

## ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL

## CENTRAL TURF

*The Bulletin*

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

VOLUME NO XLII/23 | DATED 22 June 2026

*Speaking of which .....***Says Krishna.....**[krsnarti@gmail.com](mailto:krsnarti@gmail.com)**Passing the Torch**

A year has passed. Eventful. Exciting. Liberating. I enjoyed my time as the Editor of Central Turf. I got to know a lot of RCPC members. The interviews, up close and personal, was a great way of knowing and making new friends. Innumerable memories were created this year, as it comes to a close. And I got to capture these in the bulletin.

Some said, "no one reads the bulletin". Some said, "We just look at the pics". Yet others said, "Who wants to know?". Many others said, "We want it every week".

But that didn't discourage me. In fact it motivated me to do better. I am grateful to all. Those who appreciated it. Those who contributed to it. Those who suggested improvements. Those who didn't read it at all. Everyone. I particularly thank President Lekha for her keen participation in bringing out the bulletin, the keen sense of observation, really.

I am sure the next team will get it closer to the stars.  
Keep reading it. Keep supporting the team. Keep giving ideas.  
Keep giving your Tann, Mann, Dhan and have lots of Funn.

Happy Father's Day.

**The last issue No. 24 will be published on 30th June 2026 to mark the end of the RY 2025-26. It will be called: KAL, AAJ AUR KAL.**







## Year in Retrospective - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ Pancharatna Hotel



The RCPC RY 2025-26 began with a bang and ended with a bigger bang! **The Year in Retrospective** was held at the grand hall of Pancharatna Hotel and was well attended. The spirits were high and the enthusiastic participation by members, created an indelible memory in the hearts of everyone.

President Lekha traced back the major achievements, and the hallmark of her presentation was the recognition of every single member who had contributed towards making RY 2025-26 a grand success.

Look at the pictures. They speak 10000 words at once.









## Meeting of Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026 @ Poona Club



The Antakshari competition held in RCPC on 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 was a well-received event! The credit of this success goes to the teams who came forward and participated. Their sporting spirit won hearts. At the same time the audience participation was at one of its best seen.

The event was hosted by Rtn Krishna Kumar.



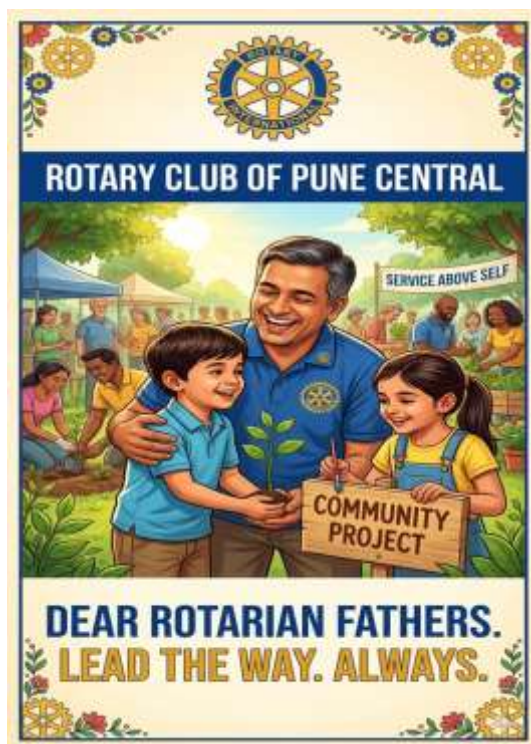
The teams – Tan, Mann, Dhan, Fun.



Winning team



Runners Up







*Rtn Oni Kakajiwala & R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala –  
UNTIRING EFFORTS*

## **Rotary Club Pune Central Organises Free Eye Camp for Special Needs Children at Buddy Centre**

## **pune kar news Reports**

In a heartwarming initiative aimed at promoting preventive healthcare and enhancing the quality of life for individuals with special needs, Rotary Club Pune Central organised a Free Eye Check-Up Camp at Buddy Centre, B.T. Kavade Road, Pune.

