

THE GATEWAY

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Martin Maier, Consul General of Switzerland in Mumbai, speaks about India-Switzerland, a partnership for success

As the Dean of the Consular Corps in Mumbai, I have the honour to convey to you warmest greetings from the whole Consular community in Maharashtra. As diplomatic officers, we are here to assist our citizens and companies and to foster international cooperation in many fields.

Please allow me to talk to you about two topics in relation to Switzerland: the political system and the excellent Indo-Swiss relations.

Federalism and direct democracy reflect the great importance that the Swiss political system places on the freedom of choice

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and self-determination. Over the centuries, a cluster of different alliances developed into a confederation of states that went on to become the federal state we know today. Switzerland's national borders were fixed and internationally recognised in 1815.

For historical reasons, Switzerland is officially known as the Swiss Confederation. The name has its origins in the country's founding myth which tells of the oath taken by its three founding Cantons in 1291 AD. Switzerland has, however, been a federal state only since 1848, with the federal city of Bern as its de facto capital. Because the Swiss could never agree on a capital, the Swiss constitution doesn't name one, but our government is in Bern.

The Confederation shares power with the Cantons and the Communes. All three political levels have a legislating body and an executive. Only the Confederation and the Cantons have traditional powers. Switzerland's political structure consists of the Confederation, 26 Cantons and over 2,300 Communes.

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Political and legislative powers are distributed across these three levels in a way that grants each of them the greatest possible autonomy and brings a diverse range of political stakeholders together under one roof. Cantons act as constituent states and have their own constitutions, parliaments, governments, and courts.

Today's political system of Switzerland is based on the Federal Constitution of 1841. Since then, the Confederation's powers have grown, the rights of its citizens have expanded, and political diversity has increased. In a country with different religions and many linguistic groups, the federalism model makes it possible to accommodate both national unity and cultural diversity.

Together with direct democracy, federalism is one of the cornerstones of the Swiss political system. Federalism strives to integrate citizens into the political process as much as possible. Smaller communes are often run by locals in their free time. To ensure that the Cantons are equally represented at the federal level despite their differences in sizes, culture, and religion, each

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Canton sends two representatives to the Council of States, one of the two chambers of the Federal Assembly.

Within the state structure, power is allocated based on the principle of subsidiarity. Communes, which are the smallest political entity, are accorded as much autonomy as possible. This is done so that they can carry out as many tasks as possible independently. Tasks are only delegated to the next level up, that is the Cantons, when it makes sense. The same applies when delegated to the highest level, which is the Confederation.

The Communes, for example, maintain and manage their own infrastructure, including roads and public buildings such as schools. And this is especially remarkable when you consider that some of the Communes have maybe 50, 100 or 200 inhabitants. The Cantons take on higher-level duties, including the school system and policing, while the Confederation is responsible for national security and foreign policy. Each of the three raises its own taxes to help manage the tasks allocated to them.

Direct democracy is one of the special features of the Swiss political system. It allows the electorate to express their opinion on decisions taken by the Swiss Parliament and to propose amendments to

the Federal Constitution. It is underpinned by the instruments of initiatives and referendums. In Switzerland, the people play a very large part in the decision-making process at all political levels.

All Swiss citizens aged 18 and over have the right to vote in elections and on specific issues. The Swiss electorate are called on approximately four times a year to vote on an average of 15 such issues.

In recent decades, voter turnout has been a little over 40% only, on average. Citizens are also able to propose votes on specific issues themselves. This can be done via an initiative, an optional referendum, or a mandatory referendum. These three instruments form the core of direct democracy.

The popular initiative allows citizens to propose an amendment or addition to the constitution. It acts to drive or relaunch political debate on a specific issue. As an example, a few years ago, we had such a vote about whether farmers are allowed to cut the horns of their cows or not. So, you see, we are discussing very important topics.

For such an initiative to come about, signatures of only 100,000 voters who support the proposal

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must be collected within 18 months. The authorities sometimes respond to an initiative with a direct counter proposal in the hope that the majority of the people and the Cantons support that instead.

