



POONA SERVICE WHEEL



R.I. District 3131

ROTARY CLUB OF POONA

Club 04-3131-15536

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Secretary

President

Editor

Rtn Aarti Thacker

Rtn Maj Gen Amar Krishna, PhD

Rtn Brig Prashant Sheode

Hybrid Meeting with RC Moradabad : Literacy in Slum Areas

Rtn. Sharmitabh Sinha is a dedicated advocate and a passionate Rotary leader. He joined Rotary Club Moradabad in 2010. As the President (Year : 2023-24) of the Rotary Club Moradabad, (Distt.3100) he has been instrumental in implementing various community service projects, including education, healthcare, and environmental initiatives. He is committed to making a positive impact in the lives of people in his community. Presently he is the Vice-President and Literacy Co-Chairman .

Education: Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), Bachelor of Commerce

Experience: Practicing advocate in Moradabad since 1997 Handling cases in various district courts, High Court including the Supreme Court of India. Expertise in criminal, civil, family, banking and constitutional law.

Achievements: Lead several community service projects, including :

- ♦ Education: Established scholarships for underprivileged students and continuously working for giving primary education to slum area children.
- ♦ Healthcare: Organized various health camps in slum area , rural area, for labourers and blood donation drives, pulse polio immunization drive.
- ♦ Environment: Conducted tree plantation and cleanliness drives at various places. Collaborated with other Rotary clubs and organizations to amplify impact

He has earned many Awards in this beautiful journey of Rotary Activities


23rd. September 2024

Rotary Club of Poona

Guest Speaker:
PP Adv Sharmitabh Sinha

Will connect with us Online from Moradabad

TOPIC: LITERACY IN SLUM AREAS



Venue: Conf Hall #2 Poona Club
Fellowship: 6:30 to 7:00 pm
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Followed by Mini Fellowship
Madira on payment
Guest charges: ₹350 PP
Dress Code: Semi Formals

November 3rd 1988 was a day unlike any others at the Agra Air Force station. A high alert had been issued. The airmen knew something was brewing but weren't told what or where. Two massive Ilyushin IL 76 aircraft were made ready for immediate take off.

Doordarshan was flashing news clips of an attempted coup in the small island nation named Maldives. That was the clue everyone was waiting for. They had barely heard of this country. No maps were available. Fortunately the Indian ambassador to Maldives was in New Delhi on leave. He had a coffee table book with picture of the group of islands called Maldives. However information about the capital of Male and the airport on the Hulhule island was still scanty. Finally the Ilyushins took off and what followed created history.

There had been attempted coup in Maldives by a bunch of local rebels aided my mercenaries from the Sri Lankan PLOTE Group. The rebels had attacked the presidential palace but President Gayoom and his family had managed to escape and reach a safe house. The Maldives officials staff had phoned India to ask for help and it was decided that the Indian Armed Forces would be deployed to rescue the President.

Of the 50 Independent Parachute Brigade, 6th battalion of the Parachute Regiment and the 17th Parachute Field Regiment were designated as the lead formations and they boarded the first two IL-76 transport aircraft. Grp Captain (Rtd) Anant Bewoor who piloted the first craft was the honoured speaker at a meeting held on 9th September 24. His account of 'Operation Cactus' as the mission was code named was as informative as it was thrilling.

Group Captain Bewoor is the recipient of the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry. During his years of service he had the distinction of flying 6 different types of aircraft and clocking a total of 5000 flying hours. He was specially selected for training in Russia for piloting the massive Ilyushin. To give us an idea of its size Group Captain Bewoor projected a slide showing the cargo compartment of the aircraft loaded with not one but two Bofor artillery guns for being transported to Thoise which is in the Shyok valley North of the Indus valley.

In the evening of November 3rd 1988 Gp Captain Bewoor took off from Agra at 1800 hrs, and flew nonstop over a distance of 3000 kilometres to land at the Hulhule airport in total darkness. The runway lights could not be switched on for fear of alerting the rebels who had taken charge of the capital Male. The runway was on a small island called Hulhule. The runway lights came on about 30 seconds before actual touch-down. Bewoor made a perfect landing under the most daunting conditions. The Indian paratroopers first secured Hulhule and then went to the capital island of Male by boats and rescued the President taking full control of Male. Some rebels with their leader and Maldivian hostages had escaped in a hijacked ship but were intercepted and captured by two Indian Navy ships INS Betwa and INS Godavari. That was a classic high seas operation not done before. Thus ended a glorious chapter in India's military history. Within 16 hours of receiving an SOS from President Gayoom, Indian armed forces had carried out a highly successful operation on foreign soil without suffering any casualties.

