



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

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary



CENTRAL TURF

ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL



PRESIDENT: RTN. PARVIN MALHOTRA | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. JULIUS ROQUE BULLETIN SUB-EDITOR: RTN. GEETA KRISHNA
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Fellow Rotarians and R'Anns,

As I begin my journey as the oldest President to serve RCPC, I do so with deep humility, gratitude, and optimism. It is not lost on me that a journey which began in the Navy, took me through the skies, and later brought me to this club in 2013, has now led me here: to this desk, and to you.

My vision for the year is simple, yet ambitious: to build on our proud legacy while creating lasting impact.

Together, we will strengthen our membership, deepen our community service, empower youth, enhance our public image, forge meaningful partnerships, embrace innovation, ensure financial sustainability, nurture future leaders, and preserve the fellowship and values that define Rotary.

This year is not just about another successful chapter, it is about making RCPC more connected, more visible, more impactful, and more future-ready than ever before.

Our guiding theme this year is **Building on Legacy, Creating Lasting Impact**. I invite every member to join me in making this vision a shared reality—one project, one partnership, and one act of service at a time.

Here's to a year of purpose, together.

Warm regards,

Cmde. Parvin Malhotra President, Rotary Club of Pune Central RY 2026–27

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026-2027

Rotarian Cmde. Parvin Malhotra **President**



Commodore Parvin Malhotra (also known as Pavan), graduated in Mechanical Engineering and joined the Indian Navy in 1969, later converting to the Marine Engineering branch. He served as an engineer during the 1971 war operations. Parvin was deputed to the then USSR for a Flight Engineer's course. After 33 years, he joined Griffin (UK) as Technical Director (India). Married to Neena, they have two sons Dr

Puneet is a pulmonologist in UK and Sumeet is an International lawyer based in Singapore. Parvin has been involved with several NGOs and has been actively involved in Coastal and River Banks clean-up. He joined Rotary in 2013 and served as Honorary Secretary with RCPC.

Rotarian Krishna Kumar **President Elect, Director Special Events & District Coordination**



Krishna Kumar Srinivasan, or KK as he is fondly addressed, is a seasoned C-suite leader and business turnaround specialist. He previously served as the CEO of Kanoo Logistics (Middle East) and spent 25 years with Maersk Line, including roles as Managing Director and Director for South Asia. Krishna balances his corporate expertise with creative passions as a poet, writer, and singer. He is proud of his wife,

Aarti, an award-winning educator with over 30 years of experience and founder of The First Word School in Pune. They have two daughters: Karishma, a published author, and Nikita, a career counsellor, and a granddaughter, Shanaaya. Rotarian Krishna Kumar's Rotary journey started in November 2024.

Rotarian Lt. Col. Julius Rocque **Hon. Secretary**



Lt. Col. Julius Rocque has served in the Indian Army for 24 years. He was a Qualified Paratrooper and has completed two cycling expeditions across India, covering 1,200 and 7,000 kms. He has been Head of the Sainik School in Purulia, West Bengal, and Trivandrum, Kerala, served as an instructor at the NDA, and was principal of the International Indian School in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. He is closely associated with several

schools, serving as Vice President of the Eram Group of Schools in Kerala. A special moment for him was taking the special needs children from Sneha School in Bhatkal to the Rashtrapati Bhavan in 2023.

Rotarian Aseem Srivastav

Honorary Treasurer & Director Club Service



Aseem Srivastav is a business leader, author, and advocate of conscious leadership. He currently serves as Group President, Greaves Cotton Limited, and has previously held CEO/MD positions in Kirloskar Group companies, McNally Bharat, and others. A Fulbright Scholar, TEDx speaker, Art of Living Yoga Teacher, and India's first Certified Conscious Business Coach, Aseem is known for driving business transformation, building high-performance culture, and promoting sustainable growth.

He is the author of *Ultra Pulta Thinking*, a book on innovative thinking and leadership.

Supported by his wife Alka, his mother, two sons, and daughter-in-law, Aseem is passionate about community service, wellness, and leadership development, and is deeply committed to Rotary's ideal of Service Above Self.

Rotarian Giri Sakhrani

Director, Membership & Assimilation



Giri is an entrepreneur and has been a Rotarian since 2007. He is passionate about projects improving water supply in rural areas, and for the past four years has led the club's flagship project repairing dams in the drought-prone talukas of Satara district. This project received a six-page write-up in *Rotary News* for being a "bang for the buck" project — one that achieved lasting improvement in the livelihood and quality

of life of the people it served. Married to Usha, they have two sons, Shyam and Rohan, based in the UK and the Netherlands. Giri is passionate about cycling and covers thousands of kilometres every year. Rotarian Giri Sakhrani has been a Rotarian since 2007.

