

the gateway

Rotary Club
of Bombay



SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY | FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY |

VOLUME NO. 63 ISSUE NO. 27 JANUARY 11, 2022

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TODAY
RCB'S MODEL
VILLAGE
BE A PART OF IT!

MEETING ID:
883 2518 8279
PASSCODE:
RCBMEETING

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT SHERNAZ VAKIL



CHANGE: POWERED BY RCB

Last Friday, I wrote to each of you regarding the unique village project we were working on just three hours out of Mumbai.

We have conceived an Integrated Rural Development at Savroli village, in the Vikramgad block of Palghar.

This project is unique to the others completed by RCB until now as not only does it provide sustainable livelihoods, and 360-degree development but also takes rural education to the next level.

The impact that will be created from this project for the children of the region will show for decades to come, generating new hope for the future of our rural youth.

We hope to be able to work with you towards transforming Savroli into the modern model village. Solar-powered lift irrigation will allow for multi-cropping, giving opportunity for a sustainable income and this, in turn, will mitigate migration.

This project will provide employment and livelihood to 40 farmers which number will grow organically within the first four cropping cycles.

The farmers will engage in floriculture and vegetable farming with a potential to bring over 60 acres into cultivation.

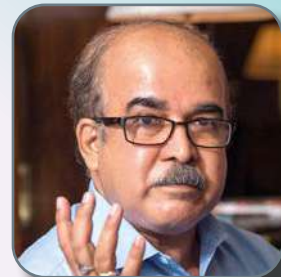
Malnutrition is one of the greatest problems faced in the villages. Each farmer will develop a part of their field for captive consumption, allowing them to grow enough produce for their own use, adding valuable nutrition to their diet.

Please attend the meeting today to understand how each one of us would be responsible for enabling this transformation.

~ President Shernaz Vakil

04. LAST 01. TUESDAY'S 22. SPEAKER

**DR. SABYASACHI MUKHERJEE, DIRECTOR-
GENERAL, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ
VASTU SANGRAHALAYA**



My sincere thanks to Rotarians Shernaz Vakil, Jagdish Malkani, Bimal Mehta, and Ajit Lalvani and all the members of the Rotary Club of Bombay for sending a strong message to the world that **cultural heritage is not just bricks and stones but our identity**; and ignoring the power of culture means destroying the social fabric of the society. We should not forget that all kinds of development initiatives in our society are meant for human development and enrichment.

CSMVS is illuminated with the efforts of the Rotary Club of Bombay, our garden is maintained by the Rotary Club of Bombay, and even the solar energy with which we conserve almost 35% of the energy has helped the museum and the management.

A museum as an institution holds an important place in society because not only does it tell the story of men and women or how humanity survived in the environment over the decades but also because **it houses things created by nature and by man in the past and present**.

Objects representing varied cultures provide an opportunity for people from diverse countries and cultures to become partners to the world narrative and to motivate them, to reclaim and reposition their own unique regional, national, global identities in the changing cultural landscape of the world. Our history is glorious, interesting, painful and surprising. You need to understand it now more than ever.

It is in a museum that you can look at your past and think about your relationship to it that is more important now than it has been for a very long time. As the world gets more global and the history of identity gets more complicated, it is important to have places where everyone can come and look at themselves – their history, their stories, and their future.

Ours is a world-class storage facility; we think of climate control. While the pandemic was going on, the museum was shut, the staff was not there yet nothing happened to the collection. **Thanks, again, to those who percolate the funds and support us and today we have the best storage facility and conservation lab.**

The lab is more like a hospital; in case of any difficulty, we have our in-house lab to look into the collection and that is something I wanted to share. You get to see community participation. **The building is a symbol of cultural unity**, you look at the audience and you see people from different communities sharing the space, looking at things, and it is an open space for conversation. Over 200,000 children visit the museum. We provide a creative space without any imposition.

