

## President's Report

It feels like just yesterday that a group of Rotarians took to their feet at my Installation to surprise everyone and shake things up with their flash mob rendition of "Happy".

And a happy year it has been. I have been the recipient of so much affection and amazing support that this job has been a wonderful experience.

Preparations for the year began with an April retreat in Pune with the Board of Directors, where much of the setting of priorities and planning for the year was mapped out. This was an experiment — the first of its kind — but it was such a resounding success that I'm sure it will become a permanent part of our Club. We emerged from this two-day session clear on how we were going to tackle issues of membership, fundraising, attendance, the Rotary district's expectations as well as our goals for the various community service projects. As a result of this increased clarity, there were few issues that took us unawares or unprepared. I'm proud of the exceptional job the Board has done this year. I leaned and relied heavily on their advice and they were unstinting in giving their time and leadership.

Much of my focus has been on developing our community projects to have depth and to actually change lives rather than merely "touch" them. With the support of Committee Chairs at Bhavishya Yaan and the Night Study Centers, we have begun supplementing the nutrition of the children with whom we work. The BY committee has worked on developing evaluation criteria and creating an e-learning module that will supplement traditional teaching with



promising results. Our Talwada projects have struggled with lack of water from April onwards for the past few years; this year, the deepening of the well and the building of a new pipeline will ensure that they will no longer face a water shortage in the future.

The Scholarship Committee undertook an extensive overhaul of the way we evaluate and support deserving students and has developed a model that actually gives meaningful and consistent support to the most deserving.

Many of you were present to see the inauguration of Phase 2 of the solar power project at the Museum, which will result in enduring monetary saving, as well as make an impact on the environment. Our Jal Jeewan water project has grown beyond expectations and we have filed a Global Grant application to enable its replication in slums across Bombay.

Two of the new projects rolled out this year were the partnership with the Asiatic Library, working on conservation as well as facility renovation, and the refurbishment and renewal of the International Women's Association clinic to provide medical services to the city's poor. Both have had

resounding success and will continue to make a lasting impact on Bombay. The Animal Committee was another active new initiative, working with the animal hospital in Parel and with Welfare for Stray Dogs.

We acted on our decision to be exacting on membership rules and unfortunately had to ask for the resignations of four members. This past year 7 of our senior members passed away. We added a total of 12 new members; all of whom we hope will make great contributions to the Club, resulting in a total Club strength of 314. We have actually seen a lowering of the average age of our club. We started the year at an average 58.9 and end it at 56.9.

Club Assemblies were lively, participative affairs, with less focus on reporting and more on interaction and on how projects could overlap and work together. One of these actually took place on an overnight trip to Khandala, allowing members to spend time focusing on Rotary without interruptions and creating greater understanding of our Club's strengths and challenges.

As always Interact and Rotaract were important partners, and we actually added to the number of Clubs with the inclusion of the Rotaract Club of Indian School of Design and Innovation.

But all work and no play makes for a dull Rotarian, and our various Committees ensured that there was no fear of that! For the first time, the Sports Committee included an extremely popular table tennis tournament, outdoor soccer and a memorable car treasure hunt.

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*(Cont'd form Page 1)*

These activities not only resulted in much family fun but also showed the fiercely competitive side of our members.

The In Camera Committee hosted some excellent speakers, allowing Rotarians to explore several topics in depth, while the Assimilation Committee outdid itself in ensuring that new and old members felt connected and hosting multiple small get-togethers.

The year featured an outstanding line up of speakers and topics. We started the year with the delightful Boman Irani, heard from Anant Goenka, editor of The Indian Express, explored the world of the blind, listened to Sufi music, met Amrish Tripathi, Shabana Azmi, and Vidya Balan, and even climbed Mount Everest in the course of our afternoon series. We danced with Astad Deboo, crawled over the roofs of the Museum, and heard members read from the Asiatic Library's archives during some of our off-site meetings.



We reinstated the practice of in-house debates and our members delighted us with their arguments on the issues of the beef ban and the legalizing of pornography. We even had a wonderful afternoon with Sabira conducting a Rotary version of What's the Good Word?

The Fellowship Committee excelled in giving us a delightful and memorable year. We started with an unforgettable trip to ISRO, India's space center, and followed it up with a fun foodie weekend in Pune. We undertook a pilgrimage of sorts to Benares and Sarnath, and ended with a tiger-spotting trek to Tadoba. From Parsi New Year to Diwali and Christmas, we celebrated with a fellowship event nearly every month, enjoying the company of fellow Rotarians and building new relationships. We even hosted our first ever International Fellowship which included clubs from Madras, Malaysia, Austria and the United States.

