

CENTRAL TURF

PRESIDENT: RTN. Cmde AJAY CHITNIS | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. DELSHAD KARANJIA

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA

TODAY "Special celebration of 2024 with three festivals coming together under a single umbrella" this Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an unforgettable evening of "joie de vivre" and companionship at Hotel Shantai.



We shall be rejoicing in the spirit of **three vibrant festivals - Gudi Padwa, Eid, and Baisakhi** - each reflecting their inimitable style and character through a unique entertainment program that you would not want to miss !

And **that's not all! Our Fellowship Committee is confident that this evening shall set a new bar for culinary standards, leaving you mesmerised and wanting more!**

As tradition dictates, we will kick off the evening with a half-hour Pre-Meeting Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the official commencement of the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Looking forward to your enthusiastic and whole- hearted participation

From the President's desk



As we enter a new financial year, we need to plan our 'Giving Strategy', and how we can best optimize our tax liabilities. The Rotary year though, has not yet ended, and we still have three months to progress projects in hand, and indeed take up new projects if possible. Projects that we start now would necessarily spill into the next year, but that does not mean we stop pursuing new avenues for our service. One Rotary Year ending, and the next one starting, is merely an administrative change, and though it involves a change of leadership in the club and at the District and International levels, it does not mean anything to an ongoing project. A case in point is the Mega Eye Surgery project started in March 2023, which was sanctioned in May 2023; majority of the 10,500



Cataract Surgeries were conducted in this Rotary Year. In the same way we are in the process of obtaining approval for the second Mega Eye Surgery project, in which we plan to conduct 1500 cataract surgeries. This will continue even after the new President has taken over.

On the subject of Mega Eye Surgery Project, this has been made possible mainly due to the generous donation of Rs 3 Crores, by Rtn Nitin Desai, through the CSR Funds of Desai Brothers. With this he rises to the next level of Arch Klumph Society Members. Kudos to him and R'Ann Meena Desai.

Which brings me to the subject of Foundation Giving, especially Giving to the Annual Fund (Previously known as APF). Whereas RCPC is head and shoulders above other clubs of our strength, in total Foundation Giving, our contribution to APF is not proportionately high. We need to increase these numbers, so that we can justifiably demand a substantial amount from the District Development Fund (DDF). Please urge your friends who are still not Paul Harris Fellows, to take advantage of our scheme for supporting members with points, to become PHFs. We still need substantial numbers to achieve our target.

The Dam Repair work at Satara is in progress at a brisk pace. The plastic sheets for covering the Dam-face and the trench, have arrived and have been laid at the location. The trench is being refilled, and then we will undertake de-siltation, to have the entire site ready for the Rain-Gods to fill it up. With a predicted 'Normal' Monsoon this year, we hope that we are able to fulfill the hopes of the villagers of Rajapur.

The Happy Village Project undertaken at Antulay Nagar has been completed, in that we have cleaned the contaminated well, and it is full of Fresh, Potable water. The residents of the area, about 2400 Leprosy Survivors have got their hopes rekindled, and are requesting pipelines from the well to their homes, which in itself is not an unreasonable demand. Rtn Giri, Director Non-Medical Service, who has funded and overseen the project, has advised the residents to pay at least 25% of the cost for laying the pipelines, to which they have agreed. We will now extend this Happy Village project and ensure that every household gets piped water.

The week ahead is full of Club activities. The Maths lab, for Gram Prabodhini School at Village Salumbre, Taluka Maval will be inaugurated by Rtn Giri Sakhrani, the sole donor for this entire project worth Rs 2.5 Lakhs.

Jagruiti School for Blind Girls is organizing a six-day Summer Camp from 18-24 April. This will be inaugurated on the 18th of April.

We have received the Charter for our new Rotaract Club at Christ University, Lavasa. The installation of its Board is likely to happen soon.

We've just gone through an unique week, beginning with Gudi Padwa on the 9th of April, followed by Eid Al Fitr on the 11th. The week ends on the 13th with Baisakhi. Three major festivals, all together. So we have planned a grand celebration this Saturday, at the Shantai Hotel. Do come and enjoy live music and a scrumptious dinner planned by the Fellowship Committee led by Rtn Sukhi Kalra.

