



Issue # 06 - December 2023



HILL ECHOES

Club Bulletin of Rotary Club of Thane Hills, RI District 3142

Gordon McInally
RI President, RY 2023-24

Milind Kulkarni
Dist. Governor, RY 2023-24

Govind Khetan
Club President, RY 2023-24

Dr. Anagha Karkhanis
Club Secretary, RY 2023-24



ROTARY - 'Disease Prevention & Treatment Month'



Govind Khetan
Club President



My Dear Hillers,

Seasons' Greetings!

Thank you very much for your participation in the events and projects in the festive month of November.

This year's **Diwali Dhamaka** was a memorable fellowship event celebrated with traditional fervour at RCTH. The event was replete with Rangoli, Faral, Food and Fun with a live orchestra playing some of the choicest Bollywood music in the presence of Hillers, Anns, Annas, Annets and a host of District officials and the College of Governors.

The Diwali Dhamaka event was also a great platform to launch **EmpowHer** - our Cervical Cancer project with an initial CSR support of Rs. 1.7 crore from the Aditya Birla Group. Our Chief Guest, PRID Ashok Mahajan, played a stellar role in organising this multi-year CSR commitment for this extremely noble project.

Friends, one Indian woman dies of cervical cancer every eight minutes!

This is clearly unacceptable and RCTH will take the lead in preventing, detecting and curing the growing cases of cervical cancer amongst young women in our society. The ambitious project is being rolled out initially for young girls in the age group of 9 – 14 years.

On 18th November, our **Dr. V. Subramanian Autism Centre**, a joint venture of Triumph Foundation and Matru Milan Vikas Kendra, was inaugurated at Vashi. The centre is a ray of hope, a state-of-the-art training facility for advanced education and therapies for children with autism disorder. It will be one of a kind with school and therapies together with modern infrastructure.

Sanjeevan, our CPR – COLS training project report is now all set to take off. This is another landmark program aimed at providing first level life-saving support to individuals suffering sudden cardiac arrest amongst our families, friends, colleagues and communities.

Friends, as we approach the end of the calendar year 2023, there is so much to look forward to. Our annual signature event, **Triumph Run**, promises to bring, once again, smiles to thousands of lovely, specially abled children.

I wish you all a fabulous month of December with Christmas celebration and the New year festivities ahead of us.

Thank you !



Dr. Anagha Karkhanis
Club Secretary



Dear Hillers,

As we embrace the festive spirit of December, we are thrilled to announce a month dedicated to 'Disease Prevention and Treatment' - a cause close to our hearts. Rotary Club of Thane Hills has been ardently working towards building a healthier and more inclusive society. This December promises a series of impactful events and initiatives that will not only contribute to the well-being of our community but also foster a sense of togetherness.

Triumph Run and Carnival - Saturday, 9th December:

Get ready for a day of pure joy at our signature event, the 'Triumph Run and Carnival', at the Holy Cross School, Thane. This event, which holds a special place in our hearts, was born with the primary focus of bringing smiles to specially-abled kids. For over two decades, Rotary Club of Thane Hills has been on a mission to provide equal opportunities and create an inclusive society for these wonderful kids.

It will be a day full of games, fun events, races, entertainment, music and delicious food – all specially curated for our incredible young friends. The Triumph Run and Carnival will also provide an excellent opportunity for fellowship and community engagement. So let us all come together and make it a day filled with laughter, love and unforgettable memories.

Nation Builder Awards - 14th December:

On the 14th of December, we will celebrate our unsung heroes - the teachers. At the Nation Builder Awards we will felicitate teachers who have made significant contributions to society through their dedicated service. Join us in honouring these educators who play a vital role in shaping the future.

Annual Meeting - 21st December:

Hillers, mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting on the 21st of December.

