

ROTATOR

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R I President's Message



The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it. Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome. When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother. Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.

District Governor's Message



Dear Awesome President Manish Patil and Members of the Rotary Club of Thane, First of all, warm greetings from First Lady Jyoti and myself. September in the Rotary world is designated as "Basic Education and Literacy" Month. Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Education is not about filling a pail but lighting a fire that desires to know and

experience. As Mahatma Gandhi so eloquently put it, "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever." September is also the month when we welcome Lord Ganesha. It is a festival celebrated with great fervor and devotion within homes and community pandals. Jyoti joins me in invoking the blessings of the Lord for our extended Rotary family. This time of year is also marked by the visit of the beloved King Mahabali during Onam, celebrated with the traditional Onam Sadya feast. We hope you enjoy this sumptuous meal at the District Onam Celebration. August proved to be a month of remarkable progress. Two new clubs received their charter, and we were able to grow our membership by nearly 400 members who are committed to putting service above self. Kudos to the

Membership Team and DMC Ravi Iyer. The TRF Team also achieved the Mark Maloney Challenge, with 100% of clubs in the district contributing \$100 each. We have made significant strides in our Mega Projects. The Cervical Cancer Vaccination Project is well underway, with plans to donate over 2,500 vaccines by the end of September. The "Samvidhan Ka Amrit Mahotsav" project has also been enthusiastically embraced by many clubs in the district. In the first two months of this Rotary year, we have distributed nearly 9,000 Ideal Study Apps. Our endeavor is that community service goes beyond providing kits and apps by involving the children, for as a famous man once said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." With this in mind, we have set up the Tech Lab Project, establishing computer labs in eight TMC schools with the help of a CSR grant from Goldman Sachs, Bangalore. The focus will be on learning through involvement, avoiding spoon-feeding, because in the long run, all that spoon-feeding teaches you is the shape of the spoon. September promises to be another month of awesome community service, and I urge each and every one of you to bring the magic of Rotary into the lives of our community. May Lord Ganapati Bappa and King Mahabali shower us all with their blessings. With warm regards Yours in Rotary Service DG Dinesh Mehta.

Club President Manish Patil's Message



It is my great pleasure to share my feelings with all our members. I took over the Presidency of this Senior Club on 1st July 2024. I was feeling very jittery to lead this club with so much history. My team mates & directors lessened my worries in short period. I could take the challenges after challenges and number of projects for the society & down-troddens. Our DG Dineshji has given us the major 6 steps of social projects that also includes TRF Contributions. Annapurna project and special diet for TB patients is conducted regularly in Kalwa Hospital & Ashrams. The family nights are in full swing with the co-operation of lady members & Inner-wheelers.

Most important challenge was, change of the constitution of our Charity Trust. Along with the knowledgeable members like Smita, Rajeev and Ameya we have done it to the satisfaction of legal needs.

The last project of Teachers' Day participants celebration was beyond our own imaginations. I look forward to the completion of club activities in the months to come.

I give special thanks and mention the activities of Interact Club formations and the seminars they have completed. I must mention Parag, Neha and Aparna to continue with this Unique activity.

Thanking all of you once again !

Mangalagour - District Cultural Event

The 1st Cultural Event of the District was MANGALAGOR. It was held on the 30th of August at Sahayog Mandir. The Chief Guest was District Governor Dineshji Mehta & First Lady Jyotiji. Chief Convenor Smita Mahajan, along with Co-Convenors Anuja Tipnis, Sheetal Thorat, & Jyoti Chavan worked tirelessly to make this event a memorable one. Our Club was the lead host club, along with 21 other clubs. Nearly 50 Clubs participated, with a total registration of close to 200 ladies. Our Club was represented by 12 ladies...All the ladies were given a return gift...पारंपारीक ओटी... which was pleasant delight. The programme started with the traditional AARTI, followed by a फुगडी by the first couple, Dinesh n Jyoti as a part of SHAGUN. The unique idea was that a professional group 'NATH & HEELS', was invited to take the lead & guide us about the traditional games. They showed many permutations about the various games, thereby involving everyone. The evening ended with delicious traditional dinner & a smile on all the ladies, who felt that the fun times would never end.

- Swati Purohit



Installation Ceremony Report - 2nd July 2024

Installation of Manish and his team for the year 2024- 25.

