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### **R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee to address the first meeting**

**R**otary International President-Elect Kalyan Banerjee, who assumes office on July 1, will be the chief guest at the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay for the Rotary year 2011-12.

The meeting will be held at the regular venue, the Taj Mahal Hotel, on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 5. It will be chaired by Paul George who assumes office as President at midnight on June 30.

Incoming District Governor Vijay Jalan will be the guest of honour along with outgoing Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni.

**The meeting will be called to order at 1 pm.** It will conclude at 1.45 pm and will be followed by lunch to which all members are invited along with their spouses. No luncheon charges will be levied on members and spouses.

Members are requested to attend the meeting of July 5, 2011, in large numbers to hear the inspiring address by Kalyan Banerjee, who will be the third Indian to serve as the President of Rotary International.

### **Forthcoming meetings**

June 28, 2011

President Pradeep Saxena to present his annual report for the year and to give away the Club Awards for 2010-11.

**The meeting will start at 1 pm sharp and conclude at 1.45 pm.**

It will be followed by lunch to which all members are invited along with their spouses (there will be no luncheon charges for members and spouses).

## **Take it away, says President Pradeep**

**S**o that's that. We are at the last meeting for the year and when we meet again on Tuesday, July 5, the President's baton will pass on to my worthy successor, Paul George.

My task was rendered easy by the superb support I received from the Board, the Office-Bearers, the Committee Chairpersons and the Rotary staff and I thank them profusely.

The year has ended and I am surprised by the speed of its departure. There we were in the December of 2010, hosting the Rotary International President-Elect, our very own Kalyan Banerjee, and here we are in the June of 2011, eagerly awaiting him at



the meeting of July 5 as R.I. President.

The activities undertaken in the last 12 months are detailed in this bulletin.

I am indeed gratified by the level of involvement of all those who stepped forward and volunteered to take on responsibilities in the Club. All of them carried out their duties faithfully and diligently, enabling the Club to hold its head high in the District.

On a personal basis, the high point for me was attending the R.I. Convention in New Orleans in late May. It made me realise the enormity of the organisation we are part of.

So let us look forward in hope. And in the tradition of all those great Jazz musicians, "Take it away, Paul!"

— Pradeep Saxena  
President, 2010-2011

### ***'The bad news is that money doesn't make you rich'***

**W**ith one pithy observation, Mr. Alyque Padamsee, who is called "God" in the advertising world, set the cat among the pigeons.

There was a buzz of excitement as he took the stage at the last meeting to speak on "The ideas explosion". And he didn't fail his audience, as he never does, when he started by declaring, "I have both good news and bad news. The bad news is that money doesn't make you rich. The good news is that ideas make you rich".

He spent the rest of his time pointing out that it was ideas that had made wealthy men of ordinary youngsters like Sabeer Bhatia and Mark Zuckerberg and that nothing succeeded like a good idea.

**The world's richest man, Bill Gates, had paid a huge amount of money (over \$400 million) to buy Hotmail from Sabeer Bhatia and his colleague who had spent just \$10,000 on developing their idea of providing a free email id to anyone who wanted it.**

**And Zuckerberg had an idea that had helped create "the world's third most populous nation, Facebook", which was "inhabited" by over 500 million people.**

Anyone who could come up with extraordinary ideas could cash in on them and become wealthy overnight. And if someone came up with ideas that would solve old, existing problems, that person would be revered.

To begin at the beginning, Aliakbar Merchant said while introducing Mr. Padamsee that he was known as "God" in the advertising world and that he had "given birth to more 'brandchildren' than half of us present here have grandchildren".

He had made those who had no hair buy shampoo; he had turned "Kamasutra" into a brand most people grew into; he had first exposed the Indian masses to the term "value"; he brought "samajdari" (good sense) to "kharidari" (purchase); and when a woman had a bath, he allowed her to believe that she was a sensuous, free spirit dressed in a bikini and her husband's dream fantasy.

"When you work with him, you become a brand people want to buy. When you work opposite him, you fear his ideas explosion will be your grand implosion. May I present an ad man, an ideas man, a theatre man, a film actor, an activist, a maverick, an icon and, most importantly, a friend? May I present 'God' in human form — Mr. Alyque Padamsee!"

Mr. Padamsee started by recalling a conversation with a colleague in Hong Kong in the 1970s when India was going through a very bad phase on all fronts. He told his friend that despite its population of 500 million, India was a very poor country.

Hong Kong, on the other hand, had just three million people and yet had far more wealth than India.

(Continued on Page 2)



Have an idea? Make a billion! Mr. Alyque Padamsee expounds on the role of ideas in the creation of wealth

# If you want to conquer the future, you must create it; so start thinking, start innovating: Alyque Padamsee

(Continued from Page 1)

It was then that the colleague told him about the real value of money, of wealth and of ideas.

The man said, "Wealth is not measured in terms of money, it is measured in terms of ideas". He had laughed and said he would prefer the money any day. But the man was unmoved. He persisted: "If I give you one dollar and you give me one dollar, then you have one dollar and I have one dollar, status quo. But if I give you one idea and you give me one idea, then I have two ideas and you have two ideas – and that is wealth."

Mr. Padamsee said ever since the beginning of time it was not money that gave value, it was ideas that produced wealth. For example, the idea of fire, the idea of the wheel, the idea of the aeroplane, these had moved humanity forward and made people wealthy.

**"This is a fantastic notion, if people can produce ideas, they can produce wealth. If you want to conquer the future, you must create it. You have to start thinking, innovating, that is very, very important."**

After World War I, then American President Woodrow Wilson wanted nations to get together and stop all wars. He formed the League of Nations but it did not work. After World War II, the same idea was revived and the United Nations came into being. Now, thanks to the UN, countries like China and America, which used to be sworn enemies, were no longer on a collision course; they were co-operating.

Similarly, it would be wonderful if India sat across the table with Pakistan, stopped talking belligerently and suggested an exchange of ideas. That would be a great way of shaking hands, or, "shaking hands with minds". That was what ideas could do.

Turning to the Internet, Mr. Padamsee recalled that a media expert had said in the 1960s that the world would become a global village. People thought the man strange. But today, thanks to the Internet, the world had indeed become a global village. His own daughter Shazahn knew more people through Facebook than he would get acquainted with in thousands of lifetimes.

And all this because of an idea in the head of a young student called Mark Zuckerberg who had "created" a nation, Facebook, which had five hundred million people on its rolls. Only China and India were more populous than Facebook!

The world was changing through ideas. But because they were living with those ideas right now, most people did not notice how those ideas had completely changed their lives.

For instance, the cell phone was no longer a luxury but an essential item. There was even talk of phones being used as credit cards and so on. Similarly, it was being said that stem cell therapy could help replace a toenail, then a toe and perhaps the liver.

Clearly, ideas were exploding all over the world.

In the early 1980s, clinical trials were held for a drug for heart patients and 100 pills were given to each of the respondents. Six months later, the patients reported no improvement in their heart condition. But when asked to return the remaining pills, they refused to do so.

Further investigation revealed that although the pills were of no use for a person's heart, they had gone on to act on another part of the body. Those pills were released in the market as Viagra.

"The world today is an 'idea' world. Anyone who has an idea can get a copyright on that idea, get the intellectual

property rights and make millions. Just look at Zuckerberg (the creator of Facebook), he is now one of the richest men in the world."

Mr. Padamsee recalled that when he was running Lintas in the 1980s, one of the biggest problems was retaining staff. Attrition was high and the agency was running at a loss. When it made its first profit of Rs. 5 lakhs, there was brain-storming on how to spend the money. Finally, after many discussions, it was his idea that was accepted.

At his suggestion, the agency decided to build a five-star toilet for itself because he wanted the staff to feel proud! Although people were sceptical, the decision proved to be correct because clients started believing that the agency was doing well if it could afford a five-star toilet.

"Actually, we were doing very badly at that time; none of the cabins had been renovated or anything; but word spread."

Mr. Padamsee described the word idea as an acronym for innovation, drive, excellence and action. Anyone who drove an innovation and acted on it with a feeling of excitement would be successful in life.

**"The innovation must have the power to drive you, to excite you, because excitement is the best form of energy. Always remember that excitement drives energy, not the other way round."**

Referring to his own campaign for Fair & Lovely (a fairness cream for women), he recalled that "I was fired left, right and centre" and people said, no, Indians did not want to be fair-skinned. But they were proved wrong; the product was a huge success and 35 years later he had launched Fair & Handsome (a fairness cream for men) which made Rs. 100 crores in two years!

There was also "a great Indian idea", the one dreamed up by Sabeer Bhatia who was just 25 or 26 when he created *Hotmail* and which was bought by Bill Gates for over \$400 million.

**Similarly, Finland, a small country of nine million, had created an international brand through one idea, the Nokia cell phone, and turned it into billions in profits. But India, with a population of 1.3 billion, had no international brand.**

What about new ideas to solve old problems?

Mr. Padamsee said he had asked Peter Forby, Consul-General of Australia in Bombay, over lunch why he continued to live in the city for such a long time. Peter replied that he liked the city because the people of Bombay seemed to be moving forward all the time.

And Peter was right; Delhi was more beautiful and greener, too, but Bombay was a dynamic city, a city full of ideas, the people always moving forward.

But the government here was forever moving backwards. Things were in a mess, whether the traffic situation, the power supply, water, pollution, virtually everything.

"I say this to you, to this Rotary Club and to Rotary Clubs all over India – I believe in you, your work has been recognised and the people know about it – please come up with new ideas for old problems."

There was a need for new ideas to tackle the rush hour traffic on the roads. Could Rotary think of a solution for this? Could they motivate others to think of solutions? He could only suggest ideas to stimulate thought and request Rotarians to motivate people to come up with ideas to solve the myriad problems faced by the city.

Mr. Padamsee recalled the ideas he had given for solving the rush hour traffic woes. He had suggested that every third office change its working hours. While one office could function between 7 am and 4 pm, the second could work between 8 am and 5 pm, a third one could remain open from 9 am to 6 pm, and so on. This would ensure less traffic on the roads. But nothing had come out of it.

In 2008, when terrorism was at its peak and was being labelled "Islamic", some knowledgeable people had told him that in Islam the killing of even one innocent person was a sin and that Islam proscribed rather than prescribed terrorism. He had told them that it would be best if a *fatwa* was issued against anyone practising terrorism in the name of Islam.

(Continued on Page 3)



Just look at the Internet. This idea alone has revolutionised the world, points out Mr. Alyque Padamsee while speaking at the last meeting on 'The ideas explosion'. In the second picture, he is flanked by President-Elect Paul George and Programme Chair Dolly Thakore

## At the last meeting

(Held on June 21, 2011)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT** Paul George called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest speakers, the Visiting Rotarians, Rotary-ans, guests and others.

### BIRTHDAYS

Members and spouses celebrating their birthday during the week were felicitated.

### ATTENDANCE

Members	123
Visiting Rotarians	1
Spouses/Rotaryans	4
Total	128
Svc. box collection	Rs. 5,500



This man knows Bombay best. Mr. Alyque Padamsee with an old friend, Peter Forby (left), the Consul-General of Australia in Bombay. In the centre is Pankaj Baliga

## ‘Necessity is the mother of invention; and invention means ideation’

(Continued from Page 2)

And so, on May 30, 2008, before a gathering of 500,000 Muslims at the Ramlila Grounds in Delhi, the Grand Mufti of Deoband had read out a *fatwa* saying that a Muslim who killed an innocent person could not consider himself a Muslim and could not be considered Islamic either because he had broken the law of the Koran.

“The media, unfortunately, did not make enough of it, but the people today are beginning to say that it’s not actually Islamic terrorism, it’s people who are pretending to be Islamic who are doing this in the name of Islam. This means they are cowards, they are only hiding behind Islam. They should say that they are terrorists and they kill because they believe that they have the right to kill.

“This is an idea that should spread around the world. We can’t stop terrorism just by killing Osama bin Laden. I hope the gentleman in Washington is listening. It is only by spreading knowledge (that we can stop terrorism); by telling people that those who kill are not Islamic; and by telling young people that they won’t go to heaven but straight to hell (if they kill innocent people), for that’s what the Koran says.

“And that’s a big idea. We learnt in school that necessity is the mother of

invention; and invention means ideation. So keep thinking about it.”

Mr. Padamsee then shared his pacifist ideas and said it would be better if the police, the army and the commandos used “sleep gas” shells instead of tear gas shells, so that both terrorists and their hostages would go to sleep in a hostage situation. This was a more Gandhian approach to the problem of terrorism.

Finally, he turned to the hot topic of the day, viz., the anti-corruption campaigns undertaken by Anna Hazare and Baba Ramdev. Pointing out that the people suffered a government that was not only corrupt but inefficient, too, he advocated the formation of a tax-payers’ union to challenge government inefficiency and corruption.

There was time only for a few questions at the end of the talk.

Trilochan Singh Sahney said that corruption occurred because of the administrative system, the police system and the political system. These had to be tackled first.

Agreeing with him, Mr. Padamsee said there was a need for a system in which a person joining government service was kept on his toes. Government had to run like a corporation with a system of rewards and not the present system in which a person join-

ing government knew that he would never be sacked.

Singapore, a small island of 53 million, had decided ten to 15 years ago that if a government did not perform well for two years in a row, it would be dismissed. Thanks to this fear, the country had had excellent governments and the highest standard of living in the world. The government of India was averse to this system.

In reply to another question, he said that it was time for the government to adopt the system of deputies so that if the boss was dismissed, a deputy could take over. The Tata group was already busy looking for a successor for Mr. Ratan Tata.

When Mudit Jain suggested that it could be some kind of defective DNA in the whole Indian sub-continent (that was responsible for corruption), Mr. Padamsee shot him down.

“No! I don’t think so. I think we have defective systems. In the American system the whole country votes for the President, every single voter can vote for a President. He is called Chief Executive Officer. He can choose anyone (not a vote-getter, not a Laloo Prasad who was bringing the Bihar vote) from the private sector, even a foreigner, to run any department.

“He chooses the best, the most qualified person; but in India we choose one who brings the vote; that’s why I say that the system is defective.

“We have people who know nothing, people coming to Bombay as Ministers who have lived all their lives in villages. When they see people urinating on the roads, they say it’s okay because they have seen people in their own villages doing the same. They don’t care. That’s why I say that the whole system has to become more executive oriented,” Mr. Padamsee concluded.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Nandan Maluste.



He is the ‘God’ of the advertising world. Aliakbar Merchant (left) introduces Mr. Alyque Padamsee. At right, Nandan Maluste proposes the vote of thanks June 28 to July 4, 2011



## STOP NEWS! ‘Bhavishya-Yaan’ students score, soar

Students who registered for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at two different schools, Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli and the Colaba Municipal School, emerged with flying colours at the recent SSC examinations, the results of which were declared in mid-June.

According to Rotaryann Bijal Kara, who is a member of the Education for All Committee and who has been looking after the project at the Colaba Municipal School, all 23 students who appeared for the SSC exams have passed with flying colours.

The name at the top of the list of passing students of the school is that of a student who had been enrolled for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project. The student scored 91.82% of the marks. Not merely that, the first eight names on the school’s merit list are those of *Bhavishya-Yaan* students.

Of the 23 students, 11 scored a distinction, that is, over 75%. Further, the marks they scored in English and Science were quite high (82 to 84 in English and 90 to 93 in Science).

Clearly, the efforts of the Education for All Committee and of the NGO “Vidya” have borne fruit and the students now have stars in their eyes; while some of them want to study engineering, others plan to go for commerce. The next stage for them is admission in a college of their choice.

But before that all 23 students, and their proud parents, will have to attend a felicitation function that the Committee will host and at which the Rotary Club of Bombay will present them with *Fast Trac* watches by Titan.

Meanwhile, Sandeep Dasgupta reports from the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School in Worli that 26 of the 30 students enrolled for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at the school have passed the exams, with three of them returning distinctions (over 75%); 12 students scored over 60%.

The passing percentage of the students enrolled for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project was higher than the average passing percentage of the school’s students.

A report on activities

conducted during the

Rotary year 2010-2011

*It's time to  
toast all those  
who served  
faithfully and  
diligently all  
through  
the year*

It was no ordinary coincidence. In a decade obsessed with GDP growth rates, sub-prime crises, great depressions, real estate bubbles, rising poverty ratios, declining currencies, rising commodity prices, unstoppable inflation, companies too big to be allowed to fail and so on, the year 2010-11 saw Rotary being led by three erudite, academic persons, all of them interested in looking beyond the five-letter word, money.

While Rotary International had at its helm Ray Klingensmith, a former general counsel and professor of Business Administration at Truman State University (formerly Northeast Missouri State University) in Kirksville, Missouri, USA, our own District 3140 was led by Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni who, apart from practising dentistry since 1976, has been a dedicated professor and Head of Department at the Bharati Vidyapeeth Dental College, Navi Mumbai.

And what about the Rotary Club of Bombay? The premier Club in the District, which is said to be among the top ten Clubs in the world, was led by a man from the world of the liberal arts. President Pradeep Saxena came armed with a Bachelor's in Economics and a Master's in Management Sciences from the University of Bombay (and a Fellowship of the Institute of Financial Services, London, to boot).

They imparted, in their own individual ways, a sense of stability and continuity to their respective spheres of influence and endeavoured to attain the avowed goal of **Building Communities, Bridging Continents**. This did not mean that they ignored the field of finance, but they did not allow genuine concern to turn into an unseemly obsession.

And so, while R.I. worked hard to meet the shortfall (of about \$650 million) in the money needed to give the final heave to polio, it also focused on finding new ways to attract younger members to the Rotary fold. Forty one Rotary Coordinators were recruited for the purpose.

While outlining his plans at the beginning of the year, Ray said that he wanted Rotarians to apply "cowboy logic" and to make Rotary Clubs "bigger, better and bolder". What did he mean by "cowboy logic"?

In his own words: "The fundamental principles of cowboy logic are as follows: Taking pride in your work; talking less and doing more; doing what has to be done; and remembering that some things just aren't for sale."

Representing the District, the soft-spoken Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni spoke effusively of the Club in the course of his Official Visit in October. He doffed his hat to what

he called the high "traditions" of the Rotary Club of Bombay and lauded it for "giving of yourself, which is the best form of service".

The Governor recalled that in March, 2008, *The Gateway* had reported the passing away of Girdhar Motwane who had been a member since 1970 and the highest position he had occupied was that of Director. And yet, for 35 long years he had been a quiet donor, providing a public address system totally free of cost for all the meetings and projects of the Club.

"This is the tradition of your Club and I see that it is being followed by the new members, too. The true spirit of Rotary that all of you are displaying is really commendable," he added.

President Pradeep, for his part, never followed a script. He believed in speaking extempore and letting words flow from the heart. He was very happy with adlibbing and temporising and encouraged members to follow his lead. As a result, whenever members had an opportunity to take the mike, they spoke their minds in no uncertain terms.

On one occasion, Pradeep turned philosophic and shared some of his thoughts in the form of musings, surprising members with his erudition. *Why is the modern view of progress so impoverished?* he asked.

He looked at progress and development over the ages through the eyes of Adam whose heart sank as he observed the steep fall of man (and of morality). Drawing inspiration from a 19th century parable by the Hungarian Imre Madach, his recital preceded a panel discussion which, coincidentally, concerned itself with rapid progress and development as the panacea for all ills.

Pradeep started the year by requesting members to look for the 'X' factor in every project and to then zoom off.

"I'm sure the greatest joy of those working tirelessly at Talwada is that of seeing sight being restored to an ailing Adivasi. Just as it is a rare thrill to have a half-dead TB patient breathing normally once again. When a hitherto-deprived student of a municipal school starts speaking in English before a gathering of hundreds, that's a thrill a Rotarian would go miles to experience."

Towards the end of the year, President Pradeep was in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, to attend the 2011 Rotary International Convention. Back in Bombay, he said that it was an "eye-opener" for him and that he had never before seen Rotary in such a splendid avatar.

The House of Friendship had a profound effect on him and he wished

that the Rotary Club of Bombay had also highlighted its service activities within the available space.

Interestingly, the year had started with confirmation from the 2010 R.I. Convention of the election of Kalyan Banerjee as the third Indian to serve Rotary International as President in the year 2011-12.

Luckily for its members, Kalyan came to the city soon after and found the time to address the Rotary Club of Bombay. One of the main revelations he made was to the effect that the probability of the world winning the war against polio in the next one year – during his term as R.I. President – was very, very bright. The whole world was looking towards India “to finish polio first”.

**“As a matter of fact,” he said at the meeting of December 28, 2010, “for the last 11 months we haven’t had a single P1 case in Uttar Pradesh which is the home of polio. Let’s applaud this! This is something huge. And if it does happen, then P3 is going to go by the end of next year. That’s our commitment.”**

Kalyan was quite candid when he stated that Rotary needed a clear image as an organisation; “so let’s stop reinventing the wheel”, he pleaded, asking for an instant, recognisable identity, such as the Coca-Cola logo.

#### CLUB SERVICE – NEW MEMBERS

*Director*

**Paul George**

*Classifications*

**PP Ashish Vaid**

**A**n updated list of open and filled Classifications was prepared in the month of August and circulated to members of the Membership and Membership Development Committees to enable them to look for the most appropriate candidates to fill those Classifications.

*Membership*

**PP Dr. Adi Dastur**

**T**he Club had 339 members on July 1, 2010, and on June 27, 2011, it had 333.

Fourteen members resigned, were terminated or passed away in the course of the year. And eight new members were inducted. The Club had 43 women members and ten Honorary members.

Formal inductions of new members were cherished occasions, made more special by the fact that they had already started mingling with others in the Club before they were formally “pinned”.

Meera Alreja and Purnima Sheth were inducted at the meeting of July 27. While Meera was loaned the Classification “Management Consultant”, Purnima filled the slot for “Jewellery Marketing”.

President-Elect Paul George said while introducing Meera that she was a rank-holder of Bombay University. She received the R.D. Tata Memorial Scholarship while studying at Sydenham College. She came up with another “ranking” performance from the Jamnalal Bajaj Institute for Management Studies. She then went on to do Cost Accounting and again emerged as a rank-holder at the national level.

In 1984, Meera had been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay as a member of the Group Study Exchange team chosen by the District. In the course of that Exchange she was awarded the prize for “International Understanding” by Rotary International.

Purnima was introduced by Bimal Mehta who said she was his childhood friend. Further, she was married to another one of his childhood friends, his neighbour Rajiv Sheth.

After studying commerce in Bombay, Purnima had gone to the USA for further studies and to become a systems analyst. But her education had little bearing on her inner desire to be an entrepreneur. In 1981, the Sheths established the Rose Group, India’s foremost organisation in the retail of jewellery watches. Rose had grown to become one of India’s leading jewellery and luxury brands.

Purnima and her brother Viren Vaidya managed the Rose Group, whereas her husband Rajiv headed Tara Jewels, one of the largest exporters of diamond jewellery.

When Ashok Chinai was formally inducted, his younger brother Pradeep made a very pithy statement: “We now comprise 2% of the Club’s strength... and this is how dynasties begin!” (Later, he told *The Gateway* that apart from him and Ashok, the other members of his family in the Club were Ajay and Dr. Swati Piramal, Nirav Shah and Samir Chinai).

Ashok was a member of the Rotary Club of Stockton East, California, for 25 years and was loaned the Classification “Investments: Stocks and Real Estate”.

Pradeep, who introduced him, said that as a member of the Rotary Club of Stockton East, Ashok had helped complete some of the Matching Grant projects between the Rotary Club of Bombay and some Clubs in California.

P.K. Mohankumar, loaned the Classification “Hospitality”, had served at five different Rotary Clubs in the country.

President-Elect Paul said that Mohan, often referred to as a “Taj veteran”, was first admitted to the Rotary Club of Indira Nagar, Banga-

lore, in 1986; he then served the Rotary Clubs of Cochin, Colombo, Chennai and Bangalore.

He started his career with the Taj Mahal Palace and Towers in 1974 and went on to fly the Taj flag in several parts of India, including Kerala, and the world. He had returned to Bombay recently following his appointment as Chief Operations Officer (COO) of the Gateway Hotels (a part of the Taj and the Indian Hotels Company group).

The next new member, Dr. Aashish Contractor, was in the team than performed the repeat cardiac bypass surgery on the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in Delhi in January, 2009, and oversaw his rehabilitation.

Loaned the Classification “Medical Practice: Cardiac Prevention”, he is the Head of the Department of Prevention Cardiology at the Asian Heart Institute in the Bandra-Kurla Complex.



