

THE GATEWAY

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



From the President's Desk



Dear friends,

There was a time when we looked out for material to fill up the Gateway in a meaningful manner, week after week.

Yes, bringing out a weekly bulletin can be very challenging.

I am very pleased to report we now have a problem of plenty.

We are routinely holding over matter because of lack of space, and for this I wish to doff my hat to the Chairperson's of our own various Committees and our partners like Rotaract, Interact and Inner Wheel for churning out a huge volume of amazing work.

Work that is truly impacting the lives of the less fortunate. Work that is eminently worthy of coverage.

It helps that our Fellowship and Assimilation Committees are equally active, and of course we are always grateful to our advertisers who are contributing to the financial viability of your Gateway.

Apart from all the great project work our Programs Committee have been delivering top class speakers and our Public Awards Committee have been recognizing great individuals who also give us the benefit of their wisdom.

I have seen the names of the some of the speakers we have lined up over the next several weeks, and they are as impressive as they are interesting.

On March 6th. we will be listening to Dr. Shubha, an amazing young woman who has provided top class indigenous technology that has helped replace costly imported technology at our airports.

We have names from Bollywood, English theater, Real Estate, and industry. Each one a leader in their own rights.

Small wonder our attendance at meetings has been averaging a record percentage.

I wish you all the very best.



Ramesh Narayan

The Pragmatic Idealist



Rotarians were eager to listen to Keki Mistry, the Managing Director of HDFC Ltd, share his thoughts on Corporate Governance, and even more eager to get him to answer their questions. Even after the meeting was adjourned, many queries remained unanswered, but the speaker was able to lend us his perspective on India Inc.,

Today's Speaker Tanuja Mukherjee



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President Ramesh Narayan kicks off the meeting

a perspective that can be best summed up as pragmatically idealistic.

Keki Mistry, along with his position as Managing Director, is also one of the 21 members of the Kotak Committee that was set up in 2017. The members of this committee are mandated by SEBI to ensure that all organisations recognise a certain standard of regulatory norms that have come to be defined as Corporate Governance. He believes that "India Inc. is proceeding on the right path and establishing best practices in governance." However, governance in India has a unique flavour, and he does "believe that regulators are taking this into consideration while framing new laws and regulations."

which is framing and overseeing a long term sustainable strategy. Thus, in summarising his thoughts about the future, he said: "I'm confident that corporate governance practices in India will keep improving, which enable easier access of capital from global markets, increase transparency, and enhance investor confidence."

The reason that his speech sounded idealistic was because it was delivered right after a very recent example of bad Corporate Governance - The Nirav Modi Case. Therefore, it shouldn't have been surprising for him when this query came up: "Where would you like the debate of NPAs (Non-Performing Assets) and similar frauds to end?"



President Nominee Rtn. Preeti Mehta makes a few announcements

As a word of caution, he suggests that India's transformation into a more developed economy must not be hindered by corporate governance norms that are stringent, overbearing, and restrictive as that would inhibit a company's ability to take risks and contribute to economic growth. "Relentless helicopter style parenting and regulation can create a scenario that is more harmful than beneficial," the speaker pointed out.

"Personally if you ask me, and I'm giving you a personal viewpoint (which is not necessarily an HDFC viewpoint), the NPAs in the banking system have been there for years. I don't think the situation today is any worse than what it was five years ago." It's just the way that NPAs are classified, today, is far more stringent than five years ago. According to this banker, everything five years ago was being brushed underneath the carpet. However, the RBI is now forcing banks to disclose all the NPLs, even perceived NPLs. This means that when "a stress is perceived," these loans have to be classified as non-performing loans, and the appropriate provisions are to be made.



Rtn. Poornima Advani introduces the guest speaker

A misguided attempt to focus too much on compliance issues at board meetings, at the cost of devoting sufficient time to long term strategy and growth is, in his opinion, a recipe for disaster. The board needs to oversee compliance, but it shouldn't lose sight of its primary objective,

In conclusion, Keki Mistry suggests a better solution to



Rtn. Vandan Shah asks a question

the problem of non-performing loans and assets. "We've identified a whole number of problem loans, but unless we find a solution to these loans, what is the point of identifying more and more cases?" He asks. He believes that the problem is to find a solution, instead of just identifying more and more cases. Besides, "I think the privatisation of public sector banks makes sense." Although that pragmatism is of no use considering the loss of jobs that would be the outcome of privatisation, it is still a happy thought that opens the gates of idealism.



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Bhavishya Yaan Students Visit Film City

40 students of 8th and 9th Std. accompanied by 3 teachers visited the Film city organised by the Colours Channel on 16th of February. An AC bus had come to pick them up from Byculla school with a volunteer.

They reached the venue by 12:30 pm. The volunteer showed them



around the sets of their popular show called LAADO. Our children met the star cast of the show and also interacted with them. They were given information about how the sets are rearranged as per the schedule of the show. Lots of pictures were taken with the actors and our students very confidently

answered the questions asked to them.

Later they were provided with snacks and also a goody bag as a parting gift. Kids had a wonderful experience visiting the place which they see everyday on television.

Rotaractors Update

On the 16th February, 15 Rotaractors from H.R College had gone for the build program which was organized by The Habitat for Humanity Foundation. We helped building 2 houses in a village called 'Ambarpada' which is near Karjat.

We thank The Rotary Club of Bombay for supporting the initiative and giving us platform to help the people in the village.





