

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



From the President's Desk



Looking back with satisfaction...

Six months have flown by in a flurry of meaningful activities and great bonhomie. And that's what Rotary is supposed to be.

This is just to thank the RCB team, the Secretariat, the members and the donors who have made this six months so special.

Think about it. We launched two Elder Day Care Centres (in Byculla and Dadar Sea Link), branded it Ananda Yaan and made sure our underprivileged elders received many hours of happiness in the evening of their lives. If the first six months are any indication, this project is off to a great start. We have also received a commitment for funding for the Byculla centre for three years from a wonderful human being whom I am proud to call a member of the RCB. And who insists on anonymity.

We had a fantastic fund raising program with Shankar Mahadevan and achieved a record commitment of around Rs. 2.75 crore that should keep Bhavishya Yaan our widely acclaimed student enrichment project well-lubricated for over three years.

Our Cotton Green medical centre has been humming along very well recording increased foot falls. Costs of our eye care centre there have been underwritten by another member for five years. And the Dr. Batra's Centre is setting a great pace there as well.

The re-naming of the eye hospital as Phiroze R Vakil Eye Centre witnessed another record high donation thanks to Dr. Rumi Jehangir, and should ensure the hospital continues its great work for the next 20 years.

The hugely increased activity at the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre was a pleasure to see and it is clocking about 3000 footfalls a month.

The Women's Empowerment Committee inaugurated a radiology unit at the IWA Centre and is continuing its work in the area of gender sensitization and empowering the girl child.

The Environment Committee set a new benchmark in community engagement by contributing to a plastic-free Cuffe Parade.

The Animal Welfare Committee not just committed two animal ambulances to great NGO's but also funded very well received program of sterilizing cats.

The Cancer Aid Committee kept up its good pace with well-planned screenings and financial help to the cancer-affected.

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A Bit on Bitcoins



What is a bitcoin?

"When I bought a percentage of a bitcoin 13 months ago, a bitcoin was valued at anywhere between 500 to 600 dollars. Today, the same bitcoins have brought back 30 times the return, and are valued at 18,000 dollars (still climbing)," said the speaker.

Today's Meeting

AGM to approved Annual Report and Accounts for the Rotary year 2016-17



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The Urban Heritage Committee kept up its good work at the Asiatic Library in terms of restoring books.

And these are just some of the activities of our wonderful Committees. Jal Jeevan, Skills Development, Rotaract (we added a new Club at ISME) and Interact are also doing well. The Sports Committee has gotten off to a great start. And what can I say about the Fellowship, Assimilation and In Camera Committees, except, hats off to them.

We've raised a record amount of money, raised the profile of the Club in the media in an unparalleled way and done some good work. And next week we shall look ahead with hope.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.



Ramesh Narayan



President wishes birthday to Rtn. Ishraq Contractor!

So what is the method behind the madness? And isn't the income tax department going to send a notice to all those who have transacted in a bitcoin? If it takes only a second for Visa to execute 4000 transactions, whereas only 7 bitcoin transactions get cleared in the same amount of time, why would anyone want to accept a bitcoin payment?

by Rtn. Shailesh Haribhakti, who showed much regard for "the prolific writer" and teacher, who, he was sure, would be able to clear all our doubts on the "seedy" new currency.



President wishes birthday to Rtn. Sanjiv Saran Mehra!

To answer these questions and more, the Rotary Club of Bombay was honoured to have Vijay Mukhi, as the speaker at the last Tuesday meeting. He was introduced to the audience

To demystify the concept of a bitcoin in 20 minutes, the speaker began by asking the audience: "Why is there no global currency?" The answer, quite simply, is because there

is a lack of trust. So if there were to be a global currency, how would we get everyone to agree to it? The evidence, in fact, is already in front of us; The first successful attempt



PP Rtn. Shailesh Haribhakti introduces the Guest Speaker.



Rtn. Bimal Mehta makes a few announcements.



Rtn. Alok Sekhsaria asks a question.



President Ramesh Narayan presents PHF pin + 7 stars to PP Rtn. Dr. Rumi Jehangir.



President Ramesh Narayan presents PHF Certificate and Pin to Rtn. Seema Makhija.

at a global currency is the bitcoin, and the reason for its worldwide acceptance is the technology that runs it - blockchain.

"It's not a physical piece of paper; it is like a credit card transaction." By downloading a bitcoin code from the internet, and sharing it, along with your Aadhar Card details, to any bitcoin exchange, "after putting some rupees through your bank account," is the first step to open a bitcoin account. However, one must know that "the only way you can generate a bitcoin is by getting lucky

finding a number." It's "a mathematical thing" called mining, done by computers. "If you find the lucky number you get 12 bitcoins, which is worth 1.5 crore rupees."

