

Issue # 03 - September 2023



# HILLECHOES

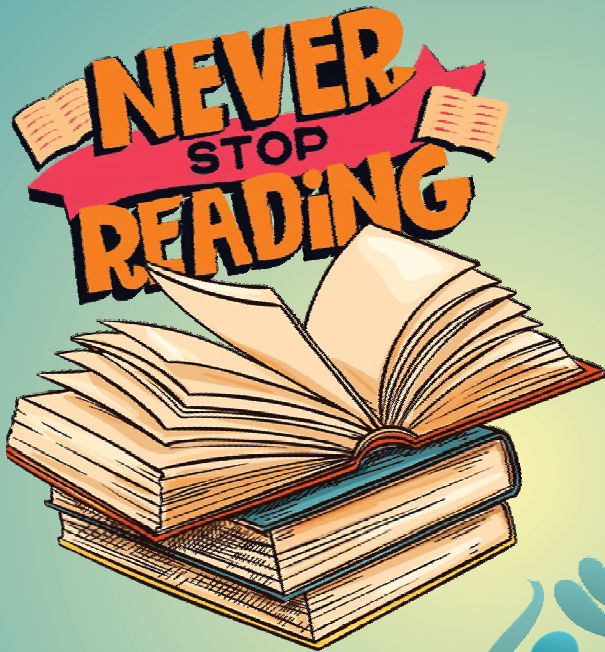
Club Bulletin of Rotary Club of Thane Hills, RI District 3142

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



Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world  
- Nelson Mandela

Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope - Kofi Annan



September: Basic Education & Literacy month

# Govind Khetan

## Club President



**My Dear Hillers,**

**Warm Greetings!**

Thank you very much for your enthusiastic participation in the numerous community service projects and fellowship events in the month of August.

Multiple blood donation drives were held, CPR training was brilliantly imparted by experts and our long overdue Club Monsoon Picnic was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us at UK resorts.

On 15th August, we came together in large numbers to unfurl our beloved Tiranga along with our Interactors at Raja Shivaji School. The discipline, enthusiasm and generous hospitality of these little children was overwhelming, to say the least. Our Rotaractors are brimming with youthful energy and ideas.

A visit by Hillers and Anns to an Old age home christened as 'Second Innings', turned out to be extremely gratifying and satisfying. The senior citizens sang, danced, played games with us in gay abandon. The smiles on their faces and the blessings they showered on all of us were priceless.

The numerous projects on supporting basic education – arrangement of school books, stationery, uniforms to needy children in tribal villages and slums - drove home the realisation that we ourselves were blessed and privileged to have had ready access to all these very basic necessities.

We celebrated the 115th birth anniversary of martyr Rajguru on 22nd Aug. We were in tears as we commemorated the sacrifice of three bravehearts (Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru) of our beloved country who were mercilessly executed when they were in their tender 20s. This execution was clearly an inflection point in our nation's freedom struggle because it shook up and galvanized an entire nation to rise together defiantly and exclaim 'Enough is Enough'.

Quite honestly, we have the privilege to bask in the glory of the successful landing of our homegrown 'Chandrayaan' and numerous achievements of our scientists, engineers and doctors only and only because our freedom fighters sacrificed their own lives to allow us to breathe, learn, achieve in a free, independent, tolerant and progressive nation.

Friends, we had heartwarming participation in our weekly meetings during the month as we invited eminent speakers to share their knowledge and experience. I am delighted to report that the all the six speakers in our weekly meetings thus far in the Excellent year have been women.

On 18th Aug, we assimilated ten new members in our family on a single day. It is unprecedented in the glorious history of Thane Hills. It was such a proud feeling as five of the ten new members are women. With 116 family members now, our esteemed and vibrant club is the largest it has ever been.

Friends, we have several interesting initiatives, projects and fellowship events lined up for the next few weeks and months. I once again thank each one of you for your generous support, participation and engagement. On behalf of the Excellent team, I can assure that over the next few weeks and months, we Hillers will relentlessly strive to make this world an even better place to live in!

# Dr. Anagha Karkhanis

## Club Secretary

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**Dear Hillers,**

Warm greetings to each one of you as we step into the enriching month of September! This month's theme, "Basic Education and Literacy," resonates deeply with the spirit of Rotary's core values. It is a reminder of our shared commitment to illuminate lives through knowledge and empower communities through education.

