

THE BANNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY B'LORE CANTONMENT

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Raju Bangaya President!

His family & friends affectionately call him Raju, Rajendra, even Raj or just Rane. And he doesn't mind.

Born in Deolali Cantonment near Nashik to Late Shrikrishna Rane and Late Ranjana Rane, he was the only child to his parents. Raju did his early schooling in Nashik and later in Pune.

"My father was a DCP and recipient of President's Gold Medal for Meritorious Service"

Raju did his bachelor's in Microbiology and Masters in

Biotech. (Genetic Engineering) at Pune University. During

his post-graduation, he got fascinated by Molecular Genetics & Neurobiology and did his research in Developmental Neurobiology.

Raju shifted to Bangalore in 1993 & joined the then Astra Research Center India as a Research Scientist. During his 2 1 - y e a r c a r e e r i n Pharmaceutical R&D, he got several opportunities to work in some of the world's best

laboratories like Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory, Long Islands & Walter Reed Army Research Institute, Baltimore, in USA; Astra Draco & Astra Molndal, Sweden and Astra Zeneca, Alderley Park, & Astra Zeneca, Macclesfield, UK. He worked on several cutting edge technologies like Gene cloning, Gene expression, Protein folding and Ultra-High Throughput Screening. He held a major international patent on a bioassay. He has published several Research papers in reputed international scientific journals and presented at the national and international conferences. He won the Young Scientist Award early on in his carrier and Astra Zeneca Excellence Award twice during his carrier.

Teaching Experimental Science has always been Raju's passion. When he left Astra Zeneca R&D in 2014, he decided

to make a carrier shift from being a R&D Scientist to an Educationist. He founded a startup venture called "Experimentum Learning" to popularise experimental Science. Until COVID struck, he conducted hundreds of "CheMagicaa" hands-on Chemistry workshops for high school children. Today, he is a Senior Scientific Consultant with Agastya International Foundation. He is working towards setting up a 'Center for Climate Change Awareness and Action' near Kuppam, AP.

A Rotarian since 2006, Raju has been with RCBC since the last 18 years and served the club in various capacities and worked on several service projects.

Raju did a lot of trekking early

Raju did a lot of trekking early on, loves Nature photography, listening to music and audio books. In his free time, he either does little bit of gardening or goes out for long, solitary walks!

Raju is happily married to Shilpa.

RCBC's first family of Rotary year 2024-25.

Rajendra Rane & Shilpa Rane with their sons Harshal & Pranav

Shilpa is a Civil Engineer by training. About 10 years ago, she found interest in running. Shilpa has, to her credit, dozens of half Marathons (21.1 km) and full Marathons (42.2 km), Now, as an Ultra Marathon Runner, she has done four 50 km and three 75 km Ultra runs. She has been a Marathon Coach for last 4 years in Runner High group in Bengaluru. Shy in nature, Shilpa is an excellent cook.

Shilpa & Raju are blessed with two boys. Pranav and Harshal. Pranav, a Mechatronics Engineer, currently working with Goldman Sachs for the last 2 years. The younger son, Harshal, is studying 4th year Biomedical Engineering at MIT, Manipal. Both boys have played Basketball at ISC National levels. Harshal also loves to play Badminton & Football.

EDITORIAL

Dear Fellow Rotarians & Spouses,

Welcome to the captivating pages of the inaugural issue of the BANNER, where we embark on a journey, intricately woven with the threads of service, achievement and community impact.

As the editor of the BANNER, I am thrilled to present the current issue, as we bid farewell to the last Rotary year and to the outgoing President Gargi Ojha and her team, and the transition in leadership with our Club President and the members of the Board. It also gives me an opportunity to congratulate President Gargi for a year well worked.

Now as we embark on this new Rotary year, we welcome, incoming President Rajendra Rane and his team of members as they don the mantle of leadership of RCBC in its 41st year, and usher in fresh ideas and take up the challenges and undertake the various projects of the Club.

The RI theme for the year is "THE MAGIC OF ROTARY" and brought to you is the RI President Stephanie Urchick's message. Quoting from the Rotary news where she was asked to define the best qualities required of a good leader, she

says," "At the top of the list for me is always communicate, communicate, communicate. You need to listen to the people who are working with you and share information with them, and it goes both ways. Communication is key, the absolute key, she responds emphatically.

