

ROTARY NEWS



India at
International
Assembly

Rotary India at the 2017 International Assembly

As every year, during the Grand March, the incoming batch of Indian DGEs and their spouses stole the limelight, donning a myriad of bright and vibrant hues. This time around, the oranges and

yellows predominated, and other participants never tired of clicking and capturing the colours of India.

Text and pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat



12 Gender imbalance a big challenge before Rotary

At the International Assembly, RIPE Ian Riseley highlighted the need to induct more women and inject young blood into Rotary.



Inside

20 Group study exchanges back in a new cultural avatar

Beginning July 1 this year, Rotarians can plan group cultural exchanges, or GCEs, announced RIPE Ian Riseley at the San Diego International Assembly.

46 Rotary will touch 5 million children through 23,000 schools in WinS

WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta and RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta share the road travelled so far in WinS and Literacy, at the DDZI.

50 In Mumbai, anything is possible

Mumbai always manages to pull out surprises and this year's DisCon of D 3141 was no surprise.



62 Demonetisation won't be a bonanza for banks

An account of how demonetisation impacts the banking sector.

64 Shed that Stress

Ninety-nine per cent of our stress is self-created, and the lock is on our side of the door.



68 In the land of strawberries

Comfort for the soul, bliss for the mind and wholesome rejuvenation are the takeaways from the Saj Resorts, Mahabaleshwar.

On the cover: What can capture more graphically than the jasmine flower, the beauty, vibrance and fragrance of India? A glimpse of India at the International dinner in San Diego.

Picture by Rasheeda Bhagat.



22 India is enthused... about giving

TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee talks about the generosity of Indian Rotarians and other issues related to TRF.



32 Overcoming challenges, restoring dignity

In an exhaustive interview, PRIP Rajendra Saboo discusses the challenges and excitement of the African and Indian Medical Missions undertaken by Indian Rotarians.

A good New Year begins

The New Year issue of *Rotary News* is exhilarating. The Editorial team has done a good job in covering the Zone Institute with an apt title *Dazzling Dubai*. The box *Short course in human relations* gives the five most important words (I have made a mistake) for 365 successful days, one day at a time, for the benefit of the DGEs. All the photographs have virtually taken us to dazzling Dubai. The article *All about partnerships* vividly explains about choosing the right partners in order to cover our weaknesses. The article, *From Perito Moreno, with love* gave us a glimpse of the majestic glacier.

The self-employment venture through Rotary and Singer was well covered, the merits and de-merits of demonetisation were simply and briefly explained in the article, *Black money is like blood cancer*. The secret of longevity is better understood by reading the article, *Sitting is the new smoking*. Many thanks once again to the Editorial team for bringing out a nice issue with exhaustive coverage.

KMK Murthy
RC Secunderabad – D 3150

The January 2017 issue is fantastic with full coverage and important speeches by Rotary leaders at the Zone Institute in Dubai. The issue covers all future plans of Rotary. Kudos to the organisers for selecting Dubai for the prestigious meet and selecting the theme *Nothing is impossible* which

is apt for a small city like Dubai which has already proved it to the world.

Also, the RI President in his speech mentions about a mantra that Rotarians should work not as individuals but as a team, only then they will see greater success. Wish *Rotary News* achieves greater heights in the coming days.

MT Philip RC Trivandrum
Suburban – D 3211



The January edition is fabulous. The coverage of the DDZI event is so detailed and presented a complete picture of the event to all those who could not make it. Such were the minute details in the Institute coverage that I felt as if I had attended the event! Kudos to the editorial team.

Harish Kumar
RC Bengaluru Southend - D 3190

I was not a delegate at the Zone Institute in Dubai and so, don't know how much the delegates enjoyed; though, I enjoyed a lot reading your Editorial. It makes me feel how unfortunate that I was not there for the event.

Not this piece alone, but many of your Editorials make us feel thrilled as well as informed. Let me reiterate that at the very outset of your taking charge of *Rotary News*, you have brought glamour and readership to our magazine.

Korukonda Butchi Raju
RC Anakapalle – D 3020

Missing: Cartoons and Jokes

I was happy to read the full coverage of Dubai Institute in the January issue. Being a regular reader, I observe that a page for cartoon and jokes is missing for some time. Kindly give some space to these, to add a lighter touch to the magazine.

Krishna Shalwadi
RC Hubli East – D 3170

offering a 10 per cent discount on air tickets for domestic and international travel is informative. I hope the discount will continue for the whole year. Rotary leaders should ensure this by using their good offices.

K Devarajan
RC Coimbatore East – D 3201

Exotica, not erotica

Some of us were shocked to see the cover page of the January issue. Understood there was entertainment

at Dubai for delegates and a mix of dazzle and exotica, but surely not erotica. What has an almost nude picture on cover page got to do with what Rotary represents? Kindly share with Rotarians the logic behind the cover page picture.

Parimal Vasavada,
RC Ahmedabad Metro – D 3051

Wanted: More health articles

The January issue of *Rotary News* was a good read. The article,

The January 2017 issue has many useful content. Jet Airways

Sitting is the new smoking, on sitting being as dangerous as smoking is an eye-opener. This should be well propagated especially to persons working in the software industry and other desk-bound jobs. Please continue to publish such articles on health and nutrition to help Rotarians and others.

Dr NK Srinivasan,
RC Cuddalore – D 2981

Black money and blood cancer

The article *Black money is like blood cancer* was well written. It was heartening to find the writer handling the subject in an impartial way without leaning on any side. It was a good analysis of the demonetisation issue with a thorough understanding of all the pros and cons. Thank you for giving space for such honest writers.

Sujata Srinivasan, Charter President
RC Cuddalore Central – D 2981

A Lion's response

I am an 83-year-old retired person and my son Deepak Agarwal is member of RC Siliguri Midtown.

Interact with members of RC Shanghai

There will be a rare opportunity for Indian Rotarians to meet and exchange bilateral Rotary activities with members of RC Shanghai, China, on April 18. The meeting is part of an 8-day tour — Wonders of China (April 17 – 25), which includes a visit to Beijing, Shanghai and Harbin, bordering Russia, Mongolia and Siberia. Interested Rotarians can contact omprakash@inorbittours.com. Tel: 022-24229281/40436868
Om Prakash Sahgal – D 3141

Wonderful December issue

Hats off to you for the December issue which was so interesting to read, from cover to cover — starting with a soothing colour design on the cover page, with a child looking at us and the doctor looking happy that he had saved the child's life.

I agree with PDG JV Reddy (RI Dist 3160) that in the name of increasing our membership, perhaps to overtake some other organisations, we are relaxing a lot of rules, including the "throwing open the door to lesser meetings, e-meetings, recruiting members for increasing the numbers and throwing away the 'classification principle'". I think this will not solve our problem; that is if there is indeed a problem!

My head bows in reverence and appreciation to Annadurai, the Chennai auto driver, who is an unsung hero! I have shared this message with many of my students in schools which I visit and encouraged them to act

like Annadurai and make their parents do so too. I earnestly believe that every city, town and village must be having such Indians who are passionate about making their customers satisfied by increasing their comfort level, and thus growing in the process. We need more such articles to bring them to the forefront.

Coming to the RI President's message, touching upon engineers who make so many gadgets, machines etc. that we use and need, I firmly believe that every viable professional does this, be it a cook or an *ayah* in the house, the sweeper on the streets, etc.

The article *Live undistracted live focused* is superb. I like every word in it and especially the last paragraph on "practise the art of calm abiding in solitude."

Once again, you have given us a very good issue. Thank you Rasheeda and Team Rotary News.

Nan Narayenen
RC Madurai West, D 3000



Every month I eagerly wait for *Rotary News*. I am highly impressed by your excellent coverage of several activities and events of various clubs.

Your November *Rotary News* has revealed to me something really heartening about the hearing impaired children (*Giving one more life*). I am myself short of hearing. I was the vice president of a deaf and dumb

school near Bandel, about 60 km from Kolkata. I was also involved with the Lions and had served as deputy district governor.

All my best wishes to the great Rotarians and particularly to you and your team for your outstanding coverage of articles and excellent photographs. God bless you all.

B R Agarwal

We welcome your feedback. Write to the Editor: rotarynews@rosaonline.org; rushbhagat@gmail.com

Governors Council

RI Dist 2981	DG	A Mani
RI Dist 2982	DG	T Shanmugasundaram
RI Dist 3000	DG	M Muruganandam
RI Dist 3011	DG	Dr N Subramanian
RI Dist 3012	DG	Sharat Jain
RI Dist 3020	DG	Dr S V S Rao
RI Dist 3030	DG	Mahesh H Mokalkar
RI Dist 3040	DG	Darshan Singh Gandhi
RI Dist 3051	DG	Dinesh Kumar V Thacker
RI Dist 3052	DG	Ramesh Choudhary
RI Dist 3053	DG	Bhupendra Jain
RI Dist 3060	DG	Hitesh Manharlal Jariwala
RI Dist 3070	DG	Dr Sarbjeet Singh
RI Dist 3080	DG	Raman Aneja
RI Dist 3090	DG	Sanjay Gupta
RI Dist 3110	DG	Dr Ravi Mehra
RI Dist 3120	DG	Dr Pramod Kumar
RI Dist 3131	DG	Prashant Deshmukh
RI Dist 3132	DG	Pramod Shashikant Parikh
RI Dist 3141	DG	Gopal Rai Mandhania
RI Dist 3142	DG	Dr Chandrashekhar Kolvekar
RI Dist 3150	DG	Ratna Prabhakar Anne
RI Dist 3160	DG	Sreerama Murthy
RI Dist 3170	DG	Dr Vinaykumar Pai Raikar
RI Dist 3181	DG	Dr R S Nagarjuna
RI Dist 3182	DG	Devarunda Subbegowda Ravi
RI Dist 3190	DG	H R Ananth
RI Dist 3201	DG	Dr Prakash Chandran Arackal
RI Dist 3202	DG	Dr Jayaprakash P Upadhya
RI Dist 3211	DG	Dr John Daniel
RI Dist 3212	DG	Dr K Vijayakumar
RI Dist 3230	DG	Natarajan Nagoji
RI Dist 3240	DG	Dr Rintu Guha Niyogi
RI Dist 3250	DG	Dr R Bharat
RI Dist 3261	DG	Deepak Mehta
RI Dist 3262	DG	Narayan Nayak
RI Dist 3291	DG	Shyamashree Sen

Board of Permanent Trustees & Executive Committee

PRIP	Rajendra K Saboo	RI Dist 3080
PRIP	Kalyan Banerjee	RI Dist 3060
PRID	Sudarshan Agarwal	RI Dist 3011
PRID	Panduranga Setty	RI Dist 3190
PRID	Sushil Gupta	RI Dist 3011
PRID	Ashok Mahajan	RI Dist 3140
PRID	Yash Pal Das	RI Dist 3080
PRID	Shekhar Mehta	RI Dist 3291
PRID	P T Prabhakar	RI Dist 3230
RID	Dr Manoj D Desai	RI Dist 3060
RIDE	C Basker	RI Dist 3000

Executive Committee Members (2016–17)

DG	M Muruganandam	RI Dist 3000
	Chair - Governors Council	
DG	Shyamashree Sen	RI Dist 3291
	Secretary - Governors Council	
DG	Sarbjeet Singh	RI Dist 3070
	Secretary - Executive Committee	
DG	Natarajan Nagoji	RI Dist 3230
	Treasurer - Executive Committee	
DG	Gopal Rai Mandhania	RI Dist 3141
	Member - Advisory Committee	

ROTARY NEWS / ROTARY SAMACHAR

Editor	Senior Assistant Editor
Rasheeda Bhagat	Jaishree Padmanabhan

Send all correspondence and subscriptions to

ROTARY NEWS TRUST
3rd Floor, Dugar Towers, 34 Marshalls Road
Egmore, Chennai 600 008, India.
Phone : 044 42145666
e-mail : rotarynews@rosaonline.org
Website : www.rotarynewsonline.org

Printed by Mukesh Arneja at Thomson Press (India) Ltd, Plot A-9, Industrial Complex, Maraimalai Nagar 603209, India and published by Mukesh Arneja on behalf of Rotary News Trust from Dugar Towers, 3rd Flr, 34, Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008.
Editor: Rasheeda Bhagat.

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Editor or Trustees of Rotary News Trust or Rotary International. No liability can be accepted for any loss arising from editorial or advertisement content. Contributions – original content – is welcome but the Editor reserves the right to edit for clarity or length. Content can be reproduced, but with permission from RNT.



You are making a difference

As incoming RI President Ian Riseley unveiled his theme for the Rotary year 2017–18 — *Rotary: Making a difference* —, before the mind's eye flashed a rapid series of projects that Rotary has done in India and which I've seen up and close during the 28 months that I've edited *Rotary News*.

Who can forget Rotary's lightning response when the flash floods devastated the Garhwal Himalayas, particularly Kedarnath. "We learnt of it before the government; the CM was not here; the Rudraprayag Collector was hospitalised," PDG Prem Bhalla from D 3080 said. The very next day, June 17, 2013, all the 82 clubs in the District were asked to go into austerity mode, the July 1 installations were done on low key. The money saved, and more collected, was pooled to help the Uttarakhand flood victims. The Rotary Uttarakhand Disaster Relief Trust, headed by PRID Yash Pal Das, was formed and it undertook the task of building 32 quality schools. And even as I am in San Diego, Das tells me proudly: "Just now we've handed over the last batch of the 32 schools to the Government, and these schools will make a difference in the lives of about 1,600 students in remote areas."

How can I forget the toothless grin of an old woman from a remote, interior village in Rajasthan's Sikar district, and her whisper: "This year I made Rs 1 lakh by selling fish which a contractor had put in the check dam built by Rotary?"

It was virtual greening of the desert that these check dams built by the Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT), under the leadership of TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, and in partnership with the PHD Rural Development Foundation, that created this magic. When I visited a few check dams in November 2014, the availability of the precious commodity called water had multiplied the income of over 600,000 villagers in farming families in Rajasthan's Sikar and Alwar districts. Instead of the earlier single crop, the farmers were now harvesting three crops. The ultimate benefit: the project had not

only stopped migration; it had reversed it and children of farmers who had already left the villages to work in menial jobs in Delhi and other cities were returning.

Then there is the School for Special Children built by RC Trivandrum, D 3211. Established in 1964, the 52-year-old institute had classrooms and hostels for boys and girls and served as a multifocal treatment-cum-training centre for mentally challenged children. Take Karunashraya (abode of compassion in Kannada) set up by Dr Nagesh Simha, a former consultant surgeon at Manipal Hospital, that provides professional palliative care to advanced cancer patients. A joint endeavour of RC Bangalore Indiranagar, D 3190, and the Indian Cancer Society, Karnataka Chapter, it gives dignity and care to the dying.

Cross over from the South to the West and the village of Katarvad near Baroda in Gujarat, and the matching grant project of over \$105,000 implemented by RC Baroda Metro, D 3060, in partnership with RC Ashiyana, Japan, has totally transformed the lives of the villagers. Check dams, community wells, model houses, and training in profitable farming practices and a host of other activities had totally transformed the village, shooting up confidence levels of the villagers. Here I met Leelaben, whose twinkling eyes will stay in my memory forever. When she advised the women of the village never to undermine themselves, but work alongside their men to create a better future for their children, she was not mouthing empty homilies on women's empowerment, she was a living example of it.

Indian Rotarians can be proud that they are transforming lives and making a real difference. What the 2017–18 theme will do is to further enthuse them to do even more.

Rasheeda Bhagat

The world needs Rotary more than ever

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

On 23 February, we will mark 112 years since the founding of Rotary. It is incredible to think about how much has changed, in our world and in our organisation, since the first Rotary club met in Chicago with Paul Harris as its president.

Some things are easy to compare between now and 1905. There have been changes in technology, medicine and society. When we look at a map of the world in 1905 and a map of the world today, we can see what's different. What we can't do is compare what is with what might have been. There is no way to compare our world as it exists now with the world as it would have been without Rotary.

Rotary has risen to so many challenges in its 112 years. We've answered conflict with peace, and poverty with education. We've responded to a lack of basic health care with projects large and small, from equipping clinics in tiny villages to eradicating polio across the globe.

We will never know how different the world would have been if Rotary had never been founded; if any one Rotary club had never been chartered; or if any single Rotarian had declined the invitation to join a Rotary club.

But I will say, with absolute faith and complete confidence, that the world is a far, far better place now than it would have been without Rotary and that Rotary itself is stronger because of every one of you.

The world needs Rotary more than ever. It needs our courage, our optimism, and our idealism. It needs the voice of tolerance, cooperation, and hope that we can offer. It needs the example of an organisation that has proven that the citizens of all countries can work together successfully, gladly, and in friendship.

None of us ever knows the full impact of our actions. None of us knows the effects that will ripple out from the things we do and say, the decisions we make, the opportunities we seize, and those we let pass. But I think we all know that when we choose to do good, good will follow; and that when we choose Service Above Self as our life's path, the direction it will take us will be a good one.

No one can see the future. No one knows what changes lie ahead. But I have faith in Rotary, and in Rotarians, that with every passing year, you will make our world a better place through *Rotary Serving Humanity*.



John F. Germ
President, Rotary International



Secret of Rotary's success

Hello my dear friends,

I am writing this from San Diego. Every time I come here for the International Assembly, I am impressed, just the way you all past Governors can't forget this experience.

I firmly believe that the great international experience we get here, get trained, make friends for life and get inspired by 'Enter to Learn & Go forth to Serve' holds the secret to Rotary's success.



Rasheeda Bhagat

Friends, think of it like this. If each District Governor makes training important and fascinating, your districts will be vibrant. I request you to focus on this and not dilute the importance of training.

Here is the theme for 2017–18 that President Elect Ian Riseley released with excerpts from his speech at the Assembly:

Rotary: Making a Difference

Some years ago, a new acquaintance asked me what should have been a simple question: "What is Rotary?" I opened my mouth to reply and then stopped short with the realisation that I simply did not know where to begin. The problem wasn't that I didn't know what Rotary was. The problem was that Rotary was and is too large and complex to easily define. We are a member-based, club-based and a service-based organisation; we are local, regional, and international; we are community members, businesspeople and professionals, working and retired, active in nearly every country in the world. Every one of our 1.2 million members has a unique set of goals, experiences and priorities; every one of us has a unique understanding of Rotary. To me, Rotary is defined not by who we are, but by what we do, by the potential that Rotary gives us, and the ways we realise that potential in meaningful and lasting service.... In our fundamentals, however, we remain the same: an organisation of people with the desire

At the International Assembly with Sharmishtha.

and through Rotary, the ability to make a difference in our communities, and the world. We answer the question "What is Rotary?" with our actions, by making a difference through our service....

As Rotarians, we have more flexibility than ever to decide how we want our clubs to meet, work and grow. We're focused more than ever on making sure that Rotary reflects the people it serves.... And we're working hard to ensure that Rotary remains the world's pre-eminent volunteer service organisation, by emphasising long-term planning, sustainable service and continuity in leadership on every level. In 2017–18, we will answer the question: "What is Rotary?" with the theme *Rotary: Making a Difference*. Whether we are building a new playground or a new school, improving medical care or sanitation, training conflict mediators or midwives, we know that the work we do will change people's lives in ways large and small.... Whatever motivation each of us had for joining Rotary, it is the satisfaction we find in Rotary that causes us to remain, the satisfaction of knowing that week by week, year by year, we are part of *Rotary: Making a Difference*. (Please visit Rotary website for complete text of the speech).

Manoj Desai
Director, Rotary International

Our Foundation's long commitment to peace

This February, let's celebrate the success of our Rotary Peace Centres and the important work that graduates of the programme are doing throughout the world to honour Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month. I think it's also important to note that the launch of the peace centres in 2002 built on many decades of peacebuilding efforts supported by our Foundation.

In the 1930s, clubs in France and Germany formed the first *petit comité*, now known as an intercountry committee. Both countries were still recovering from a devastating war, but the former adversaries knew that peace, however fragile, was worth keeping. Although a second world war dashed their hopes, these peace-minded Rotarians reconvened in 1950. Since then, Rotarians have formed 250 intercountry committees to promote international friendship and service.

Rotarians have long believed that international understanding develops most quickly through personal relationships. Before study abroad programmes and international business travel became commonplace, our Foundation sent scholars and young professionals to other countries to experience different ways of living and doing business. For many participants, these life-changing adventures helped them view the world through the eyes of their hosts, who often became close friends.

Every year, our Foundation allocates millions of dollars for projects that attack the root causes of conflict — lack of access to education, health care, economic opportunity, clean water, and adequate sanitation. Our global grants have a unique requirement that moves the needle on peace even further: To qualify, project sponsors must include clubs from at least two countries. In addition to combining local knowledge with international and Foundation resources, these projects build friendships that often lead to long-lasting service relationships between the sponsoring clubs.

Of course, one of the best places to form international friendships is at our annual convention, where Rotarians from dozens of countries come together. This year in Atlanta, we will celebrate The Rotary Foundation's 100 years of Doing Good in the World. I hope you will join me and thousands of your fellow Rotarians for the biggest birthday party of the year!

A portrait of Kalyan Banerjee, an elderly man with glasses, wearing a white Nehru-style jacket with a red flower on the lapel. He is smiling and looking towards the camera.

Kalyan Banerjee

Kalyan Banerjee
Foundation Trustee Chair



DONATE LIBERALLY

Childhood Cancer
is highly treatable and curable
Your donation will help save lives



More children than ever before are surviving cancer.

