



Rotary Club of Bombay West

THE FLYING CARPET

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IN SERVICE OF HUMANITY... SINCE 1954

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PRESIDENT - RAHUL GOENKA

Hole in Buddha's heart

Gods, Folklores and Grandparents ... all powers that shape and change destiny. Imagine the powers of Folklores of Gods told by Grandparents... One such folklore continues to have a profound influence and relevance even today. I heard it a few decades ago, and it's a lore from a few centuries, maybe a millennia, ago.

In a small fishing village, on-route a trading sea route, the local monastery decided to build a grand statue of Buddha in copper. It was a small port, just a journey break point for supplies and replenishments. The Grand Monk had a dream to erect the statue as a beacon of faith, a landmark and as a lighthouse temple for the port-cum-fishing village. Unknowingly the very nature and purpose of the statue would be making it the world's tallest copper statue. The contributions needed would be large, something that the locals from the fishing village would not be able to afford. But the site selection, and its purpose as a lighthouse, provided for the contributions needed – donations solicited from the seafaring ships and its passengers.

As was the custom, monks of all ages and ranks, went about collecting alms for the statue. Slow at first, but charity started pouring in as gold, silver, copper, jewels. As the news of the planned Buddha statue spread, skilled labour came in from faraway lands. On one such transiting passenger ship, was a Poor Girl, who was migrating with her family to an urban centre. The Poor Girl's family was very poor, barely scrounging daily food but she was eager to contribute. All she had was one copper coin on her. Excited, she caught up with a Young Monk and offered her contribution. She was afraid to approach a senior or elder monk, as she feared her contribution was too meagre and would be rejected, but a young monk would probably not be as rigid. Unfortunately, to her dismay, the Young Monk mocked her charity of a single copper coin. He retorted that her giving would not even be enough for the Buddha's little toe nail and threw her coin back in her hands. Heartbroken the girl left, sailing away once the ship left the docks.

In a few months, enough metal was collected, and balance bought, to cast the huge copper Buddha statue. Soon a beautiful and divine statue of Buddha had been cast and all stood admiring the craftsmanship. Slowly the monks, craftsmen and the people realised to their dismay that there was a tiny hole in the center of Buddha's chest (where the heart is). It was an unacceptable defect rendering the statue unsuitable for consecration. There was no option but the melt and recast the statue. It took them weeks but was finally re-done. This time too the hole was visible. It left all the craftsmen confused. First all assumed it was a defect in the mould. Several iterations later, when the problem persisted, they concluded an air bubble was getting trapped in the mould. A new set of craftsmen were called to remake the mould. But with even with the mould being changed repeatedly, craftsmen being changed, several advanced alchemy and metallurgy techniques being used, each iteration of the statue revealed a hole in the heart of Buddha. They even tried pouring metal externally, filling and nailing the hole, but nothing stuck. All additions just slipped off, leaving the hole in the heart visible.



Finally the news reached the Grand Monk who concluded there was some divine forces at work. With his wisdom, experience and spiritual power, he concluded that something pure had been violated. He sent out a decree to the entire community of monks, craftsmen and village, associated with the making of the statue, to recollect if any such act had been committed, no matter how small. Many acts were reported and corrective steps were taken and prayers offered but each new iteration of the statue continued to have the hole. Through his hard penance, the Grand Monk informed all that he felt that somebody pure at heart was hurt by someone working on the statue. That hurt needed to be remedied. It dawned on the Young Monk, who had aged a few years now, that could it be due to the donation of a single coin that he had rejected and reported it to the Grand Monk. There was no way of tracing the young Poor Girl as she was a transit passenger and nobody knew her. A sense of dismay set in the local community and work ground to a halt.

The Grand Monk then rallied them to keep trying to make and remake the statue till it was suitable for consecration. He motivated them that the outcome was not in their hands but continuous effort and patience were their best friends. The work restarted and continued non-stop. Donations continued to pour in as the word spread of the incomplete Buddha with a hole in the heart. It soon became a pilgrimage destination. Everybody who had heard the story was praying, working or donating in the effort to 'fill the hole in the heart of Buddha'.

The Young Monk made all efforts to find the Poor Girl. He requested with all sailors and passengers, of every ship that docked in the village, to spread the word in lands they would travel to, that he was looking for the Poor Girl and awaiting her return or her donation. Years passed, statue kept being recast and remade. The Poor Girl was now married and it was by chance that her young husband brought her to the village for pilgrimage. On landing, she remembered her past experience and hesitantly approached a monk. Timidly she offered a few copper coins. Her financial situation only slightly better than her first visit. It was that same Young Monk she had met in the first visit. He recognised her immediately and soon the news spread like wild fire. The Poor Girl's contributions were melted, prayers were recited over by the Grand Monk and poured into the cast by the Young Monk. When the cast was broken, it revealed the most divine statue of Buddha the world had ever seen, and there was no hole in the heart of Buddha.

With a few weeks into my term serving as the President of our Rotary Club of Bombay West, I sat contemplating on my actions past and future. I realised that I simultaneously represented all the three main characters of the above story... all revealing a valuable lesson -

1. As a Club Member - I am that Poor Girl with just one copper coin to give while my club represents the world which contributes for the whole statue – I need to be Passionate to contribute
2. As the Club President - I am in the position of the Young Monk and be wary of everyone's passion to contribute and no contribution is too small or too big, but be grateful for contributions in any wealth or kind - accept all with equal Humility
3. As a Rotarian - I am symbolically in the position of the Grand Monk, patiently getting to know the need, understanding the wants, and using resources diligently - to serve with Compassion

I conclude with a prayer that may we all realise the Poor Girl, the Young Monk and the Grand Monk in ourselves, as we sail in this our journey of life... may we all fill the hole in the heart of the Divine.

