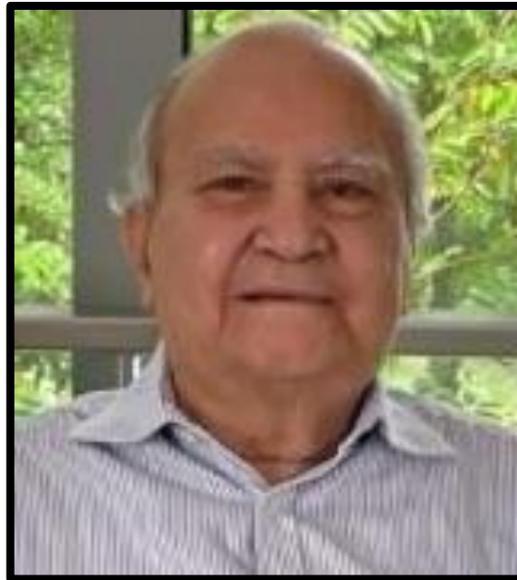


# CENTRAL TURF

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

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA

## RIP Rtn. PP Arjun Jethwani



**President Cmde Ajay Chitnis and all RCPC members condole the sad demise of our esteemed member Rtn. PP Arjun Jethwani, who left us on March 24, 2024.**

### OBITUARY

We received the sad news on Sunday, 24 March 2024, about the demise of our Past President, Rtn Arjun Jethwani. He was admitted to the hospital the previous evening, and breathed his last on the 24th of March. He is survived by R'Ann Aruna, and their daughter Anjali Moorjani. Arjun was the President of RCPC in 2012-13. Even though he was ailing, he did attend a number of meetings during this year, and we were able to enjoy his company.

On March 29, 2024, a condolence meeting was held on Zoom, in memory of late Rtn. PP Arjun Jethwani,

President Ajay paying tribute to Rtn. PP Arjun Jethwani requested Members to observe a minute's silence in Rtn. PP Arjun's memory. He expressed his deepest condolences and prayed for eternal peace to be granted to the departed soul. Many members, including Rtn. PP Dr. Anand Bhatia, Rtn. PP Narayandas Rathi, Rtn. PP Arvind Saraf, Rtn. PP Madhu Rathi, Rtn. PP Ajay Dubey, Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor, Rtn. PP Dr. Nasir Kazi, Rtn. Arun Shroff and Rtn. Aniruddha Gupte, paid tribute to Rtn. PP Arjun. R'Ann Aruna and Late Rtn Arjun's daughter Anjali also spoke about his love for Rotary. President Ajay closed the meeting thereafter, expressing his deepest condolences once again.

# CENTRAL TURF



**TODAY** Join us for an unforgettable evening at "Ladies Night"! followed by a Fellowship Dinner on Saturday 30, 2024 at 6.30 pm at the Poona Club Terrace

You are cordially invited to join us for an evening filled with merriment and camaraderie at our upcoming "**Ladies Night**" event, taking place this **Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.** The venue for this delightful gathering is **The Poona Club - Terrace.**

This week, we have the pleasure of **collaborating with the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central**, who will showcase their achievements and organize an entertainment program for all of us.

Prepare to be captivated as **Mr. Vinay Shukla** takes the stage to present an **engaging entertainment program featuring music and games.** With a mash-up of music, lively games, dancing, exciting prizes, and much more, this event promises to be an unforgettable experience for all!



**Do join us for a fun filled evening with a glass of wine courtesy the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central. Ladies & Gentlemen, put on your thinking caps and dancing shoes.**

Do not miss this opportunity to attend and know more about one of the largest women's organization in the world!

But wait, there's more! Our Fellowship Committee is working overtime to make this evening surpass all expectations to become a cherished memory for you and your loved ones.

So, mark your calendars and join us as we raise a toast in celebration of friendship and fellowship.