Most type of Cancers can be cured completely but either there were not many facilities equipped for the same or people were not aware. The reasons were varied, some patient specific and some trivial. For instance, not having the money to travel to the hospital or nobody to accompany them here, not being told that the disease can be totally cured in four or five sittings, etc.

Statistics reveal that, every year around 6000 to 8000 children are diagnosed with cancer in our state. The overall cure rate in our state is estimated to be a dismal 10% when compared to the worldwide standard of 90%.

40% of those children belong to BPL. Cancer treatment is very expensive and is beyond affordability for these people, resulting in mortality. Children of disadvantaged class have no means or financial support. Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute (BIACHRI) helps such people in terms of providing free treatment through generous donations from patrons like you. The treatment comprises of chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery, on need basis.

We truly appreciate your generous support in our endeavor to improve the care of children battling with cancer. Your contribution is entitled to IT benefits under Section 80 G of Income Tax Act.

The Donations received are accounted separately and judiciously spent for the purpose mentioned

We are offering donors of Rs. 50,000 and above a complimentary cancer check for self & Spouse, Rs. 25,000/- and above a complimentary cancer check for self & Rs. 10,000/- we are offering 10% discount on cancer screening for self.

For appointments please contact +91 95537 98500, +91 98493 98879

For those using EFT/ NEFT/ RTGS payment System INR donations to the following Bank Account.

Name of the Account: Smt. Nandamuri Basavataraka Rama Rao Memorial Cancer Foundation Corpus Fund A/c.

Bank Account No.: 151411100000070

Name & Address of the Bank: Andhra Bank, Road No.14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034

MICR Code No.: 500011118 | IFSC Code No.: ANDB0001514 | SWIFT Code: ANDBINBB

You can also pay Online or with your Credit Card. Visit our www.induscancer.com

Please download form from our website and send in duly filled along with your cheque/ DD to the below address



Dept. of Corporate Affairs and Strategic Alliance
**BASAVATARAKAM INDO-AMERICAN
CANCER HOSPITAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Promoted by Smt. Nandamuri Basavataraka Ramarao Memorial Cancer Foundation
and Indo-American Cancer Organisation

Road No. 14, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500 034 India T: +91 40 2355 1235 Ext. 2315



WINNER 2015

CNBC TV18 & IICI LOMBARD
India Healthcare Awards, 2014

**Best Single Speciality Hospital
"ONCOLOGY"**

Amongst India's
15 Best Cancer Hospitals
The WEEK-NIELSEN Survey, 2013 & 2014

www.induscancer.com

Toll-free: 1800 4253 6666

Gender imbalance a big challenge before Rotary

Rasheeda Bhagat

Unveiling his theme for the Rotary year 2017–18 as *Rotary: Making a Difference*, incoming RI President Elect Ian Riseley made a strong statement for including more women and younger members in Rotary. “When we look at the challenges which we have to address in the coming years, two of them stand out to me; one is the gender imbalance in our membership and the other is the average age of Rotarians.”

It was “20 years since our Council on Legislation voted to admit women members in our Rotary clubs. And yet the percentage of women is just a little above 20 per cent, up from 13 per cent 10 years ago.”

At this rate, it would take Rotary another three decades to get “gender parity” with as many women, as men, in the Rotary clubs, Riseley said, addressing the 2017–18 batch of incoming District Governors at the International Assembly in San Diego.

We need more women

“We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone.

Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now,” he said.

Noting that 103 of the 539 incoming governors are women, Riseley said to the women DGEs in the group: “You

are the finest examples of the women we need in Rotary, women as leaders who Rotary will connect with, represent, and better serve all of the members of all our communities.”

The second challenge before Rotary was the age of its members. “Paul Harris was only 26 years when he founded Rotary; today only 5 per cent of our reported membership is under the age of 40. The great majority of our members are aged over 60.” And this figure too was based on “age-reporting that covers only half our membership base. It doesn’t even include the people who don’t want to tell us how old they are!”

To peels of laughter in the hall, he added: “Now think about it for a moment and then consider what Rotary stands to look like 10 or 20 years from now if we don’t get very serious, very soon, about bringing in younger members,” Riseley said, adding, “this is essential for our organisation to flourish.”

Another urgent necessity before Rotary, an important aspect of the sustainability principle that it believed in, and “that underpins all that we stand for, but is too little talked about, but which we can no longer put aside, is the sustainability of our planet.”



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



RIPE Ian H S Riseley
announcing his theme,
*Rotary: Making a
Difference*, at the
International Assembly.



In 1990, RI President Paulo Costa had called upon Rotarians to preserve planet earth, and this had become “even more relevant today as environmental degradation and climate change threaten us all.”

These two threats were even more dangerous to “those towards whom Rotary has the greatest responsibility. Yet environmental issues barely register on the Rotary agenda. The time is long past when environmental sustainability can be dismissed as

not Rotary’s concern. It is and must be, everybody’s concern,” he said.

One tree for every Rotarian

Saying this, the RIPE made an impassioned plea to all Rotary clubs to plant trees; one for each of its members “sometime between the start of the new Rotary year (1 July) and Earth Day which is on 22 April, 2018. The environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring will be immense.”

Even more important, “it recognises our responsibility not only to the people of the planet but the planet itself!”

Another strategic priority before Rotary was increasing its humanitarian service, Riseley said. Of the six focus areas of Rotary, one was sustainability. Rotarians “don’t dig wells and walk away”; they make sure that the clinics they built keep running and “when it comes to polio, we aren’t just working to contain it, we are working to end it. It is an investment that will yield not just a long-lasting but a permanent benefit on a global scale, because polio is unique in Rotary’s history. It tells us what we are capable of achieving and should be a model for all our services.” It demonstrated effectively that the best way to do any work is to “do it for sustainability and in partnership with others”.

The President-elect said the three priorities the RI Board had set in its Strategic Plan were to support and strengthen Rotary clubs, increase its

The Governor told me the International Assembly would be a life changing experience and the greatest thing that ever happened to me in Rotary. He said it so often, that I got a bit tired of it.”

humanitarian services and enhance Rotary's public image.

While the TRF grants process would be simplified, the clubs would be strengthened in various ways and "there will be a far more effective Rotary Club Central which will be faster, easier to use, mobile-friendly, and an essential tool for every club." Riseley added.

"We know that we can do more together than we could ever hope to do alone," he told the DGEs. "I ask you to keep that spirit of teamwork and cooperation always in your minds and to take it back with you to your districts."

Earlier, welcoming the class of 2017-18 DGs, RI President John Germ said, "The International Assembly is designed to provide you with training, information and inspiration to prepare you for the upcoming year.



RI President John F. Germ and Judy Germ.

Life changing experience



Addressing the inaugural session of the International Assembly, incoming RI President Ian Riseley said the hall filled with the incoming Governors reminded him of his own IA 20 years ago, "and how the current Governor told me in no uncertain terms that the International Assembly would be a life changing

experience and the greatest thing that ever happened to me in Rotary. He said it so often that I got a bit tired of it."

"I felt that an IA should be heaps of fun, a lot of hard work, but I didn't expect it to change my life. It might shock you all to find that I was right. My International Assembly did not change my life. It was fun, we worked incredibly hard, learned a lot and went home with our heads swimming, made friends. It was a wonderful experience but it wasn't life changing."

But the year that followed was; not seven days in a hotel with his fellow DGEs, "but the 365 days as a DG, seeing the difference that Rotary could make if I did my job well." He saw for himself how he and his district could, and would, change lives. "You and I are beginning here something tremendous together... an experience that will change the lives of people who we don't know, or might never meet. In fact what we do after we leave from here is what makes the real difference... we are here to help mankind and build a Rotary that is sustainable."

Our goal is to increase your Rotary knowledge, bring you up-to-date on the challenges we face, broaden your experience of Rotary's internationality, ask you to exemplify the Rotary ideal of *Service Above Self*, and above all, have fun."

They would be prepared for their journey as DGs by a dedicated and expert team of general officers, training leaders, and others. At the Assembly, along with their batchmates, they would also have an opportunity to meet RI Board members, Foundation trustees, and past RI Presidents. "Use every opportunity to mingle and meet with them and advance your knowledge of Rotary. By the end of the intensive but rewarding week of training, you will be fully prepared to assist Rotarians in your district and to accomplish Rotary's 2017-18 goals. We know you will develop fond memories of the time we spend together at the International Assembly as you join the ranks of distinguished Rotary leaders," added Germ wishing them a successful year as Governors.

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat

WELCOME TO

GREAT

BRITAIN



The view from Victoria Tower, England
©VisitEngland

#OMGB

GREAT BRITAIN. HOME OF AMAZING MOMENTS.

A holiday in Great Britain will be a dream come true. Enjoy sweeping views of **London's** famous streets, churches and monuments from the London Eye. Rub noses with celebrities at Madam Tussauds, linger at the incredible Natural History Museum, soak in the glory of the erstwhile British Empire on a Champagne cruise down the legendary Thames. Stop by at the famous university town of **Oxford**, as you ascend the gently rolling hills of Cotswolds on your way to the birthplace of William Shakespeare, **Stratford-upon-Avon**. Step into fearsome dungeons and fragrant gardens, as you go back a thousand years at medieval Warwick Castle. Dive into an underwater world of sharks, seahorses and starfish at Sea Life Manchester. Explore the rugged moorland and lush meadows of the **Peak District**, pay your respects at hallowed Old Trafford, **Manchester's** Theatre of Dreams. Marvel at stately Edinburgh Castle, on a stroll across the cobbled streets of **Edinburgh**, the capital of **Scotland**. Unearth the secrets of the Royal Mile, embark on a unique Scotch Whisky Experience, scour the Scottish Highlands for the elusive **Loch Ness** monster.

Experience Great Britain on a holiday with Mercury Travels. Every moment will stay with you for life.

Legendary Highlights of United Kingdom (9N/10D): Covering London, Manchester, Edinburgh & Surrounds

Email : outbound@mercurytravels.in

www.mercurytravels.co.in

MERCURY TRAVELS

Experiences that take you far. Experiences that bring you closer.

HOLIDAYS | FOREIGN EXCHANGE | BUSINESS TRAVEL | INCENTIVES | TRAVEL INSURANCE

Call Mercury Travels at Mumbai: 022 6615 3477-82 | Ahmedabad: 079 4004 9913-15 | Bangalore: 080 4241 3005-06 | Chennai: 044 2852 2840-2995
Kolkata: 033 6626 8400-8404 | New Delhi: 011 4518 6121/11/08/00 | Pune: 020 6725 1300-02 | Secunderabad: 040 2781 9232/9200 | Email us at
outbound@mercurytravels.in or log on to www.mercurytravels.co.in | Join us on [f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [g](#)
mezzanine.co.in

India sparkles at San Diego





Spouses of Indian DGEs with RIDE C Basker and Malathi.



From left: Sonal and DGEs Maullin Patel, Sanjay Giri, D M Shivraj, Ravi Choudhary and Ritu.



From left: DGEs Vivek Kumar, R Srinivasan, PDG A S Venkatesh with RID Manoj Desai.



The Indian contingent at the Grand March.



From left: Prabha and DGE Sattish Singhal, Vidyottama Sharma, Sohangi and DGE Ruchir A Jani.



DGEs and their spouses with RIDE C Basker and Malathi.



DGE R Srinivasan and Sujatha with international delegates.



From left: DGE Ovais Kohari (D 3271), Aaliya Kohari, DGE Brojo Gopal Kundu, Bandana and DGE Zamin Hussain.



In their traditional best.

District Wise TRF Contributions as on December 2016

(in US Dollars)

District Number	APF	PolioPlus*	Other Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions
India					
2981	1,10,561	3,021	0	0	1,13,582
2982	18,298	2,799	0	0	21,097
3000	1,14,408	0	69,000	50,000	2,33,408
3011	76,450	274	2,028	0	78,752
3012	1,21,799	1,067	40,381	0	1,63,248
3020	26,648	12,958	0	71,643	1,11,250
3030	9,055	0	91,448	8,500	1,09,002
3040	104	0	10,000	0	10,104
3051	9,340	27	0	0	9,367
3052	(26,925)	0	26,925	0	0
3053	227	0	0	0	227
3060	62,925	100	14,706	48,351	1,26,082
3070	50,602	769	6,191	0	57,562
3080	17,582	13,245	40,557	17,333	88,717
3090	34,813	0	0	0	34,813
3110	20,134	26,371	0	0	46,505
3120	13,266	149	0	0	13,415
3131	1,88,012	24,864	1,47,074	1,09,955	4,69,905
3132	36,034	1,855	11,025	0	48,915
3141	2,62,152	13,525	1,58,311	3,640	4,37,628
3142	86,293	0	5,250	1,000	92,543
3150	1,23,411	7,444	26,241	87,585	2,44,681
3160	48,479	555	0	0	49,035
3170	33,218	3,498	(2,944)	50,000	83,773
3181	1,06,739	0	21,470	0	1,28,209
3182	16,317	2,287	0	25,373	43,977
3190	21,036	(12,306)	64,900	0	73,630
3201	30,204	664	1,015	0	31,883
3202	18,223	200	0	0	18,423
3211	38,527	1,015	1,400	1,015	41,957
3212	46,994	1,600	0	1,000	49,594
3230	1,25,903	177	41,629	12,500	1,80,209
3240	60,678	1,262	0	2,866	64,805
3250	9,640	0	722	0	10,362
3261	9,834	100	0	0	9,934
3262	67,110	3,873	90,260	2,000	1,63,242
3291	76,172	0	44,619	0	1,20,791
India Total	20,66,290	1,11,392	9,12,209	4,92,761	35,82,652
3220 Sri Lanka	40,931	25	100	11,043	52,100
3271 Pakistan	46,140	7,012	0	100	53,252
3272 Pakistan	75,806	21,592	0	3,000	1,00,397
3281 Bangladesh	1,06,209	4,050	11,850	6,100	1,28,209
3282 Bangladesh	39,367	0	0	2,000	41,367
3292 Nepal	1,08,905	1,100	1,22,997	0	2,33,002
South Asia Total	24,83,648	1,45,170	10,47,156	5,15,004	41,90,979
World Total	6,12,73,961	1,38,34,916	55,77,145	1,33,68,057	9,40,54,078

* Excludes Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: RI South Asia Office

WHERE WILL ROTARY
GLOBAL REWARDS
TAKE YOU?



THE MEMBER BENEFIT
PROGRAMME THAT
OPENS UP A WORLD
OF OPPORTUNITIES.



SEE MORE AT ROTARY.ORG/
GLOBALREWARDS

Group study exchanges back in a new cultural avatar

Rasheeda Bhagat

RI President Elect Ian Riseley announced at the International Assembly a modified and new version of the earlier and immensely popular GSE (Group Study Exchange) programme. “Many Rotarians, myself included, miss the cultural aspect of the old programme. The opportunity to build world understanding and peace through a short exchange of our best and brightest people.” Some districts have continued with the programme, he said, but “many leaders within those districts say they have difficulty in locating the exchange partners... because right now there is no process or mechanism for sharing this information.”

So the RI Board had debated “how do we meet this need? How do we make it happen?” Riseley said he found an opportunity for such exchanges “already existed in a limited way under the Rotary friendship exchange policy.” So he had requested the Board to make a change in the existing policy. The amendment has now been made and from “July 1, 2017, we encourage you to plan group cultural exchanges, or GCEs, which will be run under the banner of the Rotary Friendship Exchange

Programme and it will include both Rotarians and non-Rotarians.”

Riseley clarified the districts would have the flexibility to formulate their own programmes and “that programme isn’t intended to replace any other programme, such as the VTTs that the clubs presently undertake. It simply provides another avenue for building world understanding, allowing us to again create an experience that was of such great value to so many.”

No TRF funding

But the RIPE made it clear that the Group Cultural Exchanges will not be funded by TRF. “I appreciate that some districts are using their District Grants for such exchanges, of course subject to the rules of such grants.” The RI staff at Evanston were available to guide the clubs and districts on the rules. But there would be flexibility on whether these were funded from district funds, the clubs or individuals. And home-stays would mean only travel cost, which would be “modest compared to the benefits.”

Riseley advised the DGEs to appoint a **Rotary Friendship**

Exchange Chair in their districts for this and urged them to make full use of their time at the IA to identify partners, adding, “I am very pleased and excited this will be a tremendous experience we can once again offer in Rotary.”

Finding the real me

Addressing one of the general sessions on Partnerships, PRIP Ray Klinginsmith said the first major programme of the TRF, the international scholarship programme, was started in 1948 with 18 scholars travelling



It was this new confidence that helped me overcome my basic shyness and dare to take new and more difficult challenges, including the rigour of a law school.

PRIP Ray Klinginsmith



RI President Elect Ian Riseley



Many Rotarians, myself included, miss the cultural aspect of the old programme. The opportunity to build world understanding and peace through a short exchange of our best and brightest people.

RIPE Ian Riseley

around the world. “And it continued as the only programme of TRF till 1965 when the GSE and Special Grants programmes were added.”

There were about 100 scholars a year and he was highly fortunate to be selected a Rotary scholar in 1960–61. Now there were more than 40,000 alumni for the programme “which is truly due to the generosity of Rotarians”. He himself never tired of talking about the “personal value of my scholarship in all my Rotary speeches because I am proud to be a product of TRF. Being in another country for a full academic year is a wonderful learning experience.”

But unfortunately most of those scholars never became Rotarians, but what could not be denied was that this experience changed their lives forever and



PRIP Ray Klingensmith

Music, humour define the IA

When RIPE Ian Riseley returned to the podium after Ray Klingensmith’s address, he congratulated him for his great speech, and quipped, “though I can’t imagine Ray having basic shyness”!

It was this light touch and the humour, and above all the peppy music that marked all the sessions, that added a celebratory ambience to the entire Assembly proceedings. Riseley admitted that he himself had personally chosen all the music clips and with great care to ensure the clip matched the personality of the speaker who next came on the stage.

He himself often came to the stage to begin a session, dancing and jiving to the music, and in every which way, all this helped transmit the message to the 500-plus DGEs and their spouses assembled in the Grand Hall that their President-elect wore his leadership mantle lightly.

Whether it was RI President John Germ or Riseley or other leaders, they never missed an opportunity to encourage and urge the DGEs to mingle with Governors from other countries, other regions, other cultures, because the friendships they would make, the relationships they would forge here, would stay with them for a lifetime.

contributed in a major way to what they went on to become. “The challenges of living in a new culture, acquiring friends from totally different backgrounds, developing new skills, and above all, the ability to do the right thing”; these were tremendous opportunities that were eloquently summed up by a Rotary scholar who had said how the Rotary scholarship had helped him to become “the real me”.

Ray added: “It was this new confidence that helped me overcome my basic shyness and dare to take new and more difficult challenges, including the rigour of a law school. It was more than a life-changing experience; it was a life shaping experience that set me into a legal career with the commitment to help other people. Rotary was the perfect partner for me to fulfill that commitment and I will always be grateful to Rotary for my school in South Africa. Because of you and Rotary, I am the real me.

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat

India is enthused... about giving

Rasheeda Bhagat

Today Indian Rotarians are committed to enlarging their TRF contributions, and “in India, these things are like a forest fire. You start something somewhere and the whole forest catches fire. And these are forest fires we wouldn’t like to put out,” TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee told *Rotary News*.

Seated in his 19th floor apartment in Mumbai, a relaxed Banerjee answered questions on various issues related to TRF, and discussed interesting aspects of the difference in the way Indians give, compared to Americans.

Excerpts

Giving to TRF is making waves in India. Yesterday I interviewed Rtn Manoj Israni, already an AKS member, who has pledged to give another \$250,000 this year, taking his total to half a million dollars. I asked him why and he said I trust Rotary and know my money will be used well.

Well, a quarter million dollars is a lot of money, and giving it twice is a big step. Only two Indian Rotarians have given more than that. So it’s a very good sign.

When people see that other people, sensible people with money, are giving, then they also get the confidence to give. Manoj Israni is a very good Rotarian, but not in the limelight of Rotary officers and all that. And yet here he is giving half a million dollars quietly, and has his own reasons for

doing so. That’s what we really want to encourage. I think more Indian Rotarians will give money going forward. India has already become one of the larger givers. Unusually, a large number of AKS members are now coming from countries such as India. I find a sea change in the giving by Indian Rotarians to the Foundation.

What are the major plans for the Centennial Celebrations in Atlanta? Has the programme started crystallising?

Atlanta is shaping up well. There are several initiatives being planned. But it’s a little too early to give them shape because these things keep changing. For example, Atlanta is the home of the Jimmy Carter Foundation. And they are having an event just before the Convention and we are trying to

see if some kind of a connectivity is possible. If we can get some of the Nobel laureates expected to come for that event, to attend the Convention, it will be a tremendous initiative... a boost for our peace scholars programme.

How is the Peace Scholars Programme shaping up?

Rotary is reviewing that programme; while a great programme and very well supported by Rotarians, the question we are asking is are we really producing the kind of peace scholars that we want to? Are we moving the initiative forward in the way we wanted to? So the programme is now being reviewed by a committee led by PRIP K R Ravindran. It is looking at the peace programme as it is today and whether it is everything that we





TRF Trustee Chair
Kalyan Banerjee at
his home in Mumbai.

wanted it to be, or hoped it would be. And is it what is required today in the changing world scenario? Everything is changing. Look at the American elections. There seems to be a whole new paradigm shift in so many things in our world today.

What about CSR activities becoming a part of Rotary's service to humanity?

