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From the President's Desk

Dear fellow Rotarian,

Happy New Year... 1st January 2023 A fresh start. A new chapter in life waiting to be written. The year 2022 ended on a very satisfying note with many meaningful projects started and few completed a new year - a time for new resolutions and new celebrations. Let us toast and cheer to great company, to a meaningful past and a promising future.

Makar Sankranti marks the end of winter solstice and we celebrate and worship sun's transition (by earth's Movement). Sun angle and rays to shine brighter towards northern hemisphere "Dhanu (Sagittarius) rashi to Capricorn (makar) Rashi. In hindu belief this holy face of utrayaan is considered best time for attaining "Mukti" legend from epic of Mahabharata of the story of Bhishma, who waited for 41 nights on a bed of arrows.

Enjoy the festival and New Year with love of Family,er using The Four-Way Test in day-to-day life and transform the community.

- Rtn. Dharmendra Sharma
President



Hoonar 3.0

on 4th January, 2023



As quoted by Sir Wallace Stegner, “Talent can’t be taught but can be awakened.” Thus, in order to awaken the talents of the Interactors, the Rotary Club of Bombay West organized a Talent Show namely “Hoonar 3.0” on the 4th January, 2023 at the Rotary Service Centre at Juhu.

In the said competition, students of K.D.N. Shruti School, Raja Ramdeo Podar Shale, Chatrabhuj Narsee School, Podar International School, Lilavatibai Podar School, St. Stanislaus High School, Jamnabai Narsee International School, Jamnabai Narsee School and Hussain Allana School participated. We had a total of 164 entries out of which 12 were awarded as winners.

The participants were supposed to showcase their talent by making a video of 2 minutes. The videos not only threw light on their talent but also how confident and enthusiastic the students were to participate in the competition. There was a pool of talent presented by the

students representing various categories like dancing, singing, art, Diya making, playing various musical instruments, storytelling and many more.

The main reason behind organizing these competitions is to nurture the intrinsic qualities of students and remove the fear of stage among students, which helps them in personality development too.

The following were the judges Hoonar 3.0 namely:

1. Kavita Agarwal, a master’s in Mathematics, was the president of Inner Wheel Club of Bombay West during the pandemic year 2020-21. Kavita has been a maths teacher and has given tuitions to many students even on honorary basis. During her presidentship, her spirited greeting “Jai Hind” every morning became her hallmark. She started picking up biographies of known personalities & even unknown people who have done phenomenal work & sacrifices. These biographies were compiled in a book titled ‘Service





above Self' which adorns many school, college, institutional & personal libraries.

2. Anupama Gulati, an Indian Artist, Performer, Choreographer, Dance Fitness Expert and much more, having experience & training of over 15+ years. Apart from being a great dancer she has excelled at many other arenas such as Graphic Designing, Marketing, PR, Ideation and so on. An expert at Freestyle Dance and being trained in HipHop, Jazz Funk and Folk Fitness she has been spreading dance education in the same and other Dance forms as well.
3. Rtn Hima Dalal requires no introduction in Rotary. She has handled International Youth Exchange for Rotary Club for the last 10 Years
4. Rtn PP Samapti Patel also requires no introduction and has been associated with youth service for two decades.





Young children have an ocean of hidden talent amongst them and it was displayed through their videos. Each video turned out to be very interesting to the respective judges. Every student who participated in the competition was very talented and the judges was mesmerized by their talent. Everyone was so talented that the judges had faced difficulties during the judgement.

On the 4th January, 2023, was the day of felicitating the winners and the judges at the Rotary Service Centre. The winners along with their parents and school teachers, the respected judges, Rotaractors and Rotarians graced the evening. The function began with the President Rtn. Dharmendra's welcoming speech followed by Rtn. Praveen Mehta describing the competition and the reason behind organizing such a huge event. He called upon R/Ann Brinda Desai to felicitate the judges introduced them and presented them with a token of appreciation. Ms. Anupama Gulati one of the judges, addressed the gathering and spoke about her experience on judging the competition. She was not only amazed to see the pool of talent but thrilled to be a part of the competition. Then Rtr. Riddhi Seth addressed the gathering inviting the winners of the competition to showcase their talent in front of the audience. She handed over the microphone to Rtr. Anoushka and Rtr. Vedanti who called upon the winners on the stage to award them with the prizes and certificates. All the 12 winners were awarded with prizes and certificates while all the participants were given a certificate of appreciation. At the very end of the programme, Rtr. Ankit and Rtr. Kanisha gave a vote of thanks.