The Week That Was

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

Tackling financial fraud

"Duped, conned, cheated, tricked, defrauded, swindled, hoodwinked..." Journalists are probably running out of ways to describe the number of financial scams that they report on a daily basis. In light of the growing number of cons, last week's speaker, RCPC Vice President Rtn. Ashish Goyal's talk on "Financial Frauds and Precautions to be Taken" was both timely and topical.

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Rtn. Ashish, a banking and finance expert, pointed out that although India has been a pioneer in developing digital infrastructure with an aim to making the country a cashless society, the innovations have brought with them a slew of new challenges, especially fraud. The problem is so widespread and growing exponentially — 13,530 cases of fraud were reported in 2023 — indicating a rise of 55 percent over previous years. The tactics used include capturing data from magnetic strips, identity theft, crypto scams, romance scams, loan and cheque fraud. The growing number of *phishing* scams involve fraudsters playing on sentiments and emotion by using emails, SMS messages or phone calls to trick unsuspecting people into revealing sensitive financial information.

The problem has reached epidemic proportions, and ironically, Aadhar cards and PAN cards have become enablers for fraudsters. The only way to beat the scamsters and stay safe is to be aware of red flags, stay alert, ensure safe online practices and do not share personal information. As Rtn. Ashish concluded: "Your safety is in your hands."

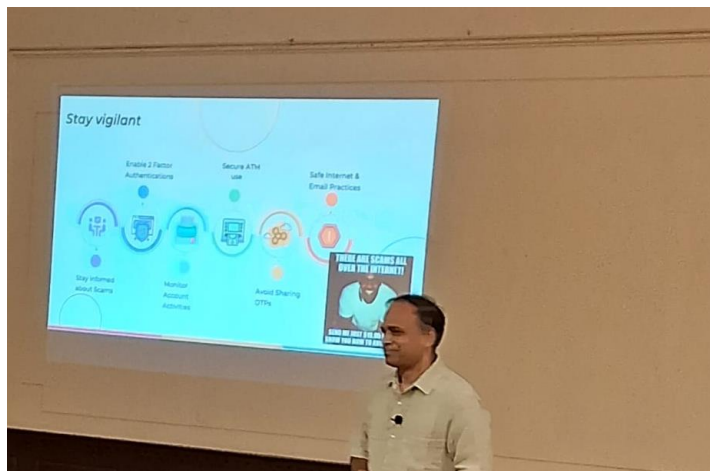
The meeting was followed by a Happy Hours dinner hosted by Rtn. Madhvi Kshetty.

President's Announcements

- In his salute to the Spirit of Giving, President Ajay Chitnis acknowledged generous donations from Rtn. PP Ebe Chaney, Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor and R'Ann Jyoti Kapoor, R'Ann Kiran Pallod and Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir Kazi.
- RCPC member Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor was invited to address the weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Pune Sports City on the topic 'CSR the Indian Experience'. The Rotary Club of Baner also participated.

Celebrations

We offered birthday greetings to R'Ann Tanuja Agarwal, Rtn. Dr. Gururaj Lachyan, Rtn. Nitin Vijaivergia and Rtn. PP Dr. Aruna Umranikar.



Upcoming Events

- Tuesday April 16, 2024 - Math lab inauguration at Gram Prabodhini, Vidyalaya, Village – Salumbre .
- Thursday April 18, 2024 - The Inaugural Function of RYLA – Summer Camp at Jagruti School for Blind Girl, Alandi
- Installation of Rotaract Club of Christ University, Lavasa – to be announced

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Ramadan

From Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir Kazi

On this Saturday, April 13, our club is celebrating three festivals together – Gudi Padwa, Eid, and Baisakhi. Lot of friends were inquiring with me about Eid on last Saturday. I answered them but I thought it will be better if I write a small note about Eid in our bulletin.

The five pillars of Islam are 1. Shahada - Profession of Faith, 2. Salat - Prayer, 3. Zakat - Alms, 4. Sawm - Fasting, and 5. Hajj – Pilgrimage to holy Places. The Fasting is observed in Ramadan or Ramzan, the ninth month of Islamic calendar.

