



SECRETARY

Rtn. Aniruddha Joshi

PRESIDENT

Rtn. Sanket Saraf

EDITOR

Rtn. Surhuda Kulkarni

Year 2021-22

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PRESIDENT SANKET SARAF INITIATES VIBRANT PROJECTS

An outstanding epilepsy surgery drive, a unique environmental initiative at ITI Aundh and other service projects marked the beginning of the New Year in July 2021 at the Rotary Club of Pune Baner. Six months later, today, the Club stands tall with a list of impressive projects valued at a whopping Rs.1.13 crores, reaching nearly 44,000 beneficiaries.

On July 01, 2021, President Rtn. Sanket Saraf, a noted Educationist donned the mantle of the Club President in succession to construction professional, Rtn. Nitin Wagh, who became the Immediate Past President. Rtn. Aniruddha Joshi, a Chartered Accountant by profession, took over as the Club Hon. Secretary, as also, Rtn. Unmesh Risbood, an IT specialist started his term as the Club Hon. Treasurer.

The Club BoD has earmarked projects worth a fundraising target of Rs 37,26,000 covering areas like epilepsy surgeries,



President Rtn. Sanket Saraf

developing a special nakshatra garden (containing astronomically relevant species of plants) at the government ITI Aundh, planting trees in a 15,000 sq.foot dense eco forest and many such valuable initiatives. Epilepsy surgeries is an ongoing project, aimed at benefitting patients from poor families across Maharashtra, and is valued at Rs. 2crore. The funds for this are being raised via CSR initiatives and private donors. A water ATM project at RCC Kemasewadi village is being executed in addition to a unique Gramin Shetkari to Grahak model.

RCPB is moving from strength to strength showcasing projects in each of Rotary focus avenues. The Club membership stands at 35 currently, with a 24 per cent rise and a retention of 85 percent as compared to the last Rotary year.

Rtn. Aniruddha Joshi,
Hon. Secretary, 2021-22

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rotary Greetings

It seems just yesterday that I took the step in joining Rotary. It's been a satisfying journey so far. The moment where I truly felt something deep and far-reaching was going on was when we organised the food distribution for nearby labourers and the poor during the first lockdown in March and April 2020. My term as the Club President has been eventful so far. There is so much that could be done and yet we can do only so much. I am glad that we could begin the RCPB signature project of Epilepsy Surgery with high cost surgeries sponsored by the donors organised by our club. Currently we are doing a Water ATM project at Kemasewadi village that was identified in collaboration with Lupin Foundation.

We stand on the shoulders of work done by leaders and members in previous terms. The club needs to be seen in a continuum, and the aim is to continually keep raising the bar with a few watershed years in between. I thank the club leaders and members for supporting the efforts taken by the club to realise Baner Clubs stated vision of being a recognised service oriented club in the region, supportive of community wellbeing and welfare across the cross section of population in a sustainable manner. This year fortunately we could also stand true to our club mission that is To carry out significant, value adding, meaningful and sustainable projects in focussed avenues of Rotary International and RID 3131, while members enjoy collective fellowship. Our Clubs AG Rtn Balvir has been outstanding with support and DG Pankaj has been guiding us exceptionally well in our journey.

Yours in Rotary, Sanket Saraf.



HAPPY
Makar Sankranti
Festival of joy & Happiness



KINDNESS CAN CHANGE LIVES, SAYS AG RTN. BALVIR CHAWLA



*Rotary Club of Pune Baner Welcomes AG Rtn. Balvir Chawla, on January 14, 2021, on the occasion of AG visit. RCPB thanks him for the guidance and support given to the club during the entire year.
- With gratefulness
President and RCPB members*



Rtn. Balvir Chawla, Assistant Governor, RID 3131, is a businessman and is born and brought up in Pune. He completed his Bachelor in Computer Science and did his MBA in Finance from Pune University. He is also a Certified Financial Planner and is currently the Director at Finnovators Services Private limited. Balvir joined Rotary in 2012 with the Rotary Club of Pradhikaran.

