



“I never saw a glass ceiling. I only saw the sky.”

When actress Vidya Balan was asked what message she would give to young men and women, she said: “There are no rules to success. So, carve your own path — and that will only happen if you’re being true to yourself. There is just one of you, so don’t try to be like anyone else.”

Judging by her talk last Tuesday, she certainly seems to follow her own advice. In a surprisingly candid and engaging conversation with Rtn. Aditya Somani, she discussed her views on body shaming, female stereotypes in the film industry, her family, and even Donald Trump.

Vidya was awarded the Anita Parekh Award for Women’s Empowerment for promoting and supporting the cause of



women’s rights in India. As President Dr. Sonya Mehta pointed out in her introduction, Vidya is known as a fine actress (and is the winner of five Filmfare Awards), but is also the recipient of a Padma Shri, the Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat, and an avid campaigner for women’s

empowerment. Vidya, too, in thanking the Club, said, “My work is really an extension of my beliefs, and I’ve been appreciated for my work, but this goes beyond my work, so this is very, very precious.” The talk was conducted in an informal, question-and-answer format and covered a variety of issues.

Much of the discussion focused on Vidya’s role as a pioneer for women. When asked about gender stereotypes in the film industry, Vidya admitted that it hadn’t been easy. “I did get exposed to a lot of stereotypes when I entered the industry,” she said, “stereotypes that I wasn’t aware of, because, I think, in my little world, things worked quite differently — and then you step into a world that is a male bastion.”

(Full Report on Pages 4 & 5.)

Last Meeting of the Year

Last meeting of the year on Sat, 25th June, Taj Lands End, Bandra at 7pm. The meeting is followed by dinner and revelry. Please RSVP Rashmi at 22024089

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **June 14th**
EGM at 12:30pm.
Tasneem Mehta addresses the club at 1:15pm.
- **June 21st**
Awards afternoon at Taj Mahal, Colaba
- **June 25th**
Last Meeting of the Year, Taj Lands End, Bandra at 7pm
- **July 1st**
First meeting of the New Rotary Year, Taj at 6:30pm

Rtn Aashish Contractor reminiscences about his time with RCB

My initial impression was that Rotarians were a group of high-society individuals, who did a lot of socializing together and also did a bit of social work. However, while interacting with various patients who were Rotarians, I understood the genuine work done by the organisation and the impact it had on society. I was also fortunate to be invited to various Rotary Clubs as a speaker (including the other two 'Taj' Clubs, but never ours), which gave me a first-hand insight into the working of Rotary.

Past-president Ashish Vaid is a neighbour and he often spoken about the club, and through him, I had got several bulletins of our club. I was impressed by the quality of work done as well as the membership, and naturally gravitated to RCB over other clubs (besides, I think Ashish would be mad at me if I had even considered another club!)

There have been several touching moments where the work done by the club has impacted some of the most underprivileged sections of society, whether it be in Talwada or the slums of Mumbai. However, to me some of the most cherished moments have been seeing some of our very privileged members and their spouses, literally roll up their sleeves and stand in line to serve in all sorts of situations and circumstances.

There have been several special events, but one at the Gateway of India on 26/11 a few years ago was very special, especially



since I was 'there' that fateful day in 2008. Among the fellowships, the one hosted by Rtn Pradeep Mafatlal does stand out as probably the 'foodie' event of the year.

I still consider myself as a junior member of the club, and at the risk of sounding clichéd, I must say that I have miles to go, and hope to contribute a lot more in the coming years.

In my opinion with the influence and reach that our club members yield, I do feel that we could and should do more in the area of advocacy. Due to the sheer size of our population, even in our own city, any 'activity' that we do, can, at best have a limited impact. But if we, are able to influence policy, then the impact would be multiplied manifold.

CORRIGENDUM: The obituary for Dadi Engineer in the June 07-13 newsletter was written by Mr Jimmy Pochkhanawalla. We regret our failure to mention this in the article.

