

the gateway

Rotary Club
of Bombay



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CHANGE LIVES

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TODAY
PANEL
DISCUSSION ON
THE RECENT
DELHI HIGH
COURT VERDICTS
ON MARITAL RAPE

AT TAJ MAHAL
HOTEL, 1 PM

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT SHERNAZ VAKIL



INSTA GRATIFICATION

Greetings from hot, sunny, and sandy Dubai!

I am here on a long pending working holiday, with meetings during the day and gourmet escapades at night.

Looking out of my glass walled abode I see a new architectural feat come up in front of my eyes. This city is such an enigma; on one hand it is a blatant and extravagant expression of consumerism and on the other, it is a marvel of human engineering design and imagination.

It projects itself as the city of the future with its latest addition, The Museum of the Future, whose stunning calligraphic exterior defies the imagination.

It's a city of superlatives: the tallest building, the largest shopping mall, the largest number of luxury hotels, the largest Ferris wheel, each world record competing with each other to be the biggest and the best. Was there a more humane side to this city?

So, I decide to check out the Rotary Club of Dubai and find some interesting parallels that make almost every Rotary Club in the world have identical aspirations and identities.

Every Club is an association of business and professional persons providing humanitarian service and incubating leaders with integrity expertise and commitment to human service.

It feels pretty unifying and uplifting to be part of such a noble organisation!

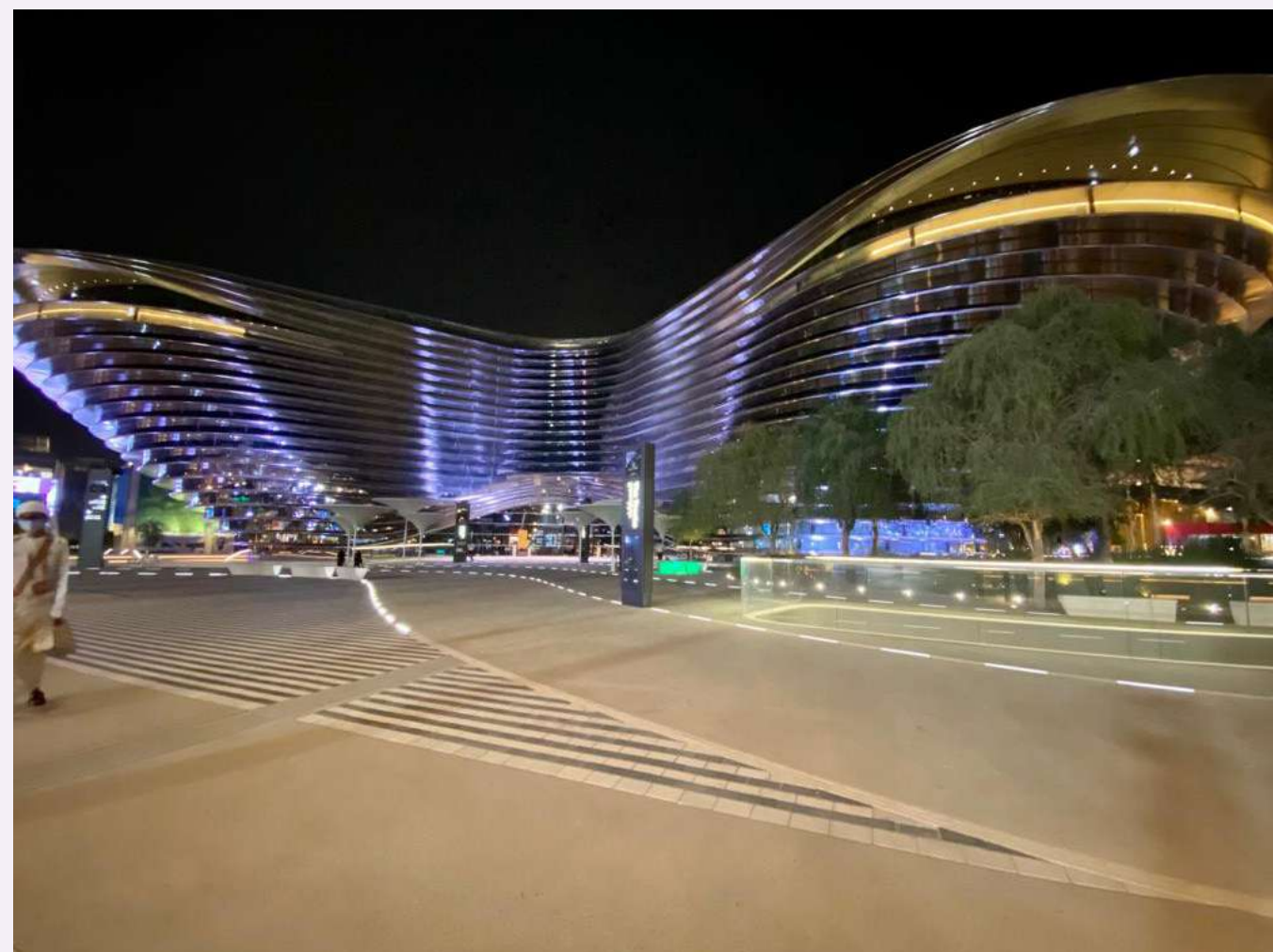
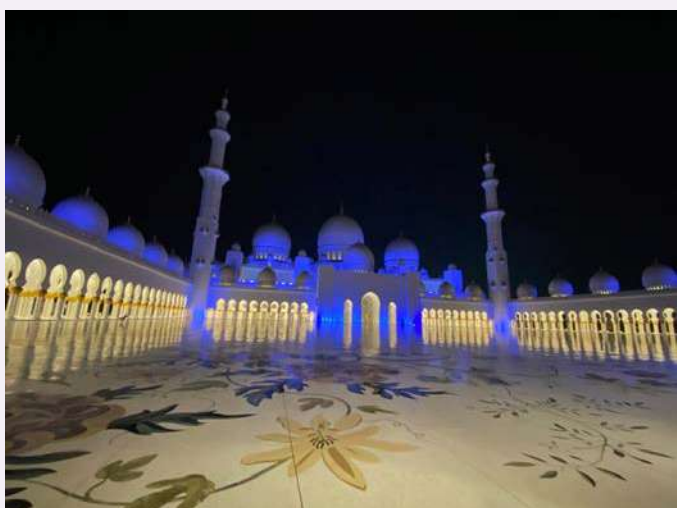
Will we always remember why we came together as Rotarians?

