



# Farmagudi

The Monthly Bulletin of **ROTARY CLUB OF PONDA**

Club No. 15674  
Volume : 43

R.I. District : 3170

Chartered on : 27th April 1978  
Issue : 6, December 2020



**Rotary Opens Opportunities**



**Rtn. Paul Harris**  
Founder



**Rtn. Holger Knaack**  
RI President 2020-21



**Rtn. Sangram Patil**  
District Governor



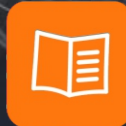
Club President  
**Ranjit Sadekar**



Club Secretary  
**Dr. Santosh Tilve**



Treasurer  
**Dr. Subrahmanya Bhat**



Bulletin Editor  
**Suchitra Bhat**

Rotary Club of Ponda



Rotary Club of Ponda

*Welcomes*

District Governor RID 3170



Rtn. Sangram Patil

&

1<sup>st</sup> Lady

Rtn. Utkarsha Patil

On Their Official Visit  
To Our Club



## EDITORIAL



RC Ponda is pleased to release the 6th issue of Farmagudi. Half of this year's Rotary Tenure has been amidst the Pandemic of Covid-19. But this has neither dampened the true spirit and dedication of the Rotarians, nor halted their work of reaching out to the communities. Each project carried out is always towards building better communities, fostering goodwill and lasting friendships. Secretary's report will give glimpses of the same. 19th December is celebrated in Goa as Goa Liberation day. Portuguese ruled Goa for over 450 years. Many freedom fighters sacrificed their lives in this freedom struggle. People of Goa struggled to preserve their identity, culture and heritage under the colonial rule of Portuguese. Finally on 19th December 1961, Indian armed forces entered Goa and liberated Goa. We must not forget the sacrifices made by the known and unknown freedom fighters. Year 2020-21 is going to be celebrated as a Diamond Jubilee celebration year of Goa's Liberation. Goa has made tremendous progress in various fields in past 59 years and has made its impact felt at the National and International levels. Goa is also a famous tourist destination and it is important that we encourage responsible tourism to preserve our nature and heritage.

December, which is the last month of the year is associated with Christmas. 25th December is celebrated all over the world to mark the birth of Jesus Christ. Love, Peace and Unity is the message given by Jesus Christ to mankind. Families, relatives, friends come together and celebrate this festival. Children wait eagerly for the Santa Claus for the gifts. How will be the celebrations this year under the shadow of Covid-19? What gifts and surprises can we expect from Santa Claus?? Will it be about massive reduction in number of Covid 19 cases? Will it be a cheerful news of effective Covid Vaccine? Will it be for our normal life to start again? Let's hope for the Best. Gautam Buddha has said 'Hope is the one thing that is stronger than Fear'. We should be eternal optimists. I wish all the readers Merry Christmas!! As we are stepping into 2021, I wish all the readers and members of the Rotary family 'A Happy, healthy and a Prosperous New Year 2021!!

**Rtn. Suchitra Bhat**

**(Editor)**



## President's Desk



Friends,

We have completed 5 months of this Rotary year. I think that we have done a decent job on all the fronts. Maybe, if the pandemic clears, we could do a much better job.

During November, we gave away Nation Builder Award to one teacher, taking our count to 23. We have another 6 printed, ready to be distributed. We celebrated Diwali and Children's day on 14th November. We have tried to keep connected with the members by meeting almost all the members at either their residence or place of work. We had a power-packed November, where in we have done many projects, the details of which have been included in the secretarial report. We had 3 weekly meetings during the month including a guest talk on "Waste Management for Housing Societies and Panchayats" by Samrudh Hegde. Nice programme on Diwali and Children's day was put together by our own Rtn. Prakash Naik. He was well supported by our Annettes, Prapti Naik, Shriya Naik and Meet Arolkar. We have started having one weekly meeting in person, which are relayed live.

We are looking at a hectic December, with our beloved District Governor Rtn. Sangram Patil visiting us on his official visit to our club on 18 th . We are all set to welcome him. We also have many other projects lined up in December.

I take this opportunity to wish Rotarians, anns and annettes a very Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous new year, 2021. I think that we should look forward to year 2021 with hope of better things to come.

**Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar**



## Know Your District Governor

**RTN. SANGRAM V.PATIL**

(District Governor 2020-21)

Rtn.Sangram Patil is a First generation Entrepreneur and holds a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering (Sandwich Course)from the Pune University. After graduation, he joined Cummins India Ltd. as a Trainee Engineer and worked there for one year. After that he joined Manugraph Industries Ltd. Kolhapur and worked there for three years. In 1990, he established his own firm, M/s.Marvelous Engineers Pvt.Ltd. His hard work and meticulous planning, far sight and an urge to develop and multiply saw him establish three companies during his career span of 27 years. These are

1. Marvelous Engineers Pvt. Ltd. Estd. 1990, Marvelous Machinist Pvt.Ltd. Estd. 2000, Marvelous Vimercati Foundry Pvt.Ltd. Estd. 2010. The total turnover of his companies nears to a 125 crores mark and 50% of the same is achieved out of Exports to European Countries, US and Brazil. Sangram is the only entrepreneur from Western Maharashtra to have signed a joint venture with an Italian Company in the year 2000 and 2010.

