ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL

CENTRAL TURF

PRESIDENT: RTN. BRIG. PK MURALIDHARAN RAJA | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. SAGAR KHANDELWAL

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From The President's Desk

Dear Rotarians and R'Anns,

This is the Rotary Foundation Month, a time to reflect on the incredible impact that our Foundation has on communities worldwide. As you are aware, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) continues to empower us to do good in the world, whether it is in the fight to end polio, supporting education, or providing clean water. It is through our collective generosity and commitment that we make these efforts possible. I encourage each of you to consider how we can contribute to the Foundation's ongoing work and help us reach even more people in need.

Our projects are also making great strides. From our outreach programs to our initiatives, I am proud to see the dedication and enthusiasm with which our members are working to make a tangible difference. Whether you are directly involved in a project or supporting from behind the scenes, your efforts are what make us a strong and effective club. I look forward to updating you on the progress of these initiatives in the coming weeks.

As always, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your unwavering commitment to Rotary's ideals and the pride with which we call ourselves Rotarians belonging to the Rotary Club of Pune Central. The challenges we face are many, but our strength lies in our unity and the passion we bring to our mission of service above self. As you are aware we are launching 'Operation Dynamo' today evening at our weekly meeting at Poona Club. Please do join in and understand as to how we can continue to work together, inspire one another, and push forward with the spirit of Rotary in all we do.

Thank you for your dedication and hard work. Together, we are making a difference!

Warm regards,

Rtn Brigadier PK Muralidharan Raja
President RY 2024-25

Today

This **Saturday, November 9, 2024**, the Rotary Club of Pune Central is **excited to launch 'Operation Dynamo.'** Are you curious to learn more about this initiative? President Brigadier Raja and the Board of Directors for RY 2024-25 will present the methodology used by Rotary District 3131 to evaluate various clubs within the district.

While we often pride ourselves on being one of the best clubs, do we truly rank among the top ten Rotary Clubs in RID 3131, as published monthly? Join us to discover where we stand and what we can do to improve our ranking.
Please mark your calendars for 6:30 PM at Poona Club Conference Hall 1 on November 9, 2024.

The Bulletin contains news and views from the RCPC and Rotary community and may not reflect the view of RCPC's Board of Directors

Additionally, we will consider and vote on a resolution to restructure the Board of Directors and amend our by-laws, as detailed in the official notification sent to all members on October 22, 2024.

We will also host an open discussion to gather suggestions and opinions on administrative and logistical changes that can make our club more vibrant and member-friendly, helping us attract like-minded individuals in the future.

Additionally, there will be a half-hour Pre-Meeting Fellowship starting at 6:30 PM, with the meeting officially commencing at 7:00 PM.

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Week That Was Before

(From Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal)

Diwali Celebration on 26th October at Hotel Shantai

This week's gathering was a festive mix of fun, music, and club announcements as we came together to celebrate Diwali. President Brig. PKM Raja called the meeting to order, and we stood together for the National Anthem. President Raja then welcomed everyone warmly, sharing recent club updates and reflecting on our club's activities with a sense of pride and purpose.

In an important announcement, President Raja introduced Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala as our new Director of Medical, highlighting our commitment to expanding health initiatives. He also shared the upcoming timeline for the Nomination Committee elections, marking an essential step as we prepare for the next year of RCPC's leadership.

The evening soon transitioned into celebration mode with a unique musical tambola. Members had to guess popular songs based solely on instrumental snippets—a twist that brought a wave of excitement to the game. Other lively games followed, and the Diwali spirit was palpable as laughter filled the room and everyone enjoyed a delightful time together.

The Diwali festivities were a warm reminder of the fellowship that defines RCPC, as members shared moments with friends and family in a festive setting. We ended the evening with a vote of thanks from President Raja, who expressed gratitude for our shared Rotary journey and the strong bonds within our club.

We celebrated the birthdays of our members R'Ann Dipti Chitnis, Rtn. PP Dr. Anand Bhatia, R'Ann Shubh Sachdeva, R'Ann Kamini Sanghvi, R'Ann Nargis Chaney, R'Ann Kalpana Merchant, Rtn. Nitin Desai, Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal, R'Ann Dhanshree Sandu and R'Ann Manjiri Supnekar.

Looking ahead, please note that the next weekly meeting will be on Saturday, November 9, 2024, as we'll be taking a break for Diwali celebrations on November 4. Wishing everyone a joyful and sparkling Diwali!

