



We've shown once again that ours is a Club with a heart

My dear Fellow Rotarians,

I must begin by saying that it has been a privilege to lead this great Club, a Club we all love and of which we are, with every justification, proud.

Equally, for me, it has been a pleasure working with all my fellow Rotarians on the many good works that our Club does.

This is a Club with a long and glorious history. It can be a daunting task to assume the responsibility for maintaining its paramount status but all my fellow Rotarians, with their guidance, their support and their encouragement, have made it a pleasant duty.

There has been a small net increase in the membership strength during the year and it is a matter of some satisfaction that, despite the large base, we have achieved this increase while maintaining our stringent criteria and high standards.

I hope that the members who have joined this year – and those who will do so in future years – will enjoy Rotary and will be true Rotarians.

As far as the service aspects of our Club are concerned, as with every year, there are on-going projects as well as new projects.

There is, as always, much to commend about the ongoing projects of our Club, but for the purposes of this Bulletin, I will focus only on what has been done this year.

This year, I felt that we should focus on reaching out to the underprivileged and the under-served, or those organisations which do great work but are not even on the radar of funding agencies or other service organisations.

In this, I have had the unstinted support of the Office-Bearers and the Board and I am truly grateful to all of them.

We began the year with a visit to the premises of the Salvation Army at Agripada. It has, among other "facili-

ties", an "Old Men's Home" which was in a deplorable condition. So we decided to repair it and have fully renovated the place, completely re-doing the dormitory, the kitchen, the toilets and the recreation room, installing new fans and a television set. The 20 aged residents now live in a greater degree of comfort. This cost us about Rs 6 lakhs.

We also refurbished the beds at another old-age home on Hughes Road looking after 100 men and women. This is a well-run facility which barely needs anything. But we established our footprint there with a minimal expenditure of about Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000.

Then there is the Central Society for the Education of the Deaf which has three main activities: (i) a primary special school for deaf children; (ii) an early-detection centre for deafness; and (iii) a cochlear-implant rehabilitation centre. We fully funded the import and installation of sophisticated testing equipment in the "Brainstem-Evoked Response Audiometry" (BERA) testing clinic at a cost of about Rs. 17 lakhs.

We associated with the Dhabhar Cancer Foundation which provides financial as well as medical assistance to cancer patients and spreads awareness about prevention and early detection of cancer. The Club has undertaken to give it a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs per year initially for a period of three years.

The Club will be entitled to refer five patients every year for the treatment of whom the Foundation will bear a cost of up to Rs. 1.50 lakhs per year.

Similarly, we associated with the CHILDReach society, which works with slow learners and attempts to integrate them into the mainstream of education. It takes care of more than 45 children.

We made a one-time donation of Rs. 1 lakh and also were the sole sponsors of their Silver Jubilee seminar, "Are We Ready?"

In all of the above initiatives, in order to retain an interest therein as well as our rights, we have provided for certain clauses such as regular reporting,



inspection of accounts and premises, seat(s) on the committee and so on.

A one-time donation of Rs. 1 lakh was made to "The Anchorage", which is an organisation that seeks to give a sense of self-worth to mentally challenged post-teens. It serves about 30 students at its two units in Mahalaxmi

and Colaba.

Several other initiatives also took shape this year and I will mention but a few of them.

The first was the "Attendance Swipe card" (which, I am told, other Clubs are attempting to copy). This has made registering of attendance much easier for all of us and has also simplified the recording (and monitoring) of attendance. The card also serves as an ID card and can be flashed to gain admission to any Rotary Club anywhere in the world. Going forward, we propose to upload more data on this card.

The second initiative was the concept of an "evening meeting". I have explained my reasons for this initiative several times and I am pleased that it seems to have been well-received and meets the objectives for which I had thought of introducing this concept.

This year, there has been a good amount of communication and information being disseminated, not only with me talking to you (mainly through the forum of our bulletin, *The Gateway*) but also because the Chairpersons of various Committees agreed to my request to make brief presentations at some of our weekly meetings on the work being done by their Committees and their plans for the future.

This has been done to make members more aware and to encourage participation of larger numbers in a wider range of activities. I truly believe that the more you involve yourself, the more you will enjoy Rotary.

We did not set any financial targets for the year because I do not believe in competing nor do I set great store by comparisons. However, and totally because of the legendary generosity of

our members, we have had a good year, financially. For The Rotary Foundation we have collected even more than in the record-breaking previous year when an Indian (Kalyan Banerjee) was President of Rotary International. Even for our projects, the collections have been satisfactory.

What pleases me most is that, without me approaching any member at any time for any contribution, money has poured in. This reinforces not only my faith in the generosity of our members, but also my belief that money should never be our primary focus. Ours is a Club with a heart.

We have, of course, tremendous resources, influence and expertise and must continue to channel these, through compassion and caring, to serve the underprivileged and the under-served.

This has been a memorable year for me. Among the memories that will remain are the kindness of friends and the great support and encouragement that I have received from all of you.

Nowroze Vazifdar
President, 2012-13

First meeting of new Rotary year on Saturday, July 6

District Governor Lata Subraidu will be the chief guest at the first meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay for the year 2013-14.

The meeting will be chaired by Nirav Shah who will take over as President of the Club from Nowroze Vazifdar at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 2013.

Members are requested to note that the first meeting will be held from 11 am onwards in the Crystal Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel on Saturday, July 6, 2013.

The Fellowship will commence at 11 and will use story-telling, art, music and interactive sculpture to celebrate the onset of the new Rotary year.

The formal meeting will be called to order at 12 noon and conclude at 1.15 pm. It will be followed by lunch – and then the party will continue.

No charges will be levied on members and spouses and the guest charges have been kept at a nominal Rs. 1,500 per head.

Today's meeting

June 25, 2013

The final meeting of Rotary year 2012-13. It will be held in the Crystal Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel, with Fellowship beginning at 7 pm. President Nowroze Vazifdar to present his report for 2012-13 and to present the Club Awards.

Members are invited to attend the meeting in large numbers along with their spouse. No charges will be levied on members and spouses.

The use of IT will bring the latest medical knowledge to India, says Dr. Rohini Chowgule

Lasers, robotics, nuclear isotopes, LCT-scans, X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRIs), these are some of the technological tools that doctors have utilised to fight disease and to improve the health of the people. Today, India has turned into a centre for the best medical care – at a fraction of the price paid by patients in advanced countries – and people from all over the world have been coming here to avail of the excellent medical facilities.

This welcome development has been attended by two phenomena that can no longer be ignored. One, thanks to the advent of ever-new technological innovations, patients have started searching for details about their illnesses on the Internet and telling doctors about their “findings”.

Two, while some members of the medical fraternity appear to have taken umbrage to this fad (one of them jokingly said he was changing his name to Dr. Google), there are others who believe that it’s better to flow with the tide rather than resist the sweep of technology.

Dr. Rohini Chowgule, the renowned chest physician who is recognised both as a champion golfer and an asthma specialist, belongs to the second category. She has worked hard on bringing the benefits of information technology (IT) to bear on modern medicine through innovative software systems for health data management and remote consultation.

Speaking on “Information and communication technology in health care delivery” at the last meeting, she pointed out that everybody talked about health care, nobody about health care delivery, a subject that she would concentrate on in the course of her talk.

Tarjani Vakil introduced her as a “Goan, full of life and one who loves fish, music and dancing”; she had been and would be a role model “for India’s children who are getting lost in a globalising world”.

Dr. Rohini started by pointing out that although it was the people who were driving doctors to use new technology, its benefits were enjoyed only by those in urban areas while people living in rural areas were being ignored. But IT was a powerful tool to take good health care to rural populations.

Most countries used 9% of their GDP on health care. The USA, France and Germany spent 10 to 17%. India spent 4% and other Asian countries 2



Thanks to people searching for illnesses on the internet, one man has decided to call himself ‘Dr. Google’. Dr. Rohini Chowgule at the last meeting

to 3%. However, these figures represented the amount spent by governments. Large numbers of people in India paid for health care from their pockets and these figures were not included in the GDP spend.

“And because it is the government that spends this amount, that’s why it is (becoming increasingly) bothered about health care technology.”

The trend was set off by American President George Bush in 2004 when he noted the money being spent on health care and felt that something had to be done about it. He drew up a ten-year plan to develop and implement an electronic medical system across the US to improve the efficiency and study of health care.

Research conducted by Rand Health Care showed that if the USA pulled up its socks, it would save \$81 billion, reduce adverse health care events (which were often created by doctors and hospitals) and also improve the quality of care.

Finally, in 2009, President Barack Obama brought a law. He offered a carrot to the health care industry, telling it that if it gave up paper and shifted to electronic medical records, it would net a windfall of \$19 billion.

He set aside \$2 billion for healthcare providers to implement HIT (health care IT) and a whopping \$17 billion in incentives from Medicare and Medicaid funding if they adopted HIT by 2015. Obama also offered incentives to healthcare providers implementing electronic records (again through Medicare and Medicaid funding).

Dr. Rohini said that apart from the US, the UK and other European coun-

tries were also spending huge sums of money to move towards electronic health records.

What made them go for this change? They realised that health care IT (HIT) provided the umbrella framework to describe the comprehensive management of health information across computerised systems and its secure exchange between the stake-holders such as the consumers, the providers, insurers and government and quality entities.

Further, HIT could yield several benefits: (a) improve the quality or effectiveness of health care; (b) increase health care productivity and efficiency; (c) prevent medical errors; (d) reduce health care costs; and (e) improve administrative efficiency by decreasing the paperwork.

When a person went to hospital, there was needless repetition of that person’s medical data. This was done first at the registration counter, then upon arrival in the ward and also when he was taken to the operation theatre. Each one of the nurses/clerks at these places required the patient to repeat the same information over and over again.

This was a colossal waste of everybody’s time. (And time being money, it was no surprise that Rand Health Care had shown that if the USA pulled up its socks, it would save \$81 billion, reduce adverse health care events and also improve the quality of care.)

If a system of electronic data storage and dissemination was put in place, doctors and medical personnel attending to the patients would not have to make or receive phone

calls or rush to visit their wards – all that they would have to do would be to check the status of patients on their respective tablets (not medical pills) or i-Pads.

Once put in place, this system would also help track diseases in the community. For example, if some patients in Patna were down with a particular infection and if a similar trend was noticed in Pune or Bombay, it would indicate that the infection was spreading in the community. Chronic diseases could also be tracked in the same way.

While working on chronic care and management of diabetics in Washington, said Dr. Rohini, it was observed that older people did not have relatives to take them to hospital; the authorities then opened a cell where online data could be transferred from their homes to the centre. Nurses were posted 24x7 and kept a watch on patients’ data.

When a patient conducted a glucose test, the reading went through a phone to the cell. If the nurse felt that the blood glucose was down, she immediately called and asked what was going on. If the person said he felt a bit dizzy, she told him to stop taking insulin.

This was one way of managing chronic patients so they that didn’t have to first go for a blood sugar test, then go to a doctor, wait for him, meet him, chat with him, show him the report and return home. That was a three-hour process best avoided, thus reducing costs all round.

At present, most big hospitals in the US were giving tablets to their junior doctors that were loaded with guidelines for treatment, side-effects of drugs, information about drug interactions, reactions and so on. When one went to the main page, one found full information, including, for example, which medicine to avoid if a patient was going for an abortion. This was another way to prevent doctors’ errors.

Another benefit was that when they were in the company of other, senior doctors, they could turn on their tablets and discuss the modalities of treatment for their patients.

Dr. Rohini revealed that one of the major hospitals in Bombay was on the verge of starting a similar programme. When that happened, it would ensure the quality of care provided even by junior doctors.

(Continued on Page 4)



Wear this Rotary lapel pin every day and wear it with pride. President Nowroze Vazifdar formally inducts two new members, Manish Kejriwal (left) and Anup Agarwalla. While Anup has been loaned the Classification 'Mining: Coal', Manish will represent 'Finance: Investment'

Two new members are formally inducted

Two new members, Anup Agarwalla and Manish Kejriwal, were formally inducted at the meeting of June 18, the penultimate meeting of the Rotary year.

While Anup has been loaned the Classification "Mining: Coal", Manish will represent "Finance: Investment".

Manish Reshamwala, who was called upon to introduce Anup Agarwalla, said that Anup graduated from H.R. College and had done his Bachelor's of Science and Business Administration from Washington University, St. Louis.

With over 20 years' experience in the coal and commodity business in India, he had experience in developing, financing, construction and management of projects in coal-mining, coke manufacture and power.

On returning to India, he trained under PPSandip Agarwalla in his companies, BLA Industries and BLA Power. While BLA Industries was one of the first private coal-mining companies in India, BLA Power was the first independent power plant generating thermal power in Madhya

Pradesh. BLA Industries was a member of the World Economic Forum.

Anup was very active in business and his companies conducted many CSR programmes, including three medical clinics, medical camps in rural areas and supporting NGOs.

He was married to Namrata, also a graduate of H.R. College, and the couple had two daughters Urmi and Shreya. He was a tennis enthusiast.

Vice-President Shailesh Haribhakti introduced the second new member, Manish Kejriwal.

He said that Manish had started startling the world when he was at school and topped the ICSE. After that, he had a brilliant career, obtaining an MBA from Harvard Business School.

He returned to India, married Sunaina, the daughter of the Honorary member, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, and joined Temasek Holdings.

Manish had a fantastic run with investments in India. He had the full trust of the government of Singapore which was extremely demanding as an investor. But Manish surpassed its expectations.

As the world's economy almost collapsed and in times when it was virtually impossible to think about raising money for investment in India, he and his colleagues raised over \$500 million for just that purpose.

Truly a family person, Manish and Sunaina had two sons and always shared their children's accomplishments with friends. Shailesh added that Manish was a second-generation Rotarian.

Following the introductions, President Nowroze Vazifdar conducted the formal induction ceremony of the two new members.

But first he pointed out that both the new members had already become Paul Harris Fellows.

He affixed Rotary pins to the lapels of the two new members and asked them to "wear the Rotary pin always and wear it with pride".

He also presented them with a copy each of the Club Roster, Four-Way Test placards and other Rotary literature.

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Bombay, Anup and Manish.

Office-Bearers' meetings

The following are the attendance statistics from July 1, 2012, to June 20, 2013:

Number of meetings held	48
President Nowroze Vazifdar	46
Nirav Shah	34
IPP Paul George	31
Shailesh Haribhakti*	3
Sitaram Shah	46
Hiren Kara	38
Ishraq Contractor	5

* From January, 2013

Devi Thadani passes away at 99

Rotaryann Devi Thadani passed away last week at the age of 99.

President Nowroze Vazifdar said at the last meeting that a letter of condolence was being sent to Haso Thadani and the bereaved family.

Correction

THERE are two errors in the biodata of Ashok Gokal published on Page 4 in *The Gateway* dated June 18. First, the name of his firm is "J.V. Gokal & Sons" and not J.V. Gopal & Sons as published. Second, the name of his elder son is Chetan, wrongly published as Cheta. Members are requested to make the corrections in their respective copies of the Club Roster.

At the last meeting

(Held on June 18, 2013)

ATTENDANCE

Members	89
Visiting Rotarians	5
Rotaryanns	3
Total	97
Svc. box collection	Rs. 1,700



'As in banking, there will be no loss of confidentiality if medical records are saved in electronic form'

Continued from Page 2)

What were the concerns about, and objections to, adopting IT? The biggest fear was about loss of confidentiality. But if the widespread use of IT in banking had not raised concerns on that issue, then ensuring the same level of security for health records would not be very difficult.

A few other fears were attached to that about loss of confidentiality. First, people did not want it to be known on record that they had a condition such as HIV, diabetes, blood pressure or mental problems because that could affect their chances of promotion at work.

Second, they feared that if information about these conditions became known, then they would be embarrassed or shunned by their friends, relatives and associates. This information could also be a major drawback in custody battles with estranged spouses.

Third, insurance companies would immediately raise their premia because of the risk of these conditions.

"But all these things can be taken care of," said Dr. Rohini.

She said hospitals were worried about the initial cost of HIT being high; but if they looked at the overall and all-round savings, then the cost was not so high.

Worries were also expressed about connectivity, hardware and so on. It was felt that there would be a need to set up computers here, there and everywhere. But this was no longer a major problem because of improved connectivity and cheaper hardware.

"But the real crux is this – who will pay for the HIT? This is bothering hospitals, doctors and everybody else. But let us see who benefits from it. The patients benefit, the insurance people benefit, the hospitals benefit. So what is the hitch?"

Turning to electronic health records, Dr. Rohini pointed out that the same HIT could be used for tele-medicine. Already, *Time* magazine had given a name to tele-medicine, viz., "heal-wire". And more and more people were using IT for delivering clinical care. But there were two types of tele-medicine, real time or video-conferencing, and the store-and-forward kind.

Real time was a difficult proposition. Many people in India were opting for video-conferencing because they felt that it was the way forward.

June 25 to July 1, 2013

But it required hardware, software, the presence of two doctors on the same level and in the same time zone. Moreover, when a video-conference was over, there were no records.

Under the circumstances, those using the web said that it was the best way out because it didn't require infrastructure. But that was not tele-medicine.

Increasingly, people were adopting the store-and-forward technology. Here, the patient didn't have to go anywhere; his relatives gathered all the information and digitised it, whether X-rays or angiograms. These digitised files were then sent to experts, whether in Japan or America; that person would see it and also show it to other experts and then collate the information and form an opinion.

The advantage of this system was that it was cheaper, it didn't require much infrastructure and was quite quick.

In India, most people rushed to doctors when they had a problem, nobody bothered about preventive medicine. Information technology could give a boost to preventive medicine, too. If a man had a family history of diabetes and if he kept track of his blood sugar levels, because he was collating his data, he could note when his blood sugar was going up and hence he could take steps to prevent the onset of diabetes. Thus, the cost to people would go down if they detected diseases earlier.

What about rural health care facilities? Dr. Rohini said it was not pos-

sible to build big hospitals in villages because the population was dispersed. Besides, there were no facilities such as cheap public transport for people to go to even the nearest hospital if it was, say, five km. away.

Optimum utilisation of rural hospitals was made more difficult by the fact that few doctors were prepared to go there because (a) there was no incentive (b) there were few patients and (c) poor infrastructure. In such circumstances, it was futile to expect doctors to work wonders there. But with IT, those doctors could be better equipped with proper guidance. This would ensure "capacity-building" of doctors.

The time had come for the Indian government to make electronic medical records compulsory at all government and private hospitals, at pathological laboratories and so on. This would improve the outcome and reduce the cost.

Even in a small country like Taiwan, when it was decided to give health insurance to all, electronic records were prepared for each and every citizen. After that, a person could go to any doctor in Taiwan and he would immediately get the person's data and proceed with treatment without duplication of X-rays, tests and other investigations. The country was thus saving a lot of money.

New private hospitals in India had doctors who were often not up to the mark. IT could be used to train them and to improve their abilities.

Of course, everything would have to be customised for India because

there was no point in taking up the American system and applying it here.

Dr. Rohini pointed out that the Agriculture Minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, had set up two mobile vans that regularly went to every *mandi* in Maharashtra State. Each van had software that captured patients' records and a staff member who did blood tests and X-rays. The information was stored and the service offered for a mere Rs. 50.

Of course, Mr. Pawar was doing all this mainly to get votes at the time of elections, but this was another way of improving health care in villages and for what was called the "capacity-building" of doctors.

In conclusion, she urged members to opt for those doctors and hospitals that stored records in an electronic format or those who would store and upload the data on a website for easy access by the patients concerned.

Answering questions posed by Mudit Jain and PP Arun Sanghi, Dr. Rohini said that she was using indigenous software to store records in an electronic format.

Besides, she also had tie-ups with experts from all over the world who were sent data for diagnosis or prescription. In this way, the best and latest medical research was made available to Indian patients.

So far as costs were concerned, the charge for data entry and storage for one year was about Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 10,000 for a lifetime. There was no limit on data size and storage, Dr. Rohini added.



Well done, Rohini. President Nowroze compliments Dr. Rohini Chowgule at the end of her talk. At right, she is in conversation with new member Anup Agarwalla, who was formally inducted along with Manish Kejriwal at the beginning of the meeting



Welcome, Ambassador. Ramesh Narayan, the brain behind the pioneering 'Bhavishya-Yaan' project, greets the chief guest, Mr. Julio Ribeiro. District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar, President Nowroze Vazifdar and Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah join Mr. Ribeiro and others after the release of the monograph on 'Spirituality and Leadership Practices for the Common Man'

MONOGRAPH ON SPIRITUALITY AND LEADERSHIP



Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah, who was a key figure in the compilation of the monograph on 'Spirituality and Leadership Practices for the Common Man', makes the welcome speech and explains some of the salient features of the publication

In a project devised and conceived by the Rotary Club of Bombay with the assistance of District 3140, a monograph on "Spirituality and Leadership Practices for the Common Man" was released by former Ambassador, former Punjab Governor and Bombay's ex-Commissioner of Police, Mr. Julio Ribeiro, at a programme at the Nehru Centre on June 14.

Among those present on the occasion were District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar, PDG Ghulam Vahanvaty, President Nowroze Vazifdar, Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah, Ramesh Narayan and others.

The four organisations involved in the preparation of the monograph were R.I. District 3140, the Chinmaya Mission, Kaivalyadham (Lonavala) and the Rotary Club of Bombay.

The monograph contains 54 contributions (one of these by President Nowroze) and messages from the Governor of Maharashtra, Mr. K. Shankaranarayanan, the Bombay Uni-

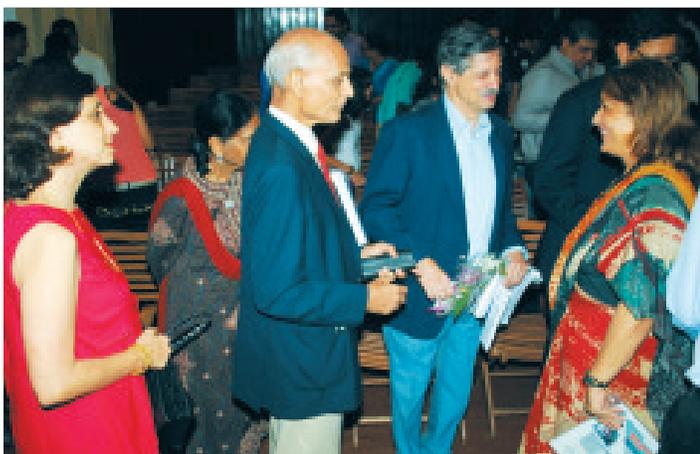
versity Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Rajan Welukar, and the Vice-Chancellor of SNDT Women's University, Prof. Vasudha Kamat.

The articles in the book describe some of the practices of national and international leaders. A few of them have shared their spiritual and leadership experiences for the sake of this publication.

The monograph stresses the fact that spirituality and leadership are two sides of the same coin and that they are strongly bonded by the edge provided by one's evolving personality.

It also points out that there is a continuous scaling up of an individual, from spiritual wealth to intellectual wealth, and from intellectual wealth to physical wealth (and not vice versa).

Each article brings out a separate aspect of spirituality and leadership and the reader will find many tips to develop his multidimensional personality to live in this vast world, where growth and splendour is limitless.



'Spirituality and leadership are two sides of the same coin.' President Nowroze Vazifdar, Club First Lady Niloufer (left) and Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah chat with a guest at the book release held at the Nehru Centre on June 14. Among those who can be identified in the photograph at right are Mr. Julio Ribeiro, PDG Ghulam Vahanvaty and Ramesh Narayan

*After
sprinting
to
breast
the
tape,
the
Club
catches
its
breath,
embarks
on
a
marathon*

Human beings can only bear so much of an adrenaline rush. As a body sprints ahead in a race and the mind forces it to do even better than it is normally capable of, the heart beats in giant thuds and the lungs cry out for more and more oxygen. Finally, when the tape at the finishing line is breasted, it takes a long time for all functions to return to normal. It's not possible to just switch off the adrenaline rush and sit down and savour an ice-cream.

Those who have seen athletes cover a distance of 100 metres in under 10 seconds, will recall that even the slowest man does not stop at the finishing line – he goes on and on, sometimes for another 100 metres, albeit at a reduced pace. At that stage, the body is “catching its breath”.

And that is exactly what the Rotary Club of Bombay did in 2012-13. Sensing the overworked (not overwrought) condition of members when his predecessor Paul George handed over the baton to him, President Nowroze Vazifdar decided to let members relax a little bit before getting down to business and harnessing the unbelievable energy of the members to continue their service activities.

