THE GATEWAY

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

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R/anne Vatsala and Rtn. Ashok Jatia journeyed through 18 countries during their voyage by car from India all the way to London. Last week, the duo narrated their engrossing experiences to a spellbound audience.

It all began when Ashok received a flyer in his email about a road trip from India to London. About to mark the notification as spam, he paused and pondered over

the idea. Curious, he delved deeper into the subject without informing anybody. Upon covertly contacting the trip's organisers, he was given more literature to read, which made him ever more eager to begin the journey. An enthused Ashok then discussed the trip with his wife - who asserted that she would only permit him to go if she tagged along for the ride.

Hence, it had begun: the duo's journey of rediscovering the charm of road travel by crossing

18 countries via the ancient Silk Route. Their journey was flagged off by the Chief Minister of Manipur as they commenced at the Indo-Myanmar Exit.

In Myanmar, the couple was amidst 4,000 pagodas and temples over a 1,000 years old. Next, they arrived in Thailand, where they witnessed surreal



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President's Message



ear Friends,
It is saddening
to see our
fellow Indians
in Kerala going
through such
a tumultuous
experience due
to the floods.

I humbly reach out to all of you and sincerely request if we could gather funds to be sent to Kerala.

Let us show our solidarity and come together. Now is the time to truly show who Rotarians really are. It is time to put our words into actions and work towards betterment for the society at large.

The week gone by had many activities with the inauguration of the Lighthouse Project, inauguration of the Primary Section at the Colaba Municipal School, Independence Day celebrations at our Bhavishya Yaan schools, eye check up camp at Ananda Yaan, 2nd installation of the Rotaract Club at ISME and much more.

I look forward to receive your support.

Thank You,

Rtn. Vijay Jatia, President





countrysides and beautiful villages. The duo was reminded of cross-cultural similarities when they observed how even young monks were offered reverence in this country.

Unfortunately, the mood took a turn in Laos, where Vatsala fell sick and fainted during transit through the China border. After reviving her zeal, the couple journeyed on. They visited the 1,200-year old Giant Lord Buddha of Leshan carved in stone and



also spotted some pandas, before continuing their breathtaking drive to Xining. Next, the Jatias traversed the snow-laden Qilian mountains and then the Great Wall of China, which they climbed via the Western End, the route less travelled by. This was followed by a journey through Dunhuang in the Gobi Desert that boasted a magnificent landscape of sand dunes. Vatsala summarised her experience with the punchline, "You can shake the sand off your shoes, but not [off] your soul."

Today's Speaker

Mr. Amit Bhandari on Chinese Investments in India's Neighbourhood.



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In Camera Kick-off

Join us to hear interesting anecdotes about Mahabaleshwar's history and myths reflected even today in the restoration of its colonial homes with brilliant architect Dhruti Vaidya.

Wednesday 29th August at 7pm followed by drinks & dinner

Hosted by Radhika & Dipan Mehta at E/4 Breach Candy Apartments, Lane next to Miami Apts, 70/C Bhulabhai Desai Rd.

Please RSVP in advance: Rahil Shah - 98200 12396 rahilns@gmail.com

Ritu Desai - 98200 49520

Another interesting sight was the Crescent Lake amidst the Gobi Desert. 17 days later, they crossed over to Kyrgyzstan after a 22-hour road journey due to a delay at the China border.

Following were the countries of Uzbekistan, where they interacted with a lady with a golden smile - due to her golden teeth; Kazakhstan, where they took a picture at the exact spot where the Microsoft Windows screen image was photographed; and finally, they entered the city of Moscow in Russia where they learnt it is a criminal offence to drive a dirty car. Soon, they were in Prague in the Czech Republic - making this the 13th country on their list. Interestingly, the Czech Republic is the only country to have not been bombed during World War II, thus leaving its architecture intact.

Proceeding this was their final journey to London, which entailed a 900 kilometre drive that involved breakfast in the Czech Republic, lunch in Germany, tea in the Netherlands, and dinner in Belgium. Post driving through

President Nominee Rtn. Framroze Mehta makes a few announcements

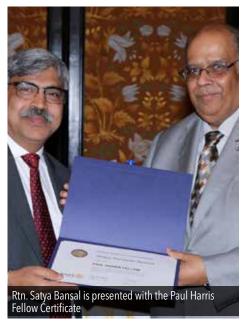
the White Cliffs of Dover and The English Channel, the Jatias finally reached London after a long but worthy 49 days. As predicted, they







were on Westminster Bridge on the 1st of June at 5pm. Truly, this duo evinces C.S. Lewis' timeless quote, "You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." Or experience the world from a different perspective - even if it's behind a windshield.







