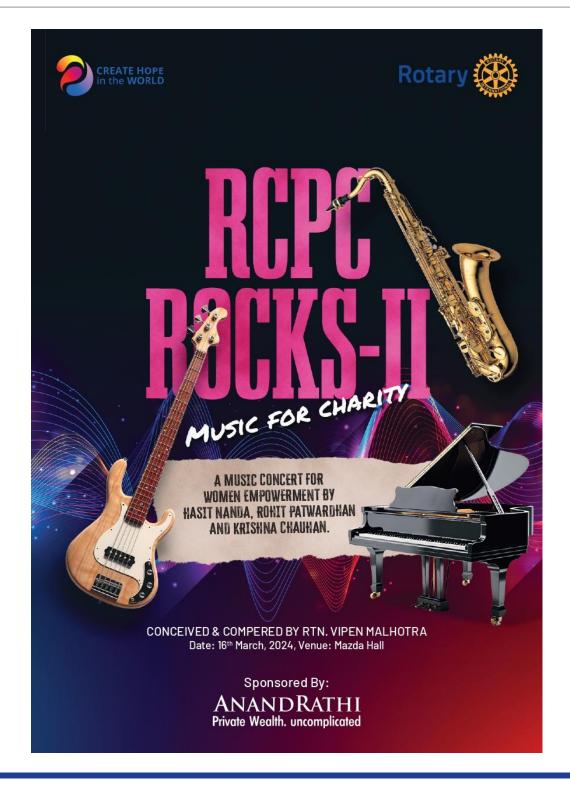


CENTRAL



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

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA



Started in 2022 as a platform to raise funds for Women's Empowerment through music for Charity, RCPC Rocks – II is the second such event in succession. The project this year is 'She Can and She Will', where 8 talented girls between the ages of 12 and 17, from economically challenged backgrounds, with a fundamental skill set in boxing will undergo a year-round training in boxing along with mentorship for leadership, financial literacy and communication skills to hopefully bring up more Mary Koms in India!

RCPC has invited Mr Hasit Nanda, a piano maestro whose talent transcends the ordinary. With an incredible YouTube following of 264,000 and a staggering 36 million views, Hasit has redefined the essence of piano music in the digital age. At just 29, Hasit has made a mark in the music world as a captivating performer, accomplished content creator, and passionate teacher. Hasit's venture into Pop EDM has earned him international acclaim, featuring in the Ultra Music Festival after-movie and electrifying performances at Tomorrowland Unite and World's Biggest Guest List festivals. With over 500 uploads, Hasit's digital footprint is colossal, enriching lives with virtuosic piano solos. Beyond the limelight, he dedicates himself to mentoring the next generation of musicians globally.

RCPC welcomes Mr Rohit Patwardhan, a saxophone maestro, whose mastery of the saxophone will leave you mesmerised by Jazz, popular Western and Bollywood music. Rohit's performances blend precision and passion, standing out in saxophone virtuosity. Starting public performances at the age of 7 with vocals and harmonium, by 10, Rohit had mastered all genres on the guitar. Fascinated by the saxophone's unique sound, in 2007 he mastered it after classical guitar.

RCPC is delighted to also invite Mr Krishna Chauhan, an accomplished flamenco guitarist. Krishna studied at the Shanti Niketan, West Bengal and has been playing the flamenco guitar for the last 12 years. Having performed with diverse communities from Rajasthan, Bengal, Himachal and Nepal that conserve their rich folk music, Krishna's idea of music can best be summarised as Gypsy — an earthy folk music.

RCPC takes pleasure in inviting all its members and their spouses to the Music Charity Concert on Saturday, March 16, 2024 at Mazda Hall (opposite Ladies Club) at 6:30 p.m. Entry for RCPC Members and spouses is free (entry passes available at Mazda Hall). You are also welcome to bring along a guest — Gajanan will be happy to arrange for an entry pass.

RCPC Rocks - II has been conceived, organised, and compered by Rtn. Vipen Malhotra, a budding pianist, music enthusiast, and a long-time member of the Rotary Club of Pune Central.

Rtn. DG Manjoo Phadke has kindly consented to grace the event as the Chief Guest.

