



Issue # 04 - October 2023



HILLECHOES

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



October: Economic & Community Development month



Govind Khetan
Club President



My dear Hillers,

Warm Greetings!

Thank you very much for your commitment to the numerous community service projects and fellowship events in the month of September.

Our ambitious project of e-learning for SSC students has been universally applauded by the beneficiary students, parents and teachers.

In the first phase in the Rotary month of Basic Education and Literacy, we distributed *1000 copies of the innovative app, across five schools*.

In response to requests from several SSC students and schools, the second phase of this project was launched and Hillers enthusiastically came forward to enable e-learning for another *1000 students*.

We are planning to extend the e-learning project to students from Std 5 to Std 9 as well in the very near future.

Friends, am pleased to report that our club's Village Adoption project is progressing very well. A team of Hillers visited our adopted village, Sogaon on 9th Sep to discuss the blueprint of a Happy School in Sogaon to be brought up by our club with CSR support.

We would like to holistically develop Sogaon as a **Model Village** with high levels of education, training, skills, hygiene and sanitation. We have chosen to develop a **Happy School** by re-building the dilapidated school premises into a **Centre of Excellence** for the entire village. The blueprint is ready.

As a part of the assimilation efforts, members who joined our Hillers family in the recent past, were invited to a **Fireside Meeting** on 16th Sep. Was a gala evening filled with learning, camaraderie, bonding and networking.

At the District TRF seminar on 17th Sep, our club was recognized as being one among the **Top Five Clubs** in District 3142 for our contribution to the Rotary Foundation.

The plan is to uplift the existing premises with a new playground, amphitheatre, community hall, library, laboratory etc to be used as a multi-purpose asset for the children, women, elders of the village.

Friends, with the festive season approaching, there is lot of joy, cheer and anticipation around us. Let us all come together as a family and share our joy with the community around us. Am grateful you all for your unstinted support, contribution and abundant generosity.

We make a living by what we get .. but we make a life by what we give !

Thank you!



Dr. Anagha Karkhanis
Club Secretary



Dear Hillers,

As the Club Secretary of our illustrious Rotary Club of Thane Hills, I am delighted to share the exciting events we have lined up for the month of October. This month promises to be a unique blend of economic and community development, intellectual stimulation, and sheer fun. So, let us dive into the action-packed calendar of events.

7TH OCTOBER - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ:

Mark your calendars for the 7th of October, as we kick-start the month with our General Knowledge Quiz. This year's quiz promises to be extraordinary, with some well curated, first-of-its-kind question rounds that will challenge even the brightest minds. It is time to witness the battle of wits and find out who will win the coveted crown of knowledge.

Join us, not only to support the participating teams, but also to win fantastic audience prizes. After all, knowledge shared is knowledge multiplied.

This evening of mental acrobatics will be followed by a delightful family night and fellowship, providing an opportunity to bond and socialize with fellow Hillers and their families.

8TH OCTOBER - TECH-RYLA:

On the 8th of October, we embark on a fascinating journey with Tech-RYLA for the youth. This theme brings together two powerful forces - "technology" and "leadership." It promises to be an interactive workshop filled with a captivating lineup of topics, engaging games, and live projects.

As Charles Darwin aptly stated, "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change." To help us embrace change and innovation, we have the privilege of hosting an Artificial Intelligence workshop led by an eminent professor from IIT Bombay. Prepare to delve into the limitless possibilities of AI.

Furthermore, we are thrilled to announce a talk by a celebrity youth icon who will inspire us with her insights on the dynamic landscape of hard work, struggle, technology and leadership. Her words will surely ignite the sparks of ambition and determination within us.

This Tech-RYLA promises to be an unforgettable day of learning and inspiration.

21ST OCTOBER - DISTRICT DANDIYA EVENT:

On the 21st of October, we are co-hosting the District Dandiya event. Let us come together as a large group and groove to the beats of Navratri numbers, all in our unique Hillers' style. It is a perfect opportunity to celebrate our culture, enjoy the festivities, and strengthen the bonds of friendship within our Rotary community.

Overall, October is set to be a month of knowledge, development, and fun. We encourage each and every one of you to participate actively in these events, not only for the personal enrichment they offer but also to strengthen our club's commitment to service and fellowship.

So this October, let us all be the change-makers, the knowledge-seekers, and the leaders who create a better tomorrow.

Yours in Rotary !



Pushpalata Chaurey
Editor



Building Stronger Communities through Economic Development:

Dear Rotary Family,

In the world of Rotary, we are not just dreamers; we are doers. As we gather here in the pages of our bulletin, let us delve into a topic of paramount importance - "Economic & Community Development." This theme is not just a catchphrase; it's a call to action that has been at the heart of Rotary's mission since its inception.