WE ARE ACTIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA WITH MORE THAN 2000 FOLLOWERS. FIND US ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM WITH THE HANDLE @RCB1929. FIND US ON LINKEDIN AND YOUTUBE WITH THE HANDLE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY.

PLEASE FOLLOW US AND LIKE/SHARE THE POSTS.

Lighthouse Project Inauguration



on the 9th of August, 2018, the Child Welfare Committee of Rotary Club of Bombay inaugurated their first initiative—Project Lighthouse in association with NGO Vidya our educational partners in the project.

Project Lighthouse is an after school program providing educational support and guidance for children from KG to 4th Standard from the Bhai

Bhandarkar Machimar Nagar fishing community at Cuffe Parade.

Lighthouse aims to empower underprivileged children with a combination of aural, visual, physical skills and above all, a conducive social environment.

All this is made possible at the Centre through various activities like creative art and craft, drama, elocution, storytelling and yoga with dance. These activities help to build confidence and self-worth in the children which brings out the best in them, in a non-competitive environment.

We help these children and their parents to prepare for interviews so that they get into English medium schools and post admission, the students are guided and supported to be able to assimilate with their peers.

The goal is to develop their personality and nurture them in an overall holistic way so as to help them grow up to become hardworking and confident adults.



To welcome the Rotarians, guests and the parents, the children showcased a few performances of the activities done at the Lighthouse Project premises.

They started with young Kindergarten stars singing a prayer, "Gods Love". Then, a story telling through puppets was demonstrated, followed by a poem "Piggy On The Railway Line" by the 1st and the 2nd Std. students.

Std. 4 children did a small dramatisation of a school interview, showing how Lighthouse activities helps the children and parents cope with school interviews in the mainstream English medium schools.

Water Cup Award Ceremony

The Water Cup Award ceremony was attended by Rtn. Abhishek Saraf and PP Rtn. Sandip Agarwala on Sunday, 12th August.

It was a very uplifting experience to witness 80 winners selected from over 4000 villages for their achievements in Water Self Sufficiency.

Each village received prizes ranging from the top cash award

of ₹75 lakhs to a minimum of ₹10 lakhs. The CM added another ₹5 lakhs to each winner and also an amount of ₹5 lakhs and ₹3 lakhs to each of the 75 villages who finished 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} .

Rotary is committed to providing safe drinking water facilities to each of the 80 winning villages at an average cost of ₹7-8 lakhs per village. We already have sponsors in place for 40 villages.



Independence Day Celebrations at BY Schools

ndependence day was celebrated across Bhavishya Yaan schools with lot of enthusiasm and fervour.

Bhavishya Yaan student, Kaushal Tetgure who topped the SSC with 85.4 % hoisted the flag amidst 150 students, all BY teachers and Principals.

There was an elocution competition where children spoke about India of their dreams and their favourite leader. A drawing competition where children drew different things related to Independence.

Beautiful rangolis were drawn by students. There was a dance performance and songs were sung too.







Fellowship Night

Past President Rtn. Arun Sanghi and his wife Arti Sanghi hosted a wonderful fellowship at their lovely home on Thursday, 9th August.

It was attended by President Vijay Jatia, President Elect Preeti Mehta, Past President Sandip Agarwalla as well as the Chairpersons of the various committees.

Everyone enjoyed their warm hospitality and delicious food.

Surprise celebration by Lighthouse students

RCB Lighthouse students surprised their community with an Independence Day celebration.

They sang patriotic songs in English, gave a speech on Independence Day and took a pledge to be responsible citizens.

The head of the community Mr. Moreshwar Patil was very happy with this RCB initiative and mentioned the Lighthouse class twice in his speech addressing around 100 community members.

The committee members of Machimar Nagar gave all individual speakers an eraser-cum-sharpener as a gift and each group participant got a paintbox as a gift.





Donations Received for the Week: ₹ 21,96,001

Rtn. Rtn. Arif Lokhandwala

Rtn. Hormazdiyaar Vakil

Mrs. Janak Agarwal donated through Rtn. Arvind Agarwal

Mahabirprasad Jatia Foundation

Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani

Rtn. Mayank Kummar

Rtn. Dr. Sorab Javeri

MK Tata Trust

Sunteck Welfare Fund

VFS Global Services Pvt. Ltd.

Shriyans Prasad Charitable Trust

Kokuyo Camlin Ltd.

Radhi Kamalnayan Parekh

Primary Section Inauguration at Colaba Municipal School



The grand opening of the Colaba primary section took place on Thursday 16th August amid much excitement and fanfare. The Bhavishya Yaan team was excited about welcoming 300 new children to the BY family. The new Bhavishya Yaan classroom was beautifully decorated by our enthusiastic alumni student Shadab and teacher Nisrin. The colourful floor mats and folding tables gave the room a festive air.