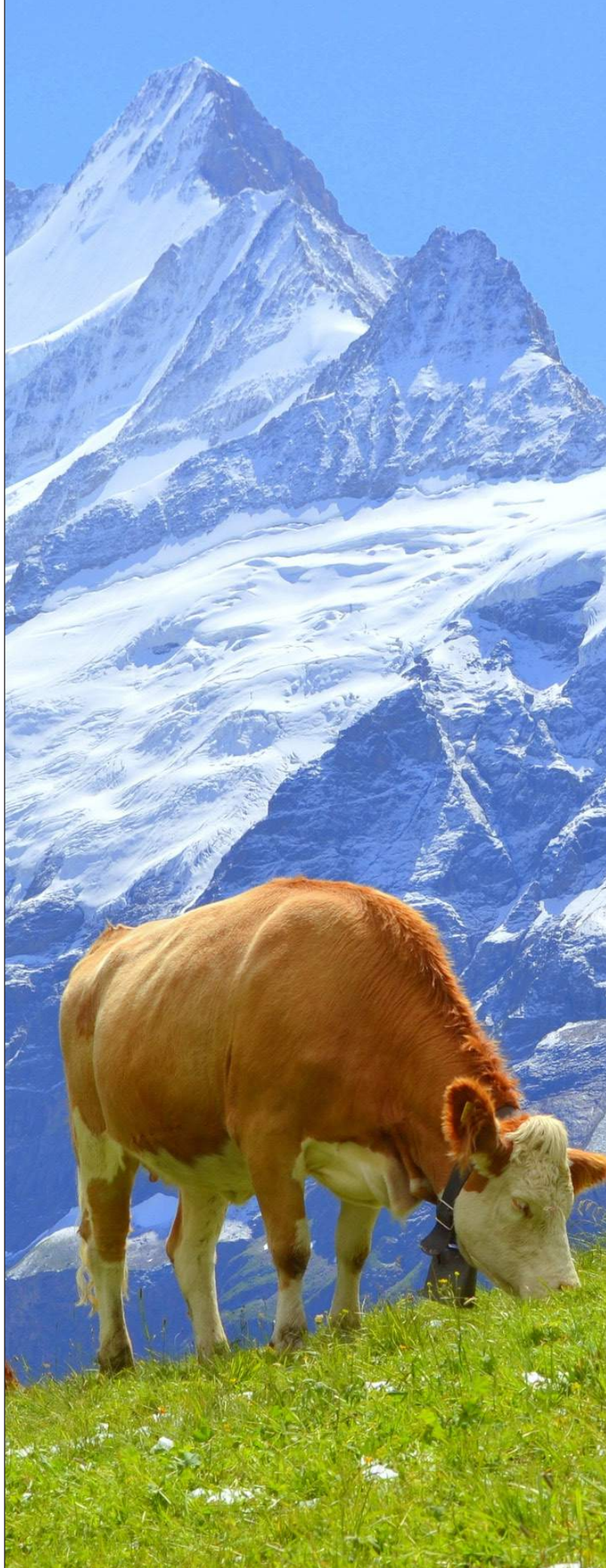
Federal Acts and other enactments of the Federal Assembly are subject to optional referendums. These allow citizens to demand that approved bills are put to a nationwide vote. In order to bring about the national referendum, only 50,000 valid signatures must be collected within 100 days of publication of the new legislation.

Even most bi or multilateral treaties, for example a free trade agreement, are subjected to the optional referendum. All constitutional amendments approved by the Parliament are subject to a mandatory referendum. This means they must be put to a nationwide popular vote. The electorate are also required to approve Swiss membership of specific international organisations as, for example, the United Nations.

Our grown and balanced political system is in place to ensure that the will of the Swiss people is at all times respected. The political instruments of initiative and referendum ensure that the governments and legislators on all three levels always keep in mind that each single decision can be challenged by the sovereign, the people, and that therefore all acts have to be supported by a majority of voters.

While our direct democratic system guarantees that the will of the people is respected at all times, it doesn't make politics easy, fast, or very straightforward, as you might imagine. Our system is consent based. This means that the political actors have to find solutions to which a majority of the political spectrum has to agree. This makes big visionary or fast decisions extremely difficult and often doesn't bring the immediate solutions our country would need or lets us reach only the smallest common denominator.

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A further complication of our system is that subjects can be so complex or technical that many of our voters, and I clearly include myself in this, are sometimes overwhelmed and just not able to understand the consequences or the facets of the decision-making. But the experience shows that swarm intelligence produces, in most cases, the best possible solutions, even if sometimes unfortunate accidents happen in popular votes. As George Bernard Shaw well said, democracy is a process that guarantees that we are not governed better than we deserve.

However, and let me make this very clear, I do not think that we should put our direct democracy in chains and limit the power of the Swiss people. Together with the vast majority of my compatriots, I am proud of our political system and strongly believe that we have reached the ideal of democracy as close as possible with all its advantages and disadvantages, especially taking into consideration the human mind.

Of course, our system has many weak spots, shortcomings and sometimes fails, but when it comes to judging democracy as the form of our political system, I absolutely agree with Winston Churchill who said, democracy is the worst of all forms of government, except for all the others.

India and Switzerland celebrate in 2023-24, 75 years of friendship, a success story to be continued. Indo-Swiss relations started back in 1851 when the Swiss trading company Volkart established its presence in then Bombay. Switzerland recognised and established

diplomatic relations with India right after Independence in 1947. And with the Indo-Swiss Friendship Treaty of 1948, the first of its kind, India has signed, a long-lasting partnership started.

Together with the whole Swiss network in India, we celebrate this auspicious anniversary with 75 events all over India. Switzerland has a close and dynamic relationship with India that is reflected in numerous treaties and agreements and in frequent high-level political and diplomatic visits. The broad-based cooperation between our nations covers many areas including trade, science, education, and culture.