In framing a conclusion for his speech, the speaker began to paint a picture of the future of the bitcoin. Understandably, this irked a younger member in the audience, who

reminded Vijay Mukhi that he might be forced to take back his words, especially since "you can't use bitcoins as credit card transactions because they are too slow."

Here the young man referred to a new network, a sister of the one bitcoin runs on, called the lightning network. The talk in the press, online forums, and at social gatherings is that the lightning network would be faster than a Visa transaction and allow bitcoin owners to "make micro-transactions."

The speaker, in acknowledging the young man's enthusiasm

for the new network, also reminded him that he had officially become a senior citizen ten days ago, and, at his age, he could not believe some of the claims made about bitcoin's future unless he could see them with his own eyes. So if one were to make an assumption about whether the audience were on the side of the young man or the speaker, it might help to know that a majority of the audience were senior citizens too.

ROTARIANS MAKING WAVES



The front page of the Midday never looked better. Our own Dr. Ashish Contrator walks the talk.



BY's GOT TALENT - The Bhavishya-Yaan Talent Show

One can forget about traveling to Las Vegas or Paris for entertainment, when we have our very own BY's Got Talent (BYGT) right here in Aamchi Mumbai! A talent show consisting of only the children from Bhavishya-Yaan with a competitive and a sporting spirit.

BYGT was initially a mere idea thought of by Chairman Satyan Israni which was supported by President Ramesh Narayan and with the assistance of a team of warriors in Avaan Vakharia, Jaya Prasad, Ekta Shah, Rinku Suchanti, Rashmi Bapna, Beena Yargop, Priyanka Jatia and Asha Shah, the idea was given wings and allowed to fly as the inaugural edition of BY's Got Talent got off to a fabulous start.

The day was Friday, 8th December, 2017, the time was 12pm and the venue was The Indian School of Management & Entrepreneurship (ISME) which at the request of Rtn. Indu Shahani, provided its wonderful 300 seater auditorium free of cost to play host to this unique event.

Rotarians Dolly Thakore, a doyen of theatre and Tara Deshpande, former actress and now a Michelin starred chef in the making, graced the event as judges.

There were more than 300 people in attendance which included

250 BY children. There was also a healthy attendance of Rotarians and Rotary Annes such as Rtns Kalpana Munshi, Dr. Mukesh Batra, Madhusudhan Daga, Anand Dalal, Rajesh Shah, Dr. Sorab Jhaveri, Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala, Hiranmay Biswas, Jagdish Malkani, S.K. Mitra, Freyaz Shroff, Jamshed Vakharia, R/Anne Rashna Cooper and R/anne. Malti Jain. We also had the Australian volunteers from the Western Sydney University in attendance.

The event was kicked off by Rtn. Satyan Israni who explained to the audience what BYGT was all about and then introduced the judges. The judges were felicitated at the hands of the Dean of the Indian School of Design and Innovation (ISDI).

Next came a mesmerizing performance of the Ganesh Vandana followed by a rendition of the National Anthem by a Bhavishya-Yaan Alumni who is now serving with the National Cadet Corps (NCC). Ms. Arwa from ISME then spoke for a few minutes about ISME.

It was now time for the competitive performances. Each school put up three different and entertaining acts and the judges had the arduous task of selecting the best performance by each of the schools. Simultaneously, each school also had its own comperes,





so the judges also had to select the best compere out of all. And there was another interesting twist in the program, where there was one artist from each school who created an artistic work on the spot within 45 minutes. There were children making clay sculptures, portraits, rangoli, paper quilling and painting landscapes and the judges had to select the best artistic work created.

To round off the performances, there was a breathtaking Bollywood dance performed by the tiny tots of Bhavishya-Yaan.

The winners were given trophies which had been designed by Moy Biswas and his team.

All the participating children i.e. 170 of them, were given chocolate hampers.

We had also arranged snack boxes for the attendees.

This event would not have been possible without the support of our program partners Vidya and Infotroopers and their battery of teachers. Thanks are also due to our program donors Bharat Serums and Vaccines Ltd, H T Parekh Foundation, R/anne. Indiraben Kotak and PhillipCapital (India) Private Limited. We are also grateful to our Rotaractors from Jai Hind College and ISME for the support that they provided as well as the volunteers from the Western Sydney University. A big thank you also to Rashmi Dhuri and Eruch Irani who have been big pillars of support. Last but not the least, Hansika Shahani and Imran Kapadia of ISME deserve huge appreciation for helping us to make the event a great success.

BY's Got Talent is another feather in Bhavishya-Yaan's Cap and is definitely here to stay and will return in a grander avatar next year!

“Timely action helped me save a pregnant woman in my village.”