*Welcome to the Club, Bernd! PP Gul Kripalani greets new member Bernd Schneider after his formal induction*

He did his post-graduation at the University of Virginia, USA. Returning to India in 2001, he set up India’s first telemetry-monitored cardiac rehabilitation programme at the Cumballa Hill Hospital.

Dr. Aashish had been the Medical Director of the Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon ever since its inception in 2004. Recently, he cycled 175 km. non-stop from Bombay to Pune to raise funds for charity.

Freyaz Shroff, the third woman member to be inducted during the year, was loaned the Classification “Consultant: Corporate Management”.

She was introduced by PP Kalpana Munshi who said that Freyaz was a diehard social worker. A founding student member of Next Century Schools, she had been associated with several voluntary organisations.

She had obtained an International Language Degree in Spanish from Berlitz International Language School

at West Palm Beach in Florida; a Master of Business Administration degree in Management from Winthrop University in Rock Hill; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from Furman University in Greenville.

With experience in the areas of risk and return, profitability measurement and design, internal audit and corporate development, Freyaz had led projects to facilitate mergers and acquisitions in India for UK clients.

Bernd Schneider, another member to be loaned the Classification “Hospitality”, was formally inducted at the meeting of May 31.

PP Gul Kripalani, who introduced him, said that Bernd was the General Manager of Sofitel Mumbai BKC and Area General Manager – Sofitel India. The property was scheduled to open on September 1.

Bernd had started as an apprentice chef in Bavaria in Germany in 1981. Since then, he had been associ-

ated with several hotels and restaurants in Austria, France, Spain and Germany.

After graduating from the Hotel and Catering Management School in Bad Woerishofen, Germany, he joined Accor Germany in 1992 and got his first management position in 1994 with Accor Asia in Indonesia. In 1999 he moved to China and had served in this part of the world since then.

*Membership Development &  
District Conference  
Nowroze Vazifdar*

**M**any members attended the Conference of R.I. District 3140 on January 29 and 30.

The Club was awarded three District Trophies and shared another three with other Clubs for its performance during the Rotary year 2009-10 under the leadership of IPP Nandan Damani.

Apart from the above, the Club was also awarded 12 Certificates for

significantly good work done during the year. Of the 12, 11 were known as "Golden Certificates" and one was a "Silver Certificate". These were presented at the District Conference by IPDG Raju Subramanian.

The District Trophies and Awards received at the Conference were presented by IPP Nandan to the "winning" Directors and Chairpersons at the meeting of March 15.

#### Information

#### PP Dr. Kekoo Kavarana

The Committee worked in conjunction with the Membership Committee in its task of sharing information about Rotary with all new and proposed members.

It informed prospective members about their duties and responsibilities and laid special emphasis on the importance of the attendance requirements.

Working in close coordination with the Membership Committee, it worked behind the scenes and helped

her outstanding work in the field of social service.

Club members were thrilled to receive the news and got together to applaud her and to wish her even greater honours in future.

A few days later they received news of Ms Birla donating \$1.12 million to The Rotary Foundation in support of Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge. With this, her contribution to The Foundation for polio eradication had crossed the figure of \$4.2 million.

According to Foundation Trustee Ashok M. Mahajan, "Ms Birla strongly believes that what we have done for ourselves dies with us. But what we do for others remains forever. Charity begins at home but should not end there".

He added that Ms Birla had confidence in The Foundation's ability to use the money wisely.

PP Kalpana Munshi was in the news for a variety of reasons. It was

call that Rotary International set a target of collecting \$200 million for eliminating polio in response to the grant of \$355 given by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to R.I.

Kalpana was offered the Chair by DG Jayant at the District Polio Orientation meeting held in Thane on August 1 which was attended by over 500 Rotarians, including PDGs and District Officers. The chief guest at this meeting was Ms Rajashree Birla who pointed out that she was in Rotary because of Kalpana.

Also present were PRID Ashok Mahajan, PDG Rajiv Pradhan, Inner Wheel District Chair Indira Kotak and Dr. Hamid Jafri, polio project manager from the World Health Organisation.

Kalpana appealed to all Rotarians to donate small sums of \$100 each in order to help meet the challenge of collecting \$200 million. The campaign would go a long way in completing the task of ending polio. She pointed out that if the world failed to eradicate polio now, then more than 10 million children could be paralysed over the next 40 years.

Putting her money where her mouth is, Kalpana made a contribution of Rs. 44,000, the equivalent of \$1,000, on the occasion of her birthday (January 14) to become a member of the Paul Harris Fellow Society.

The ever-smiling (Dr.) Indu Shahani was another member who was much in demand all through the year, addressing a Rotary Club here, a District Conference there, even proposing the vote of thanks at her home Club – and all this while attending to her duties as the Principal of H.R. College, Bombay's leading centre of education, and as the Sheriff of Bombay (now in her fourth consecutive term).

On December 26, she delivered a keynote address at the District 3030 Conference hosted by the Rotary Club of Nagpur and attended by more than 2,000 delegates. She spoke on "Youth and education", embellishing her talk with examples of many young students who were making a difference to the community with their commitment to social entrepreneurship.

She delivered a similar talk at the Rotary Club of Bombay North on January 20 and spoke on an unusual topic, "It's morning in India", at the Rotary Club of Bombay West on April 6. In fact, the Rotary Club of Bombay West launched its own *Bhavishya-Yaan* programme on that day.

At her home Club on March 8, Indu was in the enviable position of having to propose the vote of thanks

at the end of a talk delivered by the guest speaker, her own former student, Mr. Jyotirmoy Chatterji.

"It's a proud privilege for the Principal of a college to thank her student – and what a privilege! Especially on Woman's Day, to thank this young man and to say, you have been an icon and an epitome of what we want Indian education to be," she said, adding, "We do not want education to be just about curricula, just about teaching and learning, about degrees or getting jobs".

Mr. Chatterji had just delivered an illuminating talk on how he had taken solar power to thousands of villagers living within a short distance from Bombay.

Interestingly, another former student of Indu, Mr. Dhruv Lakra, was the guest speaker at the meeting of May 24 when he explained how and why he had set up a courier company staffed entirely by the deaf.

PP Sandip Agarwalla told members at the meeting of April 26 that Rotary International District 3140, along with the Rotary Club of Bombay and the well-known NGO Bombay First, had organised a two-week-long training seminar for personnel of the city police – Police Inspectors and a Deputy Commissioner of Police – wherein two experts from Scotland Yard gave them training on hostage negotiation, handling crisis situations and so on.

The camp was held at the BKC police station and received significant help and co-operation from the British High Commission and the British Deputy High Commissioner in Bombay, Mr. Peter Beckingham. He added that this project was a follow-up of the previous Rotary year when the District had selected Inspector Shalini Sharma to receive the Harshad and Nayna Mehta Endowment Scholarship for training in the UK. She had undergone a rigorous, 30-day course at Scotland Yard and returned as a qualified "negotiator".

In recognition of the role played by the Rotary Club of Bombay and for the help, assistance and service rendered by it, the Mumbai Police had presented it with a special plaque. Sandip presented the glittering plaque to President Pradeep Saxena on behalf of the Mumbai Police.

Another member with his heart in the right place was Dr. Aashish Contractor, who became a member only on November 16, 2010.

Despite being the Head of the Department of Preventive Cardiology at the Asian Heart Institute in Bombay, he and his co-cyclist, Mr. Jaideep Khanna, attempted a non-stop cyclothon to Pune (a distance



PP Kalpana Munshi with Honorary member Ms Rajashree Birla (left) and District Inner Wheel Chairperson Indira Kotak

iron out the wrinkles as most prospective new members felt a bit nervous at their entry into the world of Rotary.

#### Mentoring & Assimilation

#### PP Sandip Agarwalla

Sandip and his team worked assiduously to act as mentors for new members and to help them to cross the threshold, as it were, once the proposals for their membership were approved.

They reached out to the new members in different ways, among which was a dinner at Sandip's home to help break the ice.

#### Members' achievements during the year

Ms Rajashree Birla, an Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Bombay, was conferred the country's third highest civilian honour, the *Padma Bhushan*, by the President of India. The government of India announced the honour for Ms Birla on the eve of the 62nd Republic Day for

not only the projects conducted by the Committee chaired by her that made news, she also earned kudos for her untiring efforts to collect funds for the campaign to eradicate polio from the face of the earth.

Moreover, she was proposed as a candidate of the Rotary Club of Bombay for consideration by the District Nominating Committee for nomination as District Governor for the Rotary year 2013-2014. A resolution to this effect was passed at the meeting of August 31, 2010, which was conducted by President Pradeep Saxena.

The resolution was proposed by PP Harry Singh Arora and seconded by Hiren Kara and was passed unanimously. It's another matter that the resolution did not find favour with the Nominating Committee.

Interestingly, District Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni appointed her District Chairperson for the \$200 million Challenge. Members will re-

of 175 km.) and raised funds for two popular charities.

They started around 2 am on April 4 from Nariman Point and reached their destination (Pune University) in seven hours and ten minutes. They raised a sum of Rs. 14 lakhs for two charities, viz., the Akanksha Foundation and the St. Jude's Child Care Centre.

Mr. Khanna is the head of investment banking at Barclay's Capital. The duo trained for over two and a half months before setting off on their gruelling ride which saw them climbing to an altitude of over 1,200 metres, with the steepest section of the Bombay-Poona Road, where the road went up 600 metres over just nine km., thrown in for good measure. What next, Ashish? Bombay to Goa?

Towards the end of the year, President Pradeep announced that PP Mahendra Sanghi had made a spontaneous offer to finance the refurbishment of the Rotary Secretariat. He had consented to donate up to Rs. 2.75 lakhs for the said purpose.

As members applauded Mahendra's generosity, Pradeep revealed that Moy Biswas had agreed to take on the responsibility of redesigning and refurbishing the Rotary office.

The members who passed away during the year were Rohit Mehta, PP Jimmy Guzder and Akhtarali Tobaccowala.

Rohit Mehta, who was a member of the Club for 25 years, passed away on August 10, 2010. Admitted to the Club in 1985, he was loaned the Classification "Textile: Consultant and Marketing".

Then came news of the demise of one of the stalwarts of the Club, PP Jimmy Guzder. A doyen of the Parsi community, he passed away on August 20, 2010, after a long illness patiently borne.

Aged 93 years, he was affectionately known as Jimmy and was one of the vanishing breed of Rotarians who were admitted to the Rotary fraternity before Independence. He became a member of the Club 64 years ago – on June 23, 1947 – and was a Director between 1958 and 1960. He served with distinction as President during the Rotary year 1975-76.

A caring and compassionate person, he was generous to a fault and was one of the major donors for Club projects and to The Rotary Foundation.

Jimmy took justifiable pride in the fact that he and his family members had served Rotary for a total of over 160 years. His sons Cyrus and Farokh continued as members of the Club.

President Pradeep Saxena announced the sad news of his passing

away and members paid silent homage to his memory.

Equally shocking was the news of the passing away of yet another stalwart, Akhtarali Tobaccowala, who died on October 6, 2010.

Admitted to the Rotary Club of Bombay almost 38 years ago – on January 1, 1973 – he was a stalwart in more ways than one. Not only did he participate in and give encouragement and support to the Committees that planned service projects, he often helped arrange financial assistance for them so that the projects could be executed without hindrance.

One of the first (and regular) benefactors of the Rotary Club of Bombay's Eye Centre at distant Talwada, he gave a munificent donation of Rs. 50 lakhs in the Rotary year 2002-2003 with a request to name the centre after his father. Since then, the Talwada eye hospital has been known as the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre and its fame has spread to distant lands.

PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani spoke in eulogies while remembering his friend, whom both J.R.D. Tata and Ratan Tata called Toby.

Abdemannan Kajiji, who was a member of the Club for 42 long years, also passed away during the year. He served the Club as Director in 1986-88 and as Hon. Secretary in 1984/85 and 1985/86 under Vithal Palekar and Mahendra Sanghi, respectively. PP Vithal Palekar paid rich tributes to him and led the Club in mourning his sad demise.

#### CLUB SERVICE – PROGRAMMES/MEETINGS

*Director*

**Ramesh Narayan**

*Fellowship*

**Shernaz Vakil**

One of the highlights of the year was the whirlwind ten-day tour in November-December, 2010, of the "Holy Land". A group of 45, comprising Rotarians, their spouses and members of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, flew off to Israel and Jordan for a unique holiday.

Actually, it was conceived as an official business delegation with sightseeing being an attractive, built-in component that helped relieve anxieties related to trade and commerce.

It offered a fascinating destination, centuries-old historical sites, a well-planned itinerary, luxurious hotels and a group of travelling companions that made the trip lively and full of fun.

The group covered almost all important sites of religious, historical and archaeological significance. It meant non-stop travel from one destination to another, but everyone was enthusiastic about seeing as much as possible. Making things easier was

the fact that the bus was comfortable, the roads good and there was an unending supply of snacks (courtesy the ever-thoughtful Rotaryans).

The group stopped at three cities in Israel – Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Tiberius (on the Sea of Galilee) and at the Six Senses Spa Hotel in Jordan. Taking off from these points, the visitors criss-crossed the country and visited many places of interest.

Rotaryann Sandra Merchant wrote an interesting article in *The Gateway* in which she thanked Shernaz Vakil and the Fellowship Committee, as also the IMC team of President Dilip Dandekar, Director-General Arvind Pradhan, Subhash Menon and Trupti Pawar.

A few months before the group left the country's shores, Ms Orna Sagiv, the Consul-General of Israel in Bombay, came to the Club and screened a short video promoting her country.



*Fellowship at its best. The business-cum-leisure delegation that visited Israel and Jordan*

She said in the course of a brief interaction with members that she looked forward to receiving the group that would take part in the business-cum-pleasure trip to Israel and Jordan.

She also sought to allay the fears of those who were worried about their safety in Israel. Ms Sagiv asserted that Israel was as safe as Bombay, New York, London and Spain.

The other Fellowship programmes arranged by the Committee were also remarkable for the kind of variety that they offered. While the "Parsi Nite" was hosted by 21 members at the Jos, Kala Ghoda, on August 13, the "Diwali Nite" was arranged at the Birla Kreed Kendra, Chowpatty, on October 30.

In February, three jolly good Rotarians got together on a cold and breezy Sunday morning and hosted a Fellowship party to which they invited the entire Club. It was arranged on the sun deck-styled terrace of

Damani House at Cuffe Parade, IPP Nandan Damani being one of the three hosts. It was held from 12 noon on February 6.

Nandan's co-hosts were Nirav Shah and Arvind Agarwal. And among the guests were the ever-popular Honorary Rotarian, Mr. Ajay Piramal, and his spouse Dr. Swati.

Although no one actually counted the number of guests (something the hosts might have done much, much later), it was believed that the total was easily in excess of 250. Or was it 300? The hosts were not telling, but several guests were heard complimenting them for the superb fare served and for making excellent arrangements for the Sunday morning brunch.

Not one to be left behind, the President also hosted a Fellowship with a difference (at his bungalow in Alibag on April 16) when a swinging time was had by all.

Australia, was another Visiting Rotarian.

Yet another popular visitor was Mr. Martin Luther King III. Son of the legendary American civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., he delivered a brief but forceful speech focusing on love, non-violence and benevolence.

His exhortation to Rotarians was to "Be ashamed to die until you have won a victory for humanity". That, incidentally, was the inscription he had seen as a child at the base of a statue in his mother's undergraduate college. The statue was that of "an honest, educated man".

Mr. King paid tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and said that people would talk forever about the path that he had shown. His father had embraced his ideas for the betterment of the United States. But sadly, the world community had veered towards controlling people through violence.

Rear-Admiral (Retd.) Dev Thukral won the fourth annual tournament for the Rotary Club of Bombay Golf Trophy instituted by the Biswas family after beating off a stiff challenge from first runner-up PP Arvind Jolly and second runner-up Rotaryann Brinda Shah.

The tournament was held over all 18 holes of the evergreen course of the Willingdon Sports Club on Saturday, January 8. It was excellently arranged by Moy and his team, especially Anand Dalal and Pradeep Chinai. Exciting and electrifying as the tournament was, the Fellowship that followed, leading up to the prize distribution, was equally engaging and exhilarating, what with the presence of several stalwarts, Rotaryans and family members.

What was most unusual about the Fellowship was the presence of a large number of past and future leaders of the Club.



With the son of the King, Martin Luther King III snapped with PP Dr. Adi Dastur when he visited the Club

Sharing his understanding of the inscription, Mr. King said although it seemed to be a grandiose statement, it was not impossible to win a victory for humanity.

"You can earn a victory in a school, you can earn a victory in a village, you can earn a victory in your city, in your state, in your nation, in the world. But be ashamed to die until you have done a little something to make this planet a little better than it was when you arrived," he added.

*Sports*

**Moy Biswas**

The Committee did an excellent job right through the year with a number of sporting events lined up for members.

Just as it had done over the last three years, this year, too, it was the golf tournament that attracted the most participation and attention. And the headline in *The Gateway* later said it all: "Dev Thukral wins the golf tournament – but Fellowship wins the day!"

PPs Arvind Jolly and Ajay Kanoria were out on the greens with their caddies and clubs, but awaiting the outcome at the "Cabbage Park" were PPs Kalpana Munshi, Dr. Rumi Jehangir, Ashish Vaid and Nandan Damani. Giving them company were President Pradeep and his designated successors, Paul George, Nowroze Vazifdar and Nirav Shah.

There was more action beyond the boundary ropes at the festive cricket match between the Rotary Club of Bombay President's XI and the *Bhavishya-Yaan* XI at the scenic P.J. Hindu Gymkhana on Marine Drive on January 22 when the President's men beat *Bhavishya-Yaan*.

Although Moy was the first to arrive, all 27 players (12 from the Club and 15 from *Bhavishya-Yaan*) made it to the ground long before 8.30 am. Interested members trickled in soon after and then the fun and games started.

Played in true sporting spirit, the gentleman's game had the players turning out in their spotless whites. Before the match the two teams lined up for the introductions and were formally introduced to President Pradeep.

The President's XI lost the toss but won the match. But the real victor was the spirit of brotherhood and fellowship that the match fostered. The Hindu Gymkhana hosted a lunch and presented gifts to the *Bhavishya-Yaan* team, thanks to Deepak Kapadia.

In a touching gesture, the Sports Committee arranged white flannels and cricketing gear for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* team members.

Two weeks later, on February 6, the Sports Committee organised the annual tennis tournament at the Willingdon Sports Club.

In the past the Club had played a friendly tournament with the Rotary Club of Bombay Midtown. But such was the response and enthusiasm this year that Moy was forced to decide on a round-robin format for Club members and their families.

Two Past Presidents, Dr. Rumi Jehangir and Ashish Vaid, were there, vying for glory alongside incumbent Pradeep and long-serving Treasurer Ishraq Contractor.

S.K. Mitra, who won the first golf tournament three years ago, turned up in full form to play tennis, as did "Marathon Man" Ashwin Didwania, Rotaract Chairman Mehul Sampat, Sameer Kaji and Anand Dalal.

Not to be left behind were the young cubs, Avi and Arnab Vaid, Raed and Ayush Contractor, and Aditya Nirav Shah.

The tennis was followed by an excellent fellowship breakfast.

In fact, the day also saw another sports event, viz., a friendly cricket match between the Rotary Club of Bombay XI and the Bombay Gymkhana XI in which the latter won by a margin of 36 runs. The venue was the iconic Bombay Gymkhana, where the first Test match between England and India was played almost one hundred years ago.

This match was played in the Twenty20 format and pitted trainees of the Bombay Gymkhana cricket academy against a combined team of Rotarians and Rotaractors from H.R. College.

Jaidev Merchant, a senior member of the Sports Committee with vast experience of playing the game with many successful professional cricketers, captained the Rotary team.

The decision to include young Rotaractors from H.R. College was taken by Captain Jaidev and Sports Chairman Moy Biswas in view of

the fact that the Bombay Gymkhana team consisted of boys being trained at its cricket academy.

All the players, including the Rotaractors, were present on the dot at 8 am and soon thereafter the two teams were introduced to President-Elect Paul George. The toss was won by Bombay Gymkhana which decided to bat first. The match started at 9 as scheduled.

There was terrific sportsmanship and competitiveness on display by both the teams. And ultimately it was the better team that won the day. The match was followed by fellowship and lunch courtesy of Bombay Gymkhana under the advice of Jaidev Merchant.

*Programme*

**Dolly Thakore**

Good, better, best. These three words suffice to describe the programmes arranged by Dolly and her hard-working team over the last twelve months.

Arranging good programmes is a tedious and thankless job and can leave even the most professional planners tearing their hair in frustration. But not Dolly and not her team.

The only time she was flustered was once in the month of May when a scheduled speaker gave the meeting a miss and even switched off her mobile. She and the President waited till 1.45 pm and then went ahead with the meeting.

Hats off to Dolly and to President Pradeep for remaining unflappable despite being stood up so blatantly.

Otherwise, as stated at the beginning of this report, the Programme Committee's efforts over the year are best described in three words – Good, better, best. The year started with a bang and also ended with a bang.

Coincidentally, both the opening batsman and the last man in were leading personalities from the world of advertising. Mr. R. Balki, who made the critically-acclaimed film *Paa* with Amitabh Bachchan, was the first to take strike. And the last man who hit the winning runs, was the doyen of the advertising world, Mr. Alyque Padamsee.

According to Mr. Balki, whom Dolly described as the "Big B of Lowe-Lintas" and one of the top three advertising persons in India, the most popular expression in future would be "interest value" rather than technology.

**"Both advertisement and feature films are about entertainment, because the human race in general is bored and our job is to make their lives interesting, not to educate them. If people are interested, they (will) get educated."**

Huge sums of money were spent on producing ad films and showcasing them on television in prime slots. The viewer did not pay anything for watching them and was often doing the ad film-maker a favour by watching his work.

In the case of feature films, on the other hand, the viewer voluntarily paid, say, Rs. 200 to get into a theatre to watch a movie. Getting such a person out of the theatre was a difficult task because he was looking for value for money.

But Bollywood, as the Hindi feature film industry was called, simply refused to concentrate on the script to make interesting films and, "in spite of a captive audience, it is mastering the art of getting paying people out of the theatres".

Providing more food for thought was Mr. Ashish Singh, the Additional Municipal Commissioner looking after the key portfolios of education and solid waste management.

Speaking on "Educating Mumbai", he said parents did not send their children to municipal schools if they could afford to send them to private schools. Municipal schools were considered downmarket and no self-respecting parent sent his children to them.

**But most parents turned a Nelson's eye to the fact that they had to go in for a huge amount of "remedial education" even when their children went to the most expensive private schools in Bombay.**

"All the children returning home are being tutored again by a set of tutors who are different from the ones who are tutoring them in their schools. In other words, there is a huge 'remedial education' programme in the most expensive schools. We (municipal schools) do not have such programmes."

Having made this scathing indictment of the quality of education imparted by private schools, Mr. Singh admitted that there was an acute shortage of teachers in certain subjects throughout the city, whether in municipal schools or private schools.

The next speaker was Ms Neelam Deo, a former diplomat (she served as India's Consul-General in New York and as Ambassador to Denmark and the Ivory Coast), who stated emphatically that peace with Pakistan was not possible till such time as the army was in the driver's seat.

For, the Pakistani army had a vested interest in sustaining the propaganda that India was a perpetual threat to that country and unless it acted as a bulwark against India, their country would be wiped out.

The idea behind the creation of Pakistan was based on a false premise

(that Hindus and Muslims could not live together). Now, many analysts had come to the conclusion that if relations between the two countries were normalised and if there were no problems between them, then the very reasons for the creation of Pakistan would disappear.

Besides, talks between the neighbours would not succeed till the Pakistani army retained its veto over the very idea of peace. Thanks to this veto, there was nothing that the two countries could discuss across the table – neither terrorism nor infiltration, neither nuclear weapons nor water. In short, the prospects of peace between India and Pakistan were quite remote.

According to Detective Superintendent Stuart Goodwin, the counter-terrorism and extremism liaison officer with the British High Commission in New Delhi, the ubiquitous CCTV was not a silver bullet. It was neither the answer to society's woes, nor was it a cure-all for the police.

Mr. Goodwin said while speaking on "The role of CCTV – the London experience" that CCTVs were expensive to install and maintain; some of the associated costs were also very high. Besides, it was a time-consuming, radical departure from the earlier practice of looking for witnesses to a crime or pursuing other methods of investigation.

Whether this was good or bad would become apparent in course of time, but the words of Benjamin Franklin had to be kept in mind: "A society that gives up liberty in order to guarantee security does not deserve either liberty or security."

