

CENTRAL TURF

PRESIDENT: RTN. BRIG. PK MURALIDHARAN RAJA | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. SAGAR KHANDELWAL

EDITOR: RTN. BEHZAD RANDERIA | ASSISTANT EDITOR: R'ANN SONIA RAJORE

From the President's desk



Dear Rtns and R'Anns of RCPC,

As we begin the Rotary year 2024-25, I am privileged to serve as your President. Together with our dedicated Board of Directors, we are committed to fostering a year of growth, service, and community impact.

Here's what you can expect from us:

Vision and Strategy: We will develop and communicate a clear vision for our club's activities and strategic initiatives for the year ahead.

Engagement and Communication: Open lines of communication and opportunities for your input and feedback which will be prioritised.

Service Projects: We will plan and execute impactful service projects that make a difference in our community and beyond, aligned with Rotary's areas of focus.

Member Development: Providing opportunities for personal and professional growth through relevant programs, workshops, and networking.

Fun and Fellowship: Creating moments of camaraderie and fellowship that strengthen our bonds as Rotarians and friends.

Together, let's make this year a memorable one as we continue to uphold the values of Rotary and make a positive impact in Pune and beyond.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Rtn Brigadier PKM Raja

Board of Directors RY 2024-25

Rtn. Brig. PK Muralidharan Raja, President



Brigadier PK Muralidharan Raja was Commissioned into 2 JAT Regiment on 13 June 1976. He superannuated as the Commandant of Army Institute of Physical Training (AIPT) at Pune in November 2013. He was awarded the prestigious Sena Medal (SM) in 2004 and the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) in 2011 by the President of India.

Brigadier Raja was the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian Contingent for London Olympics 2012 and was also a Referee & Judge (Boxing) at Athens Olympic Games. In addition, he was a

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Referee & Judge / Jury Member (Boxing) at many Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. He was elected as the Secretary General of Indian Amateur Boxing Federation for two tenures from 2004-2012. It was under his leadership that Vijender Singh got the historic first Olympic Bronze Medal for India at Beijing in 2008 and Mary Kom won the Bronze at London Olympics 2012.

Brigadier Raja is presently the President of the Indian Boxing Council which sanctions Professional Boxing Events in India and is also the Director of the Commonwealth Boxing Council headquartered in London, UK.

Rtn. Yogesh Shah, Vice President and Director Club Administration



With over 45 years of experience, he is recognized as a leading figure in mutual fund distribution, share investments and others like FDs and Bonds. His expertise spans from catering to the investment needs of individual clients, including high-net-worth individuals, large corporates, and trusts. As a Director at Maharashtra Scooters Ltd., a Bajaj Group company, and at Desai Brother Ltd., he contributes to the various aspects of the Board functions. Beyond this, he is actively involved with charitable institutions as a trustee and patron, emphasizing his commitment to community welfare and philanthropy.

Rtn. Sagar Khandelwal, Hon. Secretary



Sagar Khandelwal is the owner of S.R. Khandelwal and Co. He is also a founder at Adviter Consulting Private Limited and SRSquare Lab Private Limited, and co-founder at Innolantis Enterprises Private Limited.

Sagar is a corporate professional with more than 17 years of experience in finance, legal, and corporate governance. He was the legal counsel of a French MNC before starting his entrepreneurial journey.

He holds a graduate degree in Commerce (BCom) and Law (LLB) from the University of Pune and is a Company Secretary.

Sagar believes that a lot can happen when organisations collaborate, and his skills in this area may be useful for Rotary to deliver large social projects with limited resources.

Rtn. Madhvi Kshetry, Joint Secretary and Director Digital Club



Madhvi spent her growing up years in Kanpur, and post marriage has lived in Gurugram, Hyderabad and now Pune. Recently she completed her Masters in Psychology, over and above her previous diploma in business administration.

Madhvi has been involved in social activities for the last many years, supporting child education and counselling, and offering therapy at rehabilitation centres and NGO'S, to provide a better mental health initiative. The pandemic gave her the opportunity to reflect and brought out a desire to make a difference in a structured way, because of which she joined Rotary, to focus on mental health and wellness along with child education.

