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From The President's Desk



Dear Rotarians & R'Anns,

At the outset let us pray and offer condolences to the departed souls and the families of those who lost their lives in the tragic crash of Air India Flight AI 171 in Ahmedabad on 12 June.

As the Rotary Year draws to a close, it is heartening to reflect on what has truly been a phenomenal year for RCPC. We have executed a remarkable number of impactful projects — a testament to our collective efforts. As the saying goes, *"Little drops make an ocean,"* and so it has been with our contributions of *Tan, Man & Dhan*. Each and every member of RCPC has played a part in our Club's growth and success, and for that, I extend my deepest gratitude.

With just two meetings left in the Rotary Year, I urge everyone to attend today's meeting, which features a very special guest: **Dr. Deepak Kirpekar**, a renowned expert in Urology and Transplant Surgery. He has graciously agreed to speak to us on the topic, "Understanding Kidney Transplantation." This is an important and often under-discussed subject — one that affects many but is not widely understood. It promises to be an enlightening session for all of us.

Last evening, we held the Joint Board Meeting between the outgoing Board for RY 2024–25 and the dynamic incoming team for RY 2025–26, led by **President-Elect Rtn. Lekha Nair**, at the RSI Officers Institute. We shared our experiences, challenges, and the year's accomplishments — all of which were made possible by the enthusiasm and dedication of our members and their families. The incoming team is well-poised to take our Club to even greater heights.

I look forward to seeing you this evening Saturday 14 June 2025 at **Poona Club Hall No. 2 for the Pre Meeting Fellowship which begins at 6:30 pm**. Post the Meeting, we will have an Ice Breaker Fellowship Dinner where we will be able to interact with the eminent speaker Dr Deepak Kirpekar. Let us make this evening memorable with full participation. This is truly a **"must-attend"** session for every RCPC member.

Warm regards

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



Today



We are privileged to host an enlightening and informative session on Kidney Transplantation by none other than **Dr. Deepak Kirpekar**, one of the most respected names in the field of Urology and Transplant Surgery.

Dr. Deepak Vinayak Kirpekar is a distinguished urologist with over four decades of experience. A graduate of Grant Medical College, Mumbai, he received advanced urology training in the UK at St. Peter's Hospital, Norwich Hospital, and the Institute of Urology, London. Since 1982, he has served as Director and Chief Urologist at Hi-Tech Urology.

He is a Fellow of the Indian Association of Surgeons and the International College of Surgeons, and a member of several prestigious bodies including the Urological Society of India, AUA, and SIU. Dr. Kirpekar has delivered over 150 invited lectures, performed more than 16,000 prostate surgeries, and led numerous live surgical workshops globally.

His leadership roles include President of the Urological Society of India (2014–15) and Chair of USICON Pune (2013). He has been honored with multiple orations, national awards, and international recognitions, including the Urology Gold Medal and a place in the Docplexus Hall of Fame.

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.

Induction of New Member

Thanks to our members' support, more of which is required, we are in celebration mode on Saturday June 14, 2025. This is because we are welcoming one member into our RCPC Family. Induction of a new member will be done during Saturday June 14, 2025's regular meeting at Poona Club. at 6.30 p.m.

A brief Introduction of the new member is given below:

Mr. Deepak Bharadia



Mr. Deepak Bharadia is a first-generation entrepreneur and visionary behind Meine Bharat Pvt. Ltd. (formerly Meine Küche India), a leading brand in Customized Premium Modular Kitchens and Wardrobes. With a passion for innovation and excellence, he has built the company into a recognized name in the Lifestyle Interiors industry.

A Commerce graduate from BMCC, Pune University (1977), Mr. Bharadia spent over 8 years leading International Business at Safepack Industries Ltd. before launching his own venture in 2007. Over last 18 years, he has positioned Meine Bharat as a trendsetter in kitchen design—blending Italian aesthetics, German engineering, and Indian sensibilities. It is India's first and only kitchen brand to offer a lifetime warranty on the entire kitchen.