That has been a new Indian initiative, which I must say Trustee Sushil Gupta and I, to some extent, helped to move forward. Rotary was not in favour of CSR because in corporate social responsibility, what happens is that while they are happy to do social work and give money, traditionally Rotary has been looking very carefully at people who give money and want to participate in the project. Because

there is the possibility that they want to get their work done with Rotary's money, effort and name.

So they have an agenda?

They *could* have an agenda. So we've had to convince the Foundation that let's take it up for a time and watch how it is working. It hasn't been made public greatly yet. Not too many Indian companies and Rotary clubs have come up with too many CSR

Well, a quarter million dollars is a lot of money, and giving it twice is a big step. And yet Rtn Manoj Israni is giving half a million dollars quietly, and has his own reasons for doing so.

initiatives yet. I think it will take a little while but it will catch up.

So you are in favour of it?

I hope to take it forward. Let me see if I am able to do this in the next few months. Also, for the first time, Rotary has agreed to fund low-cost shelters through global grants. It used to be done through district grants, I've had to struggle a little bit for that and do a lot of convincing. But it has come through. The question... the real issue is that in the past, we've brought in this programme and scrapped it again so many times, saying Rotary will not help build low-cost shelters.

But why? For what reason?

Because there are concerns in some parts of the world about building shelters. In some developed countries,

Americans like to give quietly. Indians, if they are appreciated and noticed, they'll be happy to give more. And there's nothing wrong in it. These are cultural differences.

you can't build what is known as a low-cost shelter. So it becomes a programme for one part of the world and not another. Secondly, in those developed countries if you build shelters, even in slums, you are liable to all kinds of legal responsibilities. In those parts, the legal profession is very strong and if something goes wrong, and somebody gets an electric shock and dies, then Rotary will be held liable. It won't happen in our part of the world. So it's a question of attitude, a mindset... how we live our lives. That is why it was not acceptable.

Now that it has been done for a certain period of time, I hope it will work. It first came when Glen Kinross was the RI President. But it has come and gone so many times that people are not sure whether it is there or not, whether it will stay or not! It's not that Rotary clubs don't build shelters. They do. But they do it on their own.

And not through global grants?

Yes. And the kind of shelters they build... in India you might have a 350 sq ft house with a simple floor and maybe just a corrugated tin sheet for roof. I was in Taipei after the earthquake, and they had built low-cost shelters at their own cost, not through Rotary, and it was a two-storey air conditioned house with a refrigerator and such facilities. They say how can you build something where people don't have these facilities.

So the way different countries look at what a low-cost shelter might be, are very different. I've pushed

for building simple schools, and it is coming up.

Which are so badly required in India! So next on the horizon are low-cost schools?

Not low-cost, but simple schools. In India, a simple school in a village might be a two room facility with a toilet and a place for the midday meal. But in Africa, it has to be a much larger thing, probably the size of a bungalow.

Really? Why should Africa have such grand structures?

I don't know; I've not fully understood it. But these are the parameters that work in different parts of the world. So how do you reconcile them? But I say let's implement it, and when we find a difficulty, we can find solutions as we go along. But we need to understand the necessity for schools in a vast area of the world. Once we do that, we'll find ways to overcome the problems that we face in different parts.

So these two things are happening in TRF this year, for which I am very happy.

Coming to the challenging target for this year.

Yes, this being the 100th year, the target is \$300 million.

But the target for India has been revised upward for next year. The DGEs have assured RIDE C Basker that they will get 30 million for TRF next year!

Oh yes, India is going places, India is enthused. And at this point of time, had I gone away (as Trustee Chair) the whole thing might have been a damp squib. I hope that will be a thing of the past.

That brings me to the question on your offering to step down as TRF Trustee Chair. Tell us why?

Because of personal commitments in the family and the family to me has always come first. Fortunately, the situation has eased and we're trying to make sure that the work of TRF does not in any way get hampered and it does not perform any less due to its leader being not there in Evanston. But there are great leaders in Rotary who are all supportive and there need not be any major departure from the usual practices.

Last year, in Foundation giving, India emerged second, edging past Japan. Your thoughts.

Indian Rotarians are very enthused and continue to be. I am fairly confident they will meet or even surpass the target this year and well before the deadline. Now that I am available — in India I haven't really stopped moving. I do go to meetings; I went to Goa recently for D 3170. I have attended meets in Delhi, Mumbai, I am going to attend my own District (3060) Conference in Surat. So I keep doing whatever I can in India. The southern districts are not very good givers at the moment except for Bengaluru and Chennai. Bengaluru is going to have an AKS event there in March.



So what next?

I want to increase the per capita giving from India. I don't think we can catch up with America in total giving. America now gives almost 40 per cent of the total money collected every year. But I do think that in per capita giving, we can become number 1. There are districts... or countries with a single district, Hong Kong for example, where the per capita giving is extremely high. But Hong Kong is a very rich country and it is one district. Taiwan has fewer districts and the per capita is very high. India has 30-plus districts and is a huge country and total per capital giving from India, with its membership growth rate being the highest in the world, can also be the highest. Then my job would have been done.

What is the present per capita giving from India?

It is a little more than \$60.

How much more can you take it up?

\$100 plus.

How soon?

Oh, I don't know. In India, these things are like a forest fire. You start something somewhere and the whole forest begins to go on fire. So let us see. These are forest fires we wouldn't like to put out!

What we should never forget is that Indians do love to give; it's part of our culture. Our grandmother would give us something to give the beggar who came every day with a little *khanjan* singing a song in praise of god. You gave and they blessed you.

The other thing about Indians is that we like to give in the presence of others. Somehow when others are present, are noticing and appreciating, we like to give. We don't always give quietly; it's part of our mindset. Whereas in America, this isn't the case. You won't know who is really giving all that money, when and at what time.

I remember an American couple used to come to Coimbatore and work in service; he was a DG who came for long years to India and has stayed with me too in Vapi. Then suddenly, after 15 years, one day he became an Arch Klumph and people here said we didn't even know he was planning this. When asked what made him give so much, he said what else is there in life except to give and do good to others.

That's how Americans like to give; quietly. Indians, if they are appreciated and noticed, they'll be happy to give more. And there's nothing wrong in it; it's best to

recognise it and go accordingly.

One of the surprising givers has been Nepal,

One of the surprising givers has been Nepal, such a small country and afflicted by earthquake giving \$1 million, is huge!

such a small country and afflicted by earthquake giving \$1 million is huge!

How do you see the future of Rotary in India?

It is in strong shape; it is one of the strongest in the world. In America, sometimes I feel we are on the wane. It might have started there as a friendship club, but that kind of friendship is no longer required in America. And they have to struggle to go to Haiti and Honduras to do service or come to India. They are not comfortable going all over the place. Some are extraordinarily service minded some are not. They'd rather stay at home. This is not a criticism but it's the way it works. They get their own city newspaper, and don't even know what *The New York Times* or the *Wall Street Journal* is writing and they don't necessarily care.

We are totally different!

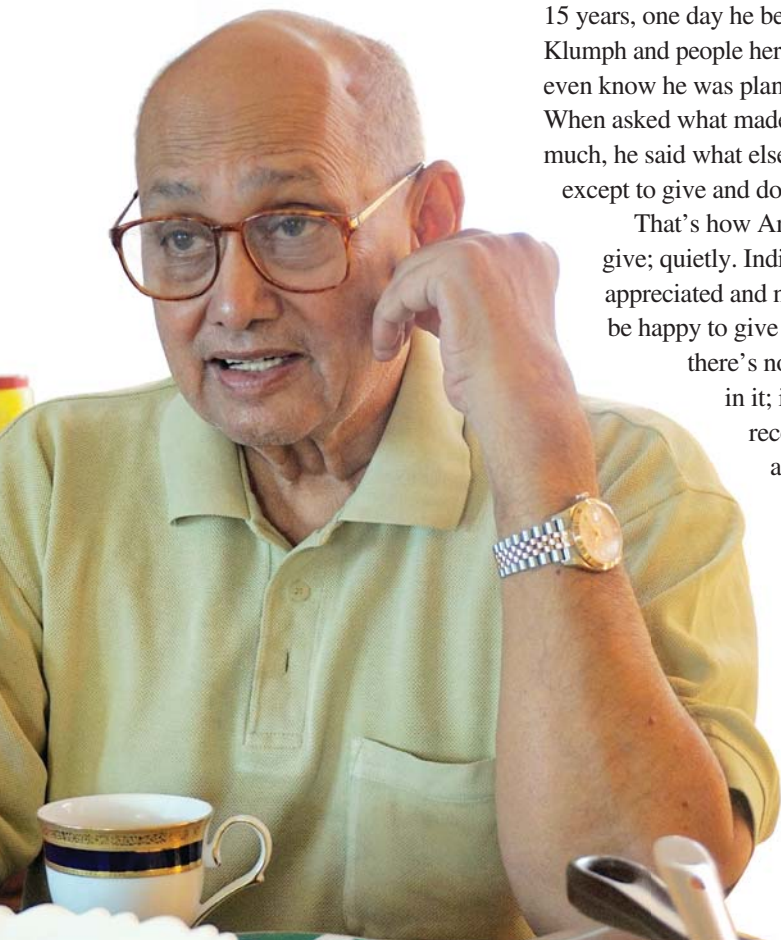
Yes, probably because we are too many people, and communities keep changing all the time. People keep migrating to cities. It's a different ball game altogether. The time may come when the headquarters of Rotary might shift out of Chicago.

To where?

I don't know; not India I hope... too many unnecessary complications!

It could be Dubai, it's got everything and is half as expensive as America. People have talked of Singapore, which is as expensive as America today. It could move out if the American strength of Rotary keeps on depleting continuously.

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat
Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



Make your students globally competitive

Rasheeda Bhagat

Eminent cardiac surgeon Devi Shetty advises graduating students at the IIS University to innovate, make optimum use of technology and follow their conscience.

Times are changing; colleges and universities play an integral role in honing students to be globally competitive. Employers recognise the role of colleges in preparing students for the real world. They agree that to succeed in today's global economy, communication skills, critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills, application of knowledge and skills in real-world settings, complex problem-solving and analysis, ethical decision making and teamwork are absolutely important," said Dr Devi

Shetty, Chairman and Founder of the Narayana Hrudayalaya Hospitals.

Delivering the 5th convocation address at the IIS University in Jaipur, the eminent cardiac surgeon underlined the importance of innovation, and gave the graduating students the example of his having introduced health insurance for farmers in Karnataka with a monthly premium of only Rs 5. "So I can say with confidence that when we apply our minds with seriousness, solutions are not difficult to find. And in the Indian context it is important to

remember that it is not a solution if it is not affordable."

He said he was happy to note the IIS University had always empowered women and is primarily a women's university. One woman who had influenced him greatly was Mother Teresa who he had first met in 1984 when she had a heart attack "and I looked after her for the first five years of her life. Mother strongly believed that love is



(From R) RI President John Germ receives a doctorate conferred on him by the IIS University, from Cardiac Surgeon Devi Shetty, as University Vice Chancellor and PDG Ashok Gupta looks on.

the most powerful weapon, which can conquer the world and that teaching has impacted me tremendously... today the world requires love and tolerance.”

The real purpose of education is to empower students to find their own paths to their own dreams and create life-long learners, who are prepared both for the modern world and the future, and to empower students to make an impact in the world.

Also the effective and optimum use of technology for the betterment of our masses can never be understated. “As people embrace new innovations and technologies, higher educational institutions must also learn to keep up with this trend. The future of not only their students but also the economy will largely be determined by the abilities of colleges and universities in preparing students for a globally competitive workforce. Curriculum must keep up with changing times and remain relevant,” he added.

But along with all this, he advised the youngsters to “listen to your conscience, seek advice from someone you trust. The last measure of integrity is that no act of yours should cause you private shame, when put to public scrutiny. It is also the test of one’s character.”

On this occasion the IIS University conferred on RI President John Germ a doctorate — Doctor of Letters — which, Vice Chancellor of the University Ashok Gupta said was being given to him for “his substantial, sustained and exceptional contribution in the field of community service; he is a champion of human rights.”

Accepting the doctorate on behalf of Rotary, the RI President said, “Often these days, as I travel for Rotary and find myself in places that I never thought I would be, doing things I never thought I would do — like standing up here in a cap and gown, accepting an honorary degree. When I got my Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville



TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee (right) with RI Director Manoj Desai.

in 1961, I thought it was a pretty safe bet that I was all done wearing this kind of thing. But that’s another way that Rotary is really a metaphor for life. Just like life, it has a way of surprising you.”

He told the students that like many of them, he was the first one in his family to go to college. “My own father never got more than an eighth-grade education, and spent his life working with his hands. Like your parents, he always wanted me to go on to have a better life. And just like your parents, he knew that the way for me to have that better life, was through education.”

Education was an important focus area of Rotary and in India, Rotary was working hard to give thousands

of children a better life, through education; “by improving the infrastructure, that will allow more children, and especially girls, to continue their schooling in dignity and in health.”

Though the degree he was accepting did not reflect his own work or accomplishments, or “my own contributions to human knowledge, I accept it gladly and proudly on behalf of Rotary: on behalf of the men and women who, working together, have advanced the knowledge of generations, and will continue to do so for many generations to come.”

In his opening remarks Gupta said this convocation marked the second decade of the IIS University which was committed to delivering quality education to 5,000 students. He recalled how last year the faculty and students had played an active role in the Jaipur Zone Institute. Following this the Board of management of the University had decided to sponsor a Rotary Club of the IIS University.

Over 1,540 students were conferred degrees and diplomas under various programmes of the University at the convocation which was attended by TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee and RI Director Manoj Desai. ■

I accept this degree gladly and proudly on behalf of Rotary: on behalf of the men and women who, working together, have advanced the knowledge of generations, and will continue to do so for many generations.

RI President John Germ

Service, with Indian jugaad, in **AFRICA**

Rasheeda Bhagat

Imagine this scenario... on his first medical mission to Africa for which PRIP Rajendra K Saboo has become famous, “in Masaka in Uganda, we identified and collected the children who were screened by the surgeons and put them up in the very modest ward in the Government hospital.”

The polio corrective surgeries were to be performed the next day, but when the Rotary team reached the hospital the children were missing! “They all had just run away, not used to staying in a hospital. Somehow we collected them again and the surgery began,” he recalls.

Since there wasn't adequate staff and the place required a good scrub “we got the cleaning material from the market and Usha, I and the American volunteers with us, started cleaning the

An Indian medical team
doing dental surgery in
Addis Ababa Sheger,
Ethiopia.



place. And suddenly Usha said: ‘Do you remember what day it is?’”

He didn’t, but she did; it was August 11, and she said a simple ‘Happy birthday’ and went back to her cleaning task.

“Suddenly PDG Madhav Borate, one of the surgeons said: ‘Raja we need someone in the OT; there are no monitors to check the pulse of the patient. So please put an OT gown and come in.’”

A totally flummoxed Saboo protested: “But at the very sight of blood, I faint. He said nothing will happen, you come in.” He did as he was ordered, and was bang in the midst of the cutting of skin, bones, blood, flesh, chisels and hammers, “and yet nothing happened to me. This is the strength you get when you imbibe the spirit of service.”

Outside the OT, Usha busied herself taking care of the children and their mothers. “It was total involvement from Day 1,” he recalls.

Beginning with a bang

Their first African mission kicked off bang in the midst of high drama. Barely 10 days before their departure, there was a bomb blast at the American Embassy in Tanzania, followed by another attack in Nairobi, Kenya. “They said the next target would be Kampala and the doctors asked if we should go, as their families were asking why are you going,” says Saboo.

While all this hullabaloo was happening, Usha met Shanti, a peace volunteer from Chandigarh working bang in the midst of the ethnic war in Croatia. “I asked her weren’t you afraid, and she said, ‘No, I have only one life to live, who knows when the end will come?’ That helped us make up our minds and also convince the doctors, who anyway, have the desire to serve. No matter how much we organise the money, matching grants or whatever, without the doctors’ wholehearted



PRIP Rajendra K Saboo helping transfer a patient in Congo.

participation, these medical missions cannot happen. As Raja always says, we are only the organisers, they are the doers,” says Usha.

The amazing thing was, she adds, “despite the huge risk, not a single doctor dropped out.”

Saboo adds that from the Kampala airport they were transported in a kind of school bus with wooden benches for the four-hour journey to Masaka. “The eye surgeons went north to Gulu on a five-seater plane; Gulu was at that time the centre of the insurgency in Uganda. We found the infrastructure in the hospital to be far less than what we see in our civic hospitals in the district.”

How they began

Asked about the genesis of the programme, Usha says simply: “Africa was not planned, it just happened.” Saboo elaborates: “After my term as TRF Trustee Chair was over, Usha said we should now look for opportunities to do something with our own hands at least

for 7–10 days... hands on service that we’ve been asking others to do.”

Also, his theme as RI President was ‘look beyond yourself’, and India had always been a receiving country, always seeking help. When he asked himself what India could give, the answer was that “we are very strong in medical sciences; we have the latest technology and our surgeons are world class. So can we give something through them, I thought.”

As a senior Rotary India leader, Saboo was involved in polio corrective surgery right from inception in 1979

When my 80th birthday was coming, I told Usha I want to spend the day serving in a medical mission; she agreed.

PRIP Rajendra K Saboo



PRIP Rajendra Saboo, Usha Saboo, PRIP K R Ravindran, Vanathy Ravindran and DG David Hilton with the President of Rwanda Paul Kagame (fifth from left) at Rwanda. Sir Emeka Ofori of Nigeria (in white) is also seen in the picture.

A special birthday

Over the years, the African medical missions have become so dear to Saboo, that “when my 80th birthday was coming, I told Usha I want to spend the day serving in a medical mission. She agreed that nothing could be better; but we had to convince our children and grandchildren. They agreed and arranged my birthday celebrations earlier.”

What he didn’t know on the actual day, which he spent doing what he normally does as a “volunteer” in these medical missions — pushing trolleys, transferring patients in and out from the operation theatres, etc — was that the group was planning a big bash for him. “But I had some idea because when we went down for breakfast, every doctor and volunteer wished me but said don’t tell anybody because we aren’t supposed to know! In the evening there was a big celebration with the local Rotarians participating, but I was very happy that my day was spent on service.”

“when we took the decision to immunise the children of the world.”

In 1997, when Rajiv Pradhan was the DG of District 3132, he invited Saboo for a polio corrective surgery camp in Pune. It was a matching grant project and the American Rotarians, mentioned earlier, were also present. “I suggested why don’t we go together to Africa to do the same work. And they agreed.” Africa was chosen because it had lots of polio cases and needed medical assistance.

Usha intervenes to point out a vital link — Nandalal Bhai who had once lived in Uganda, before settling down in California. “He knew Africa very well and said if you want to go to Africa, I will take you there.”

This also matched Saboo’s wish that India should now “give”. Apart from orthopaedic surgeons, three eye surgeons were also included.

Challenges

On the challenges thrown up by these missions, Saboo says each mission has its unique set of challenges. While in some places the facilities and infrastructure are inadequate, in others there are no patients, to begin with. For example, during their first visit to Nigeria, the eye surgeons got busy right from Day 1. But they did not have proper autoclave

facilities for their instruments. “But the unique thing about our doctors is that while they have the latest technology and most advanced knowledge, the Indian word *jugaad* fits them so well... they can innovate on the spot.”

So once in Nigeria, while the operation was on, the power failed; the generator was started but conked off within two minutes. And all this while an eye surgery was in progress. “Dr Garewal from Chandigarh, a leading eye specialist, said: ‘*Saboo Saab, meri bag mei torch hogi, le aiyee.*’ (There should be a torch in my bag, please get it.) So I held the torch and he completed the eye surgery which is such a precision surgery.”

Now, of course, veteran surgeons of the medical missions often carry their own equipment; it makes their work easier. Saboo never tires of saying that “the doctors are the real heroes in these missions; we only bask in their glory.”

Government clearances are another hassle; “In Rwanda the government always lays out a red carpet for us,” says Saboo. When Saboo requested PRIP K R Ravindran to join one of the African medical missions, “I suggested Rwanda because this was my fourth trip there



and we know the infrastructure. And though a small country, it has the potential of moving forward speedily,” he says.

Thanks to the good offices of the First Lady, who Saboo knew from a previous trip, the President of Rwanda called upon not only Ravindran, but dropped in later separately, to meet each of the doctors and “spent 40 minutes with us.”

Lessons learnt

Saboo has organised 24 medical missions to Africa since the first one in Uganda. So what lessons have these missions taught him? How have they changed him as a person, I ask him.

“Well, what has changed is my own thinking and my own prejudices. The first prejudice was that we are superior and the Africans countries are still developing, while we have developed already and we can give them much. But when I was there I realised that the children, regardless of their colour, nationality or religion, are the same. If in



pain they will cry, if tickled, they smile or laugh.”

Another thing he has learnt is that “Rotary is not just about positions.” He was really moved by the human stories of pain and suffering; “they hit me and made me realise the value and importance of service... they are giving us the opportunity, and we can’t claim that we, as the givers, are superior.”

But having reported on the medical mission from Ethiopia (Every time... for Africa <https://rotarynewsonline.org/every-time-for-africa/> — **Rotary News** December 2015), I suppose another lesson they’ve taught him is not to get perturbed by umpteen hurdles and obstacles. One of the first hiccups

was Customs clearance... the Indian delegation was carrying surgical equipment, disposable theatre material, and boxes of medicines; and all of it was first stopped at the airport.