TO WATCH A VIDEO OF DR. SABYASACHI MUKHERJEE'S TALK, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO READ A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF HIS TALK, [CLICK HERE](#)

RCB helping stranded Afghan students



There are many Afghan students in India. With the severe crisis (on various levels) in their home country, many of them are stranded: without food or shelter and some without both. With uncertainty staring at their faces, they try to make ends meet. This includes lapsed visas, bleak job prospective, difficulty in returning home - just a few to name.

RCB's International Committee took the initiative after the Consul General spoke to our Club last year during one of the regular Tuesday meetings. Initially, we met with Her Excellency at the consulate and got a better understanding of the situation. Together we identified the critically needy out of many hundred stranded in and around Bombay. Many do not even have access to the most basic things in life and need to beg.

PP Gul Kripalani was crucial in identifying a donor to contribute INR 20 lakh towards meeting their most urgent requirements. To start with, the money will be distributed to 40 students on a monthly basis for the next five to six months. While we get to know them better, we will also have a better idea of where help is needed and how we can help best. Internships are among topics of high relevance.

The Afghan Girl is a 1984 photographic portrait of Sharbat Gula, taken by photojournalist Steve McCurry. It appeared on the June 1985 cover of National Geographic magazine. The image is of an adolescent girl with green eyes in a red headscarf looking intensely at the camera. The image became emblematic of refugee girl / woman located in some distant camp deserving of the Western viewer's compassion and a symbol of Afghanistan to the West.

Let us try to help Afghan students in our country get a better chance; they deserve it!

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Adult literacy programme for the Vaidu community



December reports show increased levels of dedication and commitment to education amongst the women of the Vaidu community

Students show engagement and dedication with most reaching class before time and waiting for teachers to begin. They often bring their children for the classes.

Students have been learning Marathi vowels, and, also to derive words from them. They are also practicing digits from 101 to 500, and three-digit addition and subtraction. Informal exams are taken at the end of each week to help them recall and understand their learnings.

Extracurricular activities were conducted to help students develop interests outside the standardised education. This month, our teachers took an action song, enhancing hand-eye co-ordination, listening skills and the ability to follow directions.

The hot food refreshment is an added incentive for many students to make it to class.

Vaidu women empower themselves

Jogeshwari

60 women enrolled in December 2021

Student of the month: Sarika Shivarlu

Although she works as a housemaid, she attends regular classes after coming from work. She has 100% attendance and is attentive in class. She is curious about subject material, completes homework with regularity. She has a good sense of humour, and she enjoys every class. She is participative and clarifies her doubts by asking questions fearlessly. She also helps others in her class understand words better.



Case study: Shakuntla Raju Vaidu, 33

I work as a housemaid. I also have tuberculosis. My husband is an alcoholic. I have two children and I want to educate them. They come to Mera Sapna project for knowledge and education. I was already able to write my name and read some words but lost those learnings when I began working. This adult literacy programme comes as a golden opportunity, thank you to the Rotary Club of Bombay for educating us and making us self-dependent.



Marol

45 women enrolled in December 2021.

Student of the month: Jyoti Salkar

She is a good learner and has achieved 100% attendance. Her improved academic performance in the past two months has inspired others to join RCB's adult literacy programme. She performs well in surprise tests and teachers see her implementing what she learns, like counting, addition, subtraction. She is an optimist and that helps her learn things.