The Gateway — that enduring channel of communication — underwent major changes too, stylistically and editorially. We changed the publishing deadlines so that it is now delivered on Mondays and even earlier in its emailed format.

I cannot end this report without acknowledging and recalling the fabulous event that was our fundraiser with Javed Ali. A great group of Rotarians worked on the event, pulling off an evening par excellence. We exceeded our own targets monetarily, but equally important, we showcased with pride what RCB is capable of and works for.

Someone once told me, "Being President of the Rotary Club of Bombay is like steering a large cruise ship. You can only make small corrections to its path." It's been a marvelous experience, and I hope that I've helped steer this great ship to smoother waters.



## *Dr. Batra's meeting announcement*

*We are pleased to announce that our incoming president Dr. Mukesh Batra's first meeting will be on Jul 1st, 6:30pm at the Taj. Chief guest is Ms. Maneka Gandhi and our guest of honour is DG Dist. 3141 Rtn. Gopal Mandhania. The meeting will be followed by a fellowship dinner.*

# “Oh God It’s Almost Over”

This was the first whole year that I spent as an office bearer (OB) of the Rotary Club of Bombay (RCB). I had promised myself it would be a learning experience, and it really was.

But first things first. What are my fleeting memories of the year that was? Here’s a light-hearted look from inside the goldfish bowl.

Sonya had probably spent more time talking with various Rotarians in the run-up to her term than any President-Elect has. And I guess this gave her the insights she was looking for to ensure hers was a year with a difference. And what a “different” year it has been.

The offsite for Office Bearers and Directors at Pune was delightful. Apart from the extravagant generosity of Jai Advani who made a perfect host, it gave the Office Bearers an opportunity to actually sit down together, marshal their thoughts and plan out things in an organized manner. The offsite as a tool in the RCB had arrived!

The difference was really seen and felt at her installation as President. From the group that landed up at Samir Chinai’s house to practice dancing to the tune of a popular song (I think it was actually a rehearsal for all of us to dance to her tune) right down to the disruptive cue to break out into the dance (I am told the District team hasn’t yet recovered from that shock), that evening set the tone for what was to follow.

Club Assemblies were different. No more dull meetings at the IMC with some marathon reports and some sprints in evidence. A better venue, PowerPoint presentations, and break-out brainstorming all added up to more productivity and definitely more interaction between Committees. And that in itself was different.



Silos fell and Committees realized that being strange bed-fellows could actually be fun. Environment and Animal Welfare; Bhavishya Yaan and Women’s Empowerment; to name a few.

And the wanderlust that Rotarians displayed was a revelation. From the cutting edge rocket launch site of ISRO to the shore temples of Mamallapuram; from the spotlessly clean ghats of Varanasi to the deep cool bamboo forests of Tadoba, Sonya and her merry band of Rotarians traveled. And whether it was a treasure hunt in Tamil Nadu or floating down the Ganga on a crisp cool morning or even looking into the smoldering eyes of a tiger, there was camaraderie and amazing arrangements and great fellowship. One discovered Sandip Agarwalla’s eye for detailed planning, the aggression that the otherwise mild-mannered Ashok Jatia could display in a session of Anthakshari, and the inexhaustible supply of snacks that Malti Jain could produce even as she posed with élan for a million pictures.

Even the new projects like urban conservation and the IWA clinic were different, as was the epic fund raiser where Sonya and her Committee met almost every Rotarian who ever graced

the Roster and opened my eyes to what solid hard work and truly large-hearted Rotarians could add up to. Committees like Assimilation suddenly sprang up to make sure every single Rotarian felt part of one big family. And with Rotary meetings in such novel settings as the Asiatic Library and the Mumbai Museum, the “different” theme played out strongly.

And of course what does one say about the First Family? The affable and ever-smiling Don Bomi, the spirited Zeenia with her impeccable Italian (of course, with the Rotarian command over the Italian language extending just to Spagetti Carbonara and Pizza Verdure, she could have spouted anything in that adorable accent and gotten away with it) and the sensitive and hard-working Camille, they get a double thumbs up on every count.

When so many things happen so well, you scarcely realize the passage of time. And suddenly you are thinking about Sonya’s Shu... No, I won’t say the word Sonya loves so much. But you realize that Oh God, it’s Over! So why not two years for deserving Presidents? Sonya, do we hear you say “Shukriya” to that?