Community Outreach Initiatives - Disease Prevention and Treatment:

In line with our theme for the month, on the 14th of December, we embark on a mission to spread awareness and care. An Interactive Session on Dementia and Alzheimer's disease for the elderly will be conducted at the Senior Citizens' Club of Thane. This initiative seeks to raise awareness and provide valuable information about these conditions, fostering a supportive community for those affected and their families.

This December, let us spread joy, create lasting memories, and make a positive impact on the lives of those around us.

Wishing you all a joyful and fulfilling December !



Shrirang Date
Bulletin Editor



Hi

Pleasure in presenting yet another colourful and informative edition of our Club Bulletin 'Hill Echoes'.

RCTH is known for its service towards society, membership enhancement and fellowship. This edition covers the on-going projects of our club as well as the new initiatives such as Dr V. Subramanian Autism Centre and the launch of our new initiative 'EmpowHer'.

Ann Lata Gwalani, in her monthly column 'Bookmark', is taking us through her memory lane. The book covered in her column in this edition of HE is Ayn Rand's iconic novel 'The Fountainhead'. While many of us must have read it, her column certainly encourages the others to read the book very soon. For those who have already read it, I can vouch that they will enjoy Lata's reflections on the book and choice of words while exploring the crux of the novel.

Ann Radhika has touched on the otherwise tabooed topic, 'Superstitions'. She has explored this subject by giving day-to-day examples and the rationale behind them. The subtle underlying humour in this writeup is sure to bring a smile on your face.

In our endeavor to present new and interesting content to the readers of Hill Echoes, we have come up with this new feature – 'Rotarians-Beyond-Rotary' (RBR). Through RBR, we will present a Rotarian who has achieved excellence or has made his/ her mark in an area other than Rotary.

Our first 'RBR-Achiever' is **Rtn. Ritika Anand**, an Educator and recipient of an honour at the hands of President of India, amongst many others.

Thanks to PP Atul Bhide who connected us with Rtn Ritika over zoom call. Rtn Ritika was generous to accept our request and had a quality chat with the three of us – PP Atul, I and Ann Radhika P. During our chat, Rtn Ritika, very eloquently, has shared her experience in teaching and in Rotary. Her journey as an Educator is a very interesting and inspiring one!

Thanks to Ann Radhika for recalling and compiling our chat post the zoom call.

This edition covers the induction of new members in RCTH family during the month of Nov 2023. The Hiller family is expanding!

RCTH is known to have grand celebrations. And true to its reputation, we had a gala event of Diwali Dhamaka on 9th November 2023. Needless to say, it was sheer fun!

I am confident that the readers will enjoy this edition of Hill Echoes as always. We solicit your encouragement and feedback.

Regards.

IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

EFFORTS RECOGNIZED: FELICITATION OF PAWAR PUBLIC SCHOOL , CHANDIVALI:

On 7th October, 2023, Pawar Public School, Chandivali helped Triumph Blood Bank in collecting 76 units of blood and raising sum of Rs. 48,300 -/- during the school Open Day. RCTH helped the school in organizing a blood donation camp in the school premises.

In order to express gratitude towards the school, Prez Govind, Rotarian Satish Shetty and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan visited the school on 7th November, 2023 and felicitated the Principal Mr.Vijay Mirgal with a citation. The 16 student volunteers from the school Interact Club were awarded certificates of appreciation. The two teachers who are incharge of the Interact Club were also presented with certificates of appreciation. The teachers along with their team of students did a wonderful job of inspiring parents and teachers to donate blood and money for the Thalassemia patients attached to the Triumph Blood Bank.

The institution was presented with a citation for stretching its hands, through its staff members, parents and the students, to the Triumph Blood Bank and its 85 Thalassemia patients.