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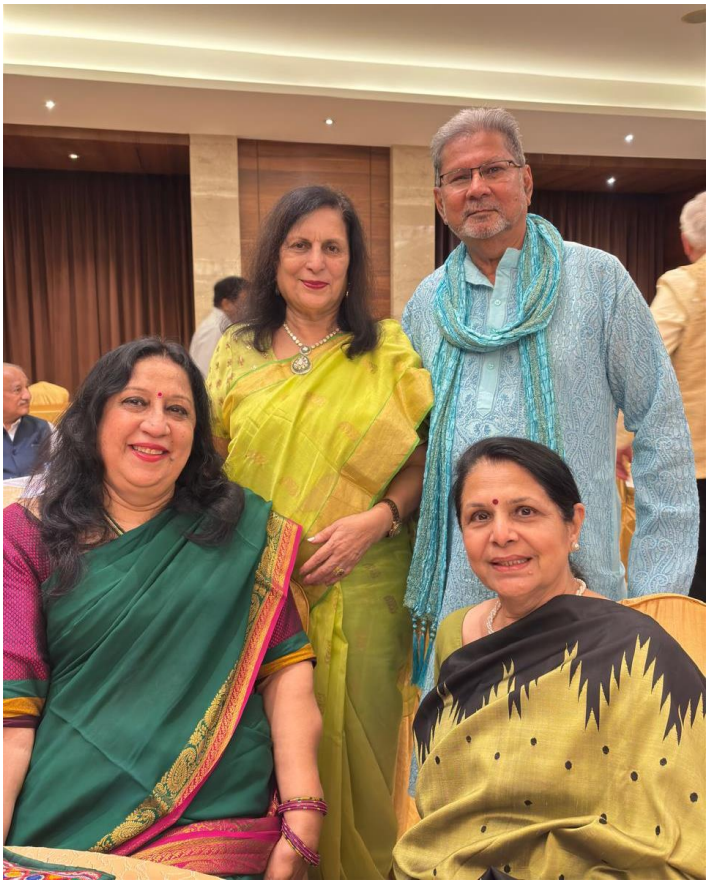

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Some Interesting Happenings to Take Note Of

Bhumi Pujan on a new school campus by Rtn. PP Madhu Rathi

Visit To Spinal Cord Injury Centre Of Military Hospital Kirkee By The RCPC Team

(From Rtn. Pres. Brig. PKM Raja)

On 30th October, the RCPC team comprising Pres Brig PKM Raja, PE Lekha Nair, PP Arvind Saraf, Dir Shireesh Nadkar, Dr Sarang Rote, Hon.Secretary Sagar Khandelwal and R'Ann Shilpa Khandelwal visited the Spinal Cord Injury Centre of Military Kirkee. The team were briefed about the treatment and care being provided to the Tetraplegic / Quadriplegic and Paraplegic patients who are former soldiers/ officers of the Indian Armed Forces and were injured in the line of duty or operations or training were explained by the Commandant Brigadier Jyoti Joshi. The Commandant also brought out the acute necessity of CSR support for critical medical equipment and accessories and was extremely

thankful that Rotary Club of Pune Central is in the forefront of providing substantive support in terms of donating extremely costly and necessary requirements to this one of its kind hospital of the Indian Army.

It was indeed very sad and heartrending to see so many young injured soldiers who were barely in their twenties and who have become tetraplegic / paraplegic and will remain so for the rest of their lives. RCPC is doing yeoman service in providing suitable support to this institution in the best possible manner.

Satara Dam Repair Project : Repair Of Rajapur Dam

(From Rtn. IPP Ajay Chitnis)

Repair of Earthen Dams in Satara District is a Flagship project of RCPC and was initiated in 2022-23, with the repair of a small dam. During the year 2023-24, a large Earthen Dam near Rajapur Village was taken up for repairs. This Dam, built in the 1940s was meant to provide storage for the villages around the area. Due to almost no monsoon rains in 2023 and a very lean monsoon in 2022, the storage area of this dam had dried up completely.

The work on the dam be gan on 28th February 2024, with a traditional Pooja performed by R'Ann Dipti Chitnis and Rtn. Giri Sakhrani, and was attended by almost the entire population of Rajapur Villsage. The photos show what the terrain looked like on that day.

