

THE GATEWAY

**BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY** 

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## President's Message



ear Rotarians,

I have mixed emotions as I write this week's message.

It is saddening to hear about the demise of our Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid. Our heartfelt sympathies

go out to the Vaid family.

On account of the fund raising for the Kerala floods I am overwhelmed by the generous contributions from our donors. Till date we have gathered ₹53 lakhs.

In particular I would like to acknowledge the contribution of our new Rotarian Dilip Piramal who has become a member of the prestigious Arch C. Klumph Society. He and his wife, R/anne Shalini, will be joining the elite brigade of donors to be inducted into Rotary International's Hall of Fame.

They have set a wonderful example for all of us Rotarians, both old and new, to follow. Congratulations Dilip and Shalini! You do us all proud.

Thank you,

Rtn. Vijay Jatia President

Today's Speaker

**Swami Swatmanandaji** on Humility and Oneness



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# The Messenger Shoots the Bullet



Founder and Director of the Mumbai International Literary Festival and Literature Live, Anil Dharker, is a columnist, writer, and literary genius. We were privileged to hear his insights on the Indian bullet train project.

Beginning his discussion, Dharker forewarned us Rotarians, "The topic of the talk is "Shoot the Bullet, not Shoot the Messenger." He hoped to be proved wrong about his opinions on India's bullet train project, acknowledging that large investments were already made in its development. The Japanese innovation of the bullet train, named Shinkansen and connecting Tokyo and Osaka, was executed in 1964. Back then, the train's speed was 210 kilometres per



hour and has now reached a whopping 350 kilometres per hour.

In 1978, Chinese politician Deng Xiaoping was greatly impressed by Shinkansen upon his visit to Japan. When the Chinese replicated the idea, the initial proposal relied heavily on Shinkansen for the project's execution in China. However, the final project was accomplished with the help of Siemens, Bombardier, Alstom, and Kawasaki Heavy Industries. The Japanese refused to transfer their technology, which resulted in the change in China's manufacturing plans. Now the biggest high-speed network in the world, with 89 tracks across 26,783 kilometres, China has built its own bullet train system.

"France, Germany, Italy, Spain, South Korea, and surprisingly even Turkey - not one of them use Japanese Technology. Why?" Dharker asked. Despite this, India has chosen to use Japanese technology.



Quoting Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnavis, Dharker said, "Where will the raw materials and labourers for the project come from? Obviously from India. Everything that needs to be used for the project, from services to provisions, will have great potential to create revenue." However, Dharker merely saw this as avoiding the transfer of technology.

Another concern he brought up was that no technical evaluations were made before the onset of this project. In terms of viability, we have only one instance: Taiwan and their use of the Japanese Shinkansen system. Unfortunately, the initial years saw steep depreciation in ridership rates, which fell short of forecasts.

Currently, the traffic from Mumbai to Ahmedabad is 18,000 passengers a day, but to maintain the costs of the Indian bullet train, the traffic would need to carry at least a lakh of passengers daily to keep fares at a reasonable level.

Thus, either the rates would have to be very high or the service will have to be subsidised greatly. A surprising fact that Dharker shared with us is that 95% of rail-using Indians cannot use the Rajdhani or August Kranti train because of the rates. And yet, the entire project is predicted to



cost Rs. 1.08 lakh crore. This means that affordability for the average Indian may be an issue. Moreover, sadly enough, reports say that the bullet train may only run in Gujarat during its initial stages.

Said Dharker, "I am not anti-progress, I am not anti-development. I am only arguing against misplaced priorities. I am arguing against showpiece projects and overrating ambition.
That's all."



## Rotaractors at Jai Hind College 'Get The Edge'

'Pinnacle' - The official Installation ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College took place on 18<sup>th</sup> August from 11.00 AM to 1.00 PM.

The ceremony was attended by RCB's President Rtn. Vijay Jatia and DRR Elect of Rotaract District 3141 Rtr. Kushal Bhuva.

The club released the theme as 'GET THE EDGE' and pledged to work towards it throughout the year.



## Donations received for the week: ₹52,25,501

Rtn. Vandan Shah		
Rtn. Vijay Jatia		
PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena		
Rtn. Mehul Sampat		
Rtn. Gautam Doshi		
Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid		
PP Rtn. Nirav Shah		
Rtn. Jaidev Merchant		
Anonymous		
Rtn. Vrinda Rajgarhia		

Ms. Khurshid Divecha donated through PP Rtn. Pradeep Saxena Bharat Serums & Vaccines Ltd.

