

Newsletter

Volume 8 | April 2024

women with mission ~ educate | empower | enable



OFFICE BEARERS

Dr.Daphne PillaiFounder President

Ms. Namrata Saxena President

Ms. Preeti Pawar President- Elect

Ms. Yvette Lee Immediate Past President & Programme Action Co-ordinator

Ms. Susanna Cherian Hon.Secretary

Ms. Mamta Patil Hon.Treasurer

Ms. Munawira Kotyad Pillai Club Extension & Membership Officer

Dr. Smita DalviCommunication &
Publicity Officer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Soroptimist Sisters,

As my term concludes, I want to express profound appreciation to our Founder President, Dr. Daphne Pillai, for entrusting me with the privilege to serve as President of this esteemed organization. I 'am filled with gratitude for our collective achievements. Together, we've empowered women and girls through advocacy and service. Your dedication has been inspiring, driving initiatives from education to advocacy. As we pass the torch, I'm confident in Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur's continued success. Let's stay united in our mission, working towards a more just world. Thank you for your unwavering support and for being part of this impactful journey. Together, we're making a difference.

Namrata Saxena

President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Hello there,

In this newsletter, we bring you the highlights of SI Bombay Chembur's pursuits and endeavors in the year 2023-24.

The year witnessed our club receiving the distinction of bagging SIGBI Best Practices Award. Besides our recurring projects like Power of a Second Chance, we launched a new yearlong effort – Project PANKH.

We anchored various UN days to create awareness, educating about rights and issues, and inspiring action among the young people. The newsletter carries a brief snapshot of these activities.

Happy Reading!

Smita DalviCommunication
Officer



June 2023 - April 2024

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SIBC Bags SIGBI Best Practice Award – Planet Category, 2023

We are super proud to announce that our club Soroptimist International of Bombay Chembur (SIBC) has bagged the prestigious SIGBI Best Practice Award for our project, **'Eco-empowerment- Say No to Plastics'** in the planet and SDG#2 Zero Hunger category. Dr. Reni Francis has received this coveted award on behalf of the club at the SIGBI Conference London, U.K., on 4th November 2023.







Dr. Reni Francis at London SIGBI Conference

Our member Dr. Reni Francis participated in the annual SIGBI Conference, held this year at London on 3rd and 4th November, 2023. During the conference she interacted with delegates from all over the world and also received on behalf of our club the SIGBI Best Practice Award 2023.





Yvette Lee and Preeti Pawar at NASI AGM

Our members, Ms. Preeti Pawar, President Elect, and Ms. Yvette Lee, Past President and current PAC as also NASI Communication Officer attended the NASI AGM in Madurai held on 24th June, 2023. Ms. Lee also participated in the NASI Executive Committee meeting. They took the opportunity to bond and network with members of various SI clubs who attended the event.







Fellowship Lunch at Marine Plaza

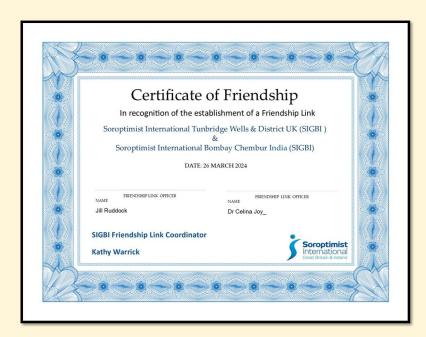




SIBC members met for a **fellowship lunch** at The Bayview restaurant at Hotel Marine Plaza on Sunday, 18th February 2024, to celebrate the club's SIGBI Award for Best Practices. A jolly good time with food and laughter was had by everyone. The merriment continued on the sweeping promenade of Marine Drive after lunch.

International Goodwill and Understanding

SIBC members met Jill Ruddock and Anne Walter from SI Tunbridge Wells, during their India visit. An exchange of ideas and souvenirs took place while ctreating yet another Friendship Link for our club.







SIBC AGMs During 2022-2024



AGM on 5th May 2022



AGM on 30th June 2023



AGM on 4th May2024



The Governing Body 2022-24 of SIBC elected at the AGM held on 5th May, 2022:

Left to Right:

Ms.Preeti Pawar (President Elect), Ms.Yvette Lee (PAC & IPP), Dr.Smita Dalvi (Communication Officer), Dr.Daphne Pillai (Founder President), Ms.Namrata Saxena (President), Ms.Susanna Cherian (Secretary), Ms.Mamta Patil (Treasurer), Ms. Munawira Kotyad Pillai (Club Extension & Membership Officer) (not in picture).



