

ROTARY NEWS



Meet the
new RI
President
Ian Riseley
and his
wife Juliet





Star of Atlanta Convention

Microsoft Founder Bill Gates, whose Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has partnered with Rotary from 2007 in the fight to eradicate polio, was the darling of the packed hall at the Atlanta Convention. He has pledged an additional \$300 million over the next three years to get to Zero Polio. As Gates gave a

detailed account of Rotary's 30-year-old fight to end polio, and generously and frequently praised the hard work put in by Rotarians across the world, particularly in conflict zones and dangerous situations, he was lustily cheered and got a standing ovation.

Text and picture by
Rasheeda Bhagat



14 Polio has been my top priority over a decade

Microsoft Founder Bill Gates, addressing a packed audience at the Atlanta Convention, pledged an additional \$300 million over the next three years to get to Zero Polio.



24 A twin birthday party in Atlanta

The South Asia Reception in Atlanta celebrated a twin birthday party — TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee's 75th birthday and The Rotary Foundation's 100th.



28 The Social Networker

Find out all about your Rotary International President Ian Riseley and wife Juliet.

Inside

38 Happy hours lead to happy village, happy school

What began as a picnic ended in a 'Happy Village' for the members of RC Pune Far East.

46 Ratan Tata becomes an AKS member

RC Bombay introduces a new Arch Klumph Member in noted industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata.

52 Rotary's healing touch

The three-day RAHAT medical camp of D 3040 touched over 60,000 villagers of Madhya Pradesh.

56 Incredible India for RYE campers

Thanks to RC Ahmedabad West, 19 youngsters from 11 countries had a taste of India at its vibrant best.

66 Meet your

Governors

With this issue we bring to you the plans and programmes of your new District Governors.



58 The Incan citadel of Machu Picchu

An account of the magical Incan citadel set high in the Andes mountains in Peru.

On the cover: RI President Ian H S Riseley with spouse Juliet.

Picture by Monika Lozinska for *The Rotarian*.



Rotary dues: Crack the whip

Your appeal to “square up your magazine dues before July 1” in the June issue, along with RI Director’s message (*Pay up your magazine dues*, May), makes me sad and ponder over the current status of Rotary clubs.

Every Rotary club inducts new members by inviting leaders across professions with reputation for personal integrity, aptitude for service and willingness to spare their time and resources for the benefit of society. The membership offer is made after much deliberation by the classification committees, board of directors. Most of the clubs raise the invoice for half-yearly dues, including the amount payable to RI South Asia Office, and *Rotary Samachar* dues payable within 30 days. But members generally don’t pay the dues in time and club presidents are often reluctant to take disciplinary action as prescribed in the Rotary constitution and bylaws. Thus, the delay in remitting pending dues.

The District Governor, during his visits, meets the President, President-elect of each club and takes stock of the outstanding dues that result from the casual or indifferent attitude of the club presidents and club members.

Each club member pays Rs 420 per annum. *Rotary News* dues short for 2016–17 by Rs 40 lakh means



nearly 10,000 members have not paid their subscriptions for a year. And, as the average club strength in our region is less than 40, it works out to 240 clubs not paying their dues for one full year.

Constitution and bylaws have to be implemented strictly and membership of defaulting Rotarians should be terminated with immediate effect. Rotary leaders have to lead as well as act for they can’t turn a blind eye to financial matters as it undermines the very fabric of the

Rotary institution.

Kailash Prasad Gupta, RC Udaipur — D 3052

I have gone through the appeal by RI Director (*Pay up your magazine dues*, May issue). I suggest club-wise dues list be sent to respective DGs with a request to help in realising the pending amount through their AGs in-charge of defaulting clubs. This will help to reconcile with clubs which are yet to settle the magazine dues.

Dr Sudam Basa, RC Bhubaneswar — D 3262

Thank you, Rotarians Gupta and Basa for your support. The DGs are already being briefed periodically on the dues from their districts.

Editor

Let the world know Rotary’s work

I appreciate the message given to Rotarians in *Let’s tell the world the value of our work* in the June issue. Despite India having the largest numbers in Rotary, very few in the world know the work done by Indian Rotarians. During my 36 years in Rotary, I have seen Rotarians doing noble work but are not properly exposed to media or society. Through proper PR more people will come forward to assist Rotary in its noble work. I took the help of *LocalCircles.com* during a blood donation camp for needy patients and donors reached the hospitals in time. Moreover, the members of *LocalCircles* can give details in the event columns for their upcoming projects. I’ve done it for a blood donation camp slated for July 1. The Rotary Blood Bank, Tuglakabad in New Delhi, is a member of this circle

and assisting the needy for their blood requirement by posting on *Local Circles.com*.

*PP TD Bhatia
RC Delhi Mayur Vihar — D 3012*

Excellent editorial, articles. Keep it up

My compliments to Rasheeda Bhagat for taking up the important issue of environment in the Editorial, *Plant a sapling, start a revolution*, which if implemented with enthusiasm, the future generations will bless us. This exercise will definitely result in clean environment and water as the underground water table is depleting by the day due to heavy axing of trees all around.

Hats off to PDG Vivek Aranha of D 3131 for doing something unique and excellent — planting thousands

of drumstick trees in his district — which is unmatched and deserves appreciation. Everybody talks about tree plantation but there is continuous felling of trees in forests and urban areas to make way for new residential colonies, roads and bridges. This is leading to global warming.

*Raj Kumar Kapoor
RC Roopnagar — D 3080*

I love very much going through *Rotary News* every month. Each issue has excellent articles; in June two articles stand out — *The rise of the super-agers* and *Shattering barriers* on IPS officer Archana Ramasundaram. Keep it up.

*Sushu Kamlani
RC Bombay Midtown — D 3141*

The Editorial *Plant a sapling, start a revolution* in the June issue is the need of the hour. I’m reminded of a small

Implement RIDE Basker's views

It was exhilarating to read the article *Soon a panel to monitor Global Grants* (June issue) which is badly needed. In District 3070, there is no transparency in the account-keeping and no Governor submits the balance sheet within 90 days as stipulated in the manual, or even afterwards. Regarding training of future leaders, the PETS or District Assembly is often a photo-op and at these meets the district leaders try to boost their image and use the platform to solicit votes for prospective candidates of their camps, while training takes a back seat.

Time and money are wasted on conducting the District Assembly and awards ceremony. Training by videos (as suggested by RIDE C Basker) is an excellent idea and may be pursued vigorously to

reduce time and expenditure. The incoming RI Director's views must be taken note of and respected by all DGs.

H S Khurana
RC Ludhiana — D 3070

A role model

The article, *Quality & participation of Indian Rotarians need to improve*, is so interesting, that I read it twice. The views expressed by RIDE C Basker and the writing style of the Editor are commendable. He is a role model for every Rotarian. I agree with his opinions on strengthening clubs, better training for Rotarians, and incoming office bearers, and monitoring global grant projects. The accounts of all projects must be scrutinised and monitored by a competent authority to ensure

TRF funds are used properly.

India has a good membership growth, but with DGEs urging incoming club presidents to increase membership of their clubs, the presidents simply grab those available, increasing quantity at the cost of quality.

Despite measures taken by the RI Board to eliminate malpractices in electing DGs, godfathers, 'big brothers', kingmakers and groupism are very much rampant. Every Rotarian should vote to elect DGs, and through a democratic secret ballot to minimise malpractices.

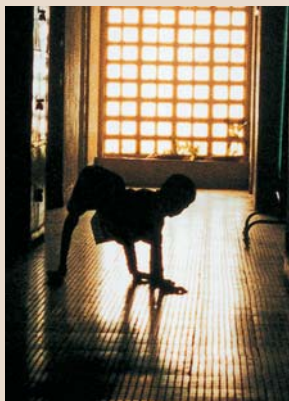
Ramakrishna K
RC Puttur — D 3181



Thanks for PolioPlus education

I am getting *Rotary News* for the last many years as I am a Rotarian since 2000. The magazine has changed its total presentation after Rasheeda Bhagat has taken over as its Editor. The entire layout and topics covered have become so interesting that one feels like reading the full magazine at one go.

The article on PolioPlus (*What is the Plus in PolioPlus?* June issue) is so educative, with polio's complete history being elaborated



in simple words. Many of us were not aware how 'Plus' got added to PolioPlus. Dr T Jacob John has beautifully explained India's initiative in eradicating not only polio but introducing UIP (Universal Immunisation Programme) projects the world over.

I am sure such topics will educate Rotarians and encourage many of them to share their thoughts among their fraternity.

Ramesh Khera
RC Bhopal Hills — D 3040

but powerful statement made by my 15-year-old son Neelansh when we were discussing this write-up and the importance of planting trees. He said, "Only if trees could transmit wi-fi, human beings might have recognised their importance. But unfortunately, they produce only oxygen."

Strong words targeting the Gen Next for their misplaced priorities.

R Murali Krishna, Past President,
RC Berhampur — D 3262

I have been in Rotary for 33 years and am more enthused about Rotary than ever. Looking forward to Ian Riseley's year as Rotary International President (*Ready wit & full of fun*, June issue), and looking forward to the Atlanta gathering of some of the greatest people on earth.

Philip Smith
RC Smethport — D 7280

Governors Council

RI Dist 2981	DG	P S Ramesh Babu
RI Dist 2982	DG	Dharmesh R Patel
RI Dist 3000	DG	P Gopalakrishnan
RI Dist 3011	DG	Ravi Choudhary
RI Dist 3012	DG	Sattish Singhal
RI Dist 3020	DG	GV Rama Rao
RI Dist 3030	DG	Dr K Sunder Rajan
RI Dist 3040	DG	Dr Zamin Hussain
RI Dist 3053	DG	Rajkumar Bhutoria
RI Dist 3054	DG	Maulin Manubhai Patel
RI Dist 3060	DG	Ruchir Anirudh Jani
RI Dist 3070	DG	Parvinder Jit Singh
RI Dist 3080	DG	Praveen C Goyal
RI Dist 3090	DG	Bagh Singh Pannu
RI Dist 3110	DG	Vinay Kumar Asthana
RI Dist 3120	DG	Ranjeet Singh
RI Dist 3131	DG	Abhay Gadgil
RI Dist 3132	DG	Vyankatesh Vithal Channa
RI Dist 3141	DG	Prafull J Sharma
RI Dist 3142	DG	BM Sivarraj
RI Dist 3150	DG	J Abraham
RI Dist 3160	DG	Madhu Prasad Kuruvadi
RI Dist 3170	DG	Anand Kulkarni
RI Dist 3181	DG	MM Chengappa
RI Dist 3182	DG	GN Prakash
RI Dist 3190	DG	Asha Prasanna Kumar
RI Dist 3201	DG	Vinod Krishnan Kutty
RI Dist 3202	DG	Sivashankaran P M
RI Dist 3211	DG	Suresh Mathew
RI Dist 3212	DG	Chinnadurai Abdullah
RI Dist 3231	DG	Jawarilal Jain K
RI Dist 3232	DG	R Srinivasan
RI Dist 3240	DG	Sunil Saraf
RI Dist 3250	DG	Vivek Kumar
RI Dist 3261	DG	Harjit Singh Hura
RI Dist 3262	DG	Ajay Agarwal
RI Dist 3291	DG	Brojo Gopal Kundu

Board of Permanent Trustees & Executive Committee

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

Executive Committee Members (2017-18)

DG B M Sivarraj	RI Dist 3142
Chair – Governors Council	
DG R Srinivasan	RI Dist 3232
Secretary – Governors Council	
DG Abhay Gadgil	RI Dist 3131
Secretary – Executive Committee	
DG Vivek Kumar	RI Dist 3250
Treasurer – Executive Committee	
DG P Gopalakrishnan	RI Dist 3000
Member – Advisory Committee	

ROTARY NEWS / ROTARY SAMACHAR

Editor	Senior Assistant Editor
Rasheeda Bhagat	Jaishree Padmanabhan

Send all correspondence and subscriptions to

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

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

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



An unforgettable Convention

The Atlanta Convention, where The Rotary Foundation celebrated its 100th birthday of doing good in the world, and which took such long years of planning, was a unique birthday celebration in more than one way.

Attracting an attendance of over 40,000 Rotarians from every imaginable country in the world, it was meticulously executed. Of course, the most precious feather in its cap was getting the iconic Microsoft founder and philanthropist Bill Gates to attend, and impress him sufficiently to pay encomiums to Rotarians. At the huge hall bursting at its seams in the sprawling Georgia World Congress Centre — where you had to walk over a km to get to the general sessions — Gates enthralled the audience with a speech that showcased his humility. Deciphering the tone and tenor of his frequently applauded speech, which gave almost all credit to Rotarians the world over for getting so close to Zero Polio, the new buzzword, those not in the know couldn't have guessed his colossal contribution and support for the polio eradication programme.

Except for a few brief moments when he mentioned the numbers. He brought the house down when he announced that if Rotary sticks to its goal of raising \$150 million over the next three years, he would match each dollar raised by two, and “together **we will raise \$450 million** towards ensuring there is zero polio!” This would take the “the total amount raised by our partnership since 2007 to nearly **\$1.5 billion**. That’s just amazing.”

Add to this the money pledged by Canada, Germany, European Commission, Japan, UAE, etc, with its partners, Rotary will be raising \$1.2 billion over the next three years to wipe polio off the face of the earth. But, telling the overwhelmed Rotarians that money was only one part of the polio story, Gates acknowledged the “phenomenal work done by Rotarians” in the last 30 years, particularly in high-risk conflict zones to immunise the children of the world against polio.

Another high point of the Convention was the stirring speech made by TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee, who took the assembled Rotarians on a trip down memory lane when he recalled how the “colossal dreamer” Arch C Klumph’s humble beginning of an endowment fund with just \$26.5 had few takers in a world grappling with the great depression and hurtling from one world war to another. He would be amazed to know that 100 years down the line, the same Foundation, “thanks to the generous support of Rotarians worldwide, has provided \$3.7 billion for its vital projects and programmes,” he said.

For Indian Rotarians, the South Asia Reception is a high point in any Convention, and it gets attendance from most RI world leaders. Surely, or at least one would like to think, the delicious Indian food on offer is only one part of this story, and the world leaders patronise this event to recognise and encourage the great humanitarian work being done by Indian Rotarians. What made this Reception even more special this year was it being Banerjee’s 75th birthday, and in the absence of his wife Binota, it was delightful to watch the other tall figure in Indian Rotary, PRIP Rajendra K Saboo, and wife Usha, fuss over the birthday boy, engulfing him in the warmth of their wishes and the affectionate display of camaraderie.

Rasheeda Bhagat



The ultimate in sustainable service

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

There are as many reasons to come to Rotary as there are Rotarians — maybe even a few more. But each of us has stayed in Rotary because it adds something to our own lives. Through Rotary, we are *Making a Difference* in the world; and the more involved we become, the more of a difference Rotary makes to each of us. Rotary challenges us to become better people: to become ambitious in the ways that matter, to strive for higher goals, and to incorporate Service Above Self into our daily lives.

What kind of difference Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians make through their service will always be their own decision. As an organisation, we are guided by the three strategic priorities our Board has set in our strategic plan: to support and strengthen our clubs, to focus and increase our humanitarian service, and to enhance Rotary's public image and awareness.

In the year ahead, our clubs will have the support of a greatly augmented array of online tools, including a refreshed Rotary.org, a simplified

Rotary Foundation grant application process, an improved My Rotary experience, and a rebuilt Rotary Club Central. As we look to strengthen our clubs, two specific challenges stand out in our membership: our gender balance and our average age. To keep our clubs strong, we need to build a membership that reflects the communities we serve and that will continue to develop knowledgeable leaders for generations to come.

For many years, one idea has stood at the heart of all our service: sustainability. Sustainable service means our work continues to have a positive impact long after Rotary's direct involvement has ended. We don't dig wells and walk away; we make sure communities can maintain and repair those wells. If we build a clinic, we make sure that clinic has a way to keep running without ongoing support from us. And when it comes to polio, we aren't working to contain it; we're working to end it.

Eradicating polio is the ultimate in sustainable service. It is an investment that will yield not just a long-lasting but a permanent benefit, on a global scale. It is and must remain our No 1 priority until the job is done.

For 112 years, Rotary has made a difference to more lives, in more ways, than we can ever count or will ever know. Today, each of us bears a torch, its flame lit by Paul Harris, that has been passed forward from generation to generation, in *Rotary: Making a Difference*.



Ian H S Riseley
President, Rotary International

Message from the RI Director



Get set, go, make a difference

Dear Rotarians,

The Rotary year 2016-17 has come to a close with many positives: great performance by the clubs, excellent team work and handsome contributions to the Foundation. In addition, during the year, globally Rotary created more than 35,000 leaders at the club level known as 'Past Presidents' and at the district level about 535 known as 'Past Governors'. Many new clubs have been chartered inviting more persons to join, serve and strengthen our organisation. All this adding to one more page in Rotary's 116-year glorious history. Not many organisations survive this long; and even fewer continue to grow as rapidly as Rotary has done while entering its 117th year.

The new Rotary Year (2017-18) will see a change of guard. This change which happens at every leadership level every year gives many Rotarians the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and encourages other Rotarians to serve with renewed enthusiasm and energy.

Change is a constant in today's times. Change brings opportunity. We must grasp and use it to continue our good work to ensure a better future for those we serve. When someone asked a farmer, "What are you doing today?", he replied, "I am enjoying the hard work of the past." We do understand the farmer's nuanced response: after all we too have a legacy of more than 116 years. But the thought of what tomorrow will bring is always lingering in the back of our minds, urging us to do better.

Now, the farmer knows that for the fields that are barren today to be ready for harvest tomorrow, the soil must be tilled and the seeds must be sown today in order to get a rich harvest. This is the thought lingering in the farmer's mind. But he knows very well that between sowing and harvesting, there are many steps which need planning, coordination, process and hard

work. And, there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. Finally, success only comes after accomplishing all the tasks at the right time.

We Rotarians know there is no such thing as overnight success. Thomas Edison once said: "Genius is one per cent inspiration and 99 per cent perspiration". The best happens when we learn something, relentlessly practice it, improve upon it and then continue to learn more. Learning is an ongoing process. Learning is personal — it flexes with our needs, our learning style and our planning.

Rotarians work with well thought out plans and strategies and an army of 1.2 million Rotarians over 200 countries to serve the communities around us.

From July 1, we have full 12 months in front of us:

Twelve months of:

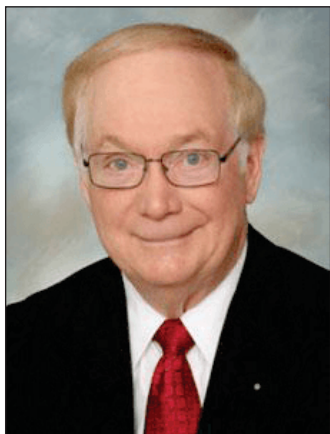
- Opportunities
- Challenges
- Time to prove our leadership capabilities
- Actions and results
- Introducing New Members to Rotary
- Learning about needs of our communities
- Interaction and working as teams
- Exciting experiences
- Develop our skills of communication to work better
- Convert acquaintances to friends in the true spirit of Rotary
- Happiness, energy and enthusiasm and
- Contributing towards worthy projects through TRF.

To make full use of our 12 months, my dear Trend Setters, please proceed to achieve the goals of Rotary with our well trained team of District officers and Club officers!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Basker'.

C Basker
Director, Rotary International

Message from the Foundation Chair



The Foundation and the power of an idea

It seems like yesterday that I was 26 and a brand-new member of Rotary. When I missed my third meeting and failed to do a makeup, my sponsor sat me down and for the first time really explained the values of Rotary. I took his words to heart and haven't missed a makeup since. Now, 49 years later, almost to the day — as a proud member of the Rotary Club of Los Angeles (LA5) — I am honoured and humbled to serve as Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation this year.

The Foundation started with a simple idea: to do good in the world. One hundred years later, we know the story of what happened — as we have learned during this year's celebration of the Foundation's centennial.

During those years, Rotarians have raised and invested more than \$4.1 billion in thousands of programmes, projects and scholarships. In short, the Foundation is a living history of the power of one idea.

A Rotarian shares an idea with his or her club, and — with the help of grant money from the Foundation — amazing things happen.

This is an exciting time to be a Rotarian. It's the first year of The Rotary Foundation's second century, and we are on the verge of participating in one of the most amazing accomplishments in human history: the eradication of polio. Thirty-two years ago, PolioPlus began and served as a catalyst that engaged Rotarians and partners worldwide. Today polio is on track to become the second disease eradicated in human history. CNBC, a leading global media outlet, recently ranked The Rotary Foundation third on its list of the "Top 10 Charities Changing the World."

In the coming months I look forward to discussing our Foundation goals for the next year and beyond. Share your thoughts with me at paul.netzel@rotary.org. Ask yourself, "What can I do to help tackle an issue that's near and dear to me?" How will you engage the Foundation to help you? Remember, all it takes is one person with an idea — along with a great organisation — and those timeless Rotary values I learned way back when it seems like yesterday.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Netzel".

Paul A Netzel
Foundation Trustee Chair



DONATE LIBERALLY

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



More children than ever before are surviving cancer.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bank Account No.: 151411100000070

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



WINNER 2015

CNBC TV18 & IICI LOMBARD
India Healthcare Awards, 2014

**Best Single Speciality Hospital
"ONCOLOGY"**

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

www.induscancer.com

Toll-free: 1800 4253 6666

An IRYLA in the Maldives



Rotary Club of Mulund, D 3141, is hosting an International RYLA in the Maldives from September 8 to 13, for youngsters between age 15 and 30. The event is supported by RC Malé, D 3220, and Districts 3141 and 3220. The tour is ex-Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum) in Kerala and charges include airfare from Trivandrum to Malé and back, accommodation, food, activities, awards, participation certificate and sight-seeing. Passport should be valid till March 13, 2018. Visa is on arrival.

