

6th March 2021

Women's Day Special Issue

Issue XVI/20-21

**Today's programme**

Vocational Excellence Award presentation to Lt.Gen.Dr.Madhuri Kanitkar & Entrepreneurship Seminar



Lt.Gen.Dr.Madhuri Kanitkar  
AVSM, VSM

Ati Vishist Seva Medal in 2018

Vishist Seva Medal in 2014

Commendation by the Chief of Army Staff in 2000, 2003, 2004 and twice in 2012

Commendation by GOC-in-C in 2008

Nominated to the PM Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Committee and Board of Governors of Medical Council of India in October 2018 and July 2019 respectively.

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**Presidential Corner....**

My Dear Metropolitans,



We had some wonderful activities since the last bulletin issue. On 11<sup>th</sup> February, we had Dr. Ajay Joshi come and talk about his experience as a Fulbright scholar and the time he spent in the USA as Fulbright scholar. It was wonderful to hear about

Dr. Joshi's varied interests that range from theatre, photography, arts; and over & above, his professional career of dentistry! One wonders how can one find time to cater to so many interests. I guess as they say, where there is will there is a way. We had Fellow Rotarians from RC Detroit in attendance at the meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup>. It was a first for Metro to have overseas club visitors attend our meeting!

Our youth team has been busy as ever. We arranged a meeting on Cyber Suraksha for the students of Agashe School Interact Club. This very important topic was nicely covered by RC Pune West President Rtn.Kalyani Gokhale. Not only the students, but some of us also got some useful tips. We are adding a third Rotaract Club to Metro family – MCOE Computer Science Rotaract Club. The Rotaract orientation program was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a very well attended program. Thanks to the wonderful work done with MCOE Rotaract of Electrical Engineering, the Computer Science department approached us to start a Rotaract Club. This will be a second Rotaract Club addition this Rotary Year. Congratulations Director Surekha & the youth team.

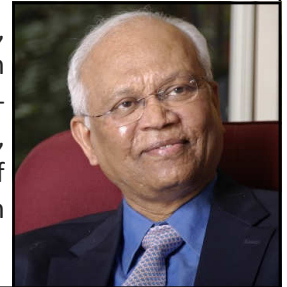
Sunday February 21<sup>st</sup> marked a visit to the Bhave Farm at Vile. It was something to experience 250+ acres of nature full of fruit trees. We got to see various projects/new ideas that Rtn.Manjusha is pursuing in the field of Agriculture. We also planted a Miyawaki forest on the property.

**Women in Rotary through the years:** Women are active participants in Rotary, serving their communities in increasing numbers and serving in leadership positions in Rotary. The 1989 Council on Legislation vote to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide remains a watershed moment in the history of Rotary. More on the next page.

**Today's Keynote Speaker**

**Padma Vibhushan**

Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, National Research Professor, Ex Director General of CSIR, and ex Chairman of National Innovation Foundation.



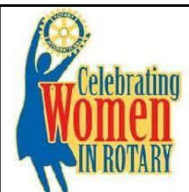
All this supplemented by the wonderful hospitality of Bhave's, we had a truly wonderful day. Thank you Bhave's.

On February 27<sup>th</sup> we conducted a formal hand-over ceremony of Intelligent Interactive Panels to Rani Laxmibai Mulinchi Sainiki School. These high tech panels will get the world into the classrooms through ready access to Internet. Due to COVID restrictions we could not invite the entire club for this function. This has become part of the new normal now. Usually we try & get as many members to attend project meetings as possible. Here as a president one has to make a choice on who to invite for the function!! We will plan another visit when things return to normal.

We concluded the fund raising events for next Rotary year with the wonderful program Bhairav to Bhairavi. Like the first program, this one was also presented immaculately. Thanks to the effort of the fund raising team lead by IPP Mukund, the fund raising has been a great success. Truly a team effort. Congratulations team Metro!

Today is a very special function as we are bestowing Vocational Excellence Award to Lt General Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar. We could not have gotten a more worthy recipient. As we celebrate International Women's day, my salute to the entire Nari Shakti!!

March will be a very busy month for us with a number of projects and programs lined up. So stay tuned.



## Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar, AVSM, VSM

### An inspiration and a role model

Today, we are extremely honoured to have Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri Kanitkar, AVSM, VSM, amongst us, a true role model for all women. Apart from becoming the only doctor on the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council, she is the first lady officer in the history of the Indian Armed forces to share the same high-flying, three-star rank as her husband.

A medical graduate of the Armed Forces Medical College, Pune University, Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps (AMC) on 27 December 1982. She then went on to do her MD (Pediatrics) from Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS).

She has had the distinction of being first in the Pune University in all the three phases of MBBS and was **awarded the President's Gold Medal and Kalinga Trophy for the best outgoing student** of the graduate wing in academics and extra-curricular activities in 1982.

Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri did her post-graduation in Pediatrics from Mumbai in 1990 and is trained in Pediatric Nephrology at AIIMS, New Delhi. She has Fellowships from National University Hospital Singapore and the Great Ormond Street Hospital London and has also completed the FAIMER Fellowship in Medical Education. She is also the first trained pediatric nephrologist of the armed forces. She is a past President of the Indian Society of Pediatric Nephrology and is a member of PRESIDE (Pediatric Research and Education Society of India Defining Excellence). Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri has held various key appointments such as Dean and Dy. Commandant, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune; Dy. Director General AFMS (P&T); Prof and Head, Dept of Pediatrics at AFMC Pune; and many more.

Lt. Gen. Dr. Madhuri has not only a large number of publications in national and international journals to her credit, but she is also a very active sports person and an avid Golfer. She loves travelling and visiting historical places especially in India.



## Women in Rotary.....

### **1950**

An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.

### **1980**

The RI Board of Directors and Rotary clubs in India, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States propose an enactment to remove from the RI and club constitutions and bylaws all references to members as "male persons."

### **1989**

At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation votes to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Women are welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world.

### **2020**

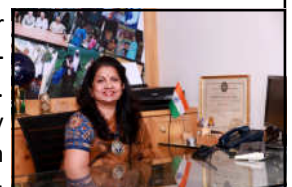
**In October, Jennifer E. Jones becomes president-nominee, the first woman to be nominated to be Rotary International President. Her term as president will begin 1 July 2022.**

The number of women members worldwide reached 195,000 in July 2010 (about 16% of Rotarians) and surpassed 277,000 in July 2020 (about 23%).



### **District Governor Rtn. Rashmi Kulkarni**

Rtn. Rashmi Kulkarni has the honour of becoming the **First Lady Governor of Rotary District 3131**. Rtn. Rashmi Kulkarni is an Architect by profession, and heads her own firm by the name of Rashmi Kulkarni &



Associates, and is also a partner in the Interior Designing firm known as Ameya Interiors. She is an executive committee member of The Institute Of Architects, Pune Centre.

She is the recipient of the prestigious 'Udyogini Puraskar' and 'Ranaragini Puraskar' for her outstanding work in the fields of architecture and community service.

Apart from being the past president of the Rotary Club of Pune Parvati, she has served on many District assignments as Director. Her passions are Rotary Youth Exchange and The Rotary Foundation.

## Rotary Club of Pune Metro in the forefront of executing exclusively women targeted projects ! Some shining examples

### Women Entrepreneurship Development Program

An excellent example of Ann's taking the lead in our important projects.

This project, called the Women Entrepreneurship Development Program (WEDP) has been running successfully each year for last 20 years. **It has been helmed by Ann Ashwinitai Joshi**, in collaboration with Indsearch and Jagruti Seva Sanstha.

Beneficiaries of this program are women from lower strata of society, mostly with education level around 4<sup>th</sup> standard to 10<sup>th</sup> standard; having some micro or tiny businesses. The project consists of a 2-day workshop through which beneficiaries are exposed to topics such as Basics of Management & Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Sales, Accounting, Finance and Banking, etc. The workshop also provides a group counseling session on managing stress and coping with the dual responsibility of work and home. One session is dedicated to interaction with a few successful women Entrepreneurs; this session is a great motivator for all attendees.

The past attendees have given feedback that they have been able to successfully implement the insights gained during the workshop and have been able to grow their businesses. Over 500 women have benefitted from this program so far.



### Project Swayamsiddha: Ease re-settlement of women facing divorce/ economic hardship: Led by Ann. Shilpa Chaudhary

There are three aspects of this initiative. Indeed, there are 3 projects for this purpose. Firstly, beneficiaries are identified with the help of family courts where divorce cases are settled. These ladies are either less educated or educated but not having any source of income for their own and their children's' livelihood. Then our club sponsors the fees for these beneficiaries for various vocational training courses in partnership with MES's Renuka Swaroop Vocational Training Centre. The club guides them to select the appropriate courses such as Beauty Parlour expertise, Fashion Designing, Flower Making and Teachers Training. This is a recent initiative by our club but we have already sponsored 21 women with a budget of Rs.1,18,000/- to be disbursed in stages as the courses are completed.

The next project is to promote these "Swayamsiddhas" to start their own small scale businesses. To guide them, our club had arranged a 2 day's workshop for "Swayamsiddhas" as well as other interested women, in all totaling 45. Experts lectures were arranged on various subjects that are useful for starting a new business, such as on accounting and banking, marketing and stress management. Our own club members and subject experts from outside had conducted these lectures.

**Reconciliation effort:** An excellent further initiative by family court of Pune and supported by our club is to bring together those spouses whose divorce cases are pending but there seems to be hope of reconciliation. For such couples, a small informal function was arranged on the occasion of Valentine's day, in the family court, led by family court counselor. Various Judges, Counselors, RCPM members attended this programme, as did 20 couples with divorce cases pending.

They were made to feel at ease and encouraged to talk freely by creating an atmosphere of bonhomie with presentation of gifts like roses and chocolates, and felicitation at the hand of dignitaries. A small skit was presented by the counselors.

This holistic approach towards women empowerment and rapprochement has been very well received and has strengthened our resolve to continue this initiative in the future too.