The stage arrangements were unique. The tall Indian National flag and The Rotary flags adorned on 2 sides of the stage. Today's Chief Guest DG Dinesh Mehta and the first lady of the district Rtn. Jyotiben entered hall with the flowers and Layzeem tunes energizing the atmosphere.

Mandar and Rhucha were at the podium for compering the programs. After lighting of the lamps by the dignitaries. DS Chandrahas, AG Anuja Tipnis, DG Dinesh, IPP. Anand and Pres. Manish occupied the chairs. Maithili and Shreyas presented a beautiful song and dance before the guests. Rotary Anthem Specially composed by artists in RCT was played with audience receiving it with full enthusiasm. The music was appealing.

IPP Anand gave the reports of year-long major projects and family events on the screen. Bulletin Editor was called on the stage for first Bulletin. The 6 page colourful bulletin was appreciated by all.

AG Anuja DG Dinesh, IPP Anand, Pres. Manish & Sec. Girish were on the stage to continue the further events. Mauritius eye care camps and the construction of toilet blocks at the Zilla Parishad level, was applauded by all. Few RC Phoenix meetings were carried in local Creole language. Rotary flags were exchanged. Anand exchanged the Collar, Hammer and the Charter with Manish. They exchanged the seats and the name boards on the dais. The members and the guests heartily welcomed the new President Manish. PP Anand introduced Pres. Manish admiring his social and public services. At present Manish is busy with large realty projects in Thane. In his acceptance speech Pres. thanked everyone for giving him this leadership responsibility. He enumerated 6 pillar projects to be done with the district.

Chandrahas and Yakub also addressed the meeting. Well-known Diabetes expert Dr. Jagannath Dixit was honoured with Hon. Membership of our Club. AG Anuja was introduced by Manish. Anuja thanked the club for her welcome and assured her cooperation in the further club activities. DG. Dinesh was introduced by an audio visual presentation.. He presented with pillar projects along with joint municipal and state govt. projects. Sec Girish gave hearty vote of thanks to the dignitaries, guests and meeting comperes Rhucha and Mandar.

Attendance: Rtns 55, Guests and Visiting Rtns 55. Total 110.

Previous Meeting Reports

23rd July 2024

Pres. Manish and Sec. Girish were on the Dias. Manish invited the day's speaker Mrs. Shilpa Parab on the stage. She spoke on the brave warrior in Shri. Shivaji Maharaj army Narvir Baji Prabhu Deshpande. She was introduced by Sachin. Mrs. Parab is M.A. in History and B.Ed. She is a history teacher in a secondary school. She is expert in Maratha history with in-depth knowledge in the Forts.

She spoke on the Pavankhind bravery of Baji Prabhu Deshpande. This historical war was fought by few with 4000 Mogul soldiers. Siddhi Johar Sardar of the Vijapur Badshah army surrounded the Panhalgad Fort, where Maharaj was staying. Maharaj thought of escaping to Vishalgad. From there he could go to the safer Konkan region which was his territory. Baji Prabhu guarded Ghodkhind with mere 600 soldiers. It was pitch dark all over. Baji held in his both the hands special double edged long Pattas and fought with such a valour that not a single Mogul reached beyond the Ghodkhind. Maharaj took 21 hrs covering a distance 43 miles in the totally dark forest. Baji Prabhu fell to the ground only after hearing the Canon shots, which indicated that Maharaj had reached the Vishalgad Fort. Baji Prabhu gave his blood and life to let Maharaj reach safely. From that day the Ghodkhind became known as Pawankhind. Baji Prabhu and his soldiers saved Maharaj and Swarajya offering their blood and life. This historical and thrilling narration was heard with pin drop silence. When the speech was over President Manish saluted the speaker.

Vote of thanks were given by Mandar in his usual studious way. Club information was given Sec. Girish.

Attendance: Rtns.20, Guests 16. Total 36.

30th July 24

Pres. Manish and Sec. Girish were on the dais. Manish invited the day's speaker

Mr. Sameer Karnik over the dais. Sameer was introduced by Dr. Ajit, who happens to be Sameer's Mama. Sameer is the son of our Rtn. P P Rajeev and Rekha. Sameer is in the US for many years and has worked in many multinationals such as Amazon, KPMG and Yahoo. At present he is a production manager with AI and ML META USA. He is settled in Seattle. He is also an expert tennis player.