RCB Installation at Hinduja College

The Rotaract club of Bombay held its installation on the 4th of June at Hinduja College. It was the outgoing ceremony of now IPP Rtr. Rushab Tijoriwala and the incoming ceremony of now President Rtr. Rishi Vora. DRR for R.I.D. 3141 Rtr. Rohan Dalmia was the chief guest while alumnus Rtn. Hiren Kara graced the occasion as the guest of honour. The ceremony included Rtn. Hiren Kara inspiring the young Rotaractors, felicitating the achievers for the year, the handover of the club reins and DRR Rtr. Rohan Dalmia encouraging Rotaract Club of Bombay to strive for excellence. Attendance at the event was 118.



Feedback Please!



Your favourite bulletin, The Gateway, invites all Rotarians to be an active part of this weekly bulletin. We plan to start a column dedicated to profiling each one of you, where you could share your experiences as a Rotarian, in your own words! Adding a more personal touch to your exclusive bulletin, we are reaching out to Rotarians from different age groups, professions and preferences, with the aim of sharing aspects to your personality that are lesser known, but deserve to be shared! Let's give your RCB comrades the opportunity to know you better! Connect with us at gateway@rotaryclubofbombay.org.

Stretching the Limits of success

(Cont'd form Page 1)



There were women, of course, but they were “largely wallflowers, and with no disrespect meant to anyone, especially at the time when I joined films 11 years ago.”

But she didn't let that stop her. “I never really let that be an impediment,” she said. Vidya did not have a strategy in mind; she focused on the acting rather than setting out to be a game-changer, “but things began to happen on their own. Even when people said, Never before has a film with a female actor done so well, I said, Well, I just chose to do the film, and the film was loved by people, and it did well — there was no strategy at all.”

The shattering of the glass ceiling with which she is credited was, therefore, according to her, completely unintentional. As Aditya observed, “When you came into the film industry, there was definitely a glass ceiling. It was a very male-dominated film industry, and you shattered it all.” Vidya puts this down to the way she was brought up, as one of two sisters: “We were always told we could do whatever we wanted to do. We had the freedom to choose our professions, to choose the streams we wanted to pursue in college, to sing and dance, and do whatever. So I don't think I really ever saw that glass ceiling.” She made unusual and non-conservative

choices about her roles and films, going with her instinct: “I didn't bother about whether it would fit in with the image of a Hindi film heroine.” Her perspective made all the difference. “Whenever I looked up,” Vidya said, “I never saw a glass ceiling. I only saw the sky.”

Her resilience notwithstanding, the prejudice inherent to the industry often takes the form of body shaming. Aditya pointed out, “But you did face a lot of criticism as well, and you faced it with a lot of strength.... And women in India are constantly being measured, constantly having to answer or prove themselves.” He highlighted the tendency of people to pick on issues, like dress sense, weight, and complexion, and asked Vidya whether it was difficult to keep fighting back that criticism. Vidya admitted to feeling a “sudden persecution complex” when the criticisms started. The body shaming in particular “is something I've never understood,” she said, “and I've gone through it. I still go through it but I just turn a deaf ear to it; I don't hear it anymore.” When someone tells her she's lost weight, she just smiles, and deliberately doesn't say thank you.

“I tried to shed the weight to get into the clothes that I thought were very fashionable and desirable, and... fashion and I just don't

see eye to eye,” she laughed. “Finally, the acceptance began to happen, because I realized that I am a certain body type, that I can't fight it, and I can keep fighting it and keep feeling small in my bigness for the rest of my life, or I can really feel wonderful — and I chose the latter because I realized that I had to be kind to myself if I wanted anyone else to be kind to me.”