**For details contact,
District Convenor & RYLA
Chair Deepak Lala at
9821096054/
dmlala75@yahoo.co.in,
or Vijay Thapar at
9820690239.**

District Wise TRF Contributions as on May 2017

(in US Dollars)

District Number	APF	PolioPlus*	Other Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions
India					
2981	2,95,487	23,539	0	0	3,19,026
2982	36,964	16,692	0	0	53,655
3000	2,80,136	0	69,105	70,382	4,19,623
3011	11,43,030	45,123	2,59,220	4,38,373	18,85,746
3012	2,30,549	24,322	79,143	8,000	3,42,015
3020	52,388	12,985	0	1,06,914	1,72,287
3030	-5,129	0	-1,76,099	-8,825	-1,90,053
3040	8,972	414	25,712	0	35,098
3051	27,963	424	0	0	28,386
3052	-14,952	0	53,175	0	38,223
3053	34,298	0	0	12,500	46,798
3060	1,37,444	1,241	33,315	88,510	2,60,509
3070	98,481	1,368	15,722	0	1,15,572
3080	1,21,097	36,861	1,79,455	53,895	3,91,308
3090	48,704	0	0	0	48,704
3110	42,009	26,815	2,63,100	0	3,31,924
3120	45,116	626	30,000	0	75,742
3131	3,55,942	49,000	3,10,519	1,24,955	8,40,415
3132	59,737	3,713	16,877	10,462	90,788
3141	9,52,721	76,703	4,58,725	35,960	15,24,110
3142	1,88,542	1,617	5,250	5,000	2,00,409
3150	1,85,540	21,871	1,54,760	97,585	4,59,756
3160	1,32,311	3,198	3,000	0	1,38,510
3170	1,54,649	22,752	75,294	62,305	3,14,999
3181	1,88,544	4,118	27,261	0	2,19,923
3182	79,925	2,476	24,709	35,373	1,42,483
3190	5,28,097	2,592	1,88,710	74	7,19,473
3201	91,640	10,647	93,094	0	1,95,381
3202	38,585	2,850	0	15	41,450
3211	1,37,044	1,015	3,505	18,015	1,59,579
3212	1,26,984	25,992	49,265	4,000	2,06,241
3230	2,93,620	17,376	1,94,664	36,177	5,41,837
3240	1,27,528	11,361	0	9,483	1,48,372
3250	28,106	0	722	0	28,828
3261	28,815	100	1,21,140	0	1,50,055
3262	1,33,500	5,762	1,27,208	2,000	2,68,470
3291	1,47,350	5,450	93,108	9,875	2,55,783
India Total	65,68,809	4,59,001	27,79,658	12,21,027	1,10,28,496
3220 Sri Lanka	1,42,723	490	915	11,068	1,55,196
3271 Pakistan	74,760	1,16,362	20,011	100	2,11,234
3272 Pakistan	1,02,823	22,575	0	4,000	1,29,398
3281 Bangladesh	2,08,110	31,771	1,05,617	10,000	3,55,498
3282 Bangladesh	85,115	4,157	27	3,000	92,298
3292 Nepal	3,26,190	1,471	2,25,591	0	5,53,251
South Asia Total	75,08,530	6,35,827	31,31,819	12,49,195	1,25,25,372
World Total	11,36,39,748	2,92,95,236	1,26,84,207	2,36,39,459	17,92,58,649

* Excludes Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: RI South Asia Office

Häcker

kitchen. germanMade.

Luxury of German Engineering
...in your home



DELHI	MUMBAI	BENGALURU	KOCHI	COIMBATORE	CHENNAI	HYDERABAD	AHMEDABAD	LUDHIANA	JAIPUR	INDORE	THRISSUR
9313134488	9322987229	9740999350	9895058285	9500210555	9442081111	9700058285	9879538977	9815048222	9414058718	9425803599	7025991000

E-mail: info@haecker-kitchens.com
Website: www.haecker-india.com / www.haecker-kuechen.com

Polio has been my top priority over a decade

Rasheeda Bhagat

To understand the true impact of the adage ‘He came, saw,

overcame’, you had to be present in the huge hall at the Atlanta Convention in the mammoth Georgia World Congress Centre when Microsoft Founder Bill Gates held the audience in rapt attention and adulation. It took almost 20 minutes to reach the hall within the Centre, as you had to literally shuffle your way, one small step at a time, to reach the hall!

The huge assembly of Rotarians, representing almost every country in the world, hung on to every word Gates uttered, went into raptures of delight every time he praised Rotary’s work, particularly in polio eradication, which he did often, and burst into

frequent bouts of thunderous applause.

Of course, Gates almost brought the house down when he announced that if Rotary sticks to its goal of raising \$150 million over the next three years, he would match each dollar raised by two, and “together **we will raise \$450 million** towards ensuring there is zero polio!”

And that \$450 million would bring “the total amount raised by our partnership since 2007 to nearly **\$1.5 billion**. That’s just amazing!” Add to this the support from Canada, Japan, the European

Commission, UAE, etc and **a whopping \$1.2 billion were pledged to fight polio in the next three years.**

However, Gates reminded the assembled Rotarians, money was only one part of the story of Rotary’s leadership on polio eradication, begun over 30 years ago. And since then, “in the face of challenges nobody could have predicted, you have kept it on the global agenda.” Both in the US and in the European capitals, Rotarians had insisted that the fight against polio gets the funding it deserves. In high-risk

countries, they had ensured that government leaders kept their focus on polio eradication work.

Rotarian volunteers had done phenomenal work, he reiterated. Ann Lee Hussey, diagnosed with polio as a toddler, had led volunteers on some 25 trips to some of the most dangerous places on earth. Dr Yoshi Sekiba, a Japanese pediatrician, recently led a team of 60 Rotarians to Delhi — for the 16th consecutive year. “And thousands of Rotarians in at-risk and endemic countries have spent countless hours immunising kids,” said Gates.



Since 2000, over 10 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been administered by an army of 20 million volunteers and a global team of thousands of frontline health workers.

Building bridges

But more than anything else, Rotarians had built bridges when most needed. In the Ivory Coast, Marie-Irene Richmond-Ahoua, had acted when the new military leader had cancelled a National Immunisation Day in the midst of a coup. “She appealed, saying children should not suffer because of a conflict created by adults. And days later, the general presided over the opening of the rescheduled immunisation day!”

In Pakistan, Rotarians had helped overcome mistrust by working with Islamic scholars and religious leaders — who are now advocates for the polio programme. Also, Rotary had funded dozens of community centres and immunisation posts in high-risk areas and had worked with displaced people to explain the importance of polio vaccination. “These efforts have helped reduce polio in Pakistan from 306 cases in 2014 to just two cases so far this year.”

Single largest public health effort

It was a massive effort that had delivered such results; the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is the single most ambitious public

health effort the world had ever undertaken, Gates said, adding, “we have gone from 125 endemic countries in 1988 to just three endemic countries today... and from 40 cases an hour 30 years ago, to less than 40 cases in all of 2016.”

To realise “how far we have come” on polio, it was imperative to look back. Not all that long ago, polio was everywhere. In 1994, the Americas were certified as polio-free, followed by the Western Pacific region (2000), Europe (2002), Southeast Asia, and India (2014). “This year, we are down to just a handful of cases in three countries: Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan. The scale of this effort is phenomenal. Since the year 2000, more than 10 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been administered by an army of 20 million volunteers, and a global team of thousands of frontline health workers,” he said.

But, added Gates, “the statistic that captures the impact the best is this one: more than 16 million people are walking today who would otherwise have been paralysed by polio.”

Articulating the one question everybody is asking, Gates said while everybody wondered why it has

taken so long, because the original plan was to be done with polio by 2000; “before I was even involved. And polio has been my top priority for a decade now. I think we’d all agree this has been harder than any of us expected.”

The answer lay in the ambition of the polio eradication programme; ensuring there were zero cases in a population of 7.5 billion people on the planet. “Across all 200 million square miles. No polio. That includes areas where there is war, countries where public health systems are virtually non-existent. It means reaching children in the most inaccessible places on earth — not just once

but many times to ensure they’re protected.”

Persistence and innovation

Effusive in his praise for Rotary’s polio programme, the philanthropist said thanks to its “persistence and innovation”, Rotary had risen to the challenge, again and again. “It is this talent for generating new ideas, building on lessons learned, and adapting to new circumstances that makes me optimistic we will get to zero.”

The challenges were plenty but were being overcome one by one. In Afghanistan, despite the security challenges, most of the country remains



RI President John Germ greets Microsoft Founder Bill Gates.

polio-free, because the people running the programme there have helped build understanding that the only way to get rid of polio is to rise above political, religious and social divisions. “Working in areas of instability is extraordinarily challenging, and frontline health workers have risked and sacrificed their lives. And as quickly as progress is made, it can disappear. The detection of polio in Nigeria last year — after a gap of two years — was a reminder of how hard it is to eliminate the disease in conflict areas. Fortunately, the Nigerian government responded swiftly.”

Another challenge was parents refusing to have their children immunised because of fear or misunderstanding. But in Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, efforts to engage traditional and religious leaders had made a big difference.

Polio warriors

Giving examples, Gates said the Emir of Kano, one of Northern Nigeria’s most prominent traditional leaders, had once consumed an entire vial of vaccine to reassure people that it was safe!

Five days a week, Fiaz Bibi, a vaccinator in Pakistan, covers herself with a burqa, walks three miles to a dispensary to pick up supplies, and

makes her rounds to the 105 families in her community. “Temperatures can exceed 110 deg F, and Fiaz often feels the disapproving eyes of villagers following her. Yet, she persists — visiting every nook and cranny of her village — because she believes it is her ‘moral duty’ to make sure every child is protected against polio.”

Success had come by mapping the regions where children had not been vaccinated in some countries. But a big challenge was finding the last vestiges of the virus; with fewer and fewer cases of polio, this was most difficult; “to stop the virus completely, we have to know where it is still hiding.” There were two ways to do this; by examining the stools of paralysed children to see if they have polio. And, to look for it in sewage systems, especially in high-risk areas.

Nigeria’s quick response to Ebola

But the huge cadre of trained health workers, armed with vital data, that the polio programme had created, now have the expertise to provide critical health services to the most vulnerable people. The outbreak of Ebola in West Africa had proved it. Though it tragically killed more than 11,000 people, mainly in Guinea,

Liberia, and Sierra Leone, the death toll would have been much greater if quick action by polio workers hadn’t stopped the disease from spreading in neighbouring Nigeria, Gates said.

As soon as they realised that a few cases had spread to Lagos, the “polio workers jumped into action. They set up an emergency operations centre to coordinate efforts, tracked hundreds of people who had come in contact with Ebola patients, and deployed community volunteers to get out the message on how to stay safe.” Their efforts prevented a much bigger tragedy.

“This is what is so exciting about Rotary’s 30-year fight. Not only are you eradicating one of the worst diseases in history. You also are helping the poorest countries provide their citizens with better health and a better future. And getting to zero is incredibly inspiring as an achievement of humanity.”

In the midst of pessimism that things are getting worse from bad, the progress on polio is a “reminder of what people can accomplish when they are bold, determined and willing to work together,” Gates said.

Effusive praise for Rotary

Giving Rotarians their due for the relentless hard work they had put



World leaders with Bill Gates, President Germ and WWE celebrity John Cena, gathered onstage to announce new funding commitments to the polio eradication campaign, for a total pledge of US \$1.2 billion.

Gates reiterates importance of foreign aid

At the Atlanta Convention, Canada, Japan, Germany, Australia, the European Commission, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed from UAE, pledged financial support for the final push to end polio. Microsoft Founder Gates, while thanking them, acknowledged the support of the US government too for this fight and said, "This is an example of why foreign aid is so important. Without it, we wouldn't have come as far as we have on polio. And we wouldn't have made such great progress reducing child deaths from other preventable diseases like pneumonia, diarrhoea and malaria."

Displaying a chart, he said it showed that in the last 25 years, the world had cut childhood deaths in half. "If you add it all up — from 1990 to 2015 — that is 122 million lives saved. We could cut childhood deaths in half again by 2030 if governments continue to invest in things

like vaccines, maternal and newborn health, and HIV prevention and treatment."

Revisiting his firm position that aid to poor countries is necessary, he said, "This is what breaks the relentless cycle of disease and poverty in low-income countries. And that is what enables countries to prosper. Yet, some in Washington DC are talking about deep cuts to foreign aid. These investments amount to less than one per cent of the US budget, so eliminating them wouldn't make a dent. But continuing these programmes will make a big difference in the lives of millions of children and families around the world."

Helping other countries fight poverty and disease "makes the world more stable, and it makes Americans and people everywhere safer. Foreign aid delivers a fantastic return on investment. You know this, because you have been following the success of the polio campaign for years," he added.

Working in areas of instability is extraordinarily challenging, and frontline health workers have risked and sacrificed their lives.

And as quickly as progress is made, it can disappear.

towards eradicating polio, Gates said, "When the story of polio eradication is written, it will be about millions of individuals linking arms and persevering in the face of innumerable setbacks. Rotary laid the foundation with its unwavering sense of purpose and its belief that anything is possible if you put your mind and body to it."

But, he cautioned the 40,000-odd delegates assembled in Atlanta, that "we aren't quite ready to write that story yet. To be certain that polio is eliminated, we have to maintain vaccination rates at a very high level. And even when we get to zero, we have to go three years without a single new case. There is no other option, because if we fail, polio will return to the countries where it has been eliminated — and it will kill or paralyse hundreds of thousands of children a year."

But they would have to keep reminding their government that the fight wasn't yet over.

Pointing to the silver lining in the cloud, Gates said that our world was getting to be a better place. "People are living longer, healthier lives. Extreme poverty is below 10 per cent. We eradicated smallpox. These are astonishing achievements, and when we add the end of polio to the list — which I'm certain we will — it will be another triumph for humankind. It also will be a testament to the compassion, generosity and kindness of more than a million Rotarians around the world. You are the people who are making it possible to get to zero. And that will be something worth celebrating." ■





Tell TRF success stories for a bigger second century: Trustee Chair

Rasheeda Bhagat

As The Rotary Foundation enters its second century, Arch Klumph's dream programme has given out \$3.7 billion to do good in the world.

It was said of Arch Klumph in 1917 that he was a dreamer of colossal proportions. But I believe that our Foundation can surpass even his most colossal dreams. How gratified he would be to learn his struggling creation has become a world-class humanitarian organisation! And perhaps he would be more

than a little amazed to know that in its first 100 years, thanks to the generous support of Rotarians worldwide, The Rotary Foundation has **provided \$3.7 billion** for its vital projects and programmes."

With these words TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee wowed the huge gathering of Rotarians at the Atlanta Convention, and continued to draw applause with a speech that was packed with passion, nostalgia and anecdotes of ordinary people helping TRF to rise to dizzy heights in doing good in the world.

Beginning his speech with a simple "Happy birthday", Banerjee recalled how 100 years ago, President Arch C Klumph first gave a modest proposal to start an endowment to do good in the

world, which had great consequences and set in motion "a far-reaching series of events that would transform not only Rotary, but also the lives of millions of men, women and children in every part of the world."

Bad time to raise money

With war raging in Europe, 1917 wasn't the right time to raise money; the postwar era was even worse. The equity market crashed, the world economy collapsed, and the Great Depression began. "With a second world war looming, it was all about to go from bad to worse. So it is not surprising that Rotarians didn't rush to adopt Arch Klumph's grand idea. But this remarkable man wasn't easily discouraged. He absolutely refused to give

up, because recent events had made it clear that the world desperately needed an organisation dedicated to doing good.”

TRF started with just \$26.5, which even in 1917, wasn't a princely sum. Coming to around \$550 in today's value; “just about enough to buy a smart phone, but hardly sufficient seed money for a Foundation with the ambitious mission of doing good in the world.”

Down memory lane

Going down memory lane, Banerjee said TRF's first grant of \$500 (equivalent to \$7,000 today) came in 1930. Contrast this with the fact that in 2015–2016 Rotary year alone, the Foundation awarded almost \$100 million in global and district grants, \$4 million for Rotary Peace Fellowships, and \$114.7 million for polio eradication, he said, amidst thunderous applause.

Though these were important and impressive numbers, “the one number we will never truly know is the number of people whose lives have been improved, transformed, or saved through the work of our Foundation.”

Exponential benefits

TRF's work has exponential benefits, said Banerjee.

“Every grant project, every vocational training team, and every scholarship and peace fellowship sets off a ripple of good that we can neither predict nor measure. And so, it is virtually impossible to quantify the full power of our Foundation. And even if we could, numbers alone would never tell the whole story.”

For example, a Liberian baby is healthy and thriving today despite being born to an HIV-positive woman. A Foundation-supported vocational training team taught local health care workers techniques for preventing mother-child transmission of the HIV virus, and this training is now giving many infants a chance for a healthy life. Or the Honduran women who have started small businesses with help from a Foundation-supported microcredit project. He displayed the pictures of Remigia Dominiguez, who heads a weaving cooperative, Dona Santiago who runs a small store and Dona Ninfa, who sells vegetables at a local market.

“Each of these women can now provide food and clothing for their families, and buy school uniforms and supplies so their children can be educated. And they can contribute to the local economy and strengthen their community. Providing hope

Arch Klumph's legacy lives on in every Rotarian who has carried out a grant project, hosted a scholar, immunised a child against polio, or made a contribution to TRF.

Numbers that tell the Rotary story

- **16** million people, who would have been paralysed by polio are walking today thanks to Rotary's Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
- **1.5** million lives saved by the Vitamin A that is given with the vaccine.
- **Many more million** people have received, and continue to receive, vaccines and treatment for other diseases through the polio vaccine, thanks to the delivery infrastructure established with Rotary's partners.
- **268** patients received life-changing surgeries during a recent global grant medical mission from India to Rwanda.
- **Many more** local doctors and medical students in Rwanda received training in new surgical techniques, who will now be able to treat hundreds of patients more effectively.
- **423,795** people received free health care at Rotary Family Health Days in Ghana, India, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda in 2016. In 2011, when this programme started, only **38,000** people were treated in two countries.
- **41,850** scholars sponsored by TRF over the past century to expand their world view and imbue them with the Rotary ideals of service and tolerance.

and confidence in the future is what our Foundation does best,” said the Trustee Chair.

And this comes in the form of multiple doses of polio vaccine, or nourishing soy milk that makes learning easier, or providing clean, accessible water or simply having a small new home through global grants, he added.

Heart-rending story

Banerjee then related the story of the massive earthquake in Kutch, Gujarat, in January 2001, when he rushed to the spot in 24 hours and found “utter devastation

and death and despair everywhere”. Along with the local Rotarians, while devising a programme for rehabilitation and rebuilding, he saw a grandmotherly woman holding a small bag in her hands walk in. Fatima Begum had lost her only son and his wife in a road accident five years earlier and was left alone with Munni, her eight-year-old granddaughter. Two days earlier Munni was killed in her school as the quake devastated the region, and she said, “today I have no one left to live for. I had planned to go to Mecca for Haj, but now, I don't think I can

Arch Klumph never told
Rotarians how to do good, but
he was very clear about what
The Rotary Foundation should
never do — and that is to build
monuments of brick and stone.

go. But I hear you Rotarians, are going to build some homes and a school here. Well, here is some money I had saved to travel but I want you to use it to help rebuild our lives.”

After she left, a Rotarian counted the money in the bag and found about Rs 85,000, close to \$1,500, in today’s value. Four months later, as the Rotarians built 40 low-cost shelters and repaired the school, on the dedication day suddenly Fatima Begum showed up and said she wanted to say something. She was given a minute, and she recalled her little donation and said, “Today, for the first time, since that terrible day, I am happy and my mind is at peace again. Yes, I could not go to Mecca but my Mecca is right here. And then she sat down on her haunches on the stage and wept and so, I confess, did most of us present there that day,” said Banerjee.

Second century begins

He added that as TRF entered its second century, such success stories “will inspire us to take on new and even bigger challenges. And the example of Arch Klumph, that inveterate dreamer of colossal proportions, will always be there to urge us on.”

Of course Klumph had never spelt out exactly how TRF should do good. “He trusted Rotarians to work that out for themselves. But he was very clear about what The Rotary Foundation should never do — and that is to build monuments of brick and stone. Instead, he envisioned his creation as a living, breathing entity, one that would, in his words, ‘work upon immortal

minds... engraving something that will brighten all eternity’.”

His words inspired Rotarians to build the Foundation “from the ground up: not in brick and stone, but in lives, in health, in hope. And his legacy lives on today in every Rotarian who has ever carried out a grant project, hosted a scholar, immunised a child against polio, or made a contribution to our Foundation. And it lives on in the many millions who have benefitted both directly and indirectly from the good we have done in the world.”

Giving the audience one final number — \$300 million — that was its

fundraising goal, the highest ever, during the TRF Centennial year, Banerjee said, to a huge ovation, “Well, we are well on our way to meeting it. As of today, we have reached the \$270 million mark, thanks to the generosity of Rotarians and the fundraising efforts of our clubs and districts. We still have two weeks left to meet and even exceed our goal — which is something I believe we can do if every one of you carries an important message back to your club about what you have seen and heard this week... the incredible good that our Foundation is doing.”

