

Black & Gold

The Bombay Gymkhana Magazine

April 2025 Volume 14 Issue 12



BG RUNS ONCE AGAIN!



Message to our members



Dear Members,

March has indeed been a very busy month as several sporting and cultural events were held in which Bombay Gymkhana members actively participated.

Sports News

A. **Second edition of the Bombay Gymkhana 10K Run, 2025** was highly successful with over 2,000 participants. With more than 100 Bombay Gymkhana members and several BG staff participating in this event, it was heartening to see some of our members achieving top honours. Congratulations to our notable performers - Ayesha Mansukhani, Aeva Parekh and Kabir Jaitly.

As we go to press, two huge events in Squash and Badminton are being held at the club. Though I make a mention of them below, you will read all about it in the next issue of the magazine.

B. **JSW Indian Open 2025 – India's first PSA Copper Event hosted by Bombay Gymkhana**

Squash Secretary Sumeet Rewari has done some amazing and stupendous work in promoting and encouraging Squash at the club- from hosting Junior and Senior Nationals to bringing this top-level Squash tournament returning to India after seven long years. It is indeed a proud moment for the Gymkhana to host this prestigious PSA event where the knock-out matches will be played in a glass backcourt specially set up on our grounds. Besides top Indian players, several leading international players will be participating, serving as a road map and opportunity for Indian players to gain international match experience and valuable ranking points which could help them qualify for the LA Olympics 2028.

C. **Indian International Badminton Stars Played With BG Members**

At this unique event conducted courtesy DBS Bank India, internationally top-ranked current Indian Badminton players will play with BG members in an engagement session. The players include renowned Indian Singles player Lakshya Sen, the reputed men's Doubles duo of Satwik Reddy-Chirag Shetty and the women's Doubles pair of Teresa Jolly and Gaayatri Gopichand , who will spend quality time playing exhibition matches with the BG Badminton players, including children. It is indeed an experience of a lifetime especially for our children, who will not only get to meet their idols but also pick up some valuable tips.

Social Activities (BG Conversations, Women's Nite & Holi Celebrations)

The social and cultural events included an extremely interesting and urgent BG Conversations session, an initiative of our Library, on Cybercrime and Cyber Security. International Women's Day celebrations were held over a week culminating in the Women's Nite. Soon after, followed the annual Holi festivities. Members came in large numbers along with their guests. These events are now well-established as marquee events and are much awaited every year

Club Monies Saved

Your Managing Committee ensures that not only do we conduct quality sports events which enhance Brand BG but also give members a memorable experience whether in sports events (BG 10K Run) or in various social events. Despite the Committee allocating substantial funds to fund these events, you would be pleased to note that not only were these events highly successful with high-quality execution but were all at **ZERO COST TO BOMBAY GYMKHANA**, thereby resulting in members' monies being saved.

We have several other exciting events lined up in the coming month.

See you at the club!



Sanjiv Saran Mehra
President, Bombay Gymkhana

Contents

Black & Gold

April 2025 Volume 14 Issue 12

- 05 **BG News** Award for the Bombay Gymkhana
- 06 **Sports News** Veterans' Smash Win
- 12 **Happenings** Celebrating Women
- 14 **BG Conversations** Understanding Cyber Security



- 16 **Cover Story** The BG Race To Remember
- 21 **Vox Pop** World Book Day Revelations
- 22 **BG @150** When the Prince of Wales Batted at BG
- 24 **Cricket Special** Revisiting India's Big Win
- 29 **Festive Spirit** Easter Special
- 30 **Money Talk** Investments Explained, with A Dash of Humour
- 32 **Beats & Beyond** Mumbai's Jazz Story
- 34 **Leisure** It's Game Time
- 36 **Cheeky Chikki** Cutting Hair

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.

Bombay Gymkhana

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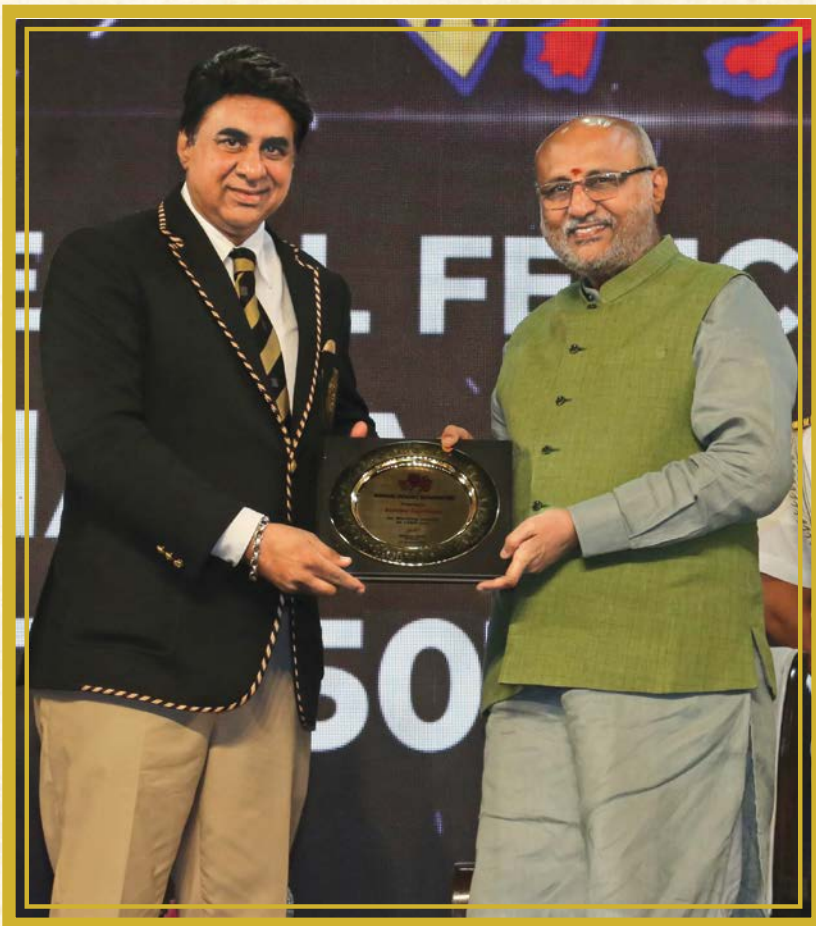


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Congratulations, Bombay Gymkhana!

The Mumbai Cricket Association paid tribute to Bombay Gymkhana on its 150th anniversary. His Excellency Shri CP Radhakrishnan, Governor of Maharashtra, presented a commemorative salver to Sanjiv Saran Mehra, President of Bombay Gymkhana, in recognition of Bombay Gymkhana's illustrious legacy and contributions to cricket and sports.

Appreciation always feels nice! **BG**



A RICH HAUL OF GOLD

Bombay Gymkhana veterans came back as winners at CCI Yonex-Sunrise Maharashtra State Masters Badminton Selection Tournament, 2025

At the recently concluded CCI Yonex-Sunrise Maharashtra State Masters Badminton Selection Tournament, 2025, which was held at the CCI Club and co-hosted by Bombay Gymkhana, our veterans comprising of Gautam Ashra, Shailesh Daga, Ayaz Bilawala, Naheed Divecha, Dr Gautam Laud, Vivek Joshi and Rajan Samant came back as winners.