The year's agenda was planned in such a way that while both new and old service projects were pursued with the same diligence as before, there was an added incentive for members – they relaxed at Fellowship events, enjoyed themselves as some outstanding orators addressed the Club meetings and, above all, marvelled at a novel feature thought up by Nowroze.

For the first time, the Club held not one stray meeting but three meetings in the evening hours, away from the iconic Taj Mahal Hotel, with no speaker but with lots of dance, music, victuals, snacks/dinner, camaraderie and fun and fellowship thrown in. These official evenings were hosted by eager hosts who invited all members and their spouse to the programme.

Kudos to Nowroze for thinking up this brilliant idea and also to Ravi Sheth, PP Nandan Damani and Praadeep Mafatlal for opening their homes, their hearts and their purses for these exciting evenings.

But to begin at the beginning (of the year), Nowroze stated in a note published in the first issue of *The Gateway* that the Club owed a debt of gratitude to the Past Presidents who had not only worked tirelessly to achieve goals and to set new standards in service, but also carried themselves with dignity and determination to uphold the values that the Club epitomised. “To do so over more than eight decades speaks volumes not only for the dedication of these illustrious Past Presidents but also for the commit-

ment and hard work of our members in general.”

The Club was blessed to have a rich legacy and an enviable reputation, not merely at the District but also at the International level. “The work that our Past Presidents together with their team and our members in general have done over the years has brought laurels to our Club in the form of fame, recognition and respect. Clearly, the reason that the Rotary Club of Bombay is held in high esteem in the Rotary world is not because of the net worth of its members, enviable as that may be, or the wealth of resources and influence at its command, but because each member is committed to work for the Club and the Rotary movement.”

Urging members to carry that legacy of service further and to build upon the solid foundation that had been given them, Nowroze stressed that Rotary had made him a better human being and that working with the Office-Bearers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons over the years had shown him that one could do good work and still have fun.

Nowroze conducted the first meeting with aplomb and without recourse to slides, projectors, videos, DJs, RJs or MCs (he did not even carry a written speech or notes on little slips of paper); he spoke extempore and he spoke straight from the heart. He might have made a few mildly critical observations, but he more than made up for it by being self-deprecatory.

He said the Club could be legitimately proud of the magnificent work that its doctors had been doing year after year in Talwada. But what about the rest of the members, including himself? For how long would they continue to bask in the glory of a project that was more than thirty years old? Yes, there was *Bhavishya-Yaan*, another worthwhile project with tremendous potential and one being emulated by many Clubs in the District. But even that was five years old.

“Perhaps it is time to have a landmark project of the Rotary Club of Bombay; something that socks the public in the eye and which says that this is the Rotary Club of Bombay.”

He made a plea in *The Gateway* in October urging members to give their suggestions to enable the Club to make a positive difference so far as the treatment of women by a callous society was concerned. While agreeing that ending it was a formidable task that would take many years to accomplish, he suggested that it was time to take up an activist role, given the resources at the Club's command. He had constituted a pilot committee and requested Ramesh Narayan and Nandan Maluste to do the initial spadework

for an ambitious project for women's empowerment.

Speaking at the meeting of November 27, Nandan said discussions had been held on a multi-generation project for women's empowerment that could change the world for the better. But it would have to be one that would be embraced by each member, by their successors and by other Rotary Clubs across India and the world.

Likely to be dubbed the "Female Empowerment and Protection Project" or the "Female Project", it would address the subject of crimes against women – women, especially in India, were disadvantaged from conception to post-funeral rights. Every Rotarian would see this as a crime against humanity, as a crime against biology and as a crime that Rotarians had to fight. The Rotary Club of Bombay was working on a plan to tackle this issue and every member could contribute his/her intellect, time and money to it.

Returning to more mundane matters, at the 83rd Annual General Meeting held on December 11, 2012, Shailesh Haribhakti was elected to serve as President in 2014-2015 and Indu Shahani to succeed him as President in the Rotary year 2015-2016.

A few weeks later the Club was overwhelmed to learn from District 3140 that IPP Paul George's team had swept the District Awards, picking up not one or two but ten Trophies and Shields for the outstanding performance during the year gone by. Paul had worked with a dedicated team and under the guidance of IPDG Vijay Jalan who took inspiration from Immediate Past R.I. President Kalyan Banerjee.

Interestingly, the Awards were not for routine activities but for Balanced Programme, the Best Bulletin, Best Community Service, Most Unusual Rotary Activity, Best Rotaract Activity, Outstanding RVC Activity, Best Performance in World Understanding and Peace, Best Projects with Partners in Service, Promotion of Ethics and The 4-Way Test in business and professions and so on. The Certificates of Appreciation were for being the "Soul of Rotary" and for significant Public Relations activity.

Above all there was the "A1 Trophy" – the Bombay West Rotary Service Wheel for "Outstanding Work in all 4 Avenues of Service". Over and above this, Paul also received the "Super Achiever Club Award" on behalf of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Clearly, the Club members had not earned such acclaim and encomiums by sitting back; they were out on the tracks, running at optimum speed, sprinting away, beating Usain Bolt at his game.

And now a report on the actual work done by and under the various Committees of the Club during the year gone by, 2012-13.

CLUB SERVICE – NEW MEMBERS

Director

Nirav Shah

Membership

PP Sandip Agarwalla

The Club had 330 members on July 1, 2012, and ended the year with 334 on June 30, 2013. Seven members resigned, were terminated or passed away in the course of the year. And eleven new members were inducted.

To turn to the newcomers, it was a delight to watch two women members being formally inducted at one meeting. While actor Tara Deshpande was loaned the Classification "Art: Writer/Actor", Poornima Advani filled the slot for "Law Practice: Corporate". Tara is the daughter of Leela and the late Ajit; the feisty Poornima is a former Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.

Soon after, the ranks of Honorary Rotarians swelled with the induction of the well-known industrialist, Mr. Rahul Bajaj. He was formally inducted at the meeting that coincided with the District Governor's Official Visit to the Club.

President Nowroze Vazifdar invited the District Governor, Dr. Balkrishna Inamdar, to formally induct Mr. Bajaj and welcome him into the Rotary fraternity.

Two newcomers, Ashok Gokal and Manoj Murarka, were formally inducted at the meeting of February 26. Ashok was loaned the Classification "Trade Merchant" and Manoj "Finance" Securities".

Vice-President Shailesh Haribhakti sent a brief note to *The Gateway* in which he expressed the hope that Ashok, "along with his charming family, will bring sunshine to our Club". President-Elect Nirav Shah said that Manoj ran Batlivala and Karani, a 140-year-old financial services company.

Another new member, Peter Born, was loaned the Classification "Finance: International Banking". Introducing him to members, IPP Paul George said that Peter's engagement with Rotary began in 1984 when he became a Rotaractor in Bavaria where he was studying. In 1992, he joined the Commerzbank, the second-largest bank in Germany with headquarters in Frankfurt. He was instrumental in establishing the Rotary Club of Frankfurt-Staedel as a Charter member.

One flamboyant member helped induct another one when PP Harry Singh Arora introduced Mahesh Khubchandani, loaned the Classification "Stock and Commodity Broker".

As a youngster, Mahesh was a member of the Interact Club of Cathedral School. His father was a Rotarian. A corporate member of the National Stock Exchange, he shared his time between Bombay and London. He was married to Natasha, a psychiatrist.

Another duo to be inducted was that of Rajesh Shah and Farhat Jamal. Rajesh was loaned the Classification "Marketing and Indenting of Minerals" and Farhat "Hospitality".

Even as a non-Rotarian, Rajesh had been associated with the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project for more than four years and now looked after the project at the G.K. Municipal School.

As for Farhat Jamal, he had been a member of the Club in the past, too. He had been with the Taj Group of Hotels for more than 30 years and at present was Area Manager (Regional Head) of Shangri-La Hotels in India. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay between 2005 and 2007. Earlier, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Madras (1995 to 1998) and Bombay Hills South (1990 to 1995).

The next new member to be admitted during the year, Anar Ashok Shah, was loaned the Classification "Consultant: Health and Fitness". She was in charge of the wellness centre at the Piramal Clinic at Lower Parel.

The penultimate meeting saw two new members being inducted.

Anup Agarwalla was loaned the Classification "Mining: Coal". Manish Kejriwal, the son-in-law of Mr. Rahul Bajaj, filled the Classification "Finance: Investment".

Among those who passed away in the course of the year were three venerable members, Dr. Fardoon Soonawalla, Prabhakar Deshpande and Kekoo Gandhi.

Former member Viren Shah and the nonagenarian District patriarch PDG Manibhai Doshi also breathed their last.

Dr. Fardoon was 85 and had been a member for close to 30 years. His sons, Dr. Darious and Dr. Phiroze were members of the Club.

Prabhakar was a member for longer, for 43 years to be precise. His son, the late Ajit, was President in 1992/93 but passed away in 1995. Prabhakar was a consistent donor to the Club's projects and made regular corpus donations to the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre established in his son's memory in Talwada.

Interestingly, two from his family are members at present, Ajit's spouse Leela and daughter Tara.



Honouring his predecessor. President Nowroze Vazifdar presents a silver salver to IPP Paul George at the first meeting for his excellent performance



Welcome to the Club. President Nowroze presents Rotary literature to new Honorary member, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, who was inducted by the Governor

Prabhakar's contemporary, Kekoo Gandhi, was 92 years old and had also been a member for 43 years. He had been decorated with the *Padma Shri* in 2008.

The illustrious Viren Shah (86), former Member of Parliament, former Governor of West Bengal and former member of the Club, passed away on March 9. Admitted on June 25, 1952, he remained a member till 2000. On his last appearance on August 30, 2011, he was awarded the first Pravinchandra Gandhi Award for Excellence in Public Life. A contemporary of "PV", Mr. Shah was, like him, modest to a fault.

PDG Manibhai Doshi, who was a regular visitor to the Club even at the age of 93, was a member of Bombay East but closely attached to the Club. He invariably attended the Tuesday meetings and took active part in the question-answer sessions and discussions.

Classifications

PP Dr. Adi Dastur

An updated list of open and filled Classifications was prepared in August and circulated to members of the Membership and Membership Development Committees to enable them to look for the most appropriate candidates to fill the vacant Classifications.

Information

PP Dr. Kekoo Kavarana

The Committee worked in conjunction with the Membership Committee and shared information about Rotary with all new and proposed members.

It informed prospective members about their duties and responsibilities, placing special emphasis on the importance of attendance requirements.

Working in coordination with the Membership Committee, it worked behind the scenes and helped iron out the wrinkles as most prospective new members felt a bit nervous at their entry into the world of Rotary.

Membership Development & District Conference

Shailesh Haribhakti

Several members attended the R.I. District Conference at which the Club picked up ten Trophies and Shields for its outstanding performance under IPP Paul George during the year gone by.

Members' achievements during the year

President Nowroze Vazifdar announced amidst much applause that the President of India had conferred the *Padma* awards to two members on Republic Day, 2013. The Honorary member, Mr. Adi Godrej, was awarded the *Padma Bhushan* and Sudha Motwane the *Padma Shri*.

Soon after, the Club received information that the Queen of England had granted an Honorary MBE (Member of the British Empire) to Camellia Panjabi for her services to the hospitality industry.

The Investiture Ceremony was held on Friday, February 22, at the British High Commissioner's residence in New Delhi.

As for the magnanimity of individual members, the sky was apparently the limit. While three members invited the entire membership (with spouse in tow) to evening Fellowship meetings, several others pulled out their cheque books and wrote out big sums for Club and Foundation activities.

With the seventh successive tranche, PP Arvind Jolly's contribution to The Rotary Foundation Endowment Fund reached \$175,000. He had been giving \$25,000 every year for the last seven years.

For his part, Pradeep Mafatlal made it eight-in-a-row by once again making a generous donation of Rs. 10 lakhs for the service projects of the Club.

Perhaps motivated by Pradeep, Aliakbar Merchant followed in his footsteps. He quietly approached the President at the Christmas Fellowship luncheon and asked which particular areas of service had a pressing need for funds. When Nowroze mentioned health and education, Ali thanked him and went home.

Four days later, he sent two cheques, one for Rs. 5,00,000 from the Jairazbhoy Peerbhoy Khoja Sanatorium and another cheque for Rs. 5,00,000 from the Noor Baug Charitable Estate.

Thanking Arvind, Pradeep and Ali for their magnanimity, Nowroze requested members not to " earmark" their donations for a particular purpose or project. He assured all of them that the Club would deploy the funds where these were needed the most.

President-Elect Nirav Shah started the year with a big-bang donation of Rs. 2 lakhs. While Rs. 1 lakh was to be used for various Community Service projects, the other Rs. 1 lakh went to The Rotary Foundation.

A few days later, he made another donation, one that helped him become a "Paul Harris Society Member". He made a commitment to give \$1,000 every year to The Rotary Foundation.

With this, Nirav became the second member of the Rotary Club of Bombay (and the 63rd in Rotary District 3140) to make such a commitment.

That Rotary is never far from the minds of Rotarians became evident once again when Preeti Mehta and



Starting the innings with a six. Mr. Kishore Biyani, the man behind the Future Group, was the first speaker of the year



The Investiture Ceremony. Camellia Panjabi receives the Honorary MBE (Member of the British Empire) granted by the Queen of England

her spouse Gautam, a member of the Rotary Club of Bombay Central, went on a holiday to the Baltic countries. In the course of their holiday, the urge to attend a Rotary meeting took them to the Vilniaus Senamiescio Rotary Klubas, Vilnius (the Rotary Club of Vilnius Old Town, in short), in Lithuania.

Preeti stated in a note to Bulletin Chairman PP Arun Sanghi that despite not knowing the language, she was extremely impressed with the manner in which the meeting was conducted. There were approximately 20 Rotarians and two Rotaractors at the meeting. The Rotaractors were organising a rubber duck race (yes, a rubber duck race!) as a fund-raising event. So she went out of her way to purchase a rubber duck (serial number 281) as a token contribution to the drive.

The information that a very rare honour had been conferred on Tarjani Vakil delighted the members. She had joined an illustrious list of eminent Indians to serve as *Adhishthata* of the world-renowned Banasthali Vidyapith located just outside Jaipur. (According to its Vice-Chancellor, Banasthali was a registered society

and had been notified as a deemed university by the Government of India.)

Tarjani followed in the footsteps of such illustrious citizens of India as Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Sampooranand, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Dr. (Ms) Mahadevi Verma, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, Mrs. Lakshmi N. Menon, Mr. S. Nijalingappa, Prof. Aloo J. Dastur and the Hon. Rotarian Mr. Keshub Mahindra.

CLUB SERVICE

- PROGRAMMES/MEETINGS

Director

Framroze Mehta

Attendance

Arvind Agarwal

The Committee computerised the attendance system to do away with manual signatures on attendance registers. All members were issued an RIFD identity card to swipe and mark their attendance.

The machines were connected to the database in the Rotary office where the data was downloaded without time being wasted on a manual updating of the database. This had saved time and money (because time translates to cost) of the Rotary Office staff.

“On a more selfish note,” said Arvind, “it has saved the time of my staff who used to go to the Rotary Office every week to update their database. Now the data comes from the Rotary Office in the form of a soft copy which is updated into our system. The make-up data is still manually updated but efforts are on to eliminate even this in the coming year.”

At a Club meeting at which he introduced the new system, Arvind said that the ID cards issued to members had the unique Rotary Identification number that was exclusive to every member – not only at the Club level but also at the R.I level. This number would be useful even when members went abroad, especially in Clubs that had already computerised their attendance and other records.

Arvind gave full credit to President Nowroze who initiated this innovation and without whose active guidance and support the entire exercise would have been futile.

Mr. Eruch Irani and his team at the Rotary office patiently vetted the system and were now using it successfully.

In another initiative, members would be given the option of going on the net and entering make-up attendance details, thus avoiding the need to send to the Rotary office the make-up cards received during their visits to other Clubs. The Committee was collaborating with Mr. Viraf Hansotia of Spenta Multimedia and would implement this system from the new Rotary year.

As per his wont, Arvind once again followed the policy, “without cost to the Rotary Club of Bombay”.

Well done, Arvind!

Programmes

PP Hareesh Jagtiani

Hareesh and Harish (Anil) made a perfect team as they set out to offer members some delectable fare at the Tuesday meetings. They always had a standby speaker and kept the President in the loop about their choice of speakers. They also invited and welcomed suggestions from members for speakers.

The duo could not have found a better opening batsman than the toast of the retail world, **Mr. Kishore Biyani**, Founder and CEO of the Future Group. He presented his reading of economics (and a very successful one at that) when he urged people to “Buy, buy, buy! That’ll help the country grow... Consumption at the retail level will make us one of the most powerful economies in the world”.

A first-generation entrepreneur who called himself a humble shopkeeper, he proclaimed that it was

possible to trigger all-round prosperity by encouraging “consumption”. Introduced as the pioneer of the modern retail business in India and mentor to many entrepreneurs, he spoke on “Retail and beyond” and was heard in rapt attention by a full house in the Ball Room.

From the three-letter word “Buy” to the four-letter “Land” – “Get land, forget it and then sell it for windfall returns at a huge profit!”

Mr. Anuj Puri, Chairman and Country Head of Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), said that Mark Twain was on the spot when he said “Invest in land, because we are not making any more of it”. To prove his point, he claimed that the medium-to-long-term return from office premises was \$1.2 for every \$1 invested and from residential property a mere \$1.1.

But those who bought land, left it as it was and did nothing about it, made a lot of money when they sold it. A survey by JLL showed that land yielded a whopping \$5.2 on every \$1 invested. The message was clear – get land, forget it, then sell it for a huge profit!

He added with a straight face that those who worked hard for years creating assets, whether office, commercial or residential properties, only lost money. But not those who bought land.

Out-of-the-box thinking could help end corruption in the country but the process had to involve all sections of society, politicians, bureaucrats, civil society and ordinary citizens. Just as records were meant to be broken, good ideas were meant to be copied. And ideas were aplenty, whether indigenous or from distant lands.

However, according to **Mr. S. Shankar Menon**, a retired IAS officer and former Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, the one essential ingredient in any effort to end corruption had to be an inner desire to end it once and for all.

“Germany and France are the original bad boys of the European Union,” according to one of India’s leading economists, **Dr. Ajit Ranade**, Chief Economist with the Aditya Birla Group of Industries. Speaking on “Europe – crisis or not?” he said there was indeed a crisis in Europe but neither would it lead to a break-up of the Euro Zone nor would it sink the Euro currency.

However, the crisis would not end overnight. It would be a long-drawn, painful process with brinkmanship on a daily basis. German Chancellor Angela Merkel would act tough and the French and the Italians were not going to keep quiet either.

Just when the whole world was celebrating the discovery of the elusive Higgs boson, also described as “the God particle”, along came a research scientist from the TIFR who had worked at the one and only CERN laboratory to say that he was willing to accept a wager on whether the Higgs had actually been found.

Not merely that, the Professor said at the end of his talk that he did not believe science would ever be able to understand the origin of the universe. With that, **Prof. Spenta Wadia** completed a stimulating oration on “The Higgs” in the course of which he traced man’s understanding of the universe and the efforts made to plug the loopholes in knowledge.

From the fundamentals of matter and the universe, members came down with a thud when the very next speaker, **Ms Brinda Somaya**, architect and heritage conservationist, told them in no uncertain terms that their city would never be free of slums.

“Let’s be realistic. We’re not going to be able to get rid of slums. The only thing we (the privileged people) can do is think about how to improve them and learn how to live cheek by jowl with them.

“Many rehabilitation projects have been implemented but the number of slums is increasing at an even faster pace... We have reached a stage where probably 55 to 60% of the city is now in unorganised housing, a more pleasant term for slums,” she said.

Ms Somaya added that the time had come for politicians and bureaucrats to understand that urban design and planning were highly technical areas and they had to have the courage and ability to appoint professionals; their job then would be only to get things executed. But the problem was that everybody seemed to know everything about everything and hence no decisions were taken by anybody.

In an unintended irony, the very next week saw one of the biggest real estate barons of India, **Mr. Niranjan Hiranandani**, asserting that “Whether it’s housing, re-housing, infrastructure or new concepts, money will follow innovative ideas wherever we can create them, whether in government or in the private sector, whether you’re putting up a hospital, building or industry. Money is available... good people are not. Leadership is lacking”.



Germany and France are the original bad boys of the European Union. Thus spake the well-known economist, Dr. Ajit Ranade



He came, he saw and he shone. Prof. Spenta Wadia visited the Club twice. First to speak on ‘The Higgs’ and then to receive the Sohrab Godrej Award

He recalled that the BJP-Shiv Sena government had built the Bombay-Pune Expressway and 35 flyovers over the two highways leading to Bombay even though it had no money. But it created the Maharashtra State Roadways Development Corporation (MS-RDC), appointed an able IAS officer, Mr. R.C. Sinha, as MD and CEO and asked it to implement projects worth Rs. 3,000 crores. But the bankers insisted that the government would have to put in some equity.

How much did the government put in? A mere Rs. 5 crores! With that paltry equity, 15 years ago the MSRDC built the Bombay-Pune Expressway and 35 flyovers over the two Highways in Bombay.

One baron was followed by another. The leading industrialist, **Mr. Rahul Bajaj**, who spoke after receiving the Club's Pravinchandra V. Gandhi Award for Excellence in Public Life, said he got very angry when he saw things going wrong in the country and when the poor and those with fixed incomes – those very people (the *aam aadmi* or common man) to whom the government had assured succour – were hit hard by inflation.

"I believe the time has come for businessmen to engage more actively and more purposefully in public life (I use the term public life, not politics), to ensure both economic and social development of our country." He added that "if, despite all our public follies", the country continued to make progress, it was because "most of our business and society still walk at a different rhythm than our governments".

A pleasant departure from slums, builders and barons was **Ms Roshan Curmally**, a soft-spoken teacher with 65 years' experience, who received the Rotary Club of Bombay Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher.

She was scathing in her observation that there were very few hands-on mothers. "Why are your maids coming to collect your children" she demanded.

Urbanisation was back in currency when a Bombay boy, **Mr. Arish Dastur**, son of PP Dr. Adi and Dr. Nayna, working as Co-Team Leader with the World Bank, emphasised that "runaway urbanisation is an opportunity to avoid past mistakes".

The World Bank was supporting the emerging "reorientation in development thinking" and attempting to guide developing countries to adopt Eco2 practices for the benefit of citizens, he said. But what was Eco2? It was an acronym for "ecological cities as economic cities" (with "Eco" occurring twice, the choice of acronym came quite easily).

Its objective was to bring greater human and social well-being in these

cities by enhancing ecological and economic sustainability.

A young MP, **Mr. Piyush Goyal**, Treasurer of the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, raised several pertinent issues. Did disruption of Parliamentary proceedings serve any purpose? Did political parties receive donations that were accounted for? Was the BJP stretching things by calling for a nation-wide closure (*bandh*)? What was the inside story behind Coalgate, the newest scandal to hit India? Did India really need FDI (foreign direct investment)?

He made a valiant effort to address many such questions both in the course of his talk as well as the brief question-answer session that followed.

He also had to contend with a googly bowled by the irrepressible Burjor Poonawala who wondered whether it would be better if the BJP remained in the opposition permanently so that it could keep on exposing the wrongdoings of the Congress party. He took it in his stride.

Another young man, **Mr. Ashwin Sanghi**, claimed that as an author he held the world record of 47 rejection slips for his first book, *The Rozabal Line*. In contrast, J.K. Rowling of Harry Potter fame received 12 rejection slips, Richard Bach who wrote the classic *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* 18, Stephen King 30 and Margaret "Gone With The Wind" Mitchell 38.

The rejections made him adopt the pseudonym Shawn Haigins and go for self-publication; but once he was able to discard the anonymity of his *nom de plume* and regained his identity, he got back his rather laconic, self-deprecating wit; as proof of which he described himself as "a pot-bellied Marwari businessman".

Now a best-selling author whose three works of fiction had clocked combined sales of nearly half a million, Mr. Sanghi is also the son of Rotarians PP Mahendra and Manju Sanghi.

