

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



From the President's Desk



This past week has been a rather busy one for most of us, starting with the rejuvenating meditation with Mr. Sanjay Bhatia, the empowering

talk by Shailesh Gandhi, the mass scale of the Diabetes Camps held across various locations, and the cancer screening camp organized at the G.K. Marg School.

Kudos to President-Elect Ramesh Narayan, Madhusudan Daga and all other members of the Cancer Aid Committee for launching a multi-channel social media campaign, as well as to all those who volunteered tirelessly to ensure that the Diabetes Camps were a success.

I would therefore like to urge each and every one of you to follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to help promote and create awareness for our various initiatives and for the hard work put in by fellow Rotarians!

Sanjay Bhatia

The Future of RTI

Atrue nationalist, Shailesh Gandhi has been a champion of transparency and honesty in the country. A tireless proponent of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, he has dedicated hours and days on spreading the importance of this Act and educating people on filling an appeal in a manner that it is sure to be answered.

Amongst his other achievements as the Commissioner, Central Information Commission (CIC), are that his was the first paperless government office in India, and of having heard over 20,000 cases in his tenure, making it to 25 cases in a day!

"Fellow citizens of India, over a century ago, Lokmanya Tilak made a statement



Mr. Shailesh Gandhi
RTI Activist and Former Commissioner,
Central Information Commission, New Delhi

in Pune, which rings in my ears even to-day, 'Swaraj ha maza janmasiddh adhikar aahe ani toh me minavna' (Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it)'. On 15th August 1947 we got *Swaraj*. The question I'd like to pose is, are you happy with the governance in our nation? *Swaraj* mean 'my rule', so are you happy with your own rule?" with these very questions Shailesh began his enthralling speech.

"I would like to submit that on 15th August 1947, *Swaraj* never came! It's all an illusion and a delusion, as what happened on 15th August was only a transfer of *raj*, from the whites to the browns, but the *raj* still remains. And it remains without us realizing it."

Today's Meeting

Mr. Sudheendra Kulkarni, Politician, Columnist & Head of Observer Research Foundation - 'Good Governance Reforms - Need of the hour'
- Joint meeting with RC of Mumbai Central



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Forthcoming Events

- Oct 25, 2016 **Diwali Nite** - Celebrations at M. V. M. Banquet: 7:00pm onwards - No afternoon meeting
- Nov 01, 2016 **Diwali** - No weekly meeting
- Nov 08, 2016 **Ms. Subha Barry - Princeton, USA** - Battling & Surviving Cancer
- Nov 15, 2016 **Mr. Rafique Dada, Senior Counsel** - Alternate Disputes Mechanism
- Nov 22, 2016 **Mr. Mopalwar, MD, MSRDC** - 'Future of Mumbai'

Continuing further he adds, "Friends tell me, how is it possible, we are one of the world's largest democracies? We the people of India made the constitution and we follow it... True! We call ourselves a democracy because we have a reasonably fair system of elections, by which we are able to choose leaders, change governments, and so on. However, elections and the constitution are necessary conditions for democracy, but do not fulfill the complete set of conditions required. The heart and essence of democracy is in the concept that each individual citizen is a sovereign in his/her own right and they hand over a part of their sovereignty to the state, in return of which they get the rule of law. Sovereignty of the individual is at the base of democracies and of entire human rights concepts, which we've missed completely!"

"But one may ask, how can I have 125 crore sovereigns? Incidentally in Hindi, Marathi and in Gujarati, we call this *Lok Shahi*. *Lok Shahi* means '*logon ki shehenshahi*', wherein you are made to feel like a *Badshah* or a *Begum* when you interact with the government, but that doesn't happen. Normally when a citizen goes to a government office, he comes out feeling angry, humiliated and frustrated."

