

the gateway

Rotary Club
of Bombay



SERVE TO
CHANGE LIVES

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

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TODAY

CONDOLENCE MEETING
+
DR. RAJESH PAREKH
A COVID UPDATE!

MEETING ID:
883 2518 8279

PASSCODE:
RCBMEETING

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT SHERNAZ VAKIL



SERVICE BEFORE SELF

What is a life well lived ?

How do you measure the effect you have made on the world once you're gone ? How will you be remembered by your community after it's over?

A Rotarian is expected to put service before self.

How many of us can actually do this? How many of us give with compassion and feeling?

One stalwart of our Club started a project that has sustained over 40 years!

Dr. Rahim Muljiani was legendary at RCB. He gave selflessly and supported our Talwada centre with dedicated passion and commitment. His service to the poor and the needy amplifies his strength of character and tenacity to what he believed in. He is and will forever be a great example of what most Rotarians would aspire to be: completely dedicated to one's cause.

May he rest with the angels in joy and glory for having lived a life of caring and giving!

On the other hand, over the past few months, I have seen service and caring in our own community of Rotarians that astounds and delights! I have had people call and say, I want to help or donate, without being asked and with the same feeling of sincerity and care.

May our tribe not only flourish, but may we continue to contribute to what is good in this world, serving all those around us that need to be heard and felt.

Let's treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve whilst giving them opportunities they never had. ~ **President Shernaz Vakil**



THE LOSS OF A LEGEND

PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani

21.03.1929-13.01.2022



☼ Death is inevitable, and when one has lived to a ripe old age, the inevitability always seems imminent. Inevitable or imminent, a deep sense of sorrow is what I felt at the sad news of the passing away of PP Dr. Rahim H. Muljiani.

In a Club boasting of several eminent people, Rahim was an institution. Few new members may have even known him and to some he was that irascible old man, obsessed with Talwada.

Yes, obsessed he was. As is only to be expected from someone who was there at its founding and continuously nurtured it over a remarkable period of four decades. Without his commitment and yes, even his irascibility, Talwada would not be what it is today.

Rahim had been a close associate of my father, PP Jimmy Vazifdar, and I have known him for more than 30 years as a dear friend of the family. He would unfailingly send courteous greetings on birthdays and festivals, thoughtfully hand-written (a novelty in this age of impersonal communication).

We have lost a committed, dedicated, disciplined Rotarian and a fine human being. – **PP NOWROZE VAZIFDAR**

☼ Sad to know of the passing away of Dr. Muljiani. He was a committed Rotarian and backbone of Talwada centre. Our heartfelt condolences to your club president and the family of Dr. Muljiani. – **DG BANSI DHURANDHAR**

☼ Such sad news. He was an iconic figure of RCB and served the Club so selflessly and was relentless in his pursuit of helping the needy. May his soul rest in peace – **DGE SANDIP AGARWALLA**



🌸 Dr. Muljani has been the pillar of the Rotary Club of Bombay. Dr. Muljani and the Club were born in the same year, just one day apart.

Phiroze Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre (PRVEC) would not be where it is today if not for Dr. Muljani. He was a big part of so many people's lives. A larger-than-life man. The light he brought into the world will always remain in the hearts of everyone he knew. He will never be forgotten and his legacy will live on!

– **PP VIJAY JATIA**



🌸 Sir was a fatherly figure to me. My association with him has been since April 1980. He taught me, gave me plenty of surgical work, and a satisfying job at Talwada. He was strict, punctual, committed and a workaholic. Time was God for him.

I worked with him at Jain, Jaslok and Prince Aly Khan. He used to take me to all camps like Karjat, Panchgani, Juhu etc. In short, he helped me tremendously in the formative years of my career.

