

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



From the President's Desk



Dear friends,

The Rotary Club of Bombay has been doing yeoman's service in Talwada with its eye centre and its general medical centre. Similarly, it has been providing safe drinking water in the North Mumbai slums, medical care at the IWA clinic and the Cotton Green medical centre and of course at the

Asiatic library and the Municipal schools. And yet, I believe the role that Rotary plays in the community has not been appreciated to the extent it needs to be.

One reason for that is the dispersed locations where we do our work.

I am hoping that this year we can continue all the wonderful work being done through all these initiatives and also make meaningful contributions to the immediate communities we live and work in. This will not just add significant value to these areas but also lift the profile of our Club and the Rotary movement in general.

Hopefully we will roll out such initiatives in the month ahead.

While everyone appreciated the Shankar Mahadevan Nite, and the publicity that was generated in the run up to this program, I am very gratified that the primary objective of raising funds for a good cause was achieved in a most satisfying way. To say we exceeded our target, and everyone's expectations would be a great understatement. The money raised will now take care of the running expenses of our Bhavishya Yaan program in five municipal schools for three years comfortably.

It has been my stated objective that I would not raise money for just my term, but for three years, and this has been validated by the results of this fund raiser.

Let me sign off by stating the obvious. Our Club has meaningful ongoing projects. We need to raise money to ensure these projects continue serving the community in their own unique way. That must be the priority. It is only after this priority is taken care of, should we think of any other fund-raising efforts.



Ramesh Narayan

RERA - By Your Side in Rain and Sunshine



Rtn. Anil Harish on RERA.

Mr. Gautam Chatterjee, the chairman of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority of Maharashtra, was not able to be part of the Rotary meeting due to the heavy rains. Therefore, Rtn. Anil Harish gave the audience a thorough roadmap of the direction in which Mr. Chatterjee wants to drive the much-awaited Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

Today's Speaker **Yaacov Ben-Yaacov** : Founder, CEO Catch Media Inc.



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Mr. Chatterjee, an authority in urban housing, played a vital role in framing the housing rules that RERA - the only other act to be implemented after the Maharashtra Real Estate Act of 1963 - aims to uphold.

The history and true nature of the real estate market is a narrative that is best heard from those who have lived through the gap of 54 years that separate the two real estate acts.

Rtn. Anil Harish most certainly met the criteria, with the added advantage of being an engaging speaker. He took us back to the late 70s, when a square foot of property cost all of hundred rupees at Nariman Point. By 1986, the same property settled at 2,000 rupees per square foot, and in 1996, it further skyrocketed to 50,000 rupees per square foot.

Since prices were so high, one can imagine the malpractices that seeped into the demand and supply chain. While the Maharashtra Real Estate Act of 1963 only prescribed requirements that were to be met by builders, there was



Rtn. Fali Mehta makes a point.

no regulator to enforce those requirements. At times, when the matter got out of hand, the victims went to court but, of course, "the courts were completely clogged."

The saving grace in this case was the Maharashtra Regulation and Development Act, which was repealed owing to the central government's decision to have a common law that is applicable to the entire country. Thus, on the 1st of May, RERA came to be. It entails three main parties: the project, the consumer, and the estate agent.

The project: "A new project can only be registered once the builder has got all the approvals." Earlier, there were many instances of builders turning the increased demand for property in their favour by selling property that existed only on paper.

The estate agent has also been brought to question, by making it mandatory for the latter to be registered if they are to market a property that is still under construction.

Lastly, while the consumer has been safeguarded against various malpractices, he too can be held responsible for not making timely payments to the concerned parties.

When the law was introduced, the authorities defined "projects" as ongoing projects and projects still to see the light of day. This meant that ongoing projects, or projects that were already underway before the Act was passed, had to be registered by the 31st of July. The Act's precision, however, comes through in the finer details: It is mandatory for builders registering their property to clearly define "the latitude and longitude of the entire boundary of the plot."