But Saboo remained calm, and soon the Ethiopian DG and his team had taken over; they rushed to the Health Minister’s house, got the required clearances, the consignment was cleared and the doctors began their work.

Said a relieved Saboo, “Bureaucracy is everywhere, it has no borders;

Ethiopia is no exception but Rotary too has no borders!”

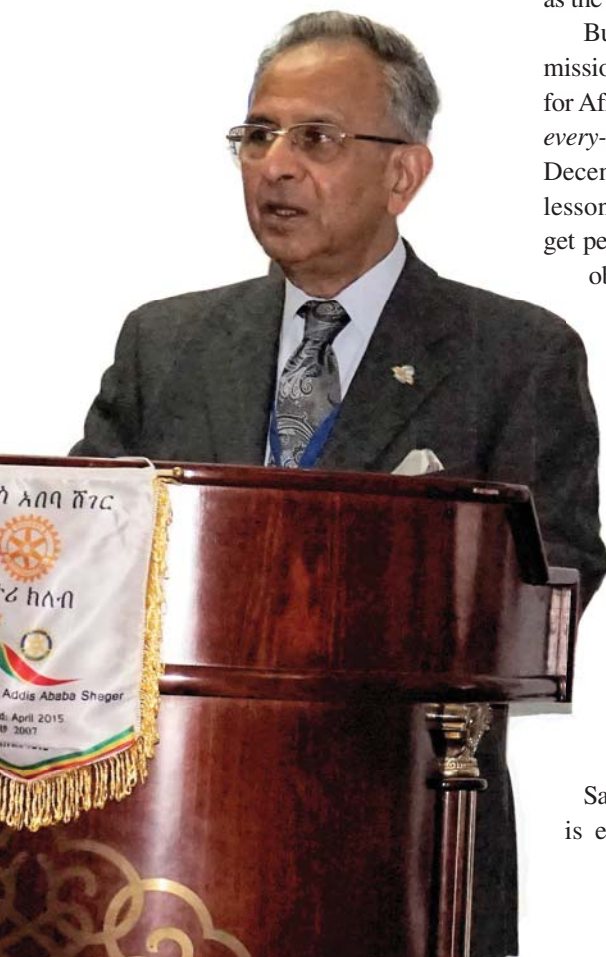
He is grateful to the doctors and volunteers, particularly PDGs Ranjit Bhatia, Madhukar Malhotra, Drs R S Parmar and Rajan Sharma. “Volunteers spend their money for travel and hotel, if not provided by the local administration.”

The most recent mission has been to Gabon with 20 doctors and 7 volunteers; “At the Delhi Immigration, the officer asked where Gabon was!” They were cleared from the airport “within 45 minutes, with gratis visa, and their baggage, including 92 pieces of medicines and equipment. After Rwanda, this is another country which welcomed us thus,” says Saboo.

But while the hospitals were sparklingly clean with modern equipment, they lacked trained manpower to use it. He is grateful to PDGs Ranjit Bhatia and Jean-Pierre Duboze of D 9150 and TRF, for making this mission a huge success.

He often asks himself if the money and time spent on such medical missions are worthwhile. “But then should we look at patients as numbers? Each patient is a life and if saved, or given a better quality, isn’t that good value? They are part of humanity and Rotary is committed to serving humanity.”

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



Overcoming challenges, restoring dignity

Rasheeda Bhagat

Under the leadership of PRIP Rajendra Saboo, Indian Rotarians, particularly doctors, have not looked back in serving humanity through their medical expertise, even in the most hostile and dangerous areas.

Once the African medical missions (MM) were on track, “I thought we are touching the needy people there, but there is great need for medical services in India too,” says PRIP Rajendra K Saboo. What better place for the first Indian mission than Kalahandi in Orissa, which was making headlines for starvation deaths? “So I talked to DG (3260) Subhash Sahu, and he jumped at the idea. With the four specialties of eye, orthopaedics, dental and plastic surgery, we went there immediately after Republic Day in 2006.”

Challenging beginning

But it wasn't a smooth beginning. Eminent Plastic Surgeon Dr Chari, then HOD at the PG Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, did a simple cleft lip surgery on a four-year-old girl. Unfortunately, the mother didn't tell the doctors the child had taken milk. Administration of general anaesthesia caused complications and the child was “so critical that Mrs Chari, HOD, Anaesthesiology, PGI, Chandigarh, sat with the child the whole night,” recalls Saboo. All social engagements were cancelled and “we headed to a temple to pray for the child. Around 4 am, she called and confirmed that the child was now out of danger. We were relieved and took that as divine blessings for moving forward with the medical missions in India!”

Saboo says a unique feature of the Indian medical missions, which are now 10 years old, is that in States like MP, the Government has been extremely helpful. “That,

combined with the hard work of Rotarians, and the amazing medical expertise of our doctors, has contributed immensely to the success of these missions.”

For example, in 2010, PDG of D 3261 Vivek Tankha, a leading advocate and philanthropist and now a Rajya Sabha MP, “encouraged us to go to Mandla, a tribal region near Jabalpur which is a deprived area without good medical facilities. That experience gave a new dimension to our MMs, and it was here that we named our medical missions in India RAHAT (Rotary's Active Hands Are Touching; it also means solace or relief in Hindi)”. The support they got from the administration and the government, beginning with the Chief Minister, gave “us the



idea how governments could help. Vivek opened many doors for our medical missions in MP and PDG Subhash Garg took the responsibility to coordinate from D 3080. Since then, Subhash has been the sheet anchor of our district for most of the inter-district medical missions within India.”

The mission was a resounding success — the Government doctors assisted in the OP and medicines were also given — and over 49,600 outpatients were treated, and 2,200 surgeries performed.

“The Chief Minister spent a day with us in the hospitals. So total was the Government cooperation, that as the area has power

shortage, strict instruction were given that the three MM hospitals should not experience any power breakdown during those seven days. Never before have I had a Chief Minister calling me on my cell phone to thank us for the medical mission!”

Each of the Indian MMs have been of seven days’ duration; the second one was also done in Orissa (Baripada) in March 2007. This was a tribal area, “and a few miles from the Naxal belt. In both Kalahandi and Baripada, our living conditions were very basic, which didn’t matter; after all we were there for service. We are thankful to the Rotary district

there and PDG D N Padhi for their pivotal role.”

There were two more MMs in Orissa; Sambalpur, recommended by the local Rotarians, in 2009 and another small one in 2011. In 2012, they returned to MP, where the MM had got great support from the Government, led by the CM himself; this time to Chhindwara, about three hours by road from Nagpur. It saw the largest OP number at a whopping 73,864. The next camp was once again in MP and the tribal area of Jhabua.

Most challenging mission

In 2012, an MM was done in Sikar in Rajasthan. “Immediately after



Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan (right) inaugurating the Medical Mission at Jabalpur (D 3261) as PRIP Rajendra Saboo and PDG Vivek K Tankha look on.

that came the most challenging of our missions in Udhampur in Jammu, an area of conflict and militancy. We got PDG Rajiv Pradhan's help too, and many doctors from his district joined. Over 1,750 outpatients were done; they all came from the hills and faraway places. This was one of the most challenging, fulfilling and memorable MMs," says Saboo.

Next followed, in March 2014, a mission in Neemuch in MP, where over 43,000 outpatients were attended to. "The Rotarians of D 3040 were fully involved; there was remarkable organisation and those from D 3260 helped too, as they did in all our missions in Madhya Pradesh."

Another challenging mission was in Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh, a 4-hour drive from Raipur. "Again, this borders a Naxal area and the medical facilities there are very scanty. They have a Christian medical hospital and government hospitals, but the latter are not fully manned; it's a place where nobody wants to go."

In all the medical missions, two people always made an earlier trip to study the facilities, the needs etc, and only then the

Moments and memories

PRIIP and architect of the Rotary Medical Missions, Rajendra Saboo, treasures some indelible memories from the MMs in India and Africa. He recalls how in Mandla, "where we were working in four different places, one day I decided to walk to the Civil Hospital, our biggest centre, rather than go by car. I was wearing our normal MM tee-shirt and the route was through the bazaar. Suddenly a motorcyclist stopped me and asked: Are you part of the MM?"



When I said yes, he offered me a ride and insisted that I accept it, as it would be a pleasure for him. That was the first time I rode the pillion of a motor bike!"

They chatted on the way, and the man said: "What you people are doing is beyond our imagination!"

He has many such happy memories. In one of the medical missions, where the MP government wholeheartedly participated, the people of the town also pitched in enthusiastically. There were some 37,000-odd outpatients and as in India every patient is invariably accompanied by at least two attendants, over 7 days about 1.5 lakh people visited the MM.

"The way the people of the town united and participated in this mission was so heartening. For example, one community said we will organise the entire water supply, some other society said on this day we'll take care of the food for the patients, doctors and attendants. Such gestures really enthused and encouraged us," says Saboo.



mission was planned and executed. This was done in Jagdalpur too, where the District Magistrate was very positive but from the "Government side there was a cold reception, and we weren't too sure what to do." But Saboo knew the Chhattisgarh Governor Balram Das Tandon, "who was from Amritsar. I talked to him and he said I will get all doors opened for you."

Just two days earlier, 10 policemen were killed by the Naxals and the whole area was very tense. "It's a very scary place but the local Rotarians and the leadership of the district were totally dedicated.



PRIIP Rajendra K Saboo and PRIIP Sakuji Tanaka at a Medical Mission in Udhampur in 2013. PDGs Dr Rajiv Pradhan, Manpreet Singh Gandhoke and Subhash Garg are also in the picture.

The State Governor came by a helicopter, took a round of all the hospitals and met all the surgeons. And we had a very fulfilling mission.”

Restoring dignity

Saboo says every medical mission has unraveled for all the participants the human aspect, and the kind of pain and misery so many Indians live in due to lack of good medical facilities.

He narrates the story of a 10-year-old girl, who fell into an open *chullah* at the age of 1, and as a result of the terrible burn

injuries, her leg from the knee downward got stuck to her thigh and “till the age of 10, she had been living virtually with just one leg. Dr R Bharat, now a DG of D 3250, is a plastic surgeon and veteran of many medical missions.” Assisted by other surgeons, they separated the girl’s lower leg from the thigh, made the leg straight (see picture below) and “by the time we left, she was doing very well and he said at least she will be able to walk on both her legs, requiring support of course, but she’ll be able to lead a life of dignity.”



Doctors treat a 10-year-old who fell into a *chullah* when she was one, at the Jhabua Medical Mission.

A very challenging mission was in Jagdalpur in Chhattisgarh, which borders a Naxal area and the medical facilities there are very scanty.

The most demanding MM mission was done in Dimapur, Nagaland. “There too we had to work under very difficult circumstances, but the local Rotarians — Chandu Agarwal, then DG, worked very hard. We had 18,000 outpatients and did some very difficult surgeries. Unfortunately, one life was lost.”

Upcoming missions

In February, a mission is planned to Morena near Gwalior in MP again. “MP has given us outstanding recognition and support. We are happy to do at least one medical mission in India every year.

A new addition PDG Rajiv Pradhan did last year was to organise within the district some 1,000 surgeries. In our district (3080) too, PDG Arun Sharma, under the Government’s Rural Health Programme is organising some programmes from March 15–20 in Himachal Pradesh and from April 25–30 in the hills in Rohru. These are smaller medical projects and a new dimension we are adding to our medical missions.”

Saboo adds, “The credit for the missions goes to our dedicated doctors who leave their regular work and take out time; all this in the total spirit of service”.

(Read the names of all the Doctors who have participated in these medical missions on https://rotarynewsonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/MM-doctors_1.pdf)

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



Please pay your Rotary News Dues at the earliest

to enjoy uninterrupted supply. Please note that *Rotary News* subscription is mandatory and defaulting clubs can be suspended by RI.

List of defaulting clubs and the club dues details on our website www.rotarynewsonline.org



Rotary at a glance

Rotarians : 12,21,694

Clubs : 35,366

Districts : 534

Rotaractors : 2,28,091*

Clubs : 9,917*

Interactors : 4,85,944*

Clubs : 21,128*

RCC members: 2,13,578*

RCC : 9,286*

* As on January 2, 2017

Membership in India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives

As on January 2, 2017

RI Zone	RI District	Rotary Clubs	No of Rotarians	Women Rotarians	Rotaract	Interact	RCC
5	2981	109	4,456	191	52	214	171
5	2982	64	2,814	79	53	109	41
5	3000	116	5,225	410	208	474	112
4	3011	72	3,121	552	43	96	28
4	3012	79	3,432	633	59	110	54
5	3020	81	4,110	212	106	451	351
4	3030	99	5,355	664	69	257	156
4	3040	88	2,099	245	50	108	135
4	3051	65	2,437	189	47	146	335
4	3052	56	3,346	619	38	138	130
4	3053	59	2,428	391	16	31	93
4	3060	98	4,016	383	55	110	125
4	3070	107	3,148	287	62	151	54
4	3080	76	3,233	189	61	199	106
4	3090	79	2,096	80	33	36	122
4	3100*	71	1,725	68	10	71	83
6	3110	109	3,822	190	52	49	78
6	3120	74	2,960	291	36	49	49
4	3131	124	5,664	1,121	81	244	71
4	3132	91	3,957	397	58	139	117
4	3141	84	5,129	972	99	231	85
4	3142	77	2,889	404	51	178	64
5	3150	95	3,396	326	86	205	108
5	3160	65	2,266	104	17	42	81
5	3170	127	5,487	345	46	277	158
5	3181	66	3,040	203	28	164	101
5	3182	78	3,320	244	25	261	90
5	3190	143	5,616	665	125	333	48
5	3201	137	5,113	291	87	115	46
5	3202	129	4,948	245	88	416	40
5	3211	133	4,232	226	11	70	121
5	3212	95	3,795	204	104	254	126
5	3220	69	1,887	225	78	189	75
5	3230	145	6,630	638	165	448	308
6	3240	86	2,983	345	56	141	140
6	3250	97	3,678	611	31	195	173
6	3261	70	2,356	228	15	100	42
6	3262	84	3,108	361	41	70	72
6	3271	66	1,229	184	41	15	13
6	3272	130	2,524	410	35	35	36
6	3281	194	5,546	740	215	79	184
6	3282	126	3,464	260	119	29	40
6	3291	147	3,836	648	63	122	567
6	3292	111	4,212	586	108	100	100
Total		4,271	1,60,128	16,656	2,923	7,251	5,229

*Non-districted

Source: RI South Asia Office



School Furniture & Rehabilitation Equipment

Manufactured & Marketed by

SOHRAB IMPEX LIMITED

(Govt. Of India Recognized & ISO 9001:2008 Certified Export House)



WALKER



CRUTCHES



WHEEL CHAIR



TRICYCLE



FOUR TAB HAND WASH STATION



SCHOOL BENCHES

Special Concession for Rotary Projects

For Enquiries:-

Corporate Office:

Sohrab Group of Companies

Nabha Road, Malerkotla

Phone: +91-1675-260040-43

Mobile: +91-98149-01777

E-Mail: sildomestic@sohrabgroup.com

Website: www.sohrabgroup.com



P.D.G. Amjad Ali
Major Donar Level II
D.L.C.C. R.I.D. 3090
Mobile 9888777798

Mobile toilets for women cops in Mumbai

Rasheeda Bhagat

RC Bombay Hanging Garden's humanitarian work for Mumbai's women police.

One of the many different ways in which Rotary is changing the face of India can be seen from the rapid response of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Bombay Hanging Garden (RCBHG), District 3141, to a most basic need from the women traffic cops of Mumbai. The need to have a safe and decent toilet and changing room.

Mumbai city has 34 traffic *chowkies* and in March 2016, DCP (Traffic) Anil Kumbhare told Rotarians from RC Bombay Hanging Garden that while everybody, including the Government,

wants to increase the representation of women in the police force, the reality is that in many of the traffic *chowkies* there isn't even the most basic facility, such as a toilet, for the women cops. He also said that in most places even a tiny room was not available for them to rest or change clothes.

"He asked us, can you do something about this," recalls Rtn Dilip Shah, a member of the club, who also represents the NGO Premlata Vandravan Shah Charities (PVSC), which partnered the club in this project. Following this

interaction, a survey was done on where these facilities were most needed, "as also where it was possible to do something". About 10–15 per cent of traffic cops in Mumbai are women.

In Mumbai many of the traffic *chowkies* are located under flyovers, and about 17 places were identified where it was possible to provide these facilities.

Club President Sandeep Reshamwalla said that in the first phase of the project, "half of the traffic *chowkies* of Mumbai were provided with separate mobile toilets for women,



Inauguration of a Mobile Toilet by Mumbai CP Datta Padsalgikar. Rtn Dilip Shah, DG Gopal Mandhania and RCBHG President Sandeep Reshamwalla are also in the picture.

with changing rooms where possible. Additional mobile toilets for traffic policemen were also provided at some *chowkies*.”

Where containers were available, they were refurbished with requisite insulation to convert them into cabins and rest rooms for the women cops. During installation, sewage lines, water connection, electricity etc were all attended to.

To give this story a human face, let us cut across to Senior Police Inspector Vijayalaxmi Hiremath. She had earlier



come into contact with Dilip Shah when “I was posted at Bandra and they had come to distribute 100 fluorescent jackets on August 15.” Two months ago, when she was posted to the Dadar *chowkie*, she was horrified to find the conditions under which the nine women traffic cops in her 100-member team worked. “First of all, our duty is for 12 hours but during many special occasions such as VIP bandobust duty, we work for much longer hours. Among the nine women, two were pregnant and they had no toilet to go to. I suffered the same fate.”

She explains that Dadar is a very crowded place right in the heart of Mumbai — the Siddhi Vinayak Temple, Shivaji Park are all here. “I had no washroom, no place to even sit and eat; I was in tears,” says Vijayalaxmi.

When she asked the women cops how they managed, “they told me they go to some private offices to relieve themselves or change clothes. And often they have night duty. You can imagine the safety issue involved here. So they would take a male constable with them, which again is very uncomfortable for any woman.”

She made an SOS call to Dilip Shah, and he immediately came to the rescue. “I told him it is an emergency-like situation and he came the very next

day.” She went on leave for two weeks, and when she returned, she was astonished to find that the old container they had was transformed into a neat and clean rest-cum-changing room. “The result was that with these new facilities, we were able to do with ease all the planning for Ganapati Pooja and *visarjan* sitting in the comfortable rest room the Rotarians had given us.”

I can sense her broad smile in the long-distance *tete-a-tete* we are having on the phone!

But as luck would have it, she was soon transferred out of Dadar, and that was “due to the representation I had made for a transfer, stating the terrible conditions at the Dadar *chowkie*,” she grins. She is now transferred to Byculla which has very good facilities, but is happy that she was able to give her colleagues a comfortable working environment thanks to the help from Rotarians. “I don’t have words to thank the Rotarians of Mumbai; considering what they have done for us, the women police, ‘thanks’ is a very small word. But to express my gratitude we are going to invite Dilipbhai to be the chief guest at a rally we are planning,” she adds.



Senior Police Inspector Vijayalaxmi Hiremath.

Shah explains that many of Mumbai’s traffic *chowkies* are located under flyovers. “Earlier the Supreme Court had ordered the clearing of the space beneath the flyovers/bridges, but special cases are allowed.” And there are no two opinions that the traffic police require basic facilities to perform their

duties effectively. He adds that some of the containers/cubicles available to them are only 4x4 ft, while others are 4x6 ft. “In the latter we are able to provide a toilet as well as some space for changing. But in Dadar, they had a container that was 8x20 ft, so we were able to refurbish it and do it up really well, and all the police officers, including the top bosses, were very happy with the facilities.”

D 3141 DG Gopal Rai Mandhania thanks “the dedicated team of Rotarians comprising Dilip Shah, Amrish Daftary and Digant Shah from RCBHG for working so hard on this project to ensure its completion in record time of 45 days to benefit the *chowkies* spread over the western and eastern suburbs of the city. In all, 18 mobile toilets and two refurbished cabins were installed, and

our work was applauded by the Commissioner of Police Datta Padsalgikar, who inaugurated the project at the Azad Maidan traffic *chowkie*”.

The benefits and importance of this project can be gauged from the fact that the CP was joined by Joint CP (Traffic) Milind Barambhe, Additional CP (Traffic) Sunil Paraskar and Deputy CP (Traffic) Anil Kumbhare. The CP in his speech thanked the Club President Sandeep Reshamwalla and Dilip Shah.

DG Mandhania said the RCBHG has always worked for police benefit, and had earlier distributed fluorescent jackets and masks to combat pollution, and had “silently done great projects such as the Jaipur foot and cataract operations.” ■

Among the nine women, two were pregnant and they had no toilet to go to. I suffered the same fate and was in tears.

Vijayalaxmi Hiremath

Rotary: A vision that never dims

Rasheeda Bhagat



Rasheeda Bhagat

Addressing the Vision 20:20 session at the Dubai Institute and giving an update on the Strategic Plan, RI Director Manoj Desai recalled that at the Jaipur Institute Rotary India had voted for two core values — service and integrity. The essence of the Strategic Plan was to support and strengthen clubs, focus on and increase service and enhance public image.

The RI leadership's vision was that each club, district and zone must have its own strategic plan. To support and strengthen clubs, Regional Membership Plans were developed. "In 2011, recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to membership, we developed the Regional Membership Plans and in the fourth year of its implementation, we believe these plans are helping maintain our membership levels."