- Rtr. Riddhi Seth

Blood Donation Camp

Organised by RCBW at Andheri Station
on 13th January 2023,
a perfect noble to start the year...



Bhavishya-Yaan Project

Under the Bhavishya-Yaan Project, Rtn. Nalini Puri organised a session of career counselling on 30th November 2022 at Dixit School, conducted by counsellor Kavita Mungi for 23 students of 10th class. 34 students of 9th Std. was attended by Rtn. Nalini, President Rtn. Dharmendra, first lady Arti, PP Rtn. Arvindbhai, Rtn. Hiralal Suthar, PP Rtn. Shirish Rege, Deepaji, Principal of Dixit School & Myself attended. We felicitated her with Ajwain Plant. We completed the career counselling for 9th & 10th students of Dixit School.

- Rtn. Nalini Puri



Vedic Connections Across the World

by Rtn. Udyan Bhatt on Wednesday, 11th January 2023

The meeting started with the national anthem and the president's weekly birthday and anniversary announcements and announcement of elections for the next years board and was followed by introduction of the speaker Rtn. Udyan Bhatt by senior Rtn. Prakash Trivedi.

Rtn. Udyan Bhatt is an architect by profession and specializes in architecture of multiplexes. However, he is fascinated by temple architecture and has tremendous knowledge of temple architecture.

Rtn. Udyan Bhatt introduced the topic for today's session - "Influence of Vedic Culture."

He started the session by connecting to the audience and asking them how many of them had heard stories and ballads from their grand parents because this is what had influenced his fascination towards Vedic culture.

Veda means spiritual knowledge.

The exact origins of the Vedas is debatable but theories put the time period about as long as 5000 years ago. The rig Veda coincided with the Indus valley civilization.

The rig Veda had many elements common with the indo Iranian texts. However, these similarities were not found in other Vedas.

He chanted the Sanskrit quote: "EKAM SAT VIPRA BAHUDHA VADANTI." Which means the truth is one but the path to the truth could be many. and "ASHAYA YE DASHASHTE DASHAHA SARVALOKASYA, ASHA YESHAM DAASI TESHAM DASHAYATE LOKAM." which means People who are servants of desire are servants to the whole world. For those to whom desire is a servant, the whole world is also a servant.

Using the quotes mentioned in these Vedas, he was explaining that how so many things have changed because of technology and have become outdated but the things mentioned in our Vedic books are still relevant today even after 5000 years.

He explained the meaning of Veda and the history of the Vedas and its history which coincided with the Indus valley civilization.

He tried to correlate the common elements of Indo Aryan Culture, Mitanni kingdom and Andronovo culture with the rig Veda.



He also tried to explain how the Vedic culture spread eastwards and westwards in that era giving examples of the ASURAs who moved towards Syria and the commonality of the Indian Iranian culture towards the west of the Indus valley civilization.

He gave us examples of Vedic influences around the world through pictures, scriptures, monuments, language etc. in different countries:

1. **IRELAND** - monument of Lia fail had resemblance to the Shivling.
2. **LITHUANIA** - Lithuanian houses had "ASVIENIAI" for good luck which resemble ASHWINI TWINS . There was also a lot of similarity in Sanskrit and Lithuanian language.
3. **AZERBAIJAN** - There is a town called Nardaran, a lot of Hindus would come here to pay obeisance to the gods. There is also a temple called " ATISI BAGUAN" in SURKANI, It is said Russian CZAR Alexander visited the temple in 1888 and witnesses Hindu prayers and rituals. There can be seen inscriptions in Sanskrit and other Indian languages.
4. **RUSSIA** - On the western side of Caspian Sea which is believed to be named after Kashyap Muni, is "MAKACHKALA" built in the ancient city of "SAMANDER".
5. **KAZAKHSTAN** - The capital city of KAZAKHTAN has a district and a lake called "INDER".





