

Black & Gold

The Bombay Gymkhana Magazine

August 2024 Volume 14 Issue 4

*Happy
Independence
Day!*



LADY J STUDIO

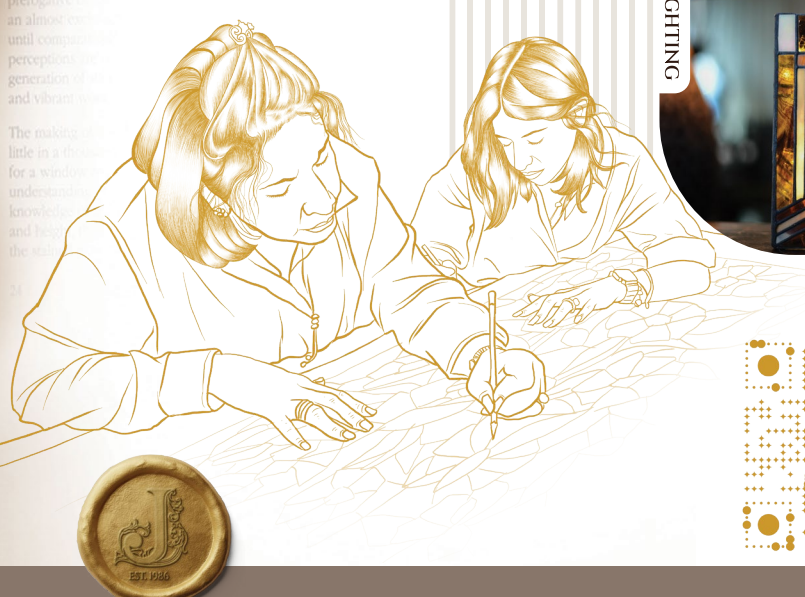
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A Glass Apart

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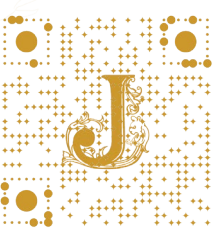
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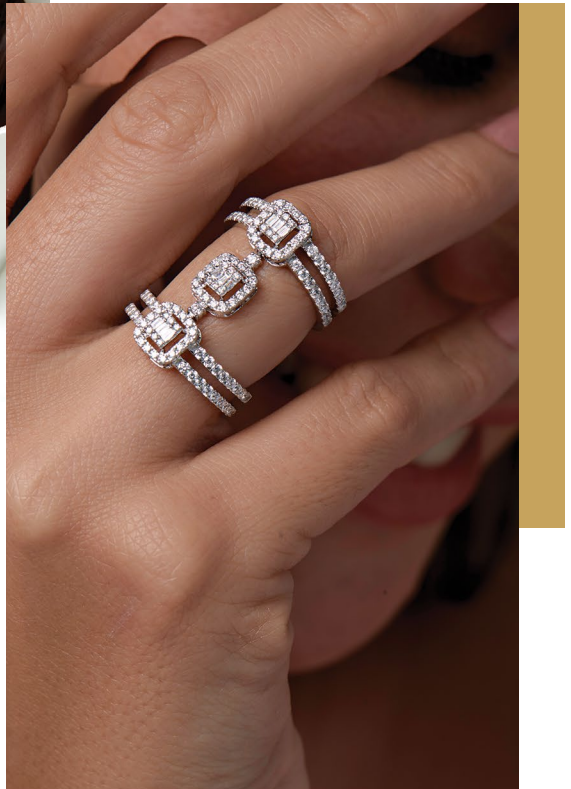
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Message to our members



Dear Members,

The monsoons set a different ambience at the Club with members enjoying the rains with family and friends. Sports continues to be the top ranked activity, and this month, the Squash section has given us much to talk about.

SQUASH ACTIVITIES

Over the years, Bombay Gymkhana has become a centre for quality Squash championships, with its annual calendar filled with the cream of Indian Squash players participating in the same. These events serve as a platform for budding players to showcase their talent. At the recently concluded 47th edition Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Squash Tournament, over 550 players participated. Kudos to Hon. Secretary Squash Sumeet Rewari, his Sub-Committee and the entire sports management team for a hugely successful and seamless execution of this tournament, earning immense praise from the participants and the Squash fraternity alike.

The reputed Senior Squash Nationals will be held early August, with a record 700 entries already registered. A very special attraction during these nationals is that all the finals will be played in the Glass Court, which will be set up in the Badminton Court.

TOWN HALL

The Town Hall was held on 24th July 2024 and attended by 120 members. It was an opportunity to provide a collective response to the queries raised by some members on the unaudited half yearly financial results that were circulated to members earlier in the year.

Besides, information was also shared on (a) plans for new facilities at the Squash Courts, (b) renovation of the UFC, (c) additional FSI potential of Bombay Gymkhana built-up area and its usage, and (d) Padel Court installation on Tennis Court No 6.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES FUNCTIONS, SPECIAL SPORTS EVENTS & FOUNDERS' WEEK CELEBRATIONS 2024 – Financials (January to June 2024)

A. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES & SPECIAL SPORTS EVENTS

During the above period, apart from the regular social activities events, a few marquee sports events were held. The Bombay Gymkhana Arena Polo Championship 2024 was revived after 100 years at BG and was watched by over 1,200 members, alongwith some special invitees, and for the first time in its history of 148 years, a Bombay Gymkhana 10K Run 2024 was held early this year.

Your Gymkhana has not only been on a mission to provide greater member engagement opportunities by providing high quality and memorable events but also those that enhance our Bombay Gymkhana brand. Keeping a keen focus on judicious spending

of our Club's monies, immense effort has to be made to attract sponsorships to enhance brand Bombay Gymkhana, thereby safeguarding the financial health of our Club.

On several occasions, members have suggested that such efforts must be shared with the larger body. So here below is a brief look at some of these figures.

Historically, your Gymkhana used to incur a large expense in curating such events. Through a concerted effort during the period (January 2024 to June 2024) whilst we hosted 23 events, we managed to save around ₹53.10 lakhs from the approved deficit budget of ₹58.33 lakhs, thus actually spending only ₹5.23 lakhs or 9% of Gymkhana funds which had been allocated for spending.

PERIOD: January 2024 till June 2024	
SPONSORSHIP & FEES RAISED:	₹1,03,50,233.00
ACTUAL EXPENDITURE:	₹1,08,73,744.00
APPROVED DEFICIT BUDGET:	₹58,33,770.00
ACTUAL DEFICIT:	₹5,23,511.00
ACTUAL SAVINGS (v/s approved deficit budget):	₹53,10,259.00 (91% savings)

B. FOUNDERS' WEEK CELEBRATIONS 2024

I would also like to draw your attention to the financial aspect of the Founders' Day Celebrations 2024 (about which I have already written in the previous issue). As compared to Founders' Week celebrations 2023, when your Gymkhana spent approx. ₹31.90 lakhs, this year, the Gymkhana spent ₹6.93 lakhs only, a reduction of 78% of the expenditure incurred in the previous year. (See details in the table below.)

	FOUNDERS' 2023	FOUNDERS' 2024
(A) INCOME (Sponsorships/ Collection) F & B	₹18,67,350.00	₹17,40,179.00
(B) EXPENSES	₹50,57,567.00	₹24,33,938.00
(C) DEFICIT (A-B)	₹31,90,217.00	₹6,93,759.00

As we enter the month of August, we look forward to seeing you and your families at the Gymkhana to witness the Senior Squash Nationals, Independence Day flag hoisting ceremony and many other sports and social activities organised for you and your families.

Sanjiv Saran Mehra
President

JACQUES BOGART
PARIS

SILVER SCENT
AQUA

THE NEW EAU DE PARFUM



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Bombay Gymkhana

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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.

Continuing our series on the behind-the-scenes bolsters of BG.



Behind the numbers: keeping Bombay Gym a fair and fun place

Questions with...

Jeffrey Cardoz, BG Accounts Controller



**Jeffrey Cardoz,
BG Accounts Controller**

of accounts have to be controlled by me – quarterly, monthly or annually. And the onus of the audit also falls on me. Once the accounts are audited, the annual report is finalised.