Concert timings are 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. All are requested to be seated by 6:15 p.m. Snacks, tea, and coffee will be complimentary for all RCPC members and their spouses.

Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd has come forward as an anchor donor for RCPC Rocks - II and will also make a presentation during the concert.

Looking forward to your presence and to a rare opportunity to witness exceptional recitals at a **popular Bollywood, Western and Jazz Instrumental music evening**!

For members' convenience, valet parking will be available on arrival.

From the President's desk



An action-packed week has gone by, and there's lots of action to look forward to! After an absorbing talk by Abhijit Dhondphale, the Master Sculptor, about his sculpture and techniques on Saturday, it was an early beginning on Sunday. The Wheelchair Cricket Match between the Maharashtra and Mumbai Wheelchair teams took place at the Poona Club Cricket Ground. This was the first ever wheelchair cricket match to be played at Pune, and the ground was rife with excitement as the teams prepared for the game. Since the Poona Club had graciously given us the Cricket ground for this match, and that too without charging us anything, it was decided to

invite Mr. Sunil Handa, President of Poona Club as the Chief Guest. A special invitee was our own Past President Mr. Munir Chinoy, who is also a past president of the Poona Club. It was his efforts that resulted in us getting the ground free of cost.

The dignitaries were introduced to the teams and the game got underway at 10.00 am as planned. Maharashtra had a great start, and a steady performance saw the score board reading 121 for 3 after 17 overs. The last three overs were a disaster, and the final score was 127 for 9. The Mumbai Team stamped their supremacy and despite some early wickets, batted at a blistering pace to reach 128 for 4 off just 12 overs. They took home the glittering trophy and the gold medals, while the Maharashtra Team had to be satisfied with the Runners-up prize and the silver medals. An exciting day was witnessed by quite a few of our members. The match was widely reported in English and Marathi Newspapers.

I must profusely thank all the 12 members who contributed towards buying the wheelchairs and then contributed towards conducting this match — cricket kits and jerseys for the team, trophies, breakfast, photographer, etc. We have truly 'Created Hope' for these young men, who are striving to overcome the physical challenges that they face, by enabling them to play a game that is like a religion in our country.

Later, on Sunday evening, we had the District Wine and Cheese Fellowship, for which we were the main host club. A record-breaking 22 members from our club had registered for the event. All had a great time sampling and learning about various wines that were on offer.

Rtn. Oni and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala are continuing their great work conducting eye camps. This time it was conducted at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule English and Marathi Schools at Pisoli. Hats off to this dedicated couple.

Rtn. Narendra Sanghvi has over the years looked after the Rural Schools in Mulshi Taluka. This week he presented Alexa — a talking doll, to the Zilla Parishad School at Fangdar. The local panchayat office-bearers and the teachers were truly wonderstruck, and were highly appreciative of the talking doll. This project has been widely reported in the Marathi newspapers published from Pune.

Preparations are afoot for RCPC Rocks – II, and a lot of behind-the-scenes preparatory work is underway. This is a 'not-to-be-missed' event, and those of you who have not yet collected your passes are advised to do so today. This is an expanded version of RCPC Rocks, wherein the number of instruments being played have been increased to three, and a lot of exciting music has been planned. So do come and spend an evening planned and compered by Rtn. Vipen Malhotra, and be enthralled by these Maestros.

The Week That Was

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

A Masterclass in Sculpting

Last week's guest speaker, renowned sculptor Abhijit Dhondphale, gave members a captivating insight into his craft — bringing statues made of bronze, clay, paper pulp, resin and man-made cultured marble to life. Abhijit is now the third-generation master craftsman at the helm of the family-run Dhondphale Kala Niketan studio in Rasta Peth, Pune.

Founded in 1941, the studio started out crafting idols of Lord Ganesha for the Ganpati festival. Today, Abhijit's bronze busts, murals, idols and life-sized bronze statues of historical figures such as Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and General Rajinder Singhji Maharaj can be found all over the country. One of his most outstanding works is a 9-foot statue of Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw, precise to the smallest detail, which stands proudly at the Southern Command Headquarters in Pune's Cantonment area. Abhijit explained the step-by-step creative process behind this and other masterpieces. He said it took him a whole year to create a model of the Field Marshal's statue, which was closely inspected by the top Army brass before giving the go-ahead for the 700 kg bronze statue.

