

# THE GATEWAY

## BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



### President's Message



Dear friends,

This one is for my Directors. The four who joined the Board in my term.

Not to say the others are any less. They have all been exemplary.

The interesting thing is that Past President Rummy Jehangir advised me once that "you will always have your friends, so don't think of stacking the

Board with them".

And so I thought long and hard.

Experience, expertise and an ability to call a spade a spade. That's Pradeep Chinai for you. The only thing one could hold against him was that he proposed my name as a member of the RCB.

Legacy is important. It ensures a proper understanding of the culture and values this Club stands for. And Tara Deshpande really fits that bill. Her late father was one of our illustrious President's. That I didn't know her very well was almost a bonus point.

And then you thought of diverse experience, a proven track record of wanting to help and Homi Katgara seemed an ideal fit.

That left solidity, an unflappable nature and the willingness to go that extra mile to help. That's how I'd describe Madhusudhan Daga. That I call him a friend was not going to be an issue with the maturity he always displays.

And there you had it. My choices for the Board of Directors.

And through this year they have (along with the other four Directors) been active, vocal, outspoken, wise and very supportive.

Sure they've disagreed with things. And they've spoke their minds. And they've been even vociferous at times. But that's exactly why they were there in the first place.

But they have advised me well, inspired me to go ahead and do what was right and never hesitated to correct a course they felt wasn't in the best interests of the Club.

Above all they have been very gracious people.

And I'm very proud that after a year, I feel I can call them all my friends.

And that's what Rotary is all about.



Warm regards,  
Ramesh Narayan

## Another Optimist



**D**eepak Parekh is the Chairman of the Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC). By now, the corporation has financed over six million homes. Therefore, when he was presented the Citizen of Mumbai Award, it was a Rotarian who suggested, "He should be honoured not only as a citizen of Mumbai, but as a citizen of India."

### Today's Speaker

**Niranjan Hiranandani, the realty wizard will address the Club.**



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Happy Birthday Rtn. Vinay Sanghi



Happy Birthday Rtn. Ateeq Agboatwala



Happy Birthday Rtn. Sam Katgara

As the speaker last Tuesday, he opted to talk about the changing face of the city.

However, he did clarify, "I've not chosen this topic to state the obvious, that the city's

infrastructure is crumbling - or the city's infrastructure has already crumbled - or that we've recently earned the title of being the fourth most polluted mega-city in the world." Instead, his intentions were exactly the opposite, since he truly feels optimistic about the future of Mumbai. Thus, he believed that it was worthwhile to spend some time talking

about some good changes that are happening in our city.

The reason for his optimism is due to the changes in the system implemented by the government currently in power. For example, the change in the system for bidding contracts: All government tenders are now done through e-auctions. "One can confidently say that the days of exchanging brown envelopes with your friendly minister - under the table, over the table, or through the table - is clearly of the past." Although corruption is still deeply rooted and entrenched, high-level corruption in the centre has been weeded out, and a large part of this is due to the bidding process.

As a Rotarian, he has always found resonance with the club's secular and altruistic efforts. But in corporate India,



District Governor Prafull Sharma addresses the audience





Rohit expressing his appreciation for Mr. Deepak Parekh

work began simultaneously across the city. One hopes that by 2021 the project will be complete and ease traffic congestion.

The other significant project is the Mumbai Trans-Harbour Link. The need to link the island city with the mainland was recognised in the 70s, but on a positive note, "The jinx of failed bids has been broken, and the target year for completion is 2022." So that

even when the intention is to do something good for the community, often there are many roadblocks and hurdles to face. Nevertheless, this optimist still believes that "some of the key mega-projects currently underway will certainly change Mumbai's landscape for the better."

At present, the city seems completely defaced due to the construction of a metro line. Yet due credit must be given to the way in which the tenders were given out. There were seven international companies that were each given a contract. This ensured that the

explains why the project has been called the Inordinately Delayed Marvel.

The Greenfield Navi Mumbai Airport is another ambitious project, poised to handle 60 million passengers by 2030. However, one has to find a way of rehousing the project-affected families. Finally, the last mega-project that is going to change the landscape of the city is the 30 km coastal road from Marine Lines to Kandivali. One can expect it to be on the map by 2022.

