

# CENTRAL TURF

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

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA

**TODAY** Guest Speaker, Mr. Abhijit Dhondphale, Sculptor will talk on "The Sculptor and his Sculpture" on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at the Poona Club Conference Hall 1.



Founded in 1941 by Mr. Naresh Dhondphale, a freedom fighter and subsequently led by his sons Ravindra and Anil, Dhondphale, Kala Niketan (DKN) embarked on its journey with the creation of Lord Ganapati idols for Pune's Ganapati festival. Today, under the guidance of Mr. Abhijit Dhondphale, the third-generation artist and grandson of the founder, DKN stands as a unique art studio known for its emphasis on quality over quantity.

DKN has made significant strides in the art world, utilizing innovative materials such as environmentally friendly paper pulp, epoxy resin, and imitation marble. Notably, Mr. Abhijit Dhondphale was recognized by Prime Minister Shree Narendra Modi in "Mann Ki

Baat" for his contribution to the Eco-Friendly Ganapati Movement.

In April 2023, Mr. Dhondphale received a patent for an Eco-Friendly Water Dissolvable and Strong Mixture for Sculptures and Idols, a groundbreaking achievement in the field.

Apart from his artistic endeavors, Mr. Dhondphale is actively involved in spreading knowledge through free "Saturday Sessions," talk shows at renowned institutions, and notable awards such as the "Shilpagaurav Puraskar," "Naipunya Ganesh Puraskar," and the "Atal Sadhana Puraskar" in 2023.

Among his remarkable sculptures are life-size bronze statues of historical figures like Chatrapati Shri Shivaji Maharaj, Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Sam Manekshaw, General Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, and more. Additionally, Mr. Dhondphale has created numerous bronze busts and murals, showcasing his artistic prowess.

We believe that this opportunity is ideal, and we are committed to putting forth our best efforts to delight you with our artistic creations.

The venue for this enlightening session is Poona Club Conference Hall 1, with the program commencing at 6:30 p.m. Following the meeting, Happy Hours dinner, graciously hosted by Rtn. Giri Sakhrani.

Traditionally, a half-hour pre-meeting Fellowship will commence at 6:30 p.m., leading to the official start of the meeting at 7 p.m.

Looking forward to your presence!

## From the President's desk



The week began with a visit to the New Vision Arts and Commerce College in Shirur Taluka, in the company of PPs Rakesh Bhargava, Jinen Munot and Rtn Pravin Nadkarni, and R'Ann Dipti. Having been there on three earlier occasions, it was just a normal visit for me, but it was quite an eye-opener for those visiting for the first time. The students were eager to welcome us and display their affection by songs and speeches, but we had to cut them short due to time constraints. We needed time to visit their new site, install computers in their Computer Lab, and understand the situation thoroughly. The students were thrilled to use their new computers and as always very happy to have us there. We did end up spending a lot of time there and got back home only after 5 pm. Here is a college that needs to be nurtured and provided as much support as possible through large CRS funding. It will have to be carried forward in the years to come.

Last Saturday was an unique experience; seeing the result of our major CSR Project. Rtn Payal Rajpal, of ROBOTEX India, is steering this project, and it was wonderful to see the children from very humble backgrounds creating Robots, and confidently displaying them. These children had been to Tallin, Estonia, to participate in the International Robotics Competition, and were on the podium for their projects. It is indeed heartening to see how the needy are being benefitted.

Preparations are underway for the Cricket Match between the Maharashtra and Mumbai Wheelchair Cricket Teams on Sunday, 10 March, at the Poona Club Cricket Ground. The Maharashtra Wheelchair Cricket Team, is really 'our team', as we have provided them the Sports Wheelchairs, their Cricket Kit, Jerseys, Caps etc. So please do come and watch these valiant wheelchair warriors in action.

## The Week That Was

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

### Young Einsteins

Members were fascinated by a group of students from Pune's B.T. Shahani School, who gave us a glimpse of their innovative talents and the remarkable achievements of RCPC's Robotics Project, headed by RCPC member Rtn. Payal Rajpal. She recounted how she had surmounted several hurdles such as overcoming parental objections/concerns, and obtaining passports and visas at the last minute for the children selected to represent India at an international robotics competition in Tallinn, Estonia, where they made it to the top ten. The children had also scored third place at Robotex Asia in 2017.

Rtn. Payal stressed the importance of digital literacy "for a better tomorrow", adding that nearly 1.2 million children across the country are now being groomed in robotics, Artificial Intelligence, and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) coding, which have become the foundation of education and innovation around the world. Some of the inventions demonstrated by the Young Einsteins from Pune included:

- a river-cleaning boat equipped with technology to gather submerged and floating debris
- a mountain safety device that detects vehicles in mountainous terrain with real-time monitoring of vehicle speed, whilst displaying critical information to promote safe driving



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- a four-layer authentication system for vehicles, covering face recognition, fingerprint identification, password/personal identification number, and a global positioning system (GPS) and global system for mobile communications (GSM).

