The Gateway



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



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THIS TUESDAY

Paralympic Gold Medalist Harvinder Singh to be felicitated with the RCB Arvind Jolly Award for Excellence in **Sports**

COMING UP

November 27th, 2024

Bowling Challenger

Details inside.

November 29th, 2024

The magic of the chariot race: on Zoroastrian imagery for perfecting the world by Prof. Almut Hintze.

Details inside

December 03rd, 2024

A fireside chat featuring Rtn. Ishraq Contractor, Rtn. Vivek Kothari, and Mr. Dhaval Vussonji, moderated by Rtn. Pranay Vakil, on the topic of Redevelopment Madness in Mumbai

December 10th, 2024

Annual General Meeting

December 14th, 2024

Save the Date: Christmas Sundowner. Details inside

December 17th, 2024

Ashish Dhawan to be felicitated with Rotary Club of Bombay PV Gandhi Award for Exellence in Public Life

Dr Fareed Zakaria: Navigating Shifts in Global Politics — Insights on Leadership, Social Change, and India's Role

- I know what you're all thinking about, so why don't we get right to the main topic that I'm sure you're wondering about, which is: what the hell happened in America?
- I think that the best way to try to understand it is to step back for a moment and recognise that in the last year, every incumbent government of every major industrial democracy in the world went to the polls, and almost all, as it turns out, lost. The British Conservative Party went from having the largest majority it had under Margaret Thatcher, since Margaret Thatcher—so 40 years—to the smallest minority it has ever had in its 200-year history as a party.
- The government of Emmanuel Macron's party in the parliamentary elections was essentially destroyed. It's down to 90 seats or something like that out of 400. The South Korean government—the opposition won.
- In Japan, the LDP, which has run Japan since 1948 with a nine-month exception, is the longest-serving ruling party in the world, lost the parliamentary elections. So in a sense, we are witnessing what one might almost think of as the second COVID election, meaning that all the consequences of COVID—the disruption, the supply chains, the inflation, the sense of uncertainty—all in a sense cost incumbents. And there was a kind of incumbent penalty no matter where you look. Even in places that haven't had elections, like Canada, Justin Trudeau is at the lowest approval rating he has ever had and is the lowest approval rating any Canadian government has had in 50 years.
- So the reality is everyone has faced an incumbency penalty. And in that context, Biden-Harris administration suffered. If you look at the scale of the defeat in other places, Kamala Harris doesn't look as bad, frankly. She lost by about 1.5% of the popular vote, of the national vote, which, if you consider the trends I was describing, is



not actually as severe as many of the other countries involved. India, of course, stands out as something of an exception here in the sense that while Narendra Modi faced an incumbent penalty-massively reduced number of seats in parliament, lost an outright majority—he still was able to stay in power. And I'll get back to why I think that was. But if you look at the American election, the most interesting aspect of it is the degree to which you are now seeing a complete realignment of the American electorate. So the simplest way I can explain this to you is to point out that in 1996, Bill Clinton won the non-college-educated vote in America. In other words, the blue-collar working-









class vote, by 14 points. In 2024, Donald Trump won the non-college-educated vote by 14 points. In other words, the Democratic Party, which used to be the party of the working class, the blue-collar workers, has now become the party of the affluent, the professionals, those with college degrees, those working in industries like consulting, banking, law, accounting, and software. And the Republican Party, which used to be the party of the upper middle-class professionals, is now the party of the working class under Donald Trump. The two parties have flipped their socioeconomic bases, but the elections remain as tight as ever, just flipped over.