- Anita Soren, Deoghar, Jharkhand



Reliance Foundation has trained Swasth Sanginis with the objective of building a cadre of community health workers who can offer essential home-based services such as health screening, counselling and referrals to pregnant women, post-natal mothers and their children.

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.



Eleventh Annual Golf Tournament



Like the preceding of last several years, the Sports Committee plans to continue with the motto of spreading

goodwill and fellowship through sports.

What started off as a challenge on the greens of the US Club in South Bombay in 2008 has flourished and blossomed into a full-blown tree which is now known as the Annual Golf

Tournament of the Rotary Club of Bombay. It attracts all the talents in the Club and has also led to quiet inquiries about participation from non-members.

Though the first event had attracted a modest 17 players, by the time the sixth edition was played in January, 2013, their number had almost doubled to 32, of varying age groups from 10-70. This event has become one of the flagship events in our rotary calendar and participants and the members of the club look forward to this tournament.

We are pleased to inform you that

this will be the 11th year, since the tournament started in 2008.

And all thanks to Moy Biswas who has gone to great lengths to make the event such a resounding success. Working quietly behind the scenes, the family and the office staff of Moy have also played a significant role in the growth of the tournament.

In the year 2010, Biswas family instituted a specially-designed golf trophy to be awarded to the winner of the annual tournament.

Report on the 4C Conference organised by the Interact Club Of The Cathedral and John Connon Senior School

The Interact Club of The Cathedral and John Connon Senior School organized their annual 4C Conference - Care, Compassion, Collaboration and Commitment on 9th December, 2017. This year's conference aimed to bring together the Interact Club members and the community students, to participate in, plan and execute activities that are meaningful to all. The focus was on educational empowerment.

15 students each from two NGO's Salaam Baalak Trust and Angel

Express were invited. Invites had been sent to all schools which are members of Rotract, out of which students of Gopi Birla Memorial School, Young Ladies High School, St. Mary's ICSE School, Bharda New High School and HVB Global Academy attended the conference. The speakers for the occasion were Dr Pradeep Kaushik a senior paediatric heart surgeon at SRCC Children's Hospital and Mrs Shahnaz Botawala, a Salaam Baalak Trustee. Dr Kaushik spoke on First Aid and Mrs Botawala shared her experience with the Saalam Baalak Children. Mr Bimal Mehta graced the occasion on behalf of the Rotary Club.

The Conference started with the community children being served with scrumptious breakfast, after which there

was an ice breaker. A number of educational activities were planned for the community children.

The subjects included English, Mathematics, Art and Geography. Everyone present was served lunch.

The Conference ended on a very happy note with the community children carrying back T- Shirts painted by them in the Art Class.



Assimilation Dinner Fellowship

Shernaz & Firoze Vakil hosted a lovely Christmassy Assimilation Fellowship at their beautiful Malabar Hill home, which had the most stunning view of Marine Drive and the Arabian Sea. Both Shernaz and Firoze were their usual warm selves in welcoming the Rotary group. The guests mingled over drinks and delicious canapés and the dinner was a gourmet's delight! The finishing touch to the dinner was given by the most delicious Christmas cake and other delightful treats.

The new Rotarians were represented by Beena & Ulhas Yargop, Shalini & Dilip Piramal, Blossom & Ian Pinto, Samira & Kasimali Merchant and Sahar & Ateeq Aghboatwala. Narrating anecdotes, stories and facts about



our prestigious club were Devi & Ramesh Narayan, Sheila Bulchandani, Navaz & Jimmy Pochkhanawala, Zinia Lawyer, Sonya & Bomi Framroze, Binaifer & Hoshang Nazir, Camillia Panjabi, Rekha Tanna, Meher & Khurshed Poonawalla and Avaan & Jimmy Vakharia.



The perfect start to the X'mas season! Thanks Sherni and Firoze.

Christmas Ananda Yaan Update

15 Rotaractors from HInduja College and more than 50 elders from the Byculla Centre of Ananda Yaan guided by Krupa, a well meaning friend of RCB worked like Santa's elves to put up a real humdinger of a Christmas tree.

The tree was the first step towards getting ready for a proper Christmas party with carols and all by our very own Chris Bluemel. Watch this space for details of the party but the tree was a great symbol of unity among diversity. And the fun had by all was the icing on the Christmas cake.



Forthcoming Events

- **December 30th, 2017**
Christmas Fellowship has been postponed. New date will be announced when confirmed.
- **January 2nd, 2018**
Begin the New Year on a fragrant note. Amit Sarda addresses the Club on "Can fragrance shape decisions."
- **January 6th, 2018**
Annual Golf Tournament. For details contact Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas.
- **January 9th, 2018**
Governor's Official Visit.

ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

TRUSTEES 2017-18

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

OFFICE-BEARERS 2017-18

President Ramesh Narayan
Immediate Past President Dr. Mukesh Batra
President-Elect Vijay Kumar Jatia
President Nominee Preeti Mehta
Honorary Secretary Manish Reshamwala
Joint Hon. Secretary Bimal Mehta
Hon. Treasurer Shiv Kumar Israni

DIRECTOR: VIJAY KUMAR JATIA

Classifications, Membership & Information (CMI) PP Nowroze Vazifdar
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Ishraq Contractor
Global Grant Committee Vineet Suchanti

DIRECTOR: MUDIT JAIN

Fellowship PP Sandip Agarwalla
Outstation Fellowship Anar Shah
Assimilation Jamshed Vakharia
Sergeant-at-arms Roda Billimoria
In-camera Rekha Tanna

DIRECTOR: PRADEEP CHINAI

Fund raising Vineet Bhatnagar
Programs Poornima Advani
Social Media & Website Mehul Sampat
Sports Jamshyd Vazifdar

DIRECTOR: ASHOK JATIA

Bhavisya Yaan Satyan Israni
Legal Aid Natasha Treasurywala
Skill Development Pradeep Gupta
Scholarships Zinia Lawyer
Rotary Public Awards Shernaz Vakil

DIRECTOR: TARA DESHPANDE

Chairman Emeritus Talwada PP Dr. Rahim Muljani
ADMC Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala
PRVEC PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
Yoga Sitaram Shah
Cancer Aid Farokh Balsara
RCB Clinic - Cotton Green Manoj Patodia

DIRECTOR: MADHUSUDAN DAGA

Animal Welfare Bipin Vazirani
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 Framoze Mehta

DIRECTOR: HOMI KATGARA

The Rotary Foundation PDG Gulam Vahanvati
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

Amit Sarda on "Can Fragrance Shape Decisions?"

Managing Director of Soulflower, Amit Sarda is credited with pioneering the concept of natural skin and hair care in India. At a time when aroma, natural soaps and oil blends for hair and skin were considered to be an upper class indulgence, he launched the Soulflower brand which became immensely popular among a growing section of the society that was becoming conscious of wellness and personal care.



Mr. Sarda who started the apparel brand Ruf & Tuf at the age of 16 holds the unique distinction of being one of the youngest CEOs of a BSE listed company.

One of the earliest adopters of e-commerce, Amit Sarda is best known for his Go-To-Market strategy and disrupting markets with effective use of technologies and introduction of new concepts.

Other than running Soulflower, Mr. Amit Sarda is an active proponent of enterprise. He is presently the President of 'Young Entrepreneurs' Society (YES). He also started the 'Soulflower Leadership Program' where bright minds across the country come together to work on live projects.

Mr. Sarda is also a Board member on Bombay Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Co-Chair Young Bombay Forum.

Mr. Sarda revolutionized the concept of 'Spa@home' by bringing Soulflower to the doorsteps of its customers thereby making caring for one-self easy and accessible from the comfort of their homes.



Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



PP Rtn. Harry Singh Arora
26th December



Hon. Rtn. Ratan Tata
28th December



Rtn. Chiranjil Joshi
29th December



Rtn. Satya Bansal
1st January



Rtn. Dr. Dinesh Daftary
1st January

Partners

26th December - Ptn. Dr. Nafisa Contractor
Ptn. Shakuntala Lulla

30th December - Ptn. Binaifer Nazir

1st January - Ptn. Zarina Mehta
Mr. Aziz Javeri

Anniversaries

26th December - Rtn. Baji & Ptn. Rukshana Bilimoria
Rtn. Vita & Mr. Jalaj Dani

27th December - Rtn. Shariq & Ptn. Nasreen Contractor

Rtn. Ashok & Ptn. Urvashi Minawala

28th December - PP Rtn. Dr. Rumi & Ptn. Pervin Jehangir

Rtn. Dr. Indu & Mr. Ranjit Shahani

Rtn. Bipin & Ptn. Reshma Vazirani

29th December - Rtn. Manish & Ptn. Sunaina Kejriwal

Rtn. Ashwin & Ptn. Sangeeta Ramesh

Rtn. Dr. Anand & Ptn. Brinda Somaya

30th December - Rtn. Suresh & Ptn. Shakuntala Lulla

Rtn. Nirav & Ptn. Devina Shah

Rtn. Harshbeena & Mr. Aziz Zaveri

31st December - Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala & Mr. Franklin John

1st January - Rtn. Pashupati & Ptn. Sangita Advani

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Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	139
Partners	03
Visiting Rotarians	02
Guests	08
Rotractors	08
Total attendance	160
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 4,720/-