



ONWARD

JANUARY 2024

**LOOKING FORWARD TO
NEW OPPORTUNITIES**



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GENERAL SECRETARY'S THOUGHTS

Looking forward to the Opportunities of 2024

As I write these words, I am preparing to celebrate Christmas and thinking of the joy that Christ has bought us. The message of Christmas will eternally remain one of joy and hope for each one of us, especially for those who struggle with personal issues on an everyday basis.

But, by the time you get this issue of the Onward Newsletter in your hands, we may already be in 2024. All opportunities that were provided for us in 2023 will have passed and we would be able to look at the opportunities that we picked up and utilised to the full. However, we cannot “cry over spilled milk,” as they say, but we can look forward to new opportunities provided for us in the entire year that is before us. Catherine Pulsifer, in her poem titled, ‘Opportunities Do Not Hang About,’ writes:

**“For opportunities rarely hang about,
And when they're gone, on nothing can you count.
If you wish for a bright future tomorrow
Then do it today and you'll have no sorrow.”**

At the Bombay YMCA, we are privileged to be able to use every opportunity that comes our way to serve the community that we live in, while also providing similar or better opportunities for the scores of our members to take advantage of and take their lives one notch higher in life.

This year we enter into the 150th year of Bombay YMCA's existence and work. It was on 25th April 1875 that the Bombay Young Men's Christian Association was founded to serve the community through “spiritual improvement and the general welfare of young men of all classes.” For us who serve through the Bombay YMCA at this time, it is a great challenge that we face. With the various changes that have taken place in our city and all over the world since the last four years, we are called to ‘pull up our socks’ and do our bit in using the resources available to us in making the world a better place for ourselves and the next generation.

As you go through the following pages, we hope that you too are enthused and eager to do your part in joining with us actively and fulfilling the challenges that lay before us through the year. I am assured that our God is with us in all that we undertake to fulfil, and we will be able to achieve great things for Him who strengthens us.

Happy reading!

Leonard Salins
General Secretary & CEO



SECOND FLOOR HALL AT GHATKOPAR INAUGURATED



The second floor Hall at the Ghatkopar Branch, consisting of 1000 sq. ft area, was inaugurated on 29th November 2023. The dedication of the premises was done by Rev. Susheel Sumitra. Mr. Sunil Lobo, President, Bombay YMCA and Mr. Leonard Salins, General Secretary, Bombay YMCA, along with Board Members and other dignitaries were present at the event.



Celebrating the Christmas Joy

AT THE YMCA BRANCHES



Christmas was celebrated at all the Branches and Centres of Bombay YMCA with fervour and joy. All the branches were decorated as an expression of the joy that Christmas brings with it. At the Branches and the Centres, Christmas celebrations were organised for members, students, teachers, hostelites and staff. Singing of carols, dance, games, food, lucky draw, etc., were part of the celebrations.

The Staff Christmas Get together was held on 22nd December 2023. There was Carols, Games, lucky draw organized for all our staffs. The boundless joy of meeting everyone together was visible on the faces of all the staffs. Christmas gifts were presented to the staff which was followed by fellowship.



LEARNING FROM OUR HISTORY

George Williams, the founder of the YMCA movement was a farm boy who was sent to the town of Bridgewater as a draper's apprentice. Here George went through a spiritual experience. In 1837, at 16 years of age, he knelt down at the back of the shop and gave his heart to God. He took as his life's motto, "It is not how little but how much we can do for others." He became an earnest, prayerful Christian. In 1841, he shifted to London to work in Hitchcock and Rogers, a wholesale commercial firm of drapers. Here he lived above the warehouse with 139 other apprentice boys. George Williams and another young man were the only two in the group who met for Bible study and prayer for an hour every evening. The number gradually grew and on 6th June 1844, twelve prayerful young men belonging to different denominations, met and decided to form the Young Men's Christian Association. Two other names suggested were: "The Draper's Evangelical Society" and "Christian Young Men's Association". They were, however, dropped because the first would restrict it to the drapers' trade and the other to men of Christian religion. From its birth, inspired by the spirit of ecumenism and reconciliation, the YMCA became a **Christian organisation open to all**. George Williams relied on personal contact, praying and studying the Bible together with others. He was attempting to build a youth organisation that focussed on spiritual growth. He was not a theorist but believed in the practical religion of deeds rather than words. Like the Master, he went about doing good. He had great faith in tea and seed cake. He emphasised the value of the cup of cold water. On one occasion, advising a fellow worker George Williams said: "When a young man proves difficult to reach do not argue, take him to supper" – he showed thus his profound knowledge of human nature.