As we embark on this journey, let us draw inspiration from Nelson Mandela's words, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Our calendar is ablaze with events that reflect our dedication to this noble cause.

We kick-start the month with the launch of an e-learning app for needy students.

We then have "The Big Debate" that promises intellectual fireworks. We will watch Hillers articulate their viewpoints on the topic "Organ donation should be made compulsory." This will provide an excellent opportunity to foster critical thinking and encourage discussions on this crucial subject.

We will also have "Guru Namah" felicitations of teachers' programme, to honour those individuals who kindle the flames of learning within our society and whose influence truly extends far beyond classrooms.

The fireside meeting for new members will welcome fresh energy into our Rotary family. It will serve as a platform for sharing experiences and underscoring the essence of Rotary's service ethos.

As part of our Village adoption initiative, we are preparing to hold our first medical camp in Sogav Village, extending our outreach to those in need. We also have our 2nd club assembly scheduled for this month.

Beyond our Club, September also holds district events like the Onam celebration and the 1st District TRF seminar of RY 23-24. As I reflect on these endeavours, I am reminded of this quote, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world' indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." We, the members of Hillers' family, are that vibrant group, bound by purpose and driven by change.

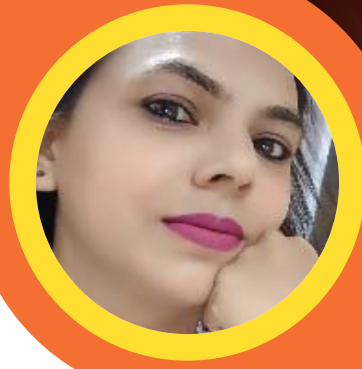
With the glow of September illuminating our path, let us continue to excel, embodying Rotary's values and uplifting lives. Together, we will continue to sow the seeds of education, nurture the fields of literacy, and watch as the gardens of progress flourish.

Yours in Rotary !

# Pushpalata Chaurey

## Editor

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### Dear Rotary Family,

In every corner of the globe, from bustling cities to remote villages, one constant remains: education is the key to a brighter future. As we delve into the theme of "Basic Education and Literacy" in this Rotary Bulletin, we are reminded of the profound impact education has on individuals, communities, and the world at large.

Education is a fundamental human right, yet millions still lack access to quality schooling. In many parts of the world, children face barriers such as poverty, gender discrimination and limited resources that hinder their ability to learn. As Rotarians, we have the power and responsibility to change this narrative.

Our commitment to "Service Above Self" has led Rotary to the forefront of the battle for basic education and literacy. Over the years, we have undertaken numerous projects to ensure that children, regardless of their circumstances, have the opportunity to learn and grow. From building schools and providing textbooks to offering scholarships and literacy programs, we have left no stone unturned in our pursuit of a more educated world. But our mission is far from over. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated educational inequalities, leaving millions of children without access to learning. As we navigate these challenging times, we must continue to adapt and innovate. Rotary's resilience and creativity shine as we explore new avenues for remote learning and support for educators.

Basic education and literacy are not just about teaching children to read and write; they are about empowerment. Literate communities are better equipped to address pressing issues, from healthcare to economic development. Education instills hope, fuels dreams, and fosters resilience in the face of adversity. It is the cornerstone of progress.

As Rotarians, let us pledge to redouble our efforts to promote basic education and literacy. Whether it's by supporting local schools, mentoring students, or advocating for educational reforms, our actions ripple outward, creating a wave of positive change.

In this edition of the Rotary Bulletin, you will find stories of Rotarians and Rotary clubs who are making a difference in the realm of education. Their dedication and passion serve as a testament to what we can achieve when we unite behind a common cause.

Let us remember that every child we educate, every adult we empower with literacy skills, is a step closer to a brighter, more equitable world. The power to change lives through education lies within each of us, and together, we can turn that power into action.

As we move forward in our journey to promote basic education and literacy, let us embrace the words of Nelson Mandela, who once said,

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

So, dear Rotarians, let's continue to be the champions of change.

Yours in Rotary Service,



# Madhumita Ghosh

## Know Your Board Member



**Position:** Jt. Secretary in Excellent Year

**Education:** Masters in Statistics, PG Diploma in Operations Research, Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications

**Professional & personal achievements:** With 24 + years of Experience, Madhumita has a span of experience in research, knowledge processing and IT Industry in the capacity of Sr. V. P. She had an entrepreneur stint in her career a few years back and currently working at IBM India Pvt. Ltd . She leads in solutioning in IBM Consulting for Data and Technology Transformation, where Data Science, AI, ML, NLP, and Generative AI, are in her forte.

