



POONA SERVICE WHEEL



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES



R.I. District 3131

ROTARY CLUB OF POONA

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President

Editor

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Rtn Col Bharat Haladi

Rtn Maj Gen Amar Krishna

28 February 2022

“Know Your Rotarians”

Rtns and R/Anns being interviewed Club President Rtn Col Bharat Haladi, are:

- Rtn PP Ramgopal & Rtn Esther Rao
- Rtn Shehnaaz Janjali
- Rtn Brig Ajit & R/Ann Nandini Apte

Rtn PP Ramgopal & Rtn Esther Rao

Ramgopal Rao is an Entrepreneur with 45 years of Business experience.

In 1992 he started working as an Executive Search Consultant and in the last 29 years he has placed around 1200 Executives across various Business Sectors including Automotive, General Engineering, Med Tech, FMCG & Renewable Energy. He is the Founder Promoter of a Niche Recruitment Company called Special Recruitment Groups Pvt Ltd (www.izzat.co.in) which helps connect Defence Veterans with Corporates in India for suitable re-employment opportunities. He is the Chairman of the British Business Group, Pune Chapter which is an UK-India Bilateral Trade Platform and also the Pune Chapter Head of the Federation of Indo-Israeli Chambers of Commerce. He has been the Past President of the 60-year-old Rotary Club of Poona North. His Spouse, Rtn Dr Esther Talang-Rao is a PhD in Linguistics and is a University Professor and a member of the Rotary Club of Poona North. Their Son Rishan Talang Rao is active in the family business.



Rtn Shehnaaz Janjali

A learner by default & a teacher at heart!! A deep passion for inclusion of life-long learning & self-learning as an integral part of education across learner ages. Worked on large-scale education projects with school teachers & leaders of private & govt schools, across 17 states of India. Believes that education should prepare one for life & not for a job/profession! Keen interest in integration of social-emotional learning & technology in all spheres of education. An introvert, a student of Vedanta, who draws energy from within, engages warmly with people; without dependencies or attachments - connected to everything; attached to nothing!



Rtn Brig Ajit & R/Ann Nandini Apte

Brigadier Ajit Apte is an Alumnus of the National Defence Academy Kharakvasla Pune (37th NDA Juliet Sqn) and was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery, on 20th December 1970 from the Indian Military Academy Dehradun. He is a second generation Army officer.

He participated in the India - Pakistan War of 1971 (Liberation of Bangladesh) on the Eastern Front in the Jessore –Khulna Sector, and was subsequently deployed on the Western Front also. He has served on the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir and in the Eastern Sector in the counter insurgency environment. He commanded a Field Regiment in the Rann of Kutch on the Western Front, and an Artillery Brigade of a Strike Corps with its operational role again on the Western Front during the Kargil Conflict in 1999. He has done most of the important courses and has held varied staff appointments at formation level and at the Army HQ.

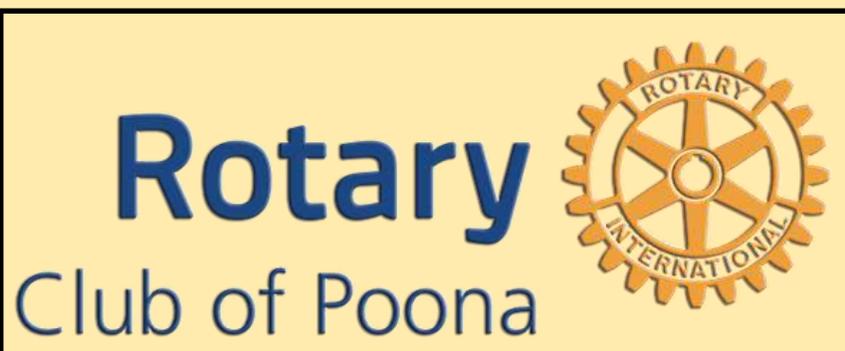
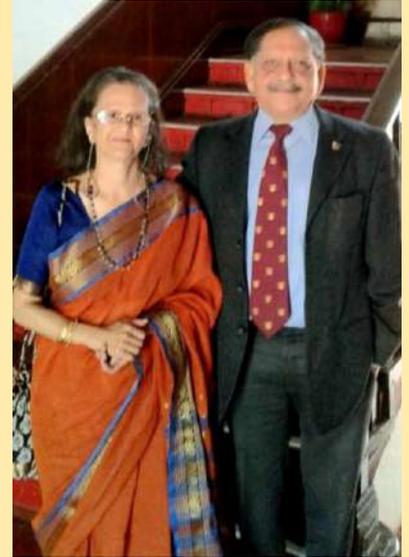
He has been Instructor, Senior Instructor and then the BGS at the School of Artillery Devlali in three different tenures there. He has also been Instructor (DS) at the Officers Training School (now Officers Training Academy) in Madras/Chennai from December 1979 to April 1982. He superannuated in December 2005 after more than 35 years of service in the Army. After