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S



From 350,000 cases to only five in 2017

Rasheeda Bhagat



Welcoming Bill Gates to the Atlanta Convention in a hall that was bursting to capacity, RI President John Germ said that Rotary's fight against polio began when "every single year 350,000 children were crippled by it. We knew it didn't have to be like this and we knew we could change it. Year by year, as polio has been driven out by every country, one by one, Rotarians have continued to advocate and work and we have raised \$1.6 billion to fight polio and immunised a billion children."

To thunderous applause, Germ said: "As a result of our work, polio cases have come down from 350,000 a year then (30 years ago) to only five in all of 2017."

He added, "From the beginning we knew eradicating polio would have to be a team effort. An effort in partnership with the nations of the world and organisations committed to their health. That's how the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) came into being. We have a tremendous partnership between Rotary, WHO, United Nations, CDC and UNICEF."

The great Bill Gates challenge

In 2007 the GPEI gained a fifth partner — the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. And this Foundation gave Rotary a challenge — if it could raise \$100 million, they would match it. "We accepted that challenge and surpassed that goal. Two years later, they pledged \$155 million, if we could raise an additional \$100 million. We said we'll do that and we did it," said Germ, bringing the house down!

Then, the RI President added, in 2013, the Gates Foundation gave a new challenge... it would match every

dollar that Rotary raised with two dollars, upto \$35 million every year until 2018. "We knew a good deal when we saw one, and said 'Yes'. That commitment to meet every challenge that was raised has brought us to where we are today. Right now, every time a new case is identified, it really could be the last one the world ever sees."

And that would bring it to zero cases; but till then Rotarians will have to keep up their efforts — at least for three years, before the world can be declared polio-free.

"Right now we face a funding gap of \$1.5 billion to reach the end. But we are going to rise up to this challenge as we've done with so many challenges before," Germ said, adding that he was confident that Rotary would raise \$50 million a year for the next three years, towards this goal.

By the time the session ended, a whopping \$1.2 billion had been pledged — \$300 million by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, \$75 million by the Canadian government, \$51 million by the European Commission, and additional pledges by Japan, Germany and other philanthropies. ■

**Right now, every time a new
case is identified, it really
could be the last one the
world ever sees.**

RI President John Germ

Ruby

...Red, Rare, Royal

the
December
show

JECC, JAIPUR
22-25 DECEMBER 2017

JAIPUR JEWELLERY SHOW

Gold Souk, TF-01, Third Floor, Adjoining Hotel Lalit, Jawahar Circle, Jaipur – 302017, Tel.: +91 141 4035900 / 2725648
E-info@jaipurjewelleryshow.org W-www.jaipurjewelleryshow.org



HOME SMART HOME

Control the lights, set the temperature, start your entertainment or have a peek at the door, all this from the comfort of one touch on your **smart device**.



Toll free : 1800 102 1762

www.tejasinnovative.com

TEJAS





A twin birthday party in Atlanta

Rasheeda Bhagat

It was a gay and colourful twin birthday party that was celebrated at the South Asia Reception in Atlanta — Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee's 75th birthday and The Rotary Foundation's 100th. But while a celebration of the latter is what the Atlanta Convention was all about, at this well

organised Indian dinner event, Banerjee was the toast of the evening.

The colourful evening radiated a unique warmth with the event chief, RI Director Manoj Desai, choosing Indian Rotary stalwart and Past Rotary International President Rajendra Saboo to introduce the birthday boy. At

his eloquent best, Saboo termed this “a very special day as it brings back some fond old memories.” He recalled how just a few years ago, in the wee hours of August 11, “I got a call around 25 minutes past midnight from Kalyan, and I asked him: Kalyan, have you got the phone call (nominating him RI

President), and he said yes. And I said this is the best gift that you have given me on my 75th birthday. Today is your 75th birthday and what a privilege it is to be here and wish you on your 75th birthday. But we all miss Binota.”

Saboo said that while in 2011–12, Banerjee had led the Rotary world



Usha Saboo offers a piece of cake to TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee on his 75th birthday at the South Asia Reception in the presence of (from R) RID Manoj Desai, S A Reception Chair Ranjan Dhingra, PRIP Rajendra K Saboo, Sharmishtha Desai, Anjali Dhingra, Reception co-chairs Vinaykumar Raikar and John Daniel.

with distinction, today in its 100th year, he was the Trustee Chair of the Foundation. It was amazing “how under such trying circumstances this year, he has been able to carry on and provide the leadership to The Rotary Foundation. We are missing Binota here, but the thunderous appreciation that you are extending here to Kalyan will be heard by Binota, not physically by her ears, but deep in her heart.”

A birthday gift

He announced that as a birthday gift to Banerjee, “RI general officers from our zone have decided to contribute \$10,000 to TRF in the name of Kalyan Banerjee.”

As the top leadership of the Rotary world — from RI President John Germ and Judy, RIPE Ian Riseley and Juliet, RIPN Sam Owori and Norah, IPRIP K R Ravindran and Vanathy, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and Vinita, RIDE Basker and Mala, and some other representatives of the RI Board and TRF, and of course RID Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha — and also philanthropist Rajashree Birla, wished and toasted to his health, a visibly overwhelmed Banerjee

admitted: “Frankly, I am at a loss for words... I’ve never celebrated my birthday and here I am on my 75th with over 400 people from the world, most of them from India and the subcontinent, celebrating my birthday. I wish Binota was here, because this is something she would not have liked to miss. Thank you Manoj and Raja for putting this event together so beautifully.”

Best and worst of times

He said for him this has been “a very strange and unusual year... Charles Dickens started his book *A Tale of Two Cities* by saying ‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.’ For me, this year has been something like that. The best of times as it is the 100th anniversary of The Rotary Foundation... what an honour and privilege to serve as its Trustee Chair in this very special year!”

It was also a time when polio has almost gone from the world. “I believe Pakistan has not seen any polio cases for over a month as also Afghanistan... so we are getting there. That’s how it happens and happened in India... first one week or

two weeks, then a month, two months, six months and then a year, and polio is gone!”

But, he added, “For Binota and me, it has been the most difficult time of our lives; it (her health setback) was unseen, unexpected. We had actually started out last week but somewhere along the way, she didn’t feel too good so I decided she should go back, rest and recover, in order to be able to come back the next year. She and I are talking about three times a day and she is absolutely delighted, she keeps asking what is happening, who is there, and so on.”

Thanking Saboo for his warm, personal and nostalgic tribute and wishes, describing him as “a mentor”, Banerjee said, “When I got nominated — I come from a small rural town called Vapi — I used to wear just shirts and trousers... and it was Raja who took me to some of the best tailors in India... you have been a true mentor for me in so many ways!

“I am extremely grateful to you for all your support, quiet, but always there, you have always been more concerned about how Binota has been, more than anyone else I can think of. It is something that I am always going to carry with me.”

Reiterating that this 75th birthday he’d always remember, Banerjee concluded, “Now before I break down, I’d better stop.”

**RI general officers
from our zone
have decided to
contribute \$10,000
to TRF in the
name of Kalyan
Banerjee.**

**PRIP Rajendra K
Saboo**

What you have done in polio eradication, and what you're doing in education in schools, water and sanitation, are indeed remarkable and we look upon you for guidance in many areas.

RIPN Sam Owori

RI President John Germ, who was introduced by TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, thanked Indian Rotarians for the great projects they did and said, "because of you, India is in a better place today." He complimented RID Desai for doing a good job as

a Director and leading "with confidence, credibility and integrity."

Introducing RIPE Ian Riseley, IPRIP Ravindran said he was both "witty, intelligent and efficient," and last year, as the Chair of the Seoul Convention, he had made a profit of \$2.5 million.

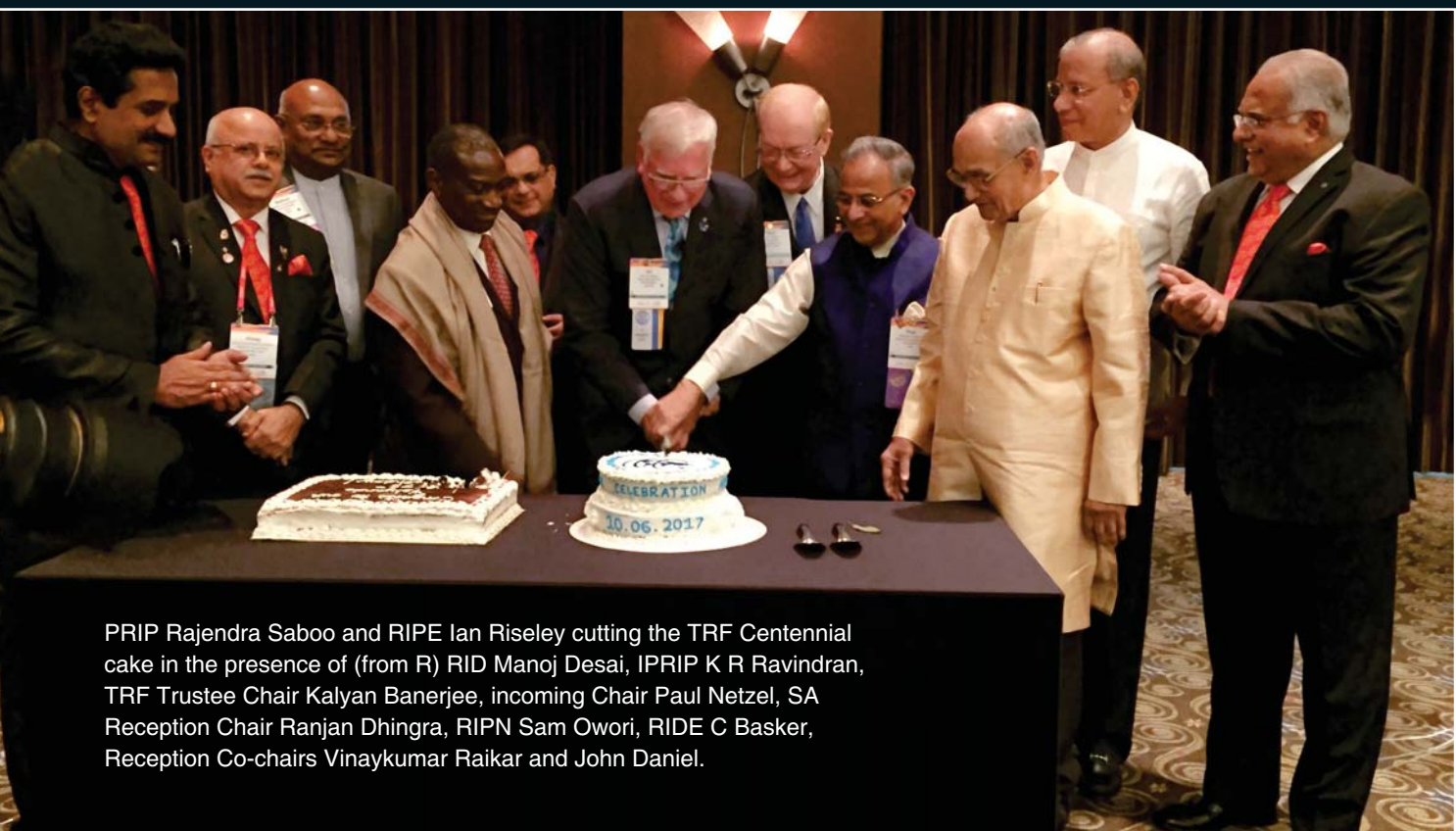
Phenomenal polio work

Felicitating the assembled Rotarians from South Asia, RIPE Ian Riseley said it was always a "pleasure to spend time with Indian Rotarians" and congratulated the Rotarians from all the South Asian countries. "Rotary's successes in this region have been nothing short of amazing. The impressive polio work in India, led by Rotarians and supported by generous persons such as Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Foundation for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, was phenomenal."

Thanking Indian Rotarians for their contributions to TRF, which had transformed India from a receiving to a giving country, Riseley recalled his visits to India. Particularly

the one to Dehradun as the RI President's Rep when thanks to the persuasive powers of PRIP Saboo and PRID Yash Pal Das, "we went up to the foothills of the Himalayas and took part in the representation of the last of the few schools built there after the devastating floods. It was inspirational in every way... and again both Raja and Yash said 'you must, you must, you must, go to the Taj,' and we went to the Taj Mahal under a full moon. We are grateful to them for that experience."

Convener of the glittering Reception, which laid out a mouthwatering spread of umpteen starters and a delicious Indian dinner, RID Manoj Desai said this was his last official meeting before he laid down office as Director at the end of the month. India had



PRIP Rajendra Saboo and RIPE Ian Riseley cutting the TRF Centennial cake in the presence of (from R) RID Manoj Desai, IPRIP K R Ravindran, TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee, incoming Chair Paul Netzel, SA Reception Chair Ranjan Dhingra, RIPN Sam Owori, RIDE C Basker, Reception Co-chairs Vinaykumar Raikar and John Daniel.



SA Reception Co-chair John Daniel presents a memento to RIPE Ian Riseley and Juliet in the presence of (from L) RID Desai, IPRIP K R Ravindran and Vanathy.

done phenomenally well, adding over 10,000 plus members this year, taking the total membership of the zone to 152,653 members. “Last year, we gave \$15.2 million to TRF, this year, perhaps somewhere, due to the demonetisation factor, the figure till now is over \$9 million, but I’m sure we’ll do much better by the end of this Rotary year,” he said.

Desai added that the two black points of Indian Rotary were election complaints and court cases. He was happy to report that 100 elections had been done through electronic voting and there were no complaints this year. “But we have two court cases, and that takes our image down in the Rotary world.”

He congratulated Indian Rotarians for the “fantastic work done in both Literacy and WinS,

and I am confident that going forward we will get a lot of funds under CSR to do projects that make a difference.”

Introducing RIPN Sam Owori, incoming RI Director C Basker said that only recently he had made his acquaintance during the RI orientation course and was “struck by the depth of his knowledge and wisdom... on a wide range of issues from world economy and business fortunes. He was the CEO of the top Uganda Bank, which is like being Governor of our RBI, and has studied at Oxford and Harvard Business School.”

Responsibility to lead

In his address, Owori said to him and his wife Norah, Indian culture “is not strange as we know many Indians in East Africa and Uganda and I’ve studied in an Indian secondary

school in Uganda, so we can handle the spices!”

He added that India, as a country of over “1.2 billion people, has a responsibility to lead, by the sheer numbers you have and many of us look upon you as an example. And along with the numbers you have the capacity and the skills to lead. And you have indeed led us; what you have done in polio eradication, and what you’re doing in education in schools, water and sanitation, are indeed remarkable and we look upon you for guidance in many areas. But while Indian Rotarians have the capacity and numbers, that go with the responsibility to lead us in the right direction. In literacy and education, what you’re doing is extremely exciting and that mobilisation and the kind of population

you have to deal with cannot be taken lightly. It’s a challenge and we are looking to you for guidance.”

In a moment of a grand celebration, all the RI leaders from the world and India came together to cut the Centennial cake.

A book *Doing good in the world*, put together by PDG Ravi Vadlamani and a booklet on the key findings from the Dubai Zone Institute, written by PDG Rekha Shetty, were released on the occasion. Also, the Literacy flame, which had traversed through 12,000 miles and 22 States of the USA to spread the word on literacy and TEACH, was received.

Pictures by
Rasheeda Bhagat

Designed by N
Krishnamurthy

The Social Networker

Hank Sartin

Ian Riseley has spent his career making connections among friends, colleagues and Rotarians. He brings that gift for putting people together to his work as Rotary International President.

“Traditionally, I pay for the coffee.” Ian H S Riseley makes this pronouncement in such a serious tone that you believe it. Until, that is, his friend Kevin Harrison guffaws. Just who does pay for the coffee is never resolved, but the good-natured joking sets the mood for a walk along the banks of the Patterson River in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia.

For the past five years, these walks have been a twice-weekly routine for a small group of Rotarian friends. It’s a way to get “some much-needed exercise, coupled with the opportunity for us to resolve the problems of the world,” says Harrison.

Whoever can make it on a given day — Richard Garner, John Williams, Nick and Maree Vinocuroff — comes along for the chance to bounce ideas off the others. And everyone always wants to know what Ian thinks. “He’ll listen to an idea,” says Harrison, “and over a period of five or six walks, we’ve got ourselves a project.”

On a pleasant December morning, the conversation ranges widely. The friends discuss news including a recent earthquake in New Zealand, as well as business in their Rotary clubs: Sandringham, Hampton, Noble Park-Keysborough, and Chelsea.

As the group talks, Riseley listens. His entire life has been about putting people together, nurturing ideas, and guiding people with practical suggestions about what to improve and how. The new President of Rotary does it with such easy charm and self-deprecating wit that at first you might not realise how intensely focused he is.





From left: John Williams, Ian Riseley, Kevin Harrison, Richard Garner, and Maree and Nick Vinocuroff discuss Rotary ideas on the banks of the Patterson River.

Riseley's earliest exposure to Rotary was typical of what many newcomers to the organisation experience: He wasn't sure what to make of it. In 1977, he was the owner of an accounting firm when one of his clients invited him to speak at the Rotary Club of Cheltenham. "My first question was, 'About what?'" Riseley recalls. His second: "What's a Rotary club?"

He gave a talk on income tax. "Nice people, laughed at the right places, stayed awake the whole time," he jokes. A few weeks later his client called again to invite him to a planning meeting for a new club in Sandringham.

"I said, 'I'm not really sure what Rotary does, but I'm happy to come along,'" Riseley says. "I actually missed the first meeting, but I got another call, and I went to the next one. The movers and shakers were all there, so I thought, wow, what a group to be involved with."

Before joining, he consulted his wife, Juliet. Many of his friends were also accountants, so she thought Rotary could help him meet people outside his professional circle. He became a charter member of the Rotary Club of Sandringham in 1978.

Riseley embraces the idea that Rotary is a place where people network and make professional connections while doing good in the world. "I'd love to say that it was the projects and things that Rotary did that won me

**You'll often hear
someone say, 'I wonder
what Ian thinks about
this.' He offers wise
counsel.**





Ian and Juliet Riseley love to sit on their back deck which offers views of their garden. It's a perfect place to relax and reflect at the end of the day.

over, but that's not correct," he notes. "It was being involved with people who obviously were the absolute business elite in the area."

Once he became involved in Rotary, it became central to his and Juliet's lives. "Maybe 15 years later I was considering doing my master's degree," he says. "I said to Juliet, 'What do you think?' and she said, 'Well, you'll meet lots of new people. Too many of our friends are Rotarians.' It was the rationale for joining Rotary — too many accountant friends — in reverse. Rotary is like that. Rotary grabs hold of you. Our daughter calls our involvement Rotarama. She says, 'Rotarama has got all of you,' and it's true. I think it happens to the majority of us."

Despite the Rotarama effect, Riseley's service hasn't been limited to Rotary. He has given his time and energy to the Sea Scouts, to sporting associations and school councils, to a local community advisory group. In 2006, the Australian government awarded him the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of his wide-ranging service to the community.

Riseley's enthusiasm for Rotary faced a challenge, however, when the question of admitting women as members arose in the early 1980s. The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, had inducted three women in 1977, and the club's membership in Rotary International was terminated the following year. In 1980, the Rotary Board of Directors and several clubs unsuccessfully proposed removing

all references to members as "male persons" from the RI and club constitutions and bylaws. This brought fresh attention to the issue around the world.

For Riseley, it was a crisis of conscience. "Back in 1978, it didn't occur to me that all these people are male. I just didn't notice," he recalls. But when membership for women became a contested issue, he says, "I thought to myself, how crazy is that? What sort of organisation says no to half of the population? So I resigned. I said, 'I can't be a member of an organisation that discriminates.'"

The president of his club suggested another option. "He said, 'Let me recommend that you don't resign. We encourage you to agitate from the inside to invite women to be part of Rotary.' I agreed on the condition that we had a vote at the club and that the club agreed with that stance." So they voted, and the members overwhelmingly supported the idea of women in Rotary.

Bob Richards, a close friend and a member of the Sandringham club, remembers Riseley's role in the discussion. "Ian was a persuasive advocate for the introduction of women. He'd say, 'We can benefit by diversifying our viewpoints and ideas,'" Richards recalls. Soon after Rotary officially changed its constitution in 1989, the Rotary Club of Sandringham welcomed several women as members.

One woman who didn't join the Sandringham club was Juliet Riseley; instead, she became the charter president of the Rotary Club of Hampton in 1995, bringing the organisational skills and remarkable memory for details honed during her career in library and information science.

She also brought the advantage of firsthand exposure to the workings of Rotary. "By the time I was president, Ian had already been a club president and was involved in Youth Exchange," she notes. "We'd been to a number of district conferences. You end up with

information by osmosis, so when I was president, it was a bit easier for me.”

And as Ian’s roles in Rotary have increased, so have Juliet’s. He was governor of District 9810 in 1999–2000; she was governor of the district in 2011–12. As much as possible, she attends his events, and he hers. “They’re very supportive of one another, but equally independent,” says Carol Lawton, who just ended her term as governor of that district.

But that doesn’t mean the logistics of their calendars aren’t complicated. “They would often arrive at a function independently of each other,” Richards says. “We used to joke: ‘Ian, did Juliet know you were coming?’ ‘Juliet, did you know Ian was coming?’”

**They’re very
supportive of one
another, but equally
independent.**

During an evening at their home in Moorooduc, a rural township in the heart of some of Australia’s finest wine country, the Riseleys show off their gardens, with Juliet easily rattling off the names of the myriad flowers. There are also fruit trees and a pair of rescued goats, Vinda and Lulu. “We didn’t name them,” Ian is quick to clarify. He complains about the goats, but it’s clear he’s rather fond of them — despite their propensity to gnaw aggressively on the trees.