**Please do RSVP with your attendance, along with your spouse, to Gajanan at 9527716505 at your earliest convenience.**

As always, we will kick off the evening with a half-hour Pre-Meeting Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the commencement of the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Looking forward to a widespread participation,

**ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL**

B3/102, YOGI PARK, 12, KOREGAON PARK, PUNE 411001

T: +91-20-26154379 | M: +91 9527716505 | E: office@rcpunecentral.org

## From the President's desk



It seems a long gap since our last meeting, but though it wasn't a formal meeting, did get to meet a fairly large number of members and R'Anns at the 'Music for Charity' Concert – RCPC Rocks II, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March. As promised, it was an evening of enthralling music, and had the large audience tapping their feet and/or clapping their hands to the beat. Huge congratulations to Rtn Vipen, who saw it through, from conception to execution! The musicians were at their best, and could have gone on longer, if we didn't have time constraints. A big thank you to all those who attended and encouraged the artistes, and the organizers, with their wholehearted appreciation.

Hat's off to our tireless and timeless couple Rtn. Oni and R'Ann Nafisa, for their extraordinary dedication. They have conducted about 25 camps this Rotary year, and the total no. of eye checkups is nearing the 15K mark. It is not that only the numbers are impressive, but what is amazing is that they have through these camps identified close to 300 children who need further examination and/or glasses. But for these camps, these children's ailments would have gone unnoticed, and resulted in more serious afflictions. The children examined at these camps would never under normal circumstances be taken to an ophthalmologist by their parents, and hence the importance of such eye camps.

We received good news in the form of a huge donation from the Desai Brothers CSR, thanks mainly to our own Rtn. Nitin Desai. The donation of Rs 3 Crores, along with the money donated by our club members and some money from other Clubs, has ensured that we will be able to achieve the target of 15,000 cataract surgeries this year. This Gift of Sight Project, though a District Project, is spearheaded by RCPC, and Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor, who has done a lot of leg work towards making this happen. We are very thankful to Rtn. Nitin Desai and Rtn. PP Ravi for their support.

The other major project that has been approved is the 'Gift of Life Project, where we, along with partner clubs from overseas have raised funds for 50 Pediatric Heart Surgeries, thus meeting our target fully. This project has been approved as a Global Grant Project, and will go a long way in saving the lives of 50 children suffering from Congenital Heart Disease (CHD). Here too, Rtn PP Ravi Kapoor has done a lot of work and needs to be lauded.

Work on the Dam Repair Project in Satara District is in full swing, and we look forward to seeing it being completed by the middle of April. I know it is getting warmer by the day, and the day temperatures are likely to be around the 40C mark, but still would like everyone to actually see what is happening on the ground. Rtn Giri, who is passionate about water conservation, is organizing a trip to the Dam Site around the second week of April, and I earnestly request members to join us for this trip. I can assure you that you will come back tired but fulfilled.

We have also received Rs. 12.5L as CSR Funds from a company called 3A Composite Pvt Ltd., in Mumbai, towards funding a Chemistry Lab at the New Vision College in Takli Haji, Shirur Taluka. The CEO of this Company is Mr. Ranjeet Sharma, who incidentally is the son-in-law of Rtn. PP Rakesh Bhargava. So there is no doubt about who deserves to be congratulated for making this happen. Thank you very much Rtn. PP Rakesh and Ranjeet for your kind support.

The District has organized Vocational Awards zone wise this year, and asked for nominations from Clubs. From our Club, we have nominated Mrs Jai Khamkar, the President of Maalganga Andh Apang Sanstha (MAAS). That is the organization that has started and runs the New Vision Residential College at Takli Haji, Shirur Taluka. The Award will be presented at a glittering function on Saturday, 30 March 2024, at the MCCIA Auditorium.

The Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central, our partner club, is organizing the Ladies' Night, this week, and it promises to be an evening full of fun and entertainment. They are also sponsoring the Wine, and we will follow it up with a sumptuous dinner fellowship, where the menu has been carefully crafted by our Fellowship Chair – Rtn. PP Sukhi Kalra. Please do not miss this gala function; look forward to seeing you all.

## *The Week That Was Before*

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

### **A Musical Extravaganza**

Promoted as an “electrifying Music Charity Concert”, RCPC Rocks – II lived up to its promise at the Mazda Hall on March 16, 2024. Conceived and compered by Rtn. Vipen Malhotra, the program had something for everyone and was a masterful mix of Hindi film favourites, popular Western classics and jazz.

Started in 2022 as a platform to raise funds for Women’s Empowerment through music, this year’s concert was in support of an unusual project — ‘She Can and She Will’ — in which 8 talented girls between the ages of 12 and 17 from economically challenged backgrounds, will undergo a year’s training in boxing along with mentorship for leadership, financial literacy and communication skills to hopefully bring up more Mary Koms in India!