Muslims believe that The Prophet Muhammad is the last Prophet and the **Qur'an** (the Muslim holy book) was revealed to **the Prophet Muhammad** by the angel Gabriel, in A.D. 610 in the month of Ramadan. The Prophet Muhammed is said to have received His first Quranic revelation on *Laylat al-Qadr*, one of five odd-numbered nights that fall during the last ten days of Ramadan. *Laylat al-Qadr Night* is considered the holiest night of the year.

It is during this month of **Qur'anic** revelation that Muslims celebrate Ramadan. Ramadan is observed by Muslims all over the world as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, acts of charity and community service, striving to improve their self-discipline, motivated by Hadith (corpus of sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad).

Fasting from dawn to sunset - 'Roza' - is obligatory for all adult Muslims. Those unable to fast during Ramadhan are obliged to make up the missed days of fasting later. Exemptions from fasting are granted to those who are traveling, severely ill, elderly, and women who are menstruating, pregnant, or breastfeeding.

The spiritual rewards of fasting are believed to be multiplied during Ramadan. Accordingly, during the hours of fasting, Muslims refrain not only from food and drink, but also from tobacco products, sexual relations, and sinful behavior. They devote themselves to prayers and study of the Quran.

Zakat, often translated as "the poor-rate", is the fixed percentage of income a believer is required to give to the poor; the practice is obligatory as one of the pillars of Islam.

Each day, before dawn, Muslims observe a pre-fast meal called the *suhoor*. After stopping a short time before dawn, Muslims begin the first prayer of the day, *Fajr*.

At sunset, families break the fast with the *iftar*, traditionally opening the meal by eating dates to commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's practice of breaking the fast with three dates. They then adjourn for *Maghrib*, the fourth of the five required daily prayers, after which the main meal is served.

Social gatherings, many times in buffet style, are frequent at *iftar*. Traditional dishes are often highlighted, including traditional desserts, particularly those made only during Ramadan.

The day of *Eid al-Fitr* marks the end of Ramadan. Eid is declared after a crescent new moon has been sighted or after completion of thirty days of fasting if no sighting of the moon is possible. *Eid* celebrates the return to a more natural disposition (*fitra*) of eating, drinking, and marital intimacy. On the day of *Eid al-Fitr* or after it, Muslims organize Eid Milan. Lot of Muslim and non-Muslim friends and relatives are invited for grand celebration.

Over time, the practice of *iftar* or *Eid Milan* has evolved into banquets that may accommodate hundreds or even thousands of diners. Muslims organise big iftar or Eid Milan parties for their non-Muslim friends. Non-Muslim members of the society also arrange similar big parties for their Muslim brethren. These iftar & Eid Milan parties have become a great way of making people of different religions gather, celebrate together, enjoy a grand feast together and understand that we all are brothers in one great nation.



President Cmde Ajay Chitnis and all RCPC members condole the sad demise of R'Ann Radhika Malhotra's mother, who passed away on April 7, 2024.

From the Editor

Contributions from Rotarians, R'Anns and spouses are welcome! If you have an anecdote, a joke, a poem or painting or anything interesting, please feel free to email it to vipenm56@gmail.com with cc to Gajanan.

Next in line

- April 13** — Gudi Padwa, Eid and Baisakhi Fellowship Dinner
- April 20** — Guest Speaker Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D. B. Shekatkar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) will be talked on the topic — "Emerging World of 21st Century, Role and Impact of India in the World Affairs."
- April 27** — Brainstorming Session RY 24-25
- May 4** — To be announced

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rtn / R'Ann
Rtn. PP Arvind Saraf

Birthday
April 17



Member and Spouse
Rtn. Aseem and R'Ann Alka Srivastav
Rtn. Sanjiv and R'Ann Tanuja Agarwal
Rtn. Vimal and R'Ann Krishna Saboo
Rtn. Rajesh and R'Ann Dr. Pushpa Yadav

Wedding Anniversary
April 15
April 15
April 18
April 19