George Williams married the daughter of the owner of the Company where he worked and succeeded as its proprietor when the owner died in 1863. The experience and success he gained both in his business and in his spiritual life helped him to guide the destiny of the YMCA movement in London as its President until he died in 1905. He proved that it was possible to be both an earnest Christian worker and a successful man of business. His farewell message at Paris in 1905 was, "Young men, give your hearts to God whilst you are young."

Taken from 'We serve that life may be enriched, A History of Bombay YMCA' by Dr. M.D. David, pg 2-3

Escalating their Bond and Developing Solidarity



Emmanuel SYMCA

The Student Branch organised its Hostel Camp to our Nilshi Campsite (Camp Lakeside), on 2nd and 3rd December 2023, where 56 students from our hostel joined for an overnight camp. All the students were thrilled & excited to experience a day together, taking a break from their usual daily routine. The students were engaged in various adventurous activities like rock climbing, swimming and kayaking, archery, spider web and trekking, which helped them to remove their fear and develop self-confidence. The day ended with a campfire and some amazing performances put forward by the students. Through this camp the students got an opportunity to come together and experience the place and various activities which escalated their bond and developed solidarity among the students.



Motivated and Enriched Latent 2023

On 10th December 2023, Bombay YMCA Student Branch organised Latent, a leadership development seminar at YMCA International House. Starting with the lighting of the lamp by our esteemed guest speakers, along with Mr. Leonard Salins (General Secretary) and Mr. Michael Raj (Branch Chairman), the event accelerated with a positive spirit. The sessions were started by Ms. Chhavi Gaur and Ms. Aastha Puri, who elaborated on the importance of communication as a means to progress various career paths, along with spiritual communication and individuality.



The Students got an insight into YMCA Vision and Mission through the Chief Guest, Mr. Michael Raj, Chairman, Student Branch, who also spoke on aspects of being a YMCA Volunteer, followed by an interactive and engaging session by Ms. Sharon Anna which de-stigmatised the discourse around the mental well-being that is of utmost importance in modern times, especially in young adults. We then were treated to a session by Adv. C.J. Joveson about understanding the functions of law and realising that every law, even the punishing ones are made to protect citizens from exploitation and that law should come from within. The students were then met with a presentation conducted by Mr. Joseph George, who spoke on How to be Financially Independent as a Student or Intern.

This was followed by a Panel Discussion with panelists Adv C.J. Joveson, Mr. Joseph George, Ms. Sonia Mascarenhas and Mr Reyansh Vanigota, who detailed the journey to transition from student life (academia) to a working professional vis-à-vis Finance, Skills, Environment, Mental health, Competition, and Gender biases delving into its various aspects. The panelists gave real-life examples of their experiences and it was effectively moderated by an in-house student, Mr. Rishav Rastogi of the YMCA.

The day-long seminar ended on the note of students going home highly motivated and enriched.



Bombay YMCA's 'Mr. YMCA' - Best Physique Contest 2023

The Bombay YMCA proudly hosted the Mr. YMCA – Best Physique Contest on 26th November 2023, at its Central Branch in Colaba, Mumbai. Organised under the auspices of the Amateur Bodybuilders Association of Maharashtra sponsored by Mrs Saroj Melville in remembrance of Late Mr D P Melville, Industrialist and former President of Bombay YMCA. The event drew 120 dedicated contestants from Mumbai and its suburbs, showcasing their commitment to physical fitness.