We also bring to you our District Governor Satish Madhavan's profile & message to RCBC.

I close with the snippet on Annette Kirthi Manjunath for her



achievement by enrolling in the premier Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Chennai.

Enjoy Reading!

Rtn. Prem Kurian
The Editor.

A Tete-a-tete with our new President

Q: How long have you been a Rotarian?

18 years. I joined Rotary in April 2006 during the Presidentship of Late Rtn PP Ashok kumar. My best friend and RCBC PP Rtn Dr Dinesh Nehete got me into Rotary.

Q: What would be your biggest goal? And what are your goals for the current year?

My biggest goal as a President of this prestigious Club is to make it more enthused, vibrant, harmonious and participating family! Lots of projects get done in our club but many appear to be done in silos. Let's come together to do more participative projects with more involvement of Rotarians, their spouses and children. Let's energize our club by creating a culture of positivity, fellowship and bonding and by serving the community 'beyond self', reinforce good practices but also adapt to changing times, give our time More importantly, to enjoy Rotary!

Q: Do you have any new projects this year?

Yes. We will have some new projects this year. There is a huge unmet need for creating equity & services for differently abled people. Also, we need to protect our environment and embrace sustainable practices. Also, we must create new opportunities for youth with projects that will address some of these concerns from the 7 focus areas of Rotary International.

We will honour our commitment for all the ongoing projects provided they are sustainable and impactful. We must ensure that any project that we may undertake needs to be looked at for its real impact and how many lives it can touch or make difference to.

Q: What was the hardest thing in adjusting to being the President?

My time. There has always been 3-fold demand on my time.

Work-Home-Rotary. Work was always demanding but with additional responsibility it has become more demanding. Due to certain challenges, I need to give more time at home as well. With Rotary Presidentship demanding full time now- I am already feeling the crunch of time. The hardest thing is to strike a right balance-without getting stressed out.

Q: How are you going to juggle the challenges of being the Rotary President?

Only time will tell.

Q: What leadership positions in the club have you taken up before becoming the President?

I was director 3 times after the second year of me joining Rotary and Club Secretary in 2010-11. There was a long gap in between when I did not take up any leadership positions due to work commitment. Although, I was involved in multiple projects across committees during this time. I came back to the board in 2022-23 as a director and President Elect last year.

Q: You have been very active in the Club especially during the last few years. What motivated you?

Rotary service projects always were always close to my heart and whatever little I did, was always done with full commitment and interest. Secretaryship and Presidentship require an overall understanding of the Club functioning. When I became part of the board after a long gap, I felt the necessity to be more aware of the projects, practices and processes to prepare myself for the incoming Presidentship. What better could I have done than getting involved in the projects?

- Editor

'Dil Se...' (from the heart...)

Hi Everyone,

Today is 1st July 2024. Let me first wish you all a happy, healthy, and fulfilling Rotary Year 2024-25! New year brings new hopes and opportunities...to start afresh something that we aspire to...to look things in a new light and more importantly, leaving behind things that didn't quite click!



Presidentship is an honour and privilege, but it also comes with a huge responsibility of steering a renowned Rotary Club with an elite group of Rotarians! There is an excitement as well as an anxiety for the things that would unfold during this year.

In this Rotary year, the young, dynamic and energetic team of Directors will certainly bring in fresh outlook to the Club's repertoire of projects and activities. It goes without saying that they will need timely guidance and whole-hearted, active support from all the Club's past presidents and other senior Rotarians.

I have seen a beautiful dream of a vibrant RCBC during RY 2024-25 and to make that a reality:

- ✓ Let's create a lively & cheerful atmosphere and strong bonding through fellowship. Let's first enjoy being in Rotary!
- ✓ Let's be mindful of Club's rich traditions and practices and make conscious effort to follow those but let's also be flexible and be prepared to adapt to the changing times.
- ✓ Let every member bringing in energy and enthusiasm to support Clubs' activities and service projects.
- ✓ Let each one of us give time, offer our expertise and bring in resources for Rotary work in our own capacities. (Remember, that is what we had pledged when we joined Rotary movement!) High level of member participation and engagement will surely enliven this majestic club!
- ✓ Let the spouses of Rotarians as well as Annettes take active part in Club projects and activities. They will not only bring in fresh perspectives and ideas but also help augment member engagement.