He also helped me in the affairs of school management and always gave a helping hand. He will remain in my heart forever. A great person, teacher, administrator, friend and great soul. Talwada was his baby, and he was very attached to it till the end; it is great loss for Talwada. Sir, you will be missed every time we gather at Talwada. Pranam, sir! – **DR. ANIL DESHPANDE**



🌸 It is with a profound sense of disbelief and sorrow that I write this epitaph on a stalwart - Dr. Rahim Muljani.

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Muljani for the past 20-odd years through three different phases of my life – as student, surgeon and later, colleague and may I dare say, confidante, at a much later stage.

While eulogising the departed is par for the course, it would take reams to flesh out the intricate details of this multi-faceted personality.

I write of but a few of Sir's traits – his patience with us as students, knowledge of pharmacology in addition to Ophthalmology, willingness to get down at our level for ease of understanding with only a dry deprecatory laugh when we slipped up – often enough.

Forward to the next phase – his capacity to listen, ever ready to pick up newer ideas, willingness to argue, even duel over concepts, with a sharp tongue, open mind and willingness to let new concepts in.

This is one man who has seemed truly ageless – the lifetime spent at Talwada, where he has seen so many generations of Ophthalmologists come and go, is truly a testament of his indomitable tenacity and unparalleled strength of will.

Words fall short as we mourn the loss of a teacher, guide, mentor, friend, philosopher and fine human being. – **RTN. DR. PRIYANKA DOCTOR**



🌸 Yesterday, a stalwart who rendered yeoman service to the poor and



sick passed away. Dr. Rahim Muljiani, Trustee RCB and Chairman Emeritus Talwada was a selfless and dedicated doctor who spent a vast majority of his life operating on eye patients at the Talwada Medical Center in Dahanu. It is his passion and ceaseless fundraising that enabled the PRVEC Eye Center formerly HTEC, to provide free surgeries and care to thousands of Adivasis and farmers in the Dahanu area. Along with his right-hand Dr. Rumi Jehangir, they made this clinic a Mecca for those who had lost their sight. To give the gift of sight is the greatest gift of all and Rahim uncle did this for decades.

In this day and age, where will you find a doctor who at the cost of his own private practise travels every week to Dahanu to help the poor. His work set a benchmark for our Club and Talwada, over a course of 35 years became a Kohinoor project for the Rotary Club of Bombay. On these firm and reliable shoulders grew the stature of a Club whose social service is unrivalled in the country.

Rahim uncle was a friend of my father Late Ajit Deshpande who, like him, was a former President of RCB and I have grown up an admiring bystander of his service. I can never forget all those outings to Mahabaleshwar with his family when we were kids and I shall miss Rahim uncle's warmth and hospitality.

He was always there to greet us when we went to do our recce of the Ajit Deshpande Medical Center adjacent to his eye clinic in Dahanu. He would hold my hand and say, 'Come, Tara, let me show you around.' Then he would reminisce about dad.

Always he would make an effort to have hot poha and tea ready for all of us and insist we ate before we left. I can't imagine Talwada without him and not seeing him smiling by the gate of the eye clinic waiting for the RCB contingent to arrive. We were blessed to learn from your commitment and passion. And we are poorer today for your passing. Take care of our Club, Rahim uncle, and give us guidance from above to carry on your work. Sincere condolences to Fouzia aunty and Humza from all of us, Leela Deshpande, Pia Deshpande-Desai. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilayi raji'un* - **RTN. TARA DESHPANDE**

☾ With the passing away of Late Dr. Rahim Muljiani, Rotary has lost a legend in the service of humanity. He was the Founder Member of our Eye Centre at Talwada who, along with Dr. Rumi Jehangir, carried out thousands of eye surgeries since inception.