**And yet, said Mr. Goodwin, even though the UK had only 1% of the world population, it had 20% of all CCTV cameras. In other words, it was one of the "most watched" countries on earth. India, on the other hand, with 20% of the world population, had a CCTV camera density that was not worth writing about. So, was the British government acting like "Big Brother"?**

Moving to the other side of the Atlantic and speaking about snide remarks from the election-bound USA about "chop shops" in India was the former Nasscom chief, Mr. Kiran Karnik.

He said in response to a question by Mehul Sampat that since it was election time in the USA, it was also the time for populism and there would be more such jibes. "The best reaction is to ignore it... They will use harsh words... we have to live with them." (The comment about "chop shops" in India was made by a US Senator.)

But the point to be noted was that in the USA politicians made excellent use of the existing systems. A Senator moved a bill and it was passed. In India, on the other hand, if the government attempted to do something different, it was immediately bogged down by fears that the proposed step would antagonise certain persons or groups and it would be immediately forsaken.

Mr. Karnik was speaking after receiving the Club's Ramakrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance. His talk focused on the amazing resuscitation of Satyam which had collapsed on account of a huge fraud in January, 2009.

From IT to water. Did you know that Pune's sewage flowed to Solapur, carrying waste water and effluents from 150 towns and villages along the way? Were you aware that most of the rivers in India were "channels of waste water" that "pass through the human intestine four to five times"?



*Of course you can fly. Anyone can do it. Captain Gopinath autographs copies of his book, 'Simply Fly'*

These and other stomach-churning assertions were made by Dr. Shyam R. Asolekar, Professor at the Centre for Environmental Science and Engineering, IIT, Bombay, who served as Head of the Department between 2006 and 2009.

Speaking on "If the Taj can recycle water, why can't you?" he said that every river in the country – including the Ganga – passed through the human intestine four to five times.

But his strongest, most blunt statement was to the effect that technology had reached the stage where "T2T" – connecting the toilet to the tap – had become possible.

"If someone asks us whether we are thirsty and also mentions 'T2T', we will say that we are not thirsty because the very idea violates our sensibility. But... that's what we are doing, knowingly or unknowingly!"

Captain G.R. Gopinath, the legendary founder of Air Deccan, India's first low-cost airline, was another

outstanding speaker. He offered a tantalising glimpse into his difficult early years while speaking on an off-beat subject, "From riding a bullock cart to owning an airline".

**The son of a poor school teacher, he went to school only when he was nine; a few years later he went to the Sainik School at Bijapur. Trained at the National Defence Academy as well as the Indian Military Academy, he was commissioned into the Indian Army in 1971, earned the rank of Captain and saw action in the war for the liberation of Bangladesh.**

He retired from the Army eight years later and became a farmer. He was neither a technocrat nor an academic. He was just an entrepreneur who firmly believed that India was a land of opportunities and who set store by the dictum, "Dare to think it, and begin it". The gist of entrepreneurship was contained in these two brief sentences.

"My book *Simply Fly* is about optimism, about the zest for life, about not giving up. It's very easy and tempting to fall prey to cynicism today because there is so much corruption – and I say this with all seriousness and responsibility, because we share the misfortune of our times. We are all seeking justice... even though sometimes we are the cause of injustice ourselves," said Captain Gopinath.

Flying down from Delhi to launch a scathing attack on "paid" news was Mr. Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, a senior journalist, who asserted that there was nothing secretive about corruption in the media. It was old as the media itself, its existence known to those who mattered.

He said a sub-committee of the Press Council of India had made an in-depth study of the subject and submitted a 71-page report in which it listed several cases of bribery and corruption, attempts at extortion and the publication of "paid" news.

**However, the Press Council studied the report and decided that there was no need to make it public, or to present it to the government, and that the report was best stored in its files for reference purposes!**

This and several even more startling revelations about "Corruption in the media" were made by Mr. Guha Thakurta who added that although it had been put into cold storage after its submission on April 1, 2010, the 71-page "unofficial" report was available on the Internet through Google.

Adopting a more optimistic attitude despite the all-round despondency was Ms Shaheen Mistri who spoke on "Investing in India's Children: The Teach for India Movement" and pleaded for the creation of an environment that would enable people to maximise their potential.

The pioneer of the "Teach for India" movement narrated such hair-raising stories about youth with their

Mr. Rao said he had decided against describing his venture as "low-cost housing" because in India "low cost" was associated with low quality. But the origin of the idea had been sown over a decade ago by the marketing guru, the late Mr. C.K. Prahalad, who coined the expression "Bottom of the pyramid business".

He had said that there was a huge market that traditional businessmen stayed away from because it was very difficult to make money in that market. They believed that it was easier to make money selling a Mercedes Benz, or Gucci shoes, than to make money selling to those at the base of the pyramid.

Although businessmen stayed away from those with less purchasing power, Mr. Prahalad maintained that there was a tremendous fortune waiting to be made by selling to those at the "bottom of the pyramid". History had shown that the guru was right, Mr. Rao pointed out.



*Thank you for the honour. Ms Shaheen Mistri with Nelam Gidwani and her family members after receiving the Club Award*

hearts in the right place, that even the most hardened cynics would change their minds and start believing in the essential goodness of human beings.

Ms Mistri held members in thrall with her narration and assertion that the best stories came from the "other side" of the divide between the privileged and the underprivileged sections of society.

Another well-known personality to address the Club was Mr. Jerry Rao, a banker-turned-poet who was now providing affordable homes to those living at the "bottom of the pyramid".

An illustrious former staffer of Citibank, Mr. Rao, who was also a poet, stopped being a banker and founded an IT company, Mphasis, before setting up Value and Budget Housing Corporation (he was its Chairman) which aimed to build one million affordable homes (costing between Rs. 3 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs) in ten years.

Dr. Subir Gokarn, one of the four Deputy Governors of the Reserve Bank of India, gave an interesting talk on "Headwinds and tailwinds: A macroeconomic review" in the course of which he revealed how India had survived the grave consequences of the financial meltdown and recession that had brought the economy of even a behemoth like the US down on its knees and spread panic throughout the world from the middle of the year 2008.

Did fortune favour India or was it that those at the helm of affairs in the country's economic ministries had analysed the situation properly and initiated the correct measures to set things right? The Indian economy had suffered a massive loss as the rate of growth had fallen from a vigorous 9.3% to a paltry 5.8% after the crisis. The loss of 4% was huge.

According to Dr. Gokarn, it was perhaps a judicious mixture of aggressive economic measures coupled with

a massive release of liquidity into the market and the "fiscal stimulus" that made the difference between bankruptcy and ruination on the one hand and liquidity and preservation on the other.

Few people had heard of "country brand capital development" till Ms Fiona Gilmore, the founder and Chairperson of Acanchi Ltd., an independent consultancy in London and who specialised in country brand capital development, spelt it out in as many words.

Addressing the Club, she made another surprising revelation – the world was watching in anticipation as Bombay was engaged in developing its infrastructure such as its sealink, its metros and its monorails.

Ms Gilmore called Bombay a charismatic city like New York, London and "one or two other cities" because it didn't have to work hard to arouse interest.

There was almost pin-drop silence when Mr. Ashok Kurien (co-founder of India's first private television entertainment channel, Zee TV) stated at the outset that he was dyslexic.

Although his subject, "Learning Differently", had given a hint, few members expected that he would turn out to be so simple and humble as a person and his presentation so unique and extraordinary.

The man was also responsible for the success of Playwin, India's first online lottery, and the popular Dish TV service. Mr. Kurien's advertising agency, Ambience, was responsible for the evergreen Thums Up campaign, "Taste the Thunder", and handled Garden Vareli, Kamasutra and Lakme.

He was introduced by Aliakbar Merchant as a class fellow from Cathedral School who was now "60 going on 16 and who still possesses his mischievous smile".

Another erudite speaker was (Dr.) Mallika Sarabhai who was presented with the Rotary Club of Bombay's Shyam Munshi Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Performing Arts.

She explained in lucid terms how her mother had achieved the seemingly impossible feat of using the performing arts to communicate a socially-relevant message and to help bring change in societal norms.

Speaking on "Arts for social change", she recalled that her mother, the legendary Ms Mrinalini Sarabhai who was the wife of India's foremost space scientist, the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, had for the first time used *Bharata Natyam* not to talk of *shringara* but of violence. And rather than using a language, she decided to use the sound of drumbeats to imbue her message with feeling.

A few months later, when she gave a performance in Delhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was in the audience and asked her what it was all about. She told him that young girls in Saurashtra were committing suicide because of dowry problems. Soon after that, (Dr.) Sarabhai claimed, the government constituted the first inquiry into what were now called "dowry deaths".

Ms Jenny Barlow, an intrepid Australian who lost her husband to multiple myeloma about five years ago, was now going around the world to collect and collate research data on hyperthermia (a kind of cancer treatment) and urging governments to finance research to study and introduce this particular approach to the management of cancer.

While speaking on "Hyperthermia", she pointed out that she had to fly her husband from Australia to Ireland because there was no centre that offered hyperthermia as a line of treatment. Although she had lost her husband, she was happy that he had not died in pain.

Ambassador Prakash Shah spoke on "India and a nuclear Iran" at the next meeting. He cautioned that any US discord with Iran over its nuclear ambitions would affect India's growth story which was totally dependent on the uninterrupted supply of oil and gas to fuel her projected growth.

But as the Western world led by the USA and some Arab countries battled Iran's effort to acquire nuclear energy (and ultimately nuclear weapons), India would find its growth story going awry in case the region witnessed a skirmish between Iran and the West.

India wanted to "sit at the high table" (a euphemism for permanent membership of the UN Security Council) and the US could even endorse the idea, but India had to decide whether it could afford to endanger its energy security – India imported about 22 million tonnes of oil from Iran every year.

Ms Vinita Bali, the MD and CEO of Britannia Industries, was heard with rapt attention when she addressed the Club. In a short span of five years she had steered Britannia on a "health and nutrition" course and delivered its highest-ever growth rate.

Ms Bali, who started her career with Cadbury's in India and went on to work with Cadbury's UK, Nigeria and South Africa and then with Coca-Cola as its worldwide Marketing Director, was lavish in her praise for The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International that had given her a Scholarship for post-graduate studies in business and economics at Michigan State University. Her life's

journey had started in 1983 when she bagged a Rotary Scholarship to study abroad.

**"I have had the opportunity of living and working in six different countries on five different continents with companies like Cadbury's and Coca-Cola... But in each of those experiences the one thing that stood out even as I traversed the globe and saw 40 to 45 countries intimately was that each of those countries had a very strong Rotary culture," she added.**

Mr. Atul Kasbekar, the Canon Camera maestro who was famous for the "Kingfisher Calendar" featuring tall, slim, well-toned and bikini-clad women, spoke at a Club meeting on "Models as Canon fodder" when he rued what he called the "white skin complex" in India.

The influx of fair-skinned models from all over the world had sounded the death knell for Indian girls and put paid to their chances of emulating the supermodels of the world who made millions of dollars.

"There is no money in modelling. If you want to survive, you have to become a movie star or marry a rich man. You can't survive as a model. The supermodel has been killed with the influx of 'cocktails' from all over the world, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Brazilians, Portuguese, (because) we have this amazing white skin complex."

But what about the India story? Did it have a future? Answering this question, Ms Chanda Kochchar, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, said that India would become an economic superpower before long.

Recognised as the 20th most powerful woman in the world by *Forbes*, she said that by the year 2020 India would have 25% of the world's work force, thus becoming one of the strongest economies in the world.

The dependency ratio (the number of people in the working age group versus those who were dependants) was poised to become one of the best in the world. At present the number of people in the working age group was less than 50%, but it would keep on rising till the year 2040; in other countries, the proportion of dependants would increase.

**And here was the icing on the cake: It took 20 years for the per capita income of Indians to double from \$250 in 1980 to \$500 in 2000. But it doubled once again, from \$500 to \$1,000, in just five years. The leap from \$1,000 to \$1,500 would take even less time.**

Was it the Ford, the TV set or Kentucky's that had turned Darwin's man into McDonald's man? Answer-

ing his own question, Dr. Patrick Basu, a renowned gastroenterologist and hepatologist who practised in New York, said that all three, along with alcohol, were enemies of good health and responsible for obesity, diabetes, liver problems and shortened life spans.

Had it not been for the mass production of motor cars by Ford, people would have continued going to work by train or bus and would not have become lazy and obese. The invention of television around the same time led middle-class Americans to live a more leisurely lifestyle with scant regard for exercise or diet.

The advent of fast-food outlets such as McDonald's and Kentucky made cooking passé and people stopped going out to a store to buy provisions. To top it all there was the easy availability of alcohol to deliver a deadly blow. Alcohol had turned into the biggest cause of liver problems.

What was worse was the fact that the habits of lazy Americans were now being emulated by the rest of the world. The end result of all this was going to be disastrous, Dr. Basu warned.

Why was India getting left behind in the race of progress, whether in the sphere of scientific development, in skill enhancement or supercomputer enlargement, but racing ahead in the field of corruption, political immorality and manipulation?

As the country approached its 50th Republic Day, these and other pertinent questions were raised in the course of a panel discussion on a Marathi book, "Eka Dishecha Shodh" (In Search of a Direction), authored by the strategic affairs expert, Mr. Sundeep Waslekar.

Several reasons for the tardiness of the underdeveloped world were put forth, the most interesting of which was that political power was not subservient to the people. The highly-advanced states such as the Scandinavian countries, on the other hand, had a system in which political power was genuinely subservient to the people.

It was erroneous to believe that these countries had achieved rapid development because they had small populations and huge natural resources. The Arab countries also had small populations and huge natural resources, but they were nowhere near the levels attained by the Scandinavian countries and parts of Europe.

Ms Seema Shaikh, the Principal of Pragnya Bodhini High School, Goregaon, spoke on "Excellence in Education - Problems and Solutions" after receiving the Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher, 2010-2011.

She asserted that it was possible for the Indian educational system to perform better (and even achieve excellence) even though school teachers were not well trained. All that they had to do was to read the seven volumes of Swami Vivekananda's works, follow the suggestions of A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Vinoba Bhave, and imbibe Mahatma Gandhi's thoughts.

**Ms Shaikh said that during a recent visit to the UK she had found the infrastructure and facilities to be of the highest quality and worthy of emulation. "But the one thing that I realised - and I am very proud to say this - is that the Indian educational system is ten times better than that in the UK. And the credit for that goes to our teachers who work really hard in the field of education."**

And then it was time for some goofiness.

Dr. Shubha Tole, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at the

the gumption to throw a ball at the speaker! She ducked in time. Was that how Sachin had learned to duck?

At a time when the country seemed to be riddled with scams and enveloped in pessimism, it was time to recall the "Maruti story" to believe that all was not lost and that things were not as bad as they appeared.

This was the view of Mr. R.C. Bhargava, Chairman of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd., who spoke on "Putting India on wheels". To prove his point he shared some eye-opening statistics which showed that despite stumbling blocks, manufacturing activity in India was capable of overtaking the rest of the world, including the biggest competitor, China.

When Maruti started producing cars in 1983, the value added (productivity) per employee was Rs. 2.50 lakhs. By 1997, when he ceased being Managing Director, it had gone up to Rs. 37 lakhs. At present the productivity per Maruti employee



*Dr. Shubha Tole and her team from TIFR explain how the brain's circuitry works in the case of a genius like Sachin Tendulkar*

Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, who spoke on "Circuits in the Brain", used several media to make the point that the very same circuitry that helped the world's best batsman, Sachin Tendulkar, face the world's best bowler, Dale Steyn, operated in everyone's brains.

She made loud galloping sounds, clapped her hands, exhorted members to follow her lead and attempted to weave a spider's web with the help of coloured ribbons.

If all this was not enough, three students - one of them holding a Ph.D. - hurled soft rubber balls at the audience, stood behind the speaker to sing a line or two from a popular ditty and went all round the Rendezvous Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel, making a mesh (some would call it a mess) with the help of placards, rubber rings and coloured ribbons.

Given a chance, some members picked the rubber balls and threw them at others. One member even had

was a whopping Rs. 86 lakhs. This was higher than that for any other manufacturing industry in India.

"It is the workers who continuously improve productivity... It's not the managers but the workers who do it. Suzuki tells us that productivity and quality at Maruti in India is higher than what it is in their Chinese operations. This means that the myth, that we can never compete with China, is just that, a myth. We can compete with the Chinese," Mr. Bhargava added.

Mr. Shashi Tharoor, one of the star speakers of the year, was heard in rapt attention in an overcrowded hall.

Posing the question, what had the foreign policy of a country got to do with the poverty line of \$1.25 per day as demarcated by the UN and the World Bank, Mr. Tharoor, a former Under-Secretary General of the United Nations, a former Union Minister of State and a serving Member of Parliament, said the fundamen-

tal purpose of a country's foreign policy was to ensure the security and well-being of its people.

Mr. Tharoor's masterful exposition touched on a plethora of themes and sub-themes. But his principal focus was on the country's attempt to sit at the high table (as a permanent member of the UN Security Council); the true purpose of its foreign policy; and the atmosphere of comparative peace and calm prevailing in its environs.

Mr. Tharoor was followed by the Union Minister for HRD, IT and Telecom, Mr. Kapil Sibal, who told a packed audience that broadband was a fundamental right in Finland and that it was a vehicle for the free flow of information from institution to institution and from people to people – and that it helped educate people.

If he had his way, Mr. Sibal, said, he would make information a fundamental right and part of the freedom

He agreed that there was no easy answer to the question, how did one conserve the ecology in times of 9% economic growth?

Another speaker on climate change was Dr. Rashneh Pardiwala, an ecologist from the University of Edinburgh, who had specialised in climate change and who displayed "before" and "after" pictures that she had taken in Udwada, a religious centre for Parsis not far from Bombay.

She pointed out that the renowned *Stern Review*, after conducting the most comprehensive study ever on the economics of climate change, had warned in 2006 that global warming could inflict worldwide disruption as great as that caused by the two World Wars and the Great Depression.

As glaciers melted or disappeared and millions of tonnes of water emptied into the oceans, sea levels would rise; and among the countries that would be affected the most would be India and Bangladesh.



With the star speaker of the year, P.K. Mohankumar (left) with Mr. Shashi Tharoor and his spouse Sunanda. In the centre is Alok Sekhsaria

of speech. The State would then be obliged to provide information to help educate and empower all children.

"This is the world of tomorrow... (but) we are living in the past, in the 20th century. We need to think of the future, envisage the future, embrace it and conquer it. That's the way to go. A synergy between education and telecommunications is essential to realise the future."

Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who was conferred the Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment, said that various conservation efforts were finally bearing fruit.

But now it was time for consolidation; as the country grew at a brisk rate of 9%, it was necessary to ensure that the forests were not fragmented as that would affect both wildlife and the native populations inhabiting the forest areas.

Not just Calcutta and the seaward parts of Bangladesh, even South Bombay would begin to lose land, especially at Nariman Point (which was built on reclaimed land) and the Thane creek area.

Ms Mimi Botawala was one of the surprise packages of the year. Almost totally blind, she had lived a perfectly normal life, worked for some of the best companies in the world and also for the government-owned Indian Tea Board in Brussels. Apart from this, she had also indulged in her favourite passions, such as yoga, golf, hockey, dancing, swimming and singing.

A true Bombay girl with grit, she overcame the loss of sight at the age of 12 and emerged with flying colours on the stage of life. She never let it be known that she was blind. She never revealed her sightlessness, she never elicited sympathy, she never played on anyone's emotions and she excelled in everything that she did because she

wanted "to be a victor and not a victim".

Yet another surprise package was 24 years old, an engineer studying management and the president of an altruistic organisation that had collected Rs. 1 crore in small contributions and taken the power of the sun – solar energy – into many thousand homes in hundreds of villages in underprivileged India.

Mr. Jyotirmoy Chatterji had spread the "virus" of service to scores of school and college students aged between 12 and 20 and got them to engage in community service at places that the government had kept in the dark (sans electricity) and ignored.

When he completed his address at the meeting of March 8, he had the rare honour and privilege of seeing his Principal, the Sheriff, (Dr.) Indu Shahani, propose the vote of thanks for him!

Another altruistic organisation, the Women's India Trust, represented by its Chairperson, Ms Dolat Kotwal, gave a timely reminder about the sex ratio in Punjab and Haryana falling to horrifying levels.

Although women's empowerment had become a buzzword only now, about 100 years after the launch of the international women's movement, the Women's India Trust (WIT) had been at it for 43 years, working at the grassroots level after seeing that much more needed to be done for women's empowerment.

India's commendable economic growth rate of 9% was occurring despite the political scene and the unravelling scams. But it had left those who lived below the poverty line totally untouched. The income disparities had widened and WIT's work had now assumed even greater importance.

"Greed, speed and scale," these were the three big problems of today, said the leading corporate lawyer, Mr. Nishith Desai, while speaking on "The future corporation".

People wanted to make money overnight, therefore one saw greed; everyone wanted to scale up their business without ensuring that a proper foundation was in place; and everyone was desperate to grow overnight and to go up like a rocket.

"Everyone wants to move fast, fast, fast! We are all action-packed, not thinking-backed. But what happens when you want to go very fast but all the pieces are not in place? You crash! This is the kind of thing that I see (everywhere)," Mr. Desai pointed out.

Mr. Nishith Desai, the well-known corporate lawyer who was the guest speaker at the meeting of March 22, was obviously inspired by the an-

nouncements that President Pradeep Saxena made about donations being received from members and other quarters (including an anonymous donation and one from Visiting Rotarian Ralph Smith from Alabama, Birmingham).

Mr. Desai revealed at the beginning of his talk that he shared his birthday (March 10) with Osama bin Laden.

Normally, he charged a fee when he gave a talk. But he was so humbled by the announcements of donations made by President Pradeep that he felt impelled to offer a modest personal donation of Rs. 50,000 to the Rotary Club of Bombay.

His gesture was well-received and applauded by the members present at the meeting.

### *The announcements inspired him*

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India missed the development bus, admitted Mr. Sumit Mullick, Principal Secretary and Public Relations Officer of the Maharashtra government, while speaking on "Should the Indian bureaucracy be treated at par with global warming and HIV/AIDS?"

Mr. Mullick said that although India had seen a lot of development over the last 63 years, there had been nothing spectacular about its progress. On the contrary, thanks to skewed priorities and adoption of the wrong model of development, India had missed innumerable opportunities and lagged behind those countries that had attained Independence many years later.

Mr. Mullick said that life expectancy at birth was not a factor of wealth alone. Bangladesh had a lower per capita income than India but life expectancy was higher (at 66.9%). And as for the maternal mortality rate, it was 450 per 100,000 live births in India but in Pakistan it was 320. In developed countries it was supposed to be between three and six per 100,000 live births.

"This is a horrifying, shameful statistic. A birth should be a joyous occasion, but often it turns into a tragedy," Mr. Mullick added. Yes, the bureaucracy had let India down, he conceded.

He was followed by an unapologetic Dr. Shrirang Joshi, the MD of MAIA Financial Services Pvt. Ltd., who started his practice as a psychiatrist in 1989. In 2001 he started taking interest in stock markets and soon started providing technical and fundamental research to high net-worth individuals.

Dr. Joshi noted that most amateur investors were emotional in their dealings. They fell in love with their shares even when their price was falling; they often bought when there were signals that prices were going to fall. They forgot that promiscuity was a virtue in the stock market and that it did not pay to be emotional!

As far as mature investors were concerned, they bought when the market was low (at a "hopeless" level) and sold when it was near the top (when there was "euphoria").

From the markets to the *Mahabharata*. Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik, who was described by Dolly as "a doctor by education, a leadership consultant by profession and a mythologist by passion", was employed as the Chief Belief Officer of the Future Group.

He had lectured extensively on sacred stories, symbols and rituals and their relevance in modern times. A popular columnist, he was known for sardonically linking everyday occurrences to events in the *Mahabharata* and had authored several books.

Speaking on the "Secrets of the *Mahabharata*", Dr. Pattanaik said that while the *Ramayana* described righteousness as personified by Shri Rama, the *Mahabharata* took the opposite route through the mischievous figure of Lord Krishna. "Everything that is right is there in the *Ramayana* and everything wrong is in the *Mahabharata*."

But essentially the two tomes dealt with disputes over property, thus giving them a direct link to modern times. Disputes were common in most family businesses today.

An iron-willed Ms Jill Beckingham, the spouse of the British Deputy

High Commissioner in Bombay, came to the Club to describe her 360-km.-long "Dandi salt march" that emulated Mahatma Gandhi and raised Rs. 74 lakhs for charity.

Frail and fragile but iron-willed and unwavering in the pursuit of her goal, she gave her audio-visual presentation an unusual name, viz., "446,250 steps to Dandi: The India-UK friendship march", and described her observations while covering the distance of 360 km. (about four and a half lakh steps) from Ahmedabad to Dandi.

