

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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TODAY





RCPC
ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL
SERVE BETTER. SHINE BRIGHTER.

**MUSIC FOR
BODY, MIND
& MONEY**



**SATURDAY @ 6.30 PM
16TH AUGUST
POONA CLUB
CONFERENCE HALL 2**

Followed by
Mini Fellowship

**Let's experience THE
POWER OF SOUND**
to elevate
**OUR BODY, RELAX OUR MIND,
AND
EVEN INSPIRE ABUNDANCE**
WITH
LIFE TRANSFORMER



SMITA SOVANI

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Speaking of Which.....

Freedom is a misnomer. India received freedom from British rule in 1947. It is the 79th celebration this year on 15th August 2025. But if you look around, beyond the plush windows of our comfortable houses, there is a tempestuous emotional weather brewing outside. Slavery has found a new name; a new being. Poverty, helplessness, illiteracy, all wander around with unabashed abandon.

That is where Rotary steps in. RCPC has been doing great work for the community around us. Be it education, environment, creating smiles on the faces of poor villagers by building a dam. Anything, that helps. But this is only possible if all of us join hands together. By bringing in people of merit as members to our august club. You, the member, is the core, heart and spirit of the club. Only You can DO IT!.



Liberating a family from the clutches of poverty can only begin by the education and empowering the women of that household: the mother, the daughters. Here is a poem in Hindi that I wrote to pen my thoughts on this Independence Day, for the girls of this country.

Krishna

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

साया
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तुम महज़ एक नाम नहीं
तुम्हारे साये से लिपटी
कई उम्मीदे है,
उडान भरने को बेकरार।

पता है ना?

अगर तुम रुक गई
तो लोग तुम्हारे ठहरे साये में
हवस और लालच का
घरौंदे बनाएंगे बेशुमार।

पता है ना?

उडना तुम आसमान में
तुम्हारा साया फिर
नज़र नहीं आयेगा किसीको।
सर उठेंगे सबके बार बार।

पता है ना?

Rcpc Club News

Eye Check-Up Camp

Project Lead - Rtn Oni and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala



Eye Check Camp -3 was organised by Rtn Oni n R'ann Nafisa Kakajiwala at Vision English School Vadgaonsheri and was attended by - Director (Medical) Rtn Vidya Saraf, Rtn Pradeep Dharane and R'ann Deepa Dharane.

Total examined: 424 , Normal : 308
Required Glasses: 69 Referred for Cyclo
Refraction: 26
Staff: 21

Blood Donation Event

Courtesy – Rtn. PP Madhusudan Rathi

On Rtn. PP Madhubhau Rathi's, birthday (13th Aug 2025), his company PolyBond organised a *Blood Donation Camp* at their Alandi Plant. Rotary Club of Pune Central was also part of this noble cause. All members, along with your friends, family & colleagues, are warmly invited to participate. In all, 116 units of blood was donated.



Global Grant Approval for Cataract Surgery & Medical Equipment

A congratulatory message was received from DG Santosh Marathe announcing that **Global grant application for funding to provide medical equipment and 620 cataract surgeries to H. V. Desai Eye Hospital in Pune, India.,** submitted by the Rotary Club of Pune Central and the Rotary Club of Cupertino, has been approved by Rotary Foundation (India) (RF(I)) and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation (TRF). The award is in the amount of US\$159,422.

Kudos to **Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor** for all his efforts in getting this global grant through.

Installation Ceremony of Interact Club at Sayudh School



Rtn. Vaishali Karwa – Youth Director of RCPC, Rtn. PP Aruna Rathi and Rtn. Vaishali Karwa along with R'Ann Kalpana Merchant and R'Ann Salma Gauri attended the **unique Installation Ceremony of the Interact Club at Sayudh School for the Deaf and Mute, Hadapsar.**

A truly heart-touching experience to be among these inspiring students who rise far beyond their disabilities with courage and grace.

