

## BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



### From the President's Desk



The word 'nuclear' brings to our mind fear and destruction. The memories of Hiroshima & Nagasaki still haunt us. The thought of nuclear war brings to our mind the picture of total annihilation. However, nuclear science has a constructive and positive side as well.

Its use in medicine is legendary. Did you know that MRI's used so often for diagnostics were earlier called NRMIs (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Imaging). The word 'nuclear' was dropped as patients did not want to get into a machine that was nuclear. They thought that anything nuclear would harm or kill them. Hence, it was renamed MRI, which today, together with radiation, CAT scans, and ultrasound machines are a boon in diagnostics and treatment for millions of patients.

Besides medicine, nuclear energy is also a great source for generation of electricity. India has large indigenous nuclear power projects that aim to supply 25 per cent of electricity from nuclear power by year 2050. This will reduce the use of fossil fuels and lower greenhouse gas emissions, reducing environmental diseases such as allergies, asthma and respiratory ailments. It will also lead to saving costs of energy production and using the money saved towards the greater needs of our country, such as sanitation, health and education.

Science and scientists have empowered us with a good quality of life. We as Rotarians should celebrate the success of scientists more than celebrating a cricket victory or the success of a movie like Bahubali.

Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai VIGYAN!

## 'Eman' Means Faith



"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." These words were written by Shakespeare for a play well-known as 'Romeo and Juliet,' but in life, or the larger play in which we all perform our roles, there are several instances when these lines resonate just as well. One such instance was when Dr. Muffazal Lakdawala, a laparoscopic expert and obesity surgeon, had the opportunity to speak about his experience in the limelight due to the faith he had in his abilities to cure Eman, and the 'faith' her family bestowed on him.

### Today's Speaker

**Dr. Shekhar Basu**, Chairman,  
Department of Atomic Energy



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The experience, as you'll soon realise, was a rollercoaster ride, but when asked whether he would go through it all over again, Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala's answer was an emphatic "Yes!" So in this love story between man and his profession, his patient's background did not matter, and according to them, Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala still remains an appendage in Eman's life for helping her shed 242 kilograms.

Last Tuesday, like the many Tuesdays before that, the gastronomical delights infused with the tasteful banter went hand in hand with the natural joie de vivre of our Rotarians. While lunch was enjoyed in the North Block of the Taj Hotel, Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala's discourse was to take

place in the South Block. A smaller venue as compared to the Ballroom, but intimate enough to give any speaker a special charge. The speaker began, "Let's get down to what we think is the real Eman story."

Eman Ahmed is from Alexandria, Egypt, and is the only surviving patient of obesity weighing 500 kilograms prior to surgery. Her case fell into the hands of Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala when he received a letter from Shaimaa Ahmed. "Please help my sister, she is dying and dying very fast," it read. Due to her situation, Eman was bedridden at the age of 12. Her obesity had gotten out of control and required immediate medical attention. To those who have been following the news on Eman Ahmed,

the rest is history, but you'll soon realise why Rome wasn't built in a day.

When Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala agreed to take up the case, he claimed that, "She had every possible disease. She had lost her voice. She could not swallow. She had never walked. She had kidney failure. She had a severe lung disease. She had a gall stone. She had liver issues. She had right-sided heart failure. She had multiple bedsores. She had urinary tract infection..." By all means, she should have been under intensive care, instead she was dying a slow death at home. It was only a matter of time before the media caught up, making Eman's case a matter of global concern. "By then everyone jumped into the fray, but her sister felt that she would get the best care in India."

So amidst all the media fanfare, a still bedridden Eman descended from her flat in Alexandria with the help of a crane; ascended onto a cargo flight using a special apparatus; and, was safely admitted into a special room made for her at the Saifi Hospital in Mumbai. You can imagine the delicacy of the situation; the intricacies involved in ensuring a 500 kilogram patient defies gravity at every juncture of the journey from her house in Alexandria to her hospital bed in Mumbai. Till then Eman had not moved an inch to the left or right, lying still as a rock for help to come





knocking at her door. What did it take to help her? Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala summed up by saying, "For almost five months I became technically divorced; My son had stopped seeing his father. I would sleep in the night looking at Eman and wake up in the morning to look at Eman."