To understand the mode of repairs carried out, a brief background is necessary. Satara District can be divided vertically into two parts – the Western half, which comprises of the Western Ghats, and is home to the famous hill stations of Mahabaleshwar and Panchgini, which receive copious amounts of rainfall during the SW Monsoons, to the extent that many of the establishments are closed during the monsoons, The Eastern half is comprised of plains and low undulating hills, which are in a 'Rain-Shadow' area, and only receive rainfall during the withdrawal of the SW monsoons. To cater for the water requirements of this region around 180 earthen dams were built in the first half of the 20th Century. Over the years these dams have developed severe leaks and thus the water stored therein lasts only till about Nov-Dec, and makes life extremely difficult for the inhabitants of the area. The Government attempted repairs of these dams, but as is typical of all Govt. projects spent a lot of money in achieving very little. That is when some private citizens got involved and started working the locals. One of the leading persons involved with this was an engineer-turned-businessman-turned philanthropist named Padmakar Bhide, affectionately called Bandu Bhide. Our very own Rtn. Giri Sakhrani came in contact with Bandu, and thus began our relationship with this project.

We raised funds in 2023-23, and 2023-24 for this project, as they are quite high budget activities; but more than that, we started involving ourselves with the projects by regular ste visits and interaction with the villagers and local activists.

The repairs involve digging a 10-feet wide trench at the base of the dam wall. The trench is dug till hard rock is hit. The Dam face, which as can be seen in the photograph is covered with wild bushes and some trees, which is also cleaned up. The source of the leakage is identified, and cemented. Thereafter, thick plastic sheets are laid in the trench and the on the dam-face, and the trench is refilled with the excavated mud and silt. Once this is completed we wait for the rains!

This year we were blessed with early rains in the region, during the upward movement of the SW Monsoon. As soon as the rains started, the desilting work was stopped, and the water started filling up. By September, the reservoir had filled up and water started overflowing from the waste weir, located at the western edge of the Dam.

Rtn. Giri Sakhrani arranged a visit to the site on the 6th of November, and a group of seven Rotarians led by Pres Brig PKM Raja took the opportunity of seeing for ourselves the result of the combined efforts put in by the locals, Bandu Bhide and his team and our club. RCPC was represented by Rtn. Pres. Brig PKM Raja, Rtn. PP Ajay Dubey, Rtn. IPP Cmde Ajay Chitnis, Rtns Giri Sakhrani, Rakesh Makhija, Nitin Rajore and Shireesh Nadkar.

We were met by the Sarpanch of the Village, the Head Master of the local school, and a bucnch of Villagers at the Dam and walked together over the length of the Dam chatting with them. The Sarpanch, Mr. Hanumant Dhandke was beaming when he said that the drinking water problems of the village are finally over. He explained that earlier, they were getting water by tankers to fill the community well, and the supplying water to the village. Now, with the filling up of the lake, the community well was full of water, and clean drinking water is available at all houses in the village. Also, some houses which had wells, that were completely dry for many years, had got filled up, and some were even overflowing. The joy in his voice was echoed by all the villagers present. Even more surpring is that even though it has not rained for over a month, water is still flowing in the waste weir. This, as explained by Bandu Bhide was due to the fact that the water table in the entire are had gone up, and the water was percolating into the lake. Villages and wells within a 5km radius have benefitted from this project, and this means that around 5000 people are living a better life, thanks to the initiative taken by Rtn Giri, and generous contributions from members of RCPC.

This success story will inspire greater contributions in the forthcoming years, and more dams will get repaired.

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

(Inputs from Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant

15 - SHARING ROTARY WITH NEW MEMBERS

Are you aware of the responsibility or obligation most Rotarians fail to perform? Paying their dues? Attending meetings? Contributing to the club service fund? Participating in club events and projects? No-none of these!

Of all the obligations a person accepts when joining a Rotary club the one in which most Rotarians fail is "sharing Rotary." The policies of Rotary International clearly affirm that every individual Rotarian has an "obligation to share Rotary with others and to help extend Rotary through proposing qualified persons for Rotary club membership." It is estimated that less than 30 percent of the members of most Rotary clubs have ever made the effort to propose a new member. Thus, in every club, there are many Rotarians who readily accept the pleasures of being a Rotarian without ever sharing that privilege with another qualified individual.

The Rotary policy on club membership states: "In order for a Rotary club to be fully relevant to its community and responsive to the needs of those in the community, it is important and necessary that the club include in its membership all fully qualified prospective members located within its territory" One merely has to glance through the yellow pages of the local telephone directory to realize that most clubs have not invited qualified members of all businesses and professions into Rotary.

Only a Rotarian may propose a customer, neighbor, client, supplier, executive, relative, business associate, professional or other qualified person to join a Rotary club. Have you accepted your obligation to share Rotary? The procedures are very simple, and everyone must know at least one person who should belong to Rotary.