Installation Ceremony of Interact Club at Bharari School



The installation ceremony of the **Interact Club at Bharari School for the Deaf and Mute, Bhandarkar Road.** It was heartwarming to be among these inspiring children who face life's challenges with courage. We were touched to receive beautiful, handmade artwork from the students. The event was attended by President Lekha Nair, Rtn Anil Bora, PP Aruna Rathi, R'Ann Kalpana Merchant & Rtn Vaishali Karwa.

Independence Day Celebration at Sayudh School

The Sayudh School for the Deaf and Mute, Hadapsar, invited Rtn. Vaishali Karwa, Director New Generation, RCPC – 2025-26, to be the Chief Guest and hoist the National Flag on 15th August at 8:00 a.m.

R'Ann Salma and Rtn Imran Gauri also joined the event.

The students impressed everyone with a disciplined march-past, presented an excellent cultural program, and created beautiful Rangoli designs to mark the occasion.



Distribution of specs



136 spectacles were handed to Dakshana Foundation by RCPC. These were for the students who got screened in the eye check up camp conducted in July by Rtn. Oni and Nafisa. We are grateful to all the members who contributed for the project!

Discover the legacy of R K Laxman – A cultural gem in Pune

An article contributed by Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant

Dear Fellow Rotarians, R'Anns and family members,

I'm delighted to share a noteworthy cultural experience right here in Pune that beautifully celebrates the life and work of one of India's most beloved cartoonists—**R. K. Laxman**. (who visited Rotary Club of Pune Central as speaker in past)

The **R. K. Laxman Museum**, located in Balewadi, offers a thoughtfully curated journey through the creative world of the legendary artist and his iconic "Common Man." This immersive gallery features:

- **Art Exhibits:** Caricatures of eminent personalities, whimsical depictions of Lord Ganesha, and cartoons that reflect the innocence and humor of childhood.
- **Malgudi Miniatures:** A nostalgic tribute to *Malgudi Days*, with nine miniature sets inspired by the stories of R. K. Narayan.
- **Audio-Visual Rooms:** Engaging presentations narrated by Boman Irani (English) and Dilip Prabhawalkar (Marathi), offering insights into Laxman's life and creative process.
- **Narrative Experience:** The Common Man himself guides visitors through Laxman's journey—from his early days to his rise as a national icon.

📍 **Location:** Laxman Nagar, Balewadi, Pune

🕒 **Timings:** Tuesday to Sunday, 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM (Closed on Mondays)

🎫 **Entry Fee:** Museum Visit Only: Rs.50/-

Museum Visit with Light and Sound Show: Rs.100/-

This museum is not just a tribute to artistic brilliance—it's a celebration of Indian wit, resilience, and social commentary. I encourage members to consider visiting, either individually or as part of a group outing. It's a meaningful way to reconnect with our cultural roots and appreciate the power of humor in shaping public discourse.

Warm regards,

Rtn. Suhas Merchant

If you're interested in joining a group visit, please RSVP by contacting Mr. Gajanan (9527716505)

Spread The Good Word – Bring in a New Member



August is Membership and New Club Development Month. At Rotary Club of Pune Central we honour the members who keep our wheel turning and welcome new voices ready to serve.

Bring a friend to a meeting, mentor a young leader, support RCPC, and help us unite for good. Stronger club mean greater impact for the communities we care about.

Mentorship

Do you possess strong communication and presentation skills?
Do you want to motivate someone by sharing your knowledge and expertise?

Here is an opportunity...

Join hands with District Vocational Services Avenue Team (2025-26) by enrolling yourself as Mentor.

Contact:

Rtn Sanjay Khanolkar

Chairperson, Mentorship Program

Dist. Vocational Services Team 25-26



ROTARY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



- ★ Be a Motivator
- ★ Share your knowledge & Expertise...
- ★ Be a Mentor

Join hands with District
Vocational Services Avenue
(2025-26)

tête-à-tête

An Interview With Rtn. PP Narayandas Rathí -

CELEBRATING LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO RTN. NARAYANDAS RATHI

I met with Rtn. Past President Narayandas Rathí on 12th August 2025 at 5 p.m. for a tête-à-tête in his beautiful house in Koregaon Park. Narayanbhau, as everyone fondly calls him, and his elegant wife, Rtn. Aruna Rathí, (member of Rotary club of Poona Downtown and Past President of the Club) received me at the door, and ushered me in to their well-appointed living room. It was the beginning of an hour of new memory that would be etched in my mind forever. We sat at the dining table, and I was promptly treated to delectable pakodas, sweets, bhakarwadis and a refreshing cup of tea, that kept the conversation lively and enjoyable. I am grateful to Arunaji for joining us in the conversation.