MESSAGE FROM AG

Namaskar

Wishing the family of Rotary Club of Baner a very happy new year.

The last year has been full of challenges and from the challenges rise opportunities.

As a Rotarian or family member of Rotarians, we have always been converting challenges to opportunities and ensuring that these opportunities make a change in someone's life.

A small anecdote about how 'A small act of kindness can make a Big Difference'. One day a professor and his student were walking, when they chanced upon a pair of old shoes. They assumed it belonged to the farmer working in the field nearby. The student said immediately, "Let us hide these shoes and wait and watch the person's perplexity when he will not be able to find them". The professor replied, "Let us not amuse ourselves at the expense of the poor. You are rich and you can always give pleasure to the person. Put a coin in each shoe and then see how the person behaves."

The student agreed and put the coin in each shoe and they both hid behind the bushes. When the person finished his work and came, he slipped his foot in one of the shoes and felt something hard. He stooped to see and was amazed to see the coin. He started looking side to side for the claimant, but could not find anyone nearby. He was doubly shocked and amazed when he saw the other shoe with the coin. He fell on his knees, looked at the heaven and uttered a thanksgiving saying his ailing wife and hungry children will now be saved by this kind act of a stranger. Seeing this, the student thanked the professor for teaching him a lesson which he wouldn't forget for his life. He would have got satisfaction with his intended trick but with this small act of kindness, he gained happiness which was incomparable. Well this is what Rotary Club of Baner is also doing and bringing happiness to the lives of the people it is impacting with its efforts. Keep doing the good work and impacting the lives of the people and make a difference to their lives.

Remember, "A Small act of kindness can make a big difference" !!
- AG Rtn. Balvir Chawla

OUR LEADERS, OUR INSPIRATION



Shekhar Mehta
RI President 21-22



Rtn. Pankaj Shah
District Governor 21-22
RID 3131



Rtn. Nitin Wagh
Immediate Past President



Rtn. Satyanarayan Kabra,
President Elect
2022-23

SIGNATURE PROJECT

EPILEPSY SURGERY PROJECT

BY RCPB BECOMES **A BOON TO THE NEEDY**

When prayers are answered in the form of benedictions, they happen in unknown forms. One such blessing realized for some and life took a U-turn. Precisely speaking, the Epilepsy Surgery initiative, a signature project by the Rotary club of Pune Baner, turned out to be one such boon for the needy. The club ushered in this ambitious medical project, on July 01, 2021, as the Rotary New Year began in President Sanket Saraf's tenure. With an estimated value of a little over Rs 2 crore, the project aims at helping 50 needy patients of epilepsy and giving them a disease free life. Out of the total proposed surgeries, three are already over and the beneficiaries have heart touching tales to render.

As the patients' families express gratitude, they say that these surgeries not only benefitted their wards immensely but the patients now enjoy a disease and worry free life. They aver, the project turned out to be a 'Life changing' experience. On July 01, 2021, as the Rotary calendar went overleaf, the President and the BoD members were busy launching the project which began with a screening camp for epilepsy patients. Nearly 25 screenings were done that day and just a handful of the patients were reported to be needing the highly



Grateful beneficiaries thank Rotary

specialized neuro surgeries. Such surgeries were eventually carried out in the past few months. Dr. Nilesh Kurwale of the Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital, Pune carried out the medical consultations and the surgeries.

Says Mr. AppaNimbargi, a sugarcane labourer from Akklakot near Solapur, "My son is a beneficiary of this project. The Rotary Club of Pune Baner has gifted my son and my entire family a reincarnation. We are very very grateful to the club. When Mr. Kabra from Rotary handed over a cheque of Rs. 1.25 lakhs, our happiness knew no bounds. We have no words to express gratitude". Similar is the case of Balasaheb Kulkarni an economically backward person from Osmanabad and father of Laxmi, 21, another beneficiary. He says, "My daughter is certainly free from fits and leads a worry free life now. We have a life changing experience, thanks to Rotary club. Laxmi's epilepsy problem is over but I wish her in-laws now have a change of mind. That remains to be seen. But I am extremely thankful to Rotary."

