

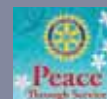
MID-TOWN MUSINGS

Bulletin of The Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town

R. I. President
Sakuji Tanaka

District Governor
Dr. Balkrishna Inamdar

Club President
RP Anand



www.bombaymidtown.org

Our New President

The Installation Ceremony of the 45th President of our Club, Rtn. R.P. Anand, held at the Ballroom of Hotel Vivanta by Taj – President on July 4, 2012, was truly a grand affair. Proverbially, there was more illumination on the ground level of the Ball Room than the multi MegaWatt bulbs in the ceiling. What else would anyone expect when the invitees to the event included dignitaries like the Immediate Past Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee, Immediate Past District Governor Vijay Jalan, District Governor Dr. Balkrishna Inamdar, District Governor Elect Ajay Gupta, Past District Governors: Manilal Doshi, Aziz Visram, Gulam Vahanvati, Nitin Mangaldas, Dr. Ajay Bhatnagar, AG Dr. Rumi Jehangir and others. And of course, the evening also witnessed a gala turnout of Rotarians, Anns and guests.

MC Rtn. Rahul Mehta got the assembly to order and invited Rtn Nitin Mukesh to set the tone of the ceremony with a melodious recital from Sunderkand of the *Ramayana*.

The outgoing President Rtn. Kersi Hilloo, before passing on the ceremonial gavel to R.P. Anand, gave a brief overview of the year under his tenure, and then pinned

R.P. Anand as the President of the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town. President RP thanked IPP Kersi and proudly presented his new team to the gathering.

The spotlight of the evening was also on the heart warming acknowledgements and the exemplary generosity of fellow Rotarians. IPDG Vijay Jalan highlighted the contributions to the Rotary Foundation made by Rtn. B. R. Barwale, Rtn. Nirbhay Jain, R/Ann Urmila Jain and others. Together they made an aggregate contribution of USD 262,232 (₹1,35,89,000) within just one week, and he thanked each one of them for their generosity.

IPRIP Kalyan Banerjee, after recounting his experiences at the Rotary headquarters, lavishly praised the Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town, and in particular, acknowledged PP Rtn. Arrow for the 35 matching grant programmes covering over USD 1 million, Rtn. Naren Mohatta for the unparalleled midday project where 1,700 meals are provided to schoolchildren every day and the watershed project.

IPRIP Kalyan Banerjee also gave a brief overview of the Rotary accomplishments at the global level. He cited that the Rotary had done a great task of eradicating polio, except in three countries. The focus was on Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan – in case these countries do not report any polio cases by the end of the year, it can be claimed that the world has become polio-free. Another important initiative of the Rotary International was the South Asia Development project. This project, which has been recognized by the Rotary Board, will focus on South Asian countries like India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka becoming 100% literate by 2017.

A lot of enthusiasm was generated in one evening, with President RP and his team raring to go forward full steam and in the words of a PDG, a little different, a little higher, to take Mid-Town to greater heights of accomplishment.



IPP Rtn. Kersi Hilloo with President Rtn. R.P. Anand

Our New President



IPDG Rtn. Vijay Jalan, IPP Rtn. Kersi Hilloo, President Rtn. R.P Anand, IRIPP Kalyan Banerjee. Rtn. B.R. Barwale becomes a member of the Arch Klumph Society with a magnanimous donation of ₹120 lacs



IRIPP K. Banerjee & Rtn. R. Barwale

IPP Rtn. Kersi Hilloo & President Rtn. R. P. Anand



Rtn. Ann. Urmila Jain and Rtn. Nirbhay Jain become major donors IPDG Rtn. Vijay Jalan, IPP Kersi Hilloo, President R.P. Anand and IRIPP Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee



President Rtn. R. P. Anand & family

Rotarians at the ceremony



President Rtn. R. P. Anand, PP Rtn. A. SinhaRoy and R/Ann Dr. Sandhya Kamat



Board of Directors 2012-13



IRIPP K. Banerjee & President Rtn. R. P. Anand

Board of Directors 2012-13





Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The year is over and the 'flag' has been passed. Time to reminiscence and wish RP and his new team good luck and promise them all the support they need from me. My team and I take great satisfaction from having served you and from the feedback received, most of you thought the year was a successful one. I think we have worked hard and played hard. In the final analysis we have not only carried out several charitable projects successfully (including 6 matching/global grant projects), but also had some great fellowships.

On the financial front, in addition to the funding we have received for the matching/global grants (over ₹142 lacs) we have collected over ₹25 lacs for the Club/ Trust. We have also contributed more than a quarter million US Dollars for the 'The Rotary Foundation', which our DG (now IPDG) Vijay Jalan has acknowledged to be the highest contribution in the history of our Club. **I would personally like to**

thank and acknowledge the outstanding contribution from Mr. Barwale who has contributed over ₹120 lacs to become an Arch Klumph Society member; and to Nirbhay and Urmila Jain who have both contributed over ₹5 lacs each to become Major Donors.