Winners in each of the four categories: Short, Medium, Tall, and Super Tall, in the Budding & Open sections were awarded medals and certificates, enhancing the recognition of their exceptional achievements, from the Chief Guest, Mr. Michael Manuel Raj, Board Member, Bombay YMCA, and Associate General Secretary, Mr. Austin Kunder.

Highlighting the historical significance of the Bombay YMCA Best Physique Contest, Mr. Sunil Lobo, President, Bombay YMCA, emphasised the organisation's commitment to empowering communities for almost 148 years. Congratulating Mr. Krishna Pujari, the Mr. YMCA (Open) winner, Mr. Lobo noted the enduring popularity of the D.P. Melville Rolling Trophy, instituted in 1969, and its status as the most sought-after Body Building Competition.

The contest first held in the year 1969 has rich legacy, as its past Title winners, like Mr. Raymond D'Souza, who went on to win the Mr. India title five times, and Mr. Ashish Sakarkar, who won the Mr. India title four times and the Mr. Universe Silver & Bronze medals, is also a recipient of Maharashtra's prestigious sports award, the Shiv Chhatrapati Award.

Top Honours and Recognitions

Mr. Krishna Pujari of Chhtrapati Shivaji Vyam Mandal secured the prestigious Mr. YMCA (Open) title, earning the 'Mr. D. P. Melville Challenge Trophy' for 2023.

Mr. Habib Shaikh, representing Power Fitness Club, claimed the Mr. YMCA (Budding) title.



30+ Maters

The Central YMCA Basketball players of the 30+ Maters Team represented Mumbai South East at the 2nd Khelo Masters State Championship at Amravati. They won the Gold in the competition.

Ajaz Patel, Manmohan Londhe and Manoj Khatri competed in Basketball in the 40+ and 50+ categories. The 40+ team won a Silver medal while the 50+ team won the Gold medal. Additionally, Manmohan Londhe won the Gold medal in 40+ Table Tennis Singles category and a Silver medal along with Manoj Khatri in the doubles category.



Setting High Standards

Open State Level Athletic Meet 2023

The 46th Bombay YMCA Open State Level Athletic Meet was held from 16th to 19th November 2023, at the University Pavillion. We received 3627 entries and the total participants were 2412. In all, 76 Schools, 18 Colleges and 68 Clubs took part in the 128 events. Participants from Sholapur, Satara, Sangli, Nasik, Palghar, Pangel, Ambernath, Dombivali, Mumbai Suburbs and Mumbai City took part.



The Chief Guest, Olympian Joaquim Carvalho, gave away all the trophies to the champions. Board Members and Committee Members along with the President, Mr. Sunil Lobo, and the Chairman were present for the Finals and Prize distribution. The standard of the athletes was excellent. More than 100 Officials, Malis and Volunteers worked day in and day out for the success of the meet. Several Meet records were broken this year.



Restarting Home Swim Gala after COVID 19 Swimming Pool, Procter Branch

Home Swim Gala was conducted successfully on 29th October 2023 at the Procter Branch Swimming Pool. 330 entries were received for the 27 events. After COVID 19, this was the first Home Swim Gala. Two Technical Officials were invited and 46 volunteers, coaches and staff, as a team, conducted the gala.



Responding to Homelessness

Shelter for Underprivileged Youth World Homeless Day was observed on 10th October 2023 at our Center. The purpose of World Homeless Day is to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness.

The Special Guest for the programme was Mrs. Vibha Jadhav, DAY-NLUM night shelter project head of Mumbai district, and the BMC K West Ward CDO. They had a brief discussion on World Homeless Day with the youngsters at our Centre. A special lunch was sponsored by well-wishers.



Talent Competition for Balwadi children

A Talent Competition was organised for Balwadi children on 21st October 2023 at the Bombay YMCA Khar Danda Centre. The children of all the batches, i.e., Nursery, Junior KG and Senior KG, performed dance, sang songs and filled the atmosphere with excitement. The Children also dressed up for the Fancy Dress Competition.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Sunil Lobo, President Bombay YMCA, who gave prizes to the winners along with the Committee Members of Bombay YMCA Khar Danda Centre. The Parents of the Balwadi children were very much happy to see their children performing.



