

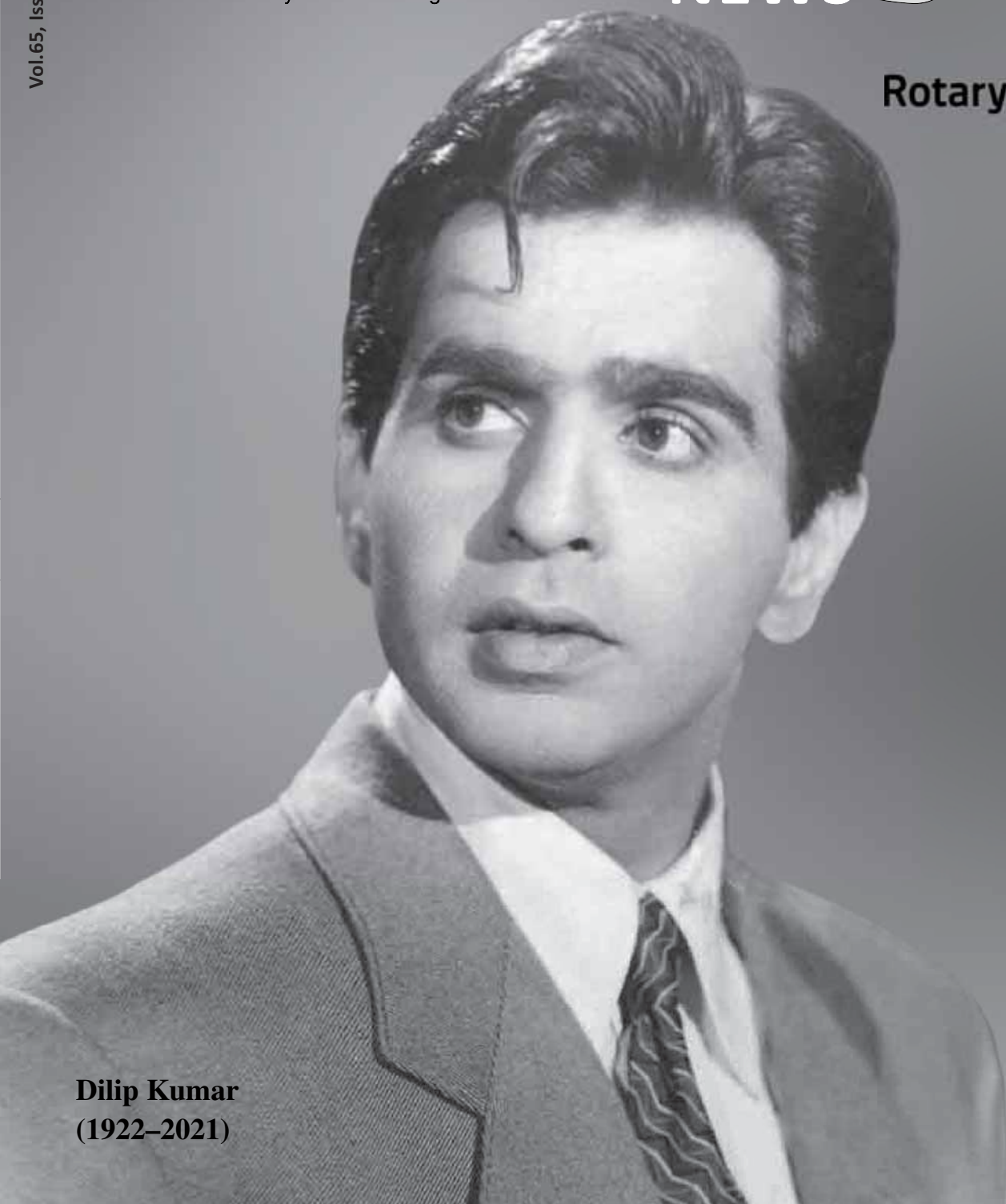
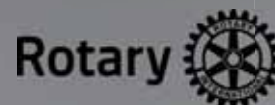


Rotary

NEWS

INDIA

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(1922–2021)

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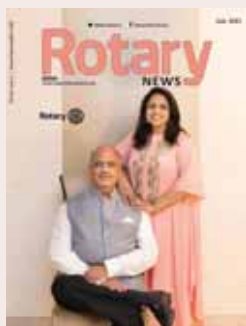
RI Prez Mehta's call to empower girls is welcome

RI President Shekhar Mehta's call to Rotarians to focus on "empowering girls" is very important. The character and cultural level of teachers is an important factor while imparting education and if this important characteristic is missing, both students and parents as well as the institutions should change this.

The issue with beautiful pictures of Mehta and Rashi has many interesting news articles, as usual, including the relief measures of RC Queen Necklace in Mumbai, such as providing oxygen concentrators, community fridges with fresh food for those who cannot afford to buy food. These projects speak volumes about Rotary's care for the people.

*R Srinivasan, RC Madurai
Midtown — D 3000*

Glad to see the beautiful photo of RI President Shekhar Mehta and wife Rashi at their home in Kolkata on the cover of the July issue.



Mehta's concept of *Each one, Bring one* is excellent and empowering girls for a better world is a novel idea. I wish him a successful Rotary year ahead.

Messages from the new RI directors motivate us. Trustee Chair John F Germ quoting Helen Keller shows us a way forward in this pandemic. It is interesting to read about the life and services rendered by Mehta from the views of outsiders and his family members.

PRIP Holger Knaack dwells on the problems the clubs will face in the post-pandemic world. It is nice

to read about noble work of RC Mumbai Queen's Necklace and many other clubs in India. Other articles like *Rotary, Tata come together for mega projects*, the article on *KL Saigal*, and *Make your home energy-efficient*, are all worth reading. Pictures are also eloquent.

*Philip Mulappone M T
RC Trivandrum
Suburban — D 3211*

RI Prez Mehta's focus on empowering girls and ensuring inclusion in Rotary service so that they have access to education, sanitation, employment and healthcare is very welcome. His theme carries a deep meaning and opens up opportunities for clubs to do grand projects. It was a pleasure to see President Shekhar and Rashi on the cover in the June issue.

*Abhay Kishore Sandwar
RC Dhanbad
Midtown — D 3250*

Reading a soaked June issue

Thanks to monsoon and the new habit of postman dropping mails on the ground floor lobby instead of at the doorstep, I received a wet June issue. Even the watchman did not want to handle the soiled magazine, but it reached my hand finally. The refreshing content made up for the dishevelled copy. The editor's features on President Mehta and RID Mahesh Kotbagi were of great interest. They were not put on a pedestal but their involvement and achievements found the right coverage. I look forward to the *Wordsworld* column of Sandhya Rao, useful tips on taking care of oneself by Bharat and Shalan Savur and never to be missed *LBW* by TCA Srinivasa Raghavan. Sandhya's bookmarks are a reflection of

my own reading practice — 2–3 books at a time to beat fatigue in case a book makes heavy reading. TCA's material is read start to finish unabated. Working for soul rather than body was also my credo in my active years (I just celebrated my 80th birthday this March). Thanks for providing sustained and interesting reading material unflinching every month.

*Mandyam Badarinarayana
RC Thane Hills — D 3142*

The elaborate features on President Mehta and RID Mahesh Kotbagi are very informative, pointing to their achievements in Rotary so far with many service projects to their credit. The water projects taken up by RC Belthangady have reached out to the farmers helping them to

tide over the water scarcity in their region, thus improving their productivity.

*Dr Pon Muthaiyan
RC Aduthurai — D 2981*

I just read the July issue; with the overall facelift, the magazine has improved a lot with extensive coverage of clubs and projects. As empowerment of girls is the theme this year, I hope all clubs will dwell upon this dream of RI President Shekhar Mehta and implement related projects to make it a grand success this year.

DG Jacintha Dharma has become governor of RID 3212 over a span of 13 years of service as Rotarian of RC Nagercoil with strong foundation as an Interactor and later Rotaractor, thanks to RYLA which also played a pivotal role in

LETTERS

I am happy to note the five priorities of Prez Mehta, especially empowering girls, which is the need of the moment. Proud to know from *Rotary News* about the immense help given by Rotary clubs for Covid-relief across the world. It was an eye-opener to read the heartbreaking story of Tamong, the forest guard who lost his leg in an attack by a rhinoceros, from the article on the Jaipur limb camp in Guwahati. The project is praiseworthy and a motivation for other clubs. The sustainable water conservation projects by RID 3181 (June issue) will be of great help to farmers to boost their morale and enable them to do well in the coming years.

Col Vijayakumar (retd)
RC Alleppey
Greater — D 3211

her Rotary career. She is the second woman DG in Tamil Nadu and first in her district. Her success is a good example for women's empowerment.

S Mohan, RC Madurai West — D 3000

The article on Saigal by SR Madhu lit up memories of the captivating voice of the legendary singer. The depth of feelings in his melancholic voice are ably captured by the writer. The nostalgia of Saigal on erstwhile Radio Ceylon will linger forever in the hearts of music lovers.

K Ravindran
RC Trikaripur — D 3204

Rotary & a Covid vaccine

Another Rotary year has dawned with yet another beautiful issue of *Rotary*

News filled with scintillating reading stuff. It was 36 years ago in 1985, that Rotary initiated its all-time ambitious programme, the polio eradication drive. Rotarians have collected more than \$2.1 billion and put in countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children. Polio cases were reduced by 99.9 per cent.

If Rotary could achieve this incredible feat, why not try and develop a Covid vaccine too? Rotary may set up a Covid Vaccine Development Lab, where scientists can develop a Covid vaccine for free distribution. Rotary has the money power as we have one of the biggest Foundations, TRF.

Tom Eapen, RC Alleppey — D 3211

Being a TRF alumnus, now a proud Rotarian, I too share President Mehta's dream of a Nobel nomination for Rotary. Not for glory or fame, but a Nobel will take us a step closer to Rotary emerging as a top service organisation. I hope that proud moment when our RI president receives the prize on behalf of all Rotarians materialises this year.

R Murali Krishna
RC Berhampur — D 3262

A touching editorial

The June editorial on long-distance mourning is touching and reflects the ground reality. Covid has snuffed out thousands of lives, and sole breadwinners fell victim leaving their families in the lurch. Relatives or friends residing overseas who could not fly back to bid goodbye to their loved ones and the kin who were not allowed to perform the last rites are having agonising times.

Dr V Ramasubramanian cautions that the third wave is inevitable, but said there is no need to panic as it will be milder. Rotarians must follow his advice to be fit and healthy.

Raj Kumar Kapoor
RC Roopnagar — D 3080

A dynamic leader

I was fortunate to work closely with IRI President Mehta and PRID Kamal Sanghvi during the Centennial celebrations in Kolkata. We had tirelessly worked on promoting Rotary's image through advertorials and news in leading publications. I saw in Mehta a monument of great inspiring ideas, big dreams and giant social service goals. A true perfectionist and the motto *Serve to Change Lives* fits his character like a T.

Piyush Doshi, RC Belur — D 3291

Let us welcome President Mehta, LDGs and new club presidents. PRIP Holger Knaack in his message details the challenges we may face in the post-pandemic world. The Editor's note speaks eloquently about long-distance mourning and trauma felt by relatives living in foreign countries.

S Muniandi
RC Dindigul Fort — D 3000

The article *Coimbatore Rotarians' Covid relief projects* (Jun'21) is well-written. It is a great privilege to get such an extensive coverage and a proud moment for Team Sanjeevani and the entire district 3201. The image of Rotary has got a facelift.

PP Lakshmanan
RC Coimbatore West — D 3201

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rotarynews@rosaonline.org; rushbhagat@gmail.com.

Mail your project details, along with hi-res photos,
to rotarynewsmagazine@gmail.com.

Messages on your club/district projects, information and links on zoom meetings/webinar should be sent only by e-mail to the Editor at rushbhagat@gmail.com or rotarynewsmagazine@gmail.com. WHATSAPP MESSAGES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

Click on **Rotary News Plus** on our website
www.rotarynewsonline.org to read about more Rotary projects.

An engaged Rotarian is an asset forever



Greetings, my dear changemakers. As we focus on membership in Rotary this month, I ask you to help make history this year. For more than 20 years, our membership has stood at 1.2 million. Rotary is a vibrant organisation with a 116-year history, members in more than 220 countries and geographic areas, and a rich legacy of work in polio eradication and other humanitarian programmes. Rotary has changed so much in our own lives and the lives of others. As we *Serve to Change Lives*, don't you think Rotary could have an even greater impact on the world if more people were practising Service Above Self?

My vision is to increase Rotary membership to 1.3 million by July 2022, and the call to action is simple: Each One, Bring One. This year, I want every Rotarian and Rotaractor to introduce a new person into their club.

We are a membership organisation, and members are our greatest asset. You are the ones who contribute so generously to TRF. You are the ones who dream big to bring good into the world through meaningful projects. And of course, you are the ones who have put the world on the brink of eradicating polio.

As we make membership a priority this year, let us focus on diversity by reaching out to younger people and especially to women. Every club should celebrate its new members,

and every Rotarian who sponsors a member will be personally recognised by me. And those who are successful in bringing in 25 or more members will be part of our new Membership Society.

Even as we share the gift of Rotary with others, let us be sure to engage these new members, because an engaged Rotarian is an asset forever. And remember that engaging our current members and keeping them in our clubs is just as important as bringing in newcomers. Let us also be ready to form new clubs, especially flexible ones. I am very bullish on clubs that hold virtual or hybrid meetings, and satellite clubs and cause-based clubs can also be very effective ways of growing Rotary.

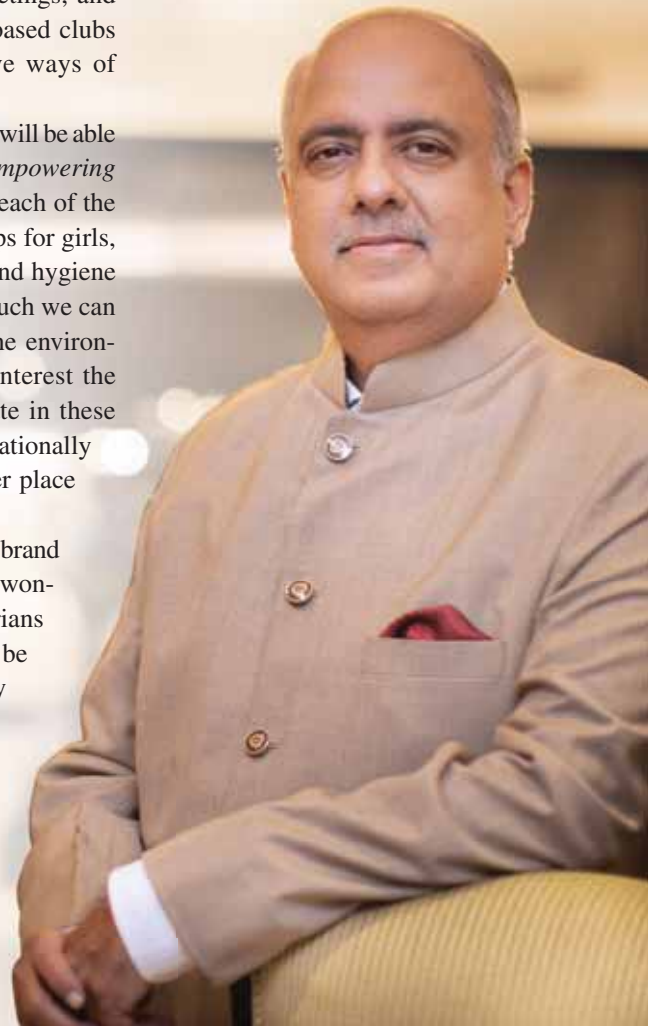
As you *grow more*, you will be able to *do more*. Let us keep *empowering girls* through our work in each of the areas of focus. Scholarships for girls, toilets in schools, health and hygiene education — there is so much we can do. Projects focused on the environment are also attracting interest the world over. Do participate in these projects locally and internationally to make this world a better place for us and for all species.

Each of you is a Rotary brand ambassador, and all of the wonderful work done by Rotarians around the world needs to be shared outside the Rotary community. Use social

media to tell your friends, colleagues and relatives the stories of Service Above Self.

Finally, I'm challenging every club, during the coming year, to plan at least one Rotary Day of Service that will bring together volunteers from inside and outside Rotary and will celebrate and showcase the work of your club in your community. Visit rotary.org to find out more about all of these initiatives, along with other ways to *Serve to Change Lives*.

Shekhar Mehta
President, Rotary International





Rotary marches towards a more diverse, equitable world

Each time the members of a Rotary club in the world, particularly in India, build a gender-segregated toilet in a school; talk about menstrual hygiene and provide girls easy-to-use and sustainable MHM kits; hold awareness sessions on the importance of educating daughters along with sons, campaign against child marriages or initiate scholarships for girls, the empowerment of girls, so high on RI President Shekhar Mehta's agenda, is slowly, but surely taking place.

Classes in karate or any other martial arts for self-defence, teaching young girls, and boys as well, about 'good touch-bad touch', and giving them the confidence to not only keep at bay predators but also the support to bring them to book, skilling of young women through specialised courses, such as in beauty care, initiated for 100 speech and hearing-impaired girls by the women's empowerment committee of RID 3232 (*Rotary News*, April, 2021), dissuading parents from early marriage of girls, and starting a hockey academy for rural girls in Odisha (reported by V Muthukumaran in this issue), are all projects that fit bang into the latest core *mantra* of Rotary International — Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI).

It was great to see immediate past RI president Holger Knaack not missing a single opportunity to tell Rotarians to embrace the DEI *mantra*, and walk away from discrimination, racial, regional or colour prejudices. With President Mehta talking so passionately about the need to empower, and hence liberate the girl child from long decades of discrimination and unequal treatment, some headway will definitely be made this Rotary year. RIPE Jennifer Jones has already expressed her intention to take further RI's focus on DEI.

That RI means business on DEI can be seen from its Board of Directors convening a DEI Task Force to

assess the current situation within Rotary on this aspect, and develop a comprehensive plan of action with "achievable, measurable, and meaningful outcomes for Rotary". This plan will be presented to the Board in October 2021 under the presidentship of Mehta.

How many Rotarians know that Rotary's DEI statement was actually adopted in 2019? But now there is "a new commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion", as at Rotary, the need to cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is gaining ground.

It is not as though India is unaware or indifferent to the pressing need to empower the girl child. Thanks to discrimination against them and a heavy discount placed on daughters in our patriarchal society, the girl:boy sex ratio in the 0–6 years range has been steadily falling. In the 2011 census it had come down to 918 girls to 1000 boys from 927:1000 in 2001.

On the International Day of the Girl Child in 2014, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for the eradication of the heinous practice of female foeticide. The next January he launched the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* scheme to address this serious issue.

I watched in utter delight senior RI leaders, and Rotary leaders from across the world single out RI President Shekhar Mehta's resolve to empower the girl child through a clutch of initiatives, and promise to work with him in this "wonderful initiative", at a mega zoom meet held to welcome him into his new leadership role at RI.

From *Rotary News*, we too promise to report on our pages the concrete action being taken to empower girls, women and through them our great country, and the world. So go ahead, and let's have details of what your clubs are doing for DEI.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Rasheeda Bhagat'.

Rasheeda Bhagat

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Printed by PT Prabhakar at Rasi Graphics Pvt Ltd, 40, Peters Road, Royapettah, Chennai - 600 014, India, and published by PT Prabhakar on behalf of Rotary News Trust from Dugar Towers, 3rd Flr, 34, Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008. Editor: Rasheeda Bhagat.

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Director

Rotary's new area of focus: supporting the environment

Dear friends,
Don't you think this is an exciting moment for us as we get ready to support the environment? The Rotary Foundation now enables Rotarians to protect, preserve and conserve the environment by funding service projects. This is a big leap forward from the 'Preserve Planet Earth' initiative in the 1990s. In the past our clubs and districts have completed many projects and activities in the areas of water, sanitation, solid waste management, etc. However, now we are equipped with more resources and focused efforts by Rotarians will change the ways that environmental issues can be addressed by communities around us.

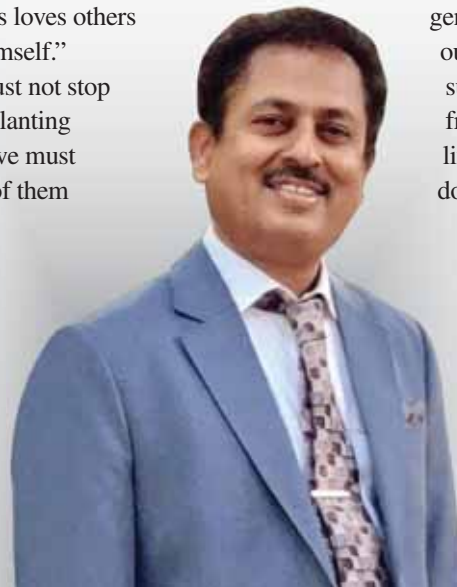
Whenever we think about green and clean environment, we dream about trees, rivers flowing with fresh water, neighbourhoods without dirt and waste. The earth without such beautiful canvas has no meaning. Thomas Fuller's words are very appropriate for Rotarians: "He that plants trees loves others besides himself."

We must not stop with just planting saplings; we must take care of them

until the time they can survive on their own. Creating fresh water resources involving communities shall make them sustainable in the long run.

Once Mother Teresa said, "I only feel angry when I see waste. When I see people throwing away things we could use." Saying no to plastic is a 'fashion' but reducing, recycling and reusing plastic is a 'passion'. In addition to being actively involved in the plastic recycling process, Rotary clubs can encourage and organise 'plastic usage literacy' programmes in schools and communities.

"One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken," said Leo Tolstoy. Rotarians can be that link through their acts and deeds. Together, we can create an environment full of happiness and joy by planting trees, helping and educating communities to say 'No' to plastics, and managing solid waste, by involving our younger generations. Together, let's make our planet earth, through our sustainable and environment-friendly community initiatives, a little bit better than before. Let's do it the way we can do it.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mahesh".

Dr Mahesh Kotbagi
RI Director, 2021-23

Speak

Invite diversity, dance with inclusion

There was once a young girl who was very forgetful. She would forget to tidy her room, forget to bring back her lunch bag from school and so on and so forth. Her mother, as all mothers do, was constantly reminding her to be careful and alert. One day, her mother noticed a hole in the pocket of her dress and asked her to mend it. “I’ll do it later, Mom” came the reply as she rushed off to play. That evening, her uncle visited and gave her a bunch of coins as a treat to buy her favourite chocolates. She pocketed the coins and hopped happily across the streets to the sweet shop. Alas, when she reached there, all the coins were gone as they had slipped through the hole in her pocket!

We need to be very mindful that the members we are adding through the membership thrust are fostered and developed into fine Rotarians. Let’s not forget to mend that hole in the pocket and ensure that the new members are not lost but are safe and snug in our clubs.

One way to ensure this is put in place a mechanism at the club wherein new members are engaged with and invited to participate in club activities, their families are made to feel at ease at club fellowship events and so on. New members are like delicate young saplings which need nurturing.

Another great path to fortify our clubs is gender diversity in membership. Rotary is a humanitarian organisation and our membership will do well to represent gender balance. By being skewed in favour of male membership our clubs are losing out on a big opportunity, rep-



resented by the ideas, strength, work force, skill sets and so much more that women members will bring to Rotary. So, I ask you, my friends, invite women to join your clubs — let’s ensure that by the end of this Rotary year, there remains not a single men-only club in Rotary in India!

When women do join our clubs, let’s value their membership and the contribution that they can make. Let’s remove from our minds all the pre-conceived notions and misconceptions that may exist. Assimilate women members into the fabric of the club — encourage their participation, give credence to their ideas, build confidence in their work and most important, open up a leadership path for them. For, we must remember that diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance!

A stylized signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

AS Venkatesh
RI Director, 2021–23

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With more members and support, we'll do more good in the world



In August, we focus on membership — exploring ways we can expand Rotary's ranks and reach. As we form new clubs and answer RI President Shekhar Mehta's call of *Each One, Bring One*, let's consider how these efforts will have a positive impact at every level of our organisation.