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

FOOD DONATION DRIVE FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED:

The 'Help Blind Welfare Association' has been organising a food donation drive every Amavasya at Yogi Hills, Mulund. This drive was organised on 12th November, 2023 for this month. This day coincided with the festival of Diwali. Rotarian Pawan Adnani coordinated and led a group of Hillers who distributed Diwali sweets and snacks and caps to almost 900 visually challenged people gathered at the venue. Some other groups contributed blankets, towels and clothes besides a host of Diwali faral and sweets. The beneficiaries accepted all the donated items with smiles. This made their Diwali celebrations very special! President Govind, PE Harshad Diwekar, Rotarians Pawan Adnani, Satish Shetty, Prashant Ojha and Nilesh Pitale as well as Ann Radhika Padmanabhan and Ann Aneetha Shetty participated in the camp and volunteered for almost 3 hours between 7.30 a.m. and 10.45 a.m.

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

FINAL PHASE: EDUCATIONAL APP DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of the 'Ideal Study' App to the needy students of the schools in Thane city was covered in Phase 1 and phase 2 on 6th September and 4th October, 2023 respectively. The feedback from the students and the teachers was excellent.

In the Phase 3 (final phase) of this project, three schools were covered:

- i) St. Lawrence High school, D'Souzawadi, Wagle Estate: 170 apps were given away (English medium)
- ii) Brahman Shikshan Mandal English medium High school, Ghantali, Naupada: 120 apps were given

Prez Govind, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, Rotarian Ravjit Khurana and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan visited the above schools on 1st November, 2023 for the app distribution.

On 6th November, 2023, Rotarian Satish Shetty and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan visited Dr.S.V. Samant High School at Turbhe village and distributed 244 apps.

Earlier, Hillers had purchased 2000 'Ideal Study' apps, which have been made by a Pune based company named 'Prism solutions. These apps were distributed in 12 Thane city schools in 3 phases. The large hearted act of the Hillers is certainly going to help the underprivileged students in coming out with flying colours in their forthcoming SSC Board examinations.

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan





IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

AUTISM CENTRE INAUGURATION:

Saturday, 18th November, 2023 turned out to be the day of fulfilment of a dream! A dream to provide the latest, advanced training facilities to special children with autism.

PRID Ashok Mahajan, DG Milind Kulkarni, Club President Govind Khetan in the august presence of Father Prem and Father Arul of 'Matru Milan Vikas Kendra' (centre venue) formally inaugurated the Centre.

RCTH Past President Dr Raju and his gracious wife Dr Seetha infused energy by contributing the major chunk of this 1.4 cr budgeted project.

A brief about the Centre:

The centre is a ray of hope, a state-of-the-art training facility for advanced education and therapies for children with autism disorder. It will also cater to the needs of parents and teachers of such children.

The centre has the following therapies and treatment methods:

- Occupation Therapy
- Sensory Integration
- Physiotherapy
- Speech Therapy
- Music therapy
- Yoga therapy
- Sand therapy

The project is divided into five categories to give a one stop solution to the beneficiaries:

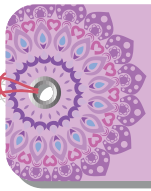
1. Early Intervention Centre
 - a) physical development – related to children’s bodies and brains
 - b) cognitive development – that is, children’s thinking and learning
 - c) behavioural development – related to children’s behaviour and how it’s affected by physical and cognitive development
 - d) social and emotional development – related to children’s ability to form relationships and cope with emotions
2. Autism school
3. Teacher Training Facility
4. Vocational Setup.

Beneficiaries:

Special children with autism spectrum disorder residing in Navi Mumbai, Thane and Mumbai along with adjoining areas and at large, from the state of Maharashtra will get benefitted from the Centre.

It will be one of a kind, with school and therapies together with modern infrastructure. A maximum of 100 students (for school)and 1000 children (for therapies) will be benefitted from the centre. Around 2000 Parents, Teachers and Shadow teachers will also benefit from this facility.