For his success in industry and his acumen for professional developments, Sangram has been bestowed upon many Awards and Felicitations. To list a few of them:

1) He has received SPECIAL RECOGNITION NATIONAL AWARD- 2008 FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN MSME&#39;s instituted by Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Government of India at the hands of Honourable Prime Minister of India

2) He was selected as THE BEST SMALL SCALE ENTREPRENEUR by the Government of Maharashtra in 2005-06 at the hands of Honourable Guardian Minister of Kolhapur District.

3) He has been awarded M.L. DAHANUKAR AWARD FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2009 instituted by Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Industries Mumbai.

4) He has received the BEST ENGINEERS AWARD of the institution of Engineers (India).Kolhapur Chapter in 2009.

5) UDYOG BHUSHAN AWARD was conferred upon him in 2007-08 by the Women Welfare Foundation, Kolhapur.

6) Awarded NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD by the National Chamber of Commerce.

7) "City Ka Sitara" award instituted by Radio City 93.5.

8) He was awarded "QUALITY BRANDS AWARD 2015-2017" by Quality Brand Times.

9) He has been awarded "Start Performer of The Year Award "for highest exports of engineering goods for the year 2009-10 by Engineering Export Promotion Council of India instituted by Ministry of Commerce and Industry Govt. of India.

10) He was awarded the "MARATHA BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS" for the Year of 2017 from Maharashtra Industrial and Economic Development Association.

11) Rtn.Sangram was invited to join Rotary Club of Kolhapur Midtown in 1999 and ever since he has joined this prestigious club, he has been an important pillar of the club. He is a hard core Rotarian who believes in Practicing rather than Preaching.

12) He has worked in all the avenues of services in the club and led the club in 2007-08. He was adjudged BEST PRESIDENT for the year 2007-08 and apart from this, the club bagged yet another three District Awards as: Best



Secretary, Best in TRF Program Participation and Best in Environment Protection (Preserve Planet Earth) Sangram is the recipient of the Four Avenues of service Citation. He was also awarded the Indian National Polio Plus Citation Certificate.

13) Rtn. Sangram was the Assistant Governor during 2012-13 and selected as the Best Assistant Governor and during this year he bagged the Best Assistant Governor's Award and also the prestigious Club Builder Award. He was the District Secretary for Conference and Convention promotion during 2013-14. Furthermore he was the District Secretary for District Events during 2015-16 and during this year he received Rotary International Vocation service Award.

14) Sangram believes in GIVING. He has always shared his income for the betterment of the community. He became Rotary Foundation's major Donor level 1 during 2007-08 and gradually graduated to Major Donor level 2 during 2016-17 by contributing US \$25000. He has been awarded the Rotary Foundation's District Award twice (Once in 2007-08 and the second time during 2012-13). Apart from these regular donations to the TRF, he has contributed to Club projects in a big way.

15) Sangram was selected to lead the Vocational Training Team of our District to Holand during 2015-16. He was selected by Rotary District 3132 during 2017-18 to be a Volunteer to the Medicare Mission which visited Rwanda RID9150. Sangram did appreciable job there.

16) He has been a trainer at PETS, SETS, DISTRICT ASSEMBLIES AND Revenue meets. He was the Counselor, Organizing Chairman and Patron to the Rotaract Conference URJA during 2016-17. Apart from the various awards, he has been appointed on various committees and missions representing the State and National level Industrial Associations, to list of a few as follows;

1) He was member of official "CII Mission to China" organized by Maharashtra State Council CII in Year Oct-2004.

2) He was the Chairman Southern Maharashtra Zonal Council of CII for the Year 2007-2008.

3) He was the Vice Chairman Southern Maharashtra Zonal Council of CII for the Year 2005 – 06 and 2006-07

4) He is presently Chairman of Institute Management Committee (IMC) of Industrial Training Institute (ITI) Kolhapur and ITI Murgud where Marvelous group is the main partner under the PPP Scheme for up gradation of ITI.

5) He is founder member of the "Kolhapur Calling" Forum formed by the respectable citizens of Kolhapur to help improve the living standard of Kolhapur.

6) He was Secretary of Gokul Shirgoan Manufacturer Association (GOSHIMA) in 2001-2002.

7) Member of "PUBLIC GRIVANCE COMMITTEE (PGC) for Central Excise Commission rate Kolhapur 2016-17.

