

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
(HON) DR.
VIBHA BAKSHI,
ACCLAIMED,
AWARD-
WINNING FILM
DIRECTOR AND
PRODUCER

AT TAJ MAHAL
HOTEL, 1 PM

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT SHERNAZ VAKIL



MAKE HEY WHILE THE FUN SHINES

As I sit looking out at the flower filled garden in the cool morning air of Mahabaleshwar, I recall and anticipate the joy and fun a Rotary fellowship brings.

Over the past close to 20 years, we have attended almost every fellowship that our Club has put together.

From Corbett, when I was yet to become a member to Greece and Turkey when we were a fellowship of 4 (Vakil Vakil and Lawyer), the experiences have been memorable!

We have visited the most exotic locations from Iceland and South Korea to Uzbekistan, Pondicherry, and Bhutan; it's been a holiday off the beaten path.

Trips that are superbly curated for us to see and enjoy the best each country has to offer, peppered with special requests from some discerning Rotarian.

More than anything it's been an opportunity to get familiar with fellow Rotarians who we would otherwise summarily salute at a Tuesday meeting.

Fellowships to Mahabaleshwar's verdant mountains have been many, starting with high tea at Zinia's to the fun, food and frolic at the Vakharia's and Vaid's, each opening up their homes and hospitality for us to enjoy!

Tea at Zinia's... distracted by the glorious garden and the treat-laden table, where fellowship took a happy second place!



FOR IT'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOWSHIP!



An early morning trek on Tiger Path brought out the poetry in us; the woods are lovely, dark, and deep... and we have promises to keep.

The only promise we jolly crew had to keep was our tryst at the Vakharia's!

And what a splendid afternoon it was!

The forest and mountains around us, as we sipped Bloody Mary and rocked to the sounds of the '70s. The repast as always bountiful and delicious, a feast to the eyes and soul!

How could we possibly make it to the golf course, even for that perfunctory stroll?

And then to the Oaks, and the evening at the Vaid's, we were star-struck by the glorious setting on the lawns of their beautiful home.

Lit-up trees, fairy lights, a crescent moon and melodious jazz made a super setting for a special night. Intimate and warm, the fellowship grew into a joyful bonding as the ladies jumped up to move to the beat of Jerusalem!

Sunday morning and coffee at Frere Hall to hear our dear octogenarian Jaisinh regale us with the British beginnings of Mahabaleshwar, the Chinese influence, and how important it was to keep the forests alive and green.

Then to the final lap of our happy fellowship, lunch at the tree house at Uday, a family-run and family-serving hotel. No trip to Mahabaleshwar is complete till we lust over their ghee-laced puranpoli and khandvi.

A fitting end to a gourmand sojourn in the hills!

~ **President Shernaz Vakil**





STRAWBERRIES, CHERRIES AND AN ANGEL'S KISS IN SPRING; OUR SUMMER WINE WAS REALLY MADE FROM ALL THESE THINGS...



RCB PRESENTS THE GODREJ SCIENCE
AWARD TO **DR. ZARIR F. UDWADIA, MD, DNB,
FCCP (USA) & FRCP (LONDON)**



TO READ A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF DR. ZARIR F. UDWADIA
ON THE VIRUS'S BEGINNING, ITS END AND THE QUESTIONS IN BETWEEN, [CLICK HERE](#)

Let me begin with this introductory slide from the famous book of French author Albert Camus. He gives an account of a fictional plague which affected the city of Oran, the second largest city in Algeria. And this was written a few years ago before he went on to die and what he said holds remarkably prescient even today. He said, 'There have been as many plagues as wars in history yet, always, plagues and wars take equally by surprise.' And clearly, in today's climate, he is right about the plague and the war. But should we have been surprised? Unprepared, yes, but should we have been surprised?

Not really. If you put this coronavirus in context, we have been hijacked by many other viruses in the last century. **So, Covid-19 took 6 million lives; MERS and SARS, from 2012 and 2002, mercifully killed only in the 100s.** I say mercifully because MERS had the mortality of 40% and, in a sense, we were lucky. Imagine what could have happened if the SARS Covid had that kind of mortality. Of course, the granddaddy of all pandemics remains the 1918 Spanish Flu which killed at least 50 million.

This is another famous science writer, Laura Spinney, and I urge you to read this book, Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How It Changed the World. She said, 'A war has a victor, but a pandemic has only the vanquished.' And how many vanquished were there in the last few years? All of us remember friends, family who have died with this virus. In terms of actual numbers, 6 million.