Rotary's two greatest assets are its members and The Rotary Foundation, and they are linked. Our organisation is made up of more than 48,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs, and without our dedicated club members, we can't perform service. Our members also carry out the Foundation's mission of doing good in the world, by working on grassroots projects and making contributions that support countless Foundation programmes and grants.

With more members in Rotary, the Foundation could do even more good in the world. We would have more hands to set up water, sanitation and hygiene projects, so that more people could access clean water. We would have more minds to plan global grant projects that support prenatal services, so that more babies could live. We could fund more district grants that support literacy, so that more people could learn to read.

Today, roughly a third of our members actively support the Foundation through annual giving or other means. Imagine how we could extend Rotary's reach if we were to increase that engagement, even by just a little. More Rotarian contributions would mean additional funding for the Rotary Peace Centers, as well as more matched contributions to help eradicate polio, thanks to our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

TRF is a powerful force that efficiently carries out impactful and sustainable projects around the world; Charity Navigator has recognised TRF with a four-star rating annually for 13 consecutive years. All Rotary members can be proud of this. And how great it would be if all Rotarians would support the Foundation in whatever way they could.

I have a simple request this month. Please take 10 minutes during your next club meeting to discuss ways to get more involved in the Foundation this year. It could be planning an online fundraiser to benefit the Foundation or partnering with other clubs for a global grant project.

Whatever you do, remember that our members — all of us — drive Rotary's efforts and sustain our Foundation.

John F Germ
Foundation Trustee Chair

Let every Rotarian contribute \$100 to TRF

While this article was written in July, you'll read it only in August and one month of this Rotary year would have passed. Notwithstanding, let us continue to celebrate with pride as our very own Shekhar Mehta leads Rotary. His clarion call *Serve to Change Lives* must act as the catalyst to multiply our commitment to the underprivileged.



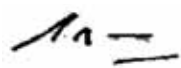
The pandemic made life very difficult for the 2020–21 DGs. Yet, they and their TRF leadership teams have done us proud by going the extra mile and surpassing 2019–20's total contribution. While the final figures are being reconciled, the latest tally for all four zones is \$23.5 million, of which India's contribution is \$22.3 million. Both numbers are a new record. This is truly outstanding.

The pride of place goes to D 3141, led by DG Sunnil Mehra, as the No 1 district in the world with a total contribution of \$3.5 million; six other Indian districts — 3131, 3232, 3190, 3201, 3060 and 3011 — are in the top 50 worldwide. I congratulate the IPDGs, their TRF teams, our generous donors and all regional coordinators — RRFs, EMGAs and EPNCs. Take a bow, everyone! Also, the total AF contributions have increased by almost 18 per cent over the previous year which is hugely significant.

On a personal level, 2021–22 will be special: Shekhar Mehta is RI President. And it will be my last year as TRF Trustee. May I humbly request every Rotarian to contribute at least \$100 to TRF; not per capita but individually. This will be truly record-breaking and make the 2021–22 goal of \$30 million for all four zones easier.

Our Foundation stands for hope for the downtrodden and underprivileged. My fellow Rotarians, do rise to the challenge of meeting our targets so that we continue to do good in the world. To each club president and DG, I say "this is your moment". You are the leader "who strives valiantly, who errs, comes up short, who spends every effort in a worthy cause, who at best knows the triumph of high achievement and at the worst fails whilst daring, so that their place shall never be amongst timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat." It matters not whether you scaled the peak, what matters is that you never gave up trying.

Let's do our very best as we go forth and serve to change lives.


Gulam A Vahanvaty
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation

Unaudited Interim TRF Contributions as on June 2021

(in US Dollars)

District Number	Annual Fund	PolioPlus	Endowment Fund	Other Funds	Total Contributions
India					
2981	197,182	8,037	22,231	2,058	229,509
2982	157,849	19,308	20,770	109,312	307,240
3000	221,823	37,784	492	74,464	334,563
3011	339,664	17,593	65,653	596,775	1,019,684
3012	110,704	2,780	0	42,321	155,806
3020	213,466	166,771	153,471	45,907	579,615
3030	222,792	5,407	39,408	167,057	434,663
3040	66,519	3,546	0	182,456	252,521
3053	77,915	8,642	24,961	230,147	341,665
3054	112,356	7,918	0	622,200	742,473
3060	371,823	3,759	207,164	615,999	1,198,745
3070	63,184	2,760	0	74,797	140,741
3080	154,704	17,062	1,097	(13,280)	159,583
3090	62,869	603	0	(736)	62,736
3100	72,466	252	0	15,885	88,603
3110	104,698	300	0	0	104,999
3120	64,642	2,378	0	9,659	76,679
3131	506,073	44,852	172,872	1,035,650	1,759,448
3132	82,501	7,335	15,000	8,451	113,287
3141	1,081,701	52,184	427,101	1,963,778	3,524,764
3142	345,152	37,852	1,451	111,320	495,776
3150	240,891	22,687	207,804	55,026	526,408
3160	160,306	21,109	12,085	440	193,940
3170	513,558	31,464	5,554	411,534	962,111
3181	225,769	12,613	0	9,385	247,767
3182	133,331	7,804	0	41,729	182,864
3190	395,810	129,555	121,058	577,930	1,224,353
3201	306,596	50,148	0	935,423	1,292,167
3202	116,506	34,071	1,135	244,718	396,430
3211	110,445	4,554	1,300	179,795	296,094
3212	27,466	69,801	10,153	497,876	605,295
3231	20,891	2,145	0	23,767	46,804
3232	152,178	62,690	50,199	1,471,981	1,737,047
3240	278,481	54,172	0	48,935	381,588
3250	102,571	6,225	7,195	150,793	266,784
3261	154,709	3,441	50,000	114,300	322,450
3262	122,689	5,051	2,562	950	131,253
3291	218,366	18,522	58,758	72,592	368,238
3220 Sri Lanka	247,012	38,685	42,000	49,406	377,103
3271 Pakistan	80,601	102,291	0	308,125	491,017
3272 Pakistan	87,460	25,578	0	1,168	114,205
3281 Bangladesh	298,038	90,958	90,894	544,889	1,024,779
3282 Bangladesh	79,560	13,119	0	8,270	100,949
3292 Nepal	343,542	17,196	0	461,654	822,392

Source: RI South Asia Office



Service above Self Award recipients for 2020–21

1. Amjad Ali
2. Ashis Kumar Roy
3. Ashok Kantoor
4. Chouth Mal Birla
5. Devdas Rai Badur
6. Dineshkumar Sharma
7. Dipti Ranjan Patnaik
8. Dr Pijush Kanti Roy
9. Jagadeeswara Rao Maddu
10. M Arun
11. Madhukar Malhotra
12. Manoj Agarwal
13. Nitin Dafria
14. Raj Kumar Bhutoria Raj
15. Rajendra Ruia
16. Ranjeet Singh
17. Ratna Prabhakar Anne
18. Ravi Deshpande
19. Saleem M
20. Salim Batada
21. Sushil Saini
22. Vasu Rajaram
23. Vijay Purwar
24. Y Janardhan Rao
25. Yashwant Jejuriar
26. Dr Aruna Tantia

Two Delhi clubs construct a check dam in Rajasthan

Rasheeda Bhagat

Indian Rotarians' interest in greening Rajasthan through replicable and sustainable water projects continues, despite the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic.

In June this year a commendable water conservation project — the

construction of the Chattanwala check dam — was executed jointly in the Alwar district of Rajasthan by two Delhi clubs coming together. RCs Delhi Manthan and Delhi West, RID 3011, have constructed this dam with a water

holding capacity of 72,000 cubic feet that will help irrigate over 200 hectares of agri land.

The idea of carrying out a water conservation project during his year as president of RC Delhi Manthan came to “me when I attended a

Members of RCs Delhi Manthan and Delhi West at the dam site with the villagers.



The Chattanwala water dam would benefit about 710 households with a population of 4,500 in these villages, with 218 hectares of agricultural land and 4,800 milch animals.



Saplings being planted at the site.



PETS meet where our DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra said that during his year as governor his aim for the district was to construct 1,000 check dams. That very day I made a promise to myself that during my year our club will construct one check dam at a suitable place,” says club president N K Lamba (2020–21).

He started researching possible places based on community needs assessment “even before my year began, and right from Feb 2020 I started doing my homework, and involved the PHD Rural Development Foundation (PHDRDF) as a partner.” The site where the Chattanwala check dam has been built was one of those recommended by the foundation, which works at the grassroots-level with farmers. The region has scanty rainfall, faces the problem of water shortage and has a very low water table. The check dam suggested by PHDRDF was designed to recharge the groundwater table and improve

access to water resources for agricultural and domestic usage in the villages of Hajipur and Umren in Alwar district.

The total project cost was ₹6 lakh. “But my club is really a baby club, less than three years old and we have only 25 members; after paying our RI dues we had only ₹4.5 lakh left, of which we kept ₹3 lakh for this project, and invited RC Delhi West, a much larger and very senior club, to partner with us, and they willingly came on board and contributed ₹3 lakh for this project,” he says.

Incidentally DGE Ashok Kantoor (2022–23) is a member of RC Delhi West.

Pandemic challenges

The first challenge the project faced was a physical field trip to inspect the site chosen and determine its suitability. “People were so afraid of leaving their homes, but finally in September 2020, six of us drove to



The check dam being inaugurated with fanfare.

the spot for a physical verification of the site which is about 175 km from Delhi.”

According to the joint assessment, when built this water dam would benefit about 710 households

When I heard our DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra say that his aim was to construct 1,000 check dams I decided that during my year our club will construct one check dam at a suitable place.

N K Lamba
IPP, RC Delhi Manthan

with a population of 4,500 in these villages, with 218 hectares of agricultural land and 4,800 milch animals. The Rotarians found that these villages have small and marginal farmers with a landholding of barely 1–3 acres. Most of them grow onions and some other vegetables, but as their main crop is onion, which is a cash and remunerative crop, luckily these farmers have not been too adversely affected by the pandemic.

“But for their water needs, they depend only on rainwater and there is no other mode of irrigation. They were so happy when we told them about construction of this dam, because earlier somebody else had made a dam nearby, and the water level rose to 100 ft in the region, and in few wells in their village, which were dry for a very long time, the water had already started coming in.”

The Rotarians talked to the villagers and told them that they will have to contribute through labour, to which they willingly agreed. “We talked to

the panchayat head and the members and they have ensured us that they will take the responsibility of maintaining this dam,” Lamba added.

With the total involvement of the panchayat sarpanch and the beneficiaries, who through their work contributed about 10 per cent of the final project cost, the dam construction was completed in 75 days. PHDRDF has contributed ₹50,000 for this project which will benefit the villagers.

The Chattanwala dam was completed by April 4, 2021, well in time to receive the monsoon rainwater. “We are happy that our club partnered in this crucial water recharge structure which will provide irrigation to the region’s farmers and recharge the wells of the villagers,” adds Aroon Rungta, IPP, RC Delhi West.

The dam was inaugurated on June 22 and Rotarians from both the clubs led by their presidents Lamba and Roongta, and local leaders participated. ■

Saluting our **doctors**

Rajendra Saboo

I have seen the TV serial *The Good Doctor*. A doctor is always good. This is a noble profession and the doctors are bound by the professional oath of honesty, integrity, transparency, accountability, confidentiality, respectfulness and lawfulness. In the present pandemic, doctors are in the frontline, serving tirelessly at the risk of their life. Some have become martyrs. They all deserve our salutation and the nation needs to express deep gratitude to them.

Even outside the pandemic, doctors go beyond their line of duty, facing tremendous challenges. I have witnessed time and again the extraordinary competence, commitment and courage of our doctors. Starting from Uganda in 1998, the numerous medical missions to more than 20 countries in Africa and India, they have worked against all odds, and even faced threats to their life. When our team of surgeons and volunteers arrived at Kampala, there were serious threats of bomb blasts. Yet two surgeons, Dr SPS Grewal and Dr Uma Pradhan flew on a small plane to Gulu, the epicentre of insurgency. They performed cataract



surgeries for five days, giving much-needed vision to over 250 people.

We went to Nigeria in 2000. There were constant threats to the lives of our team members and we were always accompanied by armed police. There was so much of need that we went to Nigeria three times. Kidnapping had become a norm on highways. In Abuja, there was constant fear of Boko Haram. Our team was always provided with top security by the Nigerian government. Our noble doctors performed miracles giving vision, mobility and life to so many. These doctors worked without any financial consideration and their only remuneration or reward was the satisfaction of serving humanity.

I wish I could name all these heroes. However, some names deserve mentioning — Dr GS Kochhar, Dr RS Parmar, Dr PS Chari, Dr Rajiv Pradhan and Dr Madhav Borate who were the pioneers. We have gone to more than 25 countries in Africa and elsewhere. Another fatal danger was the exposure to HIV/AIDS. These doctors rose above their professional commitment and treated the needy patients, often using double gloves and other protection. In Lesotho, our surgeons Dr Parmar and Dr Taposhi

Patnaik got needle pricks while operating upon a HIV/AIDS patient. They had to take the antiretroviral therapy.

Our medical missions within India started in 2006. The locations were determined on the basis of local needs and at times, several of these places were infested with danger. In 2007, the team went to Baripada, Odisha, an active centre of the Maoists. We were in Udhampur where there was always fear of attacks from across the border. Our team worked in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, the home of Naxalites. The doctors did their tasks consistently, courageously and with commitment. In Dimapur, Nagaland, a critical surgery was being performed by the local surgeon. They requested our doctors' assistance but unfortunately the patient died on the table. Although, the consent form was duly signed by the patient, the relatives created havoc for our surgeons and were prepared to kill them. Thankfully the matter was resolved by the district magistrate.

For the doctors working in hospitals for Covid patients, the challenges are immense and life threatening. Yet they are working against all odds to triumph over the enemy — coronavirus. All for the sake of humanity.

The great German medical missionary who worked in Africa, Dr Albert Schweitzer has said, "I do not know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." This is the spirit our doctors have. Let us bow to them and their families.

*The writer is a past RI president.
(Courtesy: The Tribune)*

Our team was provided security by the Nigerian government. These doctors worked without any financial consideration; their only reward was the satisfaction of serving humanity.

A Rotary restaurant easy on the pocket

Jaishree



A pond being cleaned under RC Tirupur West's initiative.

This Rotary restaurant offers *idli, tea, vada, bonda* for ₹5 each and a plate of variety rice for lunch costs just ₹20. It is the Rotary Vallalar People's Restaurant run by RC Tirupur West, RID 3203, inaugurated six months ago by RID AS Venkatesh. "It is a no profit, cost-to-cost eatery

which is patronised by college students, workers and office-goers. We do not compromise on quality," says V Ragupathy, who is leading the club for the second consecutive year.

He was the unanimous choice to continue as club president as he had lined up several transformational projects last

year. The restaurant displays the club's projects in all areas of focus since its charter in 2006. "During the Covid second wave we home-delivered food from our restaurant to quarantined patients, police personnel and frontline medical staff. Food packets were distributed in large numbers to sanitary workers and street dwellers," he says.

A 15,000 sqft hospital estimated at ₹5 crore is being constructed by the club in Tirupur for which Ragupathy himself has donated 55 cents of land worth ₹2 crore. Four global grants support the construction of toilets in seven government schools, provide life-saving devices at an ICU in the government hospital in Palladam town and at the Rotary Tirupur West Medical Trust Hospital, and improve infrastructure in five PHCs.

The club is largely focusing on restoration of water bodies. Two ponds are being desilted and cleaned at a cost of



Club president V Ragupathy hands over a savings certificate to a girl child in the presence of club members Balasubramaniam and Nataraj.

No to a big fat wedding



Newly weds Arul Pranesh and Anu donate a portion of their wedding savings to TRF.

Indian weddings are known for their extravaganza and pomp, but Rotarian Arul Pranesh and his bride Anu chose to celebrate a simple marriage and donated ₹38 lakh saved from the wedding towards Covid relief. “We had initially budgeted ₹50 lakh

for our wedding. But due to the pandemic, both our families agreed to scale it down to ₹13 lakh. Our wedding was solemnised at a local temple,” says Pranesh, a member of RC Tirupur West, adding that his father, Arul Selvam, a member of RC Tirupur Smartcity, was his

inspiration. “Selvam is known for his generosity,” says Ragupathy, president of RC Tirupur West.

The newly-weds directed ₹11 lakh to the new Rotary hospital being constructed at the Perundurai government hospital campus in Erode, ₹8 lakh towards the ICU facility being set up by RC Tirupur West at the Palladam Government Hospital, ₹5 lakh to the Rotary Corona Care Centre in Tirupur, ₹2 lakh to an old age home run by RC Punjai Puliampati, and ₹7 lakh to eight families affected by the pandemic.

“We have the blessings of so many good souls. We couldn’t ask for a better start to our new life,” smiles Pranesh.

₹2 crore. “Once the work is completed, the entire area will become a haven for birds and meet the water needs of 20,000 acres of agricultural land across 20 villages.” The club has formed the Rotary Noyyal Water Resources Management Trust to implement these restoration activities. Ragupathy is its founder

trustee and the club members have contributed generously for this initiative. “We have ₹75 lakh in the trust with two Rotarians contributing ₹25 lakh each. Funds keep flowing in and we plan to restore more water bodies. There are at least 100 ponds and lakes fed by the Noyyal River here in Tirupur,” he says.



RI Director A S Venkatesh inaugurates the Rotary restaurant in the presence of IPDG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar, club president V Ragupathy, secretary L Nagaraj, treasurer P A Arumughan, PDGs A Karthikeyan and Dr E K Sagadhevan.

This project, which has earned the appreciation of government officials and local people, has enhanced Rotary’s image and is attracting new members. Last year he had chartered two new Rotary clubs, inducted 156 new members and contributed \$110,000 to TRF with significant support from six major donors and \$32,000 as Directed Gift from club member Swamy Manojkumar. “This year I am confident of inducting at least 100 members and contribute \$100,000 to TRF.” The present membership strength is 278 with 65 women Rotarians. Another project formulated by the club is directing rain-water into water bodies through huge pumps. “We have applied for a GG and are awaiting the collector’s nod to begin the project,” he says, adding that many corporates are interested to fund this initiative.

Since last year the club is putting ₹250 every month in the accounts of 2,500 girl children to help them pursue higher education. ■

World leaders must take Africa's climate crisis seriously

Vanessa Nakate

Rasheeda Bhagat



This is not just about the weather; this is about people. Many Africans have lost their lives while so many more have lost their homes, farms and businesses. And as we continue to heat the planet, the situation in Africa continues to get worse.”

With this impassioned plea, young African climate activist Vanessa Nakate, who spoke with both passion and conviction, grabbed the attention of the participants at the Rotary virtual convention in June.

Daughter of a Rotarian, who served as president of RC Bugolobi, Kampala, in 2017, and founder of the Rise Up Movement, the young climate activist said that right from that time, watching him work “as the leader of the Rotary Mission Green, a project that saw his and various communities in Uganda planting trees, sowed a seed that made me decide to be a voice of change. His courage and action inspired me to find my voice. To stand up for what I believe is important. And to become an activist.”

Vanessa said that during her childhood she had heard her father

and others talk about the rain and how the region’s farmers would always count on the rain to sustain their fields. But things were changing, and over the years, her father’s generation had seen the rains falling less and less frequently and the crops suffering. “But when the rain finally did come, it would fall in great downpour often flooding the fields and destroying the already weakened crops.” The farmers known to her father were losing their farms and livelihoods, and food was becoming more and more scarce.

Rising food prices caused tension between the people and the situation worsened quickly. “I was only 21 years old but I could sense the urgency in his voice. And I knew I needed to find a way to make things better.”

She started to research the change in weather patterns. Hailing from Kampala, Uganda, a country with one of the fastest changing climate patterns, in the world, as Vanessa grew up she read about how the climate crisis was already ravaging vast parts of the African continent. “Which is tragic and ironic when you

think about how Africa is the lowest emitter of CO₂ emissions among all the continents except Antarctica. Each year the entire continent of Africa emits less than one-third of the CO₂ emitted by the US. Historically Africa is responsible for only three per cent of global emissions. And yet Africans are suffering some of the most brutal impacts fuelled by the climate crisis.”

These include rapidly intensifying hurricanes, devastating floods and withering droughts.

Cyclone Idai was one of the worst cyclones to affect the African continent, ripping apart and flooding large parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. “The strong winds and heavy rainfall left over 1,300 people dead, and many more were recorded missing. It also left an economic crisis.”

Africa’s climate crisis may be on the frontline of the world’s climate catastrophe, but it is not on the front pages of the world’s newspapers.



Last year, said Vanessa, the water of Lake Victoria rose as a result of heavy rainfall in East Africa. Homes were flooded, farms were washed away and people were displaced, toilets were submerged leaving a water crisis. East Africa was invaded by swarms of locusts brought on by heavy rainfall and abnormally warm temperatures. “The locusts ate everything in their path. Crops were devoured, threatening the availability of food for the people. Last September, massive flooding in Sudan killed 100 people and made thousands homeless,” she said. The Nile regularly bursts its borders and farmers rely on the floodwaters to create fertile land. But people living along the Nile “say they have never seen anything like the extent of last year’s flooding.”

Southern parts of Africa have experienced terrible droughts that are leading to food insecurity and water scarcity. The water levels of Zambesi river, Lake Chad and the Victoria falls are lower than they have been for decades. “Lake Chad has shrunk to a tenth of its original size in just 50 years. Over five years of drought in

Somalia have left almost half of its population with little to eat and drink. And half of Nigeria has no access to water.”

According to Oxfam, 12 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in dire need of food, she added. But with the rising climate-related disasters, this will only get worse. “The droughts and floods have left nothing behind for the people except pain, agony, suffering, starvation and death. For every one per cent increase in drought there is a 2.4 per cent decrease in agri output, she added.

And yet, Vanessa observed sarcastically, “even as Africa endures a lot of climate-related disasters, you wouldn’t know it from watching the news. Africa’s climate crisis may be on the frontline of the world’s climate disaster, but it is not on the front pages of the world’s newspapers. While the media focuses on the wildfires in California or Australia, or flooding in Europe, climate-related catastrophes in Africa receive little attention,” the activist thundered.

She then asked: What is the response from the developed

Each year the entire continent of Africa emits less than one-third of the CO₂ emitted by the US.

Historically Africa is responsible for only 3 per cent of global emissions.

countries about Africa’s social and economic crisis fuelled by the burning of fossil fuels. “Greater and greater investment in the extraction of fossil fuels.” Her clear message to the “countries and banks who fund the digging up and burning of fossil fuels in Africa” was: “We cannot eat coal and drink oil. My father told me you must stand up for what you believe in and think is right and never give in. It is time for our so-called leaders to do the same. They must treat the climate crisis like a crisis. Stop making empty promises and take responsibility. They must show the courage and resilience that my father, all those years ago, showed me was possible. Surely this is what RI means by people of action.” ■

RI Prez Mehta urges Rotarians to grow Rotary, do more

Rasheeda Bhagat

He has worked very hard in Rotary to come to this position of an RI president. Today, as he takes over, so many memories are flashing before my eyes. His special qualities are that he is a team player who takes everyone along, motivating them. He is super meticulous yet he ensures that everyone is having a lot of fun. This is what his fellow Rotarians love about him,” Rashi Mehta said, during the mega felicitation zoom meet organised to felicitate RI President Shekhar Mehta on the first day of his office.

The meeting was curated by PRID Kamal Sanghvi, who has worked very closely with Mehta

I am amazed at the changeover system in Rotary, which is like a rainbow with seven colours. The way the different colours blend into each other, seamlessly, just as day transforms into dusk, night, and then dawn, the same way the Rotary wheel keeps moving year after year.

for long years on literacy and providing shelter kits to victims of natural disasters, among other projects.