Switzerland maintains an extensive network of representation throughout India to facilitate access to the various services it provides for Indian and Swiss nationals, our companies, academic partners, and cultural actors. My Consulate General is one of the largest worldwide, and this underscores the importance that Switzerland gives to the state of Maharashtra and the city of Mumbai. India is a priority country for the Swiss government with excellence scholarships for foreign scholars and artists that are aimed at young researchers.

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC, has contributed to India's development since 1961. Traditional bilateral development cooperation was phased out a few years ago but SDC remains active in India through its global programmes. Its current

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activities focus on issues related to climate change, and Switzerland aims to contribute to a climate-compatible development in India.

Switzerland and India have a long tradition of cultural relations. Many Swiss artists and researchers have been active in India including the architect Le Corbusier and the painter, sculptor, and art historian Alice Bonner. On the Indian side, filmmakers like Yash Chopra have set popular Bollywood films in the Swiss Alps, bringing the two countries closer together and having made Switzerland a dream destination for many Indians. Switzerland tourism will be eternally grateful to Yash Chopra for what he did for Switzerland as a destination.

India, with its long-term potential and its market size, has a lot to offer to Switzerland. And together with the three other countries of the European Free Trade Association, we are therefore currently negotiating a free trade agreement with India. The kind of a free trade agreement Switzerland aims at addresses a much broader aspect of bilateral exchanges than customs duties. It also covers higher levels in protection of investment and innovation, and employees' rights. Without any doubt, such an agreement would be mutually beneficial for our two nations and elevate our relations to the next level.

On Friday and Saturday, I had the honour to welcome our Minister of Economics, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and to meet together with him, the Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal. It actually happened here in this hotel. The very fruitful talks on Friday went into the wee hours of Saturday and continued on Saturday morning. I had exactly three and a half hours of sleep between the talks. They ended with both sides agreeing to have reached balanced solutions and a handshake between the two ministers. I am very confident that experts from India and Switzerland will swiftly manage to iron out the remaining technical issues and to present the FDA in the coming weeks.

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But, let us not forget that Switzerland also has much to offer to India. Switzerland has been and will continue to be a strategic partner in India's growth story. With around 10 billion Swiss francs in foreign direct investment, Swiss companies created employment for over 150,000 Indians. My small mountainous country developed its labour force into highly skilled individuals through a strong vocational education and well-designed training possibilities.

Today, Switzerland is the most innovative country and ranks amongst the highest in the world when it comes to competitiveness, wealth creation per inhabitant, and life expectancy. Swiss companies are world leaders in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, machine manufacturing, R&D-driven technology products, financial services, banking, and insurance. As economic relations between India and Switzerland are not a one-way street, there are over 350 Swiss companies operating in India, more than half of them in Maharashtra, and about 140 Indian companies in Switzerland.

Over the years, Switzerland has emerged as the most preferred location for Indian companies expanding to Europe. Companies like Dr. Reddy's, Aditya Birla Group, Wockhardt, and Glenmark Pharma have their regional headquarters in Switzerland. Indian technology companies like TCS, Infosys, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra leverage Switzerland as their gateway to Europe, and have a large workforce in Switzerland.

In the last couple of years, young, well-founded tech companies with product market fitment and the financial bandwidth to expand in Europe prefer Switzerland due to its political stability, strong intellectual property laws, a multilingual workforce, and exemplary industry-academia collaboration, and of course, a high quality of life. While Switzerland is a hub for innovation, India's strength lies in implementing the innovation at scale in a cost-effective way. Many highly innovative Swiss companies are part of this mutually beneficial Indo-Swiss partnership.

I applaud these Indian and Swiss actors for their impressive success, and I congratulate us all as valuable partners to be part of this Indo-Swiss success story. Ladies and gentlemen, we are celebrating 75 years of Indo-Swiss friendship. I am confident that we will thrive together as partners for success for many more years to come. Thank you.

ROTARIANS ASK

What has made Switzerland an economic powerhouse despite being a landlocked country?

It's a very elaborate vocational training system. Switzerland makes sure that not only the people who go to universities but also our plumbers, carpenters and chocolate makers learn the basics of their job at a very early stage and become excellent professionals.

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Why did it take so long to allow women to vote in a democratic country? Switzerland was one of the last countries in Europe to adopt this.

I was six years old when women got the right to vote and I remember at the time when I was talking to my mother, she explained to me that actually women don't need to vote themselves; their husbands do whatever they are told by their wives. At the time, 1971, the Swiss electorate was only male, and that made it a little bit difficult to get over 50% for the women's voting rights. But I can tell you I'm very happy that today women have the majority in our federal government, and they are very successful.

So, we are mystified and wonderstruck with the punctuality with which your trains operate. How do you make it happen? And why are we not able to do it?

Whatever we do with this friendship and collaboration, we want to intensify; it will be equally spread on both sides. Are there Indian software engineers behind that secret? I'm sure about it. Indian and Swiss engineers and brilliant minds and this is probably the secret of it.

How open is Switzerland to supporting empowerment of underprivileged women in other countries?

It's one of my priorities as Consul General of Switzerland here in Mumbai. However, I can support, I can show them that they are not alone, but I cannot act against Indian society and the Indian Government.

