



POONA SERVICE WHEEL



R.I. District 3131

ROTARY CLUB OF POONA

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Operation Cactus : Indian Intervention in Maldives - Nov 1988

A Story of Airborne Assault in Maldives by Indian Armed Forces

Group Capt A G Bewoor was commissioned into the IAF in Oct 1965 and took premature retirement after 28 years service, in December 1993 and settled in Pune. He has flown more than 5000 hrs on 11 types of aircraft. He was one of the 12 pilots selected for training in the USSR on the giant IL-76.

He commanded 44 Sqn at Agra for two years and personally led the airborne assault into Maldives by landing the first IL-76 on an unlit runway at night without any friendly forces on the ground. He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry by the Rashtrapati in 1990.

After retiring from the IAF, he worked with Onward Technologies in Pune for 22 years. He writes regularly for journals, magazines, on-line portals on both military and other subjects.



IL-76



Hulule Runway 1988

This is how it all started

As per General VN Sharma, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), the then Chief of Army Staff....

It was 0815 hours, on a fine 3rd November 1988 morning. The RAX secret telephone was ringing urgently in my bedroom as I was about to leave Army House for my office at the South Block. It was Ronen Sen (later our ambassador to the USA), the young and friendly foreign-service officer at Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's office (the PMO). Our conversation went somewhat like this : -

"There is an emergency at the Maldives Islands, Sir. The capital, Male Island, has been taken over last night by some 100-200 terrorists apparently from Sri Lanka; President Gayoom is in hiding in a civil home, his headquarters palace and the security services headquarters have been captured and a number of his ministers taken hostage. We have an SOS for immediate help, on a tenuous satellite phone from their tourism minister's house. We are trying to hustle the NSG (National Security Guard) for this task, but can the army help?"

"Of course we can help, Ronen. We will start working on it right away. You better hold onto that communication channel all day. When can we brief the PM at the Operations Room?" (ops room)

....Rest, we all will hear from Group Capt A G Bewoor

9th September 2024

Rotary Club of Poona
Invites all to attend -

Topic: 'OPERATION CACTUS':
Airborne Assault in Maldives by
Indian Armed Forces

Guest Speaker: Grp. Captain A. Bewoor

Venue: Conf Hall no 2, Poona Club
Fellowship: 6:30 to 7:00 pm
Meeting: 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Followed by Mini Fellowship
Guest charges ₹350/pp
Dress code: Semi Formals
Madira on payment

Build Bridges of Goodwill by storytelling :
Did you ever wonder, how the “Ram Setu” was built by stones which floated on the ocean merely because “Shri Ram” was carved on each stone ?

The greatest story teller, the sage Valmiki further writes that a squirrel was questioned why it carried one small pebble in her mouth as she repeatedly made errands to contribute her might in the good cause. If you think this must be wild imagination and nothing less, think again.

Think again in the light of that small pebble with “thank you” inscribed upon it, which you took from the “goody” bag offered by Arvind Mittal, the story teller ! It is whispered that in the audience there were some who took “two pebbles” , the second pebble for that friend’s wife whom he had never seen nor ever likely to meet... Before settling down to write this piece, I sent a “Thank You” message on whatsapp to Arvind Mittal to start my morning in right earnest.

And before it is too late, rush and retrieve that pebble from the trouser on its way to the washing machine ; dig the pebble that says “thank you” out of the trouser pocket and put it on your right palm. Read out the letters inscribed- aloud ! That pebble is the connect - the bridge to a life full of hope, cheer, exhilaration, and of joy ! It may just be the missing brick that if placed in its correct slot may provide you the “setu” to a happy life .

Carry this pebble in your pocket, I implore you, as you wear your Rotary Pin with pride on your upper garment for it is better to say “thank you” once at the opportune time rather than say “ sorry” ten times when the tide has turned.

Thank You, Arvind Mittal – thank you Rotary Poona



.....By P P Sanjay Kher

CANDID PHOTOS OF THE AUDIENCE



The Rotary Club of Khadki recently organized a two-day Rotary Youth Leadership Awards for school students on August 24-25, 2024, at TJ College. The event aimed to equip young minds with essential skills to excel personally and professionally. From the Rotary Club of Poona, the event was attended by P P Sanjay Kher and Rtn. Hasnain Bahrainwala. 42 students from our Interact clubs also participated in the RYLA, thanks to Rtn. Daljeet.