In fact, we are considerably underestimating our mortality rates. A lovely article in The Economist, that scientifically looked at the actual number killed, estimated that we are undercounting by at least a figure of 5. So 13 million, getting us closer to the 50 million Spanish flu mortality I talked about. **We owe it to our living to be accurate in counting our dead.** It would be so easy for the Indian Government to be doing this accurately.

The actual estimated deaths in India, and this is a wonderful paper in science by Prabhat Jha and colleagues from Duke University, is between 3.1 million and 3.4 million while the official figures place it at 400,000. Now, whether this is on purpose, forged or whether this is just because the death certificates are not well-kept, we can't be sure. But we are undercounting by at least 7 times. So, our mortality is actually 3 million. So, this is how a pandemic starts.

We don't know who patient zero was, but we know ground zero, for sure, was Wuhan. Wuhan is the 9th largest city in China, it has a population of 12 million, this is from Google maps, and it is the capital of Hubei province which is somewhere in the centre of China. This was probably the epicentre of the pandemic and there are two very important players you need to know about: the Wuhan Institute of Virology and the Huanan Seafood market. Seafood is a misnomer; it is a wet market selling all kinds of animal products.

So, let's time travel back to the last week of December 2019. That is when the people in Wuhan were sickening in large numbers and the doctors there were confused. This was a mysterious pneumonia illness which was spreading all over the chat groups in China and soon the wards and the corridors of the Wuhan Central Hospital was filled with patients, and then with dead bodies. The morgues were full as well. It was that bad according to the people who were there.

Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist, attached to the hospital pointed out that this viral pneumonia was very similar to the SARS Covi-1, the original SARS outbreak 17 years ago. On WeChat, the Chinese equivalent of WhatsApp, he wrote to 100 or 200 people on his group, mostly doctors, and said, 'Protect yourself, your friends and family, mask up.' The Chinese authorities were in denial at the time.

They came down on him hard, they censored him, removed all his posts and sadly, and tragically, he died of the very disease he was warning his colleagues about at the age of 34. Pictures of him sprung up all over the world, of Wuhan and China with barbed wire replacing the mask and he was the hero and he was the first of 200 doctors and healthcare workers, the WHO estimates, to have died of this disease.

This is how a virus spreads, it has an "R naught" of 3 and that is frightening. It means that patient will go on to infect 3 others.

Chinese Lunar New Year happened to be very bad for humanity and very good for the virus. Those who are familiar would know that this is the time when millions of people migrate from cities to smaller villages across China. That can be tracked, and everything can be tracked these days.

If you track cell phone data, records reveal that 175,000 people left Wuhan on just this one day, January 1st, 2020.

Some trying to escape the illness and some to meet family and friends. It is a well-connected city as well. So, there were 49 flights locally every single day and this is the distribution of 800,000 plus passengers from Wuhan airport to different provinces and cities across China. And this is well-connected internationally as well. You can see 28 international flights leave Wuhan every day. This will expose why shutting down borders is a wasted exercise in my opinion because there were flights and let's look at them: Los Angeles, London, New York, and across South-East Asia, Japan, Dubai and, of course, India and Mumbai.

Our patient zero was a medical student from Kerala desperately trying to escape Wuhan. She was a second-year medical student who was tested and confirmed to be positive, and she was the patient zero of this pandemic.

The Chinese authorities closed the air space and locked down the city pretty ruthlessly on January 30th, 2020, but there was no stopping the virus now. So, the entire world was slowly getting Covidised, if I may use the word...



TUESDAYS
WITH
RCB



Committee News

BUBBLES OF JOY FOR BY KIDS

Rtn. Satyan Israni's son Samaksh celebrated his 8th birthday with his 375 Bhavishya Yaan friends. Samaksh loves bubbles and wanted the lucky children of BY to experience a life-sized bubble show. He arranged a magician, Mr. Anil Kumar, for the GK Marg children who trapped the children in giant bubbles. The surprise had the children screaming with excitement. He also distributed boxes of crayons for the primary children of Colaba and GK Marg schools. Children at the Ambedkar School were given gel pens. Samaksh treated his Prabhadevi friends to drawing books and sets of crayons.

Bhavishya Yaan committee wishes Samaksh a very happy birthday and thanks him for his generosity and this unique and memorable birthday celebration that he curated at such a young age.