In discussing these mega-projects, he also touched upon



Happy Birthday Rtn. Dr. Prakriti Poddar

a very important question, "Why is it that we cannot strike a balance between development and preserving the environment?" The reason he suggests is that Mumbai is an island city that lacks land, yet reclamation is considered a taboo. While China and Japan have only been able to expand their cities by way of reclamation, "I've always been a strong believer that reclamation and sustainability go hand in hand." Thus, it is a question of changing the mindset of the citizens.

This quick assessment brought Deepak Parekh to the end of his speech. But he did leave us with a confession. "With [this club's] collective wisdom of ninety years, could all of you not have picked a worthier Rotarian than me for the Citizen of Mumbai Award? This is a city with 22 million people and I'm still wondering, 'Why me?'"

## Solar Installation Report

On 23rd April 2018 the beautiful Bay View Marina garden being maintained by the Cuffe Parade Residents Association (CPRA) got a little greener. The Rotary Club of Bombay (RCB) gifted a solar installation so that the energy-guzzling water pumps could now be powered entirely by solar energy. The occasion saw Mumbai South Member of Parliament Arvind Sawant (as the Chief Guest), MLA Raj Purohit, CPRA President Vijay Bhimrajka, CPRA Secretary General and RCB President Ramesh Narayan speaking about the environmental effort.

President Ramesh Narayan said, these motors are energy-guzzlers and the 10 KW solar system that has been installed will generate on an average 40,000 watts power per day which translates into at least 12,000 units of electricity per year on a conservative basis. This will reduce the current electricity bill by upto 60% which in monetary terms translates to upto Rs 1,44,000 per year. The two main water pumps used for watering the beautiful Bay View Marina garden day and night will entirely run on this solar power plant which also has a storage

capacity of 24,000 watts for night time use.

In addition this renewable energy initiative by the Rotary club of Bombay will result in reduction of CO2 emissions by 3500 Kgs per year. The entire effort has been driven by the RCB Environment Committee Chaired by Rajesh Shah along with Director Madhusudhan Daga. Rajesh Shah said that

community welfare projects like these added great value to residents and was a priority area in the Committee's activities this year.





## Rotarian in the News



PP Sandip Agarwala has been invited to serve as a member of the Corporate Social Responsibility in India working group of The Rotary Foundation Trustees Fund Development Committee.

## Show your Rotary Card to avail of discounts

Thanks to Rotarian Rahil Shah RCB members can get 15 % discount per couple on all health checkup plans at NM Medical & Health 360. 10% discount is available for individual members. Please show your Rotary membership card to avail and obtain discounts at the time of the checkup. This is valid at Health 360 Marine Lines, NM Medical Chowpatty, NM Medical Parel, and NM Medical Khar.

## Reliance Foundation Fact Files

**“I felt helpless after my son’s death. But today I can provide for my family throughout the year.”**

- Shardaben Chaudhry, Netrang, Gujarat



Reliance Foundation supported Shardaben with land development activities, quality seeds, farm yard manure and construction of a farm pond, to provide her land with irrigation. She can now provide for her daughter-in-law and grandchildren.

*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.

## Sufi Poetry & Music Evening Fellowship

Friday 27th April heralded a delightful opportunity for our music loving Rotarians who were treated to a magical evening of Sufi Music and Poetry at the iconic Darbar Hall of the Asiatic Library, Fort, Mumbai.

and visual offering in the Darbar Hall.

The soul stirring performance was delivered by the talented, melliflous and passionate virtuoso Sufi vocalist Radhika Nayak Sood, who accompanied by her troupe,

hypnotised the audience with her live explanation of each verse and nuance of the poetry of the celebrated Panjabi Sufi poet Baba Bulleh Shah, and then rendering the songs in her beautiful voice which filled the entire room with its divine calling and intonation. The grand climax at the closing was with the popular Panjabi hit "Bulla Ki Jaana Main Kaun" and encore with the Sindhi anthem "Damadam Mast Kalandar".

This was the first instance of a musical soiree being held in the Darbar Hall and the vocalist expressed that she was inspired by the room and the venue which uplifted her spirits to give her best, despite the complicated acoustics.



The event was organised by the Fellowship Committee and hosted by the Urban Heritage Committee.