The Consul-General of Singapore, **Mr. Lin Chung Ying**, gave an interesting talk on "Multiculturalism: The Singapore experience", in the course of which he showed that not only did he know his country's demographic profile like the back of his hand, he was also able to throw light on such mundane things as why the Chinese preferred red clothes over black or white; why Muslims prayed four times a day; how Singapore handled proselytisers; were all Indians Tamils and so on.

In other words, he ended up serving a delectable, many layered "salad" that offered Singaporean multiculturalism as a delightful dish with each ingredient distinct and retaining its individuality.

Anil Harish, who introduced him, put it more succinctly when he said that the individual ingredients in a salad "co-exist and add flavour to each other so that the combination is better than just the individual parts".

What a paradox! In a country where water, sanitation, poor health, illiteracy and many chronic ills plagued a majority of citizens, the market for luxury goods was flourishing and growing at 25% per annum. This was stated by **Mr. Vinod Gupta**, Founder and CEO of "Luxurionworld.com".

He also quoted the Coco Chanel slogan, "Luxury is a necessity that begins when necessity ends". History showed that the consumption of luxury items actually commenced in India thanks to the royal patronage of rajas, maharajas, nizams, moguls and rajputs. They patronised manufacturers such as Cartier and Louis Vuitton in London, Paris and Milan. Even today, many Indian families' heirlooms bore the "Made in England" or "Made in France" tags.

Several shocking facts about the establishment's attitude towards women came to the fore when three persons campaigning for an end to violence against women spoke on "The

global war on women". They said that one of the shocking statistics that had been unearthed through the work of *Laadli*, founded by Bobby Sista, was that Malabar Hill had one of the highest rates of female infanticide or foeticide in the country.

The speakers were **Ms Mahabanoo Kotwal** and her son **Mr. Kaizaad Kotwal**, both celebrated theatre and film personalities renowned for bringing "The Vagina Monologues" to the stage in India, and **Dr. Armida Fernandez**, Professor of Neonatology at the Sion Hospital and Medical College who founded the "Sneha" shelter in Dharavi. They were introduced by Mudit Jain.

"The soul is supreme – it designs the human body and even chooses the parents," this was a claim made by a past life regression therapist, **Mr. Soku Parikh**.

Mr. Parikh started by pointing out that when one talked about life, one meant three things, the body, the mind and the soul. Life was incomplete without even one of these. But the most significant aspect of life was the mind.

When a soul took birth, it registered its entire memory in the mind; but many



A son who works with the World Bank. Mr. Arish Dastur is flanked by his father, PP Dr. Adi (left) and President-Elect Nirav Shah after his talk



Another son who spoke. Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, whose proud parents are PP Mahendra and Manju Sanghi, also addressed the Club

new memories were thrust upon the mind in the mother's womb itself which made it difficult for one to remember one's past.

Each human being was "nature's greatest miracle", said the inspirational speaker, **Mr. Azim Jamal**, while speaking on "Business balance and beyond". He had written six books and was promoting his seventh, *Business balance and beyond*, which captured his "Corporate Sufi" philosophy.

He hailed from Tanzania in East Africa, his grandfather having migrated from India. At present he lived in Canada with his Byculla-born wife and family.

Mr. Jamal offered food for thought when he said that even a penniless blind woman of 90 could give something to others, whether a smile, a prayer, good wishes or forgiveness. A man with two handicapped children said that the joy they brought him every single day was priceless. Napoleon, on the other hand, had power, prestige and a beautiful wife, but before he died he said that he had not known six happy days in his entire life.

Going back to governance, **Mr. Ravi Narain**, Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. and recipient of the Rotary Club of Bombay Ramkrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance, said that good governance alone would help corporate India garner capital.

He admitted that governance was something the country had been struggling with over a long period of time. Corporate India and the securities market (to which he belonged) were no different. But if corporate India really wanted to meet its ever-growing requirement for capital for activities such as building projects and businesses, then governance was of the utmost importance.

That truth was stranger than fiction was proved yet again when a recipient of a Rotary Award revealed how a detailed report on her talk at the Club in 2011 that was carried in *The Gateway* had led to many unknown people mailing cheques to her.

Ms Safeena Husain, founder and Executive Director of Educate Girls, an NGO, who spoke after receiving the Rotary Club of Bombay Anita Parikh Award for Empowerment of Women, said people believed that she was doing excellent work – **after all, the Rotary Club of Bombay had hosted her, hadn't it?**

Not in their wildest dreams had members of the Club imagined that such a true story would be described to them by one who had experienced it at first hand.

Little-known truths about the beneficial role of Yoga were shared by **Dr. Sat Bir Khalsa**, Assistant Professor

of Medicine at Harvard Medical School at Brigham and the Women's Hospital there, while speaking on an unusual topic, "Be kind, unwind: Yoga for health, the scientific perspective"

A wizened senior citizen, his white beard flying in the air, he launched a low-key pitch about the influence of Yoga, but by the time he completed his talk he had picked momentum and claimed it was time the world recognised the benefits of the 5,000-year-old Indian system of spiritual intervention and introduced it in primary schools everywhere.

This would not only save upcoming generations from such modern-day ills as obesity, stress, anxiety and depression, it would also pave the way for a better world in which such lifestyle diseases would not extract a heavy price in terms of man-days lost, medical costs, hospital stay and so on.

A hard-hitting presentation was made by the Magsaysay Award recipient, **Ms Aruna Roy**, about six months before she resigned as a member of the National Advisory Council (NAC). She confessed that the current NAC had no mandate and had not achieved anything as yet.

The first one was set up to monitor the implementation of the National Common Minimum programme of the UPA-I government. But the remit of NAC-II, if any, was to see that the promise of passing several important Bills, a commitment made in the President's address to the first session of the two Houses of the current Parliament, was fulfilled.

But "we have not been able to push (the Bills) through; the government has developed skills to stall all that goes to it from the NAC. We have met with bureaucratic resistance."

Returning to the crisis in Europe, two distinguished Germans asserted that it would be overcome.

They recalled that the international media had expended a lot of energy asking Eurozone countries to be alert and telling them that if the Euro did not stabilise, then it would be better if countries such as Greece, Portugal, Italy and Spain left it. However, the limit was reached when a legendary investor, Mr. George Soros of the USA, suggested that perhaps it would be better if Germany itself left the European Union.

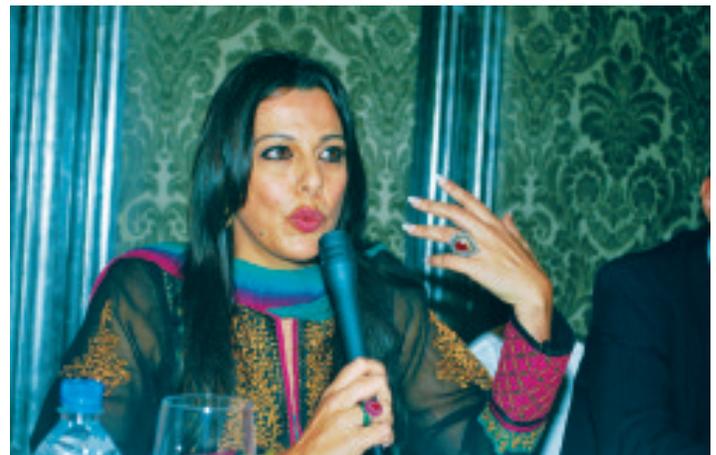
"This (I say this in my personal capacity) is sheer rubbish," exclaimed **Mr. Heiko Quast**, the German Consul (Financial Sector) in Bombay.

Joining him was **Mr. Tomas Notheis**, the Bundesbank Representative in Bombay. The two debunked all the doomsday scenarios with regard to Europe and the Euro.

The effervescent **Ms Pooja Bedi**, an offspring of the "Hippie" genera-



The UPA-II government has failed, declares Ms Aruna Roy after receiving the Club award. She is also a recipient of the Magsaysay Award



The hep daughter of the hippie generation. Ms Pooja Bedi, daughter of Kabir and Protima, recalled her parents with pride

tion, was studying in the USA, hoping to fulfil her dream of a career on Wall Street; she wanted to be one of the movers and shakers of the world. But she had to rush back home because her mother suddenly wanted to leave, to fulfil her dream of creating "Nrityagram" (a dance village).

When she returned to Bombay, there was no one at the airport or at home. When she protested that it wasn't fair to be abandoned when she was just 18, her mother said, "So what? I was 16 when I ran away with your father to live with him. We were given two toasts and two eggs by the landlady. You at least have a roof over your head. Just believe in the universe and, and... goodbye".

The young girl was left with a dog, a cook, (housing) society bills which had to be paid regularly and about Rs. 20,000 in hand. Today, Ms Bedi is an actress, author, columnist and activist with a desire to change lives.

A lot of things happen at the age of 18. From being abandoned to being threatened with a gun. The veteran actor, **Mr. Vinod Khanna**, a former BJP MP and a Minister in the Atal Behari Vajpayee government, revealed that his father had held a gun to his

head when he said that he wanted to act in films at the age of 18.

Having received the Rotary Club of Bombay Shyam Munshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Performing Arts, he recalled that he had grown up in a normal family that had lived in Peshawar for about 15 generations.

But just before partition the family of Punjabi Pathans, a minority in that part of the world, moved to Bombay. His father was a businessman and wanted his son to continue the family business.

The youth received the best education, went to the best schools, completed his Senior Cambridge and joined Sydenham College to study Commerce (he would have become a chartered accountant.) But he was 18 years old when he was offered a film by the legendary Sunil Dutt. "This is how destiny takes you through life," he said.

Mr. Tarun Tahiliani, considered to be the pioneer of the fashion revolution in India, said that it was the end of socialism that had heralded the advent of the fashion industry in India. Till the early 1980s, Indians had to make do with ordinary clothes, but once the fetters of socialism were lifted, fashion blossomed as never before.

Today, at least one survey had reported that the fashion industry was the third most popular career choice among the youth.

Real estate raised its beautiful/ugly (?) head once again with **Mr. Satish Magar**, CMD of the Magarpatta Township Development and Construction Co. Ltd. He revealed that the 9,000 apartments in Magarpatta City (on the outskirts of Pune) yielded zero garbage; that every house had a solar water-heating system; and that the CMD also acted as the “civic chief”.

Manoj Patodia, who introduced him, said that Mr. Magar was the brain behind the project that involved the families of 123 farmers (who were the landowners) and had got together as shareholders in a company that was giving them rich benefits.

Wharton Business School had prepared a case study on Magarpatta for inclusive capitalism. A similar exercise had been undertaken for the 9th World Congress of Metropolises in Sydney, Australia. Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam had lauded the project.

Prof. Spenta Wadia, the “Higgs” man, was back, this time to receive the Sohrab Godrej Award for Science and Technology. In the course of a brief talk, he requested the private sector to support research in basic science.

Mr. Adi Godrej, an Honorary member of the Club and nephew of the late Sohrab Godrej, and Mr. Nadir Godrej, his brother, presented a silver salver and the citation to Dr. Spenta Wadia, Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, and Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bangalore.

Invited to introduce the award-winner, Mr. Nadir Godrej surprised members by doing it in a poetic manner before reading out the citation.

Urging the authorities in Bombay to forget FSI and go for UDI (Urban Design Index) was an urban design expert from the US, **Mr. Mahender Vasandani**, Director of M Square, who practised urban design in Chicago and had been coming to India for some years to look at the reconstruction, redevelopment and reformation of various cities, especially Bombay. He had been in touch with several leaders in an effort to improve the living conditions here.

If the UDI system was adopted, he said, the focus on FSI would be diffused. It would still be a part of the matrix to get plans approved, but there would be a simultaneous emphasis on the UDI. And that, to some extent, would help the people to give something back to the community. He was speaking on “Improving Mumbai through Urban Design” and was introduced by Moy Biswas, his classmate at IIT, Kharapur.

“This is a very special day for me. My younger brother is presiding over the gathering at this illustrious Club. And my parents are here to see both of us on the same stage. It’s a very special moment for me because we were born and brought up in a Rotary spirit. My father used to be a Rotarian.”

This was how **Dr. Swati Piramal** began her presentation on “Innovation”, speaking before an almost full house after an affectionate introduction by PP Dr. Adi Dastur.

Dr. Swati, the spouse of Mr. Ajay Piramal, an Honorary member of the Club, sister of Nirav Shah and a former member herself, gave a very interesting talk in the context of the rejection by the Supreme Court of India of a patent appeal by a pharmaceutical multinational.

Were mobile phones leading to deafness? **No**, that had not yet been proved, said **Dr. Shaila Vora**, audiologist and speech and language therapist. She claimed that the development and availability of excellent hearing aids were sounding the death-knell for schools for the deaf.

Gone were the days when children born with hearing problems had to go to special schools. Most of those schools were closing down because the technology employed in the new generation hearing aids was so sophisticated that children picked up sounds like normal children. If they were fitted within the first one to two years of life, they were able to go to regular schools and to speak normally.

An example of thinking out of the box was provided by the artiste and satirist, **Mr. Aabid Surti**. Speaking after receiving the Club’s Taru Lalvani Award for Environment Protection, he said his story was not one of going from rags to riches, but from rags to happiness.

He grew up on the pavement. The family lived in a *chawl*, a single room for a family of 15. There was no place to sleep and no water and there was a daily fight for every bucket. He carried that memory with him. As he grew up, whenever he visited people, he noted that at least one tap in their home, in the kitchen, bathroom or toilet, was leaking.

A newspaper report told him that the waste on account of one tap dripping was colossal. So he decided to do something. He hired a plumber and started visiting people’s homes in distant Mira Road and offering to repair their leaking taps for free. But he had no money. When he received an award and a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh, the money financed his crusade for a few years. And then some more money came in. And so his movement continued.

Be afraid, very afraid, of diabetes, hypertension and high blood pressure,



Dr. Swati Piramal addresses the issue of 'Innovation' following a Supreme Court ruling in a patent case



More than cancer, it's the fear of cancer that kills. Dr. Rajendra Badwe, Director of the Tata Memorial Centre, speaks at the Club

said India’s top cancer specialist, **Dr. Rajendra Badwe**, Director of the Tata Memorial Centre. Decorated with the *Padma Shri* in January, he was speaking on “Prevention of cancer”. He was introduced by Zinia Lawyer.

Dr. Badwe insisted that cancer was not as deadly as it was made out to be. In fact, diabetes, hypertension and high blood pressure were some of the greatest threats to life, yet most people were terrified by cancer even though nobody could say with any degree of certainty that it would lead to death.

If people were careful about just three things – infection, obesity and the use of tobacco – they would double their chances of surviving cancer in a few years (which was not the case with diabetes, hypertension and high blood pressure which took a big toll in the distant future).

Dr. Sitesh Roy, who was voted one of the best doctors in the USA for four years and who featured in the guide to America’s top physicians every year from 2005 to 2010, asserted that most diseases began in the gut because 90% of the human immune system lived in the gut.

An expert in allergies and asthma, he said India used to be very low in the

list of patients with such conditions. But in the last 20 years there had been a rising trend and now India had started mirroring what was seen in the US, the UK, New Zealand, Australia and other countries 20 to 25 years ago.

Younger children were going down with problems, people without previous history were suddenly being laid low with disease –all because of immune imbalance, immune dis-regulation and loss of equilibrium. While some blamed it on diet, others mentioned the “westernisation” of lifestyles and diet; still others blamed it on stress. Global studies had shown that these were indeed connected.

Mr. Sabyasachi Mukherjee, the Director-General of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (earlier known as the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India), made a scholarly presentation and stated that a museum could easily be turned into a cultural centre.

But he added that the city’s museum was now like an NGO; it needed money to maintain its Grade I heritage building and to preserve over 60,000 priceless artefacts.

Interestingly, the 91-year-old museum was set up under the Prince of

Wales Act of 1909 as an autonomous body to be run by an independent board of trustees. The State gave it an annual grant of the then princely sum of Rs. 1.36 lakhs. However, nobody bothered about inflation and the grant remained static at that level till it was completely withdrawn in 1998.

"Loot and plunder is the order of the day, but where is your outrage?" demanded **Ms Sucheta Dalal**, the original scam-buster, columnist and financial journalist who broke the story of the Harshad Mehta, C.R. Bhansali and other huge scams two decades ago.

She urged members to speak out against the situation in the country when probity had lost all meaning and where a scam a day was par for the course. The financial regulators were either sleeping at their job or winking at wrong-doings under their noses; fly-by-night operators were duping gullible people of hundreds of crores of rupees; ponzi schemes had acquired a kind of halo and their promoters were playing with the life savings of lakhs of people.

In the midst of all this, the media appeared to be complicit because it allowed its hallowed space to be filled with dubious claims and did not bother about checking the antecedents of those whom it promoted, so long as the money kept flowing in.

It took a Bombayite, a former Political Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to explain the intricate, highly nuanced workings of the world body.

Mr. Kishore Mandhyan, who worked over the last five years in the above post, revealed all in the course of an interesting talk on "The view from the 38th floor of the United Nations: A day in the life of the UN Secretary-General".

PP Haresh Jagtiani revealed while introducing him that he had rubbed shoulders with several Heads of State, including Barrack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, Jimmy Carter and many others.

He had lectured at Harvard University and at Boston College and had received several accolades, including Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Tufts Global Institution and the University of Bombay.

In the course of his talk, he offered a snapshot of what occurred on the 38th floor of the UN (where the offices of the Secretary-General were located), the context within which it occurred, the content of the occurrences and some of the key challenges faced by the office.

One of the most irrelevant people in the mass media, **Mr. Cyrus Broacha**, showed in the course of a talk that there was a serious side to him. This was in spite of the fact that Dolly

Thakore had introduced him by stating that he was going to be "lovably, irreverently, intellectually interesting".

Although he indulged in a great deal of leg-pulling, in the course of the question-answer session that followed he came across in a different avatar, as a serious person with unexpected gravitas.

When the applause at the end of Dolly's introduction died down, his first words were: "What a long round of applause! Thank you so much. Don't stop (continue), take your time! But first I would like to welcome arguably India's greatest fiction writer since Shobha De, Dolly Thakore! I don't know what she was talking about. They were all lies!"

Addressing the burning topic of the day, viz., spot-fixing, match-fixing, bookies, players and the role of the law, **PP Haresh Jagtiani** insisted that betting was not a crime in India. But he wanted to know why the BCCI was allowed to behave like a law unto itself.

It was time someone challenged and overturned one wrong judgment of the Supreme Court (in the case filed by Zee TV against BCCI for rescinding its contract), because that would lead to revolutionary changes in the functioning of the all-powerful BCCI.

While passing judgment in that case, the apex court had held that the BCCI was a private body; it was not a "state" or an authority as contemplated under the Constitution; therefore, its actions did not come under judicial scrutiny.

Haresh was unsparing in his criticism of that judgment. "I think that judgment is wrong... The BCCI is a power centre. It controls the lives of cricketers. There is a lot of public interest involved in the game of cricket," he added.

At the next meeting, **Anil Harish** delivered a master class on the crucial but neglected subject of "Wills" (as in bequests). It was as if he was dictating a chapter in a forthcoming book. He presented all aspects, including shortcomings and pitfalls, and spoke with such erudition that members were left marvelling at his grasp of the subject.

Departing from the norm, the report on his talk was presented in the form of a chapter in a legal textbook, complete with crossheadings (but without annotations). He ended his talk by stating, "Making a will doesn't mean you're over the hill".

The speaker at the last meeting, held on June 18, was **Dr. Rohini Chowgule** who spoke on "Information and communication technology in healthcare delivery".

This was an IT-based system that she had pioneered and helped develop. It was a unique software to store medical data electronically on the web so

that a person could access it anywhere and at any time.

Fellowship PP Ashish Vaid

The motto of the Fellowship Committee this year was, "Party hard and donate generously".

Ashish and his team believed that Fellowship and Fund-Raising were the two pillars of the Club. It was through Fellowship initiatives that members of the Club bonded and became one big, happy family. Hence, it was incumbent on each and every Rotarian to participate actively in the various Fellowship events.

This year, the Sports Committee was subsumed with the Fellowship Committee. Moy Biswas, the man in charge of sports, had planned golf, cricket and tennis events.

Ashish said his Committee would organise one Fellowship event every month. In fact, the year had started with a Fellowship under a new initiative called "Treat Yourself". It was held at the Willingdon Sports Club and was a huge success. Forty members (including spouses and families) got together in July and "virtually took over the entire place". The second in this series of Fellowships, in which mem-

bers bought their own victuals, was held at the CCI, the third at the popular watering hole, the "Tote" at Mahalaxmi, and the fourth once again at the Willingdon Club on June 18.

August saw ten Rotary families on a memorable trip to the Taj Holiday Village in Goa. Such was the bonding throughout the trip that "they visited every one of the hot spots of Goa... PP Arjun Bulchandani and Ashok Jatia hit jackpots. They promised to donate all the winnings to the Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No. 3!" exclaimed Ashish.

The Diwali Fellowship was held at Breach Candy Club on November 27. It was hosted by President Nowroze along with Madhusudan Daga, Manoj Israni, Ashok Jatia, Jayesh Jhaveri, Manoj Patodia, Subhash Sagar, Alok Saxena, Aditya Somani and Ashish Vaid.

December saw the Christmas luncheon at the Taj Mahal Hotel. This event was sponsored by President Nowroze, Ashish, Sheila Bulchandani, IPP Paul George, Suresh Goklaney, Joseph Koshy, PP Gul Kripalani, George Mathew, Aliakbar Merchant, Sunny Pariyaram, Bernd Schneider and Nirav Shah.



Who says betting is a crime? It's not. But the bigger issue is that the BCCI is allowed to behave like a law unto itself. PP Haresh Jagtiani speaks



Cricket aficionados all. From left in this picture are Jaidev Merchant, Deepak Kapadia and Arjun Jolly

Yet another traditional “Fellowship” was the colourful Holi event organised by Naresh Kumar Jain at his bungalow in Khar. A large number of members and their spouse attended the colourful programme and enjoyed the dance, music and snacks (especially “Dilli-chaat”) spread out by the host family.

In a programme decided upon suddenly, the Fellowship Committee encouraged members to visit the famous Bombay Museum to witness a specially-arranged showing of “Mummy – an exhibition explaining the mysteries of the Egyptian mummy”. The mummies and other artefacts were on loan from the British Museum.

Three evening meetings

Ashish had no hesitation whatsoever in experimenting with the novel concept of evening meetings suggested by the President at the first meeting. Nowroze had said then that he appreciated the fact that with more members having their workplaces away from the vicinity of the Taj, it was difficult for them to attend weekly meetings in South Bombay on Tuesday afternoons.

For the convenience of such members, and to strengthen the bonds of Fellowship, he proposed that weekly meeting be held in the evening on at least three Tuesdays. Accordingly, the first meeting was held on December 4 on the terrace of Ocean House in Worli and hosted by Ravi Sheth.

Nowroze had stressed two points in relation to the evening meetings. The first was that they would count as regular meetings and members would get their attendance marked; and the second that, once the formal business of the meeting had been concluded, Rotarians and spouses would mingle over a “fun” evening to get to know each other better.

These purposes were well served at the very first meeting when the attendance exceeded the 150-mark. It was an evening of merriment and hosts Amita and Ravi Sheth pulled out all stops, with music, drinks and a sumptuous dinner. Everyone agreed that the “evening meeting” was a good idea and should be repeated frequently.

The second in the series of evening meetings was held on January 29, 2013, on the verdant lawns of “The Club” attached to the sprawling Planet Godrej in Central Bombay. And like the first one, this one, too, was a resounding success.

There was a tremendous turnout of members along with their spouse and all of them were full of praise for the excellent implementation of the idea and the delicious snacks, victuals and excellent music organised by PP Nandan and Shreelekha Damani.

Finally, it was the turn of Pradeep Mafatlal. Going all out to make it an evening to remember, he and Divya opened the doors to their palatial bungalow on March 5 and offered an unbelievable treat to their guests.

The guests were greeted personally by the hosts and by President Nowroze as they entered and their comfort was ensured in every possible way. Music played discreetly in one corner, while guests mingled on the spacious lawns, treating themselves to drinks and an endless supply and variety of cocktail snacks. When the innumerable food counters were thrown open, the members were amazed at the variety of dishes on offer. There was something for every palate, however finicky or fastidious.

President Nowroze stated in a signed article in *The Gateway* that the “proof of the pudding lies in the fact that many members have been heard saying that they solidly support the idea. Some even have gone to the extent of saying that all meetings should be held in the evening!”