Absolutely, but I just wanted to know if Switzerland is open to causes like this.

Absolutely, and not only women, also other minorities. We encourage other countries to accept and support them and wherever we can and however we can, my Consulate and I are trying to support.





TUESDAYS WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY



Rtn. Hormusji N. Cama honoured with Padma Bhushan Award

We are delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our esteemed member, Rtn. Hormusji N. Cama, Managing Director of the Mumbai Samachar, for being awarded the Padma Bhushan on the eve of Republic Day 2024. This recognition is in the Literature & Education category, showcasing Rtn. Hormusji's remarkable contributions to these fields.



Rtn. Hormusji's illustrious career includes serving as the Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2018-2019, two terms as President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), and holding key positions as Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI) & Media Research

Users Council (MRUC). His continued active involvement on the boards of INS, PTI, and MRUC further emphasises his dedication to the media and educational sectors.

This prestigious award not only reflects Rtn. Hormusji's personal achievements but also brings honour to the Rotary Club of Bombay. We are immensely proud

to have a member of such calibre among us, whose contributions have made a lasting impact on our community and nation.

His success is a source of inspiration for us all, and we look forward to witnessing the continued positive influence he will undoubtedly exert in the future.



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Invites you to

EXPLORE KHOTACHIWADI

The quaint Portuguese style village in the heart of Mumbai

Saturday, 10 February 2024

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm



Highlights

- A walk through this historic art and cultural precinct
- High Tea & interaction with renowned designer & conservationist James Ferreira at his heritage home.

Price: INR 1000/- per head

*** Limited to the first 25 paid registrations**

*** To register & for further details please contact Anar Shah on 9821281900**



Tasting the land of strawberries

The Fellowship Committee meticulously orchestrated a delightful fellowship trip to Mahabaleshwar, spanning from January 18th to 21st, 2024. A contingent of 38 Rotarians, accompanied by their partners, enthusiastically engaged in the fellowship. The majority of the group lodged at the 140-year-old heritage establishment, The Club Mahabaleshwar, immersing themselves in the charming colonial ambiance.

The Committee thoughtfully planned activities catering to diverse age groups and interests. The fellowship commenced with a warm welcome dinner at Brightlands Hotel, where we relished a diverse selection of appetisers and dinner. The event took place on the enchanting terrace amidst brisk

weather, accompanied by lively music and singing from some of our members.

Each morning witnessed a group of energetic members embarking on invigorating forest walks and treks. Exploring the local market and indulging in strawberry picking at Green Valley Farms added a delightful touch to our days.

Our visit to the historic Morarji Castle, the ancestral home of Rtn. Jaidev Merchant's maternal grandfather, provided a glimpse into a century-old colonial residence steeped in history. The room where Gandhiji had stayed remains preserved, along with a Gaumukh supplying pure water from the hills for over a century.



The pinnacle of the trip comprised two fellowships graciously hosted by our members in their splendid Mahabaleshwar homes. Barchester, the exquisite heritage home of Rtn. Jimmy and Rtn. Ptn. Avaan Vakharia, hosted a fabulous lunch and an afternoon of enjoyment. Zinia Lawyer organised an elegant high tea at her charming residence, Villa Zeenia, where our customary group photo was captured on the stairs. Both hosts shared anecdotes about their heritage properties, originally built by the British in the late 1800s. The warm hospitality of our hosts left a lasting impression on the members, and President Manoj Patodia expressed gratitude on behalf of the group.

An evening of drinks and dinner at The Club

featured a talk on “Mahabaleshwar - then and now” by long-term Mahabaleshwar resident, Jaisinh Mariwala.

President Manoj extended heartfelt thanks to the Fellowship Committee, led by Rotarians Anar Shah and Arvind Agarwal, for their remarkable efforts in organising this fellowship. Special appreciation was accorded to Arvind, who spearheaded the trip, and acknowledgment was given to the assistance provided by Rotarians Ashok Minawala, Avaan Vakharia, and Rajeev Narvekar, contributing to a truly memorable experience for all.

RCB golf tournament raises



As part of Rotary Club of Bombay's literacy initiatives, we partnered with Rotary India Literacy Mission to raise funds to help make millions of adults literate. We organised a golf tournament, the Anand Rathi Wealth Rotary SAFGR Asia Golf Classic, 2024, at Oxford Golf Resort, Pune, from January 13th-15th, 2024. The event was a grand success with about 40 golfers and 10 non-golfers participating.

On Saturday, January 13th, participants came in at about 1 pm and, post lunch, spent time practising on the driving and putting range preparing for the tournament the following morning. In the evening, cocktails and dinner were served by the pool side with a wonderful live singer playing in the background. On Sunday, 14th January, after an early breakfast, participants assembled at the Tiger Tee point for detailed instructions from Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas.

The tournament commenced at 7.30 am under the shot gun format and finished by 12.30 pm. After the tournament participants enjoyed a sumptuous lunch at the Frangipani restaurant and thereafter rested. In the evening there were cocktails and a gala dinner at the Jade Room where awards were announced in 5 categories – Winner, 1st Runner up, 2nd Runner up, Closest to the hole on Hole No. 3 and Longest Drive on Hole No. 16.

