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Celebrating 'AIR FORCE DAY'

'Talk by Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, VM
'National Security and the Role of the Indian Air Force'

The Board of Directors and the Program Committee of RC Poona is continuing in its endeavor to invite learned Guest Speakers to speak on varied and interesting topics for the benefit of our members.

Towards this objective, they have initiated a Second Series titled:
"A TRIBUTE TO OUR VALIANT ARMED FORCES"

It shall be done by way of celebrating the 'Raising Days' of Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. It is also being done to commemorate and pay tribute to the valiant Armed Forces personnel who made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives in the defense of our country, as well as those still in service and veterans who served with pride and have contributed towards a free, independent and strong India.

To celebrate the 89th Air Force Day, we have invited Honorable former Vice Chief of Air Staff - Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale (Retd), PVSM, AVSM, VM, as our Guest Speaker today for the first address in this series.

He shall be speaking on the subject of:

'NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF INDIAN AIR FORCE'

The BOD and the Program Committee hope that Members will enjoy the series of lectures as well commemorate and value the sacrifices of the Armed Forces in times of both, war & peace.



Air Marshal Bhushan
Gokhale (Retd)

Profile - AIR MARSHAL BN GOKHALE (RETD), PVSM, AVSM, VM

Air Marshal Bhushan Nilkanth Gokhale, PVSM, AVSM, VM, commissioned in June 1968, has flown over 3500 hours on combat and trainer aircraft. He has seen active operations during the 1971 Indo-Pak war. He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and Fighter Combat Leader.

Air Marshal Gokhale has held a variety of important appointments during his career - including command of a frontline fighter squadron in Siachen Operations and was awarded Vayu Sena Medal, commanded a premier airbase during the 'Kargil Operations', assignments abroad as Flying Instructor in Iraq and as the Defence Adviser at Indian Embassy in Egypt and as Directing Staff at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

As Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Air Force Training Command he has served on the Boards of two Defence PSUs, namely Bharat Electronics Ltd and Bharat Dynamics Ltd.

The Air Marshal is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and is M Sc, M Phil from Madras University. He is also an alumnus of the Air War College, USA and a Fellow of Aeronautical Society of India. He is a recipient of the Presidential awards - Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

On retirement in Dec 2007, he had been appointed Consultant to the Principle Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and also to Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). For his post retirement contribution in the Indigenous development of Strategic systems and for Low Intensity Conflict, he has been awarded the prestigious 'Agni' award in 2013, on National Technology Day. He has also worked in the National Security Council and has been a visiting Member to the Union Public Service Commission, New Delhi.

In 2010, the Air Marshal was nominated as Chairman with full judicial powers, to investigate into the Air India Express accident at Mangalore, in which 158 lives were lost. He has also functioned as a Member of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Western Region.

Air Marshal Gokhale is the Chairman of Maharashtra Education Society and also of Maharashtra Education Society. He has served on the Governing Councils of Deccan College, Pune and the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Khadakwasla, Pune. He is presently a member of Symbiosis Planning and Monitoring Board and on the Governing Council of Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies. Since May 2021 he has been appointed as Chair Professor in the Department of Defence and Strategic Studies at Savitribai Phule Pune University.

He is a Founder Member and Trustee of Pune International Centre. Since Sep 2012 he has also taken over as the Chairman, Civil Aviation Committee at Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) and is currently an Independent Director on the Board of MCCIA as well as Quick Heal Technologies limited. With effect from 1st September 2013 he has taken over as the Director of Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies, Pune; a 'Think-Tank' founded in 1992.

In July 2016 the Air Marshal has been honoured as Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation. He has also been honoured by Pune Municipal Corporation and many other organisations in Pune and other towns of Maharashtra. He is an avid reader and writes articles of interest regularly in various journals and newspapers.

On the family front, Mrs Meghna Gokhale has been a homemaker and takes active interest in social service and charitable causes. They have two sons, both married and presently settled abroad.



