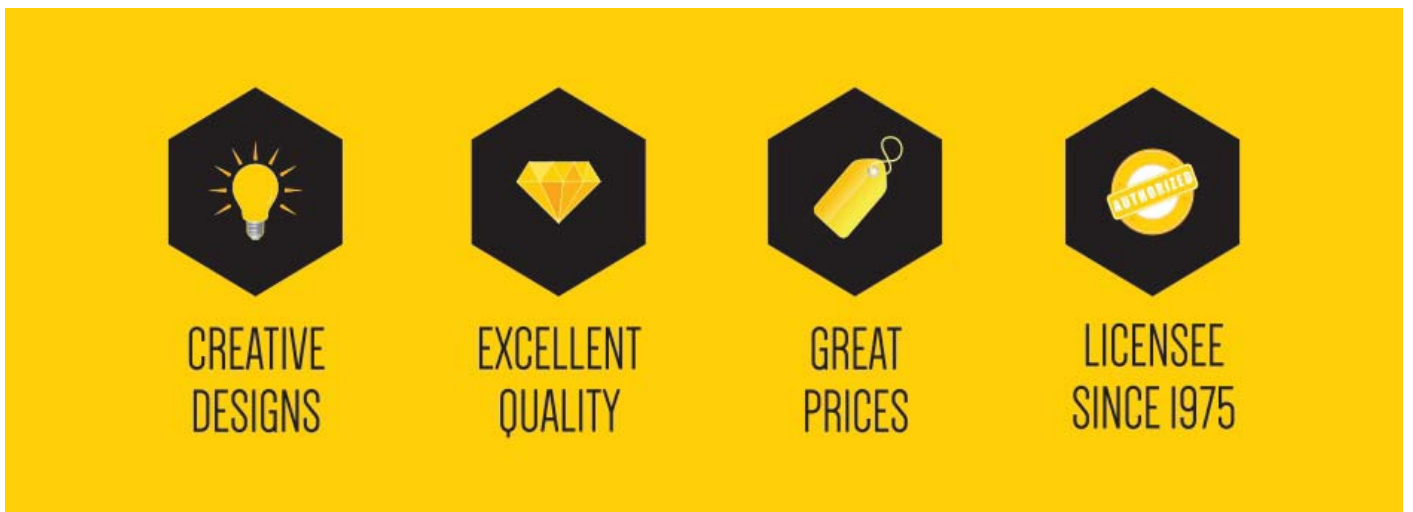


ROTARY NEWS

September 2017



Sam F Owori
(1941–2017)



OFFICIAL LICENSED VENDOR OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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Picture by K Vishwanathan

Designed by Krishnapratheesh



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Skilling Odisha

The article *Skilling Odisha* is an excellent one, inspiring the skilled youth in Odisha. The younger generation in Odisha is brilliant, dedicated to work and progress. There are many educated and talented Odiyas in the civil services like IAS and IPS, besides IT and many other sectors.

Unfortunately, Odisha doesn't have many resources to utilise the skilled youth and engage them in different sectors. This article gives inspiration and vision to Odisha's youth. *Rotary News* is not just a magazine but also a handy library to read and enrich knowledge on diverse subjects. Congratulations.

PRN Chandra Mouli
RC Berhampur Midtown — D 3262

Subroto Bagchi is doing a great job in skilling Odisha. One of the missions of the present government is that skill development should be done on a war footing to give training and skills, especially to the poor. This article should motivate Rotarians to take up similar projects in their districts and establish centres in semi-urban areas for skill development.

T D Bhatia
RC Delhi Mayur Vihar — D 3012



Odisha's 'monk' Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has struck gold by choosing Subroto Bagchi as Chairman of Odisha Skill Development Authority (August, cover story). As the former IT honcho himself says, it's a 'dream job' for him, what more could we hope for?

In the private sector too, the Centurion Group, through its Gramtarang project, is conducting amazing and commendable skilling programmes.

Sujata Patnaik, Odisha

The article *Skilling Odisha* in the August issue is a fine example of how the skill development in each State of India can be organised by a Rotary club in partnership with the respective Government through the Industrial Training Institutes. These projects can come under the Rotary's avenue of Youth Service.

Four virtues — as cited by Greek philosophers Aristotle and Plato — of temperance, wisdom, patience and humility are being inculcated by Subroto Bagchi with an overall positive attitude at his skill development centres.

However, by applying the Four-Way Test, Rotary leaders can also take up this skill development through the avenue of Youth Service.

KMK Murthy, RC Secunderabad — D 3150

It's all in the mind

I am 82 and joined Rotary some 18 years back. I was impressed by the article *We are all time travellers* in the July issue. The writer Sandhya Rao says, "remember wine: the older it gets the finer it tastes. Or pickles, the longer they marinate, the more delicious the flavours."

Citing Shakespeare's words in *Antony and Cleopatra*: Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety, she rightly says, "You can be 'young' when you are 'old' and 'old' when you are 'young'. You are born, you live and you time-travel... it is all a mind-game, isn't it?" What

a beautiful theory; I admire Sandhya's writing and the entire essay was so well done.

In the book review by Robin Gupta (*The marriage that shook India*), I was shocked to observe that Mahatma Gandhi comes through as a somewhat wily leader who advocated that Hindus should not marry Muslims. It was good to read that Ruttie Petit refused to bow down to top British officers. Perhaps it was due to Islam's teaching that except Allah, Muslims should not bow down before anybody. It reminds me of an incident in 1980-81 when I was an officer in the Rural Development Department

of Tamil Nadu. The party MPs and MLAs always fell at the feet of the Chief Minister, except a young Muslim minister. He was duly removed from the post for not 'falling in line'.

S Muniandi
RC Dindigul Fort — D 3000

Book Reviews welcome

I loved the review of *Mr and Mrs Jinnah*. But the book clearly mentions that there is no medical record stating the official cause of Ruttie Jinnah's death. It is only 50 years later that Kanji Dwarkadas declared that she committed suicide which, however, cannot be taken into

consideration. Make the *Book Review* a permanent feature.

H S Khurana
RC Ludhiana — D 3070

A great loss to Rotary world

We are touched and moved after reading the tributes of PRIP Rajendra Saboo, RID C Basker and the Editorial on the demise of RIPE Sam Owori. It is an irreparable loss not only to Norah, their three children and grandchildren but to the entire Rotary world. We have lost a great leader with good values and high principles in life. With his academic excellence and deep love for Rotary, he would have been an invaluable RI President. A pity that with so much progress in medical science, Owori succumbed to complications from a leg surgery. It was fitting he was laid to rest with State honours.

R Srinivasan
RC Madurai Midtown — D 3000

My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of President-elect Sam Owori. It is really a big loss for the Rotary world. But Owori's legacy will live on. Indian Rotarians can be proud that one among them, Rajashree Birla, is the biggest donor to TRF, with her contributions crossing over \$11 million. Her speech describing the story of a polio victim Vishnu from Mumbai is heart-rending. Thanks to Rotary for the good work in eradicating polio from India.

All other articles and Rotary club activity photos are worth going through. Congratulations for providing interesting articles to readers every month, taking into consideration all categories of readers' interest.

M T Philip
RC Trivandrum Suburban — D 3211

Brilliant editorials

You have always delivered a fascinating piece of art, *Rotary News*, every month and the June issue is of high wattage in every respect. The Editorial *Plant a sapling, start a revolution* struck a chord in me as the topic has always been close to my heart. You've mesmerised the readers by citing passionate environmentalists such as Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sundarlal Bahuguna and how they galvanised the village women to check deforestation in the fragile Himalayan region. I appreciate the strong message conveyed through this column.

Colonel (retd)
C P Gopinathan
RC Wadakanchery — D 3201

The July Editorial covering the centennial of The Rotary Foundation in Atlanta was really good. The art of writing the Editorial is beautiful and natural which made me feel physically present at the Convention. The Microsoft Founder Bill Gates' presence in the Convention and

his yeoman service in eradicating polio across the world are worth highlighting. His speech was really inspiring. Adding to this grand event were the 75th birthday of TRF Trustee Chair Kalyan Banerjee and the South Asia Reception with delicious Indian food attracting all the VVIPs of Rotary.

Sandhya Rao's brilliant article — *We are all time travellers* — points to the ground reality of life which inspires me to write this feedback. Though I will be 85 in November, I feel like 58 and my club members call me 'young guy' as I participate in all club activities.

G V Sayagavi
RC Davanagere
Vidyanagar — D 3160

Received the July issue in time and found many informative articles, including the Atlanta Convention articles. RI President Ian Riseley's letter — *The ultimate in sustainable service* — gives a boost to Rotarians.

K Devarajan
RC Coimbatore East — D 3201

The article *Dialysis made affordable* is one more instance of Rotary doing good with TRF, with the dialysis unit of RC Madras West, D 3232, helping the poor, as dialysis costs are very high.

N Jagatheesan, RC Eluru — D 3020

Membership is critical

Our RI President has given much importance to membership, more specifically women's membership. We at RC Central Calcutta, D 3291,

have strongly worked on this and have already achieved 22 per cent growth in overall membership in 2017–18 with a significant increase in women members. From 83 on June 30, 2017, it has gone up to 101 in August 2017, with 10 per cent members being women. A big thanks to Director (Membership) Rajesh Agarwal and the Board members.

Girish Ganeriwala
President
RC Central Calcutta — D 3291

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

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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.

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Freedom from misogyny, patriarchy

In his Independence Day message from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a new slogan — *India Jodo* (Unite India). Spelling out his vision of a new modern India that was free from communalism, casteism, corruption and terrorism, he said every Indian should work for this goal. Coming down heavily on the growing menace of lynching in the name of cow protectionism, he said firmly, “Violence in the name of faith is not something to be happy about, it will not be accepted in India.” True, the India of our dreams badly needs *Bharat Jodo* to keep intact its liberal ethos, its pluralistic culture and its rich and varied social fabric woven in such vibrant hues and multiple textures.

But along with all this, the India of today, and tomorrow, also needs another freedom, that from misogyny and patriarchy. Consider the recent shocking incident of a young woman, Varnika Kundu, being stalked after midnight in Chandigarh by two men, after which the perpetrators tried to shame the victim by putting up on social media her pictures of having a drink late in the evening. The swift and ferocious response that came from young Indian women in support of Varnika is a clear indicator that India is indeed changing. After her scary ordeal where the two men blocked her car, pounded on the window and tried to open the door, Varnika filed a police complaint of stalking and attempted kidnapping. She showed that the modern Indian woman will not be intimidated by such assaults by writing a detailed post on her Facebook page about her ordeal, concluding she was grateful that “she was not lying raped and murdered in a ditch somewhere.”

Predictably enough there were lectures galore, from men of course, a typical one saying: “The girl should not have

gone out at 12 in the night. Why was she driving so late in the night? We need to take care of ourselves.” To this, the spirited 29-year-old woman retorted that it was only her and her family’s business “what I do and where I go. If it wasn’t for men like these, I wouldn’t be unsafe going out whether it was 12 am or 2 am or 4 am.” Young Indian women responded soon enough and posted on twitter midnight selfies with a drink to show they were having a good time late in the evening. These were all accompanied by the brilliant hashtag #AintNoCindrella. While one woman tweeted: “We, women believe in breaking glass ceilings, not fitting into glass slippers #AintNoCinderella”; another posted a picture of herself with a drink and said it was “well past midnight n I’m out having beer in Delhi. Join me? #AintNoCinderella.” One more said, “Dear regressive India, I will do as I please, night or day. Don’t ever think you have the right to stop me.” Added another, “Oops 1.45 am and I am out on Delhi Roads, In a short Dress. stop me if you can!!!”

The tweets, which got likes and retweets ranging from a couple of hundred to a few thousand, were full of humour, spunk, determination and assertiveness. It was clear that these women were outraged at the attempt to shame the victim, instead of punishing the guilty men and posted pictures that are normally not put in the public domain. Imagine what such support does to the morale of the victimised young woman! It sends out a clear statement that she is not alone, hundreds of other women will stand by her side to tell our countrymen that India is indeed changing and patriarchy and misogyny will be combatted. Bravo!

Most cheering of all on the gender front is the Supreme Court holding unconstitutional the heinous practice of the instant triple talaq, which has tormented generations of helpless Muslim women who have been divorced on the whims and fancies of their husbands; sometimes the talaq being given flippantly on SMS, email or WhatsApp messages.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rasheeda Bhagat'.

Rasheeda Bhagat



Something for everyone in Toronto

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

One of the best parts of any Rotary convention is the sheer diversity of the people you see there. Whether you're heading into a breakout session, exploring the House of Friendship, or sitting down for a bite to eat, you'll meet people from every corner of the world, in all kinds of national attire, speaking just about every language. It's a lot of fun, and it's a big part of what makes Rotary great: that we can be so different and still find ourselves so at home together.

That spirit of warm community that is so central to Rotary also defines Toronto, our host city for the 2018 Rotary International Convention. Toronto is one of my favourite cities. It's a place where half the population is from another country, where over 140 languages are spoken by 2.8 million residents, and where

no one ever seems to be too busy to be helpful. In addition to being clean, safe, and friendly, Toronto is a wonderful place to visit, with its attractive Lake Ontario waterfront, great restaurants, one-of-a-kind museums and interesting neighbourhoods to explore.

The 2018 convention already promises to be one of our best ever. Our Convention Committee and Host Organisation Committee are hard at work lining up inspiring speakers, great entertainment, fascinating breakout sessions, and a wide variety of activities across the city. There will be something for everyone in Toronto, and Juliet and I encourage you to do what we'll be doing — bring your families along for the fun. If you plan early, your convention experience will be even more affordable: The deadline for discounted early registration (there is an additional discount for registering online) is December 15.

As much as Toronto offers to Rotarians, the true draw is, of course, the convention itself. It's a once-a-year opportunity to recharge your Rotary batteries, to see what the rest of the Rotary world is up to, and to find inspiration for the year ahead. Find out more at riconvention.org — and find Inspiration Around Every Corner at the 2018 Rotary Convention in Toronto.

Ian H S Riseley
President, Rotary International

Message from the RI Director



Promote literacy, make a difference

Dear Rotarians,

I am sure all clubs would have retained many members and also inducted new members in August. I welcome all the new Rotarians and request them to attend Rotary meetings regularly and learn more about Service and Fellowship. Since September is the Basic Education and Literacy month, it is time to look at schools in communities around us to understand the present status of basic education and literacy to enable us to do the best activities in this area for our communities. Only when we do so, our clubs will understand the need to improve learning outcomes, increase community involvement and influence teaching practices, particularly in elementary schools. Both State and Central Governments have adequate budgetary allocations to enhance the level of literacy and standards of learning in primary education—the challenge is to ensure these funds are well spent and outcomes are tangible.

To promote literacy at primary school level, we supplement the efforts at schools which are already in the right learning process. As in Polio Eradication, where Rotary identified inaccessible communities and educated and influenced them about the importance of early immunisation, we should plan our involvement in a way as not to supplant government initiatives but act as a catalyst to the government programmes, thereby contributing to their success.

I know how much thrust was given by Rotary for functional literacy worldwide few decades ago. Let us reach out to those in our local communities with poor primary literacy levels and make them understand that basic education and functional literacy enable community participation in various beneficial schemes of the government. By this we ensure that the benefits of such schemes actually reach the intended beneficiaries and are not swallowed by intermediaries. Adult literacy also requires our attention and this can be facilitated through our functional literacy programmes.

Friends, here is the inspirational story of Rtn Carl Sanders who is in his fifties, his name was referred by PRIP Kalyanda last year in *Rotary News*. Carl Sanders owns a small business in Kenosha, USA. A couple of years ago, a business associate invited Carl to join the Kenosha Rotary Club, D 6270. Carl felt it will be good for business and became a member. His little secret was that he couldn't read very well. He had barely made it to the ninth grade when he dropped out of school. He had heard about the local Literacy Council from a fellow Rotarian. Carl told him about his problem and the Rotarian put Carl in touch with the Literacy Council, where he met a volunteer, who helped him — so much that Carl is now a Past President of the Rotary club!

Establishing a Literacy Programme in clubs will be a good start. We can invite local volunteers to address our members and they can provide valuable overview of the efforts taken in our communities and identify the areas in which the club's contribution would be most beneficial. Promoting basic and functional literacy training programme in our local schools involves a long-term commitment. Rotary clubs should be prepared to continue their projects well beyond the current year. To ensure continuity, seek the support of the DGN as well as club president-elect and look for sources of long-term financial support, such as that provided by government grants, participant fees, or funding (cash/kind such as teaching aids, furniture etc) by fellow Rotarians and interested philanthropists.

Let us invite Rotary's partners in service. Let us involve them in our Literacy Programme. Every Rotary club has sponsored at least one each of a Rotary Community Corps, Rotaract club and Interact club. The need of the hour is to involve members of these groups and encourage them to undertake literacy projects of their own in a small way.

Remember the International Literacy Day on September 8 is an opportunity for every club to promote its own project and spread literacy awareness in general. Clubs can take a lead and present awards to literacy volunteers on that day as a means of promoting awareness and publicising the programmes/projects done in the local print/visual media.

By involving and contributing to local communities Rotary helps make a difference!

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

C Basker
Director, Rotary International

Message from the Foundation Chair



Countdown to history

“Countdown to history” is a phrase I especially like. Those three words express not just how momentous Rotary’s polio endeavour is — something achieved only once before in the human experience — but also that the finish line is within sight.

Rotary and our strategic partners are united behind eradicating polio. Our 2016 Council on Legislation voted to reaffirm polio eradication as a goal “of the highest order”. At the recent 70th World Health Assembly in Geneva, global health leaders reiterated their commitment to polio eradication. News coverage of our efforts pops up everywhere. Projects continue worldwide — such as District 6930’s annual World’s Greatest Meal — that focus on Rotarians’ primary responsibilities of fundraising, advocacy and volunteer recruitment.

Just think: The next case of polio could be the last case. But we must be careful, because that “last case” will not be the end of our task. In fact, that’s when the job gets even harder. The World Health Organisation will require at least three years with zero cases reported before certifying the world polio free.

During that time, intensive vaccination and observation operations will need to continue. On the vaccination side, children will continue to

receive the polio vaccine. On the surveillance side, watching for signs of resurgence is vitally important. As the number of cases and patients with visible symptoms drops, this observation grows increasingly more expensive.

This is why Rotary has increased its commitment to fighting polio to \$50 million per year and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has extended its 2-for-1 match of Rotary donations for another three years. To achieve this goal, we need you more than ever. If Rotarians hit the fundraising goal each year, the total will be \$450 million. At the convention in Atlanta, nations from around the world and key donors pledged more than \$1 billion to energise the global fight to end this paralysing disease, including Rotary’s \$50 million per year. Now we all have the important job of making good on those pledges.

All of this is why I ask you to contribute something to the polio campaign — whether it is a direct donation, fundraising in your community, or telling the polio story using the multiple platforms of today’s media. Also, be an advocate by writing to your government officials to ensure that they fulfill their pledges and maintain commitment, and reaching out to corporate leaders asking for their continued support of polio eradication. Write to me at Paul.Netzel@rotary.org to share what you are doing or your ideas for keeping polio at the top of our agenda. We need you as never before in our “countdown to history”.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Netzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Paul A Netzel
Foundation Trustee Chair

Get your iconic projects featured in **Rotary News**



Rotarians and Rotary clubs, or Districts, that undertake well planned and meticulously executed projects that benefit the local community, transforming people's lives, naturally want them known to other Rotary clubs. Many of you feel there is no better way to do this than to showcase the project in *Rotary News*, which is circulated to over 1.15 lakh Rotarians, about 1,000 public libraries, educational institutions, doctors' waiting rooms, clinics, etc and read by about 4 lakh readers every month.

We at *Rotary News* agree that the hard work and money put in by Rotarians into the execution of important projects should be adequately covered by your magazine. But our problem is that most of the time we have no clue about such projects. Surely you understand the importance of information and marketing. While most of the times we are flooded with routine welfare projects, which we don't deny are required by the community, such as blood donation events, gifting a vehicle, medical equipment or cataract screening, we often miss out on the bigger, better, unique projects for the simple reason that nobody has told us about them.

So here is an invitation to get your communication right; assign somebody in your club to tell us about your

major projects. If you think they need to be shared with the rest of the Rotary world, please document, or make an info sheet of the different stages of the project, keeping in mind the fundamental criteria of journalism.

- **Genesis** — When was the project conceived.
- **Cause** — Why was it planned; obviously to fulfil the needs of the local community. Describe this need.
- **Cost** — How was the money raised; was it a TRF grant?
- **Challenges** — Was finding the money a problem? Were government clearances required; how were these obtained. Other challenges and finding of solutions.
- **Execution** — The time frame in which the project was completed; the different stages.
- **Beneficiaries** — You will have the best chance of getting your club's project into *Rotary News* if you give us human interest stories... pictures and interaction with the beneficiaries.
- **Pictures** — A picture is worth 1,000 words. Take good, action photographs of the project and its beneficiaries, send them in high resolution, original size.
- **Project heroes** — Highlight the Rotarians who were passionately

involved in the project, even if they are not the club leaders and are silent workers.

- As Rotary is keen to get more women and younger members, give us projects done by this group.

Once you have all this in place, invite us to visit your project. Do remember we have only one magazine a month and there is a lot of demand on this space. So, as one RNT Trustee pointed out at a recent Board meet, differentiate between that which is fit for the GML, and that which can go into the national magazine for Rotarians.

Give us your best project for the magazine, rather than sending all kinds of activities, such as distribution of blankets, books or benches.

Finally, remember that we are not looking only at mega projects which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars in global grants. Even a small project that has a unique idea, and gives a simple, out-of-the-box solution to the local community, is welcome. For after all, small is not only beautiful, it is also easily replicable.

Do send suggestions to:

The Editor at
rushbhagat@gmail.com
Senior Assistant Editor at
jaishri67@gmail.com

Editor

Rotary International Service Above Self Award Winners



The 2016–17 recipients of the Service Above Self Award, Rotary International's highest honour for individual Rotarians have been announced.

This award recognises Rotarians who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, especially those who have helped others through personal volunteer work and active involvement in Rotary.

