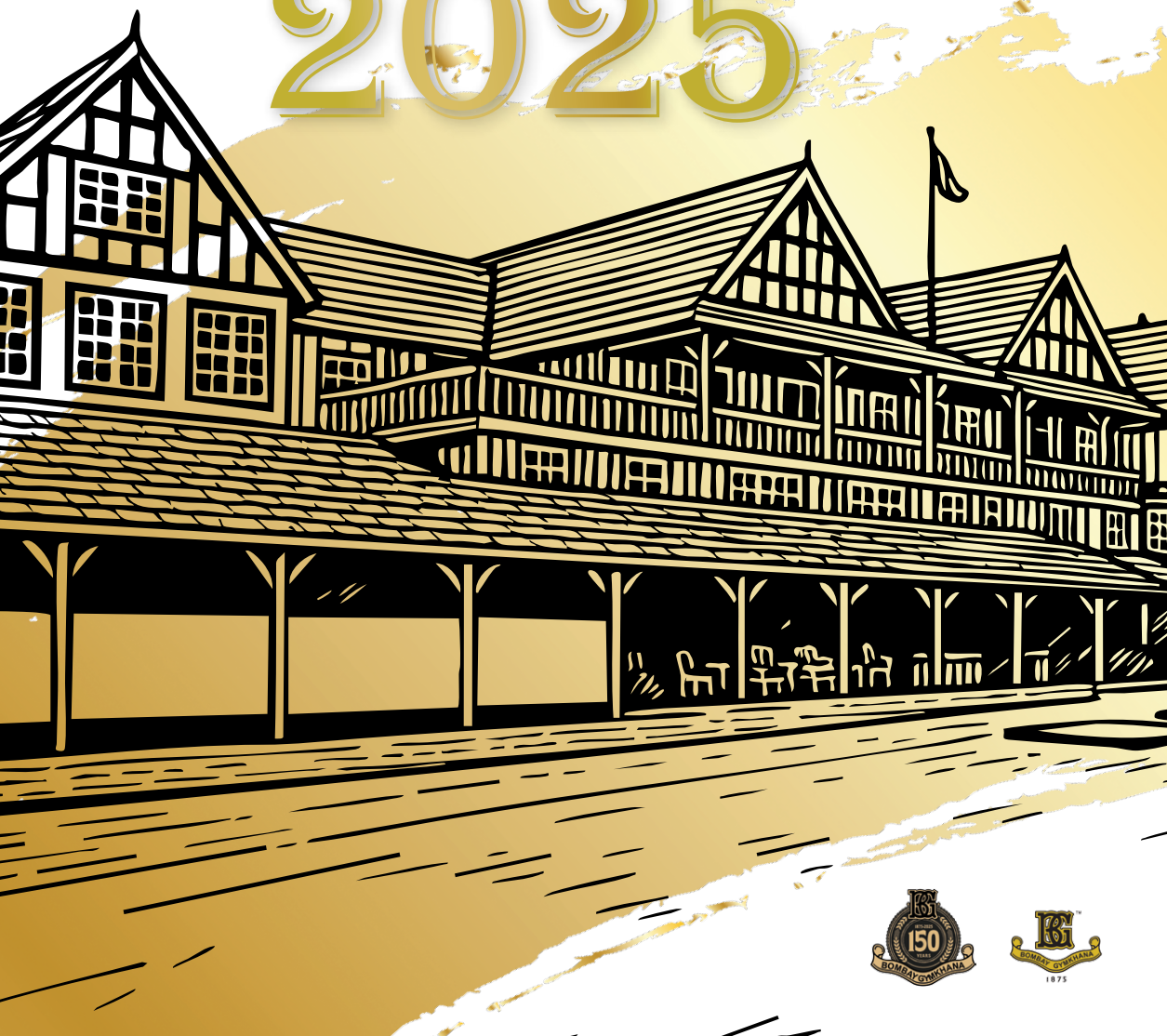


Black & Gold

The Bombay Gymkhana Magazine

December 2025 Volume 15 Issue 8

Rewind
2025



Message to our Members



Dear Members

We have had an eventful season marked by sporting achievements, infrastructural progress, and memorable festivities. The past few months have seen your club buzzing with activity, reflecting both the enthusiasm of our members and the collective effort to keep Bombay Gymkhana vibrant and future-ready. It is heartening to witness the continued participation and support that strengthen our community spirit, especially as we step into a season of celebration and reflection.

As we approach the end of the year, there is good news to share on various fronts...

SPORTS NEWS

Pickleball

Our 9(2) member, Mihika Yadav, brought laurels to the country by being the only Indian medal winner (Bronze) at the Pickleball World Cup 2025 held in Florida, USA.

Padel Courts

We have initiated the installation of two new world-class Padel courts, which will add tremendous value to our sporting infrastructure while also addressing the growing demand for this sport at our club. Our commitment to enhancing your club experience through diverse and modern sports facilities remains a priority.

Snooker

Shabaz Khan, our Snooker-playing member, secured 2nd place at the recently concluded Maharashtra State Snooker 6 Reds Championship.

RELEASE OF BOMBAY GYMKHANA 150-YEAR COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

Preparations are underway for the historic release of the Bombay Gymkhana 150th Year Commemorative Stamp.

FESTIVE SEASON PLANS

The festive season has commenced, and several events are being planned, including the Annual Christmas Bazaar, Children's Christmas Party, Christmas Housie, Christmas Lunch, and the New Year's Party

Wishing all members and their families a Happy Holiday Season.



Sanjiv Saran Mehra
President, Bombay Gymkhana

Contents

Black & Gold

December 2025 Volume 15 Issue 8

- 08 **Badminton Ladder** Climbing Higher!
- 10 **Game Changers** Ode to the Women in Blue
- 12 **Bar Nite** A Spooktacular Success
- 14 **Coffee Rave** Evening of Good Cheer!



