

PRESIDENT: RTN. BRIG. PK MURALIDHARAN RAJA | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. SAGAR KHANDELWAL
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From The President's Desk



Dear Rotarians & R'Anns,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits.

We are relieved and grateful to learn that hostilities with our neighbouring country have come to an end and peace has once again prevailed. Stability and harmony in the region are always welcome, and we pray that this positive turn continues to grow stronger with time.

On a more heartwarming note, I am delighted to share a wonderful achievement by the NFBM Jagruti School for Blind Girls, a cause close to our hearts. All nineteen girls from the school have successfully cleared their SSC examinations this year, achieving a remarkable 100% pass rate. This is not only a testament to their hard work and determination but also to the dedication of the teachers and staff who have supported them tirelessly. Let us all take a moment to applaud and celebrate this inspiring milestone.

As we approach the close of the Rotary year 2024-25, our Club is buzzing with activity. Many of the projects we began earlier in the year are now reaching completion, and it is heartening to see the smiles and gratitude of the beneficiaries we have been privileged to serve. At the same time, let us maintain our momentum by continuing to identify and invite like-minded individuals to join our Club. New members bring fresh energy and perspectives, helping us remain dynamic and vibrant in our service.

Looking ahead to this week's meeting, we have the privilege of welcoming a very **special guest speaker—Dr. Ashish Pardeshi, a renowned urologist** with a wealth of experience in his field. His talk promises to be both informative and relevant, addressing health topics that concern many of us. I strongly encourage all members to attend and benefit from his insights.

Please **join us this evening at 6:30 PM at the Royal Connaught Boat Club – Pool View Hall** for what promises to be an engaging and enriching session. Your presence will add warmth and camaraderie to our fellowship.

Let us continue to grow together in service and friendship.

Warm regards,

Rtn Brigadier PKM Raja (Retd)
President RY 2024-25
Rotary Club of Pune Central



Today



I am pleased to inform you that **Dr. Ashish Pardeshi**, a distinguished Urologist from Pune with extensive experience, has graciously agreed to deliver a talk on **"Prostate Health"** during our upcoming Club Weekly Meeting.

We believe this session will help dispel common myths and provide valuable insights into prostate health—straight from an expert in the field.

IceBreaker Fellowship: Don't miss out on the camaraderie and conversations that follow!

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

Looking forward to seeing you all at **Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM at Pool View Hall - Royal Connaught Boat Club**. Please note the change in venue, as Poona Club Hall 1 is unavailable that day)

We look forward to your presence and participation.

Induction of New Member

Thanks to our members' support, more of which is required, we are in celebration mode on Saturday February 8, 2025. This is because we are welcoming one member into our RCPC Family. Induction of a new member will be done during Saturday May 17, 2025's regular meeting at Pool View Hall - Royal Connaught Boat Club. at 6.30 p.m.

A brief Introduction of the new member is given below:

Mr. Vinit Ketan



Vinit Ketan is the Founder and CEO based in Pune, Maharashtra, India, with over a decade of experience in market research and business consulting. His primary goal is to ensure client satisfaction by delivering high-quality, customized research solutions that meet specific business needs. Under his leadership, Market Research Future (MRFR) – a part of Wantstats Research and Media Pvt. Ltd. – and WiseGuy Research Consultants have grown into trusted names in the industry, offering a range of services from comprehensive syndicated reports to targeted, client-specific consulting.

Vinit leads teams committed to precision, responsiveness, and analytical depth, helping clients make well-informed decisions with confidence. He holds an MBA in Marketing from MIT School of Business and a BBM in International Business from Maharashtra Institute of Technology. His professional journey began with a marketing internship at Mondelēz International, where he contributed to the cold chain deployment project for the Tang brand.

Mr. Vinit Ketan is married to Indu, who serves as COO at Market Research Future (MRFR) and holds an M.E. in Biomedical Engineering. They are proud parents of a daughter, Reva, and a son, Som.

We are pleased to welcome Vinit and Indu to Rotary!