I thank all the Directors, Office Bearers and Chairmen for their tireless work, and all of you for your support during the year which made this year what it was.

- Kersi Hilloo

Officers bearers for 2012-2013



R.P. ANAND
PRESIDENT 2012-13



KERSI P. HILLOO
IMM. PAST. PRES.



JAMES BRUNNER
PRES. & PRESIDENT
ELECT



MANOJ JALAN
HON. SECRETARY



ANIL AMBO
HON. JT. SECRETARY



RAJEN PATEL
ADDNL. HON. JT. SECRETARY



PP ANIL KAMATH
HON. TREASURER

300,000 miles, 2 years and now, home

'We need to commit ourselves absolutely and fully and say, what I must do shall indeed be done.' – IPRIP Kalyan Banerjee in the 2011 International Assembly.

And he lived by this maxim during his tenure as the Rotary International President for the year 2011-12.

To interview only the third Indian ever, after PRIP Nitish C. Laharry (1962-63) and PRIP Rajendra K. Saboo (1991-92), who were the Rotary International Presidents is indeed an honour.

Catching up with IPRIP Kalyan Banerjee when he was in the midst of a host of Past & Present District Governors, Past & Present Presidents of Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town was also challenging.

So we tried to keep our interview brief. And just like his speech earlier in the evening, his answers to our quick stand-in interview were crisp and clear.

In a short time, he captivated us with his thoughts, flowing like a clear stream of water down the hills. His exemplary leadership style of the worldwide Rotary movement during the year having now concluded came through so distinctly, reminding us of Sachin Tendulkar hitting an unbeaten double century, winning the match and returning to the pavilion to the standing ovation from one and all. IPRIP Kalyan Bannerji has just returned back to the pavilion, a little tired, but a fulfilled man, for having achieved so much in just a year.

Q: How does it feel to be back?

KB: I have been away, at the Rotary headquarters for a year, but the total journey spans nearly two and a half very fulfilling years. Now I am very happy to be back. My wife and I returned to India only two days back, and hence I have had no time to review and reflect on the time spent at the headquarters. But during my tenure as the President of Rotary International, I did travel a lot. To be honest, I had no idea of how much I had travelled.



Till nearly 200 employees at Rotary headquarters gave me a map as a send off gift last week. This map showed that I had travelled more than 300,000 miles spanning 68 countries. I was also informed that this is the highest ever travelled by any Rotary International President so far. For me, as I have said earlier, it was very fulfilling to learn firsthand that Rotary touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of people the world over.

Q: What is the most memorable part of your tenure as the Rotary International President?

KB: It is very difficult for me to pinpoint any one thing as special. There are several initiatives that we are involved with and there is something special in each. So I cannot identify only one thing which is memorable. There have been innumerable memorable moments and Rotary has reached far and wide. One that appeals to me personally is that for the first time, Rotary participated in the World Economic Forum.

Q: If you were to be appointed as the Rotary International President again, what would you pursue? Any unfinished goals?

KB: As the Rotary International President, I had an

opportunity to meet eight to ten Heads of State including the Pope and discuss many issues with them. I much wanted to visit Russia and meet the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Vladimir Putin. I wanted to communicate to him that the Rotary, as an organization could make a lot of difference. But Putin was busy with the Russian elections and then there were some protests and disturbances in Russia, and hence I could not go.

Similarly, I had a long meeting at the White House with the Secretary of State and other senior staff, but could not meet the President of the United States, Mr. Barack Obama. However, I am still working on this, with a hope that the next Rotary International President can meet Obama.

Q: What is your message for the Rotarians?

KB: Rotary's main objective is service — in the community, the workplace, and around the globe. My message would be to go on doing what you are doing the best.

In the 2012-13 Rotary year, Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka's focus is "Peace" and the goal is "Peace through Service". What I am very happy about is that he has embraced the Indian philosophy of Peace. I urge all of you to look within yourself for peace and commit yourselves absolutely and fully to Peace through Service...

**– As reported by Rtn. Sunil Gautam &
PP Rtn. Anil Ambo**

RI President Sakuji Tanaka speaks about the 2012-13 RI Theme

Sakuji Tanaka unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly, a training event for incoming Rotary district governors.

"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary," he said.

"Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Peace has different meanings for different people, Tanaka said.

"No definition is right, and no definition is wrong," he said. "However we use the word, this is what peace means for us. No matter how we use, or understand the word, Rotary can help us to achieve it," he added.

Tanaka, a businessman from the greater Tokyo metropolitan area, shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he said, he began to realize that his life's purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

"I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help build peace," Tanaka said.

He noted that the Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March.

"This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs—when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all—this changes everything," he said. "It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace."



Tanaka will ask Rotarians to focus their energy on supporting the three priorities of the RI Strategic Plan. He added that he will ask the incoming leaders to promote three Rotary peace forums, to be held in Hiroshima, Japan; Berlin; and Honolulu, Hawaii, USA.