12



14



15



16



20

- 15 **BG Conversations** The Fascinating World of Coffee
- 16 **Children's Day Celebrations** A Double Delight
- 18 **Book Club** Diving into Arundhati Roy's memoir
- 19 **Tech Talk** Ideal Apps for Teens
- 20 **Rewind 2025** Reliving the High Notes at BG
- 30 **Festive Files** Unwrapping Christmas
- 34 **Leisure** Let's Play!
- 36 **Cheeky Chikki** Welcoming December

Bombay Gymkhana

PRESIDENT

Sanjiv Saran Mehra

CEO

Cmde. K N Bhagat, VSM (Retd)

EDITORIAL

Roger C B Pereira - Convenor

Reena Agrawal

Sunita Rajwade

Kaveri Shah

Malika D'Cunha

Aarti Kelshikar

ADMINISTRATION

Namita Padbidri

Spenta Multimedia Pvt Ltd

EXECUTIVE PUBLISHER

Maneck Davar

EDITORIAL

Nichola Pais

DESIGN

Sherie Poncha

Black & Gold is the monthly magazine of Bombay Gymkhana Limited.

Black & Gold is published and printed by Spenta Multimedia Pvt Ltd, 5th floor, Industry House, 159, Churchgate Reclamation, Mumbai- 400020

Tel: +91-22-6734 1010

www.spentamultimedia.com

ho@spentamultimedia.com

Disclaimer: The views and opinions expressed or implied in *Black & Gold* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Bombay Gymkhana or Spenta Multimedia Pvt Ltd. Unsolicited articles and transparencies are sent in at the owner's risk and the publisher accepts no liability for loss or damage. Material in this publication may not be reproduced, whether in part or whole, without the written consent of the Bombay Gymkhana and Spenta Multimedia Pvt Ltd.



M.G. Road, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel: +91-22-4322 3400

www.bombaygymkhana.com

All contributions to *Black & Gold* should be original and accompanied by your name, membership number and contact details. Material submitted is liable to be edited as may be determined by the Editorial Board.

Nurturing Nature

Through its tree plantation drive, Bombay Gymkhana takes a meaningful step towards preserving the planet — one tree at a time

Bombay Gymkhana has undertaken a tree plantation drive on its premises, reaffirming its commitment to sustainability and environmental care. The initiative reflects the club's dedication to nurturing nature and contributing to a greener, healthier tomorrow. **BG**



Passion for planting!



SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2025- 2026

Election to the Managing Committee positions every year are followed by the constitution of subcommittees which serve as advisory bodies and assist the honorary secretaries and convenors to function efficiently and work towards the overall development of their sections. The magazine brings you the list of the newly formed subcommittees for 2025-2026

AS PER MEMORANDUM & ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF BOMBAY GYMKHANA LIMITED-CONSTITUTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES UNDER ARTICLE 48 OF SPORTS SECTIONS & CATERING SECTIONS

BADMINTON

Shailesh Daga (Hon. Secretary)
Ayaz Bilawala
Camille Sheth
Faisal Siddiqui
Kunal Rao
Naheed Divecha

BILLIARDS and SNOOKER

Kaizad Fitter (Hon. Secretary)
Chintan Jhaveri
Ishan Nagar
Marzdi Kalianiwala
Mehernosh Billimoria
Prashant Aggarwal

CRICKET

Dr Aadil Chagla (Hon. Secretary)
Anandbir Singh
Bakhtyar M. Irani
Burzin Dubash
Sarat Kurup
Tushar Raut

CATERING, BAR & ENTERTAINMENT

Dr Monika Doshi (Hon. Secretary)
Bharat Somani
Irfan Pabaney
Nikki Sanghi
Raghav Daga
Vinti Gajree

FOOTBALL & HOCKEY

Vineet Gangwani (Hon. Secretary)

Khozema Mohamed
Ranjeev Carvalho
Rehan Dadachanji
Siddharth Singh
Zainab Ayaz

PREMISES

Ravindra Mandrekar (Hon. Secretary) Behram
Dubash
Ekta Puri Parekh
Navzar Irani
Prem Kamath

RUGBY

Mukarram Faizullahbhoj (Hon. Secretary)
Faisal Siddiqui
Jahaan Dastur
Karl Tata
Naseer Hussain
Rayomand Unwala

SQUASH

Sumeet Rewari (Hon. Secretary)
Gourav Rakshit
Nikhil Bhandare
Nimish Shah
Rishaad Billimoria
Rohan Vaziralli

SWIMMING

Reena Agrawal (Hon. Secretary)
Gauri Sinh
Karan Rai
Nandini Mehta
Vijay Meghani

TENNIS (& PADEL)

Joy Kapur (Hon. Secretary)
Bhavin Kothari
Kishen Narsi
Neville Wadia
Dr P T Bhandary

**AS PER STATUTORY COMPLIANCE-
CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEES
UNDER ARTICLE 45(D)**

CENTRAL PURCHASE AND CONTRACTS

Sanjiv Saran Mehra (Convenor)
Ashok Agarwal
Jaswant Arlekar
Sailesh Doctor
Mahzarine Jehangir Jogani

FINANCE

Dhanraj Bhagat (Convenor)
Pankaj Jain
Raghav Daga
Vinti Gajree.

