I must tell you that it is a magnificent Hall, restored to its former glory by the wellknown Restoration Architect, Abha Lamba.

So please follow me to the side entrance, the side that leads to INS Angre and the compound where the Red Cross building is located. And as you walk in you will pause in awe and admiration at the impressive statue of the notable philanthropist, Jagannath Sunkersett, recognised as one of the community leaders in the city of Bombay.

As you climb up the curving staircases, (you are free to take either of the two), you will reach the vestibule of the Society. And you will see many more magnificent marble statues of varying shapes and sizes: some full length, some seated, other smaller

busts. Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy sits in imposing grandeur, surveying all who come and go. Many of these statues, which are more than a hundred years old, are also in need of some restoration. Dr Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Director General of the CSMVS, has been kind enough to loan us the expert services of Mr Anupam Sah, the museum's Chief Conservator. He has prepared a brilliant survey report, and we are waiting for him to take up the restoration work.

I will now take you through the Central Library Hall to the ASM office, so tastefully renovated, in keeping with the old world appearance, yet answering to present day needs. Designed by our conservation architect Sheetal Gandhi, and so ably executed by Rotarian Jamshed Banaji and his team, our thanks must go to the Rotary Club Urban Heritage Committee of which your present President was also a member. This was really worthwhile, because it is through this office space that the public enters the famous Durbar Hall to attend lectures, seminars, workshops, and occasionally performances as well. To serve this end, two small Green rooms were also created.

Let us now go down to the basement where row upon row of mobile shelves store thousands of books. Here you will also be able to access old newspapers which have been microfilmed, so that the handling of the brittle paper can be eliminated. Many researchers ask for permission to pour over these old pages that document the past. Here you will also be taken to an airconditioned room that houses the old manuscripts and rare book collection. These books cannot be described. They have to

be seen.

But our pride and glory is in our refurbished Conservation Lab. Refurbished, thanks to whom? No prizes for guessing right. Once again credit goes to the Rotary Club Urban Heritage Committee and Rotarian Jamshed Banaji. It is indeed a pleasure to work in this lab, because the conservation of old books and maps is a laborious task. In order to restore you must first take the books apart, page by page. Then begins the cleaning of the pages, using water, and an alkaline solution to remove the acidic content. To do this, the pages have to first be tested. the composition of the ink used in the print ascertained, and the appropriate method decided.

We are fortunate to have trained and skilled staff for this work, as well as binders who will eventually restore the pages to their original form as a book.

Similar work is being done on the maps in our collection. We are fortunate to have on contractual basis the expert inputs of a young person, Ms Amalina Dave, who has trained under conservation experts in Naples, Italy. She is also training some of our younger staff who, we hope, will carry the work forward. All this, of course, needs money, and we try to collect funds under our Adopt-a-book scheme, which we have recently raised to Rs 10,000/- per book.

I do hope I will have the opportunity to show each one of you our treasures, once we have seen the last of this dreadful virus. Until then, zoom platforms seem to be the best alternative.







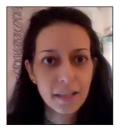
Rtn. Farhat Jamal



Rtn. Jagdish Malkani



Ms. Kunti Oza



Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala



Rtn. Peter Born

ROTARIANS ASK

As you mentioned the books are being digitized, so, are these books available to access?

Yes, all the digitised material has been included in this portal Granth Sanjeevani where people can enrol and access. Up to now, we have kept it for read only and not download. What we have digitised so far is the material that does not come under copyright because we were told that when you digitise, you make the copy of the work and if it is under copyright, you cannot do that. We wanted to be very careful not to flout the rules. So, one has to be a member to access.

What are your rarest Indian manuscripts? Something that nobody possesses?

I don't know if nobody else in the world, but we have beautiful palm leaf manuscripts dealing with the life of Buddha, we have Aranyaka parva and possibly they are the only ones, 11th and 12th century. Even the coin collections are rare, gold mohurs from Akbar's time... these are the things we put on display when dignitaries visit.

What challenges do you face due to lack of support from the corporates and the government?

I find that there is nothing firm that is coming up from the CSR, we try but nothing concrete. We are centrally supported, we get an annual grant and that, too, was cut down due to Covid. We have one crore for a year. We had to cut down salaries of the staff and that is not a happy picture.

Should curriculums be changed to create larger awareness for the fabric of culture and urban heritage?

Absolutely. We are mainly a research library. Unfortunately, the books in there are not for school children. But we do have student membership to enrol for the research work. We also give scholarships. Lately, we have also collaborated to bring courses for college

students.

