



# POONA SERVICE WHEEL



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

R.I. District 3131

ROTARY CLUB OF POONA

Club 04-3131-15536

Vol.86 2021-22 Issue No. 15

Monday, 18 October 2021

For Private Circulation Only

Secretary

President

Editor

Rtn Maithili Manakawad

Rtn Col Bharat Haladi

Rtn Maj Gen Amar Krishna

**18 October 2021**

**'PUNYA SWARA YATRA'**

**Dr. Shashikala Shirgopikar**

Dr. Shashikala Shirgopikar, the renowned musician will be presenting the third lecture in the 'Poona Series'. It deals with the musical / ghazal traditions of Poona.

Dr Shashikala Shirgopikar has done her M.Sc. in Zoology and Ph.D in Ghazals.

She has been in the teaching field with the Abasaheb Garware College for more than 37 years.

She took her music lessons from Shri Vidyadhar Pandi, Chhota Gandharva, Pandit T.D. Janorikar, Ms. Jaymala Shiledar and many other renowned artists. She also took special lessons from Gaanasaraswati Kishori Amonkar as well as special Urdu speaking & singing training from Khansaheb Asif Khan.

She has been giving singing programmes right from classical to ghazals, both, within the country as well as at the international level. She has established "Saaz", an Institution which primarily promotes ghazal singing.

She has bagged numerous Awards such as the "Sur Singar" from Mumbai, and Surmani. She has sung many ghazals. But she is also credited with providing music direction and has several Albums to her credit.

She is the daughter of the famous Drama artist & the king of trick scenes, Mr. Nansahaheb Shirgopikar.



## 11 OCT - TALK BY AIR MARSHAL BN GOKHALE (RETD)

On the occasion of the 89th Raising Day of the Indian Air Force, The Rotary Club of Poona was privileged to have Air Marshal Bhushan Gokhale, PVSM, AVSM, VM, a former Vice-Chief of Air Staff, to deliver the Inaugural lecture of our Club's "TRIBUTE TO OUR VALIANT ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL" series.

The title of his lecture was **"NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE ROLE OF INDIAN AIR FORCE"**.

It was not only an interesting and an informative lecture, but it stood out for its lesser known facts and deep insights.

On a proper analysis, one can say that the lecture was delivered at Four levels.

At the First level, he very rightly brought to the attention of our members the unsung and unfortunately forgotten Indian Aviation Pioneer Shri Shivkar Talpade. He thereafter proceeded to give a brief history of Aviation and its evolution as an offensive Air Power from the Great War (WW-1) to the present.

At the Second level, it was the use of the IAF as an offensive weapon in 1947/48, 1965, 1971, Kargil and other operations such as Balakote, Uri etc. The political reasons for not using the Air Force in the 1962 Indo China war can be gleaned from Bruce Riedel's book – JFK's Forgotten Crisis.

At the Third level, and for our discerning members, the most interesting part of the lecture were his revelations, albeit to the permissible extent, of how the country's erstwhile tall leaders such as the late Defence Minister Shri. Y.B.Chavan as well as the "astute" PMs, who despite several political risks, took some very courageous decisions as & when they were needed to be taken at crucial junctures.

At the Fourth level, and finally, for this writer, his clarity of thoughts came through in his observations pertaining to War, in the Indian context, as an instrument to deliver peace.

His deep hurt was evident, that despite winning the 1947/48, 1965 & the 1971 wars, India gave up its hard won territories, despite a sizeable loss of lives, at the U.N. in 1947/48, at Tashkent (1966) and at Simla (1972).

One can safely conclude that with such distinguished individuals at the helm of the IAF, the security of India was and will continue to remain in the safe, and very capable hands of men of the calibre of Air Marshal Gokhale and his successors for their sagacity, forthrightness and wisdom, under extremely trying circumstances.



.....- Contributed by Rtn Zarir Dadachanji

## 'SUFİ LOVE'

*"The minute I heard my first love story,  
I started looking for you, not knowing how blind that was.  
Lovers don't finally meet somewhere.  
They're in each other all along."*

— Rumi

My dear friends, today I will be writing about love in Sufism. In Sufism, love is an alchemical force of enlightenment; the lightning bolt which brings you back to life. Love symbolized the emotional element in religion, the rapture of the seer, the courage of the martyr, the faith of the saint, the only basis of moral perfection and spiritual knowledge.