VTC collaboration with MKCL

Bombay YMCA organised an Independence Day Quiz for schools with MKCL's support. This collaboration enhanced the event's success and fostered a positive community spirit.

On 3rd October 2023, a successful seminar showcasing MKCL and YMCA courses was conducted at Kamala Mehta College of Commerce, Versova. The event received positive responses, indicating a favourable reception among attendees.

N.M. College students organised an empowerment event for women on our premises on 17th October 2023.



VTC students actively participated and appreciated the seminar. An event showcasing traditional Indian dances, such as Bhangra, Ras Garba, and Hip Hop was arranged on 20th October 2023. Over 130 VTC students attended, thoroughly enjoying the performances.



Teachers Training Programme

Muktangan organised a Teacher's Training programme for all our Balwadi teachers on 16th November 2023. The programme started in the month of June and has completed six sessions. It has been a wonderful experience for the teachers and supervisors. We are gaining valuable knowledge from the trainer, and all our Balwadi teachers visited the Muktangan Balwadi, initiating improvements in all our Balwadis.



FUN AND RECREATIONAL EVENINGS



SENIOR CITIZEN MEETING

This is a new initiative for the senior citizens of the Borivali locality, who meet once a month, for a time of fun and recreation. The first meeting was held on 22nd September 2023, where 22 individuals attended, playing a game of housie.



The second meeting was held on 27th October 2023, where approximately 55 senior citizens participated. This time it went on from 6 to 8 pm. The third meeting was held on 17th November 2023. Group Games, a brief awareness audio video session by a team of doctors on Cancer Prevention from HCG Apex Cancer Hospital at IC Colony was part of the programme. 65 senior citizens and 10 volunteers participated.



Women volunteers from the Church at IC Colony have agreed to help in this initiative on a long term basis. The response is getting better and the feedback is encouraging.



SEEKING RECOVERY FROM ALCOHOL ADDICTION

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings are held every Monday and Wednesday at the Navi Mumbai branch, providing a supportive environment for individuals struggling with alcohol addiction.

The AA meetings have been consistently well-attended, indicating a strong interest and dedication among individuals seeking recovery from alcohol addiction. The diverse group of attendees reflects the inclusive nature of AA, where people from various backgrounds come together to share their experiences and support one another on the path to sobriety.

AA meetings often follow a structured format, including the sharing of personal stories, discussions of the Twelve Steps, and reflections on the principles of the AA programme. The supportive atmosphere encourages participants to open up about their struggles and successes, fostering a sense of camaraderie and understanding.



Programmes for Enriching children

Diwali Party for Balwadi Students

On the 2nd and 3rd of November 2023, all the Balwadis celebrated a Diwali party with the children. Sweets were distributed to the children, and the teachers explained the significance of the Diwali festival.

Additionally, the teachers engaged with the students, asking them about their personal Diwali celebrations at home with their families.



Motivation Session for VTCE Students by Art Scape

Art Scape organised a Personality Development program for VTCE students on 8th December 2023, focusing on motivational and inspirational talks to impart knowledge about life skills. Three sessions have been conducted successfully.



We spoke to the Headmasters of these schools and provided information about the exams. 150 students, who are very good in their studies, have enrolled for the Olympiad Exam under the YMCA.



AIDS Prevention and Awareness in the Community

The Bombay YMCA Outreach and Development Department organized a rally for AIDS prevention and awareness in community areas on 1st December 2023. The rally commenced from the ORD department, passing through Agripada market, Madhapura, Mumbai Central, Kamatipura, and concluded at the ORD office. The event involved 150 participants, including Balwadis teachers, helpers, VTCE students, teachers, and volunteers who walked and distributed pamphlets on AIDS awareness. In Kamatipura, a street play on AIDS was performed by a youth group, featuring a skit along with songs.

On the 2nd of December, another street play was organised on Grant Road and Falkland Road to raise awareness about AIDS. Following the street play, teachers and staff distributed pamphlets on HIV awareness.