retirement from service he has served as Associate Vice President and Vice President Human Resource and Administration with two multinational corporates.

He is a keen cricketer, has played at the Academy level and has also been a cricket commentator in English on the National Panel of All India Radio from 1987 to 2002, having covered one Test Match and 14 One Day Internationals, all while in service.

He is a Fellow Research Scholar from the Department of Defence & Strategic Studies University of Pune, and is a member of the Centre for Advance Strategic Studies (CASS) Pune. He was former Chairman of the British Business Group Pune Chapter. He is member of the India Advisory Council of Steinbach & Partner.

He is fond of reading and Indian classical music. He is widely travelled internationally and touring military battlefields is his passion. He enjoys golf and participates in cricket interactions when invited to do so.



Talk by Dr Ganesh Natarajan

On 21st February Rtn. Dr. Ganesh Natarajan gave a presentation titled:

“MAKING PUNE A TOTALLY INCLUSIVE HIGH EMPLOYMENT SOCIETY”

The programme commenced with a personal-cum-official Introduction by PP Ravindra Gosavi. It was a distinguished Bio-data of a person of distinction.

It was a structured, cogent, and an insightful Presentation lucidly delivered and shorn of management jargon. It primarily dealt with the Lighthouse Community Project (LHP), whose primary objective is to create awareness, generate skilled and employable citizens, which would free them from their daily arduous struggle of “ **leading lives of quiet desperation**” (to quote Thoreau) and “**Alienation**” (Jimmy Reid’s seminal “**Rat Race**” speech).



In order to understand the reasons behind its success, one needs to weave together the different strands of his presentation. It is this writer’s personal view that in order for a Policy or a Project to succeed, it has to satisfy its **Four** components viz; Conceptualization, Execution, Sustainability and lastly Scale/ Scalability (CESS).

As an impressionable young boy growing up in the interiors of present day Jharkhand, he sub-consciously imbibed the ethos of Rotary of ‘Service before Self’ from his late Rotarian father. His later interaction with the house-help, made him realize, how we the privileged citizens, ensconced in our comfortable cocoons, are in his own words “**cut off from ground realities**”. With these and other professional insights, one assumes that he **CONCEPTUALISED** the project, by assessing and understanding the ground realities, and having a long term sustainable perspective. By walking the talk and working in the field, he rightly avoided the conscience assuaging trap of restricting himself to “**Cheque Book Charity**”.

For its **EXECUTION**, the project has an august Board of Directors driven by a sense of service and compassion and ably supported by enlightened senior government officials. Lighthouse Communities Foundation Board is chaired by Dr Natarajan and, he and Ruchi Mathur (IIMA alumnus - batch of 1995) are co-founders.

Further by creating the Jeevan Shikshan Schemes, Digitization and a Tracking System, the project has ensured that all the fundamental building blocks have been placed so as to make it into a long term **SUSTAINABLE** project. These steps have created a momentum of their own and have gained credibility in the eyes of the ultimate beneficiaries. It is no wonder that politicians of all hues want to have the Lighthouses in their constituencies.