Congratulations Narayanbhau on receiving the first of its kind honour for an RCPian – lifetime achievement award spanning over 40 years selfless service as a Rotarian. How does it feel, Sir?

It feels great to have received the award, and while it is not what we work for, it is good to have a recognition. It will inspire me to work harder for the causes that are dear to me (*he walks up proudly to the 3 recent awards that he got which were displayed prominently displayed in the living room*):

- 1. DG's Special Service Award in recognition of outstanding dedication, unwavering commitment and remarkable contribution**
- 2. Award for Skills Development and Self Employment Project**
- 3. RCP Excellence in Vocational Service Project Awards.**

Where and when did your pet Cancer project start?

I started this project in 1998. Initially my team used to hire a bus and go the slums and collect women to our approved hospital for a cancer test. But the women detected with cancer, would resist treatment say their husbands would discard them. But soon this culture changed, when men too began to be detected with cancer.

But then, I realised soon, that I should be focusing on children with cancer, as that would mean giving them hope to live well for decades, as opposed to adults for whom we hardly could add a 10 to 15 years to their life.

So, in 2015, we decided to give treatment to children up to 18 years of age. Every year we cured about 20 children. During the last financial year, we cured and saved 20 children out of 22.

My assistance with financial support comes on the basis that there would be a crucial treatment required which could save the life of the poor children.

How does it feel to have saved these children from the deadly cancer?

You know, when we go to meet them along with their parents, at the hospital or at our club, these children run around, playing happily, completely oblivious of the fact that they have come out of the jaws of death. The feeling cannot be expressed in words. The joy is boundless.

How does the future look for this project?

Look, I am 90 years old, and I continue the work, with undeterred enthusiasm. I spend Rs 10 lakhs (Rs 30000 per head on an average) out of my own pocket every year for this cause. We carry out this project at the KEM hospital and I have faith that the team that works is doing a brilliant job. And I am sure the projects will continue in the future with the involvement of my wife. I am sure our club will also get involved in expanding the impact of the efforts.



Arunaji: The success of any project depends on the personal involvement of members. In the cancer project, my husband took it as his own personal mission, and therefore success was guaranteed during all these years, and so it will be in the future. Of course, I will step in when required. His first wife passed away due to cancer in 1995 and that painful experience inspired him to step out and do something for the community.

What other projects do you work on as part of the Rotary Club of Pune Central?

I have also been supporting a course for Home Nurses and Patient Care Attendants for almost fifteen years. The aim of the program is to provide vocational skills to underprivileged girls and help them gain financial independence. This course, conducted at Anjuman-I-Islam Polytechnic for Girls, equips students with necessary skills to provide high quality patient care. We provide financial support and conduct regular assessments to monitor the overall progress of the trainees. After completing the training and internship most candidates get employment as junior nurses in private hospitals or as bedside assistants.

I am glad to say that every year thirty to forty girls, hence thirty to forty families, benefit from this program.

Arunaji, Rotary seems to be an integral part of your daily life.

Arunaji: Of course, now that we have all the time in the world even more so. When I joined Rotary in 1997, attending every meeting was mandatory. We still follow the practice of attending meetings, as it is in our DNA.

Narayanbhau: Indeed, after working for over 50 years, especially starting a business from scratch, it is satisfying to see it thriving and I am glad that I have always put social work as an important part of my daily life. And over the years we have made so many friends at Rotary, and that makes us happy.

Sir, you were President of RCPC in the year 1992-93. How is the club different today?

People today are much busier. In those days, attendance and involvement of the members was much higher.