According to media reports, we are aware that Eman Ahmed was successfully treated, but there were also reports that were in complete antithesis of what the doctors were calling a success. As noted by Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala, "It is ironic that the word 'Eman' means faith. That was the only thing that was broken by her sister." This vague but intriguing statement got the complete attention

of the audience, especially for those who had been following the case. After all, it was the speaker's silence during the 'trial by media' that everyone had been waiting patiently for him to break.

Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala, finally, broke his silence - Not in the same manner that he had chosen to speak about the case with the media. In the company of Rotarians, he was more comfortable, and was able to voice his angst about having to deal with the sensationalism: "As a doctor you become famous because of the famous people you operate on and not because you are famous."

Since he helmed the entire medical

operation, the media began by raising him to celebrity status. When he finally brought Eman to Mumbai from Egypt for her treatment, he said, "I almost felt like a superstar with all the paparazzi present at the airport." However, as Malcolm X once said, "The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power. Because they control the minds of the masses." And so the innocent did in fact, become guilty.

For his courage, Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala became a hero overnight. He needed to operate on Eman at the soonest, but her condition only permitted him to do so once she lost over a hundred kilograms. Nonetheless, the therapy prescribed to her began showing positive results. And in the meantime, some of the best scientists from Harvard, Cambridge, and Melbourne University worked on test samples to ascertain the most suitable time for Eman to undergo a laparoscopy. Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala did all he could to ensure the best treatment possible for this overseas guest, who trusted the Indian medical system to find relief from her ailment. Unfortunately, the naysayers chose to condemn his mission by calling it a mere 'publicity stunt'. Here, again, it was his undeterred courage that they pointed a finger at.





While the media had managed to divide the public opinion for and against Eman's cause, they did not manage to deter Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala and his team. The operation was a success and Eman was able to, for the first time in over 25 years, move around on a wheelchair. She now weighed 171 kilograms. But it was at this juncture of success that the doctor faced the greatest blow: "She broke the only bond that exists between a doctor and his patient. Faith!" Here the speaker refers to Eman's sister - Shaimaa, who had fed the press with the fodder they had been looking for. The kind of information that can

make anyone lose faith in humanity. "Shaimaa would tell Eman to cry on video and then post it on social media." There were claims made by Shaimaa, about the inadequacy of the medical support provided by the Hospital that could not be substantiated with any evidence, but the journalists had a field day. At one point, she made an allegation that her sister was in a state of coma, which she could not pull off for too long, considering the surveillance cameras could see through her lies.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few

drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty." These were the very words that Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala ascribed to, in order to attach a method to the madness. Eman's sister, not realising the outcomes of her action, had managed to harm many Indians in Egypt for they had to face the wrath of ill-informed Egyptian citizens. It was not until the parliament in Egypt intervened that the matter subsided. "Till this day, I do not know why she would do such a thing. But everyday is a lesson, and working on Eman's case, I have learnt a great deal," concluded Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala.

Although many of his revelations were met with the applause of the Rotarians, this time the applause was louder and took a while to subside. When Dr. Mukesh Batra, the Rotary President, proceeded to the Q&A session, many took it as an opportunity to voice their appreciation. Even after the meeting was adjourned, Rotarians had more to say to Dr. Muffazal Lakhdawala, only this time he was approached Individually. And since social media is what it is, bad or good, it must prevail; so many clicked photographs with the speaker, and the rest is history.



# Know your Rotarian - Gautam Doshi

## CEO Matrix Financial Consultants

**R**tn. Gautam Doshi received the privilege of being inducted as an active member of the RCB under the classification "Financial Services."

Introducing Rtn. Gautam Doshi, Rtn. Aditya Somani said that Gautam founded Matrix Financial Consultants, an investment banking firm which works with Indian corporates in raising financing. He is also an active value investor in the Indian equity markets. He earned his Bachelors in Commerce (B.com) from the Sydenham College and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the London Business School. He is married to Ushma Doshi, a special educator for children with Specific Learning Disabilities and they have a lovely daughter Aashi, who studies in grade 6 at the Aditya Birla World Academy.