Olympiad Exams for Scholar Students from BMC and Private Schools

Fifty government and non-government schools were approached for the Olympiad exams at an event held on 12th December 2023, organised by MKCL and Bombay YMCA ORD Department, thus giving a big platform to scholar students.

Cultivating Hope and Love in Solidarity



YMCA- YWCA World Week of Prayer & World Fellowship

Bombay YMCA and YWCA successfully celebrated the World Week of Prayer and World Fellowship, from 12th to 18th November 2023, under the theme, 'Seeds to Blossoms: Cultivating Hope and Love in Solidarity.' As part of their effort, the YMCA/YWCA invited members to reflect on the profound connection that binds together the global YWCA-YMCA movement.



The Inaugural Service was held on 12th November 2023 at St. Stephens Church (CNI), Bandra. 120 people attended the service, which included the Church members and YMCA/YWCA Members.



The President of Bombay YMCA, Mr. Sunil Lobo welcomed the gathering, and the President of YWCA of Bombay, Ms. Blessy Babychan read out the message of the Presidents of World YMCA and YWCA. Rev. Thomas Jacob spoke on the theme and emphasised the importance of cultivate hope and love, to strengthen the bonds that can create a safe space and environment where every seed can grow and blossom. YMCA Y Voices and youth delegates from CVJM Stuttgart presented a special number. The Choir of the Church sang hymns which uplifted our soul.

On 17th November 2023, we visited Purnata, an NGO that works with Commercial Sex Workers and their children, Youth and Transgender.



The Closing Celebration Service was held at YWCA, Fort on 18th November 2023. Dr. Sybil Thomas, the Guest Speaker, encouraged those gathered to plant the seeds of positive change today, so that future generations may enjoy the fruits of our labour and bring change in the society.



In our movements, we embrace a diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. Just as in a garden, where we can cultivate an array of plants, we encourage you to recognise the beauty and strength that comes from this diversity. Some may require more sunlight, while others flourish in the shade. Some need regular watering, while others thrive with occasional nurturing. Our differences can indeed be our strength; in recognising this, we honoured the essence of intergenerational solidarity and shared leadership that can go beyond any potential barrier.

Much like the gardener who tends to each plant's specific needs, we can nurture one another by listening, learning, and adapting our support to ensure that every individual within the communities we serve can grow and bloom. By acknowledging and respecting each person's uniqueness as a human being with human rights, we embody the true spirit of solidarity and contribute to the global garden of peace, justice, and equity."

Taken from the WORLD YWCA AND WORLD YMCA WEEK OF PRAYER & WORLD FELLOWSHIP booklet, SEEDS TO BLOSSOMS: CULTIVATING HOPE AND LOVE IN SOLIDARITY (page 3)



YOUTH RETREAT 2023

Young volunteers from Bombay YMCA organized a one-day Christian Youth Retreat on 11th November 2023, created by the youth, for the youth, entitled 'Love Your Selfie 2.0'. The primary goal of this retreat was for the young people to grow in their faith, and build healthy relationships. We had 78 young boys and girls across the city of Mumbai who had come to learn from the Word of God.



The Youth group of the Rahator Memorial Methodist Telugu Church started the day off with a soul-touching praise and worship. Guest speakers, Ms. Vanita Tiwade and Rev. Avinash Rangayya, gave them a deeper understanding of Christian teachings, values, and principles.

Rev. Christopher Karkada and volunteers conducted team building activities, providing opportunities for participants to connect with others. The goal was to make a positive impact on the lives of the Christian youth, empowering and nurturing the faith.

SERVE ONE ANOTHER

Vacation Bible School

Over 200 children, in the age group of 6 to 18 years old, were blessed through Vacation Bible Schools (VBS) held at three of the YMCA branches during their Diwali vacations. The theme was "Serve one another" (Galatians 5.13).