4. Are you involved in budgeting?

The budgets are prepared by departments, who run the events and games, etc. I check the calculations and then give my approval to the department. I ensure that the budget meets the financial criteria, meaning it should not surpass the earlier budget. And if it does, I ask for a confirmation and reason before giving the go ahead.

5. What do you enjoy the most about your job?

I enjoy being among the core people in finance, it's like a privilege, you know. I have to keep my eyes, ears, everything, on red alert, always, to ensure that no mismanagement or misappropriation of funds takes place.

On a personal level, I enjoy working at Bombay Gym. Throughout the 34 years I have worked here only once some 10 years after I joined did I ever think of searching for another job. I get a lot of mental satisfaction working here. That's why you will notice most of the BG staff end up putting in minimum 25 years. The Committees at Bombay Gym change, but they all adhere to the same principle and make life at Bombay Gym good for both the members and the staff. **BG**

1. Can you tell me when you joined BG?

I joined in November 1990. It was not my first job but I was only around 21–22 when I started working in Bombay Gym.

2. What does a typical day look like for you in your role as an Accounts Controller at BG?

First, I check all emails and then note what actions are to be taken and then the routine job starts. All the vouching accounts, posting, checking the bills which are posted, etc.

3. What are your duties and responsibilities here?

I'm the financial accounts controller. All the accounting entries which go into the books

Goal-driven team

Kyra Aggarwal and Aditi Jhaveri laud the BG Sharks' historic promotion to Elite status.



▲ The BG Sharks Squad

In the Mumbai Football Association (MFA) Women's League, few successes resonate as profoundly as that of the BG sharks, a team that defied expectations and etched their name in Club history through sheer determination and unwavering support. After a season of intense competition, the Sharks secured a remarkable second-place finish in the Super division, clinching a long-awaited promotion to the Elite division.

The journey began with a roster filled with talent and a management team committed to success. Match after match, the Sharks displayed their immense resilience despite numerous obstacles and five crucial injuries. They put up spectacular performances both home and away. However, it was the electric atmosphere at their home

ground that truly became their fortress. The Sharks played four of six pivotal matches at home, each one a testament to their growing prowess and shared ambition with unconditional support. The final two matches on the away turf were filled with tension and anticipation, but the team maintained their composure, guided by dedicated leadership and a collective desire to make it. With four wins and two draws, they ended the season as the only unbeaten team.

The team scored a total of 17 goals in 6 games. Captain Kyra Aggarwal and Aanya Vora both scored a hat-trick each, in two different matches, and together scored 9 out of the 17 goals. With Danyeshka Dcruz as our centre back,



▲ Heart on the field, victory on our minds

◀ Sharks in action



▲ The first match - the beginning of the journey

It's no surprise that the team conceded a mere 4 goals in the tournament. A hard-fought draw in the deciding match of the league against Somaiya FC culminated in a moment of triumph. Our girls were 2-0 in the first half, but managed to equalise before half time, as the continuous efforts of Ayesha Munot and Mihika Iyer bore fruit, showing their immense fighting spirit. A big thank you to Coach Anthony Fernandes, and our managing team consisting of Zainab Ayaz,



▲ Center back Danyeshka Deruz defending with a solid header

Vineet Gangwani and Football Hon. Secretary Rahul Raichand. The team's success on the field is a reflection of their belief and encouragement off the field.

Looking ahead, the Sharks prepare to embark on a new season, facing tougher challenges and fiercer competition. Yet, they do so with the confidence born of their recent success and the knowledge that they have the support of an entire community behind them. Their rise to this promotion is more than just a tale of sporting achievement; it is a testament to the power of unity, determination and the enduring spirit of the beautiful game. As they prepare to take their place among the "Elite", one thing is certain: their journey is far from over—it is only just beginning. **BG**



▲ Captain Kyra Aggarwal ready to lead her team against Oscar Foundation

▼ Chasing goals



The BG Sharks with BG President Sanjiv Saran Mehra (extreme left) and BG VP Naheed Divecha (fifth, top row)

T20I World Cup 2024

No stopping India

BG member **Shirish Nadkarni** on India's glorious reach for the stars at the T20I WC 2024.

Can a single catch, no matter how difficult or challenging, change the course of a cricketer's entire future career?

Yes, it can – if one considers the effect that the marvellous catch taken on both sides of the boundary line by Suryakumar Yadav (better known as SKY) from a towering strike by South African David Miller off the bowling of Hardik Pandya in the crucial final over of the 2024 T20I World Cup had on the player's career.

From being just another batter in India's T20 team, SKY was elevated to the status of captain of the national side for the upcoming white-ball tour of Sri Lanka. Both in terms of agility and presence of mind, that catch, which turned the match on its head and allowed India to emerge world champions by a wafer-thin six-run margin, convinced the selectors that SKY was a better bet to lead the country, following the T20I retirement of its most successful captain, Rohit Sharma.

Pandya had been vice-captain of the team at the World Cup, had played for the first time in the US and West Indies, and would have been favoured to take over at the helm. However, his frequent breakdowns bespoke a fragile body that could have meant unscheduled absences from what could have been vital matches. SKY's greater ruggedness, as also his affable nature, which allowed him to get along well with every member of the team, eventually tilted the scales in his favour. But it all started with that catch for the ages.

Ironically, SKY's moment of fielding brilliance in an encounter where he had not contributed much with the bat, moved his nose in front of Pandya, who had actually been instrumental in pegging the Proteas back when they required 30 runs off the final five overs with as many as



▲ Shirish Nadkarni

six wickets in hand, and with the Miller-Klaasen partnership going great guns. Pandya bowled two of these five overs, with the admirable Man-of-the-Series, Jasprit Bumrah, bowling two testing, miserly overs, and left-armed Arshdeep Singh chipping in with one.

The tactical acumen of skipper Rohit – along with help from wicket-keeper Rishabh Pant's apparent thigh strain that required strapping, and broke the momentum of the South Africans – brought home the bacon for India who were claiming their first international

T20I World Cup after their unexpected triumph in the very first edition of the World Cup in 2007. It was also the first international title after their Champions Trophy win in 2013 under Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

The heist in the final against the 'perennial chokers' of international cricket was much-needed balm for the tortured soul of Rohit Sharma, who had faltered in the closing reaches of the ODI World Cup last year, after India had been proclaimed to be the best team in the tournament, but had been out-thought, out-maneuvred and outplayed by Australia and their canny captain, Pat Cummins, in the final.

On this occasion, it was not so much a case of South Africa choking, as India snatching victory from the jaws of defeat, to employ a much-used cliché. The Proteas were the only team in the competition, apart from India, to get into the final unscathed, although they could well have bitten the dust against minnows Nepal, after scrambling to a heart-stopping one-run victory in a low-scoring group encounter.

The Indian team, on their part, had made the final without suffering a loss, and after beating some of the strongest teams in the world, like Pakistan,



▲ The World Cup-winning catch by SKY



Australia, surprise package Afghanistan (who played their best-ever international tournament, and reached the play-off semi-finals before being overawed by the occasion, and succumbing meekly to South Africa) and England, with a degree of conviction.

The Indian victories, in the first half of the tournament, were achieved on difficult 'drop-in' pitches in the US that were not at all conducive to batting, and where the ball misbehaved at all times, sometimes rising disconcertingly from the good-length spot, and at other times, shooting through low.

For Indian batters, this trial by fire on the US wickets, after having a rollicking time on the benign Indian pitches in the Indian Premier League (IPL), was distinctly traumatic. Nevertheless, they stuck grimly to their task, and played as a team, with someone or the other putting their hands up when they were driven up against the wall.

Top scorer in the IPL, Virat Kohli, who was preferred to Yashasvi Jaiswal in the opener's role, simply could not come to terms with the team's new mantra of going hell for leather from Ball One, and looked like a fish out of water. However, Rohit Sharma, back-from-the-dead Rishabh Pant (promoted to the vital No. 3 position in the batting order), Surya Yadav, Shivam Dube or Axar Patel all contributed in one match or the other when runs were badly needed. All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja was the only Indian who had a quiet tournament with the bat.