BOOKED FOR LIFE



The Fountainhead – Ayn Rand

Role models are usually people living or dead, famous or otherwise. Mine is fictitious – straight out a novel. They say an adolescent crush never survives adolescence. Wrong. My crush and I continue to hold hands as we navigate the maze of life. Years ago, Ayn Rand's poster boy resonated with my young and still evolving psyche, and now holds permanent residence in my persona. Howard Roark created a stir and grabbed the attention of the entire world. Howard Roark – you can love him, you can hate him, but you cannot ignore him.

"The Fountainhead," written by Ayn Rand and published in 1943, is a philosophical novel that explores the themes of individualism, integrity, and the pursuit of personal excellence. Set against the backdrop of the architectural world in the early 20th century, the novel follows the life of Howard Roark, an innovative and uncompromising architect who refuses to conform to societal expectations.

At its core, "The Fountainhead" champions individualism and the idea that true greatness comes from staying true to one's principles and convictions. Roark, the protagonist, is an embodiment of this philosophy. He is an architect with a vision, driven by a deep commitment to his own artistic ideals. Unlike his contemporaries who succumb to societal pressures and compromise their artistic integrity for popularity and acceptance, Roark remains steadfast in his pursuit of architectural innovation.

The novel also introduces the character of Peter Keating, a fellow architect and Roark's antithesis. Keating is willing to compromise his artistic vision to gain societal approval and climb the social and professional ladder. He represents the conformist who prioritises external validation over personal integrity. Through the contrasting characters of Roark and Keating, Rand presents a powerful commentary on the clash between individualism and collectivism.

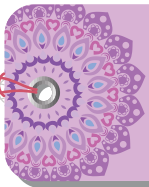
Central to the narrative is the character of Dominique Francon, a complex and enigmatic woman who becomes romantically involved with Roark. Dominique embodies the struggle between individualism and societal expectations. Her internal conflict reflects the broader theme of the novel, illustrating the challenges individuals face when choosing to pursue their own path rather than conforming to societal norms.

The antagonist, Ellsworth Toohey, is a prominent architecture critic and social theorist who advocates for collectivism and the suppression of individual genius. Toohey represents the forces that seek to stifle individual creativity in favour of conformity and mediocrity. His ideological battle with Roark serves as a microcosm of the broader societal tensions explored in the novel.

"The Fountainhead" also delves into the role of architecture as a form of artistic expression. Roark's designs are a manifestation of his individualism and commitment to originality. Through his work, Rand argues for the importance of allowing individuals the freedom to create and innovate without being shackled by societal expectations.

Rand's prose is powerful and evocative, and her philosophical ideas are woven seamlessly into the narrative. While "The Fountainhead" has been both praised and criticised for its unabashed celebration of individualism, there is no denying its impact on literature and philosophy. The novel has inspired generations of readers (and writers) to question societal norms and embrace the pursuit of personal excellence.





BOOKED FOR LIFE



In conclusion, "The Fountainhead" is a compelling exploration of individualism, integrity, and the tension between personal vision and societal expectations. Through the characters of Howard Roark, Peter Keating, Dominique Francon, and Ellsworth Toohey, Ayn Rand creates a thought-provoking narrative that challenges readers to reflect on their own values and choices. The novel remains a timeless and influential work that continues to spark discussions about the nature of individualism and the pursuit of greatness.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



DR. RUCKMANI AGRAWAL



RTN RAJESH SETHURAMAN



RTN PRASAD BHAGWAT

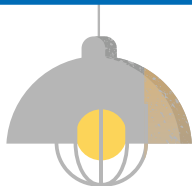


RTN SOUMEN CHAKRAVARTY



RTN SHWETA SAWANT





Project EmpowHer - Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination:

Cervical cancer remains a formidable health challenge, especially in India, where it ranks as the second most common cancer among women. In response to this pressing issue, Triumph Foundation, renowned for its successful medico-social initiatives, proudly presents 'EmpowHer – Because She Matters' – a multi-year project designed to tackle cervical cancer through comprehensive screening and prevention measures. Rotary Club of Thane Hills has secured initial CSR support of more than Rs 1.5 crore from the Aditya Birla Group, facilitated by the commendable efforts of PRID Ashok Mahajan.



