



ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL



PRESIDENT: RTN. AMITABHA MUKHOPADHAYAY | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. LEKHA NAIR | EDITOR: RTN. PRASANTA CHOUDHURY

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Today.....

The theme for Rotary year 2021-22 **"SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES"**.

Rotary is defined not by who we are, but by what we do — by the potential that Rotary gives us, and the ways we realize that potential through meaningful and lasting service. We answer the question "What is Rotary?" with our actions, by recognising that service is the rent we pay for our time on the earth. Clubs that are strong can continue making a positive difference in chosen communities by serving to change their lives.

One of the key processes in "strengthening the club" is Club Assembly. It is an assembly where all of us meet to discuss club activities. Here is what we believe a good Club Assembly should achieve:

- An opportunity for everyone to learn more about the club and its projects
- Clarity on plans for the year and their progressive implementation
- Positive discussions including comments and suggestions from members

Leadership team of this year wish to take a shot at all of the above in the **Club Assembly planned on Sunday 26th September, 2021 at 10.30 am at Poona Club, Conference Room No. 2.**

It's a take-off stage for **"SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES"** - our club and its impact on the community. We urge you to get on-board and actively participate in navigating the club to new heights.

We will start off with tea/ coffee at 10.30 am and the meeting will be called to order sharp at 11 am. The club assembly will be followed by lunch.

In order to follow the Covid-19 guidelines and for well-being of our members we will restrict number of persons to maximum 40.

To facilitate arrangements for the meeting and more specifically lunch, I request you to RSVP your presence to Gajanan. The members will be invited to the physical meeting as per confirmation received on first come first basis.



The meeting will be a hybrid meeting where the BOD and few members will be attending the meeting physically at Poona Club. All other members will be able to join the meeting through Zoom video conferencing.

Details of Zoom Meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting : <https://zoom.us/j/98234745097?pwd=RmszRm5aaHlFa0xSWlh4aWJCcHZqUT09>

Meeting ID: [982 3474 5097](#)

Password: 584742

I look forward to meeting all of you on Sunday, 26th September at 10 am. (**10.30 am to 11 am Pre-meeting fellowship and meeting called to order at 11 am**).

The week that was

From Rtn. Lekha Nair.....

Pre-fellowship started at 6 PM on Zoom where many members joined and interacted with each other on various topics. Post pre-Fellowship, the meeting was called to order by Pres. Amitabha Mukhopadhyay and all members and guests were welcomed to the meeting.

President Amitabha updated all members about the Vaccination on Wheels Project status. 212499 vaccines have been administered as on 18th Sep. Donation of Rs 25,27,700 has been received from Tetrapak and Rs 5,39,640 from IIMB Alumni Association

The event was attended by Shailendra Shukla, managing director, Vehicle Group, Eaton. Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor and Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala were present for the event.

We saluted the spirit of giving of Rtn Oni Kakajiwala who contributed RS 36,500 for the Mobile Phone Project.

Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiala handed over 6000 N95 face masks to Rtn. Jignesh Patel for Makaila – Covid 19 Mobile Vaccination Project.

Because of the efforts of Rtn Vipen Malhotra, M/s Karel Elektronik Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S., Turkey and Arvind Limited Electronics Divisions donated 4 Ventilators (Project Cost - Rs 30 lakhs) to following two Hospitals in Pune District :

1. Vedanta Critical Multispeciality Hospital, Shirur, - qty 2
2. Vighnagar Medical Foundation, Narayangaon Junnar – qty 2

Rtn Surendra Shroff organised a paper bag workshop was organised on Friday 17th September for 2 Chennai schools teachers who specially flew to Pune to attend. Rtn. Pradeep Dharane, Director- non medical projects, was present for the Workshop.

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President Amitabha informed the members about the District 3131 Awards program, named 'Bhairavi' to be held on 25th Sep. He requested maximum members to attend the Event.

We wished happy birthday to Rtn. PP Pramod kumar Bhalla, Rtn. Narendra Sanghvi, Rtn. PP Sanjiv Kumar. We wished happy anniversary to Rtn Raman and R'Ann Alka Nanda.