But the bowlers, spearheaded by the admirable Bumrah, were bang on the money. The Indians played horses for courses, giving Mohammed Siraj his head on the bouncer wickets of the US, but dropping him and bringing in left-arm Chinaman bowler Kuldeep Yadav on the slower

wickets of the Caribbean. In all the matches that he played before the final, Kuldeep, who bowled a good 10 km quicker than he used to, had every one of the rival batsmen struggling to pick him, and floundering abjectly against his spin, fizz and accuracy.

The win against Pakistan at the Nassau Country International Cricket Stadium proved to be one of the most bitterly contested games in a tournament which had a plethora of close finishes. Played in front of a jam-packed house, where tickets were selling for obscene prices in the black market, the traditional 'Battle of the Roses' saw Pakistan electing to bowl first, and bundling out the Indians for an unimpressive 119 off 19 overs.

Pant made the only worthwhile contribution of 42 off 31 balls, while Pak speedsters Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf and Mohammad Amir grabbed eight wickets between them. In reply, Pakistan appeared to be coasting, with the ever-reliable Mohammad Rizwan anchoring the innings in what should have been a routine chase, with 31 off 44 balls. But man-of-the-match Bumrah had other ideas, and ripped out three batsmen for 14 runs, to restrict Pakistan to 113 for seven, and handing India a victory by six runs.

From that point on, there was no stopping the Indians, and they sailed serenely through the tournament, thrashing defending champions England by 68 runs, before pipping South Africa in what was a final that neither team deserved to lose. But as one watched the jubilation and tears on the faces of the victors, in comparison with the shattered, forlorn visages of the Proteas, one could conclude that it had been a great victory for the sport and a successful experiment of bringing instant Cricket to the bastion of Baseball and Basketball. **BG**

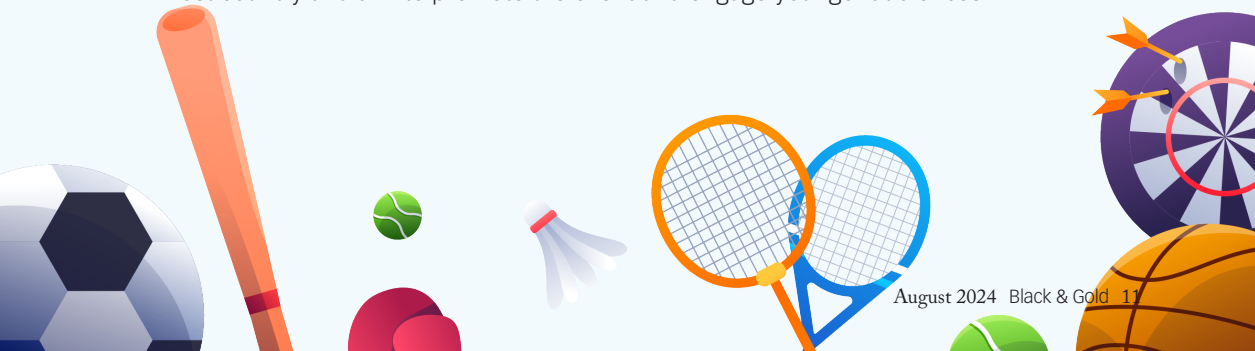
BG FALCONS ARE RECRUITING!



The Bombay Gym Senior women's team, the Falcons, is looking to expand its team. No prior experience required but ladies need to be committed to regular training. If interested, please leave your name and number at Reception and a member of the team will get back to you.

10 Fun Facts about the Olympics

1. **Ancient Beginnings:** The first recorded Olympic Games took place in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece. These ancient games were held in honor of Zeus and featured events like Running, long Jump and Wrestling.
2. **Five Rings, One Symbol:** The five interlocking rings of the Olympic symbol represent the five inhabited continents of the world (Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania) and signify the meeting of athletes from around the world at the Olympic Games.
3. **Gold Medals Aren't Pure Gold:** Contrary to popular belief, Olympic gold medals are not made entirely of gold. Since 1912, they have been mostly composed of silver with a thin layer of gold plating.
4. **First Modern Olympics:** The modern Olympic Games were revived in 1896 by Pierre de Coubertin and held in Athens, Greece. The event featured 14 nations and 43 events.
5. **Olympic Flame Tradition:** The tradition of the Olympic flame originates from the ancient Greeks, who kept a fire burning throughout the duration of the ancient Games. The modern Olympic flame is lit in Olympia and then transported to the host city, symbolising the connection between the ancient and modern games.
6. **Winter and Summer Games:** The Winter Olympics were introduced in 1924 in Chamonix, France. Initially held in the same year as the Summer Olympics, the Winter Games have been held separately every four years since 1994.
7. **First Female Athletes:** Women first competed in the Olympics in the 1900 Paris Games. There were 22 women out of 997 athletes, participating in events like Tennis, Sailing, Croquet, Equestrianism and Golf.
8. **Youngest and Oldest Olympians:** The youngest known Olympian is Dimitrios Loundras, who competed in Gymnastics at the age of 10 in the 1896 Athens Olympics. The oldest Olympian is Oscar Swahn, who won a silver medal in Shooting at the age of 72 in the 1920 Antwerp Games.
9. **Only Three Olympics Cancelled:** The Olympics have been cancelled only three times in history, due to World War I (1916) and World War II (1940 and 1944). The 2020 Olympics were postponed to 2021 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.
10. **Olympic Mascots:** Olympic mascots have been a part of the Games since the 1968 Grenoble Winter Olympics. They are usually inspired by the culture, history or natural fauna of the host country and aim to promote the event and engage younger audiences. **BG**



Books that spark joy

For the July edition of the Book Club, we asked members to share books that brought joy into their lives.



▲ Discussing books that brought us joy

Add these to your cart, books we enjoyed reading!!

“ Neelam Nathwani

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery made for a wonderful read as it opened up many topics for discussion: philosophy, social attitudes and prejudices.

“ Shefali Balsari Shah

Welcome to the Hyundai-dong Bookshop – The Heart-warming Korean Sensation by Hwang Bo-reum is a delightful addition to the growing body of recent East Asian fiction about reading that features charming works like “What You Are Looking For is in the Library”(Michiko Aoyama) “Days at the Morisaki Bookshop” with a sequel “More Days ...” (Satoshi Yagisawa). This Korean bestseller, with its wide-ranging literary and philosophical references, celebrates self-realisation, the warmth of human connection and, above all, the transformative power of books.

“ Abhimanyu Poonia

I loved reading *Zorba the Greek*. This captivating book explores the balance between thinking and feeling. A quiet writer learns life lessons from Zorba, who lives with passion. Zorba’s zest for life inspired me, showing how to fully embrace experiences. The book suggests wisdom comes from living not just thinking. It celebrates being free, spontaneous and finding happiness in small things. This story reminded me to enjoy life more fully.

“ Deepak Sethi

Governing Business & Relationships by SW. A. Parthasarathy

What caught my attention in this book was how humans make choices. The author says it emanates from the Mind and Intellect and explains why the Intellect must be strengthened to better manage and supervise Mind’s output in the choice-making process. One of the ways to build this is through the habit of reading good literature and following it with independent reflection on relevant themes and higher ideas. That’s precisely what we do at our Book Club!

Siddika Chinwala

Knife by Salman Rushdie

This book had me riveted from page one. It's an unputdownable and unmissable tour de force

The Best Way to Bury Your Husband by Alexia Casale

An exciting page-turner, which I didn't mind skipping meals for, dealing with the incredible power of female friendship.

My World without Jehan: Surviving a Brother's Suicide by Liana Mistry

A moving memoir forging a path to healing, understanding and, finally, letting go.

The Women by Kristin Hannah

A compelling, powerful novel depicting an intimate portrait of women coming of age in a dangerous time.

Here are some more books which brought joy into our member's lives

Anamika Chakraborty

The Untethered Soul by Michael A Singer and *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee

Gauri Sinh

Mermaid Singing by Charmian Clift; *A Theatre for Dreamers* by Polly Samson; and *Education of a Wandering Man* by Louise L'Amour. Happy Reading!