8) "PATRON & CHIEF ADVISOR" of Chetna Apangmati Vikas Sanstha, Kolhapur

9) Member of "BOARD OF STUDIES" in Mechanical Engineering at Kolhapur Institute of Technology College of Engineering. Sangram is happily married to Ann Utkarsha who is also Rotarian and is Past President of Inner-wheel Club of Kolhapur in the year 2016-17. She has recently elected to serve as District Editor 317 for the year 2019-20 and will lead the Inner wheel District as District Chairman in the year 2024-25. This is a unique couple of District 3170 where both will lead the District 3170 and 317 as District Governor and District Chairman respectively. Sangram is blessed with one son Chi. Gaurav who also is a Mechanical Engineer and assist him in Business and married to Mrs. Anagha who is also MBA in HR from Symbiosis, Bangalore and they are blessed with a cute son Pradumya. Sangram also has one daughter Miss. Sakshi who has successfully completed Masters in Entrepreneurship and Innovation management from Royal Holloway university of London and currently assisting in family business. Sangram has travelled extensively worldwide which also adds to his character and professional abilities.



## District Governor's Message

My Dear Trailblazer Rotarians,

I am very happy to converse with you through the medium of your Club Bulletin. My sincere greetings to the members of Ponda.

Friends, the COVID pandemic has changed almost everything. The way we meet, the manner in which we implement the projects and enjoy fellowship has all changed. The only thing that has remained constant is our commitment towards THE ROTARY FOUNDATION, the backbone of Rotary. You shall all agree that Giving to The TRF is an Effective Giving which has made it possible to Do Good Work. The needs of the World are greater, diverse and are ever increasing. We all should be proud that through the contributions made by all the Rotarians worldwide, TRF is going stronger and we are able to improve the lives of thousands of people across the globe.

The amounts provided by TRF during the Covid pandemic under The Disaster Relief Grants and The Covid Grants has provided solace to many thousands. In our own District we could assist many Clubs under these grants which were sanctioned at short notices. Our Covid Centers and Medical Reliefs have been applauded by thousands. And this was possible only because of the noble donors in our district.

November is The Rotary Foundation Month. Let us all pledge that we shall be generous enough to contribute to the Foundation to whatever extent it is possible. Remember your donation as small as 60 cents can protect a child from Polio. A donation of US \$ 50 can provide clean water and fight against waterborne disease. A donation of US \$ 500 can create safe environment for Children. By contributing to the Annual Fund you can be instrumental in making these life changing projects.

Supporting the polio fund has been our motto this year. Thank you to each one of you for making 24 th October 2020 a day to remember in our district. This year each and every club had an activity done to propagate and celebrate The World Polio Day. Not only that we could raise more than US \$ 16000 on a single day. I salute your gesture and commitment towards this mission. WGM's are on a rise in our District which once again makes me proud.

We Rotarians are destined to rebuild, reshape and restore our communities. And believe me my friends TRF is the best way to do so.

Let's commit that Together We shall and We will Change this World.

Sangram.



## Secretary's Report

-by Rtn. Dr. Santosh Tilve

4<sup>th</sup> November



October was designated as Economic and Community Development month. We had decided to donate a sewing machine to a needy tailor and tie up some business for the same. As such, we donated a sewing machine to Ms. Preeti Gaonkar and tied her up with a professional tailor, who would be giving her the requisite business.

6<sup>th</sup> November

The 18<sup>th</sup> Weekly meeting was conducted by President Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar online on Google Meet on 6<sup>th</sup> November. President welcomed and gave in brief activity report of the month of October. The meeting started with silent invocation for world peace and understanding followed by National Anthem. The 4 way test was recited by Annette Prapti Naik. Rtn. Ranjit explained the TRF schemes received from DG office. Thought for the week was read by Rtn. Rajesh Lawande.



7<sup>th</sup> November



Rotary club of Ponda organized a blood donation camp at Kids Nest in association with Rotaract club of Ponda and Blood Bank of Hospicio Hospital, Margao. 35 people volunteered to donate the blood and we could collect 15 bottles of blood. The camp was inaugurated by Dr. Sarvesh Dubashi, President of IMA, Ponda Chapter.



## 8<sup>th</sup> November



18 family members of Rotary Club of Ponda went for a morning walk at Colva beach and enjoyed a good fellowship breakfast on the way back home.

## 12<sup>th</sup> November

Every year, during Diwali, we spend some time with inmates of Bal Kalyan Ashram, Talauli while having dinner with them. As this year, we cannot meet them, we sponsored Ann Daan at Bal Kalyan Ashram and Matruchaya. Also, we gave some sweets / chocolates and LED bulbs at both the places. On 17<sup>th</sup> President Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar, Ann Lina Sadekar and treasurer, Rtn. Dr. Subrahmanya Bhat joined the inmates for the lunch sponsored by the club.





## 12<sup>th</sup> November

Rotary Club of Ponda sponsored a dance competition at Matruchaya for the inmates and spent some time there.



## 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> November

Distributed some Diwali sweets to Rotarians, mostly at their homes.