A Bond of Love

A family's love, a precious tie,
Binding hearts, a lifelong tie.
Through laughter and tears, thick and thin,
Together forever, kin.
With every smile, a memory made,
Shared moments, hearts not frayed.
Support and care, a guiding light,
Through life's journey, darkest night.
Parents' guidance, gentle hand,
Shaping dreams, nurturing stand.
Siblings' laughter, friendly strife,
Childhood memories, lifelong rife.
Love's unconditional, pure and true,
A family's bond, forever new.
Through joys, sorrows and every test,
Family love forever finds its best.

Reflection
"Family" means love, support and unity,
A treasure cherished, forever in sight.
May your family bring joy, comfort and peace,
A blessing, your heart's release.
- Anonymous

A Diwali Miracle

Amidst Mumbai's 2011 devastating floods, 65-year-old Leela Tai's world crumbled. Waters engulfed her Santacruz slum home, sweeping away possessions and separating her from her family. Defying torrential rains and darkness, Leela Tai clung to faith, seeking shelter in a nearby temple. As floodwaters rose, her fervent prayers to Goddess Lakshmi seemed futile. Yet, in a miraculous turn, temple doors swung open, and the goddess's idol radiated a protective glow. Guided by divine light, Leela Tai braved chest-deep waters, overcoming fear and uncertainty to reunite with her stranded family. This testament to unwavering faith, resilience and gratitude embodies Diwali's triumphant spirit, illuminating hope's transformative power amidst life's darkest struggles.

What has been the greatest miracle of your life?

Miracles: Transformative Moments of Wonder
Miracles are awe-inspiring events transcending natural laws, reaffirming faith, hope and the mysteries of life. These extraordinary occurrences revive spirits, foster resilience and illuminate life's purpose.

Characteristics of Miracles
1. Unpredictable: Unexpected, surprising and unforeseen.
2. Transcendent: Beyond human comprehension or natural laws.
3. Life-changing: Profound impact, transforming lives.
4. Divine intervention: Attributed to higher power or spiritual force.

Types of Miracles

1. Spiritual awakenings: Life-altering epiphanies.
2. Physical healings: Unexplained medical recoveries.
3. Protection and rescue: Divine intervention in crisis.
4. Synchronistic events: Meaningful coincidences.

Miracles in Everyday Life

1. Second chances and new beginnings.
2. Unforeseen opportunities and blessings.
3. Personal triumphs over adversity.
4. Heartfelt connections and reunions.

Reflection

Miracles remind us of life's magic, encouraging faith, gratitude and optimism. Embracing wonder, we open ourselves to transformative experience

Let's Have Some Fun With PUNS

Introduction to Puns

Puns are witty, word-based humor using double meanings, homophony or clever turns of phrase. They delight, entertain and add creativity to language.

Key Elements

1. **Double Meaning**: Words or phrases with multiple interpretations.
2. **Homophony:** Words sounding alike but having different meanings.
3. **Wordplay:** Manipulating language for humorous effect.
4. **Clever Twist:** Unexpected connection between words or ideas.

1. Why did the cookie go to the doctor? It felt crummy.
2. Why did the scarecrow win an award? Because he was outstanding in his field.
3. What do you call a fake noodle? An impasta.
4. Why did the coffee file a police report? It got mugged.
5. Why did the bicycle fall over? It was two-tired.
6. What do you call a group of cows playing instruments? A moo-sical band.
7. Why did the banana go to the doctor? He wasn't peeling well.
8. Why did the astronaut break up with his girlfriend? He needed space.
9. Why did the computer go to the doctor? It had a virus.
10. Why did the baker go to the bank? He needed dough.

Life's Puzzle Pieces Perfectly Align" Is A Beautiful Metaphor Inspiring Reflection

Meaning

This phrase symbolizes harmony, balance and synchronicity in life. Imagine a puzzle with intricate pieces fitting seamlessly, representing:

1. Clarity: Purpose and direction become clear.
2. Alignment: Values, passions and actions synchronize.
3. Balance: Life's aspects (work, relationships, personal growth) stabilize.
4. Completion: Feeling whole, fulfilled.

On the topic of Self Alignment, let's work on a simple assessment.

Comprehensive Life Alignment Assessment

Evaluate your life's harmony across four dimensions using this 20-point scale (1-5, 5=Strongly Agree).

