



POONA SERVICE WHEEL



R.I. District 3131

ROTARY CLUB OF POONA

Club 04-3131-15536

Vol.89 2024-25 Issue No. 21

Saturday, 7th Dec 2024

For Private Circulation Only

Secretary

President

Editor

Rtn Aarti Thacker

Rtn Maj Gen Amar Krishna, PhD

Rtn Brig Prashant Sheode

EVENT OF THE DAY - BOOK REVIEW

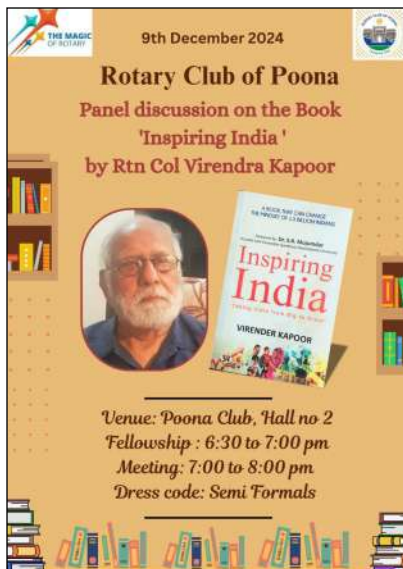
PANEL DISCUSSION ON BOOK WRITTEN BY RTN. COL VIRENDER KAPOOR

Col Virender Kapoor is an educationist of repute who wears many hats. A thinker, author, columnist, and an inspirational guru. An Indian army veteran, he served for 27 years and took voluntary retirement as a Colonel.

Education : He graduated with a B.E in Telecommunications, with a Masters in Computer Science from IIT Bombay and also holds an MA in International relations & a PG Diploma in Marketing. He was the Director of the prestigious management Institute under the Symbiosis International University.

As a celebrity author, his name appears with the likes of Thomas Friedman and Dale Carnegie. He has authored more than three dozen books which are available on Amazon worldwide with a few books still in the pipeline. The books are available in eight regional and foreign languages like Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Telegu, Malayalam, Tamil, Punjabi and Vietnamese.

His areas of interest are Human excellence, Work life balance, Motivation, Emotional Intelligence, Value based leadership, Value system, Learning from luminaries, writing skills, Oratory, Technology, International relations and more. He has conducted more than a hundred two-day workshops based on his books and more than a hundred talk shows in India and abroad.



EVENTS OF LAST WEEK

MEETING THE PARALYMPIANS

On 25th November we had the pleasure of inviting Subedar K Narayana and Miss Anita to our Club. Narayana and Anita are both Para rowers who had represented India in the 2024 Para Olympics held at Paris this year.

Rtn. Brig Ajit Apte convened the meeting and after introducing them, coaxed the two shy visitors into sharing their experiences at the Paralympics and their interaction with participants from other countries. It was so inspiring to listen to them speak, not just as participants but also about their training schedule at the Army Rowing Node in CME. Many members also asked them relevant questions about their experiences.



EVENTS OF LAST WEEK CONTD.



The Commanding Officer of the Army Rowing Node, Col Ramkrishnan had been kind enough to accompany and coordinate the rower's visit to our Club and it was through his narration that we understood the manner in which these brave young rowers had taken up the challenge with grit and determination. The videos and pictures displayed gave us a glimpse of their rigorous training and left us full of praise for their focus and dedication.

President Maj Gen Amar Krishna then presented a well-deserved 'Certificate of Appreciation' to both the rowers, filling the hall with beaming smiles & hearty applause. We wish them the very best in life and may they continue to bring back laurels and glory to our nation.

Chak de, Chak de India!

Rtn Trupti Gowariker



VOCATIONAL VISIT

SARVAAY: GUD FOR ALL!

On 27th November 2024, around 32 Rotarians visited SARVAAY a jaggery processing plant at Lavale, where the ever-smiling Dr. Madhavi, a Rotary Ann awaited us at the entrance.

Our visit began with a delightful tasting session of Sarvaay's unique products, setting the tone for a sweet day ahead. Following this, Rtn Dr. Madhavi was felicitated by the President of Rotary Club of Poona, Rtn General Amar Krishna, Hon Secretary Rtn Aarti Thacker and Vocational Director, Rtn Jayashree Kuber. Dr Madhavi was presented with the Vocational Excellence Award – A citation-, a shawl, a bouquet of flowers and a gift to acknowledge her efforts and contribution.