If you think back 25 years ago, in the 2000 election, the Republicans won by 536 votes in Florida. Every national popular vote tally is within one or two points of each other, with the one exception of Obama's 2008 victory, which was a combination of Obama's charisma and the global financial crisis, which caused a shattering of the old Republican Party. So what you're watching is something very interesting and fascinating happening in the Western world, which is a breakdown of the old political system itself. If you looked at the 20th century, it was very easy to figure out politically what the spectrum was. It was left versus right, largely about the state's role in the economy. If you were left of centre, you wanted more state, more regulation, more taxes, more redistribution. If you were right of centre, you wanted less state, less taxation, less redistribution. And that was true almost everywhere in the world. If you look, even in India, where we had a slightly different political spectrum, broadly speaking, that would have been the way in which you would have described the



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spectrum. If you went to Brazil, that was broadly the way you would have described the system. And that left versus right, with economy as the central dimension, persisted for a long time, as I say, for almost all the 20th century. But after the Cold War, you began to see a shift in the way in which politics was organised. And you started to see the rise of other issues—social issues, cultural issues. And suddenly you started to see that people's political identities were defined more by these issues of social class rather than economic class.

- What do I mean by that? The central divide in America right now-the single strongest predictor of how you vote—is not how much money you make. It is whether you have a college degree or not. It is a symbol of your social class. To make it clear, what I mean by that is I would be able to better predict who you're going to vote for based on whether you have a college education because a high school teacher with an advanced professional degree living in Brooklyn, making \$60,000 a year, is going to vote left of centre. And a blue-collar plumber living in Queens, making \$150,000 a year, is going to vote right of centre. A multimillionaire software developer is going to work left of centre, but you will find a very religious trucker who drives trucks for a living is going to vote right of centre. So what you're seeing is that the central division is actually around something less tangible than economics.
- So if you look at the prediction, what predicts your vote in the United States? First is, of course, party affiliation, but number two is college. Number three is: do you live in an urban area or a rural area? Number four is: are you religious or irreligious? And these divisions stack on top of each other. So you have almost ended up in the United States with two Americas—one urban, multicultural, cosmopolitan, secular, and educated; the other rural, white, less educated, and more religious. And that almost tribal difference has been what has defined American politics for the last decade or two. The 2024 election saw one more twist to this, which is that, for the first time, the Republican Party got a share—a significant share—of some non-white working-class vote. Not so many blacks, but Hispanics and some Asians. And so you're beginning to see almost the coalescence of two different groups where the old categories of economy and race are giving way to the new categories of social status, religion, and gender. So overwhelmingly, men voted for the Republican Party. Women voted for the Democratic Party. These are the new dividing lines of politics. And, by the way, this is, broadly speaking, happening in Europe as well.



ANANDA YAAN GRANDMOTHERS DELIGHT IN MAGIC SHOW ON CHILDREN'S DAY

For the first time, our elders proudly invited their grandchildren to the Ananda Yaan Mazgaon centre. Rtn. Madhusudan Daga organised a magical show and served ice cream to all 82 children attending the Children's Day celebrations, creating lasting memories for all involved.















TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY









President Satyan wishes Rotarians Anil Goyel, Farokh Balsara, Pratap Padode and Jimmy Pochkhanawalla for their birthday



Speaker Dr. Fareed Zakaria with Rotarians Farhat Jamal, Sabira Merchant and Rekha Tanna



Speaker Dr. Fareed Zakaria with Rtn. Sanjiv Saran Mehra



Rtn. Akhil Sanghi, Speaker Fareed Zakaria and President Satyar Israni



Rtn. Akhil Sanghi, Speaker Fareed Zakaria and President Satyan Rotarians PE Bimal Mehta, Anita Paymaster and Farhat Jamal



The audience engaged in Dr. Fareed Zakaria's insightful talk



 $Hon.\,Rtn.\,Deepak\,Parekh\,and\,Rtn.\,Rustom\,Vakharia\,ask\,a\,question$



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Jagdish Malkani a happy birthday



President Satyan thanks Speaker Dr. Fareed Zakaria for his time spent with our club

FOR MORE PICTURES

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WEDNESDAY 27 NOVEMBER

7.00 PM - 9.00 PM

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The People of Mumbai Curated Walk

















On 14th November, the Heritage Art and Culture Committee organised a special preview of The People of Mumbai exhibition at the Mumbai Gallery of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalay, as part of our Rotary Club's ongoing relationship with the Museum.