- Rtn. Ramesh Naravan

# Animal Welfare Committee

**T**he Animal Welfare Committee, a new initiative, has successfully completed all the projects undertaken this year. In partnership with the Environment Committee, we participated in the restoration and cleanup of a 1500 sq. ft. area at Welfare for Stray Dogs (WSD). The restoration work included plumbing and de-silting to make the area usable by WSD and comfortable for the animals.

We also conducted The Day of The Dog workshops at two Bhavishya-Yaan Schools to educate the students about dog bites, rabies, and the process of adopting stray dogs.

We have provided a new X-Ray machine and steel medical instruments for surgeries to the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals, and ensured that the Bio Gas plant previously provided by our

## Animal Welfare

SPCA (Completed project for the year 2016)



- X-Ray Machine
- Medical Equipments
- Charity Art Auction

## Animal Welfare

WSD (Completed project for the year 2016)

- Restoring 1500 sq. ft. area for sheltering animals



Club is optimally used. We also conducted an art charity auction with 60 top artists contributing 160 paintings. The proceeds went towards animal welfare.

We are also working with PETA to support them in their fight to abolish horse carriages in Bombay.

# The Environment Committee

**T**he Club has always wanted to further our cooperation with the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalayam (CSMVS), formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India. We continued from where last year's Environment

Committee left off by expanding the installed solar power (Phase 1) from 12 KW to 15 KW in the CSMVS-owned Max Mueller building in September 2015. We implemented Phase 2 by installing 15 KW in the Annex of CSMVS in May 2016, and have thus helped to convert 15% of

CSMVS's energy usage to solar power. By investing a total of Rs. 31 lakhs in two phrases, we are saving CSMVS approximately Rs. 6 lakhs per year in reduced BEST bills. More than that, CSMVS's coal usage will be reduced by nearly 29,000 kg per year, and its carbon footprint will be reduced by 35,000 kg per year.



We organized a well-attended public talk by Dr. Prasad Modak on 'NetZero Buildings: A Dream, Reality or Necessity?' in December 2015. We also partnered with the Animal Welfare Committee in October 2015 to help in the cleanup of the sewage disposal system outside the buildings, a longstanding problem. Finally, we organized a 3-day trip to the Tadoba Tiger Reserve for 29 Rotarians and spouses in March 2016.

# Fellowship Committee

**F**ellowship is the lubricant that oils the wheels of Rotary. We started by warming up with visits to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Pune, followed by newer Rotarians' hosting of small cluster get-togethers, and gained momentum with larger ones like Diwali and Christmas. The Parsi Nite and the car treasure hunt were well attended, and the outstation trips to Varanasi and Tadoba were splendid.

A path breaking international week was organized, probably a first for our Club, and several Rotarians hosted stays for international members from clubs in Chennai, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, USA and Germany. A separate committee devised a series of lunches, dinners, tours and events, the funds for which were all generated by sponsors and hosts. Pradeep Mafatlal and Ashish Vaid played magnificent hosts during their fellowships hosted during the week.



We have been extremely fortunate to have been supported by all our Committee members, some of whom are seasoned veterans. President Sonya, Rtn. Fali, PPs Sandip and Nandan, all have gone out of their way to support us, help raise funds for each event and also help us rope in fellow Rotarians to join our smaller working groups in charge of specific

fellowships.

A big thank you to them and to every Rotarian who contributed with money or time, and also to all who attended any of our Fellowship events and trips. After all, we do believe: no fellowship, no Rotary.

## Hasanali Tobaccowalla Eye Centre

**T**he Hasanali Tobaccowalla Eye Centre (HTEC) is an ongoing project at Talwada that has rendered comprehensive eye-care to the deprived local population for approximately the last 37 years. Our monthly visits are continuing on a regular basis. Dr. Anil Deshpande, our Resident

Doctor at HTEC looks after the post operative care and conducts independent OPDs and surgeries through the year.

### Statistics from 1st July 2015 to 31st May 2016:

Number of Patients Examined	13,789
Operations	829
Lasers	198
Spectacles Given	1,084
Corneal Transplants	1
Patients Admitted for Treatment of Other Eye Diseases	110



We have also added a new scanner for biometry and a new autoclave. Our repairs and maintenance work is continuing, and acute water shortage has necessitated the deepening of the well and carrying out of other water harnessing processes.



I would like to thank our Donors, the Management and Trustees of Jaslok Hospital and Conwest Jain Clinic, and Rtn. Rajas Doshi, as also our visiting Doctors and staff of the HTEC, for their continuous support, help and guidance. Special thanks to President Dr. Sonya Mehta, PP Dr. Rahim Muljani, Arin Master and our new Rotarians, Dr. Priyanka Doctor, Dr. Nivedita Patil and Dr. Anil Deshpande.