(The gateway) **TG:** What made you become an entrepreneur?

**Rtn. Gautam (GD):** After completing my MBA, I was keen to set up my own business. Given that I had worked in the private equity business, I chose to set up an investment banking firm, Matrix Financial Consultants, that would work with corporates in raising financing. In 2002 I thought the



Indian economy was at a 'take-off' point and therefore a number of businesses would need capital to grow. That call worked out well and it's been a great journey building the firm over the last 15 years. In addition to founding Matrix, I am also an avid investor in the Indian equity markets. Over the last 15 years my investing journey too has been not only very rewarding but also a tremendous learning experience.

**TG:** Why did you join the Rotary?

**GD:** After having built my firm over the last 15 years I was looking for an organization that would enable me to meet like-minded people who not only were successful in their respective fields but also had a desire to serve their communities. I was familiar with the Rotary family as

I used to be the President of the Rotaract Club of Bombay Queens Necklace during my college days. Thus, I chose to join the Rotary family.

**TG:** Why did you join the RCB?

**GD:** Given that the RCB has over 300 members who work across a range of professions and industries, I believe the club offers a great platform to interact with diverse and interesting people. In addition, the RCB is able to attract very informative speakers who talk across a range of topics. In the last 3 months alone, I have had the pleasure of listening to Mr. Aditya Puri speak about banking, Mr. Rishi Kapoor talk about acting and to Dada JP Vaswani talk about spirituality.

**TG:** What are your hobbies like?

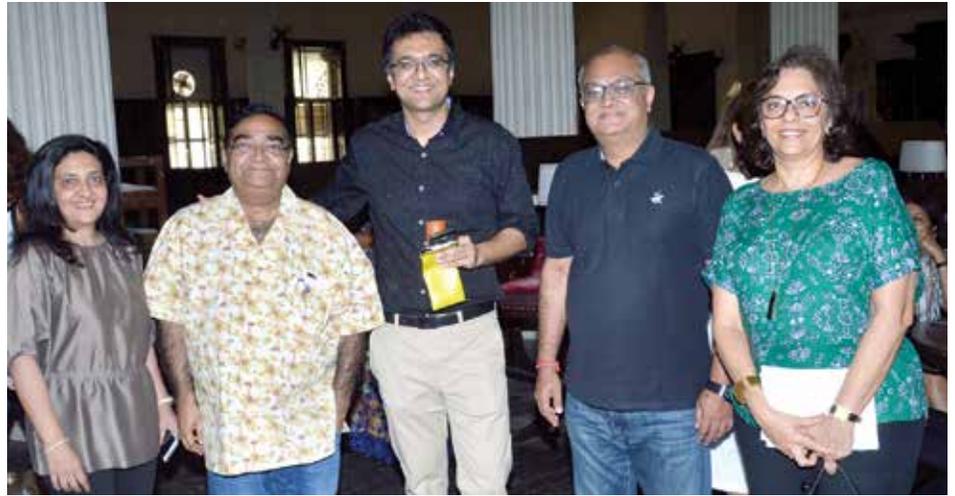
**GD:** I play golf and am learning kick-boxing. We as a family enjoy travelling and take 3-4 trips every year to interesting parts of the world to see and experience their culture, their sights and most importantly their food as we are all foodies.

## An Evening at the Asiatic

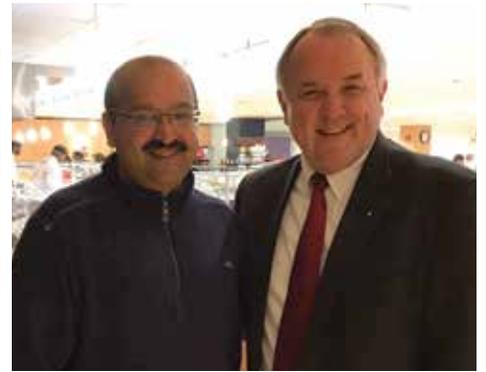
**R**CB's Urban Heritage committee chalked up another successful event at Asiatic's Durbar Hall on the evening of April 23.