2981	Narayanasamy Govindaraj
3000	Samuel Christdoss Savariraj
3011	Ramesh Chander
3030	Juhal Chiraniya
3040	Tarun Mishra
3052	Ramesh Agrawal
3053	Radhe Shyam Rathi
3060	Prafall Bhatt
3070	Gurjeet Singh Sekhon
3080	Ashok Chhokra
3090	Vijay Arora
3110	Shailendra Raju
3131	Marutrao Jadhav
3132	Ismail Patel
3141	Balkrishna Inamdar
3142	Hemant Jagtap
3150	Vasu Dev Malladi
3170	Mahesh Raikar
3190	Nagendra Kurugoilu Setty
3211	Thomas Vavanikunnel
3262	Dilip Patnaik
3291	Hira Lal Yadav

District Wise TRF Contributions as on July 2017

(in US Dollars)

District Number	APF	PolioPlus*	Other Restricted	Endowment Fund	Total Contributions
India					
2981	12,274	50	0	0	12,324
2982	1,219	0	609	0	1,828
3000	2,605	78	0	0	2,683
3011	16,853	100	(5,662)	0	11,290
3012	7,278	2,191	0	0	9,470
3020	1,624	0	0	0	1,624
3030	203	20,724	1,050	0	21,977
3040	0	0	0	0	0
3053	0	0	0	0	0
3054	70,000	102	0	0	70,102
3060	1,759	0	0	0	1,759
3070	515	0	0	(500)	15
3080	1,826	0	0	0	1,826
3090	0	0	0	0	0
3110	695	0	0	0	695
3120	965	508	0	0	1,473
3131	31,097	(4,900)	2,625	16,000	44,822
3132	6,272	113	0	0	6,384
3141	112,839	1,256	0	0	114,095
3142	55,468	0	0	0	55,468
3150	8,343	16	7,813	0	16,171
3160	16,188	0	0	0	16,188
3170	9,587	5,060	0	0	14,648
3181	1,844	94	0	0	1,938
3182	757	0	19,217	0	19,974
3190	777	0	0	16	793
3201	14,757	0	17,764	0	32,521
3202	742	240	0	0	982
3211	1,644	0	0	(10,000)	(8,356)
3212	90,867	102	0	0	90,969
3231	4,372	0	31,250	6,000	41,622
3232	14,139	2,000	200	0	16,339
3240	6,029	0	0	555	6,584
3250	5,684	0	0	0	5,684
3261	1,305	100	0	0	1,405
3262	333	0	0	0	333
3291	313	(27)	323	0	609
India Total	500,944	27,806	75,189	12,070	616,009
3220 Sri Lanka	12,577	10,067	0	1,217	23,861
3271 Pakistan	0	17,886	0	0	17,886
3272 Pakistan	129	5,000	0	1,000	6,129
3281 Bangladesh	38,699	0	0	5,000	43,699
3282 Bangladesh	3,600	100	0	0	3,700
3292 Nepal	3,604	0	15,534	0	19,138
South Asia Total	559,553	60,859	90,723	19,288	730,422
World Total	7,647,513	1,337,117	700,104	1,616,051	11,300,785

* Excludes Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Source: RI South Asia Office

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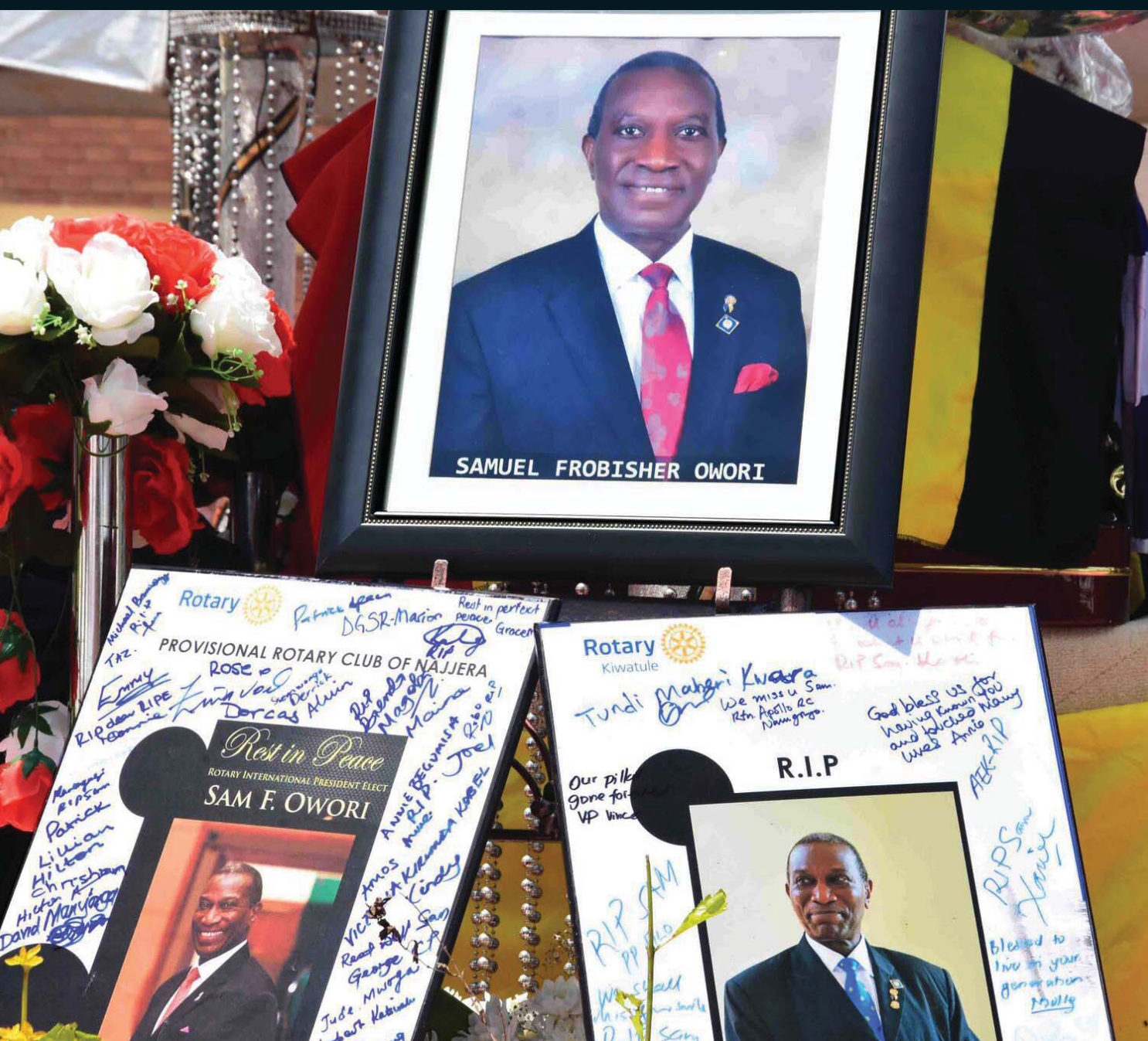


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Sam Owori's final journey

K R Ravindran



An evocative and heart-rending account of a much-loved senior Rotary International leader's burial ceremony.



Tributes pour in from Rotary clubs.

It was past six in the evening on Friday, July 28, when we drove into a little village in the town of Tororo in Uganda. Having landed at the Entebbe airport, the drive from Kampala to here was about four hours. The Ugandan Rotarians had kindly arranged a police escort for us which expedited the journey from Kampala to Tororo on the busy road — the main East African route from Kenya to Congo through Uganda. The drive was not without incident, for we were involved in a multi-car accident, but were fortunately only shaken, and no one was seriously hurt.

We pass Tororo and a few minutes later, Past RI President Rajendra Saboo and I arrive at the Owori home in the village of Kidera. Maybe, I should say the Owori homestead, because in reality it was a large compound where his father and other members of his family had also lived and grown up. Sam had 14 siblings.

Sam and Norah had just built their new home;

a home where Sam had never lived. He and Norah probably planned it for their retirement. But now, as fate decrees and destiny has decided, it is the place where he will rest temporarily before being taken on his last journey to his final resting place.

As we walk up the driveway to the house, there are many people milling around both inside and outside. The mood is expectedly sombre and subdued. The grief hangs thick in the air.

Inside the house, the men are seated in the enclosed verandah, while the women are inside, much like in our own culture. The body is laid out in a closed casket in the centre of the drawing room, draped in both the Uganda and Rotary flags. We shake our heads in a

gentle negative gesture when they attempt to open the casket in order to enable us to view the body. We want to remember our friend as we knew him; the smiling face, always serene, calm and reassuring. We sit with Norah. She is brave in her solitude and strong in her fortitude. She looks tired and her eyes look exhausted as if the tears had dried. She has been almost a week alongside the mortal remains of a person who was the love of her life for decades.

She shares with us the pain of those final moments — an elective, non-threatening, relatively minor surgery in a Dallas, Texas, hospital, from which these unexpectedly fatal complications would arise. Many in her position would ask: 'Why?' She

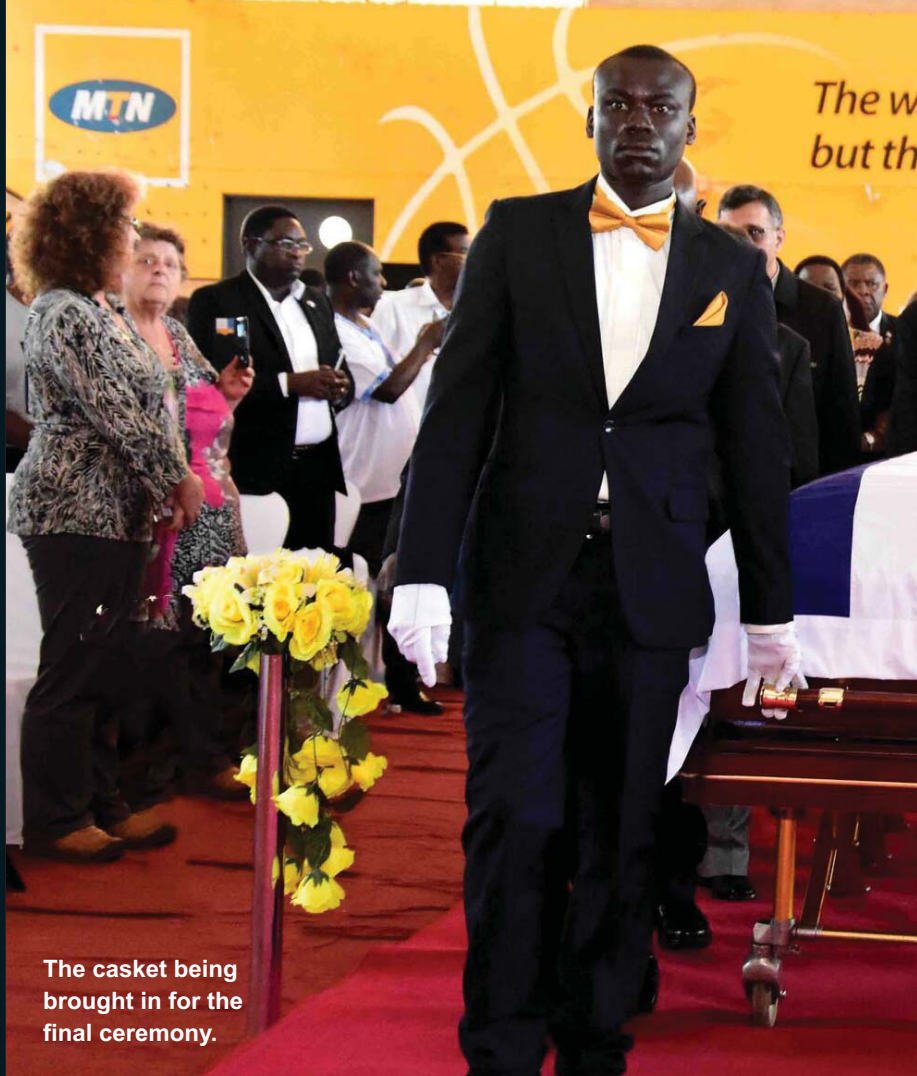
Norah shares with us the pain of those final moments — an elective, non-threatening, relatively minor surgery. Many in her position would ask: 'Why?' She only says, "That's what HE above willed."

only says, "That's what HE above willed."

We can see arrangements aplenty going on outside for the following day's funeral. As darkness falls, we leave for our modest hotel about 20 minutes away.

It's Saturday, July 29. We arrive just before the casket containing Sam's body is brought out from his home. Soldiers carry it from the house to the large compound outside, where a special canopy has been erected to hold the casket on a raised stand. Spread around are marquees, with seating on all four sides, with prominent signs put up to indicate that these are reserved for State guests, Rotary VIPs, relatives, villagers, etc. It is rather like a small cricket pitch with all the spectators outside the boundary lines. The grounds are filled.

Norah is in a full length white dress, holding herself with dignity



The casket being brought in for the final ceremony.

PRIPs Rajendra K Saboo and K R Ravindran at the funeral.



and poise. Their sons Adrin, Bonny and Daniel, sit around her. The guard of honour of six stands at attention on either side of the closed casket.

Many dignitaries are present including Ministers; so are a large throng of people from the villages around. Uganda's President, Yoweri Museveni, had attended the ceremony in Parliament and sent a representative to the previous day's ceremony in Kampala, where Sam's body lay in state at the nation's Parliament.

We want to remember our friend as we knew him; the smiling face, always serene, calm and reassuring.



Earlier, the President of Uganda had spoken to Norah on the phone in Dallas, as soon as he heard about the tragic death of Sam.

Past President Raja remarks that even in death Sam had brought glory to Rotary.

RI Vice President Dean Rohrs had also been present in Kampala both at the Parliament and at the church service at the All Saints Nakasero, Kampala.

As the master of ceremonies announced our names, we walk up to lay a wreath of lilies and roses atop the casket. There are hymns and many speeches thereafter. The King of the region, the Deputy Prime Minister, the Bishop, the DG, Past President Raja and myself... we all speak. PRIP Raja's speech is full of emotion and sentiment. He speaks of his long relationship with Sam and the incidents which had touched him. He



Norah Owori with family members.



PRIIP Rajendra K Saboo pays tribute to RIPE Sam Owori.

expresses that we were there because we felt compelled to be present as a tribute to this fallen friend, a great leader and not because Rotary wanted us to go.

Without exception, every speaker including the regional King, the Deputy Prime Minister and other Ministers, and the Bishops, while praising Sam, refer to Rotary in glowing words for what the organisation has been and what it is doing for a better world. African Rotarians and their Rotary leaders put up a brave front, but the anguish and the torment and the feeling “we are left alone”, is writ large on their faces.

And then it is time to make that last journey to Sam’s final resting place.

We precede the hearse, walking in slow and measured steps and arrive at the graveside a little

Past President Raja remarks that even in death Sam had brought glory to Rotary.

distance away from his father’s abode. The large crowd’s behaviour is disciplined and dignified. At all times, decorum is maintained. The casket is carried from the hearse to the grave by the soldiers and placed atop the mechanical strapping, which at the appropriate time would lower the casket to the bottom of the grave.

Surrounding the grave are six soldiers — three on either side, who prepare to give a six-shot gun salute to the departed leader. Norah and the children, close friends, VIPs and some of us, stand alongside with the large crowd gathering behind. Guests bow their heads and one can hear the stifled sound of sobs. The soldiers synchronise the gun shots.

The pastor says a prayer, a hymn is sung and the flags atop the casket are removed. It is time to bid adieu to Sam and the device gently lowers the casket to the floor of the grave. We strew the rose petals atop the casket. Dust returning to dust — Sam Frobisher Owori, President Elect of Rotary International, is laid to rest.

Genesis 3:19. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

As we turn away from the grave to depart for home I think of Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* and the words: “Goodnight, sweet prince; And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest.”

The writer is a Past RI President.

Pictures by Ibrahim Bagalana, a Rotaractor from Uganda.

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A workshop for District EMG and CSR Chairs

Atul Dev



EMGAs Ashok Panjwani and K P Nagesh.

A well-attended and well-conducted workshop for the EMG and CSR Chairs of Districts in Zones 4, 5 and 6A, was recently held in Delhi with the lead trainers being EMGAs PDG Ashok Panjwani and PDG K P Nagesh. Aided by a team of experts from the Rotary International South Asia Office (RISAO), the session went into great detail on all aspects of funds available for doing district and club projects.

TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta emphasised the importance of both EMGF and CSR in funding of projects by Rotary. He explained that EMGF — Endowment and Major Gifts Fund — catered to

funding district and club projects.

As far as CSR was concerned, it was fortunate that all the focus areas of Rotary, except Peace and Conflict Resolution, coincide with the permitted use of CSR funds for projects. “It is up to our districts and clubs to tap such sources, who should be willing to partner with Rotary. Fortunately, Rotary has developed such an image that corporates, particularly multinationals, do not hesitate to partner with Rotary clubs/districts,” he said.

As a word of caution, Gupta reminded participants on the importance of maintaining high standards in stewardship of projects.

He categorically said that Rotary does not expect or accept any funding from beneficiaries. He was emphatic in stating — “Do not seek funds or contributions from beneficiaries while planning or executing projects with funds from The Rotary Foundation”.

He reminded the participants of the well-known saying by Confucius — “Let me sit near the window so that I can see the bigger world.” Rotarians need to see the bigger world, he said.

RI Director C Basker was happy to note that the District Governors had responded to his suggestion to have District Chairs for CSR and EMG. The

workshop was being organised specifically for these newly created local appointments in these three Zones which he represents on the RI Board.

Stressing the importance of these two very important sources for funding of Rotary projects, he wanted the districts to properly institutionalise these two very valuable sources. Now that the GoI had introduced the CSR concept, huge funds would become available for humanitarian projects. But, he stressed repeatedly, stewardship issues in implementing projects would be minutely scrutinised and “under no circumstances should we allow misuse of funds. These should be used strictly for projects for which they are released.

Last year we had become number two in TRF giving by just a few thousand dollars; this year, the country at the third position is a good \$3 million behind us.

TRF Trustee
Sushil Gupta



From L: RRFC Kamal Sanghvi, RID C Basker, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and Zone 3 & 6A EMGA Aziz Memon.

Any funds left over from projects can be carried forward to the next project, after approval, or even refunded to TRF but under no circumstances should these be utilised elsewhere.”

Explaining the plan for the training programme, RID Basker stated that the workshop would be conducted in three parts. Initially, the participants would be introduced to The Rotary Foundation and the

basic role of District CSR Chairs and District EMG Chairs. This would be followed by detailed presentations by the staff of RISAO on these aspects. Finally, in the breakout session, the participants would be put

through exercises to cover the theoretical aspects discussed in Session 2.

Rajeev Ranjan, Regional Head, RISAO, gave a brief outline of the role of the South Asia office. Sanjay Parmar,

India second in TRF giving at \$20.01 million

Rasheeda Bhagat

It was with great gusto and pride that TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta announced at the training session for EMG Chairs and CSR Chairs on Zone 4, 5 and 6A that in The Rotary Foundation’s Centennial year, Indian Rotarians had raised the bar and taken TRF giving to a new high — collecting a total of \$20.01 million! “And like the previous year, India is once again number two in the world.” Once again Japan was at the number three slot. But what was really heartening was that while last year “we had become number two by just a few thousand dollars, this year,

the country at the third position is a good \$3 million behind us.”

Giving the breakup of the total of \$20.01 million, Gupta said that last year Indian Rotarians had raised \$2.3 million through Endowment funds, \$2.2 million through Term Gifts, \$1.9 million for polio eradication, and India had contributed 24 AKS members.

Gupta said that Indian Rotarians had a huge opportunity before them in the form of CSR funds that profit making corporates were mandated by law to set aside. Last year Rotarians had targeted \$2 million but had fallen short to reach

only the \$1.6 million mark. For the current year the target was \$4 million, and considering the lead given by Districts such as 3110 and 3131, he was positive we would cross this target. He urged the participants to “look at MNCs, as many of them do not have CSR programmes of their own and Rotary is a great partner with great credibility. You only need to raise the bar!” Also, there were many corporates who had funds but not the wherewithal to do their own projects and they would love to partner with Rotary because it had credibility.

District leaders warned on stewardship issues



K Vishwanathan

TRF Trustee
Sushil Gupta

Referring to the recent controversy over stewardship issues in one of the Rotary Districts in India, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta read out the riot act to the assembled Rotary leaders from India, including the District EMG and CSR Chairs and District Governors. "Don't get involved in such questionable activities. Each of us present here is holding the Rotary flag. Don't bring bad name to your country. Everybody says India is doing great projects but at the same time these kind of activities negate everything. Please go and spread this word in your districts."

Trustee Gupta added that while the past cannot be changed, "if something comes before us, we will definitely investigate it and if there is a culprit then he

will be definitely punished. But from now onwards if anything untoward happens or irregularity takes place, then only you yourselves are to be blamed and nobody else."

He added: "The *Rotary News* Editor Rasheeda (Bhagat) is here; I see her taking notes, please point this out in the magazine."

Urging Rotarians to keep three criteria in mind in order to do good projects, he said: "First of all; do a survey; and take up only what the community wants, not what you want. Secondly, it must be sustainable and the third thing is stewardship. Do not play around with CSR money. That will be the biggest disservice you will be doing to the Rotary world."

Senior Manager, TRF, explained the functioning of the Foundation at RI Headquarters and how the Regional South Asia office can be of assistance to districts and clubs.

Shakuntala Raha, Manager International Fundraising, explained how Endowments, Term Gifts, Major Gifts and Bequests were received and utilised by RI. She also explained how the various givers were recognised at various levels for their contributions.

PDG Vinod Bansal and Jayashree Jayaraman, Manager, in charge of CSR, explained the provisions of CSR in the new Companies Act and the type of programmes that can benefit from under this programme. Rotary, having established credibility over the years, would be able to benefit the most from such funding opportunities, was reiterated at this training session.

Roy John, Coordinator TRF, RISAO, explained in

Don't get involved in questionable activities on stewardship. Don't bring bad name to your country.

Everybody says India is doing great projects but at the same time these kind of activities negate everything.

TRF Trustee
Sushil Gupta

detail the process districts and clubs have to follow while applying for Global Grants. The application forms were clear and districts/clubs need to follow these rigidly. Inaccurate information will result in rejection of applications for any grants from TRF.

Rajesh Anand, Assistant Manager, Stewardship, RISAO, emphasised the importance of stewardship of funds released by TRF. He made it clear that Rotary does not allow any contribution from the beneficiary for any project. Thus to expect any beneficiary to add to the project funds or to be part donor is a complete No-No. Districts/clubs are also advised to look out for any conflict of interest in case of projects being put up for funding. Projects seeking funds should not be directly or indirectly linked to Rotarians in their personal capacity, he said.