All attending were welcomed with a high tea served in the recently renovated first floor Central foyer reception area of the Asiatic Society Library. Rotary Members and other attendees including Rotaractors got an hour to bond and fill their stomachs with tasty hor d'oeuvres before heading for the auditory



## BY Alumni learn how to swim to beat the heat!

Thank you RCB and PP Rtn. Paul George for making their dream come true. 2 girls and 7 boys are proud to learn a skill for lifetime at YMCA swimming training camp with professional trainers, life guards and a very well maintained pool.

In their words, Shadab said, "I feel superb after learning swimming. Learning how to swim is a good experience for me." Another boy named Satyam said, "I would like to say thank you. It's a great opportunity which I got and am so happy. It has been a great experience for me."





## Summer Camp for Street Children

A summer camp for street kids at Salaam Baalak's Marine Drive centre was organised by the newly formed Child Welfare committee of RCB.

Along with art, craft, dance, computers, committee member Rotary Anne Ekta Shah has also enrolled them at CSVS museum summer workshops for greater exposure.

Children are being exposed to different techniques at the museum and participating as one with other kids of Mumbai.

We thank Renowned artist Mrs Brinda Miller for giving this opportunity pro bono, in an otherwise paid-for workshop.

The children did the following:  
OH SHOOT- photography class  
KLAY KRAFTING - clay modelling  
Cool Quills - Quilling  
POP UP PAINTS- 3 D painting  
PUPPET PARTY- puppet making  
WRAP N WOOL



## MY YEAR, MY RCB

### PP SAILESH HARIBHAKTI



Ramesh -  
The year gone by will remain a constant memory of the wonderful leadership you provided. Everything you did was inclusive!

All credit was always deflected by you deftly. New members were added, programmes were great, meetings were well attended and the charitable work was effective. Well done my friend Three Cheers and Kudos!



## Forthcoming Events

- **22nd May 2018**  
**Uday Kotak** will receive the Ramkrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance and address the Club.

- **29th May 2018**  
So which way will the stock markets go? A lively discussion with **Manish Chokhani** of Enam Holdings and Bharat Shah of ASK Investment

Managers, moderated by Rtn. Dipan Mehta.

- **5th June 2018**  
**Amit Chandra** on the joy of giving.

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## NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER - UDAY KOTAK



Uday Kotak is an Indian billionaire banker, and the executive vice chairman and managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank.

After completing his MBA, Kotak started Kotak Capital Management Finance Ltd (which later became Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd). From a seed capital of less than US\$80,000 borrowed from family and friends, he

converted a bill-discounting start-up into a financial services conglomerate with assets of US\$19 billion (as of March 2014), and the fourth largest private bank by market capitalization in India with over 600 branches.

He was the sole Indian Financier to feature in Money Masters: The Most Powerful People in The Financial World, by Forbes magazine, US (May 2016)

India Today magazine ranked him #8th in India's 50 most powerful people of 2017 list.



## Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Christopher Bluemel  
15<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Soli Cooper  
16<sup>th</sup> May



PP Rtn. Mahendra Sanghi  
16<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Partha Ghosh  
17<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Bimal Mehta  
18<sup>th</sup> May



Rtn. Jamshed Banaji  
17<sup>th</sup> May

### Partners

16<sup>th</sup> May - R/anne. Lovey Pariyaram  
17<sup>th</sup> May - R/anne. Damini Kamdar  
- R/anne. Shama Thukral  
18<sup>th</sup> May - R/anne. Kiran Bajaj  
- R/anne. Mridula Maluste  
19<sup>th</sup> May - R/anne. Fouzia Muljani

### Anniversary

15th May - R/anne. Mehroo & Rtn. Dr. Rajeshwar Bali  
16th May - R/anne. Amita & Rtn. Jagdish Malkani  
Rtn. Preeti & Mr. Gautam Mehta  
17th May - R/anne. Neeraja &  
Hon.Rtn. Kumarmangalam Birla  
19th May - R/anne. Lalita & Rtn. Joseph Koshy  
R/anne. Meenakshi & Rtn. Ajai Kumar  
R/anne. Geeta & Rtn. Nanik Rupani  
R/anne. Radhika & Rtn. Abhishek Saraf  
20th May - R/anne. Divya & Rtn. Pradeep Mafatlal  
21st May - R/anne. Niyati & Rtn. Chetan Shukla

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### Statistics for last week's meeting

Rotary Club Bombay Members	147
Partners	06
Visiting Rotarians	02
Guests	05
Rotractors	01
Total attendance	161
Community Service Box Collection	₹ 2,500/-