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Rtn PP Madhu Rathi, Hon. Treasurer



Madhu Rathi is the senior most Rotarian in our club having served across the Board. He Was Past President for the year 1998-99. He is a Rotarian for over 50 years.

He has a group of industries engaged in manufacturing rubber parts for Automobiles and Industries. He is a major manufacturer for Flexible Couplings. Both the companies are exporting all over the world through their distributor networks. His business also has operations in Australia, Germany and USA.

Madhu has travelled throughout the world extensively and his Companies were awarded many times.

His wife Mrs. Prema has been the Past District Chairperson of Inner Wheel. She has also been a Past President of Spectrum and fully involved in organizing programmes for Purab Sarini.

Rtn. Shireesh Nadkar, Director Non-Medical Services



Shirish Nadkar is a retired technocrat with 47 years' work experience in multiple and diverse industries, in renowned companies in India and the Middle East.

He is not new to social service, having been a member of Round Table, and a past member of the Rotary Club of Bombay West. He is presently a long-standing Toastmaster. He is also involved in Investment Management and Mentoring young people.

His wife, Mukta, is a Hotel Management graduate and a trained teacher. She also ran her own business for over 25 years. She is currently the District Director of Toastmasters District 98, covering 7 states in Western and Central India.

Rtn. Dr. Sarang Rote, Director Medical Services



He is Consultant Neurosurgeon working at KEM and Jupiter Hospital, Pune. He specializes in complex brain tumours and skull base lesions.

Apart from neurosurgery, his other interests (recently developed) include construction and interior planning. He started Pune Neurosurgeons Association. Furthermore, he is an invited national faculty in many conferences. As the organising secretary, he will be conducting National Neurotrauma conference in August 2024. This is his third stint as an RCPC Medical Director.

Rtn. PP Dr. Madhavi Vaze, Director Youth Services



Born and raised in Mumbai, Dr Madhavi Vaze, passed her BDS with flying colours and has risen to become one of the best dental practitioners in Pune. With 40 years of experience as a practicing dental surgeon and 24 years as a dedicated Rotarian, she is deeply committed to working for the betterment of youth, children, and women.

Driven by a deep desire to improve the lives of underprivileged women and children, she actively contributes to society through Rotary and other NGOs such as "colonel's cube" & "Bharatiya Aarogya Seva". These efforts allow her to help various sections of our vast community, making a meaningful impact on the lives of many.

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Rtn. Vipen Malhotra, Director International Service, TRF and Global Grants



Vipen was Arvind Ltd's CEO for their Telecom business until March 24, and now plays an Advisory role to them, after a successful stint of more than 32 years. During this time, he catapulted the business to a leadership position. An RCPC member since 2000, Vipen completes his Silver Jubilee with the Club next year.

He has served RCPC several times on their Board as a Secretary to PP Kazi, and as Director Membership, Non- Medical and TRF in the past.

He has been nominated twice for the Outstanding Rotarian of the Year award, besides winning many CSR awards from the Club and District. His Company was a major CSR partner for RCPC, donating more than Rs 1.5 Crs. in the last 7 years.

Rtn. Raman Nanda, Director Membership Development



Raman Nanda is currently engaged in Teaching, Coaching and Consulting besides running The Captains' Club, a Leadership program for MDs and CEOs.

Raman is a Family Business Advisor, and a well-known Speaker on a range of subjects including Holding Difficult Conversations and Living a Meaningful Life.

After a long and successful corporate career where he served as CFO, CHRO, CFO, CEO and Board positions at Tata Group and elsewhere, Raman likes to give back to society through Rotary, TiE and MCCA.

He has held several positions at RCPC including Director and Chairperson multiple times, and has helped with the first CSR donation for Rotary in India, during his time at Gestamp.