This week guest speaker, Ms Mukta Nadkar spoke on the topic of how to communicate to create impact. It is important for leaders to be able to influence others and hence should have strong communication skills. Mukta gave numerous tips about how to make one's communication effective and impactful. She also introduced the Toastmasters to the members and explained how the Organization helps in building young leaders by improving their communication skills.

Next Week Sunday 26th September 2021 - Club Assembly at 10:30 am. Due to Covid restrictions this would be a hybrid meeting with BOD and few other members attending the meeting at Poona Club and rest on Zoom.



From Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor.....

Status and progress of various Global Grant and CSR projects

I am happy to share a report on the status and progress of CSR projects currently being implemented by RCPC.

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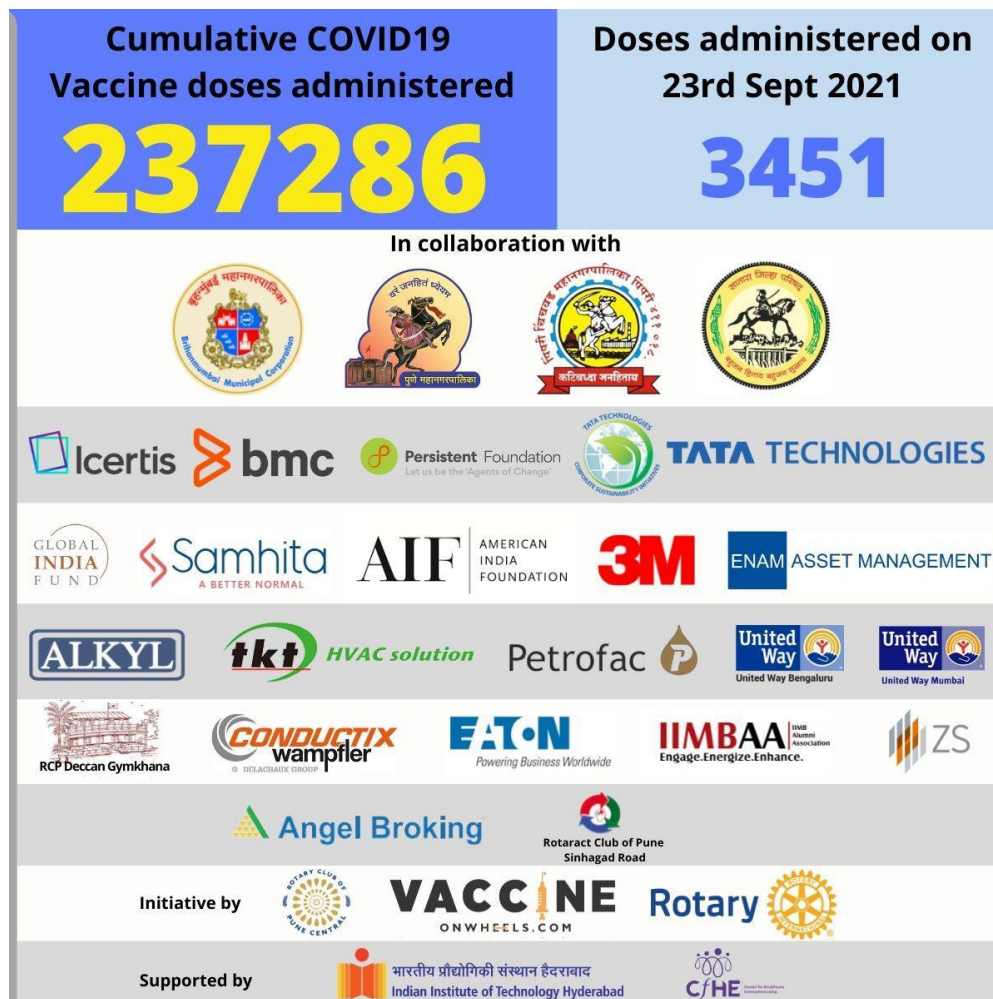
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Vaccine-On-Wheels – Covid 19 Mobile Vaccination Project:

Under this unique project, with the support of Vaccine-On-Wheels and CSR Partners, 31 Mobile Vaccination units have been deployed in Pune, Mumbai and Satara. As of 23rd September 2021, 2,37,286+ doses have been administered.