Gp. Captain Bewoor mentioned the following as a key to the success of every mission the Indian Armed Forces have undertaken :

- Highest standard of tough training
- Anticipation and Preparation
- Initiative at every level
- Quick response

One more factor must be added to the above - **a strong determination to win at any cost**

Jai hind, Jai hind Ki Sena!

.....By Rtn Mandakini Tata



International Peace Day – 21st September 2024

International Peace Day was celebrated by the Rotary Club of Poona on 21st September 2024 from 10 AM to 3 PM on this Saturday. It began in the morning at the Rosary School, Pune Camp, where more than 300 students from high school and Junior College participated along with Innerwheel Club of Poona Downtown, Rotary Club of Pune Parvati, Rotary Club of Pradhikaran, Nigdi and Rotary Club of Poona Airport.

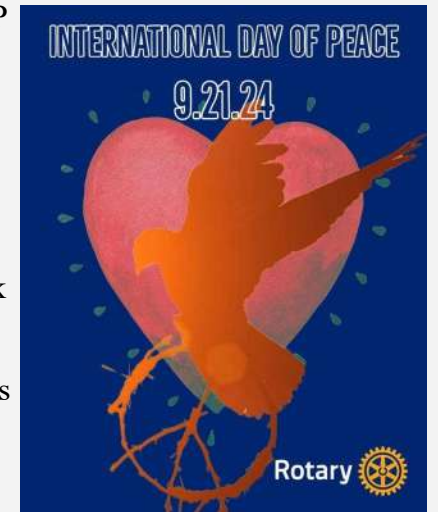
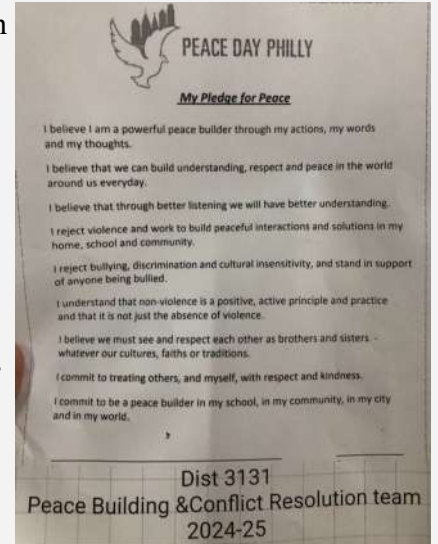
The Hall of Rosary was brimming with energy of the Youth. Miss Asunta read out the **“Peace Pledge”** and every one in the audience took the Pledge. There was a power point presentation by R’Ann Suraj Taneja on conflicts around the world and what peace means. The students displayed sound general knowledge and answered difficult questions boldly. PDG Vivek Aranha was felicitated on behalf of the Rotary Club of Poona for his yeoman service to the club over the years.

Four outstanding students of Rosary were felicitated – Shoab Shaikh for Boxing, Sairaj Shevale for wrestling, Soham Kasavkar for Debating and Shlok Hingane for proficiency in Sanskrit by President Amar, PP Gauri, PP Hasmukh Patel and PP Sanjay Kher respectively. The prizes were sponsored by Innerwheel Club of Poona Downtown and PP Hasmukhbhai Patel.

The Hall resonated with cheering as each name was called out by Mr Sujit Quadros of Rosary. President Amar Krishna spoke on the idea of Peace and with his rich knowledge of conflicts around the world asked some teasing questions. The answers came forth boldly from the audience and each one was rewarded with a memento by the President. Then spoke PDG Vivek in his unique style and the students just loved his talk. Finally the vote of thanks was most comprehensively given by President Elect Rohit Mittra. President of Rc Pradhikaran Rtn Lanke and his spouse were recognised. This club is hosting two Brazilian IYE students, Master Pedro and Master Tiago. Both were felicitated on stage.

The whole program was managed by Rtn Daljit Raizada very well. She requested the Rotarians and spouses to remain seated while the students left in a disciplined manner.

Now, It was then the turn of IPP Narendra Bakshi to begin Phase II of the synergy project- between Youth and international avenues. The Peace March began from Rosary School and the advance party reached the Burhani Masjid to be told that a grand procession of Eid e Milad was about to begin, the traffic to be diverted and so the remaining party at Rosary decided to directly reach the second destination- the City Church. The Peace Marchers had never known the insides of the “City Church”.



Contd.....

International Peace Day – 21st September 2024 (Contd.....)

The Ornella School, the Church and the living quarters are spread over a large well maintained area. The chief Priest Father Louis who is a well read man, gave the history of this Church. It is the first Church in the western region and the land was given by Peshwa Sawai Madhavrao in 1780 AD to Goan (Portuguese) Catholics .

They proudly display a magnificent painting of the old Maratha Darbar, presented by Rtn Ramesh Bhagwat of RC Pune Parvati on the occasion of the 225th anniversary of Peshwa's Donation of land. They also started the Poona Goa Association in the same premises for their cultural and social activities within the complex facing Laxmi Road.