Rashi added that while leading from the front very firmly, “he is always accessible to everybody. The other admirable quality is his positivity and optimism. Even in the most challenging situations he rarely gets fazed and between his coolness and street smartness, which by now is enhanced by the street food he loves, he finds solutions to most problems.”

On the home front too “he is extremely caring. In the middle of an extremely important meeting, he will remember to check on the children... if they have reached wherever they were flying to. That is Shekhar, a 100 per cent guy. Add to that his wit and humour, and you have the recipe for a good leader, a great partner, a peerless family man and a genuine human being. That is why the opportunity that he has today is hard-earned and well-deserved.”

In the star-packed virtual



meet, Mehta was offered felicitations by top leaders in the government such as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, then Union Information Minister Prakash Javadekar and Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan; past RI presidents Rajendra Saboo,

Kalyan Banerjee, K R Ravindran, Mark Maloney and the top leadership from RI, including general secretary John Hewko. TRF Trustees Gulam Vahanvaty and Aziz Memon, outgoing directors Kamal Sanghvi and Bharat Pandya, and all the past directors from India also felicitated Mehta.

A sizable segment of the RI leadership said they were really enthused by Mehta's declaration to focus on the empowerment of girls and expressed keen interest to work with him towards this worthy objective.



He is super meticulous yet he ensures that everyone is having a lot of fun. This is what his fellow Rotarians love about him.

Rashi Mehta

Addressing the meet the RI president expressed his amazement at the “changeover system in Rotary, which is like a rainbow”. It was not only the seven colours of the rainbow “but the way the different colours blend into each other, seamlessly, just as day transforms into dusk, night, and then dawn. The same way the Rotary wheel keeps moving year after year.”

He said outgoing president Holger Knaack and Susanne deserved a huge round of applause as no other RI president “has faced tougher times than he did, but despite that, at no point did we see him ruffled. He was always smiling and positive and that is what Rotarians do under adverse conditions.”

Congratulating the outgoing directors from the RI board, particularly Dr Bharat Pandya and Kamal Sanghvi, for doing “an amazing job”, and welcoming all the directors on his board, Mehta said he was happy that “Jennifer (Jones) will serve as president after me”, as they shared common thoughts and goals.

Thanking Rotarians for having “faith” in him, he said: “I feel

When does he dream?



RI Director
Mahesh Kotbagi

RI directors AS Venkatesh and Mahesh Kotbagi, who will serve on Mehta's board at the RI, entertained the participants with a tete-a-tete done in a lighter vein. Said Kotbagi: "Hey Venky, now that Shekhar has become the RI president, how do we call him... Sir, Shekhar da, boss, or world president?"

Quipped Venkatesh: "You don't have to call him, he will call you. Particularly if it's a call at night!"

They then exchanged notes on the normal time Mehta calls in the night; "it's not actually pm but am", said Kotbagi, adding, "and after getting a call at 2am, he will call back again at 7am to ask if you have followed up on his earlier call!"

Venkatesh added that for several years, as Mehta continued his penchant for calling him at late hours, "I thought he must be working on Evanston time, till one day I got a call at 9am India time. I need to ask Rashi if he sleeps at all."

With Kotbagi sharing a secret about Mehta snatching bits of sleep while sitting on a chair, or during

humbled and a little embarrassed at this whole event curated by Kamal. This makes me more determined that I need to be worthy of all these accolades and to make the dream even bigger. Such occasions make me wonder am I really worthy of this?"

Thanking his parents, Mehta said his father had heard the news of his son's nomination as the RI president but could not see him in that position. "I thank my mother who is struggling for her life. The president of RI saw her but she could not see him. I hope she

will be able to." (Mehta's mother passed away the next day).

Apart from Rashi and his children who had always supported his Rotary journey, he had drawn inspiration and learnt a lot from past presidents such as Rajendra Saboo, Kalyan Banerjee and KR Ravindran. "I thank all of them for opening doors, giving me opportunities, and letting me become what I have today.

I also thank my larger family, the members of my own club — RC Calcutta Mahanagar. I stand here because of the strong foundation

I am humbled and a little embarrassed at this whole event curated by Kamal (Sanghvi). This makes me more determined that I need to be worthy of the accolades and make the dream even bigger.

my club gave me. I could try out all my dreams there. If I failed, they stood by me, if I succeeded, they pushed me further."

a drive, the two then switched to a discussion on his two favourite edible items: Diet Coke and *masala dosai*.

Commented Venkatesh: “This man has thought of a rare combo with Diet Coke, which even its manufacturers would not have thought of. A combo of *masala dosai* and Diet Coke. Now in Chennai, the home of *masala dosai*, which of course Shekhar refuses to accept, saying that you get better *masala dosai* in Kolkata, they have now introduced the president’s combo: *Masala dosai* with Diet Coke!”

Kotbagi added that the best quality in the RI president he found was that “he is such an approachable leader... all around the globe people say he is my friend. This is one of the best qualities a leader can have.”

Venkatesh said that having worked with Mehta for long years in several big events, “I have seen that he has the ability to pick the right man for the right job and then relax.”

RI Director
A S Venkatesh



He concluded the chat by saying that everyone “says that he has big dream. I always wondered how does he dream when he doesn’t sleep. When

I asked him... he said: ‘These are not the kind of dreams that you see when you are sleeping, but dreams which don’t allow you to sleep’.”

Mehta also thanked Rotarians across the globe; “my inspiration and dreams come only because I work with you. Thanks for your friendship, for having faith in me, for encouraging me to dream and standing by me when a dream failed, and supporting me to dream even bigger. And there can’t be a bigger dream than ‘grow more and do more’.”

Once again, he reiterated his dream to grow Rotary’s strength to 1.3 million. “A crazy dream? Of course, as crazy as the dream to eradicate polio. That dream has

taken 35 years and we couldn’t have been closer than we are today to realising that dream. Who knows, if the last two cases of polio we have seen in Afghanistan and Pakistan, may well turn out to be the last two in the world?”

Mehta added that only “if we grow more, can we do more”. Giving his own example, he said when he joined Rotary as a young man, he did so for friendship and fellowship. But when his club project took him to a place barely 50km from his home, a village full of huts, the service aspect of

Rotary hit him, and jolted him out of his comfortable life filled with luxuries. Juxtaposing his position with that of these villagers, who had no toilets at home and used the water from the local water body they shared with buffaloes, he began to do serious work with just one goal — changing the lives of people through service in Rotary.

Each extra Rotarian brought to the Rotary fold can contribute to change forever the lives of the people in their communities, he added. ■

Covid will meet its match in Rotary: **Bruce Aylward**

Jaishree

You have a vital role to play in changing the course of this pandemic. You have the knowledge and experience honed from decades of battling polio. There are many things we still don't know about Covid but we do know that in Rotary even this virus will have met its match," said Dr Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to the director-general, WHO, addressing attendees during the closing session of the virtual Rotary convention.

He encouraged Rotarians to raise their voice for an equitable distribution of Covid vaccines among nations. "More than a quarter of a century ago you saw a similar inequity and, you challenged the world. You said that no child should be paralysed by polio anywhere. You have worked with us to mobilise communities to vaccinate every child and successfully challenged world leaders to finance the largest internationally coordinated effort in history. Rotarians, history

needs you again and the world needs you now."

Their voice and advocacy were needed on the equitable sharing of Covid vaccines, production know-how, and the full funding of these vaccines, he said. "We need your on-the-ground persons and know-how to help communities prepare for vaccination. We need your stature with national leaders to ensure people get vaccinated in the right order. And we need your perseverance to see this through. While the rich world is almost awash in Covid 19 vaccines, health workers are falling ill and older people are still dying in the poorest countries. This is unacceptable and this is our challenge."

Rotary needed to teach the world what social justice really means and

to "challenge the world to ensure that everyone everywhere has access to the vaccines, tests and treatments," he added.

Although there are new affordable vaccines and tests that can rapidly diagnose Covid anywhere, equitable access to these tools was missing. Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access, abbreviated as COVAX, is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to Covid vaccines. Covax coordinates international resources to enable low-to-middle-income countries get equitable access to Covid tests, therapies, and vaccines. "Two numbers illustrate our challenge — 1.5 billion doses of Covid vaccine have been administered around the world, but only 5 million of those doses — less than half a per cent — have gone to the world's poorest countries. This is not right and this is not equity. Rotarians can play a crucial role in changing this," said Aylward.

Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in his address said that until all people in the world are protected, "not just those who can afford it, the virus

Bruce Aylward, senior advisor to director-general, WHO



will continue to rage". In an unprecedented show of global solidarity 192 governments and territories representing nine per cent of the global population, had come together to back the Covax facility. "With 14 vaccines now approved and more than 1.4 billion people vaccinated, the world's largest and complex vaccine development in history is now well under way."

By the beginning of next year Covax is aiming to make at least 1.8 billion doses of Covid vaccines available to people living in 92 low-income countries. "When these vaccines first became available we were able to administer the first vaccination in India within just 39 days after the first jab in a high-income

country. Since then we have delivered almost 70 million doses to people in 124 countries," said Dr Berkley. But this is not good enough. Inequity still exists. High-income countries have about 30 per cent of their population vaccinated and the lowest income countries, less than one per cent.

He observed that the Covid crisis has disrupted routine vaccination programmes and suspended polio campaigns. At least 80 million children were put at risk of other preventable diseases such as measles, yellow fever or polio because they have missed out on vital vaccination. Several countries were at risk of an outbreak of other vaccine-preventable diseases while battling Covid.



Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance

"All this, along with the impact of Covid on the health system, threatens to unravel years of incredible progress and set countries back decades." It is time to maintain hard-won gains in immunisation to recover

from the disruptions caused by Covid. "For polio, this is a pivotal moment and a chance to synchronise efforts and promote integration of critical immunisation," he added. ■



Bicycles for students at Naxal-hit villages in Maharashtra

Team Rotary News

With an aim to promote cordial relations between villages hit by Naxal violence in and around Chandrapur district of Maharashtra, RC Chandrapur, RID 3030, in association with the Police Help Centre at Yarkad village, donated bicycles to 10 underprivileged students from these villages. The villagers welcomed the initiative by the Rotarians and CRPF team with a delicious lunch post the cycle distribution ceremony. ■



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How a wedding reception led to creating a rural eye hospital

Rasheeda Bhagat

It all began with the wedding of a young photo journalist Satya Padhi on March 11, 2018, in an Odisha village. “We returned to Bhubaneswar from Bengaluru that day around 3 pm and were really tired, but I insisted that we have to attend the reception as Subroto (Bagchi) had given his word to the groom Satya. He hailed from Kuanrpur, a village which is two and half hours’ drive from Bhubaneswar,” recalls Susmita Bagchi, chairperson of *Mo School Abhiyan Parichalana Sangathan*. Subroto Bagchi, one of the founders of Mindtree, now works for the Odisha government for skilling its youth.

Kuanrpur is a village in Jajpur district, “where our ancestral village Taliha is located. When we drove about 25 minutes from Satya’s village, we crossed a very small sleepy town named Rambag. That rang a bell and I casually told Subroto that our village is somewhere nearby. We don’t have immediate family there, but my father’s cousins still live there,” says Susmita.

Once upon a time her grandfather was the zamindar and most of the land in the village belonged to him. But after the zamindari system was abolished, “he started selling off land parcels. My father and his siblings moved to

Bhubaneswar and except for my uncle who kept a small piece of land, mostly for emotional reasons, my father and his sisters sold their portions.”

On their return after attending the marriage, they stopped at Rambag to take a look at her village Taliha, “which I had last visited when my grandfather died in 1972”. After much inquiry, they finally detected the family’s ancestral land which belonged to Susmita’s uncle Durga Charan Panda. Nearby was a house belonging to her distant relative Golak Panda. His wife told them that he had gone to the town to consult a doctor as he had a bad asthma attack. “After spending 10–15 minutes there, we left. On our way back, Subroto said that the village should have a hospital. Since we work in the area of preventing blindness, I suggested an eye hospital,” she said.

When she offered to buy the land from Durga Charan Panda for the hospital, he chided her and said he would not sell but gift the land for the project.

This is where Rotary comes into the picture. An organisation was required to run the hospital Susmita wanted to build, and the JPM Rotary Eye Institute, Cuttack, was already looking for a satellite eye hospital as four districts in the region had no eye care facility.





Subroto Bagchi (extreme left) and Susmita (extreme right) at the wedding.

Things fell into place and in August 2018, an MoU was signed with the eye hospital and with Susmita and Subroto Bagchi donating ₹3 crore for the project, after two Covid waves and lockdowns, the JPM Rotary Adikanda Panda Memorial Eye Hospital was inaugurated in June 2021. The MoU is to do 7,000 surgeries eventually and see 25,000 patients a year.

The JPM Rotary Club of Cuttack Eye Hospital and Research

Institute has an interesting history. It was built in 1992 by RC Cuttack, RID 3262, which for long years had been conducting eye camps in the region, especially for villagers in undivided Cuttack district. Every year about 20 eye camps were organised by the club. As there was a pressing need to set up an eye hospital to fight preventable blindness, this eye hospital was born.

Past president of RC Cuttack and president of the JPM Rotary Eye Institute Sushant Mohanty says the hospital was built in collaboration with Sight Savers International (SSI), formerly

known as the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind, UK. “They provided the technical know-how and helped in training the personnel, and in those days, to build the hospital, Rotarians contributed ₹30 lakh. It began with 40 beds and an OP section, mainly for cataract patients.” Today it has 130 beds and does intricate eye surgeries for various eye diseases. Within a span of 24 years, the hospital has expanded to accommodate 130 beds and complicated eye surgeries are being performed here. “Today it is one of the leading hospitals in Eastern India providing eye care in super specialties, including retina, cornea, glaucoma and other eye disorders. Initially set up for undertaking cataract surgeries mainly, the institution has now grown to be a Referral Tertiary Centre of excellence,” says Mohanty. Situated at Cuttack, the hospital caters to the needs of the patients in the peripheries of Cuttack and the neighbouring states and “we have several corporate sectors as our clients. It is a pioneer and a leader in Odisha for vitreo-retinal paediatric surgery.”

This hospital treats over 65,000 patients annually in its OPD. Also, through “an active outreach/ in-reach programme, patients are examined in camps conducted in rural areas, and brought here for free operations. Throughout the week, medical teams from the hospital go out to camps in rural areas on an average radius of about 150 km. Hundreds of patients are examined and screened at each camp and those needing surgery are transported here and back and food is also provided to them.”

In 2020, 292 free cataract screening camps were conducted and 7,182 free cataract operations were done.

The satellite hospital will cater to the needs of the rural community of Bhadrak, Kendrapada and Jajpur districts, Mohanty added. ■



Inauguration of the JPM Rotary Eye Hospital at Taliha village.

Chak de India, say Odisha girls

V Muthukumaran

Four years ago, Kamla Singh and Mary Condorlna, both 16, from remote villages in Odisha, would not have imagined in their wildest dreams that they will be trainees at the sports hostel being run by the prestigious

Naval Tata Hockey Academy, Bhubaneswar. “The duo are star performers and hold good record in hockey tournaments conducted by our academy. They deserve a place in the national women’s hockey team,” says Rtn Jatinder Kumar Sharma, chief



Rotary Hockey Academy founder-coach Jatinder K Sharma with Kamla Singh (left) and Mary Condorlna.





Coach Jatinder Sharma with his girls at the RHA.

coach and founder of Rotary Hockey Academy (RHA).

A former national hockey player, Jatinder Sharma wanted to tap the sporting potential and train rural girls from Odisha villages in field hockey. “I wanted to lift these poor, but gifted girls from the morass of poverty through proper training, nutritious food and a healthy lifestyle and hence started RHA in 2017 when I was president of RC Sambalpur City,” he says.

Even then, he knew that he had taken up a tough challenge. Hailing from Jammu district, he settled in Khetrapur town in Sambalpur district and joined Rotary in 2016 with the help of his chartered accountant friend Rtn Chandrasekhar Shah. Sharma moved to RC Veerbhumi Sambalpur, RID 3261, in 2019 as its club advisor. Without much ado, he began to chart out the finer details of his exclusive hockey academy for rural girls.

Father Rajendra Kujuras, sports activist and headmaster, Amlikhaman

Mission Upper Primary School at Bamra block in Sambalpur; ex-servicemen Rtn Anil Mishra, a fitness expert who owns gyms; and Daniel and Ana Wilkinson, a couple from New Zealand joined Sharma to give a physical shape to the hockey academy. “At present, we train 200 girls at three centres in Khetrapur, Kukuda (Sundargarh) and Amlikhaman by providing them free equipment, jerseys, sneakers, and well-maintained playgrounds,” explains Sharma. Physical training and nutrition are taken care of by Mishra, while Daniel helps the girls in improving their communication skills.

Pathetic state

With no money or creature comforts, these Odisha girls have nothing but starry eyes, grit and determination to make it big at the national hockey scene. “The trainees have nothing to pay. We give them rigorous training, exercise regimen and nutritious food, besides accommodation. Each

year, we take them to the trials at the sports hostels for selection of state-level trainees at prestigious hockey academies.” Currently, 25 girls from RHA are being trained at the Naval Tata Hockey Academy; SAI Hockey Academy, Sundargarh; and Panposh Academy, Rourkela.

Another highlight of RHA is that each year it holds the Rotary Women’s Rural Hockey Tournament with the participation of over 20 teams comprising over 300 girls from across Odisha. “Right from travel fare, food to accommodation and equipment, everything is arranged free for the competing teams. Out of these girls, we select around 25 and coach them in a 15-day trial camp. From this camp, 16 candidates are selected to form the national team of RHA,” elaborates Sharma.

A turning point

Jatinder Sharma took his girls to watch the Men’s Hockey World Cup (2018)



at the Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar. Pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm of the girls and moved by the background of these young guns, two Odisha filmmakers, Avinash Pradhan and Debasish Mohapatra, wanted to

Over the last four years, Rtn Jatinder Sharma has spent over ₹20 lakh from his pocket to train the 200 girls in the Rotary academy.

make a documentary on RHA which is opening a huge platform for rural girls in this sport about which they are so passionate.

The directors came to know that RHA funds the entire training programme of girls with great exposure which will help them to get selected for the national women's hockey team. "The 40-minute documentary titled *The Mountain Hockey* though made in 2019 was released through the OTT platform, Disney Hotstar, in June this year," says Sharma with a glint of pride in his eyes.

On recreational avenues for girls, he says, "during regular tournaments in Sambalpur, we take them to movie theatres to inspire and motivate our budding players. The Shah Rukh Khan film *Chak De! India* (2007) was

screened for them at the Amlikhaman facility as the film is based on the Indian women's hockey team winning the Commonwealth Games 2002."

Over the last four years, the chief coach has spent over ₹20 lakh from his pocket to train the 200 girls in the Rotary academy. Though he needs funds for his two daughters studying in local schools, he says, "I am quite happy to spend for my girl trainees at the academy. They will go places in the years ahead."

With touching humility, Kamla says, "without my coach, I am nowhere, a big zero. He has changed my life completely." Mary goes one step further: "Sir is god to me. I know my god will protect and take care of me." Godspeed to Jatinder Sharma, and may his tribe increase. ■

Rotary to honour three DGs, Rotarians for Covid work

Ashok Mahajan

An unprecedented combination of political will, collaboration from Rotary and inflow of funds from philanthropists has enabled the vaccination programme against Covid in India to reach the 38-crore (380 million) mark till now. However, only in few states over 2 crore people have been vaccinated and lot more work is to be done by every one of us in eradicating Covid from India. RI has also formed an International Committee for Covid Task Force.

Rotary India's Covid Task Force will honour three district governors at the end of Rotary year 2021–22

for promoting the vaccination drive and motivating clubs to set up Covid-related health infrastructure.

We request DGs to nominate one Rotarian as the district coordinator for the Covid eradication programmes in their district. Three district coordinators will be recognised at the end of the year for their exemplary work. Governors, please send me at the earliest the names and email addresses of your district coordinators.

Form a District Covid Vaccination Promotion Committee with Rotarians and appoint one person as its chairman. Three chairmen will be

selected based on their achievements and will be recognised. The governors must send these names and email addresses to me immediately.

In addition, three clubs which promoted vaccination in a big way and implemented Covid related projects will be felicitated at the end of the Rotary year. Spread this message to all the clubs in your district. Let us strive to prevent further spread of Covid.

The writer is chairman, Rotary India's Covid Task Force and member, Rotary International Covid Task Force.

Doing good with TRF help

Rotary opens OT at Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Hospital

Team Rotary News



To reduce the waiting list of children in need of heart surgery, RC Faridabad Aravalli, RID 3011, inaugurated an operation theatre and ICU command centre at the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani International Centre for Child

Heart Care and Research, Palwal, in Haryana through a global grant project worth ₹2.5 crore. RC Fort Wayne, US, RID 6540, is the global partner in this project.

With this third OT at the hospital, its capacity would increase from five

surgeries a day to seven. Modern equipment such as HFO ventilator, surgical instruments, central monitor station and mobile care giver have been installed at the hospital.

RI President Shekhar Mehta congratulated the club over zoom for completing the project. Gift of Life certificates were presented to two children whose treatment were sponsored by the club.

Past president Saket Bhatia said that already 100 surgeries were performed at the operation theatre, which was functional since March. The youngest patient

is Mohammed Swad, a six-day-old infant from Anantnag, Kashmir, and he is now doing well.

Former district secretary and club's charter president Mohit Anand Bhatia thanked the contributors from 13 clubs across various districts. "This is the second OT set up at this hospital by Rotary, the first one was installed by RC Faridabad Main through a global grant," he said. The biggest donor is Dr Praveen Kollipara, a founder member of Jyothi Corp and from RC Fort Wayne, who had contributed over \$49,000 for the medical project. ■

Style, substance, and more

Rasheeda Bhagat

I must have been barely 10 when I visited Bombay and my newly minted brother-in-law was all eager to show off the Bombay magic to his wife's kid sister. So what do you want to do, he asked me. "Watch Dilip Kumar films," I shyly told him. A Dilip fan himself, he was mighty pleased and scouted the newspapers to find out all the Dilip movies playing in town. There were quite a few, and we started a week-long indulgence...watching the Dilip Kumar magic unfold on the cinema screen through morning shows — popular then — matinees, evening and even night shows.

I will never forget that golden week in Bombay — 9–10 Dilip movies in 7 days... *Aan*, *Azad*, *Devdas*, *Madhumati*, *Andaz*, *Kohinoor*, *Yahudi*, *Babul* and a couple of others. If one Bollywood actor managed to leave a deep imprint on me through my teens, twenties and the decades that have rolled by, it was Dilip Kumar. That he was stunningly handsome is only one part of the story.... his voice, diction, the way he delivered his dialogue, the stillness and silences, the mesmerising eyes, the intensity of various emotions delivered in such an understated and sublime manner... yes, for me, and millions of his fans, there

will never be another magical hero like him. Who can forget his acting in *Sagina*?

As all of us have been told umpteen times, there was a method to his acting, and it took Satyajit Ray to articulate it, when he called Dilip the ultimate "method actor". His co-stars have stated in innumerable interviews that Dilip not only deeply researched his roles, he physically delved into the character... like learning to play the sitar for *Kohinoor* and driving the tonga for *Naya Daur*. It was

immense hard work that was put into every role that he played for the silver screen. And he was never hasty in accepting a role.