The stairs are used multiple times for commercial purpose. So, isn't it possible to raise funds through giving out certain portions for shooting and all that?

The Town Hall, we don't own the building. We are tenants. It was built after the society. So, whatever the revenue comes from the shootings, it goes to the collector. It comes under the jurisdiction of the collector of Mumbai. We can have something happening

in the Durbar Hall and charge something, that could be within our jurisdiction.

Once we had permitted a shooting where they wanted a library background and I also remember a time when there was a play being performed about a book store and they had come and taken photos of the book shelves for the backdrop of the play. I am not sure if it can be a source of income. They bring in those strong lights that you need for shoot, there could be a danger of the place heating up too much. So, we have to guard against that.



DISNEY FINALE FOR LIGHTHOUSE



APRIL 24TH, 2021, DAWNED TO AN EXCITED GROUP OF **LIGHTHOUSE STUDENTS AS** IT WAS THE FINALE OF THEIR **SUMMER CAMP. STUDENT PERFORMANCES WERE PRE-RECORDED TO CIRCUMVENT CONNECTIVITY GLITCHES.**

The programme began with the oldest students (standards 3 to 5) taking turns to narrate the story of Walt Disney. This was followed by a guessing game where classes 1 and 2 quizzed listeners on various Disney characters. But it was the K.G. tots who stole the show with their lively dance on the foot-tapping number 'Hakuna Matata'.

Clips and photos of the children's creations were interspersed with commentary at regular intervals. Little Mehek's cover of 'Let it go' wowed Rotarians and parents alike. Disney's anthem for peace and unity, 'It's a small world', rendered in Ritika Sharma's beautiful voice, brought the performances to a close. A few students from each class, who had attended online class regularly, were felicitated.

In his final speech, Chairman Rtn. Rajesh Shah declared that he was astounded by the talent showcased by the students and appreciated the effort put in by all, parents, children and teachers included.

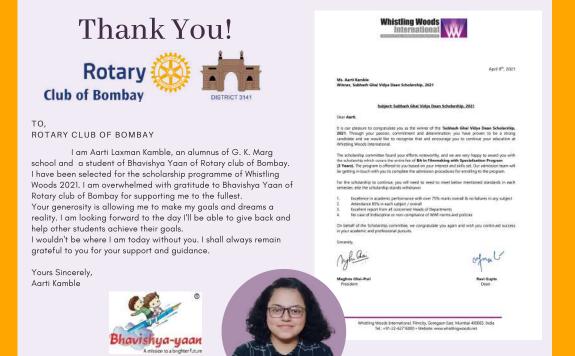
Senior citizens from Ananda

Yaan, who had also joined, expressed a desire to be a part of future Lighthouse helming the entire show but also for the countless hours

creating such a wonderful performance video.

We also thank Rtn. Dilip Dalal and all the parents who attended the Annual Day and encouraged the children.

programmes. Our sincere thanks to co-ordinator Ms. Manisha Ahuja for not just and tremendous effort in



CSSD INAUGURATED AT MASINA



INAUGURATION OF THE 'JANATA JANARDAN HEALTH ORGANISATION — ROTARY CENTRAL STERILE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT (CSSD)' AND NAMING OF THE 'MASINA MANDELIA WELLNESS CENTRE' AT MASINA HOSPITAL, MUMBAI HELD ON 21ST APRIL 2021.

The Rotary Club of Bombay has been working closely with Masina Hospital to upgrade their facilities to provide superior healthcare. Using Rotary's Global Grants programme, RCB has swiftly setup/ upgraded eight departments at Masina at a total outlay of Rs 4.25 crore in the last couple of years.

Hospitals of the size of Masina Hospital need to ensure proper supply of sterile materials for use in the operation theaters, wards, OPDs, emergency services departments and even the ambulance services.

This can be done in a Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD) which is compliant with NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals) standards. This means equipment of different kinds and a planned flow of materials with zones of unsterile, semi-sterile and sterile areas allowing a flow of materials. Also, equipment is needed to sterilise costly and fragile endoscopic surgery equipment which does not adversely affect the life and quality of the equipment.

The setting up of the muchneeded CSSD at Masina Hospital is an outcome of Global Grant Project GG # 2119130 undertaken by the Rotary Club of Bombay thanks to the donation made by a trust of the Mandelia family – Janata Janardan Health Organisation (JJHO) – in memory of its founder trustees Durgaprasad and Suryaprakash Mandelia. Additional grants were contributed by Dist. 3141 and the Rotary International. The international partner club for the purposes of the GG was RC Ramlah, Israel, Dist. 2490.