SPORTS

A dozen tennis aficionados welcomed the day as it dawned over the Willingdon Sports Club on a hazy Sunday in December to take part in the Tennis Fellowship arranged by the indefatigable Moy Biswas, the *de facto* chief of most sporting activities of the Club.

President Nowroze, who was the non-playing and non-interfering captain of the tennis team, cheered on the players; as did Rotaryann Pervin Jehangir who applauded PP Rumi’s ground strokes.

At the end of the strenuous series of sets, Nowroze presented every player with a commemorative “Champion’s Cup” designed by Moy. And then, in true Rotary spirit, the Tennis Fellowship ended with a hearty breakfast enjoyed by all.

In another activity organised by Moy, Rohini Chowgule bagged the golf trophy a second time, but it was Fellowship that triumphed in the end.

The annual golf tournament for the trophy instituted by the Biswas family in 2008 was held at the Willingdon Sports Club. Six years on, the ever-growing popularity and appeal of the tournament led to a roster of no less than 32 competitors.

Exciting and electrifying as the tournament was, the Fellowship that followed was equally engaging and exhilarating, what with the presence of several stalwarts and family members.

What was unique about the Fellowship was the presence of many past and future leaders.

Past Presidents Arvind Jolly and Ajay Kanoria were out on the greens,

but awaiting the outcome of the tournament at the Cabbage Patch were PPs Dr. Adi Dastur, Kalpana Munshi, Dr. Rumi Jehangir, Ashish Vaid and Nandan Damani. Accompanying them were IPP Paul George, President Nowroze and Nirav Shah.

Finally, cricket. And here the news was quite shattering – a team comprising young students of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* defeated the Rotary President’s XI by 6 wickets and with 3 overs to spare!

The match was played at the P.J. Hindu Gymkhana situated along the iconic Marine Drive and was a tremendous success, with several non-players and non-cricketers waking up early on a relaxed Sunday morning to reach the venue.

They enjoyed the game, watching enthusiastic cricketers turn out in whites to play the gentleman’s game after President Nowroze had been introduced to both teams.

It was the combined effort of the tireless Moy, working in tandem with PP Ashish and Manish Reshamwala, under the overall guidance of President Nowroze, which ensured a good turnout and a successful event.

Bulletin, Website & Public Relations

PP Arun Sanghi

The Club’s official newsletter, *The Gateway*, continued to be published with clockwork precision every week; and the website had far more hits than in the year gone by.

Sergeant-at-Arms

Roda Billimoria

The Committee did good work all through the year, attempting to maintain discipline and decorum at the weekly meetings.

But this was a particularly interesting year as the role of the Committee was altered. The President had suggested a few changes. First, he wanted the Sergeant-at-Arms to welcome the guest speaker and then escort him/her at the end of the meeting. Secondly, he said it was time for the Committee to stop minding the collection box, thus freeing the members from their cashier-like tasks.

Initially, there was some resistance, but gradually members adapted well to the new system. As a result, the Committee members had the opportunity to interact with speakers, with fellow members and also to sit back and hear the speaker, of course, after ensuring silence in the hall.



Just how do they do it? Hosts Pradeep and Divya Mafatlal marvel at the moves of Malti Jain and PP Harry Singh Arora



Go and play the game in the true spirit. When President Nowroze said this to the young boys, he had no idea they would go on and beat the Rotarians!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

– MEDICAL I

Director

Dr. Percy Chibber

Chairman Emeritus, Talwada

PP Dr. Rahim Muljani

Early on the morning of Sunday, February 24, a fleet of cars headed towards Talwada, the tribal hamlet that had been virtually adopted by the Rotary Club of Bombay. This was the place where the renowned Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre (HTEC), the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC) and the Anusuya Devi Taparia Junior College stood.

The convoy ferried Tara Deshpande and Daniel; Chitra and Ashokkumar; Dolly Thakore; Arin and Percy Master; Pallavi Jha; Pervin Jehangir; Arti and Dhananjaya Mehta; Natwarlal Brahmabhatt; Freyaz Shroff; Phiroza and Dr. Aashish Contractor (with their daughter Shanaya); Tarang and Sorabh Jain; Jayanti and Sandeep Dasgupta; Vatsala and Ashok Jatia; S.K. Mitra; Pranay Vakil; Mahakhurshid Byramjee; Dr. Vandana Bulchandani; Dr. Mala Jagtiani; Dr. Sohrab Javeri; Dr. Rajeev Narvekar; and Moy Biswas.

Fellowship Chairman Ashish Vaid, President Nowroze and Peter Born were also in the convoy that was joined en-route by the Club's Executive Secretary, Mr. Eruch Irani, and his spouse.

Waiting for this enthusiastic band of early-risers were Dr. Rahim and Chairman Dr. Rumi Jehangir who, after a quick breakfast, took the visitors around the facilities at the centre. Soon, the group moved to the Taparia Junior College and took a quick round of this simple but aesthetically-pleasing single-storey structure. The Principal and other staff of the college were at hand to shower encomiums on their students, proudly stating that the pass percentage was in the upper 90s.

Then it was time to move to the ADCM where President Nowroze was subjected to the time-honoured tradition of being forced into the dentist's chair (despite his vociferous pleas that he had undergone this torture several times on earlier visits to Talwada), while "Dangerous Doctor" Ashish Vaid laid into his open mouth with vicious-looking instruments.

Dr. Yadav, in charge of the ADCM (his counterpart at the HTEC being Dr. Deshpande) took everyone around, showing them the various facilities. Rotarians and Rotaryans quickly made friends with the many children who had come there to have various ailments attended to by Dr. Yadav and his team.

HTEC, Talwada

PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir

In its 35th year, the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre has often

been described as the "Kohinoor" project of the Club. Not without reason, because it had already tended to hundreds of thousands of poor, indigent patients trekking from long distances. Those people were sure their eyes would be safe in the care of the noble doctors from Bombay who had foregone a weekly holiday to traverse the long distance to their village.

What the doctors offered was the kind of sophisticated ophthalmic care that was only available (at very high prices) in Bombay.

Repair, replacement and replenishment were a continuous process at the HTEC, with ageing equipment being replaced as and when the need arose; the finances were found and made available; the latter was seldom a major concern, thanks to the generosity and magnanimity of members.

(An unusual feature of the HTEC had been the readiness with which even non-Rotarians who had never heard of Talwada promptly handed over contributions to those from whom they received information about the excellent work being done there.)

The HTEC was truly a labour of love of Dr. Rahim and the apple of his eye. (Please see Table for statistics of the work done during the year.)

ADMC, Talwada

Dr. Sorab Javeri

Later in the year, a small group of Rotarians once again visited the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre (ADMC) at Talwada to review its operations. It was led by President Nowroze and included Nirav Shah, his spouse Devina, ADCM Chairman Dr. Sorab Javeri and a duo from the Oral Health Committee, viz., Dr. Rajeev Narvekar and Dr. Mala Jagtiani.

Apart from going around the centre and interacting with some of the patients who had come in for diagnosis and treatment, the team from the Rotary Club of Bombay also met the young members of the Rotaract Club of Government Dental College who visited the ADCM twice a month to offer free services to the poor and needy.

The resident doctor at the ADCM, Dr. Yadav, showed the team around and explained the centre's working. The team also visited the Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre where it met the resident surgeon, Dr. Anil Deshpande. (Please see Table for statistics of the work done during the year.)

COMMUNITY SERVICE

– MEDICAL II

Director

Dr. Vandana Bulchandani

Cancer Aid

Zinia Lawyer

Scores of concerned, kind-hearted donors readily put their hands into their pockets to offer funds for the



This is the O.T., the theatre of action. PP Dr. Rahim Muljani describes the facilities to members of the Club who visited the HTEC at Talwada



With the indefatigable Dr. Yadav who mans the ADCM. With him (centre) are President-Elect Nirav Shah and Chairman Dr. Sorab Javeri

treatment of cancer-affected persons, especially children. However, there were a few gut-wrenching aspects to their plight that not many people were aware of.

One was the fact that when a child was diagnosed with cancer, the chances of the parents taking him for the best possible treatment at the best possible hospital were very high. But God forbid, if it was a girl child who was afflicted, then the chances of her receiving adequate medical care dropped precipitously.

When members of the Cancer Aid Committee observed the pitiable condition of the girl child diagnosed with cancer being virtually denied treatment by her own parents, they felt a great deal of revulsion.

On a previous visit to the Tata Memorial Hospital when they offered financial assistance to the parents of cancer-affected children, they had pleaded with the authorities to allow the girl patients to survive (a plea best made to their parents).

Perhaps the gods above heard the prayer. As if in answer to that, when they visited the Tata Memorial Hospital on September 13, they noted that there was more than one girl in the

group of affected children. The sight of girls brought no morbid, perverse delight to them but a glimmer of hope that perhaps the tide was beginning to turn.

The second gut-wrenching aspect was that the parents of cancer-affected patients spent almost their entire life savings in order to offer the best treatment and to pay for the costly medicines. But did anybody know what happened when the patient passed away despite the best medical care? Often, the bereaved relatives were left holding the body. Rendered almost penniless, they could not meet even the funeral expenses.

On learning of this during a visit in 2011, Shernaz Vakil had spontaneously offered a donation of Rs. 50,000 to what the Tata Memorial authorities called a "Bereavement" fund.

In the course of this year's visit, the group of Rotarians was surprised to learn that that contribution had been much appreciated. But the social worker, Ms Shalini, added there was always a need for more money.

As if on cue, two members, Khurshed Poonawala and Hoshang Nazir, immediately donated Rs. 25,000 each to the "Bereavement" fund.

The team of Rotarians visiting the Tata Memorial Hospital was led by President Nowroze and consisted of Director Vandana Bulchandani, Chairperson Zinia Lawyer, Ritu Desai, Hoshang Nazir and Khurshed Poonawala.

According to a report filed by Zinia, the team members were deeply touched when they interacted with the brave children and their stoic parents. Before leaving, they requested the hospital authorities to inform them whenever girl children required assistance.

Heart Care & Health

Dr. Aashish Contractor

This Committee catered to people from both ends of society – the elite at the Taj Mahal Hotel and the residents of slums in Cuffe Parade.

Free blood pressure readings were offered to members at three Rotary meetings. Rekha Tanna and Freyaz Shroff volunteered to assist Chairman Dr. Aashish in measuring BP with the help of automatic machines.

According to Dr. Aashish, the response to this drive had exceeded his expectations. However, most members were sceptical about the accuracy of the digital machines. To reassure them, he told them that several studies had shown that “clinical grade digital machines are as accurate as manual ones and that they are much more efficient in group settings”.

The blood pressure of some of the members was quite high. But the tests could serve as wake-up calls and reminders to go for regular check-ups because blood pressure was known to be a silent killer and had no specific symptoms.

At the second drive to check members’ blood pressure at the Taj, Dr. Aashish pointed out that blood pressure readings fluctuated throughout the

day and it was normal to have a high reading at one point and a normal one at another. However, his advice to those with high readings was to get their BP checked at least on another two occasions and to remember that it could be controlled.

Making a new beginning in heart care, Aashish organised an ambitious camp for the residents of Siva Sastri Nagar in Cuffe Parade. He told them that heart disease was the leading cause of death among both men and women. However, such deaths were preventable if the causative factors were identified and treated at an early stage.

Two hundred men and women turned up for the camp and were screened for various cardiac risk factors (except lipid profile), including an electrocardiogram (ECG) where needed.

All this was done in a systematic, disciplined manner in a matter of just four hours. The camp was conducted with the help of volunteers of the Asian Heart Institute, members of the Rotaract Club of Hinduja College and college students from the local community. Those who were examined were counselled on the findings and given tips on how to reduce their cardiac risk.

The camp on December 16 was attended by several members of the Club led by President Nowroze. Among them was Ramesh Narayan who helped coordinate the programme with the local residents.

A few days later, Aashish went back to Siva Sastri Nagar to see those who needed a follow-up. He attended to 22 men and women who required follow-up medicines and a few blood tests. He also got in touch with Dr. Shahbazkar, the owner of a pathology laboratory in the area, to arrange a 30% discount on blood tests for the pa-

tients seen by him. The pathologist was chosen after ascertaining his professional competence.

An analysis of the data collected at the heart check-up camp revealed that 22% of the population had hypertension and not just “borderline BP”. Further, 24% of them had high blood sugar levels (above 140 mg/dl in the non-fasting state).

Concerned by these findings, Aashish said he would train members of the community, including the children of some of the patients, to serve as health resources so that the work initiated by him would continue for many years and would not depend only on his visits.

Following the successful conduct of the camp and the subsequent follow-up, he Aashish said that there was a large healthcare gap in the community that needed to be filled.

“I believe that Rotary in general (and the Rotary Club of Bombay, in particular) are uniquely placed to help bridge this gap. It’s probably time for the next big Rotary healthcare initiative, especially with polio on its way out.

“I know this may sound too ambitious, but if we can consistently do good work in the slum area of Cuffe Parade, we can win the trust of the community and look to implement other healthcare-related projects (including sanitation), which could serve as a template for other urban slum pockets,” Dr. Aashish added.

PolioPlus & Differently Abled Shyyamniwas Somani

The regular collaboration between Rotarians and Lions continued this year, too, with the annual event on October 2, when several operations and corrective surgeries were performed on polio patients at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital.

Several members, led by President Nowroze and Niloufer Vazifdar, were present. They also went round the wards, meeting individual patients. As usual, the Club offered a token contribution to the Lions to help defray part of the project cost. The Club also offered callipers to some needy patients.

Among those who attended were Chairman Shyyamniwas, Ratan Tankha, Hon. Secretary Sitaram and PP Kalpana Munshi. Shyyamniwas had been associated with this project for several years and attended the polio surgery programme every year. He also helped raise funds for the project.

Differently abled children, particularly the deaf, would be taught to lip-read and speak, and not use “sign” language, by the CSED (Central Society for the Education of the Deaf) with which the Club had earlier signed a memorandum of understanding.

A landmark facility for early testing of newborn babies, christened the Rotary-BERA (Brainstem-Evoked Response Audiometry) project, was now a part of the Central School for the Deaf at Agripda.

Under the MOU, the Club contributed Rs. 16.20 lakhs for the import and installation of sophisticated equipment and Rs. 10,000 per month towards the running expenses of the centre. President Nowroze led a team from the Club to attend the inaugural function on March 4.

According to Mr. J.R. Behlhomji, Hon. Treasurer, the CSED was recently recognised and awarded a trophy for being the best charitable organisation by the Jamnalal Bajaj Council for Fair Business Practices.

Some of the students trained by CSED had gone on to become civil engineers and computer and software specialists, while others had made a

Activities conducted at the HTEC, Talwada (2012-2013)

Activity	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Total
Ophthalmic OPD	1221	1257	1323	1289	1409	1506	1486	1443	1395	1179	1216		14724
Spectacles given	103	119	112	102	122	134	127	112	108	97	103		1239
Operations	59	64	71	79	82	86	81	88	86	79	56		831
Patients for treatment	11	10	9	11	8	11	9	13	11	12	9		114
Intra-ocular lens	52	51	59	57	68	62	59	64	62	64	44		642
Yag laser	11	13	11	9	22	19	16	14	15	16	14		160
K/plorta	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-		4
Green laser	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		5

mark in the world of sports. The school had 60 students on its rolls and provided its services totally free. CSED was the first school in India to be equipped with an early intervention unit and to use a multi-disciplinary approach. It also offered the services of an audiologist, a psychiatrist and a special educator under one roof.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

– NON-MEDICAL

Director

Sunny Pariyaram
RCC

President Nowroze, Paul George, Nirav Shah and (then) Vice-President Ramesh Narayan attended a preliminary partnership meeting with office-bearers of the Salvation Army, Western India, at the latter's social centre at Agripada.

The meeting was also attended by PP Kalpana Munshi, Sitaram Shah, Shyyamniwas Somani and Naresh Kumar Jain. Representing the Salvation Army were Col. T. Vijaykumar; Lt. Col. B. Randive, the secretary for programme administration; Chief Secretary Lt. Colonel K.C. David; and Major Sanjay Vanjare.

After a brief introductory speech by Lt. Col. B. Randive, Col. T. Vijaykumar said that any partnership between the Salvation Army and Rotary would go a long way in the development of the community. The under-served would definitely benefit if these two international organisations joined hands to undertake projects.

Lt. Colonel K.C. David also welcomed the proposed partnership and complimented members of the Rotary Club of Bombay for their zeal in ensuring the development of the poor and underprivileged sections of society.

Nowroze stated that the education sector played a crucial role in community development. Children could learn and develop skills only on the solid foundation of a good education.

Following the formal meeting, the Salvation Army undertook a notebook distribution programme for the underprivileged children of Agripada and the neighbouring community.

The day's engagements ended with a visit to the Salvation Army campus housing senior citizens. Accompanying them was an engineer who would prepare a report on how the centre could be repaired and improved.

Soon after that meeting, a munificent donation was offered by PP Mahendra Sanghi to help repair and renovate the Salvation Army home for the aged at Agripada. In the course of that visit, the Rotarians had noted with regret that it was not in good condition. The Club then decided to help repair and renovate it.

On learning about this, PP Mahendra offered to bear the full cost of the proposed renovation. Accordingly, he made a generous contribution of Rs. 5.63 lakhs for the purpose.

The renovated home was opened at a simple function by President Nowroze. Also present on the occasion were Paul George, Nirav Shah, PP Ashish Vaid, Sitaram Shah, Director Sunny Pariyaram, Madhusudan Daga and Ratan Tankha.

A few weeks later, the RCC Committee organised a free eye check-up camp at the Mumbai Port Trust Dock and General Employees' Union, Kamgar Sadan, Mazgaon.

PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir, an eminent ophthalmic surgeon, spoke of the importance of regular eye check-ups, especially for those working in the ship-breaking industry. He was thrilled with

the positive response of the community. He added that in case anyone required further treatment, he or she could be treated free of cost at the Rotary Club of Bombay's sophisticated HTEC eye centre at Talwada.

A total of 136 people had their eyes checked at the camp. Two cataract cases were detected and referred to the nearest municipal hospital at Mazgaon. President Nowroze, Hon. Secretary Sitaram and PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir were felicitated. Also present were Joseph Koshy and Ratan Tankha.

Three students from the Maharashtra Institute of Labour Welfare and placed at MbPT, helped the RCC members in organising the participants and also helped make arrangements for lunch and other refreshments.

Dr. Tejaswini Varale and Dr. Monal Sainani led the team of doctors who carried out the eye tests and consultations. They were assisted by Mr. Ashok Patel, Mr. Mukesh Kapadia and Mr. Deepak Ashar. Mr. Jitubhai, the optician, took charge of providing spectacles to the needy.

Also present at the camp was Dr. Shabana Shaikh, general practitioner, who came for consultation on other health problems of the port workers.

Old Age Homes/Senior Citizens

Naresh Kumar Jain

The young at heart Naresh Kumar Jain was quite busy all through the year, organising programmes for the residents of homes for the aged with the active assistance of the Club, his Committee members, several Rotaractors and many Interactors.

The President led a team of Rotarians, including Sitaram Shah, Sunny, Naresh and Rotaryann Phiroza Contractor to celebrate Parsi New Year with residents of the **F.S. Parukh Dharamshalla** at Old Khareghat Colony.

They were joined by several members of the Rotaract Club of College H.R. College who went on to present a musical programme to entertain the senior citizens.

Naresh offered shawls to all the residents of the Dharamshalla. He was joined by Nowroze and Sunny who draped shawls around the shoulders of the delighted recipients.

The H.R. Rotaractors rendered some old songs that reminded residents of their youth. They played a game of "musical housie" with them but soon it was time to clear the floor and for those keen to do so to take the floor and dance to their hearts' content. And how they danced! All 50 residents had a great time.

Two centenarian residents, one said to be 100 and the other 104, also participated in the programme and enjoyed the music and games.

Some weeks later, Nowroze, Sitaram, Sunny, Naresh and PP Kalpana Munshi visited the **All Saints Home** at Mazgaon, said to be one of the oldest homes for aged senior citizens in the city. They were joined by Rotaractors of H.R. and Jai Hind who helped make arrangements for the event and to ensure its successful conduct.

Before long, the ageing walls of the All Saints Home began reverberating with the sound of music and laughter as the seniors shed their worries and inhibitions for a few hours.

The H.R. Rotaractors welcomed the team of Rotarians and greeted the staff and residents of the home. A quick formal function had Nowroze greeting the residents and wishing them good health and happiness. He was followed by PP Kalpana who shared her experiences and also rendered a few lines of a song. Sitaram gave a brief speech and wished the residents good health.

Activities conducted at theADMC, Talwada (2012-2013)

Activity	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	Total
Dental clinic	72	83	112	102	-	101	82	82	85	93	67		879
Pathological tests	94	83	67	78	79	100	88	88	109	84	58		928
Paediatric clinic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	17		41
Dispensary, OPD	2809	3002	3038	2019	1194	1513	1396	1446	1514	1322	1363		20616
TB Patients treated	31	34	32	35	3	25	27	24	27	31	24		323
Skin Clinic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-

Formalities over, Sunny joined Naresh, Nowroze, Sitaram and Kalpana in distributing shawls and poly bags containing toiletries and items of daily use such as hair oil and soap. And then it was time for music, song and dance.

Rotaract President Aditya Shah of Jai Hind College proposed a vote of thanks to the Rotarians and the residents of All Saints Home.

A similar programme was arranged at the **Our Lady of Piety** old age home where the Rotarians interacted with the residents and the staff and made a concerted effort to spread cheer and goodwill

The residents were presented with toiletries and other items of daily use by President Nowroze and Naresh. Shawls were draped around the shoulders of the senior citizens, thanks to Naresh.

The next stop was the **Pallonji Shapoorji Home** where Naresh and his Committee organised a special Christmas party. Members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College and the Interact Clubs of St. Anne's Girls High School and the Convent of Jesus and Mary took active part in making the programme a rollicking success.

President Nowroze, Ratan Tankha, Freyaz Shroff and Naresh also participated in the revelry which lasted from 4 to 6 pm. When he was called upon to address the gathering of about 50 senior citizens, Nowroze wished them happiness and good health in the New Year. Similar sentiments were expressed by Naresh who also blessed the residents.

Mrs. Cymbeline Pereira, the Club's Interact Coordinator, spoke briefly and urged the children to be bold and brave and to take part in such programmes. Then the enthusiastic young Rotaractors and Interactors took over, making the seniors play games, sing songs and listen to Christmas carols.

Here, too, Naresh distributed shawls and "Santa caps". The Christmas party, coordinated by Preeti James, the social worker of the Club, ended with the distribution of snacks, soft drinks and gifts.

The Club revisited the Parukh Dharamshalla a few months later, this time for a different reason. During the first visit it had been observed that the furniture was in a state of disrepair. Nowroze, Naresh and his team had taken on the responsibility of giving a face-lift to the beds by applying a fresh coat of paint.

When the task was completed and Nowroze led the Club's team to the home, the residents effusively thanked him for the gesture.

The Dharamshalla had about 100 beds for use by the residents. Their number kept changing, but the care and

concern that the management showered on them was the same. By taking up a rather simple job, that of repainting the beds used by the aged, the Rotary Club of Bombay might not have made a drastic change in the living conditions; but it certainly did point to the fact that every thoughtful act of kindness made a big difference.

Environment

Jagdish Malkani

Jagdish and his Committee gave full assistance to the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) as it organised a poster competition in connection with the World Wetlands Day at its Conservation Education Centre in distant Goregaon.

The event, held on February 2, was a resounding success. The setting was the verdant 10,000-square-foot BNHS Centre inside Film City on a 33-acre forest plot. What was even more gratifying was the turnout of children. No less than 60 reached the rather remote environs of the Film City. They represented a total of 15 schools from all over the city.

The children worked thoughtfully on their respective works from 9 in the morning to 1.30 in the afternoon.

While Dr. Rajeev Narvekar was present at the venue all morning, Jagdish was present for the rest of the event which ended around 5 pm.

Ms Chitra Vaidya, a well-known landscape painter, and Ms Jyotsna Pathare, former Principal of the L.S. Raheja School of Art at Bandra, were the two expert judges.

The participating children, who were provided snacks in the morning, were served meals in the afternoon (the snacks and meals were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay).

While the judges were assessing and judging the posters that the children had turned in, the latter were taken on a unique jungle trek by the BNHS staff.

