



# Radhika Sood Nayak Experiences on Sufi Music

Last Tuesday's talk, "Main Kamli Aan: Sharing My Experiences on Sufi Music" by Radhika Sood Nayak was an unusual combination of a speech woven with musical interludes, tracing her own personal journey of learning Sufi music with observations about the history, philosophy and evolution of the tradition itself.

She was introduced by a new Rotarian, Sanjeev Saran Mehra, who spoke of her decision to leave a corporate job in Unilever to pursue her passion for music, singing at Bombay's Kabir Festival, Delhi's Lotus Temple, and the Kala Ghoda "Make in India" Festival 2016. As a disciple of Dayal Thakur and Thumri exponent Dhanashree Pandit Rai, she performs Hindustani and semi-classical forms such as *Thumri*,



**Radhika Nayak explains what Sufi Music is all about.**

*Dadra, Hori, Jhoola*, and devotional music, in addition to Sufiana kalam. Radhika is an Akashvani artist and a recipient of the "Sur Mani" Award.

she had been asked many times if she would need any equipment or projector, and had responded with "an emphatic no."

Radhika started her talk by narrating how *(Full Report on Pages 4 & 5.)*

### Brunch Fellowship!!!

A Fellowship Brunch will be held on Sunday, 12th June 2016 from 12 noon onwards at Yiamas.

Address: 1st Floor, Ambico Ice Factory, 10/12 Cochin Street, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400001.

Due to space constraints, we can only accommodate the first 120 members who register. Book your place with Ms Rashmi at the Rotary office.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- **June 7th**  
Vidya Balan addresses the club.
- **June 12th**  
Fellowship brunch at Yiamas.
- **June 14th**  
EGM at 12:30pm.  
Tasneem Mehta addresses the club at 1:15pm.
- **June 25th**  
Awards Night at Taj, 7pm.

# Tête - A - Tête With Rtn Samir Chinai

## What motivated you to become a Rotarian?

I learnt about the Rotary Club from my Father-in-law, Dr. Mohanlal Piramal who was a member of Rotary Club of Bombay for many years, and he was a very active member of the Club. Therefore it was a natural choice for me to join Rotary Club of Bombay. I became a member in 1999.

## Can you tell us something about your family members?

My wife, Alpana is a business woman and runs her own charitable Trust in Rajasthan for education of girls. My daughter Sanjana Chinai has completed her Masters from London Business School and now runs her own E-commerce venture. My son Arjun schooled at Cathedral and is now studying at Warwick University, U.K.

## Which has been your favorite moment in the club?

As I am an architect, I worked on some changes which were to be made at Talwada Medical Centre, and more recently I worked on renovating the IWA Centre. Seeing the fruition of the project, the opening of the clinic, was a big moment for me.

## Which was your most favourite event?

The event that really inspired me was the perseverance and determination with which Dr. Murad Lala climbed Mount Everest.



## Do you have any future goals in regards to Rotary or anything you feel you have still not achieved while being in the club?

There are several projects of which I am a Director which include Animal Welfare,

Asiatic Library and Environment. These are all in a nascent stage and I would like to work really hard on them and make a difference to Society via this work and Rotary Club of Bombay.

## 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](mailto:gateway@rotaryclubofbombay.org).

# J&K Relief Project Of The Rotary Club Of Bombay Receives Global Grant of \$72,500

## *The Rcb Diagnostic Centre For Children Supported By The Cathedral & John Connon School Interact Club, Mumbai*

### **PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

Installation of Gastro-Intestinal Diagnostic equipments (Colonoscope and Endoscope) at GB Pant Children's Hospital, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

### **WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THIS GLOBAL GRANT? PROVIDE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF DIRECT BENEFICIARIES**

Children of the Kashmir Valley will be directly benefiting from this grant. Approximately, 150 patients per day report to the hospital with GI diseases in the OPD. Of this 3-4 patients require GI endoscopy daily. This facility is not available at all in any centre or hospital in the Kashmir Valley.

Therefore, it is expected that approximately 1,000 children/year will be benefitting directly from this facility.