Abhijit's talk was so engrossing that members did not have any objections to the meeting running beyond 8 p.m. It was indeed a masterclass by a master craftsman.

President's Announcements

- Rtn. Narendra and R'Ann Kamini Sanghvi were thanked for their generous donations to RCPC projects.
- Several Rotarians visited the New Vision Arts and Commerce College in Shirur Taluka. The college, managed by Malganga Andh Apang Sanstha, is the only residential institution for physically and visually challenged students, located 70 km from Pune. Its director, Mrs. Jaee Khamkar, who is visually challenged herself, is committed to providing education up to the graduate level. The college received an upgrade for their computers with the installation of the last five Green PCs funded by Rtn. Pravin Nadkarni.
- Forthcoming events included the Wheelchair Cricket T-20 Match between Maharashtra vs Mumbai; 'Wine-n-Cheese' Fellowship The Sippers Nite; RCPC Rocks II Music for Charity; and the Vocational Awards.

Celebrations

We offered birthday greetings to R'Ann Pushpa Lunkad, Rtn. Shashi Talwar, Rtn. Sunil Shah, R'Ann Manvir Mukhopadyay and Rtn. Raman Nanda.

We wished Rtn PP Polly & R'Ann Yasmin Patel and Rtn. Nandita and Mr. Neelimkumar Khaire a happy wedding anniversary.





Eye Check-up camp

From Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala

On March 14, 2024 an Eye Check-up Camp took place at the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule English and Marathi School in Pisoli, organized in collaboration with the Community Eye Care Foundation. This initiative aimed to cater to the needs of children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds residing in the vicinity of the school, ensuring they receive quality education. It was a busy yet highly fulfilling day for all involved.



- Total number of students screened: 557
- Students advised for glasses: 28
- Students advised for cyclo refraction: 12
- Students referred for further investigation: 2
- Staff members screened: 12
- Reading glasses provided to staff: 5



We extend our gratitude to the dedicated optometrists from the CECF whose commitment and hard work made this event possible.

The day concluded with a delightful lunch and words of appreciation from the head of the institution. It was indeed a day well spent, contributing to the welfare of the community.

"Alexa Doll" - Donated by Rtn Narendra Sanghvi

नवराष्ट्र

लोकसहमाग ● प्राथमिक विद्यार्थ्यांना शिक्षणातील नवी संधी होणार उपलब्ध

ॏ देवळा, (वा.) खामखेडा येथील जि.प. प्राथमिक फांगदर (खामखेडा) शाळेस रोटरी क्लब ऑफ पुणे-सेंट्रलचे नरेंद्र संघवी यांच्या सहकार्यातन मिळालेल्य आलेक्सा डॉलचे (बोलकी बाहुली) उद्घाटन देवळा पं.स. गटशिक्षण अधिकारी सतीष बच्छाव, खामखेडयाचे सरपंच वैभव पवार, केंद्रप्रमुख जी. पी. लोंढे, शाळा व्यवस्थापन समितीचे अध्यक्ष रविंद्र शेवाळे, उपसरपंच श्रावण बोरसे, सदस्य गणेश शेवाळे व ग्रामस्थांच्या हस्ते करण्यात आले

शिक्षणातील नवे प्रवाह ओळखून विद्यार्थ्यांनी नवनवीन शिकन ते अंगीकारले पाहिजे. या उद्देश्याने रोटरी क्लब ऑफ सेंट्रल पुणे यांनी फांगदर शाळेला आले (बोलकी बाहुली) पुरवली. या बाहुलीचे नुकतेच उद्घाटन करण्यात आले. या आलेक्साचा वापर शिक्षणात होणार असल्याने मलांचे इंग्रजी व हिंदी भाषेचे पंभाषण कौशल्य, वाढीस लागणार आहे. त्याच बरोबर . संवादात्मक शिक्षणावर भर दिला जाणार असल्याने विद्यार्थ्यांनी विचारलेल्या प्रश्नांचे तसेच किचकट प्रश्नांचेही सहजतेने उत्तर मिळणार आहेत.



