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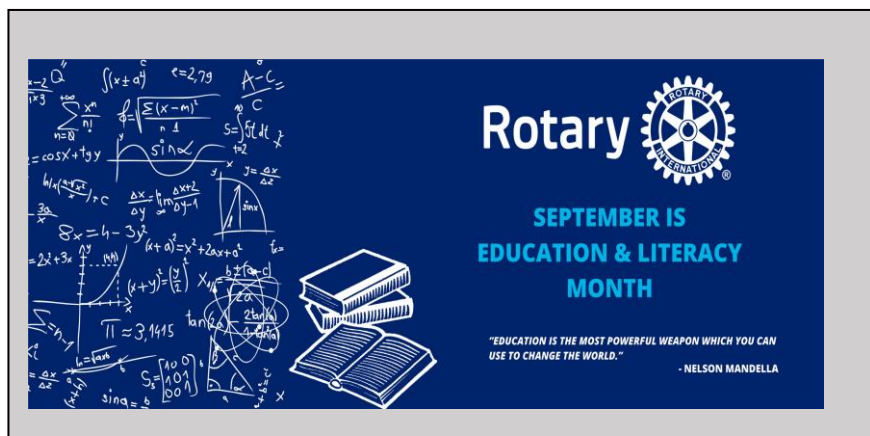
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September 2021 – Basic education and literacy month...compiled by Shikha Mitra



More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17% of the world's adult population.

Rotary supports activities and training to improve education for all children and literacy for children and adults. The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

Rotary support education for all. We share our knowledge and experience with educators and other professionals who work with vulnerable populations, children and literacy for children and adults.

Rotary members invest in the future by giving scholarships to students who have the potential to change our communities. Rotary members fight adult illiteracy by working with local advocates to offer community literacy programs.

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

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN

Rotary takes action to empower educators to inspire learning at all ages.

MENTORING STUDENTS

Rotary club pairs students with celebrity and CEO mentors for success.

TEACHER TRAINING

We share our knowledge and experience with educators and other professionals who work with vulnerable populations.

ADULT LITERACY

Rotary members fight adult illiteracy by working with local advocates to offer community literacy programs

ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Rotary members invest in the future by giving scholarships to students who have the potential to change our communities.

EDUCATING REFUGEES

A university president and Rotary club fight Boko Haram to bring education and food to refugees in Nigeria.

COACHING TEACHERS

Realizing that getting children into school isn't enough, Rotary shifts to mentoring and coaching teacher

CHOOLS4FREEDOM

The Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery has a strategy for fighting modern slavery that's working at the local level.

Rotary projects and activities help to **give children access to a Basic education** for the very first time.

What is basic education and literary skills and its importance?

A basic education is **an evolving program of instruction that is intended to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens**, to contribute to their economic well-being and that of their families and communities, to explore and understand different perspectives, and to enjoy.

Literacy is the **ability to read, write, speak and listen in** a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world.

Basic education is defined as primary plus secondary level education. ... Basic education **brings awareness among the masses**, opens avenues for opportunities as well as self-advancement and improvement and reduces chronic and inter-generational poverty.

Rotary helps to build schools, supply books and computers for classrooms

Consider how our club is, or could, **MAKE A DIFFERENCE** by supporting basic education and literacy in our community



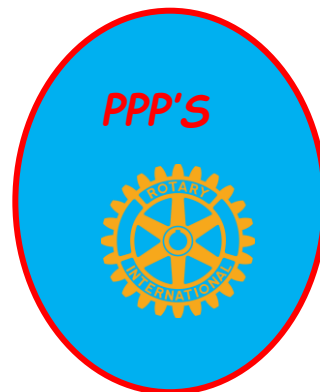
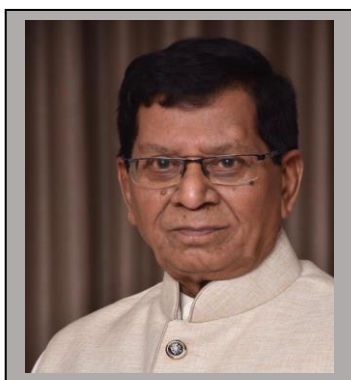
When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime. It ripples through the community, one by one.

