

# The Gateway



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

VOLUME 66, ISSUE NO. 8, AUGUST 20, 2024  
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## THIS TUESDAY:

The Rotary Club of  
Bombay Ramkrishna  
Bajaj Award for Good  
Governance to  
Rtn. Puneet  
Chhatwal

## COMING UP

### Today

Satellite Club's Each One For One campaign: Sponsor the education of one girl for just Rs 1500 per year. These funds will go towards girls studying at a Hindi medium SSC Board school in Malad West. [Details inside.](#)

August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 Bhavishya Yaa Annual Day. [Details inside.](#)

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 Installation of Interact Club of Sir J J Girls' High School. [Details inside.](#)

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Tuesday speaker: Cricketer Irfan Pathan in conversation with sports writer and journalist Ayaz Memon.

August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Dil Se, a concert by Ustad Shujaat Husain Khan. [Details inside](#)

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024  
Somchand Parikh Award for Best Teacher to Mr. Ajit Bhoir, Principal (H.M) Dist. W. School Savaroli.

*Panel discussion on My Country, My Life: Lieutenant Colonel Sheela Dehal, Wing Commander SS Krishnamurthy, Colonel Vembu Shankar SC, and Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, in conversation with Armed Forces Commentator and our esteemed moderator Milind Wagle*



**Mr. Milind Wagle:** My first question is to Wing Commander Krishnamurthy. Sir, the joy of being a helicopter pilot with the Indian Air Force.

**Wg. Cdr. Krishnamurthy:** A fresh good afternoon to ladies and gentlemen. Generally, when this question is asked, I ask the audience, if you have been asked to switch off the mobile, please switch it on. All of you, please take your mobile in your hand. And please type 1971 in Google, 1971. If you don't get any photographs there, put 1971 war. So, he asked me, what is it like to be a helicopter pilot? The answer is in that. That is a photograph taken in Dhaka after the war. Our entire squadron had gone there by helicopter because we fought the war along

with the infantry in the field, not bombing from the top and coming back.

We were privileged to carry these soldiers with their arms, ammunition and rations and put them across. Where it would take one day to cross a river, we did it in two minutes, which means we could carry 5,000 people just overnight. Believe me, everyone fought, but who brought the surrender a little earlier than expected? Please, yours truly, the helicopter pilot. I'm not saying that I've won the war, but we brought it a little closer. Because when they found Dhaka was besieged from the south, north, east, and west, and when they were told, we were ready to free you the Bangla people – they were

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fed up with the Pakistani army – they will come and butcher you. So, you want to do it? Surrender to us. We will look after you, as prisoners of war by the Geneva Convention, and now leave Dhaka.

He asked me, what did you achieve by being a helicopter pilot? There are 29 states in the country. I hope you are all aware of it. I have gone to each and every state. Certain states, I have done district wise visits 100%. Otherwise, I have done anything between 70% to 90%. With the great Lalu Prasad Yadav, I visited the undivided Bihar, each and every district. You may ask me, how? I flew with him for vacations. While coming in the taxi, I was repeating one of his bhashans. My wife said, enough, I heard.

Now, one more request I have before I go further. My wife and I put our memories in the form of a book, and a few copies I bought today. Please believe me, we have been able to send over Rs 2,000,000 to ALC, the Artificial Limb Centre. If anyone wants to pay more than Rs 250 for the book, he or she is most welcome. You will get a receipt from the ALC for having paid the donation. So kindly have a look. And if anyone is not lucky to get a book, please let me know. We will try and provide one.

**Mr. Wagle:** Wonderful. Well, perhaps a Sukhoi or a hunter or a jaguar, they weren't there those days, but a hunter or a Canberra could have been his home, but he chose the hector or, as it's known, the helicopter.

**Vice Admiral Girish Luthra,** perhaps if I can stand and look across out there, that is where, as a young lieutenant, perhaps he started his career. Admiral, if you can reminisce about your younger days as an officer.

**Vice Admiral Luthra:** Before I start, first let me thank the Rotary Club of Bombay for this invitation to spend some time with you this afternoon and also let me wish all of you a very happy Independence Day which is the day after tomorrow.

Now you talked about my younger days as a young officer in the Navy. Now Navy, of course, like the other two services, you realise very early in life that it is not a profession, it's a way of life. It is how you structure yourself, look at yourself and your surroundings and that feeling starts seeping in very early. The Navy focusses a lot on grooming younger officers because they are actually in some very important roles. And I got posted to a number of ships. I served here, across the harbour, on an oil tanker, on missile boats, and on frigates as a young Sub Lieutenant and Lieutenant.