HRD

Prem Kamath (Convenor)
Archana Shiroor
Ashwini Kakkar
Arun Bewoor
Kavita Hurry

INTERNAL AUDIT

Dhanraj Bhagat (Convenor)
Ashok Agarwal
Mohan Mahajan

INVESTMENT

Dhanraj Bhagat (Convenor)
Milind Barve
SV Prasad
Yogendra Khanna

**AS PER MANAGING COMMITTEE- INCHARGE
OF NON-SPORTING ACTIVITIES, SOCIAL
& SPORTS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES &
OTHERS**

BG CARES (CSR)

Sanjiv Saran Mehra (Convenor)
Gauri Vanikar Kirtane
Mala Chadha

**EDITORIAL BOARD - BLACK & GOLD
MAGAZINE**

Roger CB Pereira (Convenor)
Aarti Kelshikar
Kaveri Shah
Malika D'Cunha
Reena Agrawal
Sunita Rajwade

FITNESS CENTRE

Samar Chokshi (In Charge)
Anas Vadgama

Limji Nanabhoy
Sabah Tahliramani

GENTS DRESSING ROOM (GDR)

Samar Choksi (In Charge)
Bhavin Kothari
Tanuj Malhotra

GOLF

Capt Vijay Shivdasani (In Charge)

GOOD GOVERNANCE ADVISORY

R. Gopalakrishnan (Convenor)
Mihir Doshi
S S Kelkar

LADIES DRESSING ROOM (LDR)

Dipti Suchde (In Charge)
Hena Agarwal
Mina Datta
Rita Suchanti
Urvi Desai

LIBRARY

Shaila Mallik (Convenor)
Anam Bachooali
Nivedita R von Frenz
Reena Agrawal
Shefali Balsari Shah

MAHJONG

Kavita Hurry & Veera Sawkar (Jt Convenors)

PR, BRANDING & SPONSORSHIP

Sanjiv Saran Mehra (Convenor)
Nishant Raut
Vishal Jhunjhunwala

RECIPROCAL CLUBS

Arun Bewoor (Convenor)
Elijah Elias
Sumeet Rewari
Vijay Runganadhan

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Aditi Jain (Convenor)
Anita Almeida
Devpriya Bihani
Neomy Khatau

SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Dinesh Advani (Convenor)
Chaitanya Singh
Rajendra Arora
Rahul Raichand
Rehan Dadachanji

TABLE-TENNIS

Samir Sanghavi (In Charge) **BG**

CLIMBING HIGHER!

Young shuttlers took centre court as the Badminton Junior Ladder brought energy, competition, and plenty of cheering to the Gymkhana

A sports competition ladder is a ranking system used to track the performance of teams or individual players. It provides a clear, ongoing summary of standings, showing who is leading the competition and who needs to improve to reach the top positions.

BG's Badminton section held a Junior Ladder competition on 1 November which had a great turnout of approximately 25 children thronging the courts with parents in tow to cheer.

Naheed Divecha led this entire effort. She was instrumental in conceptualising and executing this event. She was ably supported by our ever-ready supporter of youngsters, ex-Badminton secretary Gautam Ashra, along with the efforts of Zeenie Poonawala, the Badminton sub-committee, the Shuttle Craze coaching team of Mangirish Palekar and his able assistants and the club's markers. The U-11, U-13 and U-15 age groups had the most participants in the boys' section, while the girls' participation was the maximum in the U-13 age group.

Each player played a single 30-point game with all the other participants in



Boys U-11 group with previous Badminton Secretary Gautam Ashra and Shuttle Craze assistant coach Gautam

his/her age group to earn 1 point per win. At the end of the morning, each participant's points were added up and each child very eagerly put his/ her own name into the relevant slot on our ladder, which is up for everyone's viewing purpose on the courts' noticeboard.

The ladder gives everyone a quick snapshot of who's on top, who's chasing hard, and who's got some work to do. It keeps things exciting because every match can change the order — one big win or close loss might make all the difference. The best example of this is amongst our two best youngsters on our courts - Anay Arlekar and Kabir

THE LADDER SERVES SEVERAL KEY PURPOSES

- **Motivation:** Players can track their progress and set goals to climb higher on the ladder.
- **Transparency:** Fans, coaches, and participants can easily see standings and understand how rankings are determined.
- **Competition structure:** It provides a fair and consistent method of determining playoff positions, or teams' eligibility.

Banerjee. Theirs was the longest and hard fought game with long rallies and we are sure the ladder rankings will be altered most among them as each of them works towards de-throning the other from the top rank – currently held by Anay Arlekar in three age groups!

This ladder will also help our juniors play at other clubs with children of similar standing and judge for themselves how much they need to improve to be at par or better!

For those who missed out on this event, feel free to challenge the lowest ranked played in your age group anytime in December and see yourself up on the ladder and keep steadily working towards rising in the ranks!

The ladder helps everyone see how close the competition is and encourages players to keep working hard. It's also exciting for families and friends to follow along and cheer their favourite kids!

At the end of it all, we **celebrate everyone's effort** — whether at the top of the ladder or still climbing, what matters most is having fun and playing fair. **BG**

The first name up on the ladder: Aashka Patel



The youngest Badminton enthusiasts: Arjun and Kabir



Coach Mangirish Palekar and previous Badminton Secretary Gautam Ashra with the U-13 girls group

Revolution in Blue

Bombay Gymkhana's Pushpam Nair, who witnessed the ICC Women's World Cup Cricket finals, captures the spirit of a moment that had been decades in the making

If you ask me where I was
on 2 November 2025
I won't say "DY Patil Stadium"
I'll say, "I was at the epicentre of a
revolution

The final whistle didn't just end a
match
It unsealed fifty-two years of grit

From the stands, I watched a
generation claim everything they
were once denied -
respect, visibility, recognition, and
their rightful place in Indian sport

The journey flashed before my eyes:
Shantha Rangaswamy breaking the
first barrier
Diana Edulji refusing to take 'no' for
an answer
Mithali Raj redefining leadership
Jhulan Goswami running in from
history itself

And then the present:
Harmanpreet blazing
Smriti gliding
Jemimah dazzling
Deepti anchoring

