



I hold the world record for maximum rejection slips, says the best-selling author, Mr. Ashwin Sanghi

In Life, 99% Is Good Luck – And 1% Is Bloody Good Luck!

In every man's life there is a moment of enlightenment – a Eureka! moment – when the scales lift from before his eyes and the truth is revealed. Mr. Ashwin Sanghi has had not one but two moments of epiphany.

Groaning under the weight of 47 rejection slips in response to his first novel, he was telling a Punjabi gentleman that "nothing is happening." Whereupon the gentleman said, "In life, 99% is good luck."

"And what is the remaining 1%?" Mr. Sanghi asked. "It must be hard work, efficiency, time management or something?"

But the man said, "No, that 1% is bloody good luck!"

"I knew at that moment that I would one day write a book about 'bloody good luck'," says Mr. Sanghi.

On another occasion, he was in a discussion with a friend who said, "The problem with winning the rat race is that you are still a rat! Do you want to be a rat for the rest of your life?" The answer was a resounding "No!" He didn't want to be a rat.

Last week, Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, now a best-selling author, addressed the Club on "13 Steps to Bloody Good Luck."

(Full report on Pages 2 and 3)

Nominating Committee

At the meeting of September 15, the general body of the Rotary Club of Bombay unanimously passed a resolution naming Past Presidents Paul George and Ashish Vaid to the Nominating Committee for District Governor (2018-19).

President Dr. Sonya Mehta moved the following resolution: "Resolved that the Rotary Club of Bombay be and hereby appoint PP Paul George as the Club's primary candidate for the District Governor Nominating Committee to elect the District Governor Nominee 2018-19. Further resolved that PP Ashish Vaid be hereby appointed as the Club's alternate candidate for the above-mentioned post."

The motion was proposed by PP Arun Sanghi and seconded by PP Dr. Rahim Muljiani. It was passed unanimously.

What The Inside Pages Feature

Author Ashwin Sanghi quotes thinkers and philosophers on luck

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Forthcoming Events

September 22, 2015

Mr. Neeraj Roy, MD and CEO of Hungama Mobile Limited, to address the Club.

September 29, 2015

Ms Geeta Anand to speak.

October 6, 2015

Ms Swati Apte to address the Club.

October 13, 2015

Mr. Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court, to speak.

Ashwin Sanghi Quotes Roman Philosopher Seneca: 'Luck Is A Matter Of Preparation Meeting Opportunity'

Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, a former member of the Club, spoke at the last meeting on "Thirteen steps to bloody good luck." Apurva Diwanji introduced him as one of India's highest-selling English fiction authors.

All his novels (*The Rozabal Line*, *Chanakya's Chant*, *The Krishna Key* and *Private India*, the last a collaboration with James Patterson) have been on best-selling lists in India, the UK and the USA.

His latest work, *Thirteen Steps to Bloody Good Luck*, a motivational, self-help book, is also a best-seller. At present he is working on his next, *Sialkot Saga*, to be published in 2016.

Mr. Sanghi started his talk by describing a scene in a courtroom where a little girl is telling a judge and a jury how she was viciously raped and beaten by a group of men. In the court is a detached lawyer who, while hearing the girl, wonders – what if her father decided to seek revenge? What if he went after the people who had perpetrated the act?

That lawyer was John Grisham. He wrote a novel, *A Time to Kill*, which became a big hit and made him one of the highest selling authors in the world, with 250 million copies sold to date.

Was this a case of just good luck? That he was at the right place at the right time? Was it the circumstances that made him lucky? Not really, because the novel was rejected by 28 publishers before finally being brought out with a paltry run of 5,000 copies.

There were many such examples. J.K. Rowling was told by 12 publishers that the *Harry Potter* books were not worth publishing. One of them sarcastically said, "Don't lose your day job!"

Richard Bach of *Jonathan Livingstone Seagull* had 18 rejections. Stephen King, a master thriller writer, was rejected 30 times. *Chicken Soup for the Soul* had 33 rejections.

Even a classic like *Gone With the Wind* had 38.

"And topping the list," he sid jovially, "is Ashwin Sanghi, with 47 rejections!"



At one stage he started wondering just why he was trying to write a novel. Mr. Ashwin Sanghi at the last meeting

One of his friends in publishing even told him that people in the industry never agreed on anything, but they all seemed to agree that he couldn't write! So he asked himself, "Why am I going through the process of attempting to prove myself as a writer?"

He felt like the youngster who, when he requested Samuel Johnson to read his manuscript, was told, "Your manuscript is good and

original, but the part that is good is not original and the part that is original is not too good!"

Recalling the words of Somerset Maugham who said "There are three rules for writing a novel; unfortunately, no one knows what they are!" Mr. Sanghi said that his situation was quite similar; he had had no clue about what he was doing and appeared to have embarked on a foolhardy endeavour.