Reported by Shoaib Tadvī

### Free Eye Check-Up Camp Conducted

- Rotary Club Pune Central organised a Free Eye Check-Up Camp at Buddy Centre, B.T. Kavade Road, Pune.
- The initiative aimed to promote preventive healthcare and improve the well-being of individuals with special needs.

### Beneficiaries Included Students and Caregivers

- The camp provided professional eye examinations for students, parents, caregivers and staff members of Buddy Centre.
- Participants also received guidance on eye health and awareness about the importance of timely vision care.

### Rotary Members Led the Initiative

- The programme was organised through the efforts of:
  - Rotarian Oni Kakajiwalā
  - Rotary Ann Nafisa Kakajiwalā
  - Rotarian Munir Chinoy
  - Rotarian Lt Col Julius Rocque (Retd.)

### Buddy Centre Appreciates the Support

- Karen Karbhari, Founder and CEO of Buddy Centre, thanked Rotary Club Pune Central for supporting the healthcare needs of individuals with special needs.
- She highlighted the importance of community partnerships in improving access to essential services.

### Focus on Inclusion and Well-Being

- Organisers emphasised that good vision plays a crucial role in learning, confidence and overall quality of life.
- The initiative also helped raise awareness about healthcare accessibility challenges faced by families of individuals with special needs.

### Strengthening Community Partnerships

- Rotary members described the camp as an opportunity to serve vulnerable communities and strengthen ties between service organisations and beneficiaries.
- The event reinforced values of compassion, dignity, inclusion and social responsibility.

### Lasting Impact

- Buddy Centre acknowledged the contribution of Rotary Club Pune Central in creating meaningful change through healthcare outreach.
- Organisers expressed hope for more collaborative initiatives in the future.





### Idlis tales 🍲

3 a.m. dawn. Chennai Central Railway Station.

People are asleep all over the platform. In the middle sits an elderly man—78 years old. White dhoti and shirt. In his hand, a bamboo basket. The basket is full of steaming idlis.

"Idli... hot idli... one rupee... just one rupee..."

No one buys. It's 2026. You don't even get candy for one rupee—idlis? People laugh, calling him mad.

My name is Aravind. I work in an IT company. Returning home after a night shift. AC car. Hungry. But at the station stalls, idlis cost ₹50.

I noticed the old man. Around 100 idlis in the basket. Not a single customer. His eyes looked moist.

I got down. "Grandpa, idli for one rupee? Won't you incur a loss?" He smiled. "Son, not a loss. It's a profit."

"How, grandpa? Rice price, gas price... one idli costs at least ₹5. You sell for ₹1?" He closed the basket. "Let me tell you a story."

"1975. I was 25. A railway porter. Monthly salary ₹100. One day, heavy rain. No work. No money. Starving for 3 days. I fainted on a bench at the station."

"Then a woman—she sold idlis on the platform. One rupee each. She lifted me, sprinkled water, fed me 4 idlis. Didn't ask for money."

"I cried... said I had no money. She told me—'Son, I too once starved. Someone fed me that day. I took a vow: till I die, I will sell idlis for one rupee so the hungry can eat. You also promise—when you grow big, feed someone hungry like this.'"

The old man wiped his eyes. "She passed away in 1995. Before dying, she held my hand and asked, 'Will you keep your promise?' I said yes."

"After that, I took railway contracts. Earned well. Three houses. Two children. Both in America. But from 1995 till today—every morning at 3 a.m.—100 idlis. One rupee. At this station. 30 years."

I got goosebumps. "Grandpa... ₹400 loss daily. ₹12,000 monthly. ₹1.5 lakh yearly. Over 30 years... ₹45 lakhs!"

"Son, by money, it's a loss. By heart, it's profit. In 30 years—how many people have I fed? 10 lakh idlis. 10 lakh stomachs. 10 lakh blessings. How many crores is that worth?"

Just then, a boy ran in. Torn shirt. About 12 years old. "Grandpa... idli... haven't eaten for 3 days. Mother in hospital. No money."

The old man placed 4 idlis on a leaf, poured chutney. "Eat slowly, son."

The boy ate... and cried. "I'll pay tomorrow..."

"No need. When you grow big, feed another hungry person. That's enough. That is the payment."