At the end of the meeting several Rotarians and Rotarians commented that thanks to these bright youngsters, India's future is in safe hands.

Earlier in the evening, Rtn. PP Prakash Gurbaxani gave us an entertaining summary of his year in office (2000–2001), during which his aim was "to do things differently". The presence of three doctors and four accountants on his board of directors, ensured that projects undertaken throughout his tenure were in great shape. An unforeseen event like the Bhuj earthquake in Gujarat required large-scale disaster management, and RCPC rose to the occasion by sending two truckloads of relief material and following up with rehabilitation efforts for eighteen months.

Rtn. Prakash added that several new members were inducted into the club and the plethora of high-profile guest speakers included politician Sushma Swaraj and Dorab R. Sopariwala, writer and media personality. Doing things differently even when it came to vocational awards, waiters on the Deccan Queen were among the honorees recognised for their hard work. Another achievement that Rtn. Prakash looks back on with pride is that during his presidency, all club meetings ended at 8 p.m. sharp.

## President's Announcements

- Rtn. PP Arvind and Rtn. Vidya Saraf, Rtn. PP Madhu Rathi, Rtn. Dr. Kamalkishore Malpani, Rtn. Shirish Nadkar, Rtn. PP Sanjiv Kumar, Rtn. Pradeep Dharane, Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala, Rtn. Prabhat Singh, and Rtn. Kanwal Guliani were thanked for their generous donations to RCPC projects.
- As part of the project to repair earthen dams in Satara District, a 380m-long dam in Rajapur, Satara District, is undergoing repairs involving clearing the dam-face, digging a 10-ft trench, and using an earth-mover. The dam not only supports irrigation but also elevates the water table, benefitting wells and the surrounding area.
- Two paper bag-making workshops were conducted by Ms Vishakha Vichare. The first workshop, held on February 20, 2024, was at Elite International School for Sanjeevan Foundation. Another workshop was held on February 21, 2024, for the Poona School and Home for Blind Girls at Gandhi Bhuvan in Karve Nagar.
- On February 27, 2024, a felicitation was held for Dr. Zahir Kazi, President of Anjuman I Islam, Mumbai, on being awarded the Padma Shri for his contributions to education.

## Celebrations

We offered birthday greetings to Rtn. Shantilal Lunkad and Rtn. Dr. Ramesh Sachdeva.

We wished Rtn. Dr. Shona and Mr. Milon Nag a happy wedding anniversary.



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## *Visit to New Vision Arts and Commerce College, Takali Haji, Shirur Taluka*

**From Rtn. Pres. Cmde Ajay Chitnis**

On Monday, 04 March, a group of Rotarians – PPs Rakesh Bhargava, Jinendra Munot, Rtn. Pravin Nadkarni and self, accompanied by R'Ann Dipti visited the New Vision Arts and Commerce College at Village Takali Haji, in Shirur Taluka. This is probably the only residential college for Physically and Visually Challenged Students – both male and female. Situated about 70 km from Pune, this institution is set up by the Malganga Andh Apang Sanstha. The Director of this institution is Mrs Jae Khambkar, a visually challenged lady (100% Blind, asw she refers to herself), who has decided to devote her life to the well-being of physically and visually challenged individuals by providing them education up to graduate level.

The Institution had requested for help to set up science laboratories so that science stream students can also be admitted. Three of our senior members, Past Presidents Rakesh Bhargava and Jinendra Munot, and Rtn. Amita Munot had committed to pay Rs 50,000/- each towards this project. They had expressed their desire to visit the site so that they could decide on further support for the project. Towards this end this visit was planned and undertaken on the 4th of March. We also visited the new site of the college where the construction of four class rooms and a Laboratory has been completed.

Additionally, the college had requested for upgradation of their computers. They were chosen to be the beneficiaries of the last five Green PCs funded and produced by Rtn. Pravin Nadkarni. These green PCs were installed and the Computer lab inaugurated on the same day.

It was a very productive day, and we were able to understand and assess the needs of this special institution, and will be taking it further through greater funding via the CSR Route. It was very evident that this is where we really need to 'Create Hope', by doing good.



## *Eye Check-up camp*

**From Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala**

An Eye check-up camp is being held on 14th and 15th March, 2024 Camp between 11.00 am to 4.30 pm at Mahatma Jitirav Phule High school, Behind Dharmavat Petrol Pump, Pisoli Pune 411060. Please do attend.



