

ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL

CENTRAL TURF

The Bulletin

PRESIDENT: RTN. LEKHA NAIR | HON. SECRETARY AND BULLETIN EDITOR: RTN. KRISHNA KUMAR

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From The President's Desk

Dear Fellow Rotarians and R'Anns,

It is both an honour and a heartfelt privilege to pen this message as we begin our journey into the Rotary year 2025–26. As we turn the page to a new chapter, we do so with deep appreciation for the remarkable work of our predecessors, whose dedication and vision have brought our club to where it stands today. Building on their legacy, we now look ahead with renewed spirit and shared purpose.

Our club is a vibrant mosaic of cultures, talents, and perspectives. This year, inspired by Rotary's theme '**Unite for Good**,' we will celebrate that diversity and come together in purpose and action. Let that spirit of unity and goodwill guide every project, fellowship, and conversation we have.

While continuing with the Club's signature projects, we will design new high-impact projects to address pressing city-wide challenges. We are committed to strengthening environmental sustainability and implementing impactful projects in education and health.

Strengthening the working of Club committees will be a priority, with dedicated monthly meetings that focus on action and accountability, ensuring that every member finds space to contribute meaningfully. At the same time, we will continue to celebrate the joy of fellowship with relaxed brunches, cultural evenings and service outings.

I look forward to a year where every meeting feels meaningful, every event brings smiles, and every member feels proud to belong.

Thank you for entrusting me with this responsibility. I pledge to listen deeply and lead collaboratively while upholding the ideals of Rotary. With all my heart.

In Rotary service,

Warm regards,

Rtn. Lekha Nair
President RY 2025-26
Rotary Club of Pune Central

Know your Board of Directors RY 2025-26

**Rotarian Lekha Nair,
President**



Lekha Nair began her career as a software engineer with Tata Infotech. Served the Army for 5 years in the Corps of Signals. Posted in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu, she was part of Operation Rakshak. She was selected to train and groom Lady Cadets in Officer's training Academy. Lekha has worked in several NGOs including Tata Community Initiatives Trust and Yuva Parivartan, especially in the skill development domain.

Rotarian Lekha Nair is with Rotary since 2012. She owns a restaurant called Beetroot Bistro, in Koregaon Park.

**Rotarian Commodore Pravin Malhotra,
President Elect & VP and Director – Special Projects & District Event Coordination**



Commodore Parvin Malhotra graduated in Mechanical Engineering. Then joined Indian Navy in 1969. He converted into Marine Engineering, and he took part in 1971 war operations as engineer. Parvin was deputed to the then USSR for a Flight Engineer's course. After 33 years, he joined Griffin (UK) as Technical Director (India). He has been involved with several NGOs and has been actively involved in Coastal and River Banks clean-up. Parvin joined Rotary in 2013 and served as Honorary Secretary with RCPC.

Rotarian Parvin Malhotra has been a Rotarian since 2013.

**Rtn. Justice Dilip Karnik,
President Nominee and Director Public Image & Digital Club**



Justice Dilip Karnik holds an LLB & a Bachelor of Science degree from Pune University. Presently he serves as arbitrator for contracts and disputes and as a Legal consultant.

Previously Karnik was a Judge in High Court, Mumbai. He also served as a faculty in premier national institutions. Presently he is a director at ICICI Asset Management, and a member of Indian Law institute. He worked with many NGOs as trustee and is an active RCPC member of importance.

Rotarian Justice Karnik has been a Rotarian since 2012.



Rotarian Vinay Biyani, Director Club services and Honorary Treasurer



Vinay Biyani is a Chartered Accountant, and presently serves as MD with M/s S V Ispat Pvt Ltd. Deal in Carbon products having factory in state of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Odisha and head office at Pune.

His wife Archana and Vedant are part of team SV. Siddhant manages M/s Tekor minerals Pvt Ltd.

Rotarian Vinay Joined Rotary in 2022 and has made small contributions to Eye project.