The Governing Body of SIBC 2024-26, elected at the AGM held on 4th May, 2024.

Left to Right:

Dr. Smita Dalvi (Communication Officer),
Ms. Yvette Lee (Secretary), Ms. Mamta Patil
(treasurer), Dr. Daphne Pillai (Founder
President), Ms. Preeti Pawar (President),
Dr. Celina Joy (PAC), Dr. Reni Francis (President
Elect), Dr. Betty Sybil (Membership Officer).

Soroptimist Excellence Award 2024

conferred on Ms Sumaira Abdulali

On the International Women's Day, Soroptimist Excellence Award 2024 was conferred on **Ms. Sumaira Abdulali**, Founder of **Awaaz Foundation** for her exemplary contribution in protecting the environment.

Ms. Abdulali's tenacious advocacy and pioneering efforts in combating noise pollution and eradication of sand mining for safeguarding the environment exemplifies the true spirit of environmental stewardship.

The award carries a citation, a trophy and a donation by SIBC to the Awaz Foundation.





Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur

(registered as Soroptimist Welfare Association Bombay Public Trust Act, (1950) Rgg. No - F 46909 (Mumbai) Societies Registration Act, (1860) Rgg. No – 2048)

Citation of Honour

Soroptimist International Bombay Chembur is pleased to present the Soroptimist Excellence Award 2024 to Ms. Sumaira Abdulali, Founder, Awaaz Foundation for her exemplary contribution in protecting the environment.

Ms. Abdulali's tenacious advocacy and pioneering efforts in combating noise pollution and eradication of sand mining for safeguarding the environment exemplifies the true spirit of environmental stewardshiv.

Through her NGO Awaaz Foundation, legal interventions, advocacy, debates and press articles she has built consciousness about environmental hazards. Her visionary leadership has shaped policy, raised awareness and catalyzed action in pursuit of a quieter, healthier world.

For her pioneering work, her dedication in securing environmental justice, and inspiring positive change for the present and future generations, we are honored to confer upon her the Soroptimist Excellence Award on the occasion of International Women's Day, 2024.

A recipient of many prestigious awards and laurels for her pioneering work, Ms. Sumaira Abdulali truly is an inspiration to society and a role model to social workers around the world.

Signed



Dr. Daphne Pillai Founder President 7th March 2024









SDGs Served through Programme Action























Programme Action: 2023-24

Project PANKH

The Power of a Second Chance:
Adult Literacy

Project SASHAKT

Project ASHA

16 Days of Activism 2023

Joy of Giving Week

Miscellaneous

Project PANKH

SIBC in collaboration with Pillai Institute of Management Studies and Research launched **Project PANKH** on 27th June, 2023 for the period June 2023 to March 2024.

This collaborative long term project had a goal to provide a series of 20 workshops for both teachers and students of the municipal school, Gyanjyoti Savitribai Phule Shala, Podi 2, New Panvel for the overall holistic development of the school.

The workshops were designed with a focus on improving literacy, providing skills for economic empowerment, awareness on personal development, addressing mental health and personal safety measures. Project PANKH's unique feature was the active involvement of Management students as responsible citizens as partners in voluntary social service.

The sessions conducted over 20 weeks of an hour each, included Learning & Retention skills, Grammar & Vocabulary, Reading and Elementary English Language skills, Cyber Crime Awareness, Awareness campaign on animal welfare, Safe and Unsafe Touch, Cultivating team spirit, DIY Bag Making workshop among others. 8 teachers and 42 students benefited from this initiative.









The Power of a Second Chance: Adult Literacy

Under our flagship project 'Power of a Second Chance', we concluded our **Adult Literacy Drive** project of this year with a convocation ceremony for the beneficiaries. A 3-week course in **digital literacy** was conducted for women from marginalised communities at Chembur English High School between 10 April and 29 April 2023.

A total of 18 participants successfully completed the course in the premises of Chembur English High School. Dr. Daphne Pillai, our founder president bestowed the certificates during a joyous convocation ceremony held on 13 September at the school. Many members joined the ceremony and encouraged the awardees.









Project Sashakt 2023-24

Aligning to SDG's 3, 4 and 5 of the United Nations, SI Bombay Chembur launched a project named SASHAKT in 2018 to advocate and create awareness on many taboo and less discussed topics. As a part of this project, a series of sessions were conducted for children of two schools – Chembur English High School and DPGA Panvel.