Dr Madhavi then explained the intricate jaggery-making process, which begins with sugarcane sourced from local farmers. The sugarcane is crushed, and the juice is heated in three vats at temperatures of 600, 400, and 300 degrees, transforming it into molten jaggery. This molten substance is then spread out in pans, cooled, and



VOCATIONAL VISIT CONTD.



granulated. The process is entirely chemical-free and produces no waste. Dr. Madhavi explained how the byproducts serve multiple purposes: crushed sugarcane becomes cattle feed, bagasse is used as biofuel, and the ash serves as fertilizer, thus ensuring sustainability in every step.

After the insightful theoretical session, we moved to the factory, where we watched these concepts come to life. Standing on a platform, we observed the fascinating transformation of raw sugarcane into the golden granules of jaggery.

This was followed by a “Charlie at the Chocolate Factory” moment for all of us as purses opened and bags were filled with Sarvaay’s products: Jaggery Tea, Jaggery Coffee, Chocolate Jaggery Powder, Turmeric Jaggery Powder. Jaggery powder prepared before our eyes, was a highlight among the items on sale.

Dr. Madhavi, our gracious host, then served us a simple yet delicious lunch. The meal featured khichdi, salad, chips, and puranpoli stuffed with jaggery and slathered with desi ghee, embodying traditional Indian hospitality (Atithi devo bhava) and the Rotary principles of humility and service above self. She was ably assisted by our very own Rtn Kamal Palia, ensuring that every guest was well fed and well taken care of.

As the visit came to an end, we bid farewell to Sarvaay with promises to restock our goodie bags at the next monthly sale. Special thanks to Rtn Jayashree for organizing the visit and to Rtn Dr. Madhavi, whose warm smile and dedication made the day unforgettable. Despite having an award function to attend with her husband, Dr. Vishal, she chose to spend her day with us, exemplifying true generosity and service.



It was indeed a day filled with learning, laughter, and sweetness, leaving us enriched in more ways than one.

Rtn Farida Irani with inputs from Rtn Jayashree Kuber



“POWERPLAY” THE ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR (RID 3131)

The District Team had arranged the seminar on 30th November, at the Marigold Banquet & Conventions at Bavdhan where three members from our Club, President Maj. Gen. Amar Krishna, PE Rohit Mitra & Rtn. Pradeep Govil, attended, where PP Kailash Monga was a key speaker.

The seminar started with a talk by PP Kailash Monga on a topic “**Why do I donate**” where he explained that, unless a person is not convinced about the purpose, no one is going to take out anything from his/her pocket. So it is essential for us to make sure that we have enough reason/explanation and enough credentials to site before we approach anyone with a request to donate to Rotary Foundation.

Few among them are:

1. Charity Navigator Evaluation
 - Consistently receives 4-star rating (highest possible) for many years
 - Scores exceptionally high on: Financial health, Accountability & Transparency
 - Typically ranks in top 1-2% of global NGOs for financial management



THE ROTARY FOUNDATION SEMINAR CONTD.

2. GuideStar/Candid Recognition

- Holds Platinum Seal of Transparency
- Demonstrates exceptional commitment to organizational openness
- Provides comprehensive financial and operational information publicly

3. Global NGO Reputation Metrics

- Consistently ranked in top 10 global service organizations
- Particularly strong in: Volunteer engagement, Long-term project sustainability, International Collaboration & Measurable community impact

4. Financial Efficiency Indicators

- Approximately 90% of funds directly allocated to programs
- Administrative overhead typically below 10% (Normally 5 - 8%)
- Considered exceptionally efficient compared to global NGO standards

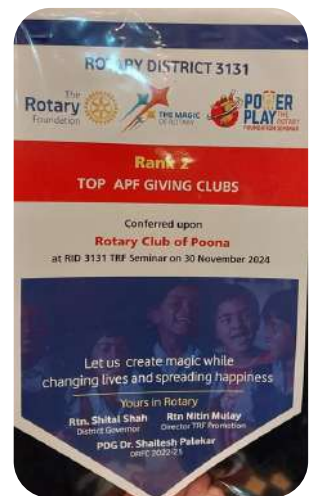
5. Independent Impact Assessments

- Highly rated for: Polio eradication efforts, Water and sanitation projects, Educational support Initiatives & Economic development programs

Many other speakers also shared progress made by District 3131 in different areas, year on year, breaking their own records of previous year almost since RY 2019-20 and expressed their confidence in achieving much greater heights by Rotary India within not only in South East Asia Region but in Global perspective.