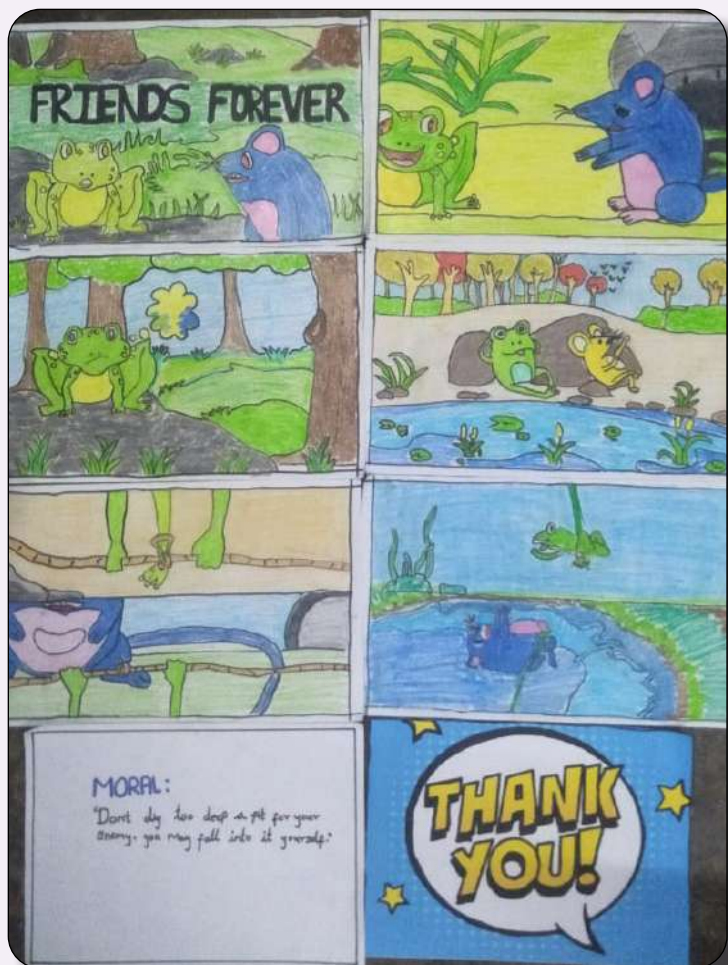


Case study: Pooja Budhade, 36

I have two children and wanted to help them in their studies just as my sister-in-law helped her kids. She used to tease me for not being literate but, in the last three months, the adult literacy programme has helped me overcome my insecurity. I now practice letters, words and sentences and read words wherever I can. Maths has helped because I am able to recognise numbers and do addition and subtraction. I try to help my children while they are studying, and they are happy that their mother takes active part in their educational activities. I also help them solve sums.



Committee News



Over the past four months, Bhavishya Yaan students in all six schools have been enjoying storytelling sessions conducted by Vidya teachers as well as external faculty. A storytelling Lit Fest was held in November; in December, the children were given Christmas and New Year-themed speaking assignments.

Storytelling classes were conducted once a week for classes 5th to 9th. The students were introduced to fairy tales and mystery, understanding the elements, role playing of the story, sequencing of events, pronunciation of new vocabulary words, creating one's own fairy tale and concluding the story, etc. giving students ample opportunities to communicate in English.

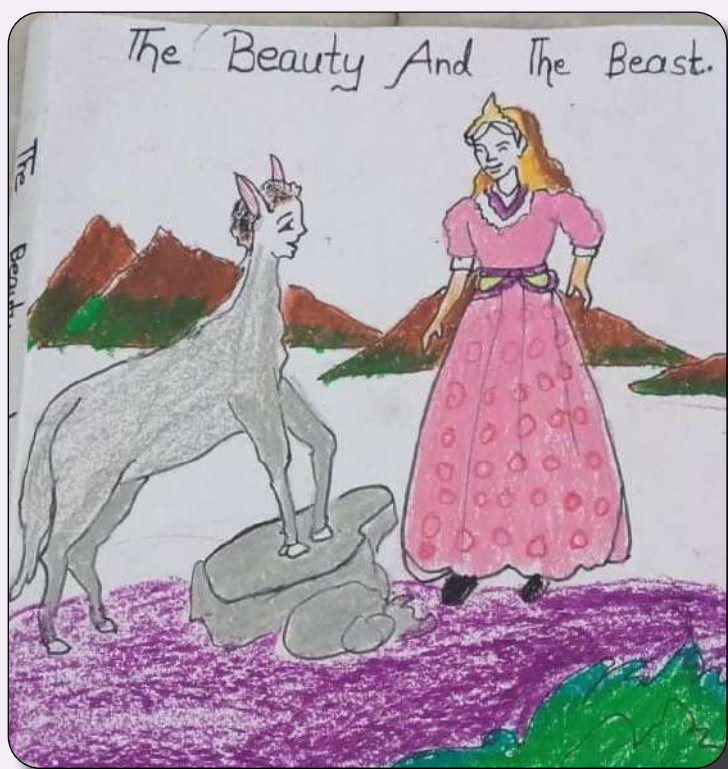
In September, the students were introduced to mythological and horror stories – the story of Goddess Durga on Navratri and a horror story titled Two Gold Coins. Folk tales were covered during October.