Sameer's Audiovisual presentation was very impressive. He spoke on AI and You. He said AI is the latest creation of the internet. One can create cards, films, copy the paintings & buildings. The creation of AI is once for all. It cannot repeat the images produced by it. It is after all the tool. AI can modify the human images imitate the human voice and cheat the customers. AI has no judgment, human feelings, and imaginations..

At the end he concluded AI should be used for the positive impact. In between the topics Sameer asked few interesting questions about the topic and gifted the winners with interesting items. The whole speech on this unique topic was presented with great enthusiasm and energy.

Ameya gave the vote of thanks. He said speaker has introduced a latest hot topic in a lucid manner. Sec. Girish gave the announcements and informed about the future programs This lecture was kept open to general public and students.

Attendance : Rtns.47 Guests 62 Total 109.

Mangalagaur Celebration with Satya Narayan Pooja

6th August 2024

President Manish and Sec. Girish welcomed the members. This evening we are celebrating the Mangalagaur Shravan Festival and performing Shri Satya Narayan Puja.

All the lady members wore 9 yard sarees and gentlemen Indian Kurta creating the festival atmosphere. Puja was performed by Sundeep and Mrs. Dhanvantari under the guidance of Shri Joshi Guruji. Ajit and Anita Marathe supervised the overall arrangements. All the members participated whole heartedly in the Aarti.

The various Mangalagauri games were performed individually and in groups. The games were accompanied by the age old songs sung by Vidya, Bharati and Rekha. Aparna demonstrated the unique skillfull dances with full vigour. The programmes went on well with all the age groups participating. President Manish thanked the members for enthusiastic participation. The day ended with auspicious festival dinner.

Attendance: Rtns. 35 Anns. And Guests 30. Total 65.



Previous Meeting Reports

13th August

Pres. Manish and Sec. Girish were on the stage. Manish welcomed the day's speaker Mr. Sanjeev Gokhale, a C. A. by profession.

Mr. Vishvanath introduced the speaker who spoke on the 2024 National Budget. Mr. Gokhale is ICW and CA practicing in Mulund E. He is on the faculty of commerce colleges. He writes in Loksatta regularly.

In his speech he said this year the budget was planned to make the nation Viksit Bharat. Many positive provisions are included which will help the industry, social utilization of money in the infrastructure and correspondingly enhancing the status of the common person. The tax provisions are streamlined to make it 12.5% in general. This made the tax collection rise by 24%. He said one of the drawbacks can be pointed out is that Bank deposits are not made tax-free adding a load to senior citizens.

Vote of thanks were given by Tushar. Sec. Girish read out the future programs.

Attendance: Rtns. 20, Guests 8. Total 28.

20th August 2024

Pres. Manish and Sec. Girish were on the stage. Pres. invited the speaker our own Rotarian Mandar Joshi on the stage. Manish called over Kalyani to report about the Rakhee tying to soldiers. She said while travelling in train they met Mr. Ujwal Nikam and tied Rakhee along with the Agnveer Pathak in later journey.

Ameya introduced Mandar Joshi. Mandar is originally from Dombivali and shifted to Thane. He joined our RCT in 2010. He got involved in all the club programs and administrative responsibilities. Mandar is a commerce graduate working in finance and insurance business. He is a good speaker and history reader. He is a singer par excellence and leads the musical activities of the club and Rotary District. Last 4 years he is a director of membership development.

In his speech Mandar said inducting a suitable person in Rotary involves lot of patience and judgment. He usually first invites them to a meeting for them to see for themselves what is Rotary. He has so far inducted more than 20 members. And all of them are now dedicated Rotarians serving the community.

Neha gave the vote of thanks. She said Mandar's guidance can induce the members to bring in new members. PP Rajeev, Dr. Suhas, Achyut, Nitin and Ulhas gave their impressions about the speech. • Attendance : Rtns. 30 Guests 2 Total 32.

Pre-OCV meeting - 3rd September 2024

Pres. Manish and Sec. Girish were on the dias. Manish requested the Chief Guest AG Anuja Tipnis to take the chair on the stage.



Today we have pre-OVC meeting. AG Anuja visited the club and went through all the papers and presentation. She had few suggestions about the paper work.

She said "I have learned more from this senior club". She also said "there is no need to introduce me in details, as I have come here often".

Pres. Manish announced the names of the new members to be inducted today. Mrs. Vandana Adsule, Kamlesh Acharya, Mr. Ameya Joshi, Udaybhan

Tiwari and Dr. Divita Bhuraria.