The Week That Was – May 3, 2025

(From Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal)

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Pune Central held on Saturday, May 3, 2025, was marked by inspiration, impactful updates, and literary brilliance.

The meeting commenced with the calling to order by President Rtn. Brig. PKM Raja, followed by the National Anthem.

President's Address

Rotary Ki Smart Pathshala - President Raja shared the transformative success of the Rotary Ki Smart Pathshala project, which benefitted over 300 children at the PCB Swami Vivekanand Primary School. These students received: Two sets of school uniforms, One sports uniform, A sound system for the school and Twelve Lenovo tablets

Special thanks were extended to Rtn. Jignesh Patel for his CSR contribution of ₹2.5 lakhs, and to Rtn. Nitin Rajore for his financial support that enabled the donation of a 55-inch television and three tablets to Manovikas School for Mentally Challenged Children.

Closing Ceremony – Summer Camp at NFBM Jagruti School - The successful conclusion of the summer camp (April 18–26) at the NFBM Jagruti School for Blind Girls was celebrated. The event saw participation from Rtn. Anil Bora, PE Lekha Nair, IPP Ajay Chitnis, and PP Munir Chinoy. Ms. Sakina Bedi, spokesperson of the National Federation of the Blind, Maharashtra, expressed heartfelt gratitude to RCPC and the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central for their unwavering support.

Upcoming Projects & Announcements

- Satara Dam Project Visit: Scheduled for May 7, members interested were asked to connect with Rtn. Giri Sakhrani.
- Synergy Event – “Happy Thoughts”: RCPC will be a synergy partner for an uplifting session by Sirshree, hosted by RC Poona North on Sunday, May 25 at Tej Gyan Foundation, Sinhagad Road.

Pleasantries - The club extended warm birthday and anniversary wishes to:

- Rtn. Nitin Rajore (May 9)
- Mr. Sonjoy Kshetry & R'Ann Malini Kalra (May 6)
- Rtn. Dr. Balasaheb & Rtn. Dr. Saroj Bande (May 5)
- Rtn. Rakesh & R'Ann Malini Kalra (May 9)
- Rtn. Pankaj & Rtn. Minal Dontamsetty (May 7)
- Rtn. Gautam & R'Ann Rinku Nehra (May 9)

Literary Evening – Talk on ‘VideshMukhi’

The highlight of the evening was an engaging and insightful talk by Rtn. Sunil Deshmukh, who introduced his recently published book ‘VideshMukhi’ (Foreigner). With wit, wisdom, and deep observation, he took the audience through the inspirations and themes of his book, offering a compelling look at cross-cultural experiences and the nuances of identity. The session was deeply appreciated by all present.



The vote of thanks was delivered by President Rtn. Brig. PKM Raja, and the meeting concluded on a thoughtful and cheerful note.

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Update on Restoration of Dams in Satara

(From Rtn. IPP Cmde Ajay Chitnis)

On 7th May 2025, the RCPC Team visited various sites under the Satara Dam Project to review both completed and ongoing work. The visit was led by Rtn Giri Sakhrani and included IPP Cmde Ajay Chitnis, PE Rtn Lekha Nair, Rtn Shirish Nadkar, R'Ann Mukta Nadkar, R'Ann Teena Goyal, along with young participants Arnav, Kavin, Tanvi, and Tanay, and Mr. Padmakar (Bandu) Bhide.

At a lake near Velu Village, de-silting and excavation work was actively underway to increase the lake's depth and enhance water retention. The team also visited Bhosare, where Deep Continuous Contour Trenches (CCT) were being dug. This technique involves creating trenches along natural contours of the hillside to slow down surface runoff and allow water to percolate into the ground, thereby improving groundwater levels across the region.

The group then proceeded to Rajapur Dam, which had been repaired the previous year. Although the lake's water level had decreased significantly, local villagers reported remarkable benefits. Thanks to the repairs, they were able to harvest two crops, their wells remained full, and they hadn't needed a single water tanker in the past ten months. They expressed optimism about managing with the available water supply until June. The joyful faces captured in photos vividly illustrate the positive impact of the Rotary Club of Pune Central's commendable efforts in environmental restoration and water conservation.