From here we proceeded to Gurdwara Hollywood across Gen Bevoor Road, Camp. The Granthiji was introduced by IPP Narendra to us and led us inside the temple. Here President Amar Krishna was resented a shawl by Granthiji whom Rtn Narendra referred as the Vazir of the kingdom of God. As Rtn Narendra spoke of Sikhism, one wondered who the actual Vazir was. The Peace March had ended at the footsteps of the Gurdwara long back. Now the conflict resolution demanded satisfaction of the angering gastric juices building up within the stomach.

At Rosary School, one of the preachers told us that the idea of Peace within the heart; another preacher declared that when the idea of peace travels north , from the heart upwards to the brain, conflicts get resolved in the brain. Now, the listening party was acutely sensing the emergence of a conflict somewhere below the heart.

The granthiji, wise as he is, sensed it and ended his peace sermon. As soon as it ended, the troops moved out into the war zone to fight out the appetite in the Langar.

Funnily, all Marches, Morchas, Bandhs and Fasts begin on a full stomach and end on an empty one. Do then all conflicts arise out of poverty and hunger, the alleviation of which is the hallmark of a global grant of the Rotary Foundation ? the answer may be a resounding "YES".

.....By PP Sanjay Kher



THE PROGRAMME FOR DONATING 18 ADVANCED MODULAR FEET

It is thanks to the initiative of Dr. Mridula Deshpande that our Club was able to successfully execute the donation of 18 Advanced Modular Feet (AMF), as part of our Artificial Limbs Project under the Community Service Avenue (CSA).

The Programme was held at the workshop of the Navbharat Vikas Foundation on Friday, the 20th September.

It was conducted in a structured and an efficient manner by Mr. Khataavkar, the spirit behind the project. He spoke at length about the Foundation, it's origins, it's history and the exemplary work that they have done, both, in making them after thorough research and in distributing them **TOTALLY FREE OF CHARGE** to the deserving beneficiaries from distant districts of Maharashtra.

PP. Atre too spoke and gave his valuable inputs and advice to the Recipients.

However, the stand-out feature was the manner in which the dedicated staff and the physios from the Ferguson College fitted each of the AMFs with extreme patience, care and consideration to the satisfaction of the beneficiaries.

The Recipients were were explained in the use of the AMF, the initial discomfort that they would cause, and it's various advantages over that of the Jaipur Foot.

A total amount of Rs. 2,08,000/- (at Rs. 12,000 per foot) was donated, of which Rs. 72,000 was by our Trust, Rs. 1 lakh by PP. Pradeep Rathi, P P C.D. Agarwal and Rs. 12,000 each by Ann. Dilshad and daughter Khushnaz from Canada.

It was very heartening to see nearly 20 Rotarians and Anns attending the function with enthusiasm and empathy in their hearts.

On behalf of the Members of the CSA, I wish to thank Dr. Mridula Deshpande, our BoD as well as the Members and Anns who attended or were unable to attend.

Thanks.
Rtn Zarir Dadachanji,
CSA.



September 2024

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

Stephanie A. Urchick

Rotary International President, 2024-2025



EVENTS

First Fireside meeting for RY 24-25, for Five new members was hosted by PP Maithili. Rotary Information was beautifully delivered by PP Narpati Luthra, supported by Rtn Faizy Dalal.

One hour of focused Rotary information & Q&A, followed by two hours of fellowship.

Good Josh P P Maithili and Fellow Rotarians...Indeed Inspiring to all of us to follow..... Cheers !!!!!



RECOGNITION / AWARD



IT EXPERT RECOGNISED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS IN SOCIAL WORK

At the 38th edition of Pune Festival, Dr. Deepak Shikarpur, a well-known IT expert, received the Pune Festival Award from the deputy chief minister of Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar. This award is conferred annually to individuals who have made significant contributions to social work. The ceremony was also attended by member of parliament, Sunetra Pawar, and the vice president of the festival, Krishna Kumar Goyal.



Sunetra Pawar, Dr. Deepak Shikarpur, Ajit Pawar and Krishnakumar Goyal

Dr. Shikarpur is a digital literacy activist and has been actively involved in the IT sector for 39 years. He has authored 57 books and conducted academic lectures, and counseling sessions. In fact, many of

his books have been translated into braille, benefiting numerous visually impaired students. For this work, The National Federation of Blind, recognised him with a Special Citation on April 23.

MISCELLANEOUS



KNOW YOUR ROTARY!

ABOUT ROTARY EMBLEM (WHEEL)

Back in 1905, an engraver and Chicago Rotarian, Montague Bear, designed a simple Rotary wagon wheel, showing movement and dust. It was meant to represent civilization, movement and service work in action. Over time, many Rotary clubs adopted the wheel in one form or another.

