

The Gateway



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY

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THIS TUESDAY:

Cricketer Irfan Pathan
in conversation
with sports journalist
Ayaz Memon

COMING UP

August 29th, 2024

Dil Se, a concert by Ustad
Shujaat Husain Khan.
[Details inside](#)

September 3rd, 2024

Somchand Parikh Award
for Best Teacher to Mr. Ajit
Bhoir, Principal (H.M) Dist.
W. School Savaroli.

September 3rd, 2024

Past Trustee Gulam A
Vahanvaty will address
the Club on: Expanding
Rotary's Reach through
Peace Education.

September 10th, 2024

Tuesday meeting:
Ms. Anupama Chopra, film
critic, National Award-
winning book author and
journalist.

September 17th, 2024

No Tuesday meeting.

September 24th, 2024

Tuesday meeting: PP Dr.
Mukesh Batra & Dr. Akshay
Batra.

*"Earn your success
based on service to
others, not at the
expense of others."*
– H. Jackson Brown Jr.

Mr. Puneet Chhatwal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Hotels Company Limited, recipient of Rotary Club of Bombay's Ramkrishna Bajaj Award for Good Governance



Trust is one of the pillars of what Taj stands for: the T-A-J stands for Trust, Awareness, and Joy. Everything begins and ends with trust.

We said very simply that we want to be South Asia's most iconic but also most profitable hotel company. Now iconic we always were — nobody ever doubted that — but the profit part was missing.

Forget the board, forget the customers — it's very difficult to make your own people believe that this is possible and doable.

We will Reimagine our brandscape, Restructure our portfolio, and Re-engineer our margins. These three Rs were created by December 2017.

You should feel as good in a Ginger as you feel in a Taj at that price point. And it should be as interactive as the spaces are in any kind of luxury property.

Customer-centricity of our people, associates, was and has always been the core strength of the brand.

We are pretty similar to all Tata Group companies in that governance is the guiding principle that helps you navigate challenges, difficult situations, pandemics, etc.

We built a robust business model. We started the journey saying we'll have a balanced portfolio of 50-50 – 50% owned, 50% managed.

I don't believe in a pure asset-light model. You need to own some of your assets, your crown jewels. And you should not give them to somebody because at some point every relationship goes south. And if you end up losing those assets, it's the beginning of the end of your brand.

A dramatic turnaround in profitability... For two years in a row we've clocked more than Rs 1000 crores in profit after tax.

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We only know that in hotels we have to sell a lot of tea, coffee, beer, and a lot of food to make very little money.

This sector is not as rich as it feels, as it looks — all the chandeliers, etc., all this is wonderful. But the top five listed companies, which have managed companies or brands like Marriott or Hilton, when you put all of them together, including us, we barely achieve 60-70% of the market cap of TCS alone.

Within this sector, some of the things that we've been able to achieve are pretty phenomenal and are today a benchmark, not just for the Indian subcontinent, but for the rest of the world.

The good thing about our group... is that it is not just about financial performance; it's about our responsibility to society, to the environment.

Our founder... said, in a free enterprise, the community is not just another stakeholder, rather the purpose of the existence of any business. And I think we are very proud that our ethos, our conduct, our way of working, our way of treating all stakeholders resonates very well with the philosophy of the founder.

Governance is a shared responsibility, but it always starts at the top.

The say-do ratio has to be very good — what you say and what you do. And if the top is not in sync, the rest will not work it out.

It has also been my endeavour to foster a culture of integrity, accountability, and transparency.

If you want to have sustainable success, it is my belief that it must be inculcated in everybody and deep down... It's not because you're pushed to do it or you're incentivised to do it.

I was really blessed to lead a team that was really dedicated. And all we had to do was to instil again that sense of pride.

This award is also a testimony to all the people who helped us on this journey, all the stakeholders. It's a validation of whatever we did.

Change is inevitable and it's the only constant. And this will keep changing and evolving.

There is nothing like something is done better in the East, something is done better in the West. My mantra has always been the combination of three: that's American marketing, European management, and Asian emotional intelligence.

I don't believe in cutting costs; I do believe in optimising costs.

Jealousy is the GST of success.

If you live in Germany, everybody takes out a little pouch and they start counting and they give you exactly the number of cents. Because there is also a saying: 'Wer den Pfennig nicht ehrt, ist das Geld nicht wert' which means 'The person who does not respect the pennies is not worth the money.'

I think we can all stop wasting; we have a lot of wastage. And it's good to see today that the food was good but it was not wasted.