Ayaz Bilawala

Naheed Divecha has made it a habit of winning Triple Crowns in the Veteran State Badminton tournaments. This was her 5th Triple Crown at Veteran State Tournaments. Participating in three

events, she got the better of Ajitha Ravindran in the Women's Singles +50 category. In the Women's Doubles +50 partnering Chaitrali Navare from Pune, Naheed won in straight sets and then partnered Dr Shiv Kiran Thakur in the Mixed Doubles +50 and trounced her opponents with ease.

Gautam Ashra and Shailesh Daga both won a creditable double crown in the tournament. Gautam Ashra in the 65+ Men's Doubles event, partnered Mahesh Aras and they beat Dilip Suthankar and partner and in the 65+ Mixed Doubles, Gautam Ashra partnered Dr Padmini Desai and easily trounced their opponents.



Naheed Divecha and her mixed doubles partner Shiv Kiran Thakur

Shailesh Daga met his last year's National Championship finalist, Murali Subramaniam in the Men's Singles 55+ and although the match started with a bang with over 25 stroke rallies, Shailesh Daga then took charge and controlled the match and beat Murali in two straight sets. In the Men's Doubles 55+ event, Shailesh Daga with Ayaz Bilawala beat the second seed pair of Rajesh D'Souza and Bala Subramaniam in straight sets thereby continuing with their winning streak at the State tournaments, with over 10 victories in the Men's Doubles this category in Veteran State Tournaments.



(From left) Shailesh Daga; Gautam Ashra with Dr Padmini Desai; Rajan Samant; Gautam Ashra with Mahesh Aras; Naheed Divecha



Gautam Laud

In the 50+ Men's Singles, Dr Gautam Laud beat two tough Ajay's – Ajay Salvi in the semi-finals and Ajay Moghe in the finals, both in straight sets. This win was his second successive State title in the 50+ Men's Singles event. Our marker, Rajan Samant in the 45+ Men's Singles event played a few tough rounds and was a semi-finalist in the highly competitive Men's category. We the members see a good potential in Rajan in his category. With a good diet supplement and physical training, he can bring laurels to our gymkhana.

Vivek Joshi, a senior member of our gymkhana and probably the oldest player at the tournament, won the Men's Doubles 70+ event with a partner from Pune and coincidentally celebrated his 73rd birthday at BG's Badminton courts which is where he first started playing this sport.

All in all, the event showcased our strength in the veterans fraternity in the state of Maharashtra. Our veterans have been consistently performing exceedingly well and this only shows their discipline and determination in continuing to passionately play the sport and be motivated to succeed at the highest level. Their efforts need to be applauded. We wish all of them all the very best for the forthcoming National championship to be held at Goa.

(Ayaz Bilawala) **BG**

BG WINS BOWL FINAL! IN BANGKOK!



The BG team
celebrating after
the win.



The Bombay Gymkhana Rugby team recently travelled to Bangkok for the 16th time to compete in this year's Bangkok International 10s tournament, which hosted 50 teams from around the world.

Despite the challenging 35-degree heat, our boys played exceptionally well over six games, facing tough competition with teams from New Zealand, Portugal, Japan, and Malaysia.

After being down 12-nil at half-time, the BG boys dug deep and showed immense willpower to come back and win 14-12 in the last play before the full-time whistle.

The team demonstrated a significant improvement from last year's performance and ultimately won the Bowl Final defeating Japan Accorn Club.

**Congratulations
to the team! **BG****

Making Waves

Detailing the solid showing of the Bombay Gymkhana swim team at a range of recent events



YMCA winners

The Bombay Gymkhana swim team had one of its busiest months yet as members competed at the YMCA Gala, the JVPG Open and also our own BG Interclub Aquatics Championship swim meets, making a solid showing at all.

At YMCA, members of all ages competed at the refreshingly cool pool (perhaps

contributing to some particularly quick swims). For our junior members, Anaita Kudtarkar secured a bronze in the 50m butterfly. Jimmy Davar (50m freestyle) and Samara Naik (50m freestyle and 50m backstroke) made their club proud with certificates of merit.

In the adult categories, Vivek Mehta doubled up with two rapid swims in the men's 30+ category, winning two gold medals in the 50m breaststroke and 50m freestyle, while Anushree Kudtarkar, Dinshaw Pardiwala, and Yamini Namjoshi all donned the golden necklace as well. Dr Pardiwala and Karan Rai earned silvers in the 50m freestyle in the men's 50+ and men's 40+ categories respectively continuing a showing of strong form within this category. Finally, Aditi Javeri earned a bronze in the women's 100m breaststroke.

Our junior members Samara Naik and Jimmy Davar represented the club at JVPG. Naik swam hard in the U-8 50m freestyle event, earning a bronze with an impressive



Dinshaw Pardiwala wins gold



Vivek Mehta wins gold



Karan Rai wins silver

time of 44.66 seconds. She also swam well in the 50m backstroke, just missing out on the podium with 4th place. Jimmy Davar did the club proud with a certificate of merit in the incredibly challenging and jam-packed

U-8 boy's Individual Medley with a timing of 2 minutes and 30 seconds. This is one of the hardest races for any swimmer and his superb performance at such a young age is truly commendable

BG's final tally across the two meets includes 10

medals (5 golds, 2 silvers, 3 bronzes) and two further certificates of merit. An impressive feat for 9 swimmers.

The club is grateful to all parents who cheered loudly, coach Vispy Besania for his constant attention to each swimmer's race and the continual improvements he suggests, and the swimming club's leadership. BG's intergenerational participation continues to shine, and it is thanks to those above that the team can come together as it has. With each new meet, from youngsters to our adult swimmers, everyone is making consistent improvements—the likes of which will, no doubt, continue to be a source of pride for the Bombay Gym! **BG**

Anushree and Anaita Kudtarkar win gold and bronze

Jimmy Davar wins a certificate of merit



KIDS SHINE

Bombay Gymkhana kids made waves at the recent badminton tournament at Mount Litera International School, BKC held on 22 February, writes Amrita Sudheendran.

Two teams of U-14 boys from Cathedral and John Connon School, all members of Bombay Gymkhana, displayed great teamwork and sporting skills at the tournament. Team A was Aarush Mittal and Krishav Punj and Team B was Kabir Banerjee and Anay Arlekar. Team A won the runners-up trophy and Team B won the gold! **BG**



Kabir and Anay win gold



Aarush and Krishav are all smiles

SMASH HIT!

BG's **Khozema Mohamed** brings details from the Junior Tennis Championship 2025

Bombay Gymkhana's newly appointed Junior Sports Committee, under the stewardship of President Sanjiv Saran Mehra, held its first event of the year: a Tennis competition for the children of BG members.

Our children are the future of the club and they will be the ones populating the field, courts and pool in the coming years. Keeping this in mind, the purpose of this tournament was to encourage our children to engage in friendly competition on the Tennis courts, which we hope would deepen their love for the sport. Further, we hope to build a community of members' children within Tennis.

After some hard work and diligent outreach, the tournament was a resounding success, with over 30 children in different age groups participating.