Empowering Through Economic Development:

Economic development is not merely about financial growth; it's about empowerment. It's about creating opportunities, lifting people from poverty, and fostering sustainable progress. Rotary's commitment to economic development is a testament to our belief that stronger communities can only emerge when individuals within them are given the tools to thrive.

The Power of Local Solutions:

Rotary understands that each community is unique, and solutions to economic challenges must be tailored to local needs. Our clubs, with their deep understanding of their communities, are well-positioned to lead initiatives that drive economic growth. Whether it's supporting local businesses, providing vocational training, or promoting entrepreneurship, Rotary is at the forefront of creating lasting change.

Rotary's Global Impact:

Our impact extends far beyond our local communities. Rotary's global reach means that our efforts in economic and community development have a ripple effect. From microloans that empower entrepreneurs in remote villages to partnerships that facilitate access to clean water and healthcare, Rotary is a force for good on a global scale.

Mobilizing Resources for Change:

We also recognize that economic and community development require resources. Rotarians are known for their dedication and generosity. Through Rotary Foundation grants, we channel our resources to fund projects that transform lives. By working together, we maximize our impact and ensure that no community is left behind.

Inspiring Future Generations:

Our commitment to economic and community development is not limited to the present. We are shaping the leaders of tomorrow through programs like Rotaract and Interact. We instill in young minds the values of service, entrepreneurship, and community-building, ensuring that Rotary's legacy continues for generations to come.

Our Call to Action:

As Rotarians, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to economic and community development. Let us continue to identify opportunities for growth and empowerment in our communities, both locally and globally. Let us leverage our collective expertise, resources, and networks to create a brighter future for all.

In closing, economic and community development is not a single project or a fleeting endeavour; it's a lifelong commitment. Together, we have the power to transform lives, uplift communities, and build a more prosperous world. Let us stand united in our pursuit of a better tomorrow.



Dear fellow Rotarians,

It is with immense pleasure and gratitude that I take this opportunity to introduce an extraordinary individual, whose Rotary journey has not only left an indelible mark on our club but has also set an inspiring example for all of us to follow. As an Editor and a relatively new member of the Rotary Club of Thane Hills, I am truly honoured to be sitting down with none other than our esteemed Past District Governor (PDG), Dr. Ashes Ganguly, for an exclusive interview that promises to illuminate the path of service, leadership, and community engagement.

PDG Dr. Ashes is a name synonymous with unwavering commitment to Rotary's core values of service above self. Throughout his tenure with our club, he has exemplified the essence of Rotary, dedicating his time, expertise, and passion to projects that have touched the lives of many and brought about a positive change.

In the pages of this club bulletin of Hill Echoes, we have the privilege of delving into Dr. Ashes's remarkable Rotary journey, one that has spanned decades and witnessed the transformation of countless lives. From his early days as a Rotarian to his illustrious role as a District Governor, his story is one of dedication, perseverance, and a deep-rooted belief in the power of Rotary to create a better world.

This interview serves as a tribute to Dr. Ashes's remarkable contributions to our Club, District, Zone & Community, and the global Rotary family. It is a testament to the fact that each one of us, regardless of our Rotary journey's stage, can make a significant impact by embodying the spirit of Rotary in our hearts and actions.

Beginning of the Rotary Journey

From Worli to Kandivali, Dr. Ashes, who served as the General Manager of Netel Ltd., made the pivotal decision in 1992 to establish roots in the vibrant community of Thane. It was during this transition that fate and friendship intersected in the form of Rtn. N.D. Joseph and Rtn. Ravi Iyer, who were already members of the Rotary family. Through their camaraderie, Dr. Ashes was introduced to the world of Rotary—an organization that revolves around service, fellowship, and, most importantly, a deep commitment of one's time to serve the downtrodden and under privileged.

Initially, there were doubts about Dr. Ashes's ability to juggle his demanding job, which entailed frequent travel across India at least twice a week, with the responsibilities of Rotary membership. However, his indomitable spirit and determination kicked in. He posed a simple question to his Rotary friends: "If you can manage it, why can't I?" With that query, he embraced the challenge wholeheartedly.

He took it as a challenge, though he did get invited by a few other Rotary clubs in near vicinity but decided not to join them, instead he got introduced (Aug,1998) to Rotary Club of Thane Hills by Rtn. N.D. Joseph. His very nature of accepting challenges and being a risk taker made him one of the most promising and now a prominent and distinguished member of not only RCTH but that of Rotary International as well. Dr. Ashes's nature of accepting challenges and risk became the cornerstone of his journey within RCTH. Today, he stands as one of the most prominent members of our club, a testament to the power of determination, friendship, and a willingness to embrace the unknown.

The Journey: His Experience and Contribution

Being a dedicated Rotarian, Dr. Ashes recognized the importance of attending weekly meetings and fostering fellowship within the Rotary Club of Thane Hills every Thursday. This commitment not only honed his planning skills but also enabled him to strike a harmonious balance between his professional endeavors and Rotary commitments.