# CENTRAL TURF



## RCPC Rocks II - Music For Charity



# RCPC ROCKS-II

MUSIC FOR CHARITY

A MUSIC CONCERT FOR  
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT BY  
HASIT NANDA, ROHIT PATWARDHAN  
AND KRISHNA CHAUHAN.

CONCEIVED & COMPERED BY RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, Venue: Mazda Hall

Sponsored By:

**ANANDRATHI**  
Private Wealth. uncomplicated

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**Started in 2022 as a platform to raise funds for Women 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 ages of 12 & 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 & 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 & 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 shall leave you mesmerised for Jazz, popular Western & Bollywood music. Rohit's performances blend precision and passion, standing out in saxophone virtuosity. Starting public performances at 7 with vocals & harmonium, by 10, Rohit 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 & 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, the 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at Mazda Hall (opposite Ladies Club) at 6:30 pm. Entry for RCPC Members and spouses is free** (entry passes available at Mazda Hall). You are also welcome to bring along a guest- Gajanan shall 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 a 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 shall 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 shall also make a presentation during the concert.**

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



# CENTRAL TURF



## Wheelchair Cricket T-20 Match

Rotary Club of Pune Central and The Poona Club Limited has sponsored and organised a Wheelchair Cricket T20 match between MAHARASHTRA vs MUMBAI. Come to see the battle of our Wheelchair Warriors.. This is game of motivation - This is game of passion -This is game of strength - This is game of inspiration - This is game of differently abled - This is game of Wheelchair Cricket!!!

Date & time:- Sunday 10th March, 2024 at 10:00AM at Venue:- The Poona Club Cricket Ground,pune 411001

👉 Join Us To See Our Abilities 🏏️🧑🦽

The poster features a central image of a cricket field with a 'VS' graphic. On either side are silhouettes of wheelchair cricketers in blue, red, and green uniforms. The text is arranged in a formal, centered layout. Logos for The Poona Club Ltd. and Rotary Club of Pune Central are at the top. At the bottom, there are logos for Maharashtra Wheelchair Cricket Association, Wheelchair Sports Association Mumbai, Wheelchair Cricket India, and Differently Abled Cricket Council of India.

**The Poona Club Ltd.**

# Wheelchair Cricket T20 Match

# MAHARASHTRA

# MUMBAI

Organised & Sponsored by  
**Rotary Club of Pune Central**  
&  
**The Poona Club Ltd.**

CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

Sunday 10 March 2024 At 10:00AM

Venue -: Poona Club Cricket Ground,Pune.

Join Us To See Our Abilities

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## The Sippers Night : Wine n Cheese Fellowship



**The Sippers**

**Wine n Cheese Fellowship**

Sunday - 10 March 2024  
6.00 P.M. Onwards

Venue  
POONA CLUB

**STAND UP COMEDY!**

**Registration Fees**  
**1250/-**

**Host Clubs:**  
RCP CENTRAL  
RCP NIBM  
RC POONA AIRPORT  
RCP LOKMANYANAGAR

**Convenor -**  
**Rtn. Manoj Bhate**  
M - 9004387504

**Dist.Fellowship Team,**  
**Rotary Year 2023-24**

**Rtn.Manjoo Phadke**  
(Dist Governor)  
**PDG Dr.Shailesh Palekar**  
(DRFC 22-25 & District Trainer)  
**Rtn.Unmesh Risbood**  
(Dist. Exe.Secretary)  
**Rtn.Vilas Ravande**  
(Dist.Adm.Secretary)  
**Rtn. Vivek Dixit**  
(Dist.Secretary Events & Meets)

Registration Link: <https://eventglint.com/e/the-sippers-wine-n-cheese-fellowship-809739>

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## 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](mailto: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 you revert ASAP.

## RCPC Cafe : Member Bytes



**Heartiest Congratulations Rtn. IPP Uday and R'Ann Savita Dharmadhikari**

**Their son Aditya, being State Head - Maharashtra, is receiving Highest sale all India Award. The KTM 390 Duke has been the most awarded motorcycle of the year.**

**Heartiest Congratulations Mr. Aditya Dharmadhikari!**

## 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 mail to [vipenm56@gmail.com](mailto:vipenm56@gmail.com) with cc to Gajanan.

## Next in line

- **March 16** — RCPC Rocks II
- **March 23** — Holi Holiday
- **March 30** — Ladies Night
- **April 6** — To be announced

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Rtn / R'Ann

R'Ann Pushpa Lunkad  
Rtn. Sunil Shah  
Rtn. Shashi Raj Talwar  
R'Ann Manvir Mukhopadhyay  
Rtn. Raman Nanda

### Birthday

March 09  
March 09  
March 09  
March 13  
March 15



### Member and Spouse

Rtn. PP Polly and R'Ann Yasmin Patel

### Wedding Anniversary

March 09