All the children played a Round Robin style qualifier and then the top two players played the final. Awards were given out by our



Winner Aryaan Tyebjee and Runner-up Darayus Davar, Boys U-12



Runner-up Jehan Davar and Winner Aayansh Chopra, Boys U-10

Here is the list of the winners and runners-up in each age group:

1	U-8	Zuhayr Hirani	Ariana Aggarwal	14 & 6
2	Boys U-10	Aayansh Chopra	Jehan Davar	11 & 9
3	Girls U-12	Maya Rasquinha	Vedikaa Malhotra	6 & 0
4	Boys U-12	Aryaan Tyebjee	Darayus Davar	10 & 2
5	Boys U-14	Mohit Dingley	Haider Bagasrawala	6 & 3
6	Boys U-16	Rayhan Kapadia	Ishaan Gandhi	7 & 6 (13 - 11)

President, Vice President and Sports Promotion Committee along with the Junior Sports Committee.

We look forward to seeing even greater numbers of members and their children at our next sports competition! **BG**



Maya Rasquinha - Winner, Girls U-12



Zuhayr Hirani - Winner, Boys U-8



Runner-up Ishaan Gandhi and Winner Rayhan Kapadia, Boys U-16



Hues of Happiness

BG's Mohita Kapoor Engineer recaps the vibrant Holi celebrations at Bombay Gymkhana on Friday, 14 March

Holi at Bombay Gymkhana was a vibrant celebration of colour, music, and togetherness. The intimate yet lively setup created the perfect atmosphere for members and their guests to unwind and enjoy the festival. From the upbeat music with the live DJ and percussionist and the bhangra dancers, that kept everyone on their feet to the delicious spread of festive food, thandai and drinks, every detail was thoughtfully arranged. It was heartwarming to see friends and families coming together, making it a truly memorable and joyful event. **BG**



SPARKLES & SISTERHOOD

Glimpses from the Women's Nite celebrating empowerment and community at the Bombay Gymkhana Lawns held on Saturday, 8 March. The event, held to mark International Women's Day, delivered an all-inclusive experience featuring live music, culinary delights, assured gifts, and an opportunity for women to connect and celebrate.







BG's Reena Agrawal shares highlights from the insightful session on cybercrime and cyber security delivered by **Yashasvi Yadav**, who heads the Maharashtra State Cyber Department

The world is experiencing an unprecedented rise in cybercrime aided by technology. A hydra-headed form, it spares no one. With most of us unnerved about its nature and grappling with ways to defend ourselves, it was an opportune time to learn more about it.

BG Conversations is a platform where only members are invited as speakers to share their professional expertise. An initiative of the BG Library, member Yashasvi Yadav, our freshly-minted Additional Director General of Police, Maharashtra, who heads the Maharashtra State Cyber Department, Mumbai, was invited to speak on cybercrime and cyber security. Recipient of several prestigious international awards, he has trained batches of IPS and IAS officers in cybercrime and security

It was an evening of information, shock and scare about the extent and nature of this crime; but reassuring too, as Mr Yadav listed the warning signals, their resolution and that

help was just a phone call away. Supported by an excellent team, his talk was insightful, engaging and interactive.

Quoting from his own article, he opened his talk with shattering facts – today it is the numero-uno organised crime syndicate globally surpassing US\$6 trillion in revenue and damages. Cybercrime, he said, threatens everything. The need for cyber security and creating awareness is absolutely critical and it is imperative to practice cyber hygiene - considered the first line of defence in the digital world.

Drawing from his experience, Mr Yadav shared case studies about how a natural death was found to actually be a perfect murder by the hacking of the deceased's pacemaker, how the ratio of investment frauds far exceeds other frauds like cryptocurrency, social media, OTP and other crimes such as sextortion and cyberbullying, deepfakes and digital arrests.



BG President Sanjiv Saran Mehra, Library Convenor Reena Agrawal, Yashasvi Yadav, and VP Dinesh Advani

Bomb hoax calls and defamation all fall under their purview.

The department conducts cyber hygiene workshops to create awareness across all sections of society. Through the screening of an audiovisual and examples of some celebrities who have been victims of this crime, Mr Yadav gave the audience a reality check on how easily fraudsters trap the innocent into sharing sensitive data, causing fatal financial and identity losses, the precautions one must take, the call to action the 'victims' can make and the helplines available.

What was almost a hair-raising experience was the making of a deepfake video in a matter of minutes of one of our member volunteers. After giving a video byte, the recording was converted into a completely different text luring viewers to invest their money and also morphed her face into that of a celebrity's.

Another demonstration was the connecting to the helpline to show how the department responds to all calls.

A few cyber hygiene dos and don'ts were listed. It is important to ensure security of the passwords we create, the devices we use, the messaging we indulge in, the social media we interact with and the emails we send.

He warned the audience that no bank, financial institution or police ever make calls asking for sensitive data and, therefore, being alert and safeguarding is the key to staying safe. Do not open any unknown or suspicious links. Be careful what one posts, especially pictures. Tell your children, the internet never

forgets and is most unforgiving, Mr Yadav passionately appealed. We need to advocate restraint in passing judgement on everything that appears in social media.

The Q&A was given considerable time. Members had loads of questions and suggestions - What kind of punishment is meted out for such criminal acts, how can anonymous emails be traced, are the helplines the same for reporting and follow-throughs, and more.

Mr Yadav announced that the Maharashtra Cyber Department is the first of its kind in the world that provides comprehensive solutions to all cyber-related complaints through one helpline which is also a potent tool to set the process of law into motion and also guarantees an interim response every 24



Attendees engrossed in the session

hours to the complainant. This encompassed a wide network of communication, from investigation, command and control to a centre of excellence and an emergency response team, all working towards making life safer for all.

Our speaker could not be less insistent: Be alert, stay safe! **BG**

Helpline:

Dial 1930/ 1945/14407

www.cybercrime.gov.in

STRIDE, SMILE, REPEAT!

Captivating moments from the second Bombay Gymkhana 10K Run 2025
- a tribute to BG's 150-year sporting legacy



Hitting The Track

The second edition of the Bombay Gymkhana 10K Run 2025 took place on Sunday, 2nd March, drawing over 2,100 participants (members, BG staff and non-members), ranging from seasoned athletes to fitness enthusiasts across all age groups, to compete in a run through the iconic streets of South Mumbai.

This run was a way to celebrate the rich legacy of the club, which once again went on to prove that sporting champions and BG go hand in hand.

On a cool crisp morning, it was indeed a spectacular sight to see 2,000+ participants warm up on the historic grounds of the gymkhana following a Zumba routine as they geared up for their run. Flagged off at the BG main gate by former Bombay Gymkhana President Khalid Ansari at 6:00 am (10K) and 6:20 am (5K), the runners set forth on the streets with a passion.

Speaking on the occasion, Sanjiv Saran Mehra, President, Bombay Gymkhana, stated that the event was filled with 3 E's -

Excitement, Enthusiasm and Energy. It saw runners from across the city and beyond come together to celebrate a festival of fitness, sportsmanship, and community.

Just Pure Running Joy

"The Bombay Gymkhana 10K was everything a boutique run should be—no frills, no frenzy, just pure running joy. A seamless experience from start to finish, where the road felt like a runner's playground. A hassle-free start, where you could drive right up to the line—no long walks, no waiting. The straight route, just a couple of turns with no inclines. The holding area with the lush Bombay Gymkhana lawns offering comfort and space before the race. Along the way, well-placed hydration points and enthusiastic volunteers ensured no runner felt alone. A perfect post-run moment—medal in hand, a hearty breakfast box, and the simple joy of sitting back on the sun-lit Bombay Gym lawns, soaking in the collective runner's high. A no-nonsense, well-executed race that truly lets you focus on the run. Highly recommended for a fun and fulfilling Sunday morning!"