She is attached with academia, where she is on Board of Studies – B.Sc. Tech -AI Program of NMIMS -School of Science, Mumbai and Visiting lecturer & Curriculum designer and Project Evaluator in many B Schools. She is a Writer & Joint Editor-in-Chief in an International Journal of Business Analytics and Intelligence (IJBAI) (published by <http://www.publishingindia.com>)

### Awards:

- ▶ One of her predictive models for the insurance domain was awarded in NASSCOM as “Excellence in Analytics 2015’ recognized for ‘Innovative application of Analytics for Business Solutions’.
- ▶ Featured and interviewed by Analytics India Magazine in July 2015 ([www.analyticsindiamag.com](http://www.analyticsindiamag.com))
- ▶ Received award as ‘Best Analytics and Insight leader of the Year in 2017’ by Kamikaze
- ▶ Received Green Mentor award 2018 at Global Green School Conference – New York on Sept 2018
- ▶ Featured & interviewed in <https://www.industrialautomationindia.in/alpha/March-2021.pdf>, in March 2021
- ▶ Recognized with ‘Service Excellence Award’ for exemplary contributor to solutioning support & Tech. Delivery Assessment in IBM (June 2021) She had initiated to promote Bengali sweets from shores of Bengal and associated with Mishti Affair.
- ▶ She is attached with Navodaya Trust, Thane as Working Committee Secretary, which is a socio cultural & welfare association

**Hobbies:** Reading Bengali novels, Spending time with daughter

**Family:** Born and Brought up at Jamshedpur (Tata Nagar), had a fabulous childhood growing up with Tata’s ethos. She lost her Dad in 2018. Her Mom and Sister are in Kolkata and Jamshedpur. Father-in-law is with her at Thane; he retired from SAIL. Her Husband Rajeev is a Civil Engineer and is a Director in construction material testing Labs for destructive and Non-destructive testing at Kolkata and Guwahati, where he is one of the partners. Madhumita’s daughter Ishika is at present in her 5th year of B.Arch. from Sir. J. J. College of Architecture, Mumbai.

### What it means to be the Jt. Secretary in Excellent Year of the club?

Investing in local communities and serving members is the utmost priority. It is probably best to focus on the club's energy on only one main goal each year, as opposed to pursuing many different goals. ‘Outside In’ approach towards service with optimized cost and effort could be the ultimate motive.

### My plans, ambition, for the Excellent Year:

To support and assist at best of my capabilities for the smooth functioning of club services. RCTH itself is an Institution with past leaders, which provides each one a great platform to carry out one’s own objectives. Would look forward to streamlining certain processes which can ease out administrative activities.

# Kalita Subramanian

## Know Your Board Member



**Position:** Seargent-At-Arms (SAA)

**Education:** Post Graduation in Sociology from MU

**Hobbies:** Social Service, Travelling, Music & Dance

**Professional Achievements:**

1. Over 15 years in Financial Services Industry.
2. Been part of ANZ Group and Times Group in the Middle Management.
3. A Teacher & Counsellor to school children for more than two decades.
4. Presently Self-Employed as Financial Planner cum Insurance Advisor

**Family:**

Spouse - A. S. Kumar, Management & Development Specialist and Founder of Fortress Group.

- Sons -
1. Aditya: Graduate in Maths & Economics, Employed with Knight Frank
  2. Aryan – Studying in Class XI at Singhanian School, Thane

**What it means to be a Rotarian and SAA?**

It's a responsibility that I assume with utmost humility to uphold the ethos of Rotary, i.e. 'Service Above Self' to bring about a change for better in your environment.

**What are your plans and ambitions? What do you want to achieve for the Excellent Year?**

My ambition is to stay simple and humble. My goal is to complement and support the President and the BOD, to the best of my capabilities in accomplishing the plans set for the Excellent Year.

# IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

## BLOOD DONATION CAMP AT SARASWATI VIDYALAYA, GHODBUNDER ROAD, THANE

On 30th June, 2023, 40 students and three teachers from Saraswati Vidyalaya visited Triumph Blood Bank for a guided tour of the blood bank. Dr. Varsha Pancholi briefed them about Thalassemia and the constant need for blood donation camps to save the lives of the 85 Thalassemia patients attached to the Triumph Blood Bank. The school, in turn, offered to organize a blood donation camp in their premises.