शिक्षक, विद्यार्थ्यांसह ग्रामस्थांची उपस्थिती यावेळी विद्यार्थ्यांनी विविध प्रश्न विवारत तसेच उपस्थितांनी विविध प्रश्न विचारत आलेक्साशी संवाद साधत प्रश्न विचारले. यावेळी शाळ व्यवस्थापन समितीचे उपाय्यक्ष दीपक मोरे. दीपक बच्छव, नानाजी प्रवार, निवा शेवाळे, बबन सूर्यवंशी. बबन मोरे, दीपक शेवाळे, ईश्वर बच्छाव, भूषण शेवाळे, मधुकर हिरे, शरद मोरे यांसह ग्रामस्थ उपस्थित होते. खंडू मोरे यांनी सूत्रसंवालन केले तर संजय गुंजाळ बाहुलीची होणार मदत रिवेदारा, इस्ट्रीन होता नासून पावचानातात्व कौशल्य व भाषेवर प्रभुत्व कसे मिळवावे या बोलक्या बाहुलीच्या मदतीने शिकायला मिळणार असल्याचे प्रतिपादन पं. स. देवळाचे गटशिक्षण अधिकारी सतीष बच्छाव यांनी उद्रघाटन प्रसंगी बोलतांना व्यक्त केले.

 आलेक्सा डॉल बोलकी बाहुलीच्या
माध्यमातून विद्यार्थ्यांना शिक्षणातील नवी संधी रून दिली आहे. गुगलच्या व्हॉइस माध्यमातून घेता येणार आहे. फांगदर शाळा नाशिक जिल्ह्यातील पहिलीच आलेक्सा डॉल बोलकी बाहुली असलेली शाळा असल्याने आम्हाला गांव वासियांना अभिमान असल्य

आपलं राज्य

फांगदर प्राथमिक शाळेत अवतरल्या लोकसहभागातून बोलक्या बाहूल्या!

शास्त्रेस रोटरी क्लब ऑफ पुणे-सेट्टलचे तरेंद्र समायी यांच्या सहकाय (नून मिळारेले त्या आरकेसमाडील (बोलको बाहुलीचे) उद्यादान देवाच पात्रार, सामितीचे गर्दाशाक्षण अधिकारी सतीच बच्छाब, सरपच बैभव पात्रार, उपसरपंत्र कावण बोस्से, क्रेड्रमुख औ.पी. लेले, राळा व्यवस्थाप-समितीचे आध्यक्ष रविद्र शेवाळे याच्या हस्ते करप्यात आले. शिक्षणातील नवे प्रवाह कोळखून विध्यार्थ्यानी नवनवीन रे शिकले पाहिजे आणि से अभीकारले पाहिजे या उद्देश्याने रोटरी कल्ला ऑफ सेट्टल पुणे पाने फंगारर शाळिका आलेकसा हेले (बोलकी बाहुली) पुरवाली, या बाहुलीचे नुकतेच उत्पादन करणयात आले.

इंग्रजी, व हिंदी भाषेचे संभाषण कोशल्य, वाबीस लागणार आहे. त्याच बरोबर संवादात्मक शिक्षणावर भर दिल्ला जाणार असल्याने विद्यार्थियांनी विचारलेल्या प्रश्नांचे तसेच कित्कक्त प्रश्नांचेत्र सन्द्रजतेने उत्तर मिळणार आहेत. विष्यार्थ्यांमधील संवाद कौशल्य, नेमकं प्रश्न कसं विचारावेत, इंग्रजी विषयाचा शास्त्रसाठा, इंग्रजी व हिंदी विष्यार्थ्यामधील संवाद कौशल्य, नेमकं प्रश्न कसे विचारावेत, इंप्रजी व विषयाचा शब्दसाता, इंप्रजी व हिंदी भाषेतुन वाक्यनिर्मितीचे कौशल्य व भाषेवर प्रभुत्व कसे मिळवावे ह्या बोलक्या बाहुलीच्या मदतीने शिकायला मिळणार असल्याचे प्रतिपादन एं स देवळाचे गरशिक्षण अधिकारी सतीष बन्छाव यांनी उद्घाटन प्रसंगी बोलतांना व्यक्त केले.