Come hail, come storm, both the doctors religiously went to Talwada on weekends and conducted surgeries unless they were out of town. Dr. Rahim motivated other younger surgeons to take up the challenge and had made Talwada almost cataract-free. I have been associated with him ever since Rumi introduced me to RCB. I always looked up to him for guidance and advice. Talwada had been his brainchild and he was extremely passionate about it till the end. Rotary and Talwada will sorely miss him. May his soul rest in eternal peace! - **RTN. ARIN MASTER**



Such was Dr. Rahim Muljiani's commitment that, in the beginning, when there were no lights in Talwada, they operated with torches. Rtn. Hansa Dalal holds the torch for Dr. Muljiani in the sepia photo to the left. The photo on the right is of more recent times with the latest equipment

ONE-MAN ARMY

While there are many who supported the Eye Centre at Talwada and made it a success, it is equally true that they did so because they were rallying behind their mentor, teacher and inspiration – Dr. Rahim Muljiani. It was never easy for anyone to follow in his footsteps especially since everything he did for Talwada was at a whirlwind pace. This, he did in spite of juggling all kinds of other commitments. In fact, the story told by Rtn. Narain Chhabria and mentioned in the Gateway Bulletin of December 11, 2001, is that Dr. Rahim Muljiani was once invited to lunch at Raj Bhavan by the then Governor of Maharashtra. The date coincided with a visit Dr. Muljiani had planned to Talwada. So, of course, there was no question of him going for lunch; he went to Talwada instead.

Rtn. Chhabria went on to acknowledge Dr. Muljiani's association with several drug firms to develop new eye medication.

On another occasion, in the annual report brought out on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Rotary Club of Bombay, the then President Dr. B. N. Colabawalla wrote: "This is verily a permanent memorial to this Club and all applause should be directed towards PP Dr. Kanti Sangani and Rtn. Dr. Rahim Muljiani for their sustained efforts."

In the Gateway Bulletin of April 4, 2017, then President Dr. Mukesh Batra paid fulsome compliments to Dr. Muljiani and his team for what they have managed to achieve. He wrote, "The RCB project of Talwada will therefore remain one of the finest projects of the club that has given over a million people the gift of health, made every Rotarian involved in it extremely proud and has established an eternal faithful relationship between Rotarians and the villagers of Talwada... the seed that was sown by just one man with a simple aim of providing basic healthcare

to the needy has blossomed into a full-fledged rural transformation project."

In fact, Dr. Muljiani's career has been illustrious, right from his early associations with Jaslok Hospital and Research Centre and also Conwest Jain Clinic Group of Hospitals. The number of awards and recognitions received by him are too numerable to recount. And yet there are some he takes great personal pride in.

He was awarded the Dr. V. K. Chitnis oration at the VIII Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society Conference in October 1988 for community ophthalmology. He was awarded the Late Dr. S. D. Athavale Award oration award for community ophthalmology at the 15th Maharashtra Ophthalmological Conference in 1995. He has been member of the Royal College of Ophthalmology (1976-1988), member of Oxford Ophthalmological Congress 1987, and many more. He has been member of and held positions at: Bombay Ophthalmologists Association, Mumbai, Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society, American Academy of Ophthalmologists and also the All India Ophthalmological Society. The Maharashtra Ophthalmological Society gave him a lifetime achievement award in 2014.

In addition, he has attended conferences around the world, organised seminars, held clinical trials and aided in the development of new drugs in eye care. He does this all without missing a beat and that is why he is legendary. No one who sees him turns away without a fond hug. This is a man who has given his all and done it with great honesty and sincerity. His enthusiasm is a light that inspires everyone who comes in contact with him.

(Reproduced from RCB's booklet celebrating Talwada's 40th year)

11. LAST 01. TUESDAY'S 22. SPEAKER

EDUCATIONIST PRATIBHA PAI (FOUNDER, PROJECT CHIRAG) AND SABAH VIG (VP, PROJECT CHIRAG) TALK ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATIONAL WORK BEING DONE BY RCB AND PROJECT CHIRAG IN RURAL MAHARASHTRA



There is a forgotten Bharat with no electricity, one room and one shelter. It is probably 200-odd kms away from Mumbai and it only has a kerosene lamp as light. This is a sight seen in rural India where power remains unaffordable, inadequate or simply non-existent for around 200 million people. This is the Bharat that needs to catch up with the developed India.