Two District EMGAs PDG Ashok Panjwani and PDG KP Nagesh — put the participants through an exercise of a four-step process to develop donors. These steps were: Identify, Cultivate, Solicit, Donor Stewardship. The objective of the training session, as spelt out by them:

- Identify each step in the four-step fundraising process
- Understand what makes a good prospective donor
- Understand the best strategies for cultivation. ■

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Mantra to succeed as Governors

Rasheeda Bhagat

PRIP K R Ravindran gives DGs and DGEs a set of guidelines to follow and challenges to overcome during their year as leaders.

I often think of my year as President of my club way back in 1987, perhaps the most enjoyable assignment I have ever had, and in retrospect, I know that this was a turning moment of my life for it set me up for everything else in Rotary that lay ahead of me.”

Addressing the next batch of District Governors (for 2018–19) at one of the meetings of a multiple training session in Delhi for district leaders, PRIP K R Ravindran left them with one central thought — Rotary is made in the clubs, not at the district or even RI headquarters in Evanston. He recalled a quote he had picked up from his

college rugby team — “The size of your success is measured by the strength of your desire, the size of your dream and how you handle disappointment along the way.”

Good club presidents or DGs should use such a principle in running their clubs/districts. Before putting pressures and demands on the clubs such as raising more money for TRF, adding more members, doing better projects etc, “remember your days as a club president, and that each club will have its day-to-day issues, apart from the pressures you place on them. And, if you ask too forcefully, or far too much, you will drive away members.”

Even while asking clubs to look for younger members, DGs should counsel club leaders not to alienate “the older members who now form our backbone, or lose sight of the recently retired who still have so much to give,” said Ravindran.

If such sensitivities and skills were used appropriately, “you can not only accomplish much and reach many people, but also elevate Rotary to a different level.”

Good projects will get funding

Ravindran told the DGEs who listened to him in rapt attention, that during his Rotary journey and different leadership positions, he had “learned that raising big money is never an issue if you have a good project, and run it in a professional manner.” A good test was the “schools project we ran in Sri Lanka — building 25 modern, fully equipped schools after the tsunami. The projected cost was \$12 million; we raised it in 10 months and completed all the schools within three years and most of the money came from non-Rotary entities.”

Similarly, in the initial stages of the PolioPlus movement in the mid-1990s, Sri Lanka needed \$5 million to do a

K Vishwanathan



A section of the district leaders with (from R) PRIP K R Ravindran, RID C Basker, Mala Basker and PDG Sanjay Khanna.

full NID. Of this, \$1.5million came from TRF; “we raised the balance in one meeting at the Ministry of Health office with an audience of five — the Ambassadors of Japan, US, UK and WHO and UNICEF representatives,” Ravindran said.

Urging the DGEs to remember that our time on this earth is finite, he asked them to use their one year in office most productively, wisely, thoughtfully and generously and advise their club presidents to do the same and bring in the full force of their talents to make a difference as only Rotary can. “Remember a new year awaits you, full of promise: a new chapter in the book of our lives, its pages empty, waiting to be filled.” It was up to each of them to ensure that this chapter was either filled with “generous deeds, responsibility, work done well, and a life well lived; or days that follow one another, each one alike, unremarkable.”

The past RI President also reminded the DGEs that while popularity is temporary, respect is perennial. “Virat Kohli is popular. If he fails to score for one season the same crowd which adored him will boo him! That is popularity. President Abdul Kalam won respect. That he took to his grave and then to eternity. That is respect.”

He also asked them to always follow the principle that never speak from the podium “what you don’t practice yourself. Always walk the talk. Otherwise you will be no better than a politician.”

Ravindran recalled that as RI President he had always insisted that Rotary must be run like a business. “And to



Rotary is indeed a business.
Our business is literacy and
health; livelihood and hope;
and to so many of those we
help, our business is miracles.

PRIP K R Ravindran

those who said to me, but Rotary is not a business, I said, yes, it is. But it is a business like no other. Our business is literacy and health; livelihood and hope; and to so many of those we help, our business is miracles.”

So as DGs they would have to tell their presidents that they had just one year to transform lives and “build monuments that will endure forever — carved not in granite or marble, but in the lives and hearts of generations. Tell them we are the ones who can make it happen. This is our time; it won’t come again, so let us grasp it.”

In another meeting, Ravindran urged the freshly minted batch of 2017–18 District Governors, to “approach the practical duties of Rotary administration with the same zeal and standards you apply in your professional lives.”

Give maximum benefit to members

He said as CEO of his company, he made every decision to get maximum benefit to his shareholders, with zero compromise of ethics. So why should it be different for Rotary, he asked. “Everything we do as Rotary leaders, every decision we make, must be for the benefit of the members whom we represent and who have placed their confidence in us. The same efficiency

and the same productivity that we look for outside of Rotary, must also be uncompromisingly sought within Rotary, by every single Rotarian,” he said.

But giving their best to Rotary during their year as DGs was not enough. Accountability was very important; “each of you is being paid a very reasonable allowance. This comes from the money that Rotarians pay as dues.

They have a right to expect good value for that money.”

Also, they should always remember that their RI Director was organising such events at a cost that was again being paid by Rotary members. “We need to show a good return on their investment, and that return should be measurable in terms of increased membership, or Foundation giving, or media placements.”

And to get these results a sound management principle was “to surround yourself with the best people you can find, and empower them to do their jobs. I hope you have done so and not merely placed people who helped you in your elections. Please do not pick people based on friendship or favours owed.”

On the contrary, they should look for top professionals and experts their clubs had on offer and induct them into their teams, especially in areas such as strategic planning, communications and finance.

Ravindran urged the DGs to make effective use of the resources that RI had put together for their benefit, including Rotary Club Central and also educate their clubs on the benefits Rotarians could get by using Rotary’s Global Rewards, which offered Rotarians discounts and offers from reputed services, establishments, and organisations around the world.

In a nutshell, what was expected from them was “good governance, accountability and efficiency”; by ensuring these they would set the right example for the entire Rotary world, he concluded. ■

Surround yourself with the best people you can find, and empower them to do their jobs. Do not pick people based on friendship or favours owed, or because they helped you in your elections.

Rotary India banks on Rotaractors

V Muthukumaran

Fifty new Rotaract clubs were installed in District 3232 this year. The new presidents and secretaries received their certificates of appreciation from PRIP Gary Huang at the Rotaract golden jubilee celebrations held recently in Chennai.

While 25 clubs received their charters, the rest are awaited from the RI Board.

India is under transformation with a visible change in its leadership and Rotary's role in nation-building is cut out even as it nurtures

Rotaractors who stand apart for their multi-dimensional traits, said RID C Basker, inaugurating the grand event. He urged the Rotaractors to fully leverage the 'learning opportunity' the Rotary platform opens for them. "You are role

models in your colleges and among your friends. Rotary enables you to know what is happening in the world, learn from successful leaders, and motivates you to make meaningful changes in your communities. Hence, always think as global citizens with a vision to innovate," he said.

Stand-up, be counted

Rotaractors must remember that they are part of something bigger and have to work and make a difference to their community, said PRIP Gary. Every Rotaractor has a choice of how big an impact he or she wants to make. "You want to stand up and be counted, or let chances slip by, it is for you to decide," he said and urged them to continue with their exemplary work. At the same time "challenge yourself, do what is interesting and not what is easy. Just continue to make a difference."

Rotaract (Rotary-in-action) was formed in 1968 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and the RI Board believed that Rotaractors would shape the future of Rotary. "Hence, we want to help and support them

PRIP Gary Huang presents an award to Rotaractors in the presence of RID C Basker (extreme right) and DG R Srinivasan (centre).





Rotarians of RC Chennai Select get their charter from PRIP Gary Huang in the presence of DG R Srinivasan, PRID P T Prabhakar, DGN G Chandramohan, IPDG Natarajan Nagoji, District Women Membership Chair Manjula V Krishnan and Membership Development Director A Sangaran.

in all their endeavours as they get ready to become leaders in their own right,” said PRID P T Prabhakar.

The CoL has facilitated a smoother transition for Rotaractors to become Rotarians and this will further harness the potential of Indian youth, who make up nearly 70 per cent of the country’s 1.2 billion population. Citing football sensation Pele’s words: ‘Show me the youth of a country, I will predict its future’, Prabhakar highlighted the fact that D 3232 has the world’s largest Rotaractor strength for a single district.

“Rotaract chisels its members with good experiences, puts you up at the front and makes you an all-round leader. We depend a lot on Rotaractors for implementing our projects and community initiatives,” said DG R Srinivasan.

PDG ISAK Nazar recalled that the scaling up of Rotary

activity in the district happened from 2013–14 when Rotaractors set a Guinness Record in *Hi-5* and followed it up with another record in *My Flag, My India*, the next year. Lauding the grand 25-minute flag march at the start of the celebrations, he said that it “created an aura of a global convention.”

Summing up the Rotaract activities, DRR C Dhanakodi said they were the first to conduct a RYLA for and by Rotaractors, a showcase event being held twice a year. They

PRIP Gary Huang and RID C Basker.





Corinna Huang, Mala Basker, Maheswari Sivashankaran and Sujatha Srinivasan at the International Nite.

had hosted Rotasia, a global meet, in 2007; the Asian DRRs-elect training seminar (ADETS) *Pride* in 2012; and Rotaract Zone Institute 2017 titled *The One*.

Over 1,700 Rotaractors and 300 Rotarians, apart from DRRs from Mumbai, Kolhapur, Mysore, Udumalpet and Tirunelveli were present at the event.

Nine new Rotary clubs

Later that evening, PRIP Gary inaugurated nine new Rotary clubs — five chartered clubs and four others

awaiting charter from the RI Board. “I joined Rotary 40 years ago at the age of 31, and was the youngest member of my club where the average age was 50. But in India, the chances of young Rotarians becoming DGs and quickly graduating to other leadership positions are more as you are now getting more younger members,” he said.

Lauding Srinivasan and his team for organising the two-day event — *Grandeur* — PRID P T Prabhakar recalled that of the 34 zones, Zone-5 comprising South India, contributed

63 per cent of the total number of Rotarians — 70,000 — that were added during PRIP Gary’s year as President (2014–15). In the last five years, Rotary India has ranked first in membership growth and is next only to the US in Foundation giving, he added.

International nite

To honour PRIP Gary an International Nite was organised, the main purpose of which was to showcase to the international community in Chennai the tremendous work done by Rotary for polio eradication in the last 33 years. “It was an event where the diplomats and trade representatives from Taiwan, Malaysia, Korea, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Germany and Spain participated, and we had the expat business community’s representation from US, Japan and Russia,” said Chairman of the event L Neelakantan.

A video film was shown to impress upon the international delegates the extensive nature of the work Rotarians across the world had done from 1985 to 2017 for polio eradication. ■

In Short

- D 3232 has 121 Rotaract clubs and 26,000 Rotaractors, the largest in the world for a single district. With the addition of 50 new clubs, the present tally is 171 clubs.
- Has two Guinness Records in *Hi-5* and *My Flag, My India* created by Rotaractors in 2013–14.
- RID Basker said that *Rotaract News*, a digital magazine, will be launched soon to publish events and happenings of the Rotaract world.

Four community projects were accomplished by RC Bhubaneswar Meadows, D 3262, under a mega outreach — Sahayata, the brainchild of PDG Aswini Kumar Kar — with CSR funding from New India Assurance Company. The project beneficiaries are 200 rural women; 3,000 school students; 26 polio victims; and a Rotary eye hospital.

The entire funding of Rs 37.68 lakh was sanctioned by the PSU as part of its CSR activity after Kar made a detailed presentation of all the four projects at its head office in Mumbai in May 2016. For the first time, a club has implemented such a large project that was fully sponsored through CSR funding, creating a new precedent in the district. Now “more clubs are interested in taking up similar activities,” says Kar.

Nari Samrudhi for women

The club tied up with an NGO Krushi Jeevika to provide eight fruit-bearing saplings to each of the 200 women in Dhanchengeda village in Odisha. As part of Sahayata, the NGO will support rural women in growing the trees and marketing the fruits at a good profit.

“Each woman will earn at least Rs 500–600 a month. We have also given them 8 kg of compost manure along with saplings,” he says. Mini Mohanty, a beneficiary, thanking Rotary, says, “Now, I can look forward to earn, though in a limited way, instead of asking my husband daily for money. I can also take care of my children’s needs.”

Another beneficiary, Manjulata Mohanty, echoes a similar sentiment. Most of these women are either illiterate or school dropouts and this additional income will help them.

Dual desks for schools

The project helped to provide 1,000 dual desks to 27 schools. “I roped in 23 other Rotary clubs too for distribution of the desks to their

A winning Rotary-CSR combo

V Muthukumaran



PDG Aswini Kar with students seated on dual desks provided by the club.

adopted schools, which are in the process of being converted into Happy Schools,” says Kar. The schools were chosen from Balasore, Bhadrak, Keonjhar, Berhampur, Cuttack, Puri and Dhenkanal districts and lacked basic facilities for primary education.

Sahayata also provided wheel-chairs and tricycles to 26 physically-challenged people, and an ambulance for the Rotary Eye Hospital in Balasore to screen rural patients and bring them to hospital for further treatment.

The mobility aids, dual desks and ambulance were given to the beneficiaries at a meet presided over by PRID Shekhar Mehta at the club’s adopted school. The then DG Narayan Nayak and New India Assurance DGM S Behera were also present.

Extending CSR projects

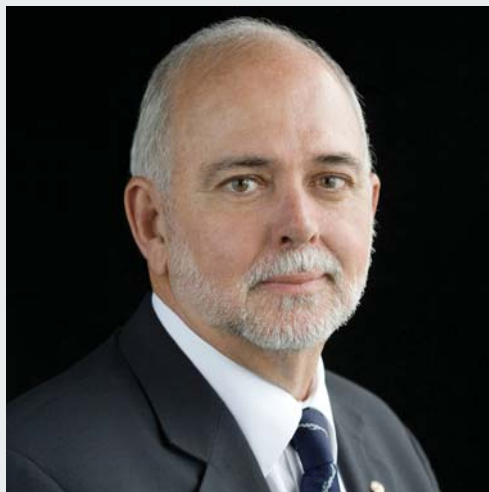
Kar has got an ‘in-principle’ nod from the Finance Director of NTPC for sanctioning CSR funds to deliver another 1,000 dual desks. Further, a couple of other companies have also expressed interest in giving their CSR funds for installing sanitary napkin vending machines for girl students in government schools. “We want to install these in 100 schools in the first phase, and the cost may work out to Rs 60 lakh,” he says.

Nayak is happy that Project Sahayata has brought the district “tremendous goodwill and has boosted our public image.”

The club has also donated Rs 50,000 from its funds for restoring the eyesight of Pramodini Roul, an acid attack survivor, who had lost both her eyes. ■

Incoming RI Presidents

**Barry Rassin is RI President for 2018–19 and
Mark Maloney, President for 2019–20.**



RIPE Barry Rassin

RIPE Rassin is a member of RC East Nassau, New Providence, Bahamas. As president, he aims to strengthen Rotary's public image and maximise its reach through better use of digital tools. "Those who know what good Rotary clubs do will want to be a part of it, and we must find new models for membership that allow all interested in our mission to participate," he says. He wants to "grow our youth programmes, especially

We must find new models for membership that allow all interested in our mission to participate.

Barry Rassin
RI President-elect

Rotaract, strengthening their transition to Rotary. The Young Professional Rotaract Clubs could evolve into Rotary Clubs."

Rassin has an MBA in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida and is the first fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives in the Bahamas. He recently retired after 37 years as president of Doctors Hospital Health System, where he continues to serve as an adviser. He is a lifetime member of the American Hospital Association and has served on several boards, including the Quality Council of the Bahamas, Health Education Council and Employer's Confederation.

A Rotarian since 1980, Rassin has served Rotary as director and is vice chair of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees. He was an RI training leader and the aide to Past RI President K R Ravindran. He was honoured with the Service Above Self Award, and other humanitarian awards for

leading Rotary's relief efforts in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. He and his wife, Esther, are Major Donors and Benefactors of TRF.

Rassin's nomination follows Sam Owori's death in July, just two weeks into his term as Rotary International president-elect.

Mark D Maloney is member of RC Decatur, Alabama, USA. He will be declared the president-nominee on October 1 if no challenging candidates have been suggested.

"The clubs are where Rotary happens," says Maloney, an attorney. He aims to support and strengthen clubs at the community level, preserve Rotary's culture as a service-oriented organisation, and test new regional approaches for growth.

"With the eradication of polio, recognition for Rotary will be great and the opportunities will be many. We

have the potential to become the global powerhouse for doing good.” He too wants to focus on Rotaract. “Too many good Rotaractors are being lost from Rotary.”

Maloney is a principal in the law firm of Blackburn, Maloney, and Schuppert LLC, with a focus on taxation, estate planning and agricultural law. He represents large farming operations in the Southeastern and Midwestern United States, and has chaired the American Bar Association’s Committee on Agriculture in the section of taxation. He is a member of the American Bar Association, Alabama State Bar Association and the Alabama Law Institute.

He has been active in Decatur’s religious community, chairing his church’s finance council and a local Catholic school board. He has also served as president of the Community Foundation of Greater Decatur, chair of Morgan County Meals on Wheels and director of the United Way of Morgan County and the Decatur-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce.



Mark Maloney

A Rotarian since 1980, Maloney has served as an RI director; trustee and vice chair of TRF; president’s aide; zone coordinator; and a leader on the Future Vision and 2014 Sydney Convention Committees. He serves on the Operations Review Committee and has served on the Rotary Peace Centres Committee. He has received the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished

Service Award. Maloney and his wife, Gay, are Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors and Bequest Society members.

The Nominating Committee members who elected the RIPE and RIPN include Anne L Matthews (chair), RC Columbia East, USA; Ann-Britt Åsebol, RC Falun-Kopparvågen, Sweden; Örsçelik Balkan, RC Istanbul-Karaköy, Turkey; James Anthony Black, RC Dunoon, Scotland; John T Blount, RC Sebastopol, USA; Frank N Goldberg, RC Omaha-Suburban, USA; Antonio Hallage, RC Curitiba-Leste, Brazil; Jackson S L Hsieh, RC Taipei Sunrise, Taiwan; Holger Knaack, RC Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany; Masahiro Kuroda, RC Hachinohe South, Japan; Larry A Lunsford, RC Kansas City-Plaza, USA; P T Prabhakar, RC Madras Central, India; M K Panduranga Setty, RC Bangalore, India; Andy Smallwood, RC Gulfway-Hobby Airport (Houston), USA; Norbert Turco, RC Ajaccio, France; Yoshimasa Watanabe, RC Kojima, Japan; and Sangkoo Yun, RC Sae Hanyang, Korea.

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Convention

Grand tours

When you’re in Toronto for the 2018 Rotary International Convention from June 23 to 27, you may want to take some time to visit Niagara-on-the-Lake, a picturesque town at the mouth of the Niagara River. Many tourists make the 80-mile drive and spend the day walking along the leafy streets, which are lined with boutiques and cafes in 19th-century buildings, or sampling the wine at one of the numerous world-class wineries nearby.

Just 14 miles away, you will find one of the biggest tourist attractions in the world. Niagara Falls is the collective name for three waterfalls that straddle the Canada-US border.



Visitors to the Horseshoe Falls in Canada can enjoy many activities including a boat ride through the heart of the falls and a tour of the tunnels near the bottom of the falls.

Another option is a day trip to Stratford, which is just 95 miles from Toronto. It’s home to the continent’s largest classical repertory

theatre company, which puts on more than a dozen productions from April to October. The Stratford Festival places special emphasis on the works of Shakespeare.

The small city has some of the finest restaurants in Canada. There are also tasting tours for beer lovers and chocoholics. And you can sample creations made from Canada’s liquid gold, maple syrup.

— Randi Druzin

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

Towards a TB free India

Rasheeda Bhagat

Young Nandita Venkatesan, a TB survivor, got the undivided attention of the assembled District Governors at the seminar 'Towards a TB-free India' presided over by PRID Yash Pal Das, when she compared the huge lesions in her stomach to a monstrous "Kattappa. You have a devil, a Kattappa sitting in your stomach, a devil you can't even see." The seminar was organised by Rotary India National TB Control and Awareness Committee in partnership with the International Union for Tuberculosis and Lung Disease.

Describing her marathon 18-month battle with TB not once, but twice, Nandita said she had undergone six surgeries, was swallowing 15 different medicines daily, all to no avail. "It was an endless nightmare; I was in hospital for three months battling between life and death. I would cry continuously for 12 hours out of sheer physical pain. I lost 80 per cent of my hearing due to some medication and now I am 90–95 per cent deaf in both my ears."

**It was an endless nightmare;
I was in hospital for three
months battling between life
and death. I would cry con-
tinuously for 12 hours out of
sheer physical pain.**

TB survivor
Nandita Venkatesan



PRID Y P Das and RID C Basker.

Her battle with tuberculosis pushed her into depression at "the prime of my life. I was only 23." And everybody, including her doctors, advised her not to talk about her ailment to anyone as she would be shunned. Finally, in 2015 she opened up, realising that she would have to interact with other survivors. Soon she started counselling them, discussing the side effects of the TB drugs being given to them. More than anything else, she added, all TB survivors should be counselled on the need to speak up, as anyone, not necessarily the poor, can get TB.

Today she is working as a journalist.

At the event, specially convened for the 2017–18 District Governors, PRID Das, who is Chair of the Rotary TB Control Committee, sought the commitment of the DGs to spread TB awareness and work for a TB-free India, joining hands with the Government of India to make the country TB-free by 2025. He urged them to

designate one or two persons in the district who were interested in working on spreading TB awareness.

RI Director C Basker, Dr Jamie Tonsing, Regional Director of the Union for South East Asia, Dr Reuben of USAID, Dr Nishant Kumar from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Arun Kumar Jha, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, addressed the gathering to sensitise the participants on the dreadful disease of TB which is preventable and curable.

An alarming find from the meet was that India harbours 25 per cent of global TB patients, and every minute a person dies because of TB in India.

To bring home the message that TB is curable and medicines are provided free of cost, along with Nandita, Saurabh Rane shared his experience in contracting and overcoming the disease.

Shiva Shrestha, Advocacy and Partnership Officer from the Union spoke of the Union's partnership with the Rotary India TB Control

Committee and how this partnership which has no financial commitment from either side has progressed over the last one year to spread awareness on TB.

Video clips of Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan, himself a TB survivor, who is now a brand ambassador for a TB-free India were played.

D 3190 DG Asha Prasanna Kumar requested PRID Das to devise a programme akin to the Pulse Polio NID, designating a few days a year to focus on TB awareness. D 3141 DG Prafull Sharma said he would take help from PDG Subhash Kulkarni and added, “we are planning to work in the slum areas to spread awareness on TB.”