Anita Salim, a well-known theatre personality who conducts drama workshops in schools across Mumbai and is attached with Prithvi theatre, conducted three-day sessions for Bhavishya Yaan students.

She focused on storytelling as a tool to learn text, using imagination and visualisation.

The children were encouraged to participate in the storytelling Lit Fest held in November during Diwali break. 129 students from standards 8 & 9, 90 from standards 5, 6 & 7 and 90 from Primary school participated. An external professional storyteller judged the final entries and selected the prize winners.

Some of the illustrations by the kids and videos of those who took part in the storytelling festival are attached.



Rotary News

700 food packets sent by Save The Children for the Vaidu community



Join Rotary Mumbai SOBO's motivating talk on January 20th, 2022, by Rtn. Willem Falter, Board Member, EndPlasticSoup, on a green, international, Rotary movement!

Rotary's EndPlasticSoup initiative was started in 2018 by clubs in Amsterdam to end plastic waste in our environment: on land, the air and in the waters by 2050. They believe in the global strength of Rotary!

Willem will talk about the initiative, the projects undertaken so far around the world and how each Rotary Club, Interact Club and Rotaract Club can be part of this green Rotary movement!

This is a unique opportunity to directly interact with Willem.

Read more about the EndPlasticSoup Rotary initiative here: <https://endplasticsoup.nl/goal-ambition/>

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> SKILL A WOMAN TO EARN....

Rs 25000 will skill 15 women

> FEED A FAMILY FOR 6 MONTHS...

Rs 50000 for 10 families

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JANUARY 13
Rtn. Jai Advani



JANUARY 13
Rtn. Sheila Bulchandani



JANUARY 13
Rtn. Pranay Vakil



JANUARY 14
PP Kalpana Munshi



JANUARY 15
Rtn. Baji Billimoria



JANUARY 15
Rtn. Dinesh Lal



JANUARY 15
Rtn. Chandra Singh Lodha



JANUARY 16
Rtn. Darius Irani



JANUARY 16
Rtn. Prakash Jotwani



JANUARY 16
Rtn. Arin Master



JANUARY 17
Rtn. Apurva Diwanji



JANUARY 17
PP Haresh Jagtiani

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 13
Rtn. Ptn. Radhika Sheth

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 12
Rtn. Ptn. Rittu & Rtn. Nikhil Bhatia

JANUARY 15
Rtn. Ptn. Vrishali & Rtn. Dr. Ameet Pispati



A Covid update by Dr. Rajesh Parekh, Director of Medical Research and Honorary Neuropsychiatrist at the Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre

JANUARY 18TH, 2022
ONLY ON ZOOM, 1.45 PM
MEETING ID:
883 2518 8279
PASSCODE:
RCBMEETING



Dr. Rajesh M. Parekh is the Director of Medical Research and Hon. Neuropsychiatrist at the Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre. He is Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Iowa, Carver College of Medicine and a former WHO Global Expert on Depression. Dr. Parikh has had a distinguished academic record with several awards including the Bombay Psychiatry Society President's Award thrice, the Tilak Venkoba Rao Award of the Indian Psychiatry Society and the Dr. S. M. Lulla Award of the Bombay Psychiatry Society.

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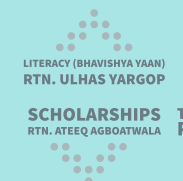
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