The Urgency of Addressing Cervical Cancer in India:

Every eight minutes, a woman succumbs to cervical cancer in India, emphasizing the critical need for proactive intervention. With 1.24 lakh new cases diagnosed annually, and 77,000 lives lost, cervical cancer takes a devastating toll on Indian women. Disturbingly, 51.15 crore women aged 15 years and above are at risk.



The Causative Factor:

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is responsible for a staggering 99.7% of cervical cancers. Particularly prevalent among sexually active individuals, adolescents and young adults aged 15-25 face the highest risk. HPV is not limited to cervical cancer; it can also lead to oral, penile, vaginal, vulval, and anal cancers. Moreover, low socio-economic status is associated with increased incidence and mortality from cervical cancer.



EmpowHer's Vision:

The solution lies in education, awareness, screening, and HPV vaccination. Vaccination against HPV has been proven to prevent over 83% of cervical cancers. The World Health Organization (WHO) advocates for at least 90% of girls to be fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15. Project EmpowHer is aligned with this global strategy, ensuring that new cases do not surge by the estimated 54% from 2020 to 2040.



Vaccination Schedule:

Girls aged 9 to 14 will receive a 2-dose schedule at 0 and 6 months, while women aged 15 to 26 will undergo a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2, and 6 months. This targeted approach maximizes the impact of the vaccination, protecting vulnerable age groups.

Planning and Implementation:

Project EmpowHer is meticulously designed, focusing on targeted planning and execution. The initiative includes identifying schools in lower socio-economic communities for the implementation of the HPV vaccination program. Information and awareness sessions for students, parents, and teachers will emphasize the importance of vaccination and other preventive measures. Ensuring the completion of both vaccine doses is a vital aspect of the follow-up process, contributing to maximum protection against cervical cancer.

Project EmpowHer is not merely a vaccination initiative; it is a movement, empowering young girls with knowledge and tools to safeguard their health. With the generous CSR support from the Aditya Birla Group, facilitated by PRID Ashok Mahajan, EmpowHer is poised to make a substantial impact on the incidence of cervical cancer, marking a significant step towards a healthier, empowered future for Indian women.

SUPERSTITIONS, FALLACIES AND SOME FUN.....



Some decades ago, life in an average Indian household was clothed in superstitions and myths. Blind beliefs were a part and parcel of life, and nobody dared to question the logic or the scientific truth behind them. Now as I reflect, I have a different take on them although I used to scoff at them with disdain then.

The most commonly spelt superstition was that if a black cat crossed our paths, it was a bad omen! This was the first blind belief that would come to any Indian mind those days. (Ironically, in GB and Japan, a black cat is said to bring good luck). As I grew older, I was told by a scholar that black colour represents 'Shani' and when a black cat is crossing your way, Lord Shani might be trying to warn you to not go outside. In case, you continue to go ahead, unheeding of the warning, your work can get delayed or even jinxed.

Those days, a religious slant was employed so that people followed certain practices 'religiously'. This was more out of fear that they incur the wrath of the gods. For instance, ladies were not allowed to cook or perform poojas or visit temples during their periods. If they violated these norms, the goddesses would curse them. Such rules were formulated in order to give complete rest to the females who toiled day and night, doing mundane, heavy duty household chores. The 'fear factor' worked wonders.

A common superstition which did the rounds in olden days forbade a person to sit on a pillow. The warning given was that the person would then become debt ridden. My reasoning for this one is that this was told in order to maintain the shape of the pillow – that the pillow would be fit and firm enough to support our head, not our bottoms!

Some other hilarious beliefs were also prevalent. If one looks into mirror in the night, he/she would become a ghost in the next birth. This would put any theory of birth - death cycle to shame! Here again I feel that this was a way of dissuading young people from self-admiration in front of the mirror in the night so that they sleep soundly, devoid of distractions.

