


# the gateway

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**TODAY**  
IN CONVERSATION  
WITH AMIT CHANDRA,  
BAIN CAPITAL PRIVATE  
EQUITY, INDIA  
ON ZOOM AT 1.45 PM  
**MEETING ID:**  
**883 2518 8279**

## NOTE FROM PRESIDENT SHERNAZ VAKIL



### WOMEN IN THE DARK

This morning, I listened with horror to CNN's international correspondent Christiane Amanpour as she interviewed a Taliban spokesman. She interrogated him about how women were not allowed to be educated nor interact with a man outside their household in any way.

Whilst, on the same day, I was presenting a proposal to our office bearers of a special project to promote adult literacy amongst the women of the Vaidu community who have never had any formal education.

Both sets of women left to operate in this world with no knowledge of what is happening around, subservient to believe what was told to them.

The difference being that though both had been denied the opportunity to study, one group was being actively forbidden to study while the other only needed the support and encouragement to what I believe is a basic human right in today's world.

How can humanity progress if 50% are kept ignorant and in the dark?

My grandfather always said educating the Indian woman will bring all the change India needs.

I hope in our small way we, at Rotary, will do our part in progressing this vision.

Bhavishya Yaan, Lighthouse cater to the girl child and the Adult Literacy initiative in Palghar addresses the needs of 25,000 older women... all making a small change to the gender divide.

~ *President Shernaz Vakil*

17. LAST

08. TUESDAY'S

21. SPEAKER

PERIZAAD ZORABIAN TALKS

TO RTN. SAMEER TAPIA ABOUT  
CHICKENING OUT OF FILMS



**YOU HAD A WONDERFUL THOUGH BRIEF JOURNEY IN BOLLYWOOD, BUT YOU MADE A MARK; HOW DID YOU STUMBLE UPON THIS PATH?**

I had a great set of parents who let me pursue my dreams. I went to the US and got an MBA and then, when I told them I want to do a movie, my dad honestly said, '*haan haan jaa ne, ek picture karine aao*', not realising that I would have a career as an actor. I took one day at a time, worked on films that I connected with, and it was fantastic. I did 13-odd films. Of course, *Joggers Park* is now a Bollywood classic.

**YOU WORKED WITH VETERANS LIKE OM PURI, SHABANA AZMI, AND MR. BACHCHAN, OF COURSE, IN *EK AJNABEE*. HOW WAS THAT EXPERIENCE?**

My first film was with Om Puri and he was one of the most iconic actors. Just being with him on the sets was a learning experience. You always thought that Om Puri was this artsy actor but **when I worked with Mr. Bachchan and I saw the same kind of process, discipline, structure that he put into his character,** and the same kind of effort he put in *Ek Ajnabee*, it was a huge learning experience.

It was the same with Shabana Azmi, the way she rehearsed, worked on every line, the effort they all put in. Everyone thinks being an actor is about looking glamorous and having some bare skill set but to be

an actor you need to have so much more.

And, discipline with your craft plays a really important role.

**YOU MENTIONED THAT IT WAS A GLAMOROUS CAREER AND THEN SUDDENLY YOU ENTERED YOUR FATHER'S POULTRY BUSINESS, HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?**

If at the age of seven you had asked me what I wanted to be, I had an uncle who did his MBA at Cornell, and so I would have said entrepreneur. **I idolise my dad and I wanted to work with him** and that is why I went to the US, did my MBA and every entrepreneurship course of anything.

**The dream was always to join Zorabian; acting kind of came in the way of that.**

Once I was married, Zorabian was going through a rough time so I took that opportunity to come in. What started as a small assignment to design packaging for Zorabian turned into a full-fledged job with launching a retail business. I had only stepped in to help dad because we were on the verge of bankruptcy. I was pregnant and I just couldn't bear being a housewife at home. So I stepped in and it was the most game-changing move of my life.

**TO WATCH THE TALK, [CLICK HERE](#)**

**TO READ ITS FULL TRANSCRIPT INCLUDING THE MANY QUESTIONS OUR ROTARIANS ASKED, [CLICK HERE](#)**



## What is a Rotary Club?

“Rotary is an organisation of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.”

In 1976 the Rotary International Board of Directors tasked Rotary’s Public Relation Committee of the time for a concise, one-sentence definition of the fundamental aspects of Rotary.

After numerous drafts, the committee presented this definition, which has been used ever since.

**It was a proud moment for us**

when this picture dropped into our inbox: our Global leader RI President Shekhar Mehta (and Rtn. Ptn. Rashi, not in the frame) at Rotary Global headquarters in



USA. It was August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and we were happy to see our country’s flag in the office of the Rotary International President.

One Rotary Center, located in Evanston, Illinois, USA, is the world headquarters of Rotary International. The HQ has a reproduction of the site of the first Rotary Club meeting ever. Evanston is also home to the former home of Rotary founder Paul Harris, now owned by the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation.