Coming across as a simple person in spite of her commendable achievement, Ms Beckingham said she never for a moment felt that her experience was in any way spiritual.

From Mahatma Gandhi to Osama bin Laden. Soon after the latter's killing in Abbottabad on May 2, the Club heard a leading journalist, Mr. Kumar Ketkar, Chief Editor of *Divya Marathi* belonging to the "Bhaskar" Group, speak on "The end of Osama – Implications for India and relations with Pakistan".

He castigated the American Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as both incompetent and inefficient; alternatively, it was in secret collaboration with the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). There was no other explanation for their combined "intelligence failure" in pointing out the presence of America's most wanted quarry, Osama bin Laden, for six years in a bungalow at Abbottabad, just 60 km. from Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad.

The consequences of the killing of Osama were apparent to him. America would never give up its strategic alliance with Pakistan because it served its interests. Any number of terrorist attacks on India would not move the Americans unless these were directed at American interests, such as its consulates, establishments, MNCs or individuals.

In other words, the killing of Osama bin Laden was hardly likely to change the ground situation.

Mr. Dhruv Lakra, the founder and CEO of Mirakle Couriers, made an interesting presentation on "The challenges we faced" (vis-a-vis the courier service that employed deaf boys and girls from families with low incomes).

He was introduced by Dolly who said that the Jammu-born Mr. Lakra started his career in investment banking at Merrill Lynch but now ran a commercial courier service that employed only the deaf.

Mr. Lakra said political correctness did not impress him and wanted to show the world that those who were deaf or suffered from other "impairments" were also good at work (in

fact, they were as good as "normal" people) and could be considered for employment as a matter of routine. He pleaded for an end to the tendency to label disability as being worthy only of charity.

This stary-eyed youngster, an alumnus of H.R. College who also had an MBA from Oxford, was not just another upstart. He had received the National Award for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities from the President of India in 2010.

Free electricity to farmers was said to be one of the stumbling blocks in the country's march towards economic success. It was referred to as political largesse distributed by wily politicians, causing enormous losses to State Electricity Boards and hindering the growth of the power sector.

But what was the situation on the ground? According to Mr. Suresh Prabhu, who was India's Power Minister from October, 2000, to August,

the Club on "The power of positive thinking".

Despite debilitating paralysis, he was now on a mission to spread the power of positive thinking throughout the world.

An engineer by training and an interior designer by profession, he was in Goa along with his wife to welcome the New Year and to ring in the new millennium on January 1, 2000. He was quite adept at swimming in strong ocean currents but, as luck would have it, he miscalculated one particular dive and that turned his life upside down.

But he picked up the pieces of his life and, at the meeting of June 7, Mr. Gogia gave a stirring talk on "The power of positive thinking" that was heard in rapt attention by the members.

A very interesting debate on "Genetically modified food and BT brinjal" was held on June 14 when several questions (and answers) were



*The man who had the foresight to hire deaf boys and girls to run a courier service. Mr. Dhruv Lakra shares his experiences*

2002, the farmers' organisations with whom he had interacted had said to him, "Thank you very much for giving us the good news that we get free electricity! But we can get free electricity only when we get electricity".

The government, after consultations with all State governments, had unanimously decided to do away with the idea of free electricity. And the decision was implemented for two years. Sadly, after the government (led by Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee) failed to win the 2004 elections, it was back to square one.

The first announcement by the then newly-elected Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the late Mr. Y.S. Rajashekar Reddy, before lakhs of people was about free electricity to farmers.

Positive thinking can do wonders, said Mr. Girish Gogia, an interior designer who was paralysed below the neck in December, 1999. Helped by a couple of assistants, he addressed

thrown up. But, as it often happened in India, there was no clear-cut answer to the crucial question – was science doomed to become the handmaiden of politics?

The debate, ably moderated by Jagdish Malkani, Chairman for Global Warming/Green Vision, saw some outstanding presentations by two gentleman farmers and two representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs).

While one farmer, Mr. Ajay Jakhar from Haryana, spoke for the proposition, the other, Mr. Om Prakash Mor of Yavatmal, opposed it. Prof. C. Kameswara Rao, a consultant on biotechnology and medicinal plants, spoke on behalf of the NGO Foundation for Biotechnology Awareness and Education and supported the proposition.

Dilnavaz Variava, Club Chairperson for Rural Development and a feisty activist in her own right, spoke on behalf of the NGO Coalition for a

GM-Free India (which could not send its representative from distant Kerala) and opposed the motion.

The last meeting of the year, held on June 21, featured the king of the ad world, the redoubtable Mr. Alyque Padamsee, who spoke on "The ideas explosion".

Aliakbar Merchant introduced him as "God" and the very first gem that flowed from his lips was, "I have both good news and bad news. The bad news is that money doesn't make you rich. The good news is that ideas make you rich".

He spent the rest of his time pointing out that it was ideas that had made wealthy men of ordinary youngsters like Sabeer Bhatia and Mark Zuckerberg and that nothing succeeded like a good idea.

The world's richest man, Bill Gates, had paid a huge amount of money (over \$400 million) to buy *Hotmail* from Sabeer Bhatia and his colleague who had spent just \$10,000

other issues. But it was Pradeep who set the ball rolling when he pointed out that the day also marked the Winter Solstice (the word "solstice" came from "sol" or sun and "stice" from statur or standing still). It was celebrated in most cultures around the world as a time for reflection.

When he had himself reflected on the affairs of the Club and on the events that had occurred and those that were likely to occur, he had come to the conclusion that a lot of good had happened and that the Club had moved forward under the stewardship of IPP Nandan Damani. This gave him the confidence that "more good stuff" would continue to happen.

However, there were some rather disturbing developments, "certain practices, which are fast becoming epidemic but I hope don't become endemic".

After he had expressed his views, there followed a lively debate that covered a few other key aspects and

Interestingly, in stark contrast to the somewhat lax scene at regular meetings, when members could be seen leaving mid-way through a speaker's presentation, those present at this particular meeting seemed to be glued to their seats; they heard their fellow members in pin-drop silence and showed their appreciation of the points being made with generous applause.

The impromptu drill was led by PP Hareesh Jagtiani who clarified, much to the mirth of members, that "I am not replacing anybody at this meeting".

He was followed by Nirav Shah, Pankaj Baliga, Roda Billimoria, PP Arvind Jolly, Premnath, Dev Thukral, Sidharth Punshi, Kamal Bulchandani, Burjor Poonawala, Hon. Secretary Bipin Kapadia and President Pradeep.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*

#### **Pradeep Gujarathi**

The Committee did good work during the year as it attempted to maintain discipline and decorum at the weekly meetings and other Club events.

Pradeep and his team were at hand to take charge of the service box collections and also to put Visiting Rotarians at ease.

A significant amount of money was collected in the service box which is meant to finance various Club projects.

*Attendance*

#### **Arvind Agarwal**

In a bid to boost attendance at weekly meetings, the Committee decided to recognise two members who attended every Club meeting during a calendar month. The "winners" were to be selected from two categories – new members and senior members.

Accordingly, President Pradeep presented a gift hamper at one of the meetings to Nanik Rupani (new member) and Burjor Poonawala (senior member), both of whom registered 100% attendance during the month.

Pradeep lauded the thought behind the awards and Hon. Secretary Bipin Kapadia, who announced the names of the recipients, thanked Chairman Arvind for sponsoring the gifts.

*Bulletin & Website*

#### **PP Arun Sanghi**

The weekly newsletter, *The Gateway*, came in for fulsome praise from R.I. President-Elect Kalyan Banerjee when he addressed the Christmas and New Year Fellowship meeting at the Taj Mahal Hotel on December 28.

He reiterated his conviction that the Rotary Club of Bombay was "not only the premier Rotary Club in In-

dia, but one of the great Rotary Clubs in the world".

Turning to *The Gateway*, he was even more effusive in his praise.

"No matter where I am, I have stayed in touch with your Club bulletin *The Gateway* which, as I look at Rotary bulletins, is one of the finest bulletins from any Club in the Rotary world.

"It is regular, the contents cover your Club activities, meetings and programmes very well and they also cover the achievements and activities of your individual members beautifully. It's both formal and informal and also friendly and informative – and all at the same time."

Kalyan said he had always admired the way the Club activities covered all the Avenues of Rotary Service. In fact, *The Gateway* was probably the only bulletin which named every Committee and its Chairperson – "some 52 of them (I counted them), give or take one or two, in every Club issue, which is extremely rare".

Going on in the same vein, he said the bulletin covered every weekly speaker and his/her presentation in a way that he had not seen bettered by anyone else.

A Page 1 story in *The Gateway* dated May 24, 2011, with the following headline, "Sweden's Uppsala University to host new Rotary Peace Centre", reported that The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees had selected Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, to host a new Rotary Centre for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution.

Delighted on reading the report, Roda Billimoria, a Director of the Club, wrote in immediately to the Editor to express her joy at the development and to describe her association with Uppsala University. For she was an alumna of Uppsala University (she studied for her Masters in Education there in 1989-91) and was "naturally delighted by this news".

She also penned a brief article on Uppsala which was reproduced in *The Gateway*.

Moy Biswas was another member who penned his thoughts for publication in *The Gateway*.

After visiting the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre at Talwada for the first time (in November, 2010), he wrote a touching piece in which he described his experience.

The writer in Girdharilal Vaid also came out when he lost his old friend and acquaintance of over six decades, M.F. Husain.

In an article reproduced in *The Gateway*, he recalled that he had first met Husain at the entrance of Jehangir Art Gallery in the 1950s when the



*Roda Billimoria shares her thoughts about the Rotary movement and about the Rotary Club of Bombay*

on developing their idea of providing a free email id to anyone who wanted it. And Zuckerberg had an idea that had helped create "the world's third most populous nation, *Facebook*", which was "inhabited" by over 500 million people.

Anyone who could come up with extraordinary ideas could cash in on them and become wealthy overnight. And if someone came up with ideas that would solve old, existing problems, that person would be revered.

#### **Members express their views**

President Pradeep utilised two different occasions to request members to express their feelings about their Club and its workings. The first was 81st Annual General Meeting on December 21, 2010, and the second was the regular meeting of May 3, 2011, when the scheduled guest speaker decided to go AWOL.

At the conclusion of the 81st AGM, several members expressed concern about low attendance and

in which some other members participated. Among them were Burjor Poonawala, PP Arvind Jolly, PP Sandip Agarwalla, Dolly Thakore, Hon. Secretary Bipin Kapadia, Rasik Ajmera, Ramesh Dhir, Roda Billimoria, Mehul Sampat and President-Elect Paul George.

At the meeting of May 3, on the other hand, a rather crestfallen Dolly regretted having been let down by the guest speaker, the transgender Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, who was billed to speak on "Challenges faced by a minority".

But President Pradeep called the meeting to order and invited members to speak their minds on matters pertaining to the Club and the Rotary movement.

What followed was a delectable soul-searching exercise in which members of different vintage celebrated their membership of the Club and their association with the Rotary movement.

gallery had just opened. Thereafter, they met often and at several different places. The last time they met was over dinner at the home of Prafulla Dahanukar.

"I had the good fortune of meeting him on several occasions at the Taj Mahal Hotel in the commercial premises of his good friend, Aziz Munna Javeri. In Delhi, on the other hand, we met at Vadhera Art Gallery and chatted for hours on modern and contemporary art," he wrote.

*Public Relations*  
**Priyasri Patodia**

The Committee kept the media informed about the programmes and projects of the Club. Even though the media reported on some of the speakers, it sometimes omitted to mention the name of the Club. But that did not deter the Committee from its work.

COMMUNITY SERVICE –  
MEDICAL

*Director*

**Arin Master**

*Chairman Emeritus, Talwada*

**PP Dr. Rahim Muljani**

*HTEC, Talwada*

**PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir**

Located far from the madding crowd, the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre at Talwada continued doing outstanding work for the underprivileged sections of society. Like every year, the Centre reported significantly high statistics of work done. (*See table*)

The Committee for Green Vision, which had helped install a solar-powered lighting system all over the building and compound (except the operation theatre) last year, attended to a few complaints of malfunctioning of the units.

The HTEC has been in operation for over 32 years and has ensured, among other things, that there is no blindness due to cataract within a radius of over 100 km. from Talwada.

When a busload of members, their families and friends led by President Pradeep visited the HTEC Centre in November, it was warmly received by PP Dr. Rahim Muljani, the pioneer of all Rotary activities at Talwada, and his team.

The ophthalmic work continued non-stop even as the members went around the Centre. A large number of Adivasis from neighbouring areas had reached the Centre to have their eyes examined by the visiting experts from Bombay.

The irrepressible PDG Manibhai Doshi, doyen of the Rotary movement and one of the revolutionary freedom fighters who marched as part of the Indian National Army (INA) heeding the banner of Subhash Chandra Bose, was a welcome guest at Talwada.

Ninety-year-old Manibhai and his daughter Darshana, a Past President and a former Assistant District Governor, boarded the bus hired for the Talwada trip on that day and enjoyed every moment of what turned out to be an outing with a purpose – to witness at first hand the outstanding work being done at the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre at Talwada.

Manibhai was so impressed by all that he saw that he promptly stated that he wanted to make a small contribution – he would pay for the entire cost of the trip to Talwada, including the bus hire, the refreshments and so on.

It was a genuine, heart-felt gesture that was appreciated by all.

*ADMC, Talwada*

**Dr. Mitul Patel**

Patients from distant places continued to flock to the Centre to avail of the services available, including general medicine, dental, pathological and gynaecological.

The pathology department seemed to be a boon for the doctors at the centre and also in the surrounding areas because such a facility was simply not available and patients had to travel long distances even for a simple blood test.

Dr. Yadav, the resident physician, saw every patient and worked hard with his team of dedicated assistants, some of them selected from the community and trained at the Centre. (*See table*)

The solar-powered lighting system installed at the HTEC and which had been extended to the ADMC, helped light up both the interiors and the compound of the Centre.

President Pradeep announced at Club meetings the receipt of donations for the centre from several sources.

While Prabhakar Deshpande had made a donation of Rs. 5 lakhs, PP Haresh Jagtiani had given a sum of Rs. 51,000, Arvind Agarwal Rs. 50,000 and PP Dr. Adi Dastur Rs. 11,111.

Interestingly, a few anonymous contributions were also received: Rs. 50,000 from one source and Rs. 25,000 from another.

*Oral Health*

**Dr. Sorab Javeri**

Four to six Rotaractors of Government Dental College, accompanied by at least one senior dentist (Dr. Srinivas Kamath or Dr. Ajay Gupta) from Bombay, make regular visits to Talwada. They go on the second and third Sunday of every month (except when the Sunday happens to be an important festival day such as Diwali or Dassara).

At Talwada the dental department is located in the ADMC where the

patients patiently await the arrival of the team of dentists from Bombay to receive some excellent dental care.

Many residents say they have never heard of such a service being provided to the poor on a regular basis in any village elsewhere.

*Control of TB*

**Prof. Rohini Chowgule**

Proper monitoring and follow-up treatment of TB patients at the ADMC in Talwada was overseen by Prof. Rohini Chowgule and her team. This had helped arrest the spread of the disease in Talwada and its neighbourhood.

It was observed that most of the patients had taken their tablets religiously; as for the new patients, they were told about the need for strict adherence to prescription. It was emphasised that if they failed to take the pills as directed, the treatment would remain incomplete.

ria, and Pakistan – in late 2009 and early 2010.

It had helped reduce the incidence of polio in India to 39 cases as of October 26, 2010, compared to 498 for the same period in 2009. The number of cases in Nigeria had fallen to 8 from 382 during the earlier period.

*Cancer Aid*  
**Zinia Lawyer**

When the Committee arranged a visit to the Tata Memorial Hospital at Parel on August 24, it proved to be an eye-opening experience for all the Committee members – Zinia herself, Arin Master, Shernaz Vakil, Ritu Desai and Hoshang Nazir. It virtually showed them the way forward.

The sight of children undergoing chemotherapy could have been a depressing one, but the team members were filled with hope when informed



*Members of the Cancer Aid Committee with some young patients during their visit to the Tata Memorial Hospital at Parel*

*Hepatitis & Polio Immunisation*

**Dr. Vandana Bulchandani**

On every National Immunisation Day (NID) designated by the Municipal Corporation, the Club did all that it could to help the drive. This included sending a team to assist the workers of the corporation's health department as they went about discharging their duties.

The Committee, the Club and the country were thrilled to know that just one case of polio had been reported from India in the first five months of 2011. Of course, they were also aware that the goal of banishing polio was still some distance away.

Interestingly, it was the introduction of the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) that had proved to be a potent weapon in the global battle to eradicate the disease.

Developed to stop transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses simultaneously, bOPV was introduced in all four polio-endemic countries – Afghanistan, India, Nige-

that 80% of the children would survive since they had been receiving prompt treatment.

A sum of Rs. 1.60 lakhs was given to the authorities for the treatment of eight children afflicted by cancer and whose parents could not afford the treatment.

While one cheque of Rs. 50,000 was given to the hospital's bereavement fund which was used to offer financial assistance to the parents of those children who had succumbed to cancer, another one of Rs. 50,000 was promised for the sponsorship of a special cubicle for one year. (The hospital has a section in which a few cubicles, some of them sponsored by corporate houses, are allotted to cancer-afflicted children and their parents.)

One little nugget of information that the team collected was that although the hospital had been started by the Tata family, it was taken over by the government when it became too unwieldy, with thousands of patients descending on it from all over India.

The hospital stood as a testimony to the dedication and enthusiasm of its staff and doctors who worked tirelessly for the cancer-stricken, treating them with a gentle smile and encouragement.

"This is where we can give unabashedly, knowing that the money we give will go a long way in providing some solace to a family in grief," wrote Zinia in a first-person account published in *The Gateway*.

The Committee also gave a sum of Rs. 40,000 to the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital at Pune for the treatment of a child, Master Aniket Bharat Dhobale.

PP Gul Kripalani has been an unabashed votary of the crusade to combat cancer among children. He collects funds that he donates to the Tata Memorial Hospital for research in cancer among children. One of the means he utilises for collecting funds is the annual Terry Fox Run that he organises along the scenic Marine Drive early on a Sunday morning in February-March.

This year, the Terry Fox Run was in its 13th edition and helped collect approximately Rs. 80 lakhs for this noble purpose.

More than 6,000 students from about 40 different schools and colleges in the city, most of them Interactors and Rotaractors, took part in the event. The guest of honour at this year's event was Ms Rajashree Birla, an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Bombay. Two honoured guests were Leander Paes, the tennis legend, and Ms Raageshwari, the Bollywood star.

As members are aware, the annual fund-raising event is organised by the Terry Fox (India) Committee along with the Rotary Club of Bombay and

the Oberoi Hotels Group, with the assistance of the Canadian Consulate-General in Bombay. The Consul-General, Mr. Marvin Hildebrand, was among those who addressed the rally that was held at Brabourne Stadium at the end of the Run.

The scene then shifted to the Regal Room of the Oberoi Hotel where a special, sumptuous brunch was laid out (the donor cards for this were issued for a modest Rs. 2,500). The Oberoi Hotels Group outdid its culinary skills for this brunch. Not just the mocktails, all the other dishes (main as well as side) were tasty, tangy and tempting.

Sabira Merchant, who had been associated with the organisation of the annual Terry Fox Run ever since its inception, was at hand to help with the arrangements this year, too.

Once the brunch got going, Burjor Poonawala, who does not step forward very often these days on account of a few health problems, took the mike to render a soulful number in his deep, baritone voice. And then there was Ms Raageshwari who led her own little troupe to render a stirring medley of popular songs.

Meanwhile, Farokh Balsara arranged a munificent donation of Rs. 5.65 lakhs to boost the corpus of the Aloo N. Dalal Endowment for Cancer Treatment (ADECT). The contribution was made by the Ernst & Young Foundation funded by the partners and employees of E&Y at which Farokh was a partner.

It may be recalled that this endowment was created through an original donation of Rs. 10 lakhs by Farokh's spouse Dr. Soonnu in memory of her mother. It was set up to assist cancer-afflicted patients by helping them meet part of the high cost of treatment.

Her contribution to ADECT now stood at Rs. 14 lakhs. The corpus had received other donations from time to time and the latest contribution had helped boost it further.

So far, the endowment had assisted 43 needy cancer patients. It had several applications for financial assistance pending on its files and was looking for more funds.

In response to an appeal from Farokh and Soonnu for generous contributions to the endowment, Sheila Bulchandani made a donation of Rs. 50,000.

Another contribution of Rs. 1 lakh was received from Mr. Karl Dalal through the good offices of Farokh who had also donated a sum of Rs. 26,000 to the Cancer Aid Committee of the Club.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE –

##### NON-MEDICAL

*Director*

**Suresh Goklaney**

*RCC*

**Shyyamniwas Somani**

Thanks to the enthusiasm and eagerness of the RCCs established in various parts of the city, the Committee remained active all through the year, arranging one significant project after another.

Mr. Narayan Sawant, the Club's social worker, coordinated almost all the programmes.

In July, the Fisherman's Wharf RCC invited its members and other residents of the area to the Machchi-mar Nagar slum area to attend a training session arranged by the NGO Clean Air Island. Its volunteers explained how to use old, discarded plastic bags to do crochet work leading, among other things, to a pretty tablemat.

The month of August saw 278 persons attending the medical camp

arranged by the Committee in collaboration with the Sewree RCC. While some had their eyes examined, others had their dental problems addressed. A large number went for the general medical check-ups that were on offer.

All the patients received the necessary medicines as suggested by the doctors. The 76 persons who were prescribed spectacles received the same at a mini-camp held at the same venue a fortnight later.

PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani and Dr. Sorab Javeri organised the roster of doctors who attended the camp. Rahim also arranged the necessary medicines from M/s Bell Pharma. The Self-Help Groups established by the Sewree RCC served tea, snacks and lunch at the camp. Thus it was a truly co-operative effort in which different sections of society joined hands to make the camp a success.

Eye, dental and general health check-ups were offered to over 350 persons at the free medical camp organised by the Govandi RCC in December.

Of the 351 persons who registered their names for the camp, 188 had complaints of eye problems, 83 dental and the rest general ailments. A total of 100 persons had their eyes tested for prescription spectacles which were given to them at a separate camp at the Geeta Vikas High School on January 4.

Chairman Shyyamniwas thanked PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani for providing the necessary medicines for patients with eye problems and also for sparing Dr. (Ms) Priyanka Bisen of Jaslok Hospital to serve at the camp. He also thanked Dr. Sorab Javeri for sending three young doctors from Government Dental College.

#### Activities conducted at the HTEC, Talwada, in 2010-2011

<u>Activity</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Ophthalmic OPD</b>	1231	1202	1326	1576	1521	1336	1310	1437	1371	1233	1189		14732
<b>Spectacles given</b>	89	93	103	123	119	98	102	107	97	89	86		1106
<b>Operations</b>	61	72	77	84	79	63	69	88	82	68	61		804
<b>Patients for treatment</b>	9	10	14	16	12	14	12	15	14	10	9		135
<b>Intra-ocular lens</b>	57	59	63	77	67	56	59	72	73	56	52		691
<b>Yag laser</b>	13	11	17	19	9	14	10	16	17	13	14		153
<b>K/plorta</b>	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		3
<b>Green laser</b>	1	1	4	3	2	-	1	5	2	3	-		23

The Sewree RCC launched a three-month-long basic beauticians' course in October. The course was sponsored by the RCC Committee and conducted by a reputed organisation, the Jan Shikshan Sansthan, a government-recognised institute. The RCC Committee gave Rs. 1,000 per student to the Jan Shikshan Sansthan.

All the students who had signed up for the course completed the training. Financial assistance was provided to those who were unable to pay the full course fees.

Shyamniwas and Ratan Tankha presented the course-completion certificates to the 20 students and also held a brief interaction with them.

More than 1,500 women from various Self-Help Groups promoted by the RCCs affiliated to the Rotary Club of Bombay converged on the Kokan Nagar Garden at Jogeshwari (East) on November 6 to celebrate Diwali, the "Festival of Lights".

The event was organised by the RCC Committee under the guidance of the Director, Suresh Goklaney. Both Suresh Goklaney and Chairman Shyamniwas were present on the occasion (as was Rotaryann Mina Somani) and both of them gave motivational speeches to the huge gathering.

Interestingly, the attendees at the programme included not only the women of the various Self-Help Groups but also their family members, showing that the idea of SHGs promoted by the RCCs had gained a lot of popularity over the last few years.