Or will we become part of this expedient and self-obsessed new culture that lives for today and for themselves.

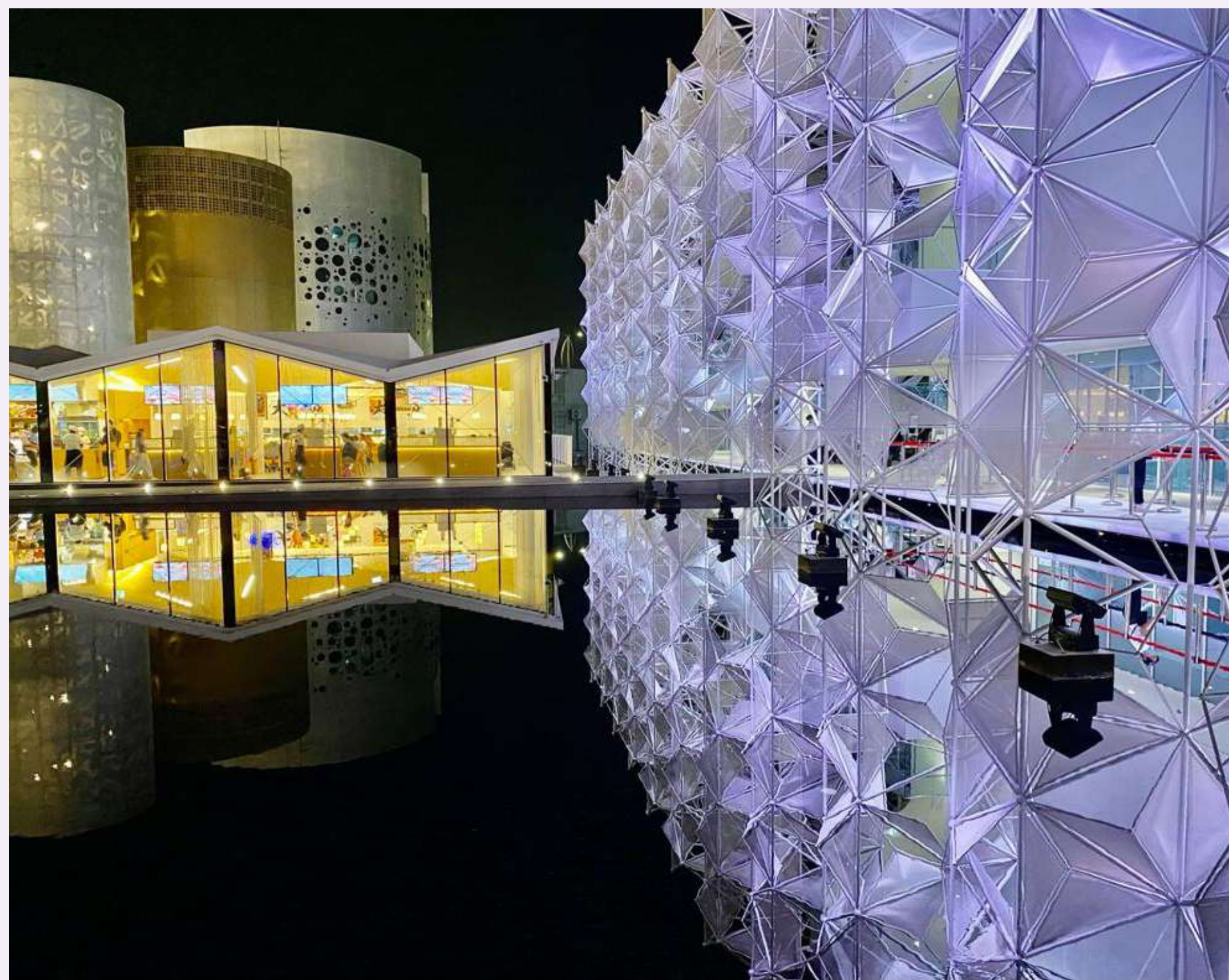
Perhaps it is only through a worldwide organisation such as ours that there could be some empathy for those that crave the opportunities we have.

We, at RCB, have been providing such opportunities for years. May the newer generations that join us feel the same passion to support the disadvantaged as we have and may the RCB credo of service ring true over generations.

Let the true idealism of youth walk hand in hand, if it must, with the Instagram-worthy self-absorption of today!
~ **President Shernaz Vakil**



All photos by
PP Dr. Mukesh Batra





DR. THOMAS VIRGETS

Historically, in India, students are prepared to make decisions at an early age. They want to be athletic or pursue an academic career. There are few opportunities for individuals who are good at both. At Corvuss, we have a mission that is balanced on three columns.

THE FIRST IS TO BE AN ACADEMIC INSTITUTION AND OUR GOAL TO BE IN THE ACADEMIC TOP 10 THROUGHOUT INDIA.

We have an athletic mission, and a balanced approach, we plan on being the best. We have another area that is equally important: leadership and character development. No matter how good a student or athlete you are, if you can't manage from a stand-point of good leadership and have good character,

it is not going to make a difference. This is especially true today where if a child from the Corvuss American Academy hasn't developed confidence and leadership skills or hasn't developed a character to know the difference between right and wrong, then we feel we have failed in our mission. WE ARE TRYING TO DEVELOP A WHOLE PERSON MORALLY, MENTALLY, AND PHYSICALLY.

To do that we have to recognise what kind of a student we have. We have an individual who wants to be a great athlete but also a good student; if we can bring it together and give them the life skills to carry on throughout life, that is the foundation in time management and discipline. A disciplined and timed 15-hour day can balance athletics and academics; it is a rigorous programme.

TO READ A COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF THE DISCUSSION, [CLICK HERE](#)

RTN. SABIRA MERCHANT

HOW TO BE A BETTER SPEAKER? Here are the words in front of you; the first is 'clarity'. CLARITY is clarity of thought and speech. I must think clearly before I speak clearly and be sure to speak very clearly. When you go to a function and if you need to speak there, you take your paper and card with you and try to keep it same colour as your outfit. For instance, if you are wearing a black one, try and keep a black card rather than a piece of white paper that flops around on the stairs. It won't look professional; you must look professional. So, clarity of thought equals clarity of speech.