Personal Alignment (PA) - 5 points

1. My passions, skills and values integrate seamlessly (PA1).
2. Life's purpose resonates deeply (PA2).
3. Daily actions align with long-term vision (PA3).
4. Self-reflection guides growth (PA4).
5. Authenticity defines my relationships (PA5).

Skill Utilization (SU) - 5 points

1. Expertise benefits others and myself (SU1).
2. Skills transfer effectively across contexts (SU2).
3. Continuous learning enhances expertise (SU3).
4. Feedback fosters skill refinement (SU4).
5. Innovation drives personal growth (SU5).

Emotional Fulfillment (EF) - 5 points

1. Contentment and satisfaction characterize life (EF1).
2. Nurturing relationships fuel growth (EF2).
3. Resilience navigates life's challenges (EF3).
4. Mindfulness cultivates inner peace (EF4).
5. Joy emanates from within (EF5).

Purpose-Driven Action (PDA) - 5 points

1. Clear objectives guide daily choices (PDA1).
2. Actions mirror core values (PDA2).
3. Progress toward goals remains consistent (PDA3).
4. Adaptability ensures purpose alignment (PDA4).
5. Purpose inspires meaningful contributions (PDA5).

Interpretation

- 16-20: **Exceptional Alignment.** Your life's puzzle pieces harmonize beautifully.
- 11-15: **Strong Alignment**. Refine select areas.
- 6-10: **Moderate Alignment**. Focus on personal growth.
- 0-5: **Significant Misalignment.** Seek guidance.

Action Plan

1. Identify misaligned areas.
2. Set SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) goals.
3. Prioritize self-care, reflection and skill development.
4. Cultivate meaningful relationships.
5. Celebrate small victories.

Food For The Soul

Here's a recipe for an ever-loved Chana Masala

Ingredients

1. 1 cup chickpeas (canned or cooked)
2. 2 medium onions, chopped
3. 2 cloves garlic, minced
4. 1 medium tomato, diced
5. 1 teaspoon ground cumin
6. 1 teaspoon ground coriander
7. 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
8. 1/2 teaspoon red chili powder
9. 1/2 teaspoon garam masala
10. 1/2 teaspoon salt
11. 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
12. 2 tablespoons tomato puree
13. 1 cup water or vegetable broth
14. Fresh cilantro, for garnish

Instructions

1. Heat oil in a large pan over medium heat.
2. Add cumin, coriander, turmeric, chili powder and garam masala. Cook for 1 minute, stirring.
3. Add onions and cook until translucent (5-6 minutes).
4. Add garlic, cook for 1 minute.
5. Add tomatoes, cook until softened (4-5 minutes).
6. Stir in chickpeas, tomato puree, water or broth and salt.
7. Simmer for 15-20 minutes or until the sauce thickens.
8. Garnish with cilantro.

Tips

1. Use canned chickpeas for convenience.
2. Adjust spice levels to taste.
3. Serve with basmati rice, naan or roti.

Nutritional Information (per serving)

1. Calories: 250
2. Protein: 10g
3. Fat: 10g
4. Carbohydrates: 30g
5. Fiber: 5g

Enjoy your delicious and nutritious Chana Masala!

Note : Do please contribute your recipes to Behzad.randeria@gmail.com

From the Editor

My Dear Rtns and R'Anns

Through simple yet profound acts of kindness, compassion and service, we transform lives and communities. This bulletin proudly showcases remarkable projects, courageous endeavors and selfless deeds that beautifully reflect Rotary's enduring core values.

Within these pages, you'll discover inspiring stories of:

- Service Above Self, where members put others' needs first
- Meaningful Fellowship, fostering lifelong connections
- Inclusive Diversity, celebrating unique perspectives
- Unwavering Integrity, guiding ethical decision-making
- Empowering Leadership, driving positive impact

Let's persist in inspiring meaningful change, fueling hope and creating lasting differences. Together, our collective efforts will continue shaping brighter futures.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication.

Warm regards,
Behzad Randeria

What to Expect in the Next Four Weeks

- **November 16** – Nominating Committee Election
- **November 23** – Rotary Foundation Day
- **November 30** – Internal Program
- **December 7** – Internal Program

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Rtn / R'Ann	Birthday
Rtn. Pres. Brig. PK Muralidharan Raja	November 9
R'Ann Sweety Kalra	November 10
Rtn. Dr. Ashok Bhave	November 11
Rtn. PP Dr. Ramesh Dumbre	November 11
Rtn. Arun Jindal	November 11
R'Ann Beena Shroff	November 11