The VBS at the Navi Mumbai branch was held from 14th to 19th November 2023, where an average of 94 children gathered. Children benefited from the valuable life lessons through creative activities and sessions from the Bible. The theme successfully emerged through the VBS, as the Teachers and Volunteers played a crucial role in reaching out to the children and sowing the seeds of faith. The students too sincerely engaged themselves in all the activities and participated in Sing Songs, Creative Arts, Memory Verses and Quiz Competition.



At the Borivali Centre, the VBS was held from 8th to 10th November 2023. For the first time it was held at the ground under the shed. Young volunteers and teachers, led by Pastor Isaac A., from Kandivli helped in the programme. 65 children benefited from the VBS.



At YMCA Andheri, VBS was organised for the Boys Home Children from 8th to 10th November 2023. The VBS featured devotional songs, games, and stories. Pas. Santosh Humbre and Sis. Sharon Solomon, and Pas. Baiju Salve and his wife taught the children from God's Word, based on the theme. On the 3rd day, a thanksgiving programme with Bible recitations, new songs, and a skit was presented. Certificates were distributed by Ms. Olive, acknowledging donations from Pas. Rani and a prayer group donor.

PRE-MARITAL WORKSHOP FOR COUPLES & PREPARATIONS OF MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

A pre-marital workshop for couples and preparation of marriage for parents was held on 21st October 2023, with 30 participants attending at UBM (United Basel Mission) Church, Cheddanagar, Chembur.

The workshop provided valuable insight and advice on building a strong foundation for a successful marriage, addressing various topics such as communication, conflict resolution, and financial planning. Both couples and parents were actively engaged in the sessions, making it a productive and helpful event. The training was well facilitated by Pastor Caleb, Captain Biju Joseph and Dr. Elizabeth Joseph.



FAMILY SEMINAR FOR COUPLES

Catering to a very required area of our lives, a Family Seminar for Couples was held on 11th November 2023, at YMCA International House. The seminar was attended by 25 participants and covered topics such as effective communication, managing conflict, and strengthening family bonds. The event was well-received by the attendees, and there was lively participation and engaging discussions throughout the seminar. The couples found the seminar to be valuable and left with practical tools and insights to enrich their relationships. The training was well facilitated by Pastor Stanley Mehta and Esme Mehta.





INTRODUCTION TO BIBLICAL COUNSELLING AT NASHIK

For the first time, an Introduction to Biblical Counselling seminar was conducted in Nashik, introducing participants to the principles of counselling rooted in the Bible. The seminar aimed to provide a holistic approach to addressing the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of individuals, with the overarching goal of facilitating healing, restoration, and transformation through the application of Scriptural principles.



The seminar took place in Nashik, marking a significant expansion beyond its traditional location in Mumbai. The choice of Nashik allowed a broader audience to access this unique form of counselling, reaching individuals who may not have had the opportunity to attend similar events in the past.

DEEPENING THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

A regular Bible study is conducted every Saturday at 7:30 am at the Navi Mumbai branch, providing a dedicated time for spiritual growth and exploration of biblical teachings. It has been consistently well-attended, to delve into the Word of God. The commitment of attendees to prioritize this time for spiritual reflection and learning speaks to the importance placed on deepening their understanding of biblical principles.

Rosh Zacheria, who serves as the facilitator, plays a pivotal role in the success of the Bible study sessions, guiding participants through the Scriptures and fostering a community of faith. He brings a wealth of knowledge and a passion for sharing the teachings of the Bible. His leadership style encourages active participation, open discussion, and a collaborative exploration of the Scriptures.

The Bible study sessions are designed to cover a range of topics and passages, providing a comprehensive understanding of the Bible. The format typically involves a mix of reading specific passages, group discussions, and reflections on the practical application of biblical teachings in everyday life.



NEWS BRIEFS

HCM Graduation

The graduation of the Hotel & Catering Management Course was held on 23rd November 2023 at the International House. Bombay YMCA President, Branch Chairman and General Secretary, Bombay YMCA, gave away the Certificates and cash Awards to the students who successfully completed the course.