## 13<sup>th</sup> November



The 19th Weekly meeting was conducted by President Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar online on Google Meet on 13th November. President welcomed and gave in brief activity report of the month of November till date. The meeting started with silent invocation for world peace and understanding followed by National Anthem. The 4 way test was recited by Annette Arnaaz Nasir Ali. Rtn. Prakash Naik put together a nice entertainment

for Diwali / Children's Day. Annettes Prapti Naik, Shriya Naik and Meet Arolkar entertained those present with their performances. Annette Kamaxi read out the thought for the week. The bulletin, Farmagudi for month of November 2020 was released by Annette Uttara. Finally, President greeted all those present for Diwali.

## 16<sup>th</sup> November

Rotary Club of Ponda distributed Diwali sweets and masks to Safai Karmacharis of Ponda Municipal council.



## 20<sup>th</sup> November



President, Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar handed over 2 Nos. Sanitizer stands with Sanitizer liquid, Thermal Gun, 25 Nos. Mask and Hand wash liquid to Headmistress of SS Samiti and IVBD High School, Dhavali, Ponda - Goa, Ann Priya Rodrigues.



The 20th Weekly meeting was conducted by President Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar online on Google Meet on 20th November. President welcomed and gave in brief activity report of the month of November till date. The meeting started with silent invocation for world peace and understanding followed by National Anthem. The 4 way test was recited by Ann Suchitra Bhat. The guest speaker for the day Mr. Samrudh Hegde made nice presentation on “Waste management for Residential Societies and Panchayats”. The talk was well received and appreciated. The thought for the week was read by Rtn. Venkatesh Nayak.

## 21<sup>th</sup> November

President, Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar handed over a Thermal Gun and 25 Nos. of Mask to Medha Desai, Headmistress of Mahanandu Naik High School, Bhoma.



President, Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar presented Nation Builder Award to Milan Zambrekar, Teacher of Sharada English High School, Durbhat in presence of club secretary Rtn. Dr. Santosh Tilve, Head Master of the School, Venkatesh Chanekar and other teachers & Students of the school.

## 29<sup>th</sup> November

President Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar handed over a TV to Old age home, Sneh Mandir to be installed in their dining hall.





## Significance of District Governor's Official Visit

**Rtn Dr Vilas Naik**

**Past President 2011-2012**

District Governor during his Governorship visits every Club of District once a year officially which is considered as the topmost event of Rotary Club President during his year of Club Leadership. The visit Schedule and Itinerary being the exclusive prerogative of the District Governor, the club President always accepts to be prepared for the visit. However, if there is any Exigency or unavoidable circumstances crop up wherein it requires alteration in the Schedule the same can be sorted out through the Assistant Governor who always constantly communicates between DG and Host Club (usually to be avoided). The District Governor's Official Visit date is fixed at least One month in advance or more and the AG always remains in close contact with the Club President regarding its Action plan. AG should compulsorily conduct the Club Assembly 1 to 2 weeks in advance prior to DG's Official Visit date and should take the entire review of the preparation of visit without missing the review of DG's Official Visit Checklist.

The President shall assign the Role and Responsibilities to Rotarians for the entire visit of DG to be performed and should explain them the same by conducting special meetings well in advance. The DG and the 1st Lady being the exclusive Guests for the day, the President shall see about their Proper Food and Comfortable stay as well as about their fullday's itinerary including fulltime escorting. The entire programme schedule of the DG's Official Visit day must be chalked out well in advance and should be communicated to DG for his consent and necessary Approval to be obtained. The programme during the day may be scheduled without causing any inconvenience to the Guests and may be fixed by spreading over as:-

1. Welcome to DG and 1st Lady
2. Visit to Club Project if any
3. Meeting with President, Secretary and Treasurer alongwith President Elect, Secretary



Elect and Treasurer Elect.(keep everything ready as per the DG's Official Visit Checklist)

4. Meeting with Partners in Service
5. Club Assembly
6. Public Function.

If no public function is planned for the day, then Club Assembly can be twinned with the function and all can attend including Public. President shall ensure that DG is the only Guest along with the 1st Lady and no other Guest should be allowed. The whole public function shall be chalked out and planned by maintaining the Decorum and Protocol of Rotary International. President shall welcome the gathering, Secretary to present the Report of Activities and Projects, DG should be introduced by AG and President Elect should propose vote of thanks which completes the Protocol.

New Member Induction Ceremonies, Felicitations of the PHF and Awardees and also Donors if any, such events should be significantly organised without missing the opportunity on this day of function. Ladies and Gentleman, the Official Visit of our District Governor signifies a very important lifetime Event of our current President and the entire Team of Rotarians wherein the efforts and hard work put in is appreciated by DG and the Official Visit shall never be considered as an Exam or Test for the Club. As on today, it is seen that our DG Rtn Sangram Patil having a Resilient Attitude and Character always remained positive and mentioned our club as Vibrant, Proactive and Donor Club in the District and also appreciated our President Rtn Ranjit and the Team for a great show displayed despite facing the entire period of Pandemic.

