

## BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



### From the President's Desk



I am writing this editorial sitting amidst the mystic music coming from the sound of wind blowing leaves from trees planted all over the place in this beautiful country - Bhutan.

It's been decades since Bhutan came up with the concept of gross national happiness (GNH). Coined by the former king of Bhutan, the term GNH implied on giving equal importance to non-economic aspects of human wellbeing in sustainable development of the nation. Today, GNH has become Bhutan's greatest export to the world. Certainly, Bhutan ranks on the top of the chart as one of the happiest nations across the globe. So, what is it that makes Bhutan one of the happiest countries?

Having spent the last few days in this beautiful land, I have realized that preserving the gift of nature given to them is so critical to the people of Bhutan that they do not get swayed by the lure of luxury and comfort that comes with a lot of developmental pitches. Where else would you have 1,08,000 trees planted in honour of the birth of a prince? At other places such an event would lead to an extravagant celebration. In Bhutan, 60 per cent of the land is under the forest cover. No wonder Bhutan is one of the few carbon negative countries in the world, probably the only one. People here actually breathe fresh air.

People are satisfied and content with their lives. They prefer living a life which is closer to their roots, less materialistic yet more fulfilling. This does not however mean that people here do not support technological and infrastructure development. They believe in imbibing good practices from across the globe and using them for the betterment of Bhutan. I have seen a lot of senior bureaucrats, top executives in Bhutan who have impressive educational credentials, return to their country to meaningfully contribute towards its development. Clearly, happiness is more important to them than money.

Rotary is already doing the wonderful job of spreading happiness in the lives of people through its initiatives in education and healthcare. Our environmental committee could come up with ways to protect our forests and reduce our own carbon footprint.

*Handwritten signature*

## Mumbai, Reconnected



Despite Mumbai's intricate and seemingly well-connected public transportation, our city is often missing from top 10 international rankings of public transport systems. In fact, studies show that the average Mumbaikar using the suburban railway spends one and a half hours commuting from their homes to work every single day. So, how do we solve this problem and eventually spend less time travelling, and more time increasing overall productivity levels?

**Today's Guest :** Rtn. Gopal Rai Mandhania,  
District Governor



### In this Issue

Sports Committee - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Football Tournament	4
Night Study Centres	5
Bhavishya Yaan	6
Assimilation Committee	7
Next Week's Speaker	8



to inaugurate all nine corridors fast approaching, Bhide explains that all the parties involved are hoping to “complete as many as possible in the next five to seven years.”

Many may ask why such an infrastructural development is necessary when Mumbai already has one of the best linked train networks in the country. However, Bhide highlights

a few of the issues with our current rail structure. Firstly, the Central, Harbour, and Western lines are laid out as “vertical perspectives, from north to south,” and do not have enough effective links horizontally, from East to West. Moreover, the average railway user is forced to transit a further “two to five kilometres once they exit a station in order to reach their desired destination”, lacking a “doorstep” system, in which a railway station is located within walking distance to their home or workplace. And finally, a burgeoning estimate of “twelve million passengers travel via railway” daily, despite the fact that the trains’ capacities remain much lower.

These issues all lead to a tragic 3,500 deaths annually on public transport, mostly due to trespassing and overcrowding. Therefore, “there is no option - the metro project is a compulsion,” said Bhide.

Ashwini Bhide, an IAS Officer and the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation’s Managing Director, believes she may have the answer. In a speech delivered to the Rotary Club of Bombay on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Bhide described Mumbai’s Metro Three project, a 173 kilometre, mostly underground subway-like structure that connects the city’s prime regions, and named it the city’s “next lifeline.”

Part of “Mumbai’s master plan”, established in 2004, the Metro Three is one of nine corridors that builds an interconnected system of metro lines throughout major business areas in the city. With the deadline



Compelling Mumbai’s corporations and governmental bodies, and even international parties, to work together with regard to the financial, environmental, and social aspects of this project, the new transportation system will be a force for positive infrastructural change due to the effort of the numerous and diverse groups involved, especially when considering its features. Some of the development’s components include: “serving 6 centralised business districts, interchanging with the existing system, advanced safety and





security features, and 24/7 continuous security surveillance."

Ultimately, the Metro project is expected to lead to a "35% reduction in road traffic, decrease in fuel consumption, creation of business opportunities, and an improvement in our citizens' economic productivity."

However, most importantly, Bhide affirmed that it will "reposition Mumbai" as a metro-city to be reckoned with, and help it gain the worldwide competitiveness that it once boasted due to its effective, efficient, and unparalleled public transportation system.



## Sports Committee - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Football Tournament

The Second Annual Football Tournament, held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017, at the NSCI was another successful offering from the Sports Committee.