Rotarian Past President Sanjay Karwa

Director, International Service & The Rotary Foundation



Sanjay is a graduate of the Pune Institute of Computer Technology, with a PG in Computer Engineering from BITS Pilani. He is an entrepreneur in IT products and services. He was a Charter member of the Rotary Club of Pune Vibrant East in 2018 and served as its President in 2020-21. He has served on several District 3131 teams, including Youth, International Service, Environment, and Happy School, and has also

served as District Secretary (Innovation) in RY 22-23, District RYLA Chair in RY 24-25, and District Rotaract Chair in RY 25-26.

Sanjay is married to Rotarian and Board member Vaishali Karwa, and they have two sons.

Rotarian Past President Ravi Kapoor
Director, CSR & Global Grants



Ravi is a metallurgical engineer from IIT Bombay and holds a Master's in Management Studies from Jamnalal Bajaj. He has worked in various capacities in the Finance function across companies such as Wipro, Piaggio, and several others. He is currently the Co-founder and Executive Director of Indus Business Advisors LLP. Ravi has been a Rotarian for the past 26 years, starting his journey with the Rotary Club of Poona Airport before moving to RCPC, where he served as Club

President in 2018-19. He has served as CSR Director for three consecutive years and has also held posts at the District level. Married to Jyoti, they have two daughters, Bhavna and Rashi. Ravi enjoys aeromodelling, trekking, and gardening.

Rotarian Jeevan Mahaldar
Director, Community and Vocational Service — Non-Medical



Rtn. Jeevan Mahaldar, a seasoned business leader with over 40 years of global leadership experience in the automotive and engineering industry, is currently Director of Ficosa India Engineering Centre and an Independent Director at Kalyani Forge Ltd. Beyond his professional achievements, he has always been committed to community service, from participating in the rehabilitation of surrendered dacoits through NCC in his youth, to supporting education for underprivileged

communities and leading CSR initiatives that created livelihood opportunities for prison inmates in Spain. He looks forward to creating lasting community impact, promoting financial awareness and independence, and continuing to live Rotary's motto of Service Above Self. Rotarian Jeevan Mahaldar has been a Rotarian since 2021.

Rotarian Reshma Sambare
Director, Community and Vocational Service — Medical



Reshma Sambare is a social worker, a lawyer, and a civil engineer. She was a member of RC Pune Metro for about four years before transferring her membership to RC Pune Central in August 2025. Reshma served as the Service Project Director of RC Pune Metro for two years and continues to serve on District 3131 project committees for the Borewell Recharge Project and Cervical Cancer Prevention Project.

Reshma runs Jhep Foundation, an NGO working primarily in tribal areas of Maharashtra. She also runs the South Asian Women's Association, an NGO that addresses the needs of survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other gender-based crimes among South Asian American communities in the USA.

Rotarian Dr. Sunil Deshmukh
Director, New Generation



Sunil Deshmukh is a globally recognised corporate leader, board advisor, executive coach, author, and keynote speaker with over 30 years of international leadership experience. After serving as CFO for leading multinational companies in India for more than 15 years, he went on to lead organisations as Managing Director, CEO, and Group CEO for another 15 years across five countries. Sunil made history as the first Indian, first Asian, and only the second non-American to serve as Global Chair of the Institute of Management Accountants, USA, in its 105-year history. He is the author of *Videshmukhi*, published in both Marathi and English, and is passionate about inspiring excellence through mentoring, education, and thought leadership.

Rotarian Past President Parmod K. Bhalla
Director, Programs & Fellowships



Parmod has been a member of RCPC since 2006 and has held various Board positions until 2011. He served as President of the club in 2014-15. Parmod held several CXO-level positions in the IT industry until 2008, after which he moved to the hospitality industry as an investor, and is now a resort developer. He loves nature and has travelled extensively across the globe for business and pleasure. Parmod is happily married to Ranjana, and they are blessed with two sons, Varun and Karan, and two adorable grandchildren, Shiven and Ivaan.

Rotarian Parmod Bhalla has been a Rotarian since 2006.