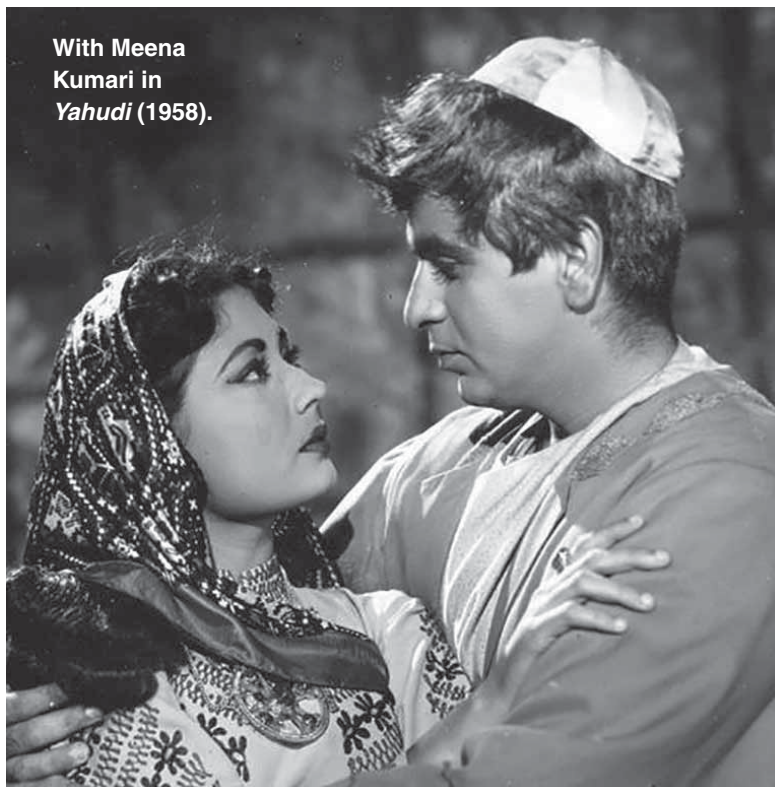
He has said in interviews: "Once you have audience acceptance, you should have less exposure," adding that the temptation will always be "there to take on more films as more roles bring more money, but an artiste takes a risk when he takes on a role which is distinctly outside the ambit of his personality." He wrote: "I have consciously never



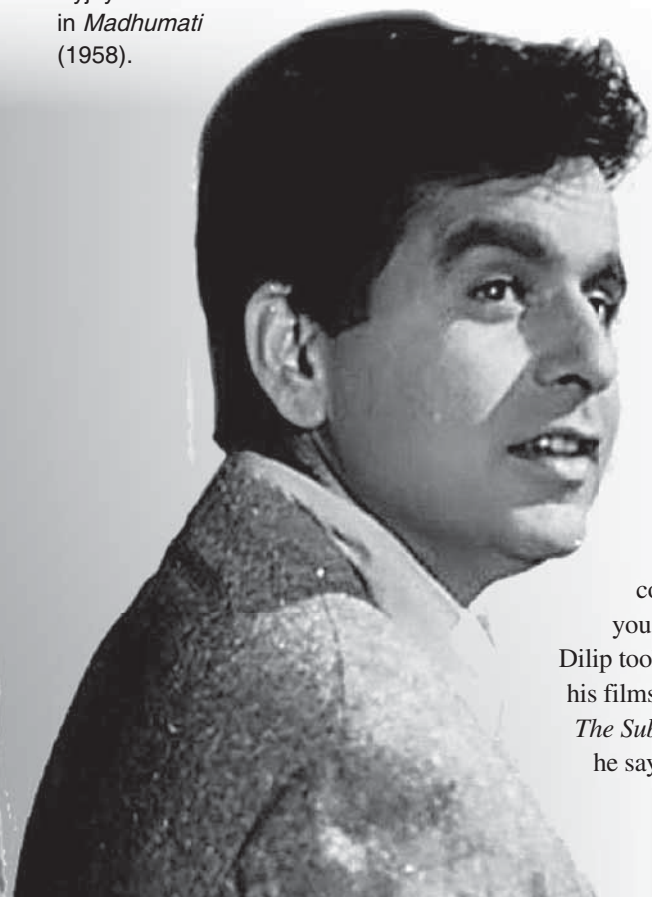
The Pathan, whose story you are reading, did it by instinct, careful study, untiring rehearsals and a temperament to succeed even in those ventures that were new for him.

Dilip Kumar on his speaking Bhojpuri dialect in *Gunga Jumna* (1958).

With Meena Kumari in *Yahudi* (1958).



Dilip Kumar and Vyjayanthimala in *Madhumati* (1958).



oversold or overexposed myself to the audience.” Looking back, he realised the risk of taking on only one film at a time when other actors were busy with two or three films simultaneously. But he determinedly chose to work only in one film and give it his best. Surely it took a lot of confidence and courage to do so 60–70 years ago.

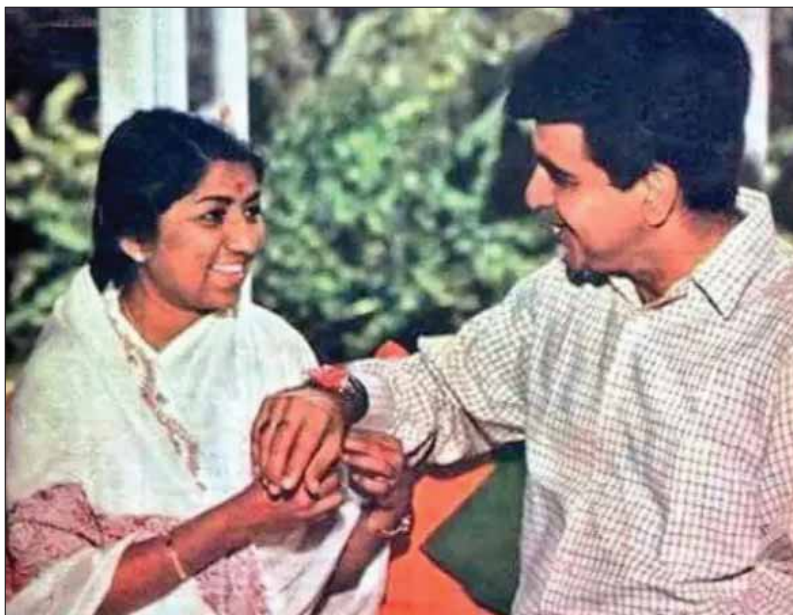
The choosy actor also said that a “knowledgeable director conveys his calibre to you in minutes.” And yet Dilip took his own time to choose his films. In his autobiography, *The Substance and the Shadow* he says when Bimal Roy

approached him to play *Devdas*, he had trouble accepting the fact that he would portray the role of an alcohol-addicted man on screen.

The brilliant director simply said: “Read Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s book... I will send you a good translation in English, and then take your decision.” The rest is history.

The kind of adulation Dilip got from his colleagues in the industry is unparalleled, especially compared to the present era where the rivalry and spats between Shah Rukh, Salman and Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar, and so many other Bollywood biggies, including the actresses, are well known.

Lata Mangeshkar adored her ‘elder brother’, would tie *rakhi* on his wrist and never tired of telling



Lata Mangeshkar ties Rakhi on Dilip Kumar's wrist.

things I liked, and he would always give, like a big brother.”

Dilip was always known for his shyness and reticence, particularly in the early years of his career, and during their college days Raj Kapoor would play many pranks on his shy friend by trying to introduce him to girls. The autobiography gives us the reason for Dilip's shyness. When he was a little boy, a wandering fakir, singled him out from other children playing in his house, and told his *Dadi*: “Take good care of the boy,

the story of how it was Dilip who prompted a “Maharastrian like me to get Urdu *alfaz* delivered properly in my songs.” Dilip actually taught her Urdu enunciation.

Amitabh Bachchan is another big fan, and recalls a time when on the sets of *Shakti*, Dilip chided crew members who were making noise in the area where Amitabh was rehearsing his scene. The awestruck star told Dilip that he had repeatedly viewed *Gunga Jumna* as a student in Allahabad to understand how a Pathan could so

effortlessly play a rustic character and speak the Bhojpuri dialect with such ease. Narrating this in his autobiography, Dilip admitted it was indeed difficult “but the Pathan, whose story you are reading, did it by instinct, careful study, untiring rehearsals and a temperament to succeed even in those ventures that were new for him.” Incidentally, Dilip not only produced this movie, but the erudite actor, whose flair for several languages was well known — he was as comfortable in English, as Urdu, and also spoke Persian — also wrote the story and screenplay for this film.

Dilip and Raj Kapoor's bonding and bonhomie are legend. Dharmendra simply adored his “elder brother” and recalled how once in the 1960s Dilip gave him a sweater to wear when it was nippy. He never returned it, and much later when he asked Dilip if he could keep it, the superstar said that he had got two from Paris, one Nasir, his brother had taken, and of course he could keep the second one. “I have 1,000 memories. I asked for so many

When Bimal Roy approached Dilip to play *Devdas*, he had trouble accepting the fact that he would portray the role of an alcohol-addicted man on screen.



protect him from the world's evil eye, he will be handsome even in old age if you do so. Disfigure him with black soot if you must because if you don't, you may lose him prematurely. The *noor* (light) of Allah will light up his face always."

The result was that his *Dadi* got his head tonsured and each morning as he set out to school in his hometown Peshawar, rubbed black soot on his forehead to make him look ugly. Needless to say, he was a spectacle at school and was sneered at by the other boys. Protests by his father or mother didn't work and this saga continued. The result was that "I became a loner at school and

played very little, confining myself to the colouring books available in the small school library."

Shy and reserved, Dilip has said he always envied "Raj who was always at ease with the girls in Wilson College and his extrovert nature and natural charm earned him considerable popularity."

But he did excel in sports and was justifiably proud of "my acquaintance with English and Urdu language," he says, adding, "While Raj Kapoor always knew he would get into acting, all I wanted was to become the country's best football player." Later on, Dilip writes, after he married Saira, their house

While Raj Kapoor always knew he would get into acting, all I wanted was to become the country's best football player.

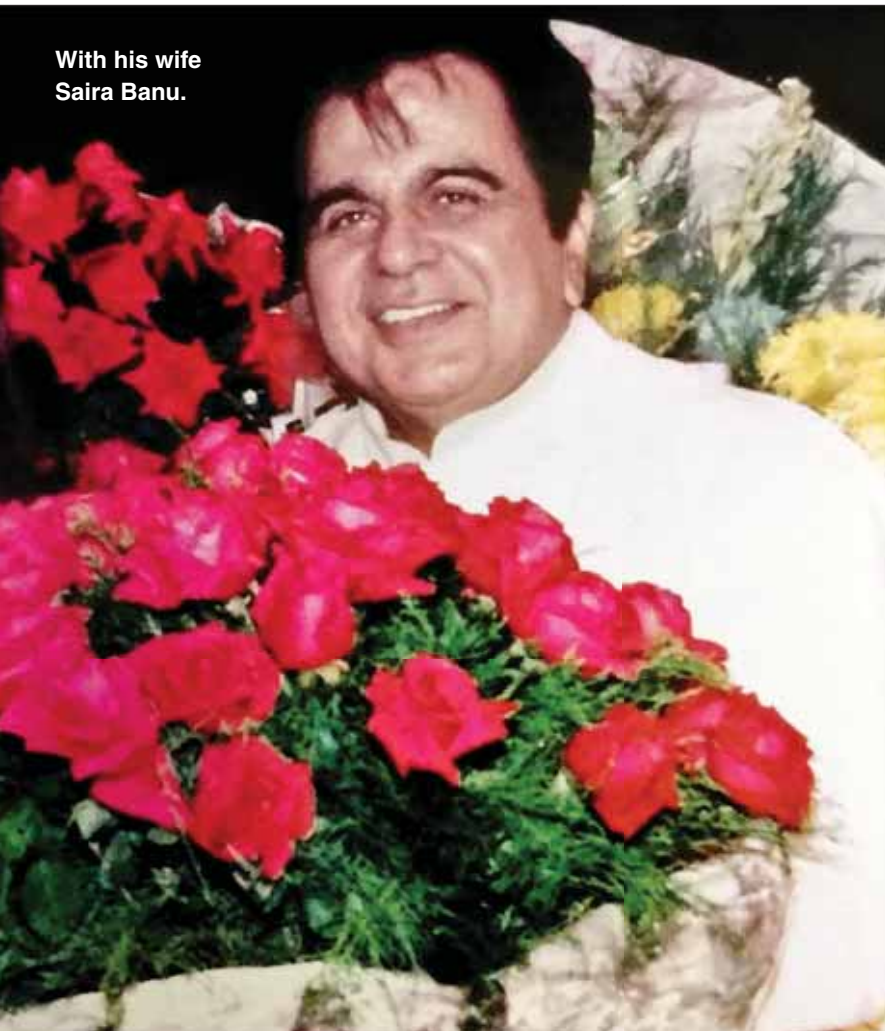
was always stacked with enough food material in three freezers as entire cricket and other sports teams would land up in his house and all stops were pulled out to give them the best of the Pathan hospitality.

Ascribing "divine purpose" in his becoming the butt of unpleasant remarks in school due to the black soot on his forehead, he writes: "It was the pain I endured as the alienated child in school that surfaced from my subconscious mind when I was playing the early tragic roles in my career and had to express the deep mental agony of those characters."

His father had great dreams for him and wanted him to become a top-ranking government officer with an OBE attached to his name. They lived at Nagdevi Street in Bombay, and had a fruit business in Crawford market. But as World War II raged, his large family was in a crisis with income diminishing from the fruit business, with strict wartime curbs on trade.

In his teens, one day, after a "mild disagreement" with his father, the young lad left home and boarded a train to Pune, with just ₹40 in his pocket, travelling by third class for the first time. Thanks to his impressive persona — a tall handsome lad with pleasant manners, and a good command

With his wife
Saira Banu.





**Dilip Kumar in
Andaz (1949).**

of both English and Urdu, on the very first day he got a job at the British Army Club in Pune, where he became the favourite of the manager as well as the British officers and the rank and file, who took to the affable, elegant youngster. He set up a sandwich stall here which was a big hit.

When he returned home after saving ₹5,000, a huge sum in those days, and gave it all to his mother, who he adored to the point of devotion, she made him swear on the *Quran* that the money was earned honourably!

The story of how he captured the fancy of Devika Rani, the owner of Bombay Talkies is well known. She offered him a princely monthly salary of ₹1,250, unheard for a newcomer, and shooed away his doubts about knowing nothing about acting by simply saying:

‘You will learn’. Here he met Ashok Kumar, who taught him the rudiments of acting, and a life-long bond and friendship was established with Ashok *Bhaiyya*.

Once, travelling with Ashok *Bhaiyya* in a local train, he saw the popular actor unfazed by the “adulatory attention” he got from several people. “I watched him respond warmly and wittily... I was witnessing the phenomenon of stardom, which was quite baffling to me then.”

The next day at Bombay Talkies, when he narrated the incident to veteran director S Mukherjee, in the presence of Ashok Kumar, the latter said: “This is a preview of what you are going to experience on a much bigger scale in the future. A handsome man like you will have trouble keeping the women away. He saw my expression and laughed heartily because it was well known by then how shy and

formal I was in the presence of women.” The kind of adulation Dilip got in later years included besotted fans lifting his car to its destination.

And no less a person than Queen Elizabeth got a glimpse of it at the Buckingham Palace in London. In his book Dilip revealed that his wife Saira, who had done her schooling in London, had always wanted to meet Queen Elizabeth. Little is known about the way he took care of Saira in a London hospital when she had an intestinal malfunction. The two spent some time in the city in the early 1970s after her recovery. Here, he got an invite for a tea party hosted by the Queen, who watched in “quiet amusement” the Asian invitees to the party “swarming lovingly around us”, and later told Dilip: ‘You are a very popular man indeed. Delighted to meet you.’



Take good care of the boy, protect him from the world's evil eye. Disfigure him with black soot if you must because if you don't, you may lose him prematurely. The *noor* (light) of Allah will light up his face always.

A wandering fakir about Dilip, when he was young.



For a long time Dilip was mulling producing his own film *Gunga Jumna* (1961); he felt it was important to raise critical issues on how rural India had gained little from the Independence. Oppressed farmers and tillers of the land were leading a life of slavery

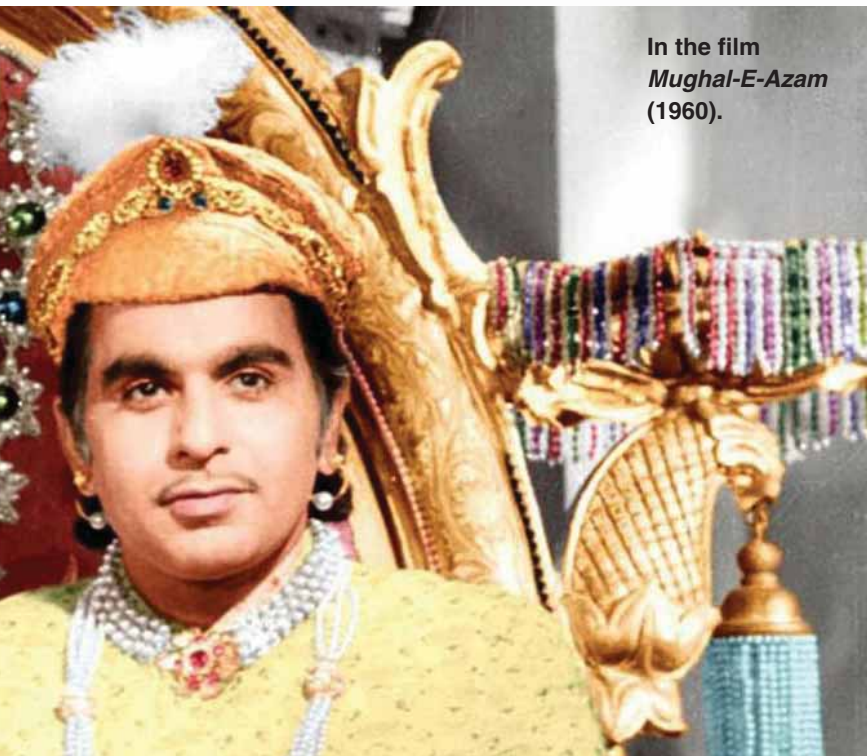
and were exploited by landlords. Earlier, in the mid-1950s, he had politely turned down the role of one of the sons in Mehboob Khan's blockbuster *Mother India* (1957). He felt it would be "an incongruous

casting" as Nargis's son "after all the romancing she and I had done in earlier films such as *Mela* (1948) and *Babul* (1950)."

The kind of deep thought, method and hard work Dilip put into his roles can be gauged from the way the death scene of *Gunga* was filmed, and described dramatically in his book.

He took cameraman V Babasaheb into confidence and told him to be absolutely ready as there would be "no rehearsal nor a second take for this shot". Hence the synchronisation between the action and the running camera would have to be perfect.

The other unit members in the studio had no clue of what had been planned by the two. Before the shooting, Dilip jogged around the studio premises first and then ran fast; "when I felt breathless and thought I would just collapse, I entered the sets where Babasaheb was ready with the running camera to capture *Gunga* collapsing at the feet of the deity his mother used to worship, after proving



her innocence and restoring her reputation in the village.”

So many eulogies have poured in after Dilip’s passing away that the first response is anger and irritation at veteran Bollywood icon Nasiruddin Shah, known for his brilliance and courage to air brutally honest opinions, when he questions the legacy left behind by Dilip. He candidly asks that apart from a clutch of good films and helping social causes that Dilip loved so much, what is the legacy he has left behind for the Indian film industry.

He acknowledges Dilip’s immense contribution to Hindi cinema, but asks pertinently, “whether he helped push the envelope toward progress or whether he facilitated the downward spiral of popular Hindi cinema into

the total star-centricity in which it wallows today.”

Analysing Dilip’s persona, the actor who so brilliantly played the title role in Gulzar’s immortal serial *Mirza Ghalib*, writes in a signed article: “His mesmerizing stillness and impeccable poise established a paradigm for good acting in Indian films. His economy of movement and gesture seemed to be little understood by his peers and even by those who came after, though many superficially mimicked his style.”

Touche! For almost two weeks after my favourite most actor’s passing on, I binge-watched Dilip Kumar’s movies on whatever medium they were available. It is amazing to find that all the superstars who came after Dilip, have borrowed so much from him. Whether it is “superficial mimicking” or not, you can

We have to ask whether he helped push the envelope toward progress or whether he facilitated the downward spiral of popular Hindi cinema into the total star-centricity in which it wallows today.

**Nasiruddin Shah
on Dilip Kumar’s legacy**

see a Dilip expression, gesture, smile, frown, etc in almost every Bollywood star, without exception.

Al Pacino is another favourite actor of mine. I recently happened to watch *The Devil’s Advocate* and was amazed, once again, to find such a striking resemblance between an older Dilip and Pacino, not only in physical appearance but also in their acting, expressions, gestures.

The last word has to go to songs filmed on Dilip. My favourites are *Suhana safar aur yeh mausam hasin* and *Dil tadap tadap ke keh raha hei* (Madhumati); *Udey jab jab zulfe teri* (Naya Daur), *Tu kahey agar jeevan bhar mei geet sunata jaoon* (Andaz), *Kitna haseen hei mausam*, (Azad), *Do sitaro ka zameen par hei milan* and *Madhuban me Radhika naache re* (Kohinoor), *Yeh mera deewanapan hei* (Yahudi) *Maan mera ehsan arey nadan* (Aan), and *Milte hi aankhen dil hua deewana kisi ka* (Babul).



With Ashok Kumar in the film *Deedar* (1951).

Designed by Krishna Pratheesh S

Rotary will miss you, PRIP Carlo Ravizza

Shekhar Mehta



Rashi and RI President Shekhar Mehta (then DGE) greets Carlo Ravizza, the then RIPE, and Rossana at the 1999 International Assembly.

It is hard to believe that the lion amongst Rotarians has stopped roaring. An upright visionary and outspoken... that was the personality of this outstanding Rotarian, PRIP Carlo Ravizza. I was fortunate to serve as the district governor in the year he was the President of Rotary International.

My first meeting with him was in my home town Calcutta, when he and his gracious wife Rossana had come to the Calcutta Zone Institute.

Spending five days with him in my own city was indeed a privilege. He was a man who wanted to make major changes in Rotary, who had a sharp mind and spoke candidly. His clarion call of “Two ow ow ow” to all the Rotarians serving in the millennium year made Captain Carlo a big hit amongst his crew.

The theme of the year ‘Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity’ had great meaning and inspired all of us to put in our best. After the first meeting, Rashi and I met him in Anaheim at the International Assembly, then at the Dhaka Conference and several occasions thereafter in our journey in Rotary. Each time we met the warmth was the same.

In later years, age did start showing but it did not affect his spirit one bit. May his soul now rest in peace. Our heartfelt condolences to Rossana and her family.

(The writer is RI President)

2022 Houston Convention

Star power

Since the 1960s, Houston has been home to mission control for the United States human space programme and its astronaut training programme. When you are in town for the Rotary International Convention, June 4–8, you can learn more about that history as well as the science of outer space at Space Center Houston, which houses educational programmes and a museum.

Among the spacecraft you’ll find in the Starship Gallery are: Faith 7, the final Mercury capsule in which Gordon Cooper orbited the earth for 34 hours in 1963; Gemini V, in which Cooper and Pete Conrad spent eight days in space in 1965 as part of NASA’s research for a trip to the moon; and the command module from Apollo 17, the last Apollo mission to the moon. You

can also see the largest publicly displayed collection of moon rocks in the world.

The Astronaut Gallery features space suits, from 1960s pressure suits to a prototype designed for long stays on the moon — or even Mars. In Independence Plaza, you can explore a replica space shuttle that is mounted on an airplane that transported shuttles from landing sites to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

There’s a gallery dedicated to the International Space Station, the largest structure built in space, where astronauts continue to do scientific research and prepare for the next phase of space



exploration. You’ll learn about the challenges of visiting the red planet in the Mission Mars exhibit.

And the NASA Tram Tour is a must, taking visitors to the astronaut training facilities and, of course, Mission Control. Visit spacecenter.org.

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org.

Dilip

The complete actor

SR Madhu

When Dilip Kumar enters heaven on July 7, the entire Bollywood wing is delirious with excitement. “Did you hear, did you hear?” Dev Anand asks Raj Kapoor.

“Yusuf is joining us.”

Raj: *Such?* He breaks into a song “*Dilipayya*

vastavayya”, reminiscent of his dance at the Dilip-Saira wedding ceremony in 1966.