When we think of Mumbai, we think of three things – land, water, and its people. This insightful exhibition highlights three key themes – Mumbai as a city of opportunity, a city of migrants, and a city of cosmopolitanism through the lives of Mumbaikars. The exhibition features artworks by 16 artists, curated by our very own Rtn. Nandini Sampat, the architect of the gallery. She presented and explained the entire concept to the awestruck audience after months of meticulous planning.

The experience showcased slices of Mumbai life. Valay Shende's installation, Virar Fast, made of metal discs, depicted the common man's life hanging from the local train. Sabu Kohli's interactive installation breathed life into Mumbai's mangroves. Parag Tandel paid tribute to his Koli heritage with rows of concrete sculptures of Bombay ducks drying in the sun. David D Souza's portrait series featured Behragis and Dabbawalas. There were also objects that give Mumbai its identity – the bus conductor's aluminium ticket box, the coolie badge and uniform, and many other evocative surprises.

Highlights included learning how the iconic Mumbai snacks, pav bhaji and vada pav, originated as migrants' food, and viewing a sample of costume design by Bhanu Athaya, the first Indian to win an Oscar for Best Costume. Her daughter, Radhika, gave a deep perspective on her mother's craft and spoke of her involvement in the famous progressive artist group and her work designing costumes for more than 100 films.

The exhibition concluded with an AI projection of what Mumbai will look like in the future. It was a beautiful evening for an ardent Mumbaikar. Do visit the Museum and catch the exhibition soon.

- Rtn. Radhika Saraf



The Rotary Club Bombay Charities Trust No. 3 is the first and only rotary trust in the country to have achieved a Crisil grading.

We are proud to announce that we have received the VO 2A grading for Crisil which indicates High Financial Proficiency and Strong Delivery Capability!

This is a fabulous achievement for the Rotary Club of Bombay and all the Rotarians, Donors, Staff and Stakeholders deserve a huge pat on the back!

- President Satyan Israni









29 Nov

The magic of the chariot race: on Zoroastrian imagery for perfecting the world.

By Prof. Almut Hintze

Friday, November 29th 2024 The Royal Bombay Yacht Club Anchorage Room

5:30pm - 6:00pm (Tea and Snacks) 6:00pm - 7:30pm (Talk, Discussion)

Register with Rashmi Kotian +91 97691 40141 at the soonest. Registration is free.







A Melodious Evening: Ananda Seva by Rtn. Deepak Kapadia and Rtn. Vikram Daiya

Fifty members of Ananda Yaan were treated to a soulful live concert at Nehru Auditorium, organised by Rtn. Deepak Kapadia and Rtn. Vikram Daiya. The audience relished nostalgic Bollywood melodies from classics like Taj Mahal, Anarkali, and Baiju Bawra, singing along with joy. During the interval, a well-balanced, nutritious snack meal was served, adding to the delight. The evening exemplified the true spirit of old age

lived in fellowship. The care and affection showered by the Rotarians on the elders embody the essence of Ananda Seva, for which the Ananda Yaan committee remains immensely grateful.







SAILING EXPERIENCE FOR ALUMNI OF BHAVISHYA YAAN SCHOOLS

On November 19th, 2024, the Royal Bombay Yacht Club (RBYC), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bombay, organised a memorable sailing experience for 35 alumni children from six Bhayishya Yaan schools. This initiative aimed to introduce these young minds to the joy of sailing, offering an experience that was not only recreational but also aspirational and educational. Several students expressed an interest in learning how to harness nature's elements and master the art of sailing.