The prize-giving ceremony was conducted in the CEC auditorium when each participant received a certificate from BNHS. The winners received their prizes amidst loud applause.

The judges were full of praise for the high quality of the posters submitted by the children; the management then decided to display about 30 of the posters at Sewri when the BNHS held its annual "Flamingo Festival" which attracted hundreds of visitors.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Director

Shernaz Vakil

Rotary & Public Awards

Ram Gandhi

Keeping up the good work that it did last year, the Committee did wonderfully well this year, too, seeking out and zeroing in on the most appropriate persons on whom to confer



Ms Prema Jayakumar, the daughter of a rickshaw driver, stood first at the all-India CA exams and received the Uma Jain award

the prestigious Rotary and Public Awards of the Club.

Pravinchandra Gandhi Award for Excellence in Public Life

He had been honoured innumerable times and with several titles. But when he received this award, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, the leading industrialist, said he felt both humbled and honoured because he was being recognised by and in the city in which he had grown up.

There were two other reasons he felt proud. First, the award was named after Pravinchandra Gandhi, doyen of both the banking and the newspaper industries; and second, because the first recipient of the award was the venerable Mr. Viren Shah who had been like a member of his family.

Mr. Bajaj was introduced by Chairman Ram Gandhi (who had instituted the award in memory of his father, PP late Pravinchandra Gandhi) as one of the few who were an inspiration not only for the younger generation but also to his fellow industrialists. Such was his fame and renown that almost everyone pointed to the manner in which he conducted his business as the ideal to be followed by all.

Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher

A wizened old lady, frail yet combative, was the cynosure of all eyes as she received the Award for Best Teacher. But Ms Roshan Curmally, Principal (Emeritus) of the extraordinary preparatory school called West Wind, was even more delighted. For, among those felicitating her were some of her oldest students and at least one of the youngest ones.

She was surrounded by students and well-wishers at the end of meeting. Among them was PP Nalin Parikh who had instituted the award in memory of his father but whose family's association with West Wind only started with his daughter and grandchildren.

Vocational Service Director Shernaz Vakil, who introduced Ms Curmally, said that she had "taught and inspired

young minds" over several generations at the West Wind School.

West Wind School was a co-operative, non-profit institution that accommodated 70 children from the ages of 3 to 5. But such was the stamp it left on its students that it was often referred to as the "nursery to the movers and shakers of Bombay city".

Ramkrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance

When he received the award, Mr. Ravi Narain, the MD and CEO of NSE, said it belonged to the institution he represented and not to him as an individual. Chairman Ram Gandhi read out the Citation that was presented to him along with a commemorative salver.

Shailesh Haribhakti, who introduced him to the members, said that Mr. Narain was an institution builder. He was part of the team that had founded the NSE, an institution of which India was truly proud and which was now ranked among the top five exchanges of the world. He was also a member of the core team that did the initial work for setting up India's market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Apart from NSE and SEBI, he had also helped build other institutions such as the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL), a depository of high repute, the India Index Services and Products Ltd. (IISL) and NSE Infotech Services Ltd.

Anita Parikh Award for Empowerment of Women

Ms Safeena Husain, founder and Executive Director of Educate Girls, an NGO, was delighted to receive the award, adding that there were two specific things that she had to mention.

"I am very pleased to let you know that being invited here is like a credibility stamp; I have received invitations to speak at other Rotary Clubs... because, they said, 'you have already been to the main Bombay Club'. And then, people have sent us cheques in

the mail. It has been simply incredible! We didn't have to do anything, just the fact that I was here 18 months ago... People called us at the office and said they had put a cheque in the mail."

And the second point? She had received a lovely watch at her last visit and had worn it every single day – "but I didn't wear it today in case you wanted to slip me another one!" she smiled.

Rotary Club of Bombay Public Service Award

Ms Aruna Roy, co-founder of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan along with Mr. Nikhil Dey and Mr. Shankar Singh, was conferred the award this year.

Nandan Maluste, who introduced them, noted that the trio was in the forefront of the movement that culminated in the adoption of the Right to Information Act passed in 2005. The RTI Act was one of the most important public events to have occurred in the country in the last decade or more, he said.

Ms Roy was virtually unknown in Bombay in 2005. But now she was one of the best-known Indians. She had been awarded the Magsaysay Award and featured regularly on the "lists" of the most influential people in the world.

Mr. Nikhil Dey, on the other hand, was a lawyer who had drafted the RTI Act and other Bills which were still awaiting clearance by Parliament. Mr. Shankar Singh was a theatre person who specialised in people's theatre and street plays. He had done this quite effectively while pushing for the passage of the RTI Act.

Ms Roy said she was receiving the award on behalf of the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan.

Shyam Munshi Lifetime Achievement Award for Performing Arts

Veteran actor Vinod Khanna was presented the award at a glittering ceremony that also saw another award being presented to a shy, unassuming girl from a diametrically opposite strata of society (more about that later).

Mr. Khanna, who confessed that his father had held a gun to his head when he had expressed a desire to become a film actor at the age of 18, had acted in over 125 films and was the only film star who had forsaken fame and fortune at the height of his success to follow his guru (Bhagwan Rajneesh) to live in his ashram in the USA for many years.

He was far more versatile in real life, said Ram Gandhi. A student of Indian classical music, he had represented his college in almost every sport; he was an active supporter of the World Wildlife Fund and Beauty Without Cruelty and a founder member of CRY.

In the aftermath of the Gujarat earthquake in 2001, Mr. Khanna had set up and run a relief camp at Gandhidham, living all alone for three months. His camp was hailed for providing outstanding relief to the quake-hit, making available everything from a toothbrush to an ambulance.

Uma Jain Award for Young Woman Achiever

Ms Prema Jayakumar, aged 24, received the award, instituted by Naresh Kumar Jain in memory of his spouse and consisting of a Citation and a cash award of Rs. 40,000, at the same meeting as that at which Mr. Khanna was felicitated with a Lifetime Award.

The young woman had stood first in the all-India Chartered Accountancy examination in the very first attempt and topped the all-India merit list.

Ms Jayakumar's achievement was an amazing story of success in challenging circumstances. Her father drove an autorickshaw to earn a livelihood but her parents had never allowed money to come in the way of their children's education. She had only one desire now – to see that her parents lived a life of comfort (the proud parents were present at the meeting).

Sohrab Godrej Award for Science and Technology

The soft-spoken Prof. Spenta Wadia, the "Higgs" man who had addressed the Club on the subject in August 2012, was conferred the award by Mr. Adi Godrej, an Honorary member of the Club and nephew of the late Sohrab Godrej, and Mr. Nadir Godrej, his brother.

Prof. Spenta Rustom Wadia (to give his full name) was Professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bombay, and Director of the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, Bangalore.

Invited to introduce the award-winner, Mr. Nadir Godrej surprised members by doing it in a poetic manner before reading the citation.

Taru Lalvani Award for Environment Protection

Artiste, satirist, painter, illustrator. Mr. Aabid Surti was all this and more. But the reason why he received the award was the fact that he was a crusader. He had been waging a lonely war to save every drop of water by going to people's houses and helping fix their leaking taps.

He had been doing this for over seven years in the sprawling suburb of Mira Road where he knocked on residents' doors every Sunday morning. He was accompanied by a plumber who carried a bag of O-rings (gaskets or washers) and repaired the leaks. No wonder an award for environmental protection went to a satirist-cartoonist.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 was raised and presented to Mr. Aabid Surti at the

end of the meeting at which he received the award which carried a cash component of Rs. 40,000.

On the spontaneous initiative of what was popularly known as the "Bawa table", immediately supported by a cross-section of members, another sum of Rs. 50,000 was collected on the spot and given to Mr. Surti.

Vocational Training & Night Study Centres Bimal Mehta

They were probably the oldest – and biggest – projects being undertaken by the Rotary Club of Bombay, but they were also the most low-profile of all. This was the only way to sum up the activities of the Committee for Vocational Training and Night Study Centres.

As part of the new practice introduced by President Nowroze to request Directors and Chairpersons to make presentations on the activities being conducted by them, Bimal Mehta spoke at a regular Club meeting at which he described the working of the Committee.

He highlighted salient aspects of the projects being implemented jointly with the Bombay YMCA through an association that was 60 years old. However, "in terms of beneficiaries, it's probably one of our largest, but most low-profile, projects".

Vocational Training Centres functioned at Andheri and Nagpada; and a boys' orphanage and a Night Study Centre were being conducted from the same premises at Andheri.

The first Night Study Centre was set up in 1964 when the late Sohrab Godrej was the Club's President. Next year (2014), the project would complete 50 years of non-stop operation.

"Our children ask for air conditioned rooms at home, with desks and so on, so that they can study. Little do they know that most of the city's population lives in homes that are probably half the size (of their rooms) with at least 15 people crammed in them and

with no place to study. But they work hard and study even in such conditions."

There were seven centres, the average number of students at each, 400. Boys and girls from different classes sat together to study in the same classroom. Night Study Centres were in operation at Agripada, Saibaba Nagar, the Yusuf Meherali School, Kamathipura and Sewri (at the last two, the children had to sit on the floor).

As for Vocational Training Centres, Bimal said this was another flagship project in association with the YMCA. The first one was established in 1991 when Arvind Jolly was President.

At these centres children received training in fashion designing, embroidery, basic and advanced tailoring, typing, computer operations, applying *mehendi*, providing a beautician's services, jewellery-making and so on.

"The idea is to teach these young boys and girls a vocation so that they can go out and get a job in these trades (professions). They are given a certificate by the government of Maharashtra at the end of the course."

Most of the courses were conducted at the Nagpada centre. Last year, a total of 1,905 students attended and benefited from this particular centre.

The second Centre at Andheri was started by YMCA in 1996. But the Club entered into a partnership in 2006 during the tenure of Harry Singh Arora. The DSP Meryl Lynch Group supported the centre, thanks to large donations by his (Bimal's) friend, Mr. Amit Chandra; his contribution was matched by the Club.

Four government and five diploma courses were offered to the 207 students at Andheri – in wiring, fashion designing, beauty treatment, *mehendi* and computer operations. Besides, an entrepreneurship programme taught them how to set up and run their own business; they were also given educational guidance and attended seminars.



The 'Bawa table'. As Mr. Aabid Surti received the Award for Environmental Protection, they quickly collected Rs. 50,000 and handed it over to him

The Boys' Orphanage, also at the Andheri campus of the YMCA, was started in 1964 and the Club began its association with it in 2006.

"We provide a home to 65 boys and look after all their requirements, such as boarding, four meals a day, tuitions, sports, clothing and schooling. Some of us (members) went there in October last year when we distributed toys and games to the children."

The children were thrilled to receive the gifts and many of them had already started playing chess, table tennis and other games. They had also started using the trampoline that was presented to them.

An "Olympic Gold Quest Programme" had also been launched at the Andheri centre where there were many talented children interested in sports. Some of them had been identified for boxing and were being trained to enter the State and National-level competitions – and perhaps go on to the 2024 Olympics Games. They had the aptitude and the interest but required structured training.

President Nowroze appealed to members to visit the Night Study Centres and the Vocational Training Centres to encourage the children taking the courses.

A few weeks before he made his presentation, Bimal arranged a visit to the YMCA Boys' Home at Andheri. The team from the Rotary Club of Bombay, led by President Nowroze, was joined by Mr. Amit Chandra, the CEO of Bain Capital, who was accompanied by his mother, on a special invitation to unveil two plaques.

One of these stated that the Boys' Home was now jointly sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay in memory of Mr. Amit Chandra's father, the late Ranbir Chandra. The second carried a similar message in relation to the Vocational Training Centre being conducted there.

Mr. Chandra, in his personal capacity, had committed a sum of Rs. 51 lakhs spread over three years to assist in the functioning of both the Boys' Home as well as the Vocational Training Centre at Andheri. This amount would be matched (to the extent of 50% each) by the Rotary Club of Bombay and the YMCA authorities.

The Centre offered courses in over half a dozen trades and professions to 800 children from the neighbouring areas. Some of them travelled long distances to attend the classes.

A breath-taking display of gymnastics was also put up by the children of the Boys' Home. It was followed by a cultural programme. After displaying their abilities, the children received something unexpected – just rewards for their endeavours. They whooped with joy as a pile of toys and (board)

games was unloaded and distributed by the ever-smiling Bimal Mehta.

One of the suggestions in the formal speeches by Rotarians and YMCA office-bearers was that Rotarians visit the Boys' Home regularly to interact with the children. They could also sponsor a meal (costing a little less than Rs. 4,000 per meal); celebrate their children's birthdays with the boys of the Home; donate used clothes and toys; or sponsor Holi, Diwali, Christmas and other festive celebrations.

One significant suggestion was that Rotarians could mentor some of the children of the Boys' Home.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Director

Ashok Minawala

Rotary Foundation & Matching

Grants

PPArvind Jolly

District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar presented Paul Harris Fellow pins and certificates to several members in the course of his Official Visit to the Club.

Among them were Ashok Chinai, Devendra Sharma, Dr. Ramnath Nayak, Homi Katgara, Sam Katgara, Pallavi Jha, Purnima Sheth, Samir Mogul, Rotaryann Sheila Paul, Suhail Nathani, Tara Deshpande, Vandan Shah and Vineet Bhatnagar.

Shailesh Haribhakti was honoured with a Benefactor Certificate and pin. Special Paul Harris Pins with five sapphires were announced for PP Vithal Palekar, PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir and Pradeep Mafatlal. A Paul Harris Pin with eight sapphires was presented to PP Nandan Damani.

Four members who had contributed US \$25,000 or more were also recognised. They were Meera Alreja, Nirav Shah, Trilochan Singh Sahney and Rajas Doshi. Manoj Israni received a Certificate and a Crystal.

In December, 2012, the Club hosted the Rotary Foundation Seminar of District 3140 along with three other Clubs. It was held at "The Roof Top" of the Trident Hotel and turned out to be a grand affair. For the first time, the Seminar was converted into an exclusive, sit-down dinner event, with "The Roof Top" providing the ideal ambience and offering a panoramic view of the city's skyline along the shimmering waterfront.

Among those who made presentations on the occasion were Vice-President Shailesh Haribhakti; PP Rajendra Chhapwale who spoke on "What it feels to be an Arch C. Klump Society Member"; District Governor Dr. Bal Krishna Inamdar; and the guest of honour, Past R.I. Director and serving Rotary Foundation Trustee Ashok Mahajan.

The icing on the cake was the presence of Past R.I. President and chief

guest Rajendra Saboo who gave an inspirational and motivating speech on the programmes and projects of The Rotary Foundation.

The Seminar was hosted by the Rotary Club of Bombay and co-hosted by the Rotary Clubs of Bombay Central, Mumbai Queen's Necklace and Bombay Seafare. The host Clubs were represented by President-Elect Nirav Shah, President Apurva Shah, President Radhika Mehta and Gool Ghadiali, respectively.

It was ably conducted by Convener IPP Paul George. District Chairman for Foundation Support PP Sandip Agarwalla had meticulously planned and executed the programme which was attended by a large number of past and serving District Officers, PDGs, Rotarians and Rotaryans from R.I. District 3140.

At a regular Club meeting, PP Sandip Agarwalla revealed that when he agreed to serve as Avenue Chairman of The Rotary Foundation Support Committee, he was not aware of even 10% of the activities undertaken by The Foundation.

What he learned subsequently was eye-opening. And if a seasoned Rotarian like him knew so little about The Foundation, he felt obliged to share his experiences and some of the knowledge he had acquired with his fellow members. This was imperative also because most Rotarians had contributed to The Foundation but did not know too much about its activities.

He made an audio-visual presentation about The Foundation that was prepared with the help of Ramesh Narayan and Ali Merchant. Sandip also appealed to all Rotarians to support the two causes that the District-level Foundation Committees were promoting, viz., polio; and safe drinking water and sanitation. Projects under the second cause were being launched in villages in Maharashtra, but the plan was to make them replicable all over India.

If any corporate offered to give one-third of the total cost of a project, his Committee would raise the remaining two-thirds.

The first project was being planned in a village called Palasgaon near Chandrapur in district Amravati. It had a population of 3,000 and the project would cost about Rs. 3 crores. A toilet block would be provided in each and every household in the village and provision made for safe drinking water round the year.

As Sandip completed his presentation, Nirav presented him with a cheque for Rs. 55,000, the equivalent of \$1,000, for Rotary's polio eradication campaign.

R.I. President-Elect Ron Burton and his spouse Jetta attended The Rotary Foundation Seminar organised by District 3140 in Thane. It was attended by 525 Rotarians and 200 of them committed to become Paul Harris Fellows. They were recognised by Ron Burton.

Among those present on the occasion were R.I. Director Yash Pal Das, District Governor Dr. Bal Inamdar, R.I. Director-Elect P.T. Prabhakar, PRID Ashok Mahajan, the Mayor of Thane and several members of the District College of Governors.

R.I. Programmes & Slumber Kit **PP Rajnikant Reshamwala**

When Slumber Kits were distributed by President Nowroze and Hon. Secretary Sitaram to needy children at the Geeta Nagar slums at Colaba on July 28, the smiles were worth going miles to see. For a change, the kits carried the Four-Way Test in Hindi. They consisted mainly of a tiffin box, a compass box, water bottle, "satranji" or coarse sheet, a towel, a bed sheet, four notebooks, a school bag, raincoat and school uniform

This year, the Slumber Kits were financed and distributed by R.I. District 3140 with a substantial contribution from the Rotary Club of Bombay. Of course, the concept came originally



President Nowroze, Hon. Secretary Sitaram and Chairman Manish at the Geeta Nagar slum in Colaba, distributing Slumber Kits

from Canada where one family had taken on the task of distributing kits. The total number given by that family had run into millions.

Office-Bearers of both the Geeta Nagar Rahivasi Sangh (residents' association) and the local women's association helped identify 50 needy boys and girls from the school-going children of the area and also helped make arrangements for the programme.

Manish Reshamwala stood in for his father, PP Rajnikant Reshamwala, recognised as the "champion" in the field of Slumber Kits, having overseen the distribution of hundreds of thousands of kits all over the District over the last two decades.

NEW GENERATIONS

– EDUCATION

Director

Madhusudan Daga

Bhavishya-Yaan

Manish Reshamwala

Mr. V. Ranganathan, former Municipal Commissioner and ex-Chief Secretary of the Maharashtra government, said on record that he was very happy with the manner in which the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project had shaped up and lauded the Rotary Club of Bombay for the commendable initiative which had been replicated in seven municipal schools.

He was speaking at a simple but well-attended programme on July 9 when underprivileged students of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project being conducted at the Colaba Municipal School were felicitated for their performance at the SSC examinations.

The guest of honour was actress Kajal Agarwal who played the female lead in the film *Singham*. She was greeted with a roar when she made her appearance. Like a concerned elder member of the family, she told the students that "education is the most important thing". Every person, boy or girl, had a right to follow their heart and their passion, but they would achieve very little if they did not build their dreams on the foundation of a good education, she added.

Mr. Ranganathan and Ms Agarwal took turns along with Nowroze and others in distributing awards to the top scorers. Interestingly, all 44 students of the Colaba *Bhavishya-Yaan* project had passed the SSC exam, thus giving a perfect score of 100%. Fourteen had scored more than 75% marks and five over 80%. One of the students scored 82% in English; truly an achievement for the programme.

Ms Anjan Malkani, the sponsor of the Colaba *Bhavishya-Yaan* project, was also present on the occasion to greet the children and presented dictionaries to them.

Two of the students and the parent of one spoke briefly about how the

Bhavishya-Yaan project had helped them. The parent stated that now she, too, wanted to learn English because her son insisted that he would only speak that language. As members would be aware, the academic partner in the programme was the NGO Vidya.

Several teachers of the Colaba Municipal School were also felicitated along with the volunteers who had worked hard all through the year to achieve 100% success at the SSC exam.

Speaking at a weekly meeting of the Club, Chairman Manish said the Committee had received approval for four new *Bhavishya-Yaan* projects at different municipal schools and that two of these would start in the next year.

The cost to set up a centre was Rs. 10 lakhs and the running cost was Rs. 9 lakhs per year. Rotarians could be involved in these centres in their individual capacities; while some could teach, others could volunteer health check-up camps or even administrative services.

He recalled that the project took wing under the stewardship of Ramesh Narayan in 2009 and had grown to three schools in a short period of three years.

It was a skills-enhancement programme and the aim was to teach computer skills, spoken English, life-skills and so on free of cost to underprivileged children in municipal schools to ensure that they did not drop out and that they completed their education.

Students were chosen on the basis of interviews, monitored and mentored through five years, with the emphasis during the last year on passing the board exams and pursuing higher education.

Seventeen students had been sponsored by Club members for their higher education after they passed their SSC examinations.

"We have noted that the students know very little apart from their homes and schools. They are not aware of their surroundings, the places of interest in the city and so on. To deal with this, we have decided to have picnics and outings with them. They have had 'high tea' at the office of the Sheriff of Bombay, have seen the shooting of television reality shows and watched a live cricket match at the Brabourne Stadium," Manish added.

Rotaryann Aparna Venkat, coordinator of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project at the N.M. Joshi Marg Municipal School, organised a two-day workshop which involved sessions in lateral thinking, creative (essay) writing and the fine arts of drawing, sketching, painting and so on.

The eager participants were students of Std. VII and VIII. Interestingly, they were first imparted lessons in creative writing before they were



With the 'Bigg Boss'. Colaba 'Bhavishya-Yaan' children went to Lonavala with Freyaz Shroff (left) to meet matinee idol Salman Khan

allowed to get down to the task of sketching, drawing or painting.

They were asked to recollect the happiest moments of their lives and then make an attempt to transfer those moments on paper. What emerged at the end of the exercise was a set of beautiful paintings, some of them in the shape of greetings cards for Diwali and the festive season.

Many of these pretty works were on display at the meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay at the Taj Mahal Hotel on November 6. Members were surprised by the artistic excellence evident in some of the paintings and wondered how such young minds could come up with such profound works. There were eager buyers for some of the greeting cards on display.

At the end of the meeting, President Nowroze complimented the young artists and presented mementoes to them. They were escorted by Aparna.

The Art and Creative thinking workshop was designed to introduce the children of municipal schools participating in the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project to various professions related to creativity and the fine arts, including theatre, journalism, creative writing, product designing, architecture and advertising.

The programme for the workshop was designed by Priyasri Patodia under the guidance of the doyen of the art world, Mr. Akbar Padamsee.

Later that month, the students of six municipal schools where the *Bhavishya-Yaan* project was being implemented displayed their talent and abilities when they participated in a twelve-day-long "Diwali Dhamaka" camp. It culminated in a cracker of a programme on December 1 at which students of each of the six schools were called upon to represent a country of their choice and to present various facets of its culture, traditions, cuisine, dance forms and so on.

In other words, the *Bhavishya-Yaan* students "travelled" far and wide. And,

as India came alive with the sound and fury of firecrackers and was lit up with sparkling lights and radiant sparklers on Diwali, the boys and girls of *Bhavishya-Yaan* lit up their lives with deep knowledge of different cultures and styles of celebration.

From festivals of light to harvest celebrations, from divine births to grand street carnivals, the students learned about different festivals across the globe. Each school having been assigned a country, that particular country was researched for its festivals and their significance. The students also got a peek into that country's history, geography, prominent personalities, food, culture and traditions.

The highlight of the camp was that each school was trained by Nrityanjali in an authentic folk dance of that country. The colourful costumes for the dance performance on the final day were created by the students themselves under the guidance of Nrityanjali teachers.

The "Diwali Dhamaka" camp ended in a dance extravaganza at which all the schools gave an outstanding performance at the N.M. Joshi Marg School auditorium, complete with costumes, makeup *et al*. They also exhibited the arts and crafts of those countries. The audience, which included President Nowroze, was left spellbound and fascinated by the efforts and enthusiasm of the city's youth.

A visit to Nehru Planetarium and experiencing the festival of Guru Nanak Jayanti with a typical *langar* were among the other activities that took place. Vidya, the NGO associated with *Bhavishya-Yaan* from the beginning, was involved in the organisation of the camp.

Here is the complete list of the participating schools and the countries chosen by them:

Banganga: Sri Lanka; **Byculla:** Japan; **Colaba:** Greece; **N.M. Joshi Marg:** Africa; **Vile Parle:** Spain; and **Worli:** Brazil.

