

## BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



### President's Pick

Dear friends,

There are nine Australian students interning at our Bhavishya Yaan program in five Municipal Schools. It speaks volumes for the commitment of these foreigners and for the value this program affords.



Ramesh Narayan



Along with 8 Western Sydney University students I am working at Bhavishya-Yaan Student Enrichment Project as an education intern for one month.

This partnership creates a wonderful opportunity to exchange and enrich the cultural knowledge of the students from both countries.

We have participated in English and Computer classroom activities. Reading with the children, assisting in writing and comprehension exercises, playing spelling and grammar games. Helping to develop the BY students skills and confidence to actively seek out conversations in English.

The interns have delivered presentations on Australia; our animals, currency, food, historical icons, beaches and native flora to stimulate the students curiosity about the world.

Preparing for the upcoming BY's Got Talent Show enabled all the students to have fun together rehearsing the songs and dances.

The BY students enthusiasm is infectious and it has certainly been a privilege interacting with India's future leaders.

Janet McMillan  
Western Sydney University Student

### *A Private Discourse*



The Sheriff of London knocked on the door of Richard Gresham and George Berisford, who were joint tenants of a house in Blackfriars. What happened next changed the world's perception on privacy.

**Today's Speaker** Gautam Chatterji Chairman RERA



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Happy Birthday PP Rtn. Vikram Kamdar



Rtn. Poornima Advani introduces the guest speaker



Happy Birthday Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani

Here's a little backstory, as the Tuesday speaker, Darius Khambatta, a distinguished senior counsel, explained: Berisford died while in debt to Peter Semayne. As per a civil writ, Semayne was now the rightful owner of all that Berisford left behind at his home in Blackfriars. So accompanied by a sheriff, Semayne reached the house, now occupied solely by Gresham.

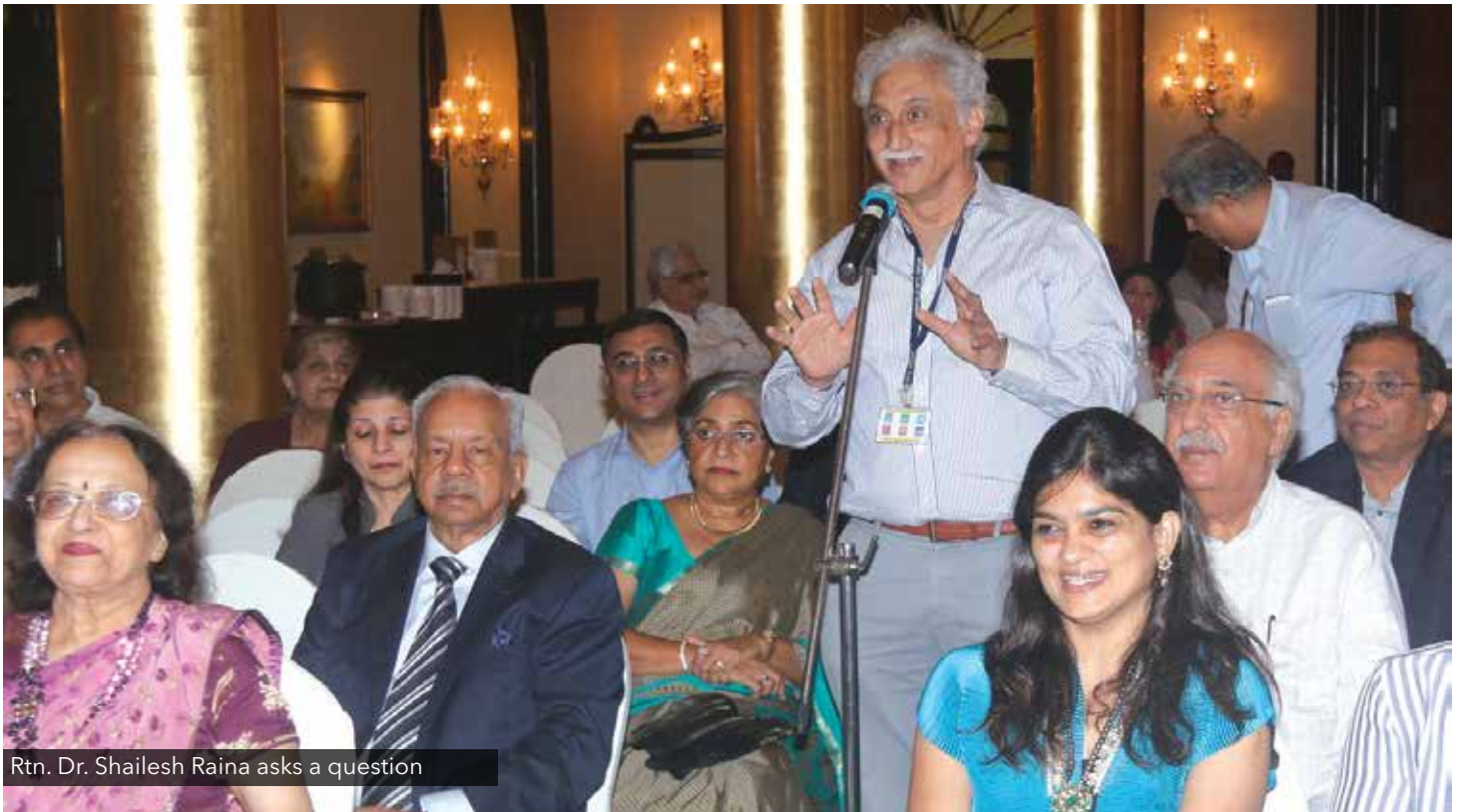
When the sheriff knocked, Gresham refused to open the door because he felt it was an intrusion on his privacy. The sheriff was about to break open the door, when Semayne asked him to refrain, and as an alternative course of action, decided to sue Gresham. The matter kept the court busy for days until the judges ordered by decree that even the Sheriff of England required a