She believes that much of her confidence is derived from the support of her family. “Her biggest fan is her father,” Aditya said. “He takes every clipping, every photograph; he files it away. He really, really adores her.” Vidya agreed, “My father is more expressive; he's more demonstrative. My mother is a little more held in and shy.” According to Vidya, even after 20 films, her mother gets more nervous than she does at the time of a new release. “At the first screening, she always says, I was only looking at you. I didn't get the story at all; I'll have to watch the film again. But my father — whatever I do, he likes it. I think, again, that's like any father-daughter relationship.” Her sister is the balanced one. “She's extremely supportive, but also objective, and that I really value. She'll say it in the gentlest fashion, but she will tell me what sometimes I don't want to hear.”

That family also includes her husband, Siddharth Roy Kapur, who is a famous film producer and the MD and CEO of Disney India. Aditya asked Vidya about the challenges of being a married woman and maintaining a work-life balance: “How does he support you — or doesn't?” he added mischievously. “Siddharth and I are very similar,” Vidya answered. “We see men and women as equals, as equal partners in a relationship or a marriage. So I think there's mutual respect for the fact that we're both very passionate about our work. There is absolute support.” People often ask how her husband feels about her continuing to act after marriage. “I

think he's someone who's very free in his heart and his mind, so we don't have any issues about me working," she said. "Those are non-issues, actually; they never come up... this is all I've always wanted to do, and I knew I'd continue to do it."

According to Vidya, Siddharth, like her mother, gets a bit nervous before her films come out. "I think it's because he also realizes that as an actor, I put myself out there, and I'm being judged," she said, "and I think that's very adorable." On the other hand, "I don't think he's very objective about me – or maybe he just doesn't show it. He knows which side his bread is buttered!" she said amidst much laughter.

Of course, not all men are like Siddharth. In response to a question from Aditya about what she found to be the worst thing about Indian men, Vidya said, "Maybe that they're chauvinists deep down, and they don't want to believe it." She believes that it is due to our conditioning, and that men want women to be "not subservient, but just maybe a step lower than them, and they want the women to be their mothers; they want the women to be their caretakers, or caregivers." Moreover, "They do lech at women... Not in a bad, bad way, but, you know, they all look." She has an original response to it: "When I'm with Siddharth or with any of my male friends, I look at a hot woman, and say oh my god, isn't she hot? So before the person can react, I catch the expression!"

On the subject of hot women, Aditya noted that PETA had called Vidya the hottest vegetarian alive, and asked if she had any comments on that. "I don't know that," Vidya laughed, "but they definitely know better!" Although she is a vegetarian, she also said that she considers the beef ban in Maharashtra very unfair. "I feel everyone should have the right to eat what they want to eat!" she exclaimed. "We can't be micromanaging things and saying this is what you've got to eat, this is what you've got to feel, this is what you've got to think. I think in a democracy, it's completely unacceptable."

Vidya has also been the brand ambassador for Swachh Bharat since 2012. "The Dirty Picture had just released," she said, "and Mr. Jairam Ramesh, who was the Minister, he said, We want you to be the ambassador for the clean picture so that we can do away with the dirty picture." The offer came at an opportune time: Vidya had recently been on a two and a half hour drive from Benares to a small town in Uttar Pradesh, with no toilets on the way. "We all thought our bladders would burst," she said. "I just thought it was some sort of calling; that I was meant to do this."

Many warned her that it would tarnish the glitz and glamor of her professional



position and reputation. "A lot of people said that it takes away from... the aspirational value that actors have," she noted, "Do you really want to associate with building toilets? And I said, yes, most definitely." She's happy with the progress thus far: "The current government has really put in a lot to make sure this message goes across to people in the smallest of villages and towns, and across the length and breadth of the country... more than anything else, there is a mindset that needs to be changed... and that is where this campaign is really showing results."