Saraswati Vidyalaya collaborated with RCTH and Triumph Blood Bank in organizing a blood donation camp for Thalassemia patients in the school premises on 19th August, 2023. This coincided with the Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM) in the school for students of Grades 1 to 8. Since parents visited the school for the PTM, it was an appropriate occasion for the camp. At the end of the day, 45 units of blood were collected from the parents.

Ann Radhika Padmanabhan co-ordinated with the school authorities and Dr. Vazrekar of Triumph Blood Bank. The donors were duly given certificates and refreshments by the blood bank staff. The blood donation camp was successful in sensitizing the students, parents and the teachers of the school towards donation of blood to save lives.



## FOOD DONATION DRIVE FOR THE VISUALLY CHALLENGED

The 'Help Blind Welfare Association' organizes a food donation drive every Amavasya at Yogi Hills, Mulund. This drive was organised on 16th August, as this day coincided with the new moon day.

Rotarian Pawan Adnani led a group of Hillers who did a wonderful job of contributing items like rice, biscuits, cakes and blankets to the visually challenged people. More than 1000 visually challenged people, who had registered, benefitted from this philanthropic act. An additional ~300 visually challenged individuals who were not registered, also received the donated items.

Rotarian Pawan Adnani, President Govind Khetan, Rotarian Satish Shetty, Ann Natasha Adnani and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan participated in the camp and volunteered for almost 3 hours between 7.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. The coordination for the Hillers was done by Pawan Adnani who made sure that all the items to be donated reached the camp on time.

By: Radhika Padmanabhan





# IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

## NAVJEEVAN SCHOOL - TEXTBOOK AND SCHOOL BAG DISTRIBUTION

On 3rd August 2023 at 4pm, RCTH yet again stretched its hands to help the needy. A group of Hillers and Anns visited the Navjeevan Prathmik Vidya Mandir located in the Gandhi Nagar slum on Pokhran road no.2, Thane

They distributed textbooks to the students of Grades 4, 5 and 7 and a school bag to each of the 128 students.

Rotarians Satish Shetty, Shashi Revankar and Dayal Dodeja sponsored the textbooks while Rotarian Pawan Adnani sponsored the school bags.

The co-ordination of this project was done by Rotarian Satish Shetty and Ann Radhika Padmanabhan.

Beside the above Hillers and Anns, Prez Govind Khetan and First Lady Sangeeta Khetan, Club Secretary Dr. Anagha Karkhanis, Anns Shivani Revankar and Aneetha Shetty graced the event which saw the underprivileged children singing songs and reciting poems in English with confidence and joy before the RCTH members.

By: Radhika Padmanabhan



## OLD AGE HOME VISIT

Emotions ran high and tears were held back as a group of Hillers spent quality time with the elderly residents of the 'SRBGCT' Old Age Home in Airoli on 13th August 2023.

For the residents, many of whom have been abandoned by their own children, this day was long-awaited.

The morning kicked off with games, music, and dance, with the entire Hiller group wholeheartedly joining in. The Master of Ceremonies (MC) was enthusiastic in encouraging all the residents during the activities after which Hillers themselves distributed prizes. The sheer joy and happiness radiated not only from the residents but also from the Hillers, who enthusiastically danced along.

While the residents relished a sumptuous lunch which was thoughtfully organized by the Hillers. Every member of the Hiller family surely left the venue with a heart full of emotions.

Mr. Bhagat, the dedicated individual responsible for running the Elderly Care Centre, moved everyone with his heartfelt explanation of how some of the children of the elderly residents simply disappear after leaving their parents here. Mr. Bhagat's dream is to establish an Elderly Care Centre that would be completely free for all. He is tirelessly working to turn his dream into reality.

The Hillers' delegation included President Govind, First Lady Sangeeta, Ruby Khurana, Satish Shetty, Dr. Atul Gupte, Pawan Adnani and Ann Natasha Adnani, Saket Gadhari, PP Nilesh Likhite, PP Varsha Likhite, Gururaj Agnihotri and his wife, Shrirang Date and Vidhyadhar Naik.