Jalaluddin Rumi proclaims: "Our copper has been transmuted by this rare alchemy, "meaning that the base alloy of self has been purified and spiritualized. As Al- Imran said *"If you love God, follow me and God will love you and forgive you your sins; God is most forgiving, and most merciful."*

According to Sufism, love is to tear the curtains of God's Heart Garden and to discover the secrets in it. In Sufism, the human form of love can be, and for the Sufi is -- the ladder to Divine Love. Sufism decrees that by learning how to love through the love of a person, the sincere Sufi could – in principle – transform his or her love of a person into the love of GOD. To die in God is the only way to live really. Until you die, until you die voluntarily into love, you live an existence which is simply mediocre; you vegetate, you don't have any meaning.

As 10th Guru of Sikhism wrote, **"Saach kahon sun laehu sabhai jin prem keou thin hee prabh paaeiou"**. Meaning: 'Listen all! I declare the truth, that those who become loving alone will realize God'. Themes and styles established in Punjabi poetry, Sindhi poetry, Arabic poetry and mostly Persian poetry have had an enormous influence on Sufi love poetry throughout the Islamic world, and is often part of Sufi music.

Famous Sufi writers who wrote about love and it's connection with God are - Rumi, Hafiz, Shaikh Farid, Bulle Shah, Amir Khusro, Abdul Qadir Jilani, Aughat Warsi, Khwaza Muinudin Chishti, Saadi Shiraji, Sultan Qalandar and many more. In Sufi history the first female Sufi poetess is Rabia of Basra. She made one of the greatest contributions towards the development of Sufism. She was a teacher of women as well as of men; a woman who called no man her master. She is a classic example of how faith and love can set you free.

The Sufis were organized in 12 orders called Silsilahs. The Silsilahs were generally led by a prominent saint, who along with his disciples, lived in a hospice called khanqah. The link between the teacher and his disciples was a vital part of the Sufi system. This style of organization and some of their practices such as penance, fasting and holding the breath can be traced to the Hindu yogic and Buddhist influence.

These movements had a deep impact on the common men of the times and the philosophy of equality and loving devotion to the Supreme Being produced many exponents across India.

As Rumi is the epitome of Sufi love and ecstasy, I end this post from one of his poems on love:

*'Love is from the infinite, and will remain until eternity.  
The seeker of love escapes the chains of birth and death.  
Tomorrow, when resurrection comes, The heart that is not in love will fail the test'.*

..... - Contributed by R/Ann Daljeet Raizada



# Who We Are Rotary

**Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.**

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. From literacy and peace to water and health, we are always working to better our world, and we stay committed to the end.

## **What we do**

Rotary members believe that we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our 35,000+ clubs work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies

## **Our mission**

We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

## **Vision statement**

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

## **We work differently**

We see differently: Our multidisciplinary perspective helps us see challenges in unique ways.

We think differently: We apply leadership and expertise to social issues — and find unique solutions.

We act responsibly: Our passion and perseverance create lasting change.

We make a difference at home and around the world: Our members can be found in your community and across the globe.

## **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

As a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

## Upcoming Programs

25 October 2021 - Club Assembly

### Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries

18-Oct	Rtn Mira Mirisch Damani
18-Oct	R/Ann Parul Parekh
19-Oct	Rtn PP Mukund Atre
19-Oct	Rtn Kamaljit Singh Dugal & R/Ann Candy Dugal
21-Oct	Rtn Amarjeet Raizada
21-Oct	Rtn Jeevan Dalvi

### 'Charhdi Kala!'

In Sikhism, Charhdi kala is the term for aspiring to maintain a mental state of eternal optimism and joy. Sikhs are ideally expected to be in this positive state of mind as a sign of their contentment with the will of God, even during the times of adversity.

### Attendance Report

11 Oct 21	
Rtns	29
Anns	14
Spouse	02
Guests	02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47</b>