Even in COVID, we did not fire any employees. We rather took a salary cut, the top management, of 25% to pay for the contractual employees.

Similarly, we did not take away jobs from anyone. I think in India, if you take away somebody's job, you take away lives and livelihoods. Unless it's a consistent case of fraud, manipulation with money, etc., that is not good.

India is a heterogeneous country; Tatas have been known for nation-building. You cannot say: I will not go to a district capital or a state capital because every place cannot afford a Taj. It's just not possible.

If tourism and hospitality got included in the concurrent list of the Constitution... When the Constitution was written, there was no need for tourism in India. That was 1947. If you got people food and jobs, that would have been good.

Even if nothing happens, still, this sector will keep evolving, and the demographic dividend that India has will need to create a lot of jobs.

The biggest multiplier of jobs is hospitality. It's not just the people you see here. It's the milk supplier, the egg supplier, the limousines, the airport representatives. It creates a lot of jobs.

Whatever you do, do with integrity. Wherever you go, go as a leader. Whomever you serve, serve with care. Whenever you dream, dream with your all and never ever ever give up.

There is a solution to any challenge that is thrown at you. You only have to think harder. And most of the answers I get, honestly, I get them in my sleep.



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RCB AT THE FOREFRONT

Rotary Wayanad Disaster Relief – Distribution of shelter kits in collaboration with Rotary Club of Bombay, India Humanity Foundation, and Rotary Calcutta Mahanagar at Harisree Grandhasala, Manivayal, Kottappadi on August 22nd, 2024.



On behalf of Rotary International District 3204, we would like to express our deepest gratitude for your generous support towards the relief efforts for those affected by the recent landslides in Wayanad.

Your assistance during this challenging time has provided much-needed relief to the victims who have lost their homes, belongings, and livelihoods. Thanks to your contribution, we have been able to provide essential relief supplies and temporary shelter kits. Your kindness has brought comfort and hope to many families who are struggling to rebuild their lives.

Initially, we approached the district administration for the distribution of shelter boxes, but they requested us to hold the kits until September. However, following the advice of PDG Sandeep Agarwala to proceed with the distribution immediately, we reached out to the Headmaster of Vocational Higher Secondary School — one of the institutions severely damaged by the landslides — to identify the families in most need of support. With the help of the Headmaster and teachers, we have identified 150 families of students who have lost their homes. A detailed list of beneficiaries has already been sent. Unfortunately, we could only take a few photos, as the children and their families were reluctant to be photographed.

We would like to formally acknowledge our sincere thanks to PRIP Shekhar Mehta, RID Anirudh Roy Chowdhury, PRID Kamal Sanghvi, PDG Sandip Agarwalla, and all the donors for their timely help. Together, we are helping to restore hope and resilience in the Wayanad community.

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Dr. Santosh Sridhar, District Governor, RID 3204

Rtn. Bijosh Manuel, District Governor-Elect

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Thank you from The Rotary Foundation



TUESDAY MEETINGS AT ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



PDG Sandip Agarwalla, PP Vijay Jatia, Rtn. Puneet Chhatwal, Dhrishni Sampat (daughter of Rtn. Mehul), Rtn. Farhat Jamal and Rtn. Mehul Sampat



PP Rajnikant Reshamwala, PP Dr. Sonya Mehta and PN Manish Reshamwala



Rotarians Anand Dalal, Madhusudhan Daga and President Satyan Israni



Rotarians Farhat Jamal and Renu Basu introduce the speaker and give the vote of thanks respectively



PP Nirav Shah and Rtn. Akhil Sanghi



Rtn. Dr. Dinesh Daftary and PP Rajnikant Reshamwala



Rotarians Meera Alreja, PP Dr. Sonya Mehta and Anita Patel



Rtn. Leo Salins, Mr. Viraf Hansotia, PP Shernaz Vakil and Rtn. Sunny Pariyaram



Rtn. Ptn. Erika and Rtn. Peter Born with Rtn. Ptn. Joanna



President Satyan wishes PP Rajnikant Reshamwala and Rtn. Dushyant Dave for their birthdays



Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani, PP Shernaz Vakil and PP Shailesh Haribhakti have questions for the Tuesday speaker



Senior citizens salute the nation with “Jai Hind”



RCB's Ananda Yaan centres marked India's 78th Independence Day with great enthusiasm. For our senior citizens, August 15th holds deep significance, as it offers them the opportunity to pay tribute to the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters. This year's celebration was particularly spirited, with participants adorned in patriotic colours.