The awards were given by PRID Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, IPDG Sandip Agarwalla and President Manoj Patodia. Once the awards ceremony

Rs 1 cr for adult literacy

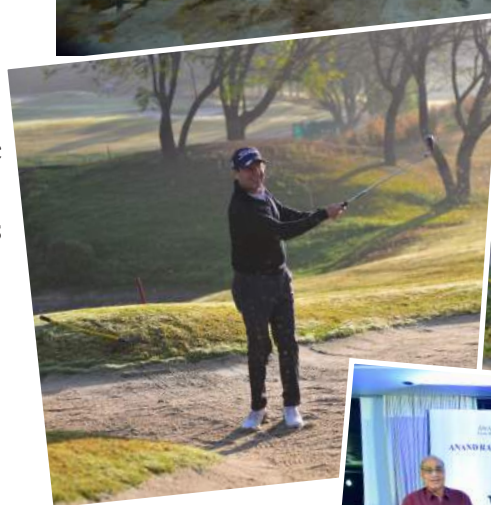
was complete, we once again had a very lively singer who got the crowd to groove over some memorable '70-'80s English songs. On Monday, January 15th, a few golfers played one more complimentary round and thereafter checked out.

Our grateful thanks to IPP Vineet Bhatnagar, Rotarians Pradeep Gupta and Vineet Suchanti and Mr. Sudhir Jatia who sponsored the tournament.

The event was a grand success with the Rotary Club of Bombay collecting over Rs. 1 crore to fund its Adult Literacy Project.

The participants and sponsors were both left clamouring for the event to be held again next year, such was their enjoyment and pleasure. The organising committee promised to return with an even bigger and better tournament in 2025. Looks like we have another fixed event from now onwards in the calendar of the Rotary Club of Bombay.

Thanks to the organising committee led by Chairman IPDG Sandip Agarwalla, Convenor Rtn. Moy Biswas, and Co-Convenor Rtn. Gautam Doshi under the overall guidance of RILM Advisor PRIP Shekhar Mehta. Special compliments to Gautam and Moy for their dedication and hard work in making this a success. Other organising committee members included President Manoj Patodia, PE Satyan Israni, Rtn. Khurshed Poonawala, and PP Paritosh Rungta (Rotary Club Of Mumbai Royales).





Green wisdom unveiled for BY kids at Colaba and NMJ schools

A collaborative effort by B.D.L. Museum Byculla, Mumbai, and STEAM Academy brought forth an enlightening Zoom session on medicinal plants for students of Bhavishya Yaan Colaba and N. M. Joshi Marg. Conducted by Ms. Jasvinder Kaushal, the workshop catered to students from classes 3 to 7.

The session commenced with an introduction by Ms. Ruchika and Dr. A.P. Jayrakar, delving into the museum's significance. Ms. Kaushal then passionately explored the world of plants,

distinguishing herbs, shrubs, and roots. Engaging with students through questions, she highlighted the importance of turmeric, neem, tulsi, aloe vera, peppermint, ginger, nigella, moringa oleifera, and tephrosia purpurea.

Through the clever use of jokes and short stories, Ms. Kaushal elaborated on the properties and uses of each plant, captivating the students' attention. The informative session emphasised the therapeutic value of medicinal plants, encouraging active participation from the students.



Sculpture session delights students of BY NMJ

On January 19th, 2024, Ms. Marina Dutta led an enlightening session on sculptures for students of Bhavishya Yaan at N.M. Joshi Marg.

Attended by 40 students from Class 8 and 9, the session delved into the artistry of India, Assyria, Greece, and Rome. Flags, maps, and a PowerPoint presentation showcased sculptures depicting various Gods and Goddesses from these countries. The students thoroughly enjoyed the session, gaining valuable insights into the world of sculptures and the divine statues of different deities.

Rotary
Club of Bombay



15TH GOLF TOURNAMENT

FELLOWSHIP OVER DRINKS & LUNCH
HOSTED BY
THE JOLLY FAMILY



3RD FEB 2024

SATURDAY

**1.30PM TO 4.30PM
THE CABBAGE PATCH
WILLINGDON SPORTS CLUB**

For Registration Contact: Rtn Moy Biswas - 9820051887

Lighthouse kids enjoy Sports Day



On Sunday, January 21st, 2024, the Lighthouse Project organised its sports day at the community ground opposite the classroom. Donor Ms. Bhavna Daftary, Chairman Rtn. Charu Agrawal, Rtn. Vandan Shah, Rtn. Meher Vakil, Rtn. Ptn. Ekta Shah, and Rtn. Dilip Dalal spent the morning with our children, actively participating in races alongside parents and teachers.

All students from Junior KG to Standard 5 enthusiastically took part in team events, fostering teamwork, cooperation, and unity. Senior students of classes 3, 4, and 5 commenced the sports day with a march past, saluting Chief Guest Ms. Daftary. A two-minute silence was observed in honour of the late Mr. Bharath Daftary, CEO of Bharat Serum.