Happy Birthday Mudit Jain



Thanks for stepping up Anil Harish

Registering the property is only half the battle won; if the builder is not able to deliver the project by the date that has been registered with regulation authority, "then he can apply for an extension, which may or may not be granted." If his extension is not granted, "he is just not going to be allowed to sell after that." In certain cases, a penalty is charged, which can go up to 10% of the project's cost.

When a developer receives an installment from a purchaser, he may use 30% of that money but 70% must go into a designated account. If the need arises, he can use the 50% of the remaining 70% after getting a certificate from an architect, chartered accountant, and engineer. "They will certify the amount of work completed up to that date, and state the need to withdraw."

More importantly, giving Mr. Gautam Chatterjee his due, Rtn. Anil Harish was glad to inform us about a miscreant who was brought to justice in a matter of 36 days for not complying with the new regulations. The result: Over 4000 projects have been registered with the regulation authority, allowing for an easy perusal of all their details online.

Obviously, the dias was not open for any questions because the guest speaker was absent, but also because, as Rtn. Anil Harish affirmed, Mr. Gautam Chatterjee and his team are always open to answering questions related to RERA through the website, hinting at the fact that the absentee was never really absent.

Ask your RERA-related questions here: <https://maharera.mahaonline.gov.in/>

Rtn. Framroze Mehta reported on the Progress of the Women Empowerment Committee, the positive outcomes of the collaborations fostered by the Women's Empowerment committee in its two and a half year existence.

The tie-up with the International Women's Association (IWA) has resulted in a new radiology department at the IWA clinic situated in Fort. The X-Ray machine for the same was donated by Rtn. Shahnaz Vakil.

By working closely with the Umerkhadi remand home, the Women's Empowerment Committee has been able to provide 350 mattresses for the children - many below the age of

18 - and a library of 180 books, donated by Rtn. Bimal Mehta.

The committee's association with the IWA has also resulted in the organisation of medical camps for 120 students at the Garden School.

Lastly, Rtn. Framroze Mehta also threw light on his committee's initiative of gender sensitising the underprivileged youth, with the help of Rotaractors who have been trained by an NGO called Laadli.

Record Collections at Fund Raiser

Hon. Secretary Manish Reshamwala announced at the last meeting that the Shankar Mahadevan Nite held on 23rd August exceeded all expectations in every respect. He added that the Fund Raising drive had raised approximately Rs. 2.75 crore. This did not include the monetisation of unprecedented publicity in the form of print advertising, radio mentions, Out of Home Hoardings and the cost of a music video that all formed a part of the build-up.

US kids intern at Bhavishya Yaan

Written by: Kunjal Kapadia and Manisha Oza

Privilege. Opportunity. Equality. These are the aspects that the Bhavishya Yaan highlights. From first standard to tenth standard, it provides underprivileged students with the chance to advance their skills while building upon their education. We were fortunate enough to be invited by the GK Marg center's mentor, Bhavika Parekh, for the volunteer share program which is run jointly by the Rotary Club of Bombay and the Vidya Organization. We are honored to be able to share the experience with the world.

Coming from the United States of America, we were thrilled to see the diverse and beautiful culture that India has to offer, especially regarding the schooling system. When at the school, there were five other volunteers with us which made for a total of seven. We were all different ages, ranging from 7th standard to college, and each of us had different strengths and weaknesses. Some of us have worked with children before through another volunteer program, school, and some of us have never had the chance to work with kids. But regardless of our experience with

teaching, we all came together as a team to help the students with their English skills.

From the moment we stepped into the school, we realized that we had to adjust to a new style of living. With lack of materials and school supplies, us volunteers had to brainstorm unique lesson plans for the students each day. These lessons were easy to carry out because of the students' hard-work, dedication, and drive to learn new information.

Over the course of the weeks that we were there, we began to see each student open up to us individually. We started to connect on a personal level with the students which made the teaching experience much more cherishable. On the first day, the kids were shy and only spoke Hindi and Marathi to us; however, by the end of the two weeks,



the children came up to us and greeted us solely in English. It was heart-warming to see how much progress the students have made in such a short amount of time



and it is unimaginable to think of all that they have accomplished at the center. We are extremely blessed to have supported the Rotary Club of Bombay in achieving their mission. Education is the base of life and

we are happy to have helped the students strengthen their foundation. We not only learned the students' names while teaching, but more importantly, their stories.