# Bhavishya Yaan Committee

In a short span of over five years, Bhavishya Yaan is now present in five BMC schools with 700 kids enthusiastically undergoing the program every year. Today, it's a matter of great pride to everyone involved, and indeed the whole of Rotary Club of Bombay, that the first seed has grown into not just a seedling, but a healthy tree.

The academic year 2015-16 had an auspicious beginning, felicitating students who had performed creditably in the previous year. The function attracted students, parents, Rotarians, celebrity Rohit Roy and wide media coverage in The Indian Express, Free Press Journal and ABP News.

E-Learning was introduced at the Worli and NMJ Marg Schools. Students now use Tablets to take tests and periodic impact assessments are carried out.



A host of co-curricular activities, viz elocution, debates, and off-sites to a biscuit factory, banks, etc., were undertaken to enhance the children's life skills. Some BY children were part of a popular TV show, Jhalak Dikhla Jaa, and others witnessed a football match in the prestigious I-League. They also formed the backbone of the Echo program. Programs like self-defence, Smile Anthem, etc., gave BY children ample opportunity to exhibit their inherent talents.

The BY Committee had another "first"

with a get-together at Lonavala attended by its members, Knowledge Partners, President Sonya Mehta and President Elect Dr. Mukesh Batra.

BY students rounded off another meaningful year with excellent SSC results with a near 100% pass percentage, several high scorers and school toppers.

As a new initiative a database of 10th standard students who have passed out in 2015-16 will be created, to monitor their future progress.

# Assimilation Committee

The Assimilation Committee, under the able leadership, full co-operation and invaluable guidance of President Dr. Sonya Mehta, has engaged in numerous activities.

Mini Fellowships of Cocktails & Dinner were graciously hosted by Mahesh Khubchadani, Peter Born, Vineet Suchanti, Pritam Sanghai, Mudit Jain and Nayna



and Adi Dastur. Our invitee list covered over 150 members who enjoyed amazing hospitality at these events.

Colour Tables and Chocolate Events was a bonding exercise where upon arrival at the weekly meetings, members picked up different brands of chocolates and had to sit at the table bearing that chocolate placard. The purpose was to get members



to bond with other Rotarians besides their regular friends. Further, the President would pick a chocolate and those on the winning table would receive gifts of Rotary-themed tablemats, mugs and deodorant kits. A special thanks to the Sergeant-in-Arms team for assisting in this endeavour.

Member ID Card lanyards were distributed at every meeting to enable Rotarians to put a name to a face. We also matched members with committees by soliciting inactive Rotarians and pairing them with Committees that had vacancies. Feedback from such committees will assist us in future as well. Finally, Membership Attendance Analysis was carried out mid-year to ascertain membership attendance and participation.

# In-Camera Committee

**T**he In-Camera Committee was re-initiated and revived in 2015-2016, under the Presidency of Dr. Sonya Mehta. The Committee put together some interesting programs in the last year.

In July 2015, Ms. Sudha Shah spoke on *The King in Exile - The Fall of the Royal Family of Burma*. It was a riveting talk, and was followed by drinks and dinner at the Kanoria residence.

In September 2015, Ms. Vibha Bakshi screened the film *Daughters of Mother India*. The screening was held at the private auditorium of the Sheths. It was very well attended by the Rotarians. The screening was extremely difficult to watch as it was hard hitting and showed a very brutal face of India.

Next in November 2015 was an Art and Heritage Walk at the Taj Mahal Hotel,



aply named *Through the Corridors of Time*. We even got to see a few paintings by Indian masters that had not been publicly shown before.

Finally, in February this year, Dr. Vidya Vencatesan spoke about the numerous

interpretations of the epic Ramayana from the different regions of India.

All of the In-Camera events were extremely well attended, provoking interesting discussion and the sharing of different perspectives on diverse subjects.

# Interact Committee

**T**he Interact Club of Convent of Jesus & Mary, Fort works with an organization called Prem Daan, which works to provide education to street and slum children. The Interactors visit the school every week and play several games with the children, help them in preparing for school events, and teach them poems, skits, songs and dances.

This year's Interact 4C Conference hosted by Cathedral and John Connon School was based on the theme of setting up a model micro economy in which each school can adopt a village of its own and provide a safe and secure environment to its residents.