### Cervical Cancer vaccination drive:

#### Convenor Rtn. Vivek Kulkarni

Cervical Cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India. Rotary took up the challenge to vaccinate against this cancer for girls in the age group 9 to 14 at a total project cost of USD 96,534. Our club partnered with other clubs in the district and completed vaccination of 1861 girls against a target of 1840 girls. Camps were held in Pune and surrounding areas at 11 centres initially followed by more centres and more girls until the pandemic intervened to pause this project. Rotarians also volunteered in a major way for tedious tasks of logistics and documentation, vaccination monitoring and counseling of girls.



### Ajisa: Celebration of womenhood:

Convenor Ann. Arusha Majli Our club got together women of varied backgrounds and offered them space to set up stalls, play games, learn about dance therapy, listen to inspirational lectures from women experts and learn public speaking. On this occasion, 101 year old Dr. Leelatai Gokhale was felicitated by our president.



## A Bow to all the Women Leaders of Rotary Club of Pune Metro : Past and future

**The Rotary Club of Pune Metro is known in the Rotary District 3131 as being one where women play a very active role:** as function or project convenors, Service Project Directors, and those holding important responsibilities as members of the board of directors of the club. Not only does the club boast of a vastly numerically superior strength of lady Rotarians, but even spouses of male Rotarians (Ann's) are always active as leaders in various roles described above. It is no wonder that in its 25 year presence, the club boasts of having 5 women club presidents with two more lined up. Today, on the occasion of World Women's Day, let us salute all the women leaders of our club and specially thank those that have helmed the club as Presidents or are nominated as Presidents in the next two or three years.

**PP. Rtn. Anjali Sahasrabudhe**  
Industrialist; and the **First Lady President of RCPM 2005-06**

Started the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Programme. Stepped up to take the challenging responsibility of Presidentship in an emergency without the benefit of notice or the customary training. Being an entrepreneur, came up tops in flying colours!!



**PP. Rtn. Padma Shahane**  
Practicing CA for 33 years  
**President 2010-11**

Donation of Blood Collection van equipped to carry blood components at sub zero temperature for up to 100kms  
Innovative fund raising for this through painting exhibition.



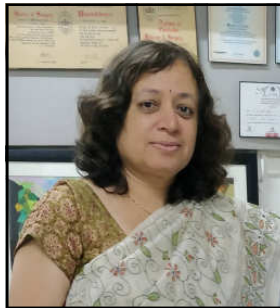
Bicycle Donation for underprivileged rural students.

**PP.Rtn. Dr.Madhavi Mehendaley**

Eye Surgeon, Painter, Writer and trustee on MES board.

**President 2011-12**

Short films for traffic safety made by the club and shown free of charge at all Citi Pride theatres in Pune. Offered innovative pre meeting activities to enthuse members to arrive early, resulting in timely start of club meetings, and also helped attendance. Inter-collegiate Pathanaty competition in public gardens to connect to youth, for which media sponsorship was obtained for the first time from Radio Mirchi and "Sakal"

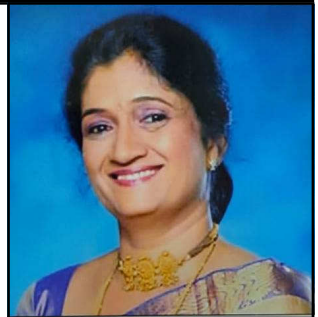


**PP. Rtn. Seema Deshpande**

Professor and Educationist

**President 2013-14**

Took up the challenge to raise funds for our first Global Grant Project( Happy School project), Innovative helicopter ride fund raising setting programme undertaken, setting a District benchmark. Raised Rs.5 lakhs in just 3 hours.



**PP. Rtn. Bhavana Chahure, Architect**

**President 2018-19**



One of the largest on-line Organ Donation Drive as part of District project. It was acknowledged by Guinness Book as a World Record as more than 22,500 persons recorded their pledge on-line for Organ Donation on a single day.

The Cervical Cancer vaccination drive with other partner clubs undertaken in this year was also a huge success. benefiting 1850 girls. The total project outlay was USD 96500/- approximately. Both the organ donation project and the Cervical Cancer Vaccination project involved a large number of club members for logistics and record keeping that automatically resulted in good assimilation. Also undertaken the "Ajisa" inspirational project for women.

**Rtn. Sneha Subedar**

**President Elect**

**2021-22**

Professor, TV actress, Bharud Performer



**Rtn. Surekha Deshpande**

**President Nominee 2023-24**

Executive Secretary to top management and Technical writer in the IT industry. Total working experience of more than 32 years.



Ms. Shilpa Phadke

### Entrepreneurship Seminar for Girls

Today, on the occasion of International Women's Day, our club is hosting an entrepreneurship Seminar for students of Maharshi Karve Stree Sikshan Sanstha. The students will be addressed by Ms.Shilpa Phadke, a Telecom Engineer and Founder Director of Stayfit Enterprises Pvt. Ltd and Ms.Rachana Gupta, Director at Chrysalis Business Solutions. We welcome both the successful entrepreneurs and expert guest speakers.



Ms. Rachana Gupta