What can be done to bring back the respect or sovereignty for the individual? Is this possible any where in the world or is it just a play of words? "I'd like to quote an example to show you

how respect for human beings is the basis for anything proper to happen. I'd like to take you back 125 years to South Africa. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi got inside the train and although he had a first-class ticket was pushed out because he was a brown man. He then sent out a telegram complaining about what had happened to him, and in about 12-14 hours, a railway official came and put him on the next train. Think of the significance of this... Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was not a citizen of South Africa. In fact, by South African law he was a second grade human, yet when he complained, the system responded in 12-14 hours even though there were no mobiles or Internet. However, if you file a complaint with the Indian Railways, it's doubtful that you will even get a response in 12-14 years. This respect for an individual, for every human being, is the basis of democracies and civilization", he affirms.

"Some people say, this is all very good for an affluent country, but not for a country like ours. I would like to point out that the first Right to Information or Freedom of Information law was passed in Sweden on 2nd December 1766. Sweden at that time was a backward country.

Another very powerful law is Maharashtra's 'Government Servants Regulation of Transfers and Prevention of Delay in Discharge of Official Duties Act (Act 21 of 2006)'. Details for this Act can be found here: <http://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/acts/2006.21.pdf>

And India, on the other hand, was a '*sone ki chidiya*'. Over 12-15% of the world trade was controlled by India. Therefore, my point is that it's not capitalism, it's not science; it's not technology, but democracy, that releases the energy of the people in a nation, in a positive manner which leads to progress."

"Today, the RTI Act has spread very well. It receives over one crore applications annually from across the nation; be it from villages, cities, or towns, as everybody is using it. However, we are also seeing a huge resistance in the proliferation of this law. A lot of attacks are being made on RTI by almost everybody in power, because it is inconvenient. For those who are corrupt, it's obvious that they don't want to be transparent. But for those who are honest, there's arrogance that while I'm doing my work sincerely, then why is it that people want to know about my trip, or what I did, and so on and so forth. Therefore, now we have a small crisis, if I may call it", laments Shailesh.

"And the reason why I'm telling you this is because; it is only individuals who have ever made changes to democracies and societies. Let me give you a powerful use of Right to Information."

"This is a story of a young man, Tukaram, 22 years of age, who came from a small village in Maharashtra to Mumbai in 2006 to find a job. He started living with his uncle in a *jopad-patti* (*slum*). During that time, an RTI workshop was conducted in his *basti*. So he sat through the workshop, and understood the ease with which an application can be made."

"He then got a job and needed proof of existence, i.e., a Ration Card. So he applied for one, and as he was leaving, the peon told him at the door, '*aapko Ration Card chahiye toh chai paani lagega*'. So he said, '*theek hai piladunga*'. The peon said, '*chai pilaneki baat nahin*, you have to pay 2000 rupees. This young boy without batting an eyelid said, 'I shall not give any bribe', and went away."

Shailesh Gandhi Simplifies The RTI Application Process

Who can file an RTI application?

Any Indian citizen can file an RTI application.

Who has to give the information?

The law defines, what is called as a 'public authority'.

What is a public authority?

All Government agencies, as we normally understand, and any agency, that is substantially financed, controlled or owned by the government.

Who should I send the application?

Think of who has that information.

What is information pray?

Information is something that exists on records, which must be given to you.

What is the process?

Start by writing your information pray on a simple sheet of paper, put a 10 rupees court fee stamp. If it is related to the central government, take an Indian Postal order of 10 rupees, attach it and send it off, and you start a very powerful process.



The Rotaractors of HR College making appeal in the form of a skit in support of the fund raising concert organized by RCB's Animal Welfare Committee in association with Welfare for Stray Dogs (WSD). Hosted by Cyrus Broacha, the concert was held on 14th October at the St. Andrews Auditorium.

"After two and a half months of waiting, he made an RTI application to the Public Information Officer at the Rationing office. Since he knew that he would only be able to get information, that which is on record, he requested to know what action was taken by the officer on his ration card application, and also a list of people who applied for Ration Cards from his area, dates on which they applied and when they received their Cards."