Second is SPEED. Do not be too fast while speaking. This is most people's fault, especially young people. I have to constantly caution them on their speed so that everyone can understand. Who is going to be judging all that you do? It's you and also all in the audience.

Next is VOLUME. Do not speak too softly. You must imagine that there are people around you, conversations around, waiters around you and all kinds of people. So, raise your volume a little bit so that you are heard clearly.

Next word is ENUNCIATION. It is the bite, the completion. The end of each word should be bitten, stressed upon. Most people do not have enunciation because our Indian languages Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati also don't have enunciation. They are soft languages; they don't bite on their words whereas in English, you have to.

Then we have the word PRONUNCIATION which is so misused. So many words are mispronounced. Just take a word like career – people say carrier. Academic – people say aka-demic. Development – people keep saying dev-lopment. India is dae-ve-loped country, no it is de-ve-loped country. Realty is another word that is mis-pronounced as reality.

Then, we come to EMPHASIS. When you are speaking you have to emphasise on certain words, this is a WONDERFUL day, this is the most PERFECT day that I had. This is so you become more colourful in your speech, you become more acceptable, people come and tell you that you are a good speaker. So, that is again important.

Then we have ENDS OF WORDS AND SENTENCES. People unfortunately start with a lot of breath but they finish in a blur. Why does that happen? Because you do not take enough breaths in between. That means you have to speak, take a break and take another breath and the third breath to be able to complete your sentences. The ends of the words and sentences must be heard.

Then we come to GRAMMAR. It is something we try to use, like we use our mother tongue. We try to translate that into English and it just doesn't work. You have to be careful about your grammar. People introduce themselves as 'Myself Pushpa'. Then, it is my father and I not me and my father. And, using moved and shifted. People say I have shifted from Andheri to New Bombay. You don't shift, furniture shifts. People move.



R.I.P.

We mourn the sad demise of PP Vithal Palekar of Rotary Club of Bombay. He was chief of Johnson & Johnson in his time. He was 87; he is survived by his wife Lata and two sons, both of whom are settled in USA.



Kishore Jobalia

I had the opportunity to work very closely with him in Rotary. A thorough gentleman and a fine human being, a big loss to Rotary Club of Bombay.

PDG Venkat Gadwal

Vithal Palekar was in my team as an Avenue Chairman, and we worked very closely. He served as chief for Johnson & Johnson for over two decades, a magnificent record. I was benefited by his knowledge, expertise, and commitment. A good host and a thorough gentleman.

He took total responsibility to bring Dr. Karan Singh to 1991 DISCON. Lataji used to take care of us with great hospitality. We pray God to shower SADGATI on him. OM SHANTI. Also, to give enough strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Vijay Jalan

We have lost a good Rotarian and a gentleman to the core. He was the Chairman of my Awards Committee when I was the President of Bombay Management Association.

He always greeted people with a smile, a rare quality in such a distinguished personality both in industry and Rotary. God bless him with eternal peace.

Pray to the Almighty to give his spouse Lata and his family all the strength to bear this irreplaceable void in their lives. Om Shanti.

Bharat Pandya

A fine gentlemen and distinguished Rotarian. He will be missed.

Harjit Singh Talwar

Big loss to Rotary – we pray for his soul to rest in peace.

Ashok Mahajan

Vithal, one of the finest persons I have come across in my life, was one of my true well-wishers. He was the chief Co-ordinator in 1993-94 when I was District Governor. I don't know how many of you know that during that year, to deal with South Bombay, he had offered me a place in his office and made it Rotary Office for the year. He also made one of his secretaries available to do part of my Rotary work. Even after I finished my Governor's term, we used to meet at Willingdon Sports Club over lunch. Whenever I made any request, he immediately agreed to help.

A big loss to me as a friend, philosopher and guide, bigger loss to Rotary 3141 and biggest loss to Rotary Club of Bombay. He will remain in our memories for a long time. With his departure, Rotary 3141 has become poor, and the Heavens have become richer. We will miss this fine Rotarian – a heavy loss, difficult to fill. May His noble soul rest in peace and may God offer added strength to dear Lata and all the family members to bear this loss. AUM SHANTI AUM

Bansi Dhurandar

Well respected in the pharma field, Vithal Palekar was gentleman to the core and a fine Rotarian. Our condolences to Past IW Dist. Chair Lata and Palekar family.