Our service projects have always been in alignment with Rotary International's 7 areas of focus but there are some areas close to my heart and I would like to take up projects in the areas which can make some positive impact:

Supporting differently abled children and people to bring

in equity & inclusivity for them

- Environment, Ecological restoration & Sustainable development
- Women empowerment and training youngsters to enable them to earn their livelihood.
- Basic education: as nation builder
- Mental Health Awareness

We may not do all of these or all as the 'big ticket' projects but let's do a few meaningful ones which will make a difference in the lives. of people in our communities. Together we can create the Magic of Rotary!

Ideas are plenty. We also have several ongoing projects. For all projects to run, we need every Rotarian to come forward and pitch in, with his/her own capacity -to give time and or bring in resources.

With just a few months in hand before the year begun, we did a small but successful fundraiser 'Tere Liye' bringing 14.1 Lakhs for our projects! This will certainly start this year on a positive note. This was possible because of relentless efforts by the Tere Liye Event team and support from many Rotarians. We came together, we planned, and we executed! More than anything else, it told us what all can be achieved if we bring together the energies and ideas of younger Rotarians and the direction and wisdom from veteran Rotarians!

We also need to work out more such innovative ways to raise funds for our projects. Some such ideas are being considered and need substantial efforts from all of us. Impact assessment & reporting need to be an integral part of our project workflows as these will also be mandated for compliance when we approach corporates for CSR funds. When we have so many things to be done, we need active participation from everyone! Because I firmly believe that only together, we will succeed in a true sense. That worries me though... As they say, the whole world runs on hope for a better tomorrow and I am also hoping and would like to believe that things will change for better!

Things are not going to be easy for this dreamer. However, I believe that together we can make the dream come true!

Yours in Rotary



President 2024-25

Message from R. I. President

Dear fellow Rotary leaders:

As we begin a new year of service, let us not forget the importance of every one of Rotary's members.

We need your leadership now more than ever if we are to



make every club and district an irresistible experience. Rotary has a chance to capture the world's attention and realize possibilities beyond our expectations. But we must build on the work that has come before us if we are to reach our goals, such as defeating polio and unlocking the power of girls and women.

Rotary offers people of action a chance to connect and find belonging, and this fellowship gives us the potential to improve our communities and the world. By following Rotary's Action Plan and helping make sure all members feel a sense of belonging in their club, you have a special opportunity to inspire members to new heights of service.

Our ability to create lasting change begins with our family of Rotary. Together, it is within our power to bring healing in a divided world.

Join me in making Rotary a source of strength for those who need it most, within and beyond our membership. Let this be the year we harness The Magic of Rotary, and let Rotary be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people we serve.

It is within your power to help make Rotary a beacon of goodwill and fellowship in every community.

Remember that your work can and will change the world with The Magic of Rotary.

Warm regards,

Bezhani a. Wubich

Stephanie A. Urchick Rotary International President, 2024-2025

A Pen Sketch of our D. G. Rtn. Satish Madhavan

Satish Madhavan is a charter member of Rotary Bangalore Rajarajeshwari Nagar Centennial. He will serve as the District Governor of District 3191 for the year 2024-25. Satish's Rotary journey began in 2004-05, and he has since held various significant roles, including Club President, Assistant Governor, Zone Governor, District Secretary, District Conference Chairman, Director for Publications, Club Service, Awards & Recognitions, and Secretary of the Bifurcation Committee, among others.

As Club President, he successfully led his club to win the Best Club Award and the Rotary International Presidential Citation under President Ray Klinginsmith. His efforts earned him the Star President Award and the Excellence Award in 2010-11. As District Secretary, he received the Outstanding Service Award and the Go-Getter of the Year Award in 2015-16. Additionally, he was honoured with the Champion of Champions Award by Rotary International President Ravindran and the Rotary Avenues of Service Award from Rotary International.