L to R standing - Rtn. Vivek Himatsingka, Rtn. Hursh Meghani, Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani, Rtn. Raj Ajmera, Rtn. Mudit Jatia, Rtn. Zeenia Master, Rtn. Satyan Israni, PP Rtn. Nowroze Vazifdar and Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas
L to R sitting - Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar and Rtn. Freyaz Shroff



Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas, Rtn. Raj Ajmera, Rtn. Mudit Jatia, Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani and Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar



Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani, Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar, Rtn. Satyan Israni, Rtn. Raj Ajmera and Rtn. Vivek Himatsingka



Rtn. Vivek Himatsingka, Rtn. Satyan Israni, Rtn. Hursh Meghani and Rtn. Mudit Jatia

“My sugarcane yield per acre has shot up from 30 to 50 tonnes!”

- Saragadam Ramakrishna, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



Technical knowledge and training received from Reliance Foundation (RF) experts helped Saragadam increase yields while ensuring the high quality of his produce, by improving soil quality and reducing the risk of pest attacks.

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.



Rtn. Raj Ajmera, Rtn. Vivek Himatsingka and Rtn. Satyan Israni

Family Fellowship Lunch



President Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Suresh Goklaney and Rtn. Pankaj Baliga in conversation



Rtn. Sabira Merchant, R/anne. Farah Batra, R/anne. Dr. Natasha Khubchandani, Xinniella Khubchandani and Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani



Guest, Rtn. Dr. Shailesh Raina and R/anne. Dr. Renu Raina



Rtn. Poonam Lalvani, R/anne. Sushmita Bluemel & First Lady R/anne. Devi Narayna



Mr. Shayaan Nazir, Ms. Sanaya Nazir, Rtn. Hoshang Nazir, Rtn. Abhinav Aggarwal and R/anne. Binaifar Nazir



Rtn. Dr. Shailesh Raina, Rtn. Biswajit Chakraborty, Hon. Secretary Rtn. Manish Reshamwala, PP Rtn. Sandip Agarwalla and Mr. Rishab Makhija

Fellowship Evening Hosted by PP Rtn. Nalin Parikh



Rtn. Naresh Jani, PP Rtn. Kalpana Munshi, PP Rtn. Nalin Parikh and PP Rtn. Nandan Damani



Rtn. Mehul Sampat, R/anne. Miloni Sampat and R/anne. Vatsala Jatia



Rtn. Sabira Merchant, R/anne. Navaz Pochkhanwalla and Rtn. Sheila Bulchandani



Rtn. Vrinda Rajgarhia, R/anne. Vandana Daga, Mr. & Mrs. Daiya, R/anne. Malti Jain, R/anne. Anita Parikh, Rtn. Mudit Jain, Rtn. Madhusudan Daga and PP Rtn. Nirav Shah



Rtn. Vijay Meghani, R/anne. Dilnavaz Meghani, Rtn. Ramesh Mehta, R/anne. Lata Palekar and PP Rtn. Vithal Palekar

Great Initiative, Get Involved.



Forthcoming Events

- February 28th, 2018**
In Camera Event: A Talk on Decoding Relationships by Prakriti Poddar
- March 2nd, 2018**
The Annual Jain Holi Event
- March 6th, 2018**
Dr. Shubha V receives the Rotary Club of Bombay Sohrab Godrej Award for Science and Technology

Urban Heritage Committee of

Rotary
Club of Bombay

Invites you to



Saturday 17 March '18 | 6.30 pm (75 mins without an intermission)
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Sergeant-at-arms Roda Billimoria
In-camera Rekha Tanna

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NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER - DR. SHUBHA V

The Rotary Club of Bombay Sohrab Godrej Award for Science and Technology will be conferred to Dr. Shubha on March 6th, 2018.



With the current designation of a Chief Scientist (R), Former Head, Airport Instrumentation, CSIR Technical & Business Consultant - Dr. Shubha V has 42 years of experience in R & D + S & T. She specialises in Instrumentation (Aviation Meteorological and Thermo-physical), Thermophysical Characterisation Techniques, Condensed Matter Physics, High Pressure Science & Technology, Materials Science - Thermoelectric Materials & devices, Process and product technology for Ceramic Materials which can withstand Ultra high temperatures (>3000oC) for Aerospace & Strategic sectors.

Some of the awards she has received are: Vasvik Award for outstanding contribution to Science & Technology (2016), Visvesvaraya Vignana Puraskar Award from Swadeshi Vignana Andholana, Karnataka for outstanding performance in Technology and Research (2016), National Design Award, National Design and Research Foundation Institution of Engineers (India, 2015), various awards for developing Thermo-physical characterization techniques / Instrumentation and Materials study and for development of Dhristi Transmissometer as indigenous - innovative technology amongst other academic awards.

She has also been published in National & International Journals, presented at National & International Conferences / Symposiums and been invited to make Key Note addresses and lectures. Lastly, she is a life member of the Materials Research Society of India, ISAMPE, AIRAPT and the Aeronautical Society of India.



Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Anar Shah
27th February



Rtn. Roda Billimoria
28th February



Rtn. Harshbeena Zaveri
01st March



Rtn. Jaidev Merchant
02nd March



Rtn. Kasimali Merchant
02nd March



PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena
03rd March

Partners

28th February - Ptn. Dolon Ghosh
01st March - Ptn. Smita Parekh
Ptn. Anisha Jolly
Ptn. Shalini Piramal
02nd March - Ptn. Zainab Lokhandwala
05th March - Ptn. Sushila Joshi

Anniversaries

27th February - Rtn. Vijay & Ptn. Geeta Dhawan
01st March - Rtn. Shernaz & Mr. Firoze Vakil
03rd March - Rtn. Anuj & Ptn. Ritika Arenja
Rtn. Vinod & Ptn. Chanderkanta Juneja
04th March - Rtn. Anil & Ptn. Neelam Goyel
05th March - Rtn. Ashok & Ptn. Sudha Gokal

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Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	81
Partners	00
Visiting Rotarians	04
Guests	02
Rotractors	08
Total attendance	95
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