

THE GATEWAY

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

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President's Message



thank all Rotanians who have generously donated towards the Kerala flood relief.

We have successfully raised ₹10 lakhs towards this cause. I am thankful for

your compassionate contributions and look forward to your support in the future.

We have planned a one day trip to Talwada on 2nd September 2018, those interested kindly register at the earliest as we have limited seats.

Our club has arranged for a soulful fund raiser – *Dil Se*, a medley of ghazals by renowned singer Javed Ali. Request you all to join in large numbers. You may contact Rtn. Akhil Sanghi or Rtn. Sunita Mandelia for the tickets. We seek your support in making this event successful.

Thank you,

Rtn. Vijay Jatia President

Today's Speaker

Mr. Anil Dharker
"Shoot the Bullet?"



In this Issue

Ananda Yaan Completes One Year	. 4
Project Masoom at RCB Lighthouse	. 4
Medical Beneficiaries for 2018	4
Rotary GenNext Volunteers at Lighthouse	. 5
Rotarians Making Waves	. 5
ISME Management School Students visit BY	. 6
Forthcoming Events & Menu	. 7
Next Week's Speaker	. 8

The Chinese Investment Conspiracy



We were honoured to host Gateway House's Amit Bhandari for the meeting last Tuesday. Gateway House is a foreign policy think-tank that has been researching and conducting analytic exercises to understand China's investments. Bhandari's insightful revelations gave us a more thorough understanding of the current eco-political relationship between China, India, and each country's allies.

He began by discussing the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The BRI is a creation of ports, railways, and road pipelines to connect China to the rest of the world. It is an attempt to create a global trading network and a sphere of influence, both examples of Chinese assertiveness. China has invested over \$150 billion in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, and the Maldives, and is now the largest foreign investor in Maldives, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The depth of China's investments in India's





neighbouring countries is an attempt to encircle the country.

To understand the concern about Chinese investments, Bhandari and Gateway House have been mapping the country's financial moves across the globe. They have observed China's investments to be in the sectors of energy, connectivity, communications, and finance. In terms of energy, the Chinese have made investments in oil. gas, thermal, nuclear, and hydro energy in the neighbouring countries. One of these investments is in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which gives Pakistan increased access to Central Asia's energy fields. The String of Pearls is a theory about potential Chinese intentions in the Indian Ocean; it asserts that China

is trying to create a network and increase their access to ports and airfields by expanding their geopolitical influence. Moreover, India's communication lines are routed through Chinese companies (or companies that are close to the Chinese government) which means our data is

running through Chinese optic fibres that can easily be tracked by the nation's Communist Party. Financially, the Chinese want to replace the US Dollar with the Yuan.

Bhandari then took us on a tour of the region from an economic perspective, paying close attention to Chinese investments. In Sri Lanka, China's 'debt-trap diplomacy' began with the supply of weapons. The country has now come to replace India as Sri Lanka's biggest economic partner, investing largely in their infrastructure.

In Nepal, the Chinese government hopes to develop their airports in the near future. After being deprived of aid from India, Nepal turned to China for assistance. Furthermore, China looks to take over Lumbini, a Buddhist tourist hub, to sideline Tibetan resistance.

China also has a \$62 billion potential investment lined up in Pakistan, which is predicted to cause political backlash on India in the long run. Another of China's investments in Pakistan is in energy; thermal power plants in Pakistan cost more per megawatt than in India. Thus, there exists a lot of scope for padding for elite contractors, allowing projects to go through without any scrutiny. On the military front, the Chinese investment in Pakistan's Gwadar port appears to be more of a military asset than a trade hub.

Heading East, Bhandari highlighted a case where Bangladesh was attempting construction of a bridge when the World Bank backed off on account of lack of transparency. That is when China stepped in as a cheap and reliable investment alternative. Similar to Sri Lanka, the relationship started with the supply of weapons on a military level and moved on to a more multilateral approach.

He then brought our attention to The Maldivian economy, which is run mostly through tourism. As 30% to 40% of the tourist inflow