As Founder & Managing Director at Meine Bharat IN., Mr. Bharadia is committed to the Mission of *आत्म-निर्भर भारत* / Self-Reliant India

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His achievements have earned accolades including the Pune Best Employer Brand Award, Pune Brand Leadership Award 2023, and Emerging Brand Award from ABP News. Personally, he has been recognized among the 100 Most Talented Retail Professionals and 100 Most Influential Retail Leaders in India by the Asia Retail Congress.

A Holistic life practitioner, Mr. Bharadia is deeply influenced by spiritual values and follows the guidance of Sri Sri Ravishankarji.. His love for the world is based on the ethos of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - One World Family!

He lives in Pune with his Parents, his wife - Veena who's a Homemaker. His daughter - Vanshika, is a Product Design student and also doing her internship, while his son, Vansh, a class 8 student, is also a budding entrepreneur...

We are pleased to welcome Deepak and Veena to Rotary!

The Week That Was – May 31, 2025

(From Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal)

The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Pune Central held on Saturday, May 31, 2025, brought together the RCPC fraternity in full strength. It was an evening of insights, appreciation, and planning for the road ahead.

🔔 Call to Order & National Anthem

The meeting was formally called to order by President Rtn. Brig. PKM Raja, followed by the National Anthem.

🌟 President's Address

President Raja reflected on the Club's recent successes and provided updates, including the encouraging news that the Rajapur Dam is now overflowing — a proud milestone in RCPC's commitment to water conservation. Updates on the Bhosare Dam repair were also shared.

🎖 Salute to the Spirit of Giving

RCPC members continued to shine with their generous contributions:

- Rtn. Anubhav Tewari – USD 3,529 (TRF-APF, becoming Major Donor Level 1)
- Rtn. PP Vijai Sarkar – USD 100 (TRF-APF)
- Rtn. Dr. Ramesh Sachdeva – USD 100 (TRF-APF)
- Rtn. Sunil Shah – USD 30 (TRF-APF)
- Rtn. Giri Sakhrani – ₹5,71,000 (RCPC Projects)

🏠 **Pleasantries** : Warm birthday and anniversary greetings were extended to:

Birthdays : Rtn. PP Abhay Shah, Rtn. Dr. Rajiv Narvekar, R'Ann Monica Nadkarni, R'Ann Savita Almal, R'Ann Prema Rathi, R'Ann Urvashi Guliani, R'Ann Jyotsna Arora and Rtn. IPP Cmde. Ajay Chitnis

Anniversaries: Rtn. Pradeep & R'Ann Manjiri Supnekar, and Rtn. Subhash & R'Ann Pratibha Devi

📅 Club Assembly & Know Your Directors 2025-26

One of the key highlights of the evening was the Club Planning Assembly and the introduction of the incoming Board of Directors for RY 2025-26.

President-Elect Rtn. Lekha Nair presented a snapshot of the upcoming year's focus areas, projects, and new initiatives. Each incoming director briefly shared their goals, giving members a glimpse into the passion and planning driving the next Rotary year.

🗳 Vote of Thanks & Meeting Adjournment

The meeting concluded with expressions of gratitude and excitement for the month ahead

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Rotary Club of Pune Central: Planning Assembly – Rotary Year 2025–26

Leadership Vision :

Vision

With the inspiring theme of **Unite for Good** RY 25-26, the Rotary Club of Pune Central (RCPC) embarks on a transformative journey aligned with Rotary International's vision: *"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change."*

Strategic Objectives

The Club's roadmap for 2025–26 focuses on:

- Strengthening club operations
- Enhancing member engagement
- Improving public image
- Establishing strategic partnerships
- Delivering impactful service projects
- Encouraging sustained giving

What's New This Year

- **Committee Revival:** Focused and streamlined committees with monthly dedicated meetings to improve accountability and efficiency.
- **Fellowship Strengthening:** Good fellowships to strengthen bonding
- A monthly Sunday brunch meeting will be introduced in Q1.

Special Projects

- Water Hyacinth Removal (pilot with PMC)
- Traffic Management in Pune
- Riverbank & Coastal Clean-Up
- *District Synergy:* Borewell Recharge Project
- Strengthening public image through consistent branding, proactive media outreach, and member-driven online visibility.