Nafisa Moochchala

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy

Rajendra Shah

The Right Kind of Wrong by Amy Edmondson


Vispi Balaporia

Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America, Firoozeh Dumas



It has been described as "a humorous and introspective chronicle of a life filled with love – of family, country, and heritage." Firoozeh's struggles to fit into the American culture so different from her own were recounted with such delightful touches of humour that it left me laughing aloud, while simultaneously sympathising with the plight of the family to reconcile itself to the contrasting and conflicting circumstances.

Perveez Merchant


I enjoyed reading *The Prophet and the Idiot* by Swedish author Jonas Jonasson for its wit, humour, political satire and social commentary. A trio of quirky, loveable characters race across continents righting the wrongs done to them. Along the way, they encounter world leaders and have delightful conversations with them. A light-hearted read despite its far-fetched plot.




STORYBOARD
presents
STORYTIME
for young children (4 - 7 yrs)


As we celebrate our nation on Independence Day, come and listen to bilingual stories in **Hindi and English** read aloud by **Shreya Mandrekar**



Saturday, 17th August 2024
11:30am - 12:30pm
The Storyboard (Lower Verandah)



Register at Tel: 43223420
Email: library@bombaygymkhana.com



A Storytime feast

Planting seeds of imagination with stories of foods,
at The Storyboard, writes Shaila Mallik.



▲ Shaila Mallik with the wonder-eyed readers

Food is perhaps the most universal theme of all, which is why we chose it for The Storyboard's Storytime session on Saturday, 29th June. About a dozen kids who gathered for our session had great fun hearing stories about various foods, from mangoes and pumpkins to cookies and *bondas*. The added interest and enjoyment came from the delightful treats we had. As we laughed through the silly but *bonda*ful story of Bondapalli, we got to taste some delicious *bondas* aka *batata wadas*. And while we followed the story about giving a '...Mouse a Cookie', we enjoyed some ourselves too.

To help kids connect with our other stories, BG's gardening team brought us a mango sapling to look at. We planted our own mango tree by opening up the husk (or *gutli* as many of us know it) and extracting the mango seed from it. And since we had also heard the story of a very large pumpkin, we planted some pumpkin seeds too! Next time you are near The Storyboard, do check if our plant has sprouted any shoots. Maybe next year, we can harvest a pumpkin, and in a few years, enjoy The Storyboard's own mangoes!! **BG**



Bonda time ➤

◀Mango sapling
planted by the
children



Summer travelling through books

BG member **Anam Bachooali** writes on The Storyboard's kids summer reading program exploring global cultures and stories.



▲ Children identify countries on the map

“Read Around the World in 60 Days” was a delightful reading program, conceptualised by Priya Aga and assisted by Shreya and Shaila, as an antidote to the reading slump children encounter during the summer holidays. The premise of the program was simple – travel around the world through the pages of a book.

From 15th May onwards, The Storyboard curated a booklist for children of all ages. These included stories with multicultural settings and characters that promoted curiosity, acceptance and respect from all parts of the world. The library stocked books from every continent to give children a taste of literature and culture across borders. They were also encouraged to find their own books based on similar themes.

Through a world map provided by The Storyboard, readers could keep track of all the countries they visited through their reading journey. Every child was also sent a postcard, inviting them to an exciting event at the end of

the summer. The children were thrilled to receive an old school postcard, complete with a stamp and their detailed address on it.

The reading program culminated into a wonderful event on 20th July wherein all the children gathered eagerly to share their experiences of the summer through the books they read and places they journeyed.

The Dining Hall was set up with tables labeled with a continent. The highlight of the event was most definitely the maps of the continents with countries marked out on each of them. However, the twist here was that every country was labeled by the literal translations of the country's name. Did you know that The Land of Many Rabbits was actually Spain, In the Navel of the Moon was Mexico and the Land of Tar was Qatar ?

The children shared their summer adventures, both literal and literary, answered some rick-tickling riddles about stamps and postage across the world, then ran around in the seven corners activity which left them in high spirits as they ran across continents to a musical beat and answered questions by locating the country on the easel-mounted maps like, which country is called The Land of Pomegranates- Grenada, The Land Protected by Fire- Azerbaijan, Little Venice- Venezuela. Needless to say, the children felt like globetrotters and learnt truckloads of trivia too.

When young readers like Ava Davar, a regular at the children's Book Club, happily volunteer to steer a discussion, we know the future of BG readers is in good hands, and all we can say is a big thank you to each one for encouraging reading at BG. **BG**

▼ Readers of the world!



Legacy of new beginnings

Sulabha Samant, wife of Suresh Samant, writes on behalf of the former President of BG who is now 90 years of age. She shares some of his life and times as President of BG from 1993–1995.



▲ Former BG President Suresh Samant (right) with wife Sulabha Samant

My husband, Suresh Samant, became a member of Bombay Gymkhana way back around 1966. He was an ardent fan of Badminton and played a pretty stylish and good game himself. Because of him, I too restarted playing Badminton. We were both very enthusiastic players for a number of years and made good use of the Bombay Gymkhana courts.

Having become a regular visitor to Bombay Gymkhana for Badminton and socialising, Suresh was asked by a Committee member if he would like to be a part of it and help in running Bombay Gymkhana. He took up the suggestion and became an active Committee member. He was first in the Balloting Committee, then later became

Vice President for two years and finally, the President, also for two years.

As the Vice President, Suresh was very enthusiastic and wanted to bring about many changes in the Club. All through his committee years, he laid great emphasis on the fact that the Bombay Gymkhana was essentially a sports-oriented Club and needed to keep up that aspect in every way.

It was during his time as Vice President and later President that he decided to put Bombay Gymkhana's first floor to greater use. At that time, the first floor was a men's only place with a Siesta Room, Billiards Room and Verandah. The Committee members were made aware of this situation, after which it was decided that they should have a Library and above all, a party room, where members could hold private parties. It was during Suresh's years as Vice President and President that the upstairs room was inaugurated as a party room and additional washrooms were put in. That was also when the lift was added for the convenience of senior citizens.

Another very important change and landmark decision taken by the then Managing Committee (MC) was the granting of Bombay Gymkhana membership to women. Until that time, women could not become members of the Club. This was a much-needed change and in keeping with the times, even though many male members were very reluctant to introduce this measure!

Out of the present staff of the Club, there are



▲ Suresh Samant (R) with current BG President Sanjiv Saran Mehra (standing)

quite a few who were appointed by Suresh, and even today, on the rare occasions that he visits the Bombay Gymkhana, the staff remind him that they are there because of him and even remember his membership number by heart. It is indeed gratifying to see their affection and feelings for him.

A few Honorary Secretaries who had the good fortune of serving on the MC (1993-1995) with President Suresh Samant share some precious and fond memories.

Dr P T Bhandary (Hon Secy Bar)

"Suresh Samant was one of the best presidents I have served under. He was very meticulous and always well prepared for every Committee meeting and expected the same from every Committee member. He conducted the affairs of the Gymkhana efficiently, and there were no unsavoury issues during his tenure as the President. Upon his request, I donated two watchmen cabins for our security staff. Suresh was very supportive of the Bar Nites, which I had initiated, which went on to become extremely popular to date. He was also a

good Tennis player with whom I had the opportunity to play with often."

Rajesh Somani (Hon Secy Badminton)

"Suresh Samant was dynamic and decisive, held transparent discussions and formed a very cohesive Committee. Meetings during his tenure were conducted extremely well. A significant trait of his working style was reflected in the manner with which he carried the Committee along with him, ensuring there was no groupism. He gave weightage

to the recommendations of the Honorary Secretaries, and no suggestion of my section was ever refused. A thorough gentleman, Suresh never had a harsh word for anyone and hence, was respected and held in very high regard by everyone."

Harish Melwani (Hon Sec Squash)

"He was probably one of the first few Presidents who was of the view that two years was a good enough tenure for any President to make a difference. A man of conviction, he stayed true to his belief and served in the chair of the President for just that period.