"In Rotary, our business is not profit. Our business is peace," he said. "Our reward is not financial, but the happiness and satisfaction

of seeing a better, more peaceful world, one that we have achieved through our own efforts."

Life is a Gift — Live it!

It was billed simply as an expedition to Greenland. But, fortuitously, it turned out to be much more – a journey into the heart and mind of an explorer!

Akshay Nanavati hardly fits the archetype image of a swashbuckling adventurer, eager to take on the toughest challenges that exploring Nature demands. Dressed in a snazzy business suit, the light yet athletic 27-year old could be mistaken for an investment banker. From his presentation, we learnt that more than brawn, what is required for such hard physical activity is the mental and emotional strength to face one's fears and have the endurance to stay the course.

Quoting Helen Keller, he explained his reason for leading a life of adventure: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved." Akshay's passion stems from a deep desire to face his fears and overcome them, and so he chooses activities which take him outside his comfort zone – and that's putting it mildly!

The road to Greenland

Akshay joined the tough US Marine Corp. and was on duty in Iraq. Despite disqualifying medical conditions, Akshay served six years with the United States Marines. He learnt valuable life lessons in Iraq, and returned home a better human being, having seen strife and obeying orders (some of which he did not agree with) and selflessly putting the team before the self.

Then, instead of choosing to rest at home, he went to the Himalayas and climbed a 6,400m peak. "We need to constantly challenge ourselves to keep our mental, emotional and physical strength. When you embrace your fears, you feel alive!" he explains. Thereafter, he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, explored the underwater world (sunken caves); and in winter, he climbed frozen waterfalls and dived into icy waters of frozen lakes! In between, he even took time out to flex his intellectual muscle and earned an M.A. in Journalism!

The Skiing Expedition in Greenland in April 2012

Akshay trained for this arduous and hazardous expedition for three years! His neighbours must have been mystified to see this young man dragging masses of car tyres behind him, not realising that this was his preparation for

dragging his 80-90 kg of supplies over 20-30 km a day! The team consisted of six men and the course for the expedition was from a village on the west coast to a coastal town on the east – with only snow-covered hills and dales in between. The first three days were the hardest, as they had to trudge over ice dragging their heavy loads. They lost 5,000 calories a day and forced themselves to eat the gruel of powdered food boiled in water from the snow – however unpalatable it tasted. At times, the temperature dropped to -40°C. They encountered violent snowstorms, threatening to blow off their tents. At such times -the snowstorms would last as long as 36 hours at a time- they would reflect on their own lives and fall back on their inner strength to continue without breaking down!

The compensation was the natural beauty surrounding them in the 'Land of the Midnight Sun'. The atmosphere of peace was ethereal. "At the end of the 28-day journey, the predominant emotion was relief. The first hot shower felt the best that I'd ever had," confesses Akshay. As part of his expedition across Greenland, he was gratified that he had raised funds for 'Doctors Without Borders'. Akshay has set up a business venture promoting adventure tourism to share his passion for the outdoors. He

also holds sessions for life coaching to share his take on success – "It's not an end, success is the journey." About his lack of business experience, Akshay says, "How to do something is less important than why you are doing it – then everything works out!" Akshay now serves his community as a volunteer firefighter – yet another opportunity to embrace his fears!



Akshay Nanavati in Greenland



Akshay Nanavati while serving in the US Marines

DATE: **Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

TOPIC: **Expedition to Greenland**

SPEAKER: **Akshay Nanavati**

INTRODUCED BY: **Rtn. Capt. Rajiv Kapoor**

VOTE OF THANKS BY: **Rtn. Burjor Nariman**

– Report by **Rtn. Nargis Wadia**

“Isn’t it frustrating to be here – and not hear!”

‘Hear’ and Now

Hearing loss, especially in the elderly, is a major contributor towards their feeling isolated and losing zest for life. In our Club, there are many members with aged parents and relatives (if not aged themselves!) for whom this subject is of interest. To enlighten us, we were privileged to have Dr. Manisha Suru give an audiovisual presentation on the subject.

Dr. Suru did her postgraduation in the field of audiology and speech therapy from Nair Hospital in 1999. Since then, she has been working with individuals having various speech, language problems and hearing problems. She has also served in the Indian Navy’s hospital INHS Asvini, being primarily involved with diagnosis of hearing loss in children and in the Cochlear Implant Programme.

Dr. Suru started her presentation with a question – What is ‘Successful Ageing’? She then went on to explain it as remaining active – physically and mentally – and being disease free. She also mentioned taking care of one’s health and keeping the problems of ageing at bay as important factors for successful ageing. Hearing plays a major role in enjoying interpersonal activities and hence loss of hearing should not be neglected.

Explaining the functions of the different parts of the ear, Dr. Suru mentioned that hearing loss can be broadly categorised as –

- Conducted Hearing Loss – Caused by defects or malfunctioning of the ‘external’ and the ‘middle ear’, and
- Sensory Hearing Loss – Caused by malfunction or damage to the eardrum (the tympani).