While a lot is going on around you, not as much as today because there was no social media at that time, but within that space you recognise that what you learned very early in life as a young officer was to take responsibility. And you need to take responsibility because for a very brief period you are working under supervision but within three to four months you are on your own and when you are on your own, you're a duty officer whether at sea on watch or harbour, the entire ship and all the proceedings are under your charge. The responsibilities are on your young shoulders. So, taking responsibility comes in early at a very young age. Taking decisions and being decisive comes very early because you see a situation at sea, when you have an aircraft coming, and you need to decide quickly. Whether it is hostile or friendly, you have a few seconds to decide. Your decisions are right, sometimes they may not be right. But the Navy supports you even if you've made decisions in good faith. So, taking decisions, decision-making – this was a very good learning process. Leading small teams of people at a very young age was a wonderful experience and imbibing the values that the Navy stands for: duty, honour and courage.

So, duty, honour and courage are the three core values of the Indian Navy and these three are focussed primarily as the national cause. They are focussed mainly at India – Bharat. These are also applicable in civil life but here they are way of life: duty, honour and courage. And finally, if I look back at my younger days, the greatest learning for me was that it's all in the mind. Many times, as a young officer, you may have thought that this is beyond you, you cannot do this. You're apprehensive, you have reservations that you can't do ABCD – and I recall very early one of my captains told me, "Koshish toh kar (at least try)." And, when you put in that effort, and I'm sure it's applicable, again, in all walks of life but when you put in that effort, you surprise yourself with what you can achieve and it's only a matter of giving it a try.

That sentence has stuck in my head since then – koshish toh kar – once you put in your heart and soul, you can surprise yourself and everybody else. If you are deeply involved in an operation in a mission in an exercise, then you recognise that 36 hours, 48 hours, you can keep standing on the bridge of the ship without feeling fatigue. Fatigue disappears simply because your mind is so focussed, so deeply involved. So, I think that was my greatest takeaway as a young officer.



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# Inner Wheel celebrates friendship with ALP ladies



On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Inner Wheel Club joyously celebrated Friendship Day with the enthusiastic ladies of our Adult Literacy Programme and the vibrant children of the remedial class at Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Municipal School. The event aimed to foster connections and learning through a unique and engaging game centred around the theme 'Bonding by Learning.'

The highlight of the day was a relay race featuring mixed teams of adults and students. Each participant read words from picture cards and wrote the correct spelling on the board, emphasising the importance of sharing knowledge and reinforcing the idea that learning together strengthens bonds. The excitement and energy were palpable as both children and adults participated eagerly,

enjoying the game and embracing its valuable message.

Adding to the festive spirit, chocolates and friendship bands were distributed among the participants. The heartwarming sight of children and adults tying friendship bands on each other's wrists symbolised the unity and camaraderie that the day sought to celebrate.

This special event not only brought smiles and laughter but also reinforced the importance of lifelong learning and the joy of sharing knowledge. The Inner Wheel Club remains committed to creating meaningful and joyful experiences for our community.

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# TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



Rotarians Mudit Jain, Dr. Shailesh Rana, Hiren Kara, Jaidev Merchant, Rina Deora and Anar Shah with speakers Vice Admiral Girish Luthra and Wing Commander SS Krishnamurthy



Rtn. Naresh Jain, PP Kalpana Munshi, Rtn. Kanta Masand, and Rtn. Sunny Pariyaram



Guest Daniel, Rtn. Sanjiv Mehra, PN Manish Reshamwala and Rtn. Naresh Jain



PN Manish Reshamwala's daughter Anushka, speaker Col Vembu Shankar, PN Manish Reshamwala and Rtn. Ptn. Malti Jain



Rtn. Ptn. Gautam and PP Preeti Mehta



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Pavit Chadha, Rtn. Madhu Ruia, and Rtn. Sunny Pariyaram a happy birthday



Rtn. Rekha Tanna and Rtn. Jaidev Merchant take the mic



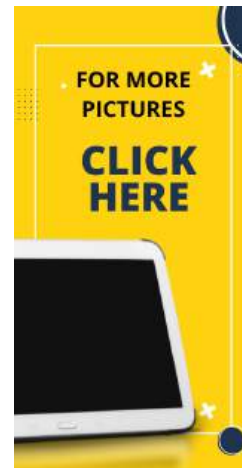
Rtn. Siddharth Bhimrajka with guest Daniel