Rtn. Madhusudan Daga

Rtn. Peter Born

Sneha Bhanushali donated through Rtn. Gul Kripalani

Consulate General of Korea donated through PP Rtn. Gul Kripalani D&H Secheron Electrodes P. Ltd. through PP Rtn. Gul Kripalani

Prasad Agents Pvt. Ltd. donated through Rtn. Vrinda Rajgarhia

Ms. Jennifer Carnac donated through Rtn. Farokh Balsara

## Obituary - Remembering Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid



GIRDHARILAL VAID 21/8/1931 - 28/8/2018

Members of the Rotary Club of Bombay offer their condolences and prayers to the bereaved family and friends of Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid.

Rtn. Girdharilal Vaid joined Rotary in 1979. He was a Senior Active Rotarian for the last 40 years. He was a die-hard Rotarian and loved his Rotary Club and made several of its members as part of his extended family. He was very active in the Fellowship Committee and enjoyed a strong bon-homie with his contemporaries, with his smile and gentle nature.

He lived a disciplined life and was a Patron of Modern Art and had a deep interest in literature, philosophy and yoga. He lived the life of a true Rotarian and was a proud Rotarian all his life!

### Raksha Bandhan Celebrations All Around!

#### AT BHAVISHYA YAAN

orty children from the primary section school at GK Marg participated in Raksha Bandhan "Best out of Waste", a one day workshop conducted by a volunteer.

This activity involved recycling of waste, which was demonstrated to the children showing them how to convert waste into beautiful Rakhis from rags, tailoring scraps and other waste material. The result was beautiful, colourful Rakhis of various shapes, sizes and designs. They seemed to have utterly enjoyed the activity while learning how waste can be a useful resource.

Many of them planned to celebrate Raksha Bandhan using their strings of love, thus helping in reducing carbon footprint and conserving energy.

#### AT ANANDA YAAN

The bond of friendship that was created by joining Ananda Yaan a year ago was further

strengthened on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018 for Raksha Bandhan. This festival brings about affection, fraternity and sublime sentiments. 100 senior citizens at our Worli Sea Link and Byculla centre celebrated the festival with enthusiasm.

Rtn. Charu Agrawal gifted new kurta sets to all 20 male members.







## **Scholarship Committee Honours Deserving Students**

The Rotary Club of Bombay through the Scholarship Committee supports the efforts of hard working students.

This support is much appreciated by them and their families as it not only keeps them motivated but makes sure that they feel privileged and work towards becoming better citizens of India living with commitment and integrity.

Category of Scholars	No. of Applicants Approved	Amount Disbursed
Rotary Scholars	19	13,24,695
General Scholars	52	5,74,665
B.Y. Students	41	2,96,000
Night Study Scholars	15	1,75,000
TOTAL	127	23,70,360



## Cleanliness Drive at Machchimar Nagar Beach

Our oceans are choking with plastic and our beaches are full of garbage!

How do we clean the oceans and the beaches?

To bring about change one must be the change!

Rtn. Vandan Shah, Rtn. Sitaram Shah, IPP Rtn. Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Charu Agarwal with R/anne Ekta Shah led a group of enthusiastic 300 volunteers including students from RCB



# Rtn. Dilip Piramal enters the Arch C. Klumph Society

We are delighted to inform fellow Rotarians that our very own Rtn. Dilip Piramal has done our Club proud by becoming a member of the prestigious Arch C. Klumph Society.

By agreeing to contribute an amount of US\$ 250,000 to the Rotary Foundation, his wife, Shalini and he will join the elite brigade of donors of this Society which are inducted into the Hall of Fame of Rotary International at the RI headquarters in Evanston, Illinois.

Lighthouse and alumni of Bhavishya Yaan for a mega clean up drive of the beach at Machchimar Nagar, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai.

Kudos to them!!









#### Parsi Nite

The Fellowship committee organised the Parsi Nite on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 at The Imperial Club house, Tardeo. It was a lovely evening with music, cocktails and dinner attended by around 160 Rotarians and their partners. The lively band and dancing made it a fun-filled evening. The attendees had a wonderful time. We wish all our Parsi Rotarian friends a very Happy New Year!

We also thank our fellow Rotarian hosts: Adi Dastur, Anita Patel, Arin Master, Aashish Contractor, Darius Soonawala, Dilnavaz Variava, Framroze Mehta, Homi Katgara, Hormusji Cama, Hoshang Nazir, Jamshed Vakharia, Khurshed Poonawala, Mahakhurshid Byramjee, Mehernosh Dotivala, Murad Currawala, Nanu Daruvala, Natasha Treasurywala, Jamshyd







Vazifdar, Phiroze Soonawala, Rhea Bhumgara, Ritu Desai, Roda Desai, Rumi Jehangir, Shernaz Vakil, Soli Cooper, Sorab Javeri & Zinia Lawyer.