Not a team -
a force

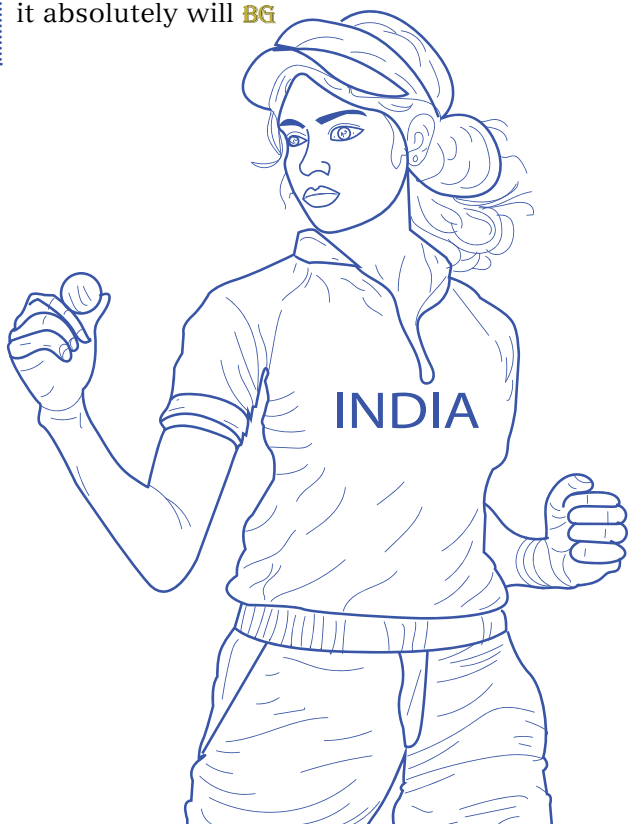
When India lifted the trophy
the stadium didn't erupt
It roared
Roared like every forgotten story
had finally found closure

Then came *Maa Tujhe Salaam*
And suddenly, every person in the
stands sang like the anthem
belonged to this team alone

The lap of honour felt
like a nation walking forward

As I stepped out of the stadium
the air felt lighter
the world felt new
and a little girl beside me whispered:
"My time will come"

And in that moment
I knew
it absolutely will **BG**



Bar Nite

Class Act

The 'Back to School' theme Bar Nite with **Darren Das** offered a unique blend of music, food, and socialising

Members enjoyed a lively evening at Bombay Gymkhana's Bar Nite on 21 November, with Darren Das setting the tone. The singer, dancer, and fitness professional delivered a high-energy performance that showcased his versatility. As the lead singer of The Sixth Sense and a recording artiste, he delivered a performance that thoroughly delighted the crowd. **BG**



Bar Nite

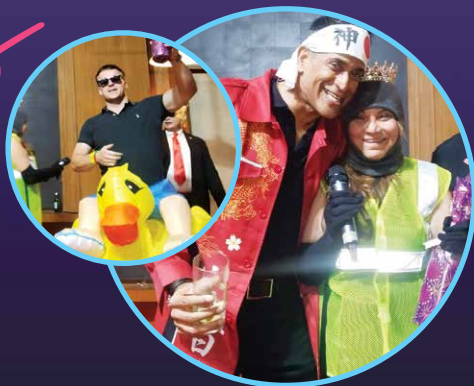
SPOOKTACULAR Success

Members and guests gathered for a night of chills and thrills

The Halloween Bar Nite on 31 October at Bombay Gymkhana was a howling hit, with the evening's festivities featuring a high-energy performance by the Run for Cover band that had the crowd on their feet and dancing throughout.

The real showstoppers, however, were the members and guests who arrived in elaborate Halloween costumes, each one more imaginative than the other. Our judges had a tough time choosing the winners, but in the end three standout costumes claimed the top prizes.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for members to unwind, celebrate, and enjoy a memorable evening with friends and family. **BG**



Spinning Up a STORM

Glimpses from the electrifying Bar Nite featuring DJ Aqeel

Bombay Gymkhana's Bar Nite on 14 November came alive with DJ Aqeel—the Don of Remixes—spinning his iconic Bollywood and Punjabi hits. Members danced nonstop as his high-energy set filled the Dining Hall, complemented by a buzzing bar and delicious bites. **BG**





Caffeine & Cheer

A spirited Coffee Rave brought members and guests together over music, movement, and exceptional coffee

Bombay Gymkhana hosted a vibrant Coffee Rave on 9 November, blending music, dance, and specialty coffee, in an evening that was warmly appreciated by members and their guests. The event offered an array of expertly crafted coffee drinks alongside a delicious menu from The Café and Nut Cracker, adding flavour to the festivities. With Herman setting the mood through his upbeat music, members gathered to dance, mingle, and enjoy the lively atmosphere.

Designed to spark connection and community spirit, the Coffee Rave proved how beautifully music, good food, and shared experiences can bring people together. **BG**



Wake Up & Smell the Coffee!

Shaila Mallik shares flavours from an engaging BG Conversations session with **Yahvi Mariwala** on the fascinating world of coffee



Yahvi
Mariwala

Tuesday, 11 November, saw Bombay Gymkhana members gather for another interesting session of BG Conversations, this time to learn about the nuances of growing, processing and brewing coffee. Yahvi Mariwala of Nandan Coffee took us through the short history of how she grew her grandparents' coffee estate, that was bought out of passion, into a successful business.

Mariwala runs an expanding coffee business and a popular cafe. Grown and processed organically and ethically, her beans produce the finest brew. The audience learnt about how coffee is grown, plucked, dried and roasted, and about how the roasting affects the taste.

We sampled different coffees, looking for fruity, floral, chocolate, and other notes. The audience had questions about the different processes and kinds of coffee that one can order at a cafe, the different ways of brewing coffee at home and much more.

It is always wonderful to hear interesting stories from among one of us at BG Conversations. As a member, if you would like to share a subject you are passionate about or an expert in, please do reach out to the BG Library and tell us. We would love to hear from you. **BG**



Double Delight!