From Pradeep Dharane (Director - Non Medical)

Workshop of Paperbag held on 17th September 2021 for Chennai team at Pune

A special Workshop on Paperbags was organised by Rtn Surendra Shroff for two teachers from Chennai. There is an interesting story on how this workshop got planned.

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Ms A Supriya, is a trustee of Gurukulam NGO of Chennai that works for the special children. She also teaches in the Gurukulam. She got Rtn Surendra Shroff's contact no. some time in first week of July 2021 from a shop in Chennai from where she had purchased few saris which were delivered to her in carry-bags made from newspapers.

Ms Supriya along with four other parents of special children are running a school for special children in Chennai named as GIRUKULAM.

She thought of implementing project of teaching students the making carry-bags from newspapers for creating livelihood opportunities for the school children and engaging the children in some meaningful activity so that the children will not feel that they are burden on society and can earn their livelihood with confidence, dignity and self-respect after finishing their term at the school.

She called Surendra Shroff on 10th of July 2021 and spoke with Surendra Shroff for half an hour and requested for conducting Workshop in their school at Chennai.

However, Surendra Shroff requested them to visit Pune along with few of their teachers for a Workshop. There after she discussed the project with her other trustees and accepted our suggestion and confirmed that she along with Ms J Latha who is a mother of a special child and a teacher in the school will fly from Chennai on 17th of September and will attend our special Workshop of five hours to be exclusively held for them.

Ms Vishakha Vichare conducted the Worskshop from 11 A M till 3 PM and taught them six different types of bags and three types of pouches. They also learnt the making of sanitary napkin disposal bag , three compartment portable dust bin and medium size dust bin suitable for class room.

They have been gifted two full sets of 15 different carry-bags and one kit is being sent to them shortly.

We are confident that this W/shop will definitely be beneficial for the special children of GURUKULAM school from Chennai.





From Oni Kakajiwala.....

Distribution of N95 Face Masks

Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala handed over 6000 N95 face masks to Rtn. Jignesh Patel for Vaccine On Wheels – Covid 19 Mobile Vaccination Project. Also, handed over 600 N95 face masks to Rtn. Anil Bora for Shirur Medical Camp.



Distribution of Mobile Phone

In continuation of RCPC Mobile Donation Program started since July 2020 for the needy and deserving students, on Thursday the 23rd Sept, in a simple ceremony twelve Samsung smart mobile phones were distributed at the Anjuman I Islam English medium school. Rtn. Anil Bora, Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala and Rtn. PP Munir Chinoy contributed towards these phones. It was a very lively occasion. R'Ann Nafisa and District Director Synergy Rtn. Pallavi Sable were present as well. Few books on Soft Skill development and on Ramayana, Mahabharata were also presented for the benefit of these students.



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Interact Club Installation.....

Installation of The Interact Club of Anjuman -I – Islam's Ahmed Peer m Mohammed English and Urdu Medium School.

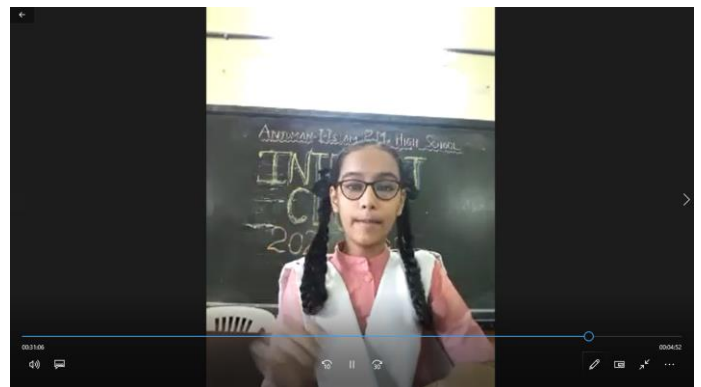
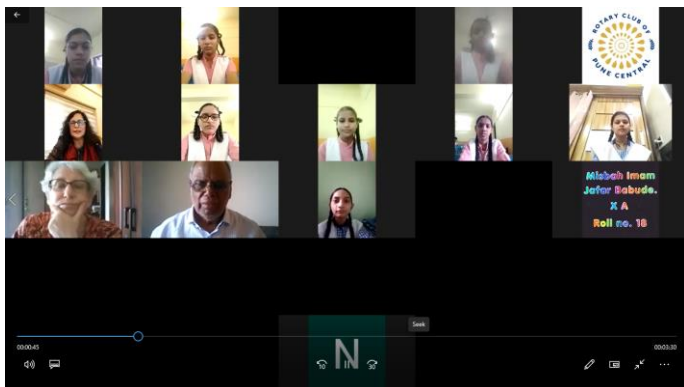
The Installation Ceremony of the Anjuman -I – Islam's Ahmed Peer Mohammed English and Urdu Medium School were conducted on the 22nd September 2021. The Ceremony started with the National anthem.