Bal Inaamdar

A great loss to our District and specifically to the Rotary world. A fine Rotarian, he would have been a great District Leader.

In my many meetings before and during my tenure, in his Worli house and in Taj, he came through as a man with integrity and irreproachable morals. Always helpful, his absence will be felt undoubtedly. Rest well!

Gulam Vahanvaty

Vithal was a dear friend and supporter. He was my senior advisor during my DG year. I often sought his mature advice in handling sensitive issues in the District. And, regarding TRF contributions, especially for polio, Vithal's role was significant. He would call his industrialist friends, and nobody refused him. Rotary has lost an outstanding member and I have lost a personal friend. May his soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Rtn. Aziz Visram

Vithal was great. Heartfelt condolences to his family.

News



MENTAL NOTES FOR AY

A session on mental health was conducted for both the centres of Ananda Yaan, an initiative for senior citizens of RCB in association with Dignity Foundation.

Resource person Ms. Pradnya Ganla recapped the previous session and facilitated meditation for members. She explained how the human mind works, its power, and its capacity. She shared reasons for mental instability and its consequences on life. Members learned how to be in control of their emotions instead of being controlled by them and how to use their mind for their own benefit.

The event ended with a 'calming down and sound meditation.'

LIGHTHOUSE KIDS ATTEND A SUMMER CAMP

Rotaract Club of HR College organised a learn with fun camp for our Lighthouse kids.

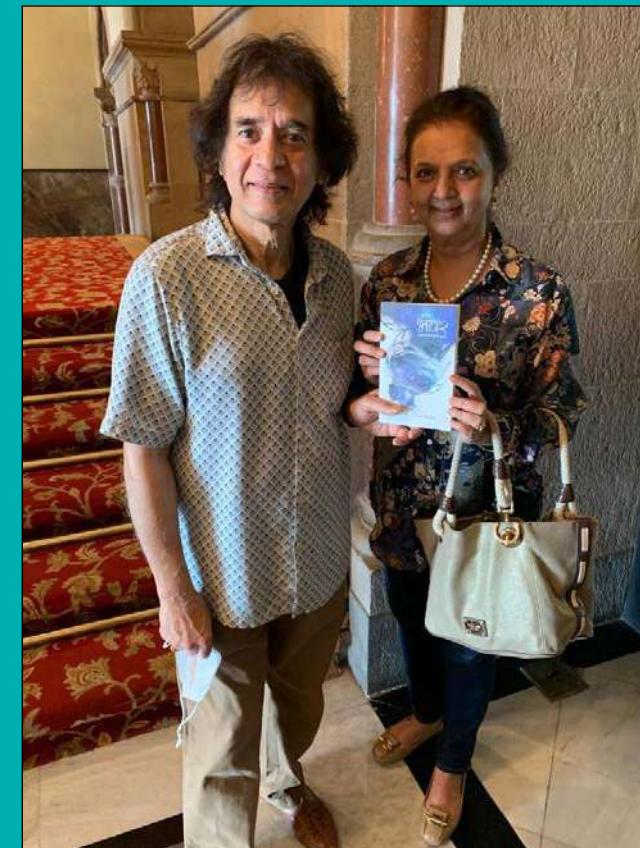
Lighthouse kids went for the last three sessions of Evolution Revolution from May 17th to 19th, 2022. There were many new learnings in store for them such as time and money management, and the culture of India.

They were exposed to new concepts through these modules: saving, being efficient with both time and money, banking, and festivals of India. They learned new words each day through interactive sessions and game play.

The programme ended with a small walk of fame for our little learners and certificates.