# IMPACTING LIVES WITH CARE - CREATING HOPE

## JOY AT CHOLMUKH AND JALLE: AUGUST 5TH 2023

5th August 2023 will remain a memorable day for the Hillers as they were able to give immense Joy to a few 100 students. President Govind Khetan, Rotarians Pavan Adnani, Satish Shetty, Prashant Ojha and Rajesh Asnani travelled to schools in Cholmukh and Jalle Villages. These schools located in remote areas, lack very basic amenities.

Though the school has leaking roofs and lacked basic amenities, the teachers and kids put up a great cultural show to welcome the Hillers. The Hillers were truly touched by their gesture and were inspired to do their bit for the underprivileged students.



दिनांक - 05/08/2023  
अमास सेवा ग्रुप, मुंबई यांच्या माध्यमातून  
रोटरी क्लब ऑफ ठाणे हिलर्स  
यांच्या सौजन्याने  
विल्लरगाव केंद्रातील 100 शाळांतर्गत 200 शालेय विद्यार्थ्यांना रोजीचे साहित्य वाटप करण्यात आले.

## Independence Day Celebration – 15th August





# ROTARACT CLUB INSTALLATION

The Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club President is a significant event within the Rotary community. It marks the transition of leadership from the outgoing President to the incoming one. During this ceremony, the outgoing President reflects on his/her term, highlighting the achievements and challenges. The incoming President then shares his/her vision and goals for the upcoming tenure. The event often includes speeches, presentations and symbolic gestures, like the passing of the President's Pin . The Installation Ceremony not only celebrates the dedication of Rotaractors but also emphasizes the Club's commitment to service and community betterment.

This year, the Installation Ceremony of incoming Rotaract President Ms Shamal Khawale and outgoing ceremony of PP Ritika Agarwal, of Rotaract club of Thane Hills, was held on Saturday 19th August 2023.

From the parent Rotary club (Rotary Club of Thane Hills), President Govind Khetan, Secretary Dr Anagha Karkhanis, Rotarian Jayant Nagavkar, and Rotarian Sameer Limaye attended the installation ceremony.

Rotaract 3142 District officials, Rotaractor Himanshu Daporkar (Dist Group Committee Chair-I), Rotaractor Rohan Solanki (Zonal director) , Rotaractor Shamika Kadam (Zonal Director) and a host of other District officials graced the occasion.

The Installation Ceremony buzzed with high energy, enthusiasm and emotions as the young Rotaractors displayed their vibrant spirit and dedication in various aspects of the event. It was really heartening to see their genuine passion for community service.

Their war cry, 'KEEP RISING, KEEP ROARING, KEEP REIGNING' was inspiring to one and all.

The dynamism and the active involvement of Rotaract Club of Thane Hills reflects the future of Rotary and enduring commitment of the Club towards a positive change.

Here is what the incoming Rotaract President - Ms Shamal had to say to her club members:

Hey everyone, I hope you all had good time yesterday. My heart is full looking at all your beautiful smiles, one whole club working towards making the Installation Ceremony a grand success. The day was truly wholesome. The program wouldn't have been successful without the Installation team working for days and nights.

To @Jui, @Rotaractor Arya, the CPs... "I've seen you guys work so closely. Everyday 100 calls for to do lists, reminders, making sure everything is in check and bringing everything to reality in the most beautiful way possible. You guys made this installation a grand success and I am so proud of you both."

The Mocs, @Omkar Rotractor, @Prajakta... "you both rocked the stage. It was so beautiful to see how you guys had each other's support every time something went wrong and carried out everything so flawlessly long way to go guys proud of you @Rtr. Noopur, Choti Noopur doing bade bade kaam. From handling registration desk, tech desk, venue management and hospitality. You managed everything very well. We will always need a dash of Noopur to make the Installation Ceremony successful."



# ROTARACT CLUB INSTALLATION

@Sayali Korgaonkar, tech queen.. "One woman show guys!!! And entire Installation Ceremony without any technical errors, only you could do it. So proud of you Sayali."

@Prajeet Karekar, Rotaractor RCTH... "my Secretary the best Secretary, what a beautiful incoming speech, never expected me to cry ever when you talk and kal tune rula diya. Le tera sapna pura ho gaya. Lets kill this together."

@Ritika Rotaractor RCTH Agarwal... "My IPP. What a journey it has been. Couldn't have imagined getting collared by anyone else but you. Thank you for everything Ritika."