President Satyan wishes Rtn. Dr. Shailesh Raina and Rtn. Dr. Rustom Ginwala a happy birthday



President Satyan and Rtn. Hiren Kara with the flag of Rotary Club of San Francisco Chinatown





# ROTARACTORS OF RC ATLAS COMBINE HISTORY & AI AT BY GK MARG

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Rotaractors of RC Atlas team visited Ganpatrao Kadam Municipal School to conduct a special session for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders as part of the "Skill Azad" project. The session focused on two significant topics: India's Unsung Heroes and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Our goal was to inspire the students with stories of lesser-known freedom fighters who played pivotal roles in India's struggle for independence. Alongside this, we introduced them to the basics of AI, a technology shaping the future. The students engaged enthusiastically, creating their own AI prompts and generating imaginative images.

This initiative was designed to celebrate Independence Day by blending lessons in history with modern technology, equipping the students with knowledge that bridges the past with the future.

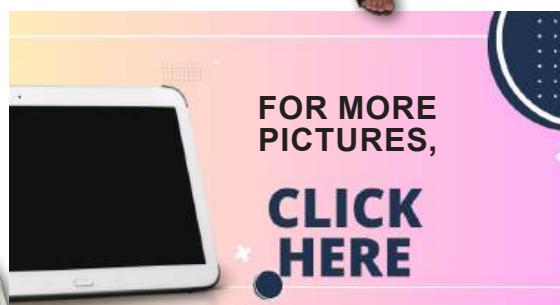


**Members, please note that we have tied up with Masina Hospital for a great discount for our members, family, and friends.**

To avail discount kindly contact PP Vijay Kumar Jatia on email along with a brief medical history: [vkj.rotary@modernindia.co.in](mailto:vkj.rotary@modernindia.co.in)



# *Eating, drinking & being merry at Parsi Nite*





**Rotary**  
**Club of Bombay**  
*Celebrating 95 Years of Service*



# Annual Day

**PLEASE DO JOIN US ON**

**21 AUGUST, 2024**

**IMC, Churchgate (4th Floor)**  
**3 pm - 6 pm**







## Insider's View of Mumbai's Crown Jewel

This year's first event of our Heritage, Art, and Culture Committee was an exclusive insider's heritage tour of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), formerly Victoria Terminus. Located in the heritage precinct of Fort, the walking tour was conducted by Raconteur Tours, led by Viraat Kasliwal.

Built in 1887, this majestic building serves as the headquarters of the Central Railways and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Many of us Mumbaikars pass by this iconic structure often but are unaware of its rich history, grand Gothic Revival architecture, and the many reasons it is often called the 'Crown Jewel of Mumbai'.

A lively group of 33 Rotarians and friends gathered together on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, morning at Café Coffee Day. Divided into two groups, we headed through the underground subway into the CSMT ticketing area, accessing various restricted areas of the building. We explored the Railway Heritage Museum, which showcases the history and significance of the railways, the architectural origins and documentation of the building, and numerous objects, from lamps and building models to old railway schedules and tickets. Larger objects line the corridors, from railway metal sleepers to replicas of the various train models.

We were then guided to the inner courtyard to view the intricate facade of the building, which is filled with details from Gothic architectural features, such as pointed arches, gargoyles, and mythical creatures, to sculptures of Indian patrons and the local communities. The building represents the diversity of the city and its people.