warrant to enter the house of a commoner. This incident took place in 1604, but became an inspiration in the years to come.

The landmark judgement was aptly reported by Sir Edward Coke, the then Attorney General of England, who said: "The poorest man may, in his cottage, bid defiance to all the force of the Crown. It may be frail; its roof may shake; the wind may blow through it; the storm may enter; but all his force dares not cross the threshold of the ruined tenement."

In 1890, Samuel Warren and Louis Brandeis set up a law firm in Boston, which was where the Right to Privacy article was conceived (back then they called it the Right To Be Let Alone). It was amended in 1967, after the case of Katz v. United States was to ask the question of privacy at a phone booth, because the FBI had





Rtn. Dr. Shailesh Raina asks a question

tapped Katz's conversation in a phone booth in order to gather evidence about his involvement in a crime. That is when it was realised that the right to privacy could be violated by electronic eavesdropping, not just by physical intrusion.

The evolution of the right to privacy, from being a penumbral law to a fundamental right, began in 1954. In India, an eight-judge bench refused to acknowledge the existence of such a right, sighting that the makers of the constitution did not envisage a fundamental right to privacy that was based on the lines of the 4th Amendment in the U.S. Thus, the defendant, M.P. Sharma could not stop the authorities from seizing important documents from the Dalmia Group in the M.P. Sharma v. Satish Chandra case.

Less than a decade later, Kharak Singh, an alleged dacoit, made an appeal to the Supreme Court to safeguard his right to privacy. He had been put under a kind of surveillance that was so severe that one of the judges was forced to comment, "... nothing is more deleterious to a man's physical happiness and health than a calculated interference with his privacy." The judge was Justice Subha Rao. Unfortunately, he was the only judge to dissent.

Twelve years later, a silver lining did appear in the Gobind v. State of Madhya Pradesh. The Supreme Court upheld the existence of a fundamental right to privacy in interpreting Article 21. However, it was only recognised as a common law that could be revoked.

When India was in its post-liberalisation phase, privacy as a jurisprudence further strengthened. But it took a few more hours of courtroom drama to realise the importance of making the right to privacy a fundamental right. Take for example: In the R. Rajagopal v. State of Tamil Nadu case, the Supreme Court had to deal with the conflict between the freedom of press and the right to privacy.

As of today, the Aadhar Card concept remains a cause of concern to advocates of privacy, so even though the Supreme Court has declared the right to privacy a fundamental right, Darius Khambatta, concludes: "The law of privacy is yet being written, and will be written for several years to come; It has not concluded."

## Fellowships Galore

A well attended fellowship hosted by Homi and Faryal Katgara at their charming home up among the clouds in central Mumbai.



Ashok and Vatsala Jatia organised a wonderful fellowship on the lawns of their home at Worli.





## Animal Welfare Committee Update

The Ambulance Van RCB donated to BSPCA after modification by fitting a ramp for larger animals.



### IN MEMORIAM



**Rtn. Poonam Kumar**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we sadly lost our ebullient lady Rotarian Prof. Poonam Kumar in London, UK.

For all of us who knew Poonam, she was a warm, caring and affectionate person who contributed greatly to Indian & International Business & Education with her innate intelligence, her focus and her dynamism.

We all need to admire and emulate her positive attitude and her fighting spirit despite the challenges and travails of her journey.

She leaves behind two lovely daughters, Aditi & Meghna.

Poonam's early departure from our midst is a most unfortunate loss for the RCB of an outstanding Rotarian and for some of us, a close personal friend.