Throughout his journey, he drew valuable insights and wisdom from esteemed members such as Late Rtn. Suresh Naik, Rtn. Praveen Kothari, Rtn. Raju Menon, Rtn. Ravi Iyer, Rtn. N. D. Joseph, Rtn. Ranga Rtn. Paddy and Rtn. V. Chandrashekhar. Driven by a passion for service, he ascended the ladder by doing various roles within the club, from serving as Sargeant at Arms (1999 -2000) to Vocational Director (2000-2001). This gave him the

confidence that he could do individual Rotary project, also assuming the roles of Club Secretary (2002-2003), Club President (2006 -2007), and culminating in becoming the District Governor (DG, 2018-2019). He is proud to be a member of every District Governor's team.

During his Governorship, many record changes took place at the District, Zonal and National level in terms of Fund Collection Service & Projects. Some examples of the milestones achieved are like Global Grant with Sri Lanka for 'Aayushi Project' and '37 Shelter House' in Kerala with CSR support. He was also invited to ARRFC, District COL representative (Rotary's Parliament in USA), and to the Philanthropy Seminar.

Among many awards conferred upon him: Five Avenue Services Award:

RI Club Builder Award & District TRF Service Award (5 Times)

He has also been awarded with all the Top Three most coveted Awards of RI &TRF:

1. Rotary International Service Above Self – (RY 2022)
2. Citation For the Meritorious Service – (RY 2017)
3. Rotary Foundation – Distinguished Service Award (RY 2021). He has been invited as Zonal Head for Polio Eradication Programme as End Polio Now Co-ordinator (EPNC-Zone)
4. His major focus is fundraising for Polio eradication through Rotary.

PROJECTS During Presidential Tenure:

The Rotary year 2006-07 marked a significant chapter in the history of RCTH, with Dr. Ashes serving as the Club President and Rtn. Vijay Shetty as the Honorary Club Secretary in the Rotary year 2006-07. He as Club President was overseeing a remarkable year (Platinum Award Winning Club). The Club underwent a period of real transformation, for which he gives credit to his team & BOD.



Some Highlights:

1. Installation by PRIP Kalyan Banerjee with 300 attendees.
2. Added 17 new members and retained 75 members.
3. Renovated Wagle Crematorium, receiving "RI Significant Achievement Award."
4. Fellowship recognition: ROTAL Trophy (2006) and 3rd place in IFCR Maharashtra Tournament.
5. Record-breaking fund-raising of Rs. 8.25 lakhs for a Crematorium project in a club meeting.
6. Top contributions (USD 10300+) to The Rotary Foundation in the Zone of current 3142
7. Vocational Excellence Awardees: Actor Vikram Gokhale and Astrophysicist Dr. Jayant Narlikar.
8. First time Club joined for RYE (Rotary Youth Exchange Program)
9. Launch of Drama Team: Eleventh Hour Production through ICF – Vocational 2006.
10. Hosted the District Assembly in April 2008 at Nehru Centre, Worli, under District Governor Nominee Bansi Dhurandhar's leadership- Procession initiative from 2006-07

ABOUT FAMILY

Dr. Ashes's response to that question gave me a beautiful insight, one that I've already started putting into practice myself. When I asked him about it, his reaction was heartwarming—a hearty laugh that radiated happiness.

According to Dr. Ashes, the scarcity of time in his life actually had a silver lining. It helped him forge stronger, more meaningful connections within his family. Instead of wasting precious moments on trivial matters or complaints, they focused on sharing and discussing valuable thoughts and topics, enriching each other's lives in the process. Isn't that simply wonderful?

He also had the most heartwarming words for his better half, Nandita, acknowledging her incredible ability to juggle between multiple responsibilities while excelling in her career. Dr. Ashes expressed immense pride in both his sons (Arnesh & Avinash) and daughter-in-law (Sonia), who have achieved success in their respective careers. He shared with me that, no matter how busy life gets, they always stay in the loop about each other's activities and whereabouts. To Dr. Ashes, effective communication is the secret sauce that flavors their strong and harmonious family bonds.

He has been blessed with two bright, intelligent sons, Arnesh and Avinash. They are like his *do Anmol ratan*.

Dr. Ashes loves reading, listening to music, and watching movies - at least 2/3 movies a week - if not every night. Something he will never miss is Football Matches.

A Heartwarming Memory (ROTARY MOMENT) in the Year 2006

One of the most cherished moments he shared was his first experience of extending a helping hand to an auto-rickshaw driver Mr. Rahul who was in need of monetary help. The auto driver's son (little one a 2-year-old boy) required heart surgery at Wockhardt Hospital, and with just a few calls to his fellow Rotarians, he managed to arrange the required sum of 1,40,000 rupees. To this day, the driver remains deeply grateful to Dr. Ashes and the Rotary community. Such heartwarming experiences have been an integral part of his Rotary journey. Like that many....