He then found "enlightenment", first while talking to a gentleman who said that life was 99% luck and 1% bloody good luck, and then while speaking with a friend about the rat race. **(See Page 1)**

Mr. Sanghi said that his favourite quotation was by the Roman philosopher Seneca who said, "Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity."

Sadly, luck is associated with symbols like four-leaf clovers, animal sacrifices, astrology, numerology, pilgrimages, blessings, evil



Welcome in our midst. President Dr. Sonya Mehta greets Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, a former member of the Club

eyes, dragons, stones, gems and voodoo. These symbols make it appear as though luck is something that comes down from the heavens. It is not seen as a human quality or character trait. "When we say, 'He's lucky,' then it's not something he has done, it's something that *came* to him," Mr. Sanghi observed.

Napoleon, however, thought differently. When one of his new generals was being praised for his abilities, Mr. Sanghi narrated, Napoleon asked, "But tell me, is he lucky?" What Napoleon was saying was that being lucky could be worked upon. It was like public speaking, conversational skills, personality development or speed reading. One can actually work on luck.

Generally, there are three types of luck – dumb luck, constitutional luck and circumstantial luck. In dumb luck, someone walking on the road finds cash. No one can explain why this happens.

As for constitutional luck, it depends on which family one is born into. Is it wealthy or poor? If someone is working in an office where his boss happens to be from his hometown, and he gets



With the guest speaker (from left): Apurva Diwanji, who introduced Mr. Ashwin Sanghi, President Dr. Sonya Mehta, Joint Hon. Secretary Framroze Mehta and President-Elect Dr. Mukesh Batra

promoted more often as a result, that is also constitutional luck.

But circumstantial luck is the most interesting. This is related to opportunities and outcomes. In life there come opportunities that one accepts and opportunities that one ignores. The outcomes are either success or failure.

"If we take an opportunity and it works, that's good luck. But if we ignore it and it works for someone else, that's bad luck. When we take the opportunity and it fails, that's also bad luck. But if we ignore the opportunity and it turns out to be a dud, that's good luck! Therefore, how we respond to

opportunities and how the outcomes pan out determines whether we are lucky or not."

Mr. Sanghi gave the example of the rainwater harvesting process and asked, what if humans are like houses? What if opportunities are raining down all the time? Some people can trap those opportunities as they fall, but some don't have the equipment to catch the opportunities.

Therefore, it is essential to equip oneself to catch good luck.

"Bloody good luck" is simply the ability to catch opportunities as they present themselves.

"So it is clear that good luck is related to our ability to raise (or increase) our opportunities, recognise the valuable ones and to respond to them."

Mr. Sanghi narrated incidents from the lives of the great Pandit Ravi Shankar and Richard Branson to buttress the point that good luck is more an opportunity than anything else.

In the case of Ravi Shankar, it was clear that "lucky people grow and strengthen their network." Richard Branson, on the other hand, took calculated risks, cut his losses and learnt from his mistakes.

Mr. Sanghi said when one looked at the world of random possibilities, there were bound to be moments of luck. This could happen over a period of time, say, a 20-year, 30-year or 40-year period.

"I am talking about a series of activities that we keep working at, again and again, in order to make the odds eventually work in our favour. It won't happen every time. It's like the stock market graph, even if you say that the stock market between 1991, the onset of liberalisation, and now has appreciated 'x' number of times, there would have been huge troughs along the way," he added. Luck, it seems, works the same way.



Waiting for their son. PP Mahendra and Manju Sanghi in the company of PP Nalin Parikh and Munna Javeri (left)

When Passionately Personalised Hospitality, Or 'Estique', Segued Into Fellowship

By **Ambika Shukla**
Animal Activist and friend and
soul mate of President-Elect
Dr. Mukesh Batra

What is Estique? I was to find out over a wonderful weekend shared with a fun bunch of Rotarians on a Fellowship outing.

Arriving a day prior to the group, my heart lifted upon alighting at Pune airport at the informality of being able to walk from the aircraft to the terminal. And the mood was set.

Pune is where I was born, and serendipitously found myself back there in time for my birthday more than half a century later! A first happy day in private led on to the next couple when the party started in right earnest.



Ready to have a ball. Burjor Poonawala (from left) with Gautam Mehta, Fellowship Chairman Jai Advani, Swati Dalal and Shalina Advani. Behind them are Dr. Bomi Framroze, President Dr. Sonya Mehta, Fellowship Chairman Khurshed Poonawala, Biba and PP Harry Singh Arora and Malini Agarwalla



A grand group photo of all those who enjoyed the Pune Fellowship from September 11 to 13

Day One. The Mumbaikars started arriving in bits and bobs on Friday the 11th. By teatime, most had been marked present. The first item on the menu was a wine-tasting contest in preparation for which we had all been thoughtfully provided detailed sheets on how to tell a fruity from a fraud. Needless to say, many of us, including me, lazily preferred to fly blind, opting to bury our not so trained noses in the aroma rather than the study sheet.