The seminars covered a range of topics, including:

- Nutrition: Understanding the importance of a balanced diet for overall well-being
- Focus: Techniques to improve concentration and stay goal-oriented
- Mental Health: Promoting self-care and stress management
- Leadership: Developing qualities to inspire and motivate others
- Communication Skills: Effective expression and public speaking



Through interactive sessions and engaging activities, students gained valuable insights and practical tips to apply in their daily lives. The seminar provided a platform for young leaders to connect, learn, and grow.

EMPOWERING YOUNG MINDS: FINANCIAL PLANNING SEMINAR

On 31st August 2024, Rotarians Hasnain Bahrainwala and Huzefa Bahrainwala (Pune Cantonment) conducted a comprehensive financial planning seminar for students from 16 Interact Clubs at Zone 1 RYLA in Khopoli. The engaging session aimed to equip young individuals with the essential knowledge to manage their finances effectively and make informed decisions about their financial future. The seminar covered fundamental concepts, including:

- Basics of Budgeting: Understanding the importance of creating a personal budget and allocating resources wisely
- Inflation: Recognizing its impact on savings and investments
- Stock Market: Introduction to investing and growing wealth

The interactive presentation and Q&A session allowed students to clarify doubts and grasp complex ideas. Participants expressed gratitude for the insightful session and valuable notes to take back and apply in their daily lives.

By empowering young minds with financial literacy, Rotarians Huzefa and Hasnain Bahrainwala have inspired a new generation to take control of their financial well-being and build a secure future.



.....By Rtn Hasnain Bahrainwala



खास शिक्षक दिनानिमित्त ! गुरुवंदना

मम भाग्यासी वर्ण कैसे,

ऐसी मज गुरु लाभे,

सुर तालाचे भरुनी कुंभ ही,

राग रंग रस वाटे!

नादपूर्ण जीवनी हिच्या या, सहजची लय ताली

वाहे,

रवी शशिसम दृष्टी जाणती,

दावी सुर सौंदर्य नवे!

गुरुब्रह्म हृदयी माझ्या हे,

विराजिता ते मंगलरूपे,

सप्तसुरातुनी वाणी माझीही,

गाई स्वर ॐकार ते!

गाई स्वर ॐकार ते

.....रो. जयश्री कुबेर

**ARTIFICIAL LIMBS PROVISION TO THE NEEDY—
AN INITIATIVE BY INNER WHEEL CLUB OF PUNE**

Bharat Vikas Parishad Vikalang Punarvasan Kendra is a nationwide organization and it is working for people with disabilities. They make artificial limbs, both legs and hands in their own workshop with the help of advanced machinery and trained technicians.

They have 13 permanent disability centres at present. The centre in Pune is has been functioning since 1997 and has provided around 2000 limbs free of cost to handi-capped people who cannot afford it.

They hold camps in various places to identify the needy patients and call them to Pune for fitting of the limbs. Everything is done scientifically. These advanced modular feet are light in weight, durable and foldable at knee joints. These people can then walk,swim jump drive and run.

All the personnel working there are doing it for free as a service to nation. The original organization is dedicated for educational, social, moral and cultural development of the society.

Inner wheel club of Pune sponsored limbs for Six patients. I attended the project and was very touched and impressed with their work.

Now our Rotary club is also doing this project on 20th September. Details will be shared by Community Director Zarir Dadachanji. Please attend in large numbers and get enlightened.

.....R/Ann Mridula Deshpande

Dates		Birthdays / Anniversary	Programmes Ahead	Attendance Report 02 Sep 2024	Count
10 Sep	R/ Ann	Archana Saran	<p>16 Sep : Holiday—Eid-e-Milad</p> <p>23 Sep : Online meeting with RC Moradabad</p> <p>30 Sep : Know Your Rotarian</p>	Rotarians	58
12 Sep	R/ Ann	Chandralekha Aranha		Anns	23
16-Sep	Rtn	Col Gurcharan Singh Kohli		Spouses	01
17-Sep	R/ Ann	Shashi Perti		Visiting Rotarians	—
19-Sep	Rtn	Manohar Jagdale		Guests	03
19-Sep	R/ Ann	Suraj Taneja		TOTAL	85
24-Sep	Rtn	Ravikumar Budhraj			
29-Sep	R/ Ann	Smita Harichandan			
29-Sep	Rtn	Khazem N & R/ Ann Nilufer Poonawala			