In the evenings, Ian and Juliet like to sit on their deck with friends and a glass of wine, often from one of the many vineyards in the area. One friend, David Lloyd, runs the nearby Eldridge Estate and has established a reputation for his pinot noir and chardonnay. But the Riseleys wear their knowledge of wine lightly. Their wine rack holds some bargain-bin bottles resting alongside some very fine vintages.

They have a habit of telling entertaining stories in a running dialogue, correcting, augmenting, and sometimes contradicting each other. “One of the things about couples,” notes Juliet, “is that when they’ve been married for a long time, they have —” Ian jumps in: “Selective memory retention!” Back to Juliet: “It is absolutely true. We have different versions of the same story. Fortunately, not too different.”

Many of those stories are about their children and grandchildren. Jill, who lives in Melbourne with her husband, Scott, and their two sons, Will and Jack, is an expert in corporate social responsibility and has a master’s degree from Cambridge. The Riseleys’ son, Andrew, an attorney, and his wife, Bronwyn, met as graduate students at the London School of Economics. They have two children, Neve and Lachlan, and recently relocated from Singapore to Wellington, New Zealand.

But Juliet and Ian love to hear other people’s stories as well.



“Whenever you meet Ian, he wants to hear about you,” says Geoff Tickner, a friend of many years and a fellow Rotarian. “That’s always how a conversation starts. It’s always, ‘Haven’t seen you for a while. What have you been doing?’”

When you talk to his friends and colleagues, you hear again and again that Riseley is a listener, someone you go to for advice. “If you’ve got an idea, you tell Ian, because he’ll take it on board,” says Helen Wragg, the 2016–17 president of the Rotary Club of Hampton. “And if it’s a bad idea, he’ll tell you.”

John Barnes of the Rotary Club of Clayton says Rotarians seek out Riseley’s guidance at every opportunity: “At meetings, you’ll often hear someone say, ‘I wonder what Ian thinks about this,’ or ‘Has anyone spoken to Ian about that?’ He offers wise counsel.”

Barnes recalls consulting with Riseley about his idea for a project involving Interplast, a nonprofit

dedicated to bringing reconstructive surgery to people with conditions including cleft palates and severe burns. Barnes went to Riseley with what he describes as “a ridiculously ambitious scheme to get every Rotary club in Australia to help raise a large sum of money and fund Interplast projects on the investment interest.”

If Riseley, a district governor at the time, was skeptical, he didn’t show it. “I suppose he didn’t want to burst my bubble, so he said, ‘I’ll give you a hand,’” Barnes recalls. “He didn’t put the kibosh on it.”

Riseley made introductions and offered advice, and eventually, Barnes got support from all 21 of Australia’s districts, then went on to add New Zealand’s six. Rotary provides funds and volunteer support, and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons provides the skilled surgeons who volunteer their services. “Interplast is a great example of Rotary partnering with another organisation to meet a need,” Riseley says.

“He was always interested, always wanted to know how we were doing, always wanted to look at our progress,” Barnes says of Riseley. “If he saw something that wasn’t working, he might come to me and say it gently. He’s able to give you a valid course of action.”

Rotarians from 9810 fondly recall the district conference during Riseley’s year as governor. He saw that a bit of stagecraft was needed, so he drove onstage in a race car, and ever since, the district’s governors have tried to come up with an equally dramatic entrance. Richards rode in on a quarter horse.

Riseley stresses that while fun is a vital element of the organisation, Rotary must make a difference in the world. At the International Assembly in January, he noted that environmental degradation threatens us all and asked every Rotary club to plant



Juliet and Ian Riseley have always enjoyed the natural beauty of the Melbourne area including the beaches along Port Phillip Bay.

a tree for each member as a gesture with both practical impact and symbolic power.

Rotary must also do more to welcome younger people, who he says face a number of competing demands. They are interested in service and eager to do good, he stresses, but they need options. "We need to offer them an involvement that doesn't waste their time," he says.

That's one reason he enthusiastically supports the 2016 Council on Legislation decisions to give clubs more flexibility in membership and meetings. "If you want to meet every week, and it suits your club, that's

great," he says. "But there are people who can't do that, for whatever reason. To me, the flexibility is really important."

Riseley also worries that Rotary needs to do a better job of communicating with people outside the organisation. "We've grown up talking to ourselves, and there was an ethos for years that we didn't seek aggrandisement," he notes. "We haven't made enough effort in marketing ourselves to the outside world. One of the things I am absolutely petrified of is that when polio is gone, Rotary will not get the recognition that we warrant."

Ever the accountant, Riseley thinks one way to demonstrate Rotary's impact is to quantify it. "What Rotary doesn't do is calculate the value of its output. We've got 35,000 clubs around the world and they all do good things." He envisions asking every club to report how much money it spends or donates and how many volunteer hours it puts in so that Rotary can calculate the output: "I believe that not just the rest of the world, but Rotarians themselves, will be astonished at the value of what we do."

Photographs by Monika Lozinska

Reproduced from *The Rotarian*

Rasheeda Bhagat



At the MDPETS in Jaipur. President Riseley wants every Rotarian to plant at least one sapling this year; this would make our planet greener by at least 1.2 million trees.

When Punjab met Italy

Rasheeda Bhagat

It wasn't exactly *balle balle* but very close to that, at least in its expansive spirit of celebration, when PDRR (Past District Rotaract Representative) Satinder Singh Dev, who is now a member of RC Ladwa, D 3080, met a group of Rotaractors in Milan, Italy.

Singh, who was to do a nine-day European tour to Switzerland, Italy and Austria in May for live music concerts in a group headed by well-known Punjabi actor-director Gippy Garewal, was to be in Milan for a few days. As he had been a Rotaractor for long years and is a former DRR (2009–10), and Past Vice President of Rotaract South Asia Multi District Information Organisation, “before leaving for Italy, I contacted the Rotaract club members in Milan through their Facebook page.” He was pleasantly surprised to get a very positive response from their past president

Visiting India is now top on their wishlist, because till now they had not got any invitation from any club in India.



PDRR Satinder Singh fixes a Rotary pin on a Rotaractor in Milan.

Giorgio Mariyani. “He not only invited me to meet their club members but also sent me all the details of upcoming events and meetings planned during my stay in Milan.”

Finally, he met them, exchanged district pins, Rotasia souvenirs, T-shirts, and other gifts. “They were so warm and welcoming. Extending typical Italian hospitality and goodwill, they came to the Metro station to receive me, took me around the place and then to a café. And we discussed different ways of fundraising; how they do it in Italy and how we raise funds in India.”

Having himself been a Rotaractor for long

years, as also a DRR, what difference did he find between Indian Rotaractors and Italian ones? “Oh, I found them to be better organised, more focussed and disciplined, compared to us in India. Also, we have more community-based Rotaractors, but there it is different; they are more institution-based.”

Singh adds that they were all very interested in coming to India, and particularly want to visit ‘Bombay’ and “I have extended a warm invitation from our side, and I believe they will definitely come.”

Describing this as a great experience for him to gain knowledge about some international projects

which he is planning to do with the Italian Rotaractors, he says he represented RI District 3080 on behalf of DRR CP Shubham Rattan and Rotasia Chairman PHF Gagan Sarin, and invited them to send a youth exchange team to the district.

“We talked about our cultures and they told me that visiting India is now top on their wishlist, because till now they had not got any invitation from any club in India. It was really a wonderful experience to see my Rotary and Rotaract family away from my home, and to discover for myself how Rotary and Rotaract connect us globally!” ■

A rendezvous with K R Ravindran

Krishnan Sriram

R*endezvous with Ravi* became an evening to remember for the Rotarians of Coimbatore who participated in a talk show with IPRIP K R Ravindran, on his perspective of Rotary today. About 175 Rotarians from the city's Rotary clubs, including DG Prakash Chandran, enjoyed his forthright, no-holds-barred response to a host of queries on Rotary and its functioning.

The session, hosted by RC Coimbatore Metropolis, was anchored by PDG V Rajkumar. Asked for his leadership mantra, Ravindran said a

leader needed to put exceptional and smarter people in decision making positions around him. "I'm not very smart; I just surround myself with smart people in positions of responsibility," he said amid laughter from the audience. He added that a leader must walk the talk, otherwise he would be "like a politician."

Transparency and accountability, in his view, were "everything" for the robust functioning of Rotary. He agreed that last year efforts to professionalise Rotary functioning and strategic cost-cutting measures had helped

RI save over \$2.5 million on operating costs. President John Germ followed up and opened up all the RI offices to the world and "we received some 900 applications for 120 advertised volunteer positions in the organisation". He added that the Korea convention made a profit of another \$2.5 million.

To a question on the steps taken against canvassing for DGN, he said that his mandate only runs in looking into allegations of electioneering prior to the actual election taking place; thereafter any appeal must go to the election review committee.

RC Coimbatore Metropolis President Jayakumar Ramdass presenting a memento to PRIP K R Ravindran. Also present are D 3201 DG Prakash Chandran and PDG V Rajkumar (left).



Unfortunately, he added that no one complains in the run up to the election. They do so only when they have lost. If they win, their position is that it was a superbly conducted election!

He also added that if allegations are made in a timely manner, then they would be investigated and dealt with as appropriate, both with the miscreants as well as those making frivolous allegations.

On membership, Ravindran said it was the primary responsibility of all clubs to increase quality membership and retain it. "How many members were you personally able to bring in last year," he asked a club president who wanted to know why Rotary membership had remained stagnant. He added that to his knowledge, the mentor-mentee process was the most effective way of retaining good people in Rotary.

On its part, RI had introduced an innovative global rewards programme under which Rotarians could get various

Let's not go in search of awards, prizes. Let's just do our projects wholeheartedly; recognition will follow.

products and services at specially discounted rates from leading brands. They could also put up their own products for sale on discount to other Rotarians. This programme was catching on but needed to be publicised among Rotarians, given its potential to attract quality members.

His assertion "we are very close to eradicating polio from the world", was loudly cheered. RI, he said, had invested \$11 billion over the years in this massive programme, and apart from saving children from being crippled, it would also lead to a cost saving of around \$50 billion in the next 30 years.

What next after polio eradication? Will Rotary now be in line to get the Nobel Peace Prize?

"Let's not go in search of awards, prizes. Let's just do our projects wholeheartedly; recognition will follow" was his cryptic answer. Asked for tips on improving the public image of Rotary in Coimbatore, he suggested that if all 36 clubs of Coimbatore come together and take up one mega community project, that would certainly provide high visibility to Rotary.

Narrating a string of incidents, he recalled in a lighter vein how on his first day in office as RI President Nominee at Evanston, as he was waiting for the lift, an RI female staff member who did not recognise him, cautioned him in all innocence that if he intended to go to the 18th floor (the President's floor) and if he did not have an appointment he would have a hard time to get through the tough ladies who guard the President! ■

TRF partners corporates for their CSR funds

Team Rotary News

The Rotary Foundation is now partnering with Indian corporates to utilise their CSR funds meant for community service. This has commenced from Rotary year 2016-17, and Indian Rotary clubs can now do welfare projects with corporate CSR funds.

Clubs can recommend welfare activities in areas such as basic education and literacy (education/vocational training/adult literacy or mid-day meals); water and sanitation (rainwater harvesting, drinking water and sanitation facilities); maternal and child health and disease prevention (malnutrition); and economic development projects to provide vocational and livelihood skills which align with

activities mentioned in Schedule VII of the Company's Act 2013.

Conditions

- The corporate's contribution should be a minimum \$32,000, of which five per cent should be kept for overhead costs
- Implementation of the project to be through sustainable global grants
- MOU will be signed between the corporate and Rotary Foundation (India)
- Grant applications to be submitted online by the respective club/district
- International Rotary partner mandatory with or without contributions
- RF(I) will provide two yearly reports to the corporate

- If the total grant funds exceed \$100,000, TRF will conduct additional reviews
- Additional cash and DDF will be matched at 1:0.5 and 1:1 respectively.

The participating company will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and the corporate head will be recognised as a Level 2 Major Donor by TRF.

Some of the Corporate-Rotary partnerships signed last year include Zeco Aircon with RC E-Magnum (3012), Naini Tissues with RC Kashipur (3110) and RDS Projects with RC Agra Grand (3110).

For more details, contact your District CSR Chair or RI South Asia Office (Jayashree Jayaraman, Team leader – CSR & WinS at 011-42250142. Email: Jayashree.jayaraman@rotary.org and Bhawna Verma, Senior Program Associate, CSR at 011-42250172. Email: bhawna.verma@rotary.org). ■

Happy hours lead to happy village, happy school

Rasheeda Bhagat

To know the significance of what a simple school bench means to some school children in remote parts of India, read on...

What school benches, desks and chairs mean to students can be best gauged from this little story. When Rotarians from a Rotary club put up a Happy School in a village on the outskirts of Chennai, and gave it benches, chairs etc, during snack time one little girl refused to get up from her

new chair to enjoy them. After repeated requests yielded no results, one of the Rotarians sat next to her and gently asked her why she didn't want to eat anything. And that child said: "This is the first time in my life I have sat on a chair; and I have been told that this is my chair; so why are you asking me to leave it so soon?"

This incident is narrated to me by Rtn Pankaj Patel, President of RC Pune Far East, D 3131, who, along with his club members, has totally transformed Tambe, a tribal village about 116 km from Pune... meeting its water storage needs and building a spanking new school for the 100-odd students of the Higher Secondary

Babasaheb Ambedkar Vidyalaya in that village.

The way the village and school project came about is a typical example of how the camaraderie and fellowship spirit in Rotary can trigger life-changing projects. One fine day during the Rotary year 2014-15, some Rotarians from RC Pune Far East, who are members of the 'Happy



Suresh Poddar is such a passionate donor and he says that when Bill Gates has contributed so much to Rotary, why can't I give too? By god's grace, I have more than I need, and I don't have any vices to spend money on!

Pankaj Patel
President RC Pune Far East.



Before the school was built, students sat on heaps of stones.

Hours' group, went for a picnic to the Manikdoh dam near the Junnar taluka. Present at that picnic were Club President Mihir Raje, and then Club Secretary Pankaj Patel. There they met Ravindra Bhimaji Talpe, a Central Government Child Development Project Officer and Arun Dhondibhau Matele, a senior teacher at the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Vidyalaya in Tambe village.

Two socially conscious individuals, both were working for the betterment of Tambe, an Adivasi village with some 3,500 inhabitants. The Rotarians expressed interest in the needs of the village and were told that even though

it had a good rainfall the people faced water shortage for lack of water storage facilities.

Journey of a thousand steps

The Rotarians decided that their club would adopt the village and turn it into a 'happy village'. First, the club decided to build water tanks in the village using the Rs 60,000 meant for the club's Charter Day celebrations party. "They say a journey of a thousand steps begins with that one brave first step — and this was that first step taken by our club," says Patel. Soon the club donated six water tanks, with platforms, piping and other related material.

As they worked on this project, they once visited the village school — the Ambedkar Vidyalaya — and one of the Rotarians noticed its noticeboard displaying proudly 100 per cent pass in the board exams. She also noticed that the top three rank holders were girl students! "As there are more girls in the village than boys, the school too has more girl students," says Patel. But the Rotarians noted that the school, located next to a temple, was being run in a ramshackle building with very poor maintenance.

They decided that the school needed a new building, and if they got the land they would raise funds and give the best possible facilities to the students. With a good Samaritan — Danyandev Ramaji Mindhe — donating land for the school, plans were made to give the students a brand new school.

Rtn Rajkumar Magar, Foundation Director of

the club, being in the real estate and agriculture business, immediately advised them to barricade the land and donated some money to start the building. By now it was the Rotary year 2015–16 and on August 15, 2016, under the leadership of Club President Rajesh Shah, and presence of Rtn Nilesh Avchare, Patel performed the *bhoomi pooja*, and assured the villagers they would soon convert their village into a 'Happy Village'.

Stumbling blocks

As work began, the first stumbling block was a drought-like situation and severe water shortage that brought construction to a halt. And then, in June, with the monsoon setting in, the skies opened up and the rainfall was so heavy that the work could not progress! Though a funding of Rs 10 lakh was readily available, they couldn't work on the school building.

Facing page: (from left) AG Panjab Rao Kathe, RC Pune Far East President Pankaj Patel, Padmaja Deshmukh, DG (D 3131) Prashant Deshmukh, Bhalerao, AG Kiran Poddar, Inner wheel Pune Riverside President Neru Magar and Rtn Surendra Anchaliya. Also seen are AKS member Suresh Poddar (seated centre) and Nimmi Patel, spouse of Pankaj Patel (seated extreme right).

This unique project is proof of the training we give to our club presidents to reach out to the disadvantaged in remote areas.

DG Prashant Deshmukh

District 3131

Meanwhile, Patel's wife Nimmi, also a member of the same club, had visited Canada and met Susan Peterson, President of RC Markham Sunrise, who offered to do a joint global grant project with their club for Tambe village. But this global grant did not materialise.

Not losing hope, the club continued its efforts and found another possibility of a global grant with RC Havelock Cherrypoint from North Carolina. But even this did not materialise and "due to a few

unfortunate incidents, this project fell through. Perhaps God was not yet convinced by our efforts and continued to test our patience and perseverance."

He adds that sometimes for getting these grants sanctioned, there are "so many questions and so many details required about the projects, the beneficiaries etc, that at our club level it was felt that rather than answer so many questions, we can raise the money ourselves, as TRF grants take so much time. Also,

god helps those who help themselves," says Patel.

The clouds lift

The help came with Patel meeting D 3052 PDG Anil Agarwal from RC Jaipur Midtown, who was invited to Pune for a district event — the youth empowerment seminar. They decided to invite each other's clubs for a Rotary Friendship Exchange. In September 2016, members of RC Pune Far East — eight couples — visited Jaipur, where they were hosted by the local Rotarians, including AKS member Suresh Poddar (Read his profile at <http://rotarynewsonline.org/i-have-more-than-i-need/>) and AG Kiran Poddar from District 3052.

"We were shocked to find Poddar at the airport to receive us,"

says Patel. The Pune Rotarians were taken to a school in Jaipur where Poddar had contributed generously. In December, some RC Jaipur Midtown Rotarians, including Poddar, visited Pune and were taken to Tambe, the adopted village. On seeing the school project, Poddar instantly announced a donation of Rs 5 lakh, and even returned to Pune for the inauguration on May 1, 2017, and drove a bullock cart in the village!

Awed by Poddar's generosity, Patel says, "he is such a passionate donor and he says that when Bill Gates has contributed so much to Rotary, why can't I give too? By god's grace, I have more than I need, and I don't have any vices to spend money on! So *mujhse paisay nikalo* (Get more money out of me!)

AKS member Suresh Poddar, Kiran Poddar, PDG Anil Agarwal, Pankaj Patel with students at the Babasaheb Ambedkar Vidyalaya.





From left: Club Vice President Virendra Kedia, PDG Anil Agarwal, Pankaj Patel and Suresh Poddar on a bullock cart.

He is forever ready to give more and his dream is to make government schools modelled on private schools and says children studying there should not lack any facilities.”

Proof of good training

The entire Happy Village project cost around Rs 27 lakh (\$41,000) and “thanks to the synergy and co-operation between two districts and two clubs, we were able to do this unique joint project in an absolutely remote village with no facilities. I am really thankful to Suresh Poddar for his generosity,” says District 3131 DG Prashant Deshmukh. Lauding RC Pune Far East for this excellent project, where a non-descript school was

totally transformed, with WinS norms implemented, a library set up, etc, he says students have also been given scholarships. “We’ve said that students from this school who score above 85 per cent marks will be given Rs 5,000–10,000 to encourage them.”

Deshmukh adds that he has been encouraging the clubs in his district to work in remote areas where little welfare or development work is done. “And this project is proof of the training we give to our club presidents to reach out to the disadvantaged in remote areas.”