'One On One' was a lively theatrical presentation by Mumbai's leading thespians, including Shanaz Patel, Rajit Kapur and Rahul da Cunha. It consisted of humorous and thought-provoking vignettes about life in 'amchi Mumbai'. The event attracted an appreciative, houseful audience of Rotarians and their guests.

The programme, generously supported by Tata Mutual Fund, was a continuation of RCB's commitment to revitalize the Asiatic Society and preserve its priceless heritage.



## Rotarians around the World



PP Nirav Shah met Eric Schmelling, (chief philanthropy officer) Jennifer Kordell & Laura Bradley (Rotary Grants Officers) & PRIP Ron Burton (2013-14).



### ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

invites you to

the inauguration of four Jal Jeevan Centres installed at the hostel facilities in the campus of Sir JJ Hospital, Byculla in association with Eureka Forbes Institute of Environment



An initiative by the Environment & Water Resources Committees of the Rotary Club of Bombay

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (Thursday)  
**Time:** 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
**Venue:** R. M. Bhatt Boys Hostel, Sir JJ Hospital, Byculla, Mumbai  
**Chief Guest:** President Dr. Mukesh Batra



## Forthcoming Events

- **May 25th, 2017**  
Inauguration of J.J. Hospital water project. 5 pm
- **May 27th, 2017**  
Brunch at PP. Rtn. Ashish Vaid's Alibaug home. Catamaram service from Jetty at Colaba, Opp. Taj Mahal hotel at 8:45 am  
Laying of foundation stone of old age home.
- **May 30th, 2017**  
**Speaker - Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee** - Trustee Chair TRF "Joy of Giving"  
Taru Lalvani Environment Protection Award to Mr Afroz Shah.
- **June 6th, 2017**  
**Speaker - Juhi Chawla** to be presented the 'Rotary Club of Bombay Social Service Award'
- **June 8th, 2017**  
ISDI Design Dhamaka. 5:30 pm. ISDI ACE, Tower 2A, 7th floor, 1- Indiabulls Centre, Lower Parel.
- **June 13th, 2017**  
**Speaker - Dr A. Herwadkar** to receive the 'Rotary Anita Parikh Award' for women empowerment.
- **June 20th, 2017**  
**Speaker - Varun Gandhi:** MP & National General Secretary, BJP "Ideas for a new India".
- **June 21st, 2017**  
World Yoga Day celebrations. 7:30 am at Colaba Municipal School.
- **June 25th, 2017**  
Farewell Brunch, 11 am onwards.
- **June 28th, 2017**  
Special In Camera event for Office Bearers, Directors and Chair persons "Singing for my Supper" - Dr Mukesh Batra at the residence of Rekha Tanna, 6:30 pm onwards.



## ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

Fellowship brunch at  
PP. Rtn. Ashish Vaid's Alibaug home.

27<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Catamaram service from Jetty at Colaba, Opp. The Taj Mahal hotel @ 8:45 a.m  
Laying of foundation stone of old age home.

**RSVP**

Mr. Eruch Irani – 022-22024089  
 Rtn. Mudit Jain – 9820030962  
 Rtn. Ritu Parkash Desai – 9820049520

## 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

### OFFICE-BEARERS 2016-17

President	Dr. Mukesh Batra
Immediate Past President	Dr. Sonya Mehta
President-Elect	Ramesh Narayan
President Nominee	Vijay Jatia
Honorary Secretary	Manish Reshamwala
Joint Hon. Secretary	Framroze Mehta
Hon. Treasurer	Meera Alreja

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Membership & Info	PP Nowroze Vazifdar
Membership Development	Pradeep Chinai
Club Trainer	Deepak Kapadia
CSR	Shivkumar Israni