A welcome reception is held for Dilip. A bevy of leading ladies of his films line the entrance to receive him with bouquets and smiles. The galaxy comprises Madhubala,

Meena Kumari, Nargis, Noor Jahan, Suchitra Sen, Nimmi, Nadira, Nutan, Nalini Jaywant.

“You ladies were behind my hit films,” says Dilip gallantly. He hums *Tu kahe agar jeevan bhar mei geet sunata jaoon*, the famous *Andaz* song of 1949. There is laughter

and applause. “No, our careers soared when we acted in your films,” responds Meena Kumari, as she recites a couplet. Dilip greets Suchitra Sen, and she quips: “More people discuss *Devdas* than the 60 other films I acted in”.

Nargis and Dilip embrace. Remarks Nargis: “I acted in seven films with you, a highlight of my career. But you always stole the show — be it *Babul*, *Andaz*, *Mela* or *Deedar*.” “But I always lost, my sweetheart, you eluded me all the time,” Dilip responds. Nargis chuckles.



Dilip Kumar and Madhubala.

All the stars make way for Devika Rani, the first lady of Indian cinema, who discovered Dilip. It's an emotional moment as the two hug each other. "You transformed my life," Dilip says. "No, you transformed Bollywood," responds Devika Rani. "I knew you would conquer hearts, but you conquered all of India."

The stunning Noor Jehan known for her magnificent voice, shoves others aside to hug Dilip. His heroine in *Jugnu* (1947), she was one of the heart-throbs of the 1940s before moving to Pakistan.

Dilip reminds Noor Jehan about her famous, much-awaited visit to Bombay from Pakistan in 1982. When it happened, the city was agog and all of Bombay turned out for the reception. Dilip asked Noor Jehan to sing her signature song *Awaaz de kahan hai* from *Anmol Ghadi*. The splendid voice was magical as ever, and the celebrity audience went wild.

"The ladies are falling all over you," says Raj Kapoor, "Just as they did on earth."

"Look who's talking," responds Dilip, giving Raj a playful punch.

Madhubala greets Dilip with an *aadab* and a glowing smile. "You are as beautiful as ever," says Dilip and she blushes. She remarks, "Bollywood won't be the same without you".

Madhubala is right — Bollywood without Dilip Kumar just can't be the same.

He was described as the tragedy king, as an acting institution, as the ultimate method actor. Meghnad Desai called him "*Actor-e-Azam*". Dilip acted only in 67 films from 1944 to 1998, but his influence in both India and Pakistan was profound — on the way people thought, spoke, dressed, emoted on screen or stage. He was a manual for actors. In 1982, when Raj as director was not satisfied with Rishi Kapoor's acting in the 1982 *Prem Rog*, he told his son: "Think of how Yusuf would act here." Rishi finally got it right. After seeing the 1982 film *Shakti* — in which police

With Vyjayanthimala in *Devdas* (1955).



officer Dilip is pitted against son Amitabh who works with a gangster — Raj phoned Dilip saying, "You are indeed the greatest."

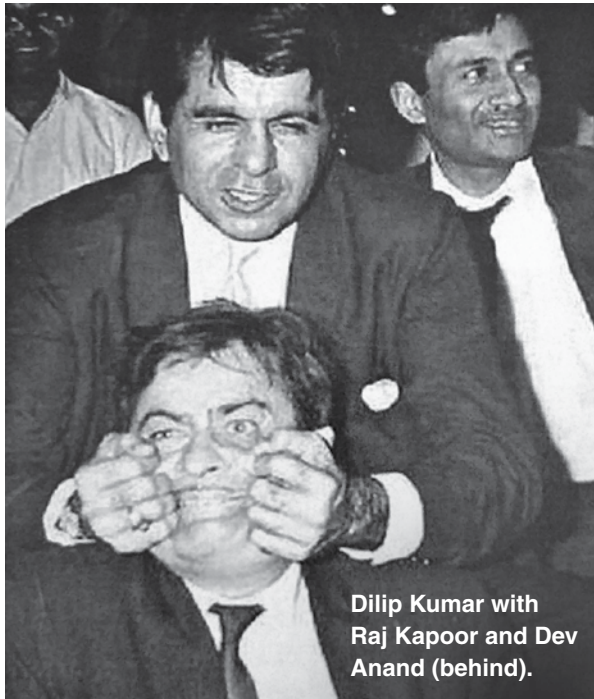
Satyajit Ray described him as "the ultimate method actor". Dilip submerged his personality so completely into the screen character, his agony in tragic roles was so vivid and intense, that people forgot that he was acting. Anupam Kher called him the "complete actor".

He learned the sitar for six months before shooting began for the film *Kohinoor* as he has to play this instrument in the song *Madhuban mein Radhika nache re* (sung with mesmeric exuberance by Mohammed Rafi). To prepare for his blind singer role in *Deedar*, Dilip spent several days with a blind beggar near Dadar station. For his home production *Gunga Jumna*, Dilip travelled throughout Uttar

Pradesh for several months to study people's speech and gestures, colloquialisms and mannerisms. He mastered Bhojpuri, and coached Vyjayanthimala, who wasn't even fluent in Hindi, to speak it right. Dilip involved Prime Minister Pandit Nehru himself to clear the film when it ran into censor trouble as a dacoit film.

Vyjayanthimala says she was humbled and inspired by Dilip's perfectionism, the amount of time he spent to rehearse a single line. He similarly inspired three generations of actors. "There is a Dilip Kumar in every actor," she said. Amitabh Bachchan, Manoj Kumar, Rajendra Kumar, Dharmendra, Shashi Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan and Irrfan Khan — all of them are unabashed admirers of Dilip and speak feelingly about the debt they owe him. Javed Akhtar says Dilip mastered the craft

Dilip submerged his personality so completely into the screen character, his agony in tragic roles was so vivid and intense, that people forgot that he was acting.



Dilip Kumar with Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand (behind).

of “method acting” much before Marlon Brando, the known pioneer of this technique.

Audiences were initially flabbergasted when the tragedian of *Andaz*, *Deedar*, *Babul* and *Yahudi* wielded a sword in *Aan*. But the elan he displayed with swords and horses, and the taunting ease with which he vanquished armed guards and tamed an arrogant princess in *Aan* left them tongue-tied.

Dilip about his family

Dilip said his family was central to his life. He did whatever he could for his six brothers and five sisters and their children. He would have been happy if they had surpassed him in fame and fortune. His 67-film career was made possible by Devika Rani.

Apart from her, he felt grateful to those behind his “second innings” after 1980 — Manoj Kumar for *Kranti* (1981), Ramesh Sippy for *Shakti* (1982), Subash Ghai who made *Vidhaata* (1982), *Karma* (1986) and *Saudagar* (1991), all of which were hits, dispelling perceptions that Dilip’s popularity had slid after the 1970s.

Dilip said he wanted to be a sportsman when he was young, he was particularly fond of football and cricket.

“Football helped me greatly as an actor, it gave me a strong flexible body.” He recalled that during the shooting of the 1952 *Footpath*, he was not in the right mood for an intense scene. He went to the Brabourne Stadium, played cricket, hit a couple of boundaries and felt good! He told the director that he was ready for the shot.

Manoj Kumar pointed out that Dilip used to carry a large transistor to studios to hear commentary whenever a cricket test match was on. (His friend Vijay Merchant was his favourite commentator.) He predicted that India would win the World Cup and was overjoyed when it happened in 1983 and again in 2011.

Dilip and Raj Kapoor often led two Bollywood cricket teams playing against each other in charity matches. One of Raj’s favourite boasts was that his team defeated Dilip’s in the charity cricket match of 1962.

Dilip nostalgia

“His mass impact was unbelievable,” said journalist Bunny Reuben, perhaps

Dilip’s first biographer. He travelled with Dilip to Tanzania in 1970 for a charity event and was stunned at the hysteria the actor inspired. It seemed as if the entire population of Tanzania had turned up at Dar-es-Salam airport. All avenues to and from the airport were jam-packed. At the Calcutta premiere of *Naya Daur* in 1957, Dilip Kumar had to travel a short distance to the theatre from the Grand Hotel. The teeming crowd of fans physically lifted the limousine and carried it all the way to its destination!

Saira Banu says Dilip was often an irrepressible comic in real life. He could mimic Helen, of



When Dilip Kumar had to travel a short distance to the theatre from the Grand Hotel the teeming crowd of fans physically lifted the limousine and carried it all the way to its destination!

all people, batting his eyelashes and projecting his leg out of the slit of a towel while doing the dance *Monica O my darling!* He could mimic Gopi Krishna's dances from *Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje*, and on one occasion did so in the presence of Gopi Krishna. He would convulse relatives by mimicking Saira.

Dilip loved good food, being a Punjabi Pathan. In 1995, *Screen* magazine wanted to start its own awards and invited Dilip to head an awards jury. He said yes — on condition that *Screen* accepted the interval snack menu he set out! The snacks came from Dilip-Saira's kitchen,



With director
Bimal Roy.

With his 'Paro' Suchitra Sen in *Devdas*.



much to *Screen*'s delight and relief!

Many film personalities have referred fondly to Dilip's care and concern for others. Hrishikesh Mukherjee said that when once he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown, Dilip took him away from the studio and drove him to Khandala and kept him there for three days. No work, only cricket, *gupshup* and fun. Hrishikesh was a changed man when he returned to Bombay, more relaxed and self-assured.

Rishi has said (in his autobiography) that when Raj Kapoor lay critically ill in

Delhi in 1988, Dilip was traumatised. He had just landed from Pakistan in Bombay. He flew to Delhi and went straight to Apollo Hospital. He spoke to the inert Raj and sobbed uncontrollably.

Sunil Dutt, a close friend of Dilip, has pointed out that when Dilip was sheriff of Bombay, he conducted a special fundraising train ride every year when he walked the length of the train and interacted with passengers. As sheriff, he helped fund many worthy causes — schools, hospital equipment, gardens and parks, a joggers' park and a bandstand in Bandra. He visited and entertained border troops, he took part in special rallies for the armed forces.

He was an excellent speaker in Urdu and English. (Of course he had the huge advantage that being Dilip, he always compelled attention!) Lata Mangeshkar was speechless at his tribute to her before a concert at the Royal Albert Hall, London, March 1974. He compared the universality of her music to a flower's fragrance, the waters of a brook, a mountain breeze, the sun's rays, a child's smile!

Lata reminded Dilip of this speech when she called on him before his final illness. She says he smiled with pleasure.

S R Madhu is a senior journalist and a member of the Rotary Club of Madras South.

Governors take charge, ready for the challenge

V Muthukumaran

DG Pankaj Shah - 3131

“Let’s turn the wheel together and reach out with our hands, heart and soul so that humanity thrives. We have the power and magic to serve to change lives,” said RI President Shekhar Mehta at the installation of DG Pankaj Shah of RID 3131.

He urged Shah and club presidents, to dream big, set ambitious goals and execute grand projects to make the current year an outstanding one in their life. “Both in membership and service projects, our zones are the Kohinoor of RI and if clubs adopt and work on ‘Each one bring one’, we will add at least 50,000 new members this Rotary year,” he added. The Rotary Foundation’s annual income is around \$10 million, and it can be doubled only if each member gets another one.”

This was definitely not the best of times, but IPDG Rashmi Kulkarni “made the most of it by executing service projects worth ₹50 crore.” Mehta

appreciated her for holding the largest number of virtual youth exchange programmes among the zones. In his address, RID Dr Mahesh Kotbagi said he was a Rotarian from RID 3131 for 26 years, and became club president when he was below 30 years. Embracing RI’s latest mantra of DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion), he however said he was against reservation of any form.

Stating this was an emotional moment for him, Shah said he had done careful planning for two years to choose his team and set goals — over 1,000 members, of which 768 have already been inducted; six new clubs; six satellite clubs; and a Rotary Alumni directorate, from which 100 will be drawn into Rotary. On TRF giving, his goal is \$2 million (\$1.75 million last year). “We will surely get at least four AKS members and 30 Major Donors. More than half of our clubs will become 100 per cent Foundation donor clubs by the year-end,” Shah said.

Around 14 corporates would contribute over ₹5 crore as CSR funds for various projects this year. Some notable projects the district plans to implement include e-Vidya Project (Classes 6-10); translation of NCERT school books into Marathi under RILM; a Divyang Rotaract club; multidistrict RYLA; at least 80 virtual RYE programmes; distribution of reusable sanitary pads; making use of a carbon footprint app; and high-level digitisation of RI district offices and records.

The district will attempt Guinness Records in creating medical awareness, distribution of school kits, and an initiative on peace and conflict resolution. “Properties are being shortlisted to build a Rotary Community Centre in Pune. And with the help of Army, we are going to set up an oxygen generation plant in Siachen under a special initiative,” said Shah.

RI President Shekhar Mehta and Rashmi hand over the ISO certificate to RID 3131 DG Pankaj Shah in the presence of RID Dr Mahesh Kotbagi (L) and Amita, PDG Vinay Kulkarni (second from R), IPDG Rashmi Kulkarni, DGE Anil Parmar and his wife Hema, PDGs Dr Shailesh Palekar and Deepak Shikarpur.



IPDG Rashmi Kulkarni said due to strict restrictions during lockdown she never had a physical meeting at all during her tenure. Right from the PETS, district assembly to club visits, seminars and major events, “everything was done virtually.” But still 5,000 hectares of land are now brought under watershed management; and 10,000 cataract surgeries were done during her year.

Under literacy, teacher training programmes, digital guru mantra, Cyber Suraksha and e-RYLA had reached out to 30,000 beneficiaries. A 70-bed Covid centre was set up; the clubs had installed oxygen plants, distributed oxy cylinders, ventilators, PPE kits, masks and food grains across the district. “To tackle the third wave, a paediatric Covid centre was set up in Pune.” More than 50 GG projects worth \$4 million were accomplished last year. The main highlight was the conduct of 350 e-RYLAs for 35,000 beneficiaries and the holding of e-NGSE by RID 3131 with 10 individuals and 15 groups. Following an audit on its administrative process, an ISO certification (ISO 9001:2015) was given to RID 3131 which was unwrapped by Mehta.

DRR Parth Jaokar, and the event host RC Pune Sarasbaug’s president Rajendra Satalkar received the installation collar from Mehta.



RID 2981 DG S Balaji and his wife Jeyasree contribute ₹1 crore to TRF in the presence of ARFC R Vasu, IPDG R Balaji Babu and PDG P S Ramesh Babu.

DG S Balaji - 2981

It was contributions galore at the hybrid installation of DG S Balaji, RID 2981. He contributed ₹1 crore to TRF as the first of his three instalments to become an AKS member. A 93-year-old non-Rotarian from Puducherry Dr N Seetharaman donated ₹50 lakh to the Foundation to install modern facilities in hospitals, while Rasu Thevar, another non-Rotarian, willed his house worth ₹1 crore after his demise to RC Kumbakonam to provide schools with educational aids. Ten out of 22 AGs have decided to become Major Donors.

RI President Shekhar Mehta, on a live telecast, urged the delegates to “make a balance sheet of your life with

the left side listing all the love, care, education and nurturing you had received from your parents and society, and the right column listing the things you had given back in return. Both columns should tally, but as a chartered accountant, I find in my life it is not tallying. I find more things added on the left which means I have to do more.” Rotary clubs must ‘grow more to do more’ and this can happen only if ‘each Rotarian brings one member. “Focus on attracting more women and youth in the membership drive.” He urged Balaji to diversify the nature of clubs by forming virtual, satellite and hybrid clubs with more flexibility and called upon the spouses to join hands with Rotarians to “empower girls who form 50 per cent of humanity by skilling them with better education and scholarships and ensure that they enjoy equal rights and privileges.”

In his address, Balaji said each club will adopt a village and improve the livelihood of rural families in at least 128 hamlets. He is aiming for a net membership growth of 1,234 and charter 20 new clubs. “I plan to open eight vision centres that will screen 500,000 people for avoidable blindness and a mammography van worth ₹1.5 crore will detect breast cancer in aged women,” he said.



RID 3232 DG J Sridhar and wife Punitha being greeted by IPDG S Muthupalaniappan and his wife Kamala.

The DG, along with spouse Jeyasree, daughter Rtr Deepika and son Interactor Rohith Krishna, were felicitated by district office-bearers.

Gaurish Dhond - 3170

A well-known social worker Gaurish Dhond was installed as RID 3170 governor by RID Dr Mahesh Kotbagi at a gala event in Panaji.

Kotbagi said he had witnessed from close quarters the service rendered by Dhond to society over the decades and also appreciated IPDG Sangram Patil for his “amazing work he did as governor last year.”

Dhond highlighted some of the key projects he would be carrying out under the seven focus areas. PDGs Gurudatta Bhakta, Jorson Fernandes, Vinaykumar Pai Raiker, Ravi Deshpande and Union minister for state for tourism Shripad Naik were present at the installation.

DG J Sridhar - 3232

Making Chennai a city of pride through various initiatives in partnership with



RID Mahesh Kotbagi (second from L) at the installation event of RID 3170 DG Gaurish Dhond. Pratima Dhond (R) and IPDG Sangram Patil are also present.

city corporation, providing essentials to communities in the pandemic times through service avenues and taking up sustainable projects will be the priority areas for the clubs of RID 3232, said DG J Sridhar. He took charge in a colourful and solemn installation ceremony. RI Director A S Venkatesh, presiding over the event, addressed the gathering in his unique style laced with anecdotes reverberating with the current year’s theme. Earlier, IPDG S Muthupalaniappan

in his opening remarks recalled some of the signature projects initiated during his tenure such as Project Orange and Covid relief activities undertaken across the district. District trainer PDG J B Kamdar and District counsellor PDG Sv Rm Ramanathan also spoke on the occasion.

DGE Dr Nanda Kumar and DGN Ravi Raman attended the event along with their spouses. District secretary R Ravi Shankar gave the vote of thanks. ■



RC Sunam sponsors a new Rotaract club

Team Rotary News

As an auspicious start to the new Rotary year RC Sunam, RID 3090, donated fodder and jaggery to a *gaushala*. The club has also chartered a new Rotaract club for the youth and, “we aim to develop leadership and professional skills in young people, and

help them build lasting relationships along with having fun through service,” says Jagjit Singh Jaura, club president. He hopes to rope in “young professionals, community leaders, businessmen and students for doing good and extending the Rotary family.”



Club members at the *gaushala* after donating fodder for the cattle.

Club member Naveen Garg who is instrumental in the formation of the new club, RAC Sunam Shine, says that “more than ever before, now there is a big need in the community for young professionals,

who can build strong ties with each other while giving back to society.” Club members celebrated Doctor’s Day and Chartered Accountant’s Day by honouring 21 doctors and seven auditors. ■

A Rotary memorial for corona warriors in Mumbai

Team Rotary News

As a fitting tribute to those working tirelessly during the pandemic, RC Bombay Airport, RID 3141, has installed a memorial sculpture for corona warriors at a fuel outlet in Bandra West, Mumbai. The sculpture mounted on a pedestal is made of black granite and depicts six front-line workers, namely, a doctor, policeman, nurse, conservancy staff, journalist and an engineer.

The sculpture was conceived by club

president Nitin Mehta and carved by Rtn Minali Thakkar, a renowned artist. Project director Rahul Patel oversaw the construction. While the globe in the sculpture represents the Earth, the multitude of human palms on it symbolises the united contribution of human beings in the fight against the virus. The leaf behind each corona warrior suggests that they are 'safe guardians of life'. Several 'thank you' and 'salute you' are carved on stainless steel plates at



IPP of RC Bombay Airport Nitin Mehta honours a police personnel for his Covid relief work as IPDG Sunnil Mehra applauds.

the lower half of corona warriors' torso. The texts are written in global and regional languages.

LEDs at vantage points shine light on the corona warriors painted in six bright colours. Glass fibre-reinforced cement (GRC) and stainless steel were used to give a radiant look to the sculpture which weighs 1,500 kg. The project took 14 months to complete and the club spent ₹22 lakh, raised through member contributions.

Bandra West legislator Ashish Shelar unveiled the memorial in the presence of the then DG Sunnil Mehra, Mehta, club secretary Apurva Patel and other Rotarians. Some corona warriors were felicitated by the club on the occasion. ■



Club members, along with IPDG Sunnil Mehra (fifth from L), IPP Nitin Mehta and Bandra West legislator Ashish Shelar, in front of the memorial to Covid warriors in Bandra.

Rotarians continue Covid relief during second wave

V Muthukumaran

During the second wave of Covid infection, Rotarians from all the four zones have taken up Covid-relief work on a war-footing reaching out to hospitals, home-isolated patients and marginalised families hit hard by lockdown in various states. Here are some of the clubs that have done some amazing Covid relief activities last year.

RC Bhavnagar, 3060

A 10-member project team from RC Bhavnagar, RID 3060, set up

a Covid care centre for 25 patients at a cost of ₹25 lakh. “We did not charge anything to the patients except for medicines and lab charges. Doctor consultation, oxygen and food, were given free to all,” said Rtn Manish Kothari, past president of the club.

The club could do this “thanks to the generous donations from philanthropists, Rotarians from India and overseas,



Covid relief activity by RC Pondicherry Port.

including the US, UK and Spain,” he said. When the centre was closed on May 28 due to a steep drop in Covid cases, “we had treated 130 patients and the overhead expense of ₹25 lakh was met through donations and contributions from large-hearted individuals.” The 20,000 sq ft-hall was given by the Gyanmanjari group of colleges, Bhavnagar, free of cost.

“A panel of four doctors and six nurses took care of the patients. The club met the monthly expense of ₹5 lakh for paying salaries to the doctors, nurses, administrator, cleaners and security guards,” said Kothari. Yoga classes and other recreational activities were arranged to boost the morale and mental strength of the patients.



BBMP commissioner Gaurav Gupta launching 100 oxygen concentrators project of Rotary Bangalore West.

If a patient turned critical, he or she was immediately referred to nearby hospitals for ventilator and Bipap support, he said.

RC Mysore, 3181

A Rotary OxyBank with 18 oxygen concentrators and two oxy-equipped ambulances set up by the club, was inaugurated by Mysuru City Corporation commissioner Shilpa Nag. My Seva Trust, an NGO, gifted the ambulances and 15 oxy concentrators; Vasavi Seva Foundation from Bay Area, California, US, Rtns Shivaprasad and Jacob James donated rest of the concentrators.

A Covid telecare centre with telecom lines and communication equipment was set up at the club premises under the guidance of donors Hari and Chetan Vishwanath and Citizen's Forum. The Covid care team is offering tele-consultation to people having symptoms of Covid and guiding them with dos and don'ts. This centre is supported by a group of doctors and volunteers from 8am to 10pm daily. The telemedicine doctors advise patients on self-care and medication. "The doctors were joined by a team from Ireland which helped us to work with patients for long hours. Over 2,500 calls (till June first week) were attended by the dedicated team," said DG M Ranganath Bhat.

With the support of the corporation, well-designed medicine kits and grocery packs

were distributed to patients in home isolation. The club, along with others NGOs, is providing food daily to street dwellers and migrant families accommodated at makeshift quarters at the Nanjaraj Bahadur Choultry. Rotarians are coordinating with Covid Mitras set up by the corporation across Mysuru. These are early intervention centres offering triage services and consultations to people having mild symptoms. Rtn Mahendra Singh was feted by the corporation commissioner for his service at the NR Covid Mitra, while Rtn Vinay Venkatesh is serving at the Tulsidas Hospital Covid Mitra. "We will install mask vending machines at vantage points in Mysuru," said Bhat.

An awareness video, made in two languages (Kannada and English), was circulated among 40,000 children and their parents to warn them about a possible third wave of the pandemic and reduce panic reaction through better preparation.

RC Chandrapur, 3030

Each day for a month around 100 food packets were distributed to people struggling



Groceries being distributed to Sri Lankan refugees by RC Nagercoil South.

during lockdown including relatives of patients at the Civil Hospital, roadside dwellers and marginalised families. The club members donated liberally for the project.