Dr. Ashes Ganguly's Message: How to be a Successful Leader in Rotary:

Embracing membership in RCTH with a deep sense of pride, it becomes evident that enhancing our operational structure and fostering greater organization is essential. The collective think tank must engage in intensive brainstorming sessions, backed by convincing analyses, to tackle our primary concern: member retention and the nurturing of new recruits.

In the words of Dr. Ashes Ganguly, every Rotarian striving for effectiveness must embody three key attributes:

Unwavering Dedication to Service: Cultivate a single-minded passion for serving society.

Systematic Learning: Develop the mindset of a continuous and systematic learner.

Attentive Listening: Hone the skill of being a keen and attentive listener.

Furthermore, members should undergo training and be well-versed in approaching various aspects of Rotary, including fundraising strategies and project management. Dr. Ashes strongly advises all Rotarians to explore the plethora of courses available on the Rotary website.

In three succinct words, he encapsulates the essence of being an RCTH member: **"Involve – Serve – Enjoy"**

Pushpalata Chaurey





Coming from a middle- class family, one among nine siblings, PP Chandru had to swim against the current to go up the ladder and be someone of reckoning and useful to the community at large.

- a) A Chemical Engineer from the University of Madras with more than five decades of experience with fertilizer industry
- b) Served the fertilizer industry in the Government sector.
- c) Took up a totally new field of Research and Development, Project Management, Marketing and Technical Service in Catalysis with an American multinational company both in India & abroad.
- d) Started manufacturing Catalysts and Specialty performance chemicals in partnership with another Chemical Engineer, a classmate.
- e) Started own venture in Catalysis and Specialty Performance Chemicals and catering to industry in India and abroad for more than 25 years.

As PP Chandru describes his journey in RCTH -

- In the year 1994, I moved into my present dwelling in Centre Point Society. A resident of Centre Point Society invited me to Rotary. Mr. Swaminathan, who was a Charter Member of RCTH and Deputy General Manager at RCF, Chembur took me to Dr. Suhas who was a Charter Member and President of RCTH.
- Until I joined RCTH, I had no idea of Rotary. For that matter, very few people knew about Rotary. During that time, we were all involved very much in Polio NIDS and the common man was getting to know about Rotary and its community-based activities. Before that, people always thought that Rotary meant Wine and Dine.
- Even though RCTH started with a bang with the Shirol Dam which was built in association with Zilla Parishad, subsequently there were no major projects. In fact, RCTH had a dull period from 1995 to 1998. It was PP Late Suresh Nayak, who augmented the club activities and framed the functioning by mandating club assemblies, ladies' nights, community-based projects etc. I was the President Elect in Suresh Nayak's tenure and was installed as club President during 1999 – 2000. We were very busy augmenting the membership. Several district projects were awarded to RCTH, especially under the dynamic leadership of the then PDG R. M. Bhatt of District 3140. The District programmes included 'A to Z of Rotary', reception of RI President elect instituting a Rotaract Club fundraising programme for Kargil Heros. For the first time like RYLA, we also started ARCOT