## RCB’s integrated village development projects are making quick headway.

We’ve received word that the final phase of tree saplings distribution is complete at Nilmati. Streetlights will be installed later this week, and home lights, to brighten the lives of the villagers, will reach by the month’s end.

The grids’ positions and final measurements have been taken, the system designed and ordered.

On a recent trip, RCB found a group of farmers that lived a considerable distance away were being left out of the benefits of the project. So, a visit was made with the technical team to see if water could be boosted to reach that part, too, almost 2.6 km distance from the river! And it’s being done.

As the saying goes, no man left behind, not if RCB can help it!





# – CHANGE – *a life* – TODAY –

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLUB'S FLOOD RELIEF EFFORTS

SUPPORT OUR COVID INITIATIVE

PLEDGE COVID VACCINATION FOR TRIBALS

ASSIST FAMILIES WITH A MONTH'S RATION

FEED SNACKS TO CHILDREN FOR A MONTH

TEACH KIDS HUMANITY THROUGH YAY ZINDAGEE

GIFT VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO A CHILD

DONATE SEWING MACHINES TO VILLAGERS

SUPPORT A FARMER'S LIVELIHOOD BY PLANTING FRUIT  
SAPLINGS

TREAT ANANDA YAAN ELDERS TO LUNCH

SPONSOR ANANDA YAAN ELDERS TO A PICNIC OR OUTING

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# PARSI NITE

*To Celebrate  
Parsi New Year  
the Fellowship Committee of the  
Rotary Club of Bombay  
invites you to an evening with  
our favourite  
Wanna be Bawa  
-Kunal Vijaykar  
and an introduction to Udvada  
it's history and unique cuisine  
7.00pm  
Friday, August 27, 2021*

*Hosted by  
select Parsi Members  
of the  
Rotary Club of Bombay*

*Please RSVP Rashmi Kotian  
on 97691 40141  
to receive your Sweet Surprise!  
(latest by August 20, 2021)*

*Zoom link will be sent one day prior*





# PARSI NITE

## HOSTED BY

*Aashish Contractor Adi Dastur*

*Anita Patel Arin Master*

*Cyrus Guzder Darius Pandole*

*Darius Soonawalla Dilnavaz Variava*

*Framroze Mehta Homi Katgara*

*Hormazdiyaar Vakil Hoshang Nazir*

*Jamshed Vakharia Jamshyd Vazifdar*

*Jimmy Pochkhanawalla Karl Divecha*

*Khurshed Poonawala*

*Mahakhurshid Byramjee*

*Murad Currawalla Nani Daruvala*

*Natasha Treasurywala Peshwan Jehangir*

*Phiroze Soonawalla Ritu Desai*

*Roda Billimoria Rumi Jehangir*

*Sharukh Golwala Shernaz Vakil*

*Sonya Mehta Sorab Javeri*

*Zerxis Umrigar Zinia Lawyer*



# Committee News

**AY vision restored:** Some Ananda Yaan members were diagnosed with cataract during a free eye check-up camp by Aditya Jyot Foundation. Members shared that they had impeded vision but had left the condition untreated as their families were already



going through financial turmoil due to COVID.

Aditya Jyot Foundation for Twinkling Eyes (AJFTLE) treated their cataract on August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Mandatory pre-operative health tests were done at N M Medical. We thank Mr. Rahul Chavan from N M Medical for coordinating and Rtn. Rahil Shah for super subsidised rates.

Our elders shared their gratitude towards Dr. Murali Kela for performing the operations, and Ms. Meenakshi from AJFTLE for their help with smooth and meaningful coordination.



## **Little hearts beat for I-Day:**

If Mahatma Phule were alive today, would he be happy to see the progress India has made? What about Dr. Ambedkar or Gandhiji? That's what our Lighthouse students portrayed while stepping into the shoes of famous personalities. This thought-provoking piece was amongst the many items showcased on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. The 45-minute online programme was partly pre-recorded.

From the lively *Chak De* song to recitals of patriotic poems, the students held the audience spellbound. The K.G. students' cute re-enactment of the popular Karadi Tales number 'I am an Indian' had everyone gushing. The event was attended by senior Rotarians including PP Preeti Mehta, PP Ramesh Narayan and President Shernaz Vakil amongst others.

[WATCH THIS HEART-WARMING EVENT ONLINE HERE.](#)

**Now that the lockdown has eased somewhat,** prizes were distributed to SSC toppers from Bhavishya Yaan, for 2019 and 2020. The event took place at Jamboree Maidan Worli.



Sunny Patel, the SSC topper for 2020, was not only the BY topper but he also topped Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar school with an overall 93%. Sunny got 94% in English, the highest score! This bright young man wants to study cybertech or mechanical engineering.

Jyoti Mishra was the BY SSC topper for 2019. Jyoti has been a part of the BY programme from standard 6. She has her eyes set on becoming a chartered accountant and opening her own firm one day.

[CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO FOR A GLIMPSE OF THEIR MOVING SINCERITY AND YOUTHFULNESS.](#)

# Rotaract Chronicles



The Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College's legacy project 'Pawsitive Light', was an initiative to relieve the hunger and thirst of stray animals. It was implemented on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The team encouraged members to feed as many stray animals as possible. All participants were asked to feed at least one stray animal each. They were advised to carry rice, biscuits, milk, dog food to feed the animals in their area.

The Community Service team of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College is working on the legacy project Palat-tae Panne. It works to spread education by asking people to donate books for those who need them. Books were collected from people in the Club as well as outside the Club. The main idea was for students to read and learn. The team collected books of all grades and enough notebooks for practice and study. Novels, moral stories, basic Hindi and English books were also donated. The books were donated to the orphans of Aarna Foundation. Aarna Foundation is an orphanage with 25-30 kids located in Thane, Maharashtra. Adhering to Covid guidelines, the team Community Service went to donate the books to the office of the foundation. A total of 165 books were donated.



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## PP DR. MUKESH BATRA, FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, DR BATRA'S® GROUP

# KNOW YOUR ROTARIAN

I was born in Lucknow. My father was a homeopathic doctor and the principal of the homeopathic college. My mother was an allopathic doctor and the Deputy Director of Health Services in UP. I have two sons, Akshay and Pranav.

I have authored many books on homeopathy and one with Ashwin Sanghi on health and fitness. My latest autobiography called 'The Nation's Homeopath' has just been launched and is available on Amazon, stores at airports and leading bookstores across the country.

I founded the Dr Batra's® group of companies which comprises of Dr Batra's® chain of homeopathy clinics, the largest chain in the world, with over 225 clinics in 150 cities and seven countries. I also started an FMCG company with more than 125 products available on commerce platforms across India. I am happy that I have been able to contribute to a healthier society with a painless and safe system of medicine – homeopathy.

Rotary has meant service before self. It has also meant a lot of joyous fellowships with fellow Rotarians with

whom I have built lasting relationships over the years.

I was actually invited as a guest speaker at our Club and then decided to stay on. I have been the District Representative of Rotaract District 3141 and had over 50 clubs under me.

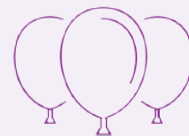
I am the Past President of this prestigious Club. I am an additional director this year and hope to contribute in every way that I can.

I started photography 15 years ago and have held over 50 exhibitions in different countries. For my last exhibition, I was invited by the tourism department of Western Australia to shoot wild flowers. My other passion is singing, and I do *riyaaz* almost daily. I use this talent to have a stage show every year. Proceeds from photography and singing go to an old age women's home and the visually challenged.

My work for homeopathy was recognised and I was honoured at the House of Commons, London and I received the Padmashri Award by the President of India.



# ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



AUGUST 24  
Rtn. Manoj  
Israni



AUGUST 24  
Rtn. Narinder  
Nayar



AUGUST 27  
Rtn. Ranjit  
Sinh

*Life's most  
persistent  
and urgent  
question is:  
what are  
you doing  
for others?*

*~ Martin  
Luther King,  
Jr.*

## ANNIVERSARIES



AUGUST 27: Rtn. Ptn. Shobha  
& PP Haresh 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



**ZIA MODY, CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING  
PARTNER OF AZB & PARTNERS,  
ON THE BENEFITS OF A  
PROGRESSIVE AND PRO-ACTIVE  
SUPREME COURT**

**24TH  
AUGUST,  
2021  
1.45 PM  
ON ZOOM**

**MEETING ID:  
883 2518 8279**



**NEXT WEEK'S  
SPEAKER**

**Rotary Club  
of Bombay**



**Zia Mody** is one of India's foremost corporate attorneys. She began her career as a corporate associate in the New York office of Baker & McKenzie, where she worked for five years before moving to India to establish the Chambers of Zia Mody, which became AZB & Partners in 2004.

It has been said that few of Zia's peers can match her skills when it comes to acquisitions, joint ventures, company restructuring, foreign inward investment related practice and corporate law. Her abilities are recognised globally, as reflected in her appointment as Deputy Chairman (2013-2021), Independent Non-Executive Director (2006-2021), Chairman's Committee Member (2015-2021), Risk Committee Member (2012-2021) and Nomination Committee Member (2019-2021) of the HSBC Asia Pacific Board and as an independent director of Ascendas Property Fund Trustee Pte. Ltd., Singapore (2018-Present).

She has a B.A. (Law) from Cambridge, an LLM from Harvard and is dually qualified to practise law in India and New York, being a member of the New York State Bar.



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PP ASHISH VAID



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& CSR REPORTING  
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RTN. VARSHA DAIYA



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RTN. PRIYASRI PATODIA



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RTN. BIMAL MEHTA



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RTN. HIREN KARA



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RTN. ULHAS YARGOP



MENTORSHIP  
RTN. SUNITA MANDELIA



SKILL DEVELOPMENT  
RTN. S. V. PRASAD



SCHOLARSHIPS  
RTN. ATEEQ AGBOATWALA



TAPARIA JUNIOR COLLEGE  
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