RC Mandvi, 3054

Fifty pulse oximeters, 500 N-95 masks and 200 respiratory vaporisers were distributed to all the eight PHCs and three Covid care centres, two in Mandvi and one in Gadshisha village. The Covid relief work led by project chair Darshana Shah feted the corona warriors of Mandvi Municipality including ambulance driver, sanitising team and others.

Taluk health officer and medical officers at all the PHCs



Food packets being distributed by RC Chandrapur.

were also honoured. Around 1,000 three-layer masks were given to the bus crew of state transport undertaking, mobile cart hawkers and rickshaw pullers, among others.

Two oxygen concentrators were donated to the club by the Fokia Trust, Bhuj, for home isolated patients and 50 injections (Seranox-60) were received from Layja Social Service, Mumbai, to treat heart complications in patients.

Also, the club got three sanitiser machines from Matushree Zaverben Chunilal Sanghvi Family Trust and they were given to the Mandvi court, S V Arts and Commerce College and C J Mehta Vaccination Centre. Club president Pratik Shah and its secretary Darshan Sachade with the guidance of PDG Dr Harshad Udeshi executed the Covid projects.

RC Ferozepur Cantonment, 3090

In the presence of DG Vijay Arora, RID 3090, and district secretary Ashok Behal, RC Ferozepur Cantonment led by

club president Kuldeep Singh and secretary Kamal Sharma donated two oxygen cylinders to two charity institutes — Shree Ram Bagh Old Age Home and Sewa Parmo Dharm Trust. Earlier, the club donated a portable ventilator, two infrared thermometers, 50 PPE kits and 1,500 masks to the medical teams at the local Civil Hospital for treating Covid patients.

RC Aurangabad, 3132

Through US-based Wheels Global Foundation, an IIT alumni group, the club procured 10 oxygen concentrators in partnership with Shiv Yog

Foundation. “These machines will be provided to Covid patients in home isolation and those in underserved areas including villages, tier-II and III cities in Maharashtra,” said Vinayak Upadhye. His son, a patent attorney at Washington DC and active member of Wheels Global, made arrangements for the delivery of oxy concentrators. Club president Vijay Jaiswal and secretary Samir Kandkhedkar coordinated the project.

RC Bombay Bayview, 3141

The club presented wellness kits to 5,000 nurses by mobilising ₹44 lakh through a crowdfunding platform. “This will help them fight fatigue and give a nutrition boost which is very much needed to overcome the stress due to long hours of work,” said Smita Parekh, club president. Each kit contains a hot flask and assorted dry fruits.

RC Pondicherry Port, 2981

The club donated equipment, medicines and consumables worth ₹14 lakh to PHCs in four villages and the Covid ward at the Mahatma Gandhi PG Dental Sciences College. The Covid medicine and consumables



Grocery packs sponsored by RC Rourkela Royal ready for distribution.



Grocery kits being distributed to tribals by RID 3232.

were donated to other smaller institutions too.

The equipment included oxy concentrators, electric needle (syringe) destroyers, thermal temperature gauges and oximeters. Among the consumables donated were 2,000 N95 masks, 50,000 three-ply masks, face shields, aprons and gloves. The club donated Covid protective gears to the police department too. Club members Samir Kamra, Srikanth Sivaraman, Suresh Jalan, Huzefa Lal and four others including president Nandakumar contributed liberally for the distribution of Covid equipment and medicines.

RC Bangalore West, 3190

Rotary Bangalore West, RID 3190, donated 100 oxy concentrators to Covid care centres across Karnataka through a contribution of over ₹83 lakh (\$116,000) from Pragathi, USA, an NRI community working in Covid relief work; RC Austin, Texas, RID 5870; RID 5870 Keyway Disaster Relief Fund, US; RC Bandar Sunway, RID 3300, Malaysia; RC Merthyr

Tydfil, RID 1150, UK, and Auma India, manufacturer of electrical gadgets.

Seventy of the 100 machines would go to Covid centres and maternity hospitals being run by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike (BBMP). Corporation commissioner Gaurav Gutpa launched the machines on the BBMP premises in the presence of PDG H Rajendra Rai, club members and district office-bearers.



Rotarians of RC Saharanpur Classic distributing food.

RC Bangalore Junction, 3190

The club will be supplying 100 jumbo oxygen tanks for the Covid care centre at Hoskarhalli being run by BBMP through a partnership with Agarwal Samaj, Bengaluru. Club members contributed ₹16.5 lakh for this project.

Inner Wheel members executed a project worth ₹1.41 lakh to provide oxygen cylinders by flagging-off 'oxygen on wheels' at Chikkaballapur district. A bus has been designed to supply oxygen cylinders to hospitals and needy patients who are in home quarantine.

RC Saharanpur Classic, 3080

During the weekends throughout the lockdown months, the club served freshly prepared meals to about 700 disadvantaged families at the *Prabhuji Ki Rasoi*, a popular NGO under Project *Relieving the Hunger*, said club president K Sanjay Midha. The club members are also regularly distributing 250 food packets a day to family members of corona



RC Pollachi members with mattresses to be provided to the Valparai GH.

patients waiting at hospitals with the support of the NGO.

RC Pollachi, 3203

Grocery kits and vegetables worth ₹2 lakh were given to 120 families living in a quarantined colony. Rtn Hariraj donated 100 mattresses and pillows worth ₹2.5 lakh to a Covid care centre at a school.

The club, jointly with the poultry association, donated medicines and equipment worth ₹1 lakh to the Covid centre at the PA College of Engineering and Technology, Pollachi.

An oxy concentrator and other utility items including wheelchair, bedsheets, glucolab monitor, glucometer, face shields, N95 masks, hand gloves, oxy cylinders, oximeter, stretcher trolley, O2 flow metre and plastic chairs worth ₹40,000 were given to the government hospital in Valparai for treating Covid patients.

RC Rourkela Royal, 3261

The club joined hands with the South Eastern Railway to



Rotary Oxy Bank set up by RC Mysore.

distribute 40 kg grocery packs, to licensed potters at the railway station, to see them through the lockdown. Club president Vikash Agarwal and secretary Yogesh Banka were present at the event.

RI District 3232

Grocery kits, each worth ₹1,000, are being given by clubs to underprivileged families and

marginalised people. The ₹3 crore food distribution project has already given away 32,000 kits. All 85 clubs in the district are planning to distribute a total of 35,000 grocery kits across the district under guidance from project chair Mahaveer Bothra. Each kit has rice, dhal, wheat, masala powders and cooking oil for a four-member family. DG Muthupalaniappan's club RC Madras Central Aadithya distributed the edibles to Irulas and fishermen community. Their sister club in Malaysia, seeing the project on Facebook, contributed ₹16.5 lakh and another 3,500 kits were bought for distribution.

RC Nagercoil South, 3212

Rice and grocery bags worth ₹53,700 were distributed to 192 Sri Lankan families living as refugees at a camp in Kottaram village in Kanyakumari district. Most of them are casual labourers, daily wagers and severely impacted by the lockdown. ■



Vapourisers being given by RC Mandvi to the Maska Covid care centre.

RC Bangalore Junction transforms 100 schools

Jaishree

When the lockdown eases and schools reopen, children studying in 100 government schools around Bengaluru will be pleasantly surprised to walk into their schools which now sport a new look with enhanced facilities, all thanks to the Rotarians of RC Bangalore Junction, RID 3190.

During the last Rotary year (2020–21), the club provided various facilities including e-learning systems loaded with required digital content, well-stocked libraries, handwash stations, gender-specific toilets, sports and science kits, and cupboards and ceiling fans in classrooms. Saplings were planted on the campus and the buildings were given a fresh coat of paint.

“PDG Rajendra Rai encouraged us to implement this project and guided us right from the start,” said IPP Velu Pethi, adding that he had planned this project six months before his installation as club president. A seven-member committee was formed to identify schools that were in bad shape. “We identified 105 schools. But we skipped four schools which did not have a compound wall because they had a dispute with the neighbouring property owners and we did not want to get into legal issues. One was inside a mosque and the authorities were not very keen to take our help,” he said.

Contribution for the Happy Schools project came from the 156 club members, crowdfunding and district grants. Pethi



PDG Rajendra Rai (R) and IPP of RC Bangalore Junction Velu Pethi inaugurate an E-learning facility in a school.

pitched in with 10 per cent of the total project cost. The Menda Foundation supported the project with 20 per cent funding and e-learning kits. “RILM helped us with books for the libraries. Many other NGOs and corporates such as Larsen & Toubro also extended their support.” While the initial quote was ₹2.5 crore, “we got the cost down to ₹1.75 crore because of the volume,” said Pethi.

RILM chair, PRID Kamal Sanghvi inaugurated the 100 schools on a virtual platform in April in the presence of RID Mahesh Kotbagi, the co-chair of RILM; PRID Bharat Pandya; the then DG Nagendra Prasad; DGN Jeetendra Aneja; PDGs Rajendra Rai and K P Nagesh; Chatru Menda of Menda Foundation; Arvind Garg from L&T; Bhagya Rangachar, founder of the NGO Children’s Lovecastles Trust, and representatives from other corporates.

The club is now all set to transform another 100 schools into Happy Schools this year. “Already we have ₹16 lakh in our kitty. My successor Ajay Bhauwala has the blueprint in place and our vendors know our requirements now,” said Pethi. ■



Rotary builds a bridge for farmers

Jaishree

Yeulkhed is a hamlet with around 950 people, located at Shegaon taluk. Over 70 per cent of its population are small farmers cultivating crops on their agricultural land across a stream called Unaad naala.

For over three decades the villagers were riding their bullock carts over a

rugged, kutchra “bridge” to cross the stream. Now, with the intervention of RC Shegaon, RID 3030, a new, pucca bridge has been laid, making the journey easier for the villagers.

“When we first visited the hamlet last year we found farmers driving their bullock carts, carrying their farm equipment, over

this makeshift bridge. They said that years of representation to the government for a decent bridge has fallen on deaf ears, and that they have got used to the craggy structure which caused fractures for the bullocks and damaged the carts, and the older people found it extremely difficult to walk over it,” said the club’s

IPP Anirudh Paldiwal. During monsoons the bridge became unusable and the farmers had to let their crops rot and suffered huge losses.

The club led by Paldiwal decided to construct a decent bridge over the stream. PDG Mahesh Mokalkar extended the technical support. The construction

DGE Anand Jhunjhunwala (L) with RC Shegaon’s IPP Anirudh Paldiwal (behind the DGE), AG Rajiv Nathani and past secretary Sachin Gadodia riding on a bullock cart over the new bridge.



cost, ₹3.5 lakh, was borne by Muktilal Paldiwal (Anirudh's grandfather) who is based at Shegaon. Work began in May and the new bridge was inaugurated on June 10 by DGE Anand Jhunjhunwala.

Explaining about its construction Anirudh Paldiwal said that it was a 25 by 20 feet low-cost bridge constructed with cement pipes as base. The area was first dug up. The excavated material, along with some boulders, was used to form an 8-inch base layer. Six huge cement pipes were placed and secured with couplings. C-shaped walls were constructed on both ends. The entire structure



From L: AG Rajiv Nathani, DGE Anand Jhunjhunwala, Muktilal Paldiwal, past president Anirudh Paldiwal and past secretary Sachin Gadodia after inaugurating the Rotary bridge.

was strongly cemented and the bridge was good to go.

“The villagers enthusiastically helped in the

construction and were extremely happy to see the end result. The structure will last for at least 15

years. They can run their bullock carts and tractors comfortably on it now,” said Paldiwal. ■

UK, Chennai Rotarians collaborate to deliver oxygen concentrators

Team Rotary News

Twenty Rotary clubs in the UK collaborated with RC Madras Chennapatna, RID 3232, to supply 20 oxygen concentrators and other medical equipment worth ₹20 lakh to various hospitals in Chennai and other cities in Tamil Nadu to treat Covid patients.

Raj Mani, president of RC Aireborough, UK, and host club member Ramanathan led the fundraising drive in the respective regions. The home club raised ₹5 lakh from its members and the alumni of National Public School, Chennai. “The fondness for India among the UK citizens resulted in gifting 19 oxygen concentrators, 800 PPE kits, 500 NRB masks, 450 under pads, N-95 masks, wheelchairs, gum boots and hand sanitisers,” said Raj Mani.

The oxygen concentrators and medical equipment were delivered to trusts and non-profit making private



RC Madras Chennapatna president-elect Senthan Amuthan handing over medical accessories to P Balaji, Dean, Stanley Medical College Hospital, Chennai.

hospitals and government hospitals in Kotagiri, Arani, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Thanjavur and Erode, said RC Madras Chennapatna president B Chakravarthy. ■

RC Pune Central launches mobile vaccine clinics in Pune

Team Rotary News

In a novel initiative, RC Pune Central, RID 3131, flagged off five mobile vaccine clinics, redesigned vans, to administer Covid doses in partnership with Vaccination on Wheels (VoW) and the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporations. “The mobile clinics will reach out to underserved people who do not have access to government hospitals and who are hesitant to get vaccinated due to apathy, ignorance or old age, combined with the fear of visiting vaccination centres,” said Ajay Dubey, club president (2020–21).

VoW run by Rtn Jignesh Patel is a one-stop mobile clinic that creates hospital-like sterile setups near communities in need of vaccination. The corporations provide vaccines and identify areas where the mobile booths will be set up. Each mobile clinic is equipped with cold chain facilities and AEFI kits to handle cases of ‘adverse effects following immunisation’.



Volunteers and nurses at the mobile clinic run by RC Pune Central.

The mobile clinic is manned by a doctor, two nurses, IT assistant for CoWin registration and a social worker to mobilise the beneficiaries. Once the vaccination drive is completed in an area chosen by the civic body, the clinic moves to another location.

Focus on vulnerable groups

Funded by the CSR partners, five mobile

clinics were already operational in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad areas since April and over 5,000 doses were administered till the second week of June. Pune Mayor Murlidhar Mohol flagged off the mobile vaccine project in the presence of municipal commissioner Vikram Kumar, additional commissioner Rubal Agarwal and Rotarians.

In Pune, the mobile clinic first vaccinated over 200 workers at the construction site for Pune Metro Rail. The focus will also be on vulnerable groups at old age homes, mental rehab institutions and other special centres taking care of disadvantaged people and destitute. “For instance, at Niwara old age home, at least 180 senior citizens were vaccinated at their doorstep,

while another 100 HIV-positive persons and sex workers were also administered the vaccine,” said Rubal. Among the elderly was 105-year-old Kondiba who got vaccinated at one of the clinics at the corporation premises.

“This public-private partnership is working so well that the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai has also entered into a similar agreement with VoW for deploying their service in Mumbai and nearby areas,” said Dubey. Other cities like Goa, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Cuttack, Bhubaneswar and Puri have shown interest in doing similar vaccination camps in their areas and the respective clubs are in touch with RC Pune Central to replicate their Covid project. ■



Covid vaccine being administered on an elderly woman.

Jagdalpur Rotarians deliver meal boxes

In April 2021, RC Jagdalpur, RID 3261, set up a Rotary Rasoi in Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. “Our aim was to provide food to home quarantined people and others who are unable to cook such as the elderly, destitute, bedridden patients, migrant labourers and

beggars,” says project chairman Ashok Lunkad. Freshly-cooked and neatly packed, the meal boxes included *roti*, *sabzi*, *dal* and *chawal*. “On the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr some sweets were added to the meals,” he adds.

PDG Paul Street and members of RC Canberra, RID 9710, Australia,

contributed to the *Rasoi* Project. “We involved local politicians and administrative officers in packing over 20,000 meals,” says Satyanarain Agrawal, past president of the club.

Every day club members, Rotaractors and volunteers gathered at the kitchen to pack the meals and take care of the deliveries. “At a time when nobody wanted to step out of their houses our Rotaractors delivered food in Covid containment zones,” points out Agarwal.

Club member Sahil Narvaria who took care of the logistics says, “We planned the routes keeping in mind the timing and distance as we had to supply the meal boxes with just a handful of Rotaractors.” Agrawal adds, “They are not as experienced as Swiggy or Zomato staff and there is no monetary benefit involved but they did their best distributing the food boxes to needy families.” ■



Rotarians pack lunch boxes at the Rotary kitchen.

A guide to the updated Rotary Foundation funding model

The amount of money The Rotary Foundation has awarded annually in global grants has more than doubled since the grants were introduced: from \$47.3 million in 2013–14 to \$95.6 million in 2019–20. Yet demand for global grants

is so high that it has outpaced Annual Fund contributions, which means that not all eligible global grant requests are able to receive funding.

To ensure that the Foundation can fund as many global grants as possible in the future, the trustees

of The Rotary Foundation have approved policy changes effective July 1. The changes will have a big impact on the Foundation's ability to support more large-scale, sustainable projects for years to come. Read on to learn more.

Our funds: A glossary

Annual Fund-SHARE is the primary source of funding for a broad range of local and international Rotary Foundation activities. *Every Rotarian, Every Year* is the initiative to encourage support for the Foundation's Annual Fund. It encourages every Rotarian to contribute to the Annual Fund every year. Contributions to Annual Fund-SHARE from Rotary members and other donors are directed into two subfunds: the World Fund and District Designated Funds. Through the SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants.

The World Fund provides funding for our highest-priority activities around the globe. A percentage of SHARE-designated contributions is applied to the World Fund. The Foundation uses the World Fund to pay for grant and programme opportunities available to all Rotary districts, including PolioPlus, Rotary Peace Centres, Programmes of Scale grants, global grants and more.

District Designated Funds (DDF) can be used by districts to pay for Foundation, club and district projects that a club and others in the



district choose. Districts may use up to half of their DDF to fund district grants. The remainder may be used for global grants or donated to Polio Plus, the peace centres, or another district.

The Endowment Fund, financed by cash gifts and bequests left by Rotary members and their families, ensures the long-term viability of the Foundation and its grants and programmes. Spendable earnings from the Endowment

enable the Foundation to expand existing activities and underwrite new ones. Contributions are invested in perpetuity: A percentage of the total value of the fund is directed annually to Foundation grants and programmes.

How the model works

What's unchanged

The Foundation's basic funding model will remain the same. All Annual Fund-SHARE contributions are invested for three years, after which they are split between DDF and the World Fund. Earnings from the invested funds will continue

to pay many of the Foundation's operating expenses, which include fundraising and general administration. (A portion of investment earnings from the Endowment Fund, designated by the trustees, also helps to pay operating expenses.)

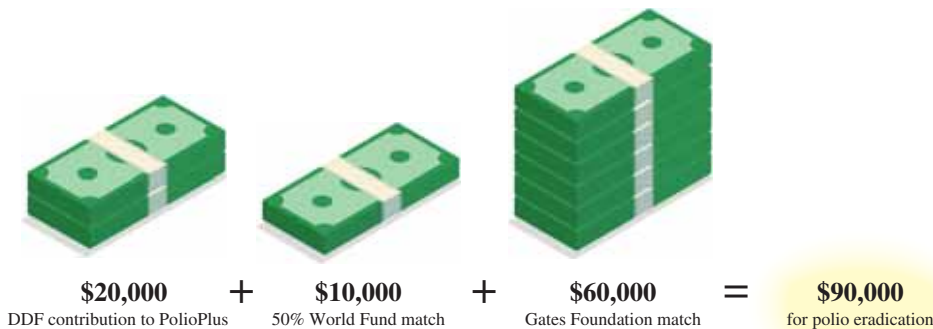
What's changing

50% match on DDF contributions to PolioPlus

DDF contributions to PolioPlus will now be matched by the World Fund at 50 per cent rather than at 100 per cent as in the past two years. This will allow \$5 million to be redirected each year, which could be used for other Foundation programmes, including global grants. The Bill

and Melinda Gates Foundation will continue to match 2-to-1 every dollar that Rotary commits to polio eradication, up to \$50 million per year. That makes it vital that we continue to make fundraising for polio eradication a top priority.

Example:



80% match on DDF applied to global grants

In recent years, the World Fund has been depleted before the Rotary year ends. Because of this, the Foundation has not been able to fund all the eligible global grant requests

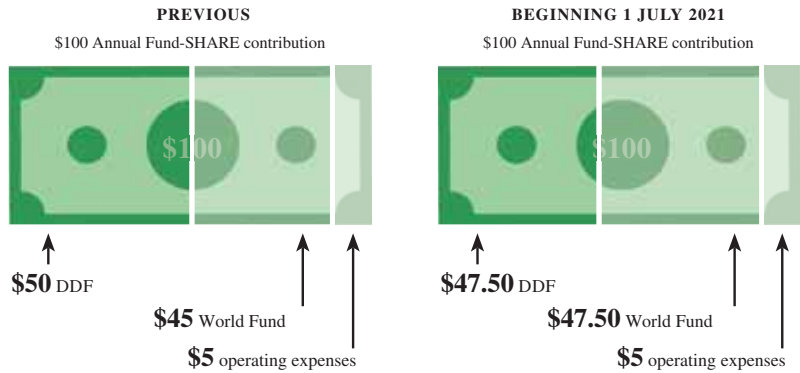
received. To allow greater participation in global grants, DDF applied to global grants will now be matched by the World Fund at 80 percent rather than at 100 percent as in the past. This change will enable us to fund more grants throughout the year.

Example:



Shared funding of operating expenses

Five per cent of Annual Fund-SHARE contributions are used to cover Rotary Foundation operating expenses. Previously, 45 per cent of the contributions were directed to the World Fund and 50 per cent were directed to DDF. For Annual Fund-SHARE contributions received beginning on July 1, 2021 (and allocated beginning on July 1, 2024), the remaining 95 per cent will be split equally between DDF and the World Fund.



Five-year limit on DDF rollover

Donors contribute to the Annual Fund with the expectation that these donations will be used to help communities in the near term. But the amount of DDF rolled over from one year to the next remains high. For example, on July 1, 2020, \$48.8 million in DDF was unused and rolled over from the preceding Rotary year.

Starting on July 1, 2026, and at the end of each Rotary year thereafter, DDF amounts that have been held for five years or more must be used. Unused DDF can be applied to the Disaster Response Fund, the Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, the Rotary Peace Centers, or the World Fund, at the district’s discretion. If no fund is selected by the district, the rollover will default to the World Fund.

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
DDF new	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
DDF rollover	\$20,000	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$30,000	\$20,000
DDF spent	-\$40,000	-\$45,000	-\$55,000	-\$60,000	-\$65,000
Rollover remaining	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$0
	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
			\$0	\$0	\$0
				\$0	\$0
					\$0
Rollover amount remaining after	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years

Additional changes

The Foundation Trustees had already approved several other measures to increase global grant funding in 2020–21. Cost-saving measures such as reducing operating costs have enabled an additional \$4.4 million in global grants to be funded. And in January 2021, the Foundation Trustees and the RI board of directors transferred \$15 million from the

Foundation’s operating reserves and the RI budget surplus to the World Fund as a one-time measure to fund additional global grants in 2020–21. These two measures made nearly \$20 million more in funding available in 2020–21. Additionally, the match on cash contributions to grants was eliminated effective July 1, 2020, freeing up an expected \$7 million annually in the World Fund.

A conversation with 2021–22 Trustee Chair John F Germ

What concerns have you heard from members about the changes?

One of the greatest concerns was the 5 per cent going for operational costs: handling the money, stewardship, programming, and everything else we do. Previously, that money had come from

the World Fund portion of Annual Fund contributions. But that’s not fair. We have administrative costs involved with district grants too. So effective July 1, 2024, the 5 per cent for operating costs will be split between the World Fund and DDF.

What process did you use to decide on these changes? What other options did you eliminate and why?

Two years ago, we began to realise we needed more money in order to fund the programmes and priorities that Rotary members have identified. We

formed a World Fund working group of the trustees to look at both how to generate more money — the fundraising side — and how to change the way the programme is operating now. We were trying to look at how to make funding work over a long period of time, so that we aren't going to Rotary members every year with changes.

We didn't eliminate a whole lot. We left everything on the table; there was nothing sacred, including looking at staffing and ways to cut operational costs. We looked at our options and which would make the most impact.