A heart-warming day of book readings followed by a stirring musical performance - *Dharavi Dreams*. **Anam Bachooali** reports on the special Children's Day celebrations

The Bombay Gymkhana and The Storyboard Children's Library celebrated Children's Day at the club in a unique and distinctive style. Our little Library patrons were treated to wonderful, relatable stories written by acclaimed children's author Neha Singh. Our resident storyteller Anam Bachooali regaled the children with two stories: *The Wednesday Bazaar* and *Bela Misses her Train* at The Storyboard. The children were in for a special surprise when the author herself appeared and interacted with them. They asked her tons of questions about her inspiration behind her stories and her writing process. It was beautiful to witness their thoughts and the confidence with which they spoke



to the author. Singh was also kind enough to sign copies and pose for photographs with them.

The celebration continued as the children moved to the Dining Hall where a dazzling musical performance titled *Dharavi Dreams* was showcased by Singh (the author!) and her theatre troupe comprising children from Dharavi.

Children from ages 3+ made up the audience along with their families. It was gratifying to see everyone come together to enjoy the joy of theatre. For many, it was a first-time experience watching a performance in Hindi.

The Bombay Gymkhana also invited children from two NGOs: Smile and The Community Development Centre, Vile Parle to enjoy the show, truly making it a Children's Day for all to remember! **BG**





Hip-hop Meets Hope

Dharavi Dreams, a 60-minute Hindi hip-hop musical written and directed by Neha Singh, was staged at the Bombay Gymkhana to an appreciative audience, as part of the BG Cares initiative. Apart from BG members, children from two NGOs were invited to attend this performance. Featuring young artistes from the Dharavi Dream Project, the play draws from their real-life stories to portray their lives, dreams, struggles, and unshakeable spirit. Through rap, beatboxing, breaking, and vivid storytelling, it offered an honest glimpse into a community where art becomes a powerful alternative to overcome adversity. **BG**



Unfiltered!

Nivé Raitz von Frentz reports on a spirited discussion of **Arundhati Roy's** searing memoir

Another healthy turnout on 10 November to discuss this month's book, the much-acclaimed *Mother Mary Comes To Me*; a paean of brittle love that was the author's very complex, fractious relationship with her mother. Opinion was divided, as some felt there was much self-indulgent repetition, the language caustic and overly candid, while others were carried away by the lilting, lyrical and—to use a cliché—'unputdownable' prose.

"I had to leave in order to love my mother," says Roy when, at 18, she cut off contact with Mrs Roy for several years, which one member felt was hugely brave; others felt many of her statements were attention seeking. Another member dubbed it a "bad girl" story where the author is shown to break away from

convention, be it her involvement in political activism, smoking or living with a partner.

The bold red book cover came under focus, especially images of the same black and white photo sequentially fading on the inside front and back flaps - and the black moth, which is a recurring metaphorical theme.

What is the thought underlying writing such a book and was it an "artifice", a reflection of Roy's moral compass that she waited to publish only after her mother's death? She seems "unafraid of being criticised and critiqued," according to one member.

One member said that the very act of publishing is in itself a "construct". There was some talk about whether one's family's permission was needed to write about them—did it depend on the genre—documentary fiction versus fiction?

A discussion which raises more questions than answers would seem to be the best kind! **BG**





App APPEAL

Raghav Sabharwal cues teenagers into the apps that can be game changers

Did you know that approximately 1,200 new apps are launched on the Google Play Store every day! Some of these life-changing apps have transformed our lives, from WhatsApp and Google Pay to Instagram and Facebook. Here are a few recommendations to simplify tasks, increase efficiency, and improve daily life for teenagers...

Khan Academy – For those seeking intellectual stimulation, Khan Academy provides free, self-paced learning across a myriad of subjects, giving immediate feedback on performance and progress. It is beneficial for all age groups.

Perplexity Pro – This app offers in-depth research and analysis, generating some of the finest content on the internet. It is fascinating to see the varied perspectives it offers based on a user's requirements.

Medium – For literary buffs, the Medium app provides unlimited access to stories and allows writers across the world to showcase their creativity.

Duolingo – Travelling to the South of France and want to blend in by speaking French? Duolingo is the app for you. It helps you build foreign-language skills through games and points, making the learning experience fun and engaging.

MyFitnessPal – A comprehensive food and fitness tracker, this app makes meeting your fitness goals a breeze. Macros, calories, meals, and workouts are all neatly organised to help you stay on track.

Canva – This app fuels your creative streak, allowing you to create professional-looking graphics in just a few clicks. Wow your friends with visually delightful media files.

InShorts – Gone are the days of waiting for the soft thud of the morning newspaper. InShorts delivers quick, concise news in under 40 words. Its high-tech algorithm even personalises content based on your interests. **BG**



Rewind 2025

Moments That Mattered

Big wins, wide smiles, and happy memories — 2025 had it all. Here's your visual rewind of a year that shone bright at the Bombay Gymkhana...

Football



Victorious BG Sharks - Champions of the MFA Independence Cup - the first ever 11-a-side win by a BG women's team

BG Lions continue to roar loudly, consistently winning accolades through the year



The newly launched Bombay Gymkhana 9-a-side Football League, with BG winning the third place trophy

Mahjong



Team Bombay Gymkhana with the runner-up trophy in the inaugural Bombay Gymkhana Inter-Club Mahjong Championship. Participating teams included champions Willingdon Sports Club, Cricket Club of India and Wodehouse Gymkhana

The series continues ... to make in-house Mahjong tournaments a quarterly affair. At the second edition of the Bombay Gymkhana Mahjong Championship held by popular demand in October



Barely old enough to have their own membership cards, but already winning championships!