As the Chairman of the MC, Suresh functioned in an open and democratic manner, where every MC member had a voice to express and was heard. He was a man with a vision to provide the best for the members and encouraged several initiatives during his tenure. To mention a few, he inaugurated the first-ever Pavilion on the first floor and created space for a much-needed Library on the same floor." **BG**

Ana, the Reluctant Entrepreneur

Ana Saldanha on finding her path by embracing entrepreneurship in interior design.

I never thought of myself as an entrepreneur. After all, I come from a long line of salaried people – civil servants, teachers, doctors and the like. After having two kids, I sought a profession that I would enjoy and that would also allow me to prioritise my children. A chance conversation with a close friend led me to interior design, and we decided to enroll in a part-time, three-year course at Sophia College.

While still studying I started working at an architectural firm and later with the talented designer, Harish Shah. This experience equipped me to take on projects of my own, marking the beginning of my entrepreneurial journey.

Starting small, thinking big

Initially, I started small, collaborating with two young women who, like me, wanted to work part-time from home. Eventually, I realised that I wasn't just working for myself but also creating livelihoods for many families. The workmen on interior projects are often migrant workers and



▲ Ana Saldanha

the sole breadwinners for their extended families. This realisation fuelled me, adding a deeper purpose to my work – beyond creating beautiful and functional spaces, I was providing regular and fair livelihoods.

In 2016, I set aside my fears, and at the ripe age of 56, I took my business to the next level. I rented an office and hired one

full-time employee. It was scary to take on these fixed costs but part of being an entrepreneur is taking such risks. This was a turning point for my business because it allowed me to provide a different level of professionalism, and the quantum of work I got grew as a result.

Growing the business

Today, our work speaks for itself, and we continue to grow through word of mouth. I have a wonderful team of seven full-time employees that are well-trained and I have established strong structures and processes for running the business. This allows me to dedicate time to my other passions – contributing to community and society. I am a trustee at PCGT, an NGO focused on governance and developing young students into responsible citizens. I also serve as a trustee at Children of the World India Trust, which runs a child-care adoption center. Additionally, I mentor two young women, Noor and Mansha, as part of a mentoring programme for underprivileged girls run by USF (Udyan Shalini Foundation).

Style and design philosophy

Creating homes is my passion. My projects reflect both my aesthetic sensibilities and those of the inhabitants, culminating



Lonavala home

My design philosophy revolves around optimising space, creating uncluttered spaces that flow well, look welcoming and feel like home. Comfort is paramount in every area, be it furniture or kitchen or bathrooms. Safety is also my prime focus, ensuring proper load distribution in electricals and careful attention to waterproofing.

Leaving a legacy

My clients love knowing that their investment in a beautiful home also supports 50–100 families throughout the duration of their project. Doing what I love whilst also creating jobs and having time to contribute in numerous other ways makes me feel very privileged and fulfilled. And also having the time to indulge my passion for travel, spend quality time with family and enjoy the company of friends.

I believe I am setting an example for my three-year-old grandson, to live a fulfilled life – a life he will love! **BG**

in a well-thought-out whole. My style is eclectic – neither contemporary nor classical, but a timeless quiet grace. My guiding principle is that I should still love the home 10 years down the line. I prefer using products made in India. With our Indian interior products having come a long way, I don't have to go far. I often incorporate mid-century modern furniture.

I enjoy finding interesting accent furniture and accessories, integrating clients' cherished art and artifacts, and giving them pride of place. Lush plants are a staple in my designs, connecting the home with nature.



Trailblazing lawyer

BG member **Sunita Rajwade** in conversation with BG member **Kanika Atul Premnarayen**, Solicitor in India and England and Wales.

1. Where did this illustrious journey begin and at what age did you decide to pursue law. Please take us through your early years of education and the decision of becoming a lawyer.

I am a dual qualified lawyer and have been admitted as a Solicitor in India with the Bombay Incorporated Law Society in 2008 and as a Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales in 2011 and am a member of the International Bar Association as well. I completed my law degree from the Government Law College, Mumbai (GLC) in 2006 and have been enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Maharashtra and Goa since July, 2006.

I always wanted to be a lawyer from my early childhood days, and I worked very hard towards achieving my dream. Coming from a very traditional family, I decided not to follow the family business of advertising as I was determined to make a mark of my own. I remember preparing my legal education roadmap as early as Grade 5 and was certain that I needed to study in India if I wanted to practice in India. At that time, being a lawyer meant standing up for what is right and leading seamlessly. I have been an achiever since my school days at Bombay Scottish School, Mumbai where I showed exemplary leadership qualities and was awarded the Best All Round Student and was School VCaptain and House Games Captain as well. I also served as the Chairman of the UNESCO Club, where I spent considerable time assisting the underprivileged and handicapped children of Mumbai. While most of my friends were going abroad to study, I chose to stay in India and pursue the five-year B.L.S.L.L.B degree at GLC where I excelled



▲ Kanika Atul Premnarayen

academically as a University Topper and consistent rank holder and my academic achievements resulted in my appointment to the Student Council of GLC, where I was the General Secretary of the Sports Committee as well. I chose GLC over the national law schools as I could work along with law school from the first year itself and sign my articleship for the Solicitor examinations. I underwent rigorous training as an articled clerk at Wadia

Ghandy & Co, Advocates and Solicitors in the field of corporate law, real estate and litigation under some of the most illustrious and leading lawyers in our country, which equipped me to become a distinguished Solicitor, in addition to an Advocate. I always believe that the decision to take the Solicitor examinations (which is one of the toughest in the country) was the best decision in my professional career as it gave me a foundation par excellence.

I also have been, and continue to be, instrumental in training and mentoring lawyers and trainees (as well as law students) and have assisted in building a well-grounded, focused, like-minded and enthusiastic team of lawyers and I look forward to working even harder and giving back to the legal profession, the amount I have learnt and gained from it.

2. Who have been your biggest support and inspiration in this journey?

My parents Atul and Jyotika Premnarayen have been the most inspirational, encouraging and motivating forces in my career. They have been my pillars of strength, constantly instilling their confidence and values in me. I would like to thank them for their faith, unconditional support and belief in me, which has enabled me to grow and achieve my dream.



3. Other than work, what else keeps you busy? Would you please share your other interests and hobbies with our readers.

As a mother of two boys, aged nine and six, my day is extremely fulfilling and maintaining a work-life balance has been key in my professional career, so far. I write articles for various leading publications and I speak at various forums. I play various sports – I was a keen national- and state-level sportswoman (I won the gold medal at the Mumbai University Squash Championships for three consecutive years during law school) and have also represented my school and colleges

in Tennis, Squash, Throw Ball, Badminton, Table Tennis and Athletics. I also contribute towards and work very closely with various NGOs, focusing on free medical treatment to the underprivileged, cancer patients and education to underprivileged girl children.

4. Words of wisdom from your experiences in the industry?

Change is the only constant so be prepared to embrace it. Learn to observe and absorb before speaking, love your work and believe in yourself and you will definitely succeed. **BG**



Kanika Atul Premnarayan has been ranked as Business Worlds '40 Under 40 Best Lawyers and Legal Influencers' in India; Forbes Legal Powerlist's "Top Individual Lawyer" in India and India's Top 50 Future Legal Leaders by Law Asia's India Business Law Journal, Hong Kong. She is also a Partner at Indian Law Partners.



Reflections on the green baize

BG member and three-time World Amateur Billiards Champion **Michael Ferreira** takes us on a journey through Billiards at Bombay Gym.

The refurbishment of the Bombay Gym's Billiards room has given me cause to reflect on my own career in the three-ball game and the pivotal role the Gym played in it. In fact, I make bold to say that the Gym has achieved iconic status as far as the green baize games (Billiards and Snooker) are concerned.

When I joined the Gym about 60 years ago, the Billiards room was a sleepy place where the sahibs of yore pulled off an occasional two-cushion cannon with inebriated whoops of delight. Cut to a genial German by the name of Herbert Dross, God rest his soul, whose passion for Billiards was in inverse proportion to his ability at it. Herbert used to say that the room resembled a "tched" (shed) and with Teutonic thoroughness proceeded to do something about it. "I'm going to have it air-conditioned," he whispered conspiratorially to me and to my utter surprise and delight, managed to do exactly that. No committee was proof against Herbert's persistence and suddenly, the Billiards room sprang to life.