Arunaji: The onus is on the senior members too to get to know the younger members. I am sure the new members will find time from their busy schedule, to contribute by getting involved in projects.

What do you find joy in outside of Rotary and business?

Family is important and I like to stay in touch with all of the family members.

Arunaji: My husband and his brothers started the chemical business together from scratch and the family has been raised with the strong values of hard work and family bonding. It is amazing to see such a large family sticking close to each other. And the one thing that few people know about him, is that loves pulling off a good prank on others.

Any message for the new members of RCPC?

Take any project that you like. And involve in it personally; own it and do it with your heart.

I thanked both Rotarian Past President Narayandas Rathi and Rotarian Mrs. Aruna for their time and for indulging me. The world needs more selfless souls like Narayanbhau. Because it is a better place today due to his relentless work. We stepped out to their lawn for a photo. And I began walking out to the main road to wait for my driver to arrive. Lo and behold, Narayanbhau, arrived in his car to give me company until the driver arrived. I remembered my dad. He would have done the same.





an playing Rang Panchmi at Round Table Club Part

Playing rang Panchami at Round Table Club Party



With a booty of district awards in 1992-93, when Narayanbhai was the President, winning 9 out of 19 trophies offered, the highest for RCPC



Presenting Sapera Dance in Commerce College, Pune, 1954

Presenting Sapera dance in Commerce College, Pune, 1954



ay of Narayan celebrated at New York

1st Birthday celebrations – New York 🥳



At the recent District awards in July 2025



An Interview With Rtn. Sanjay Karwa

Rtn. Sanjay Karwa, an easy looking and going new member of RCPC has been a very familiar face in the club for a while. He may be a new member of RCPC, but in the world of Rotary he is well-known. His charming smile usually is his first response to any question, that endears him to us RCPCians. Here is the interview with him.

Tell us about your Rotary journey so far.

Almost a decade back, I was completely unaware about the magnanimity of Rotary International. In 2018, from chartering of a new club then taking presidentship and now being part of the district team – has helped me personally – be it networking, friendship and at times business as well. The foremost purpose of joining Rotary should be humanitarian service, other aspects will follow automatically; if the intent is right and in accordance with the Four Way Test, Rotary is an organization to reckon with.

This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again – Paul Harris.

Briefly trace for us your family history.

Ours is a very old family based in Pune, perhaps more than 150 years now. Our forebears migrated from Rajasthan. I have personally known about our ancestral roots from Rajasthan. Kaiser-i-Hind – was a medal that was instituted to recognize public services in India, by the British Raj. This medal was adorned to our family head, around late 1800 or early 1900.



Your wife, Vaishali, is also a super active member of RCPC. How do you balance home, work, Rotary, social work, and social relationships?

Rightly so, it's challenging at times to be up to date on all fronts. *To gain some you have to lose some – is the general saying.* Our children have grown and that's to our advantage. We set our priorities, and some extent of planning helps us to sail smoothly. Rotary work is manageable to a large extent due to the connects developed over time and knowledge gained about the internal processes.

You are in the field of IT. Tell us more about it.

The IT era was just opening in India, around the mid 80's. I have witnessed the evolution of IT viz. computer hardware, software, digital technology etc., which we now see as "Information Technology".

In simplicity, what we studied as an elective in our final year is now being offered as 4 years engineering discipline. The pace of change is phenomenal and learning and adapting to new products is challenging and exciting as well. Digital technology will continue to be the root of all disciplines – it's an essential skill all would have to learn and relearn – and it's happening so. I have been in this for over 35 years now, and it's been an elaborate and exciting area to be in as always. If I were to give you an analogy of the way in which Automotive industry would have been today, had it grown at the pace of IT

If the automotive industry had kept up with computing, today you could buy a flying, self-driving, solar-powered car for ₹5,000 that travels at the speed of light and never breaks down — but would mysteriously crash every time you tried to drive during a software update



You are a BITSian. I am aware that it is a privilege to be a BITS Pilani graduate. Did you ever consider going to the West where most BITSians end up. Why?