It is the latter which mostly affects the aged and causes loss of hearing.

Deafness in the aged is either in the form of considerable loss of hearing or, even when they can hear, they are unable to understand what is being said. This causes a great deal of frustration, leading to feelings of irritation and antisocial behaviour such as shunning company and being unwilling to go for outings.

There can be several causes which impair hearing –

- Obstructions such as wax or some foreign object in the external and middle ear.
- Sensory hearing loss, which results from loud noise, such as a bomb exploding!
- Ototoxic drugs which are prescribed for several diseases such as diabetes, blood pressure and certain kidney ailments. These can cause deafness as a side effect. Doctors should use injections for TB judiciously and avoid them if other medication can be used, as they often cause deafness and Tinnitus. The patient must report such a problem immediately to stop further damage.

In children under the age of three, Cochlear implants can be successful, but are seldom so in grown-ups. Dr. Suru advises an annual check-up, because the sooner one detects the first signs of deafness, the better the chance of slowing down the deterioration with the help of a hearing aid.

Dr. Suru had this advice for those with old age-related deafness –

Don’t be in denial – accept your hearing loss.

Learn to use your hearing aid – it normally takes three months to get used to it.

Pass on your learning to others so they get encouragement.

In a social situation, do not pretend to be able to hear. Admit that you weren’t able to hear and request a friend to repeat what’s been said.

Choose to sit with the good ear towards the speaker.

Hearing aids work well when the patient has self-motivation.

Wear the aid in both ears, not just in one.

The best way to avoid water in your ears while swimming is to have custom-made earplugs.

Dr. Suru has her clinic with state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities as well as hearing aid-fitting facilities at Gowalia Tank, Mumbai. She can be contacted on Tel: 23877788/23877876; Cell: 09820047823.



Dr. Manisha Suru



R. P. Anand presides

DATE:

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

SPEAKER:

Dr. Manisha Suru

SUBJECT:

Ageing, hearing loss and the solution thereof

INTRODUCED BY:

Rtn. Dr. Deepak Garg

VOTE OF THANKS BY:

Rtn. PP Anil Kamath

– Reported by Rtn. Nargis Wadia

Growing with time

Vicky Panjabi talks about himself, his family and tells us what he thinks of the world around.

Tell us about your early years.

A family of five with dad, mom, two sisters and me, we grew up in a conservative environment. My sisters felt I was our mother's favourite, a fact which is disputed by me till today. Yet we had and still have great companionship. My early years were fun-filled. I had a large family on both sides, my dad having 11 siblings and my mom 10, our weekends were always full of activity.

Something on Your Profession

I have been raised in a family that has been in the construction business ever since I can recollect. Our company develops residential and commercial premises in and around Mumbai. Our latest projects are coming up now in neighbouring serene Alibaug and then in Lonavala.

Both you and Sapna are into the Stock Market. Any lessons for our Readers?

Ha Ha!! This is mostly an exaggeration fuelled by party gossip at our fellowship meetings!! We are as much (or as little) in stock investments as anybody else. Personally, I am happy being a long-term investor.

What do you think of the Joint Family System in comparison to the nuclear family one?

Needless to say, the joint family system is a major contributor to the upbringing of a child. It helps them to imbibe character, be less self-centered and develop well-rounded personalities. However, I believe the nuclear family system has come of age. While each system has its advantages, one has to undeniably change with the times and that's the best way to go.

How did you meet Sapna?

Sapna was born and brought up in Bangalore. It's rather funny that though I did my Engineering in Bangalore and lived there for 5 years, our paths never crossed during that time. But as fate would have it, a common relative of ours introduced the two families and the rest as they say, is history!

How is it bringing up children in today's environment?

Reasonably easy I think (though Sapna may differ on this count). The real challenge is creating a balanced environment for them to grow up in, where parents are neither too permissive nor too authoritarian. It's equally important to define a set of values and principles by which we lead our lives. Children are a mirror of their parents. They tend to replicate them in as many ways as possible. So, as long as the value systems within the family are in place, bringing up children becomes easier.



Summer in Goa



Vicky with his family



Holidaying in Simla with the Himalayas in the backdrop

Parenting Tips from you & Sapna?

*From the Dad-*Be open with your children at the same time be firm. Correct them but at the same time admit your mistakes.

*From the Mom-*Be friends with your children, talk to them a lot, spend quality time with them. But don't let them forget who the boss is! Above all, practise what you preach.

What would be your message to the Youth of today?

- i) "Learn, Learn and Learn" and
- ii) "Don't be afraid of committing mistakes as these are the stepping stones to success".

What are the Challenges of Living in the hustle bustle of Mumbai?

Mumbai city is a "BIG CHALLENGE". The traffic, the Social Life, the competition, the superficial times we all live in; everyone is racing against time. I think anyone residing in Mumbai deserves a 'Lifetime Achievement Award'

What are your Hobbies?