Anand Rathi Wealth Ltd, the anchor donors for RCPC Rocks – II, made a presentation before the start of the concert, which was also addressed by Chief Guest District Governor Rtn. Manjoo Phadke.

The concert’s star performers included piano maestro Hasit Nanda, who has 264,000 followers on YouTube; saxophone virtuoso Rohit Patwardhan, whose masterful repertoire covers jazz and popular Western and Bollywood music; and accomplished flamenco guitarist Krishna Chauhan, who has a passion for earthy folk music.

The three musicians enthralled the audience with foot-tapping numbers ranging from Kaisee Paheli Zindagani, Senorita, the theme from Kal Ho Naa Ho and other popular Hindi cinema hits interspersed with ever-popular Western hits like Hotel California, Jamaica Farewell, Volare and ending with My Heart Will Go On. All in all, it was an eclectic and entertaining concert, at which RCPC really rocked!

### **Celebrations**

We offered birthday greetings to R’Ann Radhika Shroff, Rtn. PP Raja Kharadkar, and R’Ann Rashi Sharma.

Members celebrating wedding anniversaries included Rtn. Nandita and Mr. Neelimkumar Khaire, Rtn. Lalit and R’Ann Vidhu Vij, and Rtn. Kanwal and R’Ann Urvashi Guliani.



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## Eye Check-up camps

From Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the recent eye check-up camps held in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Baner and other esteemed partners.

On Wednesday, March 20th, we organized a significant camp at the National Chemical Laboratory PES Modern High School in Pashan. This camp was made possible through the joint efforts of the Rotary Club of Pune Central, the Rotary Club of Baner, and their Rotaract and Interact clubs. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Ravi Kumar (retired), Director of NCL, and a Rotarian from RC of Poona Downtown for their invaluable support. Our sincere thanks go out to Ravi for his unwavering assistance throughout the camp. Despite the challenges, including the late hour, we successfully screened a total of 550 students and 40 staff members. Additionally, 53 students received glasses, 23 were referred to clinics, and 16 received reading glasses. I want to express my deepest appreciation to Apoorva and her dedicated team, along with Pranjal from the Community Eye Care Foundation, whose tireless efforts ensured the camp's success.

Subsequently, on Tuesday, March 26th, we conducted another eye check-up camp in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Baner at Punruthan Samarsata Gurukulam in Keshavnagar, Chinchwad, Pune. Despite expecting 300 students and staff, we encountered fewer attendees. Nevertheless, the team from the Community Eye Care Foundation, under the leadership of Apoorva and Pranjal, worked diligently under challenging circumstances. I extend my sincere thanks to CECF for their dedication. During this camp, we screened 150 students, referred 13 to clinics, and provided refractive glasses to one student and one staff member.

These camps have been instrumental in providing much-needed eye care to communities in need. We deeply missed Nafisa's presence during these fulfilling endeavors.

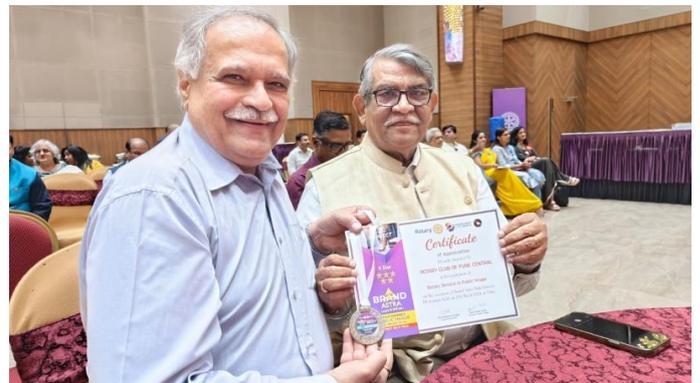
Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our cause.



## ***Brand Astha : Multi-District Public Image Seminar RID 3131***

Rotary Club of Pune Central has got the District 3131 PI award in 5 Star category during Brand Astha: Multi-District Public Image Seminar RID 3131.

