

January 2017

ROTARY NEWS



Dazzling
Dubai

Meticulous Planning

It required 17 visits to Dubai by the Chair of the Dubai Institute Raja Seenivasan, and 13 visits by RI Director Manoj Desai, to ensure a smooth, informative, innovative and enjoyable Zone meet in

the desert city. And a nearly two-year-long planning and interaction. Small wonder the participants returned home believing that nothing is impossible!

Picture by K Vishwanathan



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Picture by K Vishwanathan



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A role model from Chennai

Annadurai of *Amazing Auto* (December issue) has proved his professionalism in doing business as a service to his customers to suit the changing times. Hats off to RC Madras East for identifying and honouring this real hero. Thanks for writing about him, thus giving him a well-deserved wider publicity.

G Karthikeyan
RC Mannargudi – D 2981



It is an amazing write-up on auto driver Annadurai in the Dec issue. The article is very impressive as it briefly explains about his gradual progress. Finally, he is an IT assessee. Super! He is really a role model worthy of celebration.

S Sivasubramaniann
RC Tirunelveli
Venuvanam – D 3212

India is great because of people like Annadurai. Hats off to him. When you publish such articles in *Rotary News*, try to give the phone number and email. We can also thank them over phone and write letters. *Meet your District Governors* is also very good.

Ashoka Kumara
RC Mysuru North – D 3181

Your editorial about a humble auto driver Annadurai — an ordinary person not even belonging to a weaker section of society, is amazing. He gave magazines and newspapers to his customers and improved his services and ushered in a digital revolution. Is this not a worthy example for all of us to follow?

K N Chendra Shekher
RC Bangalore
Southwest – D 3190

Your editorial on Annadurai is really inspiring; he is an example of many Indians who are honest in their professions and wants to bring about a change in the social scenario in India.

Arun K Dash
RC Baripada – D 3262

Super Moon and her Stars

Iread the article, *A food odyssey in Delhi* by Rasheeda Bhagat in the Nov issue. My journey, too, started mentally from Davanagere to Delhi and joined the writer's family members heading towards the busy, narrow streets of Delhi where roadside restaurants were preparing delicious, spicy kebabs, the aroma of which fed my appetite and I relished them. The art of writing is superb and beautiful. I was really carried away by her writing skill.

Many Rotarians expressed their opinion at our District's TRF seminar at Davanagere that the present Editor and her team are very efficient and excellent writers. All the articles are readable, providing food to the brain and further they endorsed that the Editor is the Super Moon and others are Stars! Hats off to all of them.

G V Sayagavi, RC Davanagere
Vidyanagara – D 3160

Editorial team makes Rotarians proud

The contents of November issue are stimulating and interesting. The article *Making India Literate* needs special appreciation, for, the school years in one's life lay the foundation for future growth. So, it's no wonder that Rotary's work in the field of literacy at the school level through the TEACH programmes has gained attention from the media. Let us continue this good work forever.

Other articles — *India is doing well in Philanthropy* by Rasheeda Bhagat and Jaishree's *Where college students grow vegetables* and *How economics would solve the Cauvery row* by TCA Srinivasa Raghavan — are all very impressive and enrich our knowledge.

Since the Editorial team practices honest journalism by publishing interesting articles on

various subjects apart from Rotary-related news, the Rotarian readers and others respect your journal through the *Letters* column. I am one among them. How to make the coverage of incidents and events interesting to read is an art by itself as this makes the articles informative and engaging. We are proud of our editorial team.

R Srinivasan
RC Madurai Midtown – D 3000

Delightful issues

You have presented a wonderful November issue. RI President John Germ's message on *Arch Klumph's revolution* shows us a way towards the future. You have described the selfless service of each Rotarian in your story, *Giving one more life*, which featured Dr Hans' cochlear implants for underprivileged children. PM Narendra Modi's

cooperation in this project is a certification of the good work being done. WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta has said it perfectly when he remarked, “By building toilets we are building Happy Schools.” The information on a special school by Kiran Zehra in *A special place* is worth appreciating.

How economics would solve the Cauvery row has showcased a new dimension to the water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

Revathi Suresh has celebrated the spirit of BREW in her writeup,

What is Brewing in Rotary. More than 30 events annually in the US, a developed country, neatly describes their lifestyle. The *In Brief* column provides useful information.

Santosh Tiwar
RC Jalna Rainbow – D 3132

Hurtful statement

In the article *Giving one more life* (November) Dr J M Hans says that many ENT specialists prescribe hearing aids and don’t recommend cochlear implants “because they

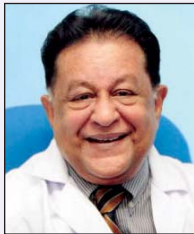
know that once that is fitted and the child can hear, their source of income is gone. It’s easy money.” What is his justification for blaming his professional colleagues; does he have data? An apology is in order.

Radheshyam Modi
RC Akola – D 3030

The article is very informative. Cochlear implants are rarely advised because of high cost. The reference to ‘easy money’ could have been avoided.

Dr Suhas G Purohit
RC Thane – D 3142

Dil se...



I have seen the beautiful write up of healing little hearts (*Dil Se... in Mumbai*) in *Rotary News*. Congratulations.

Dr KM Cherian, Eminent
Cardiac Surgeon, Chennai

Thank you very much for such a beautiful article, *Dil se... in Mumbai*. You have kept up the spirit of Rotary and the cardiac specialty, and have brought out the human aspect too. I am indeed most grateful to you for disseminating this information through Rotary for the benefit of these children and their families.

Dr Suresh G Rao
Director, Children’s Heart
Centre, Kokilaben Ambani
Hospital, Mumbai

I sincerely thank you for publishing our paediatric heart surgery project (*Healing Little Hearts*), a thrust area project of our District, as the cover story in the December issue. This will certainly boost the morale of our Rotarians.

In the last few years, you have upgraded the quality,



content and all other matters of *Rotary News*. We Rotarians are fortunate to have Rasheeda Bhagat as the Chief Editor of *Rotary News*.

DG Gopal Mandhanja
D 3141

The majority of articles published in the December issue are informative and worth reading. Many who suffer from migraine may have relaxed after reading about the circumstances that cause this disturbing ailment and its remedies. Thanks to the author O P Khanna. Do continue to carry such health-related articles. The article on eye donation is encouraging and the remark, “one thing that hasn’t changed over the years is the smile on the recipients’ face after their sight is restored and their gratitude towards the generous donors,” is a boost to future donors.

M T Philip
RC Trivandrum Suburban – D 3211

We thank you for giving wonderful coverage of our ‘Rotary Art Festival’ as well as felicitation of Kalyanda’s event in the *Rotary News*. It was truly kind of you to come all the way to Baroda for our Fundraiser-cum-Public Image event — Rotary Art Festival!

Sonal Desai, President
RC Baroda Metro – D 3060

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

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A mix of dazzle and exotica

When the theme of your Institute is *Nothing is Impossible*, can you let the RI President return home without fulfilling his very simple request — getting a tee-shirt made for the event? Even if it was made at 6 am and just before the Dazzling Dubai Zone Institute Convenor, RI Director Manoj Desai, and Chairman Raja Seenivasan, were to accompany President John Germ and spouse Judy to the Abu Dhabi Airport after the Institute? Obviously not; so Seenivasan woke up a member of his team, and the tee-shirt was brought to the reception promptly! If the Jaipur Institute had colour and elegance, the Dubai Institute had a mix of dazzle and exotica. The ice-breaking session for the incoming DGs or GETS was held at a catamaran. Lest you think it is a simple contraption of a few planks of wood put together, as the traditional meaning of the makeshift boat used by fishermen in Tamil Nadu denotes, it was actually a luxury yacht. Next on the cards, to send the adrenalin pumping for the DGEs and their partners, was Dubai's famous Desert Safari. The next two major events — Institute Inaugural and the Awards Nite — were held at two of Dubai's most iconic landmarks... the first one at the Jumeira Beach with the Burj al Arab as an imposing backdrop, and the second at the Armani Pavilion at the world's tallest building Burj Khalifa, with its enchanting dancing musical fountains.

Yes, Institute Chair Seenivasan and his team pulled off an amazing Institute in a land away from home, and that too for a whopping number of 930-plus delegates. The delegates were smoothly transferred from the airport to the three different hotels, and then to the inaugural venue the first day through comfortable coaches, and the Burj Khalifa the next day. At both the venues, the biggest plus point was the sit-down dinners, with the food on offer being a good mix of Arabic, international and Indian cuisine. Surprise of surprises, there were enough counters for drinks and there was no jostling or pushing or

crowding. It was possible to just walk over and get a beer or a glass of wine, without losing your shirt! And, at long last, the toilets for women were clean and without stench. What a huge relief this is for women, only they can tell you. Raja's team put their hearts and souls in making the trip a memorable one for the delegates, and the biggest relief was getting a sim card with some decent talk time, without going through the rigmarole of carrying your passports and the rest of the song and dance required to get a sim card in a foreign country. Of course a bag... nay, several bags... of goodies trigger child-like enthusiasm in the most seasoned adults, and Team DDZI had laid out some goodies in the gift bags. But at the end of the day what mattered was that you didn't have to wait for over 5-10 minutes to get into a bus for the venue, or more important, return to your hotel after a sumptuous dinner and a long day. Or spoon in your food from a heavy plate while standing, juggling with your handbag, and in my case, camera bag too. The speakers were great too — Leander Paes, Mike McQueen and Anshu Gupta from the NGO *Goonj*, were particularly outstanding. The delegates had no idea of the kind of background juggling and bargaining that happened in booking rooms, negotiating sudden cancellations, and then managing a last minute, unprecedented surge. Often, it is in the smallest of things that the grandest of events flounder. But give me a smooth transportation, including efficient airport transfers and hotel check-in, a clean toilet and a place to sit and eat, and you will make me a friend. I'm sure most of the delegates at Dubai would agree. That in the process Raja had to lose 7 kg — something he had tried for years, but had failed — was the worst kept secret in Dubai!

Rasheeda Bhagat

Rasheeda Bhagat

An ambitious set of resolutions

As we enter 2017, we also enter the second year of the initiative known as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. These goals, usually referred to as the SDGs, pertain to a list of 17 areas where the people of the world can come together to address our most pressing economic, political, and social challenges. It is a hugely ambitious list, and it has to be. The ultimate aim of these goals is nothing less than peace, prosperity, security, and equality for all of humanity.

How do you even begin to tackle such a project? At Rotary, our answer is simple: one step at a time. These goals are nothing new for Rotary: They're already reflected in our areas of focus. We also understand that all of these 17 goals, just like our six areas of focus, are inter-related. You can't have good health without clean water. You can't have clean water without good sanitation. Good sanitation in turn helps keep children in school, which improves education, which improves economic prosperity and health. When you are talking about the advancement of an entire planet, no one indicator, no one goal, no one country, exists in isolation. To make real and lasting progress, we must all move forward together.

The idea of sustainability is key to the SDGs — and to our service in Rotary. Sustainability simply means making progress that will endure. It means not just digging a well, but being sure that a community can maintain it. It means not just running a health camp for a week, but training local health workers. It means empowering families and communities to take charge of their own futures by giving them the tools they need to succeed.

Sustainability has always been at the heart of our thinking in Rotary. We've been around for nearly 112 years and intend to be around for many more. We've already seen the difference our work has made: in health, in education, in water and sanitation, and of course in our efforts to end polio.

Polio eradication is the ultimate in sustainable service: a project that, once completed, will benefit the world forever. And those benefits will go far beyond the eradication of a single human disease. The estimated cost savings we will see once polio is eradicated are about \$1 billion per year. That is money that can be returned to public health budgets and directed to other pressing needs, carrying the good work of today forward for many healthier tomorrows.



John F. Germ
President, Rotary International



Message from the **RI Director**

New year, new dreams



My Dear Friends,
Happy New Year!
Sharmishtha joins me in wishing you a stupendous New Year 2017!



One more year has gone by with flying colours and great achievements for each club and District. New milestones are created and old records broken. It is an exhilarating feeling. Everyone normally thinks of new dreams.

As RI Director, let me share with you, a few of my dreams for the coming year:

1. WinS and Literacy commitments are fulfilled by all the District Governors.
2. Rotary becomes the 'preferred partner' for CSR and the Government.
3. Strategic Plan is duly respected and acted upon in each District.
4. Negligent number of election disputes happen so that our achievements get due recognition.
5. India gets more Zones so that we have better representation on the RI Board.
6. RIDE C Basker creates many milestones and makes Rotary in our region, stronger and more vibrant.
7. Rotary achieves Global Polio Eradication.
8. Rotary's name enters the list of Nobel Laureates.

Are my wishes too many? Friends, if we all believe in our strengths, then it is not too many. Just remember what Sir Winston Churchill said: 'Never, Never, Never give up.'
Have a wonderful New Year!

Manoj Desai
Director, Rotary International

Celebrate the new year

January marks the start of a new year on many calendars, but in Rotary, we begin our year in July. That puts us at the halfway point — a good time to take stock of our progress and set goals for the remainder of the year.

An annual to-do list for The Rotary Foundation might include the following items:

- Contribute to the End Polio Now campaign to take advantage of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's 2-to-1 match.
- Start a simple or large-scale project in your community supported by a grant and keep the community informed.
- Recommend a promising candidate for the Rotary Peace Centres programme.
- Host a Rotary Scholar or vocational training team.
- Enroll in Rotary Direct for easy recurring giving.
- Include a bequest to the Foundation in your estate plan.
- Apply for a Rotary International credit card, which allocates a portion of each purchase you make to The Rotary Foundation.

As you can see, there are many ways to support our Foundation and carry out its humanitarian mission. This year, we have another item to add to our checklist: Celebrate The Rotary Foundation's centennial.

Here are some of the ways you can observe this milestone:

- Work with your club to plan a birthday party, fundraiser, or event in your community to let others know more about Rotary and its Foundation. Download a promotion kit from rotary.org/foundation100 for ideas.
- Promote your club's Foundation grant projects to local media.
- Dedicate club meetings to the discussion of Rotary Foundation topics.
- Read the history of The Rotary Foundation in *Doing Good in the World: The Inspiring Story of The Rotary Foundation's First 100 Years*. Copies are available in hardback or e-book format at shop.rotary.org.
- Share your centennial plans and events on social media using #TRF100.

Of course, the biggest birthday party of all will take place in Atlanta from 10 to 14 June, when thousands of Rotarians will come together for the Rotary International Convention. I hope you will join me and the Foundation Trustees to make this the best party of the year.



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

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Teamwork vital to change the world: **John Germ**

Rasheeda Bhagat

At the glittering opening ceremony of the Zone Institute at Dubai, RI President John Germ had the delegates spellbound with his clear message to safeguard Rotary's core values and work together as teams.

Whether a person was an engineer like he himself was, or in any other

vocation, he/she turned in work, day after day, that had a "life-changing impact, work that allows other people to live better, safer, and healthier lives. Just like the work that we do in Rotary."

With these words, RI President John Germ engaged the 900-odd delegates through his keynote address

at the Dazzling Dubai Zone Institute (DDZI) with the theme *Nothing is Impossible*. Rotarians should be proud "because in every part of the world, every single day, whether they know it or not, people are living better, safer, and healthier lives because of the work of Rotarians just like you," he said.



The people that Rotary helps might not have met a single Rotarian or even know about Rotary's existence. But they were drinking clean water from a bore well that Rotary has dug; or learning to read in schools that Rotary has built; or were living lives free of polio because Rotary saw the opportunity to eradicate this disease, and seized it. And thus Rotary served humanity, said Germ, touching on his Presidential theme for this year.

At the crossroads

Germ told the assembled Rotarians that Rotary was at the crossroads as "we are looking ahead at a Rotary year that may one day be known as the greatest in our history: the year

that polio finally falls. The number of cases so far this year stands at 28. But as much as I want you to know how very close we are, to ending polio, I also need you to know that we are not there yet."

This August, four new cases of polio were found in Nigeria; the first cases seen in Africa in nearly two years. Though it was "a disappointment, because we had hoped we'd seen the last of polio in Africa, we knew all along it might happen, and when it did, we were ready."

Germ disclosed that when the first cases were reported, no time was wasted on an outbreak response plan, which was already in place and was immediately put into motion by the WHO and the Nigerian government,

with a series of six vaccination campaigns targeting children across five countries in the Lake Chad region.

"We know what it takes to stop an outbreak. We've done it before, and we're doing it now. But as much as we'd rather not have had them, they're giving us something we need. They are giving us a wake-up call: a vivid reminder of how easily polio can return, and how important it is to remain vigilant until the very end: until we've gone three full years, without one new case of polio."

The RI President reminded the audience listening to him with rapt attention that Rotarians can't forget that "we are still \$1.5 billion short of the money we'll need to get the job done. It's not our job to raise all of

"NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE"

RI President John F Germ and Judy inaugurate the DDZI in the presence of (from left) Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan, Jayanthi, Sharmishtha, RID Manoj Desai, PRIP Gary Huang, Corinna, and Organising Secretary Abhay Gadgil.

Rasheeda Bhagat





RI President John Germ honours Dr J M Hans with the Vocational Service Award in the presence of RID Manoj Desai and DG Sharat Jain.

From left: RIDE C Basker and Malathi, PDG R Theenachandran and Vasanthi, PDG Deepak Shikarpur and Sonia, and PDG Sam Movva and Vijaya promoting the 2017 Zone Institute at Malaysia.



that money ourselves. But it is our job to advocate, anywhere and everywhere we can, to make sure that it is raised. We started this more than 30 years ago. We've stuck with it all this time. And soon — 1.9 billion Rotary dollars and more than 2.5 billion immunised children later — we're going to finish it," he added.

When that moment came, Rotarians would have to be ready for it, to be sure that "we are recognised for that success, and leverage that success for more partnerships, greater growth, and even more ambitious service in the decades to come." It was important that Rotary's role in making the world polio-free be recognised both for getting more partnerships and funding."