The programme for the evening (it was held from 6 to 9 pm) consisted of lighting a traditional lamp; cultural programmes by several talented women; short speeches by SHG

women describing their experiences over the last few years; prize distribution for the *Rangoli* and dance competitions; bursting of fire crackers; and the lighting of hundreds of candles.

Another rally, this one attended by over 2,500 women and children (and some men, too), was organised as part of "Women's Day" on March 6 by four organisations, viz., the Rotary Club of Bombay, the RCC sponsored by it at Andheri, the Women's Self-Help Groups supported by the various RCCs and the Astitva Foundation.

The programme was held from 5 to 10 pm at the Kokan Nagar Garden at Jogeshwari (East) and featured a peace rally, distribution of walking aids to senior citizens, presentation of micro-finance cheques to members of self-help groups, motivational talks and dance and other cultural programmes.

Among those present on the occasion were Joint Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah, Ratan Tankha, guest Ms Freyaz (now a member of the Club) and Shyamniwas.

The RCCs that participated in the event were those from Andheri, Elephanta, Worli, Wadala and Sewree. Self-Help Groups from the following areas also attended the programmes: Andheri, Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Malad, Vile Parle, Worli, Wadala, Santa Cruz and Elephanta.

#### *Global Warming/Green Vision*

#### **Jagdish Malkani**

One of the most significant projects undertaken during the year was the launch of a "Green Passport" for Rotarians.

It was developed by the Eureka Forbes Institute of Environment to enable every member of the Club (and later every Rotarian in the District) to participate on an individual basis

and revolved around the idea of carbon trading.

As members are aware, carbon trading has taken off globally on a country-wide and corporate-wide basis. The Club decided to do some "retail" business in the phenomenon of carbon trading and to make it available to Club members to begin with.

The idea behind the "Green Passport" was as follows: Each Rotarian would get to know his or her carbon footprint in a quantifiable, verifiable and measurable manner; second, it would incorporate the member's electricity bills, fuel usage on vehicles, travel and so on; third, these details would be recorded in the "Green Passport" just as entries were made in a passport visa or ration book.

Thereafter, each Rotarian would be made aware of how his or her emissions could be offset through actual energy-saving mechanisms or by buying "credits".

A brief introduction to the concept was provided at the meeting of November 23 and the "Green Passports" were issued as part of the "Environment Day" celebrations on November 30.

No less than 70 Rotarians and others took the trouble of obtaining information, registering their names and collecting the "Green Passports" at the second meeting. Rotaractors from H.R. College and Jai Hind College set up a series of booths at the venue, the Taj Mahal Hotel, including one for a "Passport Officer" who "issued" the "Green Passports" to those who "applied" and were qualified to receive the same.

The passports would enable the holders to monitor and track their monthly "Carbon Footprint" in a quantifiable, verifiable and measur-

able manner. Those with a "low" footprint were told that they would be able to neutralise their environmental impact with a few changes in their lifestyle. Those with "medium" to "high" footprints would have to offset their emissions by a combination of lifestyle changes and "pledges".

The pledges would be made to ongoing Rotary Club of Bombay projects such as the "Kitchen Gardens" and the "Solar Lantern" initiatives of the Rural Development Committee.

On the same evening, November 30, the Committee joined hands with the Rural Development Committee to organise another programme, "Green Food, Green Living".

Even at the District Conference in January, the Committee reached out to 30 Rotary Clubs by setting up a stall to promote the idea of the "E-Passport" (or "Enviro-Passport", a version of the "Green Passport").

Rotarians were initially curious but later enthused with the idea of measuring their "Carbon Footprint" and the balance sheet to monitor their progress in neutralising their environmental impact. The Committee was invited by several Clubs to propagate the "E-Passport". Jagdish said he would help spread the idea with the help of the Eureka Forbes Institute of Environment.

#### *Old Age Homes/Senior Citizens*

#### **Naresh Kumar Jain**

The Committee started the year by arranging a special screening of the popular Hindi film *3 Idiots* for the residents of the F.S. Parukh Dharamshala (home for the aged) at Khareghat Colony to celebrate Parsi New Year.

Chairman Naresh invited all members to visit the Home and to enjoy

### **Activities conducted at the ADMC, Talwada, in 2009-2010**

<u>Activity</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>Sept.</u>	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Nov.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Dental clinic</b>	63	45	85	48	86	83	71	86	44	91	74		776
<b>Pathological tests</b>	125	141	167	140	47	124	139	141	119	139	92		1374
<b>Paediatric clinic</b>	-	-	31	25	-	13	32	22	15	16	3		157
<b>Dispensary, OPD</b>	2665	2713	2115	1479	1430	1548	1384	1423	1201	1113	1244		18315
<b>TB Patients treated</b>	26	26	24	30	28	29	38	28	31	27	30		317

the movie in the company of the senior citizens. Ms Zeenat of the Parsi Panchayat was very happy to note that the Rotary Club of Bombay was arranging the screening on the premises.

The residents of the home thoroughly enjoyed watching the movie and thanked the Club for its thoughtful gesture. Simple but delicious snacks were offered to not only the residents, but also to the staff of the Dharamshala, the visiting Rotaractors and other guests.

A group of 25 young volunteers from the Rotaract Club of H.R. College turned up to help in the arrangements and in making the senior citizens feel comfortable.

In September, the Committee collaborated with the Committee for the Differently Aabled to host a joint project, a "dual entertainment programme", at the same Parukh Dharamshala.

Physically challenged children entertained senior citizens with their

It was the Rotary Club of Bombay, on learning of the avid desire of some senior citizens to make a pilgrimage to temples such as Siddhivinayak and Mahalaxmi that started arranging temple trips for them.

The Committee arranged a bus, ordered some snacks and cold drinks, contacted the trustees of the two temples and invited senior citizens to hop on to the bus. Soon, the pilgrims were on their way. This year, one more destination, the Hare Rama Hare Krishna temple at Juhu, was added to the itinerary.

Forty five senior citizens, accompanied by five volunteers from their respective areas, along with three Rotaractors from H.R. College and the social worker, Mr. Narayan Sawant, boarded the chartered bus. They were served both breakfast and lunch in the course of the day-long trip (from 8 am to 6 pm).

Meeting them and interacting with them at the temples were Naresh, PP

conveyed to the Naval authorities who assigned a special boat for the cruise.

The group collected at the Lion Gate where it was joined by Naresh, PP Kalpana Munshi and several Rotaractors of H.R. College.

All the senior citizens were offered Navy caps, snacks and cold drinks as they awaited the boat. Their enthusiasm, once they were on board, was worth going miles to see. Several of them broke into song and a few even gave an impromptu dance performance.

For many of them, the hour-long cruise was over too soon, almost before it had started.

President Pradeep joined the revellers at the Pallonji Shapoorji Home for Senior Citizens at Kemps Corner as they had a rollicking time at the special Christmas party arranged for them.

Chairman Naresh, accompanied by PP Kalpana Munshi and (then) prospective member Ms Freyaz Shroff, was also present at the party which saw the attendance of a large number of Rotaractors from H.R. College.

While some of the senior citizens took to the floor to dance, a few grabbed the mike to sing either a carol or an old, nostalgic ballad.

Ms Pearl Guzder, Ms Shaikh and other staff members of the Home were also invited to the event. About 35 to 40 senior citizens attended the party at which Naresh presented red Santa caps to all of them. He also encouraged them to take part in an exciting game of "houseie".

Pradeep and Naresh presented prizes to the winners and also joined the senior citizens as they took to the floor, holding their hands and guiding them as they moved to the sound of their favourite music.

#### Women's Empowerment

##### Poonam Lalvani

A large turnout was witnessed when the Committee organised its first programme at Mayfair Banquets on August 12. It arranged a bazaar-cum-exhibition featuring 20 stalls to enable young, enterprising women to display their skilful designs and outstanding creations.

The designs on display impressed the visitors who appreciated the hard work involved in their creation.

Later, the Committee organised two programmes for members of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) sponsored by the RCCs at Jogeshwari and Wadala.

About 50 members of the Jogeshwari SHG attended a workshop on "Teamwork and Conflict Management" at Kokan Nagar. Ms Shilpa from the "Life Trust" was the resource person for this workshop. She covered

various aspects of teamwork, such as group laws, decision-making and conflict management and urged participants to remain united because that alone would give them strength.

Earlier, the Committee arranged an awareness programme on domestic violence for SHG members and others at the Sewree RCC (when certificates were distributed by the RCC Committee to several newly-trained beauticians).

Mr. Doiphode and Ms Muskan, both from the "Life Trust", provided important information on domestic violence to the SHG members and to the newly-trained beauticians. They were also told about salient features of the Domestic Violence Act and asked to pass on this information to their friends, neighbours, family members and others.

#### Rural Development

##### Dilnavaz Variava

Wardha district in Vidarbha, which is one of the most suicide-prone areas of India, and Talwada (where the Club's HTEC, ADMC and other projects are located) were the areas of operation of the Committee during the just-concluded Rotary year. The work was taken up in two stages, Phase I from August, 2010, to March, 2011; and Phase II from April to June, 2011.

Effective rural development with high replicability due to low cost, this was the mantra of the Committee as it concentrated its work in the villages.

To enable rural families to have green, leafy vegetables on a daily basis (rather than once a week or once a fortnight), they were encouraged to have tiny kitchen gardens in which to grow lettuce, spinach and so on. Training and support were given to 64 women from six villages in Wardha.

A blood test was conducted after about six months on over 350 women. The tests showed that there was a significant increase in the haemoglobin levels of those women who had adopted the kitchen garden route to a nutrient-rich diet.

The villagers were regularly counselled about the need for including various essential nutrients in their items of daily consumption. Seeds were distributed and training provided to several women so that they would take better care of their own and their families' health.

Another activity that the Committee took up was vocational training for residents of rural areas. Various programmes were taken up as part of this endeavour. These included (a) a six-week-long training programme in tailoring for 27 women from two villages; and (b) a two-month course in electrical work and pump repairing for 17 boys from three villages.



Naresh Jain, PP Kalpana Munshi, Poonam Lalvani and Rotaractors during the temple visits arranged for senior citizens

unbelievable dance performances. So enthused were some of the senior citizens that they took to the floor to display their own prowess.

President Pradeep, Vice-President Nowroze Vazifdar, PP Kalpana Munshi, Shyamniwas Somani, Naresh and Rotaryann Zarine Chothia attended the programme.

Also present on the occasion were members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College, who helped celebrate the birthdays of some of the senior citizens, and Inner Wheel Club President Geeta Kapur along with some members of her Club.

Next, the Committee arranged the annual temple tour for senior citizens.

As reported on these pages for the last few years, there were innumerable indigent senior citizens who had lived in this sprawling metropolis for years (some for decades) but had never had occasion to visit the various historic temples for lack of time and resources.

Kalpana Munshi and Poonam Lalvani, Chairperson for Women's Empowerment.

Chairman Naresh topped off the visit by presenting shawls to the senior citizens who had completed the pilgrimage of three city temples.

From a bus to a boat. Fifty elderly man and women had a whale of a time as the Committee organised a "Harbour Cruise" for them on December 1. It was the first time out to sea for most of the senior citizens.

The Indian Navy, thanks to the "Navy Week" celebrations, happily agreed to make arrangements for the group of elders who had never before been on a harbour cruise.

The RCCs at Worli, Bandra, Sewree and Andheri were informed about the cruise and requested to identify those elderly men and women who would be interested in it.

Once the RCCs reported that several persons were eager to take part in the programme, the number was

One woman used old saris to turn out some beautiful clothes for children and soon became financially self-sufficient. The boys who learned electrical work and pump repairing were quite enthusiastic and would be provided continued guidance in case they set up their own businesses.

The programme was undertaken by the National Organisation for Community Welfare and the sewing machines (for training) and a vehicle loaned free of cost by the Sahayak Trust.

In Phase II, the tailoring programme covered 33 women in two villages. However, the planned masonry training programme could not be taken up because the young boys for whom it was meant had found temporary employment as farm hands during the sowing season and did not want to forego their existing income for vocational training that would help them some time in future.

The plan to impart training in food processing also had to be abandoned on account of a shortage of surplus for processing. Instead, the women were taught to cook and process their food in such a way that it provided more nutrition and better balanced meals.

Working on a TISS report which stated that farmer suicides were caused by high-cost agriculture which depended on uncertain rainfall and low prices for their yields, the Committee decided to follow its recommendations (contained in a TISS report submitted to the High Court).

One of the solutions recommended by TISS was organic farming which depended on farmer skills and family labour rather than borrowed capital. The Committee decided to help farmers achieve self-sufficiency by on-farm production of organic seed, fertilizers and pest management (as opposed to high-cost and high-risk chemical agriculture).

For this, two youth from ten villages were given training to become trainers in sustainable and ecologically sound agriculture which would restore soil fertility, use less water and release less or no green house gases. The estimated cost of this training programme (a part of Phase II) was Rs. 24,000.

Still in Wardha, four solar lights and two solar fans were installed in the school-cum-community hall at the request of the *panchayat* of Nanbardi village. The project was carried out in association with the Green Vision Committee which shared the cost (about Rs. 40,000).

Turning to Talwada, Dilnavaz reported that about half an acre of land outside the girls' hostel at the Talwada Ashramshala had been converted into

an organic farm. This farm was used not only to grow organic vegetables for students' consumption but also for teaching techniques of organic farming.

The Rotary Club had provided fencing to this little patch of land to prevent cattle and other livestock from entering it and destroying the crop. Thanks to this, a good crop was reaped in 2010-11, till shortage of water halted the work in March, 2011. The Club was now funding a pipeline and a pump from an adjacent tube well which would allow year-round farming (and training, too).

In the city of Bombay, the Committee did a fine job of arranging the "Green Food, Green Living" project at the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). It was inaugurated by Dr. Ashok Kothari, the Honorary Secretary of BNHS.

Dilnavaz gave a thought-provoking presentation on "Greening Indian Agriculture" with a historical overview of the Indian agricultural scenario, the effects of chemically grown and genetically modified (GM) crops on the environment, global warming, farmers' prosperity and consumers' health as compared to the organic option.

A documentary film, "Poison on the Platter", on the dangers of consuming GM foods and presented by the well-known film-maker Mr. Mahesh Bhatt, was also screened at the meeting.

The talk on "Green Living" by the BNHS Education Officer, Mr. Kaustubh Bhagat, was followed by an inspiring talk on climate change by President Pradeep Saxena.

Ms Kunti Oza presented a sample compost kit to the President with an offer to distribute the same to 25 interested Interact/Rotaract Clubs and to 25 individual Rotarians at no cost.

The grand finale of the programme was a competition in which the participants were asked to create a poster communicating all that they had learnt in the course of the session.

The participants were three hand-picked students each from 17 Interact Clubs and four Rotaract Clubs in the city. Suresh Jagtiani, Ms Oza and Jagdish Malkani judged the entries.

The first prize went to the Navy Children's School. The Rotaract Club of H.R. College won the second prize and St. Xavier's Boys' Academy the third prize. Every participant was given a participation certificate and gifts.

#### VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Director

**S.K. Mitra**

Rotary & Public Awards

**Nelum Gidwani**

The Board of Directors of the Club, in consultation with the Commit-

tee, decided to raise the minimum corpus amount for establishing new awards to Rs. 10 lakhs and to request the donors of existing awards to increase their respective corpuses to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Two members, Jetu Lalvani and Mr. Adi Godrej (Honorary member) promptly complied with the request and remitted the amounts required to increase their respective corpuses to Rs. 5 lakhs.

Mr. Kiran Karnik, ex-Chairman and current Trustee of Nasscom (the National Association of Software and Services Companies), received the Rotary Club of Bombay Ramakrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance.

Shekhar Bajaj joined President Pradeep to present a glittering silver salver and citation to the humble, soft-spoken Mr. Karnik amidst prolonged applause.

The Rotary Club of Bombay Award for Social Service went to Ms Shaheen Mistri, a pioneer in the field

The Rotary Club of Bombay Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher 2010-2011 went to Ms Seema Shaikh, Principal of Pragnya Bodhini High School, Goregaon.

Chairman Nelum Gidwani called her "an incredible woman with an incredible track record". Joining the school as an assistant teacher 20 years ago, she had worked hard and risen to the top. She was a member of the Board of Studies of NMIMS and visiting faculty of SVS Junior College of Education.

Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bangalore, received the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment.

Jetu Lalvani joined President Pradeep in presenting the award to the renowned scientist who had done yeoman's service in protection of the environment, especially with regard



*Jetu Lalvani presents the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment to Dr. Raman Sukumar*

of education for the urban underprivileged.

Ms Mistri had established the well-known NGO "Akansha" when she was just 18 and recently launched the "Teach for India" movement which was transforming the face of education for underprivileged children in Bombay and Pune.

A feisty, outspoken choreographer and actress, *Padma Bhushan* (Dr.) Mallika Sarabhai received the Rotary Club of Bombay's Shyam Munshi Award for Lifetime Achievement in Performing Arts from President Pradeep and PP Kalpana Munshi.

One of India's leading choreographers and dancers, she was in constant demand as a soloist. Her dance company, Darpana in Ahmedabad, created and performed both classical and contemporary works. With a Ph.D. in organisational behaviour, she had served as co-director of the well-known art institution Darpana Academy of Performing Arts for nearly 30 years.

to habitations for elephants and other wildlife.

The Rotary Club of Bombay Anita Parikh Award for Empowerment of Women was presented to Women's India Trust (WIT) which was formed 40 years ago by Ms Kamila Tyabji.

It was presented by Anita Parikh and President Pradeep to the WIT Chairperson, Ms Dolat Kotwal. Mrs. Shyamla Nath, Board Director, and Mrs. Mundhra, a Trustee, were also present.

The family of Naresh Jain, whose spouse Uma had passed away during a pilgrimage to the holy ranges of Kailash Mansarovar, instituted an Award in her memory by making a corpus donation of Rs. 5 lakhs.

The Jains requested that the interest that would accumulate on the corpus be utilised to give a Rotary Award every year to a "Young Woman Achiever" aged between 25 and 40 years.

Another award, this one in memory of an illustrious Past Presi-

dent of the Club, was also announced towards the end of the Rotary year.

Ram Gandhi instituted the Award to recognise "Excellence in Public Life" in memory of his father, the late PP Pravinchandra Gandhi. He made a corpus donation of Rs. 5 lakhs in this regard.

#### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

*Director*

**Shailesh Haribhakti**

*R.I. Programmes*

**PP Rajnikant Reshamwala**

One of the key District programmes of the year was The Rotary Foundation District Seminar hosted by the Rotary Club of Thane Lake City and other Clubs on August 26. The chief guest on the occasion was Past Rotary International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar, who served in the Rotary year 2005-2006, and was Chairperson of The Rotary Foundation Trust during the current Rotary year.

\$10,000, to The Foundation. Apart from that, he also made a birthday donation of Rs. 50,000. May his tribute increase!

When the District Governor, Dr. Jayant Kulkarni, made his Official Visit to the Club, he presented pins, certificates and medals to those members who had become Paul Harris Fellows.

Among the recipients were Homji Colah, Partha Rakshit, Manoj Kumar Patodia, Suresh Kumar Agarwal, Sidharth Kumar Punshi, Meera Alreja and Mahakurshid Byramjee.

The response to the appeal for contributions to The Rotary Foundation made by PP Kalpana Munshi (appointed Chairperson of a District Committee to meet the \$200 Million Challenge to finally eradicate polio) was very encouraging.

Thanks to the contribution made on his behalf by his son Jetu, PP the late Taru Lalvani headed the list of

Rotary's multifarious service activities were not hampered for lack of funding.

An exhaustive list of contributors to The Rotary Foundation from the Rotary Club of Bombay was published in the April 26 issue of *The Gateway*.

#### NEW GENERATIONS –

##### EDUCATION

*Director*

**Vineet Bhatnagar**

*Education for All*

**Alok Sekhsaria**

The fourth centre of the Rotary Club of Bombay's popular *Bhavishya-Yaan* project was inaugurated at a simple function at the Byculla East Municipal School, E.S. Patanwala Road, near Jijamata Udyan, Byculla, on the evening of October 15.

A large contingent of Rotarians, led by President Pradeep Saxena, IPP Nandan Damani, President-Elect Paul George, Hon. Secretary Bipin Kapadia and PPs Vithal Palekar and Sandip Agarwalla, was in attendance at the inaugural function.

(Dr.) Indu Shahani, the Sheriff of Bombay, and Mr. Ashish K. Singh, Additional Municipal Commissioner, were the guests of honour and inaugurated the new centre by unveiling plaques at three different places in the school premises.

The Club was already conducting *Bhavishya-Yaan* projects at three municipal schools – at Worli, Colaba and Banganga. (The last-named franchised to the Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City).

Manoj Kumar Patodia, a member of the Committee, informed members that a sum of Rs. 2.80 lakhs had been received for the college education of the students of the first batch of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli.

He recalled that several members had raised their hands when (Dr.) Indu Shahani had sought contributions for the college education of those students at the last meeting of the previous Rotary year. The chief guest at that meeting was the Club's Honorary member, Mr. Deepak Parekh of HDFC.

Manoj said that cheques had been received from the following: IPP Nandan, Manoj Israni, Premnath, PP Vithal Palekar (Rs. 50,000 each), IPDG Raju Subramanian (Rs. 40,000), Ashwin Ramesh (Rs. 20,000), Arin Master and Ghanshyam Sheth (Rs. 10,000 each).

Staying with Mr. Parekh, members would recall that at the last meeting of the previous year he had requested every Rotarian to contribute his/her mite to the funds required for various projects.

In January this year, Mr. Parekh walked the talk. Along with a large group of colleagues from M/s HDFC Ltd., he took part in the *Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon* to help raise funds for *Bhavishya-Yaan*. And when the numbers finally came in, they were printed on a cheque – a cheque for Rs. 15.90 lakhs.

Even earlier, when *Bhavishya-Yaan* was a fledgling project, HDFC had stepped up to the plate and donated all the computers required for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* centre at the Colaba Municipal School.

Mr. Deepak Parekh had "put his money where his mouth is" (as the Americans would say). Interestingly, his Marathon "team" consisted of not five or ten colleagues and staffers but a full contingent of 155 persons!

Independence Day celebrations were held at the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School, Worli, on August 12, three days before the actual 1-Day, with most of the students of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* programme taking enthusiastic part in the proceedings.

One of the students, Prashant Janin, marched through the hall waving a cloth tricolour that he had prepared himself. Quotations related to the freedom movement (and attributed to various leaders) were read out by some of the children.

A number of beautifully designed Independence Day greeting cards and flags made by *Bhavishya-Yaan* students were displayed in the school hall.

When the Education for All Committee requested *The Gateway* to publish an appeal for two air conditioners for use at the *Bhavishya-Yaan* at the Colaba Municipal School, little did the Editor know that the Committee would immediately call and say that it had already found a donor!

Sandeep Dasgupta donated a new air conditioner for use at the *Bhavishya-Yaan* centre at the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli.

Actually, it seemed to be raining TVs and ACs over the *Bhavishya-Yaan* centres.

According to Madhusudan Daga, Co-Chair of the Committee, Nirav Shah had donated four television sets (the sleek new 40-inch sets manufactured by Toshiba) for use at the various project schools.

Two sets had already been pressed into service, one each at the Dr. Ambedkar School at Worli and the Colaba Municipal School. A third set was scheduled to be switched on during the inauguration of the fourth *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at the Byculla Municipal School. As for the fourth set, it would be used at the next project centre.



*District Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni presents Paul Harris Fellow medals, pins and other memorabilia to Meera Alreja*

Apart from the seminar, the Foundation also organised a meeting of The Rotary Foundation Alumni in which quite a few past Rotary Foundation Scholars and GSE team members took part. Among them was Inspector Shalini Sharma of Mumbai Police, who was sponsored as a GSE student by the Rotary Club of Bombay some years ago. She had trained with Scotland Yard in London.

The Club was represented by President Pradeep, President-Elect Paul, Hon. Secretary Bipin, Joint Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah and PP Kalpana Munshi.

*Rotary Foundation/Matching Grants*

**PP Arvind Jolly**

PP Arvind Jolly, one of the champion donors of the Club, made his umpteenth contribution to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Arvind, who celebrated his birthday on October 5, contributed Rs. 4.60 lakhs, the equivalent of US

members who had made generous contributions to meet the "Challenge" thrown by Bill Gates. Jetu donated Rs. 11.50 lakhs in the name of his father.

Kalpana said that a total of Rs. 13.55 lakhs had been received on this account.

