

# THE GATEWAY

## BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



### President's Pick

Dear friends,

The elderly gentleman whose picture you see is a member of Ananda Yaan Byculla centre. His name isn't important. His story is.



When he joined Ananda Yaan some seven months back, he had difficulty walking and could barely see with one eye.

A couple of weeks back he went to one of our Rotaryannes and told her that after the yoga sessions, he can actually see a bit with that eye, and he feels like dancing to the music that is played there.

He attended a music show at Chembur where a couple of donors had chipped in to buy 50 tickets, hire a bus and provided dinner to our elders.

I am absolutely certain that there would no way to explain all this in a medical way.

But guess what. There's no need to do it.

Happiness is a wonderful thing.

It makes you feel alive again. It's made our elderly gent feel alive again. And that's what's important. That's what Ananda Yaan is all about.

Making people happy.

And please speak to the Ananda Yaan Committee members. In making these poor elders happy, they are pretty happy people too. So gift some happiness and experience the happiness yourself.

More and more people are coming forward to celebrate events with Ananda Yaan.

They are gifting vouchers at Big Bazaar, temple visits, new saris, visits to music shows and movies.

Yes they are gifting happiness. Try it. You'll love it.



Warm regards  
Ramesh Narayan

## *The Journey of a Voice*



Should it not be assumed that a speaker, given a keen audience, a good thirty minutes to speak, and a buffet lunch at the Taj Mahal Hotel, is a little too complacent about the honour if he begins his speech by saying, "I will be a little short because I have to catch a flight to Delhi"?

### Today's Speaker

**Dilip Doshi on ethics in both :  
Cricket & Business**



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For the last Tuesday speaker, Ameen Sayani, that assumption could only be made if he had not been a freedom fighter, had not been the voice of Binaca Geetmala every week from 1954 to 1993, or if his was not the first voice on radio to enthrall 210 million people. The fact that he is now 85 years of age, still catching planes to fulfil assignments across the world, only gives us the pleasure to assume that his journey is far from over.

However, when his journey did begin back in 1952, he confesses, "I was not very good at spoken Hindustani, because I had studied Gujarati and English." Surely that is hard to believe considering that he is primarily known as a Hindustani broadcaster, but there is a backstory to that: Ameen Sayani

was already a successful English broadcaster in his teens, but then came the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. "It broke my heart and my mind. I swore that I would become a Hindustani broadcaster to fulfill Gandhi's vision." The latter's vision was to make Hindustani the national language of India.

Although the speaker's efforts in realising Gandhi's vision had already begun as a writer for RAHBER - a Hindustani fortnightly started by his mother before Independence - he was eager to broadcast in the national language. So he headed over to the All India Radio headquarters, and made his desire known to the officials. They allowed him to audition, but rejected him because his Hindustani pronunciations had "a lot of influence of Gujarati,



and a lot of influence of English." The man who would later be king of Indian radio was shattered.

It was only a matter of time before luck struck: His brother Hamid Sayani, a successful English broadcaster, allowed him to tag along to his





recordings with Radio Ceylon. At one of these recordings, the commercial announcer did not show up. Any guesses for who filled in for the missing broadcaster? Yes, but what you will not be able to guess was Ameen Sayani's payment for his first broadcast in Hindustani: "A small tin of herbal tea." Nevertheless, it was something - a great way to improve his spoken Hindustani.

Not too long after he landed the job as Radio Ceylon's commercial announcer, another opportunity came his way. Radio Ceylon, to their Hindustani broadcasters, made the ridiculous offer of scheduling a Hindustani broadcast on the condition that it was produced, scripted, and compèred by the same person. Our Tuesday

speaker had a wild idea, and Binaca Geetmala was born. In his own words, "For all of Rs. 25, I was required to select the songs, produce, script, and compère the programme - and also sort the mail. The programme involved a competition and we expected 40 to 50 letters. The first episode brought 9,000. Within a year, that number touched 60,000. We had to shelve the competition and introduce a countdown show."

Radio Ceylon used the mini-transmitters that Lord Mountbatten's military command left behind after India's independence. After getting their Tamil, English and Sinhala broadcasts in place, the officials never gave much importance to Hindustani



Hon. Secretary Rtn. Manish Reshamwala makes a few important announcements

broadcasts. But who would have known that their Hindustani broadcasts would garner a better listenership; Who would have known that the journey of one voice would get the attention of the entire world.