"You can imagine if an answer were given to this, the corruption would have been obvious. Even if the bosses were corrupt, they could not have shielded something like this. So the next day, the same peon came to his house and said, 'saab ne bulaya hai'. He went to the office; there he was not only given his Ration Card, but was also offered a cup of tea and water. He

did not give *chai paani*, but he got *chai paani* instead. That my friends, is the power of RTI!" exclaims Shailesh.

"Another powerful law that I'd like to talk about is Maharashtra's Act 21 of 2006, which I call as the confidential law because most people don't know about it. As per this Act no decision on any file can take more than 45 days if a matter has to be decided within the department, and no more than 90 days where other departments have to be consulted. If however, an application / complaint / representation has received no response for over 90 days, and if the citizen brings it to the notice of the Secretary of the department, the Secretary is obliged to take disciplinary action against the concerned officer. Like RTI, if this law too is widely and appropriately

used, it has the potential to change governance in Maharashtra."

"Also, as per the RTI Act, if all government documents are digitized then there would be no documents missing or being burnt in a fire or eaten by rats. With this alone, 30% of India's corruption will come down. However, no one talks about it. Crores of rupees are spent in the name of digitization, but nothing serious is being done."

"Therefore, instead of cribbing, see if you can identify the various issues that affect you and address them in a way whereby you can change the government by design, and make them stronger, better and get them to deliver for each one of us. Can we do that? ...The responsibility is yours!"



In Camera Fellowship With Mr. Sanjay Bhatia



// Each meditation is a love story – P. Rajagopalachari... And to experience our love story, we assembled at Mr. Sanjay Bhatia's residence on the evening of 3rd October.

Having heard so much about Mr. Bhatia's spiritual journey through meditation, we wanted to dive right in. However, after a warm welcome by Rtn Mudit Jain and by the gracious host himself along with his wife Anuradha, we were guided to make a quick stopover at the delicious, healthy snacks prepared by Rotaryanne Malti Jain.

Soon, 22 of us Rotarians were seated in this calm, peaceful room, dedicated to the weekly meditation sessions conducted by Mr. Bhatia on Wednesdays and Sundays. Having settled down, we were all ears to Mrs. Anuradha Bhatia's journey, which was rather frank and practical. Then, Mr. Tushar Pradhan, the Zonal Coordinator, explained the im-

portance of meditation and helped us through the relaxation technique.

To experience what it was to meditate with someone who has the capacity of transmission, we were asked to meditate on our own for 10 mins, before Mr. Bhatia assisted us with the Heartfulness practice. Despite it being the first time at meditation for most of us, it seemed rather effortless. After having meditated for 30mins, when we opened our eyes, it was a different experience altogether. Apart from feeling rejuvenated, each of one us had a rather unique, soul-stirring experience.

With the evening coming to an end, and having bid our goodbyes to the gracious hosts, what remained was the desire to explore it further and to unearth the potential it holds of being connected with the energies of the universe!

- Krupa Ghandhi

Diabetes Screening And Awareness Camp

As part of District level initiative, the Diabetes camp was one of the biggest projects in this Pratham year, wherein more than 500 doctors and paramedics worked shoulder to shoulder with Rotarians, Inner Wheel members and Rotaractors,

to serve citizens of Mumbai. Around 904 under privileged citizens were examined across various locations of Malwani, Govandi, Santacruz, Machimar Nagar and ShivShastri Nagar of Cuffe Parade, out of which, 244 were found to be possibly diabetic. Amongst those

present were DG Gopal Mandhania, MLA Raj Purohit, Rtms Jagdish Malkani, President-Elect Ramesh Narayan, Ravi Fotedar, Dr. Rajeev Narvekar, Dr. Rumi Jehangir, Mehul Sampat, and Rotary-
anne Ekta Shah, who actively helped and supported during this camp.