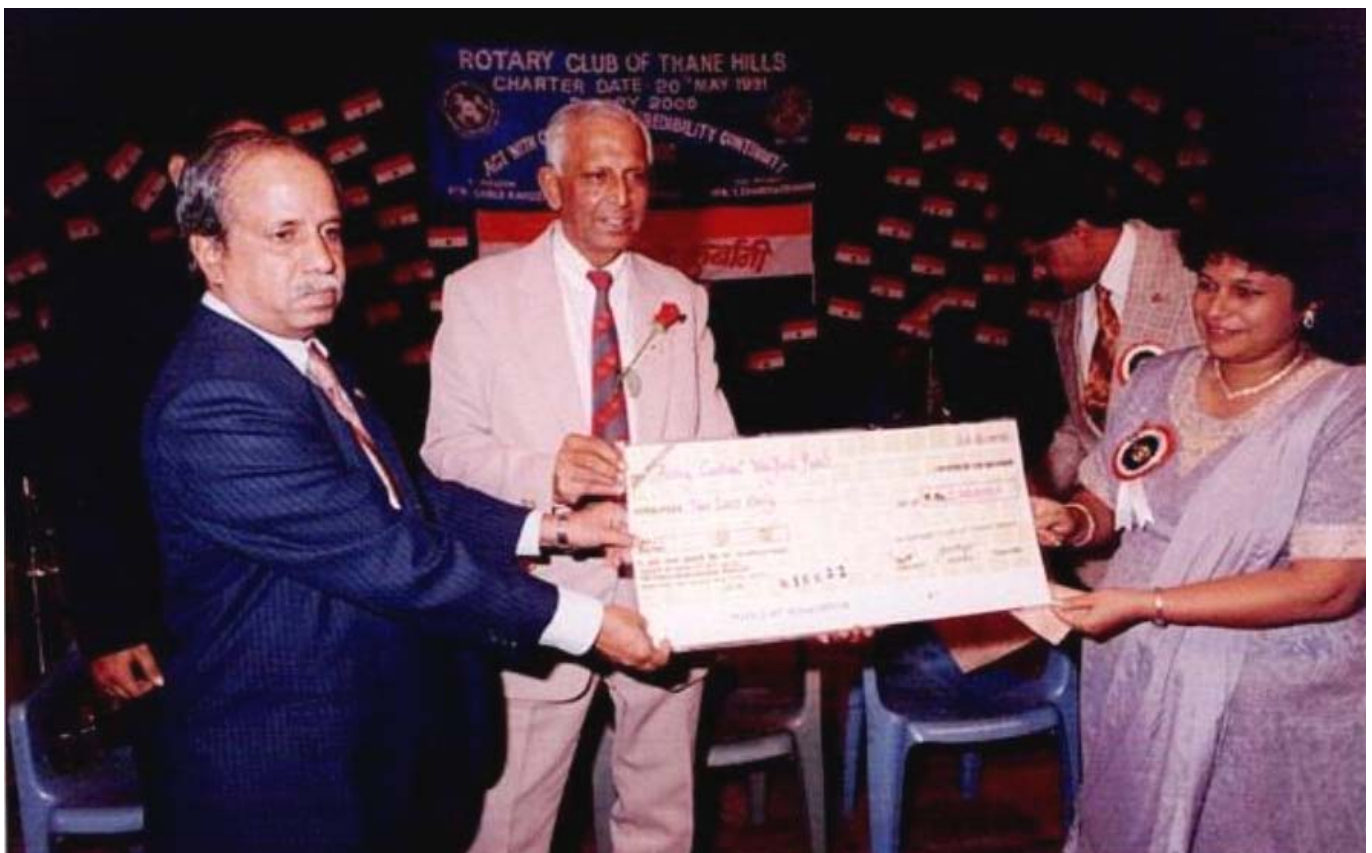
V. Chandrasekharan

(Association of Rotary Clubs of Thane) and I was the first Chairman.

- We donated a sizable sum to Kargil Heros by handing over the cheque to Major General D'Souza. The incoming Presidents kept the momentum going with PP Ranga initiating the TRIUMPH Foundation during my year. In fact, we owe a lot to PP Late Suresh Nayak who put RCTH on pedestal and I was his assistant as President Elect and we kept the momentum on.
- We also started our legacy of donating to the Rotary Foundation. In fact, my three decades of Rotary involvement is proof of how I looked at Rotary.



Rotary creates leaders. Rotary creates achievers. Rotary imbibes ambitions and eggs the President to do something better than the previous President to add feathers in the cap. From the initial days, when we had to push somebody to the Presidential Chair (many of the Charter members did not want to take up the mantle), today there is a contest to get onto the chair which shows RCTH is healthy. Every President has brought laurels to the club in his / her own way especially with humanitarian projects. I am sure Rotary in this part of the world will only have much more membership compared to the dwindling membership in the world.

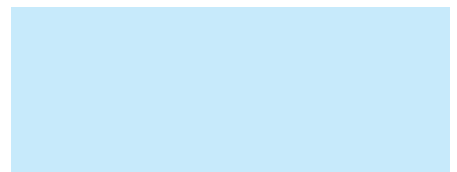
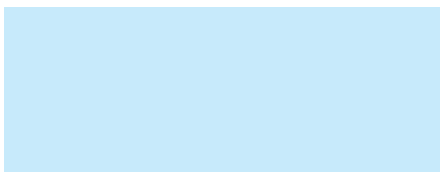


FIRST DIST. TRF SEMINAR



District 3142 organised the **FIRST DISTRICT TRF SEMINAR** on 17th September, 2023 at Ritz iLeaf Banquet Hall in Thane. The Chief Guest of the event was PRIP and TRF chair Barry Rassin. The event was hosted by DG Milind Kulkarni and the District TRF Team. Presidents of different Clubs and many District officials graced the occasion with their presence. Our own PDG Dr. Ashes Ganguly was among the speakers. RCTH was the **PLATINUM SPONSOR** of the event. Rotarians who contributed USD 1000 and above in this Excellent Year were recognized at the event. As for Hillers, PP Chandrasekharan, President Govind Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Varsha Likhite, Kalita Subramanian, PP N.D. Joseph, PP Nilesh Puranik and PP Anindya Dasgupta contributed USD 1000 / more. A noteworthy fact was that RCTH was among the top 5 clubs as far the TRF donation was concerned.