It will serve the needs of children afflicted with GI diseases. These were found to be necessary on the basis of referrals of such patients to medical institutions

outside of the Kashmir Valley, by the local doctors in Srinagar, as these equipments were not available. The statistics were collated from the hospital records of both inpatients and outpatients. Approximately, 150 patients per day report to the hospital with GI diseases in the OPD.

### **HOW WILL THE PROJECT ADDRESS THESE COMMUNITY NEEDS**

By providing necessary diagnostic and therapeutic equipments for identifying GI diseases and then treating them, as most of these GI diseases manifest as chronic diseases, the morbidity rate is high (almost 70%) The local doctors and specialists at GB Pant Hospital were consulted about their most pressing needs in wake of the unmitigated disaster caused by the devastating floods in Jammu and Kashmir state in September, 2014. The project aligns well with the initiatives of both the State government and other NGOs to rehabilitate and reconstruct the numerous medical, educational facilities

and housing destroyed during the floods.

### **FUNDING**

- 1) Term Gift (contributed by the Cathedral and John Connon School) : US\$ 47,000
- 2) District Designated Fund 3140 : US\$ 9,000
- 3) RCB (through contribution of Rtn Rajas Doshi): US\$ 5,000
- 4) The Rotary Foundation Global Grant : US\$ 11,500
- 5) Total = US\$ 72,500 (1 US\$= ₹66)  
**₹4,785,000**

The Global Grant application approval is expected very shortly from the TRF and the funds are also expected soon. This project is done with an international partner, Rotary Club of Bergen (Ramsey), U.S.A., although we have not sought any funding from them.

### **Reported by :**

**Past President, Rtn Sandip Agarwalla  
Project Co-ordinator**

# Becoming one with god...

(Cont'd form Page 1)

Sufism, according to Radhika, is essentially about becoming one with the supreme. "The quest for becoming one is really the heart of Sufi philosophy," she said. "Sufism is love." It is upon this fundamental idea that the philosophy is built — even love for one's fellow human being, she explained, is an expression of love for god: "I see god in you, therefore I love you."

She also said in response to a question that Sufism is independent of Hinduism, Islam, or any other religious tradition. "I don't see it as being associated with any religion," she said. "It transcends all these classifications." In response to a question about whether Mira Bai could be classified as a Sufist, given that she is known for her devotion to Krishna, Radhika reiterated, "Her quest was always to become one with Krishna, and that is the quest of any Sufi: to become one with god."

She pointed out that Sufism has Arabic origins; the lexical root of the word has been traced to the word "□afā", which means "purity" in Arabic, and "□ūf", which means "wool", a reference to the cloaks worn by Muslim ascetics. But it also has roots in Greek; some scholars point out the term's similarity with the word "sophia", which means "wisdom". It is possible, she said, that Sufism "simultaneously flourished in different civilizations and different parts of the world," including Turkey, Europe, India and Pakistan.



**Guest speaker Radhika wows the audience with her singing.**

Her discovery of Sufi music began five years ago with the Punjabi Sufi poet, Bulleh Shah. "I came across this one piece which really hit me hard," she said, pausing to sing an excerpt. The piece is about the rituals and pilgrimages that individuals undertake to become closer to god. She translated, "I went to Mecca, and I said a hundred prayers, then I went to the Ganges and I took many dips to wash my sins away, and then I went to Gaya to pray for the dead, and the matter did not end with any of these journeys till I actually went within and I demolished my ego." Radhika explained that this piece and its message deeply resonated with her, and led her to explore the poetry further. The second piece that she selected conveyed a similar message, which she translated as, "If god could be found by

taking a dip in the holy waters, then the frogs and fish would have found him, because they are always in water. If god could be found by roaming the jungle, then the cows and the calves would have found him, because they are always out grazing in the jungles. And if god could be found by going to temples and mosques, then the bats would have found him." The piece then concludes that god can only be found if your heart is pure.