The event kicked off with a warm welcome for the children, followed by refreshments and a comprehensive safety briefing conducted by experienced sailors and volunteers at the RBYC. The briefing emphasised the fundamentals of sailing, the importance of teamwork, and adherence to safety protocols. President Satyan Israni and Rtn. Mehul Sampat flagged off the event, while Rtn. Amee Tanna joined the alumni on the water. The event was meticulously planned by RBYC President Ramesh Venkat, Vice Commodore Viraf Hansotia, and RCB Hon Sec Akhil Sanghi.

The children's excitement was palpable as they donned sailing caps and prepared to board the boats from the Gateway of India. Ten boats, manned by skilled sailors including Arjuna Awardee Homi Motivala, veteran Bejon Madon, and others, set sail simultaneously. The young sailors also included RBYC Junior sailors—Freyan Driver, Aarya Raote, Luv Sakpal, and Shivansh Pandya—who helmed boats for alumni of a similar age. For many, it was a magical moment, learning to navigate and feeling the thrill of gliding across the waves, powered solely by the wind.

Afterward, the children returned to the RBYC, where they were treated to "Safari" bags filled with books and goodies, courtesy of Rtn. Laxmi Meneklal, and enjoyed snacks and refreshments in the RBYC Sailing room. The event concluded with smiles, laughter, and new aspirations, as the children shared their excitement, asked questions, and bonded with their helmsmen.

This initiative not only provided these children with an unforgettable experience but also inspired dreams of exploring new opportunities. The Royal Bombay Yacht Club and the Rotary Club of Bombay remain dedicated to creating such impactful experiences, fostering community partnerships, and inspiring the next generation to reach beyond their everyday lives.







Children's Day Celebration at Bhavishya Yaan School, Byculla

The culmination of the literature festival was held today at Bhavishya Yaan Byculla School. The programme began with the National Anthem and an introduction to the renowned Rabindranath Tagore. author Students participated in engaging role plays and story narration sessions. Enthusiastically, performed traditional Bengali dances, showcasing their talent. The event concluded with a lively vocabulary word game, Bingo, followed by refreshments, as the school celebrated Children's Day. The festival not only honoured literature but also provided a platform for creativity, cultural expression, and fun learning experiences for all students involved.









Rotary Scholars Event Unveils Mentorship Programme

The Scholarship Committee, led by PP Preeti Mehta and Rtn. Alok Sekhsaria, hosted a special event at the IMC for 144 Rotary scholars, with 90 attending. The highlight of the gathering was the announcement of a new mentorship initiative in collaboration with the NGO Claylab. The programme aims to pair each scholar with a mentor who has expertise in their field of interest. Several RCB Rotarians volunteered as mentors.

The event also honoured the generous donors whose contributions make these scholarships possible. Among the distinguished guests were Mrs. Jeroo Lam and Rtn. Niloufer Lam, the latter of whom addressed the students.

A competition was introduced, where scholars will present on a predetermined topic. Winners will receive six or more state-of-the-art laptops, generously donated by the Saurashtra Trust, part of the

Janmabhoomi Trusts.

The event was attended by several notable figures, including President Nominee Manish Reshamwala, PP Ramesh Narayan, Rtn. Jamshed Vakharia, Rtn. Rustom Vakharia, Rtn. Ajay Kumar, Rtn. Uday Sanghani, Rtn. Siddharth Bhimrajka, Rtn. Piloo Aga, Rtn. Ptn. Vandana Kakar, Rtn. Ptn. Jaya Prasad, Rashmi Bapna, and Rtn. Ptn. Avaan Vakharia.













A Mind-Bending Experience at the Paradox Museum



Lighthouse Project: Students from classes 1 to 5 enjoyed an unforgettable visit to the Paradox Museum. From the moment they entered, it was clear this was no ordinary museum. The striking architecture and innovative exhibits promised an experience that would engage and inspire.



The interactive displays captivated both children and adults alike, seamlessly blending mind-bending puzzles, optical illusions, and paradoxical concepts to make learning both fun and educational. The museum's cleverly designed spaces, coupled with unconventional materials and



cutting-edge technology, created an immersive environment where time seemed to slow down. The children were completely enthralled, eagerly exploring the exhibits and soaking up new ideas, while the adults marvelled at the creativity and intellectual stimulation on display. This visit was not only



educational but profoundly inspiring, leaving a lasting impression on all attendees.