Pictures by K Vishwanathan



TB survivor Nandita Venkatesan

A Rotarian's literary feat

Team Rotary News

District Governor Elect Sayantan Gupta, D 3240, along with Dr Bina Biswas, recently called on the then President of India Pranab Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. They presented an English version of the Bengali ballad, *Meghnad Badh Kabya*, originally written by celebrated 19th century Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt. Gupta and Bina have translated it in English and it was published by Lifi Publications, Delhi.

The Bengali literature is based on the demise of Ravana's son Meghnad or Indrajit, who was slayed by Rama's brother Lakshmana while offering prayers to Lord Shiva. The book, first published in 1861, enjoys appreciations from the likes of Rabindranath Tagore, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar and Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

“President Mukherjee discussed portions of the book with us and



DGE Sayantan Gupta and Bina Biswas present their work to former President of India Pranab Mukherjee in the presence of their respective spouses Rtn Puspita and Air Commodore K Biswas and the publishers team.

commended our work,” said Gupta. The translated version is bilingual, with the original Bangla script and its English translation presented side by side. Illustrations by Rituparna Basu provide a visual relief for the poetry.

Gupta, a gynaecologist at Malda, has published 18 books. Bina is an English professor and has eight publications to her credit.

Photo courtesy: Rashtrapati Bhavan

Recharging Rotaractors

Jaishree

The orientation programme for Rotaract leaders was designed to inspire them to transcend into Rotarians who can deliver positive transformation in communities.

South Asia, with 1.2 lakh Rotaractors, has nearly 22 per cent of the world's total strength, but only 16 per cent of it is reported to RI. "In my opinion, we're underutilising the power of Rotaract and not giving opportunities for them to grow higher and develop into good leaders. The South Asia Office at Delhi too does not have the exact Rotaract data, nor do they have the statistics of Rotaractors-turned-Rotarians."

With these words RI Director C Basker set the ball rolling for an orientation meet for District Rotaract Representatives (DRRs) and District Rotaract Committee Chairs (DRCCs) held at Hyderabad recently to commemorate the golden jubilee of Rotaract. He had conceptualised the programme

in consultation with RI's Membership Development Director Brian King and the Rotary Coordinators.

"The late RIPE Sam Owori used to say that Rotaractors are the life insurance of Rotary. Yes, you all are the future of Rotary. With right guidance, I'm confident, you will take Rotary's legacy to the next generation and the next century. I sincerely wish each one of you become Rotarians and continue to serve humanity with more dedication and vigour," said Director Basker.

There is lack of coordination between the DGs, DRRs and DRCCs which is detrimental to both Rotary and Rotaract, he added. Citing the involvement of Rotaractors in Africa, Basker said that Africa has become a separate zone largely due to Rotaractors who

are undertaking quite a lot of service projects there. "Owori led the way. He had a great passion for Rotaract and wanted to give it a huge thrust during his term in 2018–19."

The RI Director called for a homogenous structure for training Rotaractors, just like the training structure of district leaders had been standardised this year. "Take the message from this meet forward and create a ripple-effect among the huge battalion of youngsters out there whose energy is still untapped. Make them realise the potential of this magnificent movement which they are a part of," he advised the DRRs.

Host DG J Abraham (D 3150) said that he was happy that his dream of hosting a Rotaract event led by Rotarians has come true. "Building a



DRRs take a selfie with RI Director C Basker.



From L: PDRR Rajesh Subramanian, Convener Sam Patibandla, RID C Basker, RC H Rajendra Rai, ARC Sharat Chandra, Rtn Ram Seshu and RI Interact and Rotaract Committee member Karthik Kittu.

strong Rotaract and creating leaders is the best takeaway from here,” he said.

Aptly named *Spoorthy* (Telugu for ‘get inspired’), the two-day event was an inspiring workshop for the DRRs and DRCCs, and a good opportunity for the ARCs and RCs to understand the aspirations and strengths of Rotaractors. It was attended by 33 DRRs including those from Nepal (3292) and the Northeast (3240), 31 DRCCs and 12 ARCs led by RCs Ashok Gupta and Rajendra Rai.

“The DRCCs — a ceremonial post until now — are the missing link between Rotarians and Rotaractors. If your committee is strong, you can do wonders,” said Sam Patibandla, the programme convener. The Hyderabad meet is even more special in that the Rotaract club of its twin, Secunderabad, is the world’s second oldest Rotaract club, next to the one in North Carolina, he said.

When he asked how many DRCCs have DRRs as their co-chairs, just two hands went up. “It is imperative that all DRCCs appoint DRRs as co-chairs and have a balanced Rotarian-Rotaractor membership in the committee,” he observed.

Rai, a past Interactor and Rotaractor, listed out eight points (see box) that will help in better Rotary-Rotaract coordination, which Basker applauded with a suggestion that they be shared with all Rotary clubs. Rotarians have a big responsibility as role models for Rotaractors. There is a synergy between both the mottos — ‘Service above Self’ and the Rotaract’s ‘Fellowship with Service’. We have to work together as partners in service and not underutilise Rotaractors as just volunteers,” said Rai.

Developing a vision

Rtn Ram Seshu of RC Bangalore and motivator of D 3190 engaged the audience through a dynamic presentation on ‘Discover your vision’. It was an exercise that culminated in the DRRs drafting a vision statement for their districts. Dividing the group into four teams he had them all on their toes as they interacted with other teams to find answers to questions such as how do we enhance Rotary-Rotaract Rotary engagement; how do we make Rotaract more attractive for the younger generation; three things to

make Rotary the natural destination for Rotaractors and; how can they be trained to become effective leaders.

Helping them to prepare their vision statements, Seshu said, “Your vision should answer these questions: what’ll you be remembered for; how do Rotarians feel after interacting with you; what’ll you highlight about Rotary on social media; what community projects you’ll take up this year.”

A mixed bag of projects

When the floor was thrown open for DRRs to voice out issues they faced in their interaction with Rotarians, they brought out a list, no holds barred, and even suggested to the RI Director to recommend to the Board for a concessional rate for RI events. When ARC ISAK Nazar called for innovative projects done by Rotaractors, they came up with a mixed bag. “Sponsoring heart transplant for a cardiac patient gave us a real high,” said DRR Nagarjuna (D 3202). The Rotaractors are also implementing holistic development in 13 tribal villages around Tirupur near Coimbatore; while another district has provided



An interactive session headed by ARC ISAK Nazar (fourth from right).

PDG H Rajendra Rai listed out these points to establish a cohesive working relationship with Rotaractors:

- * Treat Rotaractors as your partners-in-service
- * Don't interfere in their day-to-day activities. Give guidance when sought
- * Don't use them for physical activities; Use their creative resources to strengthen your projects
- * Allow them to organise projects using your club's funds
- * Organise more professional development programmes
- * Create a support system within Rotary to provide them career guidance/opportunity
- * Recognise and reward outstanding Rotaractors
- * Invite them to join Rotary at the right opportunity.

RWH facility in several homes and D 3291 has its own Rotaract building. A suggestion by Rotaractors to install community-based clubs instead of university-based clubs was well-received.

While discussing strategies to attract Rotaractors, PD RR and past president of Rotary South Asia Multidistrict Information Organisation Rajesh Subramanian recalled his experience saying, "we would encourage Rotaractors to bring their friends to meetings or project sites, to get them interested in Rotary. As Rotaractors, we also enjoy placement preference in some organisations." When his parents asked what was in Rotaract for him, he countered it by inviting them over to an awards event. "When they saw me receive awards, they were super thrilled." And the best part, he says is that "Rotaract has transformed me for the better. I used to be so unorganised, impatient and irresponsible. But now I'm proud of myself and whatever little I do for the society," adds Subramanian.

In an earlier meeting with the twin city club presidents, assistant governors and membership chairs, RID Basker focused on membership development.

"Delegate work and engage your members to sustain their interest in the organisation; give the right job to the right person. That's how you develop leaders," he said. Now that Rotary in India has significantly improved in numbers, it's time to shift focus to quality. "If your team does not perform, don't mince words. Tell them so," he added.

Rural clubs must invite people who can afford to be a Rotarian, in terms of both money and time; stewardship for global grants to be tightened; Rotary clubs to forge relationships with corporate to utilise their CSR funds for community development are other issues that Director Basker highlighted. Calling for generous contribution for the Polio Fund, he said, "Countries across the world are pitching in liberally for the End Polio Campaign. It is imperative that we Indians, the largest beneficiary of the programme, enhance our support for the campaign."

A postal commemorative stamp in memory of late RIPE Sam Owori, designed by Rtn Hari Kishan Valmiki, was released by the Director.

Pictures by Jaishree

A jail shop that is spreading cheer

Anubha Agarwal

The Jaipur Central jail has evolved into a complete *sudhar ghar* (correctional home) with the Rajasthan government undertaking a unique and innovative measure to transform the lives of the jail's inmates by imparting them professional skills associated with the rich cultural heritage of the State.

The result is *Aashayein*, the Jail Shop, which was inaugurated by Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia in January 2017.

The first-of-its-kind prison shop in Rajasthan stocks artefacts crafted

under guidance from master craftsmen, those knowledgeable in the art, NGOs, renowned designers from the textile industry such as Martand Singh, painter/artist Yashwant Shrivastav, great fashion designers such as Bibi Russell from Bangladesh, designer duo Abraham and Thakore and professors from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

When Bibi Russell visited the shop, she was fascinated with the outfits designed by the prisoners and assured the jail authorities that she will help in providing a platform to

the detainees through the internationally acclaimed Jaipur Heritage Week celebrated every year.

The most important factor that distinguishes *Aashayein* from other similar initiatives is its location right outside the jail premises in the city market. The items are designed by almost 2,500 men and women prisoners of not only the Jaipur Central Jail but also the Bhilwara, Ajmer, Jodhpur and Udaipur jails.

Gulab Chand Kataria, Rajasthan's Home Minister, said the sole reason behind *Aashayein* was to keep the



Bangladeshi fashion designer Bibi Russell (centre) at the Jail Shop in Jaipur.



Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje Scindia at a stall selling organic vegetables grown by the prisoners. DG (Prisons) Ajit Singh (extreme right) is also present.

inmates occupied and help them earn a secure livelihood. “The products showcased in the shop are designed by those prisoners who are sentenced for over seven years imprisonment. Many of them are undergoing a life term. The revenue generated is used for the welfare of the convicts. Earlier, these detainees, after a whole day’s hard work, managed to earn barely Rs 20 as their daily wages. But, through *Aashayein*, where the monthly sale is over Rs 1 lakh, these prisoners are now getting Rs 130–180 a day. The money is directly deposited in their bank accounts.”

This earning gives them a feeling of security and enhances their self-respect too as they can give something to their families, he said.

Added Ajit Singh, DG, Prisons, “Earlier, the products designed by the detainees were purchased only by the government departments as the quality was a big issue.” But gradually the quality of the products was improved

and their sales picked up when the products were marketed to the general public through the well-designed shop, done by Malvika Singh, a member of CM Raje’s advisory council.

These prisoners are getting training in painting, artworks, rug-making, weaving, furniture crafting, and wood work. Jodhpur and Udaipur jail detainees are proficient in sheet-metal products and can make coolers, almirahs and other metal items.

This craft will now be taught to the Jaipur jail inmates too.

The good news for the inmates is that by virtue of their good conduct and showing involvement in making these products, they can get remission in their term from four days to three months. Later, they also have the chance to shift to open jails, where the products they have learnt can be made for bulk supply.

Kataria said this initiative has built a positive image of the jail authorities among the public and generated a feeling of compassion for the prisoners.

Goodies on offer

The jail shop has two sections, one where quilts, bedspreads, tablecloths, lehengas, tote bags, skirts, tie and dye dupattas, napkins, pickles, spices, pots, envelopes and handmade paper bags crafted by women inmates are displayed. In the other section, products such as furniture, coolers, wall paintings, rugs etc made by the male prisoners have been showcased. A special touch is inmates doing colourful wall paintings on front wall of the jail shop, adding a sense of cheer to the place. Also, these days they design their prison clothes.

The products are moderately priced with the cost ranging from Rs 10 for an envelope to Rs 10,000 for a wall painting of Shri Krishna. The most popular products are wall paintings, rugs and furniture.

Organic vegetables grown by the prisoners are also in demand. Shankar Singh, Superintendent of the jail, said in the last one year, the inmates have



Constable Sampatti displays some of the products designed by the women detainees.



A rug being woven.

grown over 190 quintals of organic vegetables and these are used in their food too.

True to its name, *Aashayein* is bringing a new ray of hope in the life of prisoners, and equipping them with some precious skills. The good news, adds DG Ajit Singh, is that “in a short span of six months due to great response from the public the State government is planning to start a replica of such shops in other central jails too.”

Even better, with this jail shop generating interest in both the traditional and social media, domestic as well as foreign tourists are placing bulk orders in advance. And sometimes the demand overtakes the produce; particularly in items like furniture, clothes and paintings.

The writer is a Rotarian from RC Jaipur, D 3054.

D 3232 attempt Guinness record on oral hygiene

Team Rotary News

Late into the night of August 18, when Chennaiites were fast asleep, enjoying the unseasonal downpour, two Rotarians were experiencing a sleepless night. “Through the night we kept going out of the room and looked at the sky... and all the time it was raining, and slowly we started having doubts if we can indeed go ahead with the event,” said PDG and District 3232 Trainer ISAK Nazar.

The event that the Rotarians were planning was a Guinness attempt

organised for the following morning at the Sri Ramachandra University (SRU). “DG R Srinivasan was getting calls after calls that we cannot have the programme because the ground is filled with water, so let’s call it off,” he added.

But DG Srinivasan stood his ground saying “the chief guest (PRIP Gary Huang) has come all the way from Taiwan, as also Trustee Sushil Gupta, RID Basker and a host of serving Governors from all over India, we simply can’t cancel the event. Let’s go ahead. We’ll manage,” added Nazar.



Above: (From L) DG R Srinivasan, PDG ISAK Nazar, RID C Basker, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, Rtn Gunavathy, District WinS Chair Ram N Ramamurthy, PRID P T Prabhakar, PRIP Gary Huang and Corinna.





Lo and behold, nature stepped in to help and paved the way for the smooth conduct of D 3232's huge public image exercise by assembling 23,600 students to put focus on the crucial theme of oral health and hygiene as well as a demonstration on hand washing technique as envisaged in WinS.

At around 4 am the rain stopped, but the daunting task was to clear the waterlogged ground. Committed Rotarians and the dedicated staff of the hospital worked their fingers to the bone and got the venue ready by 6 am.

All credit goes to the children, who, unfazed by the overnight rain, started briskly trooping in by 5.30 am. By 7 am, the venue was ready for the

event. Hundreds of Rotarians and Rotaractors swung into action and made the assembly of thousands of students from 100-plus schools of Chennai.

The prevalence of oral disease is very high in India. The National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey says that 42 per cent of children between 2–11 years and 59 per cent of adolescents in the age group 12–19 years, have dental caries in their primary teeth and permanent teeth respectively. Understanding the severity of the situation, D 3232 partnered with the Indian Dental Association, the faculty of Dental Sciences at SRU to take up this ambitious project to create awareness among Chennai's children. And the audience was treated to the wonderful spectacle of around 23,600 children brushing their teeth at the same time.

PRIP Gary Huang, accompanied by wife Corinna, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, RI Director C Basker, PRID P T Prabhakar, PDGs, incoming DGs from D 3232 as well as neighbouring districts, cheered on at this extraordinary Guinness attempt. Trustee Gupta had an added bonus; referring to his

pet passion for group handwashing, he said: "I was especially happy to see the children waving their hands, as it also gave the message of the need to keep not only your teeth but also your hands clean!"

In addition to regularly brushing their teeth, the children took pledges both for planting tree saplings to increase the green cover in Chennai that was lost during the last cyclone Vardah, and to keep their hands clean as envisaged by Rotary's ambitious project Wash in Schools (WinS). Dr Tamizh Chelvan, Chairman for this project, PP Dr Nandakumar, Mentor, Dr Kandaswamy, Dean, Department of Dental Sciences, SRU, along with the support of a battalion of Rotarians of the district, have worked hard over the last several months for this mega event.

But then for D 3232 such mammoth public relations events are not rare. There was the largest image of a human hand in 2013, largest human national flag — *My Flag My India* — organised by PDG Nazar in 2014, and now this oral hygiene event.

With inputs from PDG G Olivannan

All credit goes to the children, who, unfazed by the overnight rain, started briskly trooping in by 5.30 am to ensure the event was held successfully.

Restoring Maluti's glory

G Singh

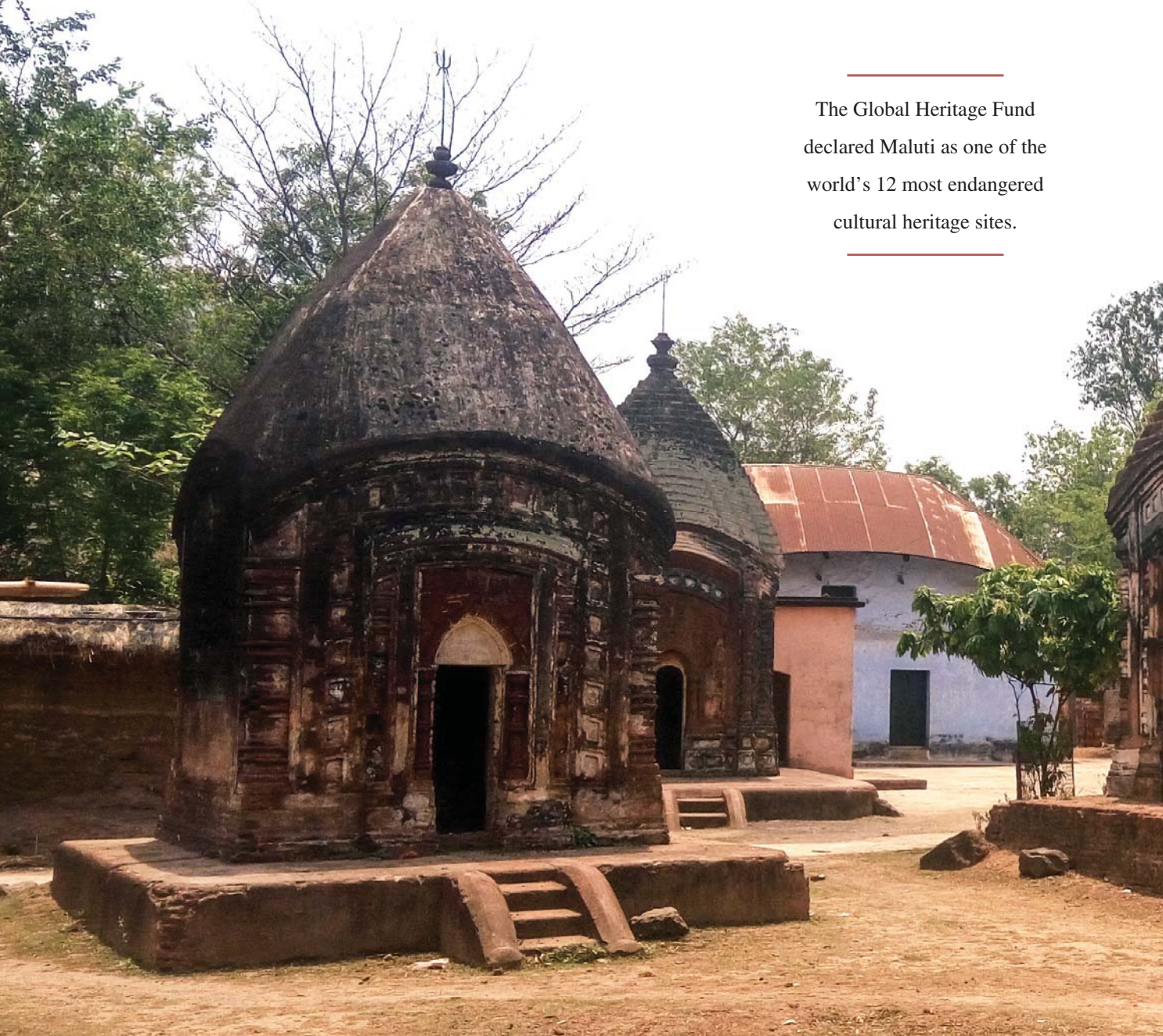
Tucked away on the border of Bengal and Jharkhand, Maluti is a nondescript village located around 230 km from Kolkata. Though the village falls under the jurisdiction of Jharkhand,

with Dumka being the district headquarters, the inhabitants are all from Bengal. Their ancestors had settled here several years ago. A narrow viaduct on the edge of the village separates the two States.

Surrounded by small hills and lush green fields, the picturesque setting mesmerises every visitor. The sound of the flowing river Chila is like music to the ears, transporting one away from the hustle and bustle of life.

Maluti is not just bestowed with the gift of Nature. Not many people might be aware that the village was also known as Guptakashi because it had 108 exquisite terracotta temples standing within a radius of 700 metres. Their numbers, however, have come down to 72, as several temples have crumbled to dust because of sheer ignorance and lack of maintenance over the years.

The Global Heritage Fund declared Maluti as one of the world's 12 most endangered cultural heritage sites.



The temples of Maluti have their own unique history. The village first came into limelight in the 15th century as the capital of *nankar raj* (tax-free kingdom). The credit for turning it into a ‘temple village’ goes to Baj Basanta dynasty whose rulers, instead of building palaces, competed in constructing temples.

The inscriptions on the temples are in a mix of Bengali, Prakrit and Sanskrit, and contain engravings from epics, pastoral life and of gods and goddesses. The surviving temples are dedicated to Shiva, while the rest are those of Kali, Durga and Vishnu. Interestingly, no particular style of architecture has been

followed in Maluti and all popular styles of eastern India have been incorporated and are visible there.

Some historians also believe that the name of the village, originally Mallahati, came from the Malla kings of Bishnupur in Bankura district, who ruled during the 17th and 18th centuries.