In December, Ms Pushpa, the Vidya Coordinator at the Colaba *Bhavishya-Yaan* School, and Freyaz Shroff, the Rotary Club of Bombay's Coordinator for the same school, took a group of seven boys from Std. IX to visit the "Manoranjana Mela" at Charni Road, the annual event sponsored by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College.

This annual programme was arranged for the benefit of mentally and physically challenged children from the lower income families. The children had a rollicking time once they reached the venue where several games, rides, amusements and snacks and other facilities were available.

Normally, about 700 to 800 people turned up for the "Manoranjana Mela", with almost all children accompanied either by their parents, teachers or school staff. The boys accompanying Freyaz and Ms Pushpa were assigned volunteer duties at some of the booths at the venue.

The lesson they took away from this assignment was that it didn't matter whether one was well off or not, it was always possible to grab the opportunity to give back something to society and to others.

Hesitant at first, the boys seemed to prefer to enjoy the games, rides and amusements on offer. But soon they got into their respective roles at the booths assigned to them and started interacting with less privileged and challenged children.

When it was time for them to leave, they were reluctant to go, requesting that they be allowed to spend some more time at the booths so that they could interact with the children enjoying the "Manoranjana Mela".

Freyaz acquitted herself admirably well, shepherding the boys of the *Bhavishya-Yaan* and opening their eyes to some of the realities of life.

But Freyaz was not done yet. Soon after this programme, she escorted 18 students of Std. VIII and IX from the Colaba Municipal School to enjoy a rare privilege – to get themselves photographed with Salman Khan, one of the leading stars of Bollywood. Not only that, they also had the opportunity to see another leading star, Kareena Kapoor, who waved and said hello to them.

No, it was not that these stars travelled to Colaba to interact with the children. It was the other way round. Thanks to the good offices of Ramesh Narayan, the children were taken on a guided trip to the sets of a popular television reality show called *Bigg Boss* which had been erected at Lonavala.

Ramesh received unstinted support from Mr. Raj Nayak, the CEO of Colors television channel which hosted the show, and from Bollywood Tour-

ism which organised every aspect of the visit.

The children were accompanied by Freyaz; Ms Tasneem, the English teacher from the NGO Vidya; Ms Yogeta, a representative of Bollywood Tourism; and Ms Pooja from the Colors' Marketing team.

According to Freyaz, the children were treated like celebrities all the way. Once they boarded the bus, they were offered breakfast, snacks, juices and popular music for non-stop entertainment. They played "Antakshari" and other games which helped reduce the distance between Bombay and Lonavala to what seemed a few minutes.

One of the games they played for the first time was called "I Spy with my Little Eye" with the focus on keen observation, thinking, spelling and other skills. The children had great fun playing this game.

At the studio in Lonavala they were asked to occupy the first rows so that they could get a really close look at the manner in which the shooting took place. Salman Khan, the show's host, was expected to arrive very shortly.

But imagine the children's surprise when they saw Kareena Kapoor walk into the studio. As one of the organisers put it, it was indeed the children's lucky day that Kareena was shooting for the same serial at Lonavala. She waved to the children and said hello before going backstage to prepare for the shooting.

Once the day's schedule was through, the children were taken on a guided tour of the production departments. They saw hundreds of cameras set up all over the *Bigg Boss* premises to keep an eye on every action and movement of the participants. They saw how the voice-overs were captured and how two hours' shooting was edited into a one-hour episode fit for broadcasting.

After being treated to lunch, the children got an opportunity to sit in the high chair normally occupied by the *Bigg Boss* and to have themselves photographed. The all-too-brief photo session with Salman Khan would probably remain etched in their minds for the rest of their lives.

As the day came to an end and it was time to leave for Bombay, the representatives of Colors and Bollywood Tourism presented every child with an individually framed photograph of them seated on the *Bigg Boss* chair.

The ride back home was equally memorable, what with music blaring and the more enterprising taking to the (bus) floor to display their dance movements. Once home, they could not hide their excitement at having enjoyed a unique experience.

In the days since the trip, they wrote essays about their experience and made



'Bhavishya-Yaan' children from the G.K. Marg Municipal School had a great time at the Bombay Museum. Rajesh Shah escorted them

presentations in class in an effort "to marry enjoyment with education".

If the children from Colaba were busy at Lonavala, those from the G.K. Marg Municipal School had an equally delightful time when they visited Bombay's favourite tourist spot, the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS), earlier called the Prince of Wales Museum of Western India.

The children were delighted to note that the museum provided an "audio tour" in six languages to its visitors. A headphone symbol at the foot of some images indicated that the artefact was part of the "audio tour".

Finally, thanks to the good offices of PP Gul Kripalani and Prafulla Mogre, a Belgian gentleman who manufactured food products offered several jars of chocolate spread to the Rotary Club of Bombay.

President Nowroze felt that these were best distributed in the municipal schools where about 500 children were enrolled under the Club's *Bhavishya-Yaan* programme; and so the jars were given to over 200 children. Among those present at the distribution were Nowroze, Manish, Prafulla and Rajesh Shah, the Club Coordinator at the G.K. Marg Municipal School.

Scholarships & Loans

Manoj Kumar Patodia

Making a brief presentation at a Club meeting, Manoj explained the working of his Committee. He said the Committee was formed after merging the Committees for Merit-cum-Means Scholarships and Rotary Suraksha Loans.

The new Committee was working to disburse grants totalling Rs. 5 lakhs and loans up to Rs. 11 lakhs this year.

As far as the grants were concerned, the Club had received 296 applications which had been evaluated and grants totalling Rs. 5.5 lakhs would be disbursed to 210 underprivileged and deserving children. Of the 210 chosen, 95 were blind students.

The Committee for PolioPlus and for the Differently Abled headed by Shyyamniwas Somani had then contributed Rs. 50,000; thanks to this, the Club would be able to provide a grant to all the 95 blind applicants.

The budget for loans, on the other hand, was Rs. 11 lakhs for which the Club had tied up with the Union Bank of India to devise a scheme under which the Club could sanction a maximum loan amount of Rs. 50,000 per candidate.

The loan would be for a period of two years at a concessional rate of interest of 4% per year. However, if the loan was guaranteed by a Rotarian, then the interest rate would come down to a paltry 2% per year.

"We have already circulated this scheme to a few Vocational Training centres and an appeal has appeared in *The Gateway*. You are requested to forward the applications that may come your way," Manoj added.

The Committee had decided to offer financial assistance to needy students based solely on their merit. It had set out a few simple requirements for the grant of scholarships.

First, the Merit-cum-Means Scholarships would be available to junior college and graduate degree students only. Second, these would be granted to needy students based entirely on merit. Third, the minimum percentage required for eligibility at the SSC examination would be 75. Fourth, the family income of the student could not exceed Rs. 2 lakh per annum.

It was clarified that the scholarship would be given only for college tuition fees and/or examination fees and books and not for extra coaching classes or other purposes. All applicants would have to declare any scholarships that they had received from any other source.

It would be mandatory for the students to submit duly certified true copies of certificates, testimonials and salary proof of their family members.

Apart from the above, the Committee also tied up with Union Bank of India for "Rotary loans" to be disbursed by the Bank to needy students wishing to undertake a Vocational Training Course to enhance their career prospects. Among the courses would be those for operating computers or learning trades such as electricians, plumbers, machine lathe operators and so on.

Application forms were made available at the Rotary office and members wanting to help needy and deserving students were requested to contact Ashok Jatia.

The Rotary Club of Bombay changed his life

Mr. Shanmugam completed his engineering from one of the leading colleges of Bombay and was employed by a leading MNC, which he called "one of the finest organisations in the world", and earned a salary of over Rs. 13 lakhs per annum.

And all this was thanks to the Rotary Club of Bombay and its Scholarships and Loans programme.

A decade back, when he passed his H.S.C. exam with 95.33% marks in physics, chemistry and maths (the basic requirement for getting into a premier engineering college), he obtained admission in more than one engineering college. But, he had no money to pay the fees.

That was when the Rotary Club of Bombay's Scholarships and Loans programme came to his rescue. Somebody put him in touch with Joseph Koshy who was a member of the Committee at that time. Seeing the keen enthusiasm of the youngster, Joseph inquired about his background. The story that emerged left him totally astounded.

The young man hailed from a family in which no one had ever received formal education. He never got any academic or career advice from any of his family members. His father had passed away when he was just five. The responsibility of supporting the family fell on his mother's shoulders. The family had a small shop which it rented out to ensure a regular income.

But the rent was paltry. So both his mother and his grandmother took to making *idlis* and selling them from outside their home.

The young Shanmugam managed to get a part-time job which helped him pay for his high school education. Then he passed his H.S.C. with 95.33% marks.

A Rotary service camp near Shivaji Nagar in the Chembur-Mankhurd area, where he lived, put him in touch with Joseph Koshy. The young man unburdened himself. Joseph immediately got into the act and motivated the youngster to apply for a Rotary loan.

To cut a long story short, Shanmugam received a scholarship in just a few days and went on to obtain his engineering degree and land a well-paying job with an MNC. One of the first things he did after he started earning was to repay the loan that Rotary had given him to complete his studies.

Today, he was a very happy man, but not happier than Joseph Koshy and other members of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Management Studies

Poonam Kumar

The Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, represented by Suprav Sarang, Prakash Nishtala and Gurupadesh Singh, made an outstanding presentation on "India's Skill Development Challenge: Devising a PPP Model" to win the fifth annual Rotary Club of Bombay and Mega Ace Consultancy Rolling Trophy Competition for Management Studies. A cash award of Rs. 25,000, a certificate and the rolling trophy were awarded at the competition held in the Walchand Hirachand Hall of the Indian Merchants' Chamber.

The programme was designed, organised and managed by Mega Ace Consultancy under Chairperson Poonam Kumar. The members of the jury were PP Pradeep Saxena, Roda Billimoria, Tarjani Vakil and Poonam herself.

While the Sydenham Institute of Management Studies won the second prize, the third went to the Institute for Technology and Management.

The annual programme, called "Next Generation Business Leaders: Annual Rolling Trophy Competition", was launched by Mega Ace Consultancy along with the Rotary Club of Bombay in 2008. It had received overwhelming response from various B-Schools in the Bombay and Pune regions.

The competition aimed at providing exposure and enhancing the skills of management students, providing them with practical and theoretical knowledge and experience of business thinking and processes. It intended to instil confidence among students to face modern-day corporate realities and to imbibe decision-making processes.

A formal awards presentation ceremony took place at one of the regular meetings of the Club, when President Nowroze and Poonam presented the trophies.

NEW GENERATIONS

= YOUTH

Director

Arjun Jolly

Interact

Meera Alreja

The beginning of the new Rotary year saw the Interactors immediately getting down to business. The Interact Club of Gopi Birla Memorial

School was scheduled to hold its installation meeting in the school premises on July 20. Three days later, on July 23, not one but half a dozen Interact Clubs were slated to see their new teams being installed.

Stealing a march, the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College organised a programme styled "The Revival" at which the installation ceremony for six different Interact Clubs was held at one go at Bharda New High School.

Not only was the new Interact team of that school installed, but those from five other schools were also given their respective charges. These were: Alexandra Girls' High School, Young Ladies' High School, H.P. Thackersey School, St. Mary's School and St. Anne's School, Dabul.

The idea behind "The Revival" was to get schools together to create a sense of bonding between them, to motivate them to be active throughout the year and to take up as many joint projects as possible emphasising Community Service.

President Nowroze, accompanied by Sitaram, Interact Chair Meera Alreja and Rotaract Chair Ravi Fotedar attended the programme. Also present was a team from District 3140 consisting of the Chairpersons for Interact and Alumni Relations, viz., Tvisha Luthria, Aditya Garg, Kinjal Sanchania and Farida Officewala.

Earlier, on July 15 the Rotaractors had arranged a training session "Udaan" to inspire and motivate students to become successful leaders.

Here is a round-up of some of the activities of the Interact Clubs sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Gopi Birla Memorial School

Two days. Two venues. Twenty four events. Three thousand students from twenty three schools. And the prize? A much-coveted trophy – the **We Are The World** trophy awarded at the conclusion of the 12th annual inter-school international cultural extravaganza.

Organised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College on October 6 and 7, the trophy was bagged by a jubilant Interact Club of Gopi Birla Memorial School. The runners-up were Christchurch School and the Dhirubhai Ambani International School.

We Are The World has now become a fiercely-contested annual contest with an international theme and students from schools all over the city showcase their talent in the performing arts, the fine arts, literature and other events. They are allowed to choose a country in advance and make presentations after a thorough study of that particular country. The theme for this year was the Olympic Games.

The Rotaract Club of H.R. College has been hosting the event for twelve years as a "legacy" event. Although the office-bearers change every year, the template has been so well-etched that successive Presidents and Chairpersons have to only concentrate on fine-tuning things in keeping with the changing times.

(It would be interesting to see a student from one of the participating schools one day becoming an office-bearer of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College and organising the event!)

A total of 3,000 students took part in this year's extravaganza; but the Rotaractors insisted that the total number of "footfalls" exceeded 4,000. The event reached over 39,000 people through Facebook in just one week.

The investiture ceremony of the Interact Club of Gopi Birla Memorial School was attended by several members of the Rotary Club of Bombay. The Interactors started by encouraging the use of carpools, particularly on the school's open day when parents and children drove up and caused huge traffic jams. This was an environmentally-friendly initiative of the Club.

The Rotaract Club of H.R. College arranged a symposium for Interactors at which they described their aims and explained their functioning.



They never shirk their responsibilities. The Interactors of Gopi Birla School line up outside their school, spreading the message of Road Safety

Later in the year, the Interactors of Gopi Birla Memorial School were eager participants in the "Road Safety" campaign organised by Chairman Deepak Kapadia with the active support of the city's traffic police. The Interactors stood on the road outside their school holding aloft placards urging safe driving.

Recognising the fact that negligible use of helmets and seatbelts was one of the biggest causes of the high rate of fatalities in road accidents in India (which had, unfortunately, overtaken China in this respect), the Interactors urged those on two-wheelers to use helmets and those in cars to fasten seatbelts.

The students, along with their Moderator, were extremely polite as they urged their fellow citizens to follow the "Road Safety" rules.

Scholar High School

First off, the Interactors arranged a newspaper drive. The old papers collected were used for making paper bags and other utility items. Next, there was a drive to collect used plastic bottles that went into making pen holders and flower pots so that some greenery was on display.

The children also participated in an exhibition to highlight environmental concerns, the harmful effects of smoking and wastage of resources. In an interesting departure, some charts and posters focused on the spreading corruption all around.

On Independence Day, the Interactors went to the King George V infirmary where they spent quality time with the aged and forgotten residents, entertaining them with songs and dances. They also spent some time with the children at a home for blind children.

Sneh Kothari reported that the members of the Interact Club of Scholar High School took part in "Vogue", a popular programme of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College. They also participated in the "Word War" of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College.

Cathedral and John Connon

The Interactors went out of the way to raise money for various charities and individuals through different activities. They enthusiastically participated in a bake sale, getting home-baked delights and selling them to raise money, and collecting toys and donating them to the underprivileged.

Apart from interacting with students of the Kamala Mehta School for the Blind in Dadar, they also presented them with a cheque. They raised Rs. 1 lakh for Sonali Mukherjee, the victim of an acid attack.

Their project with the mentally challenged included a stall by Om Creations that sold products and distributed literature to raise awareness about

the mentally challenged. An umbrella painting competition was organised for the mentally challenged students of Savera.

The Moderator, Mrs. Balaji, and Interact President Roshan Unvala earned laurels for their projects for the less privileged.

Holy Name High School

Although Bombay had some green cover, it was a fact that the number of plant species was fast declining. At a seminar on biodiversity organised by the Interact Club of Holy Name High School, Fr. Savio drew attention to this fact and shared information about wall gardens, terrace gardens and the conversion of dumping grounds into green, verdant spreads.

The enthusiastic students formed groups to take care of various green spaces in and around the school, thus making a commitment to preserve greenery starting with their immediate environment.

St. Anne's Girls High School, Dabul

The Interactors organised a greeting card competition before Teachers' Day. They chose the best and presented them to the teachers.

On World Elders' Day, they invited the grandparents of two students from each class from Standards V to X and felicitated them, presenting them with flowers and gifts and arranging an entertainment programme. In turn, the grandparents shared some of their experiences. The enjoyable evening ended with snacks.

A total of 25 grandparents turned up for the event and were felicitated by Principal S.R. Romana and others.

Anjuman-I-Islam Allana English High School

The Interact Club of this school, located at Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, organised a debate competition for all school students. Two of the subjects on which the students had to speak were "Passing students up to the Eighth Standard" and "Empowering goodness". For the final round, the topic was even weightier, viz., "Academic performance is the best performance for success in life".

According to the Interact Club's Moderator, Ms Tabassum Fatma Rizvi, the idea behind the competition was to bring the students' potential to the fore and to provide them with a platform to freely express their point of view. Viewed from this perspective, the competition was a success as it brought out the students' talent and abilities.

A few weeks later, taking off from the discussion and debate on "Empowering goodness", Interact President Aafaan Qureshi and his team organised a seminar, skit and quiz contest on the subject which also saw

participation by a large number of Interactors and other students of the school.

Young Ladies High School

Soon after the installation ceremony organised at Bharda High School, the Interactors, led by President Ayesha Fakkiahmeda and guided by Moderator Ms Tazin Thakur, took active part in various Community Service activities.

First, they planted saplings in the school compound and then took part in one of the campaigns of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College.

In September, they lent a helping hand to the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College and its month-long initiative, "Silent Saturday". They joined the Rotaractors to form a human chain at Marine Drive to spread awareness about global warming. And then in the cleanliness drive at Marine Drive.

In November, the Interactors did "shram daan" by taking up the task of cleaning the school premises, including the classrooms, the corridors and the library.

And in February they went to Goregaon for the World Wetland Day poster competition organised by the Bombay Natural History Society in collaboration with the Environment Committee of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Convent of Jesus and Mary

This Interact Club geared itself up long before the beginning of the Rotary year to execute a series of projects. No wonder the very first report from the Club (sent in the second half of August), described nearly half a dozen activities.

Functioning under the expert guidance of Principal Sister Arina Ghosal, the Club had the untiring Ms Samiksha Mundhe as its Moderator and Ms Cymbeline Pereira overseeing it as Co-ordinator.

While Naqia Mahimwala served as President for 2012-13, Ayushi Chotai was the Secretary, Yashvi Bothra Treasurer and Drashti Zaveri Director.

One of the first activities was the inauguration of a Science Club for Std. VII. It was given the responsibility of preparing one or more projects that would explain some of the wonders of nature, such as (a) how was the water cycle formed? (b) why was sea water salty? (c) how much water did a human body require? (d) the "god" particle, and (e) the big bang theory.

This was followed by the inauguration of an Eco-Club for students of Std. VIII. Principal Arina was present and administered an oath to the members to keep the environment clean. Beautifully designed badges were presented to all the members.

Ms Selzana and Ms Vanita were named the teachers to oversee the Eco-Club. Muskaan Maru was elected President and Aeiron and Kassandra Treasurers.

Next on the list of activities was the popular newspaper drive conducted at the beginning of every year. Old newspapers, magazines, used plastic bottles and other articles were collected by all the students and sold to the local scrap and newspaper merchants. The money collected was kept aside and used to celebrate "Helpers' Day".

Naqia Mahimwala presented the school's annual report at the "Annual Day" conducted under the guidance of Principal Arina for the students of Standards Sixth to Tenth. The chief guests were Mr. and Mrs. Menezes whose daughter used to be the Head Girl of the school.

Sister Arina and Mrs. Menezes presented awards to the students who had scored the highest marks, those with distinction, the highest marks in value education, good conduct and so on.

A former President of the Interact Club scored 90% in the SSC exam. Another Interactor, Trusha Doshi, had a high 98.36% in the same exam.

In another initiative, the students of Std. X utilised their "Social service" period to teach children of Standards First to Fourth who were weak in their



'Empowering goodness,' this was the theme on which the Interact Club of Anjuman-I-Islam Allana English High School held a seminar, skit and quiz

studies. This had proved to be a big success, apparently because the little children loved it when “older girls” rather than “strict teachers” took up their studies!

However, students of Std. IX used their “Social service” period to go to the “Garden school”. This was the place where children whose parents could not afford to send them to school were taught by Interactors and others. The children learned arts, crafts, poems and spoken English.

Apart from the above, the Interactors organised many other activities, such as plays by the different houses. A presentation on the girl child was a special feature. All these activities helped raised awareness about social problems.

Ms Helen, the Headmistress of the Primary Section, and the Principal, Sister Arina, were the judges of a debate on capital punishment. The award for best speaker went to Zara Presswala, while Dana D’Souza was the runner-up.

The Interactors also took part in the “Alexandra Fest” and the “We Are The World” competition organised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College. At the latter event, the Club won a few medals in athletics.

On October 1, the Interactors observed “Helpers’ Day”; they took the school’s non-teaching staff on a day-long picnic and presented them with gifts and saplings.

A week later, they celebrated the birthday of Principal Sister Arina with a special assembly and a series of hugs and kisses. And then they went for a picnic to “Royal Garden” where they enjoyed the series of swings, rides and other equipment set up for amusement.

On November 22, the Interactors visited INS Shikra, the Indian naval air station at Colaba. They were accompanied by two teachers.

INS Shikra was earlier known as INS Kunjali which was the only Indian naval air station without a full-fledged runway to operate fixed-wing aircraft. It was primarily a heliport.

Director Drashti Zaveri reported that the Interactors were keen to visit Talwada to see how the Rotary Club of Bombay had involved itself with the community there.

On Children’s Day, November 9, the Interactors of Fort Convent attended school in colourful clothes and were soon sporting brilliantly coloured wristbands. Once in class, their teachers gave them coupons (for games, snacks and soft drinks). In the normal course, that would have been the end of the programme.

But there was a big surprise arranged by the Principal, the Headmistress and the teachers in store for the

children. They commenced their programme with a prayer service after lighting some candles. The show that followed consisted of three skits and two dance performances.

The show-stopper was a special skit with Ms Kakar, a police inspector, in the main role. The message that it conveyed was that it was not good to watch too many inane television programmes. And even if they did, it wouldn’t pay to emulate what was shown on the “idiot box”. More often than not, it was senseless and puerile.

At a time when the police force was in the dock all over the country, Ms Kakar put in an excellent performance in the leading role.

Yet another interesting programme was a visit to Anza Special School; it brought home the truth behind the dictum “every child is special”. The innocence on every child’s face made the Interactors want to reach out to them. They spent some memorable moments with them which would remain in their hearts forever.

Apart from offering the special children sweets and other goodies, the Interactors joined them as they attempted to add colour to a plain sketch of a princess. The joy on their faces as they looked at the completed work was worth going miles to see.

Some of the Interactors confessed that this visit had helped them to realise the importance of values and showed them the way to becoming good human beings.

On January 30, some students of Std. VII, most of them aged 12 or 13, visited the Shepherd’s Home at Byculla. This was a home for aged women who had no one to look after them (some were abandoned women).

Several smiling faces welcomed the Interactors as they reached the Home. They spent about an hour with them, trying to bring wider – and happier – smiles on their faces with the help of jokes, songs, dances and music. Before leaving, the Interactors promised to visit them again. The Interactors thanked Principal Sister Arina for suggesting this interesting visit.

In the midst of all these activities the Interactors did not forget their date with the residents of the Pallonji Shapoorji Home for the Aged at the B.D. Petit Parsi General Hospital.

They sang Christmas carols and engaged in some vigorous singing and dancing to old and popular songs. All of these were washed down, in a manner of speaking, with sweets, snacks and soft drinks.

Interact Club Director Drashti Zaveri took her mother along for the visit. Later, she found it very difficult to say who was more touched – her mother or the residents of the home for the aged.



The Interactors of Fort Convent organised a thoughtful programme at which they invited and felicitated grandparents of school children

Campion School

Concerned with the increasing pollution at various historical monuments in the country, the Interact Club of Campion School organised a field visit to Delhi and Agra. It was to these two historical cities that large numbers of domestic and international tourists flocked to see some of the world’s best architectural wonders. But they also left a lot of litter – and worse.

By taking the students on an educational trip to these two cities, the Interact Club and the school authorities sought to create awareness about the ill-effects of unbridled pollution.

Back home in Bombay, the Interactors launched a signature campaign against littering and asked their fellow students to promise not to mar their environs. They also set an example by picking up litter from common areas during their break.