Membership & Assimilation

- *Target:* Grow from 117 to 125 members.
- *Strategy:* "Each One, Bring One" campaign. Reconnect with past members and invite family, friends, and acquaintances.
- *Retention:* Engage and welcome new members. Encourage members to share club achievements on social media.

Rotary Foundation & International Service

- *Annual Fund Goal:* \$32,000 (including one Major Donor)
- *Polio Contribution:* \$1,000
- *Total TRF Goal:* \$33,000
- *Goals:* Increase PHS members, aim for 100% sustaining members, secure one AKS and one Endowment.

Medical Projects

- Continue: Cataract surgeries, CHD surgeries, child cancer care, blood donation
- New Initiatives:
 - HPV Vaccination (Vaccine on Wheels)
 - KEM Hospital Diabetes/Neonatal Units

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- Mental health counselling projects
- Galwan Valley Army Unit Support

Non-Medical Projects

- Water: Dam repairs, filtration units, sanitation in schools
- Education: AI & science labs, financial literacy, skilling programs
- Environment: Paper bag drives, E-waste management, biodiversity, solar panels
- Women Empowerment: "She Can & She Will" initiative
- Rural Development: Happy Village with Swades Foundation
- Skill Development: Skilling of construction workers with CREDAI

CSR & Global Grants

- *Goals:*
 - 5+ new partnerships
 - Raise ₹5 Crores
 - 2 new Global Grant projects
- *Key Strategies:* Enhanced CSR pitch deck, member involvement in donor/project identification, maintain donor relationships.

New Generation

- Expand Interact (currently 5, target 7) and Rotaract Clubs (currently 3, target 4)
- *Youth Exchange Programs:* RYE (15–19 years), NGSE (18–30 years)
- *RYLA:*
 - Zonal RYLA for Interactors
 - Multi-District RYLA with international participation

Programs & Fellowships

- **Programs:** Engage members through guest lectures, panels, and interactive events. Celebrate Rotary focus months and host joint club events.
- **Fellowship:** Emphasize cultural diversity through cuisine, celebrate member milestones (e.g., anniversaries, 75th birthdays), and organize picnics and vocational visits.

Conclusion

Rotary Club of Pune Central has outlined a vibrant, ambitious, and actionable agenda for Rotary Year 2025–26. With focused leadership, dedicated committees, and a strong sense of purpose, the Club is poised to make a lasting impact across communities and causes.

What Every Rotarian Should Know?

(Inputs from Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant)

39 - THE ROTARY FOUNDATION'S BEGINNING

Some magnificent projects grow from very small seeds. The Rotary Foundation had that sort of modest beginning. In 1917 RI President Arch Klumph told the delegates to the Atlanta Convention that "it seems eminently proper that we should accept endowments for the purpose of doing good in the world." The response was polite and favorable, but the fund was slow to materialize. A year later the "Rotary Endowment Fund," as it was first labeled, received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, which was the balance of the Kansas City Convention account following the 1918 annual meeting. Additional small amounts were annually contributed, but after six years it is reported that the endowment fund had only reached \$700. A decade later, The Rotary Foundation was formally established at the 1928 Minneapolis Convention. In the next four years the Foundation fund grew to \$50,000. In 1937



a \$2 million goal was announced for The Rotary Foundation, but these plans were cut short and abandoned with the outbreak of World War II.

In 1947, upon the death of Paul Harris, a new era opened for the Rotary Foundation as memorial gifts poured in to honor the founder of Rotary. From that time, The Rotary Foundation has been achieving its noble objective of furthering "understanding and friendly relations between peoples of different nations." By 1954 the Foundation received for the first time a half million dollars in contributions in a single year, and in 1965 a million dollars was received.

It is staggering to imagine that from those humble beginnings, The Rotary Foundation is now receiving more than \$85 million each year for educational and humanitarian work around the world.