Truly, I have been fortunate to have received the best possible education right from school to PG. As you rightly guessed 90% of my batchmates ended up in US – right after graduation – either for studies or jobs, and all of them have done fantastically well. As I see them today, the next generation, would they be able to settle back in India? On graduation, my domain of responsibilities was larger than normal, and the possibility of overseas education etc., was a distant option.

Which is the most engaging social work that you have done?

Over the years I have engaged in youth services in different capacities. Working with the youth through INTERACT & ROTARACT clubs, has always been an enriching experience for me. Irrespective of the avenue, Rotary gives an opportunity to enhance your skills time and again.

You have been very active in the youth programs of Rotarians. What drives you to do it?

We commonly say that India's future is the Youth. Around 50% of our population is below the age of 25 years and 65% below 35 years. Rotary's fifth Avenue of Service – Youth Service, has been successfully running for more than six decades now. The primary objective is to encourage leadership, community service and global citizenship among the youth.

The challenges our youth face today are multi-fold. It's an enabling factor for us to direct our efforts to do as much for them. At the global level, not many social organizations and/or NGOs can take pride in as much as Rotary can towards youth activities, is my personal experience. However, there is still much that needs to be done for our next generation.

What is the mantra for your success?

Consistency, in whatever we do, in spite of the odds, leads to success. I think while we are in social service, positions and designations should take a back seat and your work should be helpful for others. Few words of gratitude and thanks are far more rewarding than awards and accolades.

Ignorance is NOT bliss. Being informed – is the most vital ingredient of being successful – whether small or big.

One secret recipe to handle challenges and failures.

Leadership is not about being in charge, it's more about helping others to achieve their set goals. So as long as we are prepared to learn, unlearn and relearn, I think we are on the right path.

What, When and How you ask – ensures lesser failures and enables one to overcome challenges.



Rotary District / National News

www.rotarynews.in

2025-26
GML
HOLLY

Rotary Club of Pune Central

Wheels Of Progress : Rotary Club of Pune Central empowers young girls with bicycles to ensure access to education -

In a heartwarming initiative aimed at promoting education and empowering young girls from underprivileged backgrounds, the Rotary Club of Pune Central has provided 25 bicycles to school-going girls who walk long distances daily to pursue their education. This generous gesture is not only expected to ease their commute but also to play a crucial role in reducing school dropouts due to transportation challenges.

These bicycles were distributed to girls from economically weaker sections, many of whom travel several kilometers each day to attend school. The lack of affordable and reliable transport has been a major barrier for these young students, often leading to absenteeism or dropping out altogether. With their new bicycles, the girls will now be able to reach the school on time and without fail, giving them a better chance to complete their education.

"This is not just about providing a mode of transport; it's about giving these girls the freedom to dream, to learn, and to rise to their full potential," said Brig PKM Raja, Past President of RCPD during the distribution ceremony. "Education is a fundamental right, and no child should be denied it due to distance or poverty."

The entire project was generously sponsored by Rotary Ann Radhika Malhotra, in memory of her late mother, a woman known for her unwavering belief in women's empowerment. "My mother always stood for equal opportunities for women," said Radhika Malhotra, addressing the gathering. "She believed every girl deserved the chance to shape her own destiny. Sponsoring these bicycles is my way of honoring her legacy and ensuring her values live on."

This initiative goes beyond school attendance. It aims to instill a sense of independence, confidence, and resilience in these young girls, equipping them not just for their academic journey but also for life's daily challenges. By removing a major obstacle from their path, the Rotary Club of Pune Central hopes to help them stay in school, complete their education, and secure their rightful place in society.

Rotary Community Core leaders, teachers, and students present at the event expressed deep gratitude for the support. Many described the moment as "life-changing" for the girls and praised the Rotary Club for identifying such a critical need.