Little did we know how embarrassingly little we did know. The contest was most interestingly designed. Each of us was armed with a mark sheet on which we were required to rate on various parameters the eight wines we were served. We learned how to tell a wine's "legs", how to swirl and twirl a glass, connoisseur-like. All we didn't learn was how to tell good wine from bad!

Minal won and all of us trooped merrily onto the terrace restaurant for a spot of dancing and dinner. Post rain, the weather was as cool as the music to which we jived. A



And the surprise winner of the karaoke contest is Jai Advani. Seated from right are Shalina Advani, President Dr. Sonya Mehta, Malini Agarwalla, Radhika Kaji, Meher Poonawala and Swati Dalal

delicious dinner down, the day was finally declared done.

Day Two. A big breakfast replete with pancakes and dosas fuelled us through a bowling competition where every strike was as lustily cheered as every gutter ball!

Biryani for lunch received even more cheers as did all

those who ventured to sing old filmi songs, karaoke style. Jai was the surprise hit singer. Young Hirman scored for energy and enthusiasm.

The next high was tea with Pune snack specialties. We heard fascinating stories about the hotel's architecture and how its romantic lighting owed

to it being the first all-LED hotel with fittings dating back to when LEDs were really rare, expensive and low wattage.

Dinner was another fancy affair at the city's best restaurant **Malaka Spice**. On separate tables, the veggies outnumbered the nons and a good time was had by all.



Are they heading towards the bowling alley? Ramesh Mehta (from left) with Malini Agarwalla, Preeti Mehta, Rachna Agarwal, President Dr. Sonya Mehta, Dr. Mukesh Batra and PP Ajay Kanoria



Another group of revellers. PP Nandan and Shreelekha Damani, Ashok and Vatsala Jatia, Charu Juneja, President Dr. Sonya Mehta, Malini Agarwalla, President Nominee Ramesh Narayan, PP Sandip Agarwalla and Arvind Agarwal

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All the reluctant-to-retire then enjoyed an after party where Khurshed regaled us with the latest Indrani gossip and whether “xyz” or “abc” was Sheena’s dad/brother/boy-friend/unborn baby.

Day Three. Sunday started like Sundays should – slow and with a late breakfast merging into a Sangria brunch, as the exodus began.

But not before we’d all experienced “Estique” – the name for passionately personalised hospitality that crafted an imaginative, interesting and enjoyable outing for a great group of Rotarians. A truly memorable Fellowship.

Thank you Jai, Shalina and every member of the gang.



Sitting around a round table. Jai Advani (from right), Khurshed Poonawala, Pravin Bhansali, Ramesh Mehta, Shalina Advani, Atit and Swati Agarwal, PP Harry Singh Arora and Burjor Poonawala

Those who enjoyed the Pune Fellowship and had a great time there were the following: PP Sandip and Malini Agarwalla, Arvind and Rachna Agarwal, Atit and Swati Agarwal, PP Harry Singh and Biba Arora, President-Elect Dr. Mukesh Batra, his grandson Hriman and Ms Ambika Shukla, Pravin Bhan-sali, Rohan and Swati Dalal, PP Nandan and Shreelekha Damani, Ashok and Vatsala Jatia, Vinod and Charu Juneja, Sameer and Radhika Kaji, PP Ajay and Vandana Kanoria, Preeti and Gautam Mehta, Ramesh Mehta, President Dr. Sonya Mehta and Dr. Bomi Framroze, President Nominee Ramesh Narayan, Burjor Poonawala, Khurshed and Meher Poonawala, Madhup and Minal Vaghani and Jai and Shalina Advani.



Bonding over breakfast (from right) Khurshed Poonawala, Shalina Advani, Meher Poonawala, Malini Agarwalla Ramesh Mehta, Rachna Agarwal, PP Ajay Kanoria, Arvind Agarwal and Pravin Bhansali



Sticking to bottled water at the bar. Swati Dalal and Ms Ambika Shukla, the author of this article

H.R. Rotaractors Host A Series Of Events

Members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College set out on August 14 to “spread the vibe of our Independence Day and revive love towards our rich culture” among the little children of the “Smiles” institute. They used a series of videos to explain to them the significance of Independence Day.

Apart from conducting a few games and activities with

them, they also gave the children were given biscuits and an Indian flag badge. The children were all smiles as the left.

On Independence Day itself, the Rotaractors divided themselves into six groups, each headed by a duo of one FYJC and one SYJC leader. As part of the programme called “Fiesta”, they had to select a country and portray

that country in the best possible manner through a variety of events.