Another rule prevented people from cutting their nails after evening. This may have been framed to prevent the person from getting hurt; one may take cognizance of the fact that there was no electricity in olden days.

"You should not whistle in the night... you are attracting snakes".

"You should not eat raw rice ...it will rain on the day of your wedding".

"An itchy hand indicates money or fortune coming your way".

"The twitching of the right eye predicts trouble or worry".

The number 13 spells doom to most people. Dates, numbers, colours... there are superstitions woven around almost all these!

Popular Bollywood Director Rajkumar Hirani dealt with the superstitions woven around 'Rahu kaal' and 'Manglik', very effectively in his movies 'Lage Raho Munnabhai' and 'PK'. These struck an amazing chord with the moviegoers.

Superstitions galore... At each stage of life, these have influenced us quite a bit. As kids, we used to collect peacock feathers and keep them in between the pages of a book and believe (foolishly) that they would grow.

As years went by, in school and college, we would look at the all-black crows and shout .. "one for sorrow, two for joy".

As a student, I feared the all-black crow. If I chanced to see one, I felt strongly that the forthcoming exam would turn disastrous!

Those days, people surrendered to the dictates of these irrational theories meekly! Occasionally, individuals rebelled in a handful of homes, but the power of these fallacies hardly seemed to fade.

Today, we may claim we have turned 100 percent logical, scientific, and rational. But in the heart of hearts, we certainly do come under the grip of these illogical beliefs, superstitions, and the associated misgivings/ fears.

Many a time, superstitions trigger fear, anxiety, pessimism, and inaction. They should never dictate our actions and take complete control of our life. While dealing with superstitions, one should always keep in mind that "Values should dictate society, not superstitions".

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan



Interview with Rtn. Ritika Anand

Rtn Ritika Anand, Joint Secretary of RC Delhi City, RID 3012, and Vice Principal of St Mark's Senior Secondary Public School, Delhi. She was honoured by the President of India Smt. Draupadi Murmu with the 'National Teacher' Award on 5th Sept 2023, the Teachers' Day. She has also received the CBSE Award for 'Excellence in Teaching'.

An excerpt of our Zoom-Chat:

Atul: Happy Diwali and hearty congratulations on receiving the 'Best Teacher' Award from our Honorable President Smt. Draupadi Murmu.

Ms. Ritika: Thank you!

Atul: Let me introduce my friends, Rtn Shrirang Date, a fellow Rotarian and Editor of our monthly Club Bulletin 'Hill Echoes' and Ann Radhika, a renowned and well-respected teacher and one of the most active Anns from our Club.

Shrirang: Hello Ritika, happy Diwali!

Radhika: Hello Ritika, happy Diwali!

Ms. Ritika: Hello Shrirang Ji and Radhika Ji, happy Diwali!

Atul: Shrirang is also well-known stage actor, a star of all our Club's skits, he is also a great singer, popular for his acting and singing talent in the entire District

Ms. Ritika: WOW! That's fantastic!

Atul: Let me begin with - When did you join Rotary? What prompted you to join Rotary?

Ms. Ritika: My husband Rajesh Anand works with RISAO (Rotary International South Asia Office). He has always been talking to me a lot about Rotary, its global presence and the impactful community service projects shouldered successfully by the Rotarians. This impressed and intrigued me immensely.

Also, the fact that our Honorable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi appreciates Rotary and its accomplishments, drew me more towards Rotary. I read that popular actor Amir Khan once revealed that he was worried about his son being reticent but after joining the Rotaract Club in his college, the boy started interacting with people. I was in awe of Rotary.

I was an Ann when my husband joined Rotary and stayed there for some years. Two years ago, I turned Rotarian and now I am the Joint-Secretary of my Club. I truly believe in the Rotary 'Four Way Test' and I am glad I joined this organization.