Rotarian Past President Commodore Ajay Chitnis, Director Membership and Assimilation



Commodore Ajay Chitnis was born in an Air Force family; he opted out of IIT Bombay to join the Indian Navy as an Aviation Cadet. Ajay qualified as a Pilot and was commissioned in June 1971, He is a veteran of 1971 and 1999 wars and has flown over 2500 hrs. He has commanded three frontline warships, an Operational Air Station and was Area Commander of Gujarat during the Kargil War. Ajay was awarded Two Gallantry Awards - Shaurya Chakra and Nao Sena Medal by the President of India. He made a second career in the Offshore Maritime Industry.

Rotarian Cmde Ajay has been a Rotarian since 2013.

Rotarian Past President Rakesh Bhargava Director International Service and The Rotary Foundation



Rakesh Bhargava is one of India's senior most corporate executives in pharmaceuticals, medical nutrition, and medical technology domains and has held top management positions in several companies in India and abroad. He has held key positions in several national bodies and is currently a member of the advisory board of Indian Institute of Information technology, Una.

He is a distinguished alumnus of IIT Kanpur. He was adjudged President of the Year worldwide in 2013-14 and has been awarded s Citation for Meritorious Service. Currently, he is a member of the National Working Group on CSR and National Advisory Committee on Disease Prevention & Treatment and Maternal and childcare.

Rakesh Bhargava has been a Rotarian since 1998 and has served RCPC in many capacities.



Rotarian Jeevan Mahaldar

Director Community and Vocational Service – Non-Medical



Jeevan Mahaldar has over four decades of experience in the automotive and engineering sectors as a business leader and is presently Director of Ficosa India Engg. Centre and has held C+ positions in MNCs, he has led several social initiatives through various NGOs. He has successfully combined industry success with social commitment. His experience spans global operations, strategic transformation, and social impact at the grassroots levels, making him a values-driven contributor to Rotary.

Rotarian Jeevan Mahaldar has been a Rotarian since 2021.

Rotarian Vidya Saraf,

Director Community and Vocational Service - Medical



Vidya Saraf has a SEBI certification to be a skilled financial advisor.

A passionate sports enthusiast, she has played basketball in college, badminton throughout her adult life and now loves to play bridge. She was the winner of the Rotary Badminton trophy for 5 consecutive years from 2005 to 2010.

A recipient of several **Awards:**

Club Awards:

Outstanding Rotarian: 2016-17

Tan Man Dhan: 2017-18

Growth in Ladies Membership: 2018-19

District Awards:

Women in Rotary: 2010-11

Adult Literacy: 2011-12

Rotarian Vidya Saraf has been a Rotarian since 2013.

Rotarian Past President Ravi Kapoor,

Director CSR and Global Grant



Ravi Kapoor is an engineering finance professional with over 36 years work experience in Treasury, Finance, Controlling and General Management with companies such as WIPRO, Bombay Oil Industries, REPL Engineering, Bosch.

Now he has a consulting entity – “Indus Business Advisors LLP” to address the needs of overseas SMEs wanting to set up operations in India.

Ravi Kapoor began his Rotary journey in April 2000 and has held several positions on the Board including President, Treasurer, VP etc in both club and district level. He has made several path breaking contributions to the Rotary projects.

Rotarian Vidya Saraf has been a Rotarian since 2009 in RCPC.



Rotarian Vaishali Karwa, Director New Generation



Vaishali Karwa is a graduate in Home Science with major in Textile Design from Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai University where she was also a faculty member.

She spent 15 fulfilling years teaching fashion design. Later, for a few years she was engaged in her husband's business. Now she works with Equity, investments, community service as an active Rotarian.

She has participated in several car rallies.

Vaishali Karwa's Rotary journey began in 2017 and has served on the District Team for:

- Environment (2021–2022)
- Youth Services (2022–2023)

She will serve as Chair for END PLASTIC SOUP in District Environment team RY 2025–2026.

Rotarian Past President Uday Dharmadhikari, Director Programmes and Fellowship



Uday Dharmadhikari is an engineer by qualification, and he now enjoys the finer things in life—wine, cigars, and well-timed humour.

He joined RCPC in 2018 and has served in several club and District roles. And He is Assistant Governor- Elect- RY 2025 – 26.