I have been a lover of sports all my life, whether it is swimming, badminton or trekking. More recently it is gymming that has taken the forefront. I also enjoy reading and of course listening to music.

What does Rotary mean to you? What objectives does it fulfil?

The Rotary Club is a great organization through which we can contribute to society. Being a part of Mid-Town has enabled me to expand my life by creating awareness about the various social issues that need to be addressed by us. It is extremely admirable to see our members who are not only successful in their professional lives, but also working diligently and devoting valuable time and effort towards the betterment of society. All this is very inspiring to me.

Your opinion on Religion & Spirituality?

Over the years, I have drawn inspiration from the teachings of 'Satya Sai Baba' and also the 'Hare Krishna' mission. Recently, I have started practising 'Buddhism' and I find it to be a Philosophy that is very practical and easily applicable to our day-to-day lives. For me, spirituality has to be a constant effort to improve oneself to become a better human, and to work for the happiness of others.

Does India look Shinning to you?

A big 'YES'. Regardless of the recent pessimism, I see a huge growth potential in India. It's a Businessman's Haven.

Your take on life

"If I don't do something, Nothing is going to get better." – by Nathaniel Branden in the book *Taking Responsibility*.

– Interview by Rtn. Prasanna Bhagat



Rtn. Praful Sheth & Rtn. Robert Lenzen



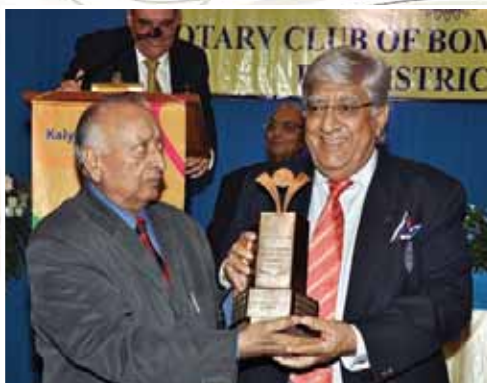
Rtn. PP A.SinhaRoy & Rtn. Nirbhay Jain



Rtn. R.P. Anand & Rtn. Rajeev Thakkar



Rtn. PP A.SinhaRoy & Rtn. Manoj Jalan



Rtn. R. P. Anand & Rtn. PP Mohan Lalvani



Rtn. PP A. SinhaRoy &
Rtn. Naren Mohatta



Rtn. M. K. Jalan & Rtn. Yogesh Pandya



Rtn. PP Navin Shah & Rtn. Munna Mitha

Name of Donor & Trophy
PP Satya Bhushan Anand Trophy for Club Service
Late Dayaram Santdas Kamlani Trophy for Community Service
PP Yoginder Shankardas Trophy for Service to Youth
PP Dr. Firoze Mirza Trophy for Vocational Service
PDG Dr. Shirish Sheth Trophy for Outstanding Performance by a New Member
PDG Dr. Shirish Sheth Trophy for Outstanding Performance by a Past President
Late Shamdas Malaney Trophy for Best Project Medical
Shreeprakash Agarwal Trophy for Outstanding Sr.Active Member
Murlidhar Jalan Trophy for Environment Protection
PP Adil Kajiji Trophy for Best Rotaract Activity
Rotary Certificate of Exemplary Service Rendered to Rotaract Movement
PP V.B.Haribhakti Trophy for Outstanding Interact Activity
Late Firoze Baldiwala Trophy for Most Active Couple
Kishor Jhaveri Trophy for Best Rotary Couple
PP Navin Shah Trophy for The Most Caring Rotarian
Praful Sheth Trophy for Whole-hearted Club Participation
PP Dr. Kirit Mody Trophy for Outstanding Endeavour to bring about Social Change
PP Mohan Shahani Trophy for 'Best Club Partner NGO'
Late Usha Lalvani for "Best Lady"
Kishor Jhaveri Trophy for IW member attending maximum
PP Rustom Davar Trophy for Significant Achievement Award
Dinyar Jamshedji Trophy for Best Rotarian of the Year