A notable addition to the festivities was a ramp walk following the flag-hoisting ceremony, where the elders proudly showcased their patriotism. The day was brimming with joyful activities, as the seniors engaged in various games. The Satellite Club of RCB awarded prizes to 40 elders who excelled in these competitions across the three centres. Adding to the celebrations, some participants sang patriotic songs, while others danced with pride to Bollywood tunes infused with patriotic themes. The event concluded with a small snack gathering, leaving everyone with cherished memories of the day.



I-Day with Lighthouse

The Lighthouse community project celebrated its sixth year with an Independence Day event on August 14th. President Satyan Israni, along with other Rotarians, Lighthouse parents, and students, participated in the event. Special thanks were given to donor Ms. Bhavna Daftary and community head Mr. Patil for their continued support.

The event featured a powerful recitation of “Tryst with Destiny” by Rotary child Amaira Jagtiani, followed by a guitar-accompanied National Anthem by Samaksh Israni. Students showcased their skills in performances that included patriotic songs, skits, and a focus on global warming awareness.

The celebration, conceptualised by Ms. Manisha Ahuja and the VIDYA team, was a memorable success, highlighting the spirit of unity and community empowerment.

RC JAI HIND I-DAY WORKSHOP FOR BY BYCULLA



On July 16th 2024, a team of six volunteers from the Rotaract Club of Jai Hind College visited Bhavishya Yaan at Byculla. They conducted a series of engaging activities for 40 students from Class 4 (Sections A & B) to celebrate Independence Day. The activities included:

1. Quiz Competition: Students enthusiastically answered questions about Independent India and its freedom fighters.
2. Drawing Competition: All students participated in creating artwork based on the theme of Independent India. Four students were selected as winners and received prizes, while all participants were given chocolates.

The students thoroughly enjoyed both the quiz and the drawing activities, making the event a memorable experience.

BY BYCULLA KIDS CHANNEL PARIS OLYMPICS FOR I-DAY



Independence Day celebrations at the Byculla centre of Bhavishya Yaan School were held on August 14th. The programme began with a drawing competition for students from grades 4 to 9. The event featured patriotic speeches, dances, and songs, celebrating the rich diversity that truly defines our nation.

A highlight of the programme was a role play depicting India's campaign at the Paris 2024 Olympics, where the nation secured six medals. This was followed by an informative session on space, as suggested by our mentor, and a General Knowledge quiz. The event concluded with the distribution of prizes and the singing of the national anthem, which resonated throughout the school premises.



BY GK MARG TIES THREADS OF LOVE



"If I were the Prime Minister," imagine BY Colaba children

The Bhavishya Yaan Colaba Centre celebrated Independence Day last week with great enthusiasm. All the teachers, including our dedicated computer teachers, were in attendance.

Students from the Marathi Medium, ranging from standards 4 to 8, participated in the festivities. The students of standards 5, 6, and 7 showcased their thoughts on the theme "My Vision," while those in standards 8 and 9 focused on the theme "If I Were the Prime Minister."

Additionally, students of the primary section seized the opportunity to showcase their skills by delivering speeches. A special thanks goes to our computer teachers, Ms. Farhana and Ms. Sayli, for their invaluable assistance in helping the students with art and craft work, as well as arranging the songs and dances. Their support was greatly appreciated.

BY'S VISION TESTED



Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust and OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation held a vision screening camp for our Bhavishya Yaan students at GK Marg. A team of four doctors examined all the students for their eyesight and identified those who need spectacles, which will be provided free of cost.

Many parents of BMC kids may overlook the need for their children to have regular eye check-ups. Therefore, the BY committee extends its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Rajiv Mehta and his team at the NGO for organising this camp.

Cathedral Interact team excels in Rotary quiz



The Cathedral and John Connon School's Interact Club recently participated in the Rotary Club's knowledge quiz competition, where they distinguished themselves among 200 schools from the region. The team, comprising Samar Sinha from Grade 7, Ahana Shah from Grade 8, and Rehan Mulchandani from Grade 9, demonstrated exceptional talent and knowledge throughout the event, making the school proud.

In the first round of the competition, held on July 17th, 2024, the Cathedral School team secured first place with an impressive score of 235 points. They maintained their lead in the second round on July 27th, 2024, with Samar, Ahana, and Rehan once again taking first place with a score of 140 points, which allowed them to advance confidently to the final round.