Mandar, Saboo, Parag and Girish introduced the new members. AG Anuja pinned them. All the members welcomed them with applause. PP Rajeev gave them Rotary information in Marathi, which was well appreciated. Sec. Girish read the future programmes and birth-dates. • Attendance : Rtns. & Guests - 41



Our PP Rtn Achyut Damle handing over the cheque of Rs. 120000/- to Dnyanpeeth Vidyalay for CCTTV system. The Donation for the same was done by PP Rtn Achyut Damle Rs 60,000/- & Rtn Nitin Nabar Rs 60,000/-.

We completed our project of CPR at Dnyanpeeth on 30th August'24. Around 60 students of 10th std students attended it. The students were explained the crucial steps in CPR, the recommended procedures and they even got to do practical on dummies. The session was conducted by Rtn. Dr. Vijay Patil, Dr. Ketaki Patwardhan and their team.



COOL GURU - Program Report

20th September 2024

Unique cultural program 'Cool Guru' was planned for the teachers from the schools in Thane. Elocution, Singing and Dancing competitions were held from 3 pm to 7.30 pm. to commemorate the Teachers Day.

About 23 schools and 70 teachers participated in the program. The main conveners were Parag and Rajlaxmi ably assisted by Smita Neha Mandar Ameeta Rajeev and Aparna. Each part of the program was executed by the expert teams. The team spirit of RCT was to be seen to be believed

The first lady of our district Jyotiji , AG AnujaTipnis Dist. Sec. Sangram attended and participated in the function.

Expert Judges included PP Rajeev Prakash Rucha. Mandar and Ashwini. Dances were judged by Aparna and Shreyas. Neha looked after the general management. The elocution

competitions were held on the first floor Utkarsh hall.

Before the Prize distribution ceremony Mandar gave his general impressions about all the events and the participants. This humorous and enlightening speech was welcomed by all.

Aparna presented a tantalizing solo Koli dance depicting the devotion to the Ekveera Devi.

The prize distribution was done by the First lady Jyotiaji AG Anuja Dist Sec. Sangram and other dignitaries on the dais. The certificates carried the photograph of the beholder, and the short poem by Kalyani.

The vote of thanks were given by Sec. Girish. He included every person helping to make the function successful.

Attendance: Rtns. 40 Teachers, and Guests 80. Total 120.

- Swati Purohit



वारकरी सेवा २०२४

रोटरी क्लब ऑफ ठाणे आणि इनरव्हील क्लब ऑफ ठाणे यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने 'वारकरी सेवा' हा प्रोजेक्ट दिनांक ९ जुलै व १० जुलै २०२४ रोजी संपन्न झाला. रोटरी क्लब तर्फे डॉ. पुरोहित, डॉ. पाटील तर इनरव्हील तर्फे डॉ. रेखा प्रधान यांच्या मार्गदर्शनानुरूप वारकऱ्यांना विविध रोगांवर औषधोपचार आणि काही औषधे वाटण्यात आली. या प्रोजेक्टसाठी इनरव्हीलचे काही सिनियर सदस्य ज्योती भिसे, अनिता मराठे, पुष्पा डहाके, शुभा देशमुख, अंजली प्रधान, मेधा आंबेकर, अध्यक्ष सुजाता लध्धा, प्राजक्ता वडके, सुनीता शिन्ने, स्वाती जाधव, रेणुका देसाई, नेहा देवकर, स्वतः डॉ. रेखा प्रधान, तसेच रोटरी क्लब मधून अध्यक्ष मानिष पाटील, राधिका पाटील, स्वाती पुरोहित, देविका गोखले, अच्युत दामले, वंदना वर्तक, अजय केळकर, माणिक केळकर, कल्याणी काळे, स्मिता भांडारकर, माधुरी भावे, सदाशिव यादव, आरती यादव, किशोर सोपारकर, अमोल मथुरे, श्रेयस देसाई यांच्यासह डॉ. सुहास पुरोहित व डॉ. विजय पाटील उपस्थित होते. छत्रपती शिवाजी रुग्णालय, कळवा येथील काही परिचारिका शैला नाईक, समिक्षा जाधव, शीतल जाधव, प्रज्ञा देवळेकर, दीप्ती पाष्टे आणि इनरव्हील चॅरिटी ट्रस्ट च्या परिचारिका स्नेहा नाटुस्कर या देखील या प्रोजेक्ट मध्ये सहभागी होत्या.