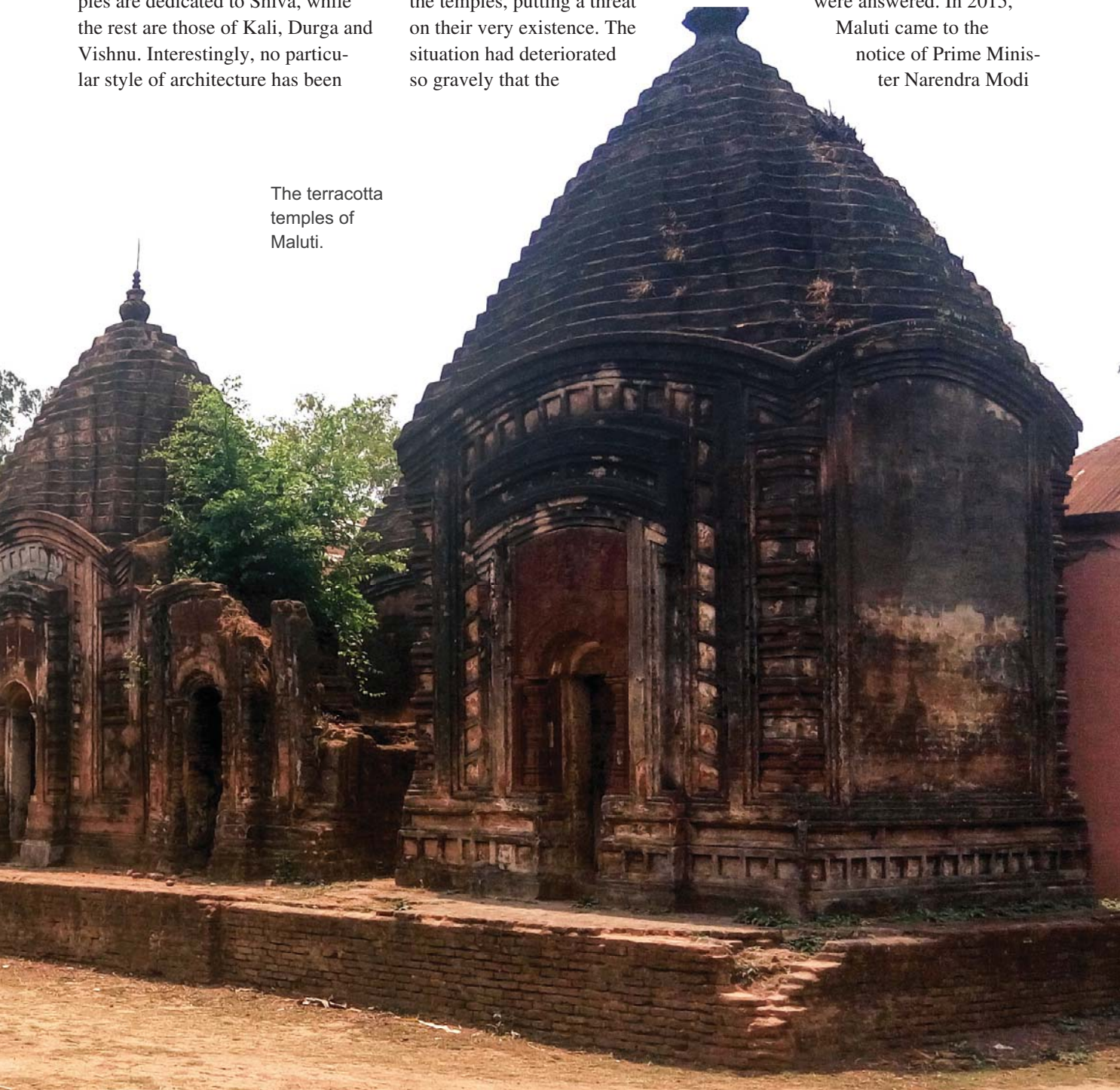
Despite its rich history, no attention was paid for the conservation of the temples. The utter neglect including overgrown vegetation and vandalism has taken a toll on the temples, putting a threat on their very existence. The situation had deteriorated so gravely that the

Global Heritage Fund declared this as one of the world’s 12 most endangered cultural heritage sites.

The villagers also lost all hope of saving the temples. “We had strived for years but to no avail. The successive governments failed to take any steps for its restoration. We considered it a matter of shame that Maluti was at the brink of losing its heritage and prayed for things to take a turn for better,” says Sanjay Bhattacharya, a villager.

Eventually, their prayers were answered. In 2015, Maluti came to the notice of Prime Minister Narendra Modi

The terracotta temples of Maluti.



I want to see people
flocking to visit Maluti's
temples. I've lived my age
and want the restoration
work to be over before I bid
goodbye to this world.

Gopaldas Mukherjee

during a Republic Day Parade in New Delhi. The tableau on Maluti's temples was adjudged the second best at the R-Day parade.

It was a momentous event for the State that had made it to the Rajpath only on four earlier occasions, but was never feted. The victory proved to be a turning point as it catapulted Maluti to national fame. The Prime Minister inquired about the condition of the temples and immediately sanctioned around Rs 13 crores for their restoration. An MoU was signed in June 2015, between the State government and



the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development, for the conservation, promotion and renovation of these temples.

Subsequently, the conservation of 62 temples began as ten were found to be in good shape.

An unrelenting crusade

The credit for bringing Maluti to limelight goes to Gopaldas Mukherjee (87), a retired Air Force personnel, who led a crusade for over five decades for safeguarding the temples.

Mukherjee, commonly known as Botu da, worked relentlessly to bring the temples to global limelight. Sitting in his 135-year-old house made of mud and straw, he says that he was pained to see the condition of the temples when he returned to the village after his retirement from the Air Force in 1967.

"I was shocked to see the pathetic condition. They were no ordinary structures but had a pedigree of several hundred years but were ignored. I took a vow to do whatever was required to preserve my temple village," says Botu da, in a passionate, resolute tone.

He decided to stay in the village and not move out in search of another job. In 1968, he became the headmaster of the village school and also began to work for the renovation of the temples. "I met several senior officials in Bhagalpur division (as the village was under Bihar then) and updated them about the condition of the temples. My efforts brought results when the Bihar government sanctioned money for their restoration in the early 1980s. But work moved at a snail's pace over the years and often stopped due to paucity of funds. I had to run from pillar to post urging officials to hasten the restoration process."

His efforts were recognised by the Jharkhand government as Chief Minister Raghubar Das honoured Botu da with a certificate and cheque of Rs 51,000 in 2015.

Botu da has only one dream. "I want to see people flocking to Maluti to visit the temples. I've already lived my age and want the restoration work to be over before I bid goodbye to this world," he says, as the sun begins to set behind the hillock and dusk envelops the sky. ■



Gopaldas Mukherjee, the relentless crusader.

D 3000 Rotarians plant 30,000 saplings in a single day

Team Rotary News

Within two months of mass blood donation at the district level on a single day when 3,000-plus units of blood were donated, 127 clubs of D 3000 embarked on its second Navaratna Project, planting over 30,000 saplings in just three hours on August 12. There was a mix in the planting — seeds, saplings, seed balls, etc, and to ensure that the saplings grow into trees, protection was provided with wire mesh. Watering the saplings has also been organised. This public image project was done in the presence of the District Forest Officer, other administrative representatives and police personnel. DG P Gopalakrishnan and First Lady G Neelavathi, other Rotarians and volunteers from schools, colleges and NGOs participated.

In addition, door-to-door distribution of saplings to be planted in the backyards of homes in an effort to green the entire region was also carried out. The rain gods ensuring timely rain was an added bonus!

As DGE, Gopalakrishnan had designed nine public image enhancing community service activities titled Navaratna focusing on health, hygiene, environment, education and empowerment. One of these nine projects is preservation of nature, and the various clubs did the tree planting activity simultaneously in various places—villages, towns, schools, colleges, universities, government offices, temples



Policemen also take part in the planting of saplings by D 3000.

and even the Central Prison at Trichy. District officers moved across the District to encourage clubs to carry out this activity. Regional Coordinators, Assistant

Governors, GEMS Navaratna Special Project Director Baskaran and his team worked hard to give realisation to the dream of RI President Ian Riseley that 1.2 mil-

lion trees should be planted in 2017–18. The project does not stop with planting the saplings but growing them through regular supervision and a follow-up survey will be done in June 2018 to assess how many of the 30,000 saplings survive the odds and bloom into trees, said Gopalakrishnan.

“If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach the people,” said Confucius, the Chinese philosopher. D 3000 has thought for 100 years ahead by educating people to grow trees and provide a green cover to the earth. ■

DG P Gopalakrishnan (extreme left) and First Lady G Neelavathi plant saplings.



Putting them back on their feet

Jaishree

Five-month-old Livya Miranda gives a cherubic smile to Younis, the counsellor at the CURE International's Clinic in the Institute of Child Health (ICH - Government Children's Hospital in

Chennai), as she ties the lace of the tiny Foot Abduction Braces (FAB) on her curved foot. Livya's mother Lourde Mary has tears in her eyes as her husband Snegan Miranda says, "These people are just great.

Thanks to them, our daughter's foot is slowly straightening." Outside the consulting room, little Devashri (9 months) wriggles out of her mother's lap, attempting to walk; the braces do not bother her.

RID Mikael Ahlberg (second from left) and his spouse Charlotte (extreme right) inaugurated a CURE Clinic at the Chacha Nehru Hospital in Delhi. Also in the picture are (From L) Lalitha Subramanian, PDG Raman Bhatia, Suresh Vasudeva, PP of RC Delhi Midtown and IPDG N Subramanian.



While polio can be prevented but cannot be treated, clubfoot cannot be prevented but can be treated. Neglected clubfoot leads to lifetime disability.

Jaishree



Little Devashri tries to walk with her FAB shoes on.



Livya and Devashri are diagnosed with clubfoot and have been referred to the CURE Clinic by their orthopaedicians. They've been visiting the clinic since they were a week-old. Clubfoot is a congenital disorder where one or both feet are twisted down and inward, making them look like golf clubs.

CURE International India is a voluntary organisation that provides corrective treatment for this deformity through its 254 designated clinics set up in government hospitals/medical colleges across the country. The organisation trains orthopaedicians to treat patients through 'Ponseti' method (see Box) endorsed by WHO, the American Academy of Paediatrics and the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of India.

Santhosh George G, Director of CURE International, says that of the 30 million births in India every year, over 50,000 children are born with clubfoot. About 38,000 children have enrolled for treatment in the CURE

clinics, with an average of 40–50 new children coming in every day.

Back at the ICH, Beulah Vithyakumari, CURE's State Manager for Tamil Nadu, states that the government supports CURE with space and casting material while the clinic provides counselling for parents, the actual corrective treatment and the special FAB shoes for children. "The shoes are being manufactured at our unit located in Kashmir. The cost varies between Rs 1,000–1,200 depending on the size. We do not charge anything from the patients but if they voluntarily give donations, we accept them," she says.

Rotary's role

Rotary is partnering with CURE since last year; it all began in Delhi with the idea mooted by Amar Nath Goyal of RC Delhi South, D 3011, and the club set up a clubfoot clinic at the Safdarjung Hospital. Goyal is the District Clubfoot Committee Chair. Subsequently, RC Delhi Midtown

sponsored two clinics — one at St Stephen's Hospital and another at the Chacha Nehru Bal Chikitsalaya. "We're connected with St Stephen's for the last 15 years starting from the polio rehab programme. Dr Mathew Verghese, the HOD of Orthopaedics, is the Technical Director of CURE and he trains doctors all over India in the Ponseti method," says PDG Raman Bhatia, who is Advisor to the D 3011 Clubfoot Deformity Correction Committee.

Three other clubs — RCs Delhi Rajdhani, Delhi Central and Faridabad NIT — have each sponsored and are in charge of the clubfoot clinics at Kalawati Saran Hospital, AIIMS and BK Hospital, Faridabad.

A Global Grant of \$127,000 has recently been approved to take care of these clinics for three years. RC Delhi Midtown is the lead club and Rotary clubs in Belgium led by PDG Emma Groenenn, the international partners.



Little Mohasin Malik (4) gets a PoP cast for a relapse of clubfoot as he discontinued the earlier treatment.

The Ponseti technique

Named after its developer, Spanish orthopaedician Ignacio V Ponseti, the Ponseti technique includes a regimen of manipulation, casts and braces to correct congenital clubfoot disorder, says the State Manager of CURE, Beulah Vithyakumari.

The first phase involves applying a toe-to-groin PoP cast on the leg with clubfoot after gently manipulating the ligaments and tendons. This manipulation is done weekly, to shape the malleable foot, and the plaster cast replaced to retain the degree of correction and soften the ligaments. The process gradually brings the displaced bones to proper alignment. It generally takes about 4–7 casts to achieve maximum foot abduction (correction), after which a percutaneous incision called 'Tenotomy' is

performed under local anaesthesia on the Achilles tendon through a stab incision. A final cast is applied which remains for 2–3 weeks.

The child should then wear special shoes, the FAB, 23 hours a day for three months and then, for three years, limit its use to overnight and at nap time. The shoes are attached to each other by Denise Brown bar to maintain the shape of the foot.

Poorly conducted manipulations will further complicate the deformity, warns Beulah. Regular follow-up also plays an important role in the correction process. "Otherwise, it will relapse. We have so many such children who undergo the entire process from start again, but as the child grows older, the manipulation process becomes tougher as the bones will not be as supple," she adds.

"We want clubs in other Districts too to join hands with CURE and help reach out to more children, as CURE clinics are present in all 29 States," says Bhatia.

The Delhi clubs help in identifying and referring child patients with clubfoot to these clinics and sponsor their treatment, the cost of which works out to around Rs 10,000 a child. "Most importantly, we highlight the fact that the disorder can be fully corrected if it is treated as early as possible." Many of the parents are ignorant about the disorder and even mistake clubfoot for polio. While polio can be prevented but cannot be treated, clubfoot cannot be prevented but can be treated. Neglected clubfoot leads to lifetime disability.

"Ideally, treatment must begin as early as even 7–10 days when the child's bones are soft and flexible. The entire process takes about five years, but once cured, the child can walk as normally as any other person, without any aids or appliances," he says. ■

An ‘upbeat mood’ in D3250

Team Rotary News

On the occasion of the installation of District 3250 Governor Vivek Kumar, RC Patna City Samrat, distributed 11 e-rickshaws, each costing Rs 1.1 lakh, to 11 needy people, taking from each a token contribution of only Rs 2,500.

Assistant Governor Sushil V Poddar said that each rickshaw has a Rotary Wheel both on its front and back, “so that apart from giving employment to 11 people, this project will enhance Rotary’s public image as the vehicle plies across the city. It also helps check pollution.”

President of the club Prakash Barnwal announced that his club, with help from other Rotary clubs and the DDF, will distribute 300 such e-rickshaws to the needy in 2017–18.



TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta, DG Vivek Kumar and spouse Varsha take a ride on an e-rickshaw along with a school student.



DG Vivek Kumar (extreme right) and spouse Varsha (extreme left) with TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta and Rotary Patna City Samrat President Prakash Barnwal.

*Is baar District 3250 ki fiza
kuch badli badli si hei! (This
time there is an upbeat mood
in D 3250!)*

TRF Trustee **Sushil Gupta**

Poddar added seeing the presence of 600 Rotarians from 100 Rotary clubs for the installation, and the enthusiasm among the District’s Rotarians to do vocational service projects, TRF Trustee Sushil Gupta said “*Is baar District 3250 ki fiza kuch badli badli si hei!*” (This time there is an upbeat mood in D 3250!) ■

Help launch our new global ad campaign

What is Rotary?

While many people have heard of Rotary, few people actually understand what Rotary clubs do. In fact, 35 per cent of the public is unfamiliar with any Rotary programme including their local club. That's why Rotary has created a new global ad campaign called 'People of Action'. The ads are available for download at Rotary.org/brandcenter, where you will also find guidelines on how to use and localise each element, making it easier for clubs

in any part of the world to tell their story in a consistent, compelling way.

Here's what you need to know

Who are we trying to reach?

This campaign is for people who do not know about Rotary or why it's relevant to them. We hope the campaign will appeal to potential members who want to make a difference in their communities, those interested in Rotary's causes, and people looking



People of Action

Rotary has a new global ad campaign to strengthen our image, and we need your help to launch it. Here's what to do:

- Go to Rotary.org/brandcenter and download the People of Action campaign assets — you'll find campaign guidelines, videos, social media graphics, print ads, logos, and more.
- Share it with others in your club — particularly advertising professionals who can help place the ads locally.
- Collaborate with your *district public image coordinator* for additional guidance.
- Use social media to share campaign videos and graphics.
- E-mail Rotary's marketing team with success stories or questions at pr@rotary.org.



to establish relationships with others in their communities.

Why is the campaign's theme 'People of Action'?

Rotarians share a unique passion for taking action to improve their communities and the world. Where others see problems, we see solutions. This is our chance to show others how Rotarians see what's possible in their communities and to highlight what we can achieve when more community leaders join Rotary.

What materials are available?

At Rotary.org/brandcenter, you'll find videos, social media graphics and advertisements for print and digital. Campaign guidelines are also provided to help districts and clubs localise the assets.

Who are the people/projects featured in the campaign?

The first ads in the campaign feature real Rotarians in Colorado and Brazil, and the stories shown were

inspired by actual projects. More stories from Rotarians will be featured in the upcoming ads.

Can clubs or districts modify campaign materials with pictures of their own projects?

Yes. Guidelines are provided at Rotary.org/brandcenter to help districts and clubs localise the campaign with photos of their own communities.

Is there guidance for taking photos for the ads?

Yes. Rotary.org/brandcenter has a checklist and information on how to capture photos that focus on connections and community.

What are some ways we can place the campaign locally?

Campaign placement tips are on Rotary.org/brandcenter. There are also other ways to use the materials — consider adding campaign graphics to club and district websites, posting them on social media, and displaying the ads at events.

What kind of support will be provided to



members who don't know how to buy ads or secure donated space?

RI provides guidelines on how to develop media plans, buy ads, and secure donated ad space at Rotary.org/brandcenter. In addition, the RI marketing communications team will host a series of webinars to help club and district leaders with media planning.

How does the campaign work with the existing Rotary brand positioning of 'Join Leaders,' 'Share Ideas' and 'Take Action'?

The People of Action campaign brings the Rotary brand to life by highlighting what happens when community leaders within Rotary join together, share their vision, exchange ideas about solutions and then take action to make it a reality.

Who do I contact with questions about this campaign?

Please send all questions regarding the People of Action campaign to pr@rotary.org.

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Rotary.org

The capital of nice

Vanessa Glavinskas

A tour of the 2018 convention city reveals one common thread: Toronto's welcoming spirit.

We're lost. My phone battery is low, so I don't risk draining it to consult Google Maps. Instead, we duck inside a coffee shop and I pull out a paper map while my nine-year-old daughter orders a hot chocolate. The clerk smiles and asks where we are trying to go. On a small sheet of paper, she begins drawing a map of the area — complete with landmarks — so that I will know how to get to Kensington Market. It reminds me of the hand-drawn maps in a Rick Steves guidebook. I thank her, and as we leave,

my daughter says, "Wow, they are so nice in Canada."

It's true. The people of Toronto gave us a warm reception on our visit to the city that will host the 2018 Rotary International Convention. Toronto has been shaped by immigrants, who have added new languages, customs and foods while boosting the economy. Beyond downtown's skyscrapers, Toronto is a sprawling network of neighbourhoods: from ethnic enclaves such as Little Italy and Little India to Kensington Market with its bohemian cafés and Yorkville with its postcard-perfect Victorian houses. But despite its size, Toronto is safe and easy to navigate. The streets are clean. And the city's 2.8 million residents — half of whom were born in other countries — speak more than 140 languages. The result is a cultural convergence that makes Toronto feel like home no matter where you're from.

Once you touch down at Pearson International Airport, you can grab a taxi to the city for about \$55, an Uber for \$35, or the Union Pearson Express for \$12 directly to Union Station near the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC). The ride is 25 minutes;

trains run every 15 minutes and offer free Wi-Fi. If you fly Porter Air, you'll land on the Toronto Islands, which are a short ferry ride from downtown (unless you opt to reach the city via the new pedestrian tunnel, which is full of moving walkways and escalators, making the total trip about six minutes).

Hotels are abundant near the two convention venues: the MTCC and Air Canada Centre, which are within a 10-minute walk of each other. Just be sure to book early: Toronto is a convention magnet, and rooms fill up quickly in the warmer months. The MTCC and Air Canada Centre are close to Toronto's Lake Ontario shore, where the Waterfront Trail is popular with cyclists and a boardwalk draws those who would rather stroll along the water's edge. Boat tours offering views of the skyline or a cruise to the Toronto Islands leave from the Harbour-front Centre. But the main attraction is the CN Tower: Like the Space Needle in Seattle, it defines Toronto's skyline.

Opened in 1976, the tower was a product of necessity: New skyscrapers made it difficult for TV stations to broadcast their signals across the growing city.

50th Anniversary of Rotaract

Rotaract, one of Rotary's largest youth programmes, has been offering opportunities for service, friendship and growth to young people in the age group 18 to 30 since 1968. Help celebrate Rotaract's anniversary next year in Toronto.

The CN Tower.



The tower was built to solve that problem, but it symbolised much more — it projected the strength of Canadian industry as the world's tallest tower, a title it held for more than 30 years.

As a tourist attraction, the CN was the first tower in North America to add a glass floor experience — a spine-tingling look straight down to the street 113 stories below. Signs reassure visitors that the glass is strong enough to hold “14 hippopotamuses,” yet I still had a hard time venturing onto it. But this is a spot that kids love. They skip, jump, and lie down to take selfies.

When RI President Ian Riseley toured Toronto in May, he didn't merely step out on the glass floor. He did the EdgeWalk: Imagine being fitted with a harness and strolling around the tower on a tiny ledge, without a railing, 1,168 feet above the ground. Sounds terrifying? Exhilarating? Either way, a GoPro camera on your helmet captures it all so you can relive it later.