@Unmesh Shirodkar, @Rotaractor Ritesh Gupta, @Sonia N. Rotaractor... "you guys beautifully managed the registration desk. Everything was intact and perfectly done. Proud of you guys."

@Samruddha Kokate, @Kshit... "so new to the club, yet you guys did everything to your best levels. Loved the hospitality."

@Prajeet Karekar Rotaractor RCTH, @Yamini... "Literally had goosebumps at your first Secretarial announcement. It was so exciting to see you both give out the final count. So proud of you both."

This Installation Ceremony was grand because of the people who put their hearts and souls into it and made sure everything goes smoothly.

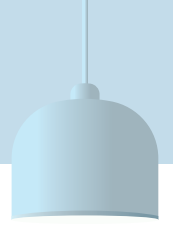
@President Govind RCTH, @Jayant ji... "we are so grateful for all the support from RCTH. Thank you so much for gracing the occasion with your presence. We as Rotaractors, will always be there for Rotary. And we are hoping to do more collaborative projects all year long. Truly we have the best Rotary ever."

@Kaushal Deshmukh, @Drusti Arora, @Hemant Malla, @Pratik Vidwans, @Samradhin, @Sayali Korgaonkar... "the Club is nothing without their GBMs! Each one of you have multiple talents and it is time to showcase it, flaunt it and be the best version of you. Hoping to see you all reach bigger heights in the year."

I sincerely thank everyone for being a part of the Installation Ceremony.







On 3rd August, 2023 we organised a COLS - CPR hands on training programme for all the RCTH family in Thirani school. This was in association with Indian Society of Anaesthesiologists, Thane. it was spearheaded by Dr Manjiri Ranade along with Dr Minal Gadgil and team. Compression Only Life Support (COLS) -Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a life-saving technique used in emergencies when someone's breathing or heartbeat has stopped. CPR training is required because it equips individuals with the skills to provide immediate and life-saving assistance to someone experiencing cardiac arrest or a sudden medical emergency. Proper training ensures people to respond effectively in critical situations, potentially saving lives. It involves chest compressions to maintain blood circulation and supply of oxygen to the vital organs. It increases the chances of survival and reduces the risk of brain damage. COLS – CPR can help save lives till professional medical help arrives. RCTH wishes to take this training to schools, housing societies and corporates and also prepare volunteers to attend to such emergencies.



On 10TH August 2023, during our weekly meeting, the guest speaker was Dr Vaijayanti Ingawle. She is a leading child specialist but chose to speak about marathon running. Participating in marathons can offer numerous benefits, such as improved cardiovascular fitness, increased endurance, weight management, stress reduction, and a sense of accomplishment. Training for a marathon also promotes discipline, goal-setting, and a healthier lifestyle. However, it is important to train properly and consult a healthcare professional before attempting a marathon, especially if you are new to running or have any underlying health conditions. The Hillers liked the fact that the her entire family runs and uses these tours for family bonding and visits to nearby places.



Dr Mansi Gandhi Bawiskar was our guest speaker on 24th August 2023. Her topic was paediatric dental health- 'Power of Zero'. Paediatric dentistry focuses on oral health for children and adolescents. Having good teeth offers several benefits, including improved oral health, easier chewing and digestion, enhanced speech clarity, a more confident smile, and potential boosts to overall self-esteem and social interactions. Additionally, maintaining oral hygiene can contribute to better overall health by reducing the risk of gum disease and related health issues. Dental health is important because it contributes to overall well-being. Maintaining good oral hygiene helps prevent tooth decay, gum disease, and bad breath. It also plays a role in your ability to eat, speak and smile comfortably. Additionally, oral health is linked to systemic health, with potential connections to heart disease, diabetes, and other conditions. Regular dental care can help catch issues early and promote a healthier lifestyle. The best part of this session was the guest speaker Dr Mansi immediately expressed her desire to join our club.



# ANN'S CORNER

## Babita Sharma: a fitness freak

Ann Babita Sharma, spouse of Rotarian Sunil Sharma is a fitness enthusiastic. Besides, being very particular about her own fitness, she likes to spread the message of fitness among her friends too. Babita runs her own classes called 'Babita Fitness Classes' in Thane. She trains two batches of students at present. Her training includes Aerobics, Pilates, kick boxing, Power Yoga, Functional, Burpees, Weight training with Resistance Band and Dumbbells, Ledder exercises and Stepper. She takes her students on treks too.