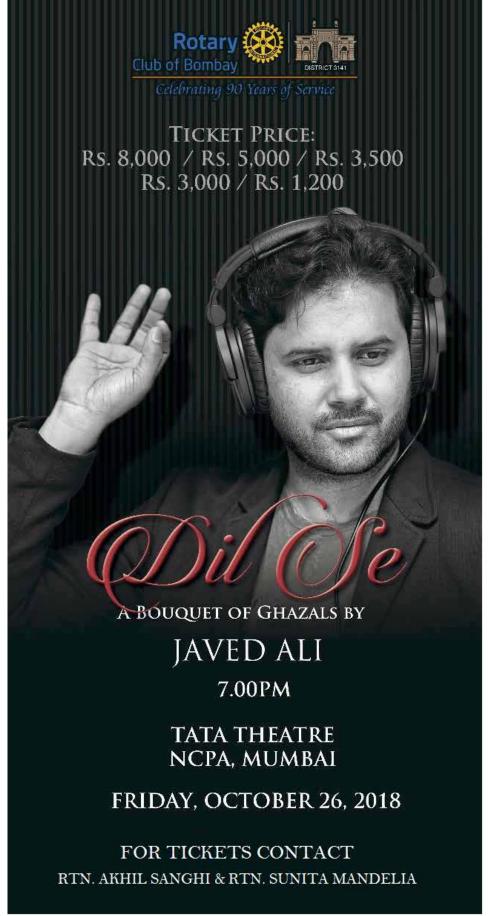




is from China, any severance of Maldivian-Chinese ties will have a major impact on the country's economy.

Finally, Bhandari brought forth the unique political circumstances in Myanmar. The country, run by a brutal military regime, is attempting to reduce their dependence on China. They believe reliance on a superpower like China can have harmful repercussions in the future.

In conclusion, Bhandari told us that the reasons for China's attempts to invest in India's neighbouring countries are straightforward: sovereignty, cultural influence, hegemony, information control, and most importantly, a transformed global financial structure. India's top priorities should therefore be to strengthen its own economy and regain control of its political atmosphere in order to avoid being caught unawares if and when an adversary strikes.



Ananda Yaan Completes One Year

A nanda Yaan's second centre at Worli Sea Link completed one year on 17th August. To celebrate the same, a trip for 35 members to ISKON temple, Chowpatty was organized by Rtn. Vikram Daiya.





Project Masoom at RCB Lighthouse

The Young Indian chapter of CII conducted a workshop on good touch - bad touch.

We had invited even mothers without children to get involved in the community and make them also understand this sensitive topic.

YI chair of Bombay - Priya, came with her team. She took two sessions by explaining and showed a short animated movie on this topic to reinforce it.

In totality 80 children and 40 mothers attended the same.



Medical Beneficiaries for July 2018

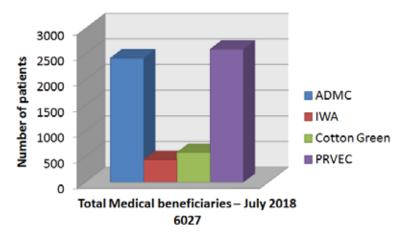
The illustration on the right shows us the number of beneficiaries at each of our medical centres:

Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre - 2420

International Women's Association - 438

Cotton Green Medical Centre - 577

Phiroze Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre - 2592



Rotary GenNext Volunteers at Lighthouse



Our Rotarian Pritam Sanghai's daughter - Shriya (a BD Somani grade 12 student) showed

interest in volunteering at RCB's project Lighthouse. She spent time with our students and shared her experience with a very sweet thank you note.

"I would like to thank Rotary for this great opportunity because it's a way to give back to society. For me the world is like a canvas and I want to add colour to it. When I first visited RCB's Lighthouse project on 18th August, the children were having a session on "good touch - bad touch."

I have always been enthusiastic about various social activities. But this experience was very different. It is very important to be mature and understanding while explaining children and their parents the importance of "touch".

While sitting for those 2 hours I observed the way the children

Donations received for the week:
₹ 1,40,001/-

Rtn. Jayesh Jhaveri

CMI FPE Ltd donated through Rtn. Gul Kripalani

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Rtn. Mudit Jain

Anonymous donation



and their parents reacted to that information. I also interacted with the children and asked them if they understood what was talked about. Even though they giggled at first, surprisingly they did

understand. I also noticed the way the mothers looked out for their children. Each time their child got distracted they would tell them to pay attention. It was a great learning experience!

The children loved talking but didn't have the confidence. I will be focusing on their communication skills."

- Shriya Sanghai

ROTARIANS MAKING WAVES



Christopher Bluemel was awarded IBG's EXPAT BUSINESSMAN of the year award.

Christopher is a German living in India for more than 17 years. He runs a boutique company that makes unique products and is called i-CHESS (Intelligent Chemical Solutions)



ISME Management School Students visit Bhavishya Yaan

SME Management School in Mumbai is doing a STEAM MODULE (S - Science, T - Technology, E - English, A - Art, M - Mathematics) with Bhavishya Yaan students from grade 6th - 8th in GK Marg Municipal School.

15 college students will be coming every Saturday and teach our 50 children different concepts of Science, Technology, English, Art, and Mathematics.

The first module was done on 18th August on Science. Concepts covered were: Importance of Critical Thinking, Application of Physics and Mensuration and Mechanism of an Flectric Circuit.

Activities conducted were: Importance of Critical Thinking - thinking riddle, which helped the BY students understand the importance of "Thinking out of the Box" and using "Innovative Ideas".