Address by the Chief Guest Rtn. Er. M. Murganandam (RI Director 2025-27) was quite impressive and inspiring. As planned, lots of awards were given away by the Chief Guest, DG Rtn. Shital Shah. Director TRF Promotion Rtn. Nitin Mulay and DRFC 2022-25 PDG Dr. Shailesh Palekar and other dignitaries were present. We also received 9 awards for the Club & Individuals. Notable among them were **“TOP APF GIVING CLUB – RANK 2”**, **“Top Donor to Annual Fund”** for PP. Rtn. Kailash Monga for his contribution of USD 7,500 last week, Contribution of **USD 25,000 to Rotary Endowment Fund** by PP Rtn. Pradeep Rathi in one single installment and **“Major Donor – Level 2”** to one member of our Club.

We are proud to announce that RC Poona is committed to sponsor The Rotary Foundation Seminar (RID 3131) during RY 2025-26 under Presidentship of PE Rtn. Rohit Mittra.



PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

The Paul Harris Fellow Recognition and its origins:

Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition is given in appreciation to anyone who contributes, outright or cumulatively – or in whose name is contributed – a gift of US\$1,000 or more to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus, PolioPlus Partners or the Humanitarian Grants program. The recognition consists of a certificate and a Lapel Pin.

Rotary established the recognition in the year 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation’s only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

The first Paul Harris Fellows included past RI Director Allison G. Brush, who served during the 1937-38 Rotary year, and longtime RI Treasurer Rufus F. Chapin, both for donations made in 1946. Mrs. Adan Vargas was the first woman to receive the recognition, for a gift made in 1953. Mrs. Harry L. Jones was the second, and one of only five people recognized for contributions made in that inaugural year.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOW CONTD.

First million marks of PHF recognition was achieved in the year 2006 and number continues to grow.

During our regular meeting on 29th July, 2024 Rotary Club of Poona added following seven members in the list besides Rtn. Dr. Pratibha Kataria been graduated to the next level:

1. Rtn Rani Chaudhry
2. Rtn Kamal Palia
3. Rtn Adv. Manohar Jagdale
4. Rtn Trupti Gowariker
5. Rtn Arun Kumar Nayar
6. Rtn Air Cmde Sanjay Tiloo
7. Master Kabir Govil Kakkar



Besides above few more members shall be added to the list shortly. Our aim is to acquire status of “100% Paul Harris Fellow Club” in which all dues-paying members are Paul Harris Fellows, by end of Rotary Year 2024-25. This is a one-time recognition which we need to maintain being a lead club of District 3131.

*Compiled by:
Rtn. Pradeep K. Govil – Director International Services*

DEARLY DEPARTED



On Saturday the 7th, members of RC Poona connected online to pay tribute to dear PP Ramgopal Rao and express their condolences to R/Ann Esther and their son Rishan. Still in shock it's been very hard for all to accept his passing and many members took the opportunity to relive their fond memories with him. The words, dedicated, passionate, disciplined, helpful, witty, an impressive personality, all seemed to echo in every voice.

Rishan then addressed the members briefly, thanking and assuring all that he would carry on his father's wishes to the best of his ability.

Rest in peace dear PP Ramgopal. You will be deeply missed.

Programmes Ahead:

16th December - Talk on Thalassemia by Dr Neeta Munshi
23rd December - Christmas dinner
30th December - AGM.

Attendance Report 25th Nov 2024

Count

Rotarians	41
Anns	22
Spouses	02
Guests	10
TOTAL	75

Dates	Birthdays & Anniversaries	Dates	Birthdays & Anniversaries	Dates	Birthdays & Anniversaries
03-Dec	Rtn Brig Prashant Sheode	06-Dec	R/ Ann Vrinda Kirpekar	12-Dec	Rtn Ravikumar & R/ Ann Rita Budhreja
03-Dec	Rtn Faizy & R/ Ann Tasneem Dalal	08-Dec	Rtn Anilkumar J & R/ Ann Latika Hatkar	14-Dec	Rtn Dr Seema Soneta
03-Dec	Rtn Sanjay & R/ Ann Sandhya Kher	10-Dec	Rtn Umesh Shinde	14-Dec	R/ Ann Anju Shah
04-Dec	Rtn Mansur H Dalal	11-Dec	R/ Ann Zubeen Dalal	14-Dec	Rtn Jamshed J & R/ Ann Hootokshi Khursigara
04-Dec	Rtn Sahab & R/ Ann Archana Saran	11-Dec	Rtn Jatindar & R/ Ann Veena Singh	15-Dec	Rtn Awadhut R Walimbe