Rtn. PP Uday Dharmadhikari, Director Public Image, and Vocational Service



Uday is an "Innovative Thinker with a broad-based expertise in Project Marketing, Business Development, Project and Development Management of Infrastructure, Industrial, Education and Real Estate sector in India, and abroad including Asian Development Bank and World Bank.

He is also an Engineer with a Professional Doctorate in Management, Advance Management from ISB and Gravitas Global Ltd (UK). He is an Eminent Fellow of RICS UK, Fellow of IE(I) and AIMA.

On the Rotary front, he joined RCPC on 9th June 2018. He served as Chairperson- CSR Committee, Director – Service Projects, Vice President, President- Elect, and President- RY 22 23.

His firm belief is " Knowledge is Information & Attitude is Power

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Rtn. PP Arvind Saraf, Director CSR



An alumni of IIT Bombay & Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management with a stint at Harvard Business School; Arvind is an accomplished business leader with 30+ years of cumulative experience in Consumer & Engineering industries. In his last assignment, Arvind was Managing Director – India & S Asia for Stanley Black & Decker Inc.- a Fortune-100 company.

Since 2015, Arvind set up advisory practice in management with focus on “Strategy” & “Performance Management”.

A Rotarian since 2002; he was Honorary Secretary for RY 15-16 & President for RY 17-18 at RCPC when he won both The Best President & The Best Club awards.

Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant, Director W/o Portfolio



He is a Civil Engineer with First rank in the University, a gold medallist and also an M. Tech (Struct) from IIT POWAI.

He has been an Entrepreneur for 25 years and a Director in Kalpataru Real Estate. He has travelled across the world for construction related projects. He has served as President of CREDAI-PUNE METRO for two years. He is an outstanding Club and District level Rotarian who has served at all the posts except being DG. He also Represented RI District as Leader of GSE team to the USA.

Rtn. Cmde Ajay Chitnis, Immediate Past President



After completing his schooling at the Air Force School in Delhi, Ajay joined IIT Bombay in 1966 for Electrical Engineering. Three years later, he decided that this was not his calling and joined the Indian Navy as an Aviation Cadet. In June 1971, he qualified as a Fighter Pilot and was commissioned in the Navy. He converted to Helicopters and specialized on Anti-Submarine Helicopters, and clocked over 2,500 hours of operational flying, by day and night, with over 500 Deck Landings on Frigates and Destroyers. He is the recipient of two gallantry awards – **Shaurya Chakra** (SC) and **Nao Sena Medal** (NM) from the President of India.

He is **the Vice President of the Indian Maritime Foundation**, an NGO committed to spreading awareness of the oceans amongst Indians. He has organized the IMF Seminars a variety of maritime related subjects at Pune and Mumbai.

Ajay joined RCPC in 2013 and was the Editor of Central Turf for two years. He has served as the Director Youth Service twice and Vice President in 2019-20.

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Rtn. Lekha Nair, President Elect



Lekha holds a BE in Electronics, Certification in Development Communication from TISS. She is an Ex-Army-Major, now a CSR Consultant and Director of NGO - Sevastha Foundation.

In 2025-2026, RCPC is going to have its 3rd Woman President. Rtn Dr Aruna Umranikar was the first in 1995-96 followed by Late Rtn Manjulla Viswanathan in 1999-2000.

Rtn. Lekha Nair has been a member of Rotary since 10 years, joined RCPC in 2019, and has been actively involved in the Club activities as Jt Secretary, Secretary and Vice President. She was the outstanding Rotarian in the year 2022-23.

Rtn. PP Raja Kharadkar, Club Learning Facilitator



Rtn Past President Raja Kharadkar is an entrepreneur & businessman for the last 44 years with his core competency in manufacturing specialty papers like Electrical Insulation Presspahn papers. The last four years saw him venture into a new field of replacing single use plastic by coating various grades of paper with food grade emulsion, which is heat sealable, biodegradable and compostable and is used for making cups for beverages, food containers, food boxes.