Past President's Perspectives

PP Rtn Kirti Mehta 2009-10

1. The Theme for the year you were the President

The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands



"The future of Rotary will not be shaped at RI headquarters, it will be shaped in each and every Rotary club," RI Pres. Kenny said, "because it is for each of us -- as Rotarians -- to do what is necessary to keep Rotary strong."

2. Do you think you were able to follow the vision of the theme?

Yes, we have tried our best.

3. Do you think this is a theme which is relevant even today?

I think the significance of the theme is relevant today and will always be relevant because each one of us is standing on the shoulders of generations of Rotarians past, and it is our responsibility to determine Rotary's future.

4. In retrospect, what do you think you would have done differently?

During our years, If we had no access to CSR, we would have done many more projects with finance availability. Everything that we accomplish is done through the strength of our club.

5. According to you, has the essence of Rotary changed over the years? If so, how?

- *Basically, the main slogan as per rotary international is service above self which is even relevant today.*
- *Priorities has changed to add more members to strengthen work force and also Increase Foundation contribution so that more project can be done to help under privileged.*
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6. Write a slogan which reflects the core of RCPD

Great assimilation of members keeps RCPD together.



Unforgettable Moments...Our Association with various Rotary Clubs in India...by Ipsita Ray

We have had been associated with different Rotary Clubs across India over a very long period and there are a few memorable experiences which I would love to share with you.

Our first association with Rotary organization happened way back in 1978, just a year after we got married. One very senior Rotarian, Mr R.S. Vaidyanathan, who met Asis during the course their business dealing during his early days with Wanson India, thought of him to be a good prospective Rotarian and got him duly inducted as a member in **Rotary Club of Calcutta South-West**, one of the leading clubs in Calcutta. We were quite young those days and probably should have joined the Rotaract Club instead of Rotary! But a seed was sown!

Anyway, after couple of years, we decided to move on and joined another social organisation Round Table India and the Ladies Circle, and became very active there.

However, during that short stint with Rotary, there were two events which deeply influenced my life. First one was of meeting Shakuntala Devi, the great mathematician and also known as 'Human computer,' when she was invited as a speaker in our club. I was simply spell-bound to see her prowess with the numbers, even with a blind-fold she answered all the queries correctly.. It was truly a memorable experience.

Then I remember meeting **Mother Teresa**, who was also invited as a guest speaker in the club. Just being in her presence, was a divine experience because she was 'love' personified. She invoked so much love in our hearts, that the most natural impulse was to go and touch her feet. She gave a card to those who wanted saying that it was her Business Card. It had the following message inscribed:

The fruit of Silence is Prayer

The fruit of Prayer is Faith

The fruit of Faith is Love

The fruit of Love is Service.”

Later, when we moved to Pune, our friends Rathin and Shubhra Sinha, influenced us to join the Rotary again and we soon we became a member **Rotary Club of Poona Downtown** in 1994. Those days, as I remember now, there used be quite a few fellowship evenings with lot of personal involvement; a pot-luck dinner used to be prepared by the ladies themselves. During one such event, I remember teaming up with Shubhra and making 10-12 big bowls of fruit-salad which was enjoyed by everyone.

Another memorable event was attending the Dist. Conference in Balgandharva Auditorium when our own Rtn. Dr. Philly Karani was our DG. The eminent speakers were none other than Dada J P Vaswani, Kiran Bedi and T N Sheshan- it was a treat listening to them. We

do not always remember the content of the speech, but the powerful personality of such speakers always leaves a profound impression in the mind.