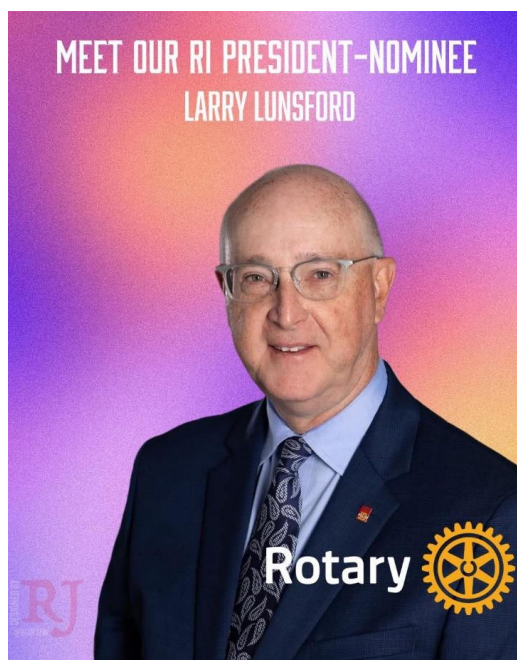
As the girls proudly rode their new bicycles home, their smiles told a story of hope, strength, and possibility – a powerful reminder that a small act of kindness can pave the way for a brighter future, made possible by the magic of Rotary.

RY 24-25 project, **Wheels of Progress**- sponsoring of 25 bicycles to girl students has been covered in the first issue of RY 25-26 GML (Governor's Monthly Letter)

Sponsored by **Rtn Vipen and R'ann Radhika Malhotra**, the project has ensured easy access to education for these 25 young girls.

Thanks to PP Uday Dharmadhikari for facilitating the article's inclusion in the GML.

Rotary International News



Larry A. Lunsford selected to be 2027-28 Rotary International president

Larry A. Lunsford, a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, USA, is the selection of the nominating committee to become Rotary International's president for 2027-28. He will officially become the president-nominee on 15 September if no other candidates challenge him.



Creativity / Member Corner

Agathokakologically Yours

Courtesy – Rtn. Pankaj Mehrotra

KAKISTOCRACY favouring leaders seem to dance together
After all, Birds of a feather, do dance together
From **WEST**, the **ATLAS** shrugged
World order was surely mugged
Nearer **EAST**, a friendly **SNOLLYGOSTER & RODOMONTADE** emerged
Eyes, in disbelief, a discerning populace eh! rubbed
ASSASSINS being eulogised while **SAINTS** get vilified
EPIC POEMS are quoted, scientific temper belied
May sacred **WORD** see a proper dawn & egalitarian practice
The **KAKISTOCRATS** be shunted, be called to justice
KERFUFFLE could be a **FUFFLE** from **KERALA** in a slump
Like
TRAMPOLINER is a flip by a fellow like **TRUMP**
And ere long **f** word qualifies for a critic's assessment
Then **THAROOROSAURUS** resurrects prehistoric predicaments.

Vincent Van Gogh Oil Paintings On Canvas By Rtn. Lt. Col. Rocque





What to Expect in the Next Four Weeks

- **August 24** — Parsi Lunch Fellowship on Sunday, 24th Aug at Ladies Club
- **August 30** — Know your Rotarian
- **September 06** — Holiday – Ganesh Vijarjan
- **September 14** — Onam Fellowship Lunch on Sunday September 14

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rtn / R'Ann

Rtn. PP Amitabha Mukhopadhyay
Rtn. PP Krishan Jhunjhunwala
R'Ann Dr. Sadhana Lachyan
Rtn. Ashish Goyal
R'Ann Mohini Patheja
Rtn. Madhvi Kshetry
R'Ann Dr. Sheila Bhawe
Rtn. Vinit Ketan
Rtn. Ramesh Arora

Birthday

August 17
August 19
August 20
August 22
August 22
August 22
August 23
August 23
August 29



Member and Spouse

Rtn. Baakir and R'Ann Razia Baker
Rtn. PE Parvin and R'Ann Neena Malhotra
Rtn. Kripashankar and R'Ann Vidhya Rajappa
Rtn. Oni and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwal
Rtn Pravin and R'Ann Monica Nadkarni

Wedding Anniversary

August 9
August 10
August 17
August 19
August 27