Back on the ground, another attraction is right next door. Ripley's Aquarium of Canada differs from other big-city aquariums in the number of hands-on experiences it offers. For CA\$99, you can book a behind-the-scenes tour that includes donning a wet-suit to feed the resident stingrays, which clamour for your attention like a pack of enthusiastic Labrador Retrievers. (Reservations are required.) A glass tunnel takes visitors through the largest tank. Everyone gets giddy when sharks glide overhead, and the tank also teems



Alyce Henson

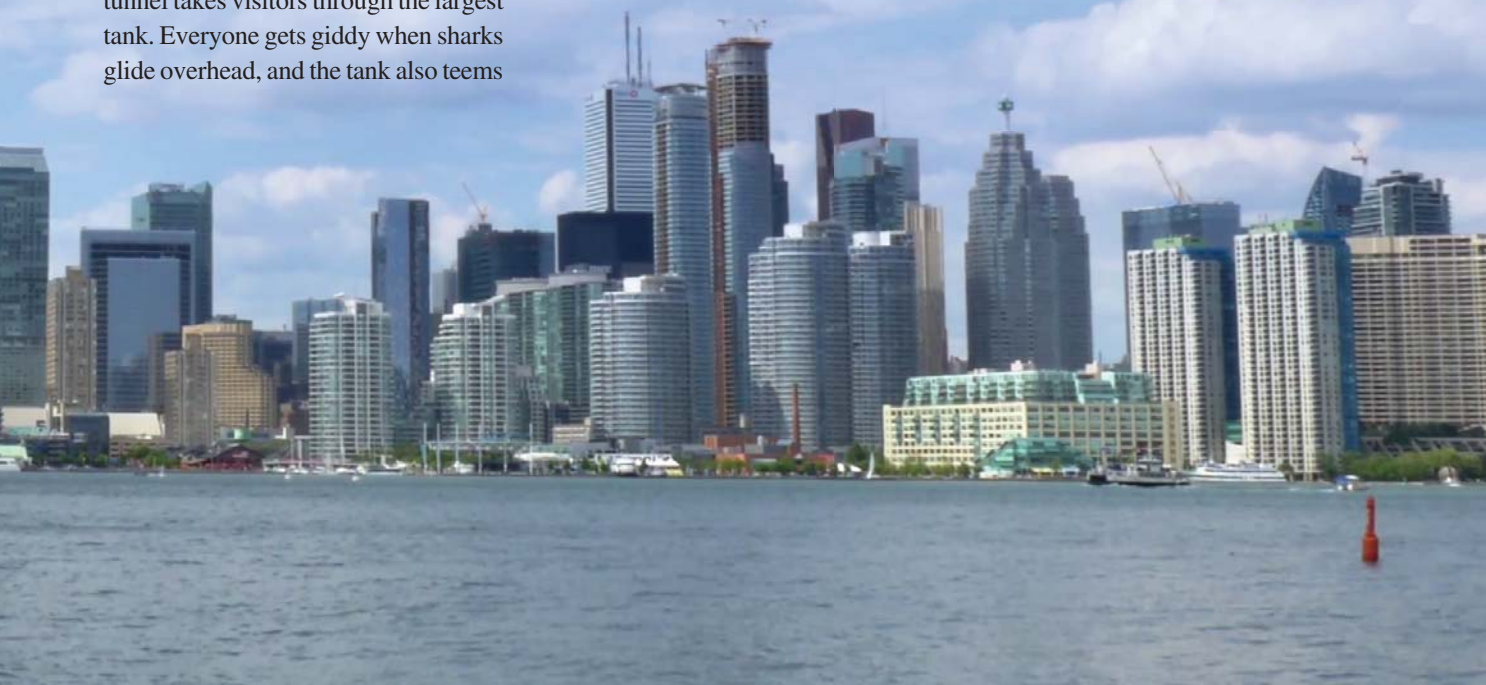
Ripley's Aquarium.

with yellowtail snapper, tarpon, an enormous goliath grouper, sea turtles, and impressive green sawfish. To quote my wide-eyed nine-year-old, “It's like we're in the ocean!”

Across the way, the Toronto Blue Jays play baseball at Rogers Centre. The stadium can accommodate nearly 50,000 fans and is known for its giant (patented) retractable roof that can be opened on nice days and closed to keep fans warm and dry during inclement weather. The venue also hosts concerts and other events.

St Lawrence Market, a 20-minute walk down Front Street from the MTCC, topped the list when I asked locals to name their favourite lunch spots. *National Geographic* ranked it among the 10 best food markets in the world.

Inside, a patchwork of colourful stalls greets you, along with sign after sign for bacon. Peameal bacon, to be exact. This lean cut, from the pig's back, is cured and then rolled in cornmeal. Sliced, grilled, and served in sandwiches, it's the market's signature



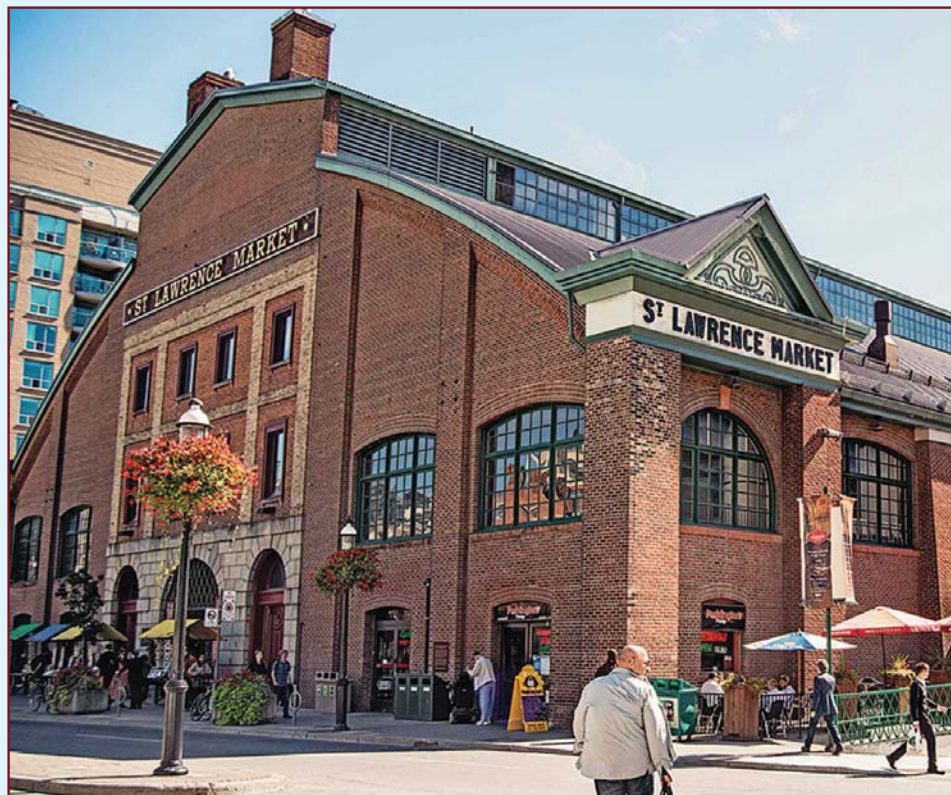
Insider tip

If you plan to visit at least three major attractions, the Toronto City-Pass is the best deal. Adults pay \$60 online at citypass.com/toronto.

item — even Barbra Streisand sent her assistant for a sandwich when she performed in Toronto.

Across from the clerks assembling the peameal bacon sandwiches at Carousel Bakery, Carnicero's offers burritos and other Mexican fare. Nearby, Turkish delight is sold in bulk. Downstairs, Ukrainian pierogies are doled out next to trays of lasagna. Many of the same families have operated these stalls for generations, and the global fare they offer reminds you how diverse the population of Toronto is.

But the striking mix of cultures at St Lawrence Market is just a regular part of life for Toronto's residents. "The diversity in our city is something very special," says Michele Guy, who co-chairs the Toronto Host Organisation Committee with Michael Cooksey.



"You can come to the convention and feel like you've travelled the world," Cooksey adds.

One of Guy's favourite spots is Café la Gaffe on Baldwin Street, an off-the-beaten-path bistro with

a French-inspired menu, exposed brick walls, and an indie playlist. Many visitors also eat and shop in nearby Kensington Market. Unlike St Lawrence, Kensington Market is not an actual market, but a neighbourhood.



A cheesemonger at the St Lawrence Market.

Alyce Henson

St Lawrence Market, ranked one of the top 10 food markets of the world.



Waves of immigration have shaped and reshaped the area, which got its name in the 1920s when it was a primarily Jewish neighbourhood and families sold goods from stands in front of their houses. Today, it's still an immigrant community, now mostly Chinese, and a hub for artists and activists. Good food can be found at Rasta Pasta, which blends Italian and Jamaican fare; at Amadeu's, a Portuguese spot known for its grouper; and at Hibiscus, where the menu is vegetarian, gluten-free and organic. Meat eaters will enjoy the Burgernator, where you can get burgers "fully loaded" with cheddar cheese, a fried egg, mushrooms, caramelised onions, lettuce and tomato.

A one-of-a-kind place to dine and shop is the city's Distillery Historic District, now an arts and entertainment Mecca. The host committee is planning an evening of food and entertainment here for convention attendees; visit Rotary2018.org for details.

In 2003, the industrial complex that once housed the Gooderham and Worts

Day trips

Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake

One of North America's most famous natural wonders, Niagara Falls, is just a 90-minute drive from Toronto. You can take in the falls from land, air (by helicopter) or water (speedboat tours soak passengers in the towering curtain of mist). Niagara-on-the-Lake, the neighbouring 19th-century village set among Ontario's vineyards, features horse-drawn carriages, Victorian B&Bs and charming boutiques.

Ontario's wine country

Southern Ontario is about the same latitude as southern France, and the region is likewise home to vineyards. The local must-try is ice wine, a sweet

dessert wine made from grapes picked after they've frozen on the vine. Plan your route around Ontario's wineries at winecountryontario.ca.

Muskoka

Natural beauty and relative seclusion have made Muskoka a playground of the rich (and often famous). Celebrities, athletes, and other millionaires have been snapping up property on the three big lakes outside Toronto — Muskoka, Joseph and Rosseau — in recent years. It's the kind of place that makes you want to rent a cottage for a season and write that novel. It's also home to about two dozen golf courses. What the Hamptons are to New York, Muskoka is to Toronto.



An artist at work at the Kensington Market.

Alyce Henson



Alyce Henson

A Captain Jerk burger at the Burgernator in Kensington Market.

distillery was redeveloped. Reminiscent of New York's SoHo but more relaxed, it's a pedestrian-only zone with 80 independent retailers that sell everything from home décor to jewellery. We stopped at Heel Boy, expecting a high-end pet boutique (it actually sells shoes), and Corktown Designs, which features modern jewellery by designers from around the world. For more shopping, Eaton Centre offers all the major retailers in a comfortable mall setting while Yorkville is an upscale neighbourhood filled with high-end boutiques and chic restaurants. (The patio at One is great for people-watching.)

But the distillery district isn't only for shopping. Its sometimes sordid past is worth exploring as well. Stop by Go Tours and book the "Booze, Death and Cholera" tour to learn how Gooderham and Worts grew to become the world's largest distillery (eventually merging with Hiram Walker Co), controlling much of the US market during Prohibition.

For more Toronto history, explore Casa Loma, the only full-size castle in North America. It was built by Sir Henry Pellatt in the early 1900s after he made his fortune bringing electricity to Canada. He was worth about \$17 million in 1911 when construction began.

His travels in Europe had inspired him to build a castle of his own, and many of the furnishings were imported. He commissioned a replica of Napoleon's writing desk for his study. In his bedroom, he proudly displayed a tiger skin rug.

Not all went as planned, however. Pellatt and his wife, Lady Mary, spent less than 15 years living lavishly at Casa Loma before his company lost its monopoly on electricity. Eventually,

the Pellatts went into bankruptcy, auctioning off most of their possessions. The castle was converted into a hotel, which failed in 1929. In 1937, the Kiwanis Club of West Toronto took it over as a tourist attraction, operating it until recently. Cooksey of the host committee says Casa Loma is a must-see, so the committee is planning an evening for Rotarians to enjoy a symphony concert in Casa Loma's gardens overlooking the city.

Like many cities, Toronto has dozens of museums. Its largest is the Royal Ontario, a natural history museum with exhibits that range from dinosaurs to art and attracts more than a million visitors a year. But down the street is a quieter, quirkier option — the Bata Shoe Museum. This isn't just for people who love shoes. It's a world history tour through the lens of footwear. Take, for example, the "chestnut crushing clog," which looks menacing with its 2-inch spikes but is actually a 19th-century French tool for shelling chestnuts. A tiny pair of black leather shoes look as if they were worn by a child but were made in China for a woman with bound feet. Museum founder Sonja Bata also funded field

More to eat

Local Rotarians share their favourite restaurants

Scaramouche

"It's a classy restaurant with a beautiful view of Toronto. There's also a more casual bar area, which serves amazing pasta."

Café Diplomatico

"Great Italian food, fabulous people watching, family business, big patio."

Alo

"A must if you have the budget."

House of Chan

"One of the most diverse restaurants in Toronto serving outstanding

steaks and veal chops, with excellent Chinese food like egg foo young along with delicious broiled salmon."

Buca

"Not your average Italian. ... Loved by foodies across the city and consistently rated one of the top restaurants in Toronto."

Sorrel

"Diverse menu with something for everyone, all very well prepared. Fresh fish, pasta, duck, oysters, steak and exceptional fried chicken."

Casa Loma, the only full-size castle in N America.



research in the Canadian Arctic and other regions to document footwear made by indigenous people, such as boots with reindeer fur on the soles for traction. The collection also features its share of famous shoes — including glittering platform heels Elton John wore onstage in the 1970s.

It's impossible to leave Toronto without talking about hockey. Canada has produced some of the game's best players, and the Hockey Hall of Fame is a shrine to the country's sports heroes. When it opened in 1961, then-Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said, "There is nothing greater than hockey to bring

about national unity." The hall is a short walk from the MTCC and features interactive experiences such as a virtual shootout against computer-generated versions of famed goalies Carey Price and Henrik Lundqvist, who try to block your puck. It's also home to 18,000 square feet of hockey memorabilia — the largest collection in the world.

In a city that embraces its identity as a melting pot of cultures, this stop is 100 per cent Canadian. But in true Toronto style, all are welcome.

© The Rotarian



A pair of French boudoir slippers at the Bata Shoe Museum.

Register today and save

Through December 15, save on registration for the 2018 convention. Register now at riconvention.org.

Welcome to Rotary Institute 2017



Ian Riseley
RI President 2017-18



RI Director C Basker
Convener



PDG R Theenachandran
Chairman

Innovation is the key

Transformation is what happens to a drop of water when it is touched by the magic of sunlight. It becomes a rainbow. It is what happens to a seed when it starts the journey to become a mighty banyan tree. The banyan tree is not an improved seed, just as a butterfly is not an improved caterpillar or a rainbow an improved drop of water.

Man's loftiest wishes and dreams have become reality through creativity and innovation. A 100 years ago who would have believed that humans could fly or that men could walk on the moon? Innovation is about putting foundations under the dream castles we build in the air.

In its 112 years history, Rotary International has always been evolutionary and sometimes revolutionary. This has been achieved by involving Rotary's RI officers in a time honoured system of meeting every year to discuss the future of Rotary. Rapid change is the nature of the world today. Rotary too needs to respond in order to be relevant.

The Annual Institute of Rotary officers in the sub-continent will be held this year for the Zones 4,5 and 6A in Malaysia at the Sunway Resort City, Kuala Lumpur, on December 1-3, 2017. Almost a 1,000 RI officers from the region are expected to participate in an interactive process that will involve present, past and future RI leaders, in a process of innovation that will recreate our movement.

One of the highlights of the Institute is the training of our DGs, DGNs and DGEs. They go through a clearly developed syllabus with trained facilitators. This ends with an inspiring graduation ceremony.

Eminent Speakers

Steve Rodgers, a business and lifestyle consultant, and a best-selling author. He sees himself as a "leader, helping others discover and maximise their highest good and purpose in life and business." He lives by the personal code: help individuals and companies unlock their full potential.



Mitty Chang, grew his entrepreneurial roots when he built his first website in 1998. He was in the fourth grade at that time. By the time he was 13, he had already begun his career in freelance web designing.

Swami Sukhabodhananda, is not only one of the most respected spiritual leaders of the country, he is also nicknamed the 'Corporate Guru'. His expertise lies in synthesising ancient wisdom of the east and modern vision of the west appealing to both young and old from a wide spectrum of society.



Mahatria Ra
T T Rangarajan or Rajan or "Mahatria" is a New Age Guru with a captivating style. Mahatria embarked on a mission to awaken humanity on the path of holistic abundance. Since then, his singular pursuit has been to enable living from the highest practical pedestal possible.

Bobby Cash
An extremely talented country music artist from India — Bobby Cash, known as 'The Indian Cowboy', is a charismatic character. Tall, good looking, dressed in black leathers and a Stetson — he is a Star!



Have you
Registered?



For Registrations contact:
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Chairman - Rotary Institute 2017
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Main Road, Gomathipuram
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Speakers from Rotary International



Rajendra K Saboo
Past RI President



Kalyan Banerjee
Past RI President



K R Ravindran
Past RI President



Sushil Gupta
TRF Trustee



Paul A Netzel
TRF Trustee Chair



John C Matthews
RI Director

Serious fun!

Rotary should be serious fun, says RI President Ian Riseley. With his infectious smile and zestful energy, he exhorted Rotarians to enjoy the Institute as it is an important part of a leader's Rotary journey. "Plan your year through interactive discussions. Celebration and the inspiration you gain from the Institute will help you to make an even greater difference in your club and community," he says.

"Training is the most important thing we do in the Rotary year," says President Riseley. The work of Rotary is not done on the 18th floor of the Rotary Building in Evanston. We make a difference in the world because of the work done in over 35,000 Rotary clubs around the world.

As leaders, we need the Institute to make our work more efficient and focussed. We can then ensure that each year's goals are achieved at the club level. Team work ensures that we are united in the common purpose of making a difference.

"As Rotarians, we need to understand our responsibility to the planet," he says. "As an accountant, I want to see two figures this year — the total value of money spent on Rotary projects and the number of volunteer-hours spent. I am sure that this same measure will help you keep track of your contribution to our Movement."

Riseley and Juliet believe in walking the talk. A keen proponent of environmental sustainability, they live on a 7-acre property, where they practise their ideas in a very personal way. They want every Rotarian to plant a tree.

Visioning tomorrow

The webinar where a large cross section of Rotarians participated, was a trendsetter. It was high tech, interactive — a lot of listening and sharing happened. Virtual Reality hit us at the Atlanta Convention. Tomorrow has arrived in Rotary. The Malaysian Institute is your chance to put your stamp on Rotary's future. You too can leave your footprints on Rotary. Discussions, sharing and building networks will be the core elements of our annual family get-together, which the Institute really is.

We want you to take innovation and flexibility right down to the club level. As Rotary leaders, we need more Rotary in every Rotarian. We need to keep our flock together. Let us aim for the impossible — 100 per cent retention. Let us use all our powers to mentor, support and care for our people and keep them in Rotary.

Sam Owori had a vision of an India with 1.2 million Rotarians. What we need is a quantity of quality Rotarians. Let us meet at Sunway Resort City, Kuala Lumpur. Let us think, talk, plan and participate in the trendsetting year ahead.

Today everyone is looking for instant success, instant fame, instant friendship. There is nothing instant in this world. Except instant coffee and even that does not taste so good. Let us unite, to put together, to create a braver, better, brighter Movement.

C Basker

RI Director 2017–19



Refreshing experience

This Rotary Institute is an experience by itself. The delegates get all the entertainment besides the Institute programmes. For three days, delegates live in an exciting environment with all home comforts, which will certainly be a very refreshing, memorable lifetime-experience.

PDG R Theenachandran

Chairman – Rotary Institute 2017



Oswaldo prepares the barbecue
in Buenos Aires.



Have couch, will travel

Aditi De

Nobody from our family has ever been to South America. You should go! But where will you stay,” asks Ma anxiously in early 2013. “Did you say seven countries in 99 days? Have you found good hotels? Do you have friends in that continent?”

The answer is clear: no, many times over. Ma knows I wander to recharge my creative batteries as a writer. Not as a luxury vagabond or a tourist, but as a traveller seeking the human touch. Faces and stories always win over checklists and monuments. Once 22 flights and multiple visas are covered, my shoestring budget will not stretch to hotels or Airbnbs. Yet, the call of the unknown must be answered.

Over 28 stops, a mix of two options seems workable. One is Youth Hostelling International, embracing generations, a positive choice while backpacking through Ireland and Scotland in 2001. The other? Founded in San Francisco in 2004, Couchsurfing — a cost-free online hospitality exchange — has a current global membership of over

14 million. An unimaginable cultural interchange blooms. So do friendships beyond imagining.

Creating a Couchsurfing profile proves simple: Single, footloose, nearly 60, addicted to reading and writing, art and theatre, music and dance, textiles and crafts.

How will folks in Buenos Aires, my first stop, respond? Over 20 Argentinian Couchsurfers, between 21 and 65, offer their homes. After scanning promising hosts, I settle on Magali. Barely 32, a corporate employee, she lives with her parents. Shall I cook them an Indian meal, topped off with Torta Tres Leches, a luscious South American cake I have mastered in Bengaluru? Yes.

Warming to Couchsurfing, in May 2013, I host 18-year-old Rita from Taiwan, on her first trip to India. Transcending age, we bond as storytellers and listeners, foodies to boot. We try the Bengaluru Metro. We lunch with an artist friend. We take in a children’s play, partly in gibberish, at the perfect Ranga Shankara theatre. Rita’s impressions: “Everyone told me Bengaluru was

My six Couchsurfing hosts from Argentina, Chile and Brazil shared their homes and their hearts with me. Can a hotel or hostel ever match the generosity of spirit, the luminous moments that came my way, thanks to them?



Ingeborg with the delicious Chilean ceviche in Valparaiso.

a boring IT city. But I loved your life, your beautiful home, cooking with you....” We remain in touch.

As for me, four years on, my Buenos Aires visit lingers vividly. At Pistarini airport, at 9.40 pm in October 2013, doubts assail me. Will I recognise my host from her Couchsurfing profile? How does one operate an Argentinian ATM? Dare I approach strangers for help with my sprinkling of Spanish? Magali’s dazzling smile dispels my doubts.

The next morning, she hands me her bus pass. Papa Osvaldo changes my US dollars into Argentinian pesos. Impressions of their capital still tango by. Of a huge Peronista demonstration for Loyalty Day in the historic Plaza de Mayo, reminiscent of a rebellious Kolkata. Of voices raised for the homeless, for civil rights, for justice for the maimed veterans of the 1982 Malvinas (aka Falkland Islands) war.

The capital shows another facet within the swank 11,000 sq m Gallerias Pacifico on Avenida Cordoba. Housed in a building dating back to 1889, we admire the fabulous frescoed ceilings. Magali

and her friends point out stylish Argentinian brands, including Adriani Constantini, Maria Cher and El Boyero. Chancing upon ‘Indian Style,’ overflowing with oriental scarves and beaded bags, we collapse in laughter in the passageway.

Suddenly, Julietta breaks in, “A film crew was shooting a documentary here in 1987. They found a grim sight in the basement. Fingernails had etched cries for help on the walls of this former torture chamber. For the military dictatorship that governed Argentina from 1976 to 1983 was merciless. Over 30,000 people ‘disappeared.’” This slice-of-life story shakes us into silence.