## ROTARIANS MAKING WAVES



**Rtn. Suresh Kotak being honored by the Cotton Association of India**



**PP Ashish Vaid was elected Vice President of Indian Merchant's Chamber (IMC). His 100 watt smile will help illuminate the IMC even more.**

## Echo Coverage

*Written by Rtr. Jahan Chandelia*

Echo, those 4 letters, those 4 months, those final 4 days, there are no words which can describe this project. It all started with the organizing committee meeting at ISME for something, a something which would awaken another side of their soul, a something, which would make them family. These leadership sessions mentored us in an imaginable way. Meeting every week got us closer than ever.

Then all of a sudden, we were brought into the real world and the small bubbles of the luxurious lives we lived were burst. The Slum Visits, when the mentors of Echo actually went into the slums to help those families in need, they came back with a different mindset. Something in all of our hearts changed that day.

Then came the final 5 days, The Final Frontier. All students who participated in Echo came from Municipal Schools or very underprivileged and disadvantaged government aided schools. Everyone thought they were prepared for it, but when the wave of participants hit us, everyone melted. The way they grasped, acknowledged and worked together was astonishing, they ended up teaching us much more in those 4 days than we taught them.

Then came the final day of Echo, an initiative of the Rotary Club of Bombay along with the Rotaract Clubs of District 3141 to bridge the education gap between the public and private sector education, it took place at the K.C.College Auditorium on the 8th of April, 2018. An introductory video was shown to the audience, explaining the aim of Echo and its progress over the past four years. Many eminent personalities attended the event such as, Rtn. Ramesh

Narayan (President of the Rotary Club of Bombay), Rtr. Om Chawla (District Rotaract Representative), Rtn. Hussain Rassai (District Youth Service, Avenue Chair) to name a few. The anchors, being Rtr. Satyam Kesarwani and Rtr. Gotham Tikyani for the evening invited the President of Roatry Club of Bombay Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, to speak.

Rtn. Ramesh Narayan described the energy of the students present in the auditorium as 'raw' and was impressed with the performance of the students. He inspired all the students to continue the association with Echo and keep helping others without expecting anything in return. The 200 participants that came from Municipal schools across Mumbai walked the ramp for the first time in their lives. The students were very excited to walk the ramp and it was a great confidence booster for them to walk in front of so many people. After the ramp walk, the sixteen semi-finalists, who were chosen a day prior from all the 200 participants were asked unknown questions by the judges.

While the scores were being calculated, the hard-working organizing committee that constituted Rotaractors from various colleges walked the ramp too. An after movie of Echo 2018 was shown, which brought both the students and the organizing committee to tears. The ten winners were finally announced. Altaf Khan won the title of Mr. Echo and Sakshi Surve won the title of Ms. Echo. Nikita Vaishya, who was the second runner up, shared her experience and told us that she



**Special kudos to Freyaz Shroff and Rashna Cooper for their efforts in making Echo a success.**

was extremely grateful to the Didi's and Bhaiyas who encouraged her at every step and also to Echo, through which she learnt a lot only in five days and got a platform to showcase her talents.

Echo not only helped the municipal school students but also the students from the organizing committee. Rtr. Swara Shettigar and Rtr. Jahan Chandelia shared a few words on how Echo taught them many valuable things. The winners were given laptops and a hamper from Dr. Batra's. Apart from this, all the 200 participants received a stationary kit to help them in college. The students and the organizing committee were found in tears as they had developed a strong bond with each other over the course of the five days of Echo and they were not ready to part ways. Their friendship was sealed with hugs and promises to keep in touch even after Echo and to help each other. With this, Echo, an initiative where the youth themselves helped the youth for a brighter future of the country, came to an end.



## ANANDA YAAN - Big Bazaar & Satsang

"Are you ready to shop till you drop?" was a mega festival organised by Big Bazaar. To make this a real experience for our Ananda Yaan members we had a donor Mr. Anup Jatia. Anup celebrated his father's 75th birthday in a unique way. He and his wife, Shruti Jatia arranged for gift coupons of Big Bazaar for 75 members of Ananda Yaan - Byculla centre.