In a 6-a-side format, the team captained by Rtn. Moy Biswas beat the team captained by Rtn. Sanjiv Mehra 4-2 over two hard-fought halves. Moy's team consisted of Rotarians Moy Biswas, Satyan Israni, Mehernosh Dotivala, Anand Dalal, Mehul Sampat and Samir Mogul, with Anand and Satyan grabbing one goal a piece, and Mehernosh adding 2 to the tally.

Sanjiv's team consisted of Rotarians Sanjiv Mehra, Jamshyd Vazifdar,

Sanjiv Mehra, Rohan Dalal, Mudit Jatia and Murad Currawalla, with a goal scored by Sanjiv and an own goal by their opponents. Sanjiv's team had many shots on goal, but was denied by some inspired goalkeeping from Moy.

After a very competitive match, the players unwound with a light-hearted friendly match, won 1-0 by Sanjiv's team with a goal from Mohit.

Cheering the players were President

Dr. Mukesh Batra, Rtn. PP Nowroze and Partner Niloufer Vazifdar, Partner Nilofer Currawalla (with her 7-month-old son Tushad), Rtn. Ravi and Partner Kanan Fotedar, Partner Priyanka Jatia (with her son Uttkarsh) and Rtn. Sherebanu Baldiwala.



During the half time and other breaks, PP Nowroze Vazifdar's grandchildren Ava and Darayus Davar kicked the ball around with skill and enthusiasm.

The Sports Committee Chairman Jamshyd thanked all the players and spectators for making the event a success, and invited President Dr. Mukesh to present the trophies. The best player trophy was given to Moy Biswas, the best all-round player trophy to Anand Dalal for his wonder-goal and spirited play, and the best young player trophy jointly to Ava and Darayus.



## Night Study Centres

The joint project of the Night Study Centres between the Rotary Club of Bombay and the Bombay YMCA dates back to 1975 with the opening of its first centre at the Agripada Municipal School. Today, we are present in 16 centres,



with 20 classes reaching out to over 650 children providing a clean, safe and conducive environment for studies.

The Night Study Centres Annual Get together was organised on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at YMCA International House and Programme Centre at Bombay Central where more than 500 children were in attendance.

Dr. Mukesh Batra, President, Rotary Club of Bombay was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Rotarians

who attended the Programme were Dr. Sunny Pariyaram, Meera Alreja, (Treasurer), Ulhas and Beena Yargap, Ravi and Kannan Fotedar, Sherabano Baldiwala, PC Lodha, Sitaram and Veena Shah and PP Paul George.

In his remarks, Dr. Mukesh Batra extended his best wishes to all students and congratulated the ones who cleared their SSC and HSC Board examinations with flying colours.

Pallavi Yadav, from Abhudaya Nagar shared her experience in which she gave due credit to the role of Night Study Centres conducted by the

Rotary Club of Bombay and Bombay YMCA in her academic achievement.



Beside her, two other successful students were donated laptops for excellent academic results.

Winners in various competitions held at intra centre level were given prizes in drawing, essay and poster painting. A number of traditional and patriotic dances were presented at the programme by various Night Study Centre students.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks followed by distribution of 'Education Kit' comprising of notebooks to all the participating students.



## Bhavishya Yaan

### Hand hygiene workshop was organised by Savlon for almost 500 Bhavishya Yaan students across all 5 centres.

Ms. Anushka Jain heading this project as CSR for Savlon India presented this session.

#### Key points of this session were

- Eight steps to wash hands.
- How to use first aid.
- When we eat street food ensure that the vendor is wearing gloves.
- Importance of an antiseptic.

They showed in special light how germs are there on our hands all the time.

A cartoon movie was shown to the children about how they should

maintain self hygiene and keep their bodies clean.

At the end of the session they gave certificates and kits to all the participating children. Our special thank you to Manisha Ahuja, our education partner Vidya for arranging this in all the schools.



## Assimilation Committee

### MINI FELLOWSHIP

*The Assimilation Committee requests the pleasure of your company for a Mini-fellowship of Cocktails & Dinner, hosted by Rotarian Vinod Juneja & Partner Charu Juneja at their residence*

**Day: Wednesday, 22 March 2017**

**Time: 7:45 pm onwards**

Address: 3A, Quest End, 3rd floor, 47 Cuffe Parade, Mumbai - 400005.

Formal Invite has been mailed.

*Looking forward to receive you.*

RSVP: T: 022 - 42162371 • M: 8879986066

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

On 19<sup>th</sup> March we will be going on a fun trip to Talwada. This is where our fellow Rotarians have built and are running an eye and a medical centre.

This has been our flagship project for about 39 years. A fellow Rotarian has also donated to build a Junior College here.

I would like you and your better halves to join us on this trip. It will showcase service at its best and also be a great fellowship.

Please register your name with Eruch Irani and further details will follow.