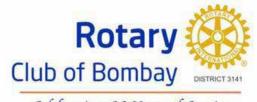
Application of Physics and Mensuration - The second activity was to create a self-standing tower out of just 12 A-4 sheets.

The intention of this activity was to help the students understand the importance of having a strong base and a firm foundation while creating any structure.

Mechanism of an Electric Circuit

- This activity helped the students understand the functioning of an electric circuit and the process of connecting the circuit to an LED bulb.





Celebrating 90 Years of Service

Talwada Trip 2nd September, 2018 Sunday

6:30am - Bus leaves from NCPA, Nariman Point. 6:45am - Bus leaves from Villa Teresa School, Peddar Road. 7:00am - Bus stops at Worli Seaface, Opp AAREY Milk Factory. 9:45am - Tea & Snacks at KAMAT Hotel, before Charoti Naka. 11:00am - Visit Phiroze R. Vakil Eye Centre. 11:45am - Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre. 12:30pm - Taparia Junior.College. 12:45pm - Lunch

> 2:00pm - Leave Talwada 5:30pm - Reach Mumbai

RSVP

Eruch Irani / Rashmi / Vrushali

Tel: 022-22882495 Email: rotaryclubbombay1@gmail.com

The session began with a critical

Rotaract Club's 2nd Year at ISME

Valking into the 2nd year of the Rotaract Club at ISME, we welcome Rtr. Utkarsh Kejriwal with his team this year.

The Rotaract Club has been very active and supports the Rotary Club of Bombay in its various projects such as the Bhavishya Yaan Talent Hunt that was conducted recently with much excitement.

They also had the opportunity to participate in Project Green Hands where they planted and nurtured around 30 trees.

Besides these they have been involved in the Echo Programme, Marathons, Community activities and Football Premier League where they put together 10 teams with a total of 100 players.





CONGRATULATIONS!

Rtn. Satyan Israni won the **Home Virtual Golf** Tournament 2018. held on 11th & 12th August in the **Group A category** at Garware Club House

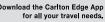


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www.carltontravelbags.com

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

Forthcoming Events

- August 29th 2018 In Camera Event with renowned architect Dhruti Vaidya hosted by Radhika & Dipan Mehta at 7 pm. Kindly contact Rahil Shah
- September 2nd 2018 Fellowship-cum-service trip to Talwada Register in advance with Rashmi at the RCB office
- September 4th 2018 Speaker: Swami Swatmanandaji on Humanity and Oneness

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DIRECTOR: HOMI KATGARA

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NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: Swami Swatmanandaji



Swatmananda is one of the most dynamic leaders of Chinmaya Mission.

An Acharya of Chinmaya Mission-South Mumbai and

National Director of All India Chinmaya Yuva Kendra, he completed the Vedanta Course from Powai from 1998-2000 and has been serving in Chinmaya Mission Mumbai since then.

He expounds the philosophy of Advaita Vedanta through talks on the Bhagvad Gita, Upanishads and other texts of Vedanta and Bhakti through camps, meditation retreats, interactive sessions and discussions for youth and adults. He also takes the Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) which is a value-based leadership programme for youth who want to serve the Nation and Culture. He trains the youth for 3 months after which they serve the country for 9 months. Several corporates like Piramal,

Reliance, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Toyota, PwC etc., have been addressed by him. He holds weekly discussion groups on the Bhagvad Gita for some of the top industrialists of India.

He has conceptualized and executed Chinmaya Pradeep, a one of its kind outdoor Vedantic Vision Park based on the life and teachings of Swami Chinmayananda in Powai, Mumbai.

He is also a playwright and has written and directed two theatrical performances.

In 2009, "Adrshya-Quest for the Unseen" based on Saraswati Civilization and Developed India was performed nine times by Chinmaya Yuva Kendra Mumbai in Mumbai, Pune, Allahabad and Chennai. And, in 2015, "Just Like That" - based on the Bhagvad Gita in the life of the Anand - Family and how they discover harmony by applying the principles of The Gita, was enacted with six performances in Mumbai, Pune and Chennai.

}≡

Birthdays & Anniversary Greetings



Rtn. Vijay Meghani 31st August



Rtn. Rajas Doshi 1st September



Rtn. Mudit Jain 3rd September

Anniversaries

2nd September - R/anne Aruna & Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani

Partners

28th August - R/anne Usha Agarwal R/anne Sujata Manohar

1st September - R/anne Sudha Nevatia 2nd September - R/anne Amisha Himatsingka

 $3^{\rm rd}$ September - R/anne Devi Narayan

R/anne Brinda Shah



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Statistics for last week's meeting

 Rotary Club Bombay Members
 98

 R/Annes
 02

 Visiting Rotarians
 02

 Invitees & Guests
 03

 Rotractors
 06

 Total attendance
 111

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