— Sivakumar Sundaram

Powering On

In the 10K Men's race, Taronish Irani secured first place (00:36:36), followed by Sahaya Robin Singh (00:38:11) and Soham Narwani (00:40:20). For the women, Ayesha (00:47:18) claimed the top spot, with Payal Ashar (00:50:43) and Krutika Chavan (00:51:35) rounding out the podium.

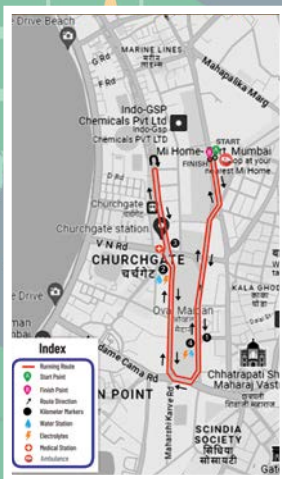
The 5K Men's race ended with Mihir Bathija (00:17:00) finishing at the top, followed by Vaibhav Khandelwal (00:19:20) and Kabir Jaitley (00:19:27). Aeva Parekh (00:23:38) led the women's field to claim victory while Supriya Kumari (00:24:46) and Ishita Das (00:26:11) secured the remaining spots on the podium.



THE ROUTE

5K
RUN

10K
RUN



BG Staff Step Up



"Until now, I've always supported our members in their athletic pursuits but never participated myself. The 150th marathon was a turning point for me. I chose to step outside my comfort zone and challenge myself. The energy, support, and camaraderie from staff and members created an atmosphere of unity that made this experience even more special."

– **Harshad Madan (Reception)**

"I ran the 5K. It gave me a great sense of happiness. After completing my run, I felt refreshed and energetic. It was a good activity for self-motivation."

– **Shilpa Kadam (Library)**



"I am filled with pride and joy for completing the 5K run in an impressive 45 minutes. Seeing the friendship and sportsmanship among participants, and being cheered on by colleagues, seniors, and well-wishers, felt wonderful."

– **Lata Megal Sudarshan (Ladies Dressing Room)**

"This was a truly special event for my wife (Veena L Iyer) and me. Last year, we took our first steps into the running world with the 3K. This time, we decided to challenge ourselves and stepped up to the 5K. The experience was wonderful. We felt energised and supported throughout the entire course. Running alongside my wife, sharing this experience, made it even more memorable."

– **Ganesh Krishnan (Billing)**



Speed & Success

BG Winners Share their Joy



AYESHA

10K, WOMEN'S CATEGORY
(MEMBER)

"Having grown up playing various sports at Bombay Gymkhana, this event held a deep sense of nostalgia and familiarity. The electric atmosphere, picturesque route, and chance to run alongside old friends I used to play tennis with made it an unforgettable experience. I'm grateful for the opportunity to push myself and relive fond memories. Winning the Bombay Gym Run was a truly special moment."



KABIR JAITLEY, 16 YRS

5K, MEN'S CATEGORY
(MEMBER)

"It was great to be a part of BG's 150-year celebration run and get on the podium. I had a fantastic time running alongside my dad, fellow BG members and some of the best runners in the city. A bit disappointed to miss second place by just seven seconds but overall it was an unforgettable experience."

"This was a very special win for me mainly because I didn't expect to win at all, especially in the Open Women's category, since I am only 12 years old. I am a squash player at the club. I play the national circuit under Avinash Bhavnani and also do fitness with Mrinal Roy, so all the academy kids were expected to participate and run. I was simply running with my friends because I really enjoy long runs and not really keeping track of where I was in the ranking among all the runners."



AEVA PAREKH, 12 YRS

5K, WOMEN'S CATEGORY
(MEMBER)

"It was a fantastic experience. I met my friends early in the morning at the club and did the fun warm-up session that they had organised. Then we headed to run and when the whistle blew it was like an adrenaline rush for me. I was keeping pace with an older friend of mine from the academy - Shreyansh. During the last stretch there was a bike which was following me and I was wondering why! In the home stretch of the run, I could see my mom and a lot of other parents really cheering for me and only then did I realise that I was actually coming in first! It was a great feeling to win in a Senior category with no prior marathon training!"

It Runs In The Family!

It was the second year running that the Gangwani family of four participated in the BG Run. Devahuti Gangwani shares, “I ran in the 10K category finishing in 1 hour 19 minutes, while my husband Vineet and our daughters Anoushka, aged 15 (29 minutes) and Meera, aged 12 (35 minutes) participated in the 5K race.”

A sporting family, all of them play football for the club. While Devahuti plays for BG Falcons, Anoushka plays for BG Sharks, and Meera for BG Wild Cats. Vineet is an erstwhile captain of the BG Men’s Football team.

Participating in the BG Run is an exercise in family bonding for the Gangwanis. “The prepping for race day a night before, hydrating, making little breakfast bottles complete with chia pudding and oats, reminding one another to sleep well, stretch well, brings us closer to each other,” shares Devahuti. She sees it as an opportunity for their small family to celebrate well-being and bond before the girls leave the nest.

Incidentally, in 2024 too, the family, including her father-in-law, participated in the BG Run.



The Gangwani family



Niranjan Jadhav

Against All Odds

Differently abled Niranjan Jadhav, who participated in the BG 10K race in the non-member category, earned admiration and respect for his efforts. Facing enormous challenges after a railway accident in 2017, he has risen above the odds, to get his life back on track. Currently working as a superintendent in the administration department at Mahanand Dairy, he is also an active social worker. Promoting a vehicle with a wheelchair attachment introduced by IIT Madras, he has been helping disabled children earn a small income through Zomato and deliveries. He has been participating in several 10K runs across the country and has also completed a half marathon in the Indian Air Force event in Nagpur. “My ultimate goal is to run a full marathon,” he shares, adding, “Those who try never fail.” Expressing his gratitude to the President and management of Bombay Gymkhana, he smiled, “I will continue to participate in all the BG runs ahead.” **BG**

READERS WRITE!

Who says the young aren't reading!! For World Book Day (23 April), here's what we got - from a family of readers to young professionals

"I read a short story not long ago in a collection titled *Kingdom's End* by Manto. The country at the time was plagued by Partition. They could not walk freely. An act of communal friendship, of remembering favours, was heartwarming. The unexpected twist at the end of the story made me stop in my tracks as I read the final lines. As an aspiring writer, I want to read many more such stories about India."

- Anupama Vernekar, aspiring writer

"I'm currently reading the fourth book of the 'Naturals' series by Jennifer Lynn Barnes as well as the third book of the 'Heroes of Olympus' series by Rick Riordan. One of my favourite books is *The Silent Sister*. It's a thriller, a genre I love, and talks about mental health, which really interests me. There are so many plot twists; reading it is like being on a roller coaster!"

- Ava Davar (13 yrs), student



"An avid book reader, I love reading books about science - in particular *What If?*, along with its sequel *What If? 2*. It really interests me! It's about completely crazy hypothetical scenarios being answered in serious scientific methods. I really love it because it merges things that I like, like science, math, hypothetical scenarios and funny, weird, and sometimes gross graphics. I highly recommend these books to anyone who likes surprises."

- Aaran Jhunjhunwala 10 yrs, student

"I'm currently reading the second-last book of the 'A to Z Mysteries' series by Ron Roy: *The Yellow Yacht* and will then move to *The Zombie Zone*. I don't have a favourite book, but I love reading and re-reading whichever books I have."