One option was to leave things just as they were, and if we ran out of money, we ran out of money. In 2019–20 we ran out of money in May. In 2020–21 we were scheduled to run out of money in mid-December. That's not really fair to the Rotarians around the world who are giving money expecting to get a return after it's invested for three years.

What is the most important thing for Rotarians to know about the Foundation's funding model?

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have three responsibilities: one, to raise money; two, to invest money; and three, to spend money. Right now we're about \$17 million per year short. We have to increase funding. It's not just a funding model. We have to have money there in order to invest it and spend it.

Frequently asked questions

Rotary members and others contribute more than \$300 million to the Foundation annually. How can there be a shortfall in the World Fund?

Of the \$300 million contributed in an outright fashion each year, about \$130 million is contributed to the Annual Fund-SHARE. The rest is given for specific purposes including PolioPlus, the Endowment Fund, global grants, the Disaster Response Fund, Rotary Peace Centers, or donor advised funds.



What are operating expenses?

Operating expenses are expenditures used for fundraising and general administration. These are funded with Annual Fund investment returns, Endowment Fund spendable earnings, 5 per cent of cash contributions for global grants, and 5 per cent of Annual Fund contributions.

Many donors have heard that “half comes back to the district.”

Is this true?

After 5 per cent is deducted, half of all Annual Fund-SHARE contributions can be spent as DDF directed to the Rotary Foundation programmes most important to each district.

Will this affect our reputation as a leading charity?

Our stewardship of contributions has made The Rotary Foundation one of the most highly-rated nonprofits, according to reviews conducted by several independent charity rating agencies. We have received the top four-star rating from Charity Navigator for 13 years

straight, which puts us in the top 1 per cent of charities. In fact, the three leading agencies that provide information about nonprofits — the BBB Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator and GuideStar — changed their model of reviewing nonprofits to emphasise impact. While it is still important to keep overhead costs reasonable, the agencies say that investments in training, planning, evaluation, internal systems and operations are also critical. You can read the joint letter at overheadmyth.com.

When does the clock start on the rollover of DDF?

Any DDF rolled over from 2020–21 to 2021–22 will be subject to the new five-year limit on rolling over those funds.

When a district applies for a new global grant, will it use the current DDF or the oldest rollover?

Funding for new global grants will first be deducted from the current year's DDF and then from the oldest rollover year.

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Meet your Governors

V Muthukumaran



Over 10,000 desks-benches for 500 government schools

Ajay Madan

Real estate, RC Kurukshetra, RID 3080

Once Covid restrictions are lifted and normalcy returns, “we will be taking our Africa Medical Mission to Ethiopia led by PRIP Rajendra Saboo, who has conceived this signature project of our district. Unfortunately, we could not travel last year, but plans are in full swing,” says Ajay Madan. Ten new clubs, and 2,000 Rotarians will be added to take the total number of Rotarians to 5,300 by the year-end; 20 new Rotaract clubs and over 1,000 Rotaractors are his target.

Over 10,000 desk-benches will be donated to around 500 government schools. During his installation RI President Shekhar Mehta will hand over 2,000 desk-benches to some schools. “We will take up fresh WinS and Happy Schools projects after completing the ongoing ones by around 15 clubs,” he added.

A four-day *Rahat* medical camp will be held in the upper hills of Uttarakhand to screen at least 50,000 tribals who have no access to hospitals or healthcare. The district clubs will install 10 PET bottle crushing units in Shimla, Mussoorie and Solan, which are big tourism hubs. “We are working out a global grant project for constructing check dams in Shimla, Nahan and Mussoorie. In 45 days from July 1, we will be planting two million saplings of different native species across the district. For this we have procured 100kg of bamboo seeds; each kg can sprout 3,500 saplings,” says Madan. For TRF giving, his target is \$1 million.

He became a Rotaractor as a college student in 1984 and graduated to Rotary in 1993. “Just to have fun and enjoy fellowship, I joined Rotaract. But slowly, I got attracted to Rotary and started to get involved in mega projects,” he recalls.

Empowering girls is his priority

Prabir Chatterjee

IT software, RC Calcutta Majestic, RID 3291



As RI President Shekhar Mehta hails from his district, “we will focus on some of the thrust areas like literacy, empowering girls and membership growth through *Each one bring one* that he is championing to take Rotary to the next level,” says Prabir Chatterjee. He is confident of inducting over 1,000 new Rotarians, and starting 20 new clubs, taking the total number of Rotarians past 5,000; and clubs to 190 in the district.

Thirty new Rotaract clubs and 500 new Rotaractors are his target. “I plan to do a number of projects to empower girls through awareness programmes, events on cervical cancer and MHM (menstrual hygiene), which will be held in schools, colleges, urban and rural clusters,” he explains. Self-defence techniques will be taught in schools, colleges and RCC venues through workshops titled *Rotary Virangana* to boost the confidence of girls. “We plan to hold

at least 10–15 *Virangana* sessions in a month across the district. Our 14 Rotary eye hospitals will do 40,000 surgeries for needy patients.”

Over 25 Happy Schools will be done through a mix of global grants and club donations. His target for TRF giving is \$400,000. With Mehta branding the current DGs as ‘changemakers’, “we need to empower the underprivileged through literacy, healthcare, water and sanitation projects. In fact, Rotary is ushering in peace by *Serving to Change Lives*.”

Chatterjee joined Rotary in 2000, thanks to his Rotarian friend, only to “enjoy the fellowship and networking. But later on, inspired by the amount of good work being done by the clubs I became proactive and took up projects to serve the people.”

Medical centres in NCR; check dams in Rajasthan

Ashok Aggarwal

Medical gas manufacturer, RC Ghaziabad Greater, RID 3012



A couple of catechisms, namely, *Do more, grow more* and *Each one, bring one* as coined by RI President Shekhar Mehta will be the cornerstone for devising projects and doing public image initiatives. Comprising Delhi and NCR, his district has 122 clubs and 3,800 Rotarians, and “we hope to start 25 new clubs and add 1,000 new members,” he says. His Rotaract goal is 30 new clubs and 600 new Rotaractors, to take the total to over 2,600.

He will be starting a 15-bed ICU Covid centre at the Vardan Multi Specialty Hospital in Ghaziabad through a \$120,000 GG. Two dialysis centres (GG: ₹1.2 crore) will come up at the Asha Kiran Hospital and Shri Tirupati Hospital, both in Ghaziabad. A diagnostic centre (₹1.20 crore) having an array of

ultrasound, X-ray and CT scan machines will be set up at Noida; and a special CT scan unit will be installed at the Shri Jagannath Charitable Cancer Hospital, Ghaziabad at a cost of ₹1.6 crore.

Among the global grant projects are 20 check dams (₹60 lakh) which will be constructed at villages in Rajasthan. “We will do 10 Happy Schools in Sonapat, Haryana, and five PHCs there will be upgraded with modern medical facilities. These two projects will be done through global grants.” The Asha health workers at the PHCs will be trained by the clubs. His TRF goal: \$600,000. Aggarwal joined Rotary in 1996–97 with the help of his friend Rtn Anil Sharma.

Rotaractors and healthcare, his focus

Sanjay Malviya

Construction, RC Jodhpur Infinity, RID 3053



Due to lockdown restrictions, all the 65 clubs in the district are holding weekly zoom meetings to interact and chart out projects with their members. “Once the government relaxes the lockdown norms, we will take up field activities with renewed vigour. I plan to start at least 20 new clubs and induct 1,200 Rotarians to raise the headcount to 3,900 in my year,” says Sanjay Malviya. All clubs will be asked to sponsor at least one Rotaract club. At present there are about 350 Rotaractors across 12 Rotaract clubs, “but we hope to add over 1,000 Rotaractors through promotional events.”

The clubs will take up over 10,000 cataract surgeries and renovate government hospitals in major cities. “District hospitals will get a facelift through a mix of DDF, sponsors and member contributions.”

More than 100,000 saplings will be distributed to give a green push. “We have been doing WinS projects for over three years and this year, clubs will take up Happy Schools events at 100 institutions in which their basic amenities and classroom facilities will be revamped,” explains Malviya. A mammography bus (GG \$100,000) will be introduced in September to screen rural women in Rajasthan. “We hope to invite CM Ashok Gehlot to flag-off this project as it will boost our public image.” His target for TRF is \$400,000. He wants Rotary to become an attractive platform for “people to give back to society what they have learned and earned in life.” His father Rtn Ram Narayan Malviya inspired him to join Rotary in 1999.

Concentrating on healthcare, green and water projects

K Sundharalingam

Textiles, RC Salem Metropolis, RID 2982



A series of NCD camps under *Project Positive Health* will be conducted reaching out to at least 100,000 patients, says Sundharalingam, who has lined up diverse projects across the seven focus areas of Rotary. “We have plans to construct five check dams through a mix of global grants and club donations. To provide safe drinking water, we will install 12 RO plants on the premises of Rotarians’ houses. These will be accessible to the local community,” he explains.

Distributing 1,000 terrace garden kits to Rotarians and the public to usher in a green environment is on his to-do list. “Each club will donate a milch cow to a rural family to ensure a sustainable livelihood, and free mammograms will be done for needy women.” He has also urged clubs to take up Miyawaki forests wherever

possible “depending on the availability of land given by the government and donors.”

Over 150 solar lamps to tribal villages, an artificial limb centre and an oxygen tank to the Government Mohan Kumaramangalam Hospital in Salem, for which the district has donated ₹25 lakh to Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin, are in the pipeline.

Ten new clubs and 1,500 new Rotarians; chartering 50 community-based Rotaract clubs, and adding 500 more Rotaractors are also planned. His target for TRF giving is \$750,000. In 1994, he along with his friends started a community-based Rotaract Club of Silver City. However, due to business commitment, he left it in 1997, and after a gap joined Rotary once again in 2005.

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

Amalner students campaign against witchcraft, sorcery

Kiran Zehra

In April 2020, the body of 10-year-old Sudarshan Rathod from Budruk, a small village near Amalner in Maharashtra, was found near a deserted lake. He was a victim of a human sacrifice ritual which was performed by a family to restore the deteriorating health condition of their son who is of the same age as Sudarshan. This case came to light after the district court ordered the police to file a complaint against the culprit under the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifice and other Evil Practices Act, 2013. Sixteen people were arrested and a trial is underway. Post the incident RC Amalner, RID 3030, along with its RCC and students from SSES Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru College have started an anti-black magic campaign.

“This is 21st century and yet many people, not just from rural but urban regions too, consult *tantrik*, *Pir Baba* (godmen) or an astrologer to find a cure for their illnesses instead of approaching a doctor. This is not the only case in Amalner, where people have lost money, property and life because of this stupidity. Through our awareness programmes we want to drive home the message that black magic is prohibited in law and people doing such weird things are cheating the gullible with coloured threads and powders,” says Dr Bharat Khandagale, professor of social work at SSES College, who is training his students to enact street plays as part of the awareness initiative.

Not all superstition can be addressed by law. Only awareness initiatives can deter people from approaching fraudulent godmen or practising inhuman rituals behind closed doors, says club’s IPP Abhijeet Bhandarkar, adding that superstitious practices are dehumanising and exploitative, hence need to be dealt with stringently.

There are 155 villages around Amalner and “the lack of education is a major cause for people’s belief in black magic,” says Mauli Patel, a student of SSES College and a street play artist. As students of social work, Patel and his friends, a team of 15 students, are mounting an energetic campaign to educate villagers against such practices. They have so far conducted programmes in 25 villages and plan to visit more rural areas to expand this initiative.

They have come across fraudulent godmen who had cheated the villagers and disappeared with their money or killed innocent persons in the name of *nar bali* with the avowed purpose of restoring health or wealth. Apart from street plays, they distribute handbills and display posters and banners against black magic and weird actions prohibited under law.

Bhandarkar points out that creating awareness against *aghor* practices is not easy. “For most people this is like questioning their belief system. So, our RCC members are vigilant and ensure the safety of the students.” The club bears the travel, logistics expenses of the students, besides funding their banners and handbills. ■



Students stage a street play to create awareness among people against black magic and other such rituals.



Powered by **the Sun**

Preeti Mehra

The simplest way to introduce solar power at home.

Icelandic avant-garde pop singer Bjork once said that the only way we are going to get to the other end of the 21st century is by collaborating with nature — by harnessing solar power and wind power. She couldn't have been more right.

As we negotiate a 'digital' scenario and have our 'smart' worlds powered by energy, its consumption is only going to increase. And to ensure that we are as self-reliant as possible for our energy requirements,

especially if going green is on top of the mind, it is not a bad idea to consider installing solar or wind power at home. This is specially so in a country like ours where there is an abundance of both sunlight and wind, depending on your geographical location.

Over the years rooftop solar energy has received a lot of focus. Even the administration, both state and union, has been offering all kinds of subsidies for mounting a solar photovoltaic (PV) system in

independent homes or in residential/office complexes. While it does entail an investment in the beginning, it helps in cutting down on the electricity bill in the long run.

So, how does one go about it in the simplest possible way? For a start, it is prudent to call over a solar energy contractor. He or she will determine two things for you. One, what is your requirement of energy, and second, the easiest way for you to install the panels. The first will be determined through "energy



modelling” to evaluate how much energy your home uses annually.

Secondly, the contractor will perform a site analysis to ensure that enough sunlight is available on the wall or roof surfaces and consult with you on the size of the solar surfaces. This will help decide on the number of panels you need to set up and the best space and design for it.

You can easily tap solar installation companies in your area online to seek professional advice from a qualified contractor. Most cities have their own directories of such professionals.

Just remember that a PV system on your rooftop is a mini power plant that converts sunlight into electricity to meet your energy requirements. It could also feed into the grid. Although it is not too difficult to install a solar rooftop system, the size of the installation would depend on the space that is available, the amount of electricity consumed by the household or society, and willingness of the owners to spend on the capital required.

Where costs are concerned, they largely depend on the type of the system you decide on, and if there are any subsidies that you can avail from the government.

Lithium ion batteries are 50 per cent costlier but have a lifespan of 13–18 years since they have a better reusable capacity.

Coming to the components needed for a rooftop PV system, you need PV modules of course, with inverters and mounting structures. Depending on its size, other components like string boxes, transformers, meters, charge controllers, batteries and generators are often incorporated.

The size of a solar PV module will depend on its output, the efficiency of the entire system and your power requirement. Panels in the market are around 14–16 per cent efficient, with a lifespan of 25 years. Once installed, solar panels require minimum maintenance — an occasional cleaning of dust and bird droppings will keep it in shipshape. So, please note that it is important for the panels to be set somewhere accessible so that they can get regularly cleaned. In fact, there are some startups who are now offering robots that are attached to the panel so that manual cleaning is eliminated. But this kind of service will have to be worked into your cost. A module can generate anywhere between 10 to 300 Watts depending on the size of the panels and the system’s efficiency.

To store power, lead-acid and lithium ion batteries are the options available. Both have their plus points and disadvantages. Lead-acid batteries, used in inverters, are cheaper, although they are bulkier and have a limited lifespan ranging from five to ten years.

Lithium ion batteries, similar to the ones used in laptops, are 50 per cent costlier but have a lifespan of 13–18 years since they have a better reusable capacity. They are less bulky and more efficient. But given the added initial input costs, most households prefer lead-acid batteries.

Before designing a solar rooftop system, it is important to understand the consumption load of the house.

By feeding information into the tool — solarmyroof.cseindia.org — you can get an idea of the size of the rooftop system needed, and the space and money required to install it.

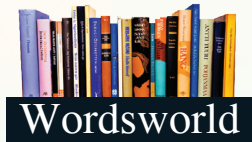
The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has developed a simple online tool. By feeding information into the tool — solarmyroof.cseindia.org — you can get an idea of the size of the rooftop system needed, and the space and money required to install it. The finer points can then be ironed out with the help of a local consultant.

The consultant will also help you decide if you want to go in for a CAPEX model where you pay for the entire cost of the project, or for a RESCO (Renewable energy service company) model. In this model solar power developers install the plant on the rooftop at their cost and sell the generated power to you. Both systems have their pluses and minuses, so doing a bit of homework keeps one ahead of the curve.

Installing a solar system may need a bit of thinking through, but there is no doubt about its usefulness in the long run. In the next issue we will look at innovations to tap wind power from the rooftop!

The writer is a senior journalist who writes on environmental issues.

Designed by N Krishnamurthy



Of soirees and sensations



Sandhya Rao

Stories from the world of music,
real and real-ly imagined.

All of us have stories to share from our experiences and we recount them, sometimes deadpan, sometimes blended with *mirch masala* and a crush of *kasuri methi* for the general listening pleasure. Among my mother's all-time favourite stories concerned the golden-voiced, maverick yet endearing musician M Balamuralikrishna.

Amma's story goes like this: Many years ago, the Music Academy in Madras (now Chennai), the frontrunning platform for all performing artists, had blacklisted Balamurali, and would not invite him to

perform on its stage. The reasons are unknown to me. However, Balamurali was not only a creative genius, he was fiercely dogged and he somehow, finally, managed to get a leg in. This is when Amma's giggling fit would begin. She and my aunt were in the upper galleries that evening when Balamurali took the stage and the way she tells it, he didn't get off until he had run through practically his entire songbook, turning one page after another without a break. It was, my mother recalls, a performance that showcased some familiar songs, but mostly

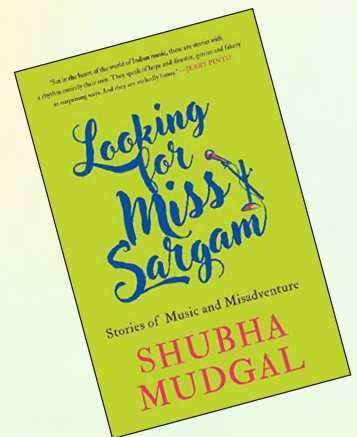
original compositions set in *ragas* of his own creation. You could see the organisers getting agitated, my mother would recall giggling away 'They tried so hard to stop him,' Amma would say, 'but uh-huh, he didn't even look in their direction, he just went on and on. They didn't know what to do!'

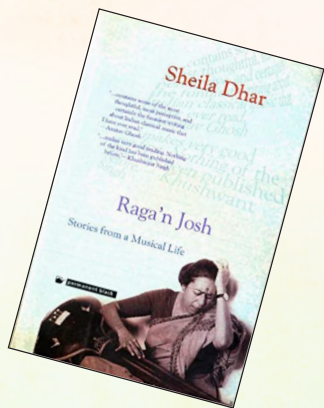
Music, like poetry, resides with and around us everywhere, in every moment, but the world has chosen June 21 to celebrate it annually, at least since around 1981. That's why my thoughts drifted to music, musicians and, as you rightly guess, books about music and musicians. Prominently displayed in my bookshelf is *Raga'n Josh: Stories from a Musical Life* by Sheila Dhar. It's a gift from a friend: a collection of incisive, droll and detailed writings about many things, especially music.

Sheila Dhar was passionate about Hindustani music and was no mean singer herself. She worked with the Publications Division and wrote a delightful book for children (among others) called *This India*. She was associated with the Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. She was a sharp writer and being married to the economist PN Dhar provided many

opportunities to rub shoulders with prominent and/or influential people. Her musical journey brought her close to personalities such as Begum Akhtar, Fayyaz Ahmad Khan, Pran Nath, Siddheswari Devi and Kesarbai Kerkar. Add to all this a keen sense of observation laced with a streak of mischief, not to mention an amazing way with words. To quote from the back cover of *Raga'n Josh*: 'Incisive intelligence, comic effervescence, self-deprecating humour, and a fascinating ability to manipulate the English language for Indian contexts...' The book has and is all this. The best part is that you don't have to be a music-lover to enjoy it, although it is a bonus if you do.

As you chuckle your way through the pieces, each a separate chapter, you also get glimpses into the lifestyle of a well-positioned and extended Mayur Kayasth family whose dining table





seated over 50 members in descending order of importance at any given meal. That is a story in itself. The collection also has memorable ruminations on many subjects, but the music plays on.

For instance, I opened the book at random and found this little section talking about how musicians are influenced by those whom they admire or love, even if they belong to other *gharanas* or schools: 'The other day a brilliant young vocalist, recording her first CD, honoured the master she admired most simply by singing in his special manner. Everyone present recognised the tribute without a word having been said. "I just felt like writing a love letter today," she remarked later.' Then, Sheila Dhar goes on to mention how every time Mallikarjun Mansur sang *Raag Jaunpuri*, he would 'interrupt himself to tell his listeners that he was singing the *antara* in the

characteristic manner of Manji Khan, a guru whom he adored'. A little later, he would mention the name of Rahmat Khan from whom Manji Khan had got it. 'In this tradition,' Sheila Dhar writes, 'no great musician lives alone on the creative mountaintop... In a sense, all outstanding achievement in this field is collective, and there is a sense of participation by a warm, closely connected joint family which lives in the mind of the musician and provides him with all the earlier recordings he might wish to refer to.'

In a sense, it is this 'collective' that Carnatic musician TM Krishna is perhaps inspired by in his thoughtful, often provocative writings and in his music itself. Whether you are a musician or not, aficionado or not, his *A Southern Music* is a must-read for the insights it provides and the thinking it triggers about history, tradition, practice and performance. Striking a different note is Namita Devidayal's *The Music Room*. Although it's a memoir of the author's musical journey, it has a fiction-like quality. It begins with her first lessons as a child to study music from Dhondutai, the last disciple of Kesarbai Kerkar and Alladiya Khan. As the reader journeys with Namita Devidayal, an intricately interlinked world

unravels in which music dominates. In an interaction at the Asia Society headquarters in New York some ten years back, the author told her audience: 'The music we have today is as beautiful as it is only because of the influences that came in when the Mughals came in. ... You have Hindu singers and Muslim singers performing together in a way that is unimaginable. I think we need to cherish this.'

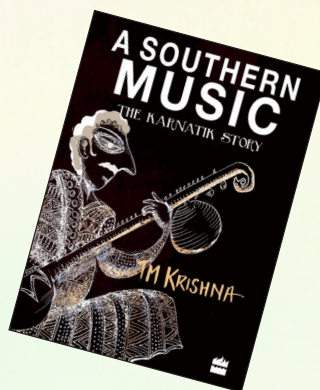
That's what, perhaps, inspired singer Shubha Mudgal to write *Looking for Miss Sargam: Stories of Music and Misadventure*. The fact that she cherishes her musical heritage as well as all that it has given her as a practising musician. Anyone who knows music knows Shubha Mudgal and her powerhouse of a voice. That same voice speaks to readers with affection, irony, compassion and accuracy in this, her debut offering of fiction. Yet, again, as anyone who is familiar with the music world would know, truth

The music we have today is as beautiful as it is only because of the influences that came in when the Mughals came in. ... You have Hindu singers and Muslim singers performing together in a way that is unimaginable.

lies at the heart of each story, whether it is about a singer dying to perform abroad and being hosted by locals in the US, or raising funds for a music competition. India-Pakistan music concerts for peace? There hangs a story. Work not being acknowledged, or worse, being appropriated? Looking for patronage? Or desperate for public honour? Shubha Mudgal writes with a light touch but the underlying tragedy is unmistakable.

So, dear readers, there's plenty to look forward to and, given the present environment, time enough to read and ruminate. When you go looking for these books, I promise you will stumble upon an even greater haul. *Miss Sargam* could lead the way, to both books and music. Don't forget to listen to music.

The columnist is a children's writer and senior journalist.



A fulfilling year for RC Patiala Midtown

Jaishree

As Rotary year 2020–21 came to a close Manik Raj Singla, president of RC Patiala Midtown, RID 3090, was a satisfied Rotarian. “I led my team to implement 76 projects impacting several lives throughout last year and am happy with my performance,” he smiles. However, the project closest to his heart is the vocational training programme for women. The club has installed a centre at the Rotary Bhawan in Patiala to train women in tailoring. Thirty women have learnt the skill last year and 15 of them were given sewing machines, due to their poor economic condition, to help them pursue the vocation. The club provides

assistance to the trained women in getting placement or setting up their own tailoring unit.