Our villagers are trapped in a cocoon of poverty, illiteracy, ill-health and a regressive mindset that hinders progress.

The first village that we visited in 2010, Ujjaini, had such an effect on my team and me that it made us pledge to work towards this basic right of every Indian citizen to light. This is what has kept us all at Chirag moving ahead.

Our objective – to use solar energy as a pivot around which rural transformation can take place. But, at the same time, **empowering villagers to make this change sustainable.**

Our end goal is to see a positive change in development indicators. It is to address these issues that we propose a 5-point transformational model for rural India using clean and green sources of energy to provide homes with lights, social security outdoors with streetlights, portable lanterns, solar and e-learning supports to school to bring about engaged learning, water for drinking and sanitation and solar for livelihood support.

With solar, our villagers are now free from the high costs of kerosene, wood or other

oils as well as from the toxic fumes from these sources. **Solar lights in their house have increased their productive hours significantly.** Social security with street-lamps makes social interaction possible after the sunset, where otherwise, their day came to an end when the sun set.

Today, with solar lights outside their homes, they have a nice sense of community. With schools unable to afford the electricity bills, many of them have their meters cut and the classrooms have become uncomfortable with zero opportunity for e-learning. **Schools with solar support have proven to us time and again that students feel more engaged,** grow into confident youth and both attendance and enrolments see a rise to up to 25% year-on-year.

Home to about 120 families with more than 600 villagers, Savroli has a Zilla Parishad school up to the 8th standard; they have only six teachers to cope with 260 students. **Our dream is to make Savroli into a model village that also satisfies 12 of the 17 sustainable goals listed by the UN.** A 10-kilo-watt solar system will help pull water from a perennial river enabling sustainable revival of the village economy and this is our model agricultural system.

TO WATCH A VIDEO OF THE REST OF THE TALK, ON THE PATH AHEAD, [CLICK HERE](#)

TO READ ITS COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT, [CLICK HERE](#)

Committee News



URBAN HERITAGE: Last year, Rotary Club of Bombay collaborated with MCGM on the Mumbai Billboard-Bus shelter project. The project was helmed by RCB's Urban Heritage Committee and Priyasri Art Gallery. MCGM recently published a coffee table book on the same and it was released by Mayor Kishori Pednekar at her office last week. RCB's Rtn. Priyasri

Patodia attended on behalf of the Club. Also seen in the picture with Priyasri and the mayor is artist Brinda Miller who is known for her passion and perseverance for public art works.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT: Schools have been running mostly online classes since Covid began, although there was a small window when offline classes were resumed.

Unlike 2020, this provided a great opportunity to conduct the aptitude test in class at the individual schools of BY students of 10th standard in partnership with YoungBuzz.

We hope to cross 100 students this year, more than double the number of students who took the test and experienced the aptitude tests and counselling sessions last year.

Last year's numbers were creditable too, given the Covid related challenges and, besides, it was the first time YoungBuzz was carrying out everything online.

Once the tests are completed, and the results generated, individual career counselling would be carried out for each student along with their parents.

This will be a valuable experience in guiding them about what stream to select for further studies, from Art, Science, and Commerce, etc.



Rotaract Chronicles

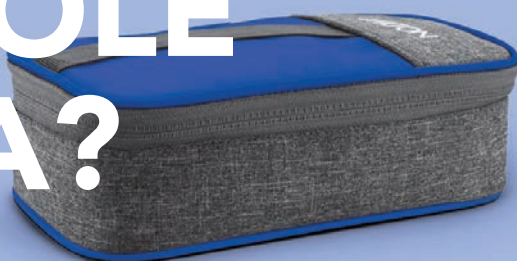


Jingle All The Way: The Rotaractors of the Rotaract Club of HR celebrated Christmas with children less privileged than themselves. Called Jingle All The Way, the programme was divided into four phases: Advent Calendar (distributing toys, clothes and smiles); Graffiti (painting walls, t-shirts and faces with social messages); Christmas Carnival (playing and engaging with children, sharing toys and chocolates) and Midnight Mass (attending church and imbibing the spirit of Christmas).