- Darayus Davar (11 yrs), student



"A book that I have recently read and which has stayed with me is *Why Loiter* by Shilpa Ranade, Shilpa Phadke and Sameera Khan. The book traces women's relationship with Bombay as they navigate risks, gendered social expectations and freedom. The book urges women to reclaim public spaces. As someone who has lived here all my life, this book revealed the many boundaries women place on themselves in this seemingly safe city. A must-read which will connect with all age groups!"

- Arti Ranade, lawyer **BG**

"The book that I'm reading right now is *Charlotte's Web* by E B White. This is my Grade 3 school reader. I don't have a favourite book, but my favourite series is the footballer biographies by Matt and Tom Oldfield."

- Jehan Davar (9 yrs), student



When the Prince of Wales Played Cricket at Bombay Gymkhana

More than a century ago, Prince Edward sportingly faced a couple of balls on the gymkhana's pitch... Read on for more shots from BG's cricketing scorecard



Poona vs. Bombay 1880

The year was 1921. The Prince of Wales—who would later become King Edward VIII—was on a visit to India. The purpose of his tour was to thank India for its role in World War I and strengthen ties between Britain and its Empire. Amidst the growing calls for independence, his visit was far from a thumping success.

One bright spot for the 27-year-old Prince would've been his day at the Bombay Gymkhana in November to watch the final match in the Cricket Quadrangular Tournament between the Europeans and the Parsees. Recording the proceedings in *The First Fifty Years*, the book's author and then-active Bombay Gymkhana Committee member H N Robinson, writes, "The Europeans were fortunate in having two famous test players, G Hirst and Rhodes. In this match, the Europeans scored 482 for 8. (Rhodes 183, G Hirst 62). The Parsees encountered rather devastating spin bowling and could not muster 103 and 82." Robinson

then describes what is, perhaps, the highlight of the match: when the Prince of Wales walked to the wicket and actually played two balls with Hirst's bat. Afterwards, both Hirst and Rhodes presented their bats to the Bombay Gymkhana.

A MONSOON SPORT

Tracing the history of cricket at Bombay Gymkhana in its early years, Robinson mentions "a cricket match at Poona washed out by the rain," and "a Bangalore Eleven trounced by the Gymkhana." The 'most interesting sports events of 1877' apparently included "a full quota of... cricket matches."

Another interesting factoid: Cricket was apparently always played during the monsoon. "This was mainly due to the fact that the maidan was primarily the army parade ground and everything in the semblance of a wicket with a vestige of grass, had to await the rains," explains Robinson. "Consequently, many matches were abandoned owing to rain. Cricket at the Gymkhana was not played during winter months until 1901."



The Parsee Eleven



Cricket Cartoon 1885

A LI'L HELP FROM FRIENDS

By the end of its first ten years, the Bombay Gymkhana was firmly established, and teams representing the Bombay Gymkhana for cricket “had proved their mettle in various parts of the country.”

Good sportsmanship was evident both on and off the field, and even between clubs. Robinson reveals, “Apparently in those far-off days the Gymkhana still had trouble with perfecting a cricket pitch, because records show that the Hindu Gymkhana kindly dug holes on their ground to show the Gymkhana how a pitch was constructed!”

CRICKET FOR A CAUSE

Cricket received a further boost at the Bombay Gymkhana, during the tenure of Governor and later Viceroy, Lord Willingdon.

At the suggestion of Lady Willingdon, the Gymkhana decided to hold a Cricket Week from 13-18 December 1915, in aid of the Bombay Presidency War and Relief Fund. The prime match of this festival week was played between England and India. Robinson narrates, “The English team, captained by Lord Willingdon, was exceptionally strong, including such well-known professionals as Tarrant, Livasay, Newman and Remnent. The result was a win for England by an innings and 263 runs; Major J G Greig and Capt K O Goldie of the gymkhana scoring 216 and 104 runs respectively.”

Another benefit match was held in November 1918, organised by Lord and Lady Willingdon in aid of the Indian Famine Relief Fund. “The English team was captained by Lord Willingdon and the Indian team by the Maharaja of Patiala. The Indian team batted first and compiled a total of 500; P Vithal scoring 149; C K Naidu 122 and the Maharaja of Patiala 83. The English team was back in the pavilion for 158 and following on were 140 with one wicket standing. But a pugnacious last-wicket stand of 78 staved off defeat,” recounts Robinson.

Fifteen years later, the Bombay Gymkhana would host the first-ever Test match between England and India held on Indian soil. Held from 13 – 18 December 1933, this iconic match would carve the name of Bombay Gymkhana in the annals of history for all time. Howzzat! **BG**



Bombay vs Pune 1889



CHAMPIONING The GAME

India winning the Champions Trophy 2025 in style and splendour has brought to light a championship tournament that nearly got buried, writes BG's **Yajurvindra Singh**

The white jacket, as uncanny and unmatched as one saw it on the players, truly emphasised India's victory in the Champions Trophy 2025.

The jacket, as ICC says, stands as a badge of honour that is adorned by champions and embodies the relentless pursuit for tactical brilliance and legacy that inspires generations.

India, the centre of the world's cricket at present by winning two limited overs ICC trophies in less than a year, has given a substantial boost to a sport that was declining in popularity and following. The millions of followers have made cricket the fastest growing sport in the world.

Cricket in India is looked upon as a religion. The Champions Trophy win for India was an ideal gift and blessing to the nation. It

brought to light the prayers of the millions of Indian cricket lovers who took a dip during the Mahakumbh and celebrated the festival of Maha Shivaratri. To thereafter, enjoy Holi, the festival of colours, makes the win even more wonderful and enjoyable.



Yajurvindra Singh

India's journey to the victorious podium was like a brilliant clinical surgery implemented by skillful, well-constructed and precise planning.

One has to start by complimenting the selectors for the squad that they had selected. The Indian captain Rohit Sharma and coach Gautam Gambhir had a pool of players for all eventualities. A batting line-up that most sides would give their arm for and spinners ideally suited to explore the slow Dubai wickets was just what the doctor ordered. However, the winning formula for India's win was the choice



of allrounders, each one capable of performing either with the bat or the ball. This took one back to the 1983 Indian World Cup team that had seven of them in the side that demolished the then-mighty West Indians.

India started their Champions Trophy league matches with a bang by beating Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand convincingly. Being the tournament favorites, the Indian side looked like champions from the very onset. The semi-final match against Australia had an element of worry. India had lost to them in the ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad and one hoped that they would have got over the defeat mentally. They did so in a convincing manner by chasing a total of 264 runs through sensibly crafted innings by their middle-order batters.

The tournament hosted by Pakistan proved to be a bit of a dampener for them. Losing to New Zealand and then against their arch-rivals, India, eliminated them from the knockout stage. Being the holders of the trophy, the Pakistan team looked as depleted and in disarray. Their cricket is sliding downhill and one hopes it does not follow the path of their dwindling hockey performance. An India versus Pakistan cricket encounter is the pinnacle match of an ICC tournament and one that has the millions rooted to their seats. If Pakistan does not qualify or India wins with ease, both these scenarios would be disastrous for cricket in the future.

Pakistan have some talented players in their side and one hopes they get their act together very soon or 'they will be cricket's 'also ran' like the West Indians.