Changing the world

Once Rotary is acknowledged as an organisation that could change the world, every Rotary club needs to be ready to play that role effectively. And for this "we require clubs that are flexible, welcoming and have the ability to respond to the needs of their



RI President John Germ honouring AKS member Harshad Mehta in the presence of TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, IPRIIP K R Ravindran and PRIP Gary Huang.



members and potential members. This past April, your Council on Legislation went down in history as the most progressive Council ever — making the bold decisions that will help Rotary build a membership that truly reflects the communities we serve: with women and men, retirees and working people, and a diversity of ages, skills, and backgrounds.”

Germ said that more than ever before, Rotary clubs now have the opportunity to be what *they* want to be, to operate in the way that *they* choose, to not only attract new members, but engage them in Rotary service... but all this while remaining true to the core values that defined them as Rotarians.

Those core values on which Paul Harris founded Rotary 111 years ago — honesty, diversity, tolerance, friendship, and peace — were very important to the “essence of who we

are and what makes a Rotarian and they don’t change. We’re still based on a classification principle, because our diversity is our strength. We still hang The Four-Way Test on the wall, because high ethical standards don’t ever go out of style. And we still believe, as Paul Harris believed, that serving humanity is the most worthwhile thing any one of us can do.”

Germ added that even as Rotary sought new partnerships and collaboration with other organisations to achieve more than it could do singly, “we need to prioritise continuity in our leadership. Because if there’s one thing we’ve learned from polio, it’s that if we want to go as far as we can, we all have to be moving in the same direction to serve humanity.”

Both he and his partner Judy had seen the “incredible work” done by Rotarians across the world. But

more could be done; with more willing hands, caring hearts and bright minds. Ambition, creativity and the willingness to try out new things were required to find new and better ways to serve humanity, he added.

He urged the assembled Rotarians to never think that what they did was ever too small. “Everything you do matters, especially to the people you help and the people you love, in this generation and the next. Every good work you do makes the world better for them all. One good work at a time. One day at a time. In your clubs, in your communities, and in your vocations: whether you’re a teacher, a manager, a business owner, or an engineer.”

But above all, the mantra to remember was that Rotarains should work not as individuals, but a team. Only then they would see greater success.

Yes, it’s possible

Addressing the opening session, DDZI Convener and RI Director Manoj Desai said DDZI Chair Raja Seenivasan had indeed proved right the Institute theme *Nothing is Impossible*. “I keep getting ideas in the middle of the night and I would tell Raja can we do it. And he would say ‘Yes Sir!’”

The choice of the venue fitted perfectly with the theme, because Dubai had proved it. “They have it all; ice skating in the desert, the tallest building in the world, the most luxurious hotel, and so much more that makes millions of passengers travel to and through Dubai.”

Desai said that after the vacuum created by India becoming polio-free, the Rotary leadership in India had picked up two flagship projects — WinS and Literacy — that were being

implemented by Indian Rotarians “with phenomenal success. Recently RILM Chair Shekhar (Mehta) was invited by Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi to a summit of 30 Nobel laureates just to discuss what Indians are doing for literacy! Both Shekhar and TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta have been able to garner support for these mega projects, and CSR funding was coming in, proving that Rotary has really become a preferred partner.”

Last year, under “IPRIP K R Ravindran’s leadership, our Zones were No 1 in membership and second in TRF contributions; we have collected \$15.38 million, making India the second largest contributor to our Foundation, and ahead of Japan! All this has given us immense public image,” Desai said.

During the last five months “we continue to be No 1 in membership;

Institute Directory: (From R) Institute Chair Raja Seenivasan, RI Director Manoj Desai, RI President John Germ, PDG Ashok Kapadia, RNT Deputy Admin Manager K Vishwanathan and RNT Editor Rasheeda Bhagat.





DDZI stars: From L: Institute Vice Chair TVR Murti, DG John Daniel, PDG Tikku, Chairman Raja Seenivasan, RID Manoj Desai, Organising Secretary Abhay Gadgil, DGE B M Shivraj.

you'll be happy to know the numbers: 22,000 members have been added in the world and we've done 34 per cent, at 7,000. We've given \$1.8 million till now to the TRF but yesterday at the TRF Centennial dinner it was revealed that we are aiming at 20 AKS members this year. That would take India to 70 AKS members. Unbelievable! And we have amidst us generous donors like Harshad Mehta who has given millions of dollars to the Foundation and is the second Indian after Rajashree Birla in his contribution," Desai added.

Addressing the current batch of DGs, who he calls his "Smiling Sheriffs", the RI Director lauded them for giving a spontaneous goal to TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee that they will collect \$26.5 million during this, the Centennial of TRF. "Many Districts can boast of giving that is 3-4 times the normal figure... once

again a new normal here. Can you believe it, President John, that in India we now have \$1 million dinners? The first was in Delhi; Sushilji (TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta) took the lead and DGs Sharat Jain and Dr N Subramanian executed it."

Even on the election side, the complaints decreased last year, and an e-voting pilot was now in existence. "Let us hope you will all support it and there will be no more complaints this year, because RIDE C Basker has also decided that this is the way forward."

After the inspiring speech by Dr J M Hans, and honouring him with a Vocational Service Award for exemplary work in doing expensive cochlear implant surgery on poor children totally free of cost (Detailed story in the November issue of *Rotary News* — <https://rotarynewsonline.org/giving-one-more-life/>), Institute Chair Seenivasan announced that DDZI was

donating funds for one such surgery to support District 3141's project *One More Life* that was helping Dr Hans.

RIDE Basker and Chair of the next Zone Institute Majestic Malaysia R Theenachandran, made a presentation on the Institute to be held in Kuala Lumpur from December 1–3, 2017. (Detailed report on the venue, registration fees etc in *Rotary News*, December issue. <https://rotarynewsonline.org/2017-institute-kuala-lumpur/>).

While releasing the Institute Directory at the opening session, the hard and meticulous work put in by Rotary News Trust's Deputy Administration Manager K Viswanathan and RNT staff was lauded and recognised. Institute Chair Seenivasan welcomed the gathering and Vice Chair TVR Murti proposed a vote of thanks.

Pictures by K Vishwanathan
Designed by N Krishnamurthy

Germ's gyan for successful Governorship

Rasheeda Bhagat

You are the only DGEs' group I know that has survived running around miles of sand and then rolling up the sand dunes, and bouncing down. And you made it, didn't you? But that's not what's going to happen to you next year."

With these words RI President John Germ welcomed the Class of 2017-18 DGs at the GETS Convocation ceremony at the Dazzling Dubai Rotary Zone Institute in the glittering city of sand dunes and skyscrapers.

The next year, "you'll be riding a desert safari and feeling so good that

you've done it when you'll suddenly fall down because somebody has not done their job. So I want to talk to you a little bit about how you yourself are going to be the key to the success of your Governor year." Advising them to think that "today is the first day of the rest of your life," he said their success would



ride not on their individual capacity or efforts but on their taking back “what you have learnt here to your district and selecting the best people you can find to form your team. And, as I said in the boat (at the GETS session in a catamaran), together everyone accomplishes more. So build that strong team to make yours the best district it can be.”

They should also remember that “Rotary is only built one day at a time, one village and one person at a time. Now’s the time for you to put the workers together to make your year the very best that can be.”

Germ recalled Walt Disney’s words: ‘If you can dream it, you can achieve it’, and added, “This city/country was built on a dream. India believed it could be polio-free and it



K Vishwanathan

PRIP Gary C K Huang addressing the Institute.



From left: RI President John Germ, Judy Germ, RID Manoj Desai, Sharmishtha, Jayanthi Seenivasan and Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan.

Rasheeda Bhagat

is polio-free. You believed you can come outside your zone and have a very successful zone meeting.” Anything could be done with a positive attitude and thinking outside the box.

Be a leader, not manager

In his pep talk, another vital thought Germ left with the incoming DGs was not to be ‘managed’. “Do remember that people don’t want to be managed. They want to be led. They want people who can give a direction. We’ve not heard of world managers, but we’ve heard of world leaders, political leaders, business, community, labour leaders; they don’t manage, they lead. You need to be the leader of your club, your district,” he said.

Reiterating that nothing had ever been achieved without enthusiasm and

a realistic approach to problems and the commitment to solve them, Germ said, “You will be limited next year by two things; your imagination, and your lack of imagination. Whatever you can dream, you can achieve. So set your goals high, because you have the ability to get the job done. Count on us to support you, give you advice, but be prepared to make some sacrifices as a DG because the joy of achieving your goal will be well worth the sacrifices.”

He also advised the DGEs to surround themselves with positive people. “You don’t need people who say no; you need those who say how can we do the best possible.” He reminded them that it takes “all of us to make Rotary succeed. You can be a DG who watches things happen; you can wonder what happened or you can make things happen, because

You can be a DG who watches things happening; you can wonder what happened or you can make things happen, because you are the best.

RI President John Germ

Short course in human relations

Germ shared with the DGEs a few pointers to “help you during your year; it is called the short course in human relations.” The five most important words here were ‘I have made a mistake’; the four most important words were ‘You did a good job’; the next three were ‘If you please’; next came ‘Thank you’.

And the least important single word was ‘I’ and the most important single word was ‘We’. “If you take these seriously and practise them you will build the most fantastic team that you’ll need for a successful year.”

The RI President also warned the Class of 2017-18 that during their year, they would encounter all kinds of people in their district. “You will have those that just watch things happen while they come to the meetings, and worse — and we have several of those — who’ll wonder what happened. They are going to watch the successes and say how the world did it happen. The third group is the one that makes things happen. Your team should be the third.”



RI President John Germ and spouse Judy. RIDE C Basker and spouse Malathi are also in the picture.

K Vishwanathan

Germ also advised the DGEs to develop a positive attitude, the desire to achieve and build and to eliminate those who say ‘I can’t’. “Take away the ‘t’ and say ‘I can’; take away ‘if’ to ‘I will’. Take away ‘I don’t know and I don’t think’ to ‘I know’ and

‘I don’t believe I have the time’ to ‘I’ll make the time; ‘maybe’, to ‘positively’; ‘I’m afraid’ to ‘I’m confident’; ‘I don’t believe’ to ‘I do believe’. People will remember you for your success. Have 365 successful days, one day at a time.”

you’re the best. You are the town Sheriff who can ensure success by having the right attitude. It is your job not only to lead, but also to teach, motivate and inspire. The success of your year is in your hands and nobody else’s.”

Why TRF matters

Addressing the graduating DGs, TRF Trustee Representative Gary Huang urged them to motivate their districts to contribute as much as they could to TRF “which supports so many poor in so many parts of the world. If I start to tell you what our Foundation does in

Because of your contribution to TRF, the next generation will be in a world that is better, happier, healthier. Nothing you do is ever small.

It all adds up.

**TRF Trustee Representative
Gary Huang**

so many parts of the world, we’ll be here till tomorrow.”

Their satisfaction in motivating contributions to TRF would be that “when you see any programme that the Foundation supports, you can proudly say I was a part of that. That happened because of me. Because of you, the next generation will be in a world that is better, happier, healthier. Nothing you do is ever small. It all adds up. And every candle you light makes a difference. Altogether, Rotary is serving humanity and I can’t thank you enough.”

Designed by N Krishnamurthy



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Centennial Dinner celebrates AKS members at Dubai

Rasheeda Bhagat

I regret very deeply that our Rotary Foundation Chairman Kalyan Banerjee is not here, so I am going to propose a toast not only to our Foundation, our givers, but also to our beloved Chairman Kalyan Banerjee and Binota, who has some health problems, and so they could not be with us. But I know they would want us to say let us continue our fight to eradicate polio and do good in the world so that girls can get education, the blind can see and so many other people can benefit from the work we do.”

With these words RI President John Germ raised a toast to The Rotary Foundation at the gala TRF Centennial dinner held at the Hyatt Regency Deira during the Dubai Institute.

Inviting Rotarians to the 2017 Rotary Convention in Atlanta in June, where he promised them a “great birthday party” as TRF completed 100 years, he said, “You just now heard from RI Director Manoj (Desai) that last year India emerged No 1 in membership, No 2 in TRF giving. But tonight let us celebrate



RID Manoj Desai, Sindhu Jayantha Kumar, RI President John Germ, Rtn Jayantha Kumar, PRIP Gary Huang, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and Institute Chair Raja Seenivasan. RRFC Kamal Sanghvi is in the background.



(From L) DG Jaya Shah, DG Narayan Nayak and Sunandha, Ruchika and DG Sharat Jain, Lalitha and DG N Subramanian and DG Vinaykumar Raikar.

another important fact, that thanks to you, your friends, relatives and fellow club members, India is polio-free.”

TRF Trustee Representative Gary Huang said that while the TRF Centennial celebrations that began at Korea, and will conclude in Atlanta in June, as many Rotarians as possible should come to Atlanta, “all the clubs across the world are encouraged to hold their own events and activities to celebrate our Centennial. Chairman Banerjee has set this year’s total goal at \$300 million and this goal includes contributions to endowments and PolioPlus funds.”

TRF Trustee and WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta said India should celebrate the fact that from a “receiving country we have become a giving country.”

RID Desai said that while India’s goal for Foundation-giving this year

was \$26.5 million, RIDE C Basker has got a commitment of \$31 million from his Trend Setters (DGEs) for the coming year. With Rotary becoming a preferred partner, CSR has become the new game changer, money isn’t a concern, and both corporates and Governments are trusting Rotary. “All this because of the DGs who continue to lead from the front.”

He recognised and honoured the DGs who had done exceedingly well the previous year — K P Nagesh (3190), Subhash Kulkarni (3140) Parag Sheth (3060). He particularly mentioned DG Keshav Kunwar (3292, Nepal) “from a small country that was affected by such a ghastly earthquake, and yet when PRIP K R Ravindran visited them, they changed their target from \$800,000 to \$1 million when I challenged them.”

Other DGs recognised were Dr N Subramanian and Sharat Jain from Districts 3011 and 3012. “Even from a small District such as Orissa (3262), which is considered backward, DG Brigadier Narayan Nayak came forward to become an AKS, as also DG Jaya Shah from Nepal, and Dr Vinay Raikar from D 3170,” he added.

Others who had pledged to become AKS members such as Jayantha Kumar, Harshad Mehta, Jafer N Sura, were honoured at the dinner. In his opening remarks RRFC Kamal Sanghvi listed others who had pledged to become AKS members. DG John Daniel, D 3211; PDG G A George, D 3211; DGE B M Sivarraj, D 3142; DGE Ajay Agarwal, D 3262; DGE Maullin Patel, D 3054 and DGE Abhay Gadgil, D 3131, had pledged to go up the level.

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat

Dubai memories



My hero: A youngster in awe of tennis star Leander Paes. Also in the picture PRIP K R Ravindran and Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan.



A scintillating dance performance at the Dubai Institute.



Definitely: RIDE C Basker in conversation with WinS Global Chair Sushil Gupta.



Past, present and future: PRIP K R Ravindran, RI President John Germ and RIPN Sam Owori.



RI President John Germ, Judy Germ with Sharmishtha Desai and RI Director Manoj Desai.



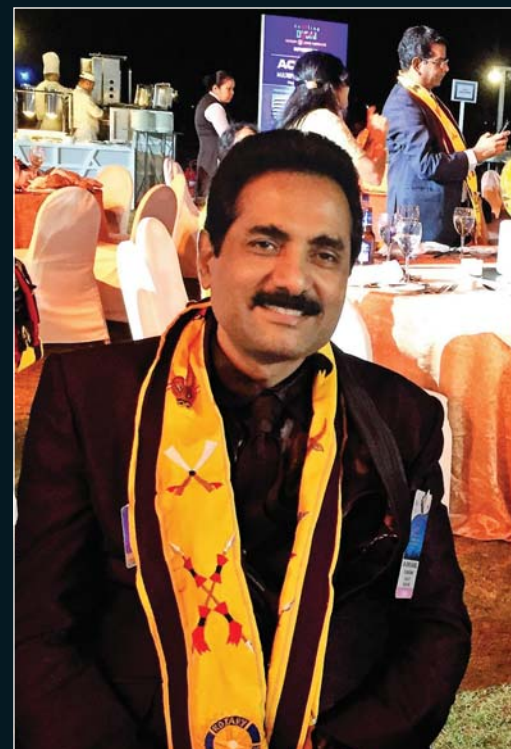
RIDE C Basker with
PRIP K R Ravindran.



Corinna Huang flanked by PRIP Gary Huang (right)
and PRID P T Prabhakar.



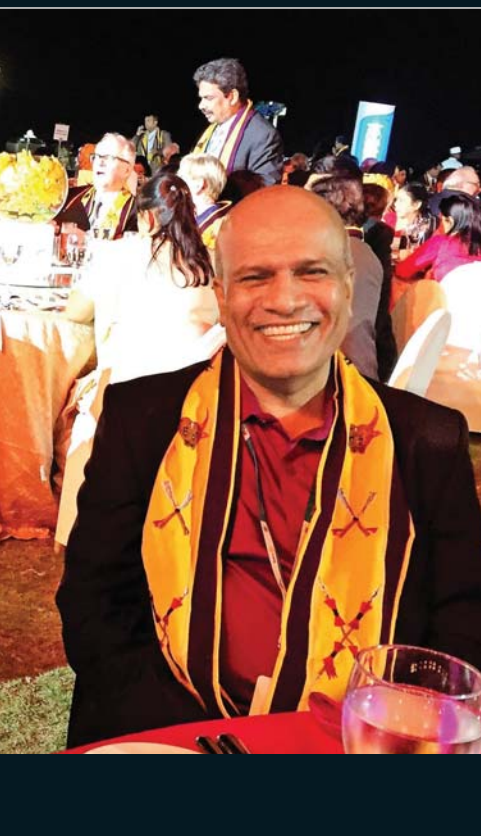
Birthday Boy RID Manoj
Desai and Sharmishtha.



We rule here: DG John Daniel
and Jayantha Kumar.



That's fine: Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan in discussion with PDG Rekha Shetty.



Namaste: RI President Nominee Sam Owori and spouse Norah.



A warm hug: RI Director Manoj Desai and Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan



RIDE C Basker in a festive mood.



From left: Vicky Beaubien, Judy Germ and RI President John Germ.