Back then, I used to work nearby – first, at my dad's solicitors' firm and then, at Bombay House – and the Gym was the perfect place to hone my game. Thanks to a benevolent providence, I was able to devote a lot of time to the game, and it was par for the course that I spent many punishing hours on the Gym tables, at least six on weekdays and at least eight over the weekends.

I remember my good friend, the late Tiger Pataudi, watching fascinated as I indulged in single ball practice till the sweat ran down my brow. I also remember the wife of one of my friends asking me how the heck I did not get bored with such a repetitive routine. How could I tell her that a labour of love is never boring? I am supremely confident that what I say will resonate with all who have a rage for perfection in any sport.

The Gym has witnessed super performances from household names in both games like Norman Dagley, Wilson Jones, Satish Mohan, Subhash Agrawal (the last two being the



▲ Michael Ferreira

best players never to have won a world championship), John Barrie, Jack Karnehm and Leslie Driffield (Billiards) and Steve Davis, Dennis Taylor, Alex Higgins, John Spencer, Kirk Stevens, Cliff Thorburn, Doug Mountjoy and Eddie Charlton (Snooker).

A story about Higgins, a true hellion if ever there was one, bears repetition. Invited by the local Association to play exhibitions in Mumbai and elsewhere, I was given the task of entertaining him for lunch before the evening's exhibition. Gulping vodka like it was going out of style, he prattled on in his rich Irish brogue

to such an extent that my son Mark who must have been about nine or ten at the time, whispered to me, "Daddy, is this foreigner speaking English?"

The story does not end here. Insisting on generous libations of vodka while the game started, he astonished all with a brilliant century in the first frame: "I'll give you more," he said to me, but even a crazy Irishman could not compete with the insidious impact of half a bottle of vodka. Sweating profusely, his game rapidly disintegrated. He suddenly ripped off his shirt and threw it at a member's startled wife. He then strode up to Mr. R. K. Vissanji, the President of the State Association who was wearing a *dhoti* and before our shocked eyes, lifted his *dhoti* exclaiming, "That's a real air-conditioned garment!". Talk about pins dropping! Needless to add, the exhibition matches were cancelled and Higgins was on the next flight home.

The Gym has, over the years, hosted two national championships, a high-profile international Billiards and Snooker tournament where John Spencer and I were the winners and the prestigious Bipin Bodani Snooker championship, which was held for a decade or more.

It is time for us to revive the buzz of high-class Billiards and Snooker tournaments for which the Gym was justly renowned. Even at 86, I would be happy to help in any such ventures. **BG**

◀ Michael Ferreira with Indira Gandhi



My Friend Leo



Tristan Talwar, now 21, reminisces about his love for his furry friend Leo & Leo II on the occasion of International Dog Day.

A dog has no use for fancy cars, big homes or designer clothes. A water log stick will do just fine. A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor, clever or dull, smart or dumb. Give him your heart, and he'll give you his. How many people can you say that about? How many people can make you feel rare and pure and special? How many people can make you feel extraordinary?



▲ Tristan Talwar with Leo

These iconic lines from the film *Marley and Me* so perfectly capture the essence and beauty of a dog. I was lucky to have Leo, a beautiful golden retriever, as my friend and constant companion from the day I was born. As soon as I could stir, he was on bed to prevent me from rolling off and falling down. He was my support, as I learned to stand and take my first steps as a toddler. He was the clown who brought me a squeaky toy, chased his own tail or goofily stood up on his hind legs to make me laugh when I was crying. He accompanied me to school and back and we went to the beach together. So, when he was diagnosed with cancer, I was devastated. I was six and he was seven. He fought valiantly through 14 sessions of radiation. When it was time, I prayed, "Dear god, take Leo up, remove his cancer and send him back as a puppy." A child's prayer was answered.

A fresh litter of puppies were born soon after, and Leo II came home in time for my seventh birthday, along with his sister Elsa. All three dogs were a hit in our community dogs and that is how I got involved with strays. Feeding them daily became a routine. I became part of the community volunteers who fed and vaccinated strays regularly. They taught me the sheer joy of being in each other's



company, and I did what I could for them, knowing they would do whatever they could for me. I learned about the laws that protect homeless, voiceless animals and heard many stories of rescues and kindness shown to these animals. I learnt of NGOs and met kind vets who selflessly helped heal the ill and injured. I learned it was okay to share our society with them in the extreme heat or during heavy downpours.

I also understood that not everyone was like me – some were fearful, but even they came to accept that we share this planet and many would step in to help in their own way through donations or simple gestures like keeping out a clean fresh bowl of water daily. For some like me, it's a passion but for everyone, there is room in their heart for compassion.

Every year, 26th August is marked as International Dog Day and serves as a gentle reminder to us to do what we can, no matter how small. Whether its feeding, donating to NGOs or adopting, these acts are what make us human. And if you ever hear the odd thump or thud in your heart when you commit an act of kindness, it's probably Leo and his other friends in heaven, wagging their magic wands with 'woofie' approval.

International Dog Day is celebrated on 26th August every year. Founded in 2004 by Animal Welfare Advocate and Pet Lifestyle Expert Colleen Paige, it was first celebrated in the year 2004 when Colleen was 10 and her family adopted a dog for the first time on 26th August that year. This special day is earmarked to remind us of the immense joy, unconditional love and countless life-changing contributions dogs bring to our lives. BG





THE PARSIS OF BOMBAY GYM

With Parsi New Year being celebrated on 16th August, we decided to have a fun chat with the lively Parsis of the oval table at Bombay Gym. This is for anyone who might have missed their lively presence at the Club and wants to get acquainted with Parsi culture straight from the source.



▲ (L-R) Fali Warden, Darious Irani, Ketu Irani, Gev Merchant, Jehangir 'Jaggu' Irani and Jehangir Minina shed some light on Parsi culture

As Parsi New Year rolls around in August, there's no better way to celebrate than by catching up with the lively group of Parsi members who frequent the big Oval table at the Club. Known for their vibrant personalities and quick wit, our interview turned chat promised a delightful blend of chaos and hilarity, gently guided along into acquiescence by the presence of the only Parsi lady at the table, Mrs. Ketu Irani.

We start with Gev Merchant, who candidly admits, "I'm the worst Parsi. I don't even go to the fire temple for New Year anymore." After spending years at a boarding school, Gev's detachment from traditional celebrations is apparent. But that's not what today is about. We're here for the fun, the

quirks, and the laughs!

Jehangir Minina, at the ripe age of 81, chimes in, "We enjoy slowing down food-wise." It's clear that while their energy for grand celebrations might have waned, their love for good company and hearty meals hasn't. The group is content to join others after their party trips rather than initiating one themselves.

Celebrations for these Parsis are incomplete without the customary toast. "There is no celebration without saying '*salamat!*'." This tradition of wishing good luck, happiness, and good deeds underscores the essence of their gatherings. "Cheers!" declares Minina.

"No celebration is ever complete without

abundant food and drinks," reminds Darius Irani. Fali Warden adds, "In the evening, we'd follow up with a hilarious slapstick comedy by Adi Marzban. Those plays were legendary!" The group's nostalgia for these comedies highlights their enduring love for humor and entertainment.

Food, drinks, and slapstick comedy

Parsi plays are renowned for their unique sense of humour – a testament to the community's wit and intellect.

The group's fondness for Western music and small skits adds another layer to their vibrant gatherings. These get-togethers are filled with laughter and banter, strengthening the bonds within this close-knit community.



▲ Haft-Sin: A traditional table setting on Parsi New Year

Although the legendary Adi Marzban is no longer with us and stalwarts like Sam Kerawalla and Pheroze Antia are no longer doing plays, the vibrant spirit of Parsi theater lives on through the young talents at Silly Point Productions. Their new plays continue to ensure that Parsis have plays to look forward to, come Parsi New Year's Day.