Her work, too, takes her across the country. Aditya noted that she is traveling to Jharkhand next week, "and it's really the middle of nowhere. So it's really not all that glamor and everything that we see on the celluloid. It is a lot of hard work." Vidya agreed, adding that because the films she does are usually rooted in

the country, there are invariably trying conditions. "I just finished shooting for Kahaani 2," she said. "We shot it in peak summer. And I'm shooting for this film Begum Jaan, in Jharkhand, where it's going to be 45 degrees and it's in the open. So it's going to be very tough... but there's an adrenaline rush when you do all this. When you're inhabiting that world, I think you're willing to push yourself."

Of course, after all that hard work, if the film doesn't do well, "it even becomes difficult to listen to the music from that film," she said in response to a question about her favorite characters. For that reason, Vidya feels most bonded to the characters she played in the films that were

successful. She protested, "I almost feel like you're asking me to choose between my children!" but named Ishqiya, Paa, Parineeta, The Dirty Picture, and Kahaani as her favorites. "They're all characters that are very, very close to my heart," she said. However, she also thinks that every character has a little bit of her: "I think only when I identify with some part of that character am I able to assay it."

Vidya is passionate about equality across all lines and divisions, across all communities and races, but "I think, for me, the most important thing is gender equality," she said. "I think that is an equality that is actually a given, that we shouldn't have to fight for." There is a way to go. "Of course, we're battling generations of conditioning and patriarchy," she admitted, "but I think that gender equality has to be fixed, and once that is fixed, a lot of things will fall into place."

Session on Co-operative Learning Strategy



On Saturday, 4th June 2016, a session on Co-operative Learning Strategy was conducted for around 30 teachers who were involved in teaching over 750

Bhavishya Yaan kids. Summer Holidays was thus utilised in preparing teachers to make a better tomorrow in the next academic year to start soon this month - 15th June.

The session was conducted by Dr. Usha Borkar, Associate Professor, H. J. College of Education. This opportunity was initiated and supported by Rotarian Nanik Rupani and Priyadarshini Academy.

TO BE A ROTARIAN

It takes a unique quality to set aside one's needs and join a special club to ensure dreams succeed
It takes determination that comes from deep within
It takes one of a kind- to be a Rotarian

It takes one who is willing to heed a call for help
It takes belief to act in SERVICE ABOVE SELF
It takes a heart of gold to say "Yes, count me in"
It takes rock-solid character- to be a Rotarian

It takes time and patience and staying to the end and a stranger's cry for help for you to be their friend
It takes dealing with rejection and leading with your chin
It takes real humility- to be a Rotarian

It takes far reaching vision to see when people fall and a hand outstretched to help them again stand proud and tall
It takes a shoulder to the wheel and words of "Let's begin!"
It takes a voice of hope- to be a Rotarian

It takes a kind of magic to achieve the things they've done
Teamwork-Trust-Tenacity and of course a lotta fun!
It takes all of the above but when all is said and done
It just takes one who cares- TO BE A ROTARIAN

Doug Slater

Here are the answers to the puzzle in last week's Gateway. Winners that sent in their answers will be gifted a Rotary watch.

SEEMA MAKHIJA
JAGDISH MALKANI
DASHRATH MAHADEVIA
SAM MAHALUXMIVALA
PRITAM SANGHAI
SOHEL SHIKARI
MEHERNOSH DOTIVALA
RAHIM MULJANI
KALPANA SINGHANIA
HORMAZDIYAAR VAKIL
GIRDHARILAL VAID
VIKRAM DAIYA
MOHIT JAIN
BISWAJIT CHAKRABORTY
AKIL HIRANI
JAMSHED VAKHARIA
HARSHBEENA ZAVERI
AZIZ JAVERI
ANAND DALAL
NELUM GIDWANI

RCB collects the Most for Rotary Foundation (India)

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty. The Rotary Foundation is not-for-profit Corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from the Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

THE DONATION IS USED IN ROTARY'S SIX AREAS OF FOCUS.

- Peace and conflict prevention/ resolution.
- Disease prevention and treatment.
- Water and Sanitation.
- Maternal and Child Health.
- Basic Education and Literacy.
- Economic and Community Development.