The RCTH attendees for this First TRF seminar for the Excellent Year were PDG Dr. Ashes Ganguly (Speaker), President Govind Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Shirish Songadkar, Samir Limaye, PP N.D. Joseph and Senthil Kumar.



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

MEDICAL CAMP AT SOGAON VILLAGE

On 9th September 2023, Hillers accompanied by a team of Doctors from IMA (Indian Medical Association), Thane Chapter organized a General Health Checkup Camp at Sogaon Village. This camp was arranged as a part of the RCTH Village Adoption Project.

The medical team comprising Ophthalmologist, Gynecologist, Pediatrician, and Doctors affiliated to IMA (Thane Chapter) were present in the venue and helped more than 100 villagers in achieving better health. Dr. Mahesh Joshi, President of IMA Thane Chapter was also present in the camp. Besides the check up, he also had an interesting chat session with the village kids on varied topics like their favourite games and academic subjects, hobbies, healthy habits and many more. It was an enriching session for the children.

This medical camp was the first step taken by RCTH towards the holistic development of Sogaon, located about 70 km away from the city of Thane. This project, embarked by RCTH, is aimed at the integrated development of this remote village.

President Govind Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, PP Atul Bhide, PP Nilesh Puranik, Rotarians Ruby Khurana, Satish Shetty, Pawan Adnani, Nilesh Pitale and Dr. Ruckmini Agarwal visited Sogaon and were a part and parcel of the medical camp.

Radhika Padmanabhan



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE



DONATION OF EDUCATIONAL APPS IN SCHOOLS:

RCTH, through its charitable trust Triumph Foundation, made a successful attempt to make a mark in the domain of e-learning on 8th September, 2023. The Club forged a partnership with the company 'Prism solutions' (Pune based), whose Educational App titled aptly 'Ideal Study' has been successfully accepted by numerous students studying in schools affiliated to the SSC Board in Maharashtra. The App is designed for the students studying in std. 10 in Marathi, Semi English and English medium schools.

The 'Ideal Study' App contains the soft version of all the prescribed books, explanations on each chapter, solved exercise at the end of each lesson, additional questions, additional photos and illustrations wherever necessary, videos, multiple choice questions, Revision video of each lesson, questions asked often in SSC examinations, teacher's teaching videos especially in Maths besides many other features.

RCTH has always believed in reaching out to the disadvantaged section of the society, particularly the students. The Club decided to work on this e learning project by joining hands with 'Prism solutions'. Many benevolent Hillers pitched in by sponsoring the apps. Subsequently, RCTH approached some SSC Board schools for the distribution of the App to schools, completely free of cost.

On 8th September, 2023, the Club President Govind Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, CEO of Prism solutions Mr. Amol Kamat, Rotarians Ravjit Khurana, Pawan Adnani and Satish Shetty and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan visited four schools in Thane city for the distribution of the 'Ideal Study' app. The schools are certain to benefit from the app as many of their Grade 10 students in these schools come from the lower economic strata of the society and cannot afford high tuition fees or multiple books for their studies.

President of RCTH, Govind Khetan addressed the students and urged them to work hard and use the app effectively to score excellent marks in their forthcoming Board examinations. The cards for the apps were handed over to the school Principals in the presence of the students, school coordinators and the school Management Committee members.

In Saraswathi Vidyalaya High School and Junior College (Ghodbunder Road), 190 apps were distributed, all for English medium students at around 8.30 a.m.

(Cost INR 2,47,000/-)

In Smt. Savitridevi Thirani High School, Vartak Nagar, 300 apps were distributed; this included English, Marathi and semi English medium at about 11 a.m. (Cost INR 3,90,000/-)

In R. S. Deokar English Medium School, Lokmanya Nagar, Thane, 69 apps were distributed at 1.30 p.m. (Cost INR 89,700 -/-)

In Raja Shivaji Vidyamandir, Lokmanya Nagar, Thane, 124 apps were distributed for students in Marathi and semi English medium students at 1.45 p.m. (Cost INR 1,61,000 -/-)

The Rotary Club of Thane Hills has adopted a committed approach in embarking on this e-learning project. Hillers moved from school to another swiftly for the app distribution. This philanthropic act of the Club is sure to benefit thousands of students in enabling them to come out with flying colours in their SSC board examinations in March 2024. This will also ensure that the students will move towards bright and lucrative career options as well as embrace success as the years go by...

Radhika Padmanabhan



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

DONATION OF EDUCATIONAL APPS IN SCHOOLS:



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 14th September 2023 for this month. As in the previous months, Rotarian Pawan Adnani coordinated and led a group of Hillers who distributed rice, cake and toothbrush to more than 1000 visually challenged people gathered at the venue. Other groups contributed many food and grocery items besides utility items.

