

# CENTRAL TURF

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

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA

## TODAY

Our own Member Rtn. Giri Sakhrani Director Non-Medical, will give us a talk on “Reliving Manali to Khardungla - Ride of a Lifetime” at weekly meeting on Saturday, April 27, 2024, at the Poona Club Conference Hall 1.



Rtn. Girdharilal Sakhrani, fondly known as Giri is the Managing Director of Ferrocare Machines Pvt Ltd. An active Rotarian since 2007, he has served as the Chair for Vocational Services for five years and served as the Director - Non-Medical Service for two terms. He has also been recognised as the Rotarian of the Year twice.

Giri is a keen cyclist and has been right up to Khardungla pass on his cycle. He is passionate about the environment; water conservation and tree plantation in particular, and has been handling projects in these areas for some years now.

Giri is loaded with a vast knowledge of most things and is physically fit for a lot of activities. He shall speak on cycle ride from Manali to Khardungla Pass .... 5 mountain passes. This covers a distance of 550 kms. and climbing from Manali, which is at 7000 feet to Khardungla which is a height of 18350 feet, believe me, but all this was covered by him, and others in the group, in 10 days on a CYCLE.



**The venue for this enlightening session is Poona Club Conference Hall 1, with the program commencing at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be followed by a Fellowship dinner, graciously hosted by Rtn. Nandita Khaire.**

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



Almost ten months of the current Rotary Year have passed, and as we close on to the magic date of 1<sup>st</sup> July, it is natural to feel pensive, as I am, writing this piece, wondering whether we have actually, “Created Hope in the World”. The fact that we set 25 goals and have already achieved 19 of them, thus qualifying for the RI President's Citation, is not what I am referring to! What I want to highlight is the fact that we ensured completion of last year's Mega Cataract Project, in which we oversaw the conduct of 10,779 Cataract Surgeries, 84 Corneal Transplants and 155 Glaucoma Surgeries. This year we had set an ambitious target of 15,000 Cataract surgeries, and I am glad

# CENTRAL TURF



to report that with generous contribution of Rs 300,00,000/- from Desai Brothers ( Rtn Nitin Desai), Rs 30,00,000/- from Volkhart India Foundation, Rs 10,00,000/- from Rtn Baakir Baker, Rs 52,50,000/- from our own club members, other clubs and \$ 50,000/- from the Sankara Eye Foundation. We are sponsoring 50 Paediatric Heart Surgeries for Children born with Cardiac Heart Disease. We have created a Maharashtra Wheelchair Cricket team, a Math Lab at a Rural school, and gifted 25 Green PCs to schools so that they can conduct computer literacy classes at their schools. Antulay Nagar, a colony inhabited by 1500 leprosy survivors has been made into a Happy Village by giving them clean usable water by cleaning up their unusable well, and now ensuring that each house has piped water supply from that well. I guess we have created hope amongst a lot of people.

This week we also got the good news that Rtn Nitin Desai, has agreed to donate a further Rs 400,00,000/- for a hospital restoration project. This will catapult him into the Arch Klumph Society Foundation Circle. Great going Nitin Bhai, heartiest congratulations and heartfelt thanks for your abundant generosity.

This week also marked the completion of the Satara Dam Repair project. The repair, and de-silting of the Dam and its catchment area at Rajapur was completed. Now we look towards the rain God to fill up the lake.

Another landmark event of the year happened on Tuesday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, when the Charter Installation of the Rotaract Club of Christ University, Lavasa took place. The report is included in this Bulletin. The only sad part of the event was that the only Rotarian from our club present for the event was yours truly. It was a saving grace that Rtn Sanjay Karwa, District Co-Director of Youth Service was present.

This week we have our own member, Rtn Giri Sakhrani speaking to us about his unforgettable bicycle ride from Manali (7000') to Khardungla (18450'), covering a distance of 550 km in 10 days. Please come and hear about it. Look forward to seeing you.

## *The Week That Was*

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

### India shining



Our distinguished guest speaker, Lt. Gen. (Dr.) D. B. Shekatkar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), gave an inspiring talk on India's role and impact in world affairs in the 21st century. "The whole world's perception of India is changing," he said, citing examples of events that have put India front and centre on the world stage, such as the mass production of vaccines during the Covid crisis, strong and steady economic growth, increasing foreign investments, and widespread empowerment of women.

He added that India's "intellectual capital" was being recognised around the world and many countries were eager to collaborate with India. One such collaboration is the proposed India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which will bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Gulf countries and Europe.

Lt. Gen. Shekatkar said that another matter of pride is that Indian armed forces are currently on peacekeeping duties in 48 countries — ranging from South America to Africa and the Middle East — and there are growing requests from governments around the world for assistance from the Indian Army. "India's vibrant democracy will remain alive and will continue to thrive," he concluded. "India is now being taken seriously."