The final round, held on August 4th, 2024, was highly competitive. Despite a strong performance, the team finished in third place, narrowly missing out on the top spot by just 15 points. Special recognition was given to Ahana Shah from Grade 8, who was honoured with the Best Girl Child award for her outstanding contributions throughout the competition.

The school expressed its gratitude to the Rotary Club for organising this valuable event, which provided a platform for students to challenge themselves, foster teamwork, and develop critical thinking skills. Cathedral and John Connon School's Interact Club has once again demonstrated excellence, and the school looks forward to continuing this tradition in future competitions.

PALGHAR ROTARY INNOVATION LAB: FOSTERING CREATIVITY AND PROBLEM-SOLVING

Since its inauguration on January 22nd, 2022, the Palghar Rotary Innovation Lab has been a beacon of learning and innovation. In collaboration with six local schools, the lab has impacted over 2,474 students aged 11 to 18 and an additional 408 students aged 18 and above. As of July 15th, 2024, we have successfully completed 10 sessions. Each session comprised 15 batches, with 24 students in each batch. We are currently conducting our 11th session, which is set to conclude on October 15th, 2024.

The lab has empowered students to solve real-world problems through hands-on projects. Notable achievements include the creation of a tactile 3D-printed model of the human spine, a smart home system prototype, and innovative solutions for crowd management. Students have also excelled in competitions, confidently presenting projects such as a wind speed measurement system and a mine-detecting robot at prestigious events like Shukriya Night.

The lab continues to inspire students to explore new ideas, with many eagerly participating in ongoing projects such as monitoring public distribution systems and developing automated parking solutions. Through these endeavours, students are not only gaining technical skills but also becoming confident, critical thinkers ready to tackle future challenges.



Rtn. Ajit Lavani has been honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service and Education for his significant contributions to Sydenham College. His efforts have led to the revitalisation of the alumni network, the introduction of new courses, and the successful engagement of top corporates for recruitment, enhancing the college's standing as a leading institution.



Satellite Club

**THERE ARE OVER 12
MILLION WORKING GIRLS
OF AGE 5-18 IN INDIA,
OF WHOM**

**ONLY 30% ARE
ATTENDING SCHOOL**



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6.30 PM, THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2024



NEXT WEEK:

AJIT PANDHARINATH BHOIR,
EDUCATOR

Ajit Pandharinath Bhoir is a dedicated educator and community leader known for his outstanding efforts in transforming his school through innovative initiatives and collaborations with various NGOs. He has successfully implemented 100% solarisation of the school, constructed new classrooms, and improved facilities, including restrooms and health services for girls. Ajit has also championed digital learning. His work has been recognised with awards such as the Vikramgad Shala Adarsh Shikshak Puraskar 2023. Ajit's commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for students showcases his leadership and unwavering dedication to making a positive impact.



PAST TRUSTEE GULAM A. VAHANVATY
ON EXPANDING ROTARY'S REACH
THROUGH PEACE EDUCATION

Gulam A. Vahanvaty is a distinguished alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, and IIM Kolkata. After an early career with the Tata Administrative Service, he took over his family business. A Rotarian since 1979, he served as President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Downtown and District Governor (D-3140), leading innovative projects like the Jan Seva Abhiyan. His leadership extended internationally, serving as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation (2018-22) and in various other roles. A recipient of numerous Rotary honours, Gulam is also deeply involved in civic initiatives, promoting communal harmony and governance. A passionate horse rider, he enjoys spending time with his family.



AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ranjit Singh

AUGUST 31
Rtn. Vijay Meghani

SEPTEMBER 1
Rtn. Rajas Doshi

ROTARIAN PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ptn. Neelima Baliga
AUGUST 27
Rtn. Ptn. Neeraja Taparia
AUGUST 28
Rtn. Ptn. Usha Agarwal

AUGUST 29
Rtn. Ptn. Neetee Chadha
SEPTEMBER 2
Rtn. Ptn. Amisha Himatsingka

ANNIVERSARIES

AUGUST 27: Rtn. Ptn. Shobha & PP Haresh Jagtiani
SEPTEMBER 2: Rtn. Ptn. Aruna & Rtn. Suresh Jagtiani

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| Programme | Rina Deora |
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| | Mihir Mody |
| Cotton Green Clinic | Dr. Mehernosh Dotivala |
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| Committee for Neurodivergent Children | PP Shernaz Vakil |
| Dharamshala | Naresh Pachisia |
| Dialysis | Swati Jajodia |
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