Another campaign was to spread awareness about the harmful effects of plastic, especially when it had served its purpose. Charts were displayed in the school premises to describe how plastic ruined the environment.

The Interact Club had two Moderators, Ms Rosemary Misquitta and Ms Jennifer Fernandes. Its President was Aman Kargaonkar and he was assisted by Shivam Jaggi.

The students of Std. VII joined the Interact Club of Campion School in the academic year 2012-13 and bolstered the movement. The students of Std. VII A were led by their class teacher, Ms C. Menezes; those of Std. VII B were guided by their class teacher, Ms J. Fernandes.

The teachers reported that every week was a fun-filled one, with several projects organised to develop an interest in Interact activities among the children.

These ranged from developing a slogan for the class, chart-making, a signature campaign against the use of plastic, making cards for the traffic police, a tetrapack campaign, watching docu-

mentaries to learn about social and community issues, cleanliness drives, saving electricity and so on.

An outdoor trip to Lonavala for the annual camp afforded the children an opportunity to interact with one another and also to become more socially aware of the abilities and achievements of the differently abled.

They visited the National Institute for the Blind and were taken on treks so that they could attempt to be one with nature. The camp and the treks proved to be an enjoyable learning experience for the students.

Summing up, the two teachers, Ms Fernandes and Ms Menezes, stated that the year gone by was a fruitful, interesting and memorable one for the students and for them, too.

GD. Somani Memorial School

Members of the Interact Club of M.G.D. Somani Memorial School organised or took part in three different inter-school programmes in the first half of the Rotary year.

First, they hosted an inter-school programme with an intriguing title. They called it “Melange Total 5” and explained that it was an amalgam of five mega events.

It attracted participation by 16 schools, was held over two days and was an unalloyed success. Interestingly, this was the second annual edition of the programme and the students took active part in organising it.

Another interesting project was “Go Green Day”. All students were asked to bring unique, exotic potted plants to school and those judged the most exotic were given prizes. A large number of children took part in this programme designed to increase awareness about the need to conserve the environment and to grow more trees.

Finally, there was “Cascade 20”, an inter-school event organised by Jamnabai Narsee School; the Interactors of G.D. Somani took active part in it.

Interactor Adil Harianawala provided most of the above information.

St. Mary's ICSE

Naayaab Nagree was president and Nabil Hariyanawala Vice-President of the Interact Club. It had 34 members from Std. IX and 40 from Std. VIII.

At the beginning of the year, it organised an inter-school event called "Immaculata" and the members took active part as volunteers.

The boys of Std. VIII participated in a clean-up drive in the suburbs in addition to the regular clean-up drives in the school and surrounding areas.

Continuing the stress on civic issues, the Interactors made numerous charts on environment-related issues and civic problems confronting society. They also prepared charts to create awareness about upcoming festivals. These were put up on the Interact board and at other places in the school so that they could be seen by the maximum number of students.

St. Mary's ICSE had been associated with the Gyanmata School at Talasiri village in Upplat for several years. Annual exchange visits were a regular feature of this association.

This year, students of Std. X from Gyanmata School visited St. Mary's in November and were given royal treatment. They were taken on a tour of Bombay city and treated to games and other events organised by the Interactors.

When last heard, the Interactors were eagerly awaiting the new term, starting in January, for a few more visits and field trips.

H.V.B. Academy

Members of the Interact Club of H.V.B. Academy organised an exciting programme "Aadhar" which involved a get-together of children from the school and those from "Our Children", an NGO initiative.

It started with a dance performance by H.V.B. students to welcome the visiting children who were escorted by some of their teachers. To make the guests feel comfortable, a simple interactive session was organised in which each student had to introduce himself/herself. This quickly helped break the ice (this activity was appropriately named "Icebreaker").

Once the visiting students had been served with some nutritious snacks, another activity awaited them. This was a "collage-making" session planned in such a way that it could not be completed without teamwork. Each student from the visiting school was paired with a moderator. And then, amidst laughter, cheers and giggles, some brilliant collage work was completed. Finally, the students from "Our Children" were taken for a campus tour by the Moderators of the Interact Club.

Ms Tahira Salim, a comparatively new Moderator of the Interact Club

of H.V.B. Academy, revealed that since this was her first experience as a moderator, she had absolutely no idea about the sheer magnitude of such events. This experience had prepared her for more in the future. At the same time, she had also come to realise the importance of what the Rotary Club of Bombay was trying to achieve.

Bharda New High School

When Chairman Deepak Kapadia organised the "Road Safety Fortnight" in January, he had hundreds of Interactors and Rotaractors taking part in the drive to spread the message of saving lives through safe and careful driving and by following the required traffic rules.

Forty six Interactors of Bharda New High School took part in that portion of the drive which spanned the area from C.S.T. Station to Godrej Bhavan on Hazarimal Somani Marg. They stood on the roadside from 12.15 to 2.30 pm, each holding up a banner and all of them forming a huge human chain, urging motorists and two-wheeler riders to follow the rules and drive safely.

A few days later, members of the Rotaract Club of Hinduja College visited the school and conducted an essay-writing competition for the students of Std. VII and Std. VIII. They also made a PowerPoint presentation on women's empowerment.

About 200 students took part in the discussion which gave them an insight into the problems of women not only in India but also in other parts of the world. At the end of the programme, the students vowed to protect and uphold the dignity of women. Some of them made banners on the subject and displayed these in the school.

Earlier, President Sarosh Usmani, guided by Moderators Ms Tasneem Gilitwala and Ms Judy Vaz, took the Interactors on the annual visit to a school in a rural area. They went to the primary school conducted by the Zilla Parishad near Silvassa and conducted several activities for the children. The school had about 200 students from Std. I to Std. VII.

The activities taken up were drawing and collage-making competitions, one-minute games and sports. The winners were given prizes. The Interactors also distributed notebooks made from recycled paper, stationery items such as pencils, erasers, sharpeners, colours pencils and crayons. Glazed paper, lunch boxes, water bottles, pencil cases and so on were also offered to the students, as were biscuits, wafers and chocolates.

As they participated enthusiastically in all the competitions arranged for them, the rural students displayed their own hidden skills which surprised some of the Interactors. The teachers at the village school appreci-



Bharda New High School was the venue at which the Jai Hind Rotaractors organised the installation of seven Interact Clubs at one go

ated their work and thanked the Interactors for travelling all the way from Bombay to interact with rural children.

Apart from giving them some vocational tips, the Interactors also made some teaching aids and presented these to the authorities at the rural school and thanked them for allowing them to interact with the rural students.

The visit did not end with this. The Interactors next visited a remote village near Silvassa. They conducted a survey to learn about the condition of the villagers. They found that the village consisted of about 35 houses and lacked modern amenities. It had no sanitation or electricity and most of the villagers were engaged in farming and leading a hand-to-mouth existence.

Paying special attention to the girl child this year, the Interactors distributed new clothes to girls aged between four and ten years in this village. They did this to promote a more positive approach towards the girl child in the village. But first they invited all senior citizens to bring their little girls to a central point where new clothes and other items were to be distributed.

Fifty three sets of new clothes were presented to the girls in the village. The smiles on their faces worked as an elixir for the Interactors from Bombay. They also distributed grains, sugar, rice, lentils, lunch boxes and water bottles; and presented clothes to the senior residents of the village. A talk in Marathi on the importance of the girl child was also delivered by the Interactors.

Back in Bombay, an essay-writing competition was organised to mark "Education Day", celebrated in honour of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.

With 59 members and two Moderators, the Interact Club of Bharda New High School planned and executed its activities in a systematic manner.

The projects that it carried out included a rigorous drive against the habit

of spitting and the ill-effects of smoking and consuming *paan*, *gutkha* and other tobacco products. Another important programme was a visit to the institute for the deaf and dumb at Mazgaon.

Apart from taking part in the RYLA camp organised by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College and at which they bagged many prizes, the Interactors of Bharda New also helped collect funds for young cancer patients. That initiative bore fruit when they handed over the amount collected to the Tata Memorial Centre at the annual "Terry Fox Run" organised along Marine Drive. About 150 students took part in the "Run".

Navy Children's School

The Interact Club of the Navy Children's School, Colaba, had a clear vision for the year 2012-13. It decided the activities on which it would concentrate and worked towards completing those projects.

It focused on three things, viz., learning about various social evils that plagued society, especially the female population; acquiring skills to help those in need; and finding solutions to the various problems faced by the underprivileged.

Starting with the "learning phase", the Club arranged the screening of various films and documentaries, followed by discussions on the subjects tackled by them. The political, sociological and psychological impact of the problems was also discussed.

Topics like female infanticide/foeticide, domestic violence, gender bias/discrimination, child labour, dowry and illiteracy, along with problems related to mental and physical disabilities, were also discussed with the help of experts in those fields.

In the "acquiring skills phase", the students were given sign language tutorials. They were also given the task of looking for NGOs working in this specific area. That helped them in gaining some basic counselling techniques

that could come in handy while dealing with such problems at a future date.

The students performed a street play on "Little things that matter in life" on the occasion of World Mental Health Week. A "flash mob" was also organised during the school assembly. The idea behind the street play was to remind people of the small but highly effective solutions that had been employed since time immemorial to relieve stress.

As for the "finding solutions phase", the students were prompted to think about ways in which they could contribute.

They decided to contribute in kind to Ashadaan, a shelter for those who had been abandoned by their families due to disabilities, women who had run away from domestic violence and senior citizens from the lower socio-economic strata. They also planned an awareness campaign on these and other social issues in the school.

Among the other activities undertaken were the following:

Students with physical and mental disabilities from Sankalp School, a special school run by the Naval community, were trained to perform an integrated act by the senior students of the NCS at the Annual Day Celebrations.

On World Cancer Day the Interactors visited the cancer ward at Ashwini Hospital. They presented all the patients with red roses as a symbol of solidarity and wished them a speedy recovery. They participated in the beach cleaning drive taken up after the Ganpati festivities.

Before an audience of parents invited for the event, the Interactors organised a silent act on social issues and the virtues of love, compassion, hope and faith that needed to be nurtured by every citizen to bring about change in society.

As part of their Community Service activities, the Interactors installed a rainwater harvesting system, thus saving water and contributing to protection of the environment.

Finally, having visited the popular Kala Ghoda Arts festival, the Interactors were ready with their plan to go to Ashadaan and to contribute their mite for the benefit of its residents.

Thanks to contributions from the 33 members (from Std. VI to X), the Interactors offered items of everyday use to help maintain cleanliness and to ensure good health and hygiene there. Among the items distributed were an antiseptic liquid, washing powder, phenyl, pain-relieving ointment and sanitary napkins. All of these were bought in bulk at discounted rates.

A few days later, the Interactors organised an awareness campaign called "Jagruati" to spread awareness

about the root causes of the social evils bedevilling women and children. They prepared banners, posters and slogans on the issue.

They also enacted a street play covering issues such as gender discrimination, female infanticide and sexual abuse. This was a special event staged for the benefit of parents.

While the Principal of the Navy Children's School was Ms Girija Singh, the Interact Moderators were Jasman Preet and Ashraf Dawoodani. All of them had done a very good job indeed.

Rotary good

Ravindra Fotedar

At the beginning of the year, Ravi requested all Committee Chairpersons to direct their requests for Rotaractors as volunteers to him and not to the Rotaract Clubs directly. This applied to all those who required the services of Rotaractors as volunteers at Club projects.

The Rotaractors continued to be ever eager to help, but it would be more appropriate for all such requests to be routed through the Rotaract Committee, he added.

Government Dental College

From Colaba to Byculla, Govandi and Talwada, the GDC Rotaractors went places this year—drilling away at their usual projects all through.

For those unaware of the fact, they regularly visit the Ajit Deshpande Medical Centre at Talwada in Jawhar taluka of Thane district to offer free service to the less privileged residents of Talwada and the nearby villages. A group of four Rotaractors, along with a senior dentist, visits the venue and renders effective dental care to the people.

Dr. Ajay Gupta and Dr. Srinivas Kamath, both senior dentists, have been associated with the programme for a very long time. The visits to Talwada normally take place on the second and third Sunday every month.

Under the project called "Shiksha—empowering the future", the Rotaractors were also helping in the universal spread of elementary education among underprivileged children. The weekly project was held on every Saturday at the Aryan High School and the Rotaractors took active part in it. They also participated in the Sanjeevani eye camp at the Aryan High School which was part of the Zonal "Shiksha" intervention.

Turning their attention to another institution, the "League of Mercy" orphanage for girls at Byculla that looked after 31 girls, the Rotaractors organised a two-stage donation drive for them.

As part of the same Zonal "Shiksha" intervention, the Rotaractors also took part in "Zyphen", an endeavour to inculcate team-building among children.

The response of the participating children was very rewarding.

The Rotaractors invited the Children's Aid Society to exhibit the talent of the children of the juvenile remand home in Dongri. The exhibition afforded an opportunity to juveniles to showcase their talent in a constructive manner.

Next, they teamed up with the Gift Your Organ Foundation to spread awareness about the critical need for organ donation. The campaign was scheduled to be held simultaneously in three cities, Bombay, Pune and Bangalore; the GDC Rotaractors took part in the drive organised at the Gateway of India.

Other activities carried out during the year were a treasure hunt across South Bombay; dental camps at several locations and under various institutions such as the Nargis Dutt Memorial Dental Camp; IAS Officers' Wives' Association; the Muslim Ambulance Society, Govandi; Colaba Municipal School; and Machchimar Nagar, Colaba. More than 500 people benefited from these dental camps.

They also organised a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) programme for students, interns and post-graduates; a blood donation drive; a trip to Essel World; and launched the second volume of the Rotaract bulletin, *Odontspeak*.

Jai Hind College

Rolling on the floor laughing! This was the crazy name for a crazy project. Believe it or not, on July 18, the entire College was rolling on the floor, laughing!

The madness was initiated by 48 students who took part in a competition in which the winner would be that person who made the most people laugh their lives out. And the prize at the end of the laugh-riot was a one-year internship with Vir Das, one of the country's leading stand-up comedians, and the opportunity of acting in a film with him.

Amogh Ranadive and Karunesh Talwar from Vir Das's Weirclass Company (and themselves leading stand-up comedians) acted as judges at the event. They had to endure one and a half hours of non-stop laughter triggered by the participants.

While short-listing eight boys and girls for the final round was not an easy task, even more daunting was the job of choosing one winner from among them. At the end of all the madness, it was Khadija Tambawala who won the "Comedy Madness" award and was named the winner of ROFL 2012-13.

The Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College had been very quick off the blocks. It started the year with a flourish and had completed nearly half a dozen projects in July itself. Here are brief sketches of some of its activities.

"What's your problem?" The first phase of this project started on July 4 when members spread out to various parts of the city to interview citizens and record their complaints regarding shortage of water, lack of cleanliness, erratic power supply and so on.

Armed with video cameras, they went in small teams to record the people's grievances and then passed these on to the authorities concerned. This was done with the help of media tie-ups that the Rotaractors had developed in the previous year through some of their projects.

(One of these had involved the media, the RTO, traffic constables and others; the Rotaractors stood at vantage points near Crawford Market to help shoppers find taxis that would ply short distances. It was a hugely successful project.)

"What's your problem?" the Rotaractors asked residents of Grant Road, Charni Road, Marine Lines, Churchgate, Colaba and Cuffe Parade in the course of their drive.

Cotton bags, please Promotion of cotton bags in place of plastic and poly bags was taken up in a big way.



So what's your problem? The Rotaractors of Jai Hind College went out to meet people and make a list of their complaints about civic problems

According to the Rotaractors, the project had been going on for the last three years. They bought a large number of cotton bags and had them painted attractively to catch the people's attention.

The Rotaractors planned to take the cotton bags to other Clubs. Now, it was planned to sell these bags in areas like Colaba Causeway, Fashion Street, Crawford Market and so on. The monies collected would be spent on buying more bags and taking the movement even further.

Tune it This was a contest to select a radio jockey from among the students of Jai Hind College. It was initiated in collaboration with the radio station RED FM and eventually worked as an "RJ Hunt", the winner getting an opportunity to audition at the radio station.

All Saints Home At the request of the Senior Citizens Committee of the Rotary Club of Bombay, the Rotaractors of Jai Hind College and H.R. College joined President Nowroze, Chairman Naresh and others to help spread the sound of music and laughter in the All Saints Home at Mazgaon in Central Bombay.

This was said to be one of the oldest residences for senior citizens, but when the boys and girls went there, its walls reverberated with the sound of music and laughter as the residents shed their worries and inhibitions for a few hours. The Rotarians and Rotaractors had brought some cheer into their lives.

Fifty residents of the All Saints Home took part in the event which was conducted by the team of ten Rotaractors. At the end, they offered snacks to everybody, including those who were bed-ridden and could not join in the merriment.

President Aditya Shah of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College proposed the vote of thanks.

'Satyagraha' on the streets The Jai Hind Rotaractors also implemented an unusual programme on the streets of Bombay. Adopting the Gandhian way of "Satyagraha" even in this day and age, they did not indulge in slogan-shouting, arguments, debates or discussions. Rather, they printed their messages on placards and quietly held them aloft so that they were clearly seen by the "target" audience.

They believed that standing at a cigarette vendor's stall and holding aloft a placard urging people to stop smoking would be more effective than telling them that smoking could cause cancer. Normally, most smokers had heard (and ignored) such messages several times.

But how often had a middle-aged man smoking his fifteenth cigarette of the day seen a young college girl urging

him to stop smoking without saying a word?

The "Satyagraha" was one of the popular annual projects of the Club and part of the month-long initiative, "Silent Saturdays". Organised on every Saturday in month September, it involved a quiet march up and down the city's streets, holding aloft placards and urging citizens to adopt the messages imprinted on them.

The response that the opening ceremony received was simply amazing. The Rotaractors went aboard an open-top bus and stood all the way as it slowly traversed the distance from Colaba to Worli and back. They held up placards and charts exhorting people to follow traffic rules, to conserve water, stop smoking, empower women and to be wary of the phenomenon called global warming.

They descended on Marine Drive at 5pm and commenced their street play. Soon, a huge crowd of hundreds had collected and intently heard the message that the Rotaractors were trying to convey.

'RCJC MUN' of 2012 Back in the college premises, the Rotaractors organised a Model United Nations (MUN) which attracted participation by about 175 delegates from all over India. This was an academic simulation of the United Nations Organisations at an institution level. The "RCJC MUN" of 2012 was an ambitious affair, graced by the presence of some of the best MUNers in the country.

Spread over three days, it was associated with and listed on the UN website as one of the top annual events in the calendar year 2012-13. The topics taken up were diverse, with a lot of scope for debate. The chairpersons of the committees were well-qualified, with each of them having a minimum experience of ten MUNs.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Sanchit Gulabani, was a qualified MUNer of great repute. Having been associated with several MUNs in Delhi, Chandigarh and other parts of the country, he was recognised as one of the best in India. Organising Chairpersons Rotaractors Tarang Gupta and Jalaj Malhotra were a perfect combination of experience and enthusiasm.

The build-up to the three-day was what helped make it a path-breaking success as compared to the events witnessed before.

Rotaractor Karishma Vaswani claimed that Jai Hind was the only Rotaract Club to come up with such an interesting concept and to possess the ability to host a project on such a large scale.

Sunrise industries When the Jai Hind Rotaractors organised "Aashayein 2012", it turned out to be

a workshop on sunrise industries for the youth at which basic knowledge about several different vocations was provided to members and other students.

Eight out-of-the-box workshops were conducted with some of the leading trainers invited to share their knowledge and experience. The following eight areas of interest were covered as part of the programme (with the names of those conducting them given in parenthesis):

Aero-modelling (the MBS Group from Delhi); Ethical Hacking (the MBS Group from Delhi); Robotics (Techno Gravity Solutions); Web Designing (Techno Gravity Solutions); Zumba (Waves Gym); Sound Mixing (Jai Krishnan); Communications (Sir Craig Travaso); and Marketing and Branding (Saksham Mendiratta).

The screams of women In the second half of the year, the Rotaractors set in motion a three-month-long project to coincide with "International Women's Day" (March 8). In this initiative, called CHEEKH, the Rotaractors said that reports about thousands of women being trafficked illegally into the Indian sub-continent had turned their attention towards the deafening pleas or screams of such women and to do something so that they were heard by the powers-that-be.

"International Women's Day," they felt, was no longer a day to celebrate the existence of a gender. Rather, it was a day to take up their cause and to help protect and benefit them.

Almost the entire world having been shaken out of its slumber by the Delhi gang rape case of December, 2012, it was felt that it was the appropriate time to launch the project.

It started on February 6 with the screening of a documentary on the hard-hitting reality of trafficking in women at a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay. And then, a flash mob suddenly collected at the Oberoi Mall in Goregaon on March 2

and gave a performance that focused on the plight of the modern Indian woman.

The main event banner for CHEEKH 2013 was unveiled by the Presidential Advisory Council and was followed by a hand-imprinting session that enabled onlookers and others to support the movement. This was an interactive session and the handprints indirectly formed the logo of the project itself.

On March 6, a CHEEKH hoarding went up at a site opposite the Mafatlal Bath at Chowpatty. And on March 8 the event was launched with a performance at the domestic airport at 10 am. It was covered by 12 news channels and was followed by another flash mob performance at the High Street Phoenix shopping complex at 4 pm. The spectators loved the performance so much that they requested an encore. The Rotaractors happily obliged. (Another performance by the flash mob team took place at Phoenix Market City at 6 and 7 pm on March 9.)

The day was to culminate with an ambitious flash mob performance at the International Airport at 9 pm. All permits and permissions had been obtained in advance, but a last-minute intervention by the police authorities forced the Rotaractors to call it off.

The documentary on trafficking in women, which had earlier been shown at a regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Bombay, was screened all day long on the LCD TVs at Oberoi Mall and in the lobby and on promotional screens of Fame Adlabs, too.

On March 10, PVR Cinemas screened the documentary on trafficking in women on its screens all over the city, especially during the intermissions. The management of PVR Cinemas did an encore with another screening on March 14.

Rotaractor Charmi Mehta, Vice-President and Organising Chair for the CHEEKH project, said the members of the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind Col-



A total of 175 delegates took part in the Model United Nations (MUN) organised by the Rotaractors of Jai Hind College

lege believed it had made a small contribution to the cause of building an empowered society and an India which treated women as equal to men.

H.R. College

On the very first day of the Rotary year, July 1, 2012, the Rotaract Club of H.R. College achieved yet another unique distinction – it won, for the seventh time in a row, the Rotaract District 3140 award for the Best Rotaract Club in the District.

Outgoing President Junaid Khan and his team emerged victorious at the Rotaract District 3140 Annual Assembly and AARA Night (Academy for Awarding Rotaract Achievements) at Lala Lajpatrai College, thus winning the most coveted award for their Club once again.

Whoops of joy, screams of delight and high-decibel yells accompanied the announcement as confetti dropped down on the stage and the Best Club Trophy was once again bagged by the Rotaract Club of H.R. College.

So what did the H.R. Rotaractors do after that? They got down to work and completed at least two major projects long before the month came to an end.

The first of these was a collaborative venture along with the Students' Council of H.R. College and involved a blood donation drive to help thalassaemia patients. It was organised in the concourse of Churchgate, one of the busiest suburban stations, in affiliation with the Rotary Club of Nariman Point.

Student volunteers devised ingenious ways to attract morning commuters to spare five minutes to donate a few precious millilitres of blood that would save the life of an innocent and unfortunate victim of thalassaemia. Posters, banners, public announcements and the like were employed to get more people to donate blood.

No less than 220 bottles of blood were collected in one single day, a figure far beyond expectations. A "Donor card", a certificate and an umbrella were presented to the donors. The State Blood Transfusion Council was highly impressed by the students' dedication, enthusiasm and achievement and heartily praised H.R. College for inculcating such noble values in them.

In another project on July 20, the H.R. Rotaractors arranged a road trip atop an open-air double-decker bus for children from the India Association.

This annual project offered underprivileged children the opportunity to take another look at their city and to know something about its heritage and history. A journey atop an open-air bus was a dream that was unlikely to come true for most of them; unless, of

course, the Rotaractors stepped in. Also on the bus were five Exchange Students from France.

The trip was flagged off by Principal Indu Shahani who hopped along to enjoy the ride (and the view) for some time and held an interactive session with the children.