Rtn. R. P Anand &
Rtn. PP S. B. Anand



Rtn. PP S.B. Anand & Rtn. Nargis Wadia



Rtn. PP A. SinhaRoy & Rtn. PP Dr F. D. Mirza

AWARDEES 2011-12

Rtn. Nargis Wadia

Rtn. Naren Mohatta

Rtn. Santosh Kejriwal

Rtn. PP Arrow Sinharoy

Rtn. Rajeev Thakkar

PP S.B. Anand

Rtn. Dr. Anil Tibrewala

Rtn. PP Mohan Lalvani

Rtn. Yogesh Pandya

Rtn. Farida Officewala of Rotaract Club of
Lala Lajpatrai Rai College

Rtn. Nikita Padmanabh of Rotaract Club of
K.M. Kundnani College of Pharmacy

Intr. Vidhi Vaghela of Interact Club of
Walsingham House High School

Rtn. Anil & R/Ann Dr. Sandhya Kamath

Rtn. Mahesh & Manika Krishnamurti

Rtn. Munna Mitha

Rtn. Robert Lenzen

Rtn. Nirbhay Jain,

NIRID

R/Ann Cathrin Lenzen

R/Ann Manika Krishnamurti

Rtn. G.G. Kapadia

Rtn. Manoj Jalan



Rtn. R. P. Anand & Rtn. Dr. Anil Tibrewala



Rtn. PP Mohan Lalvani



R/Ann. Manika & Rtn. Mahesh
Krishnamurti with Rtn. Kishor Javeri



R/Ann. Manika Krishnamurti &
Rtn. Kishor Javeri



Rtn. Vinod Save & Chitre (NIRID) with
Rtn. PP Mohan Shahani



Rtn. PP Mohan & R/Ann. Cathrin Lenzen



Rtn. PP A. SinhaRoy & Rtn. Naren Mohatta



Rtn. PP Anil Kamath &
Rtn. Fatema Baldiwala

International Youth Exchange 2012



"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." – Mark Twain

These words rang in our ears when the nine of us were informed of our selection for the Exchange Program. The Indo-German Youth Exchange Program is organised by Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town with Rotary Club of Nidda, Germany, to provide an opportunity to the youth of India and Germany to experience life in the other country and make lifelong friends. It is a great method for the culturally diverse range of international students to share knowledge, ideas and culture of their countries.

A great deal of preparation was done way before we left for Germany on May 11, 2012. Orientation sessions were held teaching us about the German lifestyles, their likes and dislikes, their culture, their family systems, etc. and how to present ourselves in Germany. We also practised for a dance performance which we were to showcase in Germany.

On the day of our departure, we were overwhelmed with mixed emotions of ambivalence and excitement. It was tough to let go of the comfort zone of family and friends. However, we arrived in Frankfurt to find ourselves with family and friends again! At the airport, our host families were waiting for us with their arms wide open to hug us.

During our 3-week stay we visited many places and enjoyed many outings with our German families. We

enjoyed a leisurely cruise on the river Rhine and visited a castle. We visited Bidingen, a place full of history. An interesting visit was to the REWE Group which is a varied retail and tourism group based in Germany. The scale of their food distribution operation was highly impressive and the efficiency of the whole operation was an eye-opener to everyone. We also visited a large solar park. The Germans make optimum utilization of the resources they have. We went for long field trips and enjoyed picnic hampers. We visited the Limes Information Center (Limes is the border between the Romans and Teutons) where they had a historic review of the Romans and castles. The best part of all our trips was the time we were spending together.

One of the most awaited days was when we were to present a dance performance in a special meeting of Rotary Club of Nidda. This meeting was attended by Rotarians, Rotary District Officials, Mayor of Nidda, Consul-General of India in Frankfurt and our German families. When we entered in our Indian finery, it was like a splash of colour sprinkled into the hall. They were amazed by the colourful *chaniya-cholis*, *bangles*, *bindis* and the *traditional shell ornaments* etc. Through our dance and music we briefly presented seasons, festivals and states of India. They were mesmerized to say the least.

Another fun day for all was when we cooked Indian food. We thought it would be difficult to cook for 50 people but the Germans made it easy for us with their help. We made *biryani with raita*, *aloo pattice with green chutney*, *lemon rice*, *masala papad*, *lassi and chaas*. They savoured everything and were impressed with our culinary skills as well as Indian cuisine. It was a day of self-discovery for us!

We visited Giessen and the famous Giessen University where we saw the Mathematikum (Mathematics Museum)

which has exhibits related to mathematics. It was very interesting to see how science and mathematics come together. All the Indian students also visited their host's school/college and also attended various classes. We also had interactive sessions with the other students who were keen to know more about India.

To help bond the entire group of 18 students (9 Indians and 9 Germans), our hosts had organized an overnight trip to the city of Kassel. We travelled by train to Kassel where we saw the artificial water supply technique created a hundred years ago. The city was celebrating the festival 'Documenta' which takes place once every five years and is a platform for all artists to showcase various kinds of art.

How can one talk of Germany and not mention cars? We saw the fabulous personal collection of one Mr. Michael who has the most amazing cars which made our jaws drop. Some of us got a once-in-a-lifetime chance to ride in an Aston Martin and a Mercedes and travel at a speed of over 300 kmph!

Finally the day came when we had to bid 'CHUS' and leave for India. The day before that, a farewell party was organized for us by Mr. Manfred Knoll where all of us wore sarees and our German friends wore Indian dresses which we had brought for them. Everyone was recounting instances from our three weeks of fun and yet all were sad to be parting the next day.