A change of job impelled us to shift to another city, this time, to Bangalore. Here again, our old friends from Calcutta, Gargi and Kalidas Ojha, introduced us to their club. The third time round, we joined ***the Rotary Club of Bangalore Cantonment*** in 1996 and we had some very interesting and memorable time there.

It was a very active and close-knit club, where the committee members used to meet in each other's houses frequently over lunch or dinner, thus creating a bond of friendship.

We were fortunate to attend 3-day RYLA for the first time where Justice Micheal F. Saldanha, a very Senior Judge of Karnataka High Court, was the chief guest. Since we knew the couple, our responsibility was to escort them from their residence to the venue and then drop them back home after the Inauguration program was over.

There is one thing I would like to mention. Justice Saldanha and his wife were regulars in the Cubbon Park, where we also used to go for a walk. Every morning he would carry himself two bags full of food, cooked at home, and fed the dogs in the park. Such a simple act of kindness, but it was an inspiration for others to go that extra mile for those who were helpless!

However, Asis decided to change his job again and we shifted back to Calcutta after two years in Bangalore in 1998. But this time, we decided to take a break from Rotary as he got extremely busy in the professional front.

Years later, on a rebound, we came back to Pune. After a lot of deliberation, we took the plunge again to join our old club, ***the Rotary Club of Poona Downtown***, in 2016. We have now come a full-circle. The old friends and the familiar faces welcomed us back into their fold and it felt like we had come home.

Our signature project LN-4 has also given us an opportunity to interact with many Rotarians of other Rotary Clubs across many districts and we know how much good work is being done by Rotary Clubs across India

There must have been hundred other heartfelt moments of fellowship and service we have had over the years and the richness of the experience gathered cannot be measured on any scale. But all I can say is that it has been a wonderful journey so far and we are truly grateful to Rotary for giving us a chance to serve.

A Rotarian is one who...

Digs wells from which s/he won't drink

Feeds the hungry regardless of race/colour

Restores eyesight for those s/he won't ever see

Plants trees s/he will never see/sit under

Builds houses s/he will never live in

Vaccinates kids s/he will never meet

Provides wheelchairs to crawlers

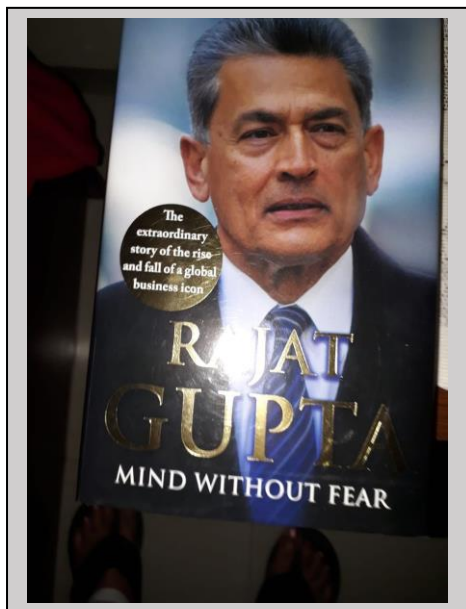
Educates children s/he will never know

Knows real happiness is serving others!

Downtown Rota Lit .. by Shikha Mitra



Mind Without Fear – By Rajat Gupta



Guilty or did the American Justice department fail him? Guess we will never know, except for the man himself!

A fantastic read about one of the most successful immigrants in the land of dreams... where they say if you dare to dream, nothing can stop you from achieving them.

He is smart, intelligent, hardworking not to mention his great looks. any woman's dream... 😊

I don't think any man has given back and contributed more to his country of origin than Rajat Gupta.

So why did the man do what he has been accused of- did greed succeed over the fantastic career and years of reputation built with all the qualities he had or was it a casual conversation without any intent or just nothing.... just a victim of being successful? Or victimized by fellow immigrant Preet Bharara??

For nine years, Rajat Gupta led McKinsey and company – The first foreign-born person to head the world's most influential management consultancy. He was also the driving force behind major initiatives such as the Indian School of Business and the public health foundation of India. In 2011, Gupta was arrested and charged with Insider trading. Throughout his trial and imprisonment, he has fought the Charges and maintains his innocence to this day.