PDG Agarwal, who was instrumental in getting this project going says, “One of the best things in life that you can do is wipe

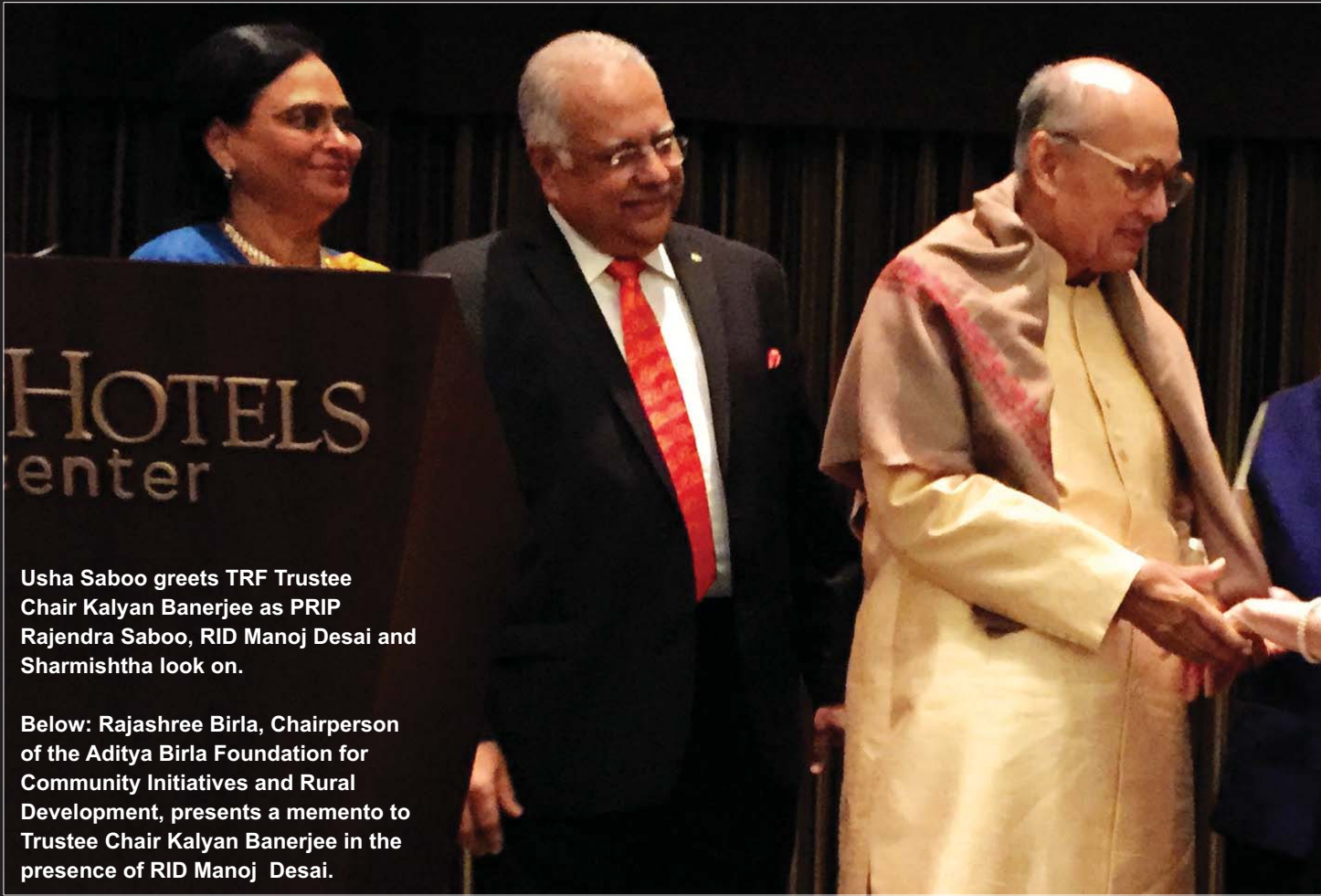
tears and bring smiles; we were able to do that in this village, and that has brought immense satisfaction to all the Rotarians from the two districts who worked on this project. I am so happy that the journey of 1,000 miles did not go a waste and converged into a gift of a school for the children of Tambe.”

Patel adds that they are not yet done with the village. As water shortage and storage are two big problems, “we are determined to go the extra mile. We are now raising funds to give them a pond so that water can be stored. I have myself committed a sum of \$10,000.”

His only regret is that the school was delayed as the global grant projects didn’t come through. The

Rotarians had promised the Class 10 boys and girls last year that soon they would be sitting not on the ground but benches. That set of boys and girls passed out before the school could be completed. Even though the students who had passed out were made to sit on the spanking new benches when they came to receive their certificates, “one of the girls who passed out of the school told us: ‘It is not the same. We will always regret that we could not study on the benches.’ And we will regret that had we not gone for the global grants and raised our own funds from the beginning, we would have inaugurated the school on August 15, 2016,” sighs Patel. ■

South Asia Reception Moments



Usha Saboo greets TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee as PRIP Rajendra Saboo, RID Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha look on.

Below: Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of the Aditya Birla Foundation for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, presents a memento to Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee in the presence of RID Manoj Desai.



RIDE C Basker and Mala greet RIPN Sam Owori and Norah.





PDG Vinod Bansal, RI General Secretary John Hewko, PRID Shekhar Mehta and Marga Hewko.



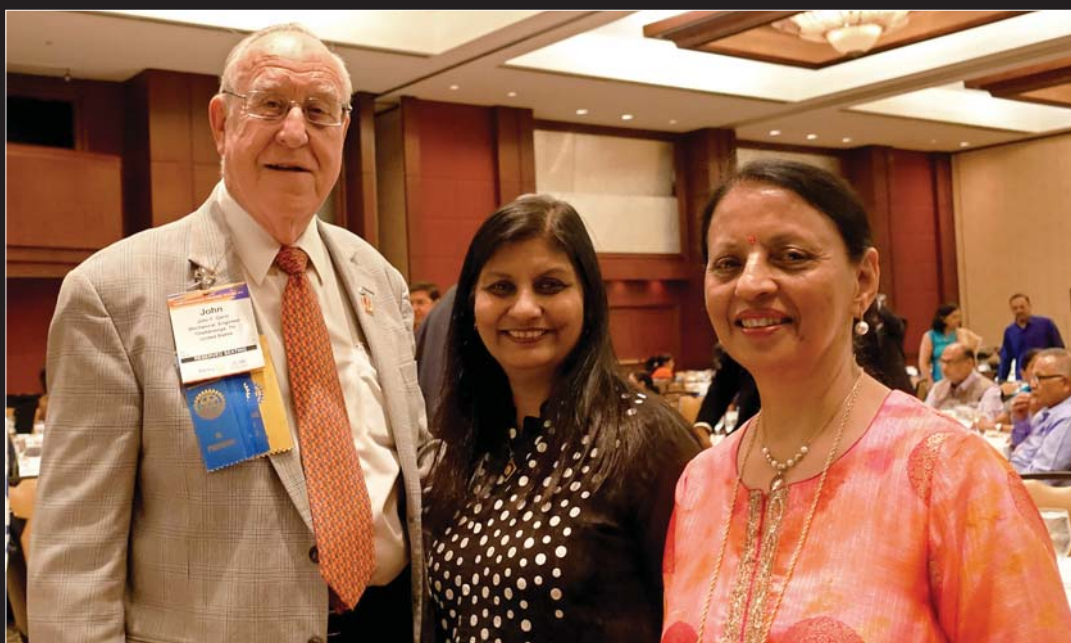
Usha Saboo interacts with PRIP Gary Huang and Corinna. Poonam and PDG Manpreet Singh Gandhoke are also in the picture.



PRID Ashok Mahajan, IPRIP K R Ravindran and PRID Yash Pal Das.



(From L) TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee and Pakistan PolioPlus Committee Chair Aziz Memon.



Left: RI President John Germ, DGN Pinky Patel and Vinita Gupta.

Right: RID Manoj Desai and Sharmishtha with their son Neil and daughter-in-law Nandita.

Left: (Seated from L), PRID John Blount, RID Mikael Ahlberg and Charlotte. (Standing from L), IPRIP K R Ravindran, DGE Abhay Gadgil, PDG T N Subramanian, RID Jennifer E Jones, PDGs K P Nagesh and S Krishnaswami.



Right: TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee with Trustee Noel A Bajat and spouse Helen.



(From L) RIDE C Basker, PDGs Ashok Gupta, Balkrishna Inamdar and DG John Daniel.



Ratan Tata becomes an AKS member

Rasheeda Bhagat

For pedigree, Rotary Club of Bombay has no dearth. After all, JRD Tata was its member!

And now, his successor at the Tata group, noted industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, an honorary member of the club for over 20 years, has become an Arch Klumph Society member. On June 6, 2017, the cheque was handed over by the Tata Education and Development Trust to past president of the club Nirav Shah on behalf of its Chairman Ratan Tata,

making him the fourth AKS member from this club during 2016–17.

Says D 3141 DG Gopal Rai Mandhania, “Under the dynamic leadership of the Club President Dr Mukesh Batra, aided by his team, this club has more than justified its premier status in the district. The news of Honorary Rotarian Ratan Tata becoming an Arch Klumph Society member, has made this the happiest day for me in the year.”

A highly respected doyen of Indian industry

such as Ratan Tata becoming an AKS member once again proves the credibility of the good work The Rotary Foundation has been doing for the last 100 years, he said. “That business leaders of the stature of Tata are appreciating the good work Rotary is doing for the betterment of mankind, is a very big statement. It is this work that had made Bill Gates support us for our Polio cause.”

Moreover, added Mandhania, this single

club is contributing a record \$1 million to TRF during its Centennial year. District 3141’s TRF goal for the year is \$2.65 million, he added. And in this, he added, Nirav Shah has played a big role, as he had also motivated his brother-in-law Ajay Piramal to become an AKS member.

The four AKS members co-opted by RC Bombay this year are Ajay Piramal, Manoj Israni, Amit Chandra and now Ratan Tata.

From L: TRF Support Avenue Chair Akkshay Mehta, DG Gopal Rai Mandhania, Chairman of the Tata Trusts Ratan Tata and Past President of RC Bombay Nirav Shah.



How it happened

Recounting how Tata had been inducted into the distinguished gallery of AKS members, Nirav Shah said that a few months ago he was approached by his friend Nikhil Merchant of Swan Energy, saying that Ratan Tata wanted to see some 500 vintage cars. “I said I would organise that, but in return I wanted an audience with Tata.”

So a meeting was arranged and on March 16, accompanied by DG Mandhania and Akkshay Mehta, TRF Support Avenue Chair, he met Tata and they made a video presentation to him on the grassroots work the Foundation does for community welfare across the world. Tata was very happy with the presentation and praised the good work that Rotary does. It was suggested that he become an AKS member and “Tata promised to think about it. In the next few weeks I kept following on that and finally, with some help from Rtn Manoj Murarkar, another meeting was arranged and the cheque was handed over to us,” says Shah.



From L: Club President Mukesh Batra, TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee and DG Mandhania.

He adds that apart from Merchant, Rtn Manoj Murarkar and R Venkatraman, Managing Trustee of Tata Trusts, had played a big role in ensuring that Tata’s AKS contribution for the Foundation came through.

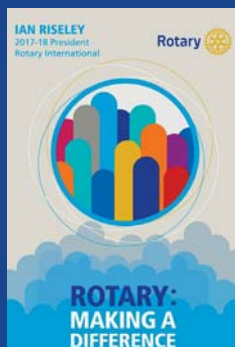
Adds Mandhania, “Words fail me to thank Nirav for his

perseverance, passion and commitment for maximising TRF Giving — sleeping with the goal in mind, getting up with it and pursuing it throughout the day has been his motto. Other Rotarians can be motivated and inspired by the efforts, energy and passion he puts into meeting the goals given to him.” ■



From L: Tata Trusts’ Managing Trustee R Venkatraman, Nirav Shah and Manoj Murarkar.

Presidential Theme & Citation



How to Qualify for the Citation

Clubs that are strong and making a positive difference in our communities achieve goals related to Rotary's three strategic priorities: to support and strengthen clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service, and enhance Rotary's public image and awareness.

This year's Rotary Citation will recognise clubs that complete activities that support these priorities. Clubs will have the entire Rotary year — July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 — to achieve the citation's goals.

Rotary will be able to verify your club's completion of most of the goals using our database. For others, we'll confirm your club's achievements through information you enter in Rotary Club Central, Rotary Showcase, and Rotary Ideas.

District governors can also track their clubs' progress online. I'm asking each of them to talk with clubs regularly and support them in achieving these goals and Making a Difference.

Find more information at www.rotary.org/presidential-citation. If you have questions, write to riawards@rotary.org.



Rotary: Making A Difference

Some years ago, a new acquaintance asked me what should have been a simple question: "What is Rotary?" I opened my mouth to reply and then stopped short with the realisation that I simply did not know where to begin.

The problem wasn't that I didn't know what Rotary was. The problem was that Rotary was — and is — too large and complex to easily define. We are a member-based organisation, a club-based organisation, and a service-based organisation; we are local, regional, and international; we are community members, business people and professionals, working and retired, active in nearly every country in the world. Every one of our 1.2 million members has a unique set of goals, experiences, and priorities; every one of us has a unique understanding of Rotary.

To me, Rotary is defined not by who we are, but by what we do — by the potential that Rotary gives us, and the ways we realise that potential in meaningful and lasting service. Rotary has been around for a long time: 112 years. In some ways, we've changed tremendously, as we've grown, matured, and adapted to the changing needs of our members and communities. In our fundamentals, however, we remain the same: an organisation of people with the desire — and through Rotary, the ability — to make a difference in our communities, and the world. We answer the question "What is Rotary?" with our actions, by making a difference through our service.

Required Activities

- Pay your July 2017 and January 2018 club invoices in time.
- Report volunteer hours and service project contributions in Rotary Club Central. This allows us to measure and publicise Rotary's impact around the world.

Support and Strengthen Clubs

Having members with different perspectives and backgrounds fuels innovation and gives your club a broader understanding of your community's needs. To strengthen your club and its ability to make a positive difference, involve members, use their unique skills and interests, and give them a voice in the club's future.

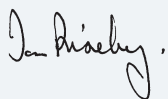
Increase club membership, diversity, and engagement.

Achieve at least 4 of the following goals:

- Set at least 10 goals in Rotary Club Central.
- Update or develop your club's strategic plan. Report your achievement in Rotary Club Central.
- Achieve a net gain in membership. Clubs with up to 50 members must have at least one more member listed in Rotary's records on July 1, 2018 than they did on July 1, 2017; clubs with 51 or more members must have at least two more members listed in Rotary's records.
- Achieve a net gain in female members. Clubs with up to 50 members must gain at least one female member; clubs with 51 or more members must gain at least two female members.
- Achieve a net gain in members under age 40. Members who were born after July 1, 1977 and join between July 1, 2017 and July 1, 2018 count. Clubs with up to 50 members must gain at least one member under age 40; clubs with 51 or more members must gain at least two members under age 40.
- Engage members in activities outside regular club meetings. In Rotary Club Central, either record at least one club social activity or indicate that more than 50 per cent of your club's members participated in club service activities.
- Sponsor or co-sponsor a new Rotary club or a Rotary Community Corps to expand Rotary's reach in your community. To sponsor an RCC, complete the Rotary Community Corps organisation form and submit it

As an organisation, we recognise how important it is that the world understand what Rotary is, and what we do. At the same time, we know that it is more important than ever to allow our clubs to define Rotary service for themselves. As Rotarians, we have more flexibility than ever to decide how we want our clubs to meet, work, and grow. We're focused more than ever on making sure that Rotary reflects the people it serves, with more women and a more diverse membership. And we're working hard to ensure that Rotary remains the world's pre-eminent volunteer service organisation, by emphasising long-term planning, sustainable service, and continuity in leadership on every level.

In 2017–18, we will answer the question “What is Rotary?” with the theme Rotary: Making a Difference. However each of us chooses to serve, we do it because we know our service makes a difference in the lives of others. Whether we are building a new playground or a new school, improving medical care or sanitation, training conflict mediators or midwives, we know that the work we do will change people's lives — in ways large and small — for the better. Whatever motivation each of us had for joining Rotary, it is the satisfaction we find in Rotary that causes us to remain, the satisfaction of knowing that week by week, year by year, we are part of *Rotary: Making a Difference*.



Ian HS Riseley
President, Rotary International, 2017–18

to RI. Clubs that sponsor new Rotary clubs will be reported when the new club submits the application.

- Sponsor or co-sponsor an Interact or Rotaract club to involve young people in Rotary. Report by submitting the Interact and Rotaract Sponsorship and Co-Sponsorship form to interact@rotary.org or rotaract@rotary.org.

Focus and Increase Humanitarian Service

Through local and international service projects, clubs address global humanitarian challenges by promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, protecting the environment and ending polio.

Make a difference in your community and across the globe by engaging Rotarians, young people, Rotary alumni, and the public in Rotary programmes, our six areas of focus, and Rotary Foundation giving opportunities.

Achieve at least 4 of the following goals:

- Sponsor, or have club members participate in a polio-related fundraising or awareness event. Find resources at

endpolio.org. Report your achievement by posting the event on Rotary Showcase, using the polio category.

- Partner with The Rotary Foundation by sponsoring at least one project funded by a global grant or a district grant. Find out how at www.rotary.org/grants.
- Carry out at least one project focused on the environment. Report in Rotary Showcase, using the environment category.
- Make a bigger difference by working together. Collaborate with other Rotary clubs in your region to increase a project's scope and visibility. Report in Rotary Club Central or Rotary Showcase.
- Include the family of Rotary in sustainable projects. Involve Rotaractors, Interactors, Rotary Community Corps members, or Rotary alumni in club projects and events. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Help Rotary do more by increasing your club's total giving to The Rotary Foundation by at least 10 per cent over 2016–17, as calculated in your local currency. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Increase the number of members who give \$25 or more to any Rotary Foundation fund.
- Attain a minimum Annual Fund contribution of \$100 per capita.
- Use Rotary's crowdsourcing platform, Rotary Ideas, to contribute to a project or seek resources for your club's local or international projects.

Enhance Rotary's Public Image and Awareness

A positive public image improves your club's relationship with your community and attracts prospective members.

Enhance your club's public image and build awareness of Rotary in your community by telling compelling stories about club activities that are making a positive difference.

Achieve at least 4 of the following goals:

- Use Rotary's brand guidelines, templates, and other resources in all your communications to strengthen Rotary's image. Find them at www.rotary.org/brandcenter. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Regularly update your club website and social media accounts to showcase club activities and illustrate Rotary's impact both locally and throughout the world. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Host and promote a community event to support World Polio Day, and register it on endpolio.org.
- Engage your community by hosting at least one networking event for local professionals, community organisations, or Rotary alumni. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Establish or continue a partnership with one or more corporate or government entities or non-governmental organisations and work on a project together. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Host a community forum or seminar about an issue that's important in your community; highlight your club's work to bring people together to find solutions. Report in Rotary Club Central.
- Have local media cover a club project, event, or fundraiser. Report in Rotary Showcase or Rotary Club Central.
- Promote peace and develop future leaders by sponsoring or hosting at least one Rotary Youth Exchange student or sponsoring at least one participant in a RYLA event. Report in Rotary Club Central.

Apply yourself

Would you like to contribute further to Rotary by serving on a committee? Each of Rotary's committees, comprising Rotarians and Rotaractors from around the world, works with the organisation's leadership to ensure efficiency and promote the goals and priorities of the strategic plan.

The following committees are searching for qualified candidates for openings in 2018–19. All committees correspond via email, teleconference and webinars as needed, and some involve at least one mandatory in-person meeting per year. Most committee business is conducted in English.

To be considered for committee membership or recommend someone for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/committeeapplication.

Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at www.rotary.org/myrotary and ensure that their My Rotary profile includes current contact details.

The application deadline is August 11.

Committee	Function	Prerequisites	Commitment
Audit	Advises the Board on financial reports, auditing, and the system of internal control	Independence, appropriate business experience, and demonstrated literacy in auditing, accounting, banking, risk management, or compliance.	One six-year term; multiple meetings in Evanston
Communications	Advises the Board on communication with key audiences	Professional background and experience in a communication-related field	One three-year term; annual meeting in Evanston
Constitution and Bylaws	Counsels the Board on constitutional documents and legislative procedures, including the Council on Legislation and the Council on Resolutions	Must be comfortable reviewing legal and governance documents; legal, legislative, or Council experience preferred	One three-year term; at least one meeting a year in Evanston; annual teleconference; and one Council on Legislation meeting in Chicago
Election Review	Reviews complaints and disputes related to RI officer elections	Must be a past district governor with strong knowledge of RI bylaws	One three-year term; meets via correspondence as needed
Finance	Advises the Board on Rotary's finances, including budgets, investment policy, and sustainability measures	Professional background in a finance-related field; nonprofit experience preferred	One three-year term; two meetings a year in Evanston
Global Networking Groups	Oversees action groups, fellowships and vocational service, including operations, programme enhancements, proposals	Strong candidates who have led action groups, fellowships, or club- or district-level vocational service initiatives, and are familiar with their policies.	One three-year term
Joint Committee on Partnerships	Advises the Board and Trustees on partnership and sponsorship matters	Extensive knowledge of international development issues; experience in developing and working with partner organisations; ability to network and to identify and cultivate significant partners for Rotary; and willingness to commit time and effort to Rotary, including participation in committee meetings	One three-year term; two meetings a year in Evanston



Committee	Function	Prerequisites	Commitment
Joint Young Leaders and Alumni Engagement	Advises the Board and Trustees on engaging programme participants, alumni and other youth and young professionals	Rotarians: Experience working with youth and alumni; district committee leadership; prior Rotary programme participation Rotaractors/alumni: Leadership at the club, district and international levels	Rotarians: One three-year term; annual meeting in Evanston Rotaractors/alumni: One one-year term; one meeting in Evanston
Leadership Development and Training	Advises the Board on Rotary's leadership training programme for Rotarians, clubs and districts, with a special emphasis on training for district governors	Must have significant training or education experience with a preference for leadership development	One three-year term; annual meeting in Evanston
Membership	Advises the Board on matters related to membership development, retention and engagement	Must have significant knowledge of and commitment to membership attraction and engagement activities; members of clubs that have diversified preferred	One three-year term; two meetings a year in Evanston
Operations Review Committee	Monitors the effectiveness, efficiency and implementation of all internal systems; serves as an advisory group to the Executive Committee on compensation matters; and performs other oversight functions as requested by the Board	Experience in management, leadership development, or financial management, with a thorough knowledge of Rotary's operations	One six-year term; typically meets in Evanston twice a year
Rotaract and Interact	Advises the Board on Interact and Rotaract; develops the Rotaract Preconvention Meeting programme	Rotarians: Experience working with youth; direct experience as a mentor or Rotaract/Interact adviser or district chair. Youth programme alumni are strong candidates. Rotaractors: Leadership at the club, district and international levels. Strong candidates who have served as a district Rotaract representative, organised projects, or attended a Rotaract Pre-convention. Age restrictions may apply.	Rotarians: One three-year term; annual meeting in Evanston Rotaractors: One one-year term; one meeting in Evanston
Strategic Planning	Reviews Rotary's strategic plan and associated measures; advises leadership on other matters of long-term significance	10+ years of experience in strategy development, monitoring and implementation, and strong understanding of RI and Foundation programmes and services	One four-year term; up to four meetings in Evanston

Reproduced from *The Rotarian*

Rotary's healing touch

V Muthukumaran



Rotarians distributing food packets for the patients at one of the RAHAT venues.