Apart from Jetu, donations had also been received from PPs Vithal Palekar, Mahendra Sanghi and Vikram Kamdar and from Jehangir Katgara, Homi Katgara, Sam Katgara, Vikram Daiya, Gaurav Nevatia, Hariprasad Nevatia and (Dr.) Ram Tarneja.

Kalpana appealed to members to donate at least Rs. 1,000 each. The list of those who had already sent in their contributions was published in *The Gateway* dated April 26.

Meanwhile, Rajas Doshi emerged as the highest contributor to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International from the Rotary Club of Bombay.

He donated over Rs. 2.80 lakhs to his favourite cause and ensured that

Apart from Nirav, PP Arun Sanghi had also made a generous donation of two air conditioning units for use in the computer laboratory at the Byculla Municipal School.

And then it was time to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. The different schools where the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project was being conducted decided to celebrate it in their own unique styles.

*Rangoli* contests, singing, dancing and other extra-curricular activities were the highlight of the programme at all the schools, whether the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli, the Colaba Municipal School or the Banganga Municipal School.

*The Gateway* published short articles on the Diwali celebrations at all three schools, penned lovingly by those who had spared a lot of precious time from their busy professional and other schedules to help the underprivileged children to dream dreams and to attain their aspirations.

Sandeep Dasgupta, reporting from the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli, wrote that the Diwali celebrations were a rare treat for those who had the privilege of attending.

Rotary was represented by Priyasri Patodia, Sandeep's spouse Soma and their children Anurupa and Abhideep, and two staffers from IPP Nandan Damani's office. The NGO "Vidya" was represented by Neeta Pradhan, Nazia, Netra, Vaishali and Manisha. The programme was conceived and conducted by Manisha, Amit and Archana.

One of the highlights of the programme was a "fashion show" with a difference in which eight women (all mothers of students) walked the ramp—but attired as brides representing different States (such as Maharashtra, Bengal, Punjab and Karnataka).

"I wish more Rotarians had attended the programme," wrote Sandeep.

Rotaryann Bijal Kara, writing about Diwali at the Colaba Municipal School, said that students performed traditional dance numbers from different States such as Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra (the *lavni*, needless to say, was a runaway hit).

The performances put up by the children were outstanding; the children enjoyed themselves thoroughly as they performed their movements. The happy smiles on their faces revealed their inner joy.

Stalls displaying handmade Diwali *diyas* saw brisk business. As did the two girls from the Dr. Ambedkar School at Worli who came to apply *mehendi* on the palms of anyone in-

terested in the same. Many girls from Colaba shyly ventured forth and had their hands coloured.

"To sum up, it was a successful Diwali party which ended with the children returning home with big smiles plastered on their faces," Bijal wrote.

Murari Agarwal of the Rotary Club of Bombay Queen City wrote about the Diwali celebrations of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at the Banganga Municipal School.

Decorations with colourful *diyas*, traditional *rangoli* designs and festoons and bunting were the motif. Not only did the children come up with some outstanding designs, they also showed their skill in singing and dancing to some lovely music.

All of them (as also other students and guests) were offered snacks, sweets and refreshments at the end of what turned out to be a vigorous performance that was much appreciated by all those present.

Soon after Diwali, those children of the Colaba Municipal School who had registered for the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project and who had chalked up an attendance of over 85%, were treated to a preview of the Christmas party arranged at CCI.

About 45 children in school uniform and accompanied by three volunteers from "Vidya", the NGO, were given a warm welcome when they reached the venue.

This was their first experience of a real Christmas party. They thanked the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project, the Club and the NGO for affording them such a rare opportunity. They sat on all the rides, the Ferris wheel and the mono-rail and enjoyed the "moon walk", the popcorn, soft drinks and candy floss.

A week or two later, the children sat in pin-drop silence to hear Ms Forum Nagori of the Indian Hotels Company group (and in charge of corporate social responsibility at the company) speak on vocational and career guidance.

She advised them to develop passion because that alone would enable them to choose a better career and help them to achieve success in life.

The session was arranged by P.K. Mohankumar, who is also the COO of the Taj Gateway Hotels. It was coordinated by Rotaryann Bijal Kara.

Children attending the *Bhavishya-Yaan* programme at the Byculla Municipal School were treated to a sight-seeing tour of the city on April 22. A total of 33 students travelled on a bus that took them to several popular sites in the city (called "Mumbai Darshan"), including the Worli-Bandra Sea Link and the Gateway of India.

During the summer vacations that followed, the children at the various schools with *Bhavishya-Yaan* centres were kept busy with a plethora of activities that ensured that they did not loiter around or while away their time.

While an art camp was offered at one school, at another the children were kept busy with a project in which they had to study and report their findings on several different countries.

Those children who had passed their S.S.C. exams and who had been trained under the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project received their certificates at one of the programmes.

The art workshop was held at the Colaba Municipal School on April 29 and 30. It was conducted by Mr. Nitin Agrawal of J.B. Petit School and his assistant, Mr. Kundan. They taught 41 children of Std. IX and X how to make self-portraits through "Pop Art".

They used acrylic and oil paints, or texture paints on canvas. When

June, 2011. Thus a total expenditure of Rs. 6.51 lakhs would have been incurred during the year.

The Committee reported that a total of 36 students had benefited under the scheme since its inception and that the total interest subsidy granted had been worth approximately Rs. 96 lakhs.

#### *Merit-cum-Means Scholarships*

#### **Madhusudan Daga**

**L**eela Deshpande made a munificent donation of Rs. 5.22 lakhs on behalf of herself and her daughters Tara and Pia and their respective spouses, Daniel Tennebaub and Nilang Desai.

Of this amount, Rs. 5 lakhs would form a corpus that would help award scholarships in memory of her mother-in-law, the late Rotaryann Vimala, who was the spouse of Prabhakar Deshpande and mother of the popular Past President, the late Ajit Deshpande. The balance amount of Rs. 22,000 was to be used for grant-



*And this one is for you, young lady. Chairman Alok Sekhsaria presents a participation certificate to a 'Bhavishya-Yaan' student*

they had completed their work, they were allowed to take their canvasses home. Most of the children said they would frame their self-portraits and hang them on the walls in their homes.

President Pradeep attended the workshop at the Colaba Municipal School. The NGO "Vidya", which had been working along with the Club on the various *Bhavishya-Yaan* projects, associated itself with the vacation programmes, too.

#### *Rotary Suraksha Loans*

#### **Ashok Jatia**

**T**he Committee considered the applications of 13 students before recommending the cases of six and forwarding them to Bank of Maharashtra for a loan.

Between July, 2010, and April, 2011, a sum of Rs. 5.46 lakhs was paid to the bank as interest subsidy for the outstanding loans of 28 students. An amount of Rs. 1.05 lakhs was kept aside to meet the subsidy payments for the months of May and

ing scholarships during the current Rotary year itself.

Earlier, President Pradeep presented the Haso Thadani educational scholarships to some of the students from among the Interact Club schools who had topped the SSC and ICSE examinations.

Joint Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah read out the names of the eight winners and requested them to step forward to receive the scholarships worth Rs. 5,000 each.

#### *Management Studies*

#### **Poonam Kumar**

**T**he Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research emerged victorious at the third annual Rotary Club of Bombay-Mega Ace Consultancy Rolling Trophy Competition for Management Studies which was held at the Indian Merchants' Chambers.

Represented by Bhavesh Kothari, Dipti Raka and Dr. Vaidehi Aphale, the team had made an interesting pre-

sensation on “The Energy Challenge – Problems & Prospects: The role of ‘green’ sources in meeting India’s energy demand”.

A cash award of Rs. 25,000 along with the rolling trophy and a certificate was presented to the winning team at a regular weekly meeting of the Club.

The event, styled “Next Generation Business Leaders: Annual Rolling Trophy Competition”, was launched by Mega Ace Consultancy along with the Rotary Club of Bombay in 2008. Over the years it had received overwhelming response from various B-Schools from the Bombay and Pune regions.

The competition aimed at providing exposure and enhancing the skills of management students, providing them with practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of business thinking and processes. It instilled confidence among students to face modern-day corporate realities and difficult decision-making processes.

Five teams from among the dozens that entered the competition had been shortlisted for making their final presentations before the jury at the Indian Merchants’ Chambers.

Designed and organised by the Chairperson of Mega Ace Consultancy, Poonam Kumar, also the Club’s Chairperson for Management Studies, the competition had on the jury such eminent members as President Pradeep, PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir, Tarjani Vakil, Roda Billimoria and Poonam herself.

Ms Neena Gill, a former Member of the European Parliament for West Midlands for the Labour Party, was invited as a special jury member.

Among those spotted in the audience were IPP Nandan Damani and President-Elect Paul George.

#### NEW GENERATIONS – YOUTH

*Director*

**Roda Billimoria**

*Interact*

**Arjun Jolly**

**E**leven Presidents and their boards of directors; a total attendance figure in excess of 165; a host Club full of eager, enthusiastic youth fired by the drive to be as hospitable as possible. To top it all, a PowerPoint presentation followed by a symposium focusing on the immense opportunities for service afforded by an international movement that was over a hundred years old.

That, in brief, described the situation at H.R. College when eleven Interact Clubs held their installation meetings – all under one roof, all put together and synchronised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College.

Interact Chairman Arjun Jolly was hardly surprised when the H.R.

Rotaractors took up the responsibility of organising the joint installation meeting because they had taken on even greater challenges in the past.

To cut a long story short, the H.R. Rotaractors invited the Interact Clubs at eleven schools for a joint installation; once they agreed, the arrangements were quickly put in place. (The H.R. Rotaractors kept in mind the fact that these eleven Clubs had a total of 180 office-bearers.)

The proceedings started with the national anthem, followed by a request to the dignitaries – President Pradeep, Chairman Arjun and Interact Coordinator Ms Cymbeline Pereira – to occupy the dais.

And then, as each Interact President’s name was called out, he or she stepped forward and was “collared” by one of those seated at the head table. In turn, each President invited the members of his/her Board of Directors for their induction.

IPP Chirag Tekchandaney of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College, who played the role of master of ceremonies, called all the newly-installed Presidents to the dais and they, in the presence of the entire gathering, took an oath and swore to serve the Interact movement to the best of their abilities. Finally, District Interact Chairperson Om Chawla addressed the gathering.

The installation ceremony was followed by a symposium. This was designed in the style of a training workshop for the young Interactors. A PowerPoint presentation on the international Rotary, Rotaract and Interact movements provided a lot of interesting information.

An interactive question-answer session in which the participants were invited to ask questions followed the presentation. IPP Chirag answered all the queries with aplomb.

It was for the first time that the members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College had organised such an important function. And they passed the test with flying colours. They said that it was on account of their excellent team work that the programme went through smoothly.

#### *Interact Club of Bharda New*

With 53 members and two Moderators (Ms Gilitwala and Ms Judy Vaz), the Interact Club of Bharda New High School and Junior College had its first general meeting on June 21. It was called to order by President Yash Sayla who welcomed the new Interactors and gave them information about the various activities undertaken by the Club. He also informed them about the new team of office-bearers that would be installed in due course.

Once the incoming office-bearers were assigned their duties and respon-

sibilities, the outgoing team shared as much information as possible with its successor so that the practice of service could continue unhindered. Then it was time to get down to work.

Among the projects that they took up were a visit to the home for the aged at Charni Road; a tree plantation drive; a drive to conserve water and electricity in the school; and a cleanliness project to help the school’s peons and helpers to keep the classrooms and the school premises clean. This project was designed to help promote the dignity of labour.

While one group of Interactors helped weaker students with their studies so that they could keep pace with the rest of the class, another worked on educating the children of the maids serving in their respective homes. They taught them simple addition and subtraction and also gave them training in making paper bags.

At the installation ceremony, held in the presence of Chairman Arjun Jolly and his spouse Anisha, Yash Sayla handed over charge to his successor Zahid Alam Borbhuyan; the new President and the new board of directors were formally installed by Arjun.

Making a brief speech, he said he was struck by the amount of work done by the Club in the past. He hoped that this tradition of service would continue in the future, too. He suggested that the Club consider taking up projects for eye care, polio vaccination, medical camps, helping mentally challenged children and the physically challenged students of the A.K. Munshi Yojana School.

At a workshop in April, Mr. Ranglani taught them how to make compost from the garbage generated in their homes. He laid special emphasis on the need for segregating wet and dry garbage. A skit on the environment and global warming, and a cultural fair, at which the participants highlighted the diversity of Indian culture through dress and language, were other highlights of the year’s activities.

#### *St. Anne’s Girls High School, Dabul*

Members of the Interact Club, with Nishi Mehta as President, organised several projects with the commencement of the new academic year.

The new members were warmly welcomed into the Club and its working explained to them. The first project required them to interact with the students of all classes, from Std. V to Std. X, through Facebook and the Internet. This not only helped break the ice, it also showed the newcomers how programmes were arranged and executed.

As expected, this interaction was a resounding success, with all students

of the secondary section taking keen interest in the programme and handling the questions posed to them with real intent.

The next programme required the Interactors to give “Tips to study” to the secondary students. And they did it in style. They spoke about ways in which a topic could be tackled, how various chapters could be broken down to arrive at the gist of the subject and other methods to make studies easier and enjoyable.

What more could a student ask for? The project evoked a lot of interest among the students.

On July 23, Nishi and her team decided to undertake a “Cleanliness” drive in the school premises. The Principal was surprised at first, but at the prompting of the Interactors allowed the helpers (especially the peons) to take a break.

She was not disappointed, for the Interactors did an outstanding job of cleaning the school premises. All the classrooms, corridors and halls were given a thorough cleaning, which was much appreciated by the surprised helpers who watched the proceedings from the sidelines.

Some time later, the Interactors arranged a “Quiz Competition” for all classes from Std. V to Std. IX.

When it was time for *Raksha Bandhan*, the Club arranged a contest to see who made the best *rakhees*. The students of all classes took active interest in designing and crafting some very beautiful *rakhees* on August 13. Initially, it was planned to give awards only to the best three entries; however, the Interactors were left with no choice but to give additional consolation prizes because some of the girls had turned out some fantastic *rakhees*.

#### *The Convent of Jesus and Mary, Fort*

The Club was busy from the beginning of the year under the guidance of Principal Sister Arina Ghosal and the Moderator, Ms Samiksha Mundhe. Soon after the installation ceremony, President Dipti Kolhatkar and Secretary Sakina Godhrwala, along with Director Rabiya Shingati and Treasurer Tejal Sharma, launched the projects for the year.

Most of the activities were those that were carried out on an ongoing basis, with specific slots allotted for each. These included visits to the Spastics Society and to the Garden School to help the teachers and to play with the children there.

The last week of July was dedicated to the newspaper collection drive, with all students bringing old newspapers from their homes. Almost one and a half ton of newspaper scrap was collected, yielding a sum of nearly Rs. 10,000 for various service activities.

When the Archdiocesan Board of Education organised a poster-making competition with a topical theme, "I love my mother earth", all the students of the school took part. The Interactors also attended a presentation by the Tata Power Company on how the earth's climate was changing because of the rise in global temperatures.

In yet another project, they collected about 450 bottles made from the non-biodegradable plastic called P.E.T. and passed these on to the agencies concerned for recycling.

One of the "heroes" that the Interact Club recognised was Rajesh Laxman, aged 18, who was rescued 11 years ago by "Support", an NGO working for the rehabilitation of street children. Although he had lost both his arms in an accident, he had learnt to use his legs – he wrote his SSC exams with his toes and passed with 71% marks! He also played cricket.

After Diwali, the Interactors left for Udaipur, "the city of lakes", on an educational tour. One of the popular spots they visited was *Saheliyon ki Baari* which had lush gardens and crystal-clear water fountains. Despite being a busy tourist spot, the garden was spotlessly clean.

The Interactors remembered the martyrs of 26/11 with a special assembly to pray for the victims of the deadly carnage and to honour the memory of those who had laid down their lives to defend the city against marauders from across the border.

#### **Sir J.J. Fort Boys' High School**

President Sairaj Pardeshi and his team started the year with a flourish, with all the members displaying tremendous enthusiasm in executing the tasks assigned to them. Apart from acquiring new saplings for a clean and green environment, they helped propagate the objectives of the Science Club and of the Nature Club committees.

In July, the Interactors participated in the inter-house chess tournament, the handwriting and elocution contests and the celebration of the school's annual day; in August they celebrated "Eco-Nature Day" and Independence Day with great pride and commitment. The inter-house carrom tournament was another popular event.

Come September and a plethora of activities sparked off the season of service. When Teachers' Day was celebrated on September 6 (a day after the official date), the Interactors made lovely greeting cards and presented them to their teachers.

A week later, they celebrated "Hindi Diwas" by taking part in the inter-house skit competition. But they were still not done. Before the month was out the Interactors took part in a table tennis tournament at their school.

Although all the students were busy with their exams in the month of October, they found the time to take part in a science quiz competition.

Since the exams were followed by vacations, activities slackened a wee bit. But the team of office-bearers, including Vice-President Maaz Shaikh, Hon. Secretary Hunain Shah and Hon. Treasurer Juned Lodhi, picked up the threads and returned to action in the second half of the Rotary year under the guidance of the efficient and amiable Moderator, Ms Mehjabeen F. Khan.

#### **The Alexandra Girls' English Institute**

Some of the goals of the team of office-bearers under President Nainisha Oza were to initiate a drive to ban plastic, to grow more trees, to save water and to work for the betterment of society.

Apart from making the above pledges, the Club also undertook several other activities. On a visit to a tribal village school in Manor, the Interactors donated stationery items to the students. They also taught them poems, alphabets and simple ways of approaching mathematics calculations.

A few days later, the Interactors visited the biological farm of "Keshav Shrushti", an NGO, to engage with the environment. They were given a lecture-cum-demonstration on vermiculture, vermiwash, natural irrigation methods, the use of natural fertilizers and water conservation.

Next on their itinerary was a visit to SOS Children's Home, an orphanage on the outskirts of Pune. The Principal of Alexandra Girls' English Institute and a few other teachers accompanied the Interactors on this visit.

As they were taken around the homes of the residents, the girls donated old clothes, stationery items, biscuits and other nick-knacks to the children.

The visitors also played cricket with the boys of the SOS Children's Home before returning to Bombay after going through "an enriching experience".

#### **G.D. Somani Memorial School**

A few teachers from the USA visited the school in June and interacted with the students to emphasise the need for a "Ban on Smoking".

In August, a science and EVE exhibition was arranged on a large scale, inviting participation from many other schools. Scale models and exhibits were made for demonstrating modern ways of water conservation and other procedures.

September was a busy month. Not only did the students take part in the "Hindi Diwas", they also participated in the inter-house Hindi elocution contest. A few of them recited the solemn

prayers at the inauguration, while others spoke on the state of the national language.

But it was not Hindi all the way. The Interactors also took part in the inter-house English elocution competition and spoke on subjects such as water conservation and how to keep the city clean.

A few days later, the Club participated in the "installation ceremony" organised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College where the office-bearers were formally inducted in the presence of ten other Interact Clubs.

The Interactors also participated in the inter-school "Cascade" programme at Jamnabai Narsee School and the cultural event "Sanskriti" at Villa Teresa School where they walked away with the first prize.

#### **Cathedral and John Conon School**

This Interact Club did things in style. When it invited children from the community for the screening of an

nery from students of the junior, middle and senior school in order to distribute them to various NGOs.

Remembering their promise, the Interactors volunteered to write the examinations for the visually challenged students of St. Xavier's College. They also organised a pottery workshop for students of municipal schools at the Graduate Women's Union Centre.

#### **Anjuman-I-Islam's Allana English High School**

Here is an interesting report from the Interact Club established at the Anjuman-I-Islam's Allana English High School (near Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on D.N. Road).

The Club arranged the screening of a documentary film on genetically-modified foods on the premises of the Bombay Natural History Society. The film showed how the greed to earn greater profits had led to surreptitious "modifications" in plants (for example,



*For cancer research. Ms Rajashree Birla receives a cheque from G.D. Somani Memorial School. Ms Raageshwari and Leander Paes are at right*

animation film, it offered them pizzas and cold drinks to go with the movie.

And when it decided to open yet another "Doorstep School", at the Colaba Municipal School, it decided that the children would be taught English on a one-on-one basis by volunteers drawn from Standard XI of the school.

On August 12, the Club organised a dance performance at Savera, the school for the physically challenged, as part of the Independence Day celebrations. A few days later student volunteers participated in the inaugural ceremony of "Inspire Ed", a summit on innovative education hosted by the Akansha Foundation.

In October, the members of the Interact Club and the Nature Club travelled to Shahapur, in Thane district, where they visited village Jarandi. There, they were witness to a demonstration on rain water harvesting and inter-cropping systems.

Later that month, the Interactors collected old clothes, toys and stationery

from students of the junior, middle and senior school in order to distribute them to various NGOs. Remembering their promise, the Interactors volunteered to write the examinations for the visually challenged students of St. Xavier's College. They also organised a pottery workshop for students of municipal schools at the Graduate Women's Union Centre.

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by the strong message conveyed by the film. The programme was arranged under the guidance of the Moderator, Ms Kausar Shaikh.

### **The Terry Fox Run**

Students from about 40 schools and colleges participated in the Terry Fox Run this year. The schools that took part were the following (in alphabetical order):

Activity High School, Anjuman-Islam Urdu High School, Antonia Desouza High School, Bombay Scottish School, Campion School, Convent of Jesus and Mary, G.D. Somani Memorial School, Gopi Birla Memorial School, Green Lawn High School, Happy Home & School for the Blind, Hindi Vidya Bhavan, Holy Name High School, HVB Academy, J.B. Petit School, Kamla High School, Navy Children's School, New Bharda High School & Junior College, Queen Mary's School;

Sir J.J. Boys' High School, Sir J.J. Girls' High School, St. Anne's High

(Dr.) Indu Shahani was the guest of honour and gave an inspiring talk to the young, enthusiastic gathering. As did Club President Pradeep.

Suveer Bajaj, a former student, acted as the master of ceremonies and took the audience on a walk down memory lane. One interesting video presentation was followed by another.

**And, wonder of wonders, Charter President Ritu Chaudhri turned up to attend the programme. She talked about her experiences and the difficulties of the first few formative years. She recalled receiving a lot of help from the then President, Arjun Bulchandani, and from Deepak Kapadia who had helped establish the Club.**

A sum of Rs. 2.50 lakhs – representing the collections from the Pankaj Udhas Nite held on May 28 – was given to the Parents' Association Thalassaemic Unit Trust (PATUT) as a donation. With this,

and executing 400 or more projects in a given Rotary year, their very first report listed not one but two projects.

First, the Rotaractors urged their friends and colleagues to wear leather shoes and to get them polished by the shoe shine boys at Churchgate station. They pointed out that the advent of footwear made from polymers, plastics, synthetic leather and other material had led to a dip in the earnings of the shoe shines at railway stations. Their plight worsened with the onset of the rains when people preferred water-proof rubber shoes.

A group of Rotaractors went to the railway station to execute the project, called "Polish It!" They placed themselves at strategic points all over the station and on spying a person wearing leather shoes, approached him with a request to have his shoes polished and thus give the shoe shines an opportunity to earn an honest living.

Moreover, they were politely requested to pay a little over the normal charge of Rs. 5. Surprisingly, most of them agreed that Rs. 5 was a paltry sum to pay in the days of runaway inflation and readily paid more.

Although this made only a very slight difference to the lives of a very small number of shoe shine boys, the Rotaractors had the satisfaction of doing just that little bit for one of the most neglected sections of society.

Next, the Rotaractors utilised a sudden dry spell in the midst of the monsoon to spread some cheer in the lives of underprivileged children. They gathered about 50 of them and took them on a ride on the top of an open-air bus through some of the landmark precincts of the city.

Called "Dreams on Wheels", the project saw the Rotaractors giving a running commentary of the places of interest that they were passing; this helped the children to learn more about the city in which they lived and which they had never seen closely. Of course, they also sang songs and played games while seated on the open-air deck and enjoyed the snacks and the sweets that were offered to them. It was an unforgettable experience for the children and also for the Rotaractors.

One of the biggest projects at the beginning of the year was the joint installation meeting for eleven Interact Clubs. **(A detailed report appears under the heading Interact.)**

Soon after that, the Rotaractors arranged a workshop, "Harsh, a creativity fest", for children residing in Dadar Woollen Mills a few days before the festival of *rakhee*. While intellectually-challenged children were provided with material to make *rakhees*, children from the weaker sections of society were asked to prepare greeting cards with the theme, "Happy Rakhee".

The children came up with some outstanding works that showed their untapped talent. They were assured that an attempt would be made to sell the *rakhees* and greeting cards made by them and that the proceeds would be routed back for their welfare.