## Ann Nandita Ganguly (spouse of PDG Ashes Ganguly)

In 2015, Ann Nandita Ganguly was approached by Mr. Param Bir Singh, the then Police Commissioner of Thane to train the Police Staff (from the Departments of CBI and Passport) in English Conversation Skills. She successfully trained 14 Policemen per batch from the fourteen police stations in Thane in about 8 weeks. The program culminated with a function that was graced by the Police Commissioners and the Assistant Police Commissioners. Nandita subsequently trained selective officers from the Traffic Department and the officers from the Anti-Corruption Department, too. Nandita was also approached by the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs under the Central Government to train the juvenile children who were serving sentences in New Delhi's Central Jail during covid times. She was given students of standards 10 and 12 who were studying while serving their sentences. Most of them were like ordinary teenagers having age-appropriate desires and aspirations. They were smart brilliant and intelligent but due to some circumstances, they got entangled into a life of crime. According to Nandita, "Only light can drive out darkness, only love can drive out hate."

Kudos Nandita, for removing darkness from the lives of these youngsters and showing them a proper direction!





# MUSAFIRNAMA

An Occidental outing...

When my husband decided to play some cricket matches in Scotland, I was strongly tempted to visit this enchanting land. We soon chalked out plans to visit Edinburgh in Scotland and London in England. My husband was a part of the winning 'Royal Indians' team which played against the Scottish teams at Dundee. After all the games were completed, he joined me at Edinburgh. We stayed in a friend's home in this cute, mystical city. This gave us the advantage of enjoying the warm hospitality of an Indian family whilst feasting our eyes with the endless scenic beauty of the nation of Scotland, which is a part of the United Kingdom.

Our friend drove us into the magical countryside of Scotland which is draped in pastoral meadows, lush green rolling hills and resplendent lakes. The landscape is picture perfect; the greenery seemed to have infiltrated into our eyes forever! We visited a quaint little town named 'Callander'; the walk down the lanes of this eye-catching hamlet were genuinely worthwhile. The narrow main road in this popular tourist destination is lined with small shops selling curios and garments as well as restaurants and ice cream parlours. A quick drive to the lake named 'Venachar' (Loch Venachar in Scottish parlance) in a sylvan setting followed. To me, the lake seemed like Nature's chef de' oeuvre... We also visited a farm which seemed endless; we thoroughly enjoyed feeding the cows there. A look at the majestic Stirling castle (arguably the most famous historic monument in Scotland) on the way back home completed the day's sightseeing. We celebrated our host's birthday that night through non-stop chatting and singing!

The next day was allocated for a date with Scottish history. The 'Forth' rail and road bridges (constructed over the waters of the North Sea) seemed alluring, although in contrasting ways. The road bridge is a suspension bridge representing the modern era while the train bridge is a cantilever bridge constructed in the nineteenth century and is an iconic structure. This old bridge is certainly, a slice of the history of Scotland.

We could soak into the old-world charm as we enjoyed our walk through the Royal Mile. As we proceeded forward, we could see vintage buildings like St. Giles church. The Edinburgh International festival was in progress; the carnival had indeed added vibrancy and verve to the busy area. Musicians, artists, jugglers, dancers etc. attracted the countless visitors endlessly. The shops in the street were beehives of activity; the walk towards the famous Edinburgh castle seemed as if we were reliving Scottish history!

A morning walk, the next day, to the 'Silver Knowles' beach reminded us once again of the extraordinary natural beauty of the country. The serene shoreline with sea gulls floating on the waters here and there and the gentle music of the waves in an otherwise silent zone left us amazed!

Carrying the wonderful imagery of Edinburgh, we left for London by train. London – a bustling metropolitan city- is just the opposite of Edinburgh. We stayed in our nephew's place; once again, we were comfortably placed with our near n dear. The city of London has numerous attractions of which we could cover some. The Madam Tussaud's wax museum houses the wax replicas of popular sportspersons, politicians, matinee idols and the members of the British Royal Family; some of these were incredibly real.

The opulent Buckingham palace looked so stately as we clicked pictures from outside. The Nelson's column in the Trafalgar square is, indeed, very grand and truly justifies the crowd around it. The second day was allocated for the Greenwich observatory and the Lord's cricket ground. The Greenwich observatory located on a hillock houses the imaginary Prime Meridian; I was awestruck when I saw the zero-degree meridian



which I had seen only in books, maps and globes.