From 2 to 4 to 10

04 October - Presentation on 'Women Empowerment'

Years ago as we all know, women were meant to be seen and not heard. They were labeled as wives, mothers, daughters-in-law and were only concerned with the bringing up of children, cooking for the family, doing household chores and serving the family men.

Slowly but surely as time passed by, women were more educated, understood their abilities, capabilities, strength and they got bolder to face obstacles put forth in their way and fought for their freedom and rights in their life.

Women are actually the strength of the family. Take for instance the 'village woman'. She works hard in the fields during the day, cooks and looks after the house in the evenings. So also, the working woman of today, earning and looking after her home.

Women now are strong and on par with men. Look at the Rotary women as Rotarians, other women organisations like the Inner Wheel Clubs only for women, women N.G.O's, women politicians and so on. Now women in India have also been accepted in all the three defence forces - Army Navy and Air Force.

A good example of Women Empowerment was our weekly programme on 04 Oct put up by our own Lady Rotarians and Anns. In their own inimitable style they showed how "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle also Rules the World". Our Lady Rotarians Jayshree Kuber and Vaijayantii Khaladkarr and eight (numbers restricted due to constraints of time) Lady Rotarians and Anns who had excelled in their respective fields of work spoke about their talents and achievements, truly showcasing Women Empowerment.

Jayshree Kuber worked as a Radio Broadcaster for All India Radio, a very rare post for a woman. Vaiju, as we all know her, a woman in her own rights was a caterer first and then switched to weaving of beautiful sarees. Her creations have been worn by known celebrities, including Asha Bhosale.

Maithili, Hon. Secretary and the President Elect of our Club, works as an activist and always stands up for the rights and needs of the public. Dilshad, who made her dreams of becoming an Air Hostess a reality, worked and looked after her family at the same time. Turan, who proved her worth as a Pianist to win a Gold Medal in her musical career.

Madhvi, our First Lady, went ahead in life and became a Fashion Designer and later an Interior Decorator, teaching in various Colleges. Our soft spoken Chandra, Principal of Rosary Schools, a strict and great disciplinarian. Our very own Rtn Dr Pratibha Kataria, a practicing anesthetist, with all her medical anecdotes. Our 'youngster', Archana Dalvi, an actress of numerous plays in Marathi, Hindi, and English. And last but not the least, our very own home maker Shirisha who excels in everything a home maker is capable of.

Now if this is not Women Empowerment WHAT IS!!!!

I now end my article with a quotation by Sheryl Sandburg: "We need Women at all Levels, including the top, to change the dynamics, reshape the conversation, to make sure Women's voices are Heard and Heeded and not Over-looked and Ignored".

..... *Contributed by R/Ann Turan Desai*



Editor's Note: There is a wealth of experience amongst all ladies in our Club - it would be very encouraging to listen to their achievements too.

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Give where the need is greatest

When you give to The Rotary Foundation, you fuel our service projects - projects that eradicate polio, promote peace, and improve developing communities.

With your help, we can make lives better in your community and around the world

Why should I donate to The Rotary Foundation?

Giving works because Rotary works. We are proud that 90.8 percent of donations go straight to supporting our service projects.

How does The Rotary Foundation use donations?

Our 35,000 clubs carry out sustainable humanitarian service projects. Using donations like yours, we've wiped out 99 percent of all polio cases. Your donations train future peacemakers, support clean water, and strengthen local economies.

What impact can one donation have on the world?

It can save a life. A child can be protected from polio with as little as 60 cents. Our partners make your donation go even farther. For every \$1 Rotary commits to polio eradication, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed \$2.

Upcoming Programs

**18 October - Presentation by Dr. Shashikala Shirgopikar
On 'PUNYA SWAR YATRA'**

Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

	None this week

Deep Thoughts

**"I am not a product of my
circumstances. I am a product
of my decisions."**

**- Stephen Covey
(Author - 'The 7 Habits of Highly
Effective People'.)**

Attendance Report

04 Oct 21

Rtns	31
Anns	18
Spouse	01
Guests	02
TOTAL	52