A special thanks to Mrs. Ekta Shah who inspired us to share our response about

the center and who gave us the chance to be associated with Bhavishya Yaan.

Know your Director - Homi Katgara



Homi Katgara was born and raised in Mumbai. He studied at Cathedral and John Connon School and graduated in Commerce from Mumbai University, immediately after which he joined the family business.

Homi is the youngest of the fourth generation of the founding family which established Jeena & Company 117 years ago, making them the pioneers of Freight Forwarding in India. As a Partner, he is actively involved in the day to day management of the Company. He is also a Partner and a Director in various other Companies.

Presently a second generation Rotarian, Homi has also been

the Past President of the Air Cargo Club of Bombay and has also served on the Balloting & Disciplinary Committee of The Willingdon Sports Club. He was also a Committee Member of the Indo Canadian Business Chamber.

With his demanding schedule, he also finds the time to be the Managing Trustee at Masina Hospital, a Public Charitable Hospital, which is over a hundred years old and one of the most venerated institutions of Mumbai.

Apart from the above, he is also involved in real estate development projects. On the philanthropic side, he strongly believes in “giving back to society what we have received

from it” which he does through Charitable Trusts & Foundations set up by the family.

His interests include tennis, squash, badminton, snooker, swimming and scuba diving and he enjoys his weekend getaways to Lonavala and Kashid.



Club Awards & Rotary International Presidential Citations

Our Club has received Presidential Citation for the Rotary year 2016-17.

Three of our Rotaract Clubs have received Presidential Citation for the Rotary year 2016-17. They are:

ROTARACT CLUB OF BOMBAY

ROTARACT CLUB OF GOVERNMENT DENTAL COLLEGE

ROTARACT CLUB OF HINDUJA COLLEGE

One of our Interest Club has received Presidential Citation for the Rotary year 2016-17 viz. GOPI BIRLA MEMORIAL SCHOOL



IPP Dr. Mukesh Batra

Ananda Yaan Update

The Ananda Yaan project in Byculla has been doing very well. Close on the heels of the interaction between Rotaractors and the members of the Elder Day Care Center at Byculla, a diabetes checkup was arranged for them. The representative from the N.M. Medical counter at our Cotton Green medical centre came and collected fasting and post-prandial samples from 50 elders.

This is just one of the many inter-Committee collaborative initiatives that are being planned at the Ananda Yaan centres.

The elders will soon be taken for a dental and eye check up at the RCB Cotton Green medical centre



IN SEPTEMBER

Saturday, 23rd September
At the White Owl, Lower Parel
12 noon to 3pm

tour of the micro brewery
unlimited handcrafted beer and sangrias
snacks and lunch
@ Rs 500 per head (only cash)

Only first 75 registrations will be accepted
with Karuna at the Rotary office, strictly on
a first come first served basis

#throwbacktuesday

We just can't get over this event from last month, can you?



The calm before the storm



Shankar Mahadevan shares the stage with the talented singer Radha



In Camera Committee
Invites you to

A Talk on
Nutrition & Wellness for Healthy Living

By
Maadhuri R. Sharma
Mrs. Earth International 2016 & Mrs. Cosmic 2017

On
Wednesday, 13th September
At 6.30 PM

Followed by
Cocktails & Dinner

Hosted By
Miloni & Mehul Sampat

At
5B Suneeta, 5th Floor, Ridge Road,
Malabar Hill, Mumbai - 400006

RSVP
Rekha Tanna - 98210 22987
Vrinda Rajgarhia - 98201 28480

Limited Seats. Please Register in Advance.

Forthcoming Events

- **September 12th 2017**
Ajit Singh Consul General of Singapore will address the Club
- **September 13th 2017**
IN CAMERA A talk on Nutrition & Wellness for Healthy Living by Maadhuri Sharma
- **September 19th 2017**
Ralph Simon the father of the Ring Tone will speak how the Digital revolution is transforming our lives.
- **September 23rd 2017**
Oktoberfest at White Owl, Lower Parel - Tour of the micro-brewery with unlimited handcrafted beer and sangrias along with snacks and lunch.
- **September 26th 2017**
World Maritime Day. Abhilash Tomy will speak on the life - lessons he learned from sailing solo around the world. And the upcoming challenge he now faces.

ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

TRUSTEES 2017-18

Rtn. Dr. Rahim Muljiani
Rtn. Arvind Jolly
Rtn. Arun Sanghi
Rtn. Dr. Adi Dastur

OFFICE-BEARERS 2017-18

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President-Elect	Vijay Kumar Jatia
President Nominee	Preeti Mehta
Honorary Secretary	Manish Reshamwala
Joint Hon. Secretary	Bimal Mehta
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Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	Ishraq Contractor

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Sergeant-at-arms	Roda Billimoria
In-camera	Rekha Tanna

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Programs	Poornima Advani
Social Media & Website	Mehul Sampat
Sports	Jamshyd Vazifdar

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Legal Aid	Natasha Treasurywala
Skill Development	Pradeep Gupta
Scholarships	Zinia Lawyer
Rotary Public Awards	Shernaz Wakil

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ADMC	Dr. Mehmnoosh Dotivala
HTEC	PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
Yoga	Sitaram Shah
Cancer Aid	Farokh Balsara
RCB Clinic - Cotton Green	Manoj Patodia

DIRECTOR: MADHUSUDAN DAGA

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Environment	Rajesh Shah
Urban Conservation	Rohan Dalal
Nutrition	PP Dr. Zexis Umrigar

DIRECTOR: RAVINDRA FOTEDAR

Water Resources	Vineet Suchanti
Elder Care Committee	PP Ashish Vaid
Women's Empowerment	Framroze Mehta

DIRECTOR: HOMI KATGARA

The Rotary Foundation	PDG Gulam Vahanvaty
Youth Exchange Programs	Peter Born
Ananda Yaan Committee	Chairperson Alok Sekhsaria Co-Chair Christopher Bluemel

DIRECTOR : ANUJ ARENJA

Interact	Prakriti Poddar
Rotaract	Murad Currawala
Young-at-Heart	PP Rajnikant Reshamwala

DIRECTOR : PREETI MEHTA

District Thrust Area	Deepak Kapadia
District Coordinator	PP Pradeep Saxena

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NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER

Ajit Singh Consul General of Singapore

A senior officer with the Singapore Foreign Service, "Mr Ajit Singh assumed his current post as Consul-General of Singapore in Mumbai on 1st November, 2013. His jurisdiction covers the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Goa.

Mr Singh graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the then University of Singapore and obtained a Master of International Public Policy degree from the Johns Hopkins University

USA. He has extensive experience working as diplomat in India having also served as Deputy High Commissioner of Singapore in New Delhi and Consul General of Singapore in Chennai.

His other overseas assignments were in Singapore Missions in Moscow, Washington DC, Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Pekan Baru (Indonesia). In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he had held various posts including dealing with bilateral political and economic relations with Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, South Asia, Africa and the Middle East with multi-lateral organisations such as ASEAN and the United Nations. He has also participated in various regional and international meetings including ASEAN Ministerial Meetings, The NAM Summit in Jakarta, CHOGM and Indian Ocean RIM Ministerial Meeting.

Mr Singh is married.



Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Tanya Sood
6th September



Rtn. Mudit Jatia
7th September



Rtn. Devindra Thukral
8th September



Rtn. Jamshed Vakharia
8th September



PP Rtn. Paul George
9th September



Rtn. Ashok Jatia
9th September

Partners

5th September - Ptn. Falguni Padode
6th September - Ptn. Padmini Somani
7th September - Mr. Percy Master
9th September - Ptn. Shobha Jagtiani
Ptn. Indu Kothari

Anniversaries

7th September - PP Rtn. Arvind & Ptn. Rashmi Jolly
10th September - PP Rtn. Gul & Ptn. Sheila Kripalani

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Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	69
Partners	03
Visiting Rotarians	01
Guests	04
Rotractors	03
Total attendance	80
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 1,900/-