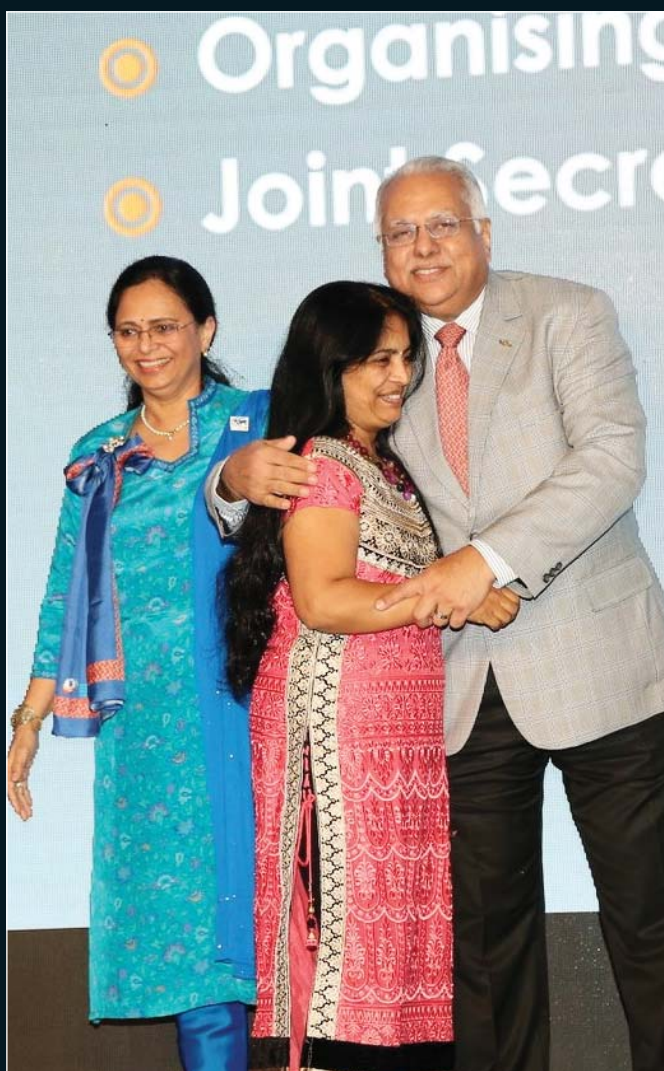
PRIDI Y P Das with
DG N Subramanian
and DGE Ravi
Choudhary.



PDG Matias
Roytta takes a
selfie with his
partner Anne
Roytta.



Selfie time on
the Catamaran.



RI Director Manoj Desai thanks Jayanthi Seenivasan for
all her hard work, while Sharmishtha Desai looks on.

From right: DGE Asha Prasanna Kumar, RIDE C Basker, PDG K P Nagesh and Prasanna Kumar.



Shoulder to shoulder:
TRF Trustee and WinS
Global Chair Sushil
Gupta and PRIP
K R Ravindran.



RID Mikael Ahlberg, Norah and RIPN Sam Otori,
PDG Joseph Suresh Kumar and Charlotte Ahlberg.

Hello: PRID Shekhar Mehta greets Norah Owori and RIPN Sam Owori.



Elegance: (From left) Judy Germ, Vinita Gupta and Vicky Beaubien.



Pictures by K Vishwanathan, Rasheeda Bhagat and courtesy DDZI.

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S

My Voice, My Vote

Rasheeda Bhagat

One of the most popular sessions at the Dubai Zone Institute was the My Voice, My Vote, an exercise RI Director Manoj Desai had started at the Jaipur Institute and which was so popular. At the Dubai Institute, even though it was nearing lunch time, the hall was packed as past, present and future RI officers gripped their voting devices in their hands. What was more, even the non-voters were equally absorbed and wildly cheered the results which were put on the screen instantaneously.

The participants were posed 30 questions by the RI Director, some of them staid, others challenging.

A shocker of an answer came to the question “Should canvassing/campaigning be officially allowed?” The answer, which later got both frowns and censure from RI President John Germ was: Yes (47.49); No (30.17) “Limited” canvassing (22.35)! Germ was surprised that Indian Rotarians wanted to continue with this questionable practice!

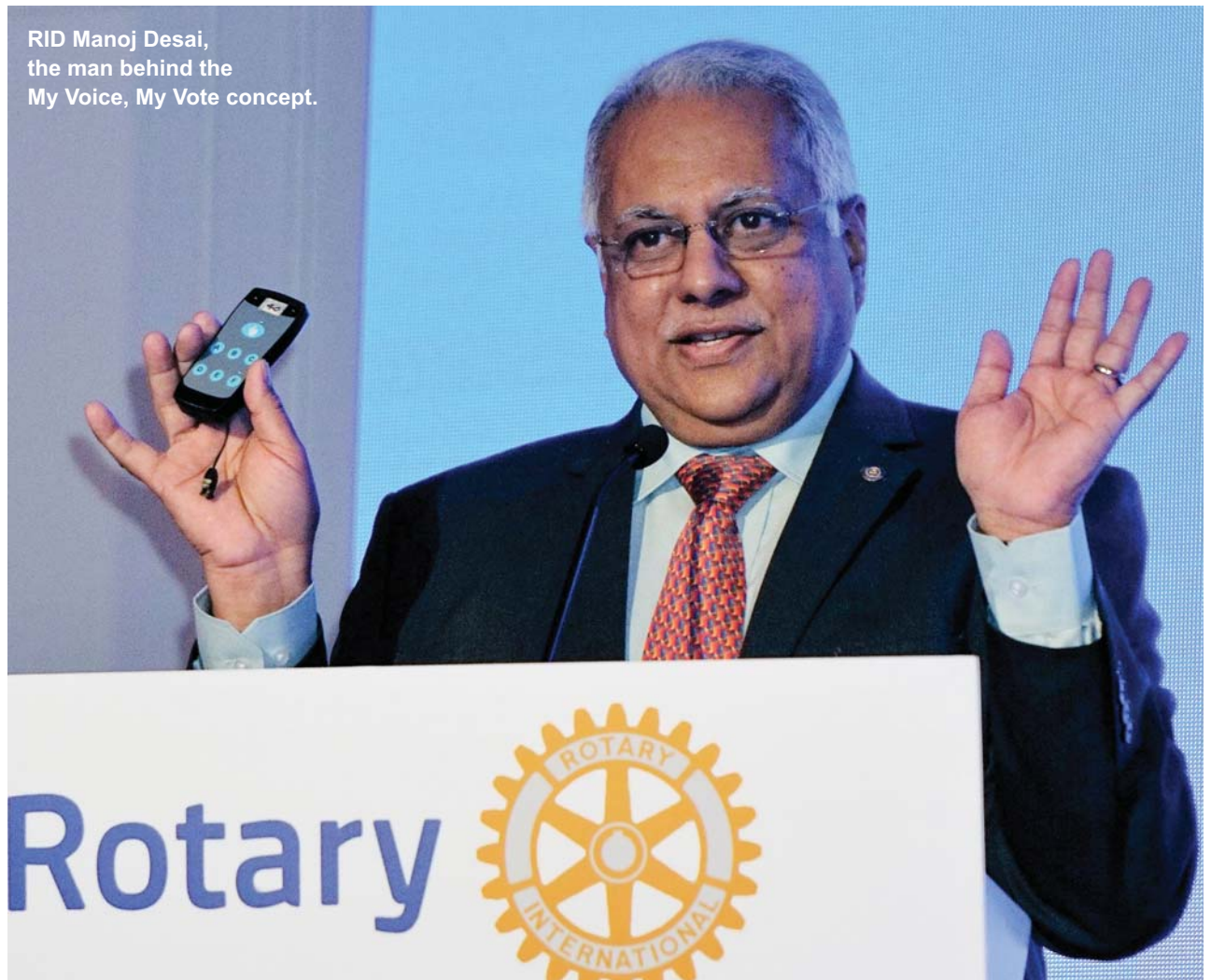
But what restored faith in the service-minded orientation of Indian Rotarians was the response to the question: “the primary purpose of Rotary should be: Networking (6.38); Fellowship (21.81); Service (71.81).”

With a membership of nearly 1,47,000, should we get better

representation at the RI Board, asked RID Desai. While 47.57 per cent wanted 4 Zones, 45.41 per cent asked, like Oliver, for more: 5 Zones!

Over 47.13 per cent felt that the CoL resolutions on flexibility in attendance rules will have positive effect, while 35.06 per cent felt it would be negative. Two more questions on CoL decisions had the following verdict: How many clubs did they think had changed their bylaws after the CoL? None (47.25); more than 25 per cent (45.05), Majority (7.69). It was a tie with around 48 per cent vote each to the query whether increase in per capita dues will have a negative or no impact. Only three

RID Manoj Desai,
the man behind the
My Voice, My Vote concept.



per cent felt the impact would be positive.

While 63 per cent felt that clubs below 10 members should be merged, over 30 per cent voted in favour of their termination. On e-voting in elections, which brought not a single complaint in 2015–16, the opinion was muddled; while 51.58 per cent welcomed e-voting, 42.63 per cent had reservations!

Through one question Desai asked: “India is doing very well on three verticals of Strategic Plan, except on election disputes. Will the new pilot on e-voting reduce complaints, make no difference or increase complaints? The answer was 58.47, 22.4 and 19.13 per cent respectively. Over 77 per cent agreed that in our Zones the growth of e-clubs was negligible.

A shocker of an answer came to the question “Should canvassing/campaigning be officially allowed?”

— Yes (47.49); No (30.17)

“Limited” canvassing (22.35)!

Would the Council of Governors’ Retreat Meet in each District with definite agenda at personal expenses help resolve issues, make no difference, create more issues? The verdict: 44.15; 16.69; 36.17 per cent respectively. Nearly 89

per cent felt that Rotary’s flagship projects such as TEACH and WinS are important for public image, and 93 per cent wanted Rotary to make special efforts to involve Gen-next (less than 30 years) in the organisation; 78 per cent wanted the Rotary Zone Institute to be open only to past, present and future RI officers. Similarly, 95 per cent wanted financial irregularities by RI officers to be dealt with strictly; 81 per cent wanted the Troika Meeting (DG, DGE and DGN) with the RID to continue; 72 per cent said service should have primary focus in Rotary and 87 per cent felt demonetisation would not affect Rotary membership.

But guess the question that had a 98 per cent response — that the Rotary News Trust accounts should be published every year!■

World Polio Day celebrated at Ambala

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Ambala hosted the World Polio Day celebrations for District 3080. A cycle rally with participation of over 1,200 students from various institutions in Ambala was the highlight of the celebration. PRIP KR Ravindran greeted the audience through a brief video message and DG Raman Aneja stressed the need to focus on polio awareness.

The Chief Guest RC Mishra, Additional DGP, Panchkula and Ambala, flagged off the 3-km rally and praised Rotary’s effort and involvement to eradicate polio from India. PRID YP Das and DG Aneja led the rally along with other Rotarians and Rotaractors. A van, screening a film on Rotary’s 30-year-long struggle to end polio in India, will travel throughout D 3080 for 120 days, visiting clubs and government and private schools



PRID Y P Das, ADGP RC Mishra, DG Raman Aneja and IPDG David Hilton participate in a cycle rally, as part of the Polio Day celebrations.

to sensitise the community on the ill-effects of polio. Flagged off from Ambala on October 24, the journey

of the van will culminate at Karnal to coincide with the District Conference on February 17.■



Please pay your Rotary News Dues at the earliest

to enjoy uninterrupted supply. Please be warned that 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 : 12,27,390

Clubs : 35,263

Districts : 534

Rotaractors : 2,23,169*

Clubs : 9,703*

Interactors : 4,74,720*

Clubs : 20,640*

RCC members: 2,11,370*

RCC : 9,190*

* As on October 3, 2016

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

As on December 1, 2016

RI Zone	RI District	Rotary Clubs	No of Rotarians	Women Rotarians	Rotaract	Interact	RCC
5	2981	109	4,491	205	51	213	167
5	2982	63	2,818	78	51	108	41
5	3000	111	5,193	388	201	470	112
4	3011	72	3,069	543	43	96	29
4	3012	79	3,419	605	57	109	54
5	3020	80	4,227	223	104	457	353
4	3030	98	5,381	666	69	252	155
4	3040	83	2,061	241	50	107	135
4	3051	64	2,442	184	47	145	335
4	3052	56	3,290	571	38	135	130
4	3053	59	2,397	367	16	33	93
4	3060	98	4,001	371	53	109	125
4	3070	106	3,169	295	61	151	55
4	3080	76	3,281	216	59	192	105
4	3090	79	2,111	76	33	36	122
4	3100*	70	1,679	66	9	68	82
6	3110	109	3,818	191	52	49	78
6	3120	73	3,047	309	36	49	49
4	3131	124	5,745	1159	77	236	70
4	3132	92	4,013	403	58	136	113
4	3141	84	5,187	955	98	228	84
4	3142	77	2,941	392	50	176	64
5	3150	94	3,433	328	85	188	109
5	3160	64	2,263	103	17	42	81
5	3170	125	5,409	344	46	272	158
5	3181	66	3,054	205	28	163	100
5	3182	78	3,316	235	24	261	89
5	3190	143	5,634	658	124	329	48
5	3201	135	5,102	298	86	113	46
5	3202	127	4,996	257	87	416	40
5	3211	132	4,261	230	11	70	121
5	3212	94	3,858	208	104	252	126
5	3220	67	1,906	234	78	185	78
5	3230	144	6,212	522	165	446	308
6	3240	83	2,938	345	56	140	139
6	3250	97	3,737	619	31	195	173
6	3261	69	2,355	232	15	100	42
6	3262	84	3,121	365	40	70	71
6	3271	65	1,226	194	41	15	13
6	3272	125	2,398	384	35	35	36
6	3281	191	5,515	724	211	79	184
6	3282	123	3,517	255	119	26	40
6	3291	146	3,887	660	63	120	567
6	3292	110	4,174	578	108	100	96
Total		4,224	1,60,092	16,482	2,887	7,172	5,216

*Non-districted

Source: RI South Asia Office

When the partners sparkled at the Dubai Institute

Rasheeda Bhagat

If you could see the beaming spouses of the DGEs and DGNs at the Dazzling Dubai Zone Institute, with their husbands making a special effort to put them in front, it was mainly due to two doses of pep talk given by RI President

John Germ and RI Director Manoj Desai's spouse Sharmishtha Desai at the GETS Convocation.

Addressing the graduating class of DGEs, Germ said, "As I look around the room, I see all the partners dressed up; I want you to think

of how important they are in your life. And also how important they are going to be for your success. Because if they are not happy, you are not going to be happy, and if you're not happy, your club members won't be happy."

A clap for Jayanthi: Sharmishtha Desai applauds Jayanthi Raja Seenivasan for her quiet support.

K Vishwanathan





Senior Rotary leaders with the partners of incoming DGs.

Only if their spouses were happy would the DGs be able to give the extra time that would be required of them in the coming year to their districts and members. “Think about it, and act accordingly,” he said.

Picking up the cue, while delivering the vote of thanks at the Convocation, Sharmishtha recalled how when the RI President had addressed the DGEs’ partners separately, he had placed importance on this point. Urging the incoming Governors to be sensitive to this issue, she added, “When you conduct your seminars and other District events, don’t forget to introduce your partners. In our Indian culture, partners are taken for granted. But think about the partner’s feelings; they are bound to feel and wonder why am I sitting here if nobody is going to recognise me. Or knows who I am. This is my only request; our President says without your partners’ cooperation, you won’t be happy and I would like to emphasise that.”

Magic effect

The ripple down effect of this message was magical. During the Convocation and later the Awards ceremony at the Jumeira Beach, GETS Chair Ravi Vadlamani was always careful to put his spouse and Sergeant-at-Arms at the Institute, PDG Rajyalakshmi, before him. And in typical Vadlamani style, he announced it too every time!

At the concluding session, Institute Chairman Raja Seenivasan showed both gratitude and humility when he admitted that he wouldn’t have been able to pull off such a spectacular Institute, and that too overseas, without the total and unstinted support and cooperation of his wife Jayanthi. If he had managed to barely sleep during the previous few nights, “I can tell you that Jayanthi didn’t sleep at all last night.”

He thanked her for being a pillar of support for him as he had run helter and skelter for a year and more putting





EMGA Ravi Vadlamani and spouse PDG Rajyalakshmi.



(From L) Vicky Beaubien, Judy Germ, Sharmishtha Desai and Malathi Basker.

the Institute's various facets together. "She would get up at 2.30 am and send out mails for me. However many secretaries you might have, can you get such support," asked Seenivasan, triggering mellow looks on many a face in the audience.

As for the RID himself, he wasn't letting out any secrets when he acknowledged Sharmishtha's constant... "silent and smiling support", as he called it. And this was evident for all to see; the ever smiling and cheerful lady's silent but strong support has been only too evident during his directorship. Rain or shine, day or night, she has been there, sometimes beside him, sometimes in the background, and without any fuss or fluster.

It was good to see none less than the RI President himself leading the band to acknowledge the immense contribution of these women in the success of their husbands.

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

Create a tidal wave of change

Rekha Shetty

At 100kms an hour Cyclone Vardha was the final challenge flung at the Dazzling Dubai Team before Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan and his Team 247 finally left Chennai. Jawarilal Jain, DGE 3231, faced a double whammy

on the morning of the cyclone, as he wrapped up the final ceremonies of his daughter's wedding, and rushed to the airport with spouse Sumithra to catch the delayed Dubai flight. It was a tired but excited group of DGEs who landed in Dubai, but were immediately enfolded in the warmth of the Dazzling Dubai Team's

welcome with long stemmed red roses, and of course dates and nuts.

The team's journey began at the seaside foyer, where the DGEs realised how much was expected of them as leaders in the year ahead. The holiday excitement, the joy of that bus journey to a catamaran... rocking on the coastal waters in the catamaran was an

RID Manoj Desai with delegates at the Desert Safari.



unforgettable beginning. Seenivasan's personal theme was, "Enjoy!" All stops were removed to ensure that.

RID Manoj Desai was proud and happy, waiting to hand over the trained Trendsetters to RIDE C Basker. RI President John Germ, with his special brand of dignity and humour, challenged each DGE to create the ultimate team. "Together we achieve," he said, gamely supported by spouse Judy. "Remember

One could see that Rotary was in a hurry to use the dazzling array of technological Rotary *Astras* to better effect!



Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan addressing the GETS Seminar in the presence of RID Manoj Desai.



all those who are going to live a better life because of you," he reminded them. The magic of manifesting what you want by the power of your attention, was the magician's theme as a magic show unfolded. That night everyone was under a spell. Under an almost full moon, playing games with the silver waves and the bright faces of our future leaders, nothing really seemed to be impossible.

The next morning GETS Chair Ravi Vadlamani offered the menu for the day. As always, Director Desai started with the cornerstone of our movement — the Strategic Plan. He provided a bird's eye view of our well-loved goals of building better clubs, providing better projects and creating a better public image. The core values of friendship, integrity, diversity, service and leadership provided the background. The breakout sessions created the dazzling display of ideas one comes to expect from DGEs on the threshold of District leadership. The focus as always, was



From left: RIDE C Basker, V Raja Seenivasan, RID Manoj Desai, RI President John Germ, PRID Ronald Beaubien and PDG J B Kamdar.

on the Foundation, membership and building public image. Technology took centre stage with Club Central, My Rotary and Rotary Showcase. One could see that Rotary was in a hurry to use the dazzling array of technological Rotary *Astras* to better effect! The RI South Asia staff were enthusiastic helpers. The Desert Safari that followed was the stuff of fantasy. Swooping through nature's sand architecture was a mind-blowing experience. No one realised how cold the desert can be at night.

The third day's focus was on the lifeblood of Rotary: membership. As they planned their time at the International Assembly, DGEs focussed on membership strategy. The Idea Exchange focussed on how to attract, young members and women. Discussions on public image were full of great ideas. Connecting with clubs and using the new communication technologies were core issues. Building and leading teams became the ultimate goal. There were no lectures or talks. The sessions were interactive idea exchanges. The enthusiasm of the new leaders was evident as they explored the limits of the boundless territory ahead. "Even eagles need a push," said RID Desai

as he surveyed the terrain ahead with RIDE Basker. TRF Trustee representative Gary Huang kicked off the time to celebrate. The moving graduation ceremony brought the session to a close.

The Spouses Programme, chaired by Sharmishtha Desai, used the three days to train the partners of the DGEs to embark on that epic journey. The next year being the Centennial celebrations of TRF will be a very special journey, they were told.

The inspirational addresses of Judy Germ and Corinna Huang will long be remembered. President Germ concluded, "Our success will not happen because of the single effort by one individual or because of any

Our success will not happen because of single effort by one individual or because of any one thing — it will be the result of partnerships and team effort.

RI President John Germ

one thing — it will be the result of partnerships and team effort. It will take people working together who are concerned with accomplishment rather than personal glory to achieve our goals."

Technology is the ultimate *Brahmastra*. The only way to predict the future is to create it. Rotary is nothing if not proactive — as highlighted in the words of Michael McQueen: Digging wells before they are needed, avoiding auto pilot modes and viewing everything with new eyes. The clear theme running through all training sessions was technology with a heart.

Germ spoke of love, values and how the Four-way-test and the Right-way will never go out of fashion in the world of Rotary. IPRIP K R Ravindran, having ridden the technology wave by making Club Central and My Rotary a way of life while introducing the Rotary Global Rewards programme, provided the view ahead. Leaders were encouraged to create the wave, with innovations, proactive plans using technology, being the key themes.

The writer, PDG, D 3230, was part of Team DDZI.

Dancing in Dubai



Shaking a leg: (From L) RID Manoj Desai, RIDE C Basker, DGN Pinky Patel and Rashi Mehta (extreme right).



PRIP K R Ravindran leads RID Frederick Lin on the floor.



RI President John Germ and RID Manoj Desai shake a leg on the dance floor.

STAR PERFORMERS

Zone 4

Trophy	RI District	IPDG
Highest Total Contribution to TRF	3140	Subhash Kulkarni
Highest contribution to Annual Fund	3140	Subhash Kulkarni
Highest contribution to Endowment Fund	3140	Subhash Kulkarni
Highest Per Capita Giving to Annual Fund	3140	Subhash Kulkarni
Highest contribution to Polio Fund	3140	Subhash Kulkarni

Donor	Trophy	DG	Dist.
Usha and Raja Saboo Trophy	Highest Giving to Annual Fund	K P Nagesh	3190
Binota and Kalyan Banerjee Trophy	Highest Giving to Endowment Fund	Jagadeeswararao Maddu	3020
Binota and Kalyan Banerjee Trophy	Highest Giving to Polio Fund	K P Nagesh	3190
Nitish Laharry Trophy	Highest Total Contribution to TRF	K P Nagesh	3190



IPDG K P Nagesh and spouse Uma with IPRIP K R Ravindran and Vanathy, RID Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha, RID Mikael Ahlberg and Charlotte.



IPDG Chandu Agarwal and spouse Sanjana with PRIP Gary Huang and Corinna and TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta.



IPDG Parag Sheth and Punam with PRIP Gary Huang, RI President John Germ and Institute Chair Raja Seenivasan.

OF ZONES 4, 5 & 6A

Zone 5

Trophy	RI District	IPDG
Highest Total Contribution to TRF	3190	K P Nagesh
Highest contribution to Annual Fund	3190	K P Nagesh
Highest contribution to Endowment Fund	3020	Jagadeeswararao Maddu
Highest Per Capita Giving to Annual Fund	3190	K P Nagesh
Highest contribution to Polio Fund	3190	K P Nagesh

Zone 6A

Trophy	RI District	IPDG
Highest Total Contribution to TRF	3292	Keshav Kunwar
Highest contribution to Annual Fund	3240	Chandu Kumar Agarwal
Highest contribution to Endowment Fund	3262	Sibabrata Dash
Highest Per Capita Giving to Annual Fund	3240	Chandu Kumar Agarwal



IPDG Keshav Kunwar and Durga with RI President John Germ and Judy and Sharmishtha Desai.



IPDG Subodh Joshi and Sneha with RI President John Germ and Judy and RID Frederick Lin.



IPDG Subhash Kulkarni and Swati with PRIP K R Ravindran and Vanathy, RID Mikael Ahlberg and Charlotte, RID Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha and PDG H Rajendra Rai.

All about Partnerships

Rasheeda Bhagat

The mantra for success in partnerships is to choose partners who cover your weaknesses, says Leander Paes, the king of doubles in tennis.

If any lessons are to be learnt on how to keep an audience spell-bound, tennis star Leander Paes had them all, as he captivated the imagination of the packed hall at the Dazzling Dubai Zone Institute in December.

The theme of his address, not surprisingly, was *Partnerships are important*, and speaking straight from the heart, Paes went on to unravel for the participants his magic journey in the world of tennis from an early age.

Right from the moment he dramatically took off his jacket to reveal the Rotary tee-shirt he was wearing inside, Paes became the darling of the audience. His address, which did not adhere to the time frame, but had nobody complaining, was filled with an expression of love and admiration for his parents, the way they shaped his life and values, an account of his tenacity and courage and how a little butterfly that sat on his racket at the 1996 Olympics, helped him win the medal that he had coveted all his life.

“As a little boy I had a dream to emulate my parents. My mother

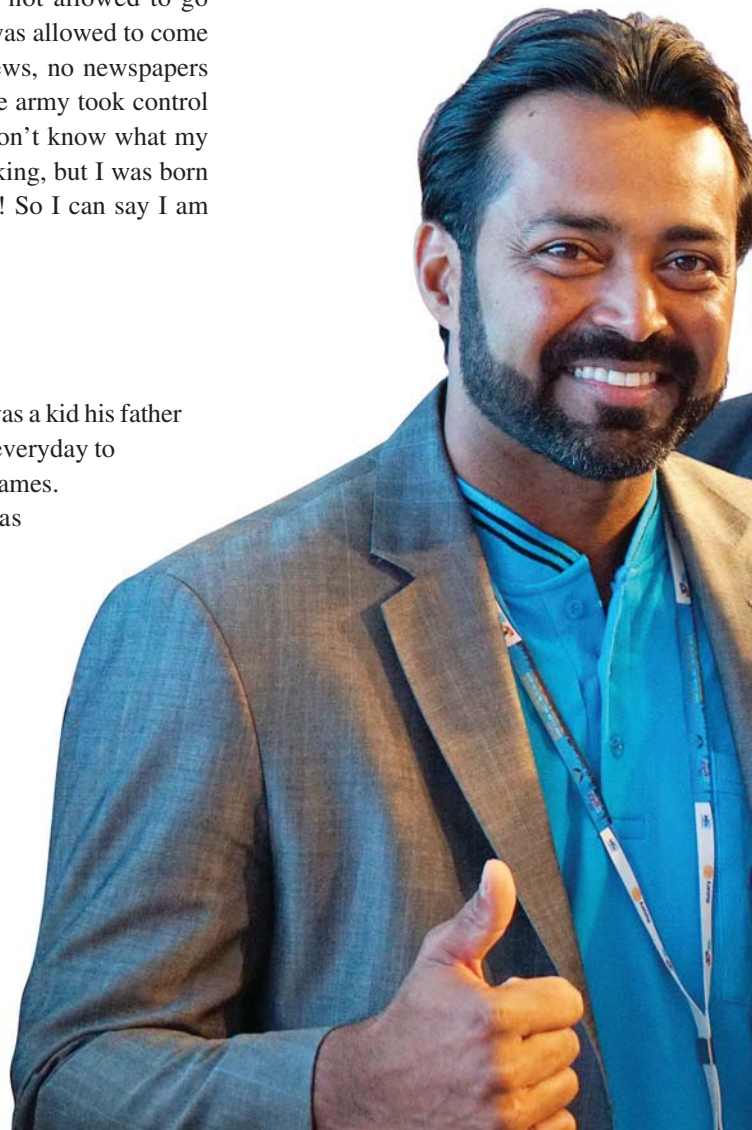
captained India in basketball, she was all of 5 ft and nothing! She had tremendous speed and thanks to her genes, I was born an athlete.” His father’s dream was to get a medal in hockey at the Munich Olympics in 1972. “The Games in Munich were shut down for two days as Palestinian terrorists held Israeli athletes hostage; the athletes were not allowed to go outside, nobody was allowed to come inside, no TV crews, no newspapers were allowed. The army took control of the village. I don’t know what my parents were thinking, but I was born nine months later! So I can say I am an Olymics kid!”

When he was a kid his father gave him Rs 100 everyday to spend on video games. “I thought he was the best dad ever. But I didn’t realise the method in my father’s

madness was to actually develop athletic skills in me; eye and hand and eye and feet coordination necessary to become an athlete.”

Tennis celebrity Leander Paes, PRID P T Prabhakar and RI President John Germ.

My mother captained India in basketball, she was all of 5 ft and nothing! She had tremendous speed and thanks to her genes, I was born an athlete.



Paes told the mesmerised audience how as a kid he would polish his father's Olympics medal with *Brasso* "and as I made it shine, I wanted one of my own." With the speed inherited from his mother, he started playing football and was selected for the Barcelona team. As an 11-year-old he went to Spain, visited the academy, and his dream was to become a great football star but for that he would have to give up his home, his country, his passport and play for Spain.

"That was the first lesson I learnt about professionalism... that it doesn't matter where you live, who you partner with, but what matters is you surround yourself with the right people,

have a dream and choose the right professionals to achieve that dream. Who you partner with makes you what you are. You have to be a student of life, learn from your peers, your coaches... only then can you achieve excellence."

And excellence he did achieve as can be seen from a recent certificate that 14-time Grand Slam winner Rafael Nadal gave him: "Leander is one of the biggest stars in doubles and one of the best players in the history of tennis."

When he gave up football, he told his father, from the top of his head, that he'd like to play tennis. "I told him find me the best tennis academy

I am a big believer in karma, and a practising Buddhist and I believe that partnerships are not just between human beings.

and I'll tell you in a year if I want to continue with tennis." Paes enrolled with the Britannia Amritraj Tennis Academy in Madras in 1985, and the academy played a key role in his early development. "I was the youngest of eight kids at the specialised academy; we woke up at 4.30 am, had to be on the court at 5 am, and for every minute we were late, we had to run 60 laps on the tennis court." Discipline was the key: from 5 to 8 am they practised tennis. After school, they were back to the court at 4 pm, and till 7.30 pm "we played matches, simulated what we would play at the US or Australian Open, Wimbledon etc." Homework, dinner and then time to write long letters "where I told my parents and sisters how much I missed them, particularly when I had fever. As a 13-year-old, I learned how to manage bank accounts, passports, travel bookings, and travel the whole globe. I remember one line my father wrote in a 101-page letter, and it was all about how tennis was your vehicle to become a man. That line said: 'Use this vehicle to move the world'."

Next Paes took the audience on a fascinating flashback in time... to that magic day in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where he played Andre Agassi, "one of my dearest friends and one of the greatest human beings ever". When he was 18 and won the Juniors title in US open, and got





Leander Paes greeted by Sharmistha and RID Manoj Desai, while Institute Chair Raja Seenivasan and RIDE C Basker look on.

scholarships to 10 colleges, including those at UCLA, Harvard, Stanford, Barcelona, “he told me that to be a real professional athlete you have to move to the US and live here.”

Taking his advice, Paes moved to the Harry Hopman Tennis Academy in Florida and trained there for four years. “I am very grateful to America

At the age of 9, Mother Teresa and my father taught me that sometimes by giving back, you achieve a lot more.

and American tennis for the opportunities they gave me to hone my skills.”

He played his first Olympics game in 1992 in Barcelona but in 1996 at Atlanta, “it was time to get the medal I had always coveted”. Paes then went on to relate a gripping account of how in the very first set, he devised a strategy to unsettle Agassi, who was “taller, bigger, stronger and with better tennis techniques than I had. I felt I had to play him using my heart, my physical acumen, my mental toughness and intelligence. I started playing drop shots and lobbies... front and back, when I moved him, I felt I made him uncomfortable and played the match on my terms.”

Using all these strategies, in the Atlanta semi-finals, “in the first set, I had him in all sorts of trouble; it was 5–6 in the first set and at 15–40 I found myself at two set points, and half an

hour away from getting my dream medal.”

But the brilliance of Agassi was that he exploited Paes’ weakness, which was backhand. Suddenly Paes found himself getting a backhand shot from Agassi, “as hard as he could hit it, at my right jaw, the toughest shot for a right-hander to handle.”

His wrist was in a weak position; “the racquet hit my face, the ball hit the racquet, the racquet fell on the ground and snapped a tendon between my wrist and elbow. I was in excruciating pain.” His American trainer said he had to end the game; “step down, you are going to hurt your career if you continue. But I said strap me up and let me back on that court. I’ve lived for this moment, this moment is more important than me, it will prove that we Indians can be world beaters. That

as a young boy from Calcutta I can be the best I can on the global stage.”

Even though he continued the game in excruciating pain, he lost the set and the match. Paes explained that this was the first Olympics where a match had to be played for the bronze medal. In the previous Olympics, both the semi finalists would get a bronze.

He was rushed to a hospital after the match, his hand was in a hard cast; and yet defying all odds, he played the match for the bronze after 48 hours. It was during this match, which he was about to lose, as his hand was in terrible pain, a butterfly sat on his racquet, flew away and then returned.

“I am a big believer in karma, and practising Buddhist and I believe that partnerships are not just between human beings. As I came up to serve a little red, white and blue butterfly sat on my racquet.” He went up to the net to talk to his opponent, who was on the verge of winning, about this butterfly, actually to “distract him”! He managed to do just that; did the first serve, hit a volley, saved a break point, and won that game. “And I went on to win the match!”

Recounting how the Rotary ‘Service above Self’ has defined his life, he said at the age of 9 he had got a cheque for \$329 as his first tennis

As a kid when I polished my father’s Olympics medal with *Brasso*, and as I made it shine, I wanted one of my own.

Andre Agassi, one of my dearest friends, told me that to be a real professional athlete you have to move to the US and live here.



award, “and I wanted to do all kinds of things with that money, like buying an ice cream factory, or a fancy house in Bombay, or at least lots of toys and clothes.” But his dad took him to Mother Teresa, and both of them coaxed him to donate the money for an orphanage. “I started with five children, today I support 10,000 children. My first tennis prize money taught me a lesson. Sometimes by giving back you achieve a lot more.”

As Rotary looks around for good partners to leverage its skills, Indian tennis sensation Leander Paes, who has excelled at winning doubles matches, had some tips to offer. “The first lesson I learnt in my career is that a lot of our skills are god given, and many of them we polish daily.” What was important in a partnership was to understand “ourselves first... and make peace with both our strengths and weaknesses. Once we know our weaknesses, we can choose a partner with strengths to cover our weaknesses. And our strengths will cover their weaknesses.”

A legend for winning doubles matches, which require the perfect understanding and coordination with the partner, Paes said “in my partnerships in tennis, the sum of two individuals is greater than two. And you should look for the same when you choose your partners to do so much of good in the world.”

Pictures by K Vishwanathan
Designed by Krishnapratheesh S

Fun-time at



If the Jaipur Institute was colourful and glittering, offering grandeur at the Pink City's historic venues, Dubai dared to be different. Whether it was the Awards Night dinner at the Armani Pavilion of the world's tallest building Burj Khalifa, with its dancing fountains known officially as the Dubai Fountain, or a fun and frolic dinner with dancing at the Jumeira Beach.

The world's largest choreographed fountain system set on the 30-acre man-made Burj Khalifa Lake, the Dubai Fountain, according to the *Wikipedia*, can spray 22,000 gallons (83,000 litres) of water in the air. To create the magic effect, over 6,600 lights and 25 colour projectors have been installed.

As the 930-odd Rotarians and their partners attending the Institute watched in fascination, the fountains, which

have been programmed to give different performances set to various kinds of world music, including one number by the Indian singer Abhijeet, danced in the cool winter air, accompanied by vivid and changing shades of light. The beam of light from the fountains is so strong that it can be seen from over 20 miles away!

The Pavilion was booked for the Institute event, and we watched the fountains dance every 30 minutes, and presentation of Awards to the best performing DGs of 2015–16 were given out between performances.

Asked why he had chosen the awards function to be held in the open, RI Director Manoj Desai said, "Normally awards are given in the hall at the Institute venue and at the end of a session, when the hall is nearly empty, so the hard work done by the Governors

and their teams goes unrecognised. Also, we ensured that only two people come to the stage so there is a proper opportunity to be seen and recognised by the senior leadership. This time RI President John, IPRIP K R Ravindran and RIPN Sam Owori were present on the stage and the Governors were properly recognised and felt rewarded for the hard work they had put in."