पहिलीच आलेक्सा डॉल बोलकी बाहुली असलेली शाळ असल्याने आम्हाला अभिमन असल्याचे यावेळी सरपंच वैभव पवार यांनी

Nashik Main Edition Daily Aapal Rajya 14 Mar.24, 2024 Page 3

उपाध्यक्ष दीपक मोरे बच्छाव,नानाजी पवार,निंबा बबन सूर्यवंशी,बबन मोरे,दीपक शेवाळे,ईश्वर बच्छाव,भूषण शेवाळे,मधुकर हिरे,शरद मोरे यांसह ग्रामस्थ उपस्थित होते.खंडू मोरे यांनी कल. यावळा सरपच केमब पचार यानी ग्राम्भस उपस्थित हार हाडू मार याने आलंक्सा डॉल बोलको सांगिसले. बाहुलीच्या माध्यमतृत विद्यार्थ्यामा यावेळा विध्यार्थ्यानी विविच यानी आभार मानले. शिक्षणालील नवी संधी उपलब्ध प्रश्न विचारत तसेच उपस्थितानी

First Wheelchair Cricket Match in Pune Maharashtra v/s Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Teams on March 10, 2024

From Rtn. Pres. Cmde Ajay Chitnis

The Maharashtra Wheelchair Cricket Association (MWCA) approached the Rotary Club of Pune Central (RCPC) in 2023 for assistance to acquire Sports Wheelchairs for their team, since they were not in a position to do so themselves. Heeding to their request, 12 members of the Rotary Club of Pune Central contributed the necessary funds required to provide them with 12 Sports Wheelchairs in November 2023.

The Maharashtra Team has been practicing at their ground in Wanowrie, using these wheelchairs. In January 2024, they visited Mumbai, and played a match against the Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Team. They played valiantly but ended up losing the match by a narrow margin.

MWCA approached RCPC to sponsor the return match against the Mumbai Team. This time too, RCPC agreed to do so, and with the kind courtesy of The Poona Club Ltd. got permission to use their Cricket Ground. The Poona Club agreed to have the match at their ground, without charging any ground hiring charges and further offered to sponsor the lunch for all the players. They also made the pavilion wheelchair accessible.

RCPC on their part provided the Maharashtra Team the kit for the match, including jerseys, bats, pads, gloves, etc. and other facilities required for the match.

The match was played in the T20 Format at the Poona Club Cricket Ground and commenced at 10.00 am on Sunday, March 10, 2024. Mr. Sunil Handa, President of Poona Club, and Mr. Munir Chinoy, Past President of Poona Club, and RCPC were present at the start of the match. Also present were Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir and R'Ann Noorjahan Kazi, Rtn. Oni and R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala, Rtn. Shireesh Nadkar, Rtn. Arun Shroff, Rtn. PP Ajay Dubey, Rtn. PN Lekha Nair, and R'Ann Dipti Chitnis, and a number of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Poona Downtown.

Commodore Ajay Chitnis, President of Rotary Club of Pune Central, and Mr. Omkar Roundale, Captain of the Maharashtra Wheelchair Cricket Team, welcomed all the guests and members at this unique event, which was taking place for the first time in the city of Pune.

Vishwanath Gurav, Captain of the Mumbai Team, won the toss, and elected to field first. The Maharashtra Team, batting first, got off to a reasonable start, and were going along smoothly, powered mainly by Ravindra Baravkar, who scored 74 runs off 54 balls. Vishwanath Gurav and Dinesh Metupalli scalped three wickets each and eventually restricted the Maharashtra Team to 127 for 9, off 20 overs. In reply, the Mumbai Team lost three early wickets, raising the hopes of the Maharashtra Team. The hopes were short-lived since Santosh Ranjgane, 45 off 19 balls and Dinesh Mettupalli, 32 off 26 balls, ensured that their team romped home for a comprehensive victory. The Mumbai Team scored 128 for 4 off just 12 overs and stamped their class over the home team. It was evident that Mumbai was a well-knit unit with a lot of experience, with two of their players in the current India Wheelchair Team, and their captain, a former India player. It was great exposure for the young and newly formed Maharashtra Team, and this will stand them in good stead as they strive to make a mark at the national level.