6. **IRAN** - They have a temple to the peacock god and temple is a spired structure and light a peacock lamp very similar to temples in south India. The sabbath festival celebrated here is similar to festival of Subramanian shastri, popularly known as Kartikeya.
7. **IRAQ** - They have a temple to the peacock god and temple is a spired structure and light a peacock lamp very similar to temples in south India. The sabbath festival celebrated here is similar to festival of Subramanian shastri, popularly known as Kartikeya.
8. **AFGHANISTAN** - also referred to as upaganistan. The capital city of Kandahar is said to have been derived from Gandhari of Mahabharata.
9. **CAMBODIA** - It is said name Cambodia is derived from Kamboj referred in Manu smriti as a kshatriya clan.
10. **THAILAND** - The popular ramakien based on the Buddhist Dasharatha jataka is the Thai version of the Ramayana. So many temples of Ganesa, shiva, brahma can be seen in Thailand.

Vedic Connections Across the World... contd.

11. **JAPAN** – Hidden Ganesa temple in Tokyo called Binayaka ten which resembles lord Ganesa which is considered remover of obstacles which means vignaharta.
12. **CHINA** – Statue of Dazizaitian (Mahesvara) at temple of heaven garden in Shantou resembles Shiva in Vedic terms.
13. **SOUTH AMERICA** – Honduras has a place called La ciudad Blanca which has a temple dedicated to the monkey god which resembles hanuman. The architecture is similar to temples in south India.
14. **PERU** – In Paraiso near Lima, archaeologists have unearthed a temple which has a fire place like havan kund in vedic texts.

Rtn. Udyan Bhatt explained that vedic culture had a connect with all civilizations across continents. As a culture, we did not believe in recording our history but made ballads of it which has today led to a lot of questioning of it with a lot of them being referred to as mythology instead of history.

Today research shows that the VIMAN described in our texts has one of the perfect shapes for a flying machine.

With this presentation, the speaker is not trying to prove or disprove any theories but is trying to connect the dots of our ancestors to understand the enormity of the achievements of the vedic culture.

After the presentation, forum was opened for a question-and-answer session:

A Rotarian had told that similar connect was described in the bool of an Indian author Devdutt Patnaik which showed similar references in Greece and Turkey.

Another Rotarian asked why was vedic culture not have written history. Speaker Rtn Udyan Bhatt said the reason he believed that our ancestors preferred oral methods to discuss the history rather than written versions because a written version could be interpreted in multiple manners.

Another Rotarian asked why have we lost all our history, the speaker explained that the reason he believes we lost our vedic history might be because of arrogance of the Hindu rulers who dint adopt to cyclical changes in modernization of weapons. The Mughals who invaded India carried weapons of gun powder which were superior to the weapon-based weapons used by our rulers at that time. And the consequent invaders tried to erase our history and imposed their own.

Another Rotarian asked the speaker whether he has also tried to connect the dots with the timelines? The speaker said he has tried to gather as much data as he could and the timeline has not been his preference while gathering data. He has concentrated more on the influence of vedic culture.

President Rtn. Dharmendra thanked Rtn. Udyan Bhatt for such a lovely presentation followed by cote of thanks by president elect Rtn Rajul Doshi and secretariat announcements by Rtn. Kinny Kaul and announcements of upcoming events.

The meeting was adjourned by President Rtn. Dharmendra.

- Rtn. Rushabh Shah

ROTARIANS & R/ANNS' BIRTHDAYS

04-Jan	PP Rtn. Robin Nath
04-Jan	Rtn. Sandeep Parikh
04-Jan	Mr. Yash Mehta
06-Jan	Rtn. Devendra Raichura
07-Jan	Rtn. Rajesh Verma
08-Jan	Rtn. Shalin Divatia
09-Jan	PP Rtn. Rajendra Ruia
09-Jan	Rtn. Satish Ranglani
11-Jan	Rtn. Dr. Kamal D'Mello
05-Ja	R/Ann Bharti Yashwant Jhaveri
08-Jan	R/Ann Shashi Ramesh Damani
10-Jan	R/Ann Pratibha Rajesh Verma
11-Jan	R/Ann Manpreet Patheja
15-Jan	Rtn. Dr. Manoj Patel
16-Jan	PP Rtn. Dr. Girish Mathur
16-Jan	Rtn. Rushabh Shah
13-Jan	R/Ann Dr. Kavita Shirish Rege
13-Jan	R/Ann Shahin Aslam Merchant

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

04-Jan	Rtn. Shravan Punjabi & Deepti
18-Jan	Rtn. Haituk Desai & Shruti



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