Professionally, he began his career with Black & Decker as a marketing officer and later transitioned to the ready-to-wear apparel industry in the 1990s. He has worked with leading apparel retailers in Europe and the USA, holding positions at Peek & Cloppenburg Netherlands and Associated Indian Exports. He now runs his own firm, which specializes in sourcing apparel and home textiles for overseas clients. He has worked with clients such as Adams Childrenswear Ltd, Wallis Fashion, KMART

Corporation, Sears Roebuck & Co, and Dollar General Corporation USA. He is widely travelled, bringing a global perspective to all his endeavours. With a keen eye for design and a passion for reading, he continually seeks to expand his knowledge.

In his leisure time, he enjoys the competitive spirit of badminton and the strategic finesse of snooker. Born to the late Smt. Sarojini and Madhavan Nair, Satish's early education took place in Kolar Gold Fields and college in Bangalore, where he completed his Bachelor's in Commerce from Bangalore University.

He is married to Susitha, a dedicated and accomplished individual with a Bachelor's in Education and a Master's in Entomology from Calicut University. Together, they have raised two sons, Aditya and Aryan, both business management graduates. Aditya is now making his mark in strategic consulting at Wipro, while Aryan, as a brand consultant, is thriving at White Space.

He firmly believes in the quote by Simon Sinek: "Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.

Message from District Governor

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

It is with great honour and boundless excitement that I extend my greetings to all the members of Rotary Bangalore Cantonment. As we stand at the threshold of a new Rotary year, the theme "The Magic of Rotary" beckons us to embark on a journey filled with promise and potential. This powerful theme, carefully chosen to resonate with the core of our organization, reminds us of the transformative impact we can achieve when we unite in the spirit of "Service Above Self."



Rotary International's enduring motto has always been our guiding star, inspiring us to effect positive change within our communities and beyond. It is this steadfast commitment to service that turns e v e r y d a y a c t i o n s i n t o extraordinary results, creating magic, as so eloquently articulated

by our Rotary International President, Stephanie Urchick.

However, this magic doesn't just happen by itself. It requires our collective effort, our shared vision, and our dedication. As we move forward, I want to highlight several key areas that will help us harness this magic to its fullest potential.

First and foremost, we must enrich our club experience. A richer club experience means fostering a welcoming and engaging environment where every member feels valued and inspired. It's about creating a space where ideas flourish,

friendships are forged, and every meeting is a testament to our shared purpose.

Next, we need to enhance participation in both club and district activities. Active engagement is the lifeblood of Rotary. The more we involve ourselves in our clubs and district activities, the stronger our bonds become, and the more significant our impact on the world. Let's encourage one another to attend meetings, participate in events, and take on leadership roles. Through our collective participation, we strengthen our Rotary family and amplify our ability to make a difference.

Our service projects must be impactful and far-reaching. It's not just about the number of projects we undertake, but the depth of their impact. Let us focus on initiatives that address the most pressing needs of our communities, creating sustainable change and improving lives. Each project should be a testament to our commitment to service, leaving a lasting legacy for future generations.

Finally, we must build a strong public image in our communities. A positive public image enhances our ability to attract new members, secure funding, and garner support for our initiatives. Let's share our stories of service, celebrate our successes, and make sure our communities know the true magic of Rotary.

Warm Regards

Satish Madhavan
District Governor
Rotary International District 3191

A Handfull of Awards & Citations for the year 2023-24





RCBC'S BOARD



A mad scientist, passionate about his profession Sorry, a scientist madly passionate about his profession, with over two decades of service through RCBC - says has no 'score' to settle!
Loves nature photography, audio books and listens to music, says that he is ready to face the music now.

- Abhi, Raju Bangaya President!



After a very successful year on the roller coaster coming out with flying colours with a fistful of District Awards.

Ist July 2023
Gargi "O 'aa"
and 1st July 2024
Gargi "O jaa"
- IPP Rtn. Gargi Ojha



backbone & heartbeat of the club, a fellowship buff and a persevering Rtn. who follows & sees things through.

- Club Secretary Rtn. Shabbir Choilawala.