Nursing Aide Course at Kahne

Vocational Training Institute

Students from our Nursing Aide Course at Kanhe Vocational Training Institute have been sent for Clinical experience at the Mauli Hospital, Talegaon, and Primary Health Care Centre, Kamshet. This training began on 18th October 2023 and will conclude on 14th January 2024.

This training will help students in getting first hand understanding for pre-natal care, post-natal care, Child birth at the Mauli Hospital.



Dr. Shripad Tile will be personally helping our students during procedures. At Kamshet, the students will get to know Community health aspect, Immunization, Medicines and record keeping.

Children's Day Celebrations

On November 7, 2023, our school joyfully celebrated Children's Day with an array of engaging activities designed to bring the children joy and laughter. The event was organised by the dedicated teachers of our school who put in a tremendous effort to create a memorable day for the children.



Various fun games were organized to encourage teamwork, physical activity, and, most importantly, fun. Students enthusiastically participated in activities like sack race, three-legged race, and tug-of-war. A drawing competition was held to nurture the artistic talents of our students. The theme was chosen to be both stimulating and inclusive, allowing children to express their creativity. The drawing competition not only showcased the artistic flair of the students, but also fostered a sense of healthy competition.





WINTER CAMP 2023

A Memorable Adventurous Experience

The winter camp at Camp Lakeside, Nilshi, was held from 15th to 18th November 2023, where 84 campers participated. Our Volunteers and eight Exchange Programme Volunteers from Stuttgart YMCA led in the programme included kayaking, swimming, rappelling, rope courses, archery, team-building exercises, accompanied by lively camp songs. They also got the experience of trekking cum night out under the open sky, providing a mesmerizing experience of star gazing. Special appreciation goes to our dedicated staff and volunteers.



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Bombay YMCA and Rotary Club of Bombay Scholarship Distribution Programme

The Bombay YMCA and Rotary Club Scholarship Distribution Programme was organised on 30th December 2023. Scholarships were given to 27 students from different Night Study Centres. Dignitaries present at the programme were Mr. Manoj Patodia, President, Rotary Club of Bombay, Mr. Sunil Lobo, President, Bombay YMCA, and Mr. Leonard Salins, General Secretary, Bombay YMCA.



The dignitaries addressed the students and parents with encouragement by sharing their personal experience of how family and friends play an important role in achieving a target or success in life. They also encouraged the girls not to limit themselves to the graduation degree, but to reach the heights of their dreams. We are grateful to the Rotary Club of Bombay for their continued partnership in this project.



Awareness Session on POCSO and Child Abuse

A session on physical violence against children in the society was held at the Navi Mumbai branch on 9th December 2023. Advocate Rutuja Palaspagar, the resource person, shared how children can be taken care of in their daily life through drama and what should be done.

Using drama, she explained what good touch is and what bad touch is, what care can be taken when something like this happens to us. She also shared of the precautions that should be taken. Totally 50 students, in two age groups, benefited from this training.

Bombay YMCA & Reliance Foundation Medical Camp

On 27th December 2023, H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital organised a medical camp for the community, celebrating their Founder Day. Pamphlets were distributed and banners put up in Agripada, Madanpura, and Sath Rasta areas, creating awareness about the Medical camp. 350 beneficiaries attended the medical camp, which had primary check-ups that included a Haemoglobin test, Diabetes test, Eye check-up, Dental check-up, and Orthopedic check-up. After the check-up, medicines were provided to all those beneficiaries who were advised by the doctors.



WORLD BASKETBALL DAY 2023

Basketball, the game which the YMCA invented, continues to be a favourite at YMCAs all over the world. In order to promote the true spirit of basketball more widely and bringing basketball enthusiasts together, World Basketball day was celebrated at several Bombay YMCA Branches, including Andheri, Bandra, Ghatkopar, International House, and Student branch. on 21st Dec 2023.

Members and Students actively participated in the celebrations and the Branch Secretaries organised a short Get-together. At the Wellington and Mastan YMCA courts, exhibition matches were organised. Several international players who were invited, spoke to the players and inspired them.