After working with children, the Rotaractors returned to their college where they organised a "Friendship Day" to recognise their associates (the peons and others) for being ever-ready to lend a helping hand, no matter how big or small the demands made by the students.

The Rotaractors went around tying friendship bands and giving "Thank You" cards to their associates. They also offered their cell phones and asked them to call their own best friends, wherever they lived in India, to wish them on "Friendship Day". That was very thoughtful.

On Independence Day, the Rotaractors arranged another unusual project; they took a group of children from the St. Xavier's and the Family Service Centre homes for orphans on a bus ride to view some of the most striking sights of South Bombay.

Although they called it "Udaan", the bus carrying the children did not fly on the roads. Instead, it moved cautiously with its precious load of passengers.

The animated children were first brought to H.R. College where they participated in a flag-hoisting ceremony. They were then taken to the hall for a special film screening. Having enjoyed the film show, they boarded the bus and took off.

For many of the children it was their first look at places of historic significance. They were excited by what they saw – and the excitement showed on their faces.

When they celebrated *Raksha Bandhan* a few days later with the underprivileged children of "Seva Sadan", the Rotaractors carried 300 A3 art sheets because the organisation had sent an urgent request for them. Thus, instead of trinkets or other items, the brothers gave their sisters gifts of art sheets.

The *rakhees*, incidentally, were those that had been prepared by the intellectually impaired children of the Dadar Woollen Mills (whom the Rotaractors had visited a month earlier and helped to prepare hand-made *rakhees*).

And so, all through the year, the members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College executed one service project after another, touching various sections of society, especially the less privileged, and attempted to make a difference in their lives.

Working in the true spirit of service, they did not consider any



As it entered its 25th year, the Rotaract Club of H.R. College requested Principal (Dr.) Indu Shahani to present a memento to President Pradeep

School, Dabul, St. Anne's High School, Fort, St. Mary's School, ICSE, St. Mary's School, SSC, St. Peter's High School, St. Sebastian High School, The Alexandra Girls' English Institute, The Cathedral & John Connon High School, The Scholar High School, Villa Theresa High School, Women Graduate's Union and Young Ladies' High School.

Mrs. Cymbeline Pereira, the Interact Coordinator of the Rotary Club of Bombay, assisted in motivating students to take part in the annual event.

### *Rotaract*

#### **Mehul Sampat**

**The Rotaract Club of H.R. College**  
As the Club stepped into the 25th year of its existence, it organised a grand event called "Achieving Milestones", the theme for the Club's 24th year. The programme featured dances, short plays, skits, videos, awards and other entertainment items and was attended by over 400 people in the K.C. College Auditorium on July 9.

the H.R. Rotaractors had donated a total of Rs. 20.5 lakhs to the trust over the last seven years.

Another memento was presented to Mr. Sajjanraj Mehta who had been supporting the Club's inter-school athletics meet for intellectually-impaired children for the last 15 years.

On July 13, President Romita Sukhthankar and IPP Chirag Tekchandaney attended the meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay to thank it for its guidance over the years and for nurturing it during its journey of service.

The Club wanted to present a memento to President Pradeep (in the hope that the Rotary Club would continue to extend its support in future, too) and requested the Principal, (Dr.) Indu Shahani, to make the presentation on its behalf. Indu then presented a glittering silver salver to Pradeep amidst loud applause.

And then the H.R. Rotaractors got going, and how! Known for planning

programme or project too small to tackle. Whether it was buying caged birds from the illicit market and setting them free, or organising a huge athletics event for the physically challenged, the Rotaractors did not shy away from anything. They wanted to make a difference and they did make a difference. Here are the highlights of just eleven activities undertaken by the Club during the year:

(1) "Action Replay", an inter-collegiate and inter-Rotaract sports and entertainment quiz competition, saw participation by 100 teams from colleges all over the city and suburbs;

(2) A special "Parents' Nite" to assuage parents of Rotaractors that their children were neither reckless nor irresponsible; and if they seemed to be spending more time away from home it was because they were involved in the many service activities of the Rotaract Club; the interactive session was followed by a sit-down dinner;

(3) Twenty young members of the Club went to the home for the aged at the King George Memorial Hospital at Mahalaxmi to interact with the residents; their brief was to talk to the seniors, to stir their memories and to jot down everything that they said; these notes would be compiled and printed as "Recollections";

(4) "Umang" was the name of the project that saw 50 Rotaractors going all the way to Bhayendar to interact with children at the Snehalaya Special School for the intellectually challenged; it had been observed that although the school was located very far from the city, its students took active part in almost all the programmes and projects of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College;

(5) This was one of the biggest projects of all times – an annual art competition for 10,500 children (most of them intellectually challenged, deaf-mutes and underprivileged) from 97 special schools; they were not asked to converge at one place, it was the Rotaractors who formed teams and visited each one of the schools and conducted the competition in one go, on October 8; the project was christened "Indradhanush" (rainbow);

(6) Having handled over 10,000 children, it was child's play for the Rotaractors to arrange the popular annual event, UTSAV, a *Dandiya Raas* night for visually challenged children residing at the Victoria Memorial School; they organised everything down to the last detail, including teacher/partners who helped the blind play with their *Dandiya* sticks, soft drinks to whet their throats and a sumptuous dinner to tuck into before going to bed; although most of them denied it, it was observed that many of the Rotaractors had tears in their eyes as they left the venue;

(7) "Exploring India" was a project that took the Rotaractors far away from home to the dusty heart of India, the State of Madhya Pradesh, where they visited three places of popular tourist and historic interest, Jabalpur, Bandhavgarh and Khajuraho; during the previous Rotary year, the H.R. Rotaractors had travelled to Egypt where they interacted with their counterparts in Cairo and established sister-Club relations with them;

(8) Through "Badlaav" the Rotaractors tied up with an NGO, "Masoom", and adopted eight night schools in the city covering 450 students, most of them in the age group of 16 to 25 years; the Rotaractors planned to teach them better, conversational English and to "guarantee them 100% job placement at institutions such as McDonald's, Shoppers Stop, Food Bazaar and Big Bazaar that would pay them a basic salary of Rs. 5,000";

(9) The tenth annual "We Are The World" programme organised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College was a humungous success, with 1,500 children from 24 schools flocking to the VJTI College at Matunga for the city's largest inter-school international culture festival; Gopi Birla School emerged as the best and walked away with the top honours; Christchurch School won the second prize and the prize for sending the largest contingent;

(10) "Jingle All the Way" was executed over two days, December 23 and 24, 2010, and saw the Rotaractors climbing their fancy "Dreams come true" bus to visit the residents of various homes for the aged, for the orphans and for the destitute located in different parts of the city, to spread goodwill and cheer in the festive season; the two-day programme reached out to exactly 3,213 persons in 29 institutes all over the allegedly heartless city of Bombay;

(11) The H.R. Rotaractors pooled their personnel and their resources to host two major projects at the same time and at the same venue; while one of these ("Badlaav") was an ambitious new programme to educate underprivileged youth in the city, the second ("Prerna") was the 15th in the series of annual sporting meets for the intellectually challenged which was once again sponsored by the Sumeet Foundation.

#### ***The Rotaract Club of Bombay***

The Club kick-started the year in the lap of nature with a trek to the National Park at Borivli, for the members apparently believed that the best way to start the year was by appreciating some beautiful sights of nature.

Thirteen Rotaractors were joined by six prospective members on the

adventurous trek to the sylvan surroundings of Silonda, an offbeat trekking trail located at a distance of about five km. from the Sanjay Gandhi National Park. The five-km. trail crossed three to four huge streams before culminating in a huge waterfall with a deafening roar.

Fakhruddin Kagzi, Club Service Director for 2010-11, was in charge of the programme along with Rotaractor Hetal under the overall guidance of President Venkatesh Narayan.

Back from the nature trek, the Rotaract Club of Bombay, the only community-based Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay, got busy with its service activities.

In order to motivate members to choose a more responsible way of re-joining and to spend some time with the underprivileged sections of society, the Club visited Vatsalya Foundation at Mahalaxmi to celebrate "Friendship Day" with its residents.

An envelope-making competition was arranged for the children; they were provided with sheets, glue, paints, brushes and other requirements and asked to let their creative urges flow. The children had a great time as they made envelopes of different shapes, sizes, colours and designs.

The first general body meeting for the year was held at the home of one of the members and a roadmap of the activities to be taken up during the year was drawn up.

The installation programme, called "Lakshya", was held on August 8 in the presence of President Pradeep, Chairman Mehul and District Rotaract Representative Harikrishnan Pillai. Outgoing President Harshvardhan Sekhsaria passed on the baton to the new team led by Venkatesh Narayan and Secretary Ishita Vora.

On August 15, the Rotaractors celebrated Independence Day with the children of the three schools where the *Bhavishya-Yaan* programme is being implemented, viz., the Dr. Ambedkar Municipal School at Worli, the Colaba Municipal School and the Banganga Municipal School.

A drawing competition with "Independence" as the theme was organised for all the children. For the Rotaractors this was not just another drawing competition; they had decided that the cards prepared by the children would be sent to the Commanding Officer of the 53RR Battalion-Punjab as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication under tough conditions.

The project was in line with the Club's attempt to promote its "Lakshya" (goal) of creating awareness about the Indian Armed Forces and bringing it closer to society. It was

organised by Vice-President Ankeeta Punjabi and Past President Devika Bundela.

A lavish 'iftaar' party for Rotaractors was hosted during the holy month of Ramadan by Fakhruddin Kagzi. Sixteen members and dozens of Rotaractors from other Clubs attended the traditional get-together.

A seminar styled "Jaago India" was organised at the Khalsa College in Matunga to highlight the career prospects in Defence and allied fields and in the civil services. The idea was to increase awareness about these vital areas of national life and to encourage the youth to consider taking up careers in these services.

Brig. Dharam Prakash Singh (Retd.) of the Indian Army and other officers spoke at the seminar. Ajinkya Chawariya, Vice-President of a body known as the Indian Army Fans, also spoke. More than 150 students of Khalsa College attended the seminar and showed keen interest in the Indian Armed Forces.

On September 15, Secretary Ishita Vora celebrated her birthday at the Sharda Sadan Girls' School at Girgaum. It was an amazing experience for her and her fellow Rotaractors as they shared their happiness with scores of underprivileged children.

Ishita cut a cake and then looked on agape as a young student of the school gave an outstanding dance performance.

#### ***The Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College***

What a way to begin! The "Directors' Annual Workshop Night" (for 2010-11) was organised at Hussein Farms, Bhiwandi, on June 2 and 3 to instil leadership qualities in potential Directors of the Club through sustained deliberations and informal discussions, peppered with group games and other interactions to engender leadership qualities.

Rotaractors Hansika Shahani and Qais Hussein arranged the programme (known by its acronym DAWN) under the Avenue of Professional Development.

Outgoing President Dhaval Shah and the incoming man, Saksham Mendiratta, accompanied the group which consisted of 28 persons. Interestingly, they didn't depend on catering or on restaurants. They cooked their own meals and made it a delightful programme with a menu of its own.

Back in Bombay, the Rotaractors organised their installation on the eve of Independence Day. Fifty six members of the Club were joined by 112 visiting Rotaractors, 22 District Council members, three partners in service and 29 guests, making a total attendance of 222.

The event was christened "Pinnacle" and highlighted the outstanding achievements of the year gone by and celebrated the advent of a promising new team.

With a strength of 229 during the year 2009-2010, the Club registered the highest-ever membership among all Rotaract Clubs in District 3140. Picking up the thread from that figure, the Club set its sights on a new record.

One of the first projects of the year was the thankless job of helping to clean Juhu beach by removing plastic and other environmentally hazardous waste. Under a joint project called "Not just clean by the beach", the Rotaractors collected 970 kg. of trash.

Two other Clubs, the Rotaract Clubs of Bombay Film City and Bombay Green City, collaborated in this ambitious programme.

In another innovative programme, the Rotaractors of Jai Hind College took up the task of helping the children of the Colaba Garden School to discover their artistic creativity by means of vegetable and finger painting.

The aim was to teach the children an innovative and attractive way of painting a picture and to help them discover their latent talent. The children had experienced few extra-curricular activities before this.

It was a delight to see the rather serious faces of the children breaking into wide smiles as they managed to complete a painting. It was a sheer joy. Their performance was outstanding, their use of colours unbelievably good. The icing on the cake was their thousand-watt smiles.

No fewer than 50 members of the Club registered their attendance at this project which was christened "Art Attack".

With the advent of March, the young, enthusiastic members of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College decided to launch their "silent campaign" on the streets of the city.

They devoted the four Saturdays of the month to silently spreading awareness about each one of these four contemporary themes – "Global Warming," "No Smoking," "Obeying Traffic Rules" and "No Using Plastic Bags."

It was their biggest Community Service project of the year, christened "Silent Saturdays", and involved several members, non-members, concerned citizens and even interested passers-by.

*Day One (March 5)*

The campaign began with two speeches that invoked the spirit of love for "Mother Earth" and a description of the month-long event. A poster explaining the campaign was unveiled by Chairman Mehul Sampat.

Going out into the streets, the Rotaractors formed a human chain to highlight the looming threat from global warming and held up posters covering the other three themes, too. Surprised by the appearance of the youth propagating such serious causes, several passers-by stopped in their tracks and joined them.

A canvas set up on a street corner provided an opportunity to all comers to express themselves freely. And they did it with a vengeance. From graffiti to pictures, everything imaginable found a place on the canvas. Not only students from other colleges, some expatriates, too, utilised the opportunity to share their thoughts.

*Day Two (March 12)*

This was the day of the "No Smoking" campaign. The Rotaractors broke up into teams of seven each and focused on the streets around colleges like Jai Hind, K.C., H.R. and St. Xavier's.

Most of them felt that smoking among the youth had assumed alarming proportions. Sadly, some youth seriously believed that smoking worked as a cure for stress and all other problems in life.

Some Rotaractors motivated people going into Inox theatre. Others, employing *Satyagraha*, stood silently near cigarette vendors, holding posters exhorting people to give up smoking.

Few citizens seemed to be easily convinced. But some young men were so embarrassed that they quickly dropped their cigarettes. A few went a step further and emptied whole packets.

At a rough count, about 75 cigarettes were dropped over a period of two hours. Some Rotaractors felt no qualms about bending down, picking up the butts and depositing them in trash cans.

*Day Three (March 19)*

The drive to make the city a safe place for drivers and pedestrians had teams of seven setting out to exhort people to "Obey Traffic Rules". Posters urging road safety and to follow traffic rules were displayed on the roads. Some posters urged motorists to wear their seatbelts and to switch off their engines when they stopped at traffic signals. Those riding two-wheelers were urged to wear their helmets rather than hang them on their bike handles.

It was observed that most bike-riders wore their helmets and motorists their seatbelts, but the police personnel did not follow the law regarding helmets. When Rotaractors requested them to wear helmets, they said, "Sorry, we don't have helmets!"

A few people turned their engines off on seeing the charts, but some re-

mained adamant, saying that the signal was about to change.

While some people lauded the Rotaractors for taking up a difficult task, there were also those who laughed at them. But then it takes all kinds to make the world.

*Day Four (March 26)*

As the last Saturday of the month dawned, those who had completed their exams returned to the campaign. The theme for the day was "No Using Plastic Bags." Instead of only highlighting the harmful effects of plastic bags, it was decided to offer a solution in the shape of cloth bags priced at a modest Rs. 15 each.

The thrust was on shopping areas with heavy use of plastic bags. This was going to be the most difficult part of the "Silent Saturdays" campaign because the Rotaractors had to sell cloth bags without uttering a word.

But the response was far better than expected. Most of those approached readily gave away their plastic bags and purchased the cloth bags.

Although some people remained impervious to the ecologically correct solution that was offered, the supply of cloth bags that the Rotaractors carried was sold out in a short while of the campaign being launched.

#### ***The Rotaract Club of Hinduja College***

The Club launched its activities for the year by undertaking the annual "Signature" trek-cum-hike to Matheran. This year, too, they added a Community Service project to what would have otherwise been merely a leisure trip.

On August 1, 35 Rotaractors left for Matheran, headed for the dam at the base of the hills where they took on the task of collecting all the plastic waste in sight. It was interesting to see young college students trekking to, and then from, the dam, carrying huge plastic bags in which to place the waste they had picked up.

By the time they completed their trek-cum-hike, they had cleaned up the entire stretch leading to the dam. No less than 17 plastic bags had been filled when they were done; all the bags were dumped in the space allotted for waste material by the local authorities.

Back in Bombay, the Rotaractors took up several significant projects. Apart from the "Road Safety Drive" organised by Deepak Kapadia, they also participated in two important projects.

On "World Youth Day" (August 12), they visited the Mother Teresa Charitable Trust orphanage at Vile Parle along with members of the Rotaract Club of Pathfinders. The orphanage was home to homeless chil-

dren aged between two months and 20 years.

The Rotaractors got down to the serious business of drawing them out of their shells by playing interactive games with them and then attempted to unveil the inherent talent in them.

Colours, crayons and paper were passed around and each Rotaractor sat with a small group of four to five children to enable them to draw, to colour or simply to write the alphabet. They gave the toddlers lessons in recognising objects. The authorities of the orphanage appreciated the initiative taken by the Rotaractors.

A few days later, the Rotaract Club of Hinduja College, along with the Alumni Association and the NSS Unit, arranged a programme to pay tribute to the late Saurabh Shiware, son of their Principal, Dr. T.A. Shiware, on the occasion of his death anniversary.

A rally to create awareness about the spread of diseases and the crying need for cleanliness in the city started from the college and wended its way through many remote areas near Charni Road, Girgaum and V.P. Road. Rotaractors carried placards and banners exhorting the citizens to keep the city clean.

Municipal corporation workers marched alongside the students, cleaning all the areas that they passed. Officers and staff of the local police station did their bit to help in the smooth conduct of the rally. The Rotaractors were lauded for assisting the municipal corporation in its drive to keep the city clean.

#### ***The Rotaract Club of Government Dental College***

The Dean, Dr. M.G. Pawar, played host at the installation meeting of the Rotaract Club of Government Dental College (GDC) which was attended by the District Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni.

It was like a trip down memory lane for Dr. Jayant who had done his post-graduation (M.D.S. in conservative dentistry) from GDC many years ago.

The function was held in the institute auditorium and marked the passing of the baton from outgoing President Abbas Unwaala to his successor, new President Kunal Dani.

Among those present were President Pradeep, Vice-President Nowroze Vazifdar, Dr. Sorab Javeri, Deepak Kapadia and others.

Once they were through with the installation, the Rotaractors, working under the supervision of Dr. Dimple Padawe, Head of the Department of Paediatric Dentistry, conducted a two-day camp for unprivileged children of the Akanksha Foundation, VT, BMC and Cuffe Parade branch.

Twenty four children were given free dental treatment, from preliminary scaling to intensive procedures such as root canals and extractions, in order to alleviate their pain and to provide them with an everlasting, aesthetic smile.

Not only did the Rotaractors take up several new and interesting projects during the year, they also ensured that they did not neglect those programmes that had been going on for years.

They travelled regularly to Talwada where they treated about 250 persons free of cost; they went in batches to various medical camps all over the city and suburbs to offer their services to the less privileged sections of society; and they celebrated "Children's Day" with patients in the paediatric ward of their college.

The Rotaractors also took part in a treasure hunt; in a human chain project to promote safe driving; in "World AIDS Day" celebrations; and in a special vaccination camp. To round off the year, the Club organised an outstanding two-day workshop on "Endodontics" which enabled its members to keep pace with the latest developments in the field.

All in all, the Rotaractors kept themselves extremely busy all through the year, with one significant project after another. Here is a brief overview of their activities during the year:

#### *Tribals at Talwada*

The Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre at distant Talwada provides a rare opportunity to the Rotaractors to serve the less-privileged sections of rural India which reside so close to Bombay and yet lack many essentials.

On the second and third Sunday of every month, the "social soldiers" of the Rotaract Club of Government Dental College travel to the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre at Talwada in Jawhar taluka of Thane district, where they provide specialised dental care to the indigent residents of Talwada and surrounding villages, most of whom are tribals or Adivasis.

About 250 patients were treated free of charge during the current year. Not only were the villagers offered outstanding dental care, they were also imparted knowledge about good oral habits and how to ensure better dental hygiene. Alleviating pain and bestowing pleasant, aesthetic smiles were some of the routine activities conducted by the Rotaractors.

Two senior dentists, Dr. Ajay Gupta and Dr. Srinivas Kamath, took turns to visit Talwada along with the Rotaractors.

#### *A treasure hunt in town*

When they were not busy extracting teeth, filling cavities, doing root canals or drilling someone's molars, the Rotaractors put down their tools and

let down their hair. They took part in a "Treasure Hunt".

In a welcome departure from their grinding routine, they participated in a "Treasure Hunt" that took them to different parts of the city to perform various tasks before reaching the final destination.

#### *Hepatitis vaccination*

A camp that offered hepatitis vaccination to the staff and students of Government Dental College met a very important need because dentists were more prone to Hepatitis B through the oral route. The camp, organised by the Rotaractors, gave vaccinations to 148 staff members and students, including professors and post-graduate students.

Basically a preventive vaccination, the need for it was felt when it was noted that there was insufficient awareness about this contagious condition and that not much was being done to prevent it.

Dr. Varsha Manekar, Head of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, helped in organising the camp and making it a great success. While the first dose was administered on December 18, the second was given a month later. The third and final dose was to be given at the end of six months (around June 18).

#### *Celebrating Christmas*

The Rotaractors celebrated Christmas with the children at the League of Mercy Orphanage. They offered them sweets, toys, stationery items and other knick-knacks; they also danced and played party games with them.

Later, they trooped into the paediatric ward of their own hospital to celebrate Christmas with the children admitted there. One of the Rotaractors donned Santa's costume and went about distributing joy, smiles and sweets.

#### *'Odontospeak' magazine*

Two editions of *Odontospeak*, the official magazine of the Rotaract Club of Government Dental College, were published. President Kunal Dani called them "spicy" as they were filled with "all the haps and the non-haps of our college".

Interviews with professors and students and news about their ideas and innovations were featured in the magazine.

#### *'World AIDS Day'*

The Rotaractors celebrated "World AIDS Day" by making an effort to spread awareness about HIV and AIDS. They pinned the typical red ribbons on their clothes and shared information about the devastating effects of these conditions.

Patients of the appropriate age group admitted in the hospital were taken into confidence and the hazards of AIDS explained to them.

#### *Human chain*

The Rotaractors took active part in the drive to spread awareness about safe driving on the streets of south Bombay.

When Deepak Kapadia, Chairman of the Rotary Club of Bombay's Committee for Road Safety, organised a "human chain" on Marine Drive, the Rotaractors joined him in large numbers, carrying placards exhorting motorists to drive safely.

#### *Govandi medical camp*

Members of the Club took part in the dental check-up camp organised by the RCC Committee for the residents of Govandi and surrounding areas. About 350 persons attended the camp and were given expert dental care and information about adequate dental hygiene.

#### *Dental care for orphans*

The Rotaractors visited the Little Angels' Orphanage at Malad on Children's Day. They first had an informal interaction with the children; it

extracted tooth, thus giving them hands-on experience.

Dr. M.G. Pawar, the Dean, inaugurated the workshop. The guest speakers, led by Dr. Abrar Sayyed, gave detailed lectures on the subject. This was followed by an intense discussion and a useful question-answer session.

On the second day, the students seemed thrilled with the prospect of attempting something new. Once a detailed demonstration of the procedure was given, they were allowed to actually practise all that they had learned with the new system under the watchful eyes of the experts.

"It was a great experience for the students as they got to learn and to practise a new concept and to use the latest machines and systems available in the market," said President Kunal Dani.

The workshop ended with special thanks to M/s Dentsply Dental Co. and to the Dean and other professors.



*Rotaractors of Government Dental College provided quality dental care to students of the 'Akanksha' Foundation*

was only after they were felt comfortable with the visitors that they were examined for dental problems.

A total of 45 children were seen and given instructions on how to take care of their teeth and to ensure dental hygiene all their lives.

#### *'Endodontics' workshop*

The Club organised a professional development course for its members to acquaint them with the latest advances in dentistry and to help them to step up to the next level of expertise.

The two-day "Endodontics" workshop was designed to give an opportunity to budding dentists to keep pace with the rapid changes in the field and to ensure that they retained a competitive edge. M/s Dentsply Dental Co. arranged the systems that were on display.

While the first day was devoted to gaining a detailed insight into the new system, the second day gave them the opportunity to actually work on an

#### *Night Study Centres*

#### **Sunny Pariyaram**

President Pradeep was the chief guest at the lively annual get-together of the Rotary-YMCA Night Study Centres held at YMCA International House on January 15.