As part of Each One Teach One, the students regularly volunteer to teach the



children of NGOs like Akanksha, Salam Balak Trust, Om Creations, Savera and Centre for Child Development. They also participated in the Swachh Bharat initiative by cleaning up the Chowpatty beach after Ganesh Visarjan, making dustbins out of waste materials and creating awareness amongst their fellow schoolmates on maintaining hygiene and sanitation.

The Interactors also organized a tree plantation drive and distributed paper



bags to shopkeepers. Finally, they organized a cupcake sale during Diwali, a music concert, and a newspaper drive in school to raise funds for charity.

# ADMC Committee Report

All services rendered by the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC) are free of cost. The ADCMC has different specialists visiting the Centre on Sundays. On the first Sunday of the month, a team lead by Rtn Dr. Rohini Chougule (Chest Specialist) takes care of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, anaemia and other respiratory ailments. A total of approximately 500 patients are examined (which includes X-Ray's), treated and given medication during the year.



On the second and third Sundays, a team consisting of Dr. Srinivas Kamath, Dr. Ajay Gupta and Dr. Neeraj Kolge along with Rotaractors of Government Dental College (GDC) and Rtns on the ADCMC Committee visit the Centre. Around 750 patients are examined and treated for fillings, root canal treatment, X-Rays,

prophylaxis (cleaning), extractions and replacement of missing teeth.

On the fourth Sunday, the paediatrician Dr. Bijoy Apte from Panchgani attends to children visiting the Centre. A total of 300-350 patients are seen. Cases consist of worm infestations, anemia, protein energy malnutrition, gastroenteritis,

respiratory tract infections, dermatitis and other general complaints such as fever, ear infections, etc.

Our resident medical officer Dr. Arvind Yadav retired on 1st June 2015 on account of his age and indifferent health. We appreciate his tireless and sincere service for more than 15 years.

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## Night Study Centre Committee Report

The Night Study Centres provide a safe and quiet environment for students to come and work. Each Centre holds classes that are supervised by teachers who can help students with their homework and monitor the class. The YMCA and the Rotary Club of Bombay jointly support these

initiatives. We provide books, an evening snack, and a tutor. These Centres are set up near their homes and localities.

The Nutritional Support Programme initiated in July 2015 is supporting 160 students at 5 Centres and is serving balanced meals and snacks to the

students. The parents of the students have noticed that their children are not asking for pocket money to eat junk and unclean food. Healthy snacks like Banana, eggs and chikki have been provided and there has been significant increase in the students' weight and height.

The first batch of English Speaking Classes started with the assistance of Teach India from 11th January 2016. Approximately 20 plus students were short listed to form the batch. The duration of the course is three months, and 12 participants completed the course.

Get together programmes are also organized for the students, giving them the opportunity to interact with other students of different backgrounds and to show their talents and skills.





# Vocational Training Centre

The Vocational Training Centre (VTC) is run in association with the YMCA at Agripada, Bombay Central. Young girls and women in the age group of 15 to 40 years are trained in various vocational skills, like tailoring, hairdressing, beautician work, mehendi, etc. The VTC continues to provide skill-based training to empower women of the locality, in order to enhance their economic and social status.

This year, we kicked off a Nutritional Program by serving boiled eggs, bananas and khichdi to students. Computer training classes are also run for both men and women to help them secure clerical and government jobs.

On 21st October 2015, a Vocational Training Centre Certificate Distribution Programme was held at the YMCA, where President Dr. Sonya Mehta was the Chief



Guest. Various Cultural Programmes i.e. skits, songs, and traditional and contemporary dance were performed by the students. Testimonies of passed students were shown through video presentation. The Chief Guest and other dignitaries distributed certificates to the 24 students who successfully completed the course, witnessed by a gathering of approximately 300 students and teachers.

We are planning to start a website for the VTC students to link them with potential



employers, so that they can find employment in the future.

## Rotaract Committee

Rotaract Clubs of Bombay, Government Dental College, HR College, Jai Hind College, Hinduja College and Indian School of Design and Innovation (six in total) are within our fold. This year, the

Rotaract Clubs have been focusing more on the quality of their projects rather than the quantity.

This year, we successfully added a new Rotaract Club by chartering the Rotaract

Club of Indian School of Design and Innovation. We have also revived the Rotaract Club of Hinduja College, which has now become one of the most active clubs in the Rotaract District.

For the first time, we had a joint project involving all six of the Rotaract Clubs along with the Animal Welfare Committee, where we designed a presentation on how we can help the Bai Sakarbai Dinshaw Petit Hospital for Animals to develop a social presence.