Commodore Ajay Chitnis, President, Rotary Club of Pune Central, gave away the prizes and congratulated both teams for their heart-warming performance and spirit of sportsmanship. Ravindra Baravkar, Maharashtra, was adjudged the Best Batsman, Vishwanath Gurav, Best Bowler, and Dinesh Metupalli, Man of the Match. The Mumbai

Team took away the glittering Winners Trophy and the home team had to be satisfied with the Runners-up Trophy. All players were given gold and silver medals, respectively.

The event was widely reported in English and Marathi Newspapers.

Inaugural Wheelchair Cricket Match In Pune: Mumbai Triumphs Over Maharashtra https://www.mypunepulse.com/inaugural-wheelchair-cricket-match-in-pune-mumbai-triumphs-over-maharashtra/

https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/punes-first-wheelchair-t20-state-vs-mumbai-match-all-set-to-win-hearts-9205409/

Match Link https://youtube.com/live/jy6xbvCprAc?feature=share





Vocational Awards

From Rtn. Nitin Rajore

Every year we recognize and honour those who have risen beyond themselves and served the needy. The philosophy of giving and caring is an integral part of Rotary. Fortunately, there are wonderful and amazing people and organisations who battle enormous odds and make great personal sacrifices so that the lives of the disadvantaged are improved for the better.

We need your assistance in identifying such people/organisations for this year's **Vocational Awards**. Nominations can be from the fields of Health, Environment, Education, Livelihood, or Empowerment and Advocacy. These awards are not about winning or losing. They are about sharing, encouraging, and inspiring.

If you know anyone doing meaningful work, please nominate them and email their details for our consideration. The least they deserve is recognition of their effort.

You may send your recommendations to Gajanan on his email ID: office@rcpunecentral.org or on WhatsApp to his phone +91 95277 16505.

The Vocational Awards are scheduled to be distributed in the month of March 2024.

I would appreciate your revert ASAP.



Brand Astha: Multi-District Public Image Seminar RID 3131



Host Club - RC Pune University Initiative by - District 3131 Public Image Team RY 23-24



17 March 2024 at 3 PM Onwards

REGISTER NOW



Pocha Hall, Royal Connaught Boat Club, Pune.

Rtn Manjoo Phadke

Rtn Kranti Shah

Rtn Atul Galande

District Governor RID 3131

District Director PI

Rtn Vivek Dixit Dist Secretary Events & Meets

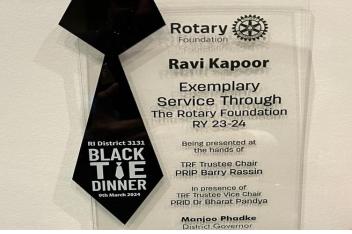
Rtn Unmesh Risbood Dist Executive Secretary

Registration Link: https://eventglint.com/e/brand-astra-multi-district-pi-seminar-526931

Congratulations Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor

Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor was given an award for his "Exemplary Service Through The Rotary Foundation RY 2023–24" at the RI District 3131 Black TiE Dinner Event. The award was presented by TRF Trustee Chair PRIP Barry Rassin in the presence of TRF Trustee Vice Chair PRID Dr. Bharat Pandya and RID 3131 DG Manjoo Phadke.





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

- March 23 Holi Holiday
- March 30 Ladies Night followed by Fellowship Dinner
- April 6 To be announced
- April 13 To be announced

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Rtn / R'AnnBirthdayR'Ann Radhika ShroffMarch 19Rtn. PP Raja KharadkarMarch 21R'Ann Rashi SharmaMarch 29



Member and Spouse

Rtn. Nandita and Mr. Neelimkumar Khaire Rtn. Lalit and R"Ann Vidhu Vij Rtn. Kanwal and R'Ann Urvashi Guliani

Wedding Anniversary

March 16 March 28 March 29