Next the membership leads programme was strengthened. "It is now easier for prospective members to express their interest in joining Rotary. We've also simplified the process for Rotarians who wish to change clubs or make a membership referral."

Next, through the Rotary Global Rewards, a Rotary member benefit

programme, "we are providing Rotarians and Rotaractors with discounts and special offers on products and services around the world."

Another priority under the Strategic Plan was the focus on increasing humanitarian services. He then went on to quote TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee who had said: "Thanks to PolioPlus the world discovered Rotary and Rotarians discovered themselves." Thanks to the global mobilisation of Rotarians, all working towards a common purpose, Polio was very close to the eradication point. "To date in 2016, we've only seen nine cases", he said.

Giving the assembled RI officers a pep talk on preparing for TRF

Our work on eradicating polio was Herculean; and can you believe we have reached out to 145 million people across the world through our social media initiatives?

Centennial, the RI Director said: "This is a rare, actually once in a lifetime, opportunity. Through the sessions short videos would be played to prove how much good we have done, creating a major impact as after the Nepal and Gujarat earthquakes, the tsunami in Srilanka. A clear proof is increasing Global Grants every year."

While their work in polio eradication — 30 years and billions of dollars was truly Herculean, "can you believe we have reached out to 145 million people across the world through our social media initiatives?"

RI's new initiatives — Brand Center; Connect online; Rotary Club Central; My Rotary — were praiseworthy, Desai said. The need of the hour, was better alignment of RI and TRF for a unified vision. But, he added, in a rapidly changing world, what would not change were "our values, objective of Rotary; The Four Way Test; the Essence Statement and RI and TRF's Mission Statements."

RI's Mission Statement was to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through our fellowship of business, professional and community leaders. ■



Alyce Henson

Moments at International Assembly



From left: RIDE
C Basker, Rtn
Paulo Augusto
Zanardi from Brazil,
Manomani, spouse
of DGE D M Shivraj
and Malathi Basker.



College of RI Presidents —
past, present and future.



TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta (left)
and Vinita (right) with DGE Prafull
Sharma and Vidyottama.



PRIP Rajendra
Saboo greets PRID
Mary Beth Growney
Selene as RID
Manoj Desai and
Sharmishtha look on.



PRIP Charles C Keller and Carol.



Usha Saboo in conversation with Ruth Kinross (left).

IPRIP K R Ravindran
and RID Manoj
Desai.



PRIP William B Boyd and Lorna.



The youngest participant at the IA was a toddler from Brazil.

TRF Centennial Seminar at Pune

Jaishree



TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee with Raghunath Purushottam Takalkar. Also present: DRFC Deepak Shikarpur (extreme left) and DG Prashant Deshmukh (extreme right).

The Centennial Seminar of TRF organised by RI District 3131 brought in close to \$300,000 to the Foundation, besides creating ripples all over the District with some unique achievements. The event held in November at Pune was hosted by RC Pune Central and presided over by TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee. EMGA Ashok Panjwani was the Guest of Honour.

Rtn Kulbir Dodd was felicitated for his commitment to become an AKS member. Ninety-year-old Dodd is an NRI and an 8-year-old member of RC Pune North. His donation comprises a combination of Endowments and Term Gifts exclusively meant for promoting e-learning and extensive use of Tablets to make children tech-savvy.

The event also celebrated centenary freedom fighter Raghunath Purushottam Takalkar's contribution of \$1,100 to TRF. "He is as old as our Foundation. The issue is not the money, but the intention to give," said DRFC Deepak Shikarpur. Takalkar's

son Chandrasekhar is member of RC Pune Sahawas.

The seminar recognised the Spanish corporate Gestamp Automotive for its contribution of \$77,600 under a CSR programme. The deal was sealed by Rakesh Bhargava, the District Director of CSR Funds

for TRF. "This may be the first such donation in the country after the TRF Trustees passed a resolution for the Rotary Foundation (India) to accept CSR funds beginning this Rotary year," said Shikarpur. The grant is to be used for literacy programmes.

Banerjee recalled the history of the Foundation saying, "it has grown so much from its first contribution of \$26.5 almost a century ago. Today it is a proud moment for all of us, for, our Foundation has been named an outstanding world charity by the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP). TRF is a charity of choice for many." He urged Rotarians to donate generously, now that the Foundation has opened a new window of opportunity for more CSR funds, which means more projects.

The District, with its total contribution of \$160,041 till October, stands second only to D 3141, which has contributed \$321,949 during the same period. ■



TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee honours Rtn Kulbir Dodd in the presence of DRFC Deepak Shikarpur.

Rotary will touch 5 million children through **23,000** schools in WinS

Rasheeda Bhagat



Our target was to reach 20,000 schools by the end of 2016–17, and we have the commitment of our Rotarians to do more than 23,000 schools, touching 5 million children,” said TRF Trustee and WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta, while giving details at the Dubai Zone Institute about the project, which is one of the Rotary India flagship projects.

One of the highlights of WinS was that regular workshops and video presentations are being done in schools “and we’ve involved Interactors and Rotaractors.” He showed a video on how children sing a

song, specially composed on how to wash hands, as they wash their hands.

“WinS is a game-changing programme which addresses three of the six focus areas of Rotary: water and sanitation, literacy and basic education and disease prevention.” But it was not enough for a child to just drink clean, safe water, have access to a toilet and wash her hands with soap. It had to continue for all time; “WinS aims at behaviour change for the long term, not only for the children, but also their families and the broader community,” Gupta said.

He added that the programme also hopes

WinS is a game-changing programme which addresses three of the six focus areas of Rotary, but it is much more than building toilets.

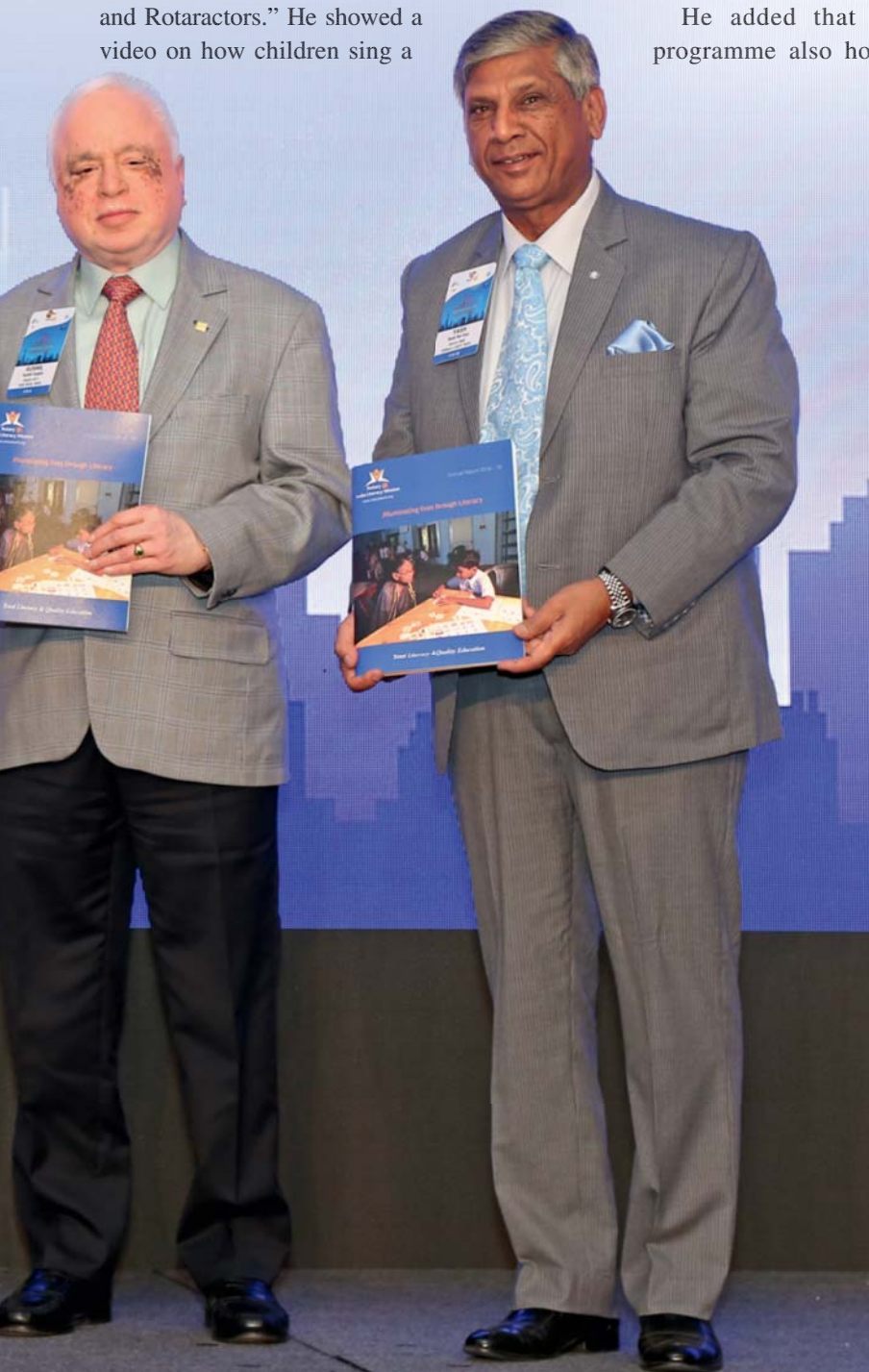
**WinS Global Chair
Sushil Gupta**

to teach and influence adults, teachers and the community to adopt new and healthier practices for years to come. “No doubt toilets are an essential component of WASH, but the programme does not start and end with toilets. This is just one component; WASH stands for water, sanitation and hygiene and its two most important components are group hand washing and capacity building.” If hand washing and other hygienic practices were instilled in the children in schools, they would demand toilets at home, and this demand would have a trigger down effect in the entire community. “That is our objective, just by building toilets India will not become *swachh* or clean.”

Unique opportunity

Gupta said in India we had a unique opportunity in 130 million children getting free midday meals every day. “If you put group handwashing stations near the eating area, you are guaranteeing a 40 per cent reduction in diseases like diarrhoea, resulting in better health and attendance.”

Capacity building was also important, and hence empowered school committees had to be put in place to take ownership for the programme. Today Government schools were struggling with the retention of girls as about



From left: RID Manoj Desai, RI President John Germ, RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta, WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta and PRID Y P Das releasing the RILM's Annual Report at the DDZI.



In the WinS programme, there is great opportunity to get CSR funds which are to the tune of Rs 14,000 crores every year.

WinS Global Chair
Sushil Gupta

Inner Wheel members during the last two years. “Of the partnerships we have forged with organisations, the most outstanding one is with the Satyarthi Foundation; this gives us the biggest stamp of approval for our programme,” he said, giving an update on Literacy.

The good news is that “we have forged partnerships in each of the five verticals of TEACH”. While the support from both the Central and State Governments was great, “we have been fortunate to get huge star support from sports personalities, film stars and even politicians. The corporate world is also coming forward in a big way to support our initiatives,” he said.

Mehta disclosed that when RC Thane invited him to launch the non-braille computers to ensure that visually challenged children will no more need braille computers, the response was magical. “This project needs Rs 8 crore. PRID Ashok Mahajan was sitting in the audience and he said ‘Ok, I will get Rajashree Birla (from the Aditya Birla Foundation) to give this amount. We didn’t even ask him.”

What followed next was nothing short of “amazing! The President of the SBI India Foundation was in the audience and he said something that made my day. He said the contribution you needed has been fully subscribed to, but on behalf of SBI can I make a request? Can SBI be allowed to do 100 schools out of these 400 schools?”

Mehta showed some video clips, one being of Rani, a primary school teacher from a Maharashtra village. She loved spending time with her students, but was hampered because of several

40 per cent of girl students drop out at puberty because of total lack of menstrual hygiene management facilities. “You will be shocked to know that even in the best of private or public schools in India, there is no private space provided for girls for menstrual hygiene management, nor is proper education imparted to them at that tender age.”

Gupta said to finance WinS projects clubs and districts were pursuing global grants. This was an important project of TRF and there was a lot of interest worldwide for WASH. “So we are receiving support of the Rotary world and in India, there is great opportunity to get CSR funds which are to the tune

of Rs 14,000 crores every year. Thanks to a Trustee decision, Rotary Foundation India can now receive CSR funds.”

Collaboration with Unicef

To take this campaign forward, Rotary is collaborating with Unicef to strengthen the Swachh Bharat Swachh Vidyalaya campaign. It was also working with the HRD Ministry, Department of Education and Rotary had been invited to participate in the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar. “We are also going to be a part of the National Mission for a Clean Ganga and are signing an MoU with the HRD Ministry to take up 500 schools in Bihar and Jharkhand which are abutting River Ganga. We will sensitise and educate the children to keep Ganges clean,” he added.

TEACH’s outstanding impact

Giving an overview of the Rotary India Literacy Mission’s TEACH programmes, at the session on Rotary’s future, its Chair Shekhar Mehta said it was making an “outstanding impact” thanks to the efforts of Rotarians and



The Maharashtra Government wants to do 1 lakh schools with us, and this will impact 30 million children over 3–5 years.

RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta

government tasks not related to teaching. Dejected, she was on the verge of quitting by taking VRS. But recently she attended a teachers' training programme organised by a Rotary club in District 3131. She found the workshop excellent and was motivated to cancel her VRS plan. "Like her, thousands of teachers are benefitting from the RILM's teacher training programme. RILM mission this year was to train 5,000 teachers in 2016-17, but just one District — 3131 — has ensured that the goal is shattered as the district alone is training 10,000 teachers!"

This training includes classroom management, teaching skills, personality development, etc. District 3160 is training 3,000 teachers; "we have surpassed our goals, and will do at least 4 to 5 times the number," Mehta said.

E-learning takes off

E-learning had now moved from the "taxying to the take-off mode. Gujarat (D 3052) has done some outstanding

work; they have an MoU with the government and have put E-learning in 7,063 schools, impacting three million children." The district has signed an MoU for 25,000 schools. Similarly Districts 3140, 3190, 3040 and 3131 have done great work in E-learning.

Mehta announced that "we are on the verge of an agreement with the SBI Foundation for 1,116 schools at a cost of Rs 5 crore, and this will impact half a million children. We were in talks with the Maharashtra Government for doing 8,510 schools. They have now upped the goal to 1 lakh schools at a cost of an unbelievable Rs 200 crores. This is going to impact 30 million children over 3-5 years. The documents have gone to the ministry for approval; they have their share of money ready and we will have to put our act together."

While E-learning was making waves, the Adult Literacy programme was also making progress, motivating illiterate women to get basic literacy.



RILM mission this year was to train 5,000 teachers, but just one District — 3131 — has shattered the goal; this district alone is training 10,000 teachers.

RILM Chair **Shekhar Mehta**

On Happy Schools too there was great progress; RC Jaipur Midtown had taken a great initiative to convert 10 Government schools to happy schools, impacting 15,000 children, with a contribution of Rs 52 lakh. "Equipped with benches, handwashing centres, separate toilets for girls and boys, water supply, uniforms and shoes for the children, these schools now look like private schools. The playing areas and the buildings have been painted in attractive colours, and dropout rates have fallen drastically," he added.

On the international front, the programme was slowly maturing in Pakistan and taking shape in Bangladesh. It had a flying start in Nepal this year with the Nepal President inaugurating the National Literacy Conference, where she praised the TEACH initiative.

To ensure "outstanding transparency and stewardship, we have PWC as our auditors. Our three-year audited accounts are uploaded online for public view." The annual report was released at the Institute along with a TEACH app.

In his opening remarks PRID Yash Pal Das said that though Rotary "will become more region specific, in the future, our common objective of doing good in this world will not change and for centuries Rotary will be needed to provide relief and hope, as the world continues to be challenged by natural disasters. The future of Rotary is very bright, but it is in your hands."

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



K Vishwanathan

In Mumbai, anything is possible

Rasheeda Bhagat

Shahrukh Khan with designer
Archana Kochhar.



In Mumbai, no dream is too big. And District 3141 proved this in its DisCon titled Pratham. When DG Gopal Mandhanja sent me a video a day or two prior to the conference saying the Badshah of Bollywood Shahrukh Khan will attend, I couldn't even be too sceptical. Because *yeh toh Mumbai hei bhaiya, yaha toh kuch bhi ho sakta hei!* (This is Mumbai and anything can happen here.)

And lo and behold, the Khan of DDLJ fame actually turned up for the Archana Kocchar show, wearing a dapper *bandh gala* designed by her. As the audience, particularly the women, went wild, and shouts of "Shahrukh, marry me" rang out, SRK took the entire frenzy in his stride, and complimented D 3141 for the great work it was doing in carrying out paediatric surgeries for underprivileged children.

And then he played along: "I would speak a little more but I've got a few marriage proposals here tonight... this is just a joke so hope nobody will pull it out of context. Matters of the heart I believe in, so the paediatric surgeries



The paediatric surgeries that you are doing are commendable. I'm extremely fortunate that all of you insisted that I be here, so here I am."

Shahrukh Khan

that you are doing are commendable. I'm just extremely fortunate that all of you insisted that I be here, so here I am."

He said he was returning to shooting after that; DG Gopal Mandhanja announced that thanks to Shahrukh's presence, the District had raised Rs 40 lakh for its **Little Hearts** project to do cardiac surgery on poor children. Rotarians Sanjay Jalan, Rajendra Agarwal, Arjun Munda and Ratan Podar had contributed large sums to raise this money. "And more than 100 children will be operated upon thanks to the sheer presence here of the Badshah of

Bollywood," he said. A book of poems written by Aria Fafat — *Reflections* — was acknowledged by Khan.

Earlier, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Foundation Rajashree Birla unveiled a statue of Paul Harris, and honoured the families of the jawans who had recently been martyred in terrorist attacks. She was also felicitated by PRID Ashok Mahajan for her generous donations to TRF.

Celebrities galore

At the Archana Kocchar show, apart from SRK, Alia Bhatt also walked the ramp in the stunning fashion show put together by the fashion designer. The next day, in a session titled 'Sanjay Dutt Unplugged' the *Khalnayak* of Bollywood had a candid chat with Rtn Gursahani on his days in prison, and what he had learnt from it.

One thing he had practised in his life was "never give in; whatever happens, you have to stand up," said Dutt. His life had been a roller coaster ride; his case lasted for 25 years, and for over 20 years during the case, "I



Felicitations: (from L) PRID Ashok Mahajan, Rajashree Birla, RIPR Mary Beth Growney Selene and DG Gopal Mandhanja.



DG Gopal Mandhanian joins First Lady of the District Meera and other spouses for a Bollywood dance session.

was branded a terrorist which I am not. I am a patriot and I love my country, its people, I'll die for my country. I can go to the borders and be with the jawans and fight for my country," he said.

But he did face the case, and "didn't run from the law, I made a mistake and I said I'll serve my sentence."

Asked to describe a "day in the jail," he said, a "day in the jail is nothing exciting *yaar*, but *agar is audience mei kisiko weight loss karna hei to unhey Jindal farm pe jaake, paisa kharch karkey, bhaji-poori khaney ki zaroorat nahi hei*. (For weight loss you don't have to go to the Jindal farm, spend money and eat greens), the best way to lose weight is the jail." And here, you didn't need to throw out the flies from the dhal, because they provided a valuable source of protein, he said amidst laughter.

Another interesting session moderated by ace film director Govind Nihalani was 'Films, TV and us'. Other celebrities who spoke at the conference were Rajya Sabha MP Subramanian Swamy, Suhel Seth and Kapil Sibal. But the one speaker who was clearly the darling of the conference, and who



A day in the jail is nothing exciting, but *agar kisiko weight loss karna hei to unhey Jindal farm pe jaake, paisa kharch karkey, bhaji-poori khaney ki zaroorat nahi hei*. The best place is jail.

Sanjay Dutt

touched every heart was Paralympian Deepa Malik, who described her story of sheer grit, determination and will-power that had helped her battle over the years the creeping disability that finally landed her in a wheelchair.

But she braved every odd to finally represent India in the Rio Paralympics where she created history by becoming the first Indian woman to get a Paralympics medal. She got a silver in a shot put event in September

2016. Her story is too inspiring to be dismissed in a couple of paras and will be told in detail in a later issue of *Rotary News*. But the one sentence that floored the audience was the one sentence she uttered while describing how she went for a major surgery and could only talk on the phone to her husband who was in the Indian army and fighting the Kargil war, and hence couldn't be there in Delhi. "He said it's okay if you lose your legs; I'll carry you in my arms for the rest of my life. But please don't die on me!"

A judicious mix of fun, frolic and entertainment, and some serious and heart-stirring speeches, defined the D 3141 DisCon. What made it a tremendous success could be seen from the way DG Madhanian kept giving credit to his team members and inviting large groups of people on the stage to acknowledge the hard work they had put into a particular session. *Rotary News* too got a few awards for the hard work its team has put into making it an interesting and relevant magazine!

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

Healthcare on Wheels

Team Rotary News



PP of RC Bombay Airport Kevin Colaco, IPRIP K R Ravindran, Deputy High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Arindam Bagchi and D 3220 Governor Senaka Amerasinghe, along with other Rotarians, at the launch of the healthcare bus.

Rotary Club of Bombay Airport, D 3141, joined hands with RCs Bombay Bandra, Borivli, Bombay East, Bombay Kandivli, Bombay West and Capital City (D 3220, Sri Lanka) to present a hi-tech medical care bus to the Colombo Friend-In-Need Society (CFINS), Sri Lanka. The mobile healthcare provides hearing aids, eye treatment and diabetic screening, besides prosthetic limbs to war victims in Sri Lanka.