Andheri Branch



Ghatkopar Branch



Student Branch



Navi Mumbai

BRINGING SMILES TO CHILDREN

Delighted with Joy by the Bag Full of Joy

Bag Full of Joy, a project conceptualized by Bombay YMCA, brought a lot of joy and smiles to the 3500 children who received them. The bags contained goodies such as snacks, a slate, toys, a Rubik's Cube, a water bottle, and a lunchbox.

At programmes which were held at different Bombay YMCA Balwadis and Centres, the Bag Full of Joy was distributed to children from Balwadis, Night Study Centres, and Non-Formal Classes. The children were delighted with joy to receive the JOY Bags containing such useful gifts. We extend our gratitude to all our donors who gave wholeheartedly.





BOMBAY YMCA HEAD OFFICE
YMCA International House & Programme Centre
18, YMCA Road, Mumbai 400 008
Phone: +91 72089 28852 / 022 61540100
Email: ymcaih@ymcabombay.com

Central Branch

12, Nathalal Parekh Marg, Colaba, Mumbai 400 001
Phone: +91 70455 53059 / 22 22020079
Email: central@ymcabombay.com

Procter Branch & Swimming Pool

19, F.S. Umerbhai Path, Agripada, Mumbai 400 011
Phone: +91 72089 28854 / 23091140
Email: procter@ymcabombay.com /
poolagripada@ymcabombay.com

Student Branch

412, D, Bhadkamkar Marg, Mumbai 400 004
Phone: +91 23824534 / 23855468
Email: student@ymcabombay.com

**Andheri Branch & Vocational Training Centre
& Boys Home**

D.N. Nagar, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400 053
Phone: +91 72089 28856 / 26303076 / 26303065
Email: andheri@ymcabombay.com

**Navi Mumbai Branch & Counselling Training Institute
& Swimming Pool**

YMCA Road, Sector 8,
CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai 400 614
Phone: +91 22 2757-2930 / 2757-2241
Email: navimumbai@ymcabombay.com

NSCCI - YMCA Ghatkopar Branch

Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai 400 075
Phone: +91 89768 93595
Email: ghatkopar@ymcabombay.com

Chembur Centre

Gandhi Maidan, Chembur, Mumbai 400 071
Phone: +91 25283545
Email: chembur@ymcabombay.com

Physical Education Department

Jhoola Maidan, Agripada, Mumbai 400 008
Phone: +91 22 2309-8274
Email: ped@ymcabombay.com

Outreach & Development Department

Methodist Centre, 21, YMCA Road, Mumbai Central,
Mumbai 400 008
Phone: +91 89768 93593
Email: ord@ymcabombay.com

Lions - YMCA Night Shelter for Youth

Juhu Beach, Mumbai 400 049
Phone: +91 26177995
Email: streetchildren@ymcabombay.com

Borivali Center & Metropolitan Programme Committee

Plot No. 551 A & 648, Off Holy Cross Road,
Near Banjara Dhaba, IC Colony, Borivali (W) Mumbai 400 103.
Phone: +91 28919192
Email: borivali@ymcabombay.com

"SHARAN" - A Shelter for Homeless Women & Children

Behind Holiday Inn, Near Sakinaka Metro Station, Mumbai 400 027
Phone: +91 89768 93597 / 28500277
Email: sharan@ymcabombay.com

Vocational Training Institute

S.No. 376, Plot No. 169-172, Ambawadi, Kanhe, Tq. Maval, Dist.
Pune 412 106
Phone: +91 8692999239
Email: vti@ymcabombay.com

Camping Department

c/o Andheri Branch
D.N. Nagar, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400 053
Phone: +91 9920045661
Email: camp@ymcabombay.com

Bandra Branch & NSCCI Khar Danda Centre

Plot No. 308 & 422, YMCA Road, Khar (W), Mumbai 400 052
Phone: +91 89768 93591 / 26007060
Email: bandra@ymcabombay.com

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FOR ANY QUERIES CONTACT:
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Venue: Andheri YMCA, Boys Home, New Link Rd, Near Post Office, D.N. Nagar, Andheri West, Mumbai, 400053

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