The boy fell at his feet. "I promise, grandpa. I too will sell idlis for one rupee."

I took out ₹1000. "Grandpa, please... I'll buy all the idlis."

He smiled. "These are not for selling to one person. They are for the hungry. If you're hungry, take one idli. Put one rupee. That's enough." I placed ₹1. Took one idli. It was the tastiest food I've ever had. I ate it with tears.

"Grandpa, can I ask something?" "Ask, son." "Don't your children object... saying it's a waste of money?"

He took out his phone. Video call. His son in America.

"Appa, did you sell the idlis? Are you fine? What did the doctor say?"

"I'm fine. A young man came today, heard the story."

His son saw me and smiled.

"Sir, thank you. Please take care of my father. We send ₹50,000 every month—for the idlis. It's his wish. That's our blessing. His vow is our vow."

The old man ended the call. "See, son? My children have also taken the vow. Even after I die, this basket won't stop. One-rupee idli won't stop."

Today it's 2026. The old man is no more. He passed away last year at 79. Before dying, he held my hand:

"Son, take care of the basket. Keep the promise." Now, every morning at 3 a.m., at the same bench in Chennai Central Railway Station—I am there. Basket full of idlis. One rupee. I didn't quit my IT job. But I give 2 hours every morning... to idlis.

My company has 200 staff. Each contributes ₹100 per month. "One Rupee Idli Trust."

That 12-year-old boy—Ganesh—is now in Class 12. He studies... and in the evenings, comes to help. "Anna, I've also taken the vow. When I grow big, I'll do this too."

Friends, earning money is not great. Using money to earn merit—that is greatness.



How many of you knew these ...!!

1. **\*Babina\***. British Army Base in Asia.
2. **\*Mhow\***. Mil HQ of War
3. **\*Ambala\***. Army Maintenance Base and logistics area
4. **\*The Mall\***. Military Administrators living line.
5. **\*Mess\***. Members of equal social status.

Contributed by Rtn Air Cmdr Pankaj Mehrotra

### “WHAT IS THE EXPIRY DATE OF WATER? ...”

Often, we decide the “expiry date” of water according to our convenience and mindset, even though there is no scientific basis for it. Just think about this contradiction:

#### In cities:

Where tap water is available every day, yesterday’s water is considered “stale” and thrown away.

(Expiry date: 1 day)

#### Where water comes once every 2–8 days:

The same water remains perfectly fresh and drinkable for two to eight days.

(Expiry date: 2 to 8 days)

#### At weddings and functions:

As soon as a new Bisleri bottle is opened, the old bottle is immediately treated as useless and discarded.

(Expiry date: a few minutes or hours)

#### The reality on the other side...

##### In the desert:

During a journey, every single drop of water remains precious and fresh until the next water source is found.

(Expiry date: until the next water source is found)

##### In nature:

Water stored in dams and ponds remains completely usable until the next monsoon — and during droughts, even for 2–3 years.

(Expiry date: many years)

##### In borewells:

The water we draw from 50 to 500 feet underground may be hundreds or even thousands of years old, yet it is considered among the safest and purest for health.

(Expiry date: hundreds, thousands of years, or perhaps forever)

### Conclusion (A Thought to Reflect On) 💡

In reality, water has no expiry date. Its “expiry” is determined only by our mindset, its availability, and its cleanliness. When water is easily available, we call it stale; when there is scarcity, the same water becomes priceless.

Therefore, water should be used with wisdom, responsibility, and restraint. Otherwise, before nature runs out of water, our careless attitude will leave us thirsty.

💧 Water is Life 💧 🌱 If there is water, there is a future . Stay healthy... Stay safe... Save water...



## ***Rtn PP Arvind Saraf's tryst with Tenzing Rock***

**I climbed Tenzing Rock in Darjeeling on 7th June.**

About 80 feet in height and almost 80–90 degrees steep.

The climb itself was lung-bursting and demanded complete focus.

Using ropes and then coming down through rappelling was an experience in itself.

What surprised me was this: getting down felt tougher than climbing up.