In 1922 it was decided to create and develop an official Rotary emblem and in 1923 a gear with 24 teeth and six spokes was officially adopted. To me, the gear teeth around the outside represent the fact that work is to be done.

The six spokes represent the inner direction and path of our Vocational Service, through the representation of our membership via the classification system.



Share these with your Club Members during Secretarial Announcements!!

3131-2425-07

Rtn. Prasad Ganpule
Director, Public Image
+91 98812 43567

DISTRICT 3131 PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM

Rtn. Shital Shah, District Governor 2024-25

RID 3131

Rotary Club of Poona Presents

DANDIYA Raas

4th October 2024
7:00 pm onwards
CINEMA HALL @ POONA CLUB

Come! Dress up & enjoy an unforgettable evening of fun, music & non stop dancing with our dynamic MoC Prashant!
Lots of exciting prizes to be won!
Delicious food & beverages available for sale at the stalls!
Main Sponsor *Venky's*

For Invitation Passes Contact
Maithili Manakwad - 9890214896 | Dipak Thacker - 9823070006 | Praful Shah - 8000189690

Donations and Sponsors details on the next page

We Thank following members for generous contributions in the form of Donations and Sponsorships for Dandia Fund Raising Keep rolling the funds

1. PP Kishore Rathi (Our senior most member)	₹. 11,000/-
2. Rtn Hasnain Bahrainwala (Our youngest member) -	₹ 35,000/-
3. PP Awadhut Walimbe	₹.10,000/-
4. PP Praful Shah	₹. 11,000/-
5. Rtn Mandakini Tata— (for Hearing aid project)	₹ 100,000/-
6. Rtn Maithili Manakawad-	₹11,000/-
7. PP Chandrasen Shirole	₹10,000/-
8. Rtn Daljeet Raizada	₹5000/-
9. Chandu Kaka Saraf - (through PDG Shikarpur)	₹50,000/-
10. EYWA Infosys (Through PDG Shikarpur)	₹10,000/-
11. Rtn Jayashree Kuber-	₹5000/-
12. PP Sanjay Kher	₹10,000/-
13. PP Dr Suresh Deshpande-	₹10,000/-
14. PP CD Agarwal for Modu- lar Feet project	₹12,000/-
15. Rtn Anjali Telang	₹ 5000/-
16. Rtn Trupti Gowariker	₹10,000/-
17. PP Pradeep Rathi --for Modular Feet project	₹100,000/
18. Diversity Interiors (Through Rtn Daljeet Raizada)	₹20,000/-
19. Ann Archana Dalvi	₹10,000
20. Keval Real Estate Devel- opers	₹10,000/-

A short Report of the CSA for September

- Rs. 73,000/- worth of Computer software and ancillary items donated specifically for the Blind or Visually impaired children at the Blind School at KP—**CREDIT to Rtn. Dr. Kataria and PP. Bharat Haladi.**
 - Donation of a Smart Board for 10th Standard students along with the Syllabus software etc. worth Rs 1,41,000 to the N. V. Deshmukh School for Adivasi students at village Rajur, in Akole Taluka, 250 kms from Pune. Done after visiting the School on 6th and 7th August—**CREDIT to Rtn. Ravi Budhraj.**
 - Around 30 Breast Prosthesis of different sizes donated to Ruby and Jehangir Hospitals, for the needy and financially strained Mastectomy patients—**CREDIT to Rtn. Kamal Palia.**
 - Donation of 9 Advanced Modular Feet, worth Rs. 1,08,000 to the Nav Bharat Foundation on 20th September. 6 by the Trust and 3 by our Member, Sr. Rtn C. D. Agarwal and Ann. Dilshad —**ALL CREDIT to R/Ann, Dr.MridulaDeshpande.**
 - Rs. 30,000 to the Karunya Care Centre at KP run by the devoted Catholic Sisters for distributing FREE MEDICINES to the poor citizens, across all communities at the bottom of the pyramid, as part of their Care Givers project—**CREDIT to Rtn. Dr. Colin Louzardo, and our late and respected Member, Rtn. Col. Viswanathan.**
- Thanks.
Members of the CSA

Dates	Birthday / Anniversary	Programmes Ahead	Attendance Report 09 Sep 2024	Count
24-Sep	Rtn Ravikumar Budhraj	30 Sep : Know Your Rotarian	Rotarians	51
29-Sep	R/ Ann Smita Harichandan	04 Oct : Dandiya Raas (7th Oct Meeting pre-poned to 4th Oct)	Anns	24
29-Sep	Rtn Khozem N & R/ Ann Nilufer Poonawala	14 Oct : 'Maratha History' - Talk by Vikram Singh Mohite	Spouses	01
			Visiting Rotarians	—
			Guests	04
			TOTAL	80