Rotarian Vaishali Karwa
President Nominee, Director Youth Service, Public Image & Digital Club



Vaishali is a graduate in Home Science from Nirmala Niketan, University of Bombay, with a specialisation in Textiles and Chemistry. She has worked in an export house, taught at Nirmala Niketan, and conducted fashion designing classes for over 15 years. She joined Rotary in 2017 and soon chartered a Satellite club. She has served on several District committees and is currently a member of the District Youth Service committee for Happy Schools. She also serves as Director, Public Image and Public Relations, in our club. Married to Board member Sanjay Karwa, they have two sons, Chaitanya and Dr. Kunal, and daughter-in-law Latika, who is a fashion designer.

Rotarian Lekha Nair

Immediate Past President



Lekha Nair began her career as a software engineer with Tata Infotech before joining the Indian Army, where she served for five years as a Short Service Commissioned Officer in the Corps of Signals. Posted across Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Tamil Nadu, she was part of Operation Rakshak, and was selected to train and groom Lady Cadets at the Officers Training Academy.

After her Army years, Lekha worked in the social sector with organisations including Tata Community Initiatives Trust and Yuva Parivartan, focused on skill development and community empowerment. She is also an entrepreneur by accident, now running Beetroot Bistro, a restaurant in Koregaon Park.

Lekha's Rotary journey began almost a decade ago with the Rotary Club of Devlali in Nashik. She joined RCPC in 2019, and went on to become only the third woman President in the club's history, serving RY 2025-26 under the theme "Unite for Good." Her year in office focused on strengthening the club's Committee culture and making activities more participatory, and she is widely credited with handing over a club that is more engaged and better organised than she found it.

RY 2026-27: VISION AND KEY PROJECTS

Building on President Malhotra's vision of *Building on Legacy, Creating Lasting Impact*, here's where that vision translates into action on the ground this year:

Water & Environment

Watershed revival, riverbank and water hyacinth cleanup, solar pumps for farm ponds, and water filtration units for ZP schools.

Education & Skilling

Financial literacy programmes for students, skill kits for trades like plumbing and carpentry, and AI and cybersecurity awareness in association with NIIT Foundation.

Women's Empowerment

Continued momentum on the "She Can and She Will" initiative, focused on skill development.

Community Health & Rehabilitation

A proposed leprosy rehabilitation project in Antulay Nagar, currently under evaluation.

Rotary Foundation

A target of USD 33,000 in total TRF contribution for the year, spanning the Annual Fund, Major Donor giving, and Polio Plus.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL THEME 2026-27: CREATE LASTING IMPACT



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, began his term as Rotary International President on 1 July 2026, becoming only the second African to lead the organization. His Rotary journey began in 1984 as a Rotaractor, and he joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi ten years later. He has served as District Governor, RI Vice President, and a member of the RI Board of Directors, with a long-standing commitment to PolioPlus efforts in Nigeria.

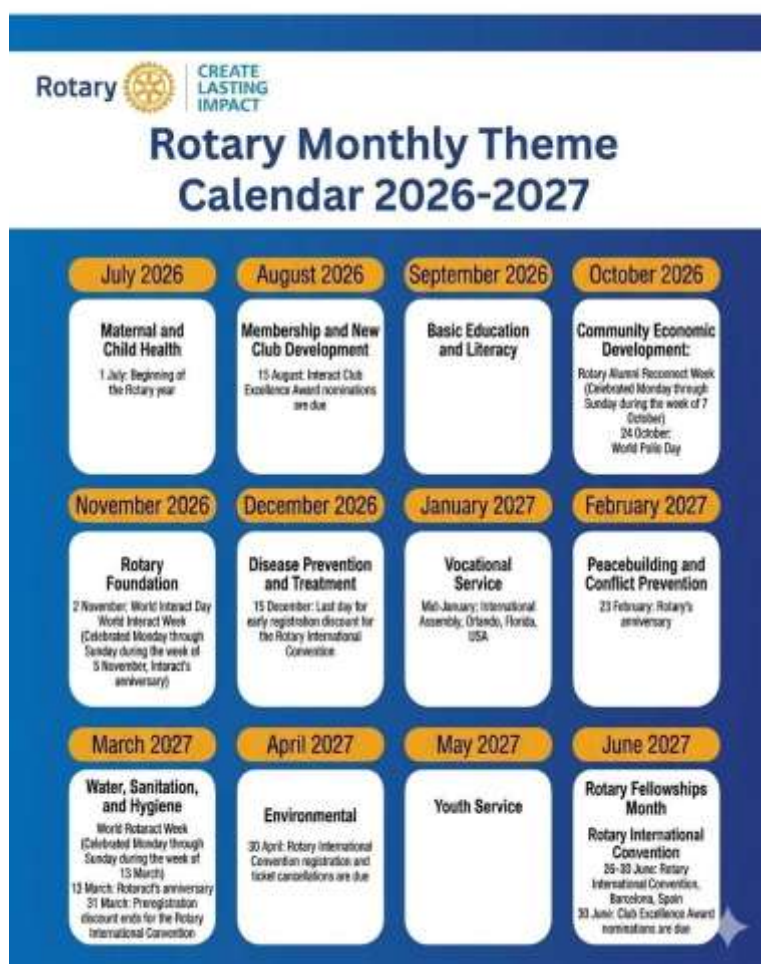
Introducing this year's presidential theme, **Create Lasting Impact**, Babalola drew a clear distinction between the two ideas at the heart of it: *"Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures."*