Some of the projects our Rotary Club has undertaken are:

Basti Vikas Kendra: Underprivileged women are trained in tailoring. Sewing machines are provided by 'Singer' as a Global Grant Project.

The club has started a computer institute which provides certificate courses by NIIT to the children from the EWS background.

A Global Grant Project to provide clean toilets, training to children in 14 MCD schools in Delhi.

Our next project is the donation of 370 Tabs to the girl students (who lost their parents due to covid) of Government schools.

Radhika: When did you enter the teaching profession? Please tell us about your journey in this profession?



Interview with Rtn. Ritika Anand

Ms. Ritika: I entered the teaching profession 23 years ago. I started as a TGT... as a Physics teacher in my school. Initially, my focus was on only teaching – whether my students understood what I taught, whether they were happy in my class, whether they performed well in the exams etc. However, with the passage of time, I realized this wasn't enough; so, I developed new teaching methodologies and like a new swimmer, I learnt new pedagogical approaches. I turned PGT, then supervisor and was thereafter, was given the responsibility of the school Vice Principal.

Shrirang: Maam, I understand that you have been active in theatre, do you incorporate theatre in your classrooms? What made you lean towards theatre for the purpose of effective teaching?

Ms. Ritika: In 2008, I attended a theatre workshop. In this process, I discovered a 'new-me' ... a new Ritika. I came to terms with the fact that theatre is a very powerful tool to connect and is a great channel for creativity.

In our school, the students perform Shakespearean plays, modified suitably in Indian settings. Classics like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Christmas Carol and the like are dramatized. This kind of informal learning is unparalleled. Besides, the students shed their inhibitions, become free of stage fright and take to the stage comfortably. They also learn to work as a team.

I am proud to say that in our school, almost 40 plays are staged in a given academic year. These may or may not be linked to the syllabus; it is a part of the extra curricular activities. In fact, I would say that all teachers have to undergo training in theatre.

Radhika: In this era of technology, students get all the information at the click of a mouse. As a result, they do not value the efforts of the teachers. How do you think teachers should cope with this issue?

Ms. Ritika: You are so right Radhika Ji, in this technology driven times, the students don't need us. They get all the information in a flash without our help. Therefore, the teachers have to consciously move over from traditional 'chalk and talk' method to innovative ones, to match up to the students. The teachers need to elevate themselves, otherwise they will become redundant. It is a case of the survival of the fittest. New methodologies with contemporary ideas have to be constantly worked and reworked upon.

Atul: Do you have an Interact Club in your school? If so, what are the activities undertaken by the Interact Club?

Ms. Ritika: Many students and teachers visit the 'Basti Vikas Kendra' which I mentioned earlier. They volunteer in the project and help the beneficiaries. Though our school doesn't have a formal Interact or Rotaract Club, the activities carried out are on very similar lines. Very soon we intend to start one formally.

Atul: Has Rotary played any role in adding a value to your profession and has your profession to Rotary? If so, in what way?



Interview with Rtn. Ritika Anand

Ms. Ritika: Rotary has given me countless opportunities. It has widened my intellectual and social horizons in a big way. I have visited 32 countries and the learning has been enormous!

Once I and some club members were in Sri Lanka, in the famous Ashok Vatika. While there was a lot known about Lord Ram and Ravan, not much was known about Mata Sita. Mr. Amish Tripathi, the famous author wrote a text about Mata Sita and I was fortunate to create a 'Picture Story' of Hers. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Dinesh Gunawardena visited the place and was very pleased to see the restoration of the temple and the picture story of Mata Sita.

Radhika: When can we expect you to become the President of your Club and the Principal of your school?

Ms. Ritika: About becoming the Club President, I can't say. But I aspire to become the Principal of a school sometime soon.

Atul, Shrirang and Radhika: Congratulations! And all the very best!