RTN. SUNITA MANDELIA PRESENTED HER BOOK BHAVAR TO HON. RTN. RAJASHREE BIRLA AND MAESTRO ZAKIR HUSSAIN



WHEN ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY MET IMPROMPTU IN DIFFERENT CORNERS OF THE WORLD



Committee News

RI PRESIDENT SHEKHAR MEHTA VISITS ROTARY IN HO CHI MINH CITY

Only a few countries in the world don't permit Rotary Clubs and one of them was, until last year, Vietnam when two clubs in Ho Chi Minh City, the erstwhile Saigon, were founded. On the occasion of the recent visit of RI President Shekhar Mehta to Ho Chi Minh City, Rtn. Peter Born, who lived nearly six years in Ho Chi Minh City before moving to Mumbai and who was actively involved in promoting the Rotary idea in Vietnam sent the following message on behalf of our club:

Address of Rtn. Peter Born on behalf of the RC Bombay on the occasion of the visit of RI President Shekhar Mehta to the Rotary Clubs of Saigon, Saigon-International and Danang

Dear Rotarians of the Rotary Clubs of Saigon, Saigon International and Danang, my dear friends President Anh Vu and Secretary Christian Brendel!

On the occasion of the visit of RI President Shekhar Mehta to Ho Chi Minh City I'm privileged to send greetings and the best wishes of the Rotary Club of Bombay in India. My name is Peter Born, Co-Chair of our International Committee and before I moved to India, I lived 6 wonderful years in Ho Chi Minh City. During this time, I was part of several Rotary projects organized



by PDG Danny Low to promote goodwill in Vietnam for the Rotary Idea, for example by distributing wheel chairs in HCMC and the Mekong Delta.

During this time, I met several RI Presidents who visited leaders in Hanoi to discuss the establishment of Rotary Clubs in Vietnam and I'm very happy that Shekar Mehta is now the first RI President meeting the newly established first clubs in the country.

This is eventually closing an important gap in the Rotary network in Asia complementing what started nearly 100 years ago with the epic journey of James Wheeler Davidson, the Marco Polo of Rotary, who founded on his way from the Mediterranean Sea to the Pacific 21 Asian clubs among them prestigious clubs like Bangkok, Kuala

Lumpur, Singapore and Hong Kong. The Rotary Club of Bombay is proud to be also one of the James Wheeler Davidson Clubs founded by him in 1929.

Coming back the young and dynamic clubs in Saigon. I must compliment you; you had a remarkable start with wonderful projects and a very active fellowship since you received your charter not even a year ago on the 18th of June 2021.

Once again wishing you on behalf of the Rotary Club of Bombay a great and wonderful event and I'm sure that with this dynamic start and the support of Rotary International, the Rotary Movement will have a great future ahead in Vietnam. Cảm ơn and thank you very much!



World Citizen James Wheeler Davidson (1872 - 1933)

By Dr. Robert Lampard

He joined Rotary as a 'Loans Officer'. But his inter-provincial travels almost cost him his membership. Fortunately for Rotary he didn't, as he became Calgary Club President in 1919/20, the old Zone 4 District Governor in 1923/4 and was nominated as one of two Honorary Commissioners by the Canadian Advisory Committee to extend Rotary to Australia and New Zealand in 1921. On that task he was joined by Lt. Colonel and future Canadian WWII Minister of Defence Layton Ralston. They left for Australia in early 1921 and chartered Clubs in Melbourne, Sydney, Wellington and Auckland. In those two countries there are now 1200 Clubs and 42,000 members.

To Davidson travel, roads and Rotary were inseparable. He took his "through highway thinking" and joined the Sunshine Trail Association to promote a road from Calgary to Salt Lake City and eventually Los Angeles and Mexico in 1922. He did the same with every trail coming out the Calgary hub to Banff, Edmonton, Gleichen and Lethbridge and made the motion to form the Alberta Motor Association in 1926.

His trips to the Many Glaciers Hotel laid the foundation for the Rotary International Peace Park proposed in 1931 and declared in 1932.

As a Rotarian he was appointed to his first RI Committee in 1920 and was never off one including his years as Honorary Commissioner until 1931, sitting on the Publications, Aims and Objectives, Extension, Finance and International Service committees, before being elected third VP of RI in 1926/27 and accepting the RI call to consolidate Clubs in Calcutta, Shanghai and Japan and charter Clubs from Athens to Jakarta in 1928-31.