Swimming



Inaugural BG Interclub Aquatics Championship and the BG swim team – after years of being absent, BG is back in the competitive Swimming circuit and taking the GMAAA by storm

Badminton



Bombay Gymkhana receiving the runner-up trophy of the 2025 GD Birla Badminton Championship

Play with the stars! The Maharashtra Junior Badminton Championship was organised with DBS Bank which had the top Badminton stars of the country come and play at the club



BG officials at the Bombay Gymkhana Junior Badminton Tournament

Billiards

The BG squad poses with the Billiards championship trophy at the awards ceremony



The champions of the Innes Ker Snooker & RHA Delves & Billiards (+50) Handicap Tournament

Cricket



Bombay Gymkhana finished runner-up in the over-50+ Twenty20 Cricket Championship for the '23 - '24 season. Aadil S Chagla, Hon Cricket Secretary, receives the trophy at the MCC Championship Awards Gala 2025

Dr Aadil S Chagla, guest of honour, handing over the winner's trophy to the Goregaon Sports Club at the MCC Championship Awards Gala 2025



Tennis & Padel

The Padel court inauguration saw Dinesh Advani - Vice President, Sanjiv Saran Mehra - President, Joy Kapur - Hon.Sec. Tennis, Saurabh Ratan - ex-CEO, and Sidharth Puri - Ex- Hon.Sec. Premises in attendance

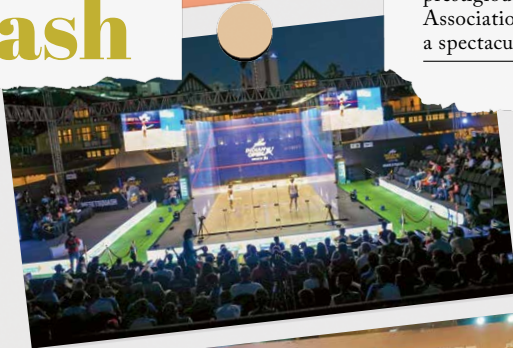


Winners of the MSLTA-Bombay Gymkhana U-12 National Series Tennis Tournament 2025 proudly display their trophies and certificates



Squash

Bombay Gymkhana hosted the prestigious Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tournament in a spectacular glass outdoor court



Anahat Singh, the women's PSA winner

Winners of the Bombay Gymkhana 48th Maharashtra State Open Squash Tournament 2025



Bridge

Vrinda Jhunjhunwala, Vijay Deshpande, Sandeep Karmarkar, Marianne Karmarkar, Rajeev Khandelwal and Himani Khandelwal won the Prime National Mixed Team Bridge Tournament [SARLA FIBERS]



Men's winners of the Bombay
Gymkhana International Rugby 10s

Rugby

The BG team celebrating after
their win on the Bangkok tour



Women's winners of
the Bombay Gymkhana
International Rugby 10s



Bombay Gymkhana
winners of the 90th All
India & South Asia
Rugby Tournament

Special Events

At the Bombay Gymkhana Arena Polo Championship played under lights at the Bombay Gymkhana, a player takes control, carrying the ball down the field. The exhibition match concluded in a thrilling tie.



Polo



Players of Captain EL Marryat and Lieutenant C L Young team pose with the trophy presented by Bombay Gymkhana President Sanjiv Saran Mehra during the prize distribution ceremony of the Bombay Gymkhana Arena Polo Championship held in May

10k Run

The Bombay Gymkhana 10k Run garnered an enthusiastic response, with hordes of participants running for victory and joy



Rewind 2025



The Managing Committee
at the unveiling of the
Bombay Gymkhana 150-
year logo

150-year logo unveiling

F&B

Dil Dhadakne Do - with timeless Hindi
classics by Alifya Shetty and Madan
Shukla, transporting members to the
magical 1960s



The Spirit of Elvis show by
Mehmood Curmally, a tribute
to the legend



The Halloween
Bar Nite, with
live band Run For
Cover, casting a
spell on all present

Library

A successful holiday programme was organised by The Storyboard for our BG children during the summer holidays



The 2025 edition of the BG LIBFEST in July was a huge success with six events for all ages spanning five days in July-August

BG Reads! A quiet reading session and book swap for BG members and families was held at the verdant swimming pool lawns on a cool January morning



Social Activities

Talk Show - Dr Maydeo

A full house for a healthier gut—Dr Maydeo's presentation kept members hooked



Special Felicitation



Paralympian Preethi Pal poses with her medals and BG members at her special felicitation at Bombay Gymkhana

Holi

Holi celebrations at the club: A day splashed with joy



Women's Nite



Members grooving to the beat at the Women's Day celebrations



Finding Christmas

A gentle story of lights, markets, and found family during a winter away from home, by **Kaveri Shah**

Growing up in a Hindu household, December never revolved around Christmas. Our big celebration, Diwali, was earlier in the year, full of light, love, family, and firecrackers! Christmas was something I saw from a distance; beautiful, but not mine.

Then I spent last year studying in Manchester, and suddenly Christmas was everywhere. The second November rolled in, the cities lit up like they'd been waiting all year. Markets appeared overnight. Every café pushed some kind of festive drink. And the lights? They rivalled my own Diwali decor!

I didn't step into the season expecting anything. But it was hard not to get swept up in that atmosphere. Manchester's Christmas markets had this warm, cosy energy even when the wind was trying to take my face off. People were weirdly cheerful for a place with unpredictable rain. Even buses wore tinsel. It was adorable. My version of Christmas wasn't the traditional one, with childhood rituals

or family recipes. It consisted of making Maggi for dinner because I'd spent too long in the library. It was my friends and I trying to carry back home a tiny tree from ASDA while the wind tried to blow it (and us) away. It was the kind of celebration you build when you're far from home.

Experiencing Christmas abroad didn't replace anything from my own culture; it added to it. So what does Christmas mean to me now? It's the memory of a cold UK winter illuminated by lights, joyful Christmas markets, and moments of warmth with found family. And honestly, that feels like the best kind of cultural bonus. **BG**



Close to the Heart

Celebrating food, family, faith, and festive cheer—as shared by Malika D'Cunha

Christmas preparations in my home begin early in November, because we look forward to the season all year. It has always been close to my heart, especially since my birthday falls around the same time—so I celebrate both together. The excitement begins with choosing a theme, putting up the Christmas tree and lights, baking goodies with my grandmother, distributing hampers, planning the Christmas lunch menu, and wrapping gifts for loved ones.