Some of his hall of fame achievements:

1. Pulled off the largest CSR grant in *all* South Asia.
2. Highest number of CSR projects in RCPC's history.
3. Earned the elite 7-Star President title in District 3131.
4. Named *Best President* in District 3131.

Rotarian Uday Dharmadhikari is the Assistant Governor- Elect- RY 2025 – 26.

Rotarian Krishna Kumar, Honorary Secretary



Krishna Kumar has been a C+ Manager for Multinational companies in India and Overseas, such as Maersk Line, Kanoo Group and has served in MNCs like Johnson & Johnson and Colgate.

He is a Fellow member of the Institute of Cost & Works accountants of India. He is a Business Strategist and Turnaround Specialist; Advisor to Start-ups, Mental Health advocate, HSSE Activist, Public Speaker, World Speaking Champion, Poet & Writer.

Rotarian Krishna Kumar's Rotary journey started in November 2024.

Rotarian Brig. PK Muralidharan Raja, Immediate Past President

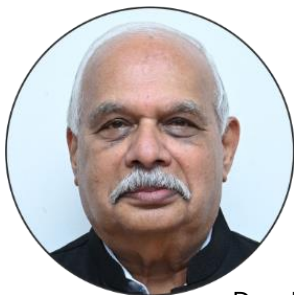


Brigadier PK Muralidharan Raja was Commissioned into 2 JAT Regiment on 13 June 1976. He superannuated as the Commandant of Army Institute of Physical Training (AIPT) at Pune in November 2013. He was awarded the prestigious Sena Medal (SM) in 2004 and the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2011 by the President of India.

Brigadier Raja was the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian Contingent for London Olympics 2012 and was also a Referee & Judge (Boxing) at Athens Olympic Games. In addition, he was a Referee & Judge / Jury Member (Boxing) at many Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. He was elected as the Secretary General of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation for two tenures from 2004-2012. It was under his leadership that Vijender Singh got the historic first Olympic Bronze Medal for India at Beijing in 2008 and Mary Kom won the Bronze at London Olympics 2012.

Brigadier Raja served as the President of RCPC for the RY 2024-25 is presently the President of the Indian Boxing Council which sanctions Professional Boxing Events in India and is also the Director of the Commonwealth Boxing Council headquartered in London, UK.

Rotarian Past President Dr. Ramesh Dumbre, Club Learning Facilitator



Dr Ramesh Dumbre is a well-known General Surgeon associated with Poona Hospital and Research Centre. He has 53 years of experience in General Surgery and has worked as an expert in different cities in India.

Dr. Dumbre completed MBBS from University of Pune in 1972, MS - General Surgery from University of Pune in 1976 and Diploma in Laproscopy from University of Kiel, Germany in 1992.

Dr. Dumbre has held several key positions in Rotary and began his Rotary journey in the year 1993.

Rotary National / District News

Rotary National CSR Awards - 2025

The first Rotary National CSR Award function – 2025, would be held on November 7th 2025 in Delhi.

The objective is to recognise the impactful social service projects executed by companies under CSR. The categories of the awards are based on the revenue of the company for various categories including:

- Basic education and literacy
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Healthcare
- Community and economic development
- Environment protection

Besides special awards would be given for projects demonstrating exemplary:

- Innovation
- Employee engagement
- Community involvement
- Women empowerment

The online application process will begin on 1st of July 2025 and the Rotary Regional CSR award function is expected to be held between 15th September 2025 – 20th October 2025.



Rtn. Santosh Marathe

District Governor, Rotary District 3131 RY 2025-26



District Governor Rtn. Santosh Marathe joined Rotary Club of Poona West in January 1996. Taking on the baton from his father Rtn. Madhubhau Marathe, a veteran Rotarian, Santosh made quick strides and served as President in 2000-01 and then went on to serve the District. Having worked with over 17 DGs of 3130/ 3131, he quickly garnered experience and became the Global Grant Director for 2 years in 2021 and was instrumental in the first Solar Farm project in the Rotary World under Environment Protection Focus Area funded with Global Grant. Rtn Santosh has conducted training sessions for many BoD of various clubs and committees.

The flair runs in the family. His wife PP Rtn. Dr. Tanuja was AG in RY 2022-23 and is Director – Global Grants for the current year. Both have several Rotarian accolades to their credit.