There has been greater involvement and participation by all of the Rotaract Clubs in the various projects conducted by the different committees of our Club. There were also more Rotaractors present at our Club meetings and more Rotarians present at Rotaract events.



# Scholarship Committee

**T**he Committee awarded Scholarships totaling Rs. 15 lakhs, of which Rs. 1 lakh was awarded to 13 Rotary affiliated Scholars, Rs. 2 lakhs were given to 60 physically challenged students (partially blind), Rs. 4 lakhs were distributed to 40 students under general category (including Amit Chandra

and Vimala Deshpande Scholarships), and Rs. 1 lakh was given to 10 girls of Night Study Centres.

This year the Committee initiated the Rotary Scholars programme. They sifted through the hundreds of applications received and selected 10 Rotary Scholars.

Rs. 7 lakhs were awarded to the 10 Rotary Scholars. Under the aegis of the Rotary Scholarship programme, these students will receive a scholarship in continuity until they complete their graduation or post-graduation, as the case maybe.



# Women's Empowerment Committee

**T**he Women's Empowerment (WE) Committee has undertaken many projects this year. Gender sensitization workshops were held for the WE Committee by ex-Police Officer Mr. Chaube, Dr. Sharma from Ladli, and Poori Pasand. The WE Committee in turn held several such workshops for Bhavishya Yaan students.

The WE Committee has partnered with the International Women's Committee (IWA), a 53-year old Charitable Clinic for Women and Children, located in South Bombay. This Dispensary was renovated by the Rotary Club of Bombay and now has 3 functional departments: General Practice for Women and Children; Gynecology and Family Planning for Women; and Dentistry for all. In partnership with the IWA, we have conducted three camps in the last six months for Bhavishya



Yaan and Savera kids and parents. A total of 450 old patients and 247 new patients have been registered in the past 6 months.

The Committee visited the Rescue Foundation in Boisar, which rescues girls from forced prostitution and domestic violence, and supplied them with old

clothes, food grains and biodegradable sanitary napkins. It also conducted a Clothes and Books collective drive and distributed them to various institutions. Workshops on women's health and hygiene were also conducted in partnership with the Vocational Training Committee and with the students in the ECHO program.

# The Urban Conservation Committee

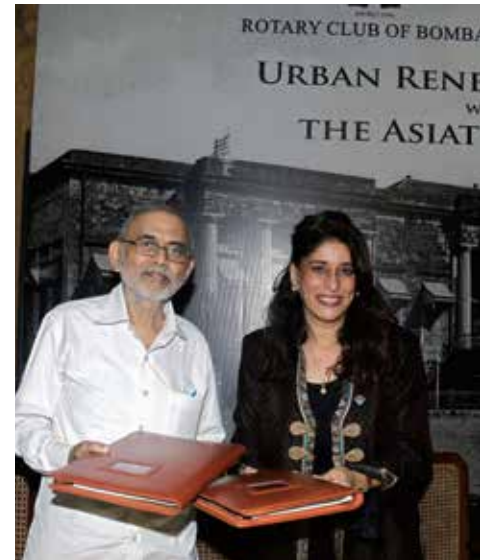
**T**he Urban Conservation Committee partnered with Bombay's prestigious Asiatic Society, an iconic library with priceless literary treasures and a heritage landmark in the heart of the city.

As part of its vision to restore, conserve and maintain the Asiatic Library, the Committee achieved many milestones. It held a hugely successful fundraiser performance, "Interpreting Tagore" by Astad Deboo on 16th February 2016 at the Durbar Hall. A total of Rs. 4 lakhs were raised from sponsor Edelweiss and ticket sales combined.

The Committee raised funds for 100 books to be restored in the Library's Conservation Laboratory. The capacity of the Conservation Laboratory has itself been expanded to double the number of books that can be restored. Although the

start of the expansion work was delayed due to the renovation of the Central Library hall, the project commenced in April 2016 and work is progressing well. Funds for three special-designed chandeliers were also donated to the Asiatic Society, which will be installed in the Central Library hall when renovated.

We have donated four map storage cabinets to the Asiatic Library, and handle



the maintenance and upkeep of the premises with Forbes Facilities Management. One of our weekly Rotary meetings was also hosted in the Library in August 2015. Rare books were displayed and passages read out from select works.

# Water Resources Committee

**T**he Rafinagar Jal Jeevan Water Centre continues to grow from strength to strength. It is currently dispensing 170,000 litres of safe drinking water per month. The project is run as a social enterprise, a concept introduced for the first time in any of our Club's projects.