Christmas Day starts with midnight mass and carol-singing, followed by the thrill of unwrapping

gifts from friends and family the next morning. Lunch is a feast: Turkey with stuffing, Shepherd's Pie, Baked Ham, Choriz pav, Apa de Camarao and more. Then the desserts—Mince Pies, Plum Cake, Pinwheels, Bebinca, Kulkuls, Nankhaties, chocolate chip cookies and Marzipan. We always share a portion of our feast with those who cannot afford a Christmas meal. Evenings are spent visiting extended family who couldn't celebrate with us earlier in the day.

One of my favourite childhood memories is writing letters to Santa.

I would try to be nice the entire year in the hope of receiving lots of presents—and Santa did stop by!

Christmas has always reunited our entire family. It is a season of joy, celebration, weddings, and parties, often lasting a whole month. And as the festive glow fades and the New Year's Eve ball drops, a small sadness creeps in knowing routine awaits. But hope returns with New Year's resolutions—hopefully lasting beyond January! **BE**




What Does Christmas Mean to You?

With her own memories lighting the way, Aarti Kelshikar gathers heartfelt reflections on what Christmas means to our members

Christmas - the season to be jolly! Having studied in a convent school, my earliest memories of Christmas are of singing carols. And of decadent plum cake - my dad would order one every year from the Bombay Gymkhana!

In the Philippines where we spent five years, Christmas celebrations began in September. With the arrival of the 'ber' months, there were Christmas decorations in malls and houses, heralding the coming of festive times.

And with Christmas around the corner, festive times are here! We asked Bombay Gymkhana members what Christmas meant to them. This is what they said:



"Christmas for me, is pure Bandra — carols, *sorpotel*, and crunchy-sweet *kulkuls*."

- Arti Dwarkadas



"Colours of red and green, winding down, feeling gratitude and basking in Mumbai's all-too-brief and priceless 'winter'."

- Abanti Sankaranarayanan




"Mum passed on Christmas Eve. The nurses delayed lighting up the ward's Christmas star as a mark of respect and regard - a small gesture that always reminds me of the true spirit of connection and reaching out to others."

- Rajiv Rajamani




"Christmas to me, is a joyous occasion filled with love, generosity, and the many heartfelt ways we show we care, reminding us that the true spirit of the season is all about giving emotionally."

- Varsha Kewalramani




"Christmas is always such a great time — the decorations make everything look more beautiful than usual and the whole community brings this lively festive atmosphere, making the season feel more special."

- Smitha Sharma




"Christmas is a season of blessing, love, peace and harmony. We have a huge party; it's about serving the friends who we nurture and love! And we do this every year."

- Neil White




"Christmas means hope, spreading goodness and cheer, and to good times with friends and family."

- Leena Sabharwal



"Christmas is about parties, gifts and fun memories of celebrating with the kids when they were younger."

- Anupriya Divecha

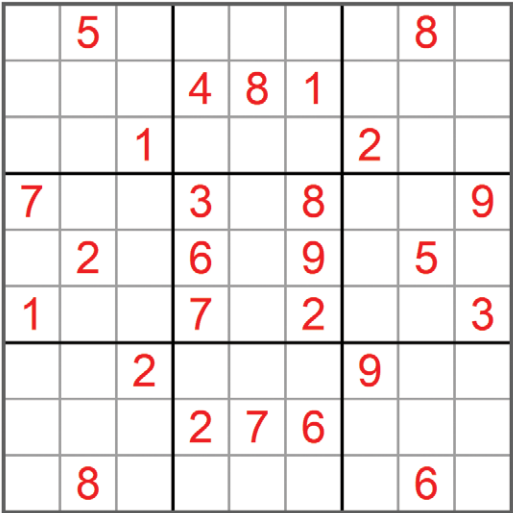


"It's a time when the world feels softer, warmer, and a bit more hopeful!"

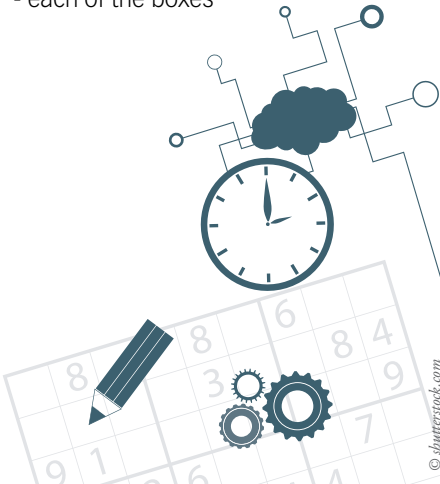
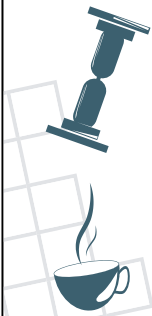
- Purvi Sheth **B&G**

SUDOKU

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit must appear once in:

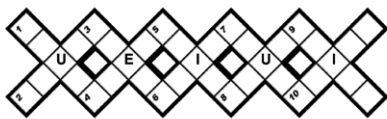


- each of the vertical columns
- each of the horizontal rows
- each of the boxes



CRISSWORD

Ten five-letter words cross and interlock to complete these crisswords. Some of the letters have already been filled in. Can you fill in the rest? Clues are given.