Anup also arranged a bus for the senior citizens to all go together to shop. Shruti arranged a blissful bhajan and Satsang evening on 13th April with Mr. Ishank Raghupate, who is an Art of Living faculty teaching meditation and breathing techniques to people since 2008. He is a very good music composer - arranger and he conducts spiritual bhajan sandhyas wherever he is invited.

Members had a mesmerising evening singing bhajans, meditating, dancing and satsang in Marathi. The members gathered on a 14th April to go to Big Bazaar - Matunga and enjoyed their shopping and fun together.

Committee members, first lady Mrs Devi Narayan and Rotaryanne Mrs. Ekta Shah participated in the celebration by singing along and dancing with the joyous members.



### "I managed to cultivate peas for the first time, as a second cash crop."

- Pavitra Devi, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand



The Village Association formed by Reliance Foundation supplied quality seeds to Pavitra Devi. She used them to harvest over four quintals of pea, earned Rs.19,000, and was finally able to fund her son's wedding.

*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.



## Swanky Computer Lab for BY NMJ Marg

11th. April saw the inauguration of a swanky new computer lab at the Bhavishya Yaan centre for excellence at NM Joshi Marg Municipal school. Mentor Jaya Prasad had made sure the place wore a festive look. The entire renovation and supply of new computers had been done by the Indian Hume Pipe Company, courtesy Rt. Rajas Doshi.

Speaking on the occasion President Ramesh Narayan said "I learned Rajas Doshi has a keen eye and a large heart. And what happens when these combine can be seen here today."

Jaya Prasad explained how Rtn. Rajas had not only agreed to

the President's request for 21 computers but went that extra mile to change the flooring, add window blinds, provide new chairs and even branded mouse pads.

Some BY students of NMJ Marg school spoke in perfectly fluent English on the benefits of computers in their lives and their future.

Rajas Doshi, Jyoti Doshi, Ramesh Narayan, Jaya and President Nominee Preeti Mehta lit a ceremonial lamp.

The inauguration was well attended by many representatives of the Indian Hume Pipe Co., as well as Rotarians including



Rt. Rajas Doshi and Jyoti Doshi with a student

President Elect Vijay Jatia, Hon. Secretary Manish Reshamwala, Director Madhusudhan Daga, Chairman BY Committee Satyan Israni, S.V.Prasad, Jimmy and Avaan Vakharia, Rashmi Bafna, S.K.Mitra to name a few.



President Ramesh and Rt. Rajas inaugurate the centre



President Nominee Preeti Mehta lights the ceremonial lamp



## Ex-student hosts current students at Fariyas

26<sup>th</sup> January celebration at Fariyas Hotel:- **Proud Moment when Our Alumni Invited us for his CSR Activity**

Master Kuldeep Singh, an ex-student currently working as receptionist at Faryas Hotel, invited us for flag hoisting and breakfast on the occasion of Republic Day. Manisha asked them to turn this into a learning activity and our students were taught table manners and dining etiquette.





## BY at Republic TV!

16th April was a red-letter day for 31 students and some mentors and teachers of the Bhavisha Yaan program of GK Marg Municipal school. They were invited to spend the afternoon at the studio of Republic TV, which turned out to be something that far exceeded everyone's expectations.



The afternoon began with some scrumptious snacks provided by the smiling Edna and then the kids were ready for the VIP guided tour. Pradnya, a Producer took them through the various rooms and activities that go into collecting, prioritizing, editing and broadcasting the news everyday.

As they walked through the huge newsroom they got to

witness Editor Arnab Goswami going live and in his signature style taking on a former Home Minister of India. A few minutes later a very gentle and calm Arnab showed up in the edit-conference room and spent a good 20 minutes with the kids.

He explained the process to them, told them that there were no shortcuts in life, asked them to stay focused and work hard in order to succeed. The tour itself showed them how many people pooled their efforts to make a truly successful effort.

Finally, after a talk by CEO Vikas Khanchandani, they walked out to a loud cheer from



everyone in the newsroom and high fives for every single kid from Arnab Goswami and Vikas Khanchandani.

Along with everything else, a great lesson for everyone in real humility and a will to make people feel happy.