For three days — March 31 to April 2 — 19 villages in Madhya Pradesh were transformed into hubs of medical activity, thanks to the RAHAT camps organised by District 3040 under a global grant, in partnership with District 6900, US. Rotarians for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA) led by PDG Alicia Michael and RC Burhanpur, D 3040, the lead club, executed the project.

“RAHAT is the acronym for Rotary's Active Hands Are Touching and we have ‘touched’ over 60,000 patients across the State; 5,000 people were referred for further treatment to government hospitals,” said PDG Ravi Prakash Langer,

Chairman, RAHAT camp. About 1,000 Rotarians and 350 Rotaractors worked for the success of the camp, put up at a cost of nearly \$100,000.

The villages were chosen keeping in mind their accessibility to medical services and the needs of their population, said DG Darshan Singh Gandhi. An exclusive booth at each centre was given to government officials to popularise the State's health schemes. “Most villagers are not aware of these welfare schemes, so along with the PHC staff, these officials explained to people how to avail these free medical services,” said Langer.

This mega health project involved months of preparations ranging from

“budget planning, coordinating with the doctors, distributing pamphlets and advertisements in the local dailies and social media to create awareness in the villages. We also involved the panchayat officials and village headmen,” said Gandhi.

PRID Shekhar Mehta and Alicia from RFHA inaugurated the camp. The clubs tied up with other non-profit organisations, private hospitals and the State unit of the National Health Mission (NHM). Each camp had over 100 doctors, besides para-medical staff from private and government hospitals, to take care of patients.

This is the sixth year the district is organising a RAHAT camp.

From L: PDG Alicia Michael, DG Darshan Gandhi and PRID Shekhar Mehta interacting with Rotaractors at the camp.



It all began in February 2011, when PRIP Rajendra Saboo and a team of 17 doctors conducted a mega health camp in Chindwara, in which nearly 74,000 people were screened. It turned out to be a landmark project for the district. In the following years, RAHAT camps were held in Jhabua, Vidisha and Neemuch as standalone

projects. In 2016, the health project was executed at 25 places for the first time, benefitting 80,000 patients.

Rotary's push to healthcare

There are 21 diseases for which free surgery is being done at government hospitals and 300 types of medicines are given free at dispensaries under

the NHM umbrella, said Langer. "Our aim is to make both the urban and rural poor aware of the social and medical benefits available in the State. The doctors at the RAHAT camps screened patients for nearly 26 diseases from general health to specialties like ENT, orthopaedics, cardiac and nephrology," he added. ■

Convention

See you next year

You've barely unpacked from Atlanta, but it's not too soon to start thinking about next June, when the Rotary International Convention will be held in Toronto.

Toronto is a cosmopolitan city. Over 140 languages and dialects are spoken there. Half of Toronto residents were born outside Canada, and immigrant communities shape the city's personality.

Forget your assumptions about Canadian food; it's more than poutine and maple syrup. Toronto has become a culinary destination city, with the cultural melting pot reflected in the fusion cuisine at many restaurants as well as authentic



regional cuisine from around the world.

As you are strolling through the streets of Toronto, you might get the feeling that you've seen them before, and you probably have. The city is a centre of film and television production, and

streetscapes have been used to stand in for New York (*Moonstruck*), Chicago (*Chicago*), Boston (*Good Will Hunting*), and even Tokyo (*Pacific Rim*).

Toronto is a centre of the performing arts. The National Ballet of Canada, Canadian Opera Company, Toronto Symphony Orchestra and dozens of theatre companies call the city home.

In Toronto, you really can find inspiration around every corner.

— *Hank Sartin*

**Register for the 2018
Rotary Convention in Toronto
at riconvention.org.**

The marriage that shook India

Robin Gupta

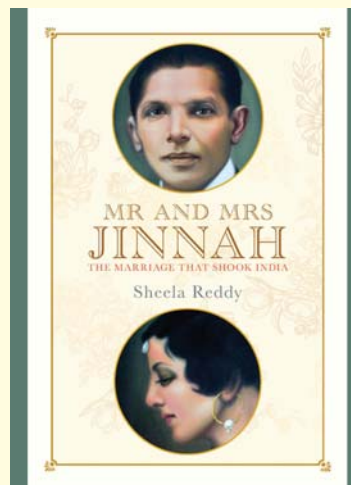
The principal merit of Sheela Reddy's beautifully written and highly acclaimed book *Mr and Mrs Jinnah*, which is about their unlikely love affair and tragic marriage, resulting in Ruttie Jinnah's suicide on her 29th birthday through an overdose of sleeping pills, is that she corrects the stereotype picture of Jinnah as a vicious, malevolent, bloodthirsty Islamic fundamentalist whose sole aim was to grab power in the newly created State of Pakistan, after contouring the tragic Partition of composite India.

Entering Jinnah's mind and persona through his love marriage to Ruttie Petit, Bombay's fabulously rich baronet's only daughter and heiress to limitless fortune, Sheela seeks to correct the portrayal of Jinnah as a dull, unemotional, vengeful, unprincipled old man, mean of purse and spirit, that we have grown up to believe. It is also Sheela's argument that Jinnah was not rabidly communal; rather he was an ethical, secular, constitutionalist who tried to reason with the British about the injustice of colonial rule in India.

It is revealed in this painstakingly researched book in which excerpts and extracts from original documents and letters have been seamlessly woven into elegant prose in the manner of pearls strung together into an exquisite necklace that Jinnah was a man of great integrity and led a restrained, celibate life, never stooping to trickery or lowly gimmicks to put down his political rivals. In fact, Jinnah comes through as a brilliant barrister who, single-handedly, armed with incontrovertible icy cold logic, advanced the cause of India's freedom.

And, through his remarkable persuasion, could make the Viceroy and the Secretaries of State quake and squirm when he spoke on points of

Constitutional justice for India's Independence. Being an undemonstrative, self-styled English gentleman, he had no time to waste on Muslim clerics and rabble rousers with spade beards. And, it was only after Gandhi and Nehru squeezed Jinnah out of the top rungs of the Congress party, did he turn to the two-nation theory and an independent nation for Muslims, carved out of the Indian sub-continent.



Title: *Mr and Mrs Jinnah*
The marriage that shook India
Genre: Non-fiction
Author: Sheela Reddy
Publisher: Penguin Random House
Pages: 440 - Hardcover
Price: Rs 699

It was after Ruttie's death in 1929, that Jinnah built up the Muslim League from scratch and led the Muslim fundamentalists into baying for an independent Islamic state of Pakistan. Sheela Reddy has corrected a grave historical wrong done to Jinnah and has resurrected him as a great leader who could stand head and shoulders over most of his political contemporaries. By comparison, in her book, Mahatma Gandhi comes through as a somewhat wily leader and a man who, openly advocated that Hindus should not marry

Muslims. This is revealed, she says, in his advice to Motilal Nehru at the time when Vijayalakshmi Pandit was in love with a Muslim man. The author says that as a result of the Mahatma's rigid stand, that marriage had to be called off. Jinnah, on the other hand, strongly believed in Hindu-Muslim marriages.

But on this matter, Sheela is on slippery ground for Gandhiji is widely hailed as a man of deep spirituality and unflinching integrity, and completely secular.

It is impossible not to admire the spunky Ruttie, who refused to bow down to the top British officers; not standing up to greet one Viceroy and refusing to curtsy another one, instead greeting him with a defiant *namaste*!

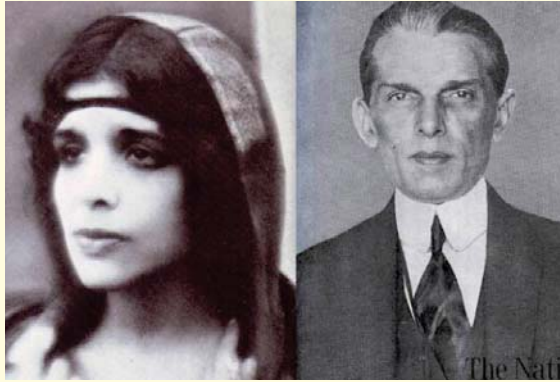
At another level, the book opens a window to the fabulous world of wealthy Parsi aristocrats who lived in fairy tale castles in palatial homes, resplendent with Belgian chandeliers and gilded ceilings in Bombay's Malabar Hills, with their terraced gardens looking out to the Arabian sea. They also owned sprawling scenic estates on the French Riviera, quite often larger than the estates owned by European kings and princes.

In fact, Parsi families like the Petits, Ruttie Jinnah's parents, lived in greater style and were far more elegant in their lifestyle, than many Indian princes.

The book, while talking about Jinnah's career, gives readers a revealing insight into Jinnah's relations with Gandhiji, Nehru, Sarojini and Padmaja Naidu, as well as leading political leaders during a turbulent stage in India's history. *Mr and Mrs Jinnah* is an important work of history and useful for future researchers. Also, the tragic love story of Jinnah's marriage to the exquisitely beautiful Ruttie Petit against the last sunset of British India is a work of

great literary merit. The author tells us in poignant metaphors how the couple, obsessively in love with each other through the difficult and awkward circumstances they faced together, including being isolated from the world, ostracised by society on both sides of the marriage, and sneered at by their peers and would-be rivals, stood together, before falling apart. At another level, her book is a tragic love story that makes one sit up and grieve at the absolute nature of finality.

“On their honeymoon,” writes Sheela, “they seemed a perfect match: a dazzling handsome couple despite the 24-year age difference; witty, intelligent and fashionable. Jinnah was tall and thin with sharply chiselled features. Ruttie was dainty, warm, spontaneous, with a look of sparkling mischief that made her irresistible.”



But the marriage disintegrated rapidly as time passed, owing to the inherent mismatch as well as Jinnah’s total and consuming preoccupation with politics in which he disallowed Ruttie any role.

In her final letter to Jinnah after she separated from him, Ruttie writes, “Try and remember me beloved as the flower you plucked, not the flower you tread upon. I have suffered much sweetheart, because I loved much.

The measure of my agony has been in accord to the measure of my love. Darling, I love you. I love you — and had I loved you just a little less, I might have remained with you. The higher you set your ideal, the lower it falls. I have loved you my darling as it is given to a few men to be loved. I only beseech you that our tragedy which commenced with love, should end with it. Darling, goodnight and goodbye.”

The book, despite its average editing, is both a historical, as well as a literary masterpiece. It has not only furthered knowledge and set right the great historical wrong to Jinnah, it is a powerful commentary on modern India written by one who wields a powerful pen. *Mr and Mrs Jinnah’s* story, is a collector’s item that awaits its sequel to the final Partition of India. ■

Desi cooking in German kitchen

Team Rotary News

When you blend Indian cooking and German technology, the result will be some amazing mouth-watering dishes. In a live cooking demo organised by Häcker Kitchens, in association with Siemens, celebrity chef Debabrata Mukherjee from Mumbai demonstrated how even the most indigenous recipes can be cooked with ease using German kitchen technologies. And in a few hours, Mukherjee’s fine culinary skills brought out a sumptuous display of Indian food ranging from paneer barbeque, masala fish to stir-fried vegetables, chicken dim sum and cookies.

According to Mukesh Kumar, CMD, Kanu Kitchen Culture, the retailer of Häcker in India, many Indian customers have apprehensions about *desi* cooking in German kitchens. “So, we organised



Chef Debabrata Mukherjee providing a demo.

this demo in our showroom to prove and clarify such doubts, over a casual interaction with our patrons.”

“It was quite an experience for me, learning to cook scrumptious recipes in a state-of-the-art designer kitchen with the

best appliances to support,” said Arun Kumar Jain who attended the event. “The kitchen is the most important area in my house and Häcker just makes the experience magical — clean designs and modern aesthetics with great storage.” ■

Incredible India for RYE campers

V Muthukumaran

Discover India in just 17 days. For the 19 youngsters from 11 countries — Brazil, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, Taiwan, USA — nothing could have made them understand India better than the Youth Exchange Camp organised by RC Ahmedabad West, D 3051, in partnership with the neighbouring District 3052. The youth camp, which is part of Rotary's short-term

Youth Exchange Programme, gave them a peek into the cultural values, heritage and family system in the country, besides exotic tourist spots in Ahmedabad, Bhuj, Jaipur, Udaipur and Agra.

Forty-eight Rotarian families in Ahmedabad, Jaipur and Udaipur hosted the foreign students, offering them all basic necessities for a comfortable stay, said Bhanu Gupta, Youth Exchange Chair, D 3051.

Basking in the kinship with the host families,

the visitors went around the campus of IIM for a top class academic exposure. "The old city of Ahmedabad, Sabarmati Ashram and Akshardham temple in Gandhinagar gave them a proud feeling of spirituality and Ahimsa that India is known for," said Gupta. A visit to Arvind Mills and the exciting experience of the kite festival *Utrayaan* were other highlights of their stay at Ahmedabad. DG Dinesh Thacker and the Club President Rakesh

Bhargava made arrangements for the team.

Unique sights, sounds

The youngsters were enchanted by the quaint charm of Indian royalty and colourful sights of Rajasthan after a meeting with the Prince of Udaipur Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar and witnessing a folk performance, *Bagor ki Haveli*.

"Discover India was just amazing. The host families accepted us into their lives from day one, like a family. I felt



The Youth Exchange guests enjoy a joy ride on a camel.



At the Sabarmati Ashram with RC Ahmedabad West President Rakesh Bhargava (sitting second left) and District Youth Exchange Chair Bhanu Gupta (extreme right).

safe and welcome and that means a lot when you are so far away from home and experiencing a completely different culture,” said Trine Trustrup, a participant from Denmark.

The campers enjoyed the train journey from

Udaipur to Jaipur, where they were accorded a warm reception by DGN Neeraj Sogani (D 3052) and Camp Coordinator in Rajasthan Neeraj Agarwal. A pit-stop tour comprising places such as the City Palace, Amber Fort, Hawa

Mahal, Jantar Mantar, Gem and Jewellery Institute, and a hands-on experience in tie-and-dye printing at the IIS University expanded their vision of India’s heritage.

The much-awaited trip to Agra for Taj Mahal

and the Red Fort offered them a glimpse of the Mughal splendour. The final ‘wow’ moment was the adventure sports like parasailing they had at the Rann of Kutch which was organised by RC Bhuj Wall City, D 3051.

“Indian culture is so vast and filled with tradition. The youth camp was a stepping stone, both to discovering the unique culture and making life-long contacts that will aid in my learning to see the world in an open-minded way,” said Rebecca Singer from the US. Expressing her gratitude to Rotary, Margot Stormmesand (18) from The Netherlands, said, “we were such a fun group and we accepted each other the way we are. We were like a huge family. Together we experienced an ‘Incredible India’.” ■



Learning the tie-and-dye art at the IIS University.

The Incan citadel of
Machu Picchu

Preeti Verma Lal





Not often do I dress up for history. Prep myself like a pro. A bucket of sunscreen. A broad rimmed hat. Tonnes of air in my duff pair of lungs. A pair of rugged shoes. Hair tied in a tight bun. Sunglasses, umbrella, water in the pack. And a recap of all the Peruvian history learnt in school. If I had a doughty mule in tow, I would have beaten Hiram Bingham in his game. Bingham, the man who discovered Machu Picchu on July 24, 1911. Taking cue from a local muleteer, the intrepid American explorer discovered the Incan capital hidden under vines.

I am no Bingham. I had no pack of mules. No old maps. No tenacity, either. Instead, I rode Hiram Bingham. The swank Belmond train that runs from Cusco to the base of Machu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. This is not a rickety train, it is snazzy — white-gloved servers pour merlots in long-stemmed wine glasses, the dishes are

scrumptious, and the dessert dainty. Beyond the large windows lie endless tracts of cornfields and the Urubamba river meandering through the ancient terrain. While others were glugging merlot, I pulled out a few cocoa leaves. No, I had not turned a sheep yet. I was merely following the instructions of the wise — to beat high-altitude sickness, chew cocoa leaves. High? Machu Picchu is sky high. It is perched 7,970 ft above sea level. I also needed an extra slice of stamina to walk those 3,000 steps, not wanting to tumble down the mountain.

The crowd was milling at the base station of Machu Picchu. I edged, jostled, gingerly walked up the stone steps for that view. That view which has been on a billion postcards. The ruins of the citadel still sitting proud under the shadow of the mountains. An impressive five miles, with over 3,000 stone steps linking its many different levels. Nearly 200 buildings arranged on wide parallel terraces around a central square. Polished dry-stone walls of

Did you know?

- In Peru, it is tradition to give friends and family yellow underpants on New Year's eve.
- Measuring 3,860 ft from base to summit, Cerro Blanco located in the Sechura Desert (near the Nazca Lines) is the world's highest sand dune.
- The only Quechua word to make it into the English dictionary is *charqui* (dried llama meat), which became 'jerky'.

regular shape held together without an ounce of mortar. The nobles lived in a row of houses over the slope; the wise men in homes with reddish walls; the princesses' quarters had trapezoid-shaped rooms. Standing precariously on a step, I gaped at spectacular masonry of the Incans. Machu Picchu takes one's breath

away. The cocoa leaves did not help. Not in the metaphorical loss of my breath.

In Peru, my clock was backtracking. Going as further back in time as it could. When it travelled back 4,000 years, I found myself in Lima's Ralph Larco Herrera Museum where the prude will cover

During Incan times, women with their mouth packed with saliva chewed corn kernels and spat them into a bowl, to create the yeast effect.

his eyes and morality-clingers will run to the exit. A private museum housed in an 18th century vice-royal building built over a 7th century pyramid, the museum has several galleries but its collection of erotic pottery is what brings the curious to its bougainvillea-laden yard. The Gallery of Erotic Pottery displays sex-themed pottery dating to pre-Columbian times. Anal sex. Female to male fellatio. Kissing and fondling. Male masturbation. Copulating frogs, mice, llamas. Sexual intercourse between females and mythical animals. All this moulded exquisitely in clay thousands of years ago and later dug out of the earth's womb. Erotic vessels not as decorative pieces. Instead, functional hollow



Statue of Inca
in Cusco's
Main Square.





A local selling cocoa leaves in Lima.

Getting Corn-y

In Peru, getting corn-y is as easy as counting up to 60. In this South American country, corn-y is not being trite or mawkishly sentimental as the dictionary defines it. Here, corn-y is about nearly 60 varieties of Peruvian corn. Not the ordinary, everywhere yellow corn. Corn in a riot of colours — purple, black, orange, white, red, mixed. Corn used to dye wool. Corn boiled, steamed, toasted. Corn cooked as a snack, a drink, a meal. Kernels milled to bake cake and bread. Peruvians have been growing corn since 1,200 BC. At the heart of Peru's corn call is *choclo*, an Andean corn with extra-large, bulbous kernels almost five times bigger than North American corn. The Incans (mid-15th to mid-16th centuries) widely toasted this corn. Called *Cancha*, it is the ancestor of the modern popcorn.

clay pots for holding liquid and a spout, typically in the form of a phallus, for pouring liquid. Such explicit sexual imagery in the world's largest collection of erotic pottery.

Leaving behind libidinous skeletons, I hopped into a chopper for a spin over the Nazca Lines,

a UNESCO World Heritage Site, housed between the towns of Nazca and Palpa on the Papas de Jumana (400 km south of Lima). After a long ride over the desert, the magic started unfolding. A large painted canvas appeared on the brown landscape. Colossal geometric lines.

A gigantic pelican. A humming bird. A tree. Llamas. Jaguars. Monkeys. Humans. Large motifs that seem scratched on earth with a deft artist. Believed to have been created between 500 BC and 500 AD, the Nazca Lines are composed of more than 10,000 lines, some as wide as



Ancient Maras salt pans.

30 metres and 9-km long, comprising nearly 300 different figures including hundreds of geoglyphs (geometric lines), zoomorphic designs of animals and birds, and a few phytomorphic motifs such as trees and flowers. These are not tiny lines scratched hurriedly. Here, a condor is 440 ft, a spider 150 ft, a hummingbird 310 ft. I stuck my nose to the chopper window, gaping at a canvas so colossal and an ancient art so riveting.

I drove though the ancient salt ponds of Maras and heard tales of how during Incan times, women with their mouth packed with saliva chewed corn kernels and spat them into a bowl. Who needed yeast if there was

A Quechua girl at the Chinchero Weaving Centre.



Twenty-four different shades of red can be derived from a squished cochineal. A drop of lemon juice makes the red lighter.

a mouthful of saliva? The saliva fermented chicha, a corn drink, the ancestor of yeast-fermented alcohol. I did not want to leave Peru without trying to be an Incan. At least a little Incan. At Chinchero Weaving Centre, I picked the Incan tricks from a young Quechua girl. Wash the hair with yucca roots. Freeze dry potatoes that could stay fresh for two decades. Rear alpacas for their meat and wool. Eat toasted white corn as snack. Crush the cochineal for the perfect red dye. Twenty-four different shades of red can be derived from a squished cochineal.

A drop of lemon juice makes the red lighter. A dash of alum lends a hint of pink. Boil purple corn to dye yarn into purple. Yellow flowers for yellow. Powdered earth for orange.

A Quechua man dressed as a tribal chief.



Pictures by Preeti Verma Lal
Designed by Krishnapratheesh S

When Rotary solemnised a marriage

K T P Radhika



Arun Palawat and his spouse Shashi Palawat with the brides, Ritukumari and Sonia.