Always your partner in Service to Community and Club

Rtn Rahul Murari Goenka
President 2024-25
Rotary Club of Bombay West

Ganesh Making Workshop



The Ganpati-making workshop from Clay Fellowship was a fantastic event planned by the Team President on 24 August 2024. The Ganpati-making was not just fun, it was a source of joy for all participants. All participants were given a kit and clay to make their own eco-friendly Ganpati, and the fun we had was evident in the smiles captured in the pictures.

The food and music were excellent, and the personal attention from the President and First Lady made it even more special. The Maharashtrian-style food was the highlight of the event. Ghee-dipped Puran Poli, well-steamed traditional Modak, hot Aluwadi and varan bhat food were terrific, and I will cherish them for a long time. Even the ice cream sponsored by the President and First Lady was too good.

The team's dedication and effort in organising the event was truly commendable. From the meticulous planning to the seamless execution, every aspect of the event reflected the team's hard work. The traditional Maharashtrian-style music was a delightful highlight of the programme. We had a great time and fellowship, thanks to the team's hard work. Thank you, President, for your leadership in making this event a success.

- Dr Kamal Demello



DHANRAJ NATHWANI'S

राजाधिराज

LOVE. LIFE. LEELA

at Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Center.



Rotary Club of Bombay West with 70+ members enjoyed a super duper show of Rajadhiraaj at Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Center. A spectacular show Rajadhiraaj-Love, life, Leela, world's first Mega Musical on Shri Krishna.

Thank you to all behind the scene organisers Shruti Desai Swati Shah Anuja Goenka Sarita Ruia for all the efforts put into getting tickets to organising seating arrangements. Everything was smooth and seamless. Kudos to the team. Also all our members for coming in a vibrant lovely outfits and enjoying the show. Yeh dil maange more such fellowships. Thank you President Rahul for organizing this.

Musical depicting Krishna's childhood, Rukmini Swayamwar, Shishupaal Vadh, Subhadra wedding, Kurukshetra, etc, have entertained each and every present for the show with great singer-actors.

Rajadhiraaj, however, beats all experiences and takes the theatre experience to a different level. The experience starts with the stage curtain — specially designed for Rajadhiraaj, the curtain is a huge pichwai painting that can delight any art lover with its detailing. One finds the pichwai detailing, though sporadically, throughout the play in the digital sets and VFX visuals.

Rajadhiraaj is a play that one should watch to get carried away in the bhakti ras that bowls you over with the music, dance compositions and singing of the Sutradhar and main characters.

- Rtn. Brinda Desai



INAUGURATION OF ANNAPURNA KITCHEN: A SUCCESS!

Extremely happy to announce the opening of "Annapurna community kitchen At Veera Desai Road, Andheri (w), Mumbai. Objective is To provide daily meals to poor and underprivileged people in Mumbai - To serve as a beacon of hope and nourishment for those in need, To foster a sense of community and social responsibility.

Inaugural Ceremony done by Shri. Hemang Jangla, Head project Annapoorna & Shri. Rakesh Coelho, active social worker In - Welcome address by Hemang jangla Mention that "Annapurna Kitchen is a symbol of our commitment to serving the most vulnerable members of our society. May this kitchen be a source of comfort, strength & hope. Over 100+ people attended the event, including Annapoorna team, staff and beneficiaries.

Team members of Annapurna Rajesh Shah, Pinky Rajgarghia, Shaline Serpes, Kala, Sridhar, Hari, Samapti Patel, Jaya Leela, Meena Singh, Atul Ghadiokar etc who were present on the occasion has said. "We are proud to be part of this noble cause. Together, we can make a difference."

- Rtn. Samapti Patel



DENTAL CHECK UP CAMP AT ROTARY KDNS SCHOOL.

Total 100 children check up done

75 children need treatment

Members at camp

Dr. Paresh Dodiwala and

Dr. Kamal Dmello



IN MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION...

"Strategic Leadership: Focus, Strengths, and Stakeholder Success"

Drawing from my experience as a C-Suite Coach, I have found that leaders can navigate today's complex challenges more effectively by adopting a thoughtful, strengths-driven leadership style, one that I refer to as **Intelligent Leadership**. A key tool in this approach is the **Core Purpose Statement (CPS)**, which brings clarity and focus to meetings by aligning teams around a shared objective.

I also advocate for **Strengths-Focused Leadership**, leveraging the unique strengths of both leaders and their teams to create a more confident, engaged, and productive work environment. Equally crucial is cultivating strong stakeholder relationships, as this is vital for achieving sustained success.

Finally, the **Leadership Impact Matrix** is an excellent framework to help leaders prioritize tasks effectively, ensuring they focus on what truly matters while balancing immediate demands with longterm goals. Together, these strategies foster more impactful and effective leadership.

If you would like to explore these ideas further, feel free to connect with me.

Mohan Joshi

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FLYING CARPET ISSUE

Both current year and previous years (1954 onwards)

**NOW
AVAILABLE**

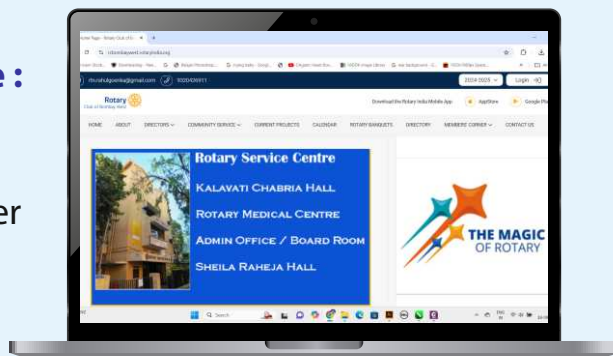
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Members' Corner



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