BHAVISHYA YAAN ALUMNI CREATE INSTAGRAM PAGE FOR PEERS

The talented and tech savvy municipal school students, who are alumni of Bhavishya Yaan, a project of Rotary Club of Bombay, in association with Vidya NGO, have created an Insta page that allows alumni to stay in touch with each other. The kids involved in this endeavour are Aarti Kamble, Jyoti Kamble, Sadab Ahmed and Satyam Singh. While the first two are from G. K. Marg Municipal School, the latter are from the Colaba Municipal school.

From fun-learn posts to short and crisp reels/ videos on their Insta account (educatpoint), they intend to kindle intellectual curiosity and inquisitiveness among youngsters their age. This, they believe, will enhance knowledge, and keep everyone updated with information that is general knowledge in nature and also the more specific need-to-know topics such as finance, current news etc.

So, hurry & hit up on Instagram on [THIS LINK](#)

Or, search 'educatpoint' in the Instagram search bar and take a tour of their hard work and skill. Do not forget to follow their page and like their posts. Please share it with your friends and family as a mark of appreciation which, in turn, shall motivate the team to do it bigger and better.

SECOND BATCH OF 100 VAIDU WOMEN BEGIN LITERACY JOURNEY

After successfully completing the first batch of RCB's Adult Literacy Programme in association with TCS, we have started our second batch to educate 100 more tribal women of the Vaidu community. Mission Vaidu development continues.

The previous batch still visits the classrooms

regularly. Some do this to revise, others to motivate new learners and all to read the newspapers, trying to comprehend the written word. Although it will take time for them to get used to reading effortlessly, they are determined to stay updated.

Having taken these baby steps, they know there is much more to explore, and they are pushing their daughters-in-law and grandchildren to study.



KASHMIR TULIP SEASON

PAHALGAM | GULMARG | SRINAGAR
April 22nd - April 28th 2022

Hotels Envisaged

6 nights accommodation in the below-
Welcome Hotel Pine n Peak, The Grand
Lalit Hotel, Highland Park, Taj Srinagar

Culinary Delights at exotic locations

7 lunches, 6 dinners, including 1
lunch at Karan Mahal Palace

Activities

1 Bonfire
3 persons per innova for 7 days
Entrances and activities as mentioned
All taxes

Price per person on double occupancy is
INR 1,77,400 inclusive of taxes

Price per person on single occupancy is
INR 2,51,920 inclusive of taxes

Above costing is based on 20 people traveling | *Exclusions - Airfares, gratuity &
room service



KASHMIR CALLING

The royal mountain retreat of the Mughals and the Buddhist Lamas, the Alps of India, Mughal Emperor Jehangir's valley of paradise – the names given to Kashmir are plenty. The charm, however, remains the same.

With the magnificent and lofty Himalayas as its crowning glory, Kashmir is resplendent with its mesmerising scenic vistas, pristine lakes dotted with quaint houseboats and the fiery Kashmiri cuisine. The captivating charm and beauty that this place exudes will remain etched on your mind, long after you return from your trip to Kashmir.

Suggestive itinerary at a glance:

Day 1, April 22nd, 2022: Arrive at Srinagar at 1500 hours. Drive to the ITC Pine n Peak at Pahalgam, perched atop the stunning Rajwas Plateau. The hotel's exquisite design derives inspiration from traditional art, including wood carving and intricate tapestry. Dine in view of majestic Pahalgam.

Day 2, April 23rd, 2022: After breakfast, visit the beautiful the Golf Club of Pahalgam. Drive through the forest roads of Pahalgam and its surroundings to soak in the beauty. Visit to Baisaran (mini Switzerland) can be arranged. Afternoon picnic lunch (weather dependent) by the Lidder River with fishing for enthusiasts (subject to permission). Late afternoon, visit Betaab Valley, Chandanwari. Evening high tea is at the hotel. Before dinner, enjoy a bonfire with the sound of the River Lidder and some gupshup.

Day 3, April 24th, 2022: Enjoy a hearty breakfast in the morning and depart for Srinagar. Arrive at Lalit Grand Palace Hotel Srinagar, encircled by the

Himalayan ranges. Early evening, visit the famous tulips gardens of Kashmir. Arrive back at the hotel to enjoy a dinner under the chinar trees.

Day 4, April 25th, 2022: After breakfast, we go to the historical part of Srinagar. Lunch is at the beautiful Karan Mahal Palace, an iconic property of the king, which has some of the best views of Kashmir. Entry is restricted and exclusive. After this, we proceed to see the carpet making, Kashmiri embroidery and papier-mâché, Kashmiri handicrafts, original Kashmiri honey and saffron, original Pashmina collection all at the Shaw Art Palace along with Kashmiri tea. Arrive back to the hotel for a nice dinner under the Chinar trees.