Rotarian Pawan Adnani, President Govind Khetan, Rotarians Ruby Khurana, Satish Shetty, Prashant Ojha and Nilesh Pitale as well as Ann Radhika Padmanabhan participated in the camp and volunteered for almost 3 hours between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan



IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF THANE HILLS



Project Annapurna - Distribution of Ration Packets to Female Autorickshaw Drivers

On 30th September, IWCTH with our project partner RCTH embraced the spirit of doing charity by spreading joy through our noble Project Annapurna, where we distributed ration packets to female autorickshaw drivers. These women, whose contributions to society are overlooked by everyone, received 100 ration kits and 110 snack boxes. Including President Haima Deshpande, many members of IWCTH and RCTH President Govind Khetan and few members attended this project.

CC Shobha Bhat



Project Khakhi Handshake - Distribution of Meal Boxes to Police Personnel on Bandobast Duty

On 28th September, the heartwarming initiative 'Project Khakhi Handshake' unfolded, epitomizing the spirit of giving during the auspicious Anant Chaturthi. Members came together to provide a hearty meal to 120 diligent police personnel on Ganesh Visarjan bandobast duty. The meal boxes were distributed at the Palaya Devi Mandir, near Upvan. This gesture touched hearts, underscoring our collective gratitude for those who safeguard our todays and tomorrows.



INTERACTORS INSTALLATION OF 18TH SEPTEMBER

Installation of Interactor Shriya Warik as President of Interact Club of Raje Shivaji Vidya Mandir

This Installation Ceremony was conducted on 18th Sept 2023. Five Hillers – President Govind, PP Sucheta, Rtn Satish Shetty, Rtn. Saket Gadkari and Rtn Jayant Nagavkar (Director, Youth Service) attended the Installation Ceremony organised in the premises of the school located in Lokmanya Nagar, Thane. RCTH is the Parent Club for this Interact Club.

President Govind was the Chief Guest and Rtn Jayant Nagavkar was the Guest of Honour along with Mrs. Pratibha Gadge, the Principal of Raje Shivaji Vidya Mandir. The event commenced with a soulful invocation song by a young Interactor from Std. 7.

The Secretarial report for the RY 2022-23 was presented by the outgoing Secretary, Interactor Omkar Sawant. These youngsters are doing commendable jobs in their own unique way by co-conducting martial arts camp, training camp and various other activities for their fellow schoolmates.

This was followed by a speech delivered by the outgoing President Interactor Sakshi More. She then introduced the Incoming President Ms Shriya Warik, who is a class IX student from the school.

President. Shriya then inducted her BOD for the excellent year 2023-24. The BOD pins were unveiled by Pres Govind and Rtn Jayant.

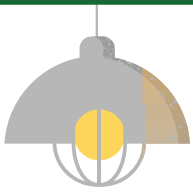
Chief Guest Govind gave a motivation speech which charged up the entire team. He also assured that Hillers will be working closely with the Interact team and continue providing guidance. The new team is a promising one as was evident from the fact that the entire Installation Ceremony was executed with clockwork precision.

The Incoming Secretary Interactor Dhanshree Babar presented her first Secretarial announcements and after this, the meeting was adjourned.

We, at RCTH, wish the Prez- Sec team of Shriya-Dhanshree and their BOD for the Excellent Year 2023-24, the very best!

Rtn Saket Gadkari





SPOTLIGHT



The Great Debate at RCTH

Hillers have opinions and they love expressing them. This was amply evident during the first debate in the series of 'The Great Debate' to be held in the excellent year.

On 7th September evening, the hall at Thirani school was abuzz with energy and anticipation as the teams for the debate were getting ready. The topic of the debate was 'Organ Donation should be made compulsory', which evoked strong thoughts and feelings not just from the participants, but from each and everyone in the room.

The debate started with the moderator Sunil taking centre stage and setting the ground rules requesting all the participants to adhere to them. The 'In Favour' team comprised A S Kumar, Nilesh Likhite, Sucheta Rege and Saket Gadkari whereas 'Against' team had Dr Vijay Kulkarni, Rajeev Tipnis, Dr Anagha Karkhanis and Mahesh Madkholkar.

Nilesh set the tone for the 'in favour' team, which was followed by the opening salvo by Dr Anagha for the against team. This was followed by wonderful 3-minute presentations by each member of both the teams. They brought out their thoughts and ideas in a very articulate and emotional manner which made the audience sit back and listen with rapt attention. After all the speakers had their say, the conclusion was brought out by A S Kumar and Dr Vijay for their respective teams.

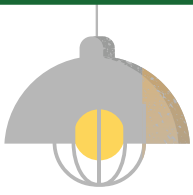
And now, it was time for the results. The jury comprising Dr Seetha Raju, Atul Bhide and Radhika Padmanabhan had a tough time and a long deliberation, they announced their verdict declaring the 'against' team the winner.