In these pages, Gupta recalls his unlikely rise from orphan to immigrant to international icon as well as his dramatic fall from grace. And for the first time, he tells his side of the story in the scandal that destroyed his career and reputation. Candid, compelling and poignant - Gupta's **Mind without Fear** is much more than a courtroom drama. It is an extraordinary tale of human resilience and personal growth.

How can a man who has dealt with billions be accused for something he "**may**" have done for "**some**" gains, which was not really proven till the end, and the trial and punishment was on the emotions of the justice department? A propulsive narrative filled with boldfaced names from business and politics.

A fascinating read...an extraordinary story of an extraordinary man...hope he can live the rest of his years with a **mind without fear** and his head held high!! Like **Tagore's** poem, **Where The Mind is without Fear**, where the words come out from the depth of truth, so does his book.

Where The Mind Is Without Fear

*Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out from the depth of truth.....*

Power packed Thursdays – 26th August 2021.. *contributed by PP Rtn Yezdi Batliwala*

Membership, Club Extension and Satellite Clubs – From then District team of Shital Shah, Madhav Tilgulkar and Ameyan Dhotre

Membership is probably Rotary’s most burning issue for which no solution has been found and all efforts so far have proved unfruitful.

This kind of statement for an organization which started 116 years ago with just four members and has grown to a membership strength of 1.2 million internationally may seem a paradox. But the fact remains that this figure of 1.2 million of aging community service minded Rotarians has remained stagnant since the last number of years with new members joining and almost an equal number leaving Rotary. The last year of the pandemic has hit Rotary hardest, like all walks of life, with a large exodus due to various reasons.

Current RI President, Rtn Shekhar Mehta has come up with a simple yet effective tool to increase membership. His simple formula – we pride ourselves on the number of friends we have on our contact lists, social media and fb friends’ lists etc, so now let us pride ourselves and get just one of them into the Rotary fold. His short and sweet mantra “Each One Bring One” **EOBO**.

Use the Satellite Club and New Club extension tools RI has given us to fulfill his goals.

All the above plus the rules and requirements for starting Satellite and New Clubs were very well explained with the help of a detailed PPT by the District Membership Team during our regular meeting on Thursday the 26th of August which was also Membership Development and Extension month.

ORIGIN THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Early Rotary members emphasized the importance of acting responsibly and ethically and using our professions as an opportunity to serve. Honouring our commitments, however bold, is an ideal characteristic of a Rotarian. In 1932, The Four-Way Test was developed by Herbert Taylor, a Rotary Club of Chicago member and 1954-55 RI president, to guide his attempt to save a faltering aluminium company. Rotary later adopted it, and it underscores Rotary’s value of integrity. The Four-Way Test has long served as an ethical guide for members to live by in their personal and professional relationships.



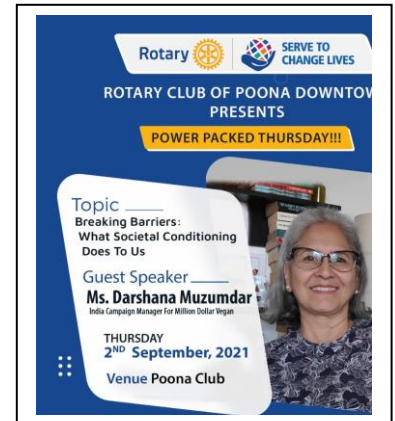
To RCPD
From Naya Daur District
Membership Seminar
Congratulations!

Power packed Thursdays – 2nd September 2021..Contributed by Rtn Ashima Agashe

Breaking Barriers – What Societal Conditioning does to Us by M/s Darshana Muzumdar

After a break of 18 months, the first hybrid meeting of our Club took place at Poona Club. There were over 30 members present. All efforts were made to maintain social distancing and follow the rules that are applicable for physical meetings.