Shrirang: When was the last time you been to Mumbai?

Ms. Ritika: Oh, that was long time ago, I think in 2012. It was the day when Mr Bal Thackeray had expired and I recall that entire Mumbai was closed!

Shrirang: Okay. . .so you must come now and visit our Club too. In fact, you can join us during our Charter-Nite event where we have a skit, where many Rtns and Anns act; we also have a number of dance performances. It is absolute fun time and we are sure you too would love to witness the event.

Our Club is admired for our skits in our District and beyond. We have performed on various Rotary subjects outside the District too.

Ms. Ritika: WOW! Sounds Great!

Atul: We look forward to having Rajesh and you with us here in Thane!

Radhika: Wishing you and everyone there a Happy Diwali

Ms. Ritika: Happy Deepavali to you all!

Compiled by - **Ann Radhika Padmanabhan**



Rtn Ritika Anand at her school, always delighted to be amongst her students!





Cricketing Glory for Hiller Shakeel Sheikh:

The Rotary Club of Thane Hills Cricket Team participated in the IFCR 3142 Inter-Club Tournament 2022-23. The team comprised of players from the Rotary Clubs of RC Thane Hills, RC Creek Side, RC Urbania and RC Connoisseur. Hiller Shakeel Sheikh was given the responsibility of being the Captain of this team even though it had players from other clubs. It was a proud moment for Shakeel and RCTH!.

The tournament was played for Platinum Cup, Diamond Cup, Gold Cup and Silver Cup amongst 5 teams namely, RC Thane Hills, RC Thane Hills, RC Dombivli West, RC Dombivli United, RC Royals and Sunrisers, RC Ambernath.

The RC Thane Hills team played 10 league matches and on the basis of points, the team qualified to play for the Gold Cup. The RCTH team won the semi-final and eventually won the final by winning the Gold Cup. The team secured the third place in the tournament. Shakeel's cricketing prowess and astute captaincy won laurels for the team RCTH.

Being a team man, Shakeel credits the laudable team performance to the team members comprising RCTH and other clubs. He states that they performed to the best of their abilities and helped the team win this trophy.

Hiller Shashikant Revankar of RC Thane Hills performed creditably and won the Player of the Match once.

... And believe it or not... Captain Shakeel won the 'Player of the Match' awards 5 times in this tournament.

Rtn. Shakeel Sheikh...Keep winning awards and trophies both for the team and yourselves. The Hiller family is proud of you and your cricketing achievements!

Radhika Padmanabhan



Young Athlete Adiv Karkhanis Shines at the Diamond Jubilee Athletics Meet 2023:

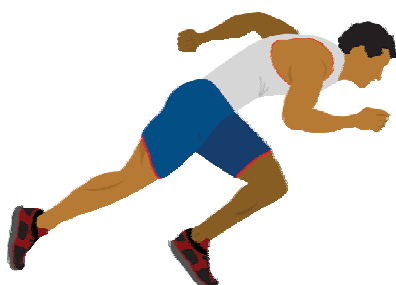
In a spectacular display of athleticism, Annet Adiv Karkhanis, son of Rtn Dr. Amit Karkhanis and Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, emerged as a star performer at the Diamond Jubilee Athletics Meet 2023. The event, organized by the Track and Field Masters Club, took place at the Shri Mavli Mandal Sports Ground in Thane on October 29, 2023.

Competing in the under-14 category, Adiv showcased his prowess with a remarkable 3.90-meter effort, securing a well-deserved gold medal in the long jump event.

Adding to this victory, Adiv clinched a silver medal in the 80-meter running race, clocking in at a remarkable 8.65 seconds.

The young athlete's stellar performance is a testament to his dedication, skill and the guidance of his coach, Datta Chavan sir.

The Rotary Club of Thane Hills takes immense pride in celebrating the success of this young athlete and wishes him continued success in his athletic journey.



DIWALI DHAMAKA