The project is run by a self help group of 7 ladies who earn a salary of Rs 5,000 per month from the project. The SHG is trained to promote and undertake advocacy of safe drinking water to the community it serves. The project is self sustaining and gone a long way in alleviating water borne diseases in the Rafinagar community, increasing the earning capacity of adults, and reducing absenteeism in schools for the children of the area as well at work places for the adults.



In fact, the dispensing capacity had to be doubled after the first 3 months — such was the demand for safe drinking water from Jal Jeevan. Also, a tricycle was purchased from internal generation to help improve the distribution reach of the Centre.

Buoyed by the success of this project,



the Club now proposes to set up 9 more such Jal Jeevan Centres in the slums of Malwani, Mankhurd, Juhu, etc. over the next few months. Global Grant applications have been filed and the Club has roped in a US-based Rotary Club as its partner for these projects.

# Sports Committee

The Sports Committee aims to spread goodwill and fellowship through sports, and successfully completed several events this year.

On Sunday, 22nd November 2015, the Rotary Club of Bombay celebrated its very first indoors sports event: an exhilarating and fun-filled First Table Tennis Fellowship at YMCA, Colaba. Yet another goal was achieved by organizing the First Annual Football Fellowship on Saturday, 12th December 2015 at NSCI West Lawns.

The Ninth Annual Golf Tournament has come a long way since it started in January 2008. This has become the flagship Fellowship event of RCB. Its increasing appeal brought in 32 players this year on Saturday, 16th January 2016 at The



Willingdon Sports Club.

On the cool, windy and crisp Saturday morning of 27th February 2016 the President's XI took on the might of the Bhavishya Yaan XI at the Seventh Annual Cricket Fellowship at the P.J. Hindu Gymkhana. The Fifth Annual Tennis Fellowship was also held on a Sunday



morning on 24th March 2016 at Bombay Gymkhana.

# Yoga Committee

The Yoga Committee has conducted yoga training classes in 11 BMC schools. More than 900 students have benefitted from 30 sessions in each school by a yoga teacher.

Considerable improvement has been noticed in the memory, concentration, and the well-being of the participating students, encouraging other students to follow Yogic Asans, Pranayama, etc.

The Committee also organized two camps, the Arogya Mela Medical Camp for Mumbai Citizens and the Nirog Mega Medical Camp for Mumbai Police and their families. These Camps were intended to spread the message of yogic therapy, health and well-being and imparted service through doctors and yoga instructors.



Preparations are underway to share multiple activities with the Common Yoga Protocol of the Government of India at multiple locations in the city and other places with the Kaivlyadhama Institute. As part of the celebration of the International Day of Yoga on 21st June, a Booklet on Common Yoga Protocol will be made available for public consumption.

# "The Year That Was..."





# “District Awards 2015 - 2016”

**K**eki Mistry, rightly described as the “very embodiment of integrity, for setting the highest standards of corporate governance as a distinguished leader in the Indian Financial Services Industry”, is indeed a worthy recipient of the Jamnalal Bajaj Award for Good Governance. In his address, he makes a solid case for how values and proficiency in work go hand in hand.

“Over the past 2 decades corporate governance has become an inevitable topic of discussion in Boardrooms across the globe. The financial crisis of 1998 in Asia affected the entire economies of several Asian countries. The corporate governance failures in the US and Europe, which caused the subprime crisis resulted in some of the largest insolvencies in history. In the aftermath of these events, there is now wide recognition that companies practicing good governance have a distinct and competitive advantage in enjoying investor trust.”

Corporate governance really begins with the constant reinforcement and demonstration of the tone set by senior management, ensuring that the correct culture within the organization percolates. “As regards HDFC, one of the characteristics of the Board is its deep commitment to good governance and its zero tolerance policy on any kind of compliance failure. The support and advice provided by Board members to the management, the diverse



**Keki Mistry accepting his award.**



**PP Paul George, announcing the award winners.**



**PP Arvind Jolly being pinned the Arch Klump badge by DG Subash Kulkarni.**



**Award winner Mrs. Larzy Verghees.**



**DG Subash Kulkarni presenting Dr. Armida Fernandez her award.**



**Award winner Ms. Dipika Pallikal with other Rotarians.**

perspectives on various business matters which results in healthy and constructive debate and the ability to arrive at a consensus has helped our board to function at its optimal best.”