The speaker for the evening was Ms. Darshana Mazumdar. She is an animal rights activist and the India Campaign Manager for Million Dollar Vegan. The topic of her talk was Breaking Barriers – What societal conditioning does to us'. Her talk was focused on sharing insights about how our actions are based on our experiences and how we can make conscious informed choices to break the invisible walls that we have put up consciously. Drawing upon multiple examples, she nudged the listeners to question their core values and reflect on ideologies we may have been indoctrinated with as children. She shared her own personal experience of her upbringing and the circumstances that prompted her to turn to veganism. While encouraging the club members to research on their own, she highlighted various activities in our daily lifestyles and diets that are purely a result of societal conditioning. The foundation of her talk was based on the idea that Veganism be seen not just as a diet but as a social justice movement.



Our Projects

Women Empowerment

Women in Rotary project was held at the Yerawada Basti, where 100 Eco Friendly Sanitary Napkin Kits was distributed to the ladies, along with a feedback form. They were explained in detail how these were to be used. The forms will be collected one from hence and depending on this feedback, we will take this further and distribute in other bastis. These Kits cost Rs 320 each and is bio degradable.

Ladies present were Bageshri Gogate,, Ipsita Ray, Pallavi Sable and Poroochi Batliwala



Ambulance Donation: To AAMHI MHASWADKAR DCHC COVID CENTRE in Satara District ... contributed by President Asis Ray

During the peak of COVID, RCPD was approached by the concerned authorities at Mhaswad through our Hon Rotarian Vaibhav Pore for some assistance for their Covid and Primary Health Centre. This place is located around 70 Kms from Satara and has no proper Hospital in the vicinity. They had no ambulance available to handle sick and critical patients and had requested us to donate one Ambulance for this facility which will be a huge support for the local population of more than one lac people staying around this place. While we could organize to send two Oxygen Concentrators, 10 liters each, to support this facility immediately, it took us some time to raise the money for the Ambulance requested by them. The total cost of the Ambulance was Rs. 7,33,976/-. We are really thankful to G S Lab and Freemasons lodge, who came forward to support this cause. Our Hon. Rotarian Vaibhav Pore also contributed in memory of his late father Shri. Vittal Baburao Pore.

On 3rd of Sept. Rtn. Yezdi Batliwala and myself had the opportunity to visit Mahaswadkar DCHC Covid center at Mhaswad to formally hand over the Ambulance to them. We were grateful to Mr. Sharad Dube from GS Lab and Freemasons Lodge and Hon. Rtn. Vaibhav Pore joining us for this

event. Our special thanks to Rtn. PP Yezdi Batliwalla, who took very special effort on behalf of RCPD and coordinated the whole project along with Hon. Rtn. Pore and made it possible.

The Local Covid center has a total of 115 beds including 15 oxygen supported beds.


It is worth mentioning that the dedication and commitment shown by few local doctors with great support of local people, had been the real strength in fighting this deadly pandemic successfully over last many months in spite of huge shortage of resources locally. They really appreciated our contribution and we were overwhelmed by the excellent reception offered to us. The press also covered this event in a big way and we felt really fortunate to be a part of this great cause.

They are now proposed to set up a Jumbo Covid care center over next few months and this could be a huge help for the local population if future.


Mhaswad in Nam Taluka of Satara District falls in the Rotary International District 3132, Kolhapur. Our club has done some work in RID 3132 on a school project last year. The DCHC authorities have agreed to paint the names of GS Labs, Leslie Wilson Lodge and RCPD on the Ambulance which will also be a permanent PI for our club and Rotary as long as the Ambulance is in operation.



DONATED TO AAMHI MHASWADKAR
DCHC BY



ROTARY CLUB OF POONA DOWNTOWN,
RID 3131
WITH CSR FUNDS FROM
gslab
GREAT SOFTWARE LABORATORY
PVT. LTD. PUNE
SUPPORTED BY



FREEMASONS OF THE LESLIE WILSON LODGE
4880 E.C.