Creative races like the clown, butterfly, ball, hen, frog, and vegetable race engaged our Junior KG and Senior KG children, while quick-thinking challenges like pyramid, puzzle, coin addition,

and sack race kept students from classes 1 to 5 on their toes. The dedication of our children to complete their tasks, even if it meant finishing last, filled us with pride.

Mothers' enthusiasm and participation were a highlight, leading to an impromptu race organised just for them. These moments on the ground made everyone associated with Project Lighthouse — teachers, parents, students, and donors — proud.

Rtn. Vandan expressed gratitude to the teachers, with special mention to project mentor Ms. Manisha Ahuja for creatively planning the races. He emphasised the importance of participating and finishing the race, regardless of winning. Ms. Daftary addressed the children, encouraging regular class attendance and sharing her observations of a girl's confidence growth over four years of attending Lighthouse classes regularly.



1929 RC Madras

Also formed in 1929, RCB members are heartily invited by RC Madras on the auspicious occasion of their 95th anniversary celebrations

on: February,
23rd & 24th 2024
Friday & Saturday

exact programme yet to be announced
limited places

Please register with Rashmi

Your Internationalers



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

WE ARE CONTINUING
TO CHANGE THE FACE
OF RURAL INDIA -
ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME

PLEASE JOIN
PRESIDENT MANOJ PATODIA
AS HE INAUGURATES THE
INTEGRATED VILLAGE
DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
AT
SUKSALE VILLAGE, VIKRAMGAD TALUKA
PALGHAR DISTRICT, MAHARASHTRA
9.30 AM, 4TH FEBRUARY, 2024
MIHIR MODY
CHAIRPERSON
INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

RSVP : RASHMI [+919769140141](tel:+919769140141)



RCB empowers Gates village



Gates village in Wada has overcome water scarcity with solar-powered systems, irrigating 33 acres and meeting domestic needs for Katkari communities. Solar electrification, with 7.5 kw panels for a 7.5 HP pump and 2 kw panels for a 2 HP pump, highlights a commitment to sustainable development where conventional electricity is unavailable.

CASE STUDIES

1) Pandit Pashte's Success Story: Pandit Pashte, a rural farmer facing water scarcity, saw a remarkable turnaround with solar-powered water provision. This sustainable solution transformed his 1-acre watermelon field, ensuring consistent irrigation and leading to an unprecedented yield. The economic impact was substantial, with Pashte earning Rs. 1.2 lakhs in three months, recovering his investment and fostering further agricultural improvements. His success inspired the community towards eco-friendly agricultural approaches.

2) Ganesh Patil's Triumph: Ganesh Patil's venture into white onion cultivation resulted in a significant income of Rs. 1.5 lakhs in one season. What sets his story apart is his financial foresight - he secured his children's future by depositing a substantial portion in a bank. Ganesh's case exemplifies the transformative impact of solar-based irrigation on both agricultural and financial fronts, showcasing how sustainable interventions uplift communities and foster financial resilience.

These case studies illustrate the transformative impact of sustainable interventions, specifically

solar-powered water provision and irrigation. The success stories not only address water scarcity but also uplift livelihoods and inspire communities towards eco-friendly agricultural practices. The collective gratitude towards the Rotary Club of Bombay and Synergia CSR echoes the profound impact of socially responsible initiatives, paving the way for a sustainable and prosperous future.

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED:

1. Solar-Powered Infrastructure:

- 7.5 HP pump irrigates 33 acres.
- 2 HP pump caters to domestic needs for Katkari communities.
- Powered by 7.5 kw and 2 kw solar panels, showcasing commitment to sustainability.

2. Water Supply Line Installation:

- Two lines installed – 7.5 HP for irrigation and 2 HP for domestic use.
- 7.5 HP line boosts agricultural yield on 33 acres.
- 2 HP line ensures clean water for households, especially benefiting the Katkari communities.

3. Hauds Establishment:

- Three hauds strategically store water from the 2 HP line, ensuring a steady supply during scarcity.
- Vital role in addressing seasonal variations and supporting consistent water access.

4. Community Empowerment:

- Special efforts to empower Katkari communities, improving health and sanitation through equitable water access.

- Positive socio-economic impacts evident within the community.

5. Impact on Agriculture:

- Solar-powered irrigation transforms agriculture, overcoming water scarcity, cultivating diverse crops, increasing yields, and enhancing economic prospects.

LESSONS LEARNT:

1. Energy Independence is Critical:

- Solar-powered lift irrigation emphasises energy independence in regions lacking conventional electricity, empowering farmers.

2. Maximising Natural Resources Through Solar Energy:

- Harnessing sunlight for irrigation maximises natural resources, reducing reliance on non-renewable energy sources and promoting environmental sustainability.

3. Cost-Effective and Low-Maintenance Solutions:

- Solar-powered systems prove sustainable for resource-constrained communities like Gates Village.

4. Scalability and Adaptability:

- Scalability and adaptability of solar solutions cater to various plot sizes, ensuring suitability for both small and large agricultural lands.