In my transit home away from India, Argentinians prove to be as family-centric as Indians. Magali gives me her pretty bedroom. Osvaldo sets up a traditional Sunday *asado* of barbequed meats for the extended family. On Mother’s Day, we toast Mama Analia with champagne over a lavish infinity buffet at Gourmet Porteno in upmarket Puerto Madera, as the Rio de la Plata flows by.

Six days later, as I repack for the magnificent Iguazu waterfalls,

we guffaw over shared experiences. How I tried to teach Magali and Analia basic *shavasana*, disrupted when their shaggy dog Brianna joined in. How easily I took to the traditional herbal *yerba mate* drink at Analia’s insistence. At 2 am, they shower me with gifts, including a lace-edged handmade poster that says, *Follow Your Dreams*.

My Couchsurfing saga continues at Mendoza in north-central Argentina. Milagros, a single mother and a chef, hosts me. She wangles a free conducted trip to the Bodega Zuccardi in the Maipu wine region where, amidst giant vats, wooden kegs and bottles of prized vintage, their staff offer glimpses of generations-old family secrets. Over olive oil ice-cream, we agree that their Santa Julia Malbec is as glorious as the world’s best red wines.

Milagros’s daughter Agustina, 16, is immersed in J Krishnamurthi’s philosophy (in Spanish translation). They pepper me with questions: Are all Indians spiritual? What does the *bindi* signify? Will I lose my passport if I eat beef in Argentina? Do I wear a saree 24/7 in India? Night-long conversations disperse their misconceptions as we weave through love, loss and all life in between.

At Valparaiso, the picturesque Chilean port straddling 44 hills, I make a quixotic choice. For Ingeborg, a young textile designer, has a lyrical line from our favourite poet Pablo Neruda tattooed across her forearm. Her father Hans, a marine engineer, has visited Mumbai. Her mother Gladys repairs computers over the internet. But the family's star is undoubtedly Hans's mother, Agnes. Still sparkling at 82, she jokes about all her boyfriends before she met grandpa Hector, her constant sparring partner. She gamely troops up and down ancient stone steps to share a scenic viewing point.

Back from Neruda's beautiful Valparaiso home one afternoon, we rush next door to visit Agnes, battling a stomach bug. But she is missing. Hours later, Agnes hands me a gift-wrapped chic, black leather handbag. "You are small, like me,"

she explains, pointing to my outsize Kipling bag. "That is not chic. Too big, too big." She sighs. "You are my granddaughter, like Ingeborg. Promise you will come and visit me again before I die?" We bond in a wraparound hug.

My Sao Paulo hosts — Fabio (a banker) and Giselle (a professor of Brazilian literature) know of my lifelong dream: a live football match on Brazilian turf. We drive to Enbu to check out traditional weaves, jewellery, blown glass, folksy clay busts. We mull over dazzling street art around Vila Madalena.

Ingeborg, a young textile designer, has a lyrical line from our favourite poet Pablo Neruda tattooed across her forearm.

At the Fundacio Maria Luisa e Oscar Americano, once a *cha* estate (we share the word for tea), colonial lessons surface amidst priceless medals and pistols. Mainly about Dom Pedro I, the Brazilian emperor from 1822 to 1831 (son of Portugal's King John VI). Later, after a fabulous Moqueca fish stew for lunch at Fabio's maternal home, topped by the best caramel flan ever, he announces casually: "And oh, Aditi, after lunch we are going to the Estadio do Caninde, to a Corinthians versus Portuguesa match..." I burst into tears. For my flight to Bengaluru leaves in less than 12 hours.

Fabio has shied away from football since he met Giselle — and his family abhors the fabled Corinthian team. Giselle opts to join us ("We can't leave you to these wild fans"). Surrounded by babies and grandfathers alike in red-green Portuguesa colours, we clap to the team anthem amidst mounds



After dinner with Ingeborg and her family in Valparaiso.

of peanut shells. It matters little that the beefy Corinthians thrash our team. The atmosphere — including a pulsating Brazilian wave in the stands — remains imprinted on my mind's eye. As I set out to visit the Museu do Futebol in Sao Paulo, Giselle slips a note into my palm. Addressed to the cobrador or bus conductor, it reads: 'My friend Aditi is from India. She knows no Portuguese. Kindly see that she gets off at the right stop for the football museum. Obrigado. Thanks.' The burly busman reads it, grins — and ensures that I am on the right track.

The personal and the local colour my engagement with Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. For in Punta Arenas in south Chile, Francisco (an English-speaking cartographer with a messy home) narrates how 40-plus local Indians families built a Hindu temple at this strategic military base on the Straits of Magellan. "It all began in 1904, when Bhojrajmal Nandwani took a steamer from British India to Chilean Patagonia. His Sindhi descendents own the biggest Toyota dealership in our town of 150,000," he says.



Magali with her niece Ambar.

Another city, another story. At Ushuaia, the earth's southernmost city in Argentinian Tierra del Fuego, my heart breaks over dinner at the home of lovely Carla, a journalist-turned-politician. Tears season the exquisite King Crab for supper as we

listen to her friend Andreas: "When I was 18, we were conscripted for the 74-day Malvinas war. We were not trained for battle. Before we surrendered, a British grenade landed on my best friend. His blood and guts were all over me. He died." Over 31 years later, the trauma still festers.

My six Couchsurfing hosts from Argentina, Chile and Brazil shared their homes and their hearts with me. Can a hotel or hostel ever match the generosity of spirit, the luminous moments that came my way, thanks to them? Unlikely, if ever.

Ma, who left us in 2015, loved tuning in to my Couchsurfing adventures, checking out my hosts virtually. In spirit, as in person, she would approve of the way I now explore the globe.

Have couch, will travel. How else will I embrace the world?

Pictures by Aditi De

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

Carla with her son Pedro in their home in Ushuaia.



Meet your **Governors**

Jaishree

Empowering women is her mantra

Asha Prasanna Kumar

Building management, RC Tumkur East, D 3190

Rasheeda Bhagat



Nothing can stop a woman from achieving great success and respect if she is determined, dedicated and hardworking,” says this governor. She wants to be a role model for younger women. Asha Prasanna Kumar, a first-generation woman entrepreneur, has won the Woman Entrepreneur Award from the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce. She became an AKS member when she was a DGN.

She is happy that the district project of planting over 2,000 saplings since the start of the year has received wide publicity from the media. “Our effort in greening the earth has earned us a good public image too.” Asha started the year with a bang — collecting around 6,500 units of blood through camps all over the district, treating 2,700 people through medical camps and 3,700 schoolchildren through eye camps — her enthusiasm and excitement are palpable. “We plan to plant three lakh trees and screen one lakh children for eye defects this year,” she says.

Another of her ambitious projects is training youngsters in vocations such as TV anchors, RJs, MCs, etc and imparting craft-oriented skills, promoting wealth from waste, through 10 centres. “We’ve taught women to make eco-friendly products from banana fibre and areca nut leaves — such sources which are low-cost and require minimum investment.”

A fund-raiser marathon to help install WinS components in government schools is also a big focus of her year.

Her target for TRF contributions is \$2.2 million and more than 20 per cent increase in membership. Her conference registration is already “almost full at 1,000 and is 200 short of the hall’s seating capacity.”

Asha became a Rotarian in 2005 after being an Inner Wheel member since 1985. Her spouse, Prasanna Kumar, is also a Rotarian.

Inspired by the Tirukkural

This governor of the newly formed district carved out of 3230 rolls out, in fluent Tamil, couplets from the famed Tamil literature *Tirukkural*. “I can recite 500 verses at any time. I inspire people with these valuable verses. I encourage my team to lend their hands more liberally to the needy, for, that is the most precious way by which we can thank God for all that he has blessed us with,” says Jawarilal Jain.

A Rotarian since 1997, he is convinced that Rotary is a boon for him to serve society. “I don’t claim travel/accommodation expenses when on my OCVs. God has given me enough and more,” he says.

He has ambitious plans for his district — to increase membership from the current 2,500 to 4,500; add 20 more clubs to the present 66 and raise a contribution of \$4.4 million for TRF. “With such an enthusiastic team, I have doubled my earlier target of \$2.2 million,” says Jain. He has contributed \$280,000 so far to AKS and is now ready with yet another cheque for \$250,000 this year.

He is keen on partnering with clubs in underdeveloped countries and do welfare projects there under global grants. “We have received so much assistance so far, now it is our turn to give.”

His projects for the year include adoption of 650 schools and improving their infrastructure and providing better facilities in the 65 government hospitals in his district. “A majority of these hospitals do not even change the bedsheets,” he observes. His plans include acquiring 25 vans, equipping them with water tanks, tree guards and stocking them with saplings so that they can be readily used for planting. A keen lover of greenery, Jain has planted five lakh saplings in his individual capacity. He is inspired by Rajashree Birla, Ratan Tata and Subroto Bagchi who were featured in the *Rotary News*, he says.

K Jawarilal Jain

Realtor

RC Gudiyattam, D 3231

Jaishree



Jaishree



Dharmesh R Patel

Timber packaging

RC Hosur Midtown, D 2982

Well on track with his projects

Iam a lucky governor. My team has completed all the signature projects I had planned so far,” says this governor who leads over 2,700 Rotarians of 65 clubs. Dharmesh Patel is well on track to realise his dream project — to plant 1,20,000 saplings across his district before October 2. “Our job does not stop with just planting the saplings, we will also nurture and protect them,” he says.

Patel strongly endorses the EREY idea of contributing to the Foundation. With a target of \$500,000, he says that he can easily raise \$300,000 if each Rotarian of his district contributes \$100 and the shortfall can be made up with contributions from Major Donors and through other means.

On membership, he is confident of inducting 15 per cent more Rotarians and charter at least three new clubs. “Retention is not an issue. It is more than 90 per cent.” He is keen on inspiring Rotaractors to become Rotarians and is full of praise for RID C Basker’s idea of including training sessions for the DRRs.

He intends to push forth the WinS programme by “assigning two or three schools to each club and the Rotarians will ensure compliance of all the components of WASH in those schools.”

He joined Rotary in 2001 as a charter member, impressed with Rotary’s polio eradication programme. His spouse Ranjana is also a member of the same club and has served as president in 2008–09 and assistant governor in 2010–11.

He encourages spouse membership

Vyankatesh Vithal Channa

Chartered Accountant

RC Solapur MIDC, D 3132



Jaishree

He has been a Rotarian for 12 years and is happy that he “got elected as governor so soon”. He is pleased that his idea of holding his district assembly at Tirupathi has gone down very well with his team, as it has received an “overwhelming registration this early”.

Vyankatesh Channa is confident of achieving better coordination from clubs through the “district officers”, a post he has created this year, in each of the 11 revenue districts; they will take his ideas forward. “This way it will not be a one-man show and the job gets effectively done,” he says.

He hopes to enhance his district’s green cover, and has asked each of his district’s 110 clubs to plant 200 saplings. He also wants to hold a ‘Jan Marathon’ to give better publicity to Rotary. A mega health camp across the district is among his other projects. He is also part of a medical mission to be held in Rwanda in September.

On membership, while his focus is on retention, he also aims to increase the strength by 10 per cent, recalling that last year his district ranked top in the world in membership. His goal for TRF contribution is \$300,000 and so far, he has collected \$50,000.

Channa’s spouse, Lata, is also a Rotarian and as a fashion designer, she also plays her part by providing two-hour training sessions in doll and jewellery making, fashion designing, etc to Rotarian spouses and other youngsters from the locality, while the club members are engaged in meetings with the governor on his OCV. “It is good if the spouse is also a Rotarian, because we will also be doubly inspired to participate,” is his parting take.

Promoting literacy is his focus

Madhu Prasad Kuruvadi

Chartered Accountant

RC Chitradurga, D 3160

He strongly believes that the rich-poor disparity can be bridged only through education and is keen on doing his bit to improve literacy levels in his district. Madhu Prasad lists a series of projects, all aimed at promoting literacy — a target of 100 Happy Schools, training 6,000 teachers, global grants to execute e-learning facility and for building/renovating toilets and wash stations in schools as part of WinS activity.

His other projects include a mobile mammogram unit to screen breast cancer in rural women and dialysis units in hospitals. “We have a huge DDF, nearly \$2 lakh, and we’ll use it to extend maximum benefit to society,” he says.

On membership, the governor’s focus is to strengthen and sustain weak clubs; “we have 10 such clubs with less than 20 members.” He wants to charter six to eight new clubs, add 300 more members to the present strength of 2,300 and charter 50 Rotaract clubs.

Kuruvadi is confident of raising his target contribution of \$2.65 lakh for TRF. “Even if each Rotarian contributes \$100, it becomes an attainable target,” he says. He and three other Rotarians donated \$10,000 each to TRF to become Major Donors on his installation day.

He is a Rotarian since his 27th year. His spouse, Sudha Madhuri, is also a Rotarian. She was felicitated for sponsoring 150 children back to school for the Asha Kiran project and volunteers to teach in schools. ■



Wordsworld

With this issue we start a column on the enchanting world that books, and only books, can take us to.

Summer magic

Sandhya Rao

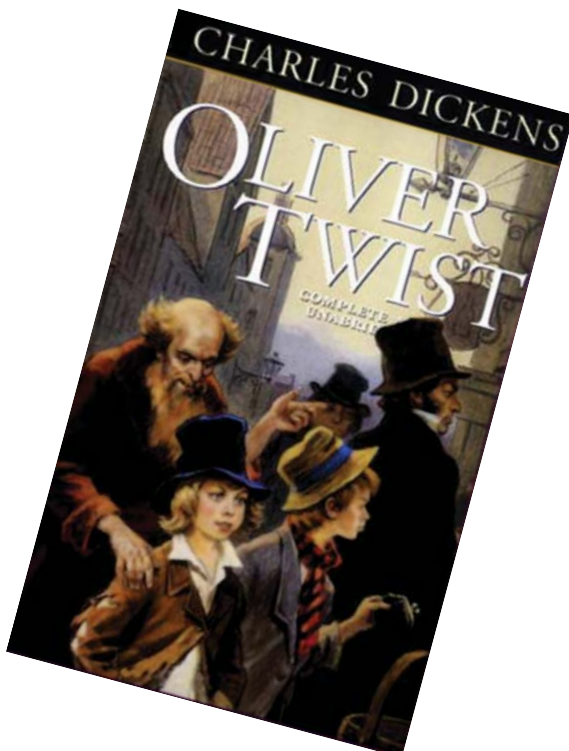
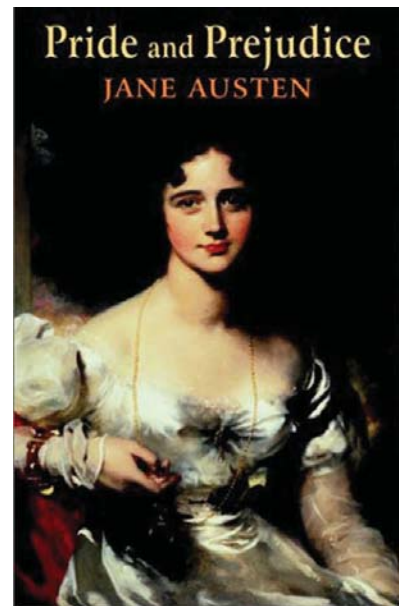
When reading books was
all we ever wanted to do.

The summer that the Indian men's cricket team recorded a memorable home series win against the Australians, my 11-year-old came down with chickenpox. Predictably, I followed suit, and as we were the only two in the house and life had to move on, my aunt moved in to give us a hand.

By then, the first four books in the *Harry Potter* series had been published and were proud inhabitants of our home too — a little worse for wear from being passed

on from hand to grubby hand, but much-loved. So, when he discovered his dear Sumana *aji* ensconced bag and baggage at home, my son's first question to her was, "Have you read *Harry Potter*?"

When she said no — to be honest, she didn't know who in the wide world he was — he promptly thrust his well-thumbed copy of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* into her hands and said: "Read." My aunt laughed and said, "Ok." She had no intention of doing so, but she had not contended with



her grand-nephew's agenda. Every evening, without fail, he cross-examined her on the finer details of *Philosopher's Stone*, checking exactly how many pages she had read, relentlessly quizzing until she was shamed/cajoled into ploughing through the pages. By the time her nursing duties ended, she had just about managed to breast the tape.

I have no doubt that many of you have similar or other stories to relate about books and reading and mad readers. For instance, I thank the universe every day for the many brilliant writers and the wealth of amazing titles and for a love of reading. Honestly, I don't know what I'd have done had there been no books.

Do you feel that way too? Depressed even contemplating a time when there

were no books to read? No libraries, no bookshops, no secondhand treasure troves, no Higginbothams and book birds?

Growing up in a small town in West Bengal, my friends and I each contributed our own precious stock to build a library and charged a few paise for every book borrowed. This was before we knew anything about anything, least of all the economics of income, expenditure and investment. But we knew we wanted more books and the best way to do that without adult intervention was to raise our own capital. An Enid Blyton, back in the 1960s, cost about Rs 2.50. So that was our goal, as many times Rs 2.50 as possible. The only way that would happen was if we got all our friends and their friends to borrow books from our library. And so we wolfed down Richmal Crompton, Elinor Brent Dyer, Susan Coolidge, Angela Brazil, WE Johns, Louisa May Alcott, LM Montgomery and



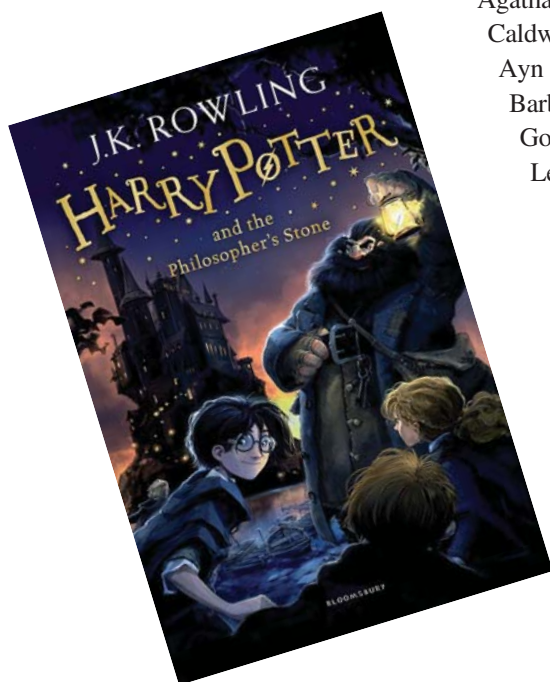
anything else we could lay our hands on, including the Illustrated Classics and Phantom and Mandrake. Logic, not awareness, guided us through acquisitions, marketing, campaigning, and we ran the library from a comfortable space in the home of a (I now realise) generous and encouraging 'uncle' who lived in our colony.

Later, in our teens, it was local lending libraries — the Ramonas and Ravirajs — that fed an unquenchable thirst. My friends and I ran through Louis L'Amour, Zane Grey, Edgar Wallace, Perry Mason, Agatha Christie, Taylor Caldwell, Georgette Heyer, Ayn Rand, Allen Drury, Barbara Cartland, Richard Gordon, Alex Hailey, Leon Uris, Irving

Stone... and of course the ubiquitous *Mills & Boons*, getting 'hotter' as the years rolled by!

The British Council library and the library at the USIS also went into the mix, throwing up Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, Vladimir Nabokov, Doris Lessing, Somerset Maugham, Ernest Hemingway, Dostoyevsky, Truman Capote, F Scott, Fitzgerald, Leo Tolstoy, Albert Camus, apart from the air-conditioning and occasional big print editions for grandfathers and grandmothers. We read and read and read our holidays bare; we lost ourselves in new and exciting worlds. We flew on words. We journeyed on the winding roads of imagination. We lost track of time. We met Raja Rao and RK Narayan, Kamala Markandeya and Anita Desai, Nayantara Sahgal and Prem Chand, and read from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, apart from stories from the *Bible* popularised in freely available, colourfully printed pamphlets.

But the best mythological tales were those my grandmother spun, any time of day or night, gathered from infinite sources. They came with sound and fury, coloured by blood and gore,



The mythological tales my grandmother spun, gathered from infinite sources, came with sound and fury, coloured by blood and gore, twisting and turning in uncanny ways, leaving us thirsting for more.

twisting and turning in uncanny ways, leaving my cousins and I thirsting for more. She never tired; she cooked up the most delicious meals and sometimes served them up to us in little balls as we sat around her, while her eyes flashed and mouth spouted an endless, heartfelt stream of word-pictures. We sat goggle-eyed, mesmerised, swallowing every mouthful of fiction and fact without question. Stories do that.

A dear Swedish friend with an academic interest in religion and spirituality, was once discussing god and the ever after with her little daughter, then about 8 or 9. Suddenly the little one piped up, “I don’t believe in god. I believe in Astrid Lindgren.” Truly, the Swedish editor and writer Astrid Lindgren was a phenomenon, as many of you will remember. Most famous as the creator of the internationally beloved character, Pippi Longstrump (Longstocking), Astrid Lindgren has delighted readers across many generations with a compelling and eclectic range of stories. She’s been widely translated, and is loved all over the world; many

Astrid Lindgren has delighted generations with a compelling and eclectic range of stories. Widely translated and loved over the world, many cannot excuse the Nobel committee for denying her a Nobel for literature.



fallen in love with Swami (*Swami and Friends*)? JK Rowling says she sent her first *Harry Potter* to 12 different publishers before Bloomsbury finally picked it up — and what a difference *that* made to the publisher’s profits! In an interview long ago, Nigel Newton, who was then chairman of Bloomsbury Publishing, revealed that it was his eight-year-old daughter, Alice, who pestered him for more *Harry Potter* after reading the first chapter of Rowling’s submission. Instead of reading the chapter himself, Newton had passed it on to Alice who was so enchanted she couldn’t wait to read what happened next. We know.

Swami and Friends was first published in 1935. It continues to be reprinted and read. *Pippi Longstocking* was first published in 1945. It continues to be reprinted and read all over the world. And *Harry Potter* made Bloomsbury, in a manner of speaking.

Truly, truth is more magical than fiction.

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

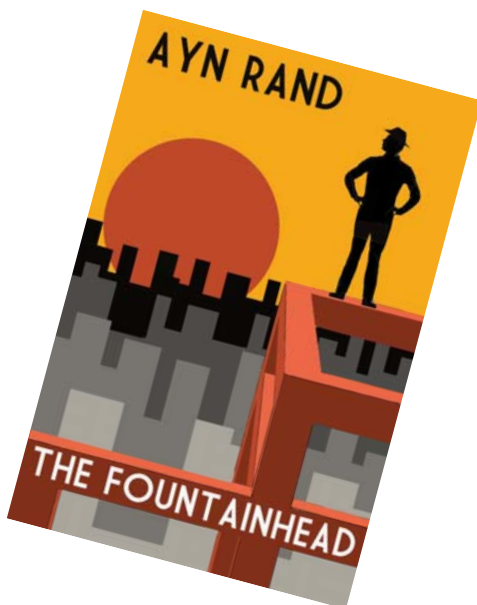
Designed by Krishnapratheesh

still cannot excuse the Nobel committee for not awarding her a Nobel for literature. She was extraordinary.