Over 250 students from eight Centres took part in the thoroughly enjoyable cultural programme, with each one of the Centres presenting an interesting item.

Also present were President-Elect Paul George, Hon. Joint Secretary Sitaram Shah, Chairman Sunny Pariyaram and Mr. Abraham Koshy, Chairman ORD of Bombay YMCA.

In a brief speech, Pradeep exhorted the children never to give up the effort to succeed. If they did not give up the effort, he said, they were bound to achieve success.

The Rotary Club of Bombay and the Bombay YMCA would be happiest if the students attending the Night

Study Centres attained success in their respective vocations, he added.

Pradeep also presented prizes to the winners of the elocution competitions held as part of the annual get-together. Students who scored first class marks in the last HSC and SSC examinations were also recognised.

The engaging programme ended with the children enjoying the array of snacks that had been lined up for them.

#### Vocational Training Centres

##### Jacob Abraham

A number of students of municipal schools in South Bombay received merit scholarships at a regular meeting of the Club for their performance at the SSC and HSC examinations.

Chairman Jacob Abraham said while announcing the names of the recipients that the students hailed from the underprivileged sections of society and sat every night to pursue their studies at the various Night Study Centres

Thus, YMCA had completed 40 years of solemn, silent and sustained service through the Night Study Centres which were open five days a week all through the year, except during the vacations.

In 1975, the project turned into a joint venture, with the Rotary Club of Bombay offering its hand in partnership. The Centres then came to be known as the Rotary-YMCA Night Study Centres.

Over the years, their number had grown to eight and the number of students flocking to them had gone up to 400 to 500 per annum. Some of the students had gone on to become doctors, engineers, government officers and so on. One of them, Mr. Ajit Padalkar, had found employment in the Bombay High Court. He was now a supervisor of a Night Study Centre.

#### Road Safety

##### Deepak Kapadia

Speed thrills, but it also kills. This was the message that Deepak and



Mr. Abraham Koshy joins Sitaram Shah, Paul George, Sunny Pariyaram and President Pradeep at the cultural programme of the Nigh Study Centres

conducted by the Club in association with the YMCA.

The scholarships had been made possible thanks to a corpus donated by the philanthropist, Mr. Amit Chandra, and the Nevatia Trust established by the Nevatia family. The scholarships were called the Late Joel Unchenik Merit Scholarships.

Throwing light on the need for, and the role played by, the Rotary-YMCA Night Study Centres, Jacob pointed out that in a city that was bursting at the seams, most youngsters found it difficult to pursue their studies in peace and without any disturbance in their tiny homes.

It was to meet this crucial need that the YMCA had pioneered the first Night Study Centre in a municipal school in Agripada way back in 1972. Children looking for a congenial atmosphere to pursue their studies went to the Centre and sat down to quietly pursue their studies.

his Committee spread all through the year.

The Committee organised a drive in association with other Clubs to hammer home the need for safe, unhurried driving, given the steep rise in the number of road accidents in the city and suburbs. Among those who participated in the event were enthusiastic members of the Rotaract Club of Hinduja College.

The drive was inaugurated and attended by top police officers and left an impression of motorists thanks to the help and assistance of the traffic police of the area.

Invited to address a meeting of the Rotary Club of Mumbai Cuffe Parade, Deepak chose to speak on "Speed thrills, but it also kills" and embellished it with some eye-opening facts and figures. He pointed out that one fatal accident occurred somewhere in the world every six seconds.

**In India, two lakh people died in road accidents every year and**

**Maharashtra alone accounted for a whopping 75,000 of these deaths.**

He urged Rotary Clubs to create awareness about road safety by organising slogan-cum-drawing competitions for Interact Clubs; arranging films shows on the subject for them; and also by arranging talks by senior R.T.O. officials at regular Rotary Club meetings.

To highlight two shocking facts, that over two lakh people died in road accidents in India every year – the highest in the world – and that most of those killed were young people, Deepak and his Committee organised a human chain on Marine Drive on January 3. It started from the seafront and extended towards Mantralaya.

Among those who participated in the chain were innumerable members of four Rotaract Clubs – those of H.R. College, Jai Hind College, Hinduja College and Government Dental College.

The Maharashtra Home Minister, Mr. R.R. Patil, was the chief guest; other guests were the Joint Commissioner of Police, Mr. Vivek Phansalkar, Deputy Commissioner Nandakumar Chougule, Deputy Commissioner Dorje and Assistant Commissioner Iqbal Shaikh. All of them appreciated the initiative taken by Rotary Club of Bombay.

The Sheriff of Bombay, (Dr.) Indu Shahani, Rotary District 3140 Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni and other Rotary Officers also joined hands to form the chain and to hold up placards carrying cautionary messages for motorists and the youth. A "Road Safety Fortnight" (between January 1 and 15) was suggested to the Central government.

Among the messages displayed on the placards were the following: "Don't use the mobile while driving;" "Cross only at zebra crossings;" "Speed thrills but it kills;" and "No helmet no driving."

Deepak said that the Club would conduct Road Safety programmes throughout the year. It would publish educational books for school children and organise film shows and talks by police officers at schools and colleges. He also pointed out that it was necessary to inculcate good manners at the school level and to educate college students who were on the verge of applying for driving licences.

#### DISTRICT THRUST PROJECTS

##### Director

##### Shivkumar Israni

The Rotary Club of Bombay was the Principal Sponsor of the special event organised by District 3140 to mark "World Understanding and Peace Day" on February 23. (February is designed as World Understanding Month in the Rotary calendar.)

The event was held at the Taj Mahal Hotel and was attended by several members of the city's diplomatic corps. District Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni conducted the programme and Assistant Governor Gautam Bhattacharya was the Convener. Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok Mahajan was the guest of honour.

February 23 also marked the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary (held in Chicago on that day in 1905). The event at the Taj was called "World Peace – A Path to Bridging Continents" which went with the R.I. Theme of "Building Communities, Bridging Continents".

Interestingly, February 23 was also the last day of the incoming GSE team's stay in the District. The team members from District 1910 were given a fond farewell by, among others, the outgoing GSE team.

President Pradeep was one of the key speakers, while PP Gul Kripalani did the honours for some members of the diplomatic corps. Among the countries represented were China, Israel, New Zealand, Germany, Ethiopia and Canada (thus representing all the continents)

On April 17, Rotary District 3140 and the Council for Fair Business Practices (CFBP) launched the "Fair Health Care Practices" pledge for hospitals at the District Assembly.

The launch of the pledge at the Nehru Centre was the first step in the collaboration between District 3140 and the CFBP to secure and protect the rights of patients as well as to ensure best practices in health care.

The pledge was launched by District Governor Dr. Jayant Kulkarni, District Governor-Elect Vijay Jalan and District Chairman PP Firoz Kachwalla, the prime mover of the tie-up, along with Suresh Goklaney, the CFBP President this year. The tie-up between the two bodies had been announced at the District Conference on January 30. The "Fair Health Care Practices" pledge was drawn up in consultation with the CEOs of leading hospitals in the city and was adopted at the District Assembly by representatives of these leading hospitals: Hinduja, Bhatia, Saifee, Jaslok and Masina.

#### DAUD events

For the first time this year, two DAUD events – mooted by Rotary International – were organised at the regular meetings of the Club. (DAUD is an acronym for "District At Your Doorstep".)

On September 28, 2010, a seasoned quartet of District Officers addressed the Club and unveiled several new features of the Rotary movement designed to democratise its affairs and to give Rotary Clubs a greater say in de-

ciding how their contributions would be utilised for service projects of their choice.

One of the key points was that against the earlier blend of 90:10 (90% global projects and 10% local), The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International would promote a healthier 50:50 mix. It would be more open-minded about projects and would give greater weightage to the submissions of Districts and Rotary Clubs while allocating funds.

The Foundation, which was established in 1917, had, after 93 long years, recognised that there was something about its working that disturbed Rotarians all over the world. It commissioned a survey that interviewed 10,000 individual Rotarians and set up 100 focus groups all over the world. Based on the feedback received, it came up with the new Future Vision Plan.

At present this was only a pilot programme covering 100 Districts. But as the results of this experiment were received and analysed, it would be extended to cover the entire Rotary world by the year 2013-2014.

Assistant Governor Gautam Bhattacharya, who introduced the speakers at the first DAUD meeting, was grateful to the Club for affording him the opportunity to try out the experiment in the very first quarter of the Rotary year.

The other speakers were PP Sumant Naik of the Rotary Club of Bombay Airport who spoke on "The Rotary Foundation – Future Vision Plan, Matching Grants and Global Grants"; PP Kalpana Munshi, who served the District by heading two Committees during the year and who described the World Community Service programme as well as the "\$200 Million Challenge"; and PP Dr. Quresh B. Maskati of the Rotary Club of Bombay North who said, "Be a Rotarian, not a Rotary Club member – get involved".

At the second DAUD event on November 16, District Governor Nominee Dr. Bal Inamdar, who will serve as Governor during the Rotary year 2012-2013, made an earnest plea to leading Clubs like the Rotary Club of Bombay to become "cerebral", to propound a new vision and to show the way towards all-round development of the community.

PP Dr. Quresh B. Maskati spoke on eye donations and PP Dr. Sunil M. Keswani of the Rotary Club of Deonar on skin donation. DGN Dr. Bal Inamdar spoke on Service Projects (Non-Medical).

#### *Differently-Abled*

#### **PP Kalpana Munshi**

The Committee was active all through the year; in fact, the very first project of the Rotary year 2010-

11 was one involving Kalpana and her team. This was a three-day exhibition, "From the Shadows to the Limelight", organised in association with the NGO SEC (Society for the Education of the Crippled) which educates and rehabilitates physically challenged and multiple disability children and adults from a non-privileged economic background.

The exhibition fulfilled the impossible dreams of eight artists – all of them physically challenged – as it was hosted at the best address in town, the Jehangir Art Gallery. It was inaugurated by the Sheriff of Bombay, (Dr.) Indu Shahani, and was attended by several prominent Rotarians and other dignitaries, including President Pradeep, Sabira Merchant, Dolly Thakore and Rotaryann Zarine Chothia.

According to Zarine, the idea behind the exhibition was to recognise, appreciate and give a boost to the SEC students who, despite their severe handicaps, retained a positive approach towards life. Although they were highly talented, they needed some help so that their talent could be noticed.

Returning to the SEC Municipal School a few days later, the Committee arranged the screening of the popular animation film *Bal Hanuman* which was watched by over 100 children aged between 5 and 12 years and facing different kinds of challenges.

Giving them company were President Pradeep, Kalpana, Ashok Jatia, Zarine, Shyamnias Somani, Naresh Jain and Sudha Motwane.

Just before the advent of the festive season, Kalpana appealed to members to place their orders with the Helen Keller Institute (for the hearing impaired and for those who were also visually challenged and which was just a 'phone call away) for corporate and other printing requirements, including greetings, wedding and invitation cards, letter heads, envelopes and so on.

Travelling to distant Malvani in the suburb of Malad, the Committee worked in conjunction with the Blind Organisation of India to distribute white canes, saris and packets of food items to about 100 visually challenged persons.

Since the event took place on Gandhi Jayanti Day, October 2, a *Bhakti* band present there rendered a series of devotional songs. Kalpana couldn't stop herself when the musicians struck up the notes of *De di hamaen azaadi...* and, shedding her inhibitions, broke into song.

On the same day, the Committee, in association with Lions International, arranged a polio corrective surgery camp at St. Elizabeth Hospital. Twenty polio-affected persons went under the surgeons' knife.

As members are aware, polio corrective surgery camps are held at St. Elizabeth Hospital once a year and are supported by several members.

When the Committee organised a Diwali get-together for the residents of the NAB Home for the Visually Challenged on November 3, Kalpana said the children put up a "fantastic" performance. "It was more thrilling than anything I have ever seen," she said.

Apart from sweets and snacks, the Committee distributed 100 "Solapur chaddars" (the well-known, tough blankets woven in the textile town of Solapur) at the Home.

Members of the Rotaract Club of Hills South (holding traditional hand-made *diyas*) welcomed the team of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Bombay which included Naresh Jain, Shyamnias Somani, Rotaryann Malti Jain and Freyaz Shroff.

And then it was redemption time. Kalpana and her team were back at the SEC School at Agripada on March 17 when President Pradeep inaugurated a new park for the physically challenged students. Kalpana had promised the children that she would give them a park. Speaking on the occasion, she expressed satisfaction at having been able to fulfil her promise.

The execution and completion of the project was supervised by the Committee Co-Chair, Ashok Jatia, along with his spouse Vatsala.

About 100 physically challenged children turned out for the inauguration of the park created especially for them.

Sudha Motwane, who was among the members present at the inaugural function, rendered the motivational song, *Hum hongee kaamyab*, in her mellifluous voice with a chorus of several differently-abled children.

Working in tandem with the Blind Welfare Organisation (India), the Committee arranged a national cricket tournament for the blind with 120 blind persons from nine States participating. It was held over two days, May 16 and 17, at the historic Islam Gymkhana on Marine Drive.

A unique event in many ways, the tournament featured eight teams which played one another on a league basis over two days. The 120 players were drawn from eight States, viz., Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal.

Each team consisted of eleven players of whom five were totally blind and six who had about 25% vision. The Rotary Club of Bombay presented T-shirts to all 120 players.

#### *Disha*

#### **Subash Gogia**

The Committee arranged educational loans for five students to

enrol in the "Security Executive" course conducted by the Institute of Advanced Security Training and Management (ASTM), affiliated to Zicom Electronics Securities Ltd.

The institute offered a special discount for students sponsored by the Club, charging only Rs. 20,000 per student as against the normal fee of Rs. 30,000 for the five-month-long course which carried a job guarantee.

Fourteen students recommended by various RCCs applied for the course. After interviews and medical tests, it was noted that five students were unable to pay the fees. Subash Gogia stepped in at that stage and arranged loans under the Committee, thus giving them an opportunity to take the course.

The five students did pay token amounts as their contribution, with the Club and the Committee paying the rest of the fees. Three women, Ms Ankita Tukaram Panchal, Ms Padmavati Satish Dichwalkar and Ms Ankita Shinde, could pay only Rs. 2,000 each. The Club paid the remaining portion of their fees (Rs. 18,000 each).

Ms Deepali Desai, who could come up only with Rs. 5,000, was given a scholarship of Rs. 15,000; while Mr. Devji Bhalekar was able to pay half the course fees of Rs. 20,000.

Thus, the Rotary Club of Bombay gave away a total of Rs. 79,000. The students would start repaying their loans once they completed the course and found jobs.

According to the latest information, all the students were attending classes regularly and taking keen interest in the training being imparted to them. They thanked Subash and the Club for offering them the scholarships. Mr. Narayan Sawant, the Club's social worker, was keeping track of their attendance and performance.

#### *Inner Wheel Club of Bombay*

#### **Geeta Kapur**

Members attending the meeting of October 5 were taken aback at first and then forced to acknowledge that a paradigm shift was taking place right before their eyes.

It happened when a delegation visiting India to attend the International Inner Wheel Conference came to the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Conventional wisdom said that it was women who attended Inner Wheel Conferences. But this particular team consisted entirely of men. In other words, they were not Rotarians themselves but were the spouses of women Rotarians.

The world had, indeed, changed.

The team was led by PDG Gulam Vahanvati and PP Dr. Tushar Shah, the spouse of Pallavi Shah, International Inner Wheel President for 2010-2011. With them was Jacques, spouse of Catherine Refabert, who will serve

## ***FUNDS COLLECTED DURING THE ROTARY YEAR 2010-2011***

<b><u>Towards</u></b>	<b><u>Corpus</u></b>	<b><u>Donation</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Medical</b>			
Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre	6,80,002	7,39,980	
Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre	5,00,000	1,97,112	
Aid to cancer patients	6,65,201	81,000	
Oral health		10,000	
Hepatitis & polio immunisation		19,330	
<b><u>Sub-total</u></b>			18,45,203 10,47,422
<b>Community Service - Non-Medical</b>			
Women Empowerment Old Age Homes/Senior Citizens		5,000 15,000	
Welfare of Animals		1,25,000	
<b><u>Sub-total</u></b>			1,45,000
<b>Education/Vocational</b>			
Bhavishya-Yaan Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	12,25,000	7,57,250	
Management Education Vocational Training Centre	5,50,000	22,000 50,000 1,01,000	
Rotary Public Awards	16,50,000		
<b><u>Sub-total</u></b>			34,25,000 9,30,250
<b>District Thrust Projects</b>			
Adoption of Police Station		1,00,000	
<b>Others</b>			
Inner Wheel Club *		50,000	
General donations	30,001	5,59,125	
Oberoi Melting Pot *		20,80,000	
Kherwadi *		5,000	
Mumbai Marathon (for Bhavishya-Yaan)		15,90,000	
Terry Fox Run *		1,24,500	
Teach for India Foundation *		50,000	
Rotary Habitat Housing *		50,000	
Birthday Donations/ Community Box collections		12,18,702	
(* signifies pass through)			
<b><u>Sub-total</u></b>			30,001 57,27,327
<b>Total</b>			53,00,204 79,49,999
<b><u>GRAND TOTAL</u></b>			1,32,50,203

as International Inner Wheel President in 2011-2012.

Also in the team were Michael, spouse of Joan Beech Jones; Jean Fischer, partner of Christiana Requin; Ivan, spouse of Pat Traill; and Adolfo Garcia, spouse of Mercedes Velten.

Jacques Refabert and Ivan Traill exchanged banners with President Pradeep.

To turn to the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay, its efforts were boosted by a generous donation of Rs. 25 lakhs by District Inner Wheel Chairperson Indira Kotak – her spouse Suresh Kotak is a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay – for a rural empowerment centre at the Balwantraji Mehta Centre, Shantivan, near Panvel.

Indira made the announcement while delivering the keynote address as chief guest at the installation meeting of new President Geeta Kapur and her team of office-bearers who took over from IPP Falguni Mehta. The meeting was held at the CCI on July 1.

President Pradeep was the guest of honour and the guest speaker was Ms Meera Sanyal, Country Head (India) of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The guest speaker, Ms Sanyal, held the gathering captive with her talk on “Aspects of governance and perspectives of Indian growth in the future”. She also shared her experiences while interacting with cross-sections of society during her quest for political office from the South Mumbai Lok Sabha constituency.

Rolling up their sleeves, the members of the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay got going soon after the installation meeting. One of their first projects involved the supply of batteries (dry cells) to be inserted in the hearing aids used by underprivileged children with hearing impairment.

It opened a “Battery Bank” for the purpose at the Central Society for the Education of the Deaf at Agripada. The Club offered to sponsor the supply of batteries. The members were given a tour of the Society’s school by its Hon. Chairperson, Ms Mary J. Behlihomji.

Among those who accompanied Geeta were Hon. Secretary Sweta Vakil, Zarine Chothia, Arti Sanghi, Malti Jain and Avi Dastur.

The Club members travelled to Lonavala to hand over a large number of blankets to the resident students of the School for the Education of the Crippled (SEC) located at Kanha Patha, Lonavala. Zarine Chothia received the blankets from Geeta on behalf of the SEC School. Sweta Vakil, Arti Sanghi and Malti Jain were also present.

The Club also organised two parties; a Christmas party for the residents of the SEC School and a New Year party for residents of the Parukh Dharamshala home for the aged.

A magic show by a professional was one of the highlights of the fun-filled morning organised at the SEC School where the children had a whale of a time. Geeta, Zarine, Sweta, Anurita Chadha and Malti Jain were among those who attended this party.

Avi Dastur joined them at the party for senior citizens at the Parukh Dharamshala. A “Dharamshala King” and a “Dharamshala Queen” were crowned at the end of the party and received watches as prizes.

The Club sponsored the “Fun City” at the annual Orthopaedic “Mela” organised for physically challenged children. The Rotary Club of Bombay North also took part in this event.

While Geeta and Malti served eatables at one of the stalls set up at the “Mela”, two members of the Rotary Club of Bombay turned up to lend their support. They were Manoj Israni and Abhinav Aggarwal.

Apart from the above, the Inner Wheel Club of Bombay busied itself with several other projects during the year gone by. These encompassed a range of activities and touched the lives of the have-nots in cities and in villages; some dealt with fresh water plants and swimming pools; others were meant for the physically challenged and the deaf-mutes. The urban poor seeking treatment for premature babies in public hospitals were also on the radar.

One of the key projects was the inauguration of a drinking water supply scheme at Shiravali Thakurpada village in Panvel district. This consisted of a bore well from which water was drawn up, pumped to an overhead tank and thereon to the residents through community taps. The scheme was declared open by District Chairperson Indira Kotak.

The Club also sponsored the annual swimming competition for the students of the S.E.C. and the S.R.C.C. schools at the YMCA swimming pool, Agripada. Eighty children from three different schools participated in the eagerly-awaited swimming contest.

Thanks to a generous donation by PP Jyoti Doshi, the Club installed a sophisticated “Bubble C-Pap” machine in the neonatal ward of Sion Hospital. The equipment was described as life-saving equipment for premature babies.

Finally, the Inner Wheel Club sponsored the annual sports day at the Institute for the Deaf and Mute, Mazgaon. One hundred and forty students participated in various group and individual contests that were organised on the occasion.

The sports meet was attended by Geeta, Sweta and Malti Jain. They also distributed the prizes at the end of the event.



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## ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

FOUNDED 19 MARCH, 1929  
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Rotary Suraksha Loans	Ashok Jatia
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Scholarships	Madhusudan Daga
Management Studies	Poonam Kumar
Legal Case Practice	Apurva Diwanji
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Vocational Train. Centres	Jacob Abraham
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Differently-Abled	PP Kalpana Munshi
Disha	Subash Gogia
Rural Lighting	Kiran Nanda
Adoption of Police Station	Nirav Shah

# Rotary Clubs make changes to attract younger members

When Rotarians in Walnut Creek, California, USA, found it difficult to attract young professionals to the area's morning and afternoon Clubs, they set out to establish a new Club that would accommodate busy, on-the-go schedules.

The Rotary Club of Diablo View (Walnut Creek), chartered in 2009, meets in a local brewery at 5:30 p.m. every Thursday. President Jennifer Beeman says the Club sets aside time each week for socialising before turning to Club business and that the relaxed atmosphere appeals to younger members.

Jennifer was only 24 years old when she became a Charter member of the Club and she's now one of the youngest female Club Presidents in Rotary. The Club has 26 members, 90% of them between the ages of 25 and 40.

"Since we have younger members, our attitude is different. People have told us how refreshing it is to have young faces behind Rotary," she says.

Jennifer says that the Club carries out many projects in the Community so that members have an opportunity to do hands-on service. Every month,

for instance, it plans an outdoor project, such as cleaning up nature trails. Younger Rotarians usually have more time than cash at their disposal so they tend to contribute by volunteering.

The Club recruits new members through social media like *Twitter* and *Facebook* and has a mentoring programme to help with retention. All new members are assigned a mentor who spends extra time with them outside regular meetings.

"The modifications we've made have helped our Club appeal to younger professionals and retain them. They've created a high-energy Club."

Jennifer adds that Clubs must be willing to make a few changes to attract younger members. Here are some examples of what Clubs are doing:

(1) Through a student membership initiative, the Rotary Club of Hope Island, Queensland, Australia, invites college-age students to meetings and subsidises the cost to bring a youthful perspective to the Club;

(2) The Rotary Club of Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, has created the "25 Club", a club-within-a-club. The members hold additional meetings, sponsor regular social gatherings and carry out a number of service projects. The inductees are generally younger and after a year they transition into the parent Rotary Club;

(3) The Rotary Club of Crawley, Western Australia, Australia, started a mentoring programme that helps new members transition into the Club. Its average age is now in the 30s;

(4) The Rotary Club of Bricktown Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, meets in a tavern. First-time guests are treated to two free beverages, compliments of the Club;

(5) The Rotary Club of South Metro Minneapolis Evenings, Minnesota, USA, meets in the evenings and lowers costs by not having meals.

## Happy Birthday



Ashok Chinai  
June 28



PP Arjun  
Bulchandani  
June 30



Dinshaw Pandole  
June 30



Jairaj Purandare  
June 30



Dr. Mukesh Batra  
July 1



Naresh Kumar Jain  
July 1



Warij Kasliwal  
July 2

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## Spouses/Rotaryanns

Brinda Somaya  
June 28

Sudha Mahindra  
June 29

Indu Brahmabhath  
June 30

Vita Dani  
July 2

Madhavi Nathani  
July 3

Manjiri Purandare  
July 3

Padma Lal  
July 4

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