He joined RCPC in RY 1987-1988 and he pioneered the present model of Fund Raising in the Club in 1998 – 99 which is still popular and successful. He has worked in RI Dist 3131 extensively for many years in different avenues like Dist Chairman of Foundation, Dist Chairman of Membership, Dist Chairman GSE (Group Study Exchange) etc. He was Assistant Governor in RY 2009 -2010. He was also a District Trainer to train the Club Trainers.

Rtn. Behzad Randeria, Bulletin Committee Chairperson



Behzad is a Life and Leadership Coach, NLP Master coach, Certified Meditation specialist, hypnotherapist and an Author. With nearly 20 years of work experience, she has served numerous organizations in the capacity of an executive Coach and facilitator.

Her current stint involves being Director and CHRO of a Medical Evacuation Company based out of Kenya, and Finrock Holdings UAE.

R'Ann Sonia Rajore, Bulletin Committee Co-Chairperson



Sonia Rajore currently is nurturing young minds post her journalism career. She is a double graduate in Law and C S besides holding a diploma in creative writing. As her hobby is now her profession, she is enjoying every day of her life to the fullest.

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From the Editor

Greetings my Dear fellow Rotarians and R'Anns of RCPC!

At the outset, here's wishing our new board of Directors the very best, and a wonderful New Rotary year to all of you and your loved ones.

As we embrace the arrival of the New Rotary Year, I'm thrilled to present to you our latest edition of the newsletter. Going forward, in these pages, you'll find a tapestry of insights, stories, and updates that reflect our shared journey in RCPC. This week is all about knowing your board a little more intimately.

For our weekly bulletins, we intend to be more interactive, increase our span of interests and involve you more in its publication.

Whether you're seeking practical advice, personal stories, or simply a moment of reflection, we want there to be something here for everyone. **To begin with, I invite you to share 'An inspirational photo' for the next bulletin. The best picture wins a prize.**

We will reach out to you for humorous stories, anecdotes, knowing your family and other interactive articles that bring us even closer.

We look forward to interacting and hearing from you.

Behzad Randeria

RI President Stephanie Urchick - 2024-2025 Theme "The Magic of Rotary"

"**The Magic of Rotary**" is a theme that emphasizes the transformative power of Rotary International's work in communities around the world. The message behind this theme likely centers on the idea that through Rotary's service, dedication, and collaboration, incredible things can be achieved to make the world a better place.



Here's a message inspired by the theme "**The Magic of Rotary**":

"In every corner of the globe, Rotary brings the magic of hope, compassion, and change. Like magicians of goodwill, Rotarians weave together threads of service, turning dreams into reality and challenges into triumphs. With each project, each act of kindness, we unleash the power of Rotary to create lasting impact and transform lives. Together, let's continue to spread the magic of Rotary, illuminating darkness with light, and making our world shine brighter for generations to come."

This message highlights the transformative nature of Rotary's work and the dedication of its members to create positive change in the world. It emphasizes the idea that by working together, Rotarians can perform "**magic**" in their communities, bringing hope and joy to those in need.

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Revitalizing the Rotary Club of Pune: A New Brand Identity



To address declining attendance and attract younger members, the Rotary Club of Pune Central seeks a new brand identity. Suggested by Past President Uday Dharmadhikari, this initiative aims to rejuvenate the membership while maintaining core values.

Objectives

Rejuvenate Existing Members

- **Reignite Passion:** Celebrate contributions and successes to instil pride.
- **Enhanced Engagement:** Introduce interactive meeting formats.
- **Reinforce Brand Identity:** Use high visibility marketing collateral at events.

Attract and Retain Younger Members

- **Modern Appeal:** Develop a fresh, dynamic image.
- **Highlight Relevance:** Showcase the impact on contemporary social issues.
- **Enhanced Interaction:** Assign Board members to groups for daily interaction.

Maintain Core Values

- **Integrity:** Uphold honesty and transparency.
- **Service Above Self:** Focus on community service.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Rotarian Sameer Desai for crafting the new identity and Past President Uday Dharmadhikari for his advocacy and coordination efforts.