A 2-day Pre-Marital Workshop on 2-3 December was held on topics of gender equality in everyday life, women empowerment, sex education and legal rights of daughter and wives. The resource persons were from Stree Mukta Sanghatna



For the students of Chembur English High School, a session on 'First Aid Training' on 15th December and a session on 'Cyber Security and Responsible Netism' on 24 January.





Sessions on Safe and Unsafe touch, for the students of DPGA School Panvel, Grade 1-3 & Grade 4-6, 28 March and 11 April.



Project SASHAKT was shared as a Program helping adolescents at the SIGBI Pre-Conference PAC meeting.

16 Days of Activism 2023

The 16 Days of Activism for no Violence against Women and Children Campaign (25 November to 10 December) was observed by SIBC with several outreach and awareness events organised in collaboration with Pillai Group of Institutions.

Some highlights are as follows:

An awareness session was organized on 'Women's Rights in India' for the girl students of Banuben Pravin Shah (BPS)
Secondary and Higher Secondary School at Tara Village.

A screening of Netflix film "Sitara: Let Girls Dream" by director Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy was organized for Pillai HOC College of Arts, Science, and Commerce, Rasayani. The event prompted reflective discussions on girls' aspirations, empowerment, and the impact of child marriages.

'UNITE! Say NO to Violence Against Women and Girls' was organised for the students of Mahatma Night Degree College Of Arts & Commerce, Chembur

Advocate Nilesh Khanvilkar spoke to the parents of Chembur English High school on women's legal rights.

Adv. Nishita Sachdev, spoke on Human Rights to the students of Pillai College of Arts, Commerce and Science.

Advocate Ms. Rajshree Damale held an interactive session with female support staff of Dr. Pillai Global Academy, New Panvel on laws against domestic violence.









Project ASHA 2023-24

In keeping with the objectives of SIBC's Project ASHA that helps women entrepreneurs from marginalised communities through financial aid and mentorship, two small scale entrepreneurs, **Ms. Noor Jahan Anjar Alam Shaikh**, and **Ms. Maya Aappas Mane** were given financial assistance of ₹ 5,000/- each to set up their tailoring units in their locality. This initiative will help these women start and grow their businesses, eventually aiding them in their journey to financial independence. SIBC will continue to support and mentor them through this process.









The Joy of Giving week

SIBC observed the 'Joy of Giving Week' 02 – 08 October, with two projects.

A **fund raising drive** conducted by our members among neighbours and well-wishers. An amount of Rs 1,16,601 was collected and a cheque was handed over to **Access Life Foundation**, a temporary home for children who visit Mumbai for cancer treatment.

In collaborated with edukidz INTERNATIONAL Preschool, Tilaknagar, whose students participated in a collection drive and imbibed the values of being compassionate and empathetic.

Items such as toys, books and clothes were collected and presented to the children from **Manav Jeevan Seva trust.**







Miscellaneous

Project Sashakt

A cheque of Rs 8000 was presented to Mrs. Prachi Chavan, to sponsor her education and complete her SSC examinations under the ALD and SHASHAKT project.



Bharat Nutrition Week

Bharat Nutrition week was celebrated on 13th September with A session titled, 'Debunking Common Myths and Misconceptions on Exercise' for the girl students of Pillai College of Arts, Commerce & Science, Panvel.



Wall Painting at a Local School

On 13th January, SIBC along with students of Pillai HOC College of Architecture, created wall paintings at Raigad zilla parishad school at Karade village to create a vibrant ambience to encourage the children attend school more regularly.



Financial Literacy Camp

SIBC in association with Dr. Pillai Global Academy DPGA, Panvel organised a session on financial literacy for the support staff and Maushis of DPGA. They were given information about Providend Fund and were also helped to link their Aadhaar card with Pan card.



Miscellaneous

Minithon

the Women Development Cell of Pillai HOC College of Arts Science and Commerce (Rasayani), jointly organised a Minithon on 10th February 2024. It was **a 5 km run** that took place on Saturday morning.. A total of 122 participants made the event a grand success.



Outreach for the Elderly

SIBC members organised an evening full of fun, games, snacks and entertainment to celebrate Valentine's Day for the members of Jyestha Nagarik Sangh, Deonar. It was heartening to see around 25-30 Senior citizens going home joyfully with a smile on their face.