The members of RC Capital City, D 3220, Sri Lanka, got in touch with the Mumbai clubs and briefed them on the need for a mobile delivery unit to replace the 14-year-old bus which was a gift to CFINS from Princess Diana through her Children's Trust.

The bus is equipped with modern gadgets and exclusive cabins for treatment of people suffering from eye, ear disorders and leg amputation. It has a small workshop at its rear-end. The Sri

Lankan club is in charge of monitoring the activity of the bus.

With this new bus, CFINS will be able to continue with its free limbs fitment camps in the island nation, especially in war-torn areas, reaching out to amputees.

India's Deputy High Commissioner in Sri Lanka Arindam Bagchi was the chief guest at the launch of the mobile audio-visual, diabetic screening and prosthetic limb facility under a Global Grant project worth \$145,000. IPRIP K R Ravindran, D 3220 Governor Senaka Amerasinghe, IPDG Jesudasan, Rotarians from Mumbai and Sri Lanka were present at the event.

Jaipur limbs to CFINS

Since 2014, RC Bombay Airport has been donating Jaipur foot limbs to CFINS annually in partnership with RC Capital City. The Mumbai club has its own Jaipur Foot Centre at

Ville Parle East that offers prosthetic limbs to nearly 200 people free of cost every year.

Formed in 1831, CFINS has been doing a yeoman service in the field of prosthetics and orthotics, benefiting thousands of amputees with custom-made fitments and trained to walk independently.

RC Capital City had assisted the CFINS in the Trincomalee, Bibile, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Ampara and Mullaitivu camps.

At a prosthetic limbs camp in Ampara, 71 amputees were given Jaipur foot with new plastic sockets from Mumbai. "The Bombay limbs are lighter than those hitherto used. They consumed less time for production, less costly and based on Indian technology. Moreover, it is more comfortable as it is tailor-made to suit a patient's needs," said Kevin Colaco, Past President, RC Bombay Airport. ■

Keeping Rotary Relevant

Rasheeda Bhagat

I remember when I started attending Rotary functions years ago as a speaker, at one meet, at the dinner table the conversation turned to heart bypass operations. And everybody shared information on where they had done the surgery, the drugs they were on and the side effects. As a 28-year-old, I couldn't contribute much to that conversation! They didn't mean to make

me unwelcome but I did feel out of place!"

With such anecdotes, eminent social researcher, writer and public speaker, and now a Rotarian, Michael McQueen regaled the packed hall at the Dazzling Dubai Zone Institute. Speaking on the topic "Keeping Rotary relevant", he gave a gripping account of famous global brands which had either gone bankrupt because they failed to innovate or use technological opportunities, or who read the writing on the wall and quickly adapted to changing times.

It is often said that GenY, who Rotary needs to attract as members, are a generation who "never volunteer,

never get involved and never want to give back". But a look at the NGO *Carry the Future* shows this is not true. Started in September 2015 by Cristal Logothetis, a young woman in California who was so moved by a TV footage of the plight of refugee children in Syria, that she said we have to do something about it. One of the biggest challenges was that the refugees or migrant families had no proper way to carry their children. "So she got a simple idea, put up a Facebook page to gather funds with the appeal that second-hand carriers may be sent to refugee families. Within a month she had collected \$40,000 and over 3,000 used baby carriers to be sent to refugee families in Syria." Within



Michael McQueen

How many taxi drivers were looking for an app called Uber that might put them out of business? Very few.

3 months she had raised \$50,000 and had 5,200 active volunteers. All online and through social media.

While one lesson Rotary could learn from this was that many organisations operate in different ways thanks to technology, the other interesting lesson was that the vast majority of its volunteers “are part of a generation that we are told don’t volunteer, don’t give back, don’t get involved. A generation called the Millennials or Gen Y. I am part of Gen Y myself.” This is the age group 17-35 and a powerful demographic in India with about 35-44 per cent of the population being in this group. “This is a huge group and the absolute key to our future membership,” McQueen said.

Urging Rotarians not to believe the hype that this group doesn’t get involved, he added, “They are involved in many charities such as *Carry the Future*; they have just not joined our cause.” India has a better than the global statistic of 15 per cent of its membership coming from those under 40, compared to the general Rotary world where only 6 per cent of Rotarians were below 40.

One of the several reasons why youngsters were not joining Rotary, McQueen said, was that “they don’t know about us”. Once, while raising funds at a shopping centre in the US, somebody asked them what the funds were meant for; “I said Rotary, and he said, genuinely, what is Rotary. He didn’t have a clue. Even those who have heard of Rotary don’t really

Lego’s success story

Michael McQueen, who keeps a firm eye on emerging trends, said several businesses had gone bankrupt because of disruptive technologies and one big example was Kodak. But a brand like toy maker Lego had reinvented itself and thought innovatively, making use of technology to stay relevant, profitable and more powerful than ever before. “A few years ago, Lego was the most powerful brand. They beat McDonalds, they beat Coke, they beat Apple.” But in 2004, Lego, according to some reports, was “seven months away from bankruptcy. They were in serious trouble for a number of reasons, one of them being that disruption had occurred for Lego as a brand. Throughout the 1990s,

suddenly all the cool kids didn’t want to play with plastic blocks anymore because video game had come on the scene.”

Adhering to the strategy if you can’t beat them, join them, Lego came out with its own range of video games, and developed a gaming system called the Lego Universe, created a smart phone app, etc. While using a lot of technology in this, it also kept reinventing its toy range. “The smartest thing they did a few years ago was realising that there was group of consumers they weren’t resonating with — girls — which is one half of the population, it came out with the Lego friends’ toys range and within two years, 27 per cent of its global revenue came from toys sold to girls!”

understand what we are about. In a nutshell, we are not good enough at telling our own stories. We do good and we are ashamed to share it.”

Most young people who knew anything at all of Rotary had a “warped view. Perhaps they see it as an exclusive club for retired people, and in many cases, retired men,” he said, amidst thunderous applause.

At one Rotary club everybody shared information on where they had done the bypass surgery or the drugs and their side effects. At that point, as a 28-year-old, I couldn’t contribute much to that conversation!

The challenge was how to change that perception. Often, the young did not join Rotary because “they don’t know they are welcome in our clubs.” Another key reason was lack of time. “This is a generation that is really busy,” McQueen said, and recalled that when he joined a Rotary club in Sydney, one of his first experiences was introduction to a Rotarian who had been in Rotary for 27 years and “the second thing I was told was he had 100 per cent attendance! That was meant to inspire me but it didn’t; at best it intimidated me because I’ve caught 12 flights in the last 2 weeks. That’s what I do and I’m very rarely around, and many young people have similar schedules. So my first thought was that if that is what is required, then I can’t be a part of it.” Luckily the President told him he was aware how busy McQueen was and added,

Dig a well before you get thirsty; reinvent before change forces you to. You can't wait for change to arrive. It's too late by then.

"Come as often as you can and give what you can."

So, to attract young people how should Rotary clubs position themselves to the young?

The answer lay in some of the brands which were around for two centuries; those businesses had survived and even prospered because they had done things differently and innovated.

Challenging the audience to remember something they were taught in high school, McQueen said he too had forgotten the principle of entropy taught in Physics — that matter left to itself will decay and disintegrate. "I never realised that one day I would dedicate a chunk of my career to entropy and how it applies to businesses, organisations and institutions that I've been tracking for 14 or 15 years."

In 2011 we saw many iconic brands fall prey to entropy; massive businesses going into bankruptcy and the biggest of them all was Kodak. The questions here were why do the mighty fall? How did they go from a position of strength, growth and prosperity, to losing that edge and becoming obsolete, irrelevant and in some cases, completely bankrupt?

The second question that has driven his research, and is far more important, is why do some organisations allow the injury to prevail, whereas others — business and non-profit — keep growing and remain relevant for long periods... decades, centuries. The answers have been recorded in his book *Winning the battle of Relevance*, "where I have looked at Rotary consistently asking how do these questions apply to us as an organisation."

The one word which describes why even the mightiest of businesses lose their edge, and fail is disruption. "This word describes change that wasn't expected. How many taxi drivers were looking for an app called Uber that might put them out of business? Very few. How many hotels had any idea that Airbnb might take a huge chunk of their business? That is disruption. When you aren't expecting or looking for it, it can come overnight and change the game totally."

And technology plays a huge role in disrupting established businesses. McQueen showed slides of how in the last 10 years, brand repositioning has happened. In 2006, the five biggest companies in the world by market capitalisation were Exxon, GE, Total, Microsoft, and Citi with respective market cap of \$446, \$383, \$327, \$293 and \$273 billion. Two of these were energy companies, one bank and an IT company.

By 2011 Exxon still led (\$406 billion) and Apple had come from nowhere to be in the second position with \$376 billion. There were three energy companies; it was a good time to be in oil. And a Chinese bank came from nowhere to the fifth position, "at a time when American banks were holding on for dear life!"

In the chart published, technology companies are colour coded in green. Come to 2016 and all the five big companies in the world are in technology and all of them have "largely got there by disrupting other businesses and other industries. Apple is leading (\$582 billion); followed by Alphabet (\$556), Microsoft (\$452), Amazon (\$364) and Facebook (\$359).

Next, said McQueen, let us look at the disruptions in the future. The use of nano technology in robotics and the 3D printing world is gigantic. Autonomous vehicles are also on the anvil, he said, and asked, "How many of you find the idea of a driverless car terrifying? These are much closer to becoming a

Lego had thought innovatively, making use of technology to stay relevant, profitable and more powerful than ever before, and pulled back from the verge of bankruptcy in 2004.



reality than we think. Recently, Ford announced that by 2021 they will roll out the first car off their production line that has no steering wheel!”

What intrigues a business analyst is how it is going to impact businesses and industries and those will be many. “There are many industries right now who have no idea of what is going to hit them. One industry is the auto insurance industry and the smart ones are nervous about this. They won’t tell you, but I can, because many of them are my clients and behind closed doors they are scrambling to get ready for this. Think about this: if you have an accident in a driverless car, who is at fault? Because insurance is liable to pay. The whole base of that industry is that the person at the helm of the car is in control of that vehicle.”

Other industries which will be dramatically impacted by this will be the flight and logistics businesses; and truck drivers will be an endangered species within three decades. And then there is the Paid Parking industry. “I was having lunch with a guy who has a 50 per cent stake in one of the big paid parking companies in Australia. An extraordinary, successful, wealthy man, he knows what is coming. His question over lunch was: when do you think I should sell my shares?”

Think of a future when there might be a fleet of millions of driverless taxis. “The next question will be why would you even own a car in the first place? I was looking at my 30-month-old son recently and thinking there is every chance he would never get a driver’s licence. And if it is not him, it will be his kids!”

Rotary as an organisation was also not immune to disruption; we are part of a global community. We engage with many communities but how we build communities or engage with them has changed enormously. Because of technological disruption in the last 10 years.

McQueen said he and RI Director Manoj Desai were part of RI’s Strategic



Introduction to a Rotarian
with 100 per cent attendance
was meant to inspire me
but it didn’t; it intimidated
me because I’ve caught 12
flights in the last 2 weeks.
That’s what I do and I’m
very rarely around.

Plan committee which looks at Rotary’s future. “But rather than look at technology as a threat, and many of us do that, can I suggest it can be a phenomenal opportunity to leverage and enlarge our influence to re-engage people who are disengaged and have left or attract people who might otherwise have never joined our organisation.”

Some of the thoughts he left the Rotarians with include:

- * Dig a well before you get thirsty; reinvent before change forces you

to. You can’t wait for change to arrive. It’s too late by then, because you are in survival mode and not operating in a strategic mode. The great challenge for you in the districts in India is that you are growing. But often with growth and success comes complacency and that is incredibly dangerous.

- * Earlier, the definition of insanity was: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Today, it is the opposite.
- * Avoid the trap of auto pilot and engage with people and ideas all the time.
- * India has a better than the global statistic of 15 per cent of its membership coming from those under 40, compared to the general Rotary world where only 6 per cent of Rotarians are below 40.
- * Leverage fresh eyes. Think outside the box. People with fresh eyes seek simple solutions to problems.

Pictures by K Vishwanathan

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

All about Literacy

Jaishree



RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta with RSALS Chair J B Kamdar. Also seen: PDGs W Anand, Benjamin Cherian, Basu Dev Golyan, S Krishnaswami and DGN Babu Peram.

Teachers should be the highest paid and most respected professionals in any society. But unfortunately, it is not so in our country. You may be a chartered accountant or an engineer, an expert in building bridges or saving precious lives, but who made you all? We all owe it to our teachers. Without them we are nowhere.” With these words, Shekhar Mehta addressed a joint meeting of 15 Rotary clubs in Chennai. The event was a prelude to the upcoming Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit to be held in the city during March 3–5.

“Three years ago, when Rotary began the literacy programme, we had no clue as to what we will

achieve. All that we aimed for was ‘Total Literacy’ and today, RILM (Rotary India Literacy Mission) has become a holistic programme and a ‘movement’,” he said. He is confident that today as RILM introduces the best technology in education for remote regions; in two years, a child studying in a village will be at par with one studying in a city convent school. The village children will have a level playing field, for, the teachers are being supplemented and trained to use sophisticated software for teaching, he added.

Looking into the future, he said that with Rotarians’ support, when they have created happy schools, trained teachers, provided e-learning

facilities, the school drop-out rate of children will go down and their comprehension of the subjects will improve and that is the day total literacy will happen all over India. The success of the programme is so much that “with support from governments and corporates, we are experiencing a strange scenario where money is chasing our Literacy programme.”

The Literacy summit is being held by rotation in the north, south, east and western regions of the country so that maximum number of participants can benefit and it will enhance the public image of the programme enough for other NGOs and corporates to invest in it. He said Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi’s

address during last year's Literacy summit brought in Rs 1.6 crore.

Presenting the year's report card of the TEACH verticals, he said that the national goal for Teacher Support for the year — to train 5,000 teachers — has already been surpassed. District 3131 has trained 5,000 teachers against their goal of 10,000; and District 3160 has completed training of 2,300 teachers. "This is not history, geography but we teach them classroom management, teaching skills and personality development so that they shape the students in a better way."

Coming to E-learning, Mehta said Gujarat has installed digital classrooms in 7,063 schools, impacting 3 million children, having signed an MoU with the State government. Mega MoUs with the SBI and Maharashtra Government were on the anvil. "Children want to attend school on Saturdays too as they find learning so much interesting now. In two years' time, we want to take it to every school in the country," he added.

His story of Kanaglata Bormu, an adult illiterate-turned-learner who set aside the stamp pad and went on to sign her name to open a bank account, stating that she is no longer a *anguthachaap* (illiterate), summed up the road travelled in Adult Literacy.

In the field of Child Development, about 45,000 children are being taught by 4,000 teachers in 3,176 Asha Kiran centres set up in 7,700 villages across the country. He highlighted the activities of RC Jaipur Midtown in converting 10 government schools into Happy Schools, benefitting 15,500 children approximately, at a cost of Rs 52.5 lakh.

"We have to make India literate by tomorrow, let's work like that," he said, to a Rotarian's query on the deadline set for Total Literacy in India.

RSALS Chair J B Kamdar, giving an overview of the summit, said that around 4,000 delegates are expected to attend. ■

Akshayapatra for the poor

Jaishree



From right: DG HR Ananth, Rotary Bangalore Brigades President Vimla Pinto, Ms Earth 2010 Nicole Faria, Girija Ananth and Rtn Satish BE at the inauguration of the Rotary Fridge.

We were heartened to see few construction workers take food from the refrigerator and feed their children, and we still cherish the memory of the look on a child's face after being fed with a mouthful of *roti* and *paneer butter masala*," says Vimla Pinto, the President of RC Bangalore Brigades, D 3190. She and her team has installed a 'Rotary Fridge' outside Hotel Elite Royale at HSR Layout in Bengaluru which was inaugurated by DG HR Ananth and Ms Earth 2010 Nicole Faria.

The club has tied up with restaurants in the city, installing mini-refrigerators outside the building, in its endeavour to feed the hungry with leftover food prepared by restaurants. "The food chain should not end prematurely at the incinerator or the bin, rather it should complete its role of providing nutrition to people. Anyone can walk up to the fridge

and pick up food — no payment, no questions asked," says Vimla.

The first fridge was installed outside a Lebanese restaurant Byblos at Indira Nagar last October, and four more have been added in various other areas with 40 more to be installed in the next three months. Excess food is packed in boxes and kept in the fridge, sometimes with fresh fruits too. During festival seasons, the restaurants also stock it with sweets for which the Rotarians also lend a hand.

The restaurants have assured to stock up fresh food, while the club will take care of the fridge's maintenance and repairs. Other clubs and few corporates have also shown interest in this endeavour.

The Rotarians are also toying with the concept of a Rotary Shelf where groceries, snacks, jams etc donated by people may be stored and will be given to the needy. Few residential complexes have welcomed the idea, says Vimla. ■

Cycling for Swachh Bharat

Kiran Zehra

Twenty-two participants rode 4,800 km on bicycles, through the changing landscape of India, to usher in #swachhbharat and promote WinS.

Dressed in fluorescent jackets and bright helmets, hundreds of Rotarians, Rotaractors and cycling enthusiasts welcomed the peloton of 22 cyclists who participated in the *K2K Tour De Rotary* at the Elliot's Beach in Chennai. RC Madras Midtown, D 3230, the organisers of the annual cycling event, ensured that the welcome was a grand affair. The icing on the cake was a special video message from TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee: "I am glad that you are taking this trip from Kashmir all the

way down to Kanyakumari for The Rotary Foundation and doing good in the world. I appreciate the initiative and wish you good luck for this journey. Anything you do to promote our Foundation will always be appreciated." Club Secretary Bhavesh Shah said that this "was a huge encouragement, especially because it came from the most revered Rotary leader."

The club flagged off the 4,800 km tour on November 7 from Kashmir, dedicating this year's rally to commemorate the 100th year of TRF,

raise funds, sensitise people pan India about Rotary's WinS programme and promote the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. This initiative was also supported by the Ministry of Urban Development.

The journey

With 27 flag-off points and a pit stop every 40 minutes, the journey has been a colourful affair for the 22 cyclists. While one cyclist who is in his early twenties felt that the scenic Kashmir valley stole his heart, another 60-year-old rider was



Porkodiyal Chidambaram, the only woman cyclist in the group, with her parents.



DG Chandrashekar Kolvekar and his team welcoming the cyclists at Navi Mumbai.

fascinated by vibrant Gujarat. “We’ve seen India like never before and this is as good as a *padyatra*,” says cyclist Srimi Swaminathan. Describing his best experience of the tour, he says that at the Gandhi Nagar Stadium in Gujarat, 3,000 cyclists were instructed to ring their cycle bells “as we rode into the stadium and that gave us all goosebumps. That is the best welcome a cyclist could ever receive.”

“The journey in itself is a lesson for all of us,” said 26-year-old Porkodiyal Chidambaram, the only woman cyclist in the group. It was her passion and the support of her husband and her boss that made it possible for her to embark on this “amazing, once in a lifetime journey.” Yes, Swachh Bharat and WinS were a priority, but she has a message for “all the women out there. Follow your passion and focus on it, and not on the obstacles.”

Curiosity has been the key of this promotional rally. At many places, two/four-wheeler drivers would stop the cyclists to enquire about their ride. “If they weren’t wearing helmets, we would advise them to get and wear them,” says Swaminathan, adding,

Small vendors, who sell fruits, tea and sugarcane juice wouldn’t take money from us when they came to know the cause of our ride. They’d say, ‘you’re doing your bit for the country, we are doing ours.’

“building a rapport was important, otherwise, they wouldn’t be interested in listening to us.” At every point, few motorcyclists or onlookers would take pictures and share them on social media with the hashtags, #K2K and #SwachhBharat. “This promoted our cause to a larger audience instantly,” says another cyclist.

Apart from their experience of riding 150–200 km every day through steep inclinations, ghat roads, tunnels and scenic backgrounds, the one thing that remained constant was the support of various Rotary clubs. District Governors of all the 19 districts the rally coursed through were present at the

flag-offs and ensured that the cyclists were given a warm reception. “We met dignitaries, social workers, leaders and so much love was showered on us.”

But the rest of India is far more fascinating, says Swaminathan. “Small vendors, who sell fruits, tea and sugarcane juice wouldn’t take money from us when they came to know the cause of our ride. They’d say, ‘you’re doing your bit for the country, we are doing ours.’ We were taken aback by their gesture,” he says.

Just before the Chennai flag-off, which was led by cricketer Jonty Rhodes, the club released a Tamil song, *Thooimai Indhiya*, (Clean India) composed and sung by Annets Abhinav Narayanan, a 12-year-old violinist, and Rishab Ramnatha, a 14-year-old vocalist, to promote the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. District 3230 DG Natarajan Nagoji thanked the local urban government bodies and Rotary clubs who supported this event and added, “This rally is to ensure that people in rural areas are sensitised to avoid open defecation and usher in a change that will build a cleaner and healthier India.” ■

Demonetisation won't be a bonanza for banks



TCA Srinivasa
Raghavan

Not in a month of Sundays would India's banks have imagined that they were going to be inundated with so much money, so suddenly — all of Rs 15 lakh crore! Thanks to the demonetisation of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes announced by the Prime Minister on November 8, 2016, and the requirement that all

the old money be exchanged before December 31, nearly 87 per cent of the currency in circulation came back to the banks.