Many Rotarians attended the inaugural event making it a memorable morning. President Vijay Jatia along with PP Rtn. Arun Sanghi cut the red ribbon. President Vijay then addressed the children followed by Chairman Rtn. Jamshed Vakharia. Principal Bhusara was extremely cooperative and helpful and in his speech expressed his desire to make the Colaba primary school on par with private schools. R/anne Beena Yargop mentor of BY at Colaba school was filled with pride and joy at admitting 300 more students into the Bhavishya Yaan fold taking the count of Colaba school to a staggering 550 children.

RCB endeavours to support a generation of children and enable them to learn, grow, flourish and be prepared for the exciting challenges that lie ahead for them.





Assimilation Dinner with the Piramals

We had our second Assimilation dinner on 11th August 2018 at Rtn. Dilip and R/anne Shalini Piramal's very tastefully done residence in Worli. The evening began at 7.45pm with 70 members in attendance.

As has now become the format for these events, we started by requesting all the new Rotarians and their partners to introduce themselves. Thereafter, PP Rtn. Nirav Shah talked briefly about the Rotary movement as well as our Club in particular. He talked about the importance of new members contributing the three T's i.e. Time, Treasure and Talent to the Rotary.

He also recognised President Vijay Jatia and all the Past Presidents in attendance.

The evening continued over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The fabulous food was paired with some live music from the 70s to the latest hits. Many members danced to some of the rocking numbers before they broke to enjoy a traditional Indian meal. The evening ended with several members participating in singing old Hindi songs along with karaoke music. All in all, it was a wonderful Assimilation event and we look forward to having many more through the year.







"Information on mobile phones has reduced risk to our lives."

- Anthoniyar Pitchai, Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu



Fisherfolk searching for fish in the seas now receive regular information on ocean conditions and location of fish on their mobile phones from Reliance Foundation. This has reduced the time spent, and the risk to their lives, while increasing income.

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



Touching over 20 million lives with support for Rural Transformation, Health, Education, Sports for Development, Livelihoods, Disaster Response, Arts & Culture, and Urban Renewal.

Forthcoming Events

August 23rd 2018
 Parsi Nite

The Coronation, Imperial Club House from 7:30pm onwards

August 28th 2018
 Speaker: Mr. Anil Dharker
 "Shooting the Bullet?"

- August 29th 2018 In Camera Event with renowned architect Dhruti Vaidya hosted by Radhika & Dipan Mehta at 7 pm. Kindly contact Rtn. Rahil Shah
- September 2nd 2018
 Fellowship-cum-service trip to Talwada
 Register in advance with Rashmi at the RCB office

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NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: Mr. Anil Dharkar



Anil Dharker is the Founder and Director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival, now in its eighth year.

He has been the Editor of India's oldest magazine, The Illustrated Weekly of

India, as well as of newspapers like The Independent and Mid-day.

Over the years, he has been a columnist for The Times of India, The Hindu, The Economic Times, Gulf News, Khaleei Times, Asian Age, Financial Chronicle and other publications.

He is currently a columnist for The Huffington Post, Open magazine and On Stage - the NCPA journal.

He is the author of 6 books.

Anil Dharker started life as an engineer, graduating from London University and joining the academic staff of Glasgow University. He came back to India to become a Consultant Engineer.

Anil Dharker has been the Creative Director of Zee TV and was also involved in starting a new TV channel for the Dalal Street Journal group. He was instrumental in NFDC, co-producing Richard Attenborough's multi Oscar winning film "Gandhi".

Next week he will be speaking to us about 'Shooting the Bullet?'

All Directors and Committee Chairpersons are requested to send their project write ups with high resolution pictures to Rtn. Satyan Israni for publishing in the Gateway at the following email id: rotary.satyanisrani@gmail.com



Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid 21st August



Rtn. Cyrus Patel 26th August



Rtn. Sanjay Agarwal 23rd August



Rtn. Ranjit Sinh 27th August



Rtn. Manoi Israni 24th August



Rtn. Narinder Kumar Nayar 24th August

Partners

21st August - R/anne Irma Chinai R/anne Samira Merchant

22nd August - R/anne Manjula Mehta R/anne Manju Sinha

26th August - R/anne Dina Golwalla

27th August - R/anne Neelima Baliga R/anne Neeraja Taparia

Anniversaries

27th August - R/anne Shobha & PP Rtn. Haresh Jagtiani

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Statistics for last week's meeting Rotary Club Bombay Members 132 R/Annes 21 01 Visiting Rotarians Invitees & Guests 23 Rotaractors 2 Total attendance 179 Community Service Box Collection ₹ 660/-