5. Enhanced Water Efficiency:

- Solar-powered systems optimise water use, improving efficiency and contributing to maximum agricultural productivity.

6. Empowering Marginalised Farmers:

- Focusing on solar-powered solutions empowers marginalised farmers, bridging socio-economic gaps and fostering inclusive agricultural development.

7. Climate-Resilient Solutions:

- Solar-powered systems demonstrate resilience in

the face of climate variability, functioning reliably during droughts or irregular rainfall.

8. Community Education and Adoption:

- Success depends on community education and adoption, raising awareness about solar technology to encourage sustained agricultural growth.

9. Mitigating Water Scarcity for Diverse Crops:

- Solar-powered irrigation allows farmers to diversify crops, enhancing food security and providing economic opportunities.

10. Encouraging Sustainable Agriculture Practices:

- Adoption of solar-powered lift irrigation aligns with sustainable agriculture principles, promoting efficient water use and environmental stewardship.

IMPACT:

1. Agricultural Impact:

- Installation of 7.5 HP water supply line revitalised agricultural activities, enabling year-round cultivation, boosting crop yield, and creating economic opportunities through surplus crop sales.

2. Domestic Water Supply:

- Initiative improves domestic water access, especially for Katkari communities.
- 2 HP water supply line ensures reliable water for daily needs, reducing the burden on villagers.

3. Economic and Social Impact:

- Water availability boosts agricultural productivity, stimulating economic growth.
- Increased crop yields improve living standards, fostering community well-being and social cohesion.

4. Hauds for Water Storage:

- Establishment of three hauds through the 2 HP water supply line addresses seasonal variations, acting as crucial reservoirs during scarcity or drought.

5. Monthly Contributions by Villagers:

- Residents' monthly contributions of Rs. 50 each exemplify a grassroots approach to water scarcity.

AY Mazagaon elders triumph at Dignity food festival!



On January 19th, 2024, Mumbai witnessed the vibrant Dignity Healthy Food Festival, captivating the city's senior citizens. With 350 attendees, the event catered exclusively to the young at heart, featuring 11 stalls. Ananda Yaan's Byculla and Mazagaon seniors took centre stage, with Mazagaon clinching the title of "Most Healthy Food" for their delightful Punjabi-style Panjiri. A jubilant celebration of health and flavour for RCB's spirited seniors!



Peer-to-peer learning for Satellite members

The Rotary Club of Bombay's Satellite Club organises, as part of its regular meetings, peer-to-peer learning sessions. In these sessions, a member of the Satellite Club gives a talk on topics they are well-versed with to their fellow members. Topics can range from the professional sphere to even a hobby of the member. This initiative was conceptualised by current Satellite Club chairman, Pranav V. Makharia, and has been well received by Club members.

Members recently participated in two peer-to-peer learning sessions focused on Design Thinking and AI Productivity Tools.

The first session, led by member Supriya Shah, founder of eské jr, introduced the concept of design thinking. It facilitated a deeper understanding of defining user challenges and needs, creative and empathetic ideation, prototyping, and testing. Participants gained valuable insights and were inspired and equipped with a new toolkit to tackle challenges creatively.

The second session, led by tech-savvy member Krisha Jain, explored the use of AI tools to enhance productivity. Attendees learned about various easy-to-use AI-powered applications, from custom AI bots to auto-generating presentation decks and content and even AI-based data collection analysis. Armed with this knowledge, Club members were introduced to the ease of using AI tools in everyday life.

Both sessions were highly engaging and left participants feeling inspired and equipped with new problem-solving skills and techniques to optimise their productivity. Satellite Club members embraced these sessions as valuable opportunities for personal and professional growth, furthering their passion for continuous learning and broadening their horizons. These peer-leveraged skills and perspectives will undoubtedly contribute to their success in an ever-evolving world.





Lighthouse kids embrace Lohri festivities

To mark the transition from winter to summer, the Sr. kg children of Rotary Club of Bombay's Lighthouse Project engaged in the traditional Lohri and Sankranti activity of kite flying. The children had also creatively coloured them in the patriotic hues of orange, white, and green. This initiative served as an educational experience, connecting the celebration with the tricolour, especially as Republic Day falls in the same week.



New member Rtn. Pilloo Aga (2nd from the right) enthusiastically participates in Rotary meetings in different cities that she visits. We applaud her Rotary spirit. This time, she joined a meeting of the Rotary Club of Gwalior.

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Block 10th February
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Eye Clinic / डोळ्यांचा दवाखाना	9 to 5 / ९ ते ५	9 to 5 / ९ ते ५
Dental Clinic / दाताचा दवाखाना	9 to 5 / ९ ते ५	9 to 5 / ९ ते ५
GP & Child Care Clinic / जीपी आणि लहान मुलांचा दवाखाना	2 to 5 / २ ते ५	2 to 5 / २ ते ५
Blood Tests / रक्ताची तपासणी	9 to 12 / ९ ते १२	9 to 12 / ९ ते १२



Rotary Club of Bombay   DISTRICT 3142 **SPEAKER SESSIONS** 



SOHRAB KHUSHRUSHAHI
FOUNDER, SOHFIT
speaks about
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NEXT WEEK

MS. ARETI SIANNI, CHIEF OF MISSION, UNHCR INDIA AND THE MALDIVES

Ms. Areti Sianni has worked for 30 years on refugee protection at country, regional and headquarters levels in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia-Pacific regions including in emergency operations.