The Outgoing President Ms. Ziya Shaikh. presented the activities she and her team had conducted in their year and the Incoming President Ms. Namrata Vishwakarma presented her plans for the year 2021-22. Oaths were also taken. (For Anjuman -I – Islam's Ahmed Peer Mohammed English Medium School)

The Outgoing President Ms. Muskan Ansari presented the activities she and her team had conducted in their year and the Incoming President Ms. Ansari Mahek Mashak presented her plans for the year 2021-22. Oaths were also taken. (For Anjuman -I – Islam's Ahmed Peer mohammed Urdu Medium School)

The Ceremony was very well organised.

The Installation Ceremony was attended by President Amitabha Mukhopadhyay, Youth Director Amita Munot, Chairperson Rtn. PP Munir Chinoy, Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir Kazi, Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala, Rtn. Nitin Rajore, R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala and R'Ann Noorjahan Kazi who all spoke and encouraged the team for the work done by them.





From Rtn. Raja Kharadkar.....



From Rotary Connect Committee or RCC

Past Presidents Raja, Prakash, Neeraj and Arvind

Rotary is forging a path to full literacy in India

by **Vanessa Glavinskis**

Long before he became Rotary International's president, Shekhar Mehta was known for setting ambitious goals.

His reputation for successfully tackling difficult problems is why, in 2014, former RI president Kalyan Banerjee asked him to lead an effort to make India fully literate — a goal that has eluded the Indian government as well as many NGOs.

"I realized making a country literate is no easy task," says Mehta, who defines full literacy as an overall rate of 95 percent or above for those aged 7 and up. (The government of India estimates India's current literacy rate among that group at 78 percent.) "But I strongly believe in Gandhi's view that if you find the goal, the means will follow."

An accountant and real estate developer, Mehta didn't enter the endeavour with any experience in education. "I had no clue, no background in education at all," he says. He spent about nine months learning from experts before founding the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM), a non-profit that aims to strengthen and standardize Rotary clubs' literacy initiatives across India.

To accomplish this, RILM created a program of service projects that it encourages clubs across India to take on with the non-profit's support and mentorship. The projects are built around the acronym TEACH, which stands for teacher support, e-learning, adult literacy, child development, and happy schools (which focuses on infrastructure improvements). "We think every school should be a school where our own children would be happy to study," says Kamal Sanghvi, who was an RI director from 2019 to 2021 and chairs RILM now that Mehta is RI president.

"Rotarians understand that for any nation to achieve greatness, you need a high literacy level."

Following the model that made India's polio eradication campaign a success, coordinators promoted the TEACH program in Rotary zones and districts in the country. RILM staff created manuals and organized trainings, and now nearly every club in India works on a project to support at least one aspect of the TEACH program. "The momentum picked up so beautifully," Sanghvi says. "Rotarians understand that for any nation to achieve greatness, you need a high literacy level."

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The combined efforts of hundreds of Rotary clubs, plus their partner organizations, have added up to large-scale results. To date, an estimated 7 million children are benefiting from RILM's teacher training component alone. The program's overall reach is enormous.

"Training, standardization, and developing partnerships — these are the three things that make the program work," Mehta says.

Rotary members in Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh are all working on literacy programs modelled on the Rotary India Literacy Mission. (Members in Togo also recently expressed interest in the program.) "This is something that can be replicated anywhere," Shekhar Mehta says.

Due to its impact, Rotary India Literacy Mission gained name recognition, which recently led to its largest initiative yet — working with the Indian government to create and distribute free e-learning content to children who were out of school because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where are literacy programs needed?