Needless to say, the debate was in the best spirits and the biggest gain was all the knowledge that we all hillers could gather thanks to enlightening presentations by the participants. We were also joined by representatives of Jupiter Hospital and Indian Medical association, who gave answers to a lot of queries that the Hillers had.

In all, it was a great evening spent and we all are waiting with a bated breath for the next episode of 'The Great Debate' soon.

Rtn Sunil Gwalani





FIRE SIDE MEETING ON 16TH SEPTEMBER

The Fireside Meeting was organized on 16th September 2023 in Satkar Residency for thirteen new Hillers who were inducted in the Excellent Year or Fab Year (if they had missed attending the event last year). The event was organized with the purpose of getting the new members assimilated into the Club, get them thoroughly acquainted with the Club History and activities and help them understand the Club better through their queries.

The new members present were Rotarians Dr. Uday Gadgil, Susshil Kangya, Ashutosh Agarwal, Vishal Wadhvani, Pradyot Biswas, Virendra Singh Tomar, Sujit Uchil, Ajit Gujar, Ramesh Satoor, Dr. Ruckmani Agarwal, Anuradha Sukhathankar, Mita Gawande and Yamini Kundetkar.

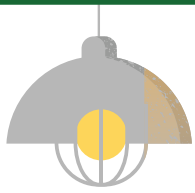
PP Sucheta Rege, one of the main organisers of the event, briefed the gathering about the meaning of the fireside meeting and the purpose behind organizing the programme. Sunil Gwalani conducted an activity which was fun – filled; this served as an icebreaking session for the new Hillers. The sessions on Rotary international, the accomplishments of RCTH and the roles and responsibilities of Hillers were conducted by PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Ravi Iyer and PP Shirish Songadkar respectively. The new members could freely pose questions about RCTH and Rotary, in general. The queries were duly answered by PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Shirish, PP Ravi and PP Sucheta.

Subsequently, Sunil took over again with his team building activity. Here was his impromptu quiz on new and old Hillers, which everyone enjoyed thoroughly. There was also a panel discussion through which everyone present got an idea of the aspirations, expectations, and the role of the new members in RCTH in the years to come. President Govind Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, PP Vikram Mane and PN Samir Limaye too pitched in, as the event turned be a resounding success.

There were a few melodious songs and some mimicry acts as well. These fun-filled engagements helped in building a strong bond of camaraderie among the new Rotarians and with the old members as well! Besides, the new members got a platform to express themselves and display a glimpse of their talents. This would enable the Club to involve them fruitfully and utilize their skills effectively. All in all, it was a lovely evening filled with fun, laughter and fellowship and…… more importantly a lot of lessons for the newly inducted Hillers!

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan





SPOTLIGHT



Felicitation of Teachers of RCTH





HIP – HIP HOORAY

ARYAN REVANKAR – FOOTBALL CHAMP



Aryan Revankar, son of Rotarian Shashi Revankar and Ann Shivani Revankar, has made us all proud. This Vasant Vihar College student studying in Grade 11 has been selected to represent the state in the Maharashtra Under-17 Football team.

Aryan was selected among 120 students in the trials held at the All Saints School, Bhiwandi and Bishop’s School, Pune. A squad of 16 was selected for Team Maharashtra under 17 boys and Aryan was one of the boys selected. He will be leaving for a training session at Bishop’s School in Pune on 27th September, 2023. After the training, Aryan and team Maharashtra will leave for Thiruvananthapuram for representing the state in the National Football Tournament.



This tournament is being organized by CICSE (the Council which conducts ICSE exams). ICSE schools in Mumbai participate in the tournament. The CISE selectors select the best players from the winning team and the other teams and form a single team representing Maharashtra and Goa region in order to play the Nationals. Aryan Revankar is a part of the Under 17 CISE National Football Team.

Dear Aryan, we wish you all the best for your Nationals! May you bring laurels to your state, school and family! We, at RCTH, are proud of you!

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan

A CHARGED WINNER!!

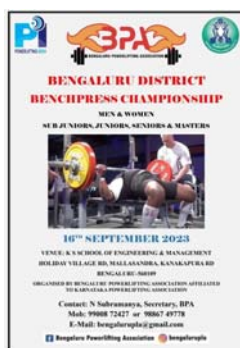
Saini, Daughter-in-law of Rotarian Paddy and Ann Radhika is a Chartered Accountant by qualification. She is also an avid trekker, a canine nutritionist and a yoga trainer.

Her recent passion in fitness and hitting the gym regularly has helped her bag the second place in the Bangalore District Benchpress Championship, across all women in all groups and weight categories! About 35 women participated in the contest. Saini was awarded a medal and a certificate for the same.

The event was organized by the Bengaluru Powerlifting Association (a part of Powerlifting India).

Best wishes to Saini for winning more prizes in powerlifting !!

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan



HILLERS CELEBRATING SHREE GANESH FESTIVAL (SEPTEMBER 2023)