May she rest in everlasting peace.

With heartfelt commiseration,

Mahesh Khubchandani

## Reliance Foundation Fact Files

# "Our own small money now allows us to think big."

- Rita Bai, Banswara, Rajasthan



Earlier, women in the village had to borrow money at high interest rates from local money lenders, but now they have their Women's Thrift Group (WTG). With support from Reliance Foundation, the WTG members avail loans at low interest rates.

These stories testify to Reliance Foundation's undying zeal to create equal opportunities for growth and prosperity in India.



Touching over 12 million lives with support for Rural Transformation, Health, Education, Sports for Development, Livelihoods, Disaster Response, Arts & Culture, and Urban Renewal.

## Ananda Yaan Update

Our 90 Ananda Yaan members from both the centres celebrated an evening on 29th November at Nehru Centre, Worli. A night when the fusion of traditional Indian music and European music took centre stage with The Magic of Dinesh Mishra.

Sri Dinesh Mishra is a well known Bansuri player and composer. He is a student of Pandit Hariprasad Chowrasia and has been performing in India and Europe for more than 10 years. There were other renowned vocal artists as well and the show was houseful!

This programme was organised in support of Hunger Free India by NGO Dharma Bharti Mission.

Rotary Club of Bombay would like to thank Mr. Paramjeet Singh (All India President of DBM) and



Miss Farheen Peshimam (Bombay President) for their generosity in giving this life time experience to our Ananda Yaan members.

It was a mesmerising evening for them.

The transport, snacks and passes for the evening were arranged and coordinated by our Anandya Yaan Committee members - Rotary Partner Ekta Shah and Rtn. Alok Sekhseria

Bombay Durga Bari Samiti (BDBS) is a well-recognized and reputed organization of Mumbai which carries out philanthropic and charitable objectives. Under its auspices BDBS organizes the oldest Durga Puja in Mumbai (since 1930) as well as various other cultural and social festivals. BDBS has also been supporting other organizations involved in the education of the girl-child,

education of crippled children and other philanthropic causes.

During Durga Puja celebrations, as offering to Ma Durga devotees in large numbers, offer sarees along with sweets, fruits, etc, BDBS, as a part of charitable and philanthropic activities, distributes these sarees received during the auspices of the Puja, to deserving underprivileged women.

This year on October 30, 25 puja-blessed sarees were given to women members of Rotary Ananda Yaan. Durga Bari President Mr. J. Basu, Cultural and Social Committee Chairperson and Rotaryanne Susmita Mitra, and members Avantika Mallick, Rupali Sen, and Jayati Dad Gupta came to present the sarees to Byculla's Ananda Yaan lady members.



L to R: Beneficiary, Dilip Chauhan of Dignity, Avantika Mallick, Rupali Sen, J. Basu, and Jayati Dad Gupta



L to R: Beneficiary, Rtanne Susmita Mitra, J. Basu



## IN CAMERA - December 21<sup>st</sup> by Pravin Bhansali : Chai pe Charcha



Mr Pravin Bhansali is a very well known name in the Indian tea trade. Originally from Calcutta, he later moved to Mumbai and founded 'Girnar Food & Beverages Pvt Ltd' along with his friend & partner Mr Harendra Shah.

He is a very senior tea taster with over 60 years of experience in the tea trade. After completing his graduation, he joined the family business in tea. He was sent to London to learn tea tasting at George White & Co where he spent two years acquiring the skills under expert guidance. He later moved to Ridgeways in London and spent another year in the tea tasting & purchase department.

Mr Pravin Bhansali is currently the Founder Director of 'Girnar Tea' based in Mumbai. The group is dealing in tea exports and domestic tea business. He has been an active member of several tea trade associations. In the past, he has also served as a 'Board Member' of the 'Tea Board of India'.

### Forthcoming Events

- **December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**TBA**
- **December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017**  
**In Camera : Chai Pe Charcha**  
by **Pravin Bhansali** at Girnar Food & Beverages Pvt. Ltd., 401 CentrePoint, Dr. B. Ambedkar Marg, Parel, Mumbai 12.
- **December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Annual General Meeting.**
- **December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**Yuletide greetings and Christmas Lunch** by the Fellowship Committee at Sofitel Hotel BKC. Block your date.
- **January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Annual Golf Tournament.** For details contact Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas.