Street Play for Mental Health Awareness



SI Bombay Chembur observed World Mental Health Day with PCER, and organised a Street Play at various locations. It was a fun way of spreading awareness on the issues related to mental health.

The title of the street play: How are you? Are you ok?

Fundraising

Jumble Sale

SIBC held its signature fund-raising with a social twist, aka the Jumble Sale at Chembur English High School premises on 30-31 October. A sizable collection of clothes, toys and other household items, all in good and usable condition, was donated by the members, teachers, residents of Raheja Residency etc.









Old Newspapers Drive

Members conducted a Raddi collection drive at Raheja Acropolis, Chembur to be sold to a recycler for a sum of Rs. 4000. Another fundraiser with an environmental consciousness.

We conducted our annual Newspaper Drive in Chembur English High School. As a part of our fund raising programme, we collected and sold Raddi worth Rs. 10,000. It was a learning experience in social responsibility for the school students also.



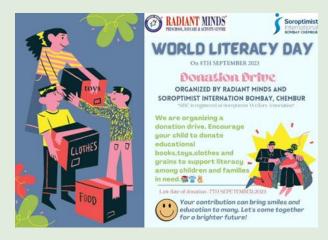


Celebration of UN Days: 2022-23

SI Bombay Chembur observed the following UN Days in collaboration with various schools and colleges in different campuses of Mahatma Education Society

☐ World Environment Day
☐ World earth Day
☐ International Day of Yoga
☐ Women's Equality Day
☐ International Literacy Day
☐ International Organ Donation Day
☐ World Suicide Prevention Day
☐ World Mental Health Day
☐ 'Fistful of Grains' - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World Food Day
☐ National Science Day
☐ World Cancer Day
☐ World AIDS Day
☐ International Day for the Girl Child
☐ International Women's Day









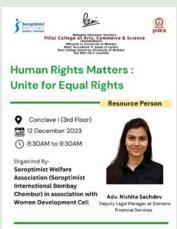




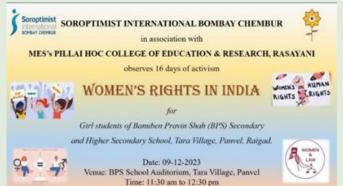






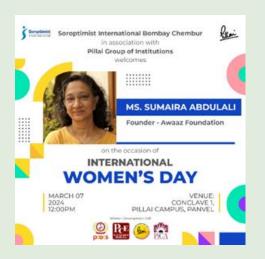


















Member Achievements

Ms. Yvette Lee completes a highly productive term as Communication Officer on the NASI Board 2022-2024, With colourful and informative quarterly newsletters.



Dr. Reni Francis
has been appointed
as a member of
Board Of Studies in
Education, under
University of
Mumbai, in
December 2023.
Her term is 20242027.



Dr. Sunita Wadikar
has been nominated as
the Chairperson of the
NGO named as Jyestha
Nagarik Sangh,
Deonar, Mumbai. This
organization works for
the welfare of the
society by undertaking
a number of activities
for a noble cause





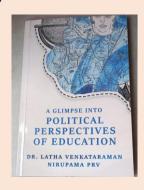
Dr. Smita Dalvi has been appointed as chairperson of Board of Studies in Architecture University of Mumbai for the term 2024-2027.

She has also published her second book titled, 'Celebrating India in 75 Buildings', published by MES Publications..



Her essay on Panvel Port has been included in the book, 'Gateways to the Seas: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region





The book delves into interdependence of politics, reforms, and education.

Dr. Lata Venkatraman coauthored a book titled, 'A Glimpse into Political
Perspectives of Education



Did You Know?

Kashibai Kanitkar (1861–1948) was the first female novelist in modern Marathi literature. She was married at the age of 9, and was educated by her husband. This was at a time when it was considered dishonorable for a girl to be able to read and write. She mastered Marathi and English. In her wide-ranging works — both fiction and non-fiction — she wrote about patriarchal constraints imposed on women.

Kanitkar's novels were *Rangrao* (1903) and *Palkhicha Gonda* (1928); her collections of short stories include *Shevat Tar Goad Zala* (1889) and *Chandanyatil Gappa* (1921). Many of the stories in these works are parables and of an educational nature.

Source:

Sahapedia.org and 'Changemakers - The Extraordinary Lives of Ordinary Women in the Bombay Presidency' -- exhibition at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS)