Hardly a week left for her marriage, Ritukumari's dreams were shattered when a fire accident caused by the bursting of a gas cylinder brought down her modest little home at Pavanputra colony in Vaishali Nagar, a suburb of Jaipur. Everything in her house, including the wedding finery and the money saved for the wedding, was reduced to a handful of ashes in minutes.

However, thanks to the efforts of the Rotarians of RC Jaipur Midtown, D 3052, solace came for Ritu and her sister Sonia. Both of them got married

at the same *mandap*, in the presence of 1,200 guests, including the who's who of the city such as Rajasthan Social Justice Minister Arun Chaturvedi, Jaipur City Mayor Ashok Lahoty and Rajasthan Lokayukta S S Kothari.

Sitting beside her husband, Ritu recalls, "My marriage was fixed for April 6, but we lost everything in the fire. My father had died few years ago and my mother is a daily wage worker. Our lives came to a full stop. But Rotary helped us start it all over again. We had a grand wedding and also got lots of gifts."

Incoming President Arun Palawat elaborates, "As soon as the news appeared in the local newspapers, few of our club members visited the family and assured all our help to conduct the marriage without any delay." The Rotarians also helped find a suitable groom for Ritu's sister Sonia when the family said they'd like to conduct their wedding together. The Rotarians formed a *WhatsApp* group which helped to collect sarees, gold and silver jewellery, utensils, groceries and other assorted things for the wedding.

For the next six days, "we all stayed in the colony like a family and ensured everything was in place," says Palawat, who also performed the *kanyadan* for Ritu, "like a proud father". The Rotarians also gifted household essentials such as gas stove, bed, almirah, LED TV, refrigerator, air cooler and washing machine to both the brides.

D 3052 PDG Anil Agarwal says, "This was a perfect example of Rotary in service. Those six days were the golden days of my life. None of us felt tired, thirsty or hungry. We were all focused to make their wedding day a memorable one. And the brightness on their faces paid us back." ■



The newly-weds.

Choose the right gym, trainer, exercise

Sheela Nambiar

There have been revolutionary changes in the fitness industry over the last two to three decades. Gyms have appeared at every street corner, there is a new group workout going on in every locality, parks have become hubs for locals getting together to exercise. There are more jobs for trainers, fitness managers, physiotherapists and an increasing awareness of the need of the hour.

The easy accessibility of a fitness facility for most people, particularly in the cities, has encouraged them to start exercising, or so I would like to believe!

Are the gyms keeping pace with advancement in science and training techniques? Are trainers qualified to make informed choices about the exercises they recommend for you? Are gyms offering the right kind of training or could these exercises end up harming you?

A cookie-cutter approach cannot be used while dispensing exercise or dietary advice. Each individual needs specific goals in mind and should

train to that end, taking into consideration age, gender, lifestyle, fitness level and availability of time for fitness, medical history and a host of other variables. Even the goal setting has to be personalised.

Most people are not sure what their goals should be, leave alone how to get there. Sometimes “I want to run a marathon” may be a lofty goal. However, it has been established that if the person has very poor core and/or leg strength, to reach that goal she should first strengthen those parts of the body before starting to train to run.

Training: There are hundreds of exercises that are demonstrable, which can achieve the same result. Some are better than the others. Some are safer than the others. Do you need to execute all of them? Which ones are safe? Which ones are required? Which ones are relevant? How does one make that choice? Ideally, a trainer should be able to do that. Not all of them can however. Sometimes I find clients are given unnecessary,

even damaging, exercises in the hope of producing quicker results.

The repercussions of an incorrect and inappropriate exercise do not become evident immediately. It may be years before your knees show wear and tear after an incorrect squatting or running technique. This is not to say one has to avoid performing these exercises altogether. What it means is that before and while executing these potentially injury-causing moves, watchful training and correction are required from your trainer.

Running, for instance, is known to cause injury to



the knees in the long term. It is essential for a runner therefore to participate regularly in a strength training routine to specifically strengthen the muscles of the thighs and the glutes (the buttock muscles) in order to protect the knees and withstand the burden of the impact while running.

The deadlift, for instance, is a wonderful exercise that is done to increase the strength of the hamstrings (muscles at the back of the thighs) and glutes. While performing the deadlift, it's important to note several small

guideline principles like keeping the back flat, spine aligned, head lifted, weight of the body on the heel, dumbbell or barbell to be held as close to the body as possible, and so on. When done incorrectly, the exercise has a potential to cause injury to the back, the very muscles you are trying to protect and build. You may then ask, why perform such an exercise at all? The benefits far outweigh the possibility of injury when done correctly. The deadlift addresses the part of the body that is least addressed, especially as we grow older... that is the posterior chain or the back of the body.

Many of the new modes of exercise like crossfit, boot camp and so on, can lead to injury due to the very nature in which they are performed, unless monitored and taught carefully. I would still advise that before participating in any such exercise, build a strong foundation with a simple, basic exercise first. Your body then becomes capable of performing complicated moves that involve several muscles (called compound exercises) without injury.

Running can cause injury to the knees in the long term. So a runner should participate regularly in strength training to strengthen the thigh muscles and protect the knees.

If you are **new to weight training**, ensure you are taught all the basic exercises properly to build a strong foundation before moving on to the more advanced ones. **Request assistance** whenever required. If something does not feel right, stop. In your anxiety to see quick results, don't be lured into gimmicks and unhealthy strategies.

Ask questions: It's your body; you need to understand exactly which muscle you are working. Understand how to execute the exercise perfectly, and more importantly, how you could possibly do it wrong.

Choose the right trainer and gym: There are several to choose from and most likely you will choose one that is close to your home or workplace for logistical convenience. A gym is really just a combination of machines and

iron bars. If you are already familiar with exercises and methods of training, a clean space with the right ambience is all you need. If you are a beginner, or are not familiar with some exercises, or need the motivation to keep progressing, then the trainer becomes integral. The attitude of the trainer is as important as his knowledge of exercise techniques. Does she/he push too hard, does she know how to correct and modify the exercise to suit your body, is she patient while being motivational?

Exercise is supposed to make you healthier not injury-prone. Keeping that in mind it's never a good idea to try to get the quickest results at the shortest time, as that itself can lead to injury. A careful, slow and steady approach, that requires a great deal of mindfulness and attention to form, will ensure that while you are building a better body, you remain injury free.

It's your body; understand exactly which muscle you are working, how to execute the exercise perfectly, and how you could possibly do it wrong.

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

Meet your Governors

Rasheeda Bhagat and Jaishree

Education, his priority

Maullin Patel

Equity Investment

RC Mehsana, D 3054

While focusing on multiple areas during his year, DG Maullin Patel will mainly focus on WinS for D 3054 (newly formed from the merger of Districts 3051 and 3052, with parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan). “We’ve done an MoU with the Rajasthan government under which we are adopting 500 schools for Star-one category. And we will certainly try also for Star-two.” He will also take up an additional 500 schools in Gujarat. “One big thing we are doing in literacy is giving schools e-learning software. By the time my year ends, we’ll be completing 25,000 schools, equipping them with e-learning,” he says.

Membership growth is another area of focus; “we already have 6,000 members; an eight per cent growth is my target because the bigger the district the chances of splitting are very high — I feel 8–10 per cent growth is a realistic target.”

Patel admits that his district is “very weak in TRF contributions because generally all the projects are supported by the clubs and individual members, and we rarely go for global grants from TRF. But we do have huge projects worth crores of rupees which are supported by our members, some of which *Rotary News* has already reported.” But he hopes to create a record by collecting \$500,000 for TRF, because till now “we have never ever collected more than \$200,000 or 250,000. So will try to double that number.”

As for public image, that has not been a problem; “probably our district has the best public image thanks to the large size of the projects we do. But we’ll try to improve it further,” he adds. He is happy that his dream to build a Rs 5 crore hospital for BPL families in Mehsana to do pathological and bio-chemical tests at heavily subsidised rates — Rs 1,800–2,000 test fees reduced to Rs 300–400 — is now closer to reality.

He wants to create records

Ruchir Jani

Civil Engineer

RC Vapi Riverside, D 3060

His Rotary journey began in 2004, and well before he joined Rotary; this DG was first an Interact President and then a very active and passionate Rotaractor. “And I come from a Rotary family; my father is a past president from two Rotary clubs,” he says.

DGs Maullin Patel (left) and Ruchir Jani



Rasheeda Bhagat

Looking at some “strategic priorities”, Ruchir Jani’s first aim is to raise \$1 million as TRF contribution from his district. “Till date our district has not achieved that feat and I am positive I will be able to do that,” he smiles confidently. His other ambitious goal is to start 25 new clubs and take up the membership in his district from 4,000 to 5,000. “I know this is a very big goal, but we are working on it.”

But the one project he has put his heart into is to enhance Rotary’s public image in which all the clubs will participate and for this he is planning a huge quiz competition for students from Class 9–12. “We are planning a quiz every quarter, along with one exclusive project, and our aim is to get an entry into the Guinness Book of World Records.”

Among the several projects planned for his district, one will be for the treatment of kidney patients. “Through global grants we are planning to buy dialysis machines, handwash stations for schools and we are also looking at youth and friendship exchange programmes with large numbers of participants. The incoming RI President Ian Riseley has announced this at the District Assembly in January. I would like to involve Rotaractors also in this cultural group exchange programmes,” he says.

Jani adds, “Probably for the first time in our district, we will be having a joint conference with Inner Wheel, Rotaractors and Interactors.”

Will give clubs a free hand, raise \$1 million for TRF

Sivashankaran P M

Hotel Management, RC Erode, D 3202

I don’t plan to have my own projects; instead I will ask the clubs in my district to focus on the six core areas of Rotary when they select their own projects. I propose to give the clubs a free hand to select their own projects,” says DG Sivashankaran.

To help them decide, he will suggest to their office-bearers some 10–15 projects of different sizes in each core area of Rotary and then ask them to choose.

A hotel management professional who runs a restaurant and hotel management institute in Erode, he joined Rotary in 1998 after returning from the US. “I had started my own business and joined Rotary because I wanted to network with people. And also wanted to give back to the community. When I was in the US, I used to do some community service, so that had become a habit,” he says.

About his priorities as DG, he says that many clubs in his district, which has 131 clubs, are weak, with less than 30 members. “My main focus this year will be to strengthen the weaker clubs and ensure that each club has at least 30 members. So that will automatically increase the membership.”

Another major priority of his is to increase the contribution to TRF to \$1 million, “so that we can do more global grants projects to benefit the community.” He says the highest his district has raised so far is \$600,000; that was a couple of years ago and after that it has been a downhill with “less than \$150,000, so I will concentrate on that too.”

Returning to membership, Sivashankaran will also direct his energy in increasing women members in the district by 20 per cent. “Right now it is barely five per cent. And when we get women members, I’d like to ensure that they come from the larger community and are not only spouses inducted into Rotary. Usually, women’s membership is increased by bringing in the spouses.”

So how does he hope to attract more women to Rotary?

“By publicising our projects and the good work we do and by going to women’s organisations and looking out for suitable and service-minded women.” He adds that as a DG, when he is invited to participate in meetings, he will try to spot women who might be interested in joining Rotary and then invite them. “I am suggesting to my presidents to do the same.”



Rasheeda Bhagat

Treating cancer is his priority

Concerned about the lack of awareness among people on the importance of regular screening for early detection of cancer, “I have planned a series of cancer detection camps, particularly in the rural areas where medical accessibility is almost nil,” says Chinnadurai Abdullah. He is in the process of signing an MoU with the Corporation hospitals to provide free treatment for the poor, and also set up permanent clinics in the six districts in the State.

His other priority is to plant 8,000–10,000 saplings across his district. “We have 4,000 members and I’ve requested each one of them to plant at least two saplings.” He also plans to collect 7,000 units of blood — 3,500 on Day 1 when he takes charge and the rest in January. “We will be doing it in parts because we cannot store more than 3,500 units at a time,” he says.

Abdullah is keen on increasing women’s membership in his District to 12 per cent from the present 5.4 per cent and introduce 10 per cent more of under-40 Rotarians. He aims to raise \$300,000 for TRF and try to bring in a couple of AKS donors too.

He is a Rotarian since 1998 and proudly states that his is a “true Rotary family; my wife, daughter, two sons and daughter-in-law, and nephews are all Rotarians.” He recalls a moment when his club had sponsored a cardiac surgery that saved the life of a 10-day-old infant. “She is two years old now and her parents bring her to see me quite often. Every time I see her it gives me goosebumps and I thank Rotary for giving me an opportunity to save a child’s life,” adds Abdullah.

Dr Chinnadurai Abdullah

Radiologist, RC Ramnad, D 3212



Vivek Kumar

Realtor

RC Chanakya, D 3250

Enhancing Rotary’s public image, his focus

Rotary runs in his blood, having been an Interactor, Rotaractor and a Rotarian since 1994, when he was just 28. Vivek Kumar is all set to graduate from a Major Donor to an Endowment donor on his installation day in the presence of TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta.

Two occasions are close to his heart, he says. One, when as a Rotaract President in 1986, he was instrumental in raising a decent amount through a musical event and the money was used to provide relief for earthquake victims in Darbhanga in Bihar. And second, “whenever we construct toilets in schools for girl children I feel a sense of satisfaction that besides hygiene, I am able to provide privacy and safety for them.”

Kumar has impressed upon his team of presidents “to do meaningful projects which will speak of Rotary’s glory for years to come. Promoting girls’ education and adult literacy are my thrust areas.” He plans to hold bi-annual press conferences, four in each of his district’s 19 zones, to highlight Rotary’s work in the community.

He is also concentrating on increasing the number of younger Rotarians and retaining the present 3,800 members. He has set a target of raising \$500,000 for TRF. Establishing a neonatal care centre at Patna, a cancer detection centre at Jamshedpur and Rotary Blood Bank at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences in Patna, are his focus projects for his year. “Such projects will enhance Rotary’s public image while serving large number of needy people,” says Kumar. ■

The economics of Faith



**TCA Srinivasa
Raghavan**

The late Prof K N Raj, one of India's most influential economists in the 1950s and 1960s, once said that the cow was the only multipurpose animal in the world, beating even the horse.

This was because a cow could produce milk, which is a consumer good; dung, which is an intermediate good; and be a capital good, ie, a natural tractor for the farms. Not just that, he added, it was also what in those days was called a 'machine to produce machines', that is, more cows.

Clearly, this multipurpose aspect of the cow was recognised by the ancient Hindus who bestowed on it a holy status. It was to be venerated as a mother.

But time and tide stand still for none, and over the latter half of the 20th century, the cow was replaced by mechanised traction and more than half of India's population stopped drinking cow's milk because it

costs more. Most Indians now prefer buffalo milk, or, thanks to modern technology, reconstituted powdered milk. At the same time, the increased availability of kerosene and cooking gas has also reduced the cow's economic importance.

But its religious and faith-related importance has proved harder to displace. And this is what is driving the BJP government's efforts to 'save' the cow.

But save it from what? And for what? What happens when faith collides with economics? We will soon find out.

The basic issue is this: even if it manages to save the cow from slaughter, how will the government ensure that it doesn't become a huge economic burden on the farmer when it grows old?

Harish Damodaran, an expert on India's rural economy has this take: "A typical cow weighing about 300

upwards of Rs 60 daily just to keep the cow alive."

That works out to Rs 1,800 per month, for just one cow. Most farmers have at least three. So they need Rs 5,400 per month, at the very minimum. This may not sound like a lot to urban people, but remember that the average net income per year per acre is just around Rs 25,000 — or Rs 2,000 per month.

"The cows that are past their prime after 5–6 lactations, and those with infertility or udder damage issues," says Damodaran, "will be the last in line" for being fed. He goes on to say that male animals will receive even less priority.

So what is the farmer to do with these unproductive and economically unremunerative animals? Clearly, the unrequited costs of the unproductive cattle are the main reason for the slaughter of cows.

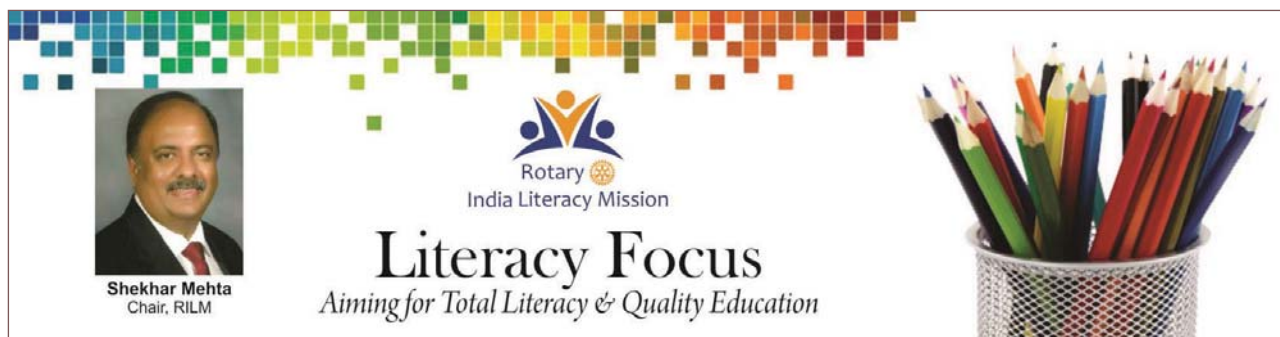
Damodaran asks:

"An average animal today, female or male, ceases to be "productive" to the farmer beyond 8–9 years, even if it can probably live for 14–15 years."

Faith has no answer to this basic issue. Nor does it care. It just wants to stop cow slaughter, regardless of the economic issues involved. Indeed, even if cow sanctuaries are set up, you only have to multiply Rs 60 per day by 10 million cows to see the burden it would impose on the State governments. ■



kg requires 6–7 kg of paddy or wheat straw, 5 kg of green grass (jowar, berseem, sugarcane tops, etc) and 1–1.25 kg of concentrate mixtures (mainly mustard, groundnut or cottonseed cake) just for its daily body maintenance. If the animal is producing milk, it has to be fed another 400–500 g of concentrates for every 1 litre. Taking per kg costs at Rs 1.25–1.50 for green fodder, Rs 5–6 for straw and Rs 19–20 for concentrates, a farmer would spend



RILM Chair Shekhar Mehta in the TEACH booth at the Atlanta Convention.

TEACH at Atlanta

Showcasing the TEACH projects at the House of Friendship in the RI Convention at Atlanta was a significant milestone for RILM this year.

Termed as one of the best booths at the HOF, the TEACH stall attracted several senior Rotary leadership and delegates from all over America, Italy, Mexico, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana, Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. The programme reached out to those who wanted implement it in areas where literacy is a big challenge. The Happy School vertical had the maximum takers, along with Adult Literacy and E-learning programmes. We are hopeful that TEACH will lay the foundation for a revolution in global education and literacy.

The XPD road trip

An expedition across 24 countries in 70 days was undertaken by an all-women team comprising Meenakshi Arvind, Mookambikai Rathinam and Priya Raheja on a Tata Hexa car from Coimbatore. The road trip, promoting Rotary's Literacy drive, was flagged off by the HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar at the Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit held in Chennai. On June 6 the team reached London where they were welcomed by the Indian High Commissioner Dinesh Patnaik, Minister Coordinator A S Rajan and First Secretary Counsellor Balaji. The rallyists raised funds along the way and spread RILM's endeavour to achieve Total Literacy and quality education in India through the TEACH verticals.



The XPD team being given a warm welcome in the UK. Also seen PDG T George Sundararaj (extreme right).

Bikers spread the message



Rotarians Prashanth Babu and Shoba S Rao on a bike expedition.

Rotarians Prashanth Babu and Shoba S Rao from Rotary Bangalore Downtown, D 3190, embarked on a bike ride on May 13, 2017 from the RI Headquarters in Chicago, Illinois, rode across 22 States, covering 12,000 km over a period of 34 days, and arrived at the

RI Convention in Atlanta. During their journey, the two Rotarians sensitised people about the plight of children who drop out of schools either due to lack of funds or basic facilities such as toilets, transport etc. They sought to curb the dropout rates and bring these children back to school.

Prashanth Babu is an entrepreneur; his association with Rotary

dates back to 1993 via Globe Trotters Athletic Union. He was charter president of the Rotaract Club of Bangalore East End in 2000 and he became member of Rotary Bangalore Downtown in 2012.

Shoba S Rao started as an active Interactor, later joined the Rotaract Club of Bangalore East End and became a Rotarian of Rotary Bangalore Downtown in 2016. She works for Visteon Technical and Services Centre as Senior Software Design Engineer.

All the expenses incurred for the ride were borne by the two Rotarians. They believe strongly in sharing their combined good fortune to help those who have not had the same opportunities, and access to education that they and their child have had. They are often asked why they can't just donate the money spent on the trip to the cause, for which they say that raising awareness towards the cause will result in a long term and sustained benefits to the project.



One click to view your Asha Kiran child

More than 32,000 children are enrolled in the Asha Kiran centre for the bridge course. They are in process to get back to school. Each of them are tagged with 32,000 donors. Have you seen your sponsored child yet? Download the T-E-A-C-H App today and view your sponsored child with just one click.

Simple steps to download the T-E-A-C-H App

- Go to *Play Store*
- Search for '*TEACH* by RILM'
- Download the App

Go to '*My Asha Kiran*' and with just a click on it, you can view your sponsored child.



RC Mannargudi Midtown — D 2981

The club organised a science exhibition and related programmes on National Science Day at SBA Matric School. It was a good way to ignite interest in the subject and the students enjoyed it thoroughly, said the Club President KAS Jagabar Sadik.