Best Wishes for the DG's Official Visit,

God Bless Everybody.

Stay Safe.





## Goa Liberation Day

-Ann Kiran Shripad Talauliker



19 December is a day to be written in golden letters in the history of Goa. This day marks a ceasefire to the unending struggles of the Goans in Portuguese rule and so also; the courage shown by Goans and Indian army to wage a face to face operation against the then powerful and tactful Portuguese rulers. However the colonial rule that started with capture of Goan territory by Alphonso Albuquerque brought in a multitude of cuisines and culture that makes Goa, one of the sought after places in map of Globe. Our Goa was once a union territory alongside with Daman and Diu. On 30 th May 1987, Goa was granted statehood. Another day to be nostalgic and proud of !! Mohan Ranade was an Indian freedom fighter who participated in Goa Liberation movement and consequently spent 14 years of his life in Portuguese jail. The Portuguese controlled Goa until 1961. Nowadays, a very small fraction of Goans speak Portuguese. 1500 students were learning Portuguese in Goa and an overwhelming 10000-12000 Portuguese speakers in the state according to 2015 census. Goa on India's western coast was liberated from Portuguese rule on 19 December 1961 that was approximately more than 4 centuries after it was colonised. All Goans were educated in Portuguese in the past when Goa was an overseas province of Portugal. Shri Dayanand Bhandarkar of MGP party was the first Chief minister of Goa. 19 December 1961 was a landmark occasion in the glorious history of Goa. Satyagrahis, Journalists and many famous film artists fought for Goas independence. They suffered and sacrificed their precious life for the noble cause of Goa's liberation. It is an appropriate occasion to recall all the efforts taken by our great freedom fighters, their struggles, all the sacrifices and also the hard work of our very own Indian army. We express our gratitude to them. Let us all pay our homage to all those who laid down their valuable lives for the freedom of Goa and Goans. After liberation, Goa has seen a steep rising trend in development. The period from 1961 till date has brought about a visible socio-economic transformation of this small state. Goas economy has now improved and has developed in all the major sectors like agriculture, fishing, construction, manufacturing, transport and tourism. Since liberation, the people of Goa have enjoyed the benefits of freedom and are living under the constitutional guarantee of justice, liberty and equality now. The government of Goa is seriously looking after the economic, social, cultural, physical and intellectual well-being of the people. We need to carry on with our mission to aim higher growth in economy and to bring about improvement in the life of a common man. I would like to say that it is the responsibility of the citizens to help in shaping the future of our state and the nation as a whole.

Being land of tourism, Goa also faces problems of waste management. Garbage disposal has become a major problem in Goa and we have to build a proper infrastructure to deal with it. **Swachha Bharat Abhiyan Campaign** was launched by the Hon. Prime minister. I would like to appeal to the people of Goa to extend their support and contribute to this important mission in order to maintain the cleanliness and beauty of our state. I extend my hearty wishes to all on this auspicious and proud occasion of our Goa Liberation Day.

Jai Hind!!



## ***Birthdays in December***

Ann Sanjana Subhash Desai	03 <sup>rd</sup>
Annette Arnav Abhijeet Kelekar	05 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Vassanti Pritesh Naik	7 <sup>th</sup>
Annette Sharang Tushar Usgaonker	08 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Anita Santosh Tilve	08 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Shobha Abhijeet Kelekar	09 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Kiran Arvind Kumar Kejriwal	10 <sup>th</sup>
Rtn. Shyam Naik	15 <sup>th</sup>
Annette Sahil Rajesh Lawande	17 <sup>th</sup>
Rtn. Manoj Dhavalikar	17 <sup>th</sup>
Rtn. Ashok Nagvenkar	18 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Savita Vithal Miringkar	19 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Nita Mahesh Desai	24 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Sushanti Sudesh Kavalekar	27 <sup>th</sup>
Rtn. Adv. Narendra Savaikar	29 <sup>th</sup>
Annette Shreyas Nagesh Komarpant	31 <sup>st</sup>



## ***Wedding Anniversaries***

Ann Kavitha.G & Rtn. Rangaraju T.B.	02 <sup>nd</sup>
Ann Madhavi & Rtn. Pradeep Arolkar	03 <sup>rd</sup>
Ann Nutan & Rtn. Ratnadeep Kurtarkar	03 <sup>rd</sup>
Ann Vassanti & Rtn. Adv.Pritesh Naik	09 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Sandhya & Rtn. Navin Katkar	10 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Lina & Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar	11 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Shubhangi & Rtn. Rajesh Lawande	13 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Rekha & Rtn. Sadanand Desai	18 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Laxmikant & Rtn. Priya Naik	19 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Shruti & Rtn. Ashwin Kunkolienkar	24 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Anita & Rtn. Dr. Santosh Tilve	25 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Savita & Rtn. Vithal Miringkar	26 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Seema & Rtn. Krishna Shetye	26 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Savita & Rtn. Dr.Roque Anthon D'Costa	27 <sup>th</sup>
Ann Sushanti & Rtn. Sudesh Kavalekar	27 <sup>th</sup>





## FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

-Ann Savitha D'Costa

Christmas is a festival which is popular all over the world. In Goa it is celebrated by people with much merriment and visits to family and friends. It is time for making 'kuswar' which refers to the various Christmas sweets – neoreos, kulkuls, bebinca, bolina, kormolam, cakes .... And the list goes on. They are for sharing with family, friends and neighbors. At this time the markets and shopping malls are lit up brightly. It is time for shopping for new clothes and gifts. The Christmas tree comes alive with lights and decorations. It is also a time for decorating the houses and making a star and a crib with the nativity scene.

What then is the meaning of Christmas?

Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ in a manger.

The crib, bells, stars, lights, Christmas tree, Christmas Carols and even Santa Claus are a magical part of Christmas because of their symbolism and special meaning. The crib is a symbol of the humble birth of Jesus and represents humility. The star represents the star of Bethlehem, which the three kings from the east followed to find Christ in the manger. It is a shining hope for humanity. Christmas is a festival of lights. The Bible says "The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out". Light represents hope. Hope in the midst of despair. Rotarians are known to bring hope to the desperate and needy through their service to the underprivileged. They represent hope. They are a beam light in the midst of darkness. Much before the Christmas day we hear the familiar tunes and melodies of Christmas carols, which are songs with the Christmas theme. They are the golden threads of the festival's tapestry. The three kings from the east come with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh for the child Jesus. Santa Claus is a mystical figure with legendary origins who is supposed to bring gifts to children on Christmas eve. Christmas is a time of giving. Giving not only material gifts, but giving the gift of time. Time to the lonely and desperate, time to the old and aged and also time to the family. Past Rotary International President Kalyan Banerjee in his acceptance speech said "We must learn to give of ourselves, to find reserves of generosity, of grace, of care and concern and to seek a deeper meaning to our daily lives". Christmas gives us a challenge. The Challenge of Christmas is summarized beautifully in this poem by an unknown author.

When the song of the angels is stilled  
When the star in the sky is gone  
When the kings and princes are home  
When the shepherds are back with the flock  
The work of Christmas begins  
to find the lost  
to heal the broken  
to feed the hungry  
to release the prisoners  
to rebuild nations  
to bring peace among brothers  
to make music with the heart.

May the spirit of Christmas bring a lot of love, peace and joy in our lives and homes.

Merry Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year 2021.





## THERE IS A WISDOM OF THE HEAD, AND A WISDOM OF THE HEART

-CHARLES DICKENS -

- by Annette Sahil Rajesh Lawande

A decision is the tool which has the potential to change future. Our decision is no less than magic. A right decision taken at the right time can not only change our future but also make us successful but a wrong decision can just cause the opposite. However, decision-making is not simple, rather a complex process. This is because it is governed by two contrasting bodies, namely the heart and the brain. The decisions taken by our brain are practical and involves logic, whereas, decisions taken by our heart have our emotions attached to it. Therefore, we must use the 'Wisdom of the Head' and the 'Wisdom of the Heart' at the right time to get the right result.

Many a times parents force their children to pursue their career only in a particular subject and the child due to obedience listens to his brain. This can actually be quite different from what the heart has to say. The heart may oppose the brain and tell the child to go in that field in which he/she is truly interested and can be successful only after taking it. The heart and the emotions can never be wrong. If the heart is as pure as the bliss of the sunshine and strongly determined then it will take us to the truest destination breaking through the darkness also. Now, it depends upon us whether to abide by the wisdom of the head or the heart.

There is another way in which the heart and the brain may contradict each other. Suppose, we are to decide whether something is a crime or not a crime. If we are the judge of a court or a police inspector and there is a criminal, whose crime is proved and has to be punished. But the turning point is that the criminal is our dear one, a friend or a family member. In such a situation the heart will resist itself from punishing the criminal because he/she is quite close to our heart. But the brain may say if we relent and release the criminal then he/she may take to crime again. Therefore, it would be necessary to punish him/her. Also, in concurrence with the law it will be correct in giving the verdict against the criminal.



The logical reasoning of the brain and the emotions of the heart will be in a war. Here, he would ought ourselves to go with the wisdom of the head over the wisdom of the heart.

An ignited mind is the most powerful resource on the earth, above the earth and under the earth. What makes a mind ignited? Of all the things known to humanity one of the most obvious things is wisdom. Wisdom is ultimate possession; either of the two is sufficient in making the possessor contended and successful. But at the same time, one must know how to use each type of wisdom judiciously.