### DIRECTOR: MUDIT JAIN

Fellowship	Ritu Prakash Desai
Assimilation	Mahesh Khubchandani
Sergeant-at-arms	Roda Billimoria
In-camera	Rekha Tanna
Attendance	Bipin Kapadia

### DIRECTOR: ANUJ ARENJA

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Program	Poornima Advani
PR	Vineet Suchanti
Bulletin	Hoshang Billimoria
Social Media & Website	Murad Currawala
Sports	Jamshyd Vazifdar

### DIRECTOR: ASHOK JATIA

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Legal Aid	Natasha Treasurywala
Vocational Training	Sunny Pariyaram
Scholarships	Zinia Lawyer
Rotary Public Awards	Shernaz Vakil

### DIRECTOR: DR. ASHISH CONTRACTOR

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ADMC Talwada	Dr. Sorab Javeri
HTEC Talwada	PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
Yoga	Sitaram Shah
Cancer Aid	Madhusudan Daga
RCB Clinic - Cotton Green	Manoj Patodia

### DIRECTOR: SAMIR CHINAI

Animal Welfare	Priyasri Patodia
Environment	Manoj Patodia
Urban Conservation	Aditya Somani
Nutrition	PP Dr. Zerxis Umrigar

### DIRECTOR: RAVINDRA FOTEDAR

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

### DIRECTOR: SHIV DEV GOROWARA

The Rotary Foundation	PDG Gulam Vahanvaty
Youth Exchange Programs	Vijay Jatia
Atlanta convention 16-17	PP Nandan Damani

### DIRECTOR : JAIDEV MERCHANT

Interact	Bipin Vazirani
Rotaract	Mehul Sampat

### DIRECTOR : JAGDISH MALKANI

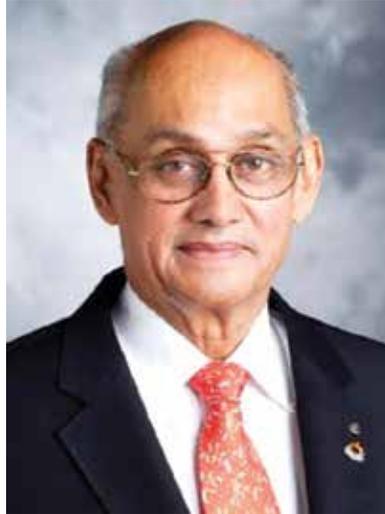
District Thrust Area	Alok Sekhsaria
District Coordinator	PP Pradeep Saxena
E-Administrator	Bimal Mehta
Rotary Service Carnival	PP Harry Singh Arora

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## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

# Trustee Chair TRF Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee "Joy of Giving"



Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee has been marshaling his energies for Rotary since 1972, when he joined the fledgling club in his hometown of Vapi, India. Around the same time, the young chemical engineer was starting up a small company to produce red phosphorous, an essential ingredient in fertilizer. Under Banerjee's leadership, United Phosphorous Limited blossomed into the largest agrochemical manufacturer in India. And Vapi, due in no small part to the work of the local Rotary club, has been transformed from a sleepy village into a major industrial center in Gujarat State.

Over the last four decades, Banerjee has served Rotary as a district governor, president's representative, committee and task force chair, Rotary Foundation trustee, and director. He also has been a member of the International PolioPlus Committee, heading up initiatives that have spurred Rotary's polio eradication efforts in India.



## Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Dilnavaz Variava  
24<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Dr. Ambrish Dalal  
25<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Pritam Sanghai  
25<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Mehul Sampat  
26<sup>th</sup> May



PP Rtn. Dr. Kekoo Kavarana  
28<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Vasant Manohar  
28<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Chetan Shukla  
28<sup>th</sup> May

## Partners

26<sup>th</sup> May - Ptn. Ritika Arenja

## Anniversaries

29<sup>th</sup> May - Ptn. Kanta & Rtn. Shiv Dev Gorowara

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## Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	89
Rotary Club of Bombay Bay View Members	17
Partners	05
Visiting Rotarians	00
Guests	05
Rotractors	02
Total attendance	118
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 1,700/-