The narrations are over. The Epilepsy Surgeries project continues. Only three operations are done and several more are yet to take place. RCPB is geared to handle this challenge with efficiency and vision for a better life for all concerned. Divine Blessings do come in the form of Rotary and can impact lives beyond measure.



Rtn. Kabra with a patient

Projects across all avenues

RCPB boasts of an impressive lineup of projects for the current years covering almost all Rotary focus areas. Other than the Epilepsy project as mentioned above, some other significant and ongoing projects taking shape are, development of a Nakshatra Garden at government ITI Aundh, a water ATM at Kemasewadi and many others.

(More about these projects in the next issue)

An Active BOD panel and 360 degree activities

RCPB has a well structured and an active Board of Directors for the current year. The panel, representing various avenues, is actively involved in ongoing projects. The members also initiate new projects zealously. Environment, Education, Disease Prevention, New Generation, International student exchange and many other areas of activity are happening at the club level. The Club also has a representation at the District with two of its members, Rtn. Unmesh Risbood and Rtn. Snehal Bhat holding significant posts at the district level.

The club has an active youth arm, the Rotaract Club Of Indira College. Our Rotaractors lead by example in contributing to community development, environment awareness and many such initiatives via their projects. The Rotaract club is represented by President Rohit MK and Sect. Sakshi Bhartdwaj (Core team Jt. Secretary - Akshat Patni Vice-president - Sahil Singh Treasurer - Harsh Garg Club advisor - Arju Kanyal)

This year, RCPB saw the participation in a virtual international youth exchange program, by Daiwik Karia, son of Rtns. Priya and Jiegnesh Karia. With so much happening, RCPB promises to be one of the most hustling clubs in Rotary Dist. 3131. Wait to read more details on club activities and projects in the next edition.

- Surhuda Kulkarni
Editor, Echo.

OUR ROTARACTORS



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2021-22



A snapshot of BOD members during the Installation ceremony which took place at the Bal Kalyan Sanstha

President - Rtn. Sanket Saraf
Secretary - Rtn. Aniruddha Joshi
Treasurer - Rtn. Unmesh Risbood

Dir. Foundation - PP Rtn. Kamlesh Pherwani
Dir. Membership - PN Rtn. Jignesh Karia
Dir. Projects - PE Rtn. Satyanarayan Kabra
Dir. Public Image - Rtn. Priya Karia
Dir. Youth Service - Rtn. Nileema Bhate
Executive Secretary & IT officer - Rtn. Vikram Jadhav
Dir. Club Admin. - PP Rtn. Shekhar Shet
Imm. Past President - Rtn. Nitin Wagh



Birthdays & Anniversaries



July 1 to January 14

Many Happy Returns of the Day !

03 July	Nilesh Bide	16 Oct.	Surhuda Kulkarni
07 July	Nitin Sachdev	28 Oct.	Nileema Bhate
14 July	Nitin Wagh	29 Oct.	Sarat Kumar Swain
08 Aug.	Shrikant Mandhana	05 Nov.	Shiv Jaiswal
12 Aug.	Madhukar Deshmukh	16 Nov.	Sunita Dharmrao
26 Aug.	Unmesh Risbood	27 Nov.	Jiegnesh Karia
07 Oct.	Dippak Mudliar	08 Dec.	Shekhar Shet
11 Oct.	Suyog Nyati	18 Dec.	Ajit Chaudhari
13 Oct.	Priya Karia	18 Dec.	Sanket Saraf

Happy Wedding Anniversary

03 July	Madhukar + Deshmukh
11 May	Rajat + Geetika Chitravanshi
15 May	Dippak + Gunavathi Mudliyar
30 May	Surhuda + Krishna Kulkarni
03 Dec.	Aniruddha + Prajakta Joshi
12 Dec.	Sanket + Richa Saraf
21 Dec.	Shekhar + Shilpa Shet
27 Dec.	Vikram + Trupti Jadhav
04 Jan.	Unmesh + Sonia Risbood