Her third piece concerned the story of Heer and Ranjha, one of the famous tragic romances of Punjab. Heer and Ranjha loved each other but could not come together because their families were opposed to the union. There is, therefore, a lot of poetry based on Heer's pining for Ranjha. In the present kalam, Radhika translated, "She is saying, 'by chanting Ranjha's name again and again, I have become one with Ranjha. And I don't even exist as Heer anymore.' This made me a bit curious, because this talks about Heer and Ranjha, and how is this related to the Sufi philosophy?" Radhika dug a bit deeper and discovered that Heer and Ranjha's pining for each other was a metaphor for the longing of the atma to become one with the paramatma. "This is borne out so beautifully in the Vedic philosophy, the Advaita philosophy of oneness," she said, "that there is no two; I am one with god."



**Radhika Nayak being thanked by President Sonya Mehta.**

How, then, does a person become one with god? "In the Sufi tradition," Radhika explained, "it's almost an imperative that you need a guru." She narrated the story of how Bulleh Shah found his guru, Shah Inayat. Bulleh Shah was from a high caste Muslim family, while Shah Inayat was a farmer. Bulleh Shah went to Lahore in search of Shah Inayat, and on sighting him in the fields, surrounded by trees, he decided to test Shah Inayat's spirituality. He gazed at the fruit, and all the unripe fruit started falling from the trees. This upset

Shah Inayat. He asked Bulleh Shah what he was doing, and Bulleh Shah denied any wrongdoing.

“Then Shah Inayat — the master that he was — he fixed his gaze into Bulleh Shah’s eyes and he said, ‘What are you looking for? What have you come here for? What is your name?’ The glance was so penetrating that Bulleh Shah lowered his eyes and said, ‘I am Bulleh Shah, and I have come looking for god. I want to realize god.’”

Shah Inayat then told Bulleh Shah to “uproot yourself from here, and plant yourself here,” Radhika explained, “Which is really the essence of the spiritual journey and the Sufi philosophy, that you uproot your gaze from the outside world and you turn your gaze inwards. The whole journey is within us; it is not external to us.” They embraced, and Bulleh Shah found his master.

Bulleh Shah wrote a great deal in praise of his guru. Radhika’s fourth piece was one such example, in which Bulleh Shah asks the timekeeper to stop keeping time by hitting the gong, because his piya (conveying ‘god’, or ‘guru’, which are considered to be one and the same in the seeker’s eyes) has come home. “This is the kind of love that he had for his guru,” Radhika said, “and in the Sufi tradition, it is called ‘ishq’, that all-engulfing love for god and for the murshid.”

Another important component of the Sufi



**PP Sandip Agarwalla raises a pertinent point.**

tradition is the demolition of the ego, “the getting rid of the I inside of you.” Radhika narrated one incident where Bulleh Shah knocked on his master’s door and introduced himself as ‘Sayyid Bulleh Shah’. This incensed Shah Inayat, and he sent Bulleh Shah away, saying that he had learned nothing and was still holding on to his high caste and manifestations of hierarchy. Bulleh Shah, in an attempt to win back his master, joined a group of dancing girls and learned to sing and dance, eventually performing in front of his master in women’s clothing. When his guru recognized him, he forgave him and took him back. “But he had to shed his masculine pride and don the garb of a female,” Radhika said, “and basically get rid of this masculine ego, and that’s how he could woo his master back.” There is much written on this idea; Radhika sang one of the most popular pieces.

The idea of equality is central to the Sufi philosophy. This is beautifully captured by another kalam by Bulleh Shah, her sixth piece, translated as: “Let us to go to a land where everyone is blind; nobody should judge us by our caste, and nobody should even put us on a pedestal and revere us. So let us go to a land where everyone is equal.” The meaning is timeless: “That is what he had envisaged in the 17th century,” Radhika said, “and that holds true, and perhaps even more true, today.”

For her last piece, Radhika chose a piece by a different poet, consisting of questions and answers about the city of Lahore. She translated: “In the city of Lahore, how many windows and how many doors are there? In the city of Lahore, how many wells have fresh water, and how many have salty water? In the city of Lahore, how many bricks are firm, and how many lie broken? In the city of Lahore, how many women are married, and how many are single?”