## Forthcoming Events

- **1<sup>st</sup> May, 2018**  
Public Holiday. No Meeting.
- **8<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**  
Citizen of Mumbai Award will be conferred on Deepak Parekh who will address the Club.
- **15<sup>th</sup> May, 2018**  
**Niranjan Hiranandani** Real Estate Wizard will address the Club.



**Ms. Swapna Sudhir Chavan was presented the Rotary Club of Bombay Somchand Parikh Award for the Best Teacher on Tuesday, 10th April 2018 by President Ramesh Narayan**

## ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS

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

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Regd. No. MCS/091/2015-17; R.N.I.No. 14015/60. WP P  
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## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER - DEEPAK PAREKH



**D**eepak Parekh is the Chairman of Housing Development Finance Corporation, India's leading housing finance company.

Parekh completed his schooling from St. Xavier's High School, Fort and later graduated with a B.Com from Sydenham College affiliated with the Bombay University. He went to England in 1965 to qualify as a chartered accountant with the ICAEW; he completed his articles with

Whinney, Smith and Whinney (which later became Ernst & Young) in London. He cleared his ACA exams in the first attempt and was afterwards posted at the firm's consulting arm Ernst & Ernst in New York.

Deepak Parekh has won several awards including Businessman of the Year 1996 from Business India and the JRD Tata Corporate Leadership Award by All India Management Association (AIMA). He was the first recipient of the Qimpro Platinum Award for Quality for his contributions to the services sector, and the youngest recipient of the Corporate Award for Life Time Achievement by the Economic Times. Padma Bhushan was conferred on him by the Government of India.[5] In 2010 he was the first international recipient of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales' Outstanding Achievement Award, for his contribution over many years to the finance and accountancy profession. He has been recently appointed as the advisor to Sunil Gavaskar who is the interim chairman of IPL-7. Parekh is also on the Advisory board of IIMUN.



## Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Dr. Ameet Pispati  
25<sup>th</sup> April



Rtn. Renu Basu  
27<sup>th</sup> April



Rtn. Darius Pandole  
27<sup>th</sup> April



Rtn. Ravindrakumar Ruia  
1<sup>st</sup> May



Rtn. Arjun Jolly  
3<sup>rd</sup> May



Rtn. Suhail Nathani  
3<sup>rd</sup> May



Rtn. Shom Jagtiani  
4<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Jyoteendra Kothari  
6<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Ajit Surana  
6<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Jaideep Gandhi  
7<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Sitaram Shah  
7<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Ashwin Thakkar  
7<sup>th</sup> May

## Partners

24<sup>th</sup> April - Ptn. Anuradha S Agarwal  
26<sup>th</sup> April - Ptn. Seena V Sanghi  
27<sup>th</sup> April - Ptn. Purvi Shah  
Ptn. Sharmila Lele  
Ptn. Niloufer Vazifdar  
30<sup>th</sup> April - Ptn. Kavita Bulchandani  
Ptn. Poonam Surana  
1<sup>st</sup> May - Ptn. Pinky Dalal  
2<sup>nd</sup> May - Ptn. Michelle Desai  
Ptn. Nandita Patodia  
3<sup>rd</sup> May - Ptn. Shafali Diwanji  
Ptn. Kamal Pandole  
5<sup>th</sup> May - Ptn. Anita Bansal  
6<sup>th</sup> May - Ptn. Sudesh Dhir  
7<sup>th</sup> May - Ptn. Radhika Jain

## Anniversaries

24<sup>th</sup> April - Rtn. Akil & Ptn. Berryl Hirani  
25<sup>th</sup> April - Rtn. Shekhar & Ptn. Kiran Bajaj  
27<sup>th</sup> April - Rtn. Dr. Suhas & Ptn. Achala Shah  
29<sup>th</sup> April - Rtn. Tara Deshpande & Mr. Daniel Tennebaum  
2<sup>nd</sup> May - Rtn. Sunny & Ptn. Iovey Pariyaram  
Rtn. Dilnavaz & Mr. Sam Variava  
5<sup>th</sup> May - Rtn. S V Prasad & Ptn. Jaya  
7<sup>th</sup> May - Rtn. Shyamniwas & Ptn. Mina Somani

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  
Kondeo 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	98
Partners	07
Visiting Rotarians	02
Guests	01
Rotractors	00
Total attendance	108
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 2,000/-