One of the underrated aspects of corporate governance is the need to align the culture of the organization with the business strategy. “At HDFC we believe that a strong relationship between culture and strategy produces improved financial

## ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### OFFICE-BEARERS 2015/16

PRESIDENT	Dr. SONYA MEHTA
Immediate Past President	Shailesh Haribhakti
President-Elect	Dr. Mukesh Batra
President Nominee	Ramesh Narayan
Honorary Secretary	Manish Reshamwala
Joint Hon. Secretary	Framroze Mehta
Hon. Treasurer	Meera Alreja

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Membership	PP Arun Sanghi PP Paul George
Sergeant-at-Arms	Rekha Tanna Hoshang Nazir

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Environment	Jagdish Malkani Alok Sekhsaria
Animal Welfare	Priyasari Patodia Ramon Kripalaney
Asiatic Society	Aditya Somani Rohan Dalal

### DIRECTOR : DR. AASHISH CONTRACTOR

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Chairman Emeritus, Talwada	PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani
HTEC, Talwada	PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
ADMC, Talwada	Dr. Sorab Javeri

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Scholarships	Zinia Lawyer Abhinav Agarwal
Assimilation	Manoj Patodia Mahesh Khubchandani

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Bhavishtya - Yaan	Rajesh Shah Madhusudan Daga
In Camera	Ashok Kumar Vandana Kanoria
Attendance	Arvind Agarwal

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Senior Citizens	PP Ashish Vaid
Akshayapatra	PP Dr. Zerxis Umrigar PP Harry Singh Arora

### DIRECTOR : PREETI MEHTA

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Rotaract	Satyan Irani Sherbanu Baldiwala
Legal Aid	Hormazdiyaar Vakil Ashwin Thakkar

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Fund - Raising	Pradeep Chinai
Sports and Yoga	Hiranmay Biswas Jamshyd Vazifdar Sitaram Shah

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Vocational Training	Bimal Mehta Shermaz Vakil
Bulletin	Pratap Padode Murad Currawalla
Fellowship	Jai Advani Khurshed Poonawala

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MR/TECH/WPP-89/South 2015  
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Posted at Mumbai Patrika Channel Sorting  
Office, Mumbai 400001. Posted on  
Wednesday October 28, 2015

performance, better employee engagement, ethical behavior and customer satisfaction.”

The effectiveness of a Board can be measured by the checks and balances it has in place as well as by its risk management systems. The best risk management framework is one that fortifies the Balance Sheet in good times so as to create sufficient ammunition and sufficient buffer to tackle any downturn that may happen.

“At HDFC for example, the Board fixes the risk parameters, Executive Management has the operational flexibility and they have the ability to work the way they want within the risk boundaries that are being set by the board. For all new initiatives that we take, our Board considers the inherent risks, which are discussed in detail before any new policy is formulated. The Board continuously evaluates evolving risk to the business as a result of the changing external environment.”

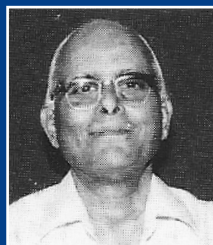
Organizations world over are now becoming aware that their longevity and competitiveness hinges on their governance standards. The mindset is to operate as trustees on behalf of every shareholder, be he large or small.

The Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher was presented to Mrs. Larzy Verghees, who

has been a pioneer in providing education to underprivileged children in the slums of Malad. Venturing into an area that was considered dangerous and irredeemable, Mrs. Verghees persevered, even recently selling her family ancestral property to raise funds for the secondary school and junior college. In the last SSC exams, 100% of the students passed and a number of them received Distinctions.

Dr. Armida Fernandez was presented with Rotary Club of Bombay Award for Social Service. One of the founding members of Sneha, Dr. Fernandez talked of the difficulties of working within an underfunded government system, particularly in the field of neonatology. She mentioned the various simple innovations that neonatologists had implemented to reduce infant mortality. One of her pioneering efforts was the establishment of the First Human Milk Bank in the country.

The Uma Jain Award for the Young Woman Achiever of the Year was presented to Ms. Dipika Pallikal. Beginning her squash career early, she played her first match in the sixth grade. One of India's top sportswomen, she was pleased to receive the Award on behalf of all squash players for a sport that receives little attention in the country. Dipika is also an Arjuna Award recipient and a Padma Shri awardee.



**“Late Rtn. Prabhakar Deshpande bequeath under his WILL a donation of Rs.25 lakhs to the Rotary Club of Bombay for the Corpus fund of Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre.”**

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY FOUNDED 19 MARCH, 1929 Charter No. 3128, Dated 08 May, 1929 97-B,  
Mittal Tower, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, INDIA  
Tel.: +91-22-2202 4089 Fax.: +91-22-2202 4509 rotaryclubbombay1@gmail.com