AND SHRI VAIBHAV PORE IN MEMORY OF
SHRI VITTHAL BABURAO PORE

Visit to Suhana Factory – Rural Entrepreneurship Demo Centre, 20th August 2021

A day well spent in the midst of nature and modernity!.. contributed by Rtn Shailendra Abhyankar

The Suhana factory, demo centre, and model farm at Yewat is worth a visit - some of us from Downtown had an enjoyable day!

The demo centre was built to **provide information** on an **eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle** to both the **rural and urban sectors**. Suhana Farms also focusses on spreading awareness on best practices w.r.t to **sustainable farming** and the importance of reducing, reusing, recycling, and up-cycling waste. It brings together different methodologies invented and utilized by various NGOs, and showcases them on a single platform.

Anand Chordia graciously hosted our RCPD team. His passion and involvement were evident as he showed us some hands-on activities that showcased wealth generation from allied farming businesses and ways to create **wealth from waste!** The videos, and posters demonstrating best practices with sustainable farming were educational for us urban folks! The factory is also built using green principles. A visit to their Bhuleshwar warehouse showcased the blended use of modern technology with eco-friendly practices.

President Asis Ray, PP Biman Mookerjee, PP Jitu Mehta, PP Pallavi Sable, PP Ravikumar, PP Rathin Sinha, Rtn. Shailedra and Ann Urmila Abhyankar were present during this visit. It felt good to get together with friends in person, and the green environment and rustic food made the day special.

The Eco Factory Foundation (TEFF) a non-profit organization created by Suhana. We are in discussions with TEFF on a number of initiatives including creating awareness amongst farmers on sustainable farming and rural entrepreneurship. The objectives are **Food Power** - to increase yield per acre, **Economic Stability** = get more return by decreasing the cost of farming, and

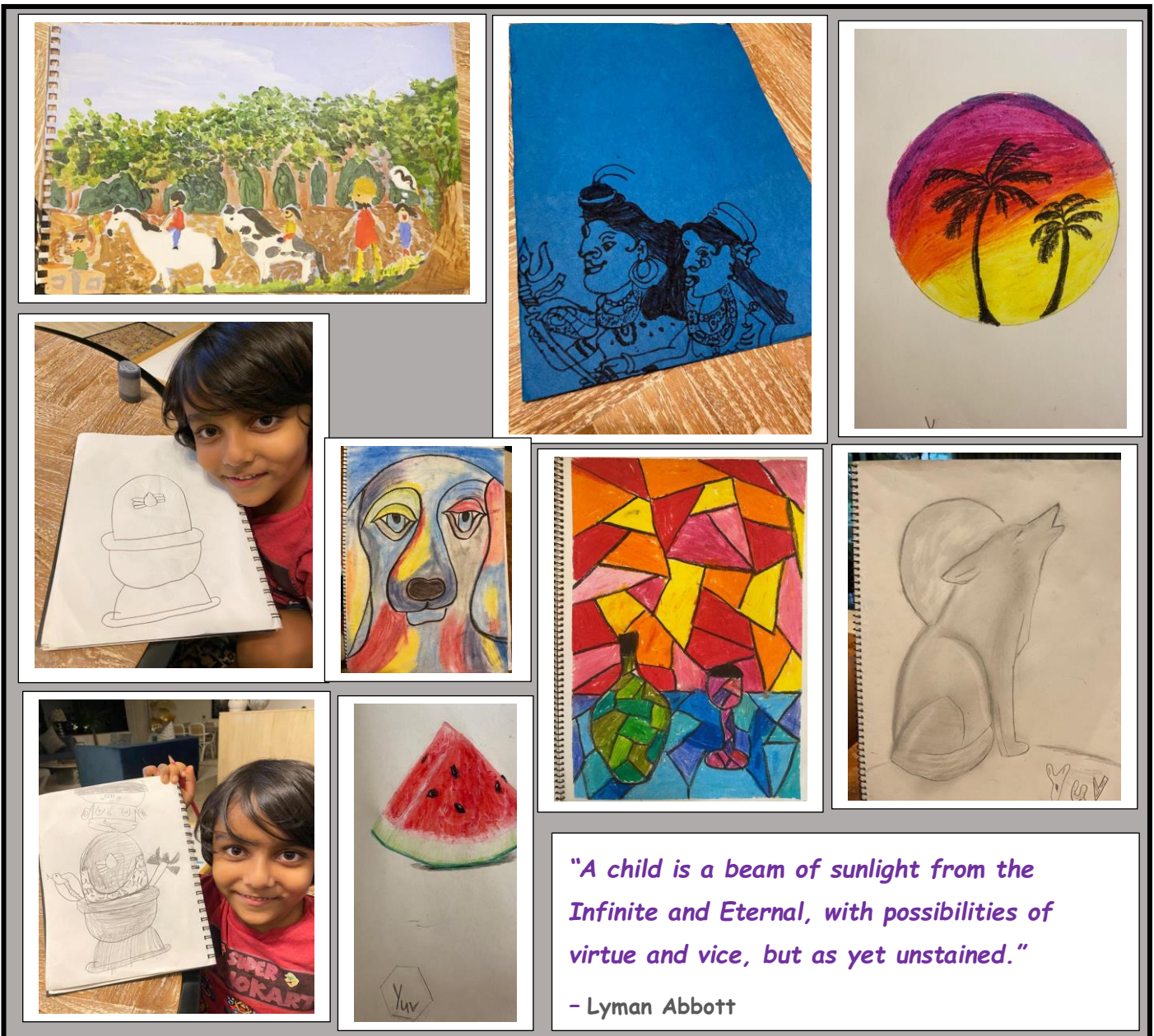
Employment generation – via allied farming practices. Members who are interested in this initiative should contact President Asis Ray, PP Rathin Sinha or Rtn. Shailendra Abhyankar