There has been a lot of hue and cry over India having the advantage of playing all their matches in Dubai. Travel is one area of present-day cricket that can bring in exhaustion and therefore one does understand the reason why people are saying so. However, the Champions Trophy is an ICC event that was looked at being eliminated from the exhausting cricket calendar. With the World

Test Championship and franchise cricket making a dent, this tournament would have otherwise been shelved.

A Champions Trophy without India would have taken a big hit on the ICC finances. The tournament was initiated to assist the smaller and non-test playing countries in financing and developing their cricket. Sans India, this would not have been possible.

The structure and draw of the tournament was approved by all the participating ICC member countries. Therefore, to criticise and bicker over why India was given preferential treatment was a sorry state of weeping losers. India, by far, were the best side in the tournament and also the number one side in the ICC rankings. India winning it in such style and splendour has brought to light a Championship tournament which nearly got buried.

The next edition of the Champions Trophy will be held in the year 2029 in India.

A win then will definitely be an additional cherry on the cake, after all, India has won it now on three occasions.

Well done, India! **BG**

(A scion of the royal family of Bilkha, Yajurvindra Singh has played Test and One Day Cricket for India; has captained Maharashtra & Saurashtra; and is Director & Board member of the Indian Cricketers Association, a company established to look after former cricketers.)

A Fitting Tribute

Reliving the contribution of Bombay Gymkhana's second Indian President Russi Talyarkhan, as shared by his son, former BG Treasurer, Darab Talyarkhan

RFS Talyarkhan—better known as Russi Talyarkhan—hailed from an eminent and respected family. Educated at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, from where he took his law Tripos and MA degree, it was while in England that his love for all sports grew and he became proficient in athletics, cricket, golf and tennis. In 1929, he was called to the Bar from Lincoln's Inn. On his return to India, he practised law at the Bombay High Court and would subsequently forge a life-long innings working at the House of Tata's.

FOCUS ON SPORTS

A member of the Bombay Gymkhana for many years, the high point of his membership came in 1970, when he became only the second Indian President of the Bombay Gymkhana. As President, he took every opportunity to enhance the club's reputation as a genuine multi-disciplined sporting club in the city. Every sporting facility offered by the club was supported and promoted, and he always encouraged members to devote as much time and attention as possible to building up and maintaining their fitness.



Russi Talyarkhan



© Bombay Gymkhana Sports Office

Through his unceasing and determined efforts, the Aga Khan Hockey Tournament that used to be the pride of the club's sporting events—but had been cancelled for a decade—was conducted again. Similarly, when the idea of building a swimming pool was mooted, he convinced the Managing Committee to incur the extra completion cost to provide a new sporting and recreational facility for the lasting benefit of all members.

A FITTING MEMORIAL

He was one of those rare individuals who leave memories of affection and fondness when they pass away. When the gymkhana Managing Committee wanted to honour him in some manner, his family proposed a new limited overs cricket tournament as a tribute to his memory. This was agreed to readily. The resulting tournament in 1972 became one of the first limited overs cricket tournaments in the world. More than 50 years later, the RFST Memorial Cricket Tournament has withstood the test of time, recently morphing into a T20 version. **BG**

(Excerpted from the original published in Black & Gold June 2019)



Glimpses from the RFST Memorial Tournament 2018-2019 (image courtesy Bombay Gymkhana sports office)

© Bombay Gymkhana Sports Office

IMAGINATIVE ADVENTURES

Saturday Morning Storytime at BG filled the little ones with wonder

Reading aloud with children brings a special kind of joy. The shared conversation a book creates is an irreplaceable learning for them. We had a wonderful time at Storytime this month, where Anam Bachooali shared three different stories with our youngest members - 'The Little Wooden Robot and The Log Princess', 'It Wasn't Me' and 'Ilham's Birthday'. The children were filled with wonder and their imagination soared as they heard these tales. The discussion that followed was definitely one that stayed with the children.



Storytime is always fun

To join our WhatsApp group, contact the library.



TALKING TINTIN

The ever-popular books by Hergé sparked a lively discussion at the Children's Book Club

For the March session of The Storyboard's Book Club, our chosen books were the ever-popular Tintin series by Hergé. Equally appealing to both children and adults, the books generated a lively discussion. Our well-informed participant Gayatri Nain was filled with questions and information, and is quite the Tintin fan and expert. She knew all the details about where each book is located, which book follows another as a sequel and was familiar with all the characters like they were her friends! We did some fun activities like finding and colouring in places on a world map where the stories could have been located, and made up some fun curses, Captain Haddock style. Instead of saying 'Ten thousand thundering typhoons', next time try 'Abominable avalanches', or 'Horrendous hurricanes'!



Discussing Tintin

Book Clubs are a great way to get children to think about books, share what they are reading and generate an interest and curiosity for more. Do stay in touch with The Storyboard for activities that will foster your child's love for books. **BG**

IMPACTFUL!

Bombay Gymkhana Book Club members were stirred by the works of renowned author Mahasweta Devi, writes BG's Reena Agrawal

Members at the book club were extremely delighted to have been introduced to Mahasweta Devi - a Sahitya Akademi and a Jnanpith award winner. A doyenne of Bengali literature, she has written extensively, and her work has been revolutionary, to say the least.

Nasreen had read *Our Non-Veg Cow and Other Stories*, a collection of short stories. Reading a few excerpts aloud, she talked about *The Cheetah Man* and *Our Non Veg Cow* as social commentaries written in simple language about the marginalised in a stratified society, injustices and power equations.

A deeply thought-provoking book Nandita shared was *After Kurukshetra*- stories told from the lens of women taken from the *Mahabharat*. Though just 53 pages, it is a loaded narrative, which pulls the reader into the lives of the characters and yet finds ways to liberate them. From the chambers of silence in which the bereaving royal household lives after the epic war, it tells how ordinary women are more liberated and practical in their thinking than those in power. Kunti's story shook us up a bit. Perveen's query - does forgiveness absolve our actions? - set the concept of forgiveness in a larger context of reaping what we sow but how do we ask forgiveness for an action we do not know we have committed?

For Neelam, *Old Women* showed the hypocrisy of society. About relationships outside the normative structure, it was a comment on how we treat our own people on the fringes with disdain and abandonment.



Members discuss the moving works of Mahasweta Devi

Nafisa felt that all the stories we read were so modern and relatable in today's world too. The humour shines through in some of Devi's short stories and bone-chilling emotions through other books like *Rudaali* and *Hazaar Chourasi ki Maa* which have been made into films.

While all of us are discussing, it is always such a good feeling to have Rita regularly attending and enquiring about the book discussion. She listens attentively. That's what the book club does. While some of us actively and passionately talk, there are some who listen and soak in the book in their own way.

Just as we were closing, Nandita brought our focus to the covers of the books. We will let you 'read' the covers and share your thoughts with us whenever we meet in the Library next. **BG**



TRADITIONS & TOGETHERNESS

BG's Malika D'Cunha explores the spirit of Easter

As the 40 days of Lent come to a close, we await a new beginning filled with hope and renewal, Easter. This day gives us all a promise of hope, redemption, and new life. Marked by joyful celebrations, and traditions like egg hunts, people rush to reserve their marzipan or chocolate eggs, in the hope of getting their orders on time. During the Easter week, most of the bakeries are filled with the delicious aroma of hot cross buns. This simple yet delicious snack of warm bread filled with nuts and raisins is a favourite and a must-have for those who have never tried it. The delicious Easter lunch, a feast after a period of abstinence, followed by a long afternoon siesta always makes this day memorable.