Singla’s aim is to train 1,000 women. The pandemic and the ensuing lockdown slowed down the project. “But my successor, Tarsen Bansal, is equally enthusiastic to continue the programme.” The job is easier as Singla is the club secretary this year. Classes are conducted in two batches using 32 sewing machines at the centre. At the onset of the second Covid wave the club provided 5,000 cloth masks to the district administration earning the city commissioner’s appreciation. “It was a case of waste to wealth. We

got 500 pieces of cotton cloth from a cloth merchant and the trainee women were taught to design masks out of the cloths. We paid the women for the job. So it was a win-win for all,” says Singla.

Another noteworthy project is the virtual essay writing competition which saw participation of 2,400 school students. The Punjab education minister Vijay Inder Singla was the chief guest at the finale. The club hosted an online RYLA for two days. The event, presided over by PRID Bharat Pandya, had 1,900 participants from across the district. A painting competition for schoolchildren and an online

Children with their warm clothes gifted to them by RC Patiala Midtown. Club’s IPP Manik Raj Singla is also in the picture.



public speaking contest for youngsters were other events conducted by the club.

“We distributed 10,000 masks to farmers participating in the ongoing agitation and are providing sanitisers and masks to orphanages and old age homes which we visit regularly,” he says. The club members often celebrate their birthdays and other important days of their life with the inmates. They distributed blankets and footwear to the people in these homes.

Two blood donation and two medical camps, enhancing infrastructure in government schools and sapling plantation are few

other activities implemented during last year. The club had facilitated vaccination for 5,000 people through its 12 Covid vaccine centres.

Singla chartered three Interact and a Rotaract club during the year. “This year, as Interact and e-learning chair, I have installed nine

Interact clubs so far,” smiles Singla, a Rotarian since 2017. He owes his passion for Rotary to his father who is a member of RC Patiala. ■



Women learn tailoring at a training centre in the Rotary Bhawan.

Rotary relief to cyclone-hit families in Bengal

Team Rotary News

During May this year, Cyclone Yaas left thousands of families homeless at Mandarmani, a seaside village in East Midnapore district of West Bengal. To alleviate their sufferings, RC Calcutta Mid South, RID 3291, conducted a relief camp for the cyclone-hit families in this village.

The club distributed grocery packs, each worth ₹500, containing 5kg rice, salt, mustard oil, potato, sugar, turmeric powder, red chili and other essentials to 100 families at this coastal village. In a similar manner, RC Calcutta Majestic joined hands with RC Ashtead, UK, RID 1145, to distribute cyclone relief to 50 families at Uttar Chandanpiri village in Namkhana tehsil under South 24 Parganas district. Four



Cyclone-relief being distributed at a village in West Bengal.

water purifiers were also donated on the occasion. DG Prabir Chatterjee, club's IPP Bulbul Kundu and former treasurer Rakesh Sovan Ghose were

present at the village. The club's RCC at Namkhana helped the Rotarians to deliver the essential items to the beneficiaries. ■

Are you working out at the right intensity?

Sheela Nambiar

You've been instructed to walk on the treadmill for 30 minutes every day. You saunter along listening to music, wondering what to have for lunch. After all, it is minimum 30 minutes/day to maintain health, isn't it? No problem, you can do it.

The media screams that a lower intensity workout burns more fat. What could be better? You stroll around the park barely working up a sweat. This seems pretty straightforward and easy. Why didn't you think of it before?

While it is true that a longer duration, lower intensity workout derives the energy required for that

particular exercise primarily from your fat stores, it is the total amount of energy expended versus energy consumed at the end of the day/week/month that really matters and determines your weight.

So let us assume that you walk at 3km/hour and burn about 150–200 calories in 60 minutes. Most of those calories may have been derived from your fat stores as you are working out at a lower intensity; however, it is long-term calorie deficit that is crucial in weight loss and more importantly, weight management. If, for instance you had worked at a much higher intensity during that one hour, burning

about 300–500 calories, in the long haul, the chances are you will be able to maintain a calorie deficit which is essential for weight loss. The accumulation of calories burnt over an extended period of time is more important than calories expended per individual session.

Another important finding needs to be highlighted here. If you are capable of working at higher intensities, then doing so will cause a continued increased consumption of energy and therefore calories post workout. The higher the intensity of the workout, whether cardio or weight training, the higher the calorie-burn post exercise,



sometimes persisting for as long as 6–12 hours. This increase although marginal is valuable for fat loss. This is called EPOC or Excess post-exercise oxygen consumption. EPOC is increased after higher intensity workouts and after strength training.

What is a MET?

The intensity of your workout is defined by MET, the acronym for Metabolic Equivalent. It is the ratio of your working metabolic rate relative to your resting metabolic rate. The energy expended at rest is generally referred to as 1 MET. As you increase physical activity your METs increase. Gardening, for instance, could have you working at a MET of about 4–5. A stroll in the park could be anywhere from 3–5 METs. An activity with a MET of 4 means you are working four times harder than while at rest.

How is your required MET calculated?

The required MET is calculated depending on age and basic lifestyle of the individual (sedentary/ highly active etc). This is relevant only to physiologically normal people. Those with heart problems, post-surgery or physically-challenged are to be treated differently, and this involves a different set of goals, objectives and working principles.

A fitness professional should be able to educate you on your required METs during your workout to attain maximum benefits. Each activity (walking, running, cycling, strength training and so on) will have a different MET. Running for instance has more METs than walking.

When you start watching your METs, initially, achieving your required MET may seem a herculean task. You didn't anticipate how dreadful this would feel. How are you supposed to keep this up? As your fitness levels increase, it gets easier and

- ✓ MET is the energy you use while at rest
- ✓ MET is approximately 3.5 ml of oxygen consumed per kg body weight per minute
- ✓ Your required MET is derived at by taking into consideration your age and lifestyle.
- ✓ Most cardio equipment in a gym setting will be able to indicate the MET you are working at.
- ✓ If you cannot calculate your MET, use the Rate of Perceived Exertion to assess the intensity of your workout and aim to increase that intensity from time to time.

more manageable. It gives you a goal to work towards a MET that is easily measurable and reproducible since it is denoted by a simple number on your cardio machine.

What if you can't calculate your MET?

Another way of assessing the intensity of your workout is by using the rate of perceived exertion or RPE scale. This is a subjective measure of how you feel during your workout. On a scale of 1–10, sitting stationary would be a 1. Moderate activity like moving around the house without breaking into a sweat would be about a 5 on the scale. As you increase intensity of a workout, you get more breathless, and your heart begins to beat faster to accommodate the increased workload. At an intensity of about 7, you will be able to talk but not more than a sentence or so. At 8–9 you will be unable to say more than a word or two while working out. 9–10 is all out activity; it does not allow you to even say a word. Higher intensities cannot be sustained for long. A 100-meter sprint would be an intensity of 9–10.

How do you identify your MET in a gym setting?

Most cardiovascular equipment in gyms have MET settings as an option on the control panel and can be easily viewed while training. You will notice that you can increase/decrease your MET by increasing the speed, incline or workload on the machine. Over time, an experienced exerciser can easily recognise his working MET subjectively (by the way he feels) even while exercising outdoors without the aid of a machine.

You may not be able to sustain your required metabolic equivalent for the entire duration of your workout. The idea is to try and get to it from time to time. In other words, push yourself beyond your comfort zone every few minutes during your workout to reach your required MET. This is called High-intensity Interval Training or HIIT and is highly effective in fat loss as well as producing remarkable improvement in cardiovascular endurance.

- **Low intensity:** This is about a Level 3–5 on the perceived exertion scale (PES). You could work at this intensity when you're warming up or if you're doing a longer workout, like a long bike ride or slow, relaxed walk. This might also be an intensity you work at if you take walks throughout the day.
- **Moderate intensity:** This is about a Level 5–7 on the PES and where most of your workouts should fall. This would be considered being in a space where you can talk, but only a sentence or so. Try this level about 3–4 times a week.
- **High intensity:** This is about a Level 8–9 on the PES, and a level you can only work at for very short periods of time. You might work at this intensity when doing high intensity

interval training, for instance. This can be done once or twice a week with lots of rest in between.

The human body is enormously capable of improvement — provided, we challenge it. Maintaining one's workout intensity levels at a humdrum, comfortable level throughout our workout will only create monotony and set the stage for what is referred to as "hitting the wall" in physical fitness terms. You will see no progress. On the other hand, being able to achieve your MET often and being able to maintain it longer will give you a sense of achievement and satisfaction and urge your body to higher limits.

If you happen to fall off the wagon and haven't seen your training shoes in a while, it is always advisable to start at a lower intensity and work your way up once again. Fitness levels tend to deteriorate with neglect, particularly if you are a beginner and hasn't built up adequate fitness levels. It is unrealistic and not very prudent to expect to resume where you left off after a long sojourn.

There will be days when all you want to do is stroll, go through a gentle stretch or practise relaxation. That's reasonable and acceptable.

In fitness, there is always room for improvement. Aiming to improve fitness levels is one of the goals to set.

This way, progress can be measured, and you will remain motivated to continue to exercise even if the weight on the scale doesn't move for some time. I always tell clients not to focus solely on weight, but also pay attention to their fitness levels which will improve provided they challenge the body adequately. Try increasing the distance covered in the same time. Try including inclines on your walk. Try lifting heavier weights.

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From RI South Asia Office desk

Lakshya – 3: TRF Goal Setting 2021–22

The TRF Goal Setting session- Lakshya 3 was conducted virtually on June 8, 2021 under the leadership of Trustee Gulam Vahanvaty and was attended by Rotary senior leaders including RIDs, EMGAs, RRFCs, ARRFCs, DGEs and TRF staff from RISAO.

The chief guest of the programme RI President Shekhar Mehta gave a motivating speech to the TRF team 2021–22. His topic, 'Raise the bar', served as a prelude to the goal-setting session where DGs were requested to confirm the fundraising goal for their year as district leaders.

Vahanvaty in his welcome note insisted on setting TRF goals that are reasonable and achievable with the support of the chosen leaders for the year. PRID Kamal Sanghvi spoke on 'Polio eradication: our unfinished task' to encourage Rotary leaders to continue supporting the programme till polio is eradicated from the world. PRID Dr Bharat Pandya emphasised

on the significance of Annual Fund as contribution towards the programme is continuously decreasing. There were presentations on various TRF programmes and policies by RISAO staff. The programme concluded with goal-setting exercise by DGs under the guidance of RIDs, Trustee and zone leaders.

RIDs Mahesh Kotbagi and AS Venkatesh addressed the TRF team to motivate them to achieve great heights to strengthen the Foundation.

Update your websites

In today's media and data savvy world, one of the most important club service functions is having an updated website, social media and public image management. The following ideas will help for an effective website:

- Utilise Rotary approved logo materials found on *Rotary.org*
- Always use the current presidential theme
- Always include a link to both the Rotary International and district websites

- Display prominently your club's meeting location and time
- Keep your "about" and "contact us" link prominently visible.
- Club websites should always include current stories with photos of service projects and events either on the homepage or via a link to a story site page. Club home page should include at least one club story not more than 30 days old.
- Club home page should include a list of upcoming speakers and their topic
- Club home pages should include a list of upcoming club events
- Club home page should include a link to all of the club's social media sites
- Club home page should include a list of your club's executives
- If your club has a newsletter, include a request for newsletter subscription
- Any links on the club website should be tested periodically to assure they are not broken. ■

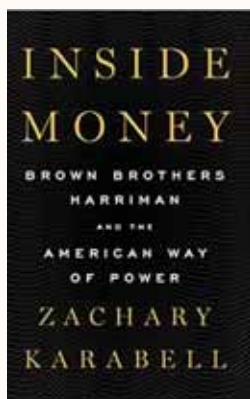
On the racks



Hisila

Author : **Hisila Yami**
Publisher : **Penguin Random House India**
Pages : **384; ₹499**

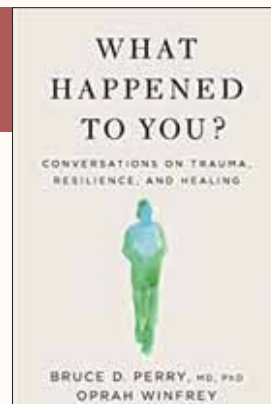
Hisila Yami in her political memoir writes about her life as a Nepali politician and an architect. She talks about being a young student activist in 1978 and recounts the 1990 uprising against the Panchayat regime, a partyless type of governance initiated by King Mahendra by sidelining the dominant Nepali Congress, which ruled Nepal from 1960–90. She was one of the prominent women leaders in that political uprising. The book gives insight into her personal life from her marriage to a fellow architect and politician, Baburam Bhattarai, who went on to become Nepali PM to her struggles as a mother and a politician. She also recalls her student years in Delhi studying architecture and then becoming the president of the All-Nepal Women's Association. Her arrest for her anti-monarchy stance and how she went underground in 1996 during the People's War in Nepal were narrated in an interesting manner. She became a politburo member of the CPN (Maoist) which was also nicely captured in crisp words.



Inside Money

Author : **Zachary Karabell**
Publisher : **Penguin Press**
Pages : **448; ₹2,562**

A walk through the history of the private investment firm Brown Brothers Harriman, this book explores its central role in American wealth creation and the rise of US as a global power. Historian Karabell digs deep into and examines the long history of this financial services firm in a political context. He reveals some uncomfortable truths of the intertwined firm, such as its deep involvement in the cotton economy in southern America that implies that the firm may have supported slavery in the past. The book also gives insight into the leadership of Alexander Brown, who set up the first investment bank in the US, by joining hands with his sons at the Alex Brown and Sons Inc. This company endured wars, banking panics and stock market crashes over decades. The book offers an interesting account of the firm's big push into advisory, wealth management, commercial banking, and investor services for corporates and high net worth clients.



What Happened to You?

Author : **Bruce D Perry and Oprah Winfrey**
Publisher : **Flatiron Books**
Pages : **304; ₹2,108**

Oprah Winfrey, American talk show host and TV producer, along with Dr Bruce D Perry, American psychiatrist and senior fellow at the Child Trauma Academy in Houston, Texas, analyses the effects of trauma on the brain. They discuss both the emotional and biological changes the trauma creates. Dr Perry explains how childhood trauma can profoundly affect an adult's life. The book alternates between sections written by Oprah, as she recalls events from her life, and Perry who uses anecdotes from his practice to explain concepts about the brain's response to trauma in a conversational tone. There are discussions on drug addiction and how people use artificial means to restore some sense of balance in their lives. In other chapters they discuss love, identifying trauma and the healing process.

Compiled by Kiran Zehra

RC Aduthurai — RID 2981



A Covid vaccination camp was held at the club's adopted Kottur village in which 300 people were inoculated.

Lunch and fruits were given to doctors, nurses and volunteers.

RC Sonipat Midtown — RID 3012



Grocery bags were given to 100 families. Chief guest Ramesh Chander, chief judicial magistrate of Sonipat, was inducted as club member.

RC Salem Central — RID 2982



Rice and grocery bags worth ₹75,000 were given to 75 physically-challenged people at Kolathur village near Mettur town on Annapurna Day.

RC Nasik Godavari — RID 3030



In line with RI's DEI policy, the club inducted a transgender Kalki Subramaniam as its member. She is the founder of Sahodari Foundation that works for empowerment of the third gender community.

RC Delhi South Central — RID 3011



A major project titled *Vanykaran* was implemented on a one-acre barren land in the Aravalli Hills. Over 7,000 saplings were planted; and the club will water the saplings for a year.

RC Jodhpur — RID 3053



The club joined hands with the Rotary Blood Centre to felicitate 60 doctors as corona warriors. DG Sanjay Malviya offered support in setting up a wastewater treatment plant in the city.

RC Phagwara Midtown — D 3070



Water pots for birds were distributed to avian lovers at the Gurudwara Sukhchain Sahib in Phagwara. Club president Manoj Kumar, secretary Raj Kumar Heer and project director Narinder Saini were present at the event.

RC Palia Kalan — RID 3120



Two oxygen concentrators (₹1.02 lakh) were donated to Gurudwara Sahib, Palia Kalan. A cash assistance of ₹31,100 was given for purchasing oxygen cylinders.

RC Bhiwani Downtown — RID 3090



The club feted Aruna Tanwar from Dinod village, Bhiwani. She was selected for the Para Olympics to be held in Tokyo, to represent India in Taekwondo. With deformity in hands, she went through many hardships.

RC Panvel Industrial Town — RID 3131



A Covid vaccination centre was set up at the Rotary Community Centre with the help of Panvel Mahanagar Palika. Awareness is being created through flyers and campaign on social media.

RC Kanpur — RID 3110



UP minister Satish Mahana inaugurated a Rotary Mask Bank set up at the Rotary Shaheed Park in the presence of IPDG Dinesh Chand Shukla.

RC Solapur North — RID 3132



A cremation cage was donated to the local cemetery to reduce consumption of firewood and pollution caused by the open burning of corpses.

RC Sullurpet — RID 3160



A Happy School was inaugurated by IPDG Chinappa Reddy and DGE Vomina Sathish Babu. The project cost ₹4.95 lakh was sponsored by Rtn Balu Mohan Rao.

RC Bangalore North — RID 3190



Each day 350 dry ration kits and 100 freshly prepared food packets are being distributed to migrant families who are stuck in Bengaluru with no work or food.

RC Lote — RID 3170



Rtns Subhash Rahate, Shashank Reddy and Dr Sandeep Surve handed over a computer and two mobile phones to a primary health centre.

RC Coimbatore Green City — RID 3201



A computer lab was inaugurated at the Michel Job School under a CSR project worth ₹40 lakh. This was one of the 10 such labs set up by the club in different schools.

RC Kundapura South — RID 3182



Fifteen computer tables were distributed to Class 10 students at the Government High School, Chittooru, at Kundapura taluk. PDG ASN Hebbar and club's IPP Uttam Kumar Shetty were present.

RC Cannanore — RID 3204



Smartphones were presented to students of Talap Upper Primary School to enable them to attend online classes. The mobile phones were handed over to the parents teachers association.

RC Chengannur — RID 3211



A newly built house for the differently-abled, a signature project of the club, was presented by Dr Jose Joseph, principal, Government Medical College, Kottayam, to a beneficiary family.

RC Ranchi — RID 3250



The club's Covid vaccination centre inoculated 6,500 persons and the number is increasing each day. It is being held on the club's own premises with the support of local administration.

RC Yarn City Nagercoil — RID 3212



Hygiene kits worth ₹10 lakh were given to frontline workers such as policemen, nurses, disaster management staff and sanitary workers, in association with the AJM Foundation.

RC Cuttack Golden Star — RID 3262



The club sponsored breakfast to 40 inmates at the JJ Children's Home, an orphanage. Rotarians also planted 65 saplings and felicitated 30 doctors for their Covid relief work.

RC Guwahati City — RID 3240



The club, in association with RC Guwahati Metro, served food to 400 attendants of patients at the Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute in the city.

RC Calcutta Majestic — RID 3291



Food items including cookies, fruit juices and cornflakes were distributed at Prayas, a vocational training centre for special children.

Compiled by V Muthukumar

The absconding mali... and the impacted GDP

TCA Srinivasa Raghavan



Last week I had another fight with my wife because although we have been married since 1981, neither understands how the other's brain works. This time we fought over the *mali*, or gardener. Her view is that as long as our flower pots look ok, it's all right if he comes to work only 15 days, even though he is paid for the full month. My view is that he must come at least on 22–24 days. So we had a fight over those missing 7–9 days. I tried to explain to her that if he comes only on half the days, it means he is effectively doubling his salary. She said don't make a fuss over a paltry 50 rupees per day. I said it had nothing to do with the amount but the fact he was doubling his productivity, as measured by value addition, without working. This was totally unacceptable from the GDP measurement point of view. She told me exactly what I could do with my "idiotic obsession with economics".

This was not a thrust to be ignored and the battle escalated. I will not bore you with the details. Suffice it to say that I lost. The *mali* continues as before while I seethe with rage. What's worse, I think the rascal understands what's happened. So not only has he had the last laugh, he has also fooled the Indian statistical system and the government too. The Indian economy is

growing while its output is falling. All because of our *mali*.

Smarting after my loss of face, I exchanged notes with a friend who has an absolutely marvellous garden. Not just any old garden, but a splendid one on her terrace. It's got at least 50 varieties of plants which need very careful tending. That means she needs a good *mali*. I phoned her and asked her how her *mali* was. She laughed. He comes only when he feels he can no longer avoid coming, she said. That's for 10–12 days a month. On the remaining days, she said, she herself attends to the plants. Thus, her *mali* had gone one better. He had tripled his productivity and fooled the Central Statistical Organisation even more comprehensively than mine had. You have to admire these *mali* chaps. They are better than even bureaucrats who add no value but at least have to

**You have to admire
these *mali* chaps.**

**They are better than
even bureaucrats
who add no value but at
least have to turn up to
the office.**

turn up to the office. The *malis* of India don't even do that.

When I mentioned this to a highly pedantic friend of mine, he said two *malis* was too small a sample. So I set about collecting more data and what better place to do so than the university where my wife teaches? It sprawls over a few thousand acres. That means it needs a lot of *malis*. It quickly became apparent that these guys were on a different level altogether. They were collecting their salaries but working mostly in a very affluent neighbourhood, located close to the campus. The university salary was counted in the GDP numbers but the cash income from moonlighting was not.

However, output at the university was nearly zero. So once again it was the same story: high salary, no output. But while output in the private residential neighbourhood was very high, the income from it was not counted.

I asked my cousin who is a top flight econometrician. And he came back with an even bigger conundrum: soldiers during peacetime earn a salary but don't kill enemies. That is high salary, no output.

The logic is the same for *malis* and soldiers. They should be there when needed. As long as plants look ok and the country doesn't lose a war, who cares about a few rupees? As always, my wife had won not just the battle but the war as well. ■

In Brief

Michelangelo's fingerprints?



Museum experts at London's Victoria and Albert Museum have discovered fingerprints on a 500-year-old waxwork, titled *A Slave*. They believe that the prints pressed into the material belong to Michelangelo, the Italian sculptor, painter, architect and poet of the High Renaissance. The statue was part of his preparations for Pope Julius II's tomb in Rome. It depicts a young naked figure with its arm thrown across its face. Specialists first discovered the print on a dark red figurine, which was an initial sketch model for a larger unfinished marble sculpture.

\$12.3mn-diamond bought in cryptocurrency

An anonymous buyer has bought a pear-shaped, 101-carat diamond using his \$12.3 million cryptocurrency. The gemstone dubbed *The Key 10138* has become the most expensive jewel ever purchased with cryptocurrency, according to the auction house Sotheby's. The diamond was sold for the equivalent of \$12.3 million, after the auctioneer announced it was accepting offers in bitcoin and Ethereum, in addition to traditional forms of payment. Sotheby's has not disclosed which of the two cryptocurrencies had been used to make the purchase or the name of the buyer.



Sirisha, third Indian-origin woman to fly into space



Sirisha Bandla, a research operations and government affairs vice-president at Virgin Galactic, joined British billionaire Richard Branson and four others on

board SpaceShipTwo Unity to make a journey to space. The Andhra Pradesh-born researcher was scheduled to conduct experiments designed by NASA involving plants in microgravity. She became the third Indian-American woman to fly into space after Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.

Lego LGBTQ set



Inspired by the classic rainbow flag — symbol of solidarity for the LGBTQ community — and to help families let their LGBT children know that they are loved and accepted, toymaker Lego has

released an LGBTQ-themed set that contains 346 pieces and 11 figures, each with an assigned rainbow colour. The set designer Matthew Ashton, vice-president, design, said in a release that he “wanted to create a model that symbolised inclusivity and celebrated everyone, no matter how they identify or who they love.”



3D-printed house

Setting the tone for the future of affordable homes, Project Milestone, a joint construction and innovation project from Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands, the local municipality, real estate investor Vesteda and three construction sector specialists, built the country's first 3D-printed house. The home has a spacious living room and two bedrooms and consists of 24 concrete elements that were printed at a plant in Eindhoven within five days and transported to the building site. The digital key of the house was handed over to a Dutch couple.

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