As he told members at Rotary's International Assembly: *"As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future. To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact."*

The theme calls on Rotarians worldwide to look beyond one-time projects toward service that leaves something lasting behind, the kind of change communities can keep building on long after a Rotary year ends.

ROTARY MONTHLY THEME CALENDAR – RY 2026-27

The Rotary Monthly Theme Calendar gives us a year's worth of foresight, helping the club plan projects and events well in advance. While these are guidelines, not mandates, they also give a motivational nudge to the work we do. Sharing the theme through the bulletin, social media, emails, and weekly meetings keeps it front of mind, and that visibility tends to turn into action.



July 2026: Maternal and Child Health Month

Rotary's commitment this month centres on improving access to quality healthcare for mothers and children:

Healthy Pregnancies—Antenatal care & nutrition

Safe Childbirth—Skilled medical assistance

Thriving Children—Immunization & Pediatric care

SERVICE IN ACTION

Blood Donation Drive for Thalassemia

On International Doctor's Day, 1 July, the Rotary Club of Pune Central successfully conducted a blood donation drive in association with The Poona Club, kicking off RY 2026-27 with a project that truly reflected our motto: **Service Above Self**.

The drive, held at Poona Club's Conference Hall 2, was led by Rtn. Oni and Nafisa Kakajiwala, marking Day 1 of the new Rotary year with a cause aimed squarely at helping children battling Thalassemia. It also marks the opening move in what's shaping up to be a sustained effort for the year—Team Thalassemia, RCPC's dedicated awareness initiative led by Rtn. Sanjay Karwa, is building on this momentum with a broader campaign in partnership with KEM Hospital and the Rotaract Club of SAIL.

A special thanks to Rtn. Julius and R'Ann Madhu Rocque, who drove in from Belgaum and came straight to the venue despite heavy rain and long traffic, tired as they were, to be part of the effort.

RCPC also extends its deepest gratitude to The Poona Club for their generosity. The hall, food, tea, coffee, and hospitality were all provided free of charge, and their own staff turned out in large numbers to donate. A special word of thanks to the President and Secretary of The Poona Club, and to our own Rtn. Munir Bhai for facilitating the connection. Sassoon Hospital Blood Bank, led by Arun and his team, expressed heartfelt gratitude at the close of the drive, a moment that left everyone present quite touched.



Visit to Asha School, NDA

IPP Rtn. Brig. PKM Raja, Rtn. Prabhat Singh, and Rtn. Shireesh Nadkar visited Asha School at NDA Khadakvasla on 30 June, where they were warmly received by Lt. Col. Rajesh Patil, who currently oversees the school. Asha School supports 36 children with developmental disabilities, most of whom come from families of NDA staff or nearby communities. NDA provides the premises, infrastructure, equipment, and daily meals for the children and staff, while specialised educators are supported by NGOs and RCPC.

The teaching team includes a Principal and an Art and Music teacher from Suhrud Mandal, along with four specialists: an Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, and Physiotherapist provided by the Indian Head Injury Foundation, and a Clinical Psychologist funded by RCPC through a generous contribution from Rtn. Arun Jindal. Together, they deliver structured therapy and learning programmes tailored to each child's needs.

During the visit, the Rotarians observed classroom activities and therapy sessions, gaining insight into the patience, skill, and empathy required to work with children across varying levels of disability. Although fewer children were present that day, the visitors witnessed a small dance performance designed to improve mobility, rhythm, and confidence. Chocolates were distributed to all the children on behalf of the club, adding a moment of joy to the afternoon.

Lt. Col. Patil expressed his gratitude for RCPC's continued support and extended an open invitation to all members to visit the school. The visit served as a meaningful reminder of the impact and importance of this long-standing partnership.