Lighthouse Communities Foundation has already set up Lighthouses and Digital Empowerment Centres in eleven administrative wards of the Pune Municipal Corporation and one in PCMC and intends to set up eleven more in Pune itself. In addition, centres have come up in Kalyan-Dombivali and Kalkaji in Delhi and the national expansion plan envisages twenty new centres in 2022-23.

As a longstanding member of Rotary and a leading light in the field of digitisation, Dr. Natarajan has adroitly melded the ethos of Rotary and the benefits of digitization to create the LHP. It firstly created skilled and employable citizens and more importantly, has given a life of purpose, self-respect and dignity to the likes of Ms. Pragati Gite, Ms. Shahin Pathan (several others) and their families. Secondly, it has metamorphosed them from being dependent on government handouts into sustainable SHGs and giving them the sense of owning their own communities and destinies.

It needs to be stressed that his reference to the grim South African situation playing out in India in the future should be heeded with all the seriousness that it deserves.

To sum up, the pioneering role of Dr. Natarajan and his able team in birthing the LHP, should be viewed from the prism of **John Bunyan’s** quote – “**You have never really lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you**”..... *Contributed by Rtn Zarir Dadachanji*

SYNERGY PROJECT ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022

My dear friends,

Interact and Vocational avenues did a Synergy Project on 23rd February, and it which was a very successful project of Brush Art, a demonstration by our dear R/Ann Alka Mittra.

75 students from 6 schools, 5 Rtns, 6 Anns, 4 Guests and teachers were present. The children took great interest and Astha Agrawal from St Arnold school tried her hand on the bottle art seeing the demonstration. It was a fantastic show by Alka and everyone enjoyed it and were glued to the screen. My sincere thanks to Alka for taking her time out and showing her passion to the children. Thanks to President Rtn Bharat Haladi & Rtn PP Sanjay Kher for their total support, Rtn Niamat Virji for being the backbone of every project. Another person I want to thank is Rtn Sanjay Ghodke who made the PPT and hosted the program. Thanks Rtn Maithili for being part of this program and she spoke about creativity. Last but not the least a big thanks to Chairman for Interact Rtn Amarjeet Singh Raizada for everything.Contributed by R/Ann Daljeet Raizada



Project Report - Community Service Avenue- Pulse Polio Drive

27 February 2022

In a wonderful synergy project, three Rotary clubs of District 3131, donated about 450 lunch packets for the Polio booth volunteers of two hospitals -Shivarkar Hospital, Wanawadi & Cantonment Hospital, Camp. In addition 50 packets were sent to the mobile teams at Swargate Bus Stand & Sarasbaug. Rotary Club of Poona was the lead Club & our two synergy partners were Rotary Club of Pune Camp & Rotary Club of Pune Cantonment. Contributed by Rtn PE Maithili



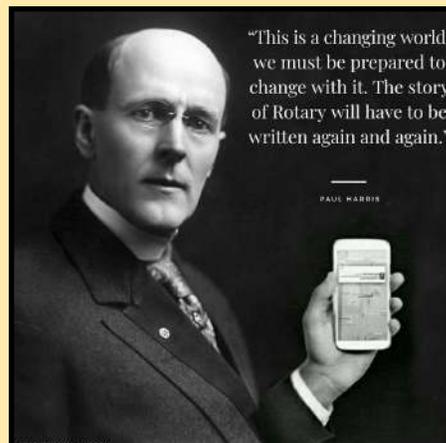


Upcoming Program

7 March 2022 - 'Divas Of R.C Poonna - Part 2'
 Conducted by Rtn Jayashree Kuber and Rtn Vijayantii Khaladkarr

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 28-Feb Rtn Amarjeet Raizada & R/Ann Daljeet Kaur Raizada
- 1-Mar R/Ann Geeta Pabby
- 2-Mar Spouse Mahroof Virji
- 4-Mar Rtn PP RAdm Dharam Vir Taneja & R/Ann Suraj Taneja
- 5-Mar Rtn PP Dipak Thacker & Rtn Aarti Thacker
- 6-Mar R/Ann Indira Gujrathi



Attendance Report	
21 Feb 22	
Rtns	26
Anns	09
Spouse	02
Total	37