A feast is a must during celebrations. Darius explains, "Patra ni machchi, a fish wrapped in masala, is served at every Parsi wedding." BG also invites renowned Parsi caterer, Tanaaz Godiwala to deliver a delicious Parsi spread, during Navroz, an event eagerly anticipated by everyone.

Jehangir Irani observes, "You see more and more Parsis in Toronto and America than in India. Migration is a big issue, but education remains a top priority." Despite these challenges, the group's bond remains strong, reflecting the resilience of their community.

From theater and culture to music, their hobbies are as vibrant as their personalities. Ketu Irani shares a fun tidbit, "We had our own little aquarium. My husband and I used to go to the bazaar to buy fish!"



▲ Members partake in BG's Parsi Bhonu food festival

The banana leaf mystery

Darius sheds light on the quirky tradition of eating on a banana leaf at weddings. While South Indians place the leaf horizontally, Parsis place it vertically, leading to many hilarious mishaps with gravy running down the middle.

The joy of self-deprecation

One of the community's cherished traditions is making fun of themselves. Whether through plays or daily banter, their humour keeps their spirits high. "Whatever you say, the Parsi community will survive forever," they declare confidently.

In a world that's constantly changing, it's heartwarming to see this group of Parsis at the Club keep their traditions, humour and camaraderie alive. As they gear up to celebrate Parsi New Year, we raise a toast to many more laughs and good times. Cheers to *salamati!* **BG**

When duty calls...

BG member **Vinod Saigal** recounts a stoic and vivid anecdote during the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988).

In 1982, I found myself in the midst of the Iran–Iraq War. Our mission was to proceed to Kharg Island in Iran to load crude oil for India. Given that it was a war zone, all officers and crew initially refused to go.

After confirming with the Director General of Shipping that the Indian government had not declared Kharg Island a war zone, I tried to persuade the crew to comply. I informed them that refusal to proceed would result in a one-year suspension. Ultimately, they agreed, and we encountered no attacks on our ship during the journey to Kharg Island.

While we were loading oil at the terminal, an



▲ Vinod Saigal

Iraqi air force plane approached to attack Kharg Island. We were instructed to maintain a complete blackout to avoid detection. Meanwhile, Iranian ground forces fired anti-aircraft missiles, creating a bright, almost daylight-like glow in the sky. I directed the crew and officers to don their life jackets and stand by their lifeboats, prepared for an emergency evacuation if needed.

Fortunately, the intensity and frequency of the Iranian anti-aircraft fire forced the Iraqi aircraft to retreat without launching any missiles. From a distance, we observed them jettisoning their missiles into the sea to lighten their load for the return journey to Iraq. **BG**

Dekh Teri Mumbai

The city turned up to welcome the Indian Cricket team after its recent T20I World Cup win.



© Instagram/haryana_14kumar

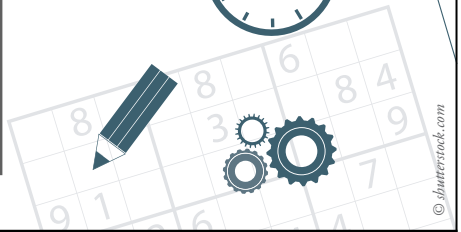
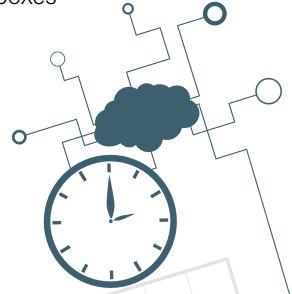


To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit must appear once in:

SUDOKU

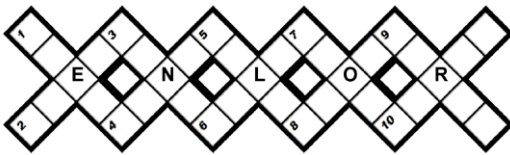
8		5		2			9	
							7	6
6			8	4		2		
			9					
	8	1				9	4	
					5			
		4		3	8			9
9	3							
	1			6		3		5

- 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. Because of (3,2)
2. Newly made
3. Intuitive guess
4. Possessed
5. Broad valleys
6. Assembly rooms
7. Reprimand
8. Avowed
9. Impertinence
10. Went for it

SCRAMBLE

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

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

A ___ is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind. - Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (9) **BG**

- CFEOR
- SHIVE
- SOCLED
- AILNVY

	*	*		*
	*			*
*				*
*				*

(all solutions on page 31)

A race well run...

BG member Urvaksh Naval Hoyvoy reflects on the remarkable life of his Dada, the late Hoshi S. Merchant.



▲ Dada in a black shirt and whisky glass

I was just thinking, Dada (as we all affectionately called him) was one of the luckiest men I've ever met. Here's why.

He was born when Bombay was quaint and quiet, an affordable place to live well. I've heard that he and my mother-in-law would enjoy Chateaubriand steak with chips at The Taj's The Rendezvous restaurant for just ₹33. Back then, people dressed well, and when they went to the Dress Circle at the movies, they dressed up as the section suggested. There was mutual respect, punctuality, integrity and decency; chivalry and humility were considered manly. It was a simpler time, an elegant age.

Dada was born to a wealthy hotelier; their bustling Ruby Hotel was just across from Bhopal Jn. Railway Station. It had a grand façade with the first letter of his mother Aimai's name engraved as a motif on the walls and balconies. In 2003, we had the privilege to visit it, and he enthusiastically took us through the streets of his memories. Dada was blessed with great health and fantastic genes but he never took his health and fitness for granted.

He was extremely disciplined with his schedule and nutrition, embodying the saying, "early to bed and early to rise makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise." He went to the gym religiously, jogged almost daily and played a fierce game of Tennis, winning numerous trophies. His other love was Billiards and Snooker, in which he was also very proficient, winning accolades not just for himself but also for the Gymkhanas he represented.

Of all the Gymkhanas he was a member of,

Dada was most fond of Bombay Gymkhana, of which he was a member since 1970, and he represented BG on many occasions, bringing home cups and trophies with his God-given talent, self-honed skill and a winner's attitude. Twice a week, if not more, he played with the late Anil Hirjee in the Billiards room at 1.00 pm, after a stop at the siesta room and an hour in the Library. BG Staff Savio recalls he would call from Poona before the due date to extend the book lending time.

I recall the first time I met him at the Billiards table, practicing a shot that had constantly eluded me. He walked up behind me and said, "Son, your balance and shoulders are off-center." The moment I corrected it, my shot was perfect, and we became good friends. Watching his match was phenomenal. When Dada approached the table, he bent down, placed his left hand on the felt, rested the cue and took the shot in one motion – sometimes with just one backward cue. He was a master. I've heard he beat a national and a world champion in friendly games, so it did not go on record. He was a handsome man with great taste in clothes, always sharp and always smiling. No one ever said a bad word about him, even those he beat were charmed by his persona. Truly, handsome is as handsome does.

As a family, we celebrated Parsi Navroz, anniversaries and birthdays at the Bombay Gym Bar, including his grand 90th birthday, where Chef



▲ Celebrating birthday afternoons; just father and daughter at the BG bar, always fish and chips and beer

In Memoriam



▲ Family picture; the “Super Seven” as our family WhatsApp group was named

Khan sahib took great care to put out delicious food. Dada’s world was his daughter, and they could often be found at The Bar, he enjoying fish and chips with a cold beer, while she sipped her soup. Their dates were exclusive.

Though he came from a business family, he loved the city and wanted to make it on his own terms. After graduating from St. Xavier’s College, he went to England on a whim with just 10 pounds in his pocket. He returned and began his career, working various jobs until he joined New India Insurance. Later, he joined Air India, aspiring to see the world. At Air India, he met and married Frenyma, as we call her, describing her as “the sweetest Parsi girl.” They met in 1964 and were together through thick and thin, working shoulder to shoulder to raise their family. Dada enjoyed Vancouver and Addis Ababa as Station Manager, and his wife cherished her posting to Muscat, recalling it as three memorable years.