During his 32-month world circumnavigation with his wife Lillian and daughter Marjory, the threesome overcame car accidents, personal injuries, indigenous fevers, near fatal insect bites, language barriers, cultural differences, and unfamiliar religions. At the same time, they addressed indifference, philosophical resistance, and closed doors but in the end, Davidson chartered 23 Clubs in 12 countries. This excluded Taipei, Formosa, which the Japanese Governor chartered two weeks after Davidson had sailed for Vancouver in 1931. Davidson reputedly spent \$250,000 of his own resources to successfully conclude his commission.

Rotaract Chronicles



RCHC'S MASTI KI PATHSHALA

The Rotaract Club of Hinduja College in association with the Ashadeep Association conducted 'Masti Ki Pathshala', a three-day engaging workshop from May 5th to 7th, 2022, for children aged five to 15.

Day 1 included teaching the kids how to make caricatures. Day 2 had an environmental conservation session with fun games and quizzes on Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Day 3 was a paper-bag making workshop to motivate children to cut plastic out of their lives.

This project benefited over 35 children and the Association appreciated the Club for conducting it.

RCHR'S RAY OF HOPE

The Rotaract Club of H.R. College organised a campaign to break the taboo around menstruation and depict the problems faced by rural women. Our RCHR Rotaractors have first-hand knowledge of this through their biggest project Aashayein-Adopt A Village.

RCHR planned a street play and a flash mob at Mumbai Central Station on May 4th, 2022, to wake up the crowds. They rehearsed the play for a month before staging it and called it The Day Has Come.

Rotaractors commandeered a desk at the station where the documentary Aashayein – Adopt A Village was screened. Pamphlets and Rotaractors explained the social initiative to curious onlookers.

RCHR also did the rounds of the station and reached out to people who may have missed the play or the documentary.

I am no longer accepting
the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things
I cannot accept.

ANGELA DAVIS



Rotaract Chronicles



RCHR FEEDS STREET DOGS

Rotaract Club of HR College recently executed a project called Dog Food Drive with RCB's Animal

Welfare Committee. Rotaractors fed more than 60 dogs on the streets of Mumbai. This was a heart-warming project for our members.

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ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS



MAY 24

Rtn. Vikas Jain



MAY 24

Rtn. Dilnavaz Variava



MAY 25

Rtn. Dr. Ambrish Dalal



MAY 25

Rtn. Pritam Sanghai



MAY 26

Rtn. Dr. Rajiv Agarwal



MAY 26

Rtn. Mehul Sampat



MAY 28

Rtn. Vasant Manohar



MAY 30

Rtn. Varsha Daiya

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

MAY 26

Rtn. Ptn. Ritika Arenja

MAY 27

Rtn. Ptn. Vishal Jajodia

MAY 30

Rtn. Ptn. Khorshed Daruvala

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 30

Rtn. Ptn. Radhika & Mohit Jain

May 31st, 2022

1.45 pm,

Taj Mahal hotel

next week

Aparna Piramal Raje

Writer, columnist, public speaker and educator and the author of the recently released, Chemical Khichdi: How I Hacked My Mental Health

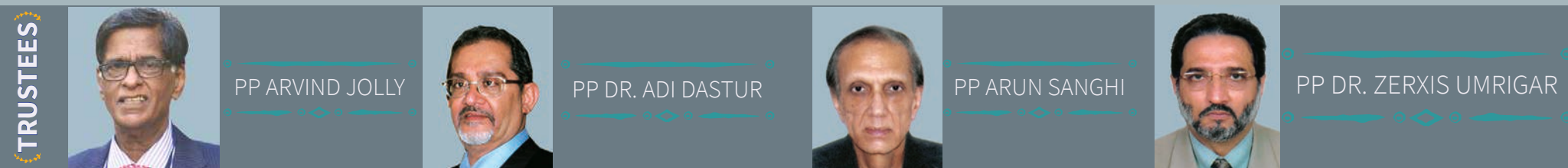
Aparna Piramal Raje will be interviewed by Rtn. Tara Deshpande. Her recently released book is based on her experiences of living with a serious mental health condition for the last two decades.

A visiting faculty member at the Anant National University in Ahmedabad, she teaches a module called 'Netflix and the Art of Design Writing'.

Former CEO of BP Ergo, one of India's largest modular office furniture companies, Aparna studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School.

Also: the Ambassador for Iceland will address Rotarians.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY 2021-2022



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