We enjoyed every bit of the Lord's cricket ground tour. The history behind the Ashes series, the museum replete with portraits of yesteryear and current cricketers, innumerable memorabilia, the players' dressing room, the pavilion, the media stands.....we were left asking for more. This is a 'must see' for cricket buffs, I can vouch for that!



Our nephew and his wife ordered a cake and requested me to cut it in order to usher in my birthday. The next day was a visit to the famous Windsor castle, the oldest and the largest occupied castle in the world. These days, the main attraction there is the St. George Chapel where Queen Elizabeth II was buried last year. This monument is located in the premises of the famed castle.

We also did a quick tour of the Oxford University; we were shown the famous colleges like Trinity College, Divinity College, All Soul's College and the like. This seat of learning has shaped many, many eminent thinkers, statesmen, doctors, scientists and engineers and is going strong till today.

During the weekend, we visited the London science museum. Not just us, our little grandnephew too enjoyed the visit. The huge sections in the museum like transport, fiction, medicine, astronomy, engineering etc. have plenty to offer for science enthusiasts.

The last part of our stay was the walk on the iconic London tower bridge over the river Thames.

We enjoyed the walk as the cool breeze caressed our skin. This is indeed, the city's signature structure and we appropriately, signed off with it!

The few days which we spent in Edinburgh and London reminded us time and again that the heritage of our land needs to be preserved. The people of Scotland and England have been diligently conserving their natural and cultural heritage over not just decades but centuries! Man, after all, needs to respect the past and his own roots! It is said - "If you have to understand today, then search yesterday."

**Ann Radhika Padmanabhan**





# NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



## Dist. Membership Seminar (20th Aug)



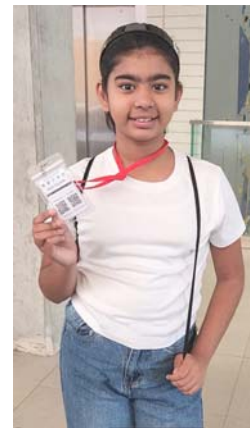
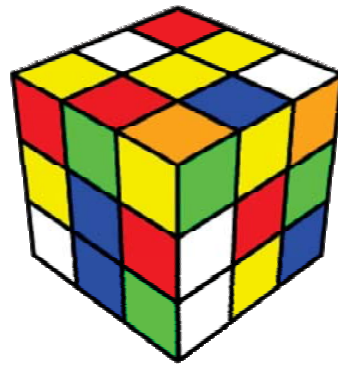


# HIP – HIP HOORAY

**Asmi Kanade** - daughter of Rotarian Aniket Kanade, participated in the World Cubing Association (WCA) championship organized by Speedcubing Canada. This was Asmi's first competition and it was in a foreign country.

The competition was organised in Oakville near Toronto. Asmi came out successful beating her own record by solving 3×3 cube with a personal best of 38.34 seconds and 2×2 cube with personal best of 10.48 seconds. Her 3x3 average stood at ~42 seconds and 2x2 average stood at ~15 seconds. She also got an opportunity to be a judge in the competition for other players, which is quite standard for the WCA competitions.

Wish you the very best, Babita!!



**Asmi Kanade at WCA championship by Speed Cubing Canada**



**Surabhi Limaye** - Daughter in law of Rotarian Samir Limaye and Ann Manjari Limaye

Surabhi pursued Mechanical Engineering in Pune and worked in a software company 'Zycus' in Mumbai. She then joined Coupa software in Pune and decided to pursue an Executive MBA alongside her job. She had no time for special coaching but she prepared well for the entrance examinations and applied for admission to the Imperial School of Business, London and the Indian School of Business, India. To her sweet surprise, she got an acceptance from both!

Surabhi decided to join the esteemed Indian School of Business (ISB) with a specialization in Marketing, to understand the Indian business context. As a part of the international immersion, she completed two courses from the National University of Singapore where she learnt Geopolitical strategy and corporate entrepreneurship.

It was a rigorous 18-month journey, juggling between work and studies, especially with all the work travel involved. After graduation, Surabhi received the 'ISB Brand Ambassador' award for leading school activities. As an ISB alumna, she stays actively engaged as a member of the ISB interviewing panel and participates in various events.

Dear Surabhi, hearty congratulations for your prestigious ISB degree! You have proved that hard work is the key to success.