Sr No	Name of Club	Members	Total Giving (in USD)	Per Capita Giving (in USD)
1	Bombay	316	217313	688
2	Mumbai Queen's Necklace	140	58688	419
3	Bombay Worli	42	13238	315
4	Bombay Queen City	77	24151	314
5	Bombay Metropolitan	36	8971	249
6	Mumbai South	73	18077	248
7	Bombay Harbour	49	10640	217
8	Bombay North	89	15424	173
9	Bombay Bay View	110	19053	173
10	Bombay Pier	81	13194	163
11	Mumbai Nariman Point	69	8900	129
12	Bombay Seaface	72	8165	113

Verified by Rtn. Nirav Shah

We are proud to say that Rotary Club of Bombay has collected the maximum amount in donations for this Rotary year (up to 31st May 2016). We have collected

a whopping \$217,313. It's the largest amount collected in the last 7 years. The collection amounts to 48.53% of the entire amount collected this year by the 21 clubs in South Mumbai.

Invitation

Please join us for
The last meeting of the 2015-2016 year

at the Ballroom Taj Land's End, Bandra
on

Saturday, 25th June 2016

7 PM: Fellowship

7:30 PM: Meeting

Followed by dinner and revelry

Board of Directors 2015-2016

RSVP: Rashmi 22024089

ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

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Scholarships	Zinia Lawyer Abhinav Agarwal
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In Camera	Ashok Kumar Vandana Kanoria
Attendance	Arvind Agarwal

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Sports and Yoga	Hiranmay Biswas Jamshyd Vazifdar Sitaram Shah

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Bulletin	Pratap Padode Murad Currawalla
Fellowship	Jai Advani Khurshed Poonawala

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Tasneem Zakaria Mehta



Tasneem Zakaria Mehta is an art historian and the Managing Trustee and Honorary Director of Bombay's Dr. Bhau Daji Lad Museum (previously known as the Victoria and Albert Museum). Under her stewardship, the 134-year old structure has been transformed from a gloomy, crumbling liability into a heritage haven. She is also the Vice-Chairperson of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). With degrees from Delhi University in English Literature, the Sir JJ School of Art in Textile Design, Christie's in London in Modern and Contemporary Art, and Columbia University in the liberal arts, among others, Tasneem's life has been and continues to be defined by her love for art and writing.

Mrs. Mehta has received several Personal Awards and Recognition:

Mumbai Mirror: Times of India supplement – Mumbai Hero, 2015
Architecture Digest AD50 Award, 2014
Award of Honour, Academy of Fine Arts and Crafts, Mumbai, 2013
Time Out Magazine. September 2011. Selected as one of 7 Game Changers in Mumbai
Harvard University, Boston, US, Selected as a woman achiever for their Star Women project, 2009.
Verve Magazine – July 2008; Selected among India's 50 most influential women Time Out Magazine Mumbai – Sept 2008; Selected among "Mumbai's Finest"
ITC-Living Media (India Today Group) Women Achievers Award – 2007
SATTE –INTACH Award – 2006; For outstanding contribution to the cause of heritage conservation.
Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai Women Achievers Award -2001
Felicitated on Women's Day 2001 for outstanding contribution to the city

The statistics of the last meeting:

Members present	166
Visiting Rtns.	03
Guests	09
Rotaryannes	18
Total attendance	196

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

Birthday Greetings



Kumar Mangalam Birla
14th June



Lakshmi Mittal
15th June



Shernaz Vakil
16th June



Vrinda Rajgarhia
16th June



Vithal Palekar
17th June



Sandip Agarwalla
18th June



Ajit Lalvani
19th June



Sunil Vaswani
19th June

Rotaryanne Birthdays

Niyati Shukla	14th June
Mita Dalal	16th June
Ritu Didwania	17th June
Sheila George	18th June