123rd floor experience

For almost 100 of the delegates, including your Editor, the highest point of the Awards Night at the Armani Pavilion was a tour of the 123rd floor of the Burj, which towers to a height of 829.8 metres (2,722 ft), as the world's tallest structure. The observation deck for visitors here is on the 124th floor and a visit has to be booked earlier online, and could cost between Rs 2,500 to 3,500

Dazzling Dubai

Rasheeda Bhagat

The Dubai Fountain.

K Vishwanathan

or so, depending on the time and the season.

But thanks to Rtn Jayantha Kumar, who lives in the Burj and is becoming an AKS member, many of us were able to go up in small batches to the 123rd floor to which residents have access. So along with RIDE C Basker and Malathi, PRID Yash Pal Das and Manju, DGE D M Shivraj and Manonmani and DG John Daniel, the last being a close friend of Kumar, my colleague Viswanathan and I were able to get to the 123rd floor just like that! As the elevator zipped to the 123rd floor at lightning speed, our ears popped and we were able to get a glimpse of the glittering lights of Dubai from that height, without any fuss, or long queues. Later we learnt that Kumar had organised visits of many such batches! Thank you Jayantha Kumar and spouse Sindhu.

Smooth transportation

The 900-odd DDZI delegates were put up in three different hotels but all of them were transported without glitches to the DDZI venue, which was the Hyatt Regency Deira, and where the TRF Centennial dinner was organised. The same was true for the inaugural at the Jumeira Beach Hotel, where dinner was also hosted the first evening and the next evening's Awards Nite at the Burj Khalifa. Transporting 900-plus people to different venues, and giving them smooth airport transfers in a city like Dubai is a huge challenge, but DGN RVN Kannan (Chair of Transport Committee) and R Natarajan (Airport Reception) did a splendid job.

It was touching to see members of the DDZI team themselves loading heavy bags onto the coaches, no

mean task, as the suitcases got heavier on the return journey, loaded not only with shopping from Dubai, but also the several bags of goodies given by the organisers! At one of the dinners, a special touch was a gift to the ladies, distributed demurely with the words "From the Chairman's wife"; it turned out to be a very pretty necklace!

A leaner, though not meaner, Raja!

Institute Chair V Raja Seenivasan admitted that he had been involved in planning and organising this Institute for almost two years, when RID Desai had zeroed in on Dubai as a possible destination for his final Institute. "I have hardly slept for many nights," he admitted, and an open secret was the fact that he had lost 7 kg while executing DDZI! RID Desai disclosed that to pull off a perfect Institute without

any glitches “I have made 13 trips to Dubai and Raja has travelled here 17 times! We wanted to ensure that we give everybody an amazing time; that we conduct business but with pleasure, and most important, give enough time for fellowship.”

JB surprises, Dubai tourism obliges

PDG JB Kamdar had asked RID Desai’s permission for giving a surprise treat to the delegates at the GETS Convocation, TRF Centennial dinner and a general session later. This turned out to be a spectacular magic show that left the audience gasping for breath. Dubai Tourism’s patronage was in full flow; apart from transporting and hosting the VVIPs, the Tourism authorities had pulled out all the punches to ensure the delegates had a comfortable trip. And for this, the first requirement is a sim card. The Tourism authority made a rare exception to ensure that all the DDZI participants got a free sim card with some nominal talk time as soon as they arrived, and without submitting a copy of the passport! A rare feat in the UAE! “We are most grateful for

their hospitality,” Desai said, adding, “I always talk about winning hearts and minds and they did just that.”

Shall we dance?

There was plenty of time for fellowship on both the evenings — at the Jumeira Beach and the Armani Pavilion. At the beach, there was a top class DJ to provide the peppiest of Bollywood numbers and before long the dancing DGs, DGEs, DGNs and their partners were joined by senior leadership... RI President John Germ, TRF Trustee Representative Gary Huang, Trustee Sushil Gupta and Vinita, IPRIP K R Ravindran, RI Director Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha, PRID Shekhar Mehta and Rashi... were all dancing away their blues.

But suddenly, somebody made a call for Tamil film music and in a flash RIDE C Basker was on the floor, with many of his colleagues from Tamil Nadu. Of course along with peppy Tamil songs, the *Chennai Express* hit *Lungi Dance* made the dancers go wild, and Desai and PRID Mehta were on the floor in a flash. The same

Rasheeda Bhagat



number was used the next day for the promotion of the Literacy Summit in Chennai. As sounds of *Thalaiva* rent the air, RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta, dressed in a white shirt and *veshti*, with a *thundu* around his neck and wearing fancy coolers, strode on to the stage, accompanied by Desai, Literacy Summit Chair PDG J B Kamdar, PDG Ravi Vadlamani, and the entire Literacy Summit team dressed similarly. While Vadlamani made some fancy moves on the stage, Ravindran, who came up for the next session complimented Mehta for looking like a younger version of the former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and exchanged banter which shall remain unpublished!

Excellent speakers

One area where the Dubai Institute managed to score over the Jaipur Institute was in the quality of the speakers chosen. Tennis sensation Leander Paes threw the Institute’s strict and tight time schedules to the winds and enthralled the audience with a speech that came right from the heart. Dramatically

Rasheeda Bhagat



A bird's eye view of Dubai from the 123rd floor of Burj Khalifa.



RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta promotes the Chennai Literacy Summit in the presence of RID Manoj Desai and Literacy Summit Chair J B Kamdar. Note the traditional South Indian costumes of the delegates.

tossing aside his jacket to reveal the Rotary tee-shirt he was wearing, Paes proclaimed that he was a Rotarian too, and went ahead to disclose the secret behind his huge success while playing tennis doubles. Yes, partnerships mattered for success, a Rotary *mantra* too. Only later, a little bird told *Rotary News* that he had been made an honorary Rotarian barely a few hours earlier. But the way Paes talked about Rotary's core values, and related them to the spirit of service that had been inculcated in him by his father and Mother Teresa when he was barely 9 years old, won the hearts and captured the imagination of people in the audience.

He went on to totally charm the senior leadership by presenting them with autographed tennis balls. RI President John Germ and Judy, Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha, PRID Ronald and Vicky Beaubien, Abhay Gadgil and Deepa got these precious gifts. So powerful and mesmerising was his address, that RI President Germ disclosed at the end of the session, to a thunderous applause

that he had roped in Paes as a guest speaker for the Atlanta Convention. Just like that!

Similarly Dr J M Hans, who does cochlear implant surgery for poor children, put forth his story of service so convincingly that "he has already got at least two invitations to address Rotary meetings to raise money for this cause," said Desai. The other absorbing address was by Mike McQueen, eminent speaker and author of the book *Winning the Battle for Relevance*. His gripping talk "Keeping Rotary Relevant" was lapped up by the audience.

Kalyanda was missed

The Rotary senior leader who was missed and who had been allocated several slots, beginning with the TRF Centennial dinner, was TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee. There was constant hope that he might suddenly come, even if for a short half day, but he could not make



it due to his wife Binota Banerjee's indifferent health. In his message before the meet, printed in the programme booklet, he had said it took both courage and planning to hold an Institute in Dubai but then RID Manoj was ably assisted by Raja Seenivasan "another bright star on the Indian Rotary horizon." The two of them, he was sure, "would lead their team to a memorable event and maybe, it will convince the RI Board to seriously consider Dubai as a venue for a future Rotary International Convention."

He added: "Knowing Manoj as I do, I am sure Dubai will be as eventful, colourful, and joyful an event as the Jaipur Institute was last year. Hopefully, even more so." That Trustee Chair Banerjee was missing the Dubai Institute and his heart was really at its proceedings, could be seen from the occasional messages he sent to a couple of participants, asking how the event was going; "I know Manoj has put his heart into this event," said one such message. ■

Rotary & its future

Rasheeda Bhagat

In a lively and frank session on the future of Rotary at the Dubai Zone Institute, IPRIP K R Ravindran asked some searching questions to both RI President John Germ and RIPN Sam Owori.

Disclosing that Germ was the one who had been instrumental at Rotary International in negotiating partnerships, Ravindran asked him about the importance of future partnerships, particularly with some of the big philanthropist organisations. Would it be okay to compromise some of the recognition that Rotary was entitled to through such partnerships?

“Yes, it is absolutely important to work with partners. I believe working with the Bill Gates Foundation has enhanced both the image and strengths of Rotary,” replied Germ. Gates had said that such a huge movement forward on polio would not have been possible “if Rotary didn’t have boots on the ground, and I would say his money helped too!” The partnership with USAIDS was also very important. “All the organisations we work with value our partnership. I had a meeting with the Gates Foundation recently and Bill Gates will be in Atlanta and we will be announcing a new partnership with them soon,” he said.

He added that seeing the success a partnership with Rotary entailed, many organisations “want to partner with us. And there are so many needs out there. Just think of how we can multiply our efforts by adding people. As for credit, I’ve always said

if we don’t care who gets the credit, a lot more can be done. Yes, Rotary is giving up some of the credit by partnering with other organisations, but that’s okay and we have to face the fact that we cannot do this by ourselves, and will have to work with others if we want to keep serving humanity.”

Ravindran had the entire audience sitting up and listening, smiling, and chuckling too with his next question directed at RIPN Owori. “We are managed by this huge building in Evanston but if you see the membership graph in the world, all the arrows are up in our part of the world, but going down in the US and Europe. Do you think it would be a good idea to move the RI headquarters to Singapore, Delhi or Seoul?” And, decentralise the management, “maybe give \$15 million to Africa, \$25 million to South Asia,” and ask them to manage Rotary affairs in their region. But laying down guidelines on how projects must be costed, run, on stewardship, etc.

RI President John Germ
and RIPN Sam Owori.



Owori replied it couldn't be denied that there was merit in getting close to the scene and decentralising had the benefit of demystifying the organisation, so people could relate more closely to what Rotary does, "as many people in many parts of the world don't get to meet people like you (Ravindran) or John except for an occasional visit."

But while decentralising RI "might create more excitement, we need to look at the issue a little more closely to see what decentralisation means in terms of efficiency, resources utilised and what would be lost by it." He was not sure if the Rotary headquarters in

Rotary is giving up
some credit by partnering
with other organisations,
but that's okay. We cannot do
this by ourselves, and will have
to work with others.

RI President John Germ

Evanston could be duplicated at the regional level.

"So, in the short term, I am not sure. But in the long term yes," Owori said. He added that the benefits of doing so would have to be analysed; these could be more convenience, RI's presence at the grassroots might be more exciting to the people "as Rotary is growing in India and Africa", but the regional centres would need support for that growth to be sustained.

Ravindran next quizzed the RI President on the RIBI, the way it worked and if it was successful then why weren't there more regional organisations, "such as an India-Pakistan association or something like that."

Germ's caustic reply: "If you want to destroy Rotary, go ahead and do it. RIBI is a failure; it was set up as a separate organisation but it is not working. In 2004, when I was the RI Director, RIBI had 75,000 members; right now, the membership is down to about 48,000 members. The members are ageing, the average age of members is 74, younger people aren't joining because they don't see value, the dues are extremely high."

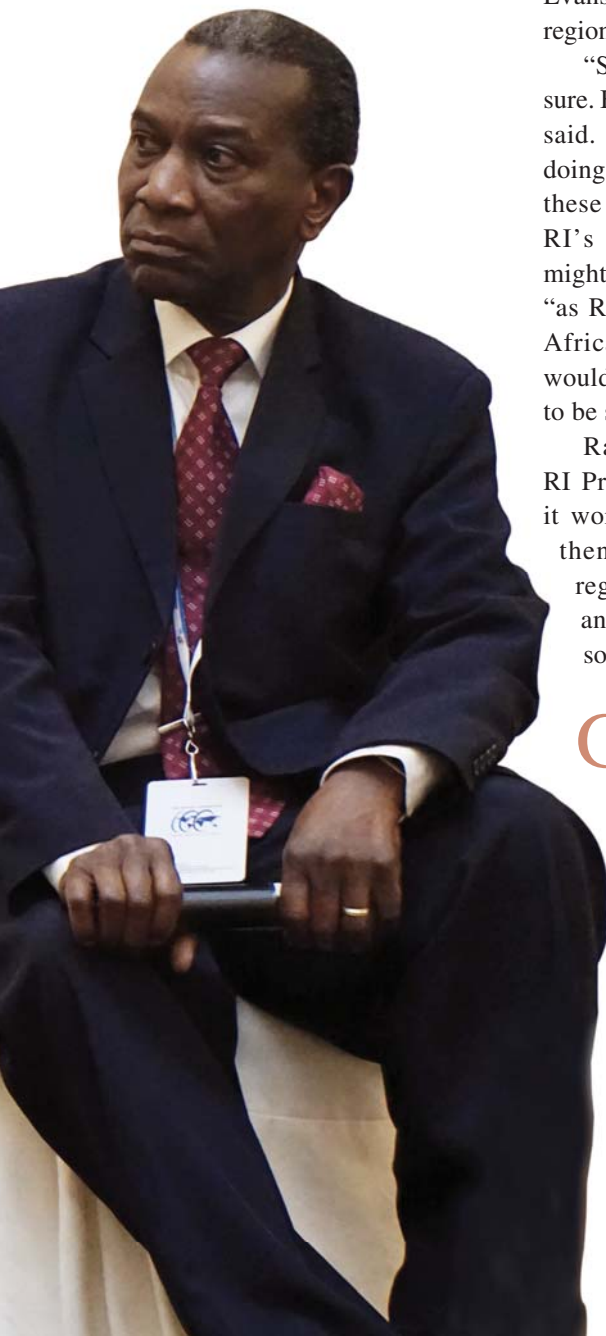
There was a very strong possibility of RIBI being disbanded in the next CoL or the one after that in 2022, he added.

Replying to his next question on Africa, once the dark continent, but which now holds a lot of promise for Rotary, as it has potential for both membership as well as good projects, Owori said, "Yes it was a dark continent, still is to some extent, and will remain so for some time." But it was a region of growth; "we have one billion people. It's a huge continent and Rotary is needed here the most."

Answering another question on whether Rotary should aim at increasing membership even at the cost of quality, as was often seen, Germ replied, "Sometimes we put too much emphasis on adding numbers and not getting the individuals who will have high ethical character on which Rotary was founded."

US was not growing, but now it has begun to; Japan and Korea were no longer growing as fast as they were earlier, and sometimes this was due to tradition, such as "in Europe they are very strict with rules. But the crucial thing is you can only become a Rotarian if someone invites you to become one. We have to go and find the right person for our clubs. We have to take that responsibility. Too many times we take in whoever wants to come because we need members, but just because you need financial income you can't destroy the organisation. I think only people with high integrity and character, those who believe in the Four-way test and can pass it, will strengthen this organisation."

Owori added that quality and numbers were not mutually exclusive. Rotary membership was by invitation; "if we invite the right people, people with ethical standards and values we cherish, we'll never have a problem about quality."



Ravindran added, “Sam, what you say is true in theory, but the (RI) Board is aware of cases of fictitious clubs and members who don’t exist.”

To this Owori quipped: “Then the problem is us, the existing Rotarians.”

Germ was even more caustic: “Fictitious membership goes back to the leadership in the area, because there are checks and balances in the system. The name of the person who proposes is published in the local club publication. So it tells me that the president of the club is an immoral person if he has got fictitious members. Number two, the board of the club is not doing its job and saying these are fake members.” Showing more members than actually existed just to garner more votes is “immoral and unethical,” he added forcefully.

The future of Rotary, added Germ, is “very bright. The last CoL has allowed flexibility, and “we are having continuity at the Board level and the

Quality and numbers are
not mutually exclusive.

If we invite the right people,
we’ll never have a
problem about quality.

RIPN Sam Owori

regional leadership level, and we’ll see that the training we do, the exercises we go through will make us stronger.”

In the session ‘Great Opportunity’, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, quizzed TRF Trustee Representative Gary Huang on what plans TRF had to leverage the good work Rotary was doing across the world to improve its public image. “We are ‘this close’ to

ending polio and when that job is finished, we have to make sure we are remembered for it. Since we spend a lot of time, energy and our money to do good in the world, we need to make sure that all this attracts new members to join us.”

The biggest challenge in the short term would be choosing the right partners, he said.

On how Rotary will choose its partners, Gupta said, “We will have to see what the partner can bring to the table. My biggest strength is boots on the ground. Rotary is present almost in all parts of the world, so we do have a choice; whoever adds to our strength will be our partner. It is a business decision; we are working on 10 to 12 leads.”

When asked if Rotary chooses a partner who is bigger or better known, will not its voice get drowned, the TRF Trustee said, “That is immaterial. What is important is are we going to eradicate polio or not, not who is getting more mileage.”



From left: PRID P T Prabhakar, IPRIP K R Ravindran, Charlotte and RID Mikael Ahlberg and RIPN Sam Owori.

Answering a question from a DGE on why CSR funds should be routed through TRF and as global grants when the CSR partner was ready to do it directly with the club or the district, Gupta said, “Because TRF is known for its integrity, it is important that we address every concern of our CSR partner. If those funds are not used judiciously and with proper stewardship, what happens? We will lose the partner for all time.”

So, it was necessary to ensure that the system that had been created is followed.

He added, “You’ll be shocked to know that at the last Convention in Seoul, somebody commented: ‘Oh, I have seen many graveyards of Rotary projects.’ Surely we don’t want that to happen.”

PRID Yash Pal Das chaired the session on ‘Rotary’s Future.’

In his opening remarks in the session *Great opportunity*, RIDE Basker said the greatest opportunity that will take Rotary forward in the coming years is technology and “we will have



PRIP Gary Huang and TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta.

to leverage this opportunity.” The second opportunity was to understand the latest management techniques, “sharpen our skills by listening to eminent speakers at such meets and do more good in the world.”

Chairing the session *An idea is everything* PRID P T Prabhakar underlined the importance of great ideas. When Paul Harris asked his friend Donald Carter to join RC Chicago as the fifth member, the

latter asked him what do you people do and Harris said “networking and fellowship”. So his friend said if that was all they did, he wasn’t interested, but would join if community services were included. So the bylaws of the club were amended and community service was included. The rest is history.