## In Camera Kicks-Off with its First Event

The year's first In-Camera meeting graciously hosted by Rtn. Dipan and Rtn. Radhika Mehta at their lovely home in Breach Candy was a great success. Architect Dhruti Vaidya enthralled 36 Rotarians and their better halves with interesting insights into Mahabaleshwar's rich heritage and culture in art, architecture, and fauna.

Dhruti showcased some of the British era homes that she has restored to preserve that heritage amidst sights from Rotarians on the current state of Mahabaleshwar compared to past pictures and paintings that Dhruti shared.

The discussion evolved into a wider concern on maintaining

architectural relics in the country as a whole from a bygone era and how we could contribute as citizens in that effort. By the end of Dhruti's talk all were determined to restore Mahabaleshwar's status as a long stay getaway and not just a weekend holiday destination, and many a Rotarian wished they could be in one of the lovely homes restored by Dhruti!





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:

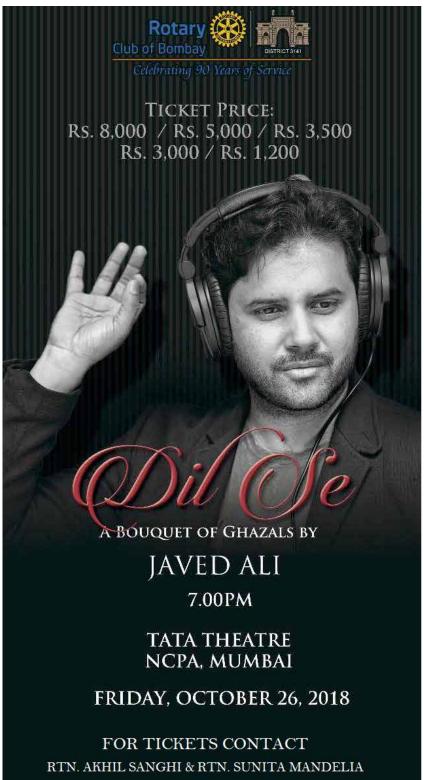
rotary.satyanisrani@gmail.com





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PLEASE FOLLOW US AND LIKE/SHARE THE POSTS.



## Forthcoming Events

- September 11<sup>th</sup> 2018 Speaker: Rtn. Narinder Nayar Urbs Prima in Indis
- September 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 Speaker: Dr. Farokh Udwadia Topic to be decided

#### **ROTARY CLUB OFFICERS**

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## **NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER:** Rtn. Narinder Nayar



tn. Narinder **N**ayar has been actively and passionately involved with the Mumbai Transformation Programme, which

is spearheaded by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

As Chairman of Bombay First, Rtn. Narinder was instrumental in arranging a study together with McKinsey, on how Mumbai could be transformed into a world-class city. Following the study, a very effective Public-Private Partnership was established with the State Government for the regeneration of the City.

Maharashtra Government has also constituted a Citizens' Action Group under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Rtn. Narinder as the Vice Chairman.

This unique initiative of Bombay First has the support of the Prime Minister's Office and the World Bank.

Rtn. Narinder believes in the dictum "Think Local, Act Global". He has been responsible for getting international companies to come and help overcome the challenges of urbanisation in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region which has a population of 20 million. Investments of nearly US\$ 60 billion in various infrastructure projects are anticipated.

Rtn. Narinder Nayar is President -Emeritus of the Indo-Italian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and was decorated by the President of Italy as UFFICIALE of "Ordine al Meritodella Repubblica Italiana". This unique high recognition given by the President of Italy is not normally given to foreigners.

He will be speaking about how Mumbai could be the "Urbs Prima in Indis".

## **Birthday & Anniversary Greetings**



Rtn. Anand Shah 4th September



Rtn. Tanya Sood 6<sup>th</sup> September



7<sup>th</sup> September



Rtn. Devinder Thukral Rtn. Jamshed Vakharia 8th September



8th September



PP Rtn. Paul George 9th September



Rtn. Ashok Jatia 9th September

#### **Partners**

5<sup>th</sup> September - R/anne Falguni Padode 6<sup>th</sup> September - R/anne Padmini Somani 7th September - R/ anne Percy Master 9th September - R/anne Shobha Jagtiani

## **Anniversaries**

7th September - R/anne Rashmi & PP Rtn. Arvind Jolly

Statistics for last week's meeting

R/anne Indu Kothari

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