Santosh's company, Phoenix Knowledge Management Pvt. Ltd. has been providing customized enterprise applications in Finance, Supply Chain, Analytics leveraging a US Patented Digital Ledger (Pvt Permitted Blockchain) technology coupled with AI and ML to large corporates. His personal interests extend to nature, marine ecology, wildlife, birdwatching, environment education & awareness and nature photography since 1979.

A true Rotarian in spirit, thought, and action, PP Santosh Marathe personifies excellent leadership, goodwill, and a strong belief that the world will be a better place because of Rotary's contribution.



Rotary International News

16,000 Rotary members and participants from 140 countries registered for the service organization's international convention in Calgary

Final day of 2025 Rotary International Convention highlighted current and future Rotary leaders

The 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada, concluded in a spirit of fellowship and rejuvenation. Addressing the event's closing general session, Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick urged members to recognize the power of their relationships.



Italian selected as next Rotary International President

Francesco Arezzo will become the third Italian to lead the global membership service organization

Rotary and Gates Foundation extend partnership to end polio

Joint commitment will add US\$450 million to global polio eradication efforts over three years

Rotary partners with Symbiosis International University to establish peace center in India

One-year Rotary Peace Fellowship will train peacebuilders across Asia on pivotal issues in the region

Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

Rotary International President RY 2025-26



Francesco Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2025-26. Arezzo will become president on 1 July.

Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice. He is active internationally as a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations. He is vice president of the National Association of Italian Dentists for the province of Ragusa and was the founder and head for seven years of the delegation for Ragusa of the National Trust for Italy. He is a Knight of Honor and Devotion in Obedience within the Sovereign Order of Malta.

A Rotary member for more than 30 years, Arezzo has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and as RI director, learning facilitator, and as district conference presidential representative.

Arezzo is a Major Donor and Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation. He is married to Anna Maria Criscione, an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two children.

RCPC Creative Corner

स्वागत है लेखा जी का

(लेडी रोटरी प्रेसिडेंट के सम्मान में)

लेखा या बिजली

नव किरणों-सी चमक लिए,
सपनों की नई थाली लाई।
सेवा, संकल्प, समर्पण में,
नई कहानी रचने आई।


रोटरी की नारी शक्ति,
अब और नयी मिसाल बने।
लेखा जी के नेतृत्व में,
हर मंज़िल आसान बने।

विचारों में गहराई है,
आँखों में विश्वास झलकता।
हर मुस्कान में प्रेरणा है,
हर शब्द में दीपक चमकता।

आपका स्वागत करते हम,
सजदा करते मन से सब।
रोटरी की इस नयी राह में,
आप लाएं सौँधी सबब

Contributed by R'Ann Adv. Pratibha Subhash Devi

From the Editor



It was a bright rainy day in July, and the clocks were striking thirteen.

Dear Fellow RCPC Rotarians and R'Anns,

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors, and as the clock strikes 00:01 of 1st of July 2025, I write this note to remind us that half a year has been shaved off 2025! It is time to reflect on how we spent these past 181 days. And to sit back, close our eyes and ink in our mind, how we are going to accelerate our speed of action for the remainder of the year.

The Bulletin served to us week after week, full of useful Club information, tidbits and stories, have been fun to read and kudos to Behzad and team for dishing it out to us with consistency and never compromising on the quality. It is a tough act to follow!

But we have tried to bring a tad bit of freshness and would love to see your support, participation and feedback.

During the next 12 months, we would bring you a peek into the lives of our members. In no order, scheme or prejudice.

Let us collectively try to recognize the power of relationships. Rotary has always been about people. You! Our most powerful asset is the RCPC member. Let us together leverage our network to bring it to play for the benefit of the community; for the good of the deserving; for the good of RCPC so that it is empowered to do what it is privileged to. Let us make a difference to the community around us, together.

*True to that thought, we would try to bring in a flavour of the people behind our wonderful club. **Fortnightly.***

I extend a hand on behalf of our new Board of Directors. I hope to find yours.

With prayers for your good health, happiness, and well-being,

Krishna

Please write to krsnarti@gmail.com for contributions and feedback