They raised two beautiful, loving and honorable children who loved Dada beyond measure. He wanted them to become Tennis stars. While they had the potential, their paths lay elsewhere. Cyrus became a prolific writer and cherished author, incidentally one of the founding editors of this magazine. Amy became a priceless mother and incredible partner. I won’t praise myself, but I deeply loved him and gave him my complete respect, every comfort and joy I could. He never treated me as a son-in-law but as a son. I was blessed with two dads. He had two fabulous, super-talented and adoring grandchildren, Armaan and Azamaan, who

thought he was Superman, and they became his focus, never missing a school event, music show, or football game they were in. Family was everything to him, as was the unwritten tradition back then. He loved his siblings, and they loved him. He was adored by his nieces and nephews, and he adored them.

He loved a good gamble and found horse racing addictive, but his gambling was self-controlled. He went to The Royal Western India Turf Club, dressed like a suave billionaire, but when he stopped gambling, he still had money in his pocket. Despite losing many races, he left a winner.

Dada was indeed blessed. In this fast-paced world, he held his own; his thoughts, style and worldview remained unchanged despite the changing world. He never owned a pager, cell phone, or computer, marvelling at these gadgets but keeping a respectful distance. He drove his car till the end, enjoyed his whisky till the end, ate heartily till the end, and climbed the four stories to his home at Cusrow Baug, two steps at a time, twice a week or more.

And so, on 30th May, 2024, he slipped away without pain or suffering. In his last years, Hoshipa had three wishes: first, to go before his wife; second, to avoid debilitating disease; and third, to slip away silently. Truly, a man blessed beyond measure, he lived and died a magnificent example of God’s unconditional grace.

I have much more to say. I will miss him deeply, but I will treasure the memory of his encouragement. **BG**



▲ Bhopal’s antique showcase full of his memorable achievements



Shiraito no Taki: The eternal waterfall

As waterfalls flourish throughout Maharashtra and the city during the abundant monsoon season, BG member **Usha Shah** shares her own experience of visiting a perennial waterfall in Japan.

Everybody knows about the famous waterfalls of Niagara in the US, Iguazu at the border of Brazil & Argentina and Victoria falls at border of Zimbabwe & Zambia. To this, I would like to add Athirapally in Kerala known as our own seasonal Niagara falls and of course, Iceland – a gallery of waterfalls.


One such memorable waterfall I had the fortune of visiting Shiraito no Taki, a beautiful and serene waterfall located near Karuizawa in Nagano Prefecture, Japan.


This waterfall has a unique origin which makes the why water flow year round. Shiraito no Taki stands at about 3 meters (10 feet) high and stretches approximately 70 meters (230 feet) wide. Unlike many waterfalls, it is characterised by its gentle, curtain-like flow of water, resembling white threads hanging from a cliff, which is how it gets its name ("Shiraito" means "white

threads"), as multiple streaks of water drape over the surface forming what seem like a white curtain. The water flows from the volcanic Mount Asama, which is located nearby. Shiraito Waterfall's spring is fed from precipitation falling into Mt Asama. Once the water seeps underground, it takes six years to travel through the groundwater system and re emerges at this site as a waterfall.

Therefore, it's also said that this stream never dries up even in the icy winter months because the water's temperature tends to stay constant at 11.8 degrees Celsius. Also, the size of the waterfall does not change much throughout the year.

Immediately below the Shiraito Waterfall is a secondary waterfall that is shaped such that the water cascades over several steps. The site is most beautiful in summer. **BG**


BOOK CLUB
RIGHT KIND OF WRONG
Why Learning to Fail Can Teach Us to Thrive
by
Amy Edmondson
(Presented by Rajendra Y Shah)




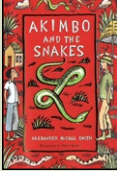
Right Kind of Wrong written by Amy C Edmondson (Professor, Harvard Business School) was selected for the London Financial Times's Best Business Book of the Year for 2023.

Edmondson is best known for developing the concept of 'psychological safety' and outlining techniques which encourage people to be unafraid of failure and foster effective open discussions in organisations.

The discussion will be led by BG Book Club member Rajendra Y Shah. He has 3 degrees in Chemical Engineering and MBA from MIT (USA). His interests are in Finance, Stock Market Investments, and Behavioral Science.

Monday, 12th August 2024, 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm, Library


BOOK CLUB FOR CHILDREN
(AGE 8 AND ABOVE)
AKIMBO AND THE SNAKES
BY
ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH



The book club will be facilitated by Priya Aga, an educator and avid reader who loves learning and likes to make reading fun for children.

Saturday, 10th August 2024, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Venue: The Storyboard (Lower Verandah)

Register at
Email: library@bombaygymkhana.com
Tel: 43223420


FILM
FOR A FEW DOLLARS MORE



Dir: Sergio Leone, Cast: Clint Eastwood, Lee Van Cleef, Gian Maria Volonte and Mara Krupp

Two bounty hunters with the same intentions team up to track down a gang of outlaws led by a psychotic Mexican bandit, who is plotting an audacious bank robbery.

Friday, 30th August 2024, 5.30 pm to 7.40 pm
(Subtitles not available)

Register at
Email: library@bombaygymkhana.com
Telephone no- 43223420

SOLUTIONS

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

CRISS WORD



Words: Force, hives, closed, vainly

Answer: A **discovery** is said to be an accident meeting a prepared mind. - Albert Szent-Gyorgyi

(puzzles on page 27)

In Memoriam

The Bombay Gymkhana deeply regrets the sad demise of:



Vinay Parikh
(October 2, 2023)



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MONSOON MUSINGS

Sunita Rajwade on a month of rain, renovations, and the big wedding aka social media revelry.

July has been quite a busy and an unusually wet month. The incessant heavy rains have dampened my enthusiasm for visiting the Club and borrowing books. Thus, forced to watch the pelting rain at home, I sought entertainment on my trusty iPhone, consuming oodles of Instagram reels and shorts covering the much celebrated 'A...' wedding. With preparations going on literally in my backyard, I was curious to know how things would pan out. And since I didn't make it to the guest list, I only had social media to rely on.

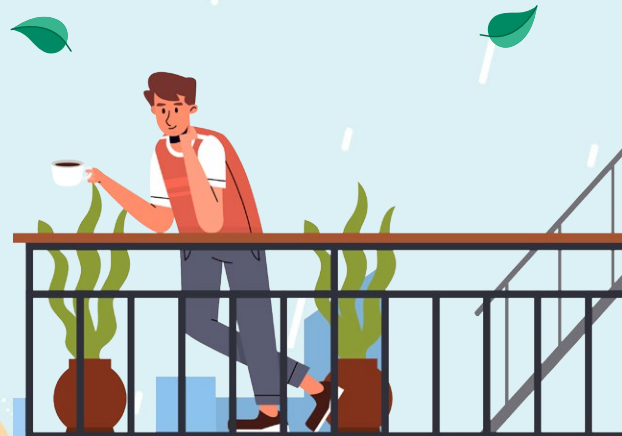
The grandeur, the opulence, the guest lists, the menus, the venues, the passion, the fashion, the decoration, the jewellery and even the inconveniences some people had to face had set people's tongues wagging. Content creators and social media influencers went crazy, as did standup comics, critics and admirers. This one social event has given more grist for the mill than the bullet that grazed Donald Trump's ear (and which could have had far-reaching effects globally).

Besides, I'm not ashamed to admit to enjoying this highly unintellectual pastime of harmless gossip. After all, most humans are social and revel in belonging to a family, a group or an organisation.

But I do hope the coming month is less wet and I can spend a few days in the library, flipping through the magazines and books. Especially, since my home is crawling with workers doing extensive repairs that couldn't be put off any longer.

You might think it foolish, but after years of waiting for the right time that never came, we decided it was now or never. Now anyone who has lived with renovations done in situ will testify to the fact that it is only a shade better than Chinese torture. On the other hand, this is sometimes the best option because it is only while you are around that you can supervise the work and ensure it is up to your expectations. We all know that reality can be quite different from perception.

So, if you see me sipping tea on the Verandah on a miserably grey, monsoon afternoon, please feel free to join me and indulge in some cheery chit-chat. **BG**



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