An Ode to Immediate Past President Lekha Nair

This beautiful poem by R'Ann Adv. Pratibha Subhash Devi is a heartfelt Hindi tribute welcoming and honouring outgoing President Lekha Nair's year of leadership, likening her energy to lightning ("बिजली")—a force that brought new resolve, fresh dreams, and an inspirational force she has been to the women Rotarians.

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

— Poem by R'Ann Adv. Pratibha Subhash Devi

A Little Piece of Peace"

This issue we have this lovely acrylic painting by R'Ann Teena Goyal featuring a serene evening at the Golden Temple, rendered in swirling, starlit blues reminiscent of Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. The sacred shrine's golden domes glow softly against the night sky, mirrored in the still waters below, as two silent figures sit in quiet contemplation in the foreground.



— Painting in acrylic by R'Ann Teena Goyal

AROUND THE DISTRICT

District 3131 News: Meet Your New District Governor



Rtn. Nitin Dhamale takes charge as District Governor of District 3131 for RY 2026-27. He holds a B.E. in Production Engineering and an M.E. in Metallurgy Engineering from the University of Pune, and manages the family business, M/s Cee Dee Vacuum Equipment Pvt. Ltd.

His Rotary journey began in 2002-03 with the Rotary Club of Pimpri, where he built a strong record of large-scale, high-impact projects — distributing school bags to over 3,000 students, installing 127 water tanks with filters, leading a literacy project across 162 ZP schools, and executing two Global Grants worth ₹1.75 crore each with H V Desai, along with a ₹54 lakh CSR initiative with Cello Pens to build 24 restrooms in ZP schools.

As Club President in 2018-19, he oversaw 128 service projects in a single year, a district record, and led Pimpri to be ranked the number one club in the district that year. He has since been recognised as Best Club President (2018), Best Performing Assistant Governor (2021-22), and Best TRF Director (2022-23), and holds several district records in Rotary Foundation giving. Nitin was accepted as an unopposed District Governor candidate for 2026-27 in recognition of his sustained contribution to Rotary. He is supported by his wife, Ann Dr. Neelam, a gold medalist paediatrician, and they have a son, Aryan.

Congratulations to Fellow Presidents

RCPC was well represented at two installation functions this past week. On 26th June, Rtn. Shikha Mitra was installed as President of RC Poona Downtown at a glittering function at the Sree Pancharathna Hotel. The next morning, Rtn. Smita Kasmalkar was installed as President of RCP Amanora at a glamorous function at The Fern Amanora, where District Governor Rtn. Nitin Dhamale and Assistant Governor Rtn. Ajay Chitnis were both present.

Warm congratulations to both incoming Presidents from all of us at RCPC.



(Picture Credits: Rtn. Ajay Chitnis)

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Saturday, July 11, 2026: Your Wish Our Vision

The first RCPC meeting with your new board will be filled with fun activities including “Guess Your Rotarian”

Sunday, July 19, 2026: Monsoon Magic

Monsoon Magic, will be a brunch event by all women Rotarians and R'Anns to welcome and celebrate the monsoon season.

Stay tuned for further details on these events!

EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Rotarians and R'Anns,

If you're reading this, it's likely happening right now, somewhere in the room at Pocha Hall, gavel in hand, President Parvin Malhotra is about to take charge of Rotary Club of Pune Central for RY 2026-27. I write this note in the middle of that same excitement.

It feels right that our first issue as the new bulletin team should land on Installation Day itself. There's something fitting about starting where the club itself is starting—a new President, a new Board, and a fresh set of commitments taking shape in real time, even as the ink dries on this page.

Before we look ahead, a word of thanks for President Lekha Nair who leaves behind a year that strengthened our Committee and brought fresh energy to how we work together. This is no small feat, and not something that happens by accident. We're grateful for it, and for her.

And now, on to what's next. President Parvin brings a career that's taken him from the Navy to the skies to a decade of dedicated service at RCPC, and his theme for the year, Building on Legacy, Creating Lasting Impact, feels like the right compass for where the club goes from here. In this bulletin, you'll meet your new Board, get a first look at the year's key projects, and catch up on everything from a blood donation drive to a warm evening at Asha School, proof that even before the ribbon was cut on this Rotary year, RCPC was already at work.

A special note of thanks to Rtn. Krishna Kumar, for the unstinted passion with which he designed and edited Central Turf bulletin for RY 2025-2026. We have large shoes to fill, and hope to get better with your feedback and suggestions.

With warmth and admiration for the year ahead,

Rtn. Geeta Krishna

Sub-Editor, Central Turf, Rotary Club of Pune Central

Please write to geetakris@gmail.com for contributions to our upcoming issues and feedback on how we can improve our bulletin.