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## President's Announcements

- In his salute to the Spirit of Giving, President Ajay Chitnis acknowledged a generous donation of Rs. 2,50,000 from Rtn. Giri Sakhrani.
- A Maths Lab had been installed at Gramprabodhini School in Salumbre village. The lab has games, puzzles and other materials to boost students' interest in maths, and provides a collaborative space for students and teachers, aids understanding, practice, and study skills.
- A Summer Camp was held at Jagruti School for Blind Girls in Alandi. RCPC has supported Jagruti School's Summer Camp RYLA for over 20 years and the camp is the highlight of the school year for students. The inauguration was attended by Rtn. Anil Bora, Rtn. Shashi Saxena, and others. Chief Guest Viraj Joshi, renowned Hindustani Classical musician and grandson of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, captivated the audience with his singing and speech. Rtn. Anil Bora presented two "Alexa" Talking Dolls to the school, which are a big hit with the students. The Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central conducted a Fun Fair for the students, which was enjoyed by all.

## Celebrations

We offered birthday greetings to Rtn. Bal Agarwal, R'Ann Archana Biyani, Rtn. Pradip Keluskar, R'Ann Neena Malhotra and Rtn. Pankaj Mehrotra

Rtn. Shireesh and R'Ann Mukta Nadkar celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with RCPC members and generously sponsored the Fellowship drinks and dinner.



## *Distribution of Spectacles* From Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala

Spectacles distribution took place at Anjuman on Tuesday April 23, 2024. It was well organised. Rotary Club of Pune Central President Ajay Chitnis and Hon. Sec. Delshad Karanjia were present. Ophthalmologist Apoorva explain the usage of the specs to the children.



# CENTRAL TURF



## ***Charter Installation of Rotaract Club of Christ University, Lavasa*** From Rtn. Cmde Ajay Chitnis

During our offsite weekly meeting at Lavasa in October 2023, Rtn Pankaj Mehrotra introduced us to the Principal and Faculty of the Christ University Lavasa Campus, and they expressed their interest in setting up a Rotaract Club. We set the wheels on motion and completed the necessary paper-work. On the 18th of March, we received the Charter for formation of the club Installing the Board of Directors.

Rtn Sanjay Karwa, the District Co-Director of Youth Service was a great help in processing the application and obtaining the approval from RI South Asia Office.

The two of us drove to Lavasa on Tuesday afternoon, and reached the Christ University as scheduled at 4.30 pm. We were received by the President Designate and the Treasurer designate, and escorted to the Seminar Hall at the Management Block, where the faculty members and members of the Rotaract Club were already present.

After introductions, the meeting was called to order by yours truly, and began as per tradition with the National Anthem. After that a short talk about Rotaract, and a brief introduction to RCPC, the President-designate, Ms Yashika Gogia was 'Collared' and 'Pinned'. The traditional Bell and hammer was presented to her. She then introduced her BoD starting with the Secretary Noyoni Mukerji. Ms Suhani Ghai is the President Elect, while Moksh Gupta is the Treasurer. Raunit Rohra, Divjot Singh, Nabibah Imran and Michelle D'Souza make up the rest of the BoD. All the prospective Rotaractors were then presented their 'Pin' and were quite enthusiastic to get on with it. In her opening speech, President Yashika promised to live up to the responsibility assigned to her and prove to be a good member of the Rotary Family. Rtn Sanjay Karwa delivered an inspiring speech, and the programme concluded after the Secretary's announcements and a Vote of Thanks delivered by the President Elect.

Now we have five active Rotaract Clubs.

We departed after a high tea and were back in Pune by 9 pm.

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

## Next in line

- **May 4** — Guest Speaker Ms. Anu Aga will talk on "Embracing Life Through The Experience Of Death"
- **May 11** — Guest Speaker Addl Director General Vijay Chafekar PTM, TM (Retd.) will talk on "Indian Coast Guard"
- **May 18** — Brainstorming Session RY 2024-25
- **May 25** — Club Assembly RY 2024-25

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*



### **Rtn / R'Ann**

R'Ann Meena Desai  
Rtn. Sameer Desai  
R'Ann Sangeeta Gupte

### **Birthday**

April 30  
April 30  
May 01



### **Member and Spouse**

Rtn. Madhvi and Mr. Sonjoy Kshettry  
Rtn. Shantilal and R'Ann Pushpa Lunkad  
Rtn. PP Sukhminder and R'Ann Sweety Kalra  
Rtn. Pres. Ajay and R'Ann Dipti Chitnis  
Rtn. Dr. Abhimanyu and R'Ann Smita Pingale

### **Wedding Anniversary**

April 29  
April 29  
April 30  
May 01  
May 02