1. Dwelling
2. Flora's Partner
3. Watchful
4. Altered text
5. Performing
6. Burglar
7. Bungle
8. Surgical dressing
9. Banishment
10. Cooked in oil

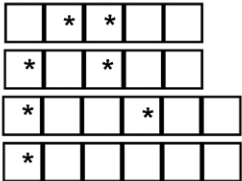
SCRAMBLE

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated:

Old age is the _____ of life.
- Amelia Edith Huddleston Barr (7) **BG**


MURES
CEWIT
SCDIHE
AVULSE



(All solutions on page 35)

Announcements

Bombay Gymkhana
BG CONVERSATIONS
featuring
GAUTAM PATEL & NIKHIL RAGHAVAN



Come listen to these adventurers share their experience of swimming across the Bosphorous in Turkey

Tuesday | 16th December 2025 | 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Venue: 1875

Register at: library@bombaygymkhana.com Telephone no (022) 43223420
Seating on first come first served basis

The Bombay Gymkhana Library
presents
BG Reads! - Edition 2

After the successful first edition of our family reading event, we are happy to present the next BG Reads!

Inspired by the popular Mumbai Bookies movement, this morning is one of family bonding over books! Bring your own books or pick one from our collection, and spend a morning silently reading and also browsing through our Library's superb collection and discover hidden gems, all in the company of other book-lovers. Kids are welcome. Children's books will be available too!

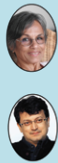

So come read with us! Families that read together, grow together.



Sunday, December 7, 2025 | 10.30 to 11.30 am
Venue: BG Library and MP92

TO HELP US PLAN BETTER, DO REGISTER AT:
library@bombaygymkhana.com Tel: 43223420

Bombay Gymkhana
Meet the Author
NEENA NEHRU
in conversation with
RANJIT HOSKOTE





Neena Nehru, artist, poet, keen traveller and scuba diver with a passion for the arts brings to us her debut novel. The Revolutionaries is a story of a privileged Indian couple in London in the 60's and their journey from passionate idealism to the harsh realities of life. The author will be in conversation with poet and art critic, Ranjit Hoskote as they talk about an extraordinarily sensitive, engaging novel.

Friday | 5th December 2025 | 5.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Venue: 1875

Register: library@bombaygymkhana.com (Tel: 022) 43223420
Seating on first come first served basis

BOMBAY GYMKHANA LIBRARY
SHORT STORIES BRUNCH CLUB
BLOOMSBURY 35
AN ANTHOLOGY
by
LIZ CALDER & ALEXANDRA PRINGLE




An anthology of fiction which showcases 'gems' of some of the most celebrated authors published by Bloomsbury

Wednesday | 3rd December 2025 | 11.30 am - 12.30 pm
Library

Register at: library@bombaygymkhana.com Telephone no (022) 43223420

Bombay Gymkhana
FILM NIGHT
love actually



Director: Richard Curtis
Cast: Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson, Colin Firth, Laura Linney, Emma Thompson, Alan Rickman, Keira Knightley, Martine McCutcheon, Bill Nighy and Rowan Atkinson

This classic Christmas movie explores the joys and pains of relationships in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Heartwarming & uplifting, beautiful & witty, full of love and each story & character all combine to make Love Actually not just one but ten very different stories.

Friday | 26th December 2025 | 5.30 pm onwards
Venue: 1875

Register : library@bombaygymkhana.com / Tel- 43223420

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

2	9	3	4	6	1	7	8	5
5	1	8	6	7	2	4	3	6
4	7	6	5	3	8	2	1	9
8	4	3	5	2	9	6	7	1
3	6	7	5	1	4	9	2	8
6	2	1	7	8	3	5	9	7
7	9	2	3	9	5	4	1	8
9	3	5	1	8	4	6	7	2
4	8	1	7	2	6	9	5	3

CRISS WORD



SCRAMBLE

Huddleston Barr
Verdict of life. - Amelia Edith
Answer: Old age is the
serum, twice, chides, values
Words:

GET YOUR DIGITAL COPY!

To receive the electronic version of *Black & Gold*, send an email to relations@bombaygymkhana.com. You can also download it from the BG App.

In Memoriam

The Bombay Gymkhana deeply regrets the sad demise of:

Chandra J Gupta
2 November 2025

Surendra S Negi
25 September 2025

Gautam Chandur
Mansukhani
7 October 2025

Brahma Jeet
18 July 2025

Narendra Jain
2 October 2025

HELLO, DECEMBER!

As December arrives with its sparkle of festivity and nostalgia, it also reminds us that a quarter of this century has quietly slipped past, writes **Sunita Rajwade**

For a while, with the monsoons staying until after Diwali this year, people were worried that it might rain all the way until Holi! But luckily, it's stopped raining, and it's time to bring down our assorted woollies from lofts and cupboards. Unlike Delhiwallahs, Pune-kars or even Bangalorites, most Mumbaikars' winter wardrobe consists of mismatched jerseys and sweaters worn on their last holiday in the hills. Or something picked up from Tibetan sweater sellers who set up shop on pavements near local railway stations. This does not, of course, apply to the stylish ones, who always have a trendy wardrobe for every season. But, by and large, milkmen, newspaper boys and people returning home from the night shift will be muffled up, wearing a balaclava and probably sitting by a makeshift fire.

Thank God for December. It is truly one of those wonderful times of the year when family and friends descend on us from colder climes overseas. When days go by like one big party with get-togethers, reunions, lunches, dinners and weekend jaunts that are meticulously planned and executed. It is that time of year when cotton-wool-snow and Christmas trees are brought out in clubs, hotels, shopping malls, and our homes. It is that time of year when people send season's greetings that vary from WhatsApp messages to hampers filled with goodies. It is that

time of year to watch feel-good movies on Netflix. It is that time of year when everybody feels happy for no reason at all. It is that time of year when the whole world takes on a festive air as everyone prepares for the first quarter of this century to end.

Yes, December 2025 marks the end of a quarter of the 21st century. Can you imagine that a quarter of a century is already over!

And what a year it was!

From the Kumbh Mela, to Operation Sindoor, to the opening of the Coastal Road and the Aqua Line, the global upheaval and obvious climate change, it really has been quite a tumultuous year.

Let's hope that 2026 is happier, healthier and more peaceful for us all. **BG**