Nothing much would have changed had they been able to replace it all in the hands of the public quickly. But because there were not enough trucks and security guards, the Reserve Bank of India

was not able to reach the money to the branches of the banks fast enough.

As a result, the banks find that the currency that was with the public is now with them. The question now is: What will they do with it? How will they use this sudden flood of cash?

Many people think that this excess is an aberration which will normalise



by the end of the summer when people are able to get back the cash they had to surrender. At present, people can't withdraw more than Rs 96,000 per month in four equal tranches. Nor can they take out more than Rs 4,500 from the ATMs. When these limits are removed, possibly by the end of June, the cash holdings with the banks will go down, back to the pre-November 8 levels.

Meanwhile, there is also the possibility that the government, in order to force people to move to electronic transactions, will not replace all the cash that it de-notified. Just how much it will not replace is not yet known, even to itself. But a fair guess is around Rs 5 lakh crore will not be replaced. This means the currency in circulation will reduce from Rs 17 lakh crore on November 8 to around Rs 12 lakh crore eventually. This is a good thing.

What would that mean for the banks? Nothing at all: whether it is a cash entry or a digital entry into a bank account, the amount of money remains the same. Only the cash part of it comes down.

All about x, y and z!

In other words, the banks are going to remain flush with cash for at least



Until unsold stocks are disposed of, no one is going to invest more and therefore demand for loans is going to remain low.

through 2017, if not longer. Most people would love to be in this situation but, alas, not banks. Their economics works in the opposite direction because banks are just intermediaries.

They borrow from depositors at x per cent rate of interest and lend to borrowers at $x+y$ per cent. This is their income, broadly. They, however, does not represent their profit which is $y-z$, where z is their total cost ie, cost of borrowing from the public plus cost of operations like wages, rents, and other bills, not to mention loans that will never be repaid.

The higher the $y-z$, the better the bank's position. And this is where the public sector banks suffer; their z is often three or four times the z of the private sector banks. This means their profits are lower — that is, when they are not actually making losses, which half of them are. You can see this difference in the share prices of banks.

The immediate challenge for the banks, therefore, is to start lending more so that their income is maximised. But this is not going to be easy, for two reasons.

Lower sales, higher inventory

One reason is that demonetisation has meant lower sales and therefore higher inventory. Until unsold stocks are disposed of, no one is going to invest more and therefore demand for loans is going to remain low.

The slackness in investment demand is not because of unsold inventory alone. It is also because there has been a general downtrend in overall demand — both domestic and global — and demonetisation has only added to it.

Thirdly, there is the structure of banks' costs which, even if they are able to lend, will keep income low for most banks whether they are in the public or the private sector.

In short, demonetisation may eventually help the government's finances but for the banks it is bad news. 2017 is going to be a rough year for them. ■



Shed that Stress

Bharat and Shalan Savur

Ninety-nine per cent of our stress is self-created. That's because nobody taught us this truth: *Life begins when you do. Life becomes stress-free when you do.* Sure, troubles, ill-will, smallness, harshness can come a-knocking, but nobody told us the lock is on *our* side of the door.

Awaken to authenticity. So, let's awaken to our true, authentic power. It can be done by a simple and profoundly beautiful process: Imagine a loving, non-judgmental person like Mother Teresa is sitting with you, holding your hand. Feel her touch, her complete interest and deeply compassionate attention in what you have to say. Let her loving presence flow around you. You will find your inner pressures abating and something sweet and rich arising... Imagine that the Mother is seeing you through *her* eyes as a pure being, shining, uncontaminated, whole. And you'll see yourself as lovable, somebody who can be forgiven. Gratitude and joy will fill you as

all the masks and artificialities of daily interactions drop. For the first time, you will see yourself as you are — authentic, beautiful, radiant.

It's an awe-inspiring experience that everybody needs, nay *deserves*, to go through every day. After all, how often do we see ourselves through eyes of joyous, ever-flowing love? In this state, there is no stress in the one who is seeing *and* the one being seen. *No stress.* Just a deep restfulness. Accepting and being accepted is a beautiful formula for well-being.

No-stress thinking. Observe yourself and you will notice how stressed out you are most of the time:

* There's a nagging feeling of dissatisfaction, of wanting to accomplish more.

Alternative: Replace this with feeling constructive, of having a purpose, of having done your best.

* There's a tendency to focus on one's failures.

Alternative: Getting caught up in what I should not have done or could have done is as futile as chasing a shadow. Look, instead, at being on the right mental track and exploring the promise and possibilities of the present. Besides, failure makes one more understanding, empathetic, balanced. A new equilibrium sans pressures sets in. You know that you're not as great

as everybody tells you when you win and you know that you're never as low as you think you are when you lose. Another little window of awakening opens out here...

* You divide your mind and create needless conflicts. For example, you say about a duty, "This is tedious. I don't want to do it, but am doing it." Or something as inane as this thought comes to you, "I really want to sit and talk with you over a cup of tea, but I can't. No time." See how you have torn your mind in two between 'want to' and 'can't'. As this thought-pattern continues in your job, family, relationships, you head towards guilt, regret, uneasiness, depression, pain, suffering...

Alternative: Check yourself. Make no more misery for yourself. As the great Master Lao Tzu said, "Be content with what you have, rejoice in the way things are. When you realise there is nothing lacking, the whole world belongs to you." Whatever you do, do it from a sweet sense of generosity, ungrudgingly. Do it as an activity that you have chosen to do. Do it unconditionally, without an iota of resentment. Place it in its bigger perspective: Doing one's duty paves the road of life, but it is the generosity with which they are done that lights up and brightens the way. And you'll

Whatever you do, do it from a sweet sense of generosity, ungrudgingly, as an activity that you have chosen to do.



When you soak up enough sun, your emotional stability holds through stressful situations.



find that without those mental conflicts, you are at peace, at rest.

* We shatter our inner tranquility when we allow small things to get to us in a big way. Believe me, one little frowning thought, one stormy feeling and the world loses its charm, its friendliness. It's because our inner sun has set.

Alternative: Walk in the sun — literally. We don't have to consult a doctor or run to the chemist for medicine. The great benevolent sun delivers it to us unceasingly in India, the Land of the Eternal Sun. Walk under its warm golden radiance. Make it a healing, rejuvenating walk. Start by feeling its life-giving heated rays penetrate your skin. Focus on its warmth and affirm, "Through the power of the light that streams through me, may all my negative thoughts, destructive emotions, stubborn rigidity and blocks be purified and removed. May I know I'm forgiven for all the harm I may have thought and done. May I be positive and peaceful and live a good and serene life. And through my living may I benefit all other beings."

Now feel the sun's rays streaming love and compassion to your very core — heart, solar plexus. Feel these rays cleansing all negativities which have caused you so much stress. Feel you are immersed in its purifying light. Now, imagine that your body itself is light.

Though you need to use your imagination for this practice, there is nothing imaginary about it. A recent study concludes: when you soak up enough sun, your emotional stability holds through stressful situations. "The

amount of time between sunrise and sunset is the weather variable that matters most for our emotional and mental health," says researcher Mark Beecher.

The food factor. Many of us eat indiscriminately. While it's wonderful to try out new foods, a new field, nutrigenomics, suggests that nutrients from 'new' foods can alter the way our genes express themselves, leading to obesity, diabetes, etc. Statistics compiled by the University of San Francisco show that South Asians who've switched to a western diet have high rates of heart attacks and strokes. Even switching from rice to wheat may trigger inflammation genes.

Alternative: Eat anti-inflammatory foods — natural produce which does not cause pain, bloating, acidity, skin-eruptions, tongue-serration. Exercise daily. It enhances digestion, mood and strengthens the heart and lungs. Tension eases into tranquility. Tranquility translates into wellness.

Finally, a takeaway from a Wise One: "I was a neurotic for years. Anxious, depressed, stressed out, selfish. Everyone kept advising me, 'Change yourself.' I resented them. I wanted to change but just couldn't. I felt humiliated, trapped, powerless. One day, my friend said softly, 'Don't change. I love you as you are. I am thankful you are my friend.' I relaxed, I *changed!* When you meet the smiling trinity — acceptance, love and gratitude — your inner seething sea calms into a serene blissful ocean..." Let's un-create what we've created, and change from the stressed to the blessed.

The writers are authors of the book 'Fitness for Life' and teachers of the Fitness for Life programme.

D 3000 clocks **13%** **growth** in membership

V Muthukumaran

On a strong growth curve, RI District 3000 has chartered 40 Rotaract clubs and will have to set up 60 more to achieve its target for the year 2016–17. Spearheaded by DG M Muruganandam, the district has already surpassed the target of initiating 100 each of Interact club and Rotary Community Corps. And the message was loud and clear at the two-day District Conference titled Beats held at Chennai: Keep giving and God will ensure your continued prosperity.

But the spotlight was on the 100th year of The Rotary Foundation and

how all the 117 clubs in the district are striving hard to achieve the ambitious targets of DG Muruganandam in domains such as membership drive, service projects, WinS and Literacy and TRF contributions.

‘Service above self’ has enabled the 111-year-old Rotary to outlive other NGOs, while its charitable arm TRF has crossed 100 years with liberal donations from large-hearted people across the world, said RIDE C Basker. Perhaps, this was the one-of-its-kind NGO that cuts across caste, religion, linguistic and national barriers to forge global partnerships for a better world, he noted. He called upon

Rotarians to contribute liberally to TRF and fulfill all the commitments made by DG Muruganandam. Rotary was honoured to have such a dedicated team like D 3000 whose members were a ‘gift to the world’ as they were fine examples of doing good in the world and serving humanity, said Dr Janice H Kurth, representative of RI President John Germ and PDG of D 5340, US. In her inaugural address, she recalled the RI Convention in Utah, Salt Lake City (2007), during which she was inspired by the account of an Indian village of 325,000 people, who were grappling with severe water scarcity but were able to tide over the crisis



From L: PDG S Rajendran, RIPR Janice H Kurth, Rtn Panchanadhan, DG M Muruganandam, Postmater General Radhika Chakravarthy and RRFC Raja Seenivasan releasing the commemorative postage stamp and First Day Cover at the D 3000 DisCon.



RIDE C Basker and Malathi being felicitated by DG M Muruganandam and spouse Sumathi (extreme right).

with the help of Rotarians. “Through a matching grant of TRF, a dam was built which solved the water problem of the villagers once for all. This is one instance of doing good in the world,” she said.

Over the decades, Rotary has built up its credibility in accountability which has triggered funds pouring into TRF “as people trust us and our enviable record of serving humanity”. Noting that just 71 members from the district had registered for the 2017 TRF Convention in Atlanta, she hoped that more from this region would attend the centennial showcase.

DG Muruganandam said the district had surpassed the growth target of 10 per cent in new membership by enrolling 650-plus Rotarians. “This is a 13 per cent increase over the previous year. We have chartered three new Rotary clubs and seven more are on the anvil,” he said.

While the target for TRF contribution was \$1 million for 2016-17, till now \$.25 million has been collected. On the WinS and Literacy fronts (Happy Schools), he has directed each of the 117 clubs in his district to install an RO plant and one incinerator in schools for girl students.

Public image through Guinness

He added that District 3000 is the proud recipient of four Guinness Records, and seven more are on the adjudication process by the jury. “We are keen to build our public image through world records and our efforts will continue in this direction,” said Muruganandam. Already, the district had

received Asia and India Book of Record certificates for all its 11 attempts as part of an image building exercise.

Target 3 billion

Addressing the DisCon, RRFC Raja Seenivasan said it wasn’t enough to be just a Rotarian by subscription. All Rotarians should donate through whatever little means or make efforts to make the world a better place. Citing former President APJ Abdul Kalam’s book *Target 3 Billion*, he said this was the number of people living below poverty line, almost half of the world’s population when the book was written. Moreover, 5,000 kids died everyday and 240 crore people in the world were earning less than Rs 70 per day. Hence, it was the duty of every Rotarian to keep giving by whatever means possible to make a qualitative difference in the world.

On the sidelines of Beats meet, 970 Rotarians attempted the district’s 12th Guinness Record through a mega signature campaign on a huge scroll. The exercise lasted for two hours and the bid was to create awareness on polio eradication and literacy. A commemorative postage stamp and First Day cover were released to mark the TRF Centennial Year in the presence of Postmater General (Chennai City Region) Radhika Chakravarthy.

A medley of cultural shows, entertainment and celebrity talks regaled the 2,000-plus Rotarians and their families who had travelled all the way from Madurai, Trichy and their surrounding towns that comprise District 3000. ■

In the land of strawberries

Jaishree

Comfort for the soul, bliss for the mind and wholesome rejuvenation are the takeaways from the Saj Resorts, Mahabaleshwar.

Omg, Ma... it's so very scenic," exclaimed my 10-year-old daughter Shreenidhi as we drove towards Mahabaleshwar on the Sahyadri range of the Western Ghats, from Pune, to the Saj Resorts.

The resort immediately embraces you in its warmth, filling you with a sudden burst of energy. Sprawling across five acres of land in the Metgutad village, it has spacious, cozy cottages, where you can soak in the ambience over steaming cups of tea, seated on the verandah overlooking a courtyard filled with trees and monkeys too. Other accommodation options include luxury rooms that open out to spacious balconies offering a view of the hills. "When it is raining, our clients find the view enchanting," says Bhushan Bhandari, the manager.

Food

Soon it was time for lunch. Only vegetarian cuisine is on offer here and the spread of Rajasthani and Gujarati *thali* recommended by James, the F&B Manager, is prepared to perfection. Café Petunia, where breakfast and dinner are served, is the only place that has wi-fi connectivity. "Breakfast is elaborate with South Indian, Maharashtrian and North Indian varieties. The *Mysore dosa* and *Sabudhana kichdi* stand out. And of course, the strawberry shortcakes and strawberry cheese bread are a real treat. "All that you have here is special; the secret is



the fresh, locally grown vegetables that we use,” says Executive Chef Ramesh Jadav, answering my query to recommend the resort’s signature dish.

Guests are treated to entertainment such as a puppet show, magic show, live orchestra and DJ night, at dinnertime on weekends. The magic show invariably provides the wow factor for the children staying at the resort. The Banquet Hall open for conferences, functions and Rotary events can easily accommodate 250 people.

Rejuvenation for the body and soul

While the in-house spa offers a wide range of ayurvedic and herbal therapy to soothe the body and soul, the pool is equally inviting. After an hour of splashing in the chill waters, we head for an evening snack at Café Petunia. The *garam pakodas* and *masala chai* served with great enthusiasm was never more welcome.

The next morning was a fulfilling one; I took a brisk walk on the tree-lined

At Saj Resorts,
Mahabaleshwar.



Inside the
Panchganga Mandir.



courtyard with the merry chirping of the birds in the background and monkeys swinging from one tree to another, some basic yoga in the lawns of the Royal Garden and workout at the gym adjacent to the spa, and was ready to face the day with a bang.

Mahabaleshwar Chalo

Bhandari had arranged a sight-seeing programme to take us around Mahabaleshwar. Winding roads, cool breeze, breathtaking views of hills and valleys and plenty of strawberries to gorge on — that is Mahabaleshwar, and clubbed with Panchgani, it makes for an enviable holiday destination. Located about 120 km from Pune and 285 km from Mumbai, the plateau is the source of the river Krishna that flows across Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Our chauffeur Maruti Omle regales us with the legendary source of the river which is a spout from a *gomukh* (cow's face) at the Mahadev

temple. "The name Mahabaleshwar in Sanskrit means 'one who is all powerful' and that is Lord Shiv who is the presiding deity here," he says. The locals worship the two tributaries Venna and Koyna as Lord Shiv and Brahma. The Panchganga *mandir* at the confluence of the five rivers — Krishna, Venna, Koyna, Gayatri and Savitri — is believed to be more than 2,500 years old.

Other exotic spots include the Monkey Point, Kate's Point etc which offer a view of the valleys below. The Needle Hole Point is called so because of the presence of a natural hole between its rock formation. The Wilson Point, named after the erstwhile Governor of Bombay Sir Leslie Wilson, is the highest point of the hill station and Omle recommended it for its splendid view of the sunset. A boating trip on the Venna Lake, which is fed by the Lingmala and Dhobi waterfalls, is also a great option.

The Pratapgad Fort built by Chattrapati Shivaji in 1656, about

20 km from the resort, is an imposing monument. But the icing on the cake was the *Kaas Pathar* or Plateau of Flowers in Satara, a scenic 40-km drive. A biodiversity hotspot, the entire area was abloom with wild flowers. The quilt of vivacious colours — violet, yellow, pink and white flowers, with butterflies feasting on them, was a sight to behold and would have inspired William Wordsworth to pen a sequel to *Daffodils*! More than 850 species of flowers can be found here. The Plateau is listed as a World Natural Heritage Site and is restricted to 3,000 tourists a day. A major portion of it is a reserve forest.

The Mapro Garden is a strawberry lovers' delight and a visit to the jam factory was a lesson in jam making that kindles fresh love for strawberry jam.

We leave with fond memories and a warm *Au revoir* from the Director of Saj Hotels PDG Rahul Timbadia of District 3141. "Please be our guest at the Saj By the Lake at Malshej Ghat and you will love it," he extends the invitation and we promise we will. ■

Rotary saves a historical school

Kiran Zehra



History and patriotism still linger in the campus of the Tilak Rashtriya Vidyalaya (TRV), which was established in Khamgaon, Maharashtra, by Mukund Srikrishna Pandhe, way back in 1921 when khadi became the symbol of the Swadeshi movement. To this day the students of this institute continue to wear a complete khadi uniform (dhoti, kurta, topi). The school also preserves, in small wood and glass boxes, handwritten letters of gratitude and appreciation by many freedom fighters. A refuge to Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose and countless freedom fighters, this institute had fallen into a state of decrepitude. If not for RC Khamgaon, D 3030, neglect or vandalism would have forced India's first sculpture artistry institute to shut down.

The Vidyalaya provides primary and secondary education and training in arts such as painting and sculpting for students and young artists from underprivileged backgrounds. At the end of their course these students either become assistants of famous artists or set up their own studios to make original portraits and sculptures. Despite their wonderful sculptures and other art work either being robbed or vandalised, the students look at the sunny side of life. "They come every day no matter what and listen to their Guru, work and rework on their craft" says Uparwat, the school's Principal.

Rotarians Umesh Agarwal and Suresh Parekh who are also Trustees of TRV, along with a few other Rotarians who had been working with the school for a water harvesting project, were saddened by the condition of the school. Add to this "the 'we will not give up' attitude of the management

and students, and it strengthened our determination to do something bigger and better for the historical school," says club President Satish Dhanshuk Das.

A Global Grant was organised and the club in partnership with RC Sao Paulo-Butanta, D 4610 (Brazil), D 3030, and TRF raised \$33,000 to build separate toilet blocks for boys and girls, a computer lab, refurbish the campus and hostel. In line with the WinS programme, a wash station was set up to usher in behavioural change among the students. "It's not about putting cement and bricks together and fixing a *kamod* (toilet). It is about changing the lives of the students, especially the young girls whose parents stop sending them to school after puberty," says Umesh Agarwal.

For 14-year-old Chauras, the hostel is more comfortable now. "*Ab phati huwi chatai par sona nahi padega* (we won't have to sleep on torn mats anymore)," he says. "*Ma ko hand wash karna nai aata tha, meine sikhaya!*" says Anandhi, an 8-year-old girl. "This is a huge relief. Our students will have a clean and healthy learning environment and now their creative work will be safe and sound," says Uparwat.



RC Khamgaon is now working with the students to provide them better opportunities. There are close to 600 students studying at the Vidyalaya and "we are hopeful that we will be able to increase our strength with Rotary's help," he adds.

Designed by L Gunasekaran



Rotary
South Asia Literacy Summit

3-5, MARCH 2017 ♦ CHENNAI

Galaxy of speakers for
Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit
At Chennai on 3rd - 5th March 2017



Prakash Javadekar

Minister of Human Resource Development
Govt. of India



John Germ

President
Rotary International



Kalyan Banerjee

Trustee Chair
The Rotary Foundation



Shigeru Aoyagi

Director and
UNESCO Representative to India



Lord Raj Loomba

Member, House of Lords &
Founder, The Loomba Foundation



Raja Saboo

Past President
Rotary International



K R Ravindran

Immediate Past President
Rotary International



Nand Kumar

Hon'ble Principal Secretary of Maharashtra
School Education & Sport Department



C Raj Kumar

Vice Chancellor
O P Jindal Global University



Sushil Gupta

Trustee
The Rotary Foundation



Alan Gemmell

Director
British Council India



Kapila Gupta

Vice President
International Inner Wheel



Dr. Anjani Prakash

Founder & Chairperson
Learning Links Foundation



Racquel Shroff

CEO
Global Education



Gayathri Vasudevan

CEO
LabourNet Services

“To meet these Speakers & many more...
Register today to be there”



Dr. Manoj Desai
Convenor



Shekhar Mehta
Co-Convenor



J B Kamdar
Chairman

To Register visit www.rotaryteach.org/chennai summit



It's time to honour the **Literacy Heroes**

At the Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit on 3rd March 2017

An Eminent Panel of Jury will select the Awardees



Sri M. N. Venkatachaliah
Ex-Chief Justice of India
Chair of the Jury



Sri Manish Bhandari
Hon'ble Justice
Rajasthan High Court



Prof. Shantha Sinha
Magsaysay Award Winner,
Ex-Chairperson of National Commission
for Protection of Child Rights



Sri Sudarshan Agarwal
Former Governor of
Uttarakhand and Sikkim



C. Raj Kumar
Vice Chancellor
O P Jindal Global University



Mrs. Sandra R. Shroff
Chairman
Gnyan Dham School

Get a 10 per cent discount on Jet Airways

Team Rotary News



Jet Airways Area Manager Yezdi Marker (left) and
RGR Ambassador Vinay Kulkarni after signing the MoU.