Beyond the whole spiritual story of Easter, this day has an important place in each of our lives. Easter gives us the opportunity to take up new beginnings, be it financial decisions with the declaration of the budget, health reforms, taking up new hobbies, focusing on oneself or simply managing our time better. Just as spring brings blooming flowers and fresh growth, Easter reminds us that change is inevitable and, very often, the start of something better.

As we move away from the cold, windy winter to the start of a warm and sunny summer, there are bound to be changes in all our lives. Whether spiritually or personally, Easter encourages us to start anew, embrace hope, and walk forward with faith, love, and a fresh perspective on life. **BG**





INVESTMENTS 101

Some basic advice on financial management for the uninitiated from
BG's **Manoj Rane**, delivered with a slice of humour

As I write this article, let me get some caveats in first. If you are a smart and sophisticated investor, please stop reading now. Indeed, if you are smart and sophisticated, what are you doing reading this magazine?? Okay, my quota of humour over, let's dive into the subject at hand. Investments, particularly those in the stock market, have become a hot topic since the market's sharp decline over the last couple of months. So first, a word of advice (in fact this article is full of many words of advice), don't panic, hold that beer and continue to chill. Keep playing tennis, bridge or anything that keeps you away from mischief in the market and don't stop frequenting the bar at night.

While investing, you need to follow the adage: fill it, shut it, forget it! Don't keep looking at the speedometer, just

focus on the odometer. Enough of the vehicular analogies already!

Investments need to be given time and they will always grow. You need to keep ignoring the vagaries of the market and just follow the long term trend. And in this long run, we aren't all going to be dead. Only guys who speculated in the short run!

Markets follow a basic rule. Growth of an economy plus inflation in that economy is the rate at which markets are going to grow. Some of the bigger and better managed companies are going to grow their share price faster than others. Hence, all you need to do is invest in stocks of well-managed companies with good corporate governance and honest promoters/owners. If you are a lazy investor like me, you don't even need to do that. Just invest in mutual funds. Select schemes

that only invest in large cap or blue chip stocks. Always choose to invest directly and not through a broker. And always choose growth schemes versus dividend payout schemes. This will ensure minimum cost of investing, minimum risk and maximum tax efficiency. It will also ensure that you can continue your sports, drinking and otherwise lazy lifestyle like I do. All this, while your money continues to work for you!

There is another question you need to answer before you can go back to sleep: What asset classes should I invest in? Equity shares, all of us know very well. Debt or fixed income (FI) is another asset class where you must have allocation. FI tends to be far more safe and stable than equity, it yields regular returns in the form of interest and can be used to tailor a regular income once you are retired (like, I guess, most of us in Bombay Gym are). I advocate a 70:30 rule. 70% in equity when you are 30 and 30% in equity when you are 70. Other assets that you can allocate your vast resources to are gold, and property. Of these, gold appreciates at times of uncertainty but has prolonged periods of stagnation during economic

booms. Property tends to have short bursts of very huge appreciation and then remains moribund for years. Gold is a non-regularly yielding asset and the rental yield on property is very poor. Since most lay investors and even expert ones find it very difficult (nay impossible) to time markets, I am not a big fan of these assets.

So, in conclusion, I hope you have found my first contribution to the Bombay Gym magazine entertaining, if not educative. And remember, all of the above is my personal opinion and should not be construed as investment advice. It's like when you do a bungee jump off a cliff: it's at your own risk! **BG**



(Manoj Rane has been a banker most of his working life, heading Treasuries and Markets businesses at Indian and multinational banks).



From New Orleans to Bombay to our Hearts



On the occasion of International Jazz Day, BG's Malika D'Cunha traces the genre's appeal across continents and even at the Bombay Gymkhana – venue of memorable jazz performances

When I was invited to write an article on jazz for International Jazz Day, celebrated on 30th April, I did what every youngster would do: go online to read about the subject. I was thrilled! Thanks to books and articles by Naresh Fernandes, N Menon, A Bose and so many more print features, I have come away enlightened about this genre of music.

Characterised by improvisation, syncopated rhythms, swing, and a strong sense of individual expression, jazz is a niche interest which captures the heart of jazz lovers who are still intrigued by this fascinating style of music. It incorporates elements of blues, ragtime, and brass band traditions, and has evolved into many subgenres, like swing, bebop, cool jazz, and fusion and, over time, influencing various cultures, making it a truly global musical movement.



A jazz performance

JAZZ IN THE CITY

The arrival of jazz in erstwhile Bombay can be traced to the 1920s and 1930s, when American and European jazz musicians arrived in India as part of touring bands. These musicians often performed at high-end hotels and clubs catering to British expatriates and with them came the styles of swing, ragtime, and blues. One of the earliest known jazz bands to perform in Bombay was led by Leon Abbey, an African-American violinist who toured India with his band in the 1930s. Abbey's performances, along with those of other visiting musicians, introduced jazz to Indian audiences and inspired many.

The city's proximity to the sea made it a hub for international influences. Seafarers and traders brought with them records, music

Blast from the past (Courtesy Taj Mahal Foxtrot: The Story of Bombay's Jazz Age)



scores, and instruments, allowing jazz to seep into the city's musical landscape. The Bombay nightlife, particularly in areas such as Colaba and Marine Drive, became a hotspot for jazz performances, with luxury hotels like the Taj Mahal Hotel and clubs such as the Bombay Yacht Club, not to forget our own jazz nights at BG which members and jazz lovers await.



Chic Chocolate

Taj Mahal Foxtrot by
Naresh Fernandes



Anthony Gonsalves

jazz followed by a musical treat to the ears. A member who enjoys listening to jazz says, "Jazz is very close to Hindustani classical music which allows the musician to explore a piece and tap deep into one's creative expression. The graceful way each note unfolds lends immense beauty to the music. As an instrument, I enjoy listening to the saxophone." Another jazz lover, a BG member for over 55 years, recalls the Jazz Yatras by Niranjan Jhaveri (who was the star lead) and the visits of greats such as Dave Brubeck, Louis Armstrong and Harry James not to forget our own Xavier Fernandes and Braz Gonsalves who added to the enthusiasm for jazz.

Jazz culture is still very much alive in Mumbai. Today, there are various jazz festivals like the Mahindra Blues Festival and many more at the NCPA. The legacy of jazz in Mumbai remains alive and thriving and it continues to be a cherished part of the city's musical heritage. **BG**

GROWING POPULARITY

The presence of Goan musicians played a crucial role in jazz's growth in Mumbai. These musicians, who were well-versed in Western music due to the Portuguese colonisation, quickly picked up jazz and began forming their own bands. A notable mention would be Anthony Gonsalves, a legendary composer and musician who seamlessly blended jazz with Indian film music. His contributions, along with those of other musicians like Chic Chocolate and Micky Correa, helped solidify Mumbai's reputation as a jazz hub in India.

The rise of Bollywood in the 1950s and 1960s further fuelled the popularity of jazz in Mumbai. Film composers such as Shankar-Jaikishan, RD Burman, and SD Burman incorporated jazz elements into their film scores, creating a unique fusion of Indian and Western music. This helped jazz reach a wider audience as it cemented its place in Indian popular culture.