Pictures by K Vishwanathan
Designed by L Gunasekaran

Peace symposium at Pune

RC Pune Shivajinagar, D 3131, is hosting the International Understanding and Peace Symposium at the MIT Campus in Pune on February 18 and 19. TRF Trustee Chair Elect Paul Netzel, who is also the Chair of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Committee, will be the chief guest. For details, visit www.rotarypeace.in.

Merry Christmas



PRIP Rajendra K Saboo and Usha Saboo celebrated Christmas with children from Rwanda, Africa, undergoing treatment for congenital heart disease in India.

Picture: PDG Madhukar Malhotra, D 3080

Rotary Centennial Race

Team Rotary News

The Mahalakshmi Racecourse in Mumbai came alive to the rhythmic thumping of horses on November 20 as the Rotary E-club of Mumbai Aces, D 3141, hosted the Rotary Centennial Race, a day-long celebration marking 100 years of TRF.

While jockeys mounted on their thoroughbreds vied with one another on the sprawling race turf to win the coveted prize, the area was abuzz with more activity — live music performances, a watering hole offering cocktails and mocktails, supplemented with gourmet delights, flea market, fashion show, the Rotary Queen pageant and talent hunt for kids — it was a carnival enjoyed by over 5,000 people, including Rotarians, Rotaractors and Inner Wheel members.

The programme also meant business. It was a fundraiser for TRF.





Above: (From left) DGE Prafull Sharma, RRFK Kamal Sanghvi, TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee, RID Manoj Desai, PRID Ashok Mahajan and DG Gopal Mandhania at the event; **Left:** TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta handing over the cup to the winners of the horse race. DG Gopal Mandhania is also in the picture; **Below:** A programme for kids.



About \$210,000 was collected through entry tickets pegged at Rs 500 per person, raffles and cups for the winners sponsored by Rotary clubs on payment of \$30,000 each. The Million Race Cup was sponsored by the host club member Munjal Sharad Shah and the cups for the six premium races were sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Bombay, Queen's Necklace, Queen City, Bombay Pier, Mumbai Cuffe Parade and Bombay Bay View.

The highlight of the day was surpassing of a Guinness World Record for the largest horseshoe measuring 2.32x2.32m which was displayed on the turf. The record was previously held by the Kentucky Derby Museum which had a horseshoe of 2.11x2.11m.

The premier event was attended by TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee, Trustee Sushil Gupta, RID Manoj Desai and PRID Ashok Mahajan. District governors — past and serving — from the district and its neighbours too were present. Rajan Dua was the Project Convener. ■

A rockstar auto driver

Rasheeda Bhagat

Meet the unsung heroes recognised and awarded
by the Rotary Club of Madras East.

He got a credit card swiping machine 30 months ago, well before the Government's push towards a cashless economy by its latest demonetisation move. On Facebook he reached the limit of 5,000 friends two years ago, and can't have any more friends. His FB page titled *Amazing Auto* has 10,150 'likes'. He pays his income tax willingly and proudly, and is happy that every rupee he pays as tax goes into "Arun Jaitley Sir's budget". He has addressed 65 corporates as a guest lecturer and wants to meet Ratan Tata; "I want to change the auto sector in India."

Meet Annadurai, a rockstar auto driver in Chennai, who has endeared his customers so much through his flawless and innovative service, his integrity and friendliness, that "many foreigners who stay in five-star hotels such as ITC Grand Chola, Taj or Hyatt and can get free rides to the airport in luxury cars, prefer to book my auto to the airport. And autos are not allowed at the airport terminals, so they get off, often with their families, and drag their suitcases to the departure area," he smiles, adding, "Once you travel in my auto, you will not remain a customer; you'll become my friend!"

Annadurai is one of the three "unsung heroes" recognised and honoured by the Rotary Club of Madras East, D 3230, recently, along with R Harigaran, a teacher who quit his job seven years ago to give meaningful education in the evenings to school-children from Government schools; and M Kumar, a traffic cop who considers vehicle users and pedestrians around his Sholinganallur traffic junction in Chennai his "customers".

S S Rajsekar, who has spearheaded many flagship welfare projects in this club, including mass screening of Corporation schoolchildren a few decades



Commuters enjoying a ride in Annadurai's autorickshaw.



Traffic cop
M Kumar

ago, says, “When our club honoured them, it was amazing to listen to them. They don’t have any fancy degrees but they spoke like professional speakers. Normally, if the speaker goes beyond 20 minutes, the members start protesting. But here when the President of the club K Ananth asked them to curtail their speech, there were protests saying: ‘No, no, let them speak!’”

Adds Ananth, “In this project we’ve recognised people who go beyond the call of duty, find happiness in the job they do, bring joy to others and become role models.” Sudarshan Ranganathan, secretary of the club, said project chairman Mohamed Mansoor Ahmed had focused mainly on the social media, and shortlisted some candidates.

“I first connected with Annadurai and he connected me to Traffic Kumar, since both of them operate in the IT Corridor,” says Ahmed.

Customer is god

Annadurai’s philosophy is simple; customers give us money so they are our gods and deserve something in return. He started by keeping 8 newspapers and 35-40 magazines in his auto, but

soon found that “70 per cent of my customers were not reading these, but browsing on their phones.” So he got connectivity for their phones; “now it is easy but not in 2011. The idea was to give them quality and speed during the 10-20 minutes they spend in my auto.”

Next he found that not all his passengers had smart phones, so for them he got a Samsung tablet, but as it didn’t “support PDF files, I first got a laptop

and then an iPad!” All these are kept in the back seat with a sign that passengers can use them for free.

Did generous tips make this possible? “Oh no, I don’t accept any tips. I could do all this because thanks to my service my business doubled.” Once a foreigner gave him Rs 1,000 for a Rs 30 fare, and “when I said I don’t have change he said, ‘keep the change, I really enjoyed your service,’ I told



Auto driver Annadurai

him politely I don't like to keep your money. For a moment he was totally taken aback, and I could see he realised that India has changed!"

Annadurai is 31 and single. Has he not considered marriage? "Well, more than the people who loot crores of rupees, I consider the one who confines his thinking only to his family a more selfish person." I absorb his deep philosophy, as he explains that he wants to go beyond the circle that confines you if you have a family, to serve the larger community.

So does he consider his customers his family? "That is not possible," he quips!

Credit card payment

Next came the problem of change; "as I operate in Chennai's IT corridor, most of my customers get paid by bank transfers and they had to struggle to find change to pay me." So he decided to introduce credit card payment and

approached his bank to get the swiping machine.

"The bank manager asked me what shop do you have. When I said I want it for an auto, you should have seen his reaction," laughs Annadurai. He was next asked for eight documents, including "company logo, seal, company registration, rental agreement, current account, visiting card, etc. I submitted all these in two weeks and got the machine!"

Believe it or not, he has a company called *Amazing Auto* registered in his name! What comes next is even more amazing and could be a script right from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book when he announced the demonetisation of high value currency on November 8. Only Annadurai had said all this 30 months earlier!

"I gave my customers the option of credit card payments and told them that we have to move to a digital India and open transactions to check corruption

On the road, while directing traffic, I get attention by wearing white gloves, whistling loudly, smiling at people.

M Kumar

and eliminate black money, as many people are dodging their taxes!" Now over 60 per cent of his passengers pay through credit or debit cards and the regulars "themselves swipe the card on the machine."

Having done this, he next felt that as an Indian citizen he had to pay some tax, so he got an auditor and filed his IT returns paying Rs 1,500. Last year, when Rs 2,000 was given to Chennaiites after the debilitating floods, "I felt proud to think that my contribution was Rs 1,500!"



From right: R Sudarshan, Traffic cop M Kumar, Auto driver Annadurai, Teacher - School for Change R Harigaran, Club President K Ananth, PDG Raja Ramkrishnan and Project Chairman Mohamed Mansoor Ahmed.

Next came payment on mobile through mVisa which requires a QR code. Perennially on the quest to innovate, Annadurai now offers a quiz to his passengers and the monthly prize is Rs 1,000.

About 7-8 foreigners are regular clients and “people from the countries which I didn’t even know existed on the map have travelled in my auto. The *Daily Mail* of UK has written about me, as also a Pakistani magazine.” As for Indian media he reels off the names of TV channels — NDTV, CNN-IBN, Times Now, etc.

A selfless teacher

R Harigaran, a B Com graduate, is one of those selfless teachers who gave up a paid teaching job seven years ago to guide, mentor and educate poor children “in the real sense of the word, not only through books but also real knowledge.”

His service started by collecting just a handful of rice grains from friends and others and giving it to orphanages, old age homes, etc; in three years he collected 200 kg of rice.

But his real interest lay in education; he’d talk to students from government schools. “I asked them what is the purpose of your education; some said to become a doctor, engineer, etc. But I wanted to make them realise that the real purpose of education is knowledge.”

So in the evenings he got together a handful of children and would teach and mentor them; the objective was to groom these children into confident, articulate adults “and give them real life skills”. When the correspondent of his own school — Vivekananda

I don’t accept any tips. I could do all this because thanks to my service my business doubled.

Annadurai



Harigaran’s students play a game of chess.

School — found out about his initiative, he was happy that one of its alumni was doing such work, and gave him three classrooms.

Now his project has grown from 7 children to 100 children from nearby slums who are eager to learn at their evening school called ‘School for Change.’

Harigaran explains that these children lack concentration powers and have an inferiority complex; they were not even able to stand up and say their names confidently. “My first challenge was to give them self-confidence. We begin the class with meditation which brings self-control.”

He slowly taught them how to stand up and speak for themselves, got eminent locals from the police, medical service, advocates, etc to give guest lectures at his school. “I take the children to visit old age homes, ashrams, homes for blind, etc and tell them stories about our lesser known national heroes and freedom fighters; I want them to grow up to be leaders.”

He also makes the children take up some sport to develop their personality and holds monthly meetings with parents as “people tend to undervalue free education.”

His reward, he tells those who ask him why he gave up a paying job, is the “smiles on the children’s faces”. Adds Ahmed, “For seven years his mother encouraged him saying if you return to

My first challenge was to give them self-confidence. We begin the class with meditation which brings self control.

R Harigaran

your job, these students will be left high and dry.”

Recently, however, he has got a job in a school where the correspondent told him “to bring about some change and give us new ideas”. He of course carries on with his work in the evenings. His dream: “Every student of mine should develop a great mind, and I want to build a school.”

M Kumar is a colourful traffic cop who starts his day “with the prayer that those who pass by the streets of his area should reach their offices, schools or colleges safely and return home safe too. In the field I consider myself a teacher, and a teacher must get the full attention of his pupils; only then they will learn. So on the road, while directing traffic, I get attention by wearing white gloves, whistling loudly, smiling at people.”

President Ananth adds that the project will continue and the club will find and recognise more such unsung heroes.

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S

Meet your **Governors**

Rasheeda Bhagat and Jaishree

Medical Mission, his flagship project

Bhupendra Jain

Advertising, RC Gwalior, D 3053

An 8-day medical mission in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh from February 6–13, in which over 5,000 surgeries in specialities such as Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Paediatric and Cardiology will be performed, is the flagship project of DG Bhupendra Jain this year. “We are very excited as PRIP Rajendra Saboo will be present for the entire camp,” he says.

Another goal of this DG is collecting \$200,000 for TRF during its Centennial year. “This was the target given to us by TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and I am happy that I have got commitments for the entire amount.”

Jain joined Rotary in 2001 “because I was very impressed by the service that was being done in my region by the Rotarians.” On what he has got from Rotary, he says, “first of all Rotary has given me an excellent platform for serving the community, it has taught me both discipline and time management. But above all, Rotary has given me very good friends, both in India and overseas.”

When Jain became Governor, D 3053 had 61 clubs and 2,400 members. His goal during his year is to set up 10 new clubs. Of these, four have already been chartered, two are in the pipeline and four more are on the cards. In all, he wants to add 500 new members.



With Congress leader
Jyotiraditya Scindia

Service is the key

Rotary isn't new for him. His father, P Narayana Upadhyaya, was a Rotarian. "I remember dropping him for meetings at Manipal, which he would refer as 'closed door business meets'," says Dr Jayaprakash Upadhyaya. And so becoming a Rotarian was quite "natural" for him. With an MS in General Surgery, he was always passionate about treating the poor and the urge to serve in a village brought him to Kanhangad. "The place has transformed so much now from a village," he says. He was an Interactor as a school student at Bengaluru, but his college at Belgaum had no Rotaract club. He joined Rotary in 1994, inspired by PRID Ramesh U Pai.

"If you are human, you have to be a Rotarian. People have dreams, but we Rotarians have vision, and that is to serve the poor in a way that their dignity is intact. The secret is to subtly assure them that we are there for them," he says.

Upadhyaya has performed several laparoscopic tubectomies around his region, "as a random act of service, considering India's population."

He plans to increase his personal contribution to TRF by elevating to the second level as Major Donor. While the District's goal for the TRF Centennial is \$1 million, he hopes to raise at least \$5-7 lakh, with 15 prospective Major Donors. He wants each of his team members to be a shareholder of TRF by contributing \$500. He is also anxious about the leaking membership and the District's pending Grants execution, but is confident of seeing it all through with his team's support.

"I've failed miserably in making my wife Radhika a Rotarian but she is happy to be with the 126 mentally-challenged children who are being taken care of at the family's institution, Swasraya," he says while adding that they enjoyed the International Assembly sessions and the networking opportunity that Rotary offers.

Jayaprakash P Upadhyaya

Laparoscopic surgeon
RC Kanhangad, D 3202



Prashant Y Deshmukh

Architect

RC Pune Up-Town District 3131

Smashing records in membership, doing good

He had promised the Maharashtra Chief Minister that out of the State's target of planting 2 crore trees during the year, his team would plant 2 lakh trees. "But by the end of just one day, we had already done 2.7 lakh trees; by now we must have crossed 4 lakh," says Prashant Deshmukh. This is only one of the several environmental projects that his district has undertaken under his leadership.

"Actually, our district is balancing all the fundamentals of Rotary... membership, TRF giving, service projects," he smiles. On membership he hopes to emerge *numero uno* in South Asia, with his district adding about 1,500 members. "We've reached about 50 per cent of our target with 700 members, which is already the highest for South Asia till now."

District 3131, with a membership close to 5,600, has 123 clubs; during this year so far, eight new clubs have been chartered. "In all, we want to add 15 new clubs."

"On Foundation giving too we are No 2," Deshmukh says, adding, "our target is \$1 million but we may extend this to \$1.2 -1.5 million."

On the projects side, the district is gung-ho on its medical as well as water and sanitation projects. Its work in water harvesting, particularly in the dry belts of the district, is widely recognised. "Coming to medical projects, we want to set up occupational health projects. Pune is surrounded by industrial zones, and many accidents happen, and medical services are limited for those areas. We've got land from MIDC and we'll put up two more such centres. A Rotarian has helped us set up a Rotary Hospital, and we are also putting up a blood bank in an accident-prone area."

Deshmukh is proud that "for the first time in our district I am holding a World Peace Symposium in February, which will be attended by incoming Trustee Chair Paul Netzel."

On literacy too the District has done well; "we had signed an MoU with the Government saying we would train 5,000 teachers; that number has already crossed 6,500 and we might end up training 10,000 teachers. We've signed MoUs with Tata Technologies and Tata Motors on e-learning and here we are helping other nearby States too, such as Gujarat," he adds.

Making Rotary fun for his team

It's not quite sunny in my District, it's foggy here and there... the sun is just peeping through," he says, referring to his District's TRF contribution. The region is upwardly mobile and in places such as Varanasi, Lucknow and Allahabad, though many of the Rotarians, either handloom weavers or traders, are wealthy, "they readily donate Rs 50 lakh for temple construction, but think twice before giving Rs 10 lakh for a dialysis machine. This is unlike in bigger cities where people understand the concept of charity and 80G tax exemptions," says Pramod Kumar. The Rotarians generally believed that the main purpose of a Governor's club visit is to collect funds for TRF. "So I had to demystify their misgivings about the Foundation and global grants." The result — the District has bagged four Global Grants and two Term Gifts, after five years of their last matching grant project.

With a target of raising \$300,000 for TRF, he proposes to increase the number of donors rather than concentrating on big money, such as from Major Donors or PHFs. "I've encouraged every Rotarian to contribute \$26.5."

On membership, this DG wants to induct more women and is all praise for DGN Stuti Agarwal, the District's first woman-governor. Pramod Kumar highlights the Ghar Vapsi scheme, "to re-enroll past Rotarians back. We have got 87 ex-Rotarians back. Surprisingly, most of them haven't been asked to join Rotary by anyone so far."

He is concentrating on retention too, and says, "In the last 10 years, 4,700 members quit Rotary while we have 3,100 now. It's almost 100 per cent. The District leaders must make Rotary interesting for everyone."

His idea for clubs to undertake small, doable projects is an immense hit, the highlight being Project Annapurna, where seven clubs of Lucknow together fed 50,000 poor people. "Now 16 clubs of Varanasi are coming together to provide flood relief."

He is not for electioneering, having dissuaded 4 out of 5 PDGs to represent the District at the CoL meet; and 3 out of 4 PDGs who wanted to be on board the RI Director's Nominating Committee, by having a unanimous choice. "One of them even went away on a pilgrimage to the South," he laughs.

Rotary is one big family for him and he relates people with places. "If I have to go to Mumbai, I say that I'm going to Gopal, and if I am going to Nagoji it means it is Chennai!" He is excited about the eye hospital being constructed at Ayodhya with Endowment Funds.

Dr Pramod Kumar

Paediatrician
RC Renukoot, D 3120



Mahesh H Mokalkar,
Public Works, RC Gandhi
City, Wardha, D 3030

Dream and progress is his motto

I don't want anyone to die of cancer, to which I lost my mother," says Mahesh Mokalkar. He is conducting mammogram camps around his district, and has completed over 3,000 screenings. Service for the underprivileged is his passion; his team distributed 2,000 bicycles to students and 1,000 sewing machines to poor women.