  
**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
**FELLOWSHIP LUNCH**  
on Saturday,  
30th December  
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm  
Hosted by  
Ajit Lalvani, Anuj Arenja, Arif Lokhandwalla, Ghanshyam Sheth,  
Jayesh Jhaveri, Paul George, Sabira Merchant, Shom Jagtiani,  
Vinay Sanghi, Biswajit Chakraborty  
at the Jyran, Sofitel Hotel  
Bandra Kurla Complex  
Guest Charges Rs.3000 per person  
Registration Compulsory  
rsvp - Rashmi +91 22 2202 4089  
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Rtn. Arun Sanghi  
Rtn. Dr. Adi Dastur

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## PERSONAL PASSION - Ali and his Spare Parts

Hah! It ain't what you think! Let me explain the origin of this quirky title.

When I was nine I started to learn to play the guitar. A couple of years later I was at a dinner party with my parents. And as parents are, they said "Ali, go up on the stage and sing with the band". A Greek lady who was present walked up to my parents and said "Your kid has a good voice but he needs training. I'm here for three months and would like to train him for free!". Soon I was lying on my back, breathing from my stomach and singing "do, re, me, fa, so, la, ti, do..." And as much as I hated it, I realized later how this discipline helped my voice.

At age 15, I started a band with some Cathedralites (my school). We trained thrice a week for three to four hours each time - always getting the neighbors mad! Our first show was at the school social. We opened with the then popular "Taboo" and went on to a mix of Elvis Presley, Bill Haley, Pat Boone. Rock 'n' roll and jive were the popular dance styles. To my surprise we were a hit!

Walsingham Girls School at Nepean Sea Road asked us to perform at their school social. The Master of Ceremonies, turned to me and said "Ali, what's the name of your band?" I stammered... we didn't have a name! When the MC realized this he shouted into the mike, "Ladies & Gentlemen, we have tonight, Ali .....(pause) and his Spare Parts to perform for all of you". Yup, that's how we got this name.

Thereafter, on we performed through college days at St. Xavier's College functions, New Year's Eve at NSCI, restaurants like Bistro, Venice, Ali Baba, Gulmarg at Shalimar Hotel, Rendezvous (Taj) and even All India Radio.

But after college, the band broke up.

We went our ways till...November 2013! When the Cathedral Class of '62 celebrated their 50th Reunion at the Willingdon Club in Mumbai. And yes, "Ali and his Spare Parts", old as they had become, performed, starting with Frankie's song "Young at Heart".

There were tears of joy among all of us. And we are still the way we were in school...Singin' and Swingin'!



## Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas  
12<sup>th</sup> December



Rtn. Nanik Rupani  
12<sup>th</sup> December



Rtn. Anand Dalal  
17<sup>th</sup> December



Rtn. Aliakbar Merchant  
17<sup>th</sup> December



Rtn. Shailesh Patkar  
18<sup>th</sup> December

### Partners

16<sup>th</sup> December - Ptn. Vasudha Alimchandani  
Ptn. Dr. Natasha Khubchandani  
17<sup>th</sup> December - Ptn. Heena Sheth

### Anniversaries

12<sup>th</sup> December - Rtn. Ajit & Ptn. Poonam Surana  
Rtn. Pravin & Ptn. Sarmistha Bhansali  
Rtn. Ravi & Ptn. Kanan Fotedar  
Rtn. Mayank & Ptn. Divyaa Kummar  
13<sup>th</sup> December - Rtn. Ramesh & Ptn. Sudesh Dhir  
Rtn. Chandra Singh & Ptn. Kusum Lodha  
14<sup>th</sup> December - Hon Rtn. Ajay & Ptn. Swati Piramal  
15<sup>th</sup> December - Rtn. Sameer & Ptn. Arwa Tapia  
Rtn. Raj & Ptn. Anita Ajmera  
Rtn. Dr. Sharukh & Ptn. Dina Golwalla  
Rtn. Swati & Dr. Sandesh Mayekar  
Rtn. Jaidev & Ptn. Sandhya Merchant  
Rtn. Jairaj & Ptn. Manjiri Purandare  
17<sup>th</sup> December - Hon. Rtn. Deepak & Ptn. Smita Parekh  
Rtn. Aliakbar & Ptn. Sandra Merchant  
Rtn. Pranay & Ptn. Sweta Vakil  
18<sup>th</sup> December - Rtn. Gautam & Ptn. Ushma Doshi

Printed & Published by President Rtn. Ramesh Narayan on behalf of Rotary Club of Bombay

Editorial Content Design & Layout by ONEUPWORKS -  
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+919920473331

Printed at: Indigo Press, Plot No.1C/716, Off Dadoji  
Konddeo Cross Road, Between Sussex and Retiwala Ind.  
Estate, Byculla (E), Mumbai 400027.  
+91 22 23705200 /01/ 02 / 03 • [indigopress@gmail.com](mailto:indigopress@gmail.com)

### Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	94
Partners	04
Visiting Rotarians	02
Guests	00
Rotractors	01
Total attendance	101
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 2,950/-