Situations may also arouse where we may have to amalgamate both the types of wisdom for two different circumstances. This can be depicted with the help of a small story: Once a soldier from the Indian army was going to Kashmir to give his services in Kargil. But when he was some distance away, the train engine broke down. Still a long way to go, he was quite determined to reach his destination, so he decided to walk the distance overcoming all the hindrances. But on the way he saw a car going in the opposite direction stopped at his sight and the driver kindly told the soldier that he would drop him. When they started for Kargil, they talked about various aspects of their life and experiences. At last, the soldier came to know that the man was going for an interview and he had sacrificed his job interview for the soldier. On asking he was told that the person who serves the nation must be served first. If there is a soldier on the border then he will be quite satisfied with his safety. The soldier was overwhelmed and hugged the man.

From this story we see that when the situation is different both the head and the heart align and the 'wisdom of the head' and the 'wisdom of the heart' amalgamate to get the right result for the individual, for the society.

Lastly, I would like to say that the 'wisdom of the head' and the 'wisdom of the heart' has its own importance and significance. It is upon the individual who uses it as one decision may change the course of history. Also, we should focus more on using either of the wisdom in a way which is positive and will benefit everyone. I would like to end with a quote of Charles Dickens:-

“TAKE NOTHING ON ITS LOOKS.  
TAKE EVERYTHING ON EVIDENCE.  
THERE'S NO BETTER RULE.”



## Goa Liberation Day



**Annette Arnaaz Nasir Ali. (Class VIII)**

**Kendriya Vidhyalaya Ponda, Goa.**



Regarded as one of the most significant days in the history of Goa, also considered as the forgotten war for freedom, December 19 commemorates the freeing of Goa from Portuguese rule by the Indian Armed Forces and the complete independence of the Indian subcontinent. It is termed as **\*Goa Liberation Day\***. The Portuguese rule lasted for about 450 years, and heavily influenced Goan culture, cuisine, and architecture. In 1961, the Indian Army invaded and annexed Goa to the rest of India after a 36-hour battle. And **\*Operation Vijay\*** was accomplished. Initially Goa was a union territory along with Daman and Diu. Goa was granted statehood on 30th May, 1987.

In olden times, Goa was known by many names, such as Gomanchala, Gopakapattana, Gopakapattam, Gopakapuri, Govapuri, Govem, and Gomantak. Other historical names for Goa are Sindapur, Sandabur, and Mahassapatam.

Here is why we should be proud to be a 'Goan' -

- ◆ Goa has the highest per capita income though being the smallest state of India.
- ◆ India's very first printing press was set up in Goa. It was installed at St. Paul's college in Goa in 1956.
- ◆ Goa is the only state in India which has a two-wheeler taxi system.
- ◆ Goans celebrate two Independence days i.e., one on 15th August as India's Independence and 19th December as Goa Liberation Day.
- ◆ The first medical college of India was established in Panaji, Goa in 1842.
- ◆ Dudhsagar waterfall in Goa is one of the largest waterfalls in India.
- ◆ Goa is the only state in India which has two official languages namely Konkani and Marathi.
- ◆ Konkani can be written in two scripts, Roman and Devnagri.

So, let's take a pledge that we will always conserve the ethnic culture, diversity and beauty of Goa forever.



## Role of Media in Today's Society-My Observations

-Annette Kamaxi Ranjit Sadekar

Media is very integral part of our lives, therefore, they generate popular interest and debate about any social problem. The media, known as the fourth pillar of democracy has a huge impact on society. In the world of today, media has become as necessary as food. It has played significant role in strengthening the society. Media is considered as the mirror of modern society. The purpose of media is to inform people about news, current affairs and business world. Society is influenced by media in so many ways.

The media affects people's perspective. Through the ages, the emphasis of media on news has camouflaged. Media these days, tries to eye the news, which could help them to sell the information that is gathered worldwide, so that they could pave a way of success and fame of their respective channels. In this decade of Knowledge and awareness there is a huge and grand role of media, it is all around us when we watch on Television, listen to on the radio, read to the books, magazines, and newspapers, every where we want to collect some knowledge and information and a part of this media has to present a very responsible role for our society. Without the media, people in societies would be isolated, not only from the rest of the world, but also for the total formation of creditable world.

For the sake of publicity and selling, important figures, their lifestyles are usually targeted. Unimportant and irrelevant news, that usually have no importance are given priority and due to a reason or the other, they get into the minds of the viewers and in this ways many times, important political, economical and sociological news get neglected and gradually, identities lose their importance. On the other side we can say that media has played an indispensable role in highlighting India's achievements in the fields of science, technology and arts across the world. However, unfortunately India is still tagged as a developing nation inspite of its vast achievements. In this scenario, I believe the media has a great role to play by addressing the social, cultural and economic problems that is still pulling India down to the category of a developing nation.. The media can play a prominent role in replacing the false beliefs and backward mind-set with modern and scientific ideas among the masses. Media should play an active role in exposing the issues of superstitious practices and corruptions out in public and educate people, make India a modern, powerful and industrial state that would prosper within itself and become self-sufficient to take care of the welfare and well-being of its people and earn respect in the world.