Absent minded but a professor like guide, who will keep the Finances in control as he gives a good account of himself whenever he flies his car from Bengaluru, Attibele or Sriperambadur

- Treasurer, PP Rtn N S Sridhar



Technically she handles
Communication at work and
is a Multitasker, now
entering Rotary in the
international arena

- Director, Intl. Service Rtn. Madhuchanda Bhattacharyya



Managing the affairs at work, home & Club, Lifting the standards to digitally stratospheric heights in whatever she does is her Banner

- Director Club Service, Rtn. Susan Marcus

FOR THE YEAR 2024-25



Advising others on
Investment & savings to start
the habit when young, Youth
services is the right forte for
this man on wheels, to mould
the young in all round
hobbies as well!
- Director, Youth Service

Rtn. Srikanth K. P.



Like the Bee collecting Honey from flowers, he will collect all resources available to offer the base of Rotary service
- Director
Vocational Service,
Rtn. Santosh

Venkatappa.



Managing the family
business while imitating
people around,
ready to serve the needy
- Director
Community Service
Rtn. Chaitra Mukund



To have discipline in the club, a new face with charm, who can enthuse & melt the Rotarian & family
- Sergeant-at-Arms,
Rtn. Sameena Bhatia



Strict like a disciplinarian but always prompt to respond and kind at heart, he had laid the Foundation of this club, and would be guiding the Board & members as - Co-opted Director,



The ever smiling and joking cherubic face behind fellowships at the Club, a walking encyclopaedia on Club Rules & an organiser par excellence and a go-to man for all seasons and reasons

-Co-opted Director,

PP Rtn Ramdas Pai

CP Rtn Santosh Nedungadi

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Commencing its 40th anniversary, the Rotary Club of Bangalore Cantonment (RCBC) commemorated its longstanding commitment to "Service Above Self."

The 1986 Batch Alumni of National Public School, Rajajinagar, collaborated with RCBC a decade ago to facilitate the donation of a school bus to the Rotary School in Channapatna. This contribution has since provided hundreds of children with access to quality education, significantly impacting their lives.



In response to the evolving educational landscape post-COVID, various new schools have emerged in different locales. Consequently, most students reside within a 2-3 km radius, rendering the operation of the school bus impractical. This change in student demographics necessitated a revaluation of the bus's utility.

The Association of People with Disability, popularly known as APD, empowers people with disabilities to live full, productive lives. They operate the Shradhanjali Integrated School for children with disabilities. The school caters to children across the city and urgently needed a wheelchair-accessible school bus.

RCBC, as a testament to its pledge of Service, undertook the initiative to retrofit the Channapatna school bus with a hydraulic lift, allowing wheelchair-bound children to fully access the bus. The comprehensive retrofit costs, including bus overhaul, amounted to Rs. 7.5 Lakhs. In a collaborative effort, the NPS Alumni team facilitated the procurement of Rs. 6 Lakhs from ENPHASE, their esteemed CSR partner, and contributed the remaining Rs. 1.5 Lakhs.

Under the stewardship of the RCBC President (2024-25), Rajendra Rane, the bus retrofit project came to fruition, culminating in the official dedication of the bus to the Shradhanjali Integrated School on June 18, 2024. This day held special significance, marking the completion of 40 years of the Charter of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Cantonment.

Rotary District 3191 Governor Uday Bhaskara, RCBC President Gargi Ojha, Kiran from the donor company, and Dhanalakshmi representing the NPS Alumni 1986 batch officially dedicated the bus to the students of the Shradhanjali Integrated School, celebrating the unwavering commitment of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Cantonment to serving society selflessly over four decades.

RCBC acknowledges the triumph of the resilient children at the Shradhanjali Integrated School, as they navigate life's adversities with unwavering courage to imbue their existence with purpose. In an affirmative stride, the members and donors united to extend support, recognizing the indomitable spirit of these children in their pursuit of progress.



CHARTER NITE - 2024

RCBC's birthday - Charter Nite, was an eagerly awaited event.

And like any other birthday, all arrangements were done by Pr. Gargi and team to make it a memorable one.

Ann. Indrani, despite her indifferent health, started the proceedings with a lovely invocation. Charter members who are still in the club lighted the lamp to brighten up the proceedings.