Karna's Love of Giving

(Contributed by Rtn. Pankaj Mehrotra)

Arjuna once asked Krishna, "Lord, why do people consider Karna more generous than Yudhistara? Neither have ever refused whatever has been asked for irrespective of whoever has asked for it! So why is Karna considered greater than Yudhistara?"

The Lord said with a smile, "Come, I'll show you why."

Disguised as Brahmins, they first went to Yudhishtira's Court & asked for sandalwood sticks to conduct 'yagna'.

The King immediately sent his soldiers to all parts of his Kingdom in search of sandalwood sticks.

It was monsoon, trees were all drenched & the soldiers returned with wet sandalwood pieces.

Yagna was not possible with the wet sticks.

Krishna and Arjuna proceeded to Karna's Court next and asked for the same sticks.

Karna thought for a while & said "As it has been raining for several days now, it will be impossible to collect dry sandalwood sticks. But there is a way out! Please wait for a while." Saying this, Karna proceeded to chop and cut down the doors & windows of the Court which were made of sandalwood and after making them into pieces, gifted the dry sandalwood sticks to the Brahmins to conduct 'yagna'.

They accepted the offerings and went back.

On their way back, Krishna asked Arjuna "Do you realise the difference between the two, Arjuna? Had we asked Yudhishtira to give his doors and windows for us to conduct yagna, he would have given us without a second thought. But he did not think of it himself.

We did not ask Karna either!

Yudhishtira gave because that was his Dharma.

Karna gave because he loves to give.

This is the difference between the two and that is why Karna is considered greater!

Whatever work you do, it becomes nobler when you do it with love!"

Moral

We can work with different attitudes.

Someone has asked you to do; or as a duty or as your Dharma or as Karna did it: out of love for doing the job!

Whatever work you do, Love it, Enjoy the work!



Installation Ceremony : RCPC Board of Directors RY 2025-26

It is our pleasure to invite you for the **Installation Ceremony of the President Elect Rtn Lekha Nair and Board of Directors of Rotary Club of Pune Central for the Rotary Year 2025-26.**

Date & time: **Saturday, July 5, 2025, 6 pm onwards**

Venue: **'POCHA HALL', Royal Connaught Boat Club, Bund Garden, Pune 411001**

Please do join us for **cocktails & dinner** immediately following Installation Ceremony.

Please note that the dress code for the meeting is formal. Don't forget to wear all those glorious pins you have earned..

We look forward to your joining us in welcoming the incoming officers so that together, we can make the installation a visible reminder of the shared purposes and values that make us one community to fulfil the new Rotary theme of 2025-26 **"UNITE FOR GOOD"**.



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From the Editor

Dear Rotarians and R'Anns,

Each time I sit down to pen this note, I find myself humbled by the extraordinary stories that fill the pages of our bulletin. Stories not of grand gestures, but of simple, consistent acts of service. Of hands held out, doors opened, and voices raised—not for recognition, but for change.

Rotary, at its core, is about connection. Not just among members, but with our communities, with global challenges, and with the quiet hope that what we do today will matter tomorrow. In a world that often celebrates speed and spectacle, Rotary teaches us the beauty of steady purpose. It reminds us that even the smallest act of kindness can create ripples that reach farther than we'll ever know.

This edition is a celebration of those ripples. From health camps in rural pockets to career mentoring in bustling cities, from school libraries reborn to environmental drives gaining momentum—each project featured here is a thread in the larger tapestry of service that we are proud to weave together.

As you flip through these pages, may you be inspired not only by what has been done—but by what can be. Because the truth is, Rotary's real power lies not in what we accomplish individually, but in what we dare to dream and do together.

In service and solidarity,

Behzad
Bulletin Editor

What to Expect in the Next Meeting

- **June 21** – 'Year In Retrospect' (Rtn Pres Brigadier PKM Raja) **at Hotel Shantai**
- **June 28** – Club Holiday

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rtn / R'Ann

R'Ann Pratibha Devi
Rtn. Sunil Deshmukh

Birthday

June 18
June 20



Member and Spouse

Rtn. Sameer and R'Ann Reshma Desai
Rtn. PP Raja and R'Ann Anjali Kharadkar

Wedding Anniversary

June 19
June 20

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