Cancer Detection Camp

A combined, early detection camp for oral, uterine, cervical, breast and prostate cancers was organized on 13 October, at the G.K. Marg Municipal school by the Cancer Aid Committee and Bhavishya Yaan, in association with Cancer Patients Aid Association (CPAA).

Committee Chairman Madhusudhan Daga was present throughout the camp with his wife Rotary-
anne Vandana Daga, who assisted the people and doctors right till the end. In addition, Rtn Dr. S. K. Mitra also attended the program along with his wife Rotary-
anne Sushmita Mitra, while

Rotary-
anne Ekta Shah, who is the BY coordinator, helped in organizing the event at G. K. Marg School.

During this Camp, subsidized insurance was also offered wherein RCB would pay 70 percent of the premium amount and the person availing would pay the rest. This one-time premium would insure the subscriber for the next 15 years against cancer.



Events This Quarter

NOVEMBER 2016

Date	Details
1st	Diwali - No weekly meeting
8th	Subha Barry - Princeton, USA - 'Battling & Surviving Cancer'
15th	Mr. Rafique Dada, Senior Counsel - 'Alternate Disputes Mechanism'
22nd	Mr. Mopalwar, MD, MSRDC - 'Future of Mumbai'
24-26	Amritsar Fellowship
29th	Indu Sahni, President & Executive Chair ISDI, ISDI WPP, ISME - 'Re-imagining Education'

DECEMBER 2016

Date	Details
6th	AGM
13th	Don Gardner - Principal, B.D. Somani International School - 'Learning from Shakespeare'
20th	X'mas Dinner - Cocktails and dinner
27th	Housie

JANUARY 2017

Date	Details
3rd	New Year Party
10th	Sameer Dua, Author - 'Creating A Future That Matters'
17th	Seema Mehta, Director - Chhandam Nritya Bharati. Student of dance from Harvard University. 'Indian Art - A Medium of Social Change'
24th	Anil Dharkar
31st	Dr. Farhad Taraporewala - Replacement Surgery - Latest Trends

Inviting all Rotarians to be an active part of this weekly bulletin. If you have any feedback, suggestions, news and project updates, please email them to **gateway@rotaryclubofbombay.org**.

Also, follow us on **facebook.com/rotaryclubofbombay**



Just For Laughs



A Gala Afternoon With The Victory Foundation



A fun-filled afternoon was organized by the Victory Arts Foundation, a Shiamak Davar Enterprise, for the Bhavishya Yaan students of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar School (Worli) at St. Andrew's auditorium. Children from various NGOs, including physically handicapped, mentally challenged, street children and children from various orphanages participated in the show and danced to wonderfully choreographed Bollywood numbers. Trapeze artists fascinated the children with their breath-taking performances. The audience was so thrilled with the performance, that they danced not only near their seats but even went on the stage during the grand finale.

Many thanks to Victory Arts Foundation for making it a memorable afternoon.

BY Students Participate In Soccer Magic

On the 8th and 9th of October, three teams of Bhavishya Yaan students from the G. K. Marg Municipal Schhol participated in a Football match at the Western Railways Sports Ground, Mahalaxmi.

Initiated by Milind Deora and organized by Saran Sports, the South Mumbai Junior Soccer Challenger was launched in 2009 with a view to tap the vast potential of football among South Mumbai school children, and to provide them with an opportunity to showcase their talent.

The uniqueness of this match is that nearly 85% of the players belong to underprivileged backgrounds. And the latest edition, i.e., 8th QPR South Mumbai Junior Soccer Challenger 2016, saw a participation of over 6,000 children, compared to the 1632 children in its first edition.

A big thank you to Rtn Sanjiv Saran Mehra for providing such a wonderful opportunity to the Bhavishya Yaan students and for equipping them with the necessary gear, which they were so thrilled to receive.



Health Check-up At IWA

The International Women's Association (IWA) Clinic at Fort, which is run in partnership with RCB, held a camp for 50 children belonging to the Garden School, Colaba. Each child aged between 4-5 years was checked by a pediatrician, a general practitioner and a dentist.

