She conducts medical campaigns, she is an Ayurvedic medico. She also travels in the local trains to listen to grievances of women commuters. She is Shubha Raul for you...

Sworn in as the third woman Mayor of the Mumbai civic body on 10th March, 2007, Raul is also a Borivali – based Ayurvedic doctor. Since the time she has donned the Mayor's role, she has always been in news for taking up different causes. Lately, her demand for a ban on Hookah Parlours has caught everyone's attention. She is very apprehensive as well as concerned about the growth of the hookah bars in Mumbai. “I believe the same rules should be imposed on hookah as that which is imposed on cigarette smoking. I must remind you that hookah smoking is harmful and very addictive. Students bunk their lectures and go to these expensive hookah parlours,” says concerned medico Shubha Raul.

She continues to practice medicine, as she believes that enables her to reach out to people and keeps her updated about the people’s expectations of the civic amenities or other miscellaneous problems. Her medical background sneaks into her work. She has been organizing medical campaigns for people’s awareness. Lately she campaigned for the Hepatitis B vaccine in her own clinic as well as in many slum areas.

Her non-superficial working style stands out to be different from others. She attempts to visit the places, gets acquainted with the root of the problems and then only takes a suitable measure to solve them from the grass root level. Her journey in the local trains is one of the incidents that precisely describe her working style. She chooses to travel by train to reach her destination on time. Owing to traffic jams on Mumbai road, she prefers to travel by the local trains rather than in her official vehicle Honda city. She travelled in the II class compartment of the local train and made best of this journey by interacting with the ladies in the compartment. All the grievances made by the women commuters were heard and were forwarded to the railway authority to take appropriate actions.

“There should be more share auto and taxi stands that will help to control the traffic problem to a great extent,” suggests Raul. Her decision to commute by the local train in the suburbs than in her official vehicle was disapproved by a few commuters as a VIP traveling by a public mode of transport leads to inconvenience. But she purposely took it forward to listen to the commuter’s grievances in the compartment. “If the purpose of solving the commuter’s problem is accomplished then such criticism does not affect me,” said Raul boldly.

She took up mayor ship with a firm objective to give Mumbai a face-lift. Her basic programs are improvement of city roads, resolve the problem of water and electricity supply shortage, transport facilities and beautification of Mumbai and now the agenda also includes eco-friendly environment. She has appealed to Mumbaikars to install eco-friendly Ganesha idols for this Ganesh Utsav. Not only the idols but the immersion should also be done in an eco-friendly way, explained the Mayor. For that matter, immersion of the idols should be done in artificial pools rather than polluting the natural water body. “I appreciate the spirit of Mumbaikars who actively participate in every cause but it is disappointing that this group of environmentally aware people is very small,” says Raul. “I also appeal to people to abide by the rules, which barely 20 per cent of us do,” she added further.

In all the roles that she dons through the day, Raul has ensured that her goal of giving a face-lift to Mumbai is of top priority. So as she works day in and out on her agenda, it will not be long before Raul’s dream of a ‘beautiful’ Mumbai is truly realized!

ABOUT HER

* Gold medalist in BAMS (Ayurveda).
* The third woman mayor of the 124-year-old civic body.
* Appealed for a No-Car free day in Mumbai

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