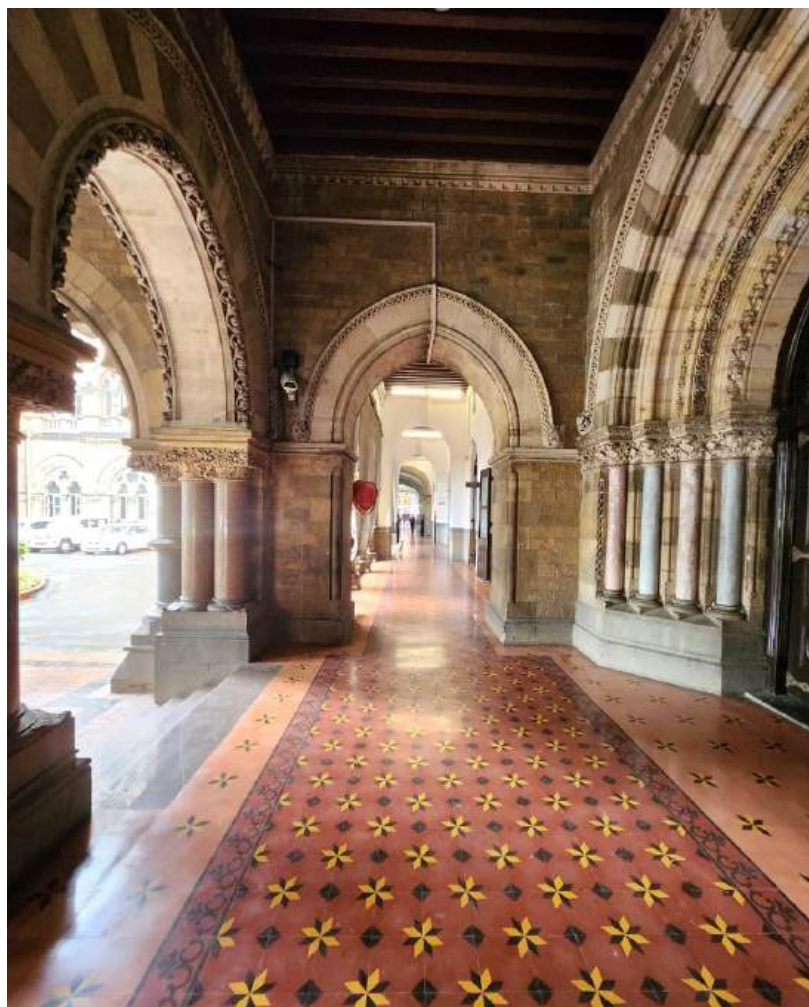
The tour continued to the 60-metre-high octagonal dome with the grand cantilever staircase leading to the star chamber, the upper balcony areas overlooking the ticket counters below. This is the heart of the building. For us Rotarians, this was truly the jewel of this grand building, and we spent much time in this space, admiring the beauty of the architecture.

We concluded the tour on the porch of the building, overlooking the Fort area and facing the iconic BMC building, designed by the same architect as CSMT, F.W. Stevens, where we took our final group photo.

In the words of architect Frank Gehry, "Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness." That encapsulates the CSMT visit — a walk through the annals of history, beautifully curated and organised by our new member, Rtn. Nandini Sampat.











Join Us To

*Celebrate*

The Installation Function of

THE INTERACT CLUB OF

*Sir J.J. Girls' High School*

Thursday, 22nd August, 2024

Venue : AV Room

Time : 01:00 pm

It would give us immense pleasure if  
you could grace this occasion with  
your presence.



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MILLION WORKING GIRLS  
OF AGE 5-18 IN INDIA,  
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## NEXT WEEK:

IRFAN PATHAN IN CONVERSATION WITH  
SPORTS WRITER & JOURNALIST AYAZ MEMON

Irfan Pathan, an illustrious all-rounder who represented the Indian cricket team from 2003 to 2020, has achieved remarkable success throughout his career. As a left-handed batsman and a left-arm medium fast bowler, Irfan has earned numerous accolades, including being a vital part of the 2007 ICC Twenty20 World Cup-winning team, where he was named Man of the Match in the thrilling final. He was also recognized as the ICC Emerging Player of the Year in 2004 and played a crucial role in the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy squad. With a #2 ICC ODI ranking and a #5 ICC Test ranking, his expertise and versatility are well-documented. Beyond his playing career, Irfan Pathan has transitioned into a leading cricket broadcaster and runs cricket academies across India, where he mentors some of the country's finest young talents.



# Happy Birthdays



AUGUST 20  
Rtn. Pradeep  
Gujarathi



AUGUST 20  
PP Rajnikant  
Reshamwala



AUGUST 23  
Rtn. Sanjay  
Agarwal



AUGUST 23  
Rtn. Dushyant  
Dave



AUGUST 24  
Rtn. Manoj  
Israni



AUGUST 24  
Rtn. Narinder  
Nayar



AUGUST 25  
Rtn. Kaushal  
Mehta

## ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 20: Rtn. Ptn. Ruby Patch  
AUGUST 20: Rtn. Ptn. Navaz  
Pochkhanwalla  
AUGUST 21: Rtn. Ptn. Irma Chinai

AUGUST 21: Rtn. Ptn. Samira  
Merchant  
AUGUST 22: Rtn. Ptn. Manju Sinha  
AUGUST 26: Rtn. Ptn. Dina Golwalla

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Programme	Rina Deora
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Dialysis	Swati Jajodia

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