These included a dance, a fashion show, a cappella, PowerPoint presentation, background and quiz.

There was stiff competition between the six participating groups. The Rotaractors hoped that the programme would foster friendship and camaraderie.

Yoga Committee Is Reconstituted

The Club has reconstituted the Yoga Committee.

The Committee, headed by Sitaram Shah, has already started the work of spreading the message and benefits of Yoga. It hopes to make a significant contribution to the cause it eschews.

A Workshop For Eco-friendly Ganesha Idols

An intensive workshop in sculpting eco-friendly Ganesha idols was organised for *Bhavishya-Yaan* students at the G.K. Marg municipal school on September 12.

The programme was arranged in collaboration with the Sanskar India Foundation (SIF), an NGO that is committed to equipping the future citizens of India with civic, environmental, social and health values.

A total of 63 boys and girls took part in the workshop which started with an SIF teacher explaining the harmful effects of Ganapati immersion in various water bodies in the city and the state.

Traditionally, Ganesha idols were made of mud and clay



A beautiful eco-friendly Ganesha idol made by the students of the G.K. Marg School



Children proudly hold up the eco-friendly Ganesha idol that they have created



These will dissolve quickly after immersion, say the students about the eco-friendly Ganeshas

which dissolved easily when immersed in water. But over time, with the magnitude of the celebrations growing, mud and clay were replaced by plaster of Paris, a cheaper and lighter gypsum-based material that took longer to degrade. Apart from this, the traditional

vegetable dyes were replaced by chemical colours and lead-based paints which released harmful toxins into the water.

Once the preliminary lecture was delivered, the children were given "sadu" clay (the clay taken from the bottom of a riverbed) and explained how

to prepare handmade, eco-friendly Ganesha idols.

The children's enthusiasm was infectious. The very act of creating an idol of their favourite god Ganesha had them trying their best to come up with unique, well-sculpted statues.

The SIF, which started from one school in 2003, now covers 115 schools and holds classes in three languages. It is confident that the lessons of a healthy, eco-friendly lifestyle imbibed in classrooms will be taken home by the children to their families.

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	Khurshed Poonawala

From Hospitality To Innovation In The Entertainment Industry

Mr. Neeraj Roy, who will address the Club on September 22, is the MD and CEO of Hungama Mobile Limited, United Home Entertainment Limited and Hungama Digital Media Entertainment Pvt. Ltd.

He hails from Allahabad and began his career in the

hospitality industry with the Taj Group of Hotels. After a successful decade in the service industry, he moved on and founded Hungama.com in 1999. Under his leadership, Hungama has become South Asia's largest digital and mobile entertainment company.

Hungama is the largest aggregator, developer and publisher of Bollywood and South Asian entertainment content in the world, having worldwide exclusive rights to over half a million music and video titles.

Mr. Roy also serves as Chairman of the Asia Board of the Mobile Entertainment Forum (MEF). He is an active speaker at various international

forums and is a member of several domestic and international committees advising on the global mobile entertainment opportunity.

After 16 years in the industry, he is known as an innovator and is sought for his vision in the digital and mobile entertainment industry.

He received the award for Outstanding Excellence in Mobile Entertainment at the ME Awards 2009 in London. He has also been voted amongst the "Top Ten MobiThinkers of 2009" and "50 Most Influential People in

Mobile Entertainment" globally. **A recipient of the Sun Microsystems-Economic Times Young Leader award in 2001, he was voted one of the "25 young leaders in the new millennium" by Business India.**

Mr. Roy did his graduation in Allahabad (he topped his class) and then moved to Bombay. Here, he obtained an MBA from the Sydenham Institute of Management Studies.



At The Last Meeting (September 15, 2015) Attendance

Members	117
Rotaryans	4
Rotaractors	5
Guests	3
Total	129

ROTARY CLUB OF BOMBAY
 FOUNDED 19 MARCH, 1929
 Charter No. 3128, Dated 08 May, 1929
 97-B, Mittal Tower, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021, INDIA
 Tel.: +91-22-2202 4089
 Fax.: +91-22-2202 4509
 rotaryclubbombay1@gmail.com

Birthday Greetings



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September 22



Dilip Dalal
September 24



Jamshyd Vazifdar
September 24



Rajesh Shah
September 26



PP Dr. Zerxis Umrigar
September 26

Spouses

Geetu Kirpalaney
September 22

Niti Saxena
September 22

Moushumi Sen Chakraborty
September 26

Rekha Jalan
September 26

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Editorial Consultant: Anmol Purohit, Sajjan Sons, 203/204 Triveni, Mith Chowki, Marve Road, Malad (West), Mumbai 400064. Call: 93 2222 7026. E-Mail: anmolsp@gmail.com

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