Rajapur Dam in November 2024



Rajapur Dam in May 2025



Desilting in Progress and A Section of Deep CCT



Welcome by Ladies of Rajapur



The RCPC Team at Rajapur Dam Site



Welcome Refreshments by the Hosts



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Hundred Percent Success for NFBM Jagruti School for Blind Girls

All 19 students at NFBM Jagruti School for Blind Girls have cleared the SSC Board Exam for the academic year 2024–25.

Purva Naik has topped with 79.4%, Gayatri Dhep as a second topper at 76.4% and Harshada Lokhande at 75.4%. Their achievements reflect not only their hard work but also the unwavering support of their teachers, staff, volunteers, and families and all the members of Rotary Club of Pune who have been generously and magnimously supporting this Institution in all its projects.

Heartiest congratulations to Mrs Sakina Bedi, the entire teaching staff and all the students for this significant milestone.



What Every Rotarian Should Know?

(Inputs from Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant)

36 – INTERACT

Interact, the Rotary youth program, was launched by the RI Board of Directors in 1962. The first Interact club was established by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida. Interact clubs provide opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. The term, Interact, is derived from "inter" for international, and "act" for action. Every Interact club must be sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and must plan annual projects of service to its school, community and in the world.

Today there are over 7,200 Interact clubs with more than 155,000 members in 88 countries. "Interactors" develop skills in leadership and attain practical experience in conducting service projects, thereby learning the satisfaction that comes from serving others. A major goal of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to create greater understanding and goodwill with youth throughout the world.

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From the Editor

Dear Rotarians and Rotary Anns,

As we embrace a new season filled with service and celebration, I find myself drawn to a timeless realization: lasting change begins from within.

In a world that often equates success with material gain, we can easily overlook the quiet power of inner virtue.

Yet, through Rotary's mission—through every initiative we support and every life we touch—we are constantly reminded that our external impact is a direct reflection of our internal values.

Goodness isn't just something we do—it's who we choose to be. It's found in the simple acts: a word of kindness offered freely, the strength to forgive, and the integrity to do what's right, even when no one sees. It reveals itself in our compassion, humility, and dedication to principled action, no matter the cost.

As Rotarians, we do more than build infrastructure or support communities—we become custodians of hope. And that hope originates within. It starts with a conscious, daily decision to align our mindset and actions with the principles that define Rotary: Service Above Self, Truth, Fairness, Goodwill, and Friendship.

This month's issue celebrates the quiet, yet powerful influence of inner goodness—from transformative community projects to small, personal acts of leadership. May these stories serve as a reminder to turn inward, tend to your inner light, and let it shine outward into everything you do.

Because when goodness starts within, it radiates far beyond.

With heartfelt service,

Behzad Randeria
Editor, Central Turf

What to Expect in the Next Four Weeks

- **May 24** – Special Program by Rtn PP Narayandas Rathi
- **May 31** – Know Your President Elect & Board of Directors for Rotary Year 2025-26.
- **June 7** – Club Assembly RY 2025-26
- **June 14** – Talk on 'Renal Transplant' by Dr Deepak Kirpekar



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rtn / R'Ann

Rtn. Dilip Karnik
Rtn. PP Narayandas Rathi
R'Ann Sujaya Raja
Rtn. PE Lekha Nair
R'Ann Neena Talwar
Rtn. PP Sukhminder Kalra

Birthday

May 10
May 18
May 18
May 22
May 22
May 23



Member and Spouse

Rtn. Nitin and R'Ann Meena Desai
Rtn. Ramesh and R'Ann Jyotsna Arora
Rtn. PP Jinendra and Rtn. Amita Munot
Rtn. Arun and R'Ann Beena Shroff
Rtn. PP Uday and R'Ann Savita Dharmadhikari
Rtn. Pres. Brig. PK Muralidharan and R'Ann Sujaya Raja
Rtn. Krishna and R'Ann Aarti Kumar

Wedding Anniversary

May 10
May 12
May 18
May 18
May 22
May 22
May 23