The naming of the 'Masina Mandelia Wellness Centre' was another outcome of the alliance between Mandelia Family and Masina Hospital made possible by the Rotary Club of Bombay. The Wellness centre at Masina Hospital offers highly specialised psychiatric and psychological services and therapies under one roof. Their team of highly-trained doctors and therapists have the expertise to provide solutions for evaluation. diagnosis and treatment of mental instability.

The inauguration and naming ceremony was a very well-attended online zoom event with well over a hundred participants. The speakers addressing the audience were RCB President Framroze Mehta, Chief Guest Past RI President Raiendra Saboo. Guests of Honour DG Sunnil Mehra and DGN Sandip Agarwalla, TRF Trustee Gulam Vahanvaty, Dist. 2490 International Chair Ran Liver and IIHO Trustees Mr and Mrs Madelia.

Amongst those present were President RC Ramlah Rtn Yossi Agiv, International Affairs Officer RC Ramlah Rtn Zipora Meir, Trustee of Masina Hospital Mr Jimmy Parakh, CEO of Masina Hospital Dr. Vispi Jokhi, Jt. CEO Mr. Behram Khodaiji, PP Vijay Jatia, Rtn. Homi Katgara and a host of other Rotarians and guests.

MARCHING STEADILY



FUTURE LEADER SERIES

RCISME's Future Leader Series was held March 12th, 2021, to train and improve the overall performance of fellow Rotaractors. We covered topics ranging from being a successful entrepreneur to coming up with unique ideas, which were informative and received positive feedback. The speaker for the month of March was Mr. Dhruv Parikh and he spoke of life beyond Rotaract. The project's impact

was to create a platform for Rotaractors to learn something new for the speakers belonging to the Rotaract world. And, to enhance their journey and learn something that could be applied to their lives. There were also tips and tricks on working in groups as well as when one is a leader.

FEEL THE BEAT

Feel the beat was the first offline project conducted by RCISME on March 9th, 2021, through club service this year. Since we all danced together,

we could also see how talented the other members are! We also performed in small groups so everyone could dance freely! We did a small workout session to loosen our bodies for 10 minutes. It included some yoga asanas and stretching to free our muscles. We clicked pictures with the group and did the routine in small groups. We did the trending "Don't rush" challenge for the Instagram page as well The Bollywood routine was fun to perform. We ended the session by 7 pm on a thankful note to our instructors and our team members who

turned up for the project.

COLOURS OF HOLI

As Holi could not be celebrated offline this year, RCISME decided to upload a YouTube video on March 28th, 2021, where a Rotaractor showed how to make DIY organic Holi colors in an easy way. The video used household ingredients like water, corn flour and food colouring to make organic, harmless gulaal.



Last week, RCB donated 1 deep freezer to Podar Hospital for storage of vaccines





May 4th Club Meeting







Divia Thani

Global Editorial Director, Conde Nast Traveller



Future of Luxury Travel
In conversation with Rtn Farhat Jamal

Recepient of the Uma Jain Young Women Achievers Award

Venue : Online at zoom.us

Time: 1:00pm

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



APRIL 27 Rtn. Renu Basu



APRIL 27 Rtn. Darius Pandole



MAY 1 Hon. Rtn. Anand Mahindra



MAY 1 Ravindrakumar Ruia



MAY 3 Rtn. Arjun Jolly



MAY 3 Rtn. Suhail Nathani

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 27: Rtn. Ptn. Niloufer Vazifdar APRIL 28: Rtn. Ptn. Prerna Jatia APRIL 30: Rtn. Ptn. Kavita Bulchandani APRIL 30: Rtn. Ptn. Poonam Surana MAY 1: Rtn. Ptn. Pinky Dalal MAY 2: Rtn. Ptn. Nandita Patodia MAY 3: Rtn. Ptn. Shafali Diwanji MAY 3: Rtn. Ptn. Kamal Pandole

ROTARIAN ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 2: Rtn. Ptn. Lovey & Rtn. Sunny Pariyaram MAY 2: Rtn. Ptn. Sam & Rtn. Dilnavaz Variava

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PP Dr. Adi Dastur	PP Arun Sanghi
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Bhavishya Yaan	Rtn. Manish Reshamwala
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Animal Welfare	Rtn. Hiren Kara
Environment	Rtn. Priyasri Patodia
Sports	Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas
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Interact	Rtn. Gautam Doshi