JAZZ AT BG

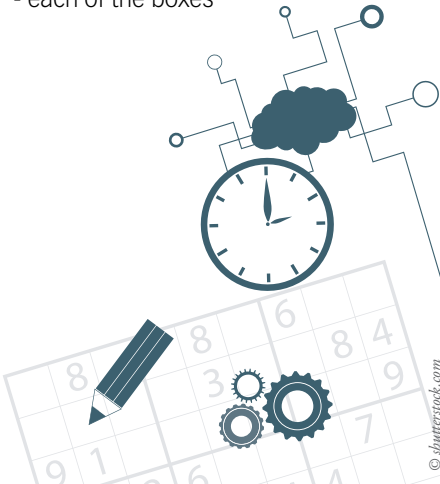
Our very own BG Library had invited Naresh Fernandes, author of *Taj Mahal Foxtrot: The Story of Bombay's Jazz Age* who delighted our members with some facts and trivia on

SUDOKU

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

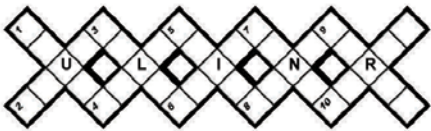
1	8		3		2			9
	7	9				5		
	3			7	5	4		
5	9		1	3		8		
6								5
		7		2	6		9	1
		1	8	6			2	
		4				9	8	
3			4		7		5	6

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



CRISS WORD

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



1. Cram
2. Light downy particles
3. Wrong
4. Motion pictures
5. Pigs
6. Departures
7. Nasal cavity
8. German painter Max
9. Rotates
10. Increase suddenly

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:

Life is very interesting... in the end, some of your greatest ____, become your greatest _____. - Drew Barrymore (5,.,9) **BG**

FAEIR
AYSSS
EINNTT
ILTGHP

*		*	*	*	
*		*	*		
	*	*		*	*
*			*	*	

(all solutions on page 35)

SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU

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

CRISS WORD



Answer: Life is very interesting... in the end, some of your greatest pains, become your greatest strengths.

Words: Affre, sassy, intent, plight

ADD SOME BG COLOUR TO YOUR INBOX!

Black & Gold is available via email. To receive the electronic version of Bombay Gymkhana's monthly magazine, simply send an email to relations@bombaygymkhana.com. You can also download it from the BG App. So, check out the latest BG happenings on the 'go'.

In Memoriam

The Bombay Gymkhana deeply regrets the sad demise of:

Inder Chand Jain
(1 March 2025)

BOMBAY GYMKHANA LIBRARY
BOOK CLUB
Read - an - Autobiography

autobiography

BOMBAY GYM LIBRARY INVITES MEMBERS TO SHARE AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY WHICH THEY ENJOYED READING

Monday, 14th April 2025, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, Library

Come join us at
THE STORYBOARD
to celebrate World Book Day and the completion of our exciting Book Bingo challenge!

World Book Day

April 12, 2025
10:00 am to 12:00 noon
A fun time for children ages 3-12

MOVIE & POPCORN!
Have a wonderful time watching a movie that was once a book!

Please register in advance to help us plan better!
library@bombaygymkhana.com (022-43223430)

BOMBAY GYMKHANA LIBRARY
Celebrates
WORLD BOOK DAY
With author
ANNIE ZAIDI

COMEBACK

Annie Zaidi writes across multiple genres including fiction, non-fiction, plays and poetry. Her novel, *Prelude To A Riot*, won the Tata Literature Live! Award for Book of the Year, 2020. Prior to that she won The Nine Dots Prize for Bread, Cement, Cactus (2019) and The Hindu Playwright Award for her play *Unsettled* (2018). Her non-fiction debut, a collection of essays, *Known Turtl Bartering with Bandits and Other True Tales*, was short listed for the Vodafone Crossword Book Award in 2020.

Listen to author **Annie Zaidi** as she talks about her latest novel **The Comeback** a story of the price of betrayal, friendship and forgiveness, second chances and the transformative power of art.

The author will be in conversation with theatre director **Quasar Thakore-Padamee**.

Wednesday, 23rd April 2025, 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Venue: 1875
Seating on first come, first serve basis

Register at
library@bombaygymkhana.com
Telephone no. 43223430

Bombay Gymkhana Library
Presents
BG CONVERSATIONS
A monthly event wherein members share their professional expertise on a wide range of interests through interactive & enriching discussions.

DIGITAL IDENTITY
A DEEP DIVE INTO ADHAAR

with
Mr. SUMNESH JOSHI, IIS
Deputy Director General
(Ministry of Communications, GOI)

ADHAAR

Digital transformation is taking place at a very fast pace and a robust ecosystem has been created to further innovate and provide services. Listen to Mr. **Sumnesh Joshi** as he speaks about Aadhaar and its related services and about how citizens must use Aadhaar to stay safe in this digital era.

Mr. **Sumnesh Joshi**, Deputy Director General is working in the area of communications, a backbone of digital transformation. Having worked with UIDAI as a part of the founding team under leadership of Mr. Nandan Nilekani, he was instrumental in setting up the implementation of biometric based Digital Identity 'Aadhaar' project and has over 25 years of experience in the Indian Telecom Service. Mr. Joshi holds a Master's degree in Data Economics and Development Policy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA, a Certificate course in Public Policy, University of California Berkeley and an MBA from the Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, India.

Wednesday, 16th April 2025, 5.30pm to 6.30pm
Venue: 1875
Register at
library@bombaygymkhana.com
Telephone no. 43223430

CUTTING HAIR

BG's Sunita Rajwade prepares for summer the old-fashioned way

A long-forgotten birdcall woke me up the other day. The koel reminded me that our brief Mumbai winter is over. This was brought home when I went down for a walk and saw that Archie was upset. He was actually in quite a funk. He was trying to avoid me and everyone else in the building. I wondered why. Then, I realised he'd had his long locks cut off for the summer transforming him from a cute, cuddly Shi Tzu into a skinny, old dog. No wonder he was embarrassed. But honestly, in this hot weather, there's nothing like keeping one's hair short.

So I decided to get my summer haircut too.

While walking down to the neighbourhood parlour, I came across a tacky sign on a tacky shop that said 'International Hairdresses'. Not only was I taken in by the wrong spelling but I was quite taken aback by the word hairdresser. I hadn't seen it in quite a while. It took me back to the days when hairdressers cut hair in 'beauty parlours'.

Today, hair is not cut, it is styled. More often than not, this is done at a 'salon' or 'hair spa'. And not by a regular hairdresser but by a 'senior' or 'junior stylist'. And the whole procedure is quite different.

Gone are the days when you could walk into a parlour, get your hair spritzed wet, cut and then blow-dried. These days, you need an appointment and consider yourself lucky if you get one on the day you feel like cutting your hair. Once your appointment is fixed, you are asked what kind of 'treatment' you would like as there is nothing like a plain haircut. You can have a hair wash, a trim, highlights, hair mask, hair spa and then a blow dry or a blow-out.

You are offered an array of herbal teas or other exotic beverages while the stylist works on your hair. There is a temple-like stillness with soft music in the background and clients patiently getting their hair done in this Zen-like space. And often enough, you may find a MAN sitting in the next chair because many parlours these days are unisex!

Luckily, a few old-fashioned beauty parlours still exist. As I step into my regular salon, I am greeted with the sound of clicking scissors, loud pulsating music and the chatter of just women letting down their hair. **BG**