After having completed the check-up, the children were each given a glass of milk, a banana and a much sought-after bar of chocolate. Kids were thrilled to receive a tooth-paste pack as a takeaway. More such camps are planned in the months to come.



Awareness On Waste Management

An interactive session on waste management was recently conducted by Sanskar India Foundation (SIF) for the Bhavishya

Yaan students. In this, children were explained the concept of waste management from rag pickers to composting problems related to waste disposal in Mumbai city, as well as segregation of waste in an efficient and effective manner at household level. The SIF teacher emphasized that if every person becomes actively involved in waste management, it will have significantly positive impact on the environment.

All students had lot of fun while they played a game on waste segregation and solved a crossword on the subject.



Diwali celebrations



Rotary Club Of Bombay

Cordially invites you to celebrate

Diwali Nite

with Music, Cocktails & Dinner

8 p.m. onwards | Tuesday 25th October, 2016

at M. V. M. Banquet | Dress code: Indian Festive Traditional

Hosted by: Alinchandani Abhin • Bulchandani Sheila B. • Bajaj Shekhar • Batra Dr. Mukesh • Damani Nandan S. • Dalal Dilip N. • Daga Madhusudan • Deshpande Tara • Fotedar Ravi • Haribhakti Shailesh V. • Jain Mudit • Jatia Vijay • Kara Hiren • Lalvani ajit • Mehta Preeti G. • Murarka Manoj • Meghani Vijay V • Mogul Samir • Nandan Maluste • Nivetia Gaurav • Narvekar Dr. Rajeev M. • Narayan Ramesh • Reshamwalla Manish • Shah Vandan S. • Sekhsaria Alok • Shah Nirav • Sanghai Pritam • Sahney Trilochan • Suchanti Vineet

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RSVP : Mr. Eruch Irani - 022-22024089

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Rtn. Dr. Mukesh Batra
Rtn. Dr. Sonya Mehta
Rtn. Ramesh Narayan
Rtn. Jagdish Malkani
Rtn. Meera Alreja

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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
Asiatic Society Aditya Somani
Nutrition PP Dr. Zexis Umrigar

DIRECTOR: RAVINDRA FOTEDAR

Water Resources Rohan Dalal
Senior Citizen PP Ashish Vaid
Women's Empowerment Dr Rajeev Narvekar

DIRECTOR: SHIV DEV GORWARA

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

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Go Viral In Your Support For Cancer

RCB's Cancer Aid Committee in association with Cancer Patients Aid Association is devoted in its

mission to defeat Cancer through education and awareness. To know more visit <http://www.cpaaindia.org/>



*Put your hand on your heart
and say you don't think breast cancer
can disfigure you.*

Self examine your breasts once everyday.
Learn how at (link).

#40sectohealthybreasts
#Preventbreastcancer

CANCER AID
COMMITTEE



Therefore, this October, express your support in our fight against Breast Cancer and help spread the word by following us on:

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/canceraidrotary>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CancerAidCommittee/>

Instagram - https://www.instagram.com/canceraidcommittee_rotaryclub

Help us in this noble cause and show that you care!



Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Pankaj Baliga
18th October



Deepak Parekh
18th October



Kirit Kamdar
19th October



Jimmy Pochkhanawalla
20th October



Mehernosh Dotivala
21st October



Dipan Mehta
21st October



Dr Vikram Lele
23rd October

Rotaryanne

20th Oct - Lalaj Danti

Anniversaries

18th Oct - Preeti & Ratan Tankha
21st Oct - Anita & Marzban Patel
21st Oct - Ummehani & Huzaifah Bagasrawala
22nd Oct - Manjula & Arun Mehta
24th Oct - Ruby & Feroze Patch

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Statistics for last week's meeting

Members	112
Rotaryannes	01
Guest	05
Rotaractors	10
Total Attendance	128
Service Box Collection	₹5,300