**Perhaps life is similar.**

Reaching the top takes effort, but navigating the way down — with balance, control and humility — can sometimes be even harder.

Nothing extraordinary perhaps, but it felt good to challenge myself at this stage of life.

**Rtn PP Arvind Saraf**





## Raising standards for RY 2026-27



### CENTRAL TURF TEAM MEETS UP TO PREPARE

As the RY 2025-26 peters down to an ending, the next able team of Rtn Lt Col Julius Rocque and Rtn Geeta (Rajalakshmi) Krishna already in action, to understand and deliver a far better Bulletin starting July 2026.

Growth and the penchant for the unique and the best, drives the new team and we look forward to the next era of information sharing with the members of RCPC.



### PUBLIC IMAGE COMMITTEE MEETS UP.

You can expect a year of enhanced impact by the team, who are preparing themselves to deliver RCPC the much needed publicity that it deserves

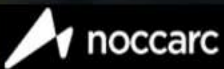


## Grant and Admin Seminar



The Grant and Admin Seminar event was held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at Hotel Kalasagar. PP Rtn Ravi Kapoor, PP Rtn Sanjiv Kumar and Rtn Julius Rocque attended the same.

## Message from Rtn PP Rakesh Bhargava – RCPC is proud of you!



"Proud to share that my mentee start up Noccarc Robotics has been selected for Bharat Innovates Exhibition to be inaugurated in Nice by PM Modi and Pres of France Macron"

Rakesh Bhargava

Shaping

# The Future of Critical Care with Visionary Breakthroughs

## Message from Rtn Dr Jitendra Sandu – RCPC is proud of you!



**\*Subject: Research Recognition – A Milestone Achieved\***

Dear President Lekha,

I am pleased to inform you that the career evaluations conducted at Mahatma Gandhi School and other institutions have been scientifically validated. Our research was peer-reviewed and approved, confirming the long-term value of our work in career decision-making.

Both RCPC and TAAS have been mentioned in the paper—a recognition of the vision and support of past Rotary presidents, including yourself.

**\*Title:\***

**"The Value of Psychometric-Based Career Guidance for Grade 9 and 10 Students: Enhancing Career Decision Self-Efficacy, Adaptability, and Parent-Student Career Alignment"**

Congratulations on being part of this impactful initiative.

Regards,  
Dr Jitendra sandu

Conclusively, the study indicates that Psychometric Career Guidance (PCG) is an effective tool that can help students in Grades 9 and 10 with their academic journey and impact their future careers. We at RCPC are proud of you Rtn Dr. Jitendra Sandu, and hope to see you at the club, telling us more about it and its practical implications.

## EXCLUSIVE SCHEME FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> TIME PHFs – message from President Lekha

EXCLUSIVE SCHEME FOR FIRST-TIME PHFs 🌟

Dear Rotarians,

We are delighted to announce a special opportunity for your spouses, children, and grandchildren to become Paul Harris Fellows (PHF)

- 🏆 First-Time PHF Recognition
- 💰 Contribution: Only USD 100

This exclusive scheme is designed to encourage our family members to begin their Rotary Foundation journey and become part of Rotary's legacy of doing good in the world.

A wonderful opportunity to gift your loved ones the pride and recognition of becoming a Paul Harris Fellow!

Offer available for first-time PHFs only.  
(Please connect with me or Rtn Nitin Rajore for details)

Thanks n Regards,  
Rtn Lekha Nair



## Team Thalassemia of RCPC in action



The Thalassemia awareness of RCPC led by Rtn Sanjay Karwa is in action.

A general meeting at KEM hospital on the awareness campaign was attended by Rtn Dr Anand Bhatia, Rtn PP Ravi Kapoor and Rtn Sanjay Karwa. KEM has offered support. Similarly, Rtn Sanjay Karwa has roped in the Rotaract Club of SAIL to support this initiative.

A blood donation campaign has been organised on 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2026, led by Rtn Oni Kakajiwal, and the promotion of Thalassemia awareness will be kicked off on this day.

**Show up. Bring along at least 5  
of your family / friends.**

**It is not only Donation of Blood.**

**It is your way of Saving Lives.**