This was the furthest we had travelled alone so far and it has been an eye-opener for us all. Germany is an excellent introduction to Europe for international students. English is widely spoken, the country is modern and functional, and with an excellent educational infrastructure. This Program has been a milestone in our life, with experiences of interactions and making new friends from a different cultural background. The value of cultural student exchange is an experience of a lifetime. The mixing of cultures and backgrounds provides young people with unforgettable memories and lifelong appreciation of each other. Though some of the host families were not fluent in English, we never experienced any language barrier as we were able to understand each other well with our hearts if not with the language. We can never forget the love and acceptance we received there. We will be ever grateful to Rotary Club of Bombay Mid-Town and Rotary Club of Nidda for giving us this opportunity.



The memories of time spent in Germany will always remain in our hearts more than our minds.

- Grishma Khajanchi, Farida Officewala, Priyank Savla, Shadab Khan, Komal Karia, Niriksha Parikh, Shejal Wadkar, Dikshita Satra and Rupa Karia

China Expert

“Doing business in China is a pleasure.”

We were very fortunate to have Mr. Rajesh Dalal, ex-Country Head of Johnson&Johnson (J&J) India, who has extensive international business experience, notably in China, as our speaker. He is an authority on China and he shared his perspectives on China, and what it is like to do business with the Chinese, and that too as a senior captain of industry from India.

As the audience was already well aware of the major facts about our neighbour and perceived competitor, Mr. Dalal said his talk would focus on micro insights gleaned by him since his first visit to China in 1995, till the present. As an old China hand — he used to visit the country every 3-4 weeks — he has an enviable perspective of the nation's economy, society, government and its mind-boggling rate of progress. He cautioned that so rapid were the changes in China that what he said today may not hold good after a short time!

On his first visit, Mr. Dalal had planned a four-day visit to Shenzhen and Shanghai, (two days for work and two days for sightseeing). He was so disappointed with the miserable environment (“Worse than some parts of Kurla!”) that he cut short his visit by half. Today, both these places have become the envy of other major world cities. He showed several photographs to illustrate the rapid growth rate. He compared the age of a dog versus man — dogs mature five times faster. Similar is the development in China viz. the rest of the world, he said.

This rapid progress is the outcome of the propaganda and policies of the Government — **“Do not believe the media when they say that the populace is against the government. Except for a few dissidents, the majority of the population is thankful for the prosperity that they are experiencing. From abject poverty, they have now reached upper middle class level and believe that it's thanks to their government.”** Mr. Dalal illustrated the above with an anecdote. In the mid-'90s, a business associate took him to lunch at a major restaurant and, to his bewilderment, ordered a large quantity of dishes. Naturally, there was a huge amount left over, which she asked to be ‘doggy bagged’, explaining that she would be taking it home for her numerous siblings and family, who could never dream of such goodies! Even today, even though people are prosperous, the ‘Chinese banquets’ are huge with several dishes being served — a throwback to the days of extreme poverty when most people survived solely on cabbage!

Mr. Dalal then explained the attitude of the Chinese towards authority. In India, decisions are arrived at after discussions with team members — an executive expects to be consulted; not so in China. The subordinates would construe it as weakness; anyone in authority is meant to decide, and the rest must unquestioningly obey instructions. Dictates from the government cannot be questioned — one reason for the rapid urban development, since entire localities are razed to be replaced by modern super structures.

The Chinese society by and large is not religious, as can be seen at various Buddhist temples. There are

several of these—one even has a huge Buddha—yet most people flock there only for sightseeing. There is an underground movement by the Christians, which is being quashed by the government. They also do not show sympathy towards animals — **“since they eat all varieties of animals and insects,”** said Mr. Dalal.

There is major emphasis on meritocracy and commercial success. From the small towns to major cities, the Mayor's effectiveness is judged by the success of his efforts to attract tourism, industry and business.

Harbin, an extremely cold place in the northernmost region, attracts tourists by holding exhibitions of huge ice sculptures and has state-of-the-art conference facilities. The Chinese preserve and enhance their places of natural beauty, unlike India, which allows unplanned exploitation to mar all the beautiful locations. In Shanghai's Hanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Center, every building is shown in model format and there is a Children's park at a distance of 200m!

The policies in China are business friendly and if a labour law adversely affects a business, then concessions are given, so that a corporation can avoid losses. Because of all these positive experiences, Mr. Dalal unabashedly proclaimed that he is a fan of China and loves the country.

DATE: **Wednesday, June 6, 2012**

SPEAKER: **Mr. Rajesh Dalal**

INTRODUCED BY: **Rtn. M. Krishnamurti**

VOTE OF THANKS BY: **Rtn. Vaibhav Sanghi**



Mr. Rajesh Dalal

— Report by Rtn. Nargis Wadia



Hundred Percenters 2011/2012

1/7/2011 to 30/6/2012

Anil Ambo
Satya Bhushan Anand
R. P. Anand
Mehernosh Currawalla
Arvind Doshi
Lalit Goculdas
Kersi Hilloo
Murlidhar Jalan
Manoj Jalan
Gaurav Kapadia
Munna Mitha
Narendra Mohatta
Yogesh Pandya
Jamsheed Patel
Shaleh Tyebjee