A project hits a century The project "Chirag", which was launched four years ago by some students (including Rotaractors) of H.R. College to take electricity to many dark villages located at a mere two or three-hour drive from Bombay, was set to go very, very far – all the way to Washington, DC, USA.

Undertaken by the H.R. unit of SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise), the project had been showcased at an SIFE competition at the national level and had bagged the top honour. This meant that the project would represent India at the world SIFE competition to be held in Washington, DC.

At a regular meeting of the Club, President Prateek Mathai of the SIFE of H.R. College explained with the help of a few slides that they had already taken electricity to 99 villages and were poised to take light into the lives of their brethren in a 100th village bordering the city of Bombay.

As the members applauded the performance of the SIFE of H.R. College, Nowroze requested Indu Shahani to join him; the two then felicitated the driving force behind the project, Mr. Jyotirmoy Chatterji. He also called out and honoured his colleagues, Prateek Mathai, Rahul Sanghi, Vivek Kotak, Vandini Bhandari, Bhavi Doshi, Ketki Prabhat and Santhosh Kumar.

Out of the blue, one of the students of H.R. College stepped forward to offer a memento to his Principal, Indu Shahani, who was celebrating her birthday during the week (July 17).

Home for the aged As already reported, the Rotaractors of H.R. College helped the Senior Citizens Committee and Naresh Kumar Jain in organising a gala Parsi New Year celebration for the residents of the F.S. Parukh Dharamshalla at Old Khareghat Colony, Hughes Road.

As part of the afternoon's programme, the Rotaractors rendered some old songs that reminded the residents of their youth. They also arranged a medley of games, music and dance in which some of the senior citizens danced to their hearts' content.

All for the handicapped Not one but three projects for the handicapped were organised in quick succession. The first was a campaign to request the public to pledge to donate their eyes after their demise; the second was a musical event to enable the blind to enjoy the popular "dandia" event; and the third an inter-school art festival



H.R. Rotaractors blindfolded themselves and walked around Shivaji Park in order to promote the message of eye donation

for the intellectually impaired, the deaf-mute and other underprivileged students.

The visually impaired children of the Victoria Memorial School were treated to an "Utsav" (festival) when those with sight joined them in playing "dandia". One Rotaractor stood behind each child in a ring and, to the beats of pulsating music, helped the child to play "dandia" with other children in an inner ring.

Then came "Indradhanush", the annual inter-school art festival for the intellectually impaired, the deaf-mute and other underprivileged students. This was the 15th year of the festival and 2,500 special students participated in it. They were required to bring out their creative skills and to give shape to their imagination as best as they could.

While for the intellectually impaired the task was to colour a printed image, the visually impaired were asked to make abstract paintings on topics of their choice. The deaf-mutes took part in a card-making competition and the underprivileged went in for tooth-brush-painting.

The art festival was a contest between different schools. Prizes were given to the winners and participation certificates to the rest. The children were fascinated with the opportunity to do something different and to put their imagination on paper.

According to Taskforce Directors Rushab Shah and Trividha Mehra, the children turned in an amazing collection of paintings and other forms of creativity – a veritable rainbow (Indradhanush) of colours.

The Rotaractors, in association with the Aditya Jyot Foundation for Twinkling Little Eyes, organised a campaign to promote the cause of eye donation on the occasion of the International Fortnight for Awareness of Eye Donations.

Tweaking the popular dictum that "An eye for an eye makes the whole

world blind", the Rotaractors stepped forward to state that "An eye for an eye makes the whole world shine".

They performed street plays to spread the message at the Gateway of India, Dadar railway station and Shivaji Park. At the last venue, when a peace rally with 80 to 100 Rotaractors was organised, many of them blindfolded themselves and walked around Shivaji Park to promote the donation of eyes.

Pledge cards were distributed to the people at all three places to urge people to donate their eyes after death and to bring colour into sightless eyes. Over 650 pledge cards were handed out and about 300 returned by people who pledged to donate their eyes.

For rural youth Ever eager to do something different, the Rotaractors organised an entrepreneur development programme in distant Pachal village in the Rajapur taluka of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra State.

Volunteers from South Bombay and Singapore descended on the village to teach English and subjects like marketing, economics, accounts and negotiation skills to a group of 100 high school and secondary students.

This was no fly-by-night operation. The volunteers stayed in the village for ten days and offered five groups of young students seed capital of Rs. 30,000 to launch their own business.

They called the project "Gazaab Maharashtra 2012" and worked in association with a group of young volunteers from the Singapore Management University.

Rushab Shah and Trividha Mehra, Taskforce Directors for 2012-13, pointed out that although India boasted some of the biggest businessmen and industrialists, their number was small and it was necessary to have more people involved in business.

Told repeatedly that "the real India lives in the villages", the Rotaractors decided to take up the project to develop the spirit of entrepreneurship to the rural areas of Ratnagiri.

The village of Pachal was selected, a collaboration with the Singapore Management University firmed up and, after making the required arrangements, the team took off for Pachal where it stayed from December 9 to 18.

Students from Standards X and XI were selected for the project. While the former were given English lessons, those from Std. XI were divided into three sections and taught marketing, economics, finance, accounts, presentation and negotiation skills, business ideas and so on.

Next, groups of six students each were formed and each one given the task of developing business plans suitable to the area in which they lived. The visiting students also played the role of mentors as they tossed up various business ideas.

The students were asked to submit proposals in a definite format, covering topics such as Market Trends and Opportunities, Market Analysis, Demand Analysis, Competitor Analysis and SWOT Analysis.

All 20 groups managed to submit their project proposals within the deadline. Following rigorous discussions, checking of feasibility and correlation of facts, five proposals were awarded seed capital of Rs. 30,000 each to start their own business.

The capital-winning proposals were in the following fields of work: (1) Sugarcane plantation; (2) banana plantation; (3) mango, spinach and cashew nut nursery; (4) incense sticks; and (5) a flower decoration agency.

The Rotaractors said that all the groups were instructed to open their bank accounts. When it was time to spend monies for their projects to start off, the required amount would be transferred to their accounts. Constant follow-up would be done to ensure efficient execution.

The "Gazaab Maharashtra 2012" initiative was taken up in collaboration with the Singapore Management University and was another step towards making a difference in society. As this was the first year of the project, the Rotaract Club of H.R. College would monitor it closely and perhaps make it bigger and better in the years to come.

The best again The Rotaract Club of H.R. College, which had emerged as the best in the world in the last Rotary year, was once again nominated to receive an international award. At the World Rotaract Week, the Club was selected from the South Asia Region for its project called "I for an Eye".

The Rotaractors had held numerous school and community events to spread awareness about eye donation and to encourage people to sign eye-donation pledge cards.

The Club also collaborated with the Rotaract Club of the Caduceus, the winner of this year's International Outstanding Project Award, to raise funds for the treatment of eye disorders. (The Rotaract Club of the Caduceus was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay Central.)

'Prerna' or encouragement One of the most outstanding Rotaract projects in the city was the annual athletic meet for intellectually impaired students called "Prerna", now in its 17th year. The brainchild of the enterprising Rotaract Club of H.R. College, it was held at Priyadarshini Park in South Bombay.

In a mission statement, Taskforce Directors Rushab Shah and Trividha Mehra said that "Perseverance is not a long race. It is many short races one after another". And so they attempted to make life worthwhile – even if for a single day – for intellectually impaired students to display their abilities and talent on an athletic track.

Treating them as "part of our family", the Rotaractors noted that although they were well cared for, they did need the occasional stimulus provided by an outdoor environment. Luxury buses for students from various special schools, even those located in distant suburbs, were arranged by the organisers.

Although it was the spirit of participation that was encouraged, there was keen competition in the events; these included various obstacle races along with 50-metre, 100-metre and 200-metre sprints. The winners received attractive trophies and medals. All the participants were presented with a gift in appreciation of the spirit of participation.

"Prerna" had been sponsored over the years by a humble philanthropist who wished to remain anonymous.

To promote leadership In an attempt to impart leadership skills to young Interactors who would grow up to become Rotaractors (and then Rotarians), the Rotaractors organised the fourth edition of "Fusion 4.0" which they described as "An Adventure RYLA" (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards).

It started off in the sylvan surroundings of the Borivli National Park and then moved to the college premises. Styled "Fusion 4.0", it was a two-day, fun-filled interactive event for Interact Clubs sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Day One was crammed with outdoor adventure activities and management tasks designed to be performed by teams of nine or ten. This was to teach Interactors the importance of co-operating with others to complete a task that was not possible to complete on one's own.

Involving a lot of physical activity, the tasks also taught basic personal management and division of work to get optimum results.

Day Two was devoted to grooming of the mind. A special session was conducted by Ms Nidhi, psychologist and counsellor, of the BMM Department of H.R. College.

The programme ended with a valedictory function at which talented Interactors were acknowledged for their contributions. Awards such as "Best Interactor Male/Female", "Best Team", "Highest Contingent" and so on were presented.

The coming together of members of the Interact Clubs of Sir J.J. Girls' School, Bharda New High School, Anjuman-I-Islam English High School and the Anjuman-e-Islam Urdu High School was in itself a novel experience. Over 100 keen Interactors participated, with some of them standing out in everything that they did. The purpose for which the project had been organised was fulfilled.

According to the event coordinators, the words of the philosopher Andre Gide guided them as they started working on the project. The great thinker had said: "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Water, health and hygiene Rotaract President Shashank Jogani told a Rotary meeting that his Club was launching "Boond", a project to provide clean water for drinking and domestic purposes to drought-affected villages in Maharashtra.

His Club had tied up with the Watershed Organisation Trust for a joint project under which wells and water bodies all over the State would be built and repaired. It would also help in the construction of toilets and the provision of other health and hygiene facilities.

A modest donation of Rs. 3,500 would enable the project to ensure water and basic health and hygiene facilities to one individual for a lifetime. He appealed to members to make generous donations to this worthy cause.

Rotaract Club of Bombay

Kushal Bhuva was installed as President of the Rotaract Club of Bombay, the only community-based Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay, at a simple function in the Conference Hall of H.R. College on June 10, 2012.

Posters and charts were put up at the venue to familiarise guests and visitors with the activities of the Club. Nowroze Vazifdar (he was President-Elect at that time) attended the meeting in the company of Ravindra Fotedar (now Rotaract Chairman), Visiting Rotarian Naseem Kachwalla and others.

The two Rotaractors who compered the programme, Pritesh Jaisingh and Rinku Gajaria, took turns to highlight the projects and activities undertaken during the term of outgoing President Ishita Vora. They also gave the commentary to a slideshow that focused on new President Kushal Bhuva.

With an additional Avenue of Service being added to its activities, the Rotaract Club of Bombay now had a total of 14 Directors, announced Kushal as he introduced his team to the gathering.

Road Safety Deepak Kapadia

Hundreds of Interactors and Rotaractors took part in the "Road Safety Fortnight" organised by Chairman Deepak from January 2.

It started with 150 Interactors from Gopi Birla Memorial School at Walkeshwar Road coming out on the busy street outside their school to spread the message of "Road Safety". They were accompanied by their Principal, Mrs. Shetty, Coordinator Ms Khyati Dwarkadas and other teachers.

The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Deputy Chief Minister, the Home Minister and the Police Commissioner in charge of Traffic lauded the display of placards carrying the message to "Cross Only at Zebra Crossings".

A little later, about 60 Rotaractors from H.R. College stood in a line from the signal at Wilson College right up to Chowpatty from 8.30 to 9.30 am displaying placards urging motorists to "Never Drink and Drive".

Around the same time, 50 Rotaractors from Jai Hind College stood carrying placards on Nariman Point, reminding everyone that "Speed Thrills But it Kills".

Not to be left behind were the Rotaractors of Hinduja College. About 60 of them positioned themselves near Saifee Hospital on the busy Queens Road, carrying placards that said, "No Helmet No Driving".

Passersby, members of the public and motorists noted the Road Safety messages carried by the young Interactors and Rotaractors; some of them even slowed down to read the messages.

Following the outdoor part of the project, a special mini-pledge card was released by Mr. Brijesh Singh, Additional Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic). It listed what were called the "Ten Commandments" to ensure Road Safety.

These cards were also launched by the District Governor, Dr. Bal Inamdar, in the course of his Official Visit to the Club on January 8 and distributed to members at the meeting; the DG said he would distribute the cards to all delegates at the District Conference.

Well done, Deepak.

Peace march on 26/11, the day of infamy

Over 4,500 people took part in the peace programme held to mark 26/11, the day of infamy.

It was an unfortunate anniversary, one that marked four years since the dastardly attack on the city of Bombay by ten infiltrators from Pakistan who caused untold mayhem in a peace-loving country.

But like all things sad and unpleasant, this anniversary, too, had to be observed, if only to remind citizens that eternal vigilance was the price of liberty and to spread the message of peace.

On Sunday, November 25, the eve of the darkest day (November 26), three groups of youngsters congregated at three of the main sites where the worst mayhem was unleashed – V.T. station, the Taj Mahal Hotel and the Trident Hotel.

As proof of the fact that the wounds inflicted by the marauders had not become a thing of the past, there were roughly 4,500 youth and others who took part in the marches and in the

peace programme that was held at the Gateway of India.

While one group gathered at the Trident and marched under the leadership of Ms Kia Scherr, who had lost her husband and her daughter in the massacre, another one, led by Sheriff and Principal Indu Shahani, started from Churchgate station; the third, from V.T. station, was led by Dr. Uday Salunkhe, Group Director of Welingkar's Institute of Management.

All three sets of marchers converged at the special enclosure created at the Gateway of India where they were welcomed by various religious heads, government officials, Consuls-General, Ambassadors, Bollywood actors such as Vivek Oberoi and Raageshwari and other dignitaries.

Dr. Shashi Tharoor, the country's Minister of State for Human Resources Development, was one of the principal speakers at the programme.

The Rotary Club of Bombay and other Clubs from District 3140 were in the forefront; the Club was led by

President Nowroze Vazifdar and was ably represented by PP Gul Kripalani, its man for all seasons.

PP Gul, who also represented the Global Peace Initiative, gave an inspiring address in the course of which he "renamed" the Gateway of India as the "Gateway of Peace".

Delivering an impassioned speech, Dr. Shashi Tharoor said it was a "savagery irony" that the horror in Bombay on November 26, 2008, began with terrorists docking not too far from the Gateway of India.

He also paid tribute to Bombay's indomitable spirit by stating that it "combined all the four elements of its precursors"; by attacking it, the terrorists had attempted to hit India's economy, its tourism, its internationalism and its openness. "That was what they tried to destroy. They failed."

Several children from the National Association of the Blind, accompanied by the popular singer and actress Raageshwari, rendered some soulful music that moved and touched the hearts of all those present.

When the Shillong Choir was called upon to perform, its exuberant energy, glorious interpretation of familiar songs and spectacular tonal variations showed why they continued to be the No. 1 choir in India.

Finally, an oath of peace was taken and doves were released into the air by Ms Scherr and PP Gul to signify the message of peace.

The programme was sponsored by the Taj Welfare Group, the Aditya Birla Group, the Oberoi Group of Hotels and the Global Peace Initiative.

In his vote of thanks, Gul Kripalani acknowledged the presence of President Nowroze and thanked the Rotary Club of Bombay for its support in the planning of the event.

'Group of 1929 Clubs' meets in Madras

Members are aware that Rotary is 108 years old and the Rotary Club of Bombay, Chartered in 1929, is 84 years old. But few know that there are not one or two but another 180 Rotary Clubs that were Chartered in the same year, 1929! All those Clubs, spread all over the world, are now 84 years old.

One of them, the Rotary Club of Madras (District 3230), took the lead to organise a unique Fellowship of Rotary Clubs Chartered in 1929 and styled it the "Group of 1929 Clubs". It suggested that this group should meet annually, with one Club taking up the responsibility of hosting the event every year.

A week-long celebration was held in Madras at the end of February, 2013, and attracted participation by the Rotary Clubs of Bombay, Canon City and Seremban. (Members of the Rotary Club of Colombo could not make it.)

Hon. Club President Rajendra Sabanayagam and his team, including Hon. Secretary Sathiam Ram, left no stone unturned to ensure that the programme was an unforgettable one and that everything went without a hitch.

Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah, Dr. Rohini Chowgule, Vinod Juneja and Ashok Chinai, accompanied by his spouse Nayna, represented the Rotary Club of Bombay.

There were no heavy-duty speeches and the itinerary was filled with Fellowship events, visits to project sites, the famed beaches of Madras and a lot of banquets, breakfasts and dinners.

Management of health with Yoga

As part of the Rotary Service Week organised at the District level in the Phoenix Mills compound from January 25 to 27, a free, multi-purpose medical camp was arranged by the Rotary Club of Bombay along with experts from the Kaivalyadham Ashram at Lonavala.

The focus was on Yoga as a means of healing. (Yogic) doctors guided visitors to the camp on various preventive and curative aspects of Yogic therapy.

Yoga enthusiast and Hon. Secretary Sitaram Shah coordinated the Club's participation with the management of the Kaivalyadham Ashram. Visitors to the camp were able to leaf through a large number of books on treatment of various diseases through Yoga.

Among the visitors to the camp were President Nowroze, IPP Paul George and Rotaryann Radhika Mehta

Four MOUs signed by the Club

The Rotary Club of Bombay signed four MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) with organisations working for the betterment of the less-privileged sections of society.

First, it signed an MOU with the Central Society for the Education of the Deaf (CSED). The finance offered to the CSED would be utilised for the import of sophisticated testing equipment to set up an ambitious BERA (Brainstem-Evoked Response Audiometry) project.

The second one was signed with the Salvation Army which would utilise the funds it would receive for the renovation and restoration of the old age home that it had been conducting for several years.

A third MOU was with the Child Reach Society, the 25-year-old organisation that ran a school for learning-disabled children and slow-learners. One of its objectives was to see that the children joined the mainstream along with normal children.

Instead of agreeing to an appeal by the Society to sponsor a series of Silver Jubilee seminars (at a budgeted outlay of Rs. 2 lakhs), the Club made it an offer it could not refuse.

It offered not only to be the sole sponsor of the seminars (at a cost to the Club of Rs. 1 lakh), but also to associate with the Society by part-funding its activities through a one-time donation of Rs. 1 lakh and providing Rs. 10,000 every month, initially for three years.

The fourth MOU was signed with the N.K. Dhabhar Cancer Foundation, an NGO which provided financial and medical assistance to cancer patients for treatment and also spread awareness about prevention and early detection of cancer. The Club would donate Rs. 3 lakhs per annum for an initial period of three years to enable it to carry out its activities.

For its part, the Foundation would conduct an awareness camp once a year for the members of the Rotary Club of Bombay. Besides, the Club would be entitled to refer five patients for examination and treatment and for which the Foundation would bear the cost (not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 a year).

Accounts for year ended March 31, 2013

President Nowroze Vazifdar announced at the meeting of June 11 that normally the accounts for the Rotary year (from July to June) were presented at the Annual General Meeting in December. But this year, the Club had decided to make a departure from the practice.

The accounts for the financial year ending March 31, 2013, had been prepared and hence it was decided to present excerpts from the same in order to give members a fair idea of the state of affairs.

Trustee PPARun Sanghi shared significant figures through a presentation, first of the Club's Charity Trust and then of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

He stated that both entities were in "a very, very healthy financial situation... our current corpus exceeds Rs. 7 crores and it keeps on increasing".

The Club had run a surplus year after year. On account of some rules, a certain amount was transferred (as part of tax saving/planning) to the corpus. There was hardly any year when there had been a deficit.

"We are in a very healthy financial situation and we are never short of money should there be a good project."

Nowroze chipped in to say that a surplus in one year did not necessarily mean that there would be a surplus in the next. So also with a deficit in any given year.

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

FOUNDED 19 MARCH, 1929
 Charter No. 3128, Dated 08 May, 1929
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OFFICE-BEARERS 2012/13

PRESIDENT NOWROZE VAZIFDAR
 Immediate

Past President Paul George
 President-Elect Nirav Shah
 Vice-President Shailesh Haribhakti
 Honorary Secretary Sitaram Shah
 Joint Hon. Secretary Hiren Kara
 Hon. Treasurer Ishraq Contractor

CLUB SERVICE: New Members
 Director in charge Nirav Shah
 Membership PP Sandip Agarwalla
 Classifications PP Dr. Adi Dastur
 Information PP Dr. Kekoo Kavarana

Membership
 Development &
 District Conference Shailesh Haribhakti

CLUB SERVICE: Programmes/Meetings
 Director in charge Framroze Mehta
 Attendance Arvind Agarwal
 Programme PP Hareesh Jagtiani
 Fellowship PP Ashish Vaid

Bulletin, Website
 & Public Relations PP Arun Sanghi
 Sergeant-at-Arms Roda Billimoria

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Medical-I
 Director in charge Dr. Percy Chibber
 Chairman Emeritus,
 Talwada PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani
 HTEC, Talwada PP Dr. Rumi Jehangir
 ADMC, Talwada Dr. Sorab Javeri
 Oral Health Dr. Rajeev Narvekar

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Medical-II
 Director in charge Dr. Vandana Bulchandani
 Control of TB Dr. Rohini Chowgule
 Cancer Aid Zinia Lawyer
 Heart Care and Health Dr. Aashish Contractor
 PolioPlus &
 Differently Abled Shyyamniwas Soman

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Non-Medical
 Director in charge Sunny Pariyaram
 Old Age Homes/
 Senior Citizens Naresh Kumar Jain
 Rural Development Dilnavaz Variava
 Environment Jagdish Malkani

VOCATIONAL SERVICE
 Director in charge Shernaz Vakil
 Rotary & Public Awards Ram Gandhi
 Vocational Training &
 Night Study Centres Bimal Mehta

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
 Director in charge Ashok Minawala
 Rotary Foundation &
 Matching Grants PP Arvind Jolly
 R.I. Programmes &
 Slumber Kit PP Rajnikant Reshamwala

NEW GENERATIONS: Education
 Director in charge Madhusudan Daga
 Bhavishya Yaan Manish Reshamwala
 Scholarships & Loans Manoj Kumar Patodia
 Management Studies Poonam Kumar

NEW GENERATIONS: Youth
 Director in charge Arjun Jolly
 Interact Meera Alreja
 Rotaract Ravindra Fotedar
 Road Safety Deepak Kapadia

**ROTARY CLUB BOMBAY
 CHARITIES TRUST No. 3**

Collection (01.07.2012 to 19.06.2013)

Collections

Committee	General	Capit./Corp.	Total
Community Service - Medical			
Hasanali Tobaccowala Eye Centre	818,905	78,401	897,306
Ajit Deshpande Med. Cen.	425,001		425,001
Cancer Aid	90,001	841,000	931,001
Medical (General)	500,000		500,000
Community Service - Non-Medical			
Senior Citizens (Old Age Homes)	573,200		573,200
Community Service - Education			
Education (General)	500,000		500,000
Bhavishya-Yaan (Incl. Scholarships)	1,671,163	30,000	1,701,163
Merit-cum-Means (Incl. Hasho/JaiHira)	10,000	20,000	30,000
Education (Maki Taraporevala)		50,000	50,000
Management Education	50,000		50,000
New Generation - Youth			
Interact	5,000		5,000
District Thrust Projects			
Slumber Kits(pass through)	3,918,015		3,918,015
International Service			
Rotary Foundation (Pass through)	7,659,400		7,659,400
Others			
Yoga Science (Baldeodas B.Shah trust)		150,000	150,000
Gen.donation/Gen.corpus	1,725,001	32,501	1,757,502
Sports Committee	40,000		40,000
Sneha Project	100,000		100,000
Oberoi Melting Pot (Pass through)	3,808,193		3,808,193
Global Peace (Pass through)	520,000		520,000
Terry Fox Run (Pass through)	722,500		722,500
Female Project (Pass through)	176,000		176,000
Birthday	1,245,651		1,245,651
Service Box	172,340		172,340
TOTAL	24,730,370	1,201,902	25,932,272

Happy Birthday



Karl Divecha
June 26



Bernd Schneider
June 26



Ashok Chinali
June 28



PP Arjun Bulchandani
June 30



Dinshaw Pandole
June 30



Jairaj Purandare
June 30



Dr. Mukesh Batra
July 1



Naresh Kumar Jain
July 1

Spouses

Shirin Katgara
June 25

Manek Guzder
June 26

Brinda Somaya
June 28

Sudha Mahindra
June 29

Indu Brahmhatt
June 30

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