Our charter president Rtn. Santosh Nedungadi sent his greetings and good wishes from USA via video. Some charter members who could not be present conveyed their wishes through Pr. Gargi. However, those present

were honoured with a green memento.

What followed, was a pleasant surprise to most people - release of a Coffee table book to commemorate RCBC's 40th birthday !!!! Although the official release is in September, the audio visual presentation showcasing the salient features of the book by Rtn. Susan, the architect of the book, had one and all excited and craving for a copy.

Come September and our wishes will be fulfilled.



Chief guest for the evening,

Mr. Ullas Kamath, formerly of Jyothi Labs, is no stranger to our Club. Not only has he addressed us in the past, he has also been very supportive of our Club in all our fund raising efforts. With his background, experience and knowledge, the talk was bound to be educative, thought provoking and stimulating - which it was. He emphasised on the need for job creation and suggested that Rotary can do their bit in this direction. That he travels 250 days in a year and that he went to the airport straight from this meeting to catch a flight to USA talks highly of his commitment and time management skills.

With the meeting having gone way past the official closing time and with members thirsty for fellowship and dinner, The Fireside chat with Charter members Ram, TV. and Shailu unfortunately had to be hurried through.

However, there was yet another important task to be performed- induction of a new member!! Girish Hebbani was introduced by Ramdas and inducted by NS Sridhar in a brief smart ceremony. What was a pleasant coincidence was that Girish was one of the participants in the first RYLA conducted by RCBC!!

For me the highlight of the evening was the brief address to the members by Girija, wife of our past Rotarian and charter member RR Mohan. She recalled how when they were members of RCBC, she wouldn't miss a single weekly meeting even when Mohan was out of town, just because she looked forward to meeting other Anns; how her children would come for these meetings and had a great time with other Annets. RHL for her was a temple to meet up with her extended family!!

Rtn. Sudhakar

Tere Liye - A Fund Raiser

A casual discussion over how much funds would we need to start the Rotary Year 24-25 with, set the ball rolling on what can be done?

After a lot of thought, a Musical event was the choice that was zeroed on, and options of Who, How, Where & When went through everyone's minds for a couple of days! Finally it was decided that it had to be done before June end. There was no time to form a committee.

Options available were to do all the ground work ourselves or get an event manager. After weighing the pros & cons Ekta S Productionz was chosen to be the Music show provider.

Ekta productionz would do the ground work of curating the show, choosing the singers, musicians and other aspects of producing a show. 'Tere Liye' a tribute to Yash Chopra - Celebrating Romance was to be the theme for the evening.

'Khoday's Prestige Center for Arts' was the only venue available on a Saturday evening & June 22nd was blocked and planning & execution started immediately. Susan was approached and her media savviness was a great help.

The sponsorship & Donations of various kinds was the backbone of the show! Our Sponsors were Provident Housing, Articaa Constructions, Sapthagiri Panels, Shanthala Chits, Merit Education, India Gold and Neelkanth Gold & Diamonds.

We had 'Book my show' as ticketing partners, Odeum as support partners, Indigo Music as radio partners & Prestige centre for performing Arts as the venue Partners. Majority of the donor passes were taken by our members & family.

They came with family, friends and colleagues.



A lot of useful & helpful inputs in thought & kind from various Rotarians & Spouses was a big boost. A small committee was in place for logistics & support.

25 songs including an instrumental medley on flute by Ashwini Kashyap, and the vocal medley by singers Ekta, Shruti Bhide, Aniket Prabhu & Raghu Jha was the grand finale, that was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience.

All the efforts of the organisers, singers & musicians ended in a well curated programme witnessed & appreciated by members of our club & others.

The event was organised to raise funds for the Club and it kick started the fund raising activity ahead of the new Rotary year

Team Tere Live

Jwo Memorable Nights of 2023-24

Glimpses of the 40th Charter Nite



Snap shots of the musical Program - Jere Liye











Kurian K. : 8th July

Rohit Karanth : 8th July



Nasser Fazal & Zaheena : 8th July

• Pradeep Agrawal & Anitha: 9th July

Rohit Karanth & Ramya : 9th July

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