MILTON

THE 3 MAGIC WORDS:

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KHOLE
KYA?**



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**Give yourself a
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Help create a Rotary Village**

Savroli village in Vikramgad benefitting 600
villagers and supporting 40 farmers to
bring 60 acres of land into cultivation eventually.

Send your cheque for at least Rs.25000/- favouring
Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No. 3

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 18

Rtn. Ratan Tankha



JANUARY 19

Rtn. Farhat Jamal



JANUARY 19

Rtn. Gaurav Nevatia



JANUARY 20

Rtn. Rohan Dalal



JANUARY 21

Rtn. Meera Kumar



JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ashok Minawala



JANUARY 23

Rtn. Subhash Sagar



JANUARY 24

Rtn. Gautam Trivedi

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn.
Benaifer
Bilimoria

JANUARY 22

Rtn. Ptn.
Madhavi Sanghi

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Rangita
Bhatnagar

ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 18

Rtn. Ptn. Nidhi & Rtn. Abhinav
Aggarwal

JANUARY 18

Rtn. Ptn. Swapana & Rtn. Manoj
Murarka

JANUARY 19

Rtn. Ptn. Megha & Rtn. Vineet Kedia

JANUARY 19

Rtn. Ptn. Avadhesh & Rtn. Sunita
Mandelia

JANUARY 19

Rtn. Ptn. Anahita & Rtn. Darius
Pandole

JANUARY 20

Rtn. Ptn. Rajul & Rtn. Anand Parikh

JANUARY 20

Rtn. Ptn. Navaz & Rtn. Jimmy
Pochkhanawalla

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Gulrez & Rtn. Ishraq
Contractor

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Meghal & Rtn. Jaymin
Jhaveri

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Sunita & PP Pradeep
Saxena

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Reshma & Rtn. Sohel
Shikari

JANUARY 21

Rtn. Ptn. Shama & Rtn. Devindra
Nath Thukral

JANUARY 22

Rtn. Ptn. Malini & DGE Sandip
Agarwalla

JANUARY 22

Rtn. Ptn. Purvi & Rtn. Anand Shah

JANUARY 23

Rtn. Ptn. Amita & Rtn. Ravi Sheth

JANUARY 23

Rtn. Ptn. Minal & Rtn. Madhup
Vaghani

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Manek & Rtn. Cyrus Guzder

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Damini & Rtn. Kirit Kamdar

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Reema & Rtn. Vivek Kothari

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Rinku & Rtn. Vineet
Suchanti

JANUARY 24

Rtn. Ptn. Nikesh and Rtn. Aditi Shah



The Rotary Club of Bombay confers the Taru Lalvani Environmental Protection award upon Ecologist Dr. Rashneh N. Pardiwala

JANUARY 25TH, 2022
ONLY ON ZOOM, 1.45 PM

MEETING ID:
883 2518 8279
PASSCODE:
RCBMEETING



Dr. Rashneh N. Pardiwala is an Ecologist from the University of Edinburgh specialising in Climate Change. She is the Founder & Director of the Centre for Environmental Research and Education (CERE), a Mumbai-based not-for-profit organisation that promotes environmental sustainability through education, government collaborations, corporate partnerships and public awareness campaigns. Rashneh is a pioneer in developing Carbon Management and Environmental Sustainability Systems for corporate India and serves as a CSR consultant to leading companies. Rashneh has won numerous awards and has been featured in publications in recognition of her work to promote environmental sustainability.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2021-2022

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