The Rotary Global Reward (RGR) mobile app now includes discount offer from Jet Airways. Indian Rotarians and their families can avail a 10 per cent discount on base fare on all Jet Airways flights — domestic and international, including codeshare flights operated by Air France and KLM. “One more reason for Rotarians to attend the Rotary Convention at Atlanta (June 10–14, 2017),” says RGR Ambassador and Atlanta Promotion Coordinator Vinay Kulkarni.

This offer is available only on *jetairways.com* and the RGR mobile app, and is applicable on one way and return journey. The promo code is ROTARYAPP16.

Tickets must be purchased between November 1, 2016 and October 31, 2017 and travel must commence and be completed on or before October 31, 2017. It does not include bookings done using the multicity option.

For more details go to:
<http://www.jetairways.com/EN/IN/PC/Rotary.aspx?PROMO=ROTARYAPP16>



RC Sonepat Midtown — D 3012

The club organised WASH campaign to mark the Global Handwash Day in six of its adopted schools where it had installed handwash stations. The Rotarians taught the students to use the handwash station in groups, and gave a CD to each school with a song to be played during group hand wash sessions before mid-day meal and after toilet break.

RC Rajgarh — D 3040

The Rotarians distributed nutrition kits and woolen caps to children under five years of age in an anganwadi in Shampura village near Rajgarh. They also created awareness on hygiene practices among the villagers.



RC Ahmedabad Metro — D 3051

The club observed Thalassemia awareness week during the last week of September. It was marked with seminars, placards and demos at colleges, workplaces and busy junctions to create awareness about the disease. The Rotarians used the social media too to educate the public.

RC Jaipur Bapunagar — D 3052

The club hosted a district seminar on WinS and CSR which had an attendance of 260 Rotarians from 25 clubs. WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta along with Past Governors took part in the event. UN official Rushabh Hemani and State representative Girish Bhardwaj extended their support to the programmes.



Matters



RC Gwalior Veerangana — D 3053

The club installed a RO water unit at a government girls school in Gwalior to provide clean drinking water for the staff and students.



RC Kadodara — D 3060

The members collected over 1,100 kg of foodgrains and 1,000 dresses and footwear and distributed them to the underprivileged in Waghai village of Dang district in Gujarat.



RC Goraya Midtown — D 3070

Sweaters and sweets were given to children of Spingalwara and Anathalaya Phillaur villages as part of Diwali celebration. The total project cost was Rs 11,000.



RC Paonta Sahib — D 3080

As part of its PRAYAS (goodwill initiative), the club is running a school which was launched on World Literacy Day. Around 30 children were enrolled in the school. The club presented school bags and uniforms to those children who were regular in attendance.



RC City Shahjahanpur — D 3110

The club celebrated Children's Day with the inmates of Bal Sudhar Ghar. A dental check-up and drawing competition was conducted at the home.



RC Varanasi Central — D 3120

RI Director Manoj Desai along with DG Pramod Kumar inaugurated the newly constructed block of toilets/bathrooms and handwash stations at Ma Sharda Vanwasi Kanya Ashram in Varanasi. With these sanitation facilities, the girls hostel will be able to increase their strength to 50 students from the present 27 students.

RC Pune Cosmopolitan — D 3131

Nearly 200 students from various colleges took part in the RYLA event organised by the club. Lessons in leadership skills, stress management and personality development were imparted to the youngsters. They were urged to form Rotaract clubs in their colleges.



RC Jalna Rainbow — D 3132

The Rotarians dedicated fire extinguishers to the people of Waghalkheda village in Jalna district for their emergency use as part of social outreach projects.

RC Navi Mumbai Sunrise — D 3142

A second Abhyasika class (tutoring poor kids after school hours) was inaugurated at Damola village which will be managed with the help of Seva Sahayog Trust. The club has plans to open two more Abhyasika classes around Nerul in Navi Mumbai in the current year.



RC Bangalore Koramangala — D 3190

As part of TRF centenary celebration, the club's past president Dr M V Ravikumar led a project to bring out a book *Do Good in the World*, a compilation of several Matching Grant and Global Grant projects of Dr Gabriel Minder, a charter member and past president of RC Ferney-Voltaire, France. The souvenir was also released at his home club's weekly meeting on August 8 to mark the 80th birthday of Dr Minder.

Matters



RC Coimbatore D'elite — D 3201

An awareness programme for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was conducted at the Coimbatore railway station with District Governor Prakash Chand and Club President Narendra Ranka leading the Rotarians in the cleanliness drive.

RC Nilgiris Coonoor — D 3202

The club celebrated its 75th Charter Day programme with an inter-school debate to mark the occasion. Prizes and certificates were given to the winners.



RC Chennai Kodambakkam — D 3230

A cycling rally to create awareness on RILM was flagged off in Chennai by PDG AP Kanna, along with club President K V Anand. Around 160 cyclists took part in it. Literacy awareness pamphlets were distributed and all the cyclists were given T-shirts, medals and certificates.

RC Shri Jagannath Dham — D 3262

The club organised the All Odisha Open School Chess Championship in Puri. Club President Pravudutta Subudhi said the contest was organised to make the sport popular among the children. Cash prizes worth over Rs 25,000 were given.



RC Calcutta Mid South — D 3291

The club distributed new dresses to poor children of Usumpur Tribasha Academy in Agarpara village in 24 Parganas district. The project cost was nearly Rs 10,000.

Bengal villages get sanitation facelift

V Muthukumaran

I got married and moved to my in-laws' village in Banshibera last month. This toilet with bathing facility is the best gift from Rotary in my marriage. This is unimaginable," says Malati Bouri (19), while Swapan Hansda (55) of Sundiara village "never dreamt of ever using a toilet. I am so happy to have one in my house now." Sujoy, a schoolboy from Sundiara says, "In school we get to drink pure water and that has improved our health too."

Life in these two non-descript villages — Sundiara-Rajkusum and Banshibera in West Bengal — has changed for the better with the installation of six toilet blocks of 10 units each, that are being serviced by three tube wells and three borewells, thus ushering in sanitation and hygiene to these villages.

This social transformation of the villagers was possible with the intervention of Rotary Club of Durgapur Central, D 3240, which along with RC Walsall Saddlers, D 1210, UK, and TRF, took up the sanitation and water project with an aim to provide a healthy living environment for all residents. Apart from separate toilets for men and women, clean drinking

water is available from the tube wells and borewells for daily use and the organic manure from the urinal blocks is diverted for agriculture.

Project Coordinator Indranil Mukherjee says that the project cost was Rs 26.4 lakh. "We are happy that these basic amenities will improve the villagers' health, and more important ensure that their children go to school regularly without being deterred by recurring illness."

Giving an overview of the project, PDG Swapan K Choudhury, in whose period as DG the project commenced a year ago, says, "It commemorates our District's Silver Jubilee year. We did a needs assessment in the villages and involved the community elders in every stage of the project."

Community outreach, training

A four-member team nominated by the villagers looks after the training



Women using a tube well in Sundiara village.

and maintenance of toilet blocks in their respective villages. The village beneficiaries were 'toilet-trained' through a series of workshops organised by the club. A Self-Help Group is on the anvil to ensure the proper use and maintenance of toilet blocks and tube wells/borewells among the villagers.

"In all, the project has benefited 1,625 people in the two villages," said Mukherjee. Some villagers already had toilets in their homes, he added.

Long-term goals

The club is keen to equip the villagers with skills to develop, fund and maintain sustainable amenities in the long run for their social and economic progress. The villagers plan to set aside a part of their monthly savings for the upkeep of the toilets. ■



Rotarians along with beneficiaries in front of a toilet block in Banshibera village.

Learning something new in Bhutan

Kiran Zehra

They started off as complete strangers on a special coach to New Cooch Behar followed by a bus ride to Paro, Bhutan. But by the end of the RYLA organised by RC Mulund, D 3141, 50 Rotaractors had established a friendship they are hoping will last a lifetime. Under the governorship of DG Gopal Rai Mandhanian (D 3141) and DG Jaya Rajya Laxmi Shah (D 3292) this Bhutan RYLA was meant to enhance the leadership skills and “give the Rotaractors an opportunity to believe that they can work beyond the boundaries of geography, generations and beliefs to change the world,” said Rtn Deepak Raj Lala of RC Mulund.

RCs Mulund and Mumbai Parleshwar (D 3141) along with their

Rotaract clubs and RC Thimphu (D 3292) ensured that the five-day RYLA camp was a pleasant and rich experience. The package included a visit to Chelela Pass — the highest motorable road in Bhutan, archery and darts training, and a photo shoot where all the participants got dressed up in the traditional Bhutanese outfit, the *Gho* and *Kira*. They were also given an opportunity to showcase their skills at a talent show.

Priya Agarwal, who bagged the Miss RYLA title fell in love with the ceremonial dances organised at the inaugural event. “The night was freezing cold and they danced barefoot and not a single sign of discomfort on the dancers’ faces,” she said. While one participant was stunned to learn that “women inherit

property in Bhutan and the men move to their wife’s village”, another was amazed by the fact that every village in Bhutan has a field for archery.

Arriving on foot at Taktsang Lhakhang (Tiger’s Nest Monastery) in Bhutan and looking down 900 m at the Paro Valley, was quite an experience for these students. “The trek uphill was tough but we constantly motivated each other and waited for the last participant to climb so that we could all take a group photo. Even the photographer cooperated,” says Priya. Along with the woollen caps, mufflers and sling bags that were distributed at the camp, “we are taking with us memories and lessons that have changed us for the better,” she adds. ■



Rotary food service at Mandsaur

Kiran Zehra



Maintaining that the *Rotary Aahar Kendre*, an RC Mandsaur, D 3040 initiative, distributed the much needed free food packets to the public during the 1992 curfew, an aftermath of a communal riot in the region, Rtn Mahendra Thakar from this club says, “It is the best Rotary service our club has done so far.” Everything about the *aahar kendre* (food centre) is the same except the price per food packet which has risen to Rs 5 from Rs 2, but yet a modest price for a meal with four chapattis, two types of *daal* and a *sabzi*.

Housed inside the Government Hospital at Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh, this place was set up by the club to feed the attendants of patients, “who most of the time went to bed hungry,” says Thakar. The issue was first raised by Dr Sardar

Mal Thakar, a member of the club, who realised that there was no provision for the attenders to buy a meal at the hospital. Being the only hospital that caters to 21 remote villages “there was no way they could go back home to eat or pack food for three to four days at a stretch.” So funds were raised and in 1991 the centre was established.

Rekha and Madhu, the cooks at the *aahar kendre* have busy mornings.

By November 2016, the *aahar kendre* had distributed nearly **6 lakh** packets of food. After its success, many other Rotary Clubs are replicating this project.

Washing, chopping, and soaking don’t seem as tough as kneading the dough for 300 chapattis every day. “*Roti naram aur garam ho toh hi mazza ata hai* (only when the roti is soft and hot does it taste good),” says Madhu. The club also takes care of the welfare of these two women. “We get a salary of Rs 2,000 and three meals a day, which is more than enough,” says Rekha.

In November 2016, during the 25th anniversary of the club, it was announced that the *aahar kendre* had distributed close to six lakh food packets and after its success, Rotary clubs of Sagar, Ratlam, Khargone and Nimchi in District 3040 have decided to start *aahar kendres* of their own. “This is a remarkable achievement for us. The world needs sustainable solutions to root out hunger, illiteracy and violence and Rotary is finding the best answers,” says Thakar. ■

Club President's workbook in Tamil

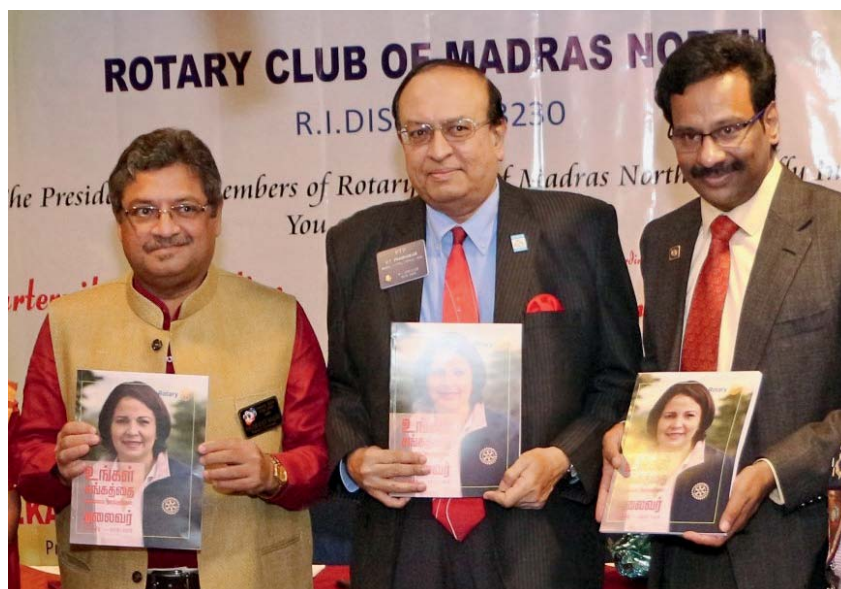
Team Rotary News

While Rotary is making huge gains in India both on the membership and TRF contributions front — last year it stood first in membership and second in TRF contributions, after the United States, and edging past Japan — quite often the language barrier is a hindrance in the effective functioning of clubs.

Particularly in rural areas, when English language capability is limited, many club presidents find it difficult to understand the content of 'The Club President's work book', which is brought out in English by the RI headquarters in Evanston.

Realising the difficulty of many such club presidents in Indian villages and smaller towns, RIDE C Basker has come up with an innovative idea to translate the club president work book into several Indian languages.

The Tamil translation of club president's work book, which will benefit around 600 presidents in



From L: DG Natarajan Nagoji, PRID P T Prabhakar and PDG G Olivannan.

Zone 5, whose mother tongue is Tamil, done by PDG G Olivannan from District 3230, was recently released in Chennai by PRID P T Prabhakar. He handed over the first copy of the Club President's guide to D 3230 DG Natarajan Nagoji. Olivannan participated in the meet.

"Translations of the President's and Secretary's club books in several other Indian regional languages is also on, and those books will be printed and released soon to help the presidents not familiar with the English language to conduct their meetings effectively," added RIDE Basker.

ATL on the go

If you are flying to the 2017 Rotary International Convention, June 10–14, you'll almost certainly arrive at the world's busiest passenger airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. As locals sometimes joke, "Whether you go to heaven or hell, you'll have to go through Hartsfield first."

Hartsfield is Delta Air Lines' primary hub, but several other airlines — including United, American, Lufthansa, and Korean — fly in and out of Atlanta's airport every day.

Once you're on the ground, getting around shouldn't be a problem. Unless you plan on road-tripping around Georgia, renting a car isn't



necessary. Instead, buy a Breeze card and hop on MARTA, Atlanta's rapid transit service, which can take you from the airport to Five Points Station in the heart of downtown. With a quick transfer, roll on to the Dome/GWCC/Philips Arena/CNN stop, which is right by the Georgia

World Congress Centre, the Rotary Convention's home base.

You can journey to a number of the city's sights by rail, and where the train can't take you, a MARTA bus likely will. Check MARTA's website for schedules and route maps.

If you want to check out some historic attractions at a slower pace, the Atlanta Streetcar is another option. In a charming loop that starts near Centennial Olympic Park, the streetcar winds through downtown proper and into the city's Old Fourth Ward neighbourhood.

— D.C.

Preregistration savings end 31 March. Go to riconvention.org.



Arjun Maini, the Bengaluru-based motorsport racer aspiring to make it to F1, was roped in as a Brand Ambassador for Rotary India Literacy Mission. Presently he holds the 13th place after recording points at Pau in France and the historic Monza circuit.



A 31-member team of ARC Chhindwara, D 3040, led by Club President Sandeep Singh Chandel, met the President of India Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and briefed him about Rotary's humanitarian projects. Chhindwara MP Kamalnath is in the centre.



A WinS seminar was organised at Bengaluru by District 3190. WinS Vice Chair and PRID P T Prabhakar launched the District's handwash awareness drive to reach out to 1 lakh school children. From left: PDG K S Nagendra, PRID P T Prabhakar, DG HR Ananth and the Programme Chair Sameer Hariani.

In Brief



The bell ceases to toll

London's iconic Big Ben will fall silent for three years starting early this year and will be closed to visitors for a multi-million-pound renovation project.

The work will include repairs to the clock, and waterproofing, masonry and metalwork of the Elizabeth Tower which houses the bell. The British Parliament however says that the bell will toll on important events like the Remembrance Day or the New Year's Eve, and at least, one face will remain visible at any time, while the structure will be swathed in scaffolding. It has been 30 years since the last significant conservation work.



A unique wedding gift

Ninety families got spanking new homes on the occasion of the wedding of Shreya, the daughter of Aurangabad-based businessman Ajay Munot. He constructed a colony for the homeless on two acres of land, instead of an extravagant wedding, and selected the residents for the new houses based on three criteria: they need to be poor, live in a slum and not suffer from an addiction. He saw to it that each of the houses had electricity and access to water, which was a huge problem in the region. The newly-wedded couple handed over the keys to the new residents.



Afghan 'Messi' meets the real Messi

Young Murtaza Ahmadi, who gained online fame after a video showing him sporting a blue and white striped polybag with the Argentina soccer star Lionel Messi's name and number written in pen on the back went viral last January, finally got to meet his hero in flesh and blood when Messi and team were in Doha to play an exhibition football match. Ahmadi accompanied Messi on to the field and posed for pictures with the team ahead of kickoff. The Ahmadi family had to flee to Pakistan last February following threats to his father asking why he taught football to his children instead of the *Quran*!

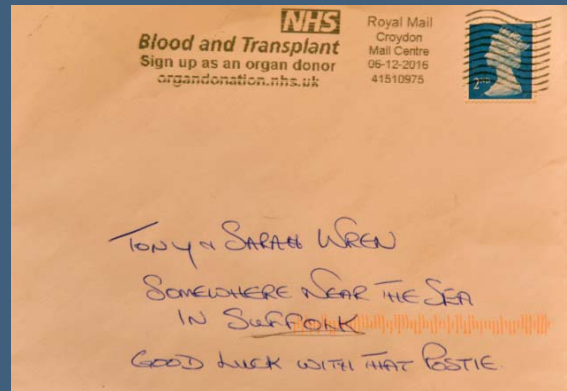


A walk in the clouds

The Thrill Walk that opened last July in the Swiss Alps beckons adrenaline junkies. It is a dramatic

200m-long steel and

glass bridge that clings to the cliff-side over a yawning void 250 m below in the Schilthorn Summit. Beginning at a height of 2,970 m, the cliff path has several sections including a 10 m cattle-grid, 8 m crawl-through tunnel, 8 m rope bridge, with netting below, of course, and a walk on a glass bridge. The 'walk' lets you enjoy the unrivalled beauty of the majestic Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau and a 360-degree panoramic view of over 200 peaks.



Amazing postmen

At a time when even mails with complete addresses go undelivered, a Christmas card addressed to Sarah and Anthony Wren at 'somewhere near the sea in Suffolk,' (England) with a cheeky note at the bottom: 'Good luck with that postie,' managed to reach them in just four days, reuniting the lost friends. The Wrens had moved to Lowestoft which has the mail delivery office. A similar incident happened in Iceland when an envelope with a hand-drawn map and 'name' that read, 'a horse farm with an Icelandic/Danish couple and three kids and a lot of sheep,' was promptly delivered.



American Life, Inc. EB-5 Regional Center welcomes all Rotarians to RI convention 2017 in Atlanta, USA. June 10 -14

Visit our booth
in the Hall
of Friendship

Special Hilton Hotel rates
For Indian delegates
99 US\$ / night at RI Convention 2017
Group Code: ROTARY
Email: ric@h1solution.com

Investment opportunity in 255 South King Street LLP– a 282 room
Hilton Embassy Suites Hotel and Avalara Hawk Tower in Seattle.
Open for business in December 2017

Visit www.amlife.us for the American Life story and photos of completed projects.

RC ATLANTA



RC SEATTLE



RC SEATTLE



INVEST IN YOUR AMERICAN DREAM!

American Life, Inc. of Seattle, Washington USA is a real estate developer of hotels and office buildings in Seattle, Los Angeles and Atlanta. We develop, build and manage our projects.

- Established in 1996
- U.S.Government approved Regional Center
- 2,459 Permanent Green Cards awarded
- 4,778 Conditional Green Cards awarded
- 24 Completed EB-5 Projects
- Over One Billion US\$ of EB-5 capital invested
- Equity and Preferred Equity investment model

For more information, contact us at :

india@americanlifeinc.com | 001-206-381-1690

270 S Hanford Street, Suite 100 | Seattle, Washington 98134 USA

3405 Bobby Brown Pkwy, Atlanta, GA 30344, USA Tel: Sachin Patel - 404 491 4325

This does not represent an offer or solicitation to buy or sell securities. Investments are available only to qualified accredited investors via the confidential offering memorandum.