The answers all have their origins in love: “In the city of Lahore, there are lakhs of windows and lakhs of doors. In the city of Lahore, there are many bricks that are broken, and many are firm. The ones that are broken are the ones on which the lovers have placed their feet; they were lucky enough to feel the touch of lovers; the rest are firm. The wells from which the lovers drank water, those have sweet water; the rest have all salty water. And the women who found love; they are the ones who are married, all of the rest are single.”

Radhika also believes that our own Rotary Club has much in common with Sufism: “In the Sufi tradition, one is supposed to keep away from all the divisions of gender, religion, caste, which is very much in sync with the Rotary philosophy... One of the things that you’ll try to spread is the message of goodwill, and peace, and oneness, and the Sufi tradition is all about that.”



**Rotarians enjoying the talk.**

# Solve the Puzzle for Special Prizes!!!

**B**elow is a puzzle of 20 Rotarian names. See how many you can find. The names are first and last name combined. So, Sonya Mehta in the puzzle would be “SONYAMEHTA” or “ATHEMAYNOS” spelled horizontally, vertically and diagonally. Mail us your answers to [gateway@rotaryclubofbombay.org](mailto:gateway@rotaryclubofbombay.org) by June 13th to win prizes.

Y H O R M A Z D I Y A A R V A K I L K D  
X T I A Y I A D M A R K I V L C R P U I  
W K R B O V E T K L M I C H A K E D T R  
H J A O P E Y L A A O A I K V P V R M C  
N A K K B D A U L V J H N Z I Y A G Q K  
M Z I H L A I O P I P G A M M E Z I R O  
U Q H N F H R A A T D N K T X C A R D R  
E W S E A A A K N O A A L T U R N D A R  
W L L L H M H I A D Q S A I L R E H Q C  
F A E U G H K L S H H M M R A F E A Y D  
S L H M T T A H I S C A H E H A B R X I  
H A O G I A V I N O O T S V A D H I T S  
N D S I A R D R G N E I I A M K S L R J  
I D W D T H E A H R U R D J M Y R A L E  
M N O W Z S H N A E Q P G Z A D A L P U  
L A Y A P A S I N H Y Y A I S W H V B R  
N N Y N Z D M J I E N W J Z P P S A T S  
A A J I H K A M A M E E S A Z Y L I G H  
H T I N A I J L U M M I H A R H H D B E  
N I A J T I H O M X O P C U I F T L Q U

# Selecting Eligible Rotarians

**R**tn Shiv Gorawara writes in to give us some background and what we should do as Rotarians to preserve the diversity and keep achieving

higher goals by way of our biggest resource, human resources. **A** Rotary Club of Bombay zealously protects the selection of its membership, right from its inception in 1929

**B** The Club archives record that at a Board Meeting held on 12 May 1936 - yes some 80 years ago and just 7 years after its inception - this subject was debated with Rotary gusto. Rotarian OMEROD submitted

a plan whereby a survey of the business community would be undertaken so that "IN FUTURE ADMITTANCE TO THE CLUB SHOULD BE MADE A MATTER OF MORE USEFUL CONSIDERATION AND SELECTION THAN AT PRESENT. Rotarians did not realize their responsibility when recommending names.

**C** Another Rotarian GILBERT LODGE put forward the view to the effect that the " FIRST CONSIDERATION WAS WHETHER AN APPLICANT WOULD MAKE A GOOD ROTARIAN AND NOT THAT HE WAS JUST A SUITABLE MEMBER OF HIS PROFESSION"

**D** Fortunately, this theme of METICULOUS SELECTIVITY IN INDUCTING MEMBERS RUNS THROUGH THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF THE BOMBAY ROTARY. It would be pertinent and not co-incidental that the current Board 15 - 16 specifically debated and devoted its time to this subject at length during its 24 May 2016 meeting as a special item on its Agenda under AOM proposed by President Sonya itself - Shows that the second Woman President of this prestigious Club is in sync with her illustrious predecessors. BRAVO, Madame President. Hip Hip Hurray !!

## THE END OF AN ERA



**I** never dreamt that I would be called upon to write an obituary for a man at whose feet I learnt everything about Excise and Customs laws (Indirect taxation).

apostrophe jokes? Who can forget his sense of humour even in the most trying times?