Thanks

**Dr. Mukesh Batra**  
President

## Forthcoming Events

- **March 19th, 2017**  
Fellowship to Talwada
- **March 21st, 2017**  
**Speaker Parveen Pardeshi** - Principal Secretary, Office of The Chief Minister, Maharashtra. 'Return of Tigers to Maharashtra'
- **March 30th, 2017**  
**In Camera** - 7 p.m. Talk by Reyna Rupani - "Health is in your hands". Hosted by Malti & Mudit Jain @ Shikhar Kunj, Altamount Road
- **April 4th, 2017**  
**Shri Pravinchandra V. Gandhi Award for Excellence** in public life presented to **Nita Ambani** at The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel
- **April 11th, 2017**  
**Benaifer Kutar** - "True Love: The Skills of Parenting and Grand Parenting"
- **April 18th, 2017**  
**Speaker Farad Taraporewalla**

## *The Akshaya Patra Foundation-Feeding a hungry Child is not a Charity, It's our Social Responsibility- 100% exemption*

We are nearly into March and perhaps, you may have some CSR budget left unutilized.

A contribution to Akshaya Patra entitles you to a 100% tax exemption under Sec 35 AC of the IT Act. This benefit is being withdrawn for all NGOs wef April 1, 2017. So, it would be beneficial to make your contribution before March 31st.

It costs just Rs 950 to feed a mid-day meal for a whole year to a government school child. We would

be most happy to accept that amount - whether it is to feed a 100, 1000 or 10,000 children.

We would provide you a list of schools from a choice of 10 states for you to select. And a Utilization Certificate for the donation given.

**So, when you contribute to Akshaya Patra, you are not only complying with CSR provisions of Companies act, but you also get a 100% tax exemption.**

Looking forward to hearing from you.

**AKSHAYA PATRA**

**HUNGER SHOULD NOT STOP THEM FROM DOING WELL IN ACADEMICS.**

You remember that time in school when you'd be so hungry that you'd wait for the break to open your lunch box.

Millions of children out there are not so lucky. At times, the mid-day meal is the only meal many of them have throughout the day.

Akshaya Patra serves mid-day meals to more than 1.5 million children across ten states in India. Our mission to reach 5 million children by 2020.

Your participation will help us in our mission. More importantly, in doing so, you will gift them their childhood and a bright future.

**COME. JOIN. SERVE.**

We need you by our side in our battle against classroom hunger.

## ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

### TRUSTEES 2016-17

Rtn. Dr. Rahim Muljiani  
Rtn. Arvind Jolly  
Rtn. Arun Sanghi  
Rtn. Dr. Adi Dastur  
Rtn. Dr. Mukesh Batra  
Rtn. Dr. Sonya Mehta  
Rtn. Ramesh Narayan  
Rtn. Jagdish Malkani  
Rtn. Meera Alreja

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Joint Hon. Secretary	Framroze Mehta
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Assimilation	Mahesh Khubchandani
Sergeant-at-arms	Roda Billimoria
In-camera	Rekha Tanna
Attendance	Bipin Kapadia

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RCB Clinic - Cotton Green	Manoj Patodia

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Senior Citizen	PP Ashish Vaid
Women's Empowerment	Dr Rajeev Narvekar

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Youth Exchange Programs	Vijay Jatia
Atlanta convention 16-17	PP Nandan Damani

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Rotaract	Mehul Sampat

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District Coordinator	PP Pradeep Saxena
E-Administrator	Bimal Mehta
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## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

### Parveen Pardeshi

Principal Secretary Office of Chief Minister, Maharashtra.



In his capacity as Principal Secretary, Forests, Government of Maharashtra, Praveen Pardeshi has established, beyond any doubt, that it is possible to enjoin the apparently disparate objectives of environmental protection and development.

In recognition of the dramatic transformation he has brought about in wildlife conservation in Maharashtra, he and the state government were presented with the Sanctuary Wind Under the Wings Award 2011.



## Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Ram Gandhi  
15<sup>th</sup> March



Rtn. Satyan Israni  
17<sup>th</sup> March



Rtn. Pradeep Mafatlal  
18<sup>th</sup> March



Rtn. Anil Harish  
19<sup>th</sup> March

## Partners

14<sup>th</sup> March - Ptn. Nasreen Contractor

15<sup>th</sup> March - Ptn. Munira Jehangir

19<sup>th</sup> March - Ptn. Navaz Guzder

## Anniversaries

14<sup>th</sup> March - Rtn. Bipin & Ptn. Jita Kapadia

17<sup>th</sup> March - Rtn. Dr. Devendra & Ptn. Hemlata Saksena

19<sup>th</sup> March - Rtn. Murad & Ptn. Nilufer Currawalla

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## Statistics for last week's meeting

Club Members	107
Partners	08
Visiting Rotarian	01
Guests	02
Rotaractors	02
Total attendance	120
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 3,300/-