He joined Rotary in 1996 when he was 24 and "my parents are my inspiration." The family trust has pitched in with Rs 25 lakh for the mammography buses. "I encourage ideas in my team and don't enforce mine. This has got me the members' total cooperation and support."

Mokalkar plans a \$1.5 million contribution to TRF for the Centennial year and increase membership numbers "considerably." He is concentrating on weak clubs, around 40 of them, with less than 20 members, and have merged them where it is possible. He proposes to install incinerators in schools and 1,000 hand wash stations, towards WinS and Literacy projects. He is also laying importance on the student exchange programmes. "My children are IYE students and I believe in the fact that the programme shapes young minds more than what is taught in school," he says.

His most memorable moment was when, at a cancer-screening camp, he saw a woman's relieved look when she was told that the fibroid she had wasn't cancer. The family had lived with the trauma for two years as her husband couldn't afford the screening charge of Rs 3,150 and Mokalkar directed her to undergo screening free of charge. ■

Get a 10 per cent discount on Jet Airways

Team Rotary News

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,



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

2017 and travel must commence and be completed on or before October 31, 2017. It does not include bookings done using the multicurrency option.

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

Southern hospitality

The Atlanta Host Organisation Committee is offering some good old-fashioned Southern hospitality at the Rotary International Convention from June 10 to 14. It has planned a wide range of activities featuring everything from good food and music to inspiring tours of local landmarks. If it's your first convention, these events are chances to meet fellow Rotarians from around the world, and if you're an experienced convention goer, you can catch up with old friends.

Hall of Fame baseball player Hank Aaron will host Rotarians for a “Strike Out Polio” night at the new SunTrust Park, where you'll watch the Atlanta



Braves play the Philadelphia Phillies. If you like participatory sports, there will be a 3K Walk/Run for Peace at the beautiful Centennial Olympic Park.

Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit dedicated to building housing for low-income families, calls Atlanta

home. You can spend an afternoon helping build walls for a Habitat for Humanity house.

Because nothing builds friendships like sharing good food, the host committee has put together several dining events, including a block party with dishes from local restaurants and of course, the traditional Host Hospitality Night, which will offer food and fellowship in several metro Atlanta neighbourhoods.

For a complete list of host committee events, visit rotaryconvention2017.org/festival-events.

Pre-registration savings end March 31. Go to riconvention.org.

From Perito Moreno, with love

Aditi De





An everyday flight in November 2013 — from Salta in northwest Argentina to El Calafate in the south — signals a journey into the unknown. For in South America, over 15,000 km away from home in Bengaluru, I know just three people in real time. A voice intrudes on this dream space between two continents, “*Signora*, do you plan to trek on the Perito Moreno glacier?,” asks my fellow passenger Franco, a pharmacist from Uruguay. With a high beam on life at 22, he is a perfect fit for the fabled landscape of Patagonia that occupies southern Argentina (and neighbouring Chile), much like my favourite travel writers Paul Theroux (*The Old Patagonian Express*, 1979) and Bruce Chatwin (*In Patagonia*, 1977).

His partner Annette, a school-teacher in Montevideo, leans across to add, “Even as teenagers, we dreamt of Patagonia. We saved for a year, trained for over three months, to now climb 3,359-metre high Cerro Fitz Roy from El Chalten.”

Dozens of questions draw them into my reality. Of a bank-busting, 99-day solo trip through Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, El Salvador and Brazil. A gift to myself to celebrate my sixtieth year of life, uninhibited by a mere smattering of Spanish. But trekking is not an option.

A sharp crack, like that of a
shotgun in a western movie,
shatters the silence. On the
Perito Moreno, the kingfisher
blue ice cave has vanished.

Not since a close encounter with the ever after in Ladakh’s stark Markha Valley in September 2009.

The myth of Patagonia is a throw-back to my childhood. To evenings when Baba played 78 rpm records on a turntable, tuning us in to samba and tango. Who created such vibrant music, a far cry from Rabindra Sangeet or baul songs? My presence on Aerolineas Argentina flight AR 1694, slated to touch down at El Calafate — a tourist town of 22,000 — at 1530 hours, was sparked at six or seven. As is a conscious month of wandering around Argentina (‘the land of silver’).

“Did you know that the Southern Patagonian Ice Field, where the Perito Moreno is, covers 16,800 sq km? It is 355-km-long and 48-km-wide,” Annette reads aloud from the in-flight magazine. “About 18,000 years ago, a thick sheet of ice covered southern Argentina and Chile, right across the Andes mountains. Perhaps over 480,000 sq km.”

Walking towards the small El Calafate airport, fifty shades of blue cast a spell. For placid Lago Argentino lies close to the runway. The lake captures the eye, the imagination, the heart.

Perky and caffeinated by 7 am the next morning at the log cabin-style Calafate Hostel, I board the Viator tour bus headed for Ruta Provincia 11, which runs on to El Chalten, then 5,000 km north to Bolivia. Rumbling on, we gather travellers from the US and Germany, England and France.

Our dapper guide Juan tallies heads, then picks up the onboard mike: “We are going to see the 8th Natural Wonder of the World, the Parque Nacional los Glaciares. Since 1981, it



has been a UNESCO World Heritage site.”

How large is the glacier, asks a French-accented child’s voice. “The famous Perito Moreno glacier, which may mean little black dog, is named after the 19th century explorer Francisco Pascasio Moreno, who first identified it. It covers 250 sq km and rises 74 km above the L-shaped Lago

Argentino, across a stretch that is 30-km-long and 5-km-wide. Below the water, the glacier could be 170 to 700 km deep.” The little voice rises, “I told you it was very very big! So many huge kilo... kilo... meters. Is that as high as the moon, Papa?”

Minutes later, our bus draws up by the luminous blues of the 1,415 sq km freshwater Lago Argentino, which

flows into the Atlantic Ocean through the Santa Cruz river. I shiver at the prospect of icy waters, unmeasured depths, as our mini-yacht — Victoria Argentina — veers away from the shore. Inside the covered cabin, overlooking lapping waters, towering icebergs appear to be at arm’s length. Rosy-cheeked Angela, wrapped in a geometric native stole, sits by me, with cheerful Carlos by her side. Just over 30, they are from Colombia. She is a Peru-based marketing wizard. He is working on a dissertation in International Relations from Buenos Aires.

Responding to the silent call of the ice floes, we scamper up the iron ladder to the deck. An iceberg shaped like a giant sleeping swan (to my overactive mind) floats by, its open crevices a near-inky blue. Like the shape-shifting clouds above, our water-craft dodges a taller floe, resembling a downsized castle with the lake as its moat.

Every breath is invigorating at a nippy 11 degrees Celsius, a call to





don gloves. The snow-iced Southern Andes loom ahead, wedged behind the 61-metre south face of the Perito Moreno. Tall lines, as if weather-etched on an ancient face, stretch across its towering height. In the blinding pre-noon glare, the glacier seems close enough. But the Perito Moreno remains a defiant 300 metres away when I stretch out my arm.

"I just overheard some Peruvian tourists," Carlos interrupts. "On January 19, 2013, the Perito Moreno advanced so much that it created a dam along the Brazo Rico or southern arm of Lago Argentino. The water pressure was so high that giant shards of the glacier fell off, causing a rupture."

"The first rupture ever recorded here was in 1917," adds Angela, checking her smartphone. "Be careful, *mi amor*," says Carlos tenderly into her chestnut hair, "more than 32 people have been killed since 1968 by post-rupture shards thrown metres away."

Once we are back on terra firma after an hour on the lake, the time feels right for a meditative stroll down the railing-edged wooden walkways that trace a scenic route about 500 metres from the glacier face. Bypassing disembarking tourists who part with Argentinian pesos for barbequed steak or the traditional mate herbal brew, visitors whisper in clusters at every

balcony overlooking Lago Argentino, like worshippers at a natural shrine. Our eyes wander past tall rows of mainly deciduous southern beeches like the *lenga* and *nirre* (in Spanish), towards the mighty Andes.

Uneven patterns atop the glacier capture my roving eye. As the Perito Moreno moves about a metre daily, its surface ridges and trenches resemble







an otherworldly quilt. Its dense ice carves out crevasses or seracs. Over natural debris, over rocks, it forms cirques or moraines. Distant ice-trekkers, including Carlos and Angela, move like tiny aliens across this terrain. Wrapped in the unearthly silence that blankets us, an almost mystical landscape pulses to life.

Settled on a wooden bench, I watch natural whites and greys play over the towering wall of ice. My eyes stop at a pocket of intense kingfisher blue. In the lake below, paler floes drift through slightly muddy waters.

A sharp crack, like that of a shotgun in a western movie, shatters the silence. Gooseflesh covers my arms as my sandwich lunch tumbles to the ground. On the Perito Moreno, the kingfisher blue ice cave has vanished. It has ‘calved’ naturally, fallen into Lago Argentino in the sunny haze. A crowd cheers the natural phenomenon lustily.

Grateful that the November windspeeds are not at their peak of 130 kmph, I run towards the gaggle of strangers. It seems almost karmic that I skipped the mini-trek on the glacier because the crampons issued by Viator would not fit my size 3 L L Bean comfort moccasins. Scanning the other visibly blue Perito Moreno caves heightens all my senses. Over the next two hours, five more gigantic blocks of virgin ice calve into the lake from the sharp glacial tongues. I am, however temporarily, Aditi in wonderland.

I believe in true love... and in dreams that come true if you will them to life. Mine, long cherished, brought me to beautiful Perito Moreno in Patagonia.

At the entrance to an ice cave, I knelt and proposed to Angela.

Arms draped over the railing, unselfconsciously rocking on my haunches, I overhear a guide addressing English-speaking tourists: ‘The Southern Patagonian Ice Field is the world’s third largest reserve of fresh water. The other two are Antarctica and Greenland. Why is the Perito Moreno still advancing, while most of the world’s glaciers are retreating? Glaciologists are still trying to figure it out.’

Four hours later, sunburnt but inspired by the secret life of the glacier, the exit point calls. Carlos catches up, feet thudding behind me, “Where have you been, Indian lady? Angela was searching for you...”

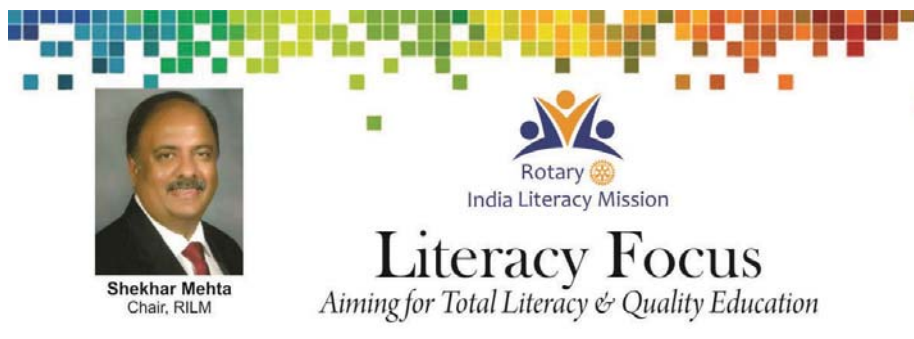
“Look,” Angela waves her left hand, with a delicate diamond on her ring finger, as she hugs me. “Throughout our week in Argentina, Carlos was waiting for the right moment.”

Carlos steals the story away: “We fell back from the others atop the Perito Moreno. At the entrance to an ice cave, I knelt and proposed to Angela.”

Both dazed and dazzled, tears fill my eyes. Because I believe in true love, in bonding with total strangers — and in dreams that come true if you will them to life. Mine, long cherished, brought me far, far away. To beautiful Perito Moreno in Patagonia. And to South Americans who accept me as one of their own, not merely a stranger from a distant land.

Cheers to happily ever after, beyond the pages of fairy tales.

Pictures by Aditi De
Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



Rotary Club of Bangalore launches 100 Happy Schools on the 100th year of The Rotary Foundation

RC Bangalore aims to celebrate TRF Centennial by creating 100 Happy Schools. Their priority is to build a 'better world — one student at a time' focussing on skills and continuous improvement in the education sector. Government schools near Bengaluru are being identified to modify and increase the number of students attending primary schools from disadvantaged areas. The project was officially inaugurated at MAF Rotary Government Primary School at Harokethanahalli.

Creating Happy Schools is indeed a panacea to the rural literacy scenario. "The malady of dropouts is as concerning as not enrolling in the schooling system," says the Club President Ranga Rao.



From left: Rtn Vivek Prabhu, RC Bangalore President Ranga Rao and Rtn Vincent P. Raj

The club enjoys huge CSR support to take this ambitious project ahead; 70 per cent of the total funds required will be raised internally by the members and balance 30 per cent will be raised through contributions

from corporates, friends and well-wishers of the community. In the second stage, the club will train teachers to stay motivated and energise the children. The third stage will be to create model schools.

RILM calls for volunteers

Bring a smile, brighten a face, enlighten a life, Volunteer for TEACH.

Over the last two years Rotarians have worked with great sincerity and motivation to achieve what may be difficult for many to even think. Our goals were high, targets tough, but the Rotarians and Rotary clubs around India have hit the bull's eye and we surpassed each goal that had been set.

Our achievements so far

Trained 19,467 teachers under Teacher Support. E-learning facilities have been provided to 9,009 schools under the E-learning programme; 61,500 adults have been made literate under the Adult Literacy programme; 45,107 children are in the process to be sent back to school under

the Child Development programme; 1,402 schools have been converted into Happy Schools under the Happy Schools programme.

These achievements have been possible because of your dedication and hard work towards making India literate.

If you want to dedicate your little towards making someone's life better and worth living, now is the best time to engage yourself with us.

Why become a T-E-A-C-H volunteer with RILM?

- Connect with the community
- Be the stepping stone to ensure quality education in India

What can you do as T-E-A-C-H volunteer?

- Train teachers
- Engage with students as a Volunteer Teacher
- Impart functional Literacy to an adult 'non-literate'
- Raise social awareness to empower adult learners
- Participate in sending children back to school
- Help with communications and branding

We are also looking for chartered accountants, educationists, architects, engineers, social development professionals who can lend their knowledge and skills in monitoring our projects and help us improve our work, by applying to be a T-E-A-C-H cadre.

Join us in achieving Total Literacy & Quality Education in India. Register today as a T-E-A-C-H volunteer. Visit: http://rotaryteach.org/volunteer_registration.php

Passion and Mission - Two wheels cover 10,000 km



Karthik, a digital forensic investigator by profession and a biker by passion, embarked on a motorbike journey on October 1 from Chennai through the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, to reach Sikkim and across the border to Bhutan. His mission was to spread RILM's T-E-A-C-H programme and create awareness about the importance of education and the results there upon for a pleasurable life. The theme of his cross-border mission was "When you educate a man, you educate an individual and when you educate a woman, you educate an entire family".

He travelled through Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Puri, Bhubaneswar, Kharagpur, Kolkata, Siliguri, Gangtok, Phuentsholing, Thimphu,

Paro, Zero Point, Nathula Pass and returned via the same route, covering a total distance of 9,700 km in 27 days. En-route, he visited Rotary clubs at Rajahmundry, Kolkata, Siliguri, Gangtok, Thimphu, and shared views on Literacy with the leaders and Rotarians. He stopped over at factories and industries to interact with the labour class about the importance of education and its role in uplifting one's lifestyle. He highlighted RILM's role in providing free education to make India 100 per cent literate.

He met the soldiers of the Indian army at Zero Point and conveyed the objective of his mission. They assured to speak with their families in different parts of the country to propagate the importance of education in remote villages.

In all these places, specific mention and emphasis was made over the most important aspect to involve uneducated parents in Swabhimaan Centres and to educate children for a better living in a developing society.

His experiences

"I found some communities in thickly populated areas engage their children in child labour to support their livelihood, ignoring the necessity of education for them. A considerable percentage of the communities have limited or no access to schools. Some even felt education as a nightmare."

His expedition as an RILM ambassador, however, enabled him to meet rustic villagers and motivate them to send their wards to schools.

RILM Mobile App



From left: RID Manoj Desai, RIPN Sam Owori, RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and PRID Y P Das at the launch of the RILM App at the Dubai Zone Institute.

Look out for the T-E-A-C-H App which was launched on December 17 by RIPN Sam Owori at the Dubai Zone Institute. Download it from the App store/Play store/iOS. It will make

things easier for DGs, Presidents and Rotarians to get news, update projects, share pictures and also engage with us. It will be your gateway to find funds for TEACH projects.

RILM joins hands with Learning Link Foundation to train teachers



Rotary India Literacy Mission has signed an agreement with Learning Links Foundation (LLF) on December 10, 2016 to train teachers all over India. The training session will be for five days covering topics such as subject enrichment, classroom management, assessment and classroom transaction.

Rotary/Inner Wheel Clubs can communicate with RILM to take up a training programme with LLF, raise a Service Order (SO) to avail services of LLF, prior to the training, release 50 per cent of the fee to LLF, after the completion of the training workshop, release final payment, coordinate with LLF in the identification of teachers.