Meet Yuv Goel, the 7-year-old grandson of Rtns Anil and Neeru Goel

Yuv was born in New York and he now studies in Singapore at the Singapore American International School. Like all 7-year-old, Yuv is very curious about the Indian deities like Shiv ji and Hanuman ji. He loves to paint and is also very fond of soccer. At present he is also learning Taekwondo. As per his doting grandmother, Yuv is a gentle and a happy child with sparkling eyes and his grandfather's smile!

Yuv made use of his school holidays during the pandemic by learning Hindi and learnt to recite many Mantras and poems from his grandmother, besides understanding and speaking Hindi. We at RCPD would love to meet Yuv at the earliest... here are some of his outstanding paintings.



"A child is a beam of sunlight from the Infinite and Eternal, with possibilities of virtue and vice, but as yet unstained."

- Lyman Abbott

Birthday Wishes go out to:



13 th 2021	September	Kanta Munot	26 th September 2021	V.Ravikumar
18 th 2021	September	Raiomond Irani	28 th September 2021	Lt. Surinder Agarwal
23 rd 2021	September	Subhas Sanzgiri	30 th September 2021	Meena Parmar

A very happy Wedding Anniversary to:



10 th September 2021	Poroochi & Yezdi Batliwala	26 th September 2021	Nandita & Vikram Nabar
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Your dates with Rotary:



9 th 2021	September	Heartfelt Thursday- A tribute to Late Rtn Surinder Agarwal	
16 th 2021	September	Devender Jani	Topic:Bee You to Bee happy
23 rd 2021	September	The Entertainment Committee:Poroochi Batliwala, Veera Bathena, Pervin Sadekar, Kripa Contractor, Promil Agarwal, Mahendra Chandiramani, Mahrukh Irani	In House entertainment
21 st September 2021- Basic Education and Literacy Month - 26 th Sept - Youth Seminar			

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.

[Rabindranath Tagore](#)