The following countries have adult literacy rates below 50 percent:

- Afghanistan
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Sudan

*** Source: UNESCO**

"In a lot of areas in India, internet penetration is very poor," explains Biswajit Ghosh, RILM's chief operating and strategy officer. "And the government was struggling to provide online education for the masses." That's when Ghosh says Rotary "put up its hand" and offered to facilitate the creation of high-quality multimedia content for grades 1-12.

RILM worked with a video production company to create the content, covering the cost through donations and sponsorships so that e-learning would be free to the nation.

In 2020, India's government began broadcasting the Rotary-sponsored content on several TV channels — one per grade — in both English and Hindi. The lessons were available to about 100 million students across India, Ghosh estimates.



The goal now is to get the same multimedia curriculum translated into more of India's languages and to provide the software to every public school in India. "The level of education in the villages is far lower than in the cities," explains Sanghvi. "In the city, they simply have better access to technology and knowledge."

But while a large-scale rollout of e-learning could help lessen this disparity, it will only work if teachers know how to use the software. That's where the "T" in TEACH comes in. "We're training teachers across India," Sanghvi says, adding that the urgency to do so became apparent as soon as India went into its pandemic lockdown. "Many teachers didn't know how to start a Zoom," Sanghvi says.

Increased literacy is especially important for women and their communities. Educated women have a better chance of escaping poverty and improving the standard of living for their families and communities.

The non-profit works with partner organizations to provide the e-learning training and also offers an award to teachers who excel — as judged by their students and the school principal. It works like this: Rotary clubs survey local students, and that feedback is the basis on which a teacher is selected to win a Nation Builder award. Teachers who score poorly are targeted for future club-sponsored training programs. "We learn which teachers are outstanding and who needs to get their skills upgraded," Sanghvi says. "It's a win-win for us."

Despite RILM's success in improving literacy among children, India will not be able to achieve total literacy without addressing its estimated 287 million illiterate adults, who make up about one-third of the world's illiterate-adult population.

Sanghvi says that illiterate adults have not been served well by government efforts to increase India's literacy rate. So RILM facilitated the publication of a small workbook and primer that will help adults take the first step toward "functional literacy" — being able to read street signs and write their name, among other basic skills.

The E9 is a group of nine countries — Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan — that represent more than half of the world's population and large education systems, and 70 percent of the world's illiterate adults. Their collective efforts considerably influence the success of global education initiatives.

Local clubs distributed this primer to students, and asked that "each one, teach one" — in other words, a child with a family member who cannot read or write could use this primer as a tool to teach them the basics. "The schoolchildren were excited," Sanghvi says. "They'd say, 'Oh gosh, I'm going to become a teacher!'"

RILM's goal is to make every Indian citizen at least functionally literate — able to engage in the everyday activities in their community that require basic literacy. The pandemic forced RILM to extend its deadline by two years. The group now hopes to achieve this goal by 2027.

It's an ambitious goal, Mehta concedes, but "Rotary is thriving in India," he says. "So, we need to dream."

This story originally appeared in the September 2021 issue of **Rotary** magazine.



From Rtn. P K Malhotra.....

रिश्तों में कुछ
सरसराहट बांटिये।
नीरस सी हो चली है
ज़िन्दगी बहुत,
थोड़ी सी इसमें
शरारत बांटिये।

सब यूँ ही भाग रहे हैं
दौलत के पीछे,
अब सुकून की
कोई इबारत बांटिये।

ज़िन्दगी यूँ ही न
बीत जाये गिले शिकवों में,
परेशानियों को
कुछ तो राहत बांटिये।

What to expect in the next four weeks.....

- **02 Oct:** Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti Holiday
- **09 Oct:** To be announced.
- **16 Oct:** To be announced.
- **23 Oct:** To be announced.

Birthdays and Anniversaries...



Rtn / R'Ann

Rtn. Ajit Kene
R'Ann Yasmin Patel
Rtn. Arti Thakur
Rtn. Baakir Baker
R'Ann Roma Makhija

Member and Spouse

Rtn. Juhi and Mr. Pankaj Mathur

Birthday

September 29
September 30
October 06
October 07
October 08

Wedding Anniversary

October 06