Day 5, April 26th, 2022: After a lovely breakfast in view of snow-peaked mountains, we proceed to Gulmarg around 9am. Gulmarg is a hill station with spectacular views of snow-capped mountains, forests, and green meadows. At Gulmarg, go for the highest Gondola ride in Asia which is in Kashmir. After lunch, proceed to Hotel Highland Park, famous for the shooting of *Bobby*. Enjoy the sunset and an evening at the bar.

Day 6, April 27th, 2022: Drive to Srinagar. Spend the morning at Nadis, a modern Kashmir House inspired by the picturesque alpine landscape and rich heritage of Kashmir culture. After a beautiful afternoon, we go to our hotel Taj Srinagar. In the evening, we go for a shikara ride on the famous Dal Lake. Dinner is with a view of the valley at the Vivanta by Taj hotel.

Day 7, April 28th, 2022: A relaxed morning to soak in all the beauties of this beautiful heaven on earth. After lunch at the Taj Srinagar, we proceed to the airport for our flight back to Bombay.

ROTARY PEACE CENTERS IMPACT



ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS ARE GIVING BACK BY SUPPORTING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

CAREER PATH



93%
Working alumni who have a job connected to peace and development

TOP 5 SKILLS ACQUIRED



Research and conflict analysis



Conflict resolution



Communication and presentation skills



Project planning



Leadership

PROGRAM ALUMNI

572 Certificate program
904 Master's program

KEY BENEFICIARIES

- Refugees and displaced persons
- Young people
- Conflict-affected areas
- Women and children
- Impoverished communities



ENGAGEMENT WITH ROTARY

90%

Alumni who say they have opportunities to connect and collaborate with Rotary networks and partners



PROGRAM DONATIONS

\$188M

Contributed by 9,484 donors (since 2002)



Sources: August 2019 Rotary Peace Fellow surveys and alumni database

ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MARCH 10
Rtn. Akhil Sanghi



MARCH 11
Rtn. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla



MARCH 12
PP Shailesh Haribhakti



MARCH 14
Rtn. Swati Mayekar

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 9
Rtn. Ptn. Rukshana Bilimoria

MARCH 11
Rtn. Ptn. Akshay Singhania

MARCH 14
Rtn. Ptn. Nasreen Contractor

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 8
Rtn. Ptn. Nita &
Hon. Rtn. Mukesh Ambani

MARCH 11
Rtn. Ptn. Arti &
PP Arun Sanghi

MARCH 13
Rtn. Ptn. Rashna &
Rtn. Soli Cooper

MARCH 13
Rtn. Ptn. Justice (Retd.)
Sujata &
Rtn. Vasant Manohar

MARCH 14
Rtn. Ptn. Jita &
Rtn. Bipin Kapadia

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treo
BY MILTON

When life gives you lemons,
make a Vinaigrette dressing!

Eat fresh with Treo! Get Treo's Mixing Bowl on Amazon or Flipkart.

TRAVEL & TOURISM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE



PUNEET
CHHATWAL
MD & CEO,
INDIAN HOTELS
COMPANY LIMITED

MARCH
15TH, 2022
AT TAJ MAHAL
HOTEL, 1 PM

**NEXT WEEK'S
SPEAKER**



Puneet Chhatwal has close to four decades of leadership experience at highly acclaimed hotel groups in Europe and North America.

Under his leadership, IHCL has embarked on a journey of re-imagining to achieve sustainable profitable growth. Prior to this, Puneet was the Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Executive Board of Steigenberger Hotels AG – Deutsche Hospitality. He was also the Chief Development Officer of The Rezidor Hotel Group – Carlson Hotels Worldwide. Puneet is a graduate of both, Delhi University and Institute of Hotel Management, Delhi. He has completed an MBA in Hospitality from ESSEC, Paris and an Advanced Management Program from INSEAD.

Puneet has won awards including the prestigious Carlson Fellowship and was rated as one of Europe's 20 extraordinary minds in Sales, Marketing and Technology - HSMI European Awards 2014. He was also the First Alumni included in the ESSEC-IMHI Hall of Honor 2014.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2021-2022

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& NIGHT STUDY
CENTRES
RTN. TARA DESHPANDE



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CHILD WELFARE - LIGHTHOUSE
RTN. RAJESH SHAH



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PUBLIC AWARD
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