Prior to her assignment in India, she served as Assistant Representative (Protection) with UNHCR Yemen and as Assistant Chief of Mission (Protection) with UNHCR Libya.

Areti has also served as Senior Protection Adviser with UNHCR's Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa and in a policy advisory capacity on responses to mixed population flows in various countries.



From 2012-2014, she was seconded to the Bali Process Regional Support Office where she advised on protection-sensitive responses to mixed movements of refugees and migrants including by sea. Before joining UNHCR in 2008, Areti worked as an independent consultant as well as with foundations and international NGOs including the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Amnesty International - International Secretariat and the Barrow Cadbury Trust.

Areti Sianni holds degrees in Development Studies (MSc, London School of Economics, London, UK), Politics (MA, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia) and Political Science and Public Administration (University of Athens, Greece). She speaks Greek, English, French and Spanish.

Rotarian Member Birthdays



JANUARY 28

Rtn. Ami
Jagtiani



JANUARY 30

Rtn. Sameer
Kanodia



JANUARY 31

Rtn. Alok
Sekhsaria



FEBRUARY 4

Rtn. Priya
Tanna



FEBRUARY 4

Rtn. Madhusudan
Daga

Rotarian Partner Birthdays

JANUARY 30

Rtn. Ptn. Rittu Bhatia

JANUARY 31

Rtn. Ptn. Rishabh Saraf

FEBRUARY 1

Rtn. Ptn. Phiroza Contractor

FEBRUARY 2

Rtn. Ptn. Nirmala Banaji

FEBRUARY 4

Rtn. Ptn. Sangeeta Mansharamani

Anniversaries

JANUARY 30

Rtn. Ptn. Meenal
& Rtn. Anuj Patodia

JANUARY 31

Rtn. Ptn. Snehal
& Rtn. Ashish Jalan

FEBRUARY 1

Rtn. Ptn. Anita
& Rtn. Albert Almeida

FEBRUARY 1

Rtn. Ptn. Mona
& Rtn. Gaurav Nevatia

FEBRUARY 3

Rtn. Ptn. Anju
& Rtn. Sameer Kanodia

FEBRUARY 4

Rtn. Ptn. Mandini
& PP Vikram Kamdar

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PN Bimal Mehta



Membership
PP Nandan Damani



Assimilation
IPP Vineet Bhatnagar



Attendance
Rtn. Mahesh Khubchandani



CSR Reporting
Rtn. Kirit Kamdar



Director
Rtn. Rahil Shah



Bulletin
Rtn. Abhinav Aggarwal



Fellowship & In-Camera
Rtn. Anar Shah



Sergeant-At-Arms
Rtn. Roda Billimoria



Special Director
IPDG Sandip Agarwalla

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President
Manoj Patodia



IPP Vineet
Bhatnagar



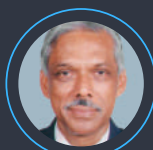
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Satyan Israni



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Sunny Pariyaram



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Rtn. Hiranmay Biswas



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Rtn. Leonard Salins



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Rtn. Sidhant Jatia

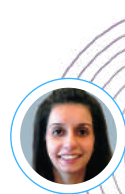


Satellite Club
Rtn. Muzad Currawala



Interact Schools
Rtn. Arin Master

Scholarships
Rtn. Jamshyd Vazifdar



Director
Rtn. Natasha Treasurywalla



Bhavisya Yaan
Rtn. Akhil Sanghi



IT Innovation Labs
Rtn. Rohan Dalal



Adult Literacy for Women
Rtn. Runit Shah



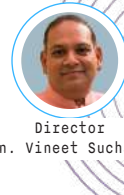
EVS Curriculum
Rtn. Nikhil Bhatia



Skill Development
Rtn. Swati Mayekar



Taparia College
PP Pradeep Saxena



Director
Rtn. Vineet Suchanti



Public Awards
Rtn. Jagdish Malkani



Lighthouse Project
Rtn. Charu Agrawal



Elder Day Care, Alibaug
PP Ashish Vaid



Ananda Yaan
Rtn. Anand Dalal



Transformation Salon (DEI)
Rtn. Ratna Sharma



Water Resources
Rtn. Vineet Suchanti



Programme
Rtn. Rina Deora



Programme: Venue, Food &
Beverages (Taj)
Rtn. Mahesh Goenka



International Programmes
Rtn. Peter Born



Fund Raising
IPP Vineet Bhatnagar



TRF & Global Grants
PP Vijaykumar Jatia



Director
Rtn. Sameer Tapia



District Thrust Areas
PP Pradeep Saxena



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Rtn. Laxmi Maneklal



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