As a Rotarian he chaired several important committees including the Rotaract Committee where he took Rotaract to a new level of awareness. Old timers in the club will not forget the mega Rotaract Fair and health camp that he conducted on the grounds of his (and mine) Alma Mater, St. Xavier's High School.

think that it was during his tenure as President that our club, with resounding unanimity, gave membership to ladies. Like any other great leader, after his term was over, he gently receded into the background, giving others a chance to shine.

Past President Dadi Engineer was a giant personality - multifarious and ever popular. He was an Advocate and Solicitor, a Director on the Board of eminent companies, a well-known Trustee especially of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat and to cap it all, he made time for Rotary and went on to become one of our most prolific Presidents.

Plaudits will be spoken at other venues about his eminence as a lawyer. But I had the privilege to know Dadi both as a lawyer and as a Rotarian.

I knew Dadi first as my Senior at Crawford Bayley & Co. where he was one of the seniormost partners. I joined Rotary after I joined the Bombay Bar and our association and friendship continued. Who can forget his Budget speeches- interspersed with

Again, old timers will remember how, as Chairman of the Four Way Test Committee, he took a "taken for granted" committee and transformed it into a powerhouse that received fulsome praise from the District itself. The entire afternoon show on the Four Way Test was conceived and written by him with able assistance from his beloved wife Silloo. Those who may recall PP Rumi Jehangir brilliantly portraying the roll of a Bawaji recently, may be amused to know that this role was first played by Dadi himself and he brought the House down! I was associated with him in the Four Way Test Review and we even took the show on the road - we were invited by the Rotary Club of Baroda to enact it there.

As President he achieved several District awards for the Rotary Club of Bombay. I

But that was Dadi all over. I remember as a junior I would approach him to discuss a problem. He would simply say "You go ahead and use your judgment..If you have tried your best, even if we lose, my shoulders are broad enough to protect both of us from any irate client". That was his method of building confidence and continuity.

Alas, Dadi suddenly succumbed to an illness that even he with his grit could not defeat. I learnt of his death when I was abroad. The grim reaper waits for no one. How I wish that he would have made an exception for even one day in Dadi's case - because then I could have saluted him for one last time before he was carried away!

To Silloo, his devoted wife (I have seldom seen such devotion) I can only say that she will never be alone, atleast so long as her Rotary family cares for her.

May Dadi's Soul rest in Eternal Peace.

## ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

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Attendance	Arvind Agarwal

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Bulletin	Pratap Padode Murad Currawalla
Fellowship	Jai Advani Khurshed Poonawala

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## Vidya Balan



**V**idya Balan is a leading actress in Bollywood.

She is the recipient of several awards, including a National Film Award, five Filmfare Awards, five Screen Awards and was awarded the Padma Shri by the

Government of India in 2014. She is known for portraying strong female protagonists and has been acknowledged in the media for pioneering a change in the concept of a Hindi film heroine.

Vidya aspired to a career in film from a young age, and had her first acting role in the 1995 sitcom Hum Paanch. She pursued a master's degree in sociology from the University of Mumbai and simultaneously made several unsuccessful attempts to start a career in film. She subsequently featured in various television commercials and music videos, and in 2003 made her feature film debut as the protagonist of the independent Bengali drama Bhalo Theko. In 2005 Vidya garnered praise for her first Hindi film, the drama Parineeta, and followed it with a leading role in the highly successful 2006 comedy film Lage Raho Munna Bhai.

In addition to acting in films, Vidya promotes humanitarian causes and supports the empowerment of women. She initially drew criticism for her fluctuating weight and "questionable" dress sense, but was later credited in the media for "not morphing herself to fit into any conventional slot". She is married to the film producer Siddharth Roy Kapur.

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



Anuj Arenja  
8th June



Shekhar Bajaj  
8th June



Rahul Bajaj  
10th June



Srinivasan Prasad  
12th June



Gul Kripalani  
13th June

## Rotaryanne Birthdays

Zarine Chothia	8th June
Noshir Desai	10th June
Gulrez Contractor	11th June
Firoze Vakil	12th June

Statistics for the last week was:

Members	104
Guest	01
Visiting Rotarian	01
Rotaryannes	04
Total attendance	110