Congratulations to all the Members of Rotary Club of Pune Central



## ***Evolution of Rotary in India***

**Contribution by: Rtn. PP Raja Kharadkar**

J. Coombes, the manager of steel products company in Calcutta was on a business trip in U.S.A. There he got interested in the Rotary movement and was impressed with the 'Friendship, Fellowship, Service'. After his return to India in 1919, he organized a Rotary Club in Calcutta. The first meeting was held on 26th September 1919, and the Club was granted charter on January 1, 1920, in 1921 S. C Rudra was admitted as the first active Indian member with the classification 'Mining Engineering'. In 1926 an Indian Honorary Secretary was elected in the person of Nitish C. Lahiry. Finally, an Indian, A.F.M. Abdul Ali, was elected as President, the first Indian to head a Rotary Club anywhere.

The Rotary Club of Bombay, launched by Jim Davison, was added on 19th March 1929 with charter strength of 38 members of whom 37 were Non-Indians; and the one and the only Indian was Sir Phiroze Sethna, a member of Indian Legislature, who later became the District Governor. Jim organized a pleasant group of 28 at Maiden's Hotel Delhi on 26th April 1929. R.T.H. Meckenzie, Manager of the Burmah Shell Oil Company Ltd, a Britisher, was elected as President. Even before the club got under way, members began leaving town. With departures on long leave the Membership dwindled to half and finally the club had to be closed down in 1931.

In Madras, Jim Davidson, with the help of F.C. James of the United Paltrers Association of South India organized a meeting on May 10, 1929 with 30 Charter members, all Non-Indians. The first President was C.G. Armstrong, Chairman of the Madras Port Trust; and the first Secretary was Morton Chance, Manager of a hotel in Madras.

The growth has been slow, perhaps due to the reason that India at that time was based essentially on agricultural economy while the whole framework of Rotary membership was based upon industrial and professional structure of society. Gradually as India emerged to an economy issued on modern industrialization, extension of Rotary became possible.

# CENTRAL TURF

Rotary club of Amritsar was born in 1933 and that of Bangalore in 1934. In 1935 five clubs were formed: Ahmedabad, Baroda, Jamshedpur, Poona and Sholapur, all fast developing Industrial centres producing textiles, chemicals and iron and steel. Three clubs namely Cochin, Lucknow and Surat were established in 1937.

Rotary Club of Cochin, then the only club in Kerala, was chartered on 23rd August 1937. Of the 22 chartered members, 10 were Non-Indians. Another three Clubs – Asansol, Madurai and Rajkot came into existence in 1938, and Agra, Salem and Jubulpore in 1939.

Delhi Club was also revived in 1939. After the World War II and India's Independence in 1947, the real Indianisation of Rotary started. By the end of Rotary Year 1946-47, there were 71 Clubs (14 in Gujarat, 10 in Maharashtra, 10 in U.P, 7 in Tamil Nadu, 7 in Karnataka and 23 in other States) with a total membership of 3121 in 7 Districts as against 3 Clubs (with 235 members in 1929-30 in one provisional district, the District comprising of India, Burma and Ceylon)

## *From the Editor: Rest in peace PP Arjun Jethwani*

I had a detailed interaction with PP Rtn Arjun Jethwani during the year he was President of RCPC. Quiet and shy, PP Arjun approached me through Rtn Giri Sakhrani for conducting the Fund Raising for all RCPC Projects, which I readily agreed to.

I remember that we had numerous meetings and found Rtn. PP Arjun Jethwani always forthcoming with good ideas on impactful projects and open to suggestions on how fund raising could be optimised.

It is extremely saddening to lose a widely respected Rotarian in such an untimely manner. I had met him just a few Saturdays ago at our weekly meeting and he seemed to be doing well.

Our heartfelt condolences to his wife R'Ann Aruna and daughter Anjali. We share their grief and pray to the All mighty to give them strength at this difficult time.

## *Next in line*

- **April 6** — Rtn. Ashish Goyal's talk
- **April 13** — Baisakhi Fellowship
- **April 20** — To be announced
- **April 27** — Brainstorming Session RY 24-25

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## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*



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

Rtn. Dr. Shona Nag

Mr. Sanil Rajpal

### **Birthday**

April 03

April 05



### **Member and Spouse**

Rtn. PP Narayandas and Rtn. Aruna Rathi

### **Wedding Anniversary**

April 05