दि. ९ जुलै रोजी सकाळी ९ वाजता, ठाणे येथील इनरव्हील चॅरिटी क्लिनिक येथून बसने सर्वजण ९ वाजता निघालो. दुपारच्या जेवणासाठी लोणंदला थांबून मग थेट फलटणच्या मुक्कामी दुपारी ३ वाजता पोहोचलो आणि संध्याकाळी ५ ते ८ असा पहिला मेडिकल कॅम्प केला. दुसऱ्या दिवशी सकाळी पुन्हा १० ते १ असा दुसरा मेडिकल कॅम्प केला. अंदाजे ३ ते ४ हजार वारकऱ्यांनी या कॅम्प चा लाभ घेतला. अनिता मराठे यांच्या प्रयत्नांमुळे पितांबरी लि. तर्फे क्युअर ऑन तेल तसेच रोटेरियन अजय केळकर यांच्या शिफारसीमुळे आयटीसी कंपनीतर्फे बिस्कीटांचे ३००० पुडे वारकऱ्यांना मोफत वाटण्यात आले. दोन्ही दिवशी मेडिकल कॅम्प करून १० जुलैला सर्व सदस्य दुपारी ३ वाजता परतीच्या प्रवासास लागले.

- माणिक केळकर



Interact Club Installations

The month of August started with a high level of excitement for the youth wing at the Rotary Club of Thane. We had installations of Interact clubs at various schools - Saraswati Vidyalaya High School & Junior College, Kavesar Padmavati Venkatesh High School And Junior College, KalwaDnyanpeeth Vidyalaya, Thane West, Saraswati Vidyalaya High School and Junior College of Science, Rabodi Balvikas Vidyamandir, Vartak Nagar. The functions were held with great vigor and in accordance with RI guidelines. The installations started with the National anthem and were followed by the lighting of the lamp. The senior students of 8th & 9th Std managed the entire show with their teacher's guidance. Some cultural performances in the form of group songs and dance followed. The outgoing team read out a review of the year gone by. Then the incoming President was introduced and the collar was handed over along with the charter & gavel-gong. The incoming President introduced his board of directors.

Together the board took the oath and the President conveyed his plans for the incoming year. Youth director Rtn. Neha Soni explained the significance of the Interact Club, Rotaract club & Rotary Club and its activities that help to build a better society. The District RYE coordinator Rtn.Parag Pejaver gave a brief overview of the RYE program. The introduction of the chief guest i.e Rotary President Rtn. Manish Patil / Secretary Rtn. Girish Vartak was given. The chief guest Rotary President Manish Patil / Secretary Rtn. Girish Vartak gave inspiring speech for the office bearers and motivated them to accept the challenges and responsibility of an interactor. The event were concluded with a vote of thanks. The ceremonies were very well planned and presented. Also, the First 2 projects of Snake bite awareness and CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) were held at Balvikas Vidyalaya & Dnyanpeeth Vidyalaya respectively. September holds more promise and action in terms of projects and few knowledge sessions.



RCT वाचक कट्टा



दि. ७ मे २०२४ रोजी "RCT वाचक कट्टा" ह्या उपक्रमाचे उद्घाटन प्रसिद्ध वृत्तपत्र स्तंभलेखिका आणि "अत्रे कट्ट्या"च्या संस्थापिका श्रीमती संपदाताई वागळे हांच्या हस्ते सहयोग मंदिर सभागृह, ठाणे येथे झाले.

सुरुवातीला क्लबचे अध्यक्ष श्री. आनंद काळे यांनी ह्या उपक्रमाचा उद्देश स्पष्ट केला. सदस्यांमध्ये वाचनाची अभिरुची वाढवणे, सभासदांना व्यक्त होण्यासाठी एक व्यासपीठ

मिळवून देणे हे प्रमुख उद्देश आहेत असे ते म्हणाले.

सौ. वंदना वर्तक यांनी या उपक्रमाचे स्वरूप स्पष्ट केले. दर महिन्याच्या पहिल्या मंगळवारी संध्याकाळी ६.३० ते ७.३० या वेळेत सहयोग मंदिर सभागृहात हा कार्यक्रम होईल. हा कार्यक्रम RCT च्या सर्व सभासदांसाठी तसेच त्यांच्या कुटुंबियांसाठी खुला (आणि विनामूल्य) असेल.



Welcoming Brazil RYE student

Snake Bite Prevention Programme



Inauguration of Girls's Toilet