District Wise TRF Contributions as on November 2016

(in US Dollars)

District Number	APF	PolioPlus*	Other Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions
India					
2981	62,501	1,349	0	0	63,850
2982	13,202	2,251	0	0	15,453
3000	97,348	0	0	50,000	1,47,348
3011	38,551	224	1,543	0	40,318
3012	1,08,270	1,042	36,181	0	1,45,493
3020	22,523	12,858	0	69,599	1,04,980
3030	9,055	0	31,448	8,500	49,002
3040	30	0	(500)	0	(470)
3051	4,434	0	0	0	4,434
3052	(26,925)	0	26,925	0	0
3053	227	0	0	0	227
3060	53,660	0	14,706	38,633	1,06,999
3070	42,177	769	0	0	42,946
3080	12,038	9,702	34,897	11,333	67,971
3090	12,588	0	0	0	12,588
3110	18,609	25,923	0	0	44,532
3120	1,417	0	0	0	1,417
3131	1,45,486	23,747	98,125	69,955	3,37,313
3132	30,694	835	11,025	0	42,554
3141	2,09,417	13,125	1,19,185	2,640	3,44,367
3142	62,835	0	5,250	1,000	69,085
3150	89,986	5,993	26,241	69,000	1,91,219
3160	29,160	555	0	0	29,715
3170	22,781	3,498	1,960	0	28,240
3181	66,499	0	0	0	66,499
3182	9,834	522	0	0	10,357
3190	(9,722)	(12,606)	34,900	0	12,572
3201	23,504	224	1,015	0	24,743
3202	16,730	200	0	0	16,930
3211	19,107	0	0	0	19,107
3212	18,866	1,300	0	1,000	21,166
3230	85,858	126	10,379	12,500	1,08,863
3240	55,552	1,217	0	2,866	59,635
3250	8,649	0	722	0	9,371
3261	6,430	0	0	0	6,430
3262	53,481	3,373	77,750	2,000	1,36,603
3291	34,633	0	29,031	0	63,664
India Total	14,51,511	96,228	5,60,784	3,39,026	24,47,548
3220 Sri Lanka	38,008	25	0	11,043	49,077
3271 Pakistan	27,697	5,312	0	100	33,109
3272 Pakistan	72,193	17,092	0	3,000	92,285
3281 Bangladesh	97,089	4,050	7,700	5,100	1,13,939
3282 Bangladesh	38,437	0	0	2,000	40,437
3292 Nepal	72,945	1,100	27,745	0	1,01,789
South Asia Total	17,97,881	1,23,806	5,96,229	3,60,269	28,78,184
World Total	4,46,48,982	91,21,232	40,09,303	85,40,590	6,63,20,107

* Excludes Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: RI South Asia Office

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Stitches for livelihood

Jaishree

Sushma, Shreya, Rashmi and 20 other women are studiously engaged in bringing to life yards of cloth at the Rotary Singer Skill Development Centre at Sai Dham in Faridabad near Delhi. While Sushma and Shreya are creating patches of vibrant embroidery on cloth on their *Fashion Maker* machines, Rashmi is pedaling to bring out a neat-fit kurta from a Singer foot machine.

“I’ve learnt to design salwars, kurtas and blouses in various patterns. I can also do embroidery on the neck

and sleeve lines. Look at what I am wearing. Isn’t it like straight out of a boutique,” asks Sushma, proudly displaying her perfectly fitted bright maroon salwar suit decorated with a yellow and blue embroidered neckline. She can’t be more correct. It does look like a boutique material.

These women are part of at least 4,000 enterprising women who are being trained in sewing and creative designing by the Rotary clubs of Districts 3011 and 3012, through their Rotary Singer Skill Development

Centres. The Sai Dham centre is chaired by Rtn Motilal Gupta of RC Faridabad Central.

These centres are the result of an agreement between Singer India and Rotary, where Singer provides the sewing machines to Rotary clubs at 50 per cent cost and helps set up the skill development centre to train women in tailoring and machine embroidery. This initiative was born out of a discussion between Rtn Vinit Vidyarthi of RC Delhi Central, D 3011, and Singer’s Managing Director Rajeev Bajaj

Rotary Singer Skill Development Centre at Sai Dham, Faridabad.



My sister is
already employed
in a boutique
after completing
the course and is
earning well.

about Singer's CSR programmes. Vidyarthi took it forward with the then DG Sanjay Khanna of the undivided District 3010, who formally launched the first centre in July 2014 at the Delhi Public School campus, Greater Noida. This centre is promoted by RC Delhi Riverside, D 3012.



Forty-three centres have been set up since then around Delhi NCR and a few at Dehradun and Chandigarh in the neighbouring District 3080, with support from IPDG David Hilton. More recently, one such centre promoted by RC Rohtak Scholars was inaugurated by DG N Subramanian at the Scholars Rosary School campus in Rohtak.

The skill development centres focus on training underprivileged women in tailoring to help them become financially independent and contribute to the family income. Many of these women are now employed in textile units, boutiques and big tailoring units.

The setup

Singer provides the faculty, curriculum, furniture, signboards with Rotary and Singer logos, accessories such as scissors, threads, cloth etc for the students and also does servicing of the machines. The Rotary club has to identify the locality where there is need and pay the rent for the centre, while Singer does the interiors. Much care goes into the selection of the premises as Singer insists on having women-centric facilities such as washrooms and safe locality. Each centre

will have 25 machines with at least 10-15 *Fashion Maker* models.

"More women are interested to learn machine embroidery; therefore, there is a demand for those models," says Vidyarthi. Singer collects Rs 300 from each trainee towards admission and examination fees. This is to ensure regular attendance and a sense of commitment from them. Three-month certificate and six-month diploma courses are conducted, and certified by Singer after due examinations. The classes are of two-hour duration, five days a week in three batches. "The certificate is valuable; my sister is already employed in a boutique after completing the course and is earning well," says Shreya.

The company extends the 50 per cent concession to students who desire to purchase a sewing machine after completion of the course. "A deluxe foot machine costs Rs 3,000 while a *Fashion Maker* is Rs 10,000. So the discount will be a boon for these women," says Vidyarthi.

Districts and Rotary clubs who want to set up a Rotary Singer Skill Development Centre in their area can contact DGSC Vinit Vidyarthi at vinitvidyarthi2009@gmail.com or Mobile: 9810111912. ■



Black money is like blood cancer



**TCA Srinivasa
Raghavan**

Despite its immediate minuses, demonetisation is required to cure the cancer of corruption and black money.

Everyone is talking about demonetisation which has adversely affected everyone. One can argue forever if it should have been done. But now that it has, everyone has to make the best of it.

Most people don't understand why it was done. But the explanation is quite simple: If you have gangrene, the doctors remove a toe or leg or arm

etc. If you have cancer they remove whichever part is affected.

But with black money, it is like having blood cancer: you have to replace all the blood in your body, which is what Narendra Modi has done. Previous governments had tried less drastic cures, including the equivalent of chemotherapy. Nothing had worked.

Modi decided that something far more drastic had to be done if the Indian economy was to be cured of this disease. Now we have to wait and see what happens. It will take at least six months for a clear picture to emerge.

In the meantime, the level of economic activity will go down just as physical activity does when a blood cancer patient has had a complete blood transfusion. There is also a massive weakness at first, and it is only gradually that she regains her strength and vitality.

A downside

The government is saying that the weakness in the economy will last for six months. Its critics are saying it will last for two years. No one knows for sure for how long but one thing is absolutely certain: around a million temporary workers and another few million labourers on farms and related activities will lose their jobs and livelihood. Their incomes will drop to zero or close to zero for the next several months, perhaps till next July when the 2017 monsoon starts. This is the biggest downside of the demonetisation.



Since they will not be spending anything, and the middle class will also cut back on expenditure, there will be a reduction in aggregate or overall demand in the economy. This should result in a decline in prices for the next six months, especially of real estate. So if you are looking to buy a flat or house, this is the time.

At the same time, because the banks are now flush with funds — all that money under the mattress having been deposited with them — interest rates, too, will or should start to decline quite steeply. By this time next year, therefore, the economy could well be booming — provided the public sector banks lend. They may not because they are not very commercially oriented.

The government, too, will be richer as all that income on which tax had not been paid now begins to get taxed. Just how much richer it will be is hard to say at this point. But it can use the

No one knows for sure for how long the economy will remain weak. But a million temporary workers and another few million farm labourers will lose their livelihood.

additional income, regardless of how much it is, on a whole host of things.

So far we have only talked about the stock of black money but what about its flow? How do you prevent a cancer recurring? How do you prevent fresh black money from being generated?

We will know when the Budget for 2017-18 is presented. There is a very good chance that income tax rates will be reduced. Hopefully, there will

be only two slabs and two rates of 15 and 25 per cent, with all exemptions being removed.

Three types of income

What most commentators don't understand is that there are three types of income in India on which tax is not paid, or we can say there are three types of black money. One comes out of the bribes demanded by the employees of the Indian State; another is the income earned by criminals; and the third is the small portion of income which honest people do not declare because they genuinely can't afford the high taxation.

The last category is treated most harshly by the government. The criminals usually get away because they bribe the government agencies. The people know this, which is why there has been such widespread support — despite the severe hardship — for demonetisation. ■

Spotlight on Swachh Mumbai

Team Rotary News

A seminar cum exhibition on Swachh Mumbai at the Rotary Service Centre in Juhu came out with a list of take-aways for stakeholders in solid waste management and sewage treatment in Mumbai. The event was organised by RC Mumbai Greencity, D 3141, as part of Clean India project in association with RCs Bombay West, Mumbai Northend and Mumbai North Island (lead clubs) who were assisted by 14 other Rotary clubs as co-hosts.

Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) Additional Commissioner Dr Sanjay Mukherjee was the chief guest and Excel Industries Managing Director Ashwin Shroff was the keynote speaker on solid waste management. DG Gopal Mandhania was also present at the event. The Indian Environmental Association and Maharashtra Societies Welfare



DG Gopal Mandhania speaking at the seminar on waste management.

Association (MSWA) chipped in with their resources.

Follow-up action for clubs

Rotary clubs in Mumbai have planned to hold a series of awareness campaigns in schools and for public to sensitise people on Swachh Mumbai. A website on Swachh Mumbai will be created to provide latest facilities, make data available and

also extend an e-platform to share information among the stakeholders.

Each club will adopt a locality in their area for implementing projects and offer counselling on sewage treatment to housing societies. The housing societies and MCGM too have drafted their courses of action on the twin challenges of waste management and sewage treatment. ■

Sitting is the **new smoking**

Sheela Nambiar

Are you seated as you read this article? How long have you been sitting? Have you taken a break and stepped out? Have you stood up and stretched?

If you haven't, put this article down, stand up and walk around your room, up and down the stairs or in your garden as briskly as you can for three to five minutes. Then, clasp your hands and stretch them high above your head. Push your clasped hands back as far as possible feeling the stretch in your chest, particularly at the point where your arms meet the chest. Go up on your toes and reach for the ceiling. Take a deep breath and let it out slowly.

There's something about movement that makes one 'feel' better... more invigorated.

“Sitting is more dangerous than smoking, kills more people than HIV and is more treacherous than parachuting. We are sitting ourselves to death.”

Dr David Levine — Mayo Clinic — Obesity Prevention Initiative.

This is a relatively new theory but one that has withstood research. Several studies have shown the importance of 'not sitting' for prolonged periods of time.

- Risk of cancers like colon, breast and uterus were found to be increased in a study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*.
- Risk of heart disease increased in those individuals who sat more than six hours a day. They died earlier than their counterparts who sat for less than three hours

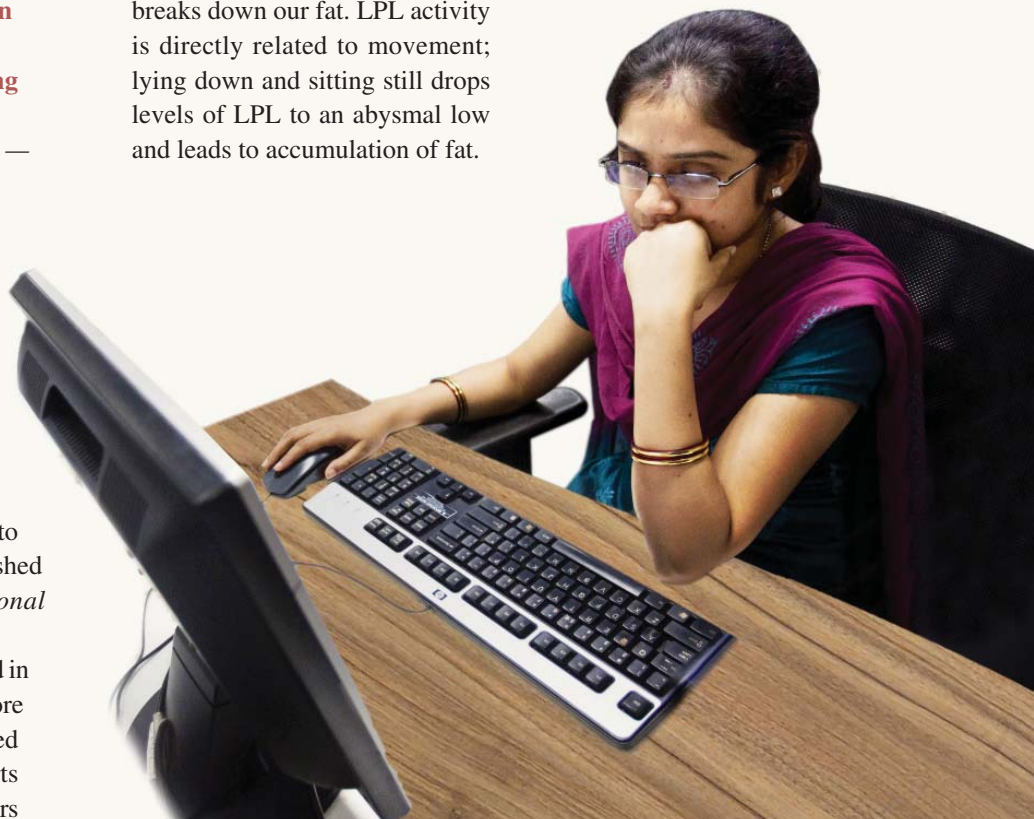
a day. Something as simple as 'not sitting for long periods of time' appears to increase longevity. In another study men who spent six hours or more a day sitting, had an increased death rate, about 20 per cent more than those who sat less than three hours a day.

- The risk of obesity goes up several times when seated for prolonged periods of time.
- Risk of diabetes is increased with prolonged sitting in a day — the sensitivity of insulin, the hormone that controls your blood sugar, is decreased with continuous sitting. A study, in the journal *Diabetologia*, found that out of 80,000 participants, those who sat the most were twice as likely to develop Type 2 diabetes.
- Sitting interferes with Lipo Protein Lipase (LPL), an enzyme that breaks down our fat. LPL activity is directly related to movement; lying down and sitting still drops levels of LPL to an abysmal low and leads to accumulation of fat.

- Depression — those who sat for more than 7 hours a day had a 47 per cent higher chance of developing depression.
- The very act of moving increases the endorphines in the brain and makes one feel better.

The seated position

- The seated position itself is such that it decreases not only the blood flow to the lower limbs but also the neuromuscular stimulation to the leg muscles, causing them to literally go dead.
- When continued through life, prolonged sitting causes poor mobility and balance, increasing incidence of falls that we see so often in older people.



- The position of sitting, especially in our modern chairs, the 90 degree or more flexion at the hip and knee joints, encourages deep vein thrombosis, or clotting of blood in the veins of the lower limbs, as a result of prolonged immobility.
- This is irrelevant of great sitting posture. Even if you have your back aligned perfectly, shoulders dropped, core tightened and so on, this still doesn't help the blood flow to the legs. Good posture may protect your back, but will not circumvent the other negative effects of prolonged sitting.

Your chair

It was only in the 18th century that the 'chair' made its appearance. Prior to that we managed with perhaps stools and benches, which frankly don't encourage sitting for long, as the lack of the backrest will prevent you from even wanting to do so. Nowadays, however, companies vie with each other to make a more comfortable chair than ever before. You have chairs for bad backs, chairs that rotate, slide, swing, massage you, have great quality foam, arm rests, and other features, making it very difficult to get off your back and move once you are seated. The truth is, however good your chair, it is killing you!

In 1992, Dr Levine asked the question: Why do some people not gain weight even when they eat more, and don't exercise? He then went on to perform an experiment where a group of people were given 1,000 calories a day over their usual diet and were told not to exercise but to continue

The very act of moving
increases the endorphines
in the brain and makes
one feel better.

with their routine work. They were observed for two months.

Some gained weight as expected, while others didn't. What was the difference? Those who didn't put on weight, moved more — not exercised, but just moved more. Their bodies inherently understood that they were consuming more than required and to compensate, they just moved more at work and at home. They may have climbed more stairs, stood instead of staying seated, done more housework, and so on.

Just moving increases productivity; improves creativity; ushers in more innovation, improved memory and a better mood.

NEAT (Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis) is the calories burnt from activities other than structured exercise, which we commonly disregard. NEAT can be increased by fidgeting; moving more; taking the stairs; moving the limbs as much as possible; standing instead of sitting; and doing simple things around the house such as laundry and cleaning.

TV & computer: malaise of the modern world

In a study done in Australia, for every increased hour of television or internet, the risk of dying rose by 11 per cent. Watching a lot of TV causes depression. This, I believe, is partly due to the sitting and perhaps partly the result of the kind of channels you watch!

So, what do you do? Small changes.

- Stand up when you watch TV. At least stand 50 per cent of the time, or better still, watch less TV!

- Watch the news on your treadmill or stationary bike
- Walk around at every commercial break. There are lots of them. You are missing nothing if you take a walk down the hall during a commercial break
- Do squats, calf raises or ab crunches during commercial breaks
- Don't eat sitting in front of the TV
- Use a standing desk
- Move every 30 minutes
- Slip off the shoes and move your feet and toes
- Stand up every time someone comes in to see you
- Stand up every time you answer the phone
- Stand up and talk
- Walk the stairs
- Exercise at your desk

The minimum exercise requirement a day as per WHO recommendation is 150 minutes of accumulated exercise a week. An hour or two of 'exercise' does not entitle one to a sedentary lifestyle for the rest of the day. Prolonged physical inertia is not negated with exercise!

Runners are as susceptible to the setbacks of prolonged sitting as much as obese people who don't exercise. For instance, if you complete your one hour run and then go to your work place and sit for the next eight hours, you are at as much of a risk of developing the problems previously listed as someone who is overweight and not exercising regularly. The hour of exercise does not negate the ill-effects of sitting.

This is why sitting is compared to smoking. Smoking a pack a day and then exercising for an hour will not contradict the detrimental effects of smoking just as an hour of exercise cannot compensate for an otherwise sedentary lifestyle.

The author, an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, is a Fitness & Lifestyle Consultant, and has published two books: Get Size Wise; Gain to Lose.

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however good
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Dubai Gleanings



RI President John Germ and Judy admire a falcon, the UAE's national bird.



RID Manoj Desai and PRID Shekhar Mehta in a festive mood at the DDZI.



Sergeants-at-arms: (From left) PDG Ashok Singh, DGEs Zamin Hussain, Ravi Choudhary, Vinay Kumar Asthana, Sattish Singhal, P S Ramesh Babu, Dharmesh R Patel, Maullin Patel, Vyankatesh Vithal Channa, G V Rama Rao, Anand Kulkarni and Prafull J Sharma.

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