A special thank you to Rtn. Natasha Treasurywala and Rtn. Aditya Somani for making this memorable experience possible!











Elections at GK Marg Bhavishya Yaan School

The students of GK Marg School, from standard 3rd and 4th, participated in a mock election to choose their class monitors. The process began with discussions

about the steps involved in an election. Two candidates expressed their interest in the role of class monitor. Children then cast their votes for their preferred candidates, with some volunteers assisting at the voting booths. Once the votes were counted, the winning candidate was announced in class. The students enjoyed the experience, particularly the vote counting, and gained valuable insight into how elections are conducted.







NEXT WEEK:



RTN. ISHRAQ CONTRACTOR PARTNER C.N.K. AND ASSOCIATES LLP



RTN. VIVEK KOTHARI DIRECTOR, KBK GROUP

In conversation with our esteemed moderator RTN. PRANAY VAKIL
-Rtd. Chairman of Knight Frank (India)Pvt Ltd



MR. DHAVAL VUSSONJI MANAGING PARTNER D.V. ASSOCIATES

PANEL
DISCUSSION ON
THE TOPIC OF
REDEVELOPMENT
MADNESS IN
MUMBAI

ROTARIAN MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



NOVEMBER 27 Rtn. Sameer Kaji



NOVEMBER 29 Rtn. Charu Agrawal



NOVEMBER 29 Rtn. Dr. Ashish Contractor



NOVEMBER 29 Rtn. Amay Merchant



NOVEMBER 30 Rtn. Bipin Vazirani



DECEMBER 01 PP Nandan Damani

NOVEMBER 26

Rtn. Ptn. Suresh

Deora

NOVEMBER 26

Rtn. Ptn. Sandra



Rtn. Dr. Sharukh Golwalla

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

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Rtn. Ptn. Amisha &

Rtn. Pulin Shroff
NOVEMBER 28

Rtn. Ptn. Chhaya & Rtn. Kaushal Mehta

NOVEMBER 29

Rtn. Ptn. Vandana &

Rtn. Madhusudan Daga

NOVEMBER 30 Rtn. Ptn. Anita &

Rtn. Satya Bansal

NOVEMBER 30

Rtn. Ptn. Priyanka & Rtn. Mudit Jatia

NOVEMBER 30

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Rtn. Khurshed Poonawala

NOVEMBER 30

Rtn. Ptn. Swati & Rtn. Vinay Rajgharia

DECEMBER 01

Rtn. Ptn. Pritisha & Rtn. Amay Merchant

DECEMBER 01

Rtn. Ptn. Arnaz & Rtn. Dr. Phiroze Soonawalla

DECEMBER 02

Rtn. Ptn. Vasudha & Rtn. Abhin Alimchandani

Merchant NOVEMBER 28 Rtn. Ptn. Chanderkanta Juneja NOVEMBER 29 Rtn. Ptn. Alpana Chinai NOVEMBER 29 Rtn. Ptn. Arti

Sanghi NOVEMBER 30 Rtn. Ptn. Kashmira Dalal NOVEMBER 30 Rtn. Ptn. Prashansa Chowdhary

NOVEMBER 30 Rtn. Ptn. Devaki

Trivedi DECEMBER 01

Rtn. Ptn. Meenakshi Bajaj

DECEMBER 01

Rtn. Ptn. Renu Chokhani

DECEMBER 02

Rtn. Ptn. Malini Agarwalla DECEMBER 02

Rtn. Ptn. Ayesha Soonawalla

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Paediatric Heart Surgeries	Natasha Treasurywala
Rotaract Clubs	Sidhant Jatia
Satellite Club	Murad Currawalla
Interact Schools	Mudit Jain
Scholarships	PP Preeti Mehta
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