Today media needs to cover more of the social and cultural as well as health related issues so that it contributes positively in the development and well being of the people and should strictly refrain itself from portraying the regressive ideologies and thoughts that might take India a step backward to the dark ages. To my mind, media, art or literature in our country today must be to help people to reform their thoughts, by giving it rational outlook and help the population to develop a questioning mind-set. Today media has become a very important part of our life and we totally depend on the media for all the daily news and views. It is the tool for the transfer of information, concepts, and ideas to the audience - the readers, listeners or viewers. The increasing pace of development in media due to the constant contribution of modern technology has made broadcasting of news an easy affair thus having created a huge opportunity for the media to play an outstanding role in strengthening the society. Its duty is to inform, educate and entertain people. It is needless to say, that media has a strong social and cultural impact upon the society,



thus it should operate within the society and for the society and reflect the positive image of the society. A democracy ideally stands on three main Pillars namely Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. According to Edmund Burke Media is considered as the fourth wheel of Democracy. The freedom of press is mentioned implicitly in our constitution in Article 19(1) (a), every citizen has the fundamental right of free speech and expression, and the same applies for the media also. Press is considered free from bias or prejudice in which the main aim is to provide information to its readers about every happenings of the world. It is said that “a pen is mightier than a sword”, with the black tiny letters in the white newspaper the reality of the colorful world is projected in front of us. But now days we observe the media to become the synonym of bias, hatred, and prejudice. Hence new laws and guidelines have become very much essential on this hour of need, to bring back the lost glory of the media in contemporary India.

Nowadays media houses are not centric towards the important issues such as the GDP, unemployment issues, COVID cases, education reform, farm bills etc, rather they are putting more emphasis on entertainment news to get hold of the audience. Some of the biggest problems in context with today’s media are defamation, contempt of court, and the major one media trails which has resulted in hampering the credibility of media to a great extent

## Conclusion:

Media sector was considered to be the most important aspect in order to give voice to the unable ones but with the changing times and investment of money in it has hampered the credibility of media to a great extent. The media is such a vital body which has the power to change the perspective of a person and hence the society about anything circulated by it. Therefore it is very essential for the media to exercise its fundamental freedom **abiding the law and order of the state, and not by deviating from its sole objective.**





## DEEPER RIVERS FLOW IN MAJESTIC SILENCE

-Contributed by Rtn. Ranjit Sadekar

We had not seen each other for about 30 years. The Lord has been kind to me. When I saw him again - this time at a hotel lobby - he was looking simple. He wore simple Ankara attire. I felt touched. He walked up to me and was glad to see me again. But deep within me I was not impressed with his status compared to mine and poor me, I couldn't hide it. We exchanged contact details and I could see the joy in him as he collected mine.

I told him I will drop him home in my brand new Range Rover and I pointed it to him. He declined and said he had already called for his car. It looked old, a 2001 Honda Accord.

I invited him the next day for lunch at my house. A part of me wanted to impress him - To show off my success and affluence to him, while another was to discuss opportunities and possibly help him.

He drove to Parkview where I lived. He looked impressed with my home. I had taken a heavy mortgage. In fact I was heavily in debt. We had lunch. He told me he was into small business and particularly real estate. I brought up more business discussions, but he didn't sound too interested. I asked him how I could help him. He said he was fine. I even told him if he was interested, I could help him secure some loans... He looked at me and smiled.

He told me he would invite me over soon to his place. His old car came for him. I was grateful to God for what I had. "Fingers are not all equal", I thought to myself...I was lucky. I worked in a good place.

Two weeks later, we went to see him in Ikeja, my wife and I. She was reluctant to come with me because she was not impressed with the man's status as to warrant our visiting him in his house. I was able to convince her that we were close friends in college. We saw the Estate. \*Wuraola Estate.\* We asked for directions to his home. Those leading us spoke his name with deference. It was a simple but lovely home. A 4 bedroom bungalow. I saw 4 cars parked in front. We entered his home. It was simply elegant with a touch of class inside. He welcomed us warmly.

Lunch was well served. His wife called him Baba Wuraola

During lunch, he asked about my MD. He said they were friends. I saw a company gift on one of his tables nearby. That company owned about 38% shares where I worked. I enquired from him about it. He smiled. He told me he owned the company. He also owned the estate.

I did not know when I called him sir... I was in awe of him too. I had learnt a lesson in humility - A big one. Appearances are deceptive. He noticed my discomfort.

Driving back home, I was very quiet. My wife was humbled and extremely calm. I could perceive the thoughts in her mind. I looked at myself. Living on loans, heavy loans and showing off while someone who pays my salary is quite modest and living a simple life!

Indeed Deeper Rivers Flow In Majestic Silence.



# Rotary Club of Ponda

*Wishes You all*

*Merry  
Christmas*



*&*



*happy new year  
2021*



*Mutual Fund Investment Advisor...*

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