RC Villupuram — D 2982

The club, in association with Vijaya Hospitals, conducted a cardiac check-up camp at VRP School with the support of Rotaractors from Sri Venkatachalapathy Polytechnic College and ES College of Nursing. More than 500 people were screened at the camp.



RC Vuyyuru — D 3020

A typhoid vaccination camp was held in association with Bharat Biotech at Flora English Medium School. Nearly 200 students of the school were immunised against the disease. The Club President J Syamala Devi was present along with Rotarians.

RC Akola — D 3030

The club provides vocational and skill development programmes for women hailing from poor families. Over a dozen women are being trained in computer accounting. The courses are aimed at improving the employability of young women after graduating from schools and colleges.



Matters

RC Bhuj Flamingo — D 3051

The club constructed a crematorium at a cost of Rs 75 lakh in Bhuj. TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee dedicated the facility for the benefit of the underprivileged people to perform the final rites of the departed souls in an eco-friendly manner.



RC Jaipur Kohinoor — D 3052

Toilets with water tanks, electric motor and handwash facilities were installed by the club as part of the WinS project at a Government Senior Secondary School at Bhojpura village near Bassi tehsil, 40 km from Jaipur.



RC Udhampur — D 3070

The club organised an eye camp at the Rotary Eye and ENT Hospital. Twenty-one patients from the surrounding villages were operated for cataract and their eyesight restored with intra-ocular lenses.



RC Samana — D 3090

The Rotarians gave sewing machines to poor students at Sati Mata Mandir Stitching Centre in the presence of DG Sanjay Gupta and District Secretary Vinod Chamara. Under project Lifeline, the club sponsored the heart surgery of four-year-old Sanjana hailing from a BPL family.

RC Jodhpur Padmini — D 3053

'Juniorthon' was held at Barkatullah Khan Stadium for children to create awareness on childhood obesity and related diseases due to lack of outdoor activities. Over 2,500 children took part in the fundraiser event, and the money generated was used to transform government schools into Happy Schools.

RC Bombay Queen City — D 3141

The club inaugurated Bhavishya Yaan, a three-year skill development course for the students of Baradevi Municipal School. It will benefit 120 students who would be trained in computer literacy, conversational English and life skills.



RC Navi Mumbai Hill Side — D 3142

District Governor Chandrashekhar Kolvekar inaugurated a diabetic care centre at the club in Belapur. Consultations and blood sugar tests will be available at the centre.



RC Jammalamadugu — D 3160

The club distributed stationery materials and lunch sets to students of various government schools. The Rotarians also organised a health talk in the schools to teach the children about healthy eating.



RC Panaji Riviera — D 3170

A three-day RYLA titled 'Sahitam' was organised for 100 underprivileged and differently-abled children at a youth hostel in Panjim. A variety of training sessions by resource persons offered motivation to build their leadership skills.



RC Tirupur South — D 3202

A car rally, from Tirupur to Kannur in Kerala, was organised by the club to create awareness on organ donation. Nearly 5,000 awareness pamphlets were distributed along the route to educate the public about the cause.



Matters



RC Chennai Port City — D 3230

The club organised a cultural show as fundraiser for its thalassemia treatment project. The Rotarians also sponsored treatment of a child at Apollo Hospitals and donated 500 bedsheets to the Government Stanley Hospital in the city.



RC Jamshedpur West D 3250

The Rotarians organised a medical camp at Birsa Basti to screen the villagers for anaemia. They distributed multi-vitamin tablets for the villagers and advised them to consume nutritious diet.



RC Korba — D 3261

Rtn Ajay Shesh organised a cycle rally to espouse youth empowerment through the TEACH initiative. A seven-member team pedalled their way to Delhi travelling 2,166 km in 35 days covering seven States. This endeavour has earned them a place in the Golden Book of Records for the longest cycle rally in a group.



RC Berhampur — D 3262

As a major relief to commuters from sweltering heat, the club installed purified cold-water booths at some of the busy places of the town. The cost of each booth was Rs 60,000 to Rs 70,000.



RC Kabitirtha Calcutta — D 3291

Nearly 160 units of blood was collected at a blood donation camp organised by the club, in association with Automobile Association of Eastern India. The camp was held in aid of thalassemia patients. The Rotarians cheered the children suffering from the disorder with gifts.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran
Designed by L Gunasekaran

Rebuilding lives in Nepal

Team Rotary News

Ever since the catastrophic 2015 earthquake shook Nepal, the Rotarians of District 3292 were involved in rebuilding and rehabilitating the worst affected people of this Himalayan country. One such Rotary initiative was the reconstruction of two villages — Chaurbesi and Rayobari in Kavrepalanchok district — as integrated model villages, which were then handed over to the villagers on April 11.

Chaurbesi and Rayobari villages, located about 54 km northeast of Kathmandu, were among the worst affected villages of Nepal. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, 318 people died and 1,179 were injured in the earthquake in Kavrepalanchok district. Besides, 49,933 houses were completely destroyed and 23,714 houses were damaged.

“The rehabilitation process was done in three phases,” said IPDG Keshav Kunwar. “In the first phase, through our Rotary clubs Dhulikhel and Kavre-Banepa, we provided immediate relief like food buckets, water filters, warm clothes and medicines. In the second phase 51 temporary shelters were built; long-term rehabilitation was the final phase where 69 low-cost



PDGs Tirtha Man Sakya (second from left) and Keshav Kunwar (fourth from left) at the ground-breaking ceremony for construction of the houses.

permanent earthquake-resistant houses were constructed in the villages.” On December 11, 2015, the foundation stones for the houses were laid. All the houses complied to the National Reconstruction Authority of Nepal’s

standards. Each house had four rooms, a separate toilet and a bathroom.

Water tanks, a pumping machine, public water taps, a multi-purpose community hall, crematorium and an electric generator were provided in these model villages. Fifty houses were given bio-gas facility and a three-km road was laid to the village. “Sixty villagers were trained in masonry and carpentry, at a cost of \$6,200, to build these earthquake-resistant houses,” said Kunwar. In total, the project cost \$478,953, of which about \$197,400 was funded by the District. The rest of the money came from RC Petroskey, D 6290, US, RC Edwardstown, D 9520, Australia and various other NGOs. Rotarians also gave seven fruit-bearing saplings to each family to help them in income generation. ■



An earthquake-resistant house built by Rotary.



Please pay your Rotary News Dues at the earliest

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

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



Rotary at a glance

Rotarians : 12,39,940

Clubs : 35,709

Districts : 534

Rotaractors : 2,33,312*

Clubs : 10,144*

Interactors : 4,95,857*

Clubs : 21,559*

RCC members: 2,16,315*

RCC : 9,405*

* As on April 3, 2017

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

As on June 1, 2017

RI Zone	RI District	Rotary Clubs	No of Rotarians	Women Rotarians	Rotaract	Interact	RCC
5	2981	112	4,554	189	55	222	172
5	2982	65	2,860	84	56	109	41
5	3000	119	5,302	442	249	569	114
4	3011	73	3,293	594	46	99	28
4	3012	86	3,714	770	62	118	55
5	3020	88	4,314	217	109	459	353
4	3030	101	5,547	695	74	275	156
4	3040	90	2,166	252	51	109	135
4	3051	66	2,513	194	49	147	336
4	3052	61	3,917	884	40	143	134
4	3053	68	2,781	416	16	35	93
4	3060	98	4,092	398	58	111	128
4	3070	108	3,177	277	66	152	54
4	3080	77	3,417	205	64	208	106
4	3090	80	2,146	75	33	36	122
4	3100*	72	1,721	70	10	72	146
6	3110	112	3,892	210	52	49	102
6	3120	75	3,037	288	36	50	50
4	3131	130	5,615	1,021	88	262	73
4	3132	103	4,269	421	59	153	121
4	3141	88	5,542	1,053	110	240	87
4	3142	78	2,992	425	60	180	67
5	3150	98	3,584	337	89	221	108
5	3160	66	2,336	105	20	44	81
5	3170	128	5,616	362	51	282	159
5	3181	71	3,221	214	28	168	102
5	3182	79	3,396	260	27	265	92
5	3190	148	5,846	693	134	336	48
5	3201	140	5,228	312	91	120	46
5	3202	131	5,058	248	94	420	40
5	3211	135	4,420	254	11	85	121
5	3212	98	3,984	204	106	260	126
5	3220	71	1,979	245	80	190	79
5	3230	150	6,415	544	171	457	316
6	3240	87	3,053	350	58	142	143
6	3250	98	3,764	618	37	198	176
6	3261	70	2,358	226	16	101	42
6	3262	90	3,245	367	41	71	73
6	3271	75	1,437	205	44	16	13
6	3272	136	2,675	449	36	36	36
6	3281	195	5,693	776	221	79	184
6	3282	128	3,700	273	128	33	40
6	3291	148	3,872	672	62	126	572
6	3292	115	4,518	676	114	106	106
Total		4,407	1,66,259	17,570	3,102	7,554	5,376

*Non-districted

Source: RI South Asia Office



Sandhya Rao

We are all time travellers

Watching a loved one grow old is painful, even as it shines a light on our own passage through life.

It's true. Age has a way of creeping up. Today you are sixteen, tomorrow it's your 60th and one day you wonder where it all went. You count the minutes by the years you've invested in trying to figure out who your real friends are, and how you wept as the mysteries of family unravelled, and wondered whether you'd saved enough to make some dreams come true, and simply wait for the children to grow up and be on their own feet, so you could have your life back. All the while your life's simply been surging ahead, relentlessly, inexorably, and mothers and fathers have been growing older.

See how far the feet have travelled, criss-crossing places and weaving together people and lives and experiences, creating storms and stories, leaving memories in the wake of goodbyes. The helms are unknown, uncertain, but filled with hope and expectation. Goodbyes are final and forever.

I was 16 once, not long ago, and at 16, my mother who was 38, seemed all-knowing, all mother.

The person camouflaged by the persona I had seen as a child and a teenager and a youth, tore through the disguise much much later. Meanwhile, countries won freedom as people lost theirs. Governments rose and fell, and rose again in different forms. Leaders have shown the light, and then faded, some shot out of existence, some clinging on for dear power. New

still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?" Indeed, it is a far distance. I felt like I would never get there, not 25, not 35, and certainly not 60! No, that was not for me... I thought, like Simon and Garfunkel in a song: "Can you imagine us years from today,/Sharing a park bench quietly/How terribly strange to be seventy."

Well, *The Beatles* don't make music together

mongoose once. She lived in small towns and villages in Tamil Nadu, and spent a large part of her life in Satyamangalam, now synonymous only with a bandit, but then known for its forests and sandal trees. She heard Gandhiji's call for freedom and with her brother spun on the *takli* from balls of cottonwool. She listened goggle-eyed and open-mouthed to her grandfather, a policeman, spin the most fascinating yarns, even as my sister and cousins and I listened to his daughter, my grandmother, tell taller than tall tales with utter conviction. Plucked from a simple, idyllic, rural environment and dropped into a well-oiled boarding school scenario at age 10 or 11, my mother took to her new life without a murmur, even contending with a thus-far unfamiliar English language. She sang her way through college and became president of the student's union. Then came marriage into a family that spoke a language she had not heard until then, and adjusting with a whole host of new things associated with marriage, including

**The young should revel in
themselves as much as they do,
because youth is ephemeral, time
is of this moment, then gone.**

discoveries, new planets, new books, new songs, new bands, new stars. The population's bursting. There's technology like never before, and possibilities never imagined.

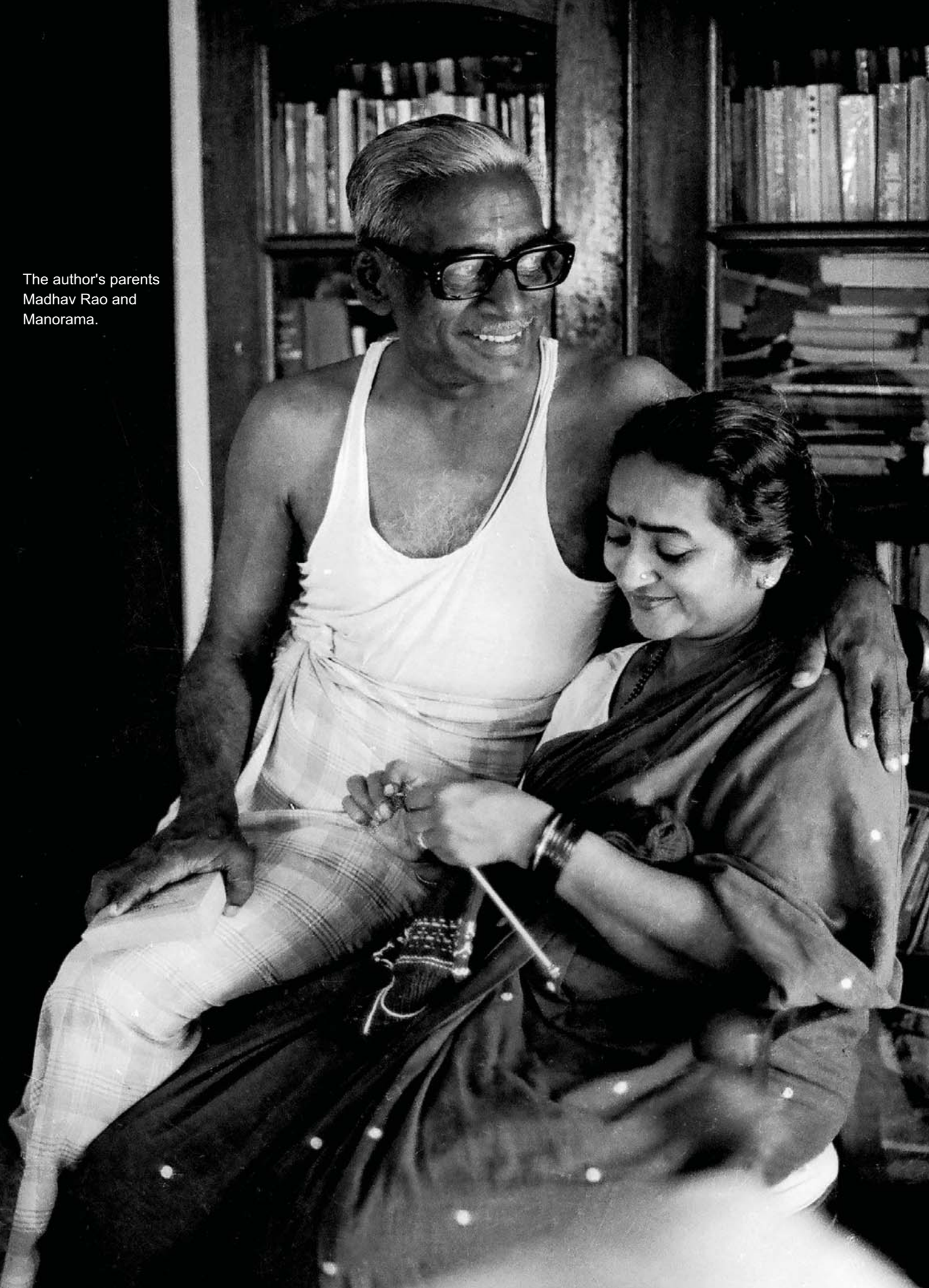
Move over

It's like the universe is saying, move over, old woman, your time is done and now, like *The Beatles*, I want to ask: "Will you

any more, and even S&G have gone their separate ways as they've grown older. The music remains.

Knowing all this, we still believe that old age is for the old. My mother was once the apple of her father's eye. She loved and still loves all four-legged creatures, she grew up surrounded by cows and goats and deer and dogs and cats, and even a

The author's parents
Madhav Rao and
Manorama.



husband, cooking and keeping house, children, transfers, finance, new places and people, working, caring... and so much more.

She soon grew into a larger-than-life figure who took whole families under her wing, in much the same way her mother and mother-in-law had done in their time. She was strong, she was decisive, she was positive, she was life-affirming.

Coming to terms

Now she is 83, which is not old by our standards, but the years of caring have taken their toll, and it's heart-breaking to see how fragile she's become. When you are young, you look forward to the future. When you grow old, you look back on the past. But when past and future meld with the white light of the present, it seems you can only time-travel. In this journey, there are no shadows, no shades of grey. Just a white light that leads you from one moment to the next, where life and all those who peopled it blur into an undefined glare. There are moments, of course, when time splits to allow memory and feelings to meet and mingle. But those are momentary.

It was the English poet William Wordsworth who wrote, in the context of the French Revolution, "Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young was very heaven." Surely that is true. To be young in itself is a wonderful thing. No wonder the young revel in themselves as much as they do, and indeed they should. Because youth is ephemeral, time is of this moment, then gone. We know because we see it all around us. So, talk to the elderly. More importantly, listen to their stories. They are unique and they are true and they will remain in your memory even if the physical vestiges disappear.

And the next time the word 'old' pops up, remember wine: the older it gets, the finer it tastes. Or pickles, the longer they marinate, the more delicious the flavours.



As always, William Shakespeare gets it right when he describes Cleopatra in *Antony and Cleopatra*: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." Adding on years isn't only about growing old, that's the least of it, because you can be 'young' when you are 'old' and you can be 'old' when you are 'young'. It is about experiences that warm the blood, and wisdom that

powers the brain. No matter how hard young people aspire for these, they can never have it, because they do not have the years on their side.

You are born, you live and you time-travel... it's all a mind-game, isn't it?

Courtesy: BusinessLine on Campus (BLoC), a web resource for B-schoolers.

Subscribe NOW!



**for Rotary News
Print Version &
e- Version**

**For the Rotary year
2017–2018**

**As concerned citizens of the world, those
of you who are alarmed at the degradation
of the environment and slaughter of trees,
kindly opt for our e-Version.**

**Annual Subscription
India
Rs.420**

Print version ☐

e- Version ☐

No. of copies

Rotary News (English)

Rotary Samachar (Hindi)

For every new member the pro-rata
is Rs 35 a month.

Please attach the TYPED list of
individual members with their
complete address and PIN Code.
Intimate language preference
(English / Hindi) against each
member's name. Please do not
send the Semi-annual Report for
address list.

Rotary Club of RI District

Name of the President/Secretary

Address

.....

.....

City State PIN

STD Code Phone: Off. Res.

Mobile E-mail

Cheque/DD No. Dated for Rs.

Drawn on

in favour of "ROTARY NEWS TRUST" payable at CHENNAI is enclosed.

Date:

President/Secretary

Mail this form to:

Rotary News Trust, Dugar Towers, 3rd Floor, 34, Marshalls Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008.
Tamil Nadu, India. Ph: 044 4214 5666, e-mail: rotarynews@rosaonline.org

Subscription norms

1. Subscription is for the Rotary year (July to June).
2. **It is mandatory for every Rotarian to subscribe to a Rotary magazine.**
3. The annual subscription for the magazine is Rs 420 per member.
4. Subscription for the full year must be sent in July, in the prescribed form.
5. Those joining after July can pay only for the remaining Rotary year at Rs 35 an issue.
6. Subscription account of the club with *Rotary News* is a running account and does not cease at the end of June every year.
7. Names of all members, with their complete postal address with **PIN CODE** must be typed and sent along with the form and DD/cheques payable at par.
8. Copies of Semi Annual Report **SHOULD NOT** be sent as address list.
9. Language preference (English or Hindi) should be stated alongside member's name.
10. **Members, please ensure that your name is included in the Subscribers' list that your club sends us. Often, names of members who have paid their subscription, are left out from the club list.**
11. Clubs must inform *Rotary News* about reduction in number of members, if any, before or in May. Please help reduce wastage of copies.
12. Clubs are liable to pay for the number of magazines we despatch according to the list available at Rotary News Trust.
13. Unpaid dues of the club will be shown as outstanding against the club. Any payment received subsequently will be adjusted against earlier dues.
14. **Clubs with subscription arrears will be notified to RI and may face possible suspension.**
15. We are in the process of tallying our subscriber list with RI membership from India.
16. If you want to switch to *The Rotarian*, please do so. But inform us **immediately** to avoid receipt of *Rotary News*. Or else your club will have to pay for it.

RI leaders with Bill Gates



RI Directors with Microsoft Founder Bill Gates, RI President John Germ, RIPE Ian Riseley, RIPN Sam Owori and RI General Secretary John Hewko (extreme left).



TRF Trustees with Bill Gates, Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee and Chair-elect Paul Netzel.



Rashneeda Bhagat

Atlanta Convention Chair Barry Matheson (centre) with Gordon McNally, Chair for the Toronto Convention 2018, on his right and John Blount, Chair for the Hamburg Convention 2019, on his left.

THE IIS UNIVERSITY



**Over 200
UG / PG /
M.Phil. / Ph.D.
&
Professional
Courses**

**Pioneer in
Girls' Education
in India**

**Civil service
preparation
alongwith
graduation.**

**Student support
through
'Earn while you
Learn' scheme**

Categorized 'A' by MHRD
Accredited by NAAC

**THE IIS
UNIVERSITY**

(deemed to be university u/s 3 of UGC Act 1956)
(Approved by UGC u/s 12B of UGC Act 1956)

**Gurukul Marg, SFS, Mansarovar
Jaipur-302 020 (India)**



**dare to
dream**

MEMBERSHIPS & ACADEMIC COLLABORATIONS



KOREA



TAIWAN



REPUBLIC FRANÇAISE



USA



INDIA



INDIA



UK



INDONESIA



INDIA



INDIA



INDIA

70733 53330, 70733 53331, 0141 2400160, 2397906, 2397907

admissions@iisuniv.ac.in

www.iisuniv.ac.in