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY MID-TOWN

OFFICE BEARERS 2012-13

President	: R.P Anand
Vice President and President Elect 2013-14	: James Brunner
Hon Secretary	: Manoj Jalan
Jt Secretary	: Rajen Patel
Addl.Jt.Secretary	: Anil Ambo
Treasurer	: PP Anil Kamath
Sergeant at Arms	: Munna Mitha
Immediate Past President	: PP Kersi Hilloo

PROPOSED LIST OF COMMITTEES
FOR ROTARY YEAR 2012-13

Avenue Director Club Service: Kamlesh Sonawala

Programs	Chair: Ms Sucharita Hegde
Fellowship	Chair: PP Ajit Kamrani
	Co Chair: PP Mohan Lalwani
	Chair: PP Vishnubhai

Finance	Chair: PP Tilak Mehta
Haribhakti	Chair: PP Dr Firoze Mirza
Attendance	
Bye laws	
Fund Raising (To firm up Chairman and Team)	Chair: Kamlesh Sonawalla
	Co-Chair: PP Rahul Mehta
	Chair: PP Yoginder

Classification	Chair: Shaunak Thacker
Shankardass	Chair: Zeba Kohli
Membership	Chair: PP Gopal Motwane
Membership Development	Chair Ms Nargis Wadia
Rotary Information	Co Chair: Burjor Nariman
Club Bulletin and Magazine	Chair: Sunil Gautam
Public Relations	

Avenue Director Vocational Service: Ashwin Shah

Career Guidance	Chair: Ms Prasanna Bhagat
Midtown image project	Chair: Anil Ambo
Scholarship	Chair: PP Satya Bhushan Anand
Four Way Test	Chair: Rajiv Thakkar
Senior Citizens welfare	Chair: Kishore Jhaveri
Financial opportunities	Chair: Parag Parikh

Avenue Director Community Service: Narendra Mohatta

Human Development

Child welfare	Chair: Dr Ghanshyam Kasbekar
	Co Chair: Dr Deepak Garg

Community Development

Nere and Vaje Village Development Project	Nirbhay Jain
Polio and care of the physically challenged	Gaurav Kapadia
Medical Interplast	Dr Anil Tibrewala
Medical camps and support to service projects	Chair: Dr Kirit Mody
	Co Chair: Dr Varsha Vadera

Sakhwar Rural Development project	Chair: Kishore sharma
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Environment Protection

Environment	Chair: Bhaskar Khira
	Co Chair: Sunil Aggarwal

Partners in Service

Rotary District Relations	Chair: PP Anil Kamath
Inner Wheel	Chair: PP Mohan Lalwani

Avenue Director new generation: Vicky Punjabi

Interact	Chair: Jamsheed Patel
Rotaract	Chair: Anil Ambo
Sports	Chair: Bharat Parekh
	Co Chair: Mukesh Shah

Avenue Director International Projects : PP Arrow Sinha Roy

International Grants Projects	Chair: PP Arrow Sinha Roy
	Co Chair: PP Anil Kamath
	Co Chair : Yogesh Pandya

International family and Youth exchange	Chair: Satosh Kejriwal
	Co Chair: Manoj Jalan

Rotary Foundation	Chair: PP Om Mehra
Rotary Sister Clubs exchange	Bernard Steinrueke

<< Birthdays >>

6 JULY
Navin Shah9 JULY
Shashikant Bhartia10 JULY
Harshad Vora10 JULY
Ajay Dalal10 JULY
Dr. Ghanashyam Kasbekar11 JULY
Reena Khanna13 JULY
Sunil Gautam14 JULY
Aditi Choksey19 JULY
Rajeev Thakkar24 JULY
Munna Mitha

July

<< Wedding Anniversary >>

22 Asha & Amulya Singh

20 Sarita Bimal Shroff

20 Malini Kirit Jasani

21 Shobha Pratap Sapat

23 Gita Parag Parikh

27 Siloo Shirish Sheth

29 Sneha Jagdish Saxena

<< Spouse's Birthdays >>

02 Alka Anil Ambo

10 Usha Bhaskar Khira

17 Arati Sunil Agarwal

<< EVENTS IN JULY >>

4 Wednesday	INSTALLATION MEETING 7.00 p.m. at Hotel Vivanta by Taj- President
7 Saturday	"MYSTIQUE" the installation ceremony of incoming President Rtn. Shadab Khan at 12noon in Lala Lajpat Rai College, 6th floor Conference room
11 Wednesday	Speaker To Be Announced
18 Wednesday	Speaker Dr. D. K. Sankaran IAS (Retd.) - 1.15 pm at the Taj First BOD Mtg. at 2.30 p.m. at the Taj
25 Wednesday	Speaker Mr. Firdosh Karachiwala, Firdosh & Co, Advocates & Solicitors on IMPORTANCE OF WILL - 1.15 pm at Taj

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Please send your articles and news for Musings to Nargis Wadia or Allan Chenyen preferably by the 16th of every month.