In an article headlined ‘Astrid Lindgren spoke, people listened’, British journalist David Wiles wrote: “At the age of 68 she submitted an opinion piece to the Swedish daily *Expressen* on the subject of a loophole in the Swedish tax system, which meant that she, as a self-employed writer, had to pay 102 per cent tax on her income. Lindgren wrote the piece in the style of a fairytale, and it had an immediate impact. *Pomperipossa in Monismania*, published in 1976, became front-page news and led not only to a change in the tax law, but eventually to the fall of the social democratic government that had been in power for 44 years.”

Astrid Lindgren spoke up, she took on the system, she was sophisticated and had the last word.

Who knows how long it would have taken us to discover RK Narayan if writer Graham Greene had not encountered and



Gift of Mobility

Team Rotary News

Gautam Manjhre has lived without a leg “ever since I was born.” He was born with a physical deformity. But now he has “no words to thank Rotary for giving me this *uphaar* (gift) of the prosthetic limb. My life will change now.” RC Pune Magarpatta City, along with Rotary Clubs Khadki, Pune Kalyani Nagar and Pune Lokmanyagar of D 3131, RC Lexington, D 7620, Maryland, RC Denver, D 5450, Colorado and TRF, have raised \$53,488 to provide 372 amputees with below-the-knee modular prosthesis, under the project ‘Gift of Mobility’.

RC Pune Magarpatta City started this as their club project a year ago. Hemang Kulkarni, the project’s primary contact, says, “We first started with an online campaign that highlighted the root cause for amputation and how it can be

prevented. Today the campaign has reached 1,00,000 people.” In 2016, the club sponsored LN4 prosthetic hands to 23 amputees, and applied for a global grant to reach out to more physically-challenged people.



PRIP Gary C K Huang acknowledges a beneficiary. Also present are (from R) DG Abhay Gadgil, PDG Deepak Shikarpur and (extreme L) PDG Deepak Purohit.

The project was inaugurated in August by PRIP and TRF Trustee Gary Huang in the presence of DG Abhay Gadgil, DRFC Deepak Shikarpur and Suryakant Choudhari, President of RC Pune Magarpatta City. ■

Green corridor for organ donation in Rajkot

Team Rotary News



A mock drill being performed to transport an organ through green corridor.

RC Rajkot, D 3060, has successfully created two green corridors to transport organs to Mumbai and Pune, which are the closest medical centres where an organ transplant can be processed legally. Club member Sandeep Gandhi says, “We have transported organs from Rajkot to

these medical hubs and 22 successful transplants have been performed so far.”

The club, in association with Jivandaan Foundation, has been working on organ donation awareness through various forums and events and are actively involved in supporting the families of the deceased donors by helping them through the process of organ donation.

Two corridors were created from Wockhardt hospital and Sterling hospital in Rajkot. The mock drill which involved 370 police personnels took 5:22 mins and 5:16 mins respectively to reach the Rajkot Airport. “This corridor is specially created to transport the heart, for heart transplant is crucial and time-bound,” says Gandhi.

The city’s traffic police have played an important role in setting up these corridors. “We are very happy to associate with Rotary for this cause. Be it day or night, the assigned police staff will take their position in the corridor when we get an SOS,” said JK Zala, ACP (Traffic). ■



RC Nagapattinam Wings — D 2981

The birth anniversary of Tamil Nadu's former Chief Minister K Kamaraj was commemorated by the club on July 15 as Literacy Day by organising various competitions for students at Velipallayam Government School in Nagapattinam.

RC Jalakandapuram — D 2982

The club organised Rotasports, a sports competition for students in a government school. Medals and certificates were awarded to the winners. "Children look forward to this annual feature with great enthusiasm," says the Club President R K Jaganathan.



RC Nasik West — D 3030

Along with RC Belthangady, D 3181, the club gave e-learning kits to three schools near Belthangady. The project cost Rs 1.2 lakh. The kits are powered by solar batteries to overcome voltage fluctuations.

RC Kothapeta — D 3020

The bust of Rotary Founder Paul Harris was installed at the club's community hall. Past President D Rajkumar Vudayar, a sculptor, has created the statue. Club President K Sudhakar and PDG D Varadareddy were present on the occasion.



Matters

RC Bhuj Flamingo — D 3051

A hand wash station under WinS project was installed by the club at the Government School for the Blind in Bhuj, with funding from the District Grant.



RC Surat Roundtown — D 3060

The Rotarians distributed 6,000 notebooks and 500 raincoats, besides stationery items, to children at Daung, a backward area in Pulsar district of South Gujarat. The total cost of the project was Rs 2 lakh.



RC Deoband — D 3080

Gender segregated toilets were constructed by the club in two government schools as part of its Happy Schools project. About 500 boys and girls will benefit from this sanitation project.



RC Rajpura Greater — D 3090

The club organised a tree plantation camp at a government high school in Saidkheri village and planted 250 saplings of different species. The children participated in the event with great enthusiasm.



RC Agra West — D 3110

A three-member delegation from German Cleft Children Aid Society, that visited Jai Devi Hospital, donated an anaesthesia machine worth Rs 16 lakh to perform cleft lip and palate surgeries on children with facial deformities. The club helps in identifying and bringing child patients in need of the corrective surgery to the hospital.



RC Lucknow Baradari — D 3120

The club members have adopted the Martin-ka-Purva School located in a slum tenement in Lucknow. They distributed stationery and books to the students to encourage them to attend classes regularly.



RC Dhone — D 3160

A Rotary garden was inaugurated under a flyover in the heart of the town as part of the club's green drive and beautification project. DG Sreeram Murthy and municipality chairperson Gayathri Devi were present. The garden is valued at Rs 1.60 lakh.



RC Dharwad Central — D 3170

The club has installed a Rotary Magazine Cell at the Karnataka University's library where Rotary-related material, including *Rotary News*, will be displayed. About 25,000 students of the University will be able to learn about Rotary's programmes and projects now, said ARPIC Ganesh Bhat.



RC Moodbidri — D 3181

To commemorate its 50th year of charter, the club launched a cleanliness drive across the town. The Annettes planted saplings in various localities to provide a green cover to the region.



RC Bangalore Vijayanagar — D 3190

The Rotarians arranged a picnic for about 100 children staying in an orphanage in the city. The children enjoyed a ride in the Metro train and visited iconic places in Bengaluru. They were entertained with games and a magic show.



Matters



RC Tirupur Gandhinagar — D 3202

As part of its Happy Schools project, the club donated stationery to students, and various other classroom infrastructure to two government schools near Tirupur at a cost Rs 1.6 lakh.



RC Gaya City — D 3250

To help people who cannot afford electricity connection, the club distributed 12 solar kits, each consisting of a rechargeable battery, solar recharge unit, three CFL bulbs and a fan in its adopted village, Azadbigha in Gaya district. DG Vivek Kumar was present on the occasion.



RC Berhampur — D 3262

The club erected a bus shelter at a cost of Rs 1.75 lakh in one of the busy localities of the town. Apart from providing relief from the scorching heat for commuters, the facility will also help in enhancing Rotary's public image.



RC Kasba — D 3291

As part of Literacy and WinS projects, the club launched computer and English language classes in two schools and renovated the washrooms in another primary school in Kasba.



RC Dhulikhel — D 3292

Twenty computers with chairs and tables, projectors and printers were presented to two schools — Shree Panchakanya School and Shree Saraswati Secondary School — to support computer education of the students.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran
Designed by L Gunasekaran

Membership Summary

As on August 1, 2017



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Rotary at a glance

Rotarians : 12,13,516

Clubs : 35,699

Districts : 539

Rotaractors : 2,41,845*

Clubs : 10,515*

Interactors : 5,02,366*

Clubs : 21,842*

RCC members: 2,23,606*

RCC : 9,722*

* As on August 1, 2017

RI Zone	RI District	Rotary Clubs	No of Rotarians	Women Rotarians	Rotaract	Interact	RCC
5	2981	110	4,355	186	56	223	172
5	2982	65	2,764	76	58	109	43
5	3000	127	5,156	413	287	627	194
4	3011	73	3,114	593	46	102	28
4	3012	86	3,564	764	66	123	55
5	3020	102	4,385	215	110	460	351
4	3030	93	4,969	600	74	285	164
4	3040	95	2,156	233	52	109	135
4	3053	76	2,947	463	16	36	93
4	3054**	126	5,914	930	88	290	471
4	3060	97	3,907	372	59	114	129
4	3070	106	2,976	235	64	151	54
4	3080	77	3,309	212	65	213	106
4	3090	77	2,043	80	32	36	122
4	3100*	71	1,607	60	10	71	146
6	3110	113	3,854	239	51	49	104
6	3120	74	2,954	261	36	50	50
4	3131	133	5,179	967	90	265	74
4	3132	110	4,392	474	61	183	137
4	3141**	91	5,230	1,057	111	241	86
4	3142**	77	2,739	377	61	182	69
5	3150	100	3,626	347	92	227	108
5	3160	69	2,336	103	21	44	81
5	3170	128	5,374	363	54	295	160
5	3181	72	3,056	202	29	168	104
5	3182	79	3,164	229	27	265	92
5	3190	132	5,118	562	135	337	48
5	3201	139	5,168	292	92	123	46
5	3202	131	4,843	228	97	425	44
5	3211	136	4,283	247	11	85	123
5	3212	95	3,741	181	108	261	126
5	3231**	67	2,567	82	53	175	235
5	3232**	95	3,737	465	121	287	82
6	3240	87	2,965	331	59	145	146
6	3250	95	3,658	653	38	198	176
6	3261	70	2,389	206	16	101	42
6	3262	97	3,327	373	42	73	75
6	3291	150	3,839	732	66	129	580
India Total		3,721	1,40,705	14,403	2,554	7,257	5,051
5	3220	72	1,912	238	80	192	77
6	3271	77	1,443	230	44	16	13
6	3272	152	2,765	424	37	36	36
6	3281	202	5,704	771	227	84	186
6	3282	136	3,804	294	133	36	40
6	3292	116	4,397	663	119	106	106
S Asia Total		4,476	1,60,730	17,023	3,194	7,727	5,509

*Non-districted **Newly formed districts from mergers/bifurcations.

Source: RI South Asia Office

Helping save lives

K T P Radhika

To tide over shortage of blood and promote blood donation, D 3030 conducted mega blood donation camps across the district during the first week of July. Rotarians and their family, Rotaractors and general public participated in these camps which helped to collect over 1,000 units of blood.

“The camps were part of Pan India Blood Donation, a dream project of our RI Director,” said District Governor K S Rajan. All the 96 clubs of the district participated in the project.

“Blood donation is one of the prime needs of the country. We Rotarians should serve as role models for this valuable cause and inspire people around us to donate blood that would save precious lives,” said RI Director C Basker, inaugurating the project at Nagpur.

Clubs organised public awareness programmes and partnered with blood banks in various localities and the Indian Medical Association for storage of the collected blood. “We have appealed to the blood banks to reserve



RID C Basker presents an appreciation certificate to blood donors at a camp in Nagpur.

10 per cent of the collected blood to help the poor,” said Rajan, adding that storage was still a challenge in rural areas. The district is planning global grants to install blood storage facilities in those places.

Other healthcare initiatives

This year, the district is working on campaigning for ‘Tuberculosis Free

India’, in association with the GoI and WHO. “We will model it similar to Rotary’s polio eradication campaign,” said Rajan who has also worked for many PolioPlus projects in the district. “Unlike polio, presently there is no vaccine available for the disease. Cure is also a tough process. So, we should focus on prevention and it can be done only by creating awareness.” ■

The new IFRP head

Team Rotary News

Jatin Sharad Patel (47), a Rotarian of RC Bombay North West-Malad, D 3141, is the present Chair of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Photographers (IFRP), which has 390 members. The other board members — Vice Chair T Saravanaraj and Treasurer Madhumita Bishnu — are also from India.

Patel’s photograph of a classroom setting in a school for the hearing-impaired in Gujarat, won him a prize in the photo contest conducted by



IFRP Chair Jatin Sharad Patel

The Rotarian and it was also published in the magazine.

He plans to organise contests, workshops, lectures and exhibitions as a way of bonding for like-minded groups.

He is Technical Director of American Spring and Pressing Works, Mumbai. Having developed an interest in photography five years ago, he attended workshops and did a short-term course on ‘Nature and Wildlife Photography’ at Navsari Agricultural University, Gujarat. ■

What Women Want

Sheela Nambiar

Sigmund Freud, the 18th century Austrian neurologist, hailed as the father of psychoanalysis, famously asked the question, “What do women want”? He didn’t have an answer. All he had were theories.

Simply put — Women want to — Eat, Say, Love

Eat

Women want to be able to eat anything and not gain weight!

From time immemorial, beauty has been a priority. Today we have access to the latest trending diets, fitness fads and beauty hacks that promise unparalleled beauty. Most of us are vulnerable to the ridiculous diets that guarantee everything from a fabulous body to eternal youth.

While eating may seem like a very ‘physical’ thing, food is not always about physical hunger. There is such a thing called *emotional hunger*.

Many women seek solace in food to assuage an emotional hunger that they don’t quite know how to address. *Our answer to everything seems to be in the fridge*. We take refuge in food, and not surprisingly; as children, we are taught that food is closely related to almost everything precious around us: We are bribed with food for being good or punished by being denied our favourite treat. Families and friends gather around food in joyful times. We take offence if food is refused.

Food is intricately woven with emotions, besides satisfying physical hunger. It is easily accessible (unlike alcohol or drugs), socially acceptable and “eating well” (read too much) seems perfectly normal.

Though food has great emotional context, it cannot solve problems of loneliness, depression, anxiety or stress. In fact it can compound them.

But we cannot eat whatever we want (in whatever quantities we want) and not gain weight! That is not scientifically feasible. The energy balance equation does not allow this to happen.

However, we can balance our intake with optimum expenditure using exercise and activity. Use discretion while indulging and eat smaller portions. Give food its dutiful place, enjoy it, but respect it and more importantly, respect our bodies consuming it. We have to be mindful of what we eat and listen to our body’s signals of hunger and satiety as opposed to stress, sadness, depression, anger, fatigue or anxiety, all of which can be mistaken for physical hunger.

And then we want to ‘Say’

Women want to be able to say what they believe, think and feel and more importantly, they want to be heard.

Why are women sidelined, even ridiculed for ‘talking too much’? Don’t we have important things to say?

Why are we being killed even before we are born? Why is the rate of female foeticide still so high? Are we not important?

Don’t we have a valuable contribution to make in this world?

Of course, we do!

The Indian scriptures accord a venerable status to women. The female is believed to be an embodiment of *Shakthi* or power, tempered with virtue, *Buddhi* or wisdom, *Tyaga* or sacrifice and *Karuna* or compassion. Most of all women are revered for their capacity to nurture and care for others.

Why is it then that in our country that supposedly reveres the female form, women are disrespected? Why is the rate of domestic violence, female foeticide and rape so high? Why do women often hesitate to voice their thoughts or beliefs?

Most of it has to do with societal conditioning. While the feminine energy is considered all-powerful, it is also repressed, conditioned to be held in check and tempered with what is believed to be “femininity”.

A woman, who speaks her mind or contradicts a common belief system, is considered unfeminine or too aggressive.



Society is, by and large, governed by men and adhered to by women. Often, we will find it is women who run other women down, silence them.

Every woman has a story to tell. A story unique only to her and that she should be able to tell it in her own way. She should be able to work with that story to create the life she wishes. It doesn't matter if what she has to say is troubling or contradictory or painful. If she has a secret life she wants to share, or a shameful experience she would like to forget, she should be able to say what she wishes and be heard with respect.

What she says might have consequences, which may not always be pleasant. But, if a woman believes in something, being able to verbalise it is empowering in itself. It may not win her popularity, but will definitely improve her self-esteem.

To say also means to be able to say "I'm sorry" when needed; to say,

"I appreciate you", "Thank you" or "I love you". To be able to speak her mind also requires her to listen attentively to other women and allow them to tell their stories. Women should be supportive of other women and their wish to speak, be heard and actually listen.

And then there's 'Love'

Women want to be loved; they thrive under the influence of being loved and desired. It is an innate need. Some psychologists go as far as to say that women need love more than men do.

Her traditional role, as homemaker and nurturer, instinctively makes her more inclined to this emotion.

But this old school of thought that portrays women as homemakers and men, breadwinners, has shifted over the years, and along with that has evolved several conflicts in the roles women play in their personal space. A woman wants more than just emotional security.

She also wants to be recognised for her contribution to the workspace.

And there are women from conservative background who have to juggle between being a homemaker at home and a professional at office. Some of them had to face hostility for not playing their stipulated role in the home. I speak to women who have had to sacrifice their marriage for their job, and eventually are blamed for having made a wrong choice. It is, indeed, a very difficult choice. But they should not be judged for doing so. I also speak to women who have had to withdraw from the workforce for the sake of their family. This is also a difficult decision. I speak to women who manage to win both ways and others who struggle endlessly in both worlds. They are all trying to figure out a way to move forward.

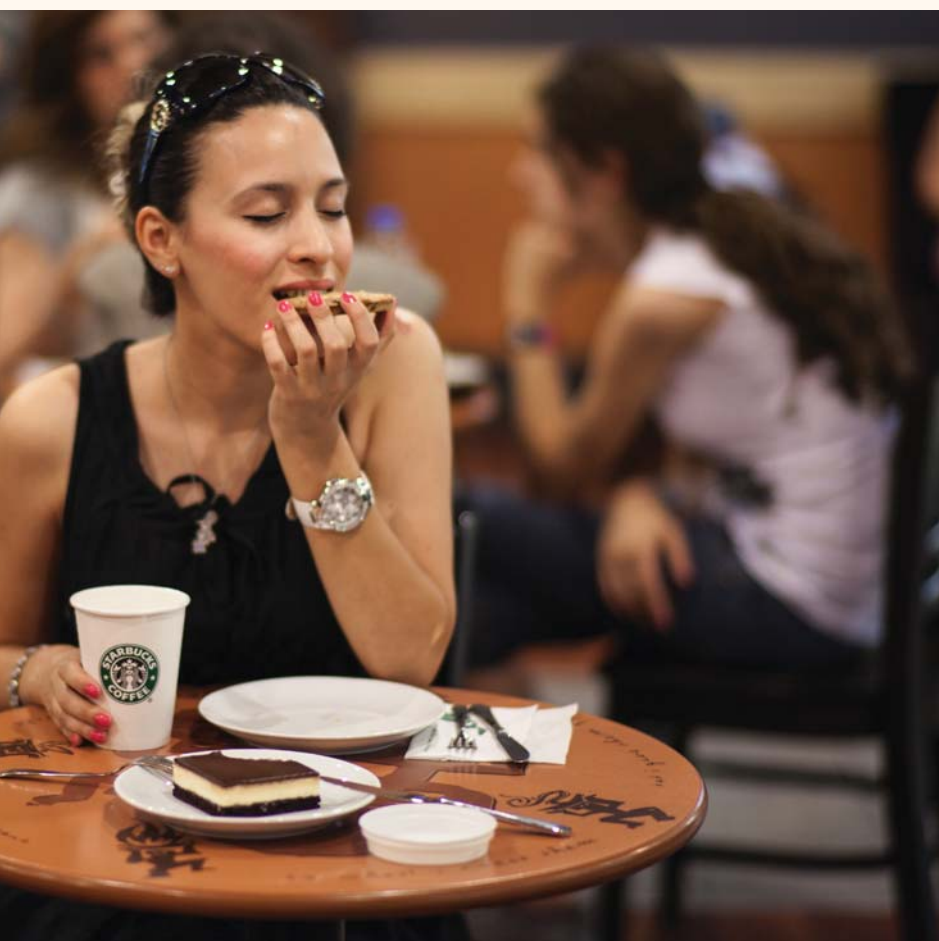
Love and support will certainly take a woman's efforts forward. Any one of these women may be your sister, mother or friend. Loving her may not always be easy, but it will certainly empower her like nothing else can.

The whole life experience today is truly challenging for women. This is especially so if they do not have the support of people around them. Love certainly turns the wheels eventually. Money, fame, power and success are only the trimmings, which amount to nothing if not adorned with love.

In return, we need to love too. We need to love in a way that makes it easy to be loved back. Sometimes we create a "conditionality" with which we love. We pose expectations and pressure on those we love. We would do ourselves a great favour if we could love for the sake of loving and in return, be loved back.

A woman should primarily love herself and everything else will fall into place.

The author, an Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, is a fitness and lifestyle consultant, and has published two books: Get Size Wise; Gain to lose. www.drsheela.nambiar.com



Crowding for doing good

KTP Radhika

How crowdfunding is changing charity and care in India.

A few years ago, Amit Onkar, a fashion technology student from Chennai, met with a terrible accident. A truck hit him when he was crossing a road, leaving him with severe brain haemorrhage. Doctors at the Columbia Asia Hospital, Bengaluru, where he was rushed, told his relatives that his survival chances were minimal unless an emergency surgery was done on him, which would cost a whopping Rs 20 lakh.

Amit's middle class family didn't have such a hefty sum. It was then the boy's close friend Albin Jose thought of raising some money through crowdfunding. Albin quickly ran a campaign on a crowdfunding portal Ketto, detailing Amit's plight. Within a few days, the campaign got backing from 800 donors and raised about Rs 10 lakh. "That's what happens when the crowd comes together to do some good," says Albin with a smile of satisfaction.

Albin is not alone. Many individuals and NGOs are now taking the crowdfunding route for fundraising, especially for medical treatment, education of underprivileged children, women's empowerment or for community development projects. "As a concept, crowdfunding has started getting acceptance in India over the last two years. And this has kickstarted a new wave in philanthropy," says Ishita Anand, CEO, BitGiving, a Delhi-based crowdfunding platform.

New-age fundraiser

Crowdfunding sources relatively smaller sums of money from general public, instead of relying on heavy

contributions from a few high net-worth individuals (HNI) or a huge grant from an agency. Actually, the concept is not new; in olden times people used to gather in villages and towns to collect money to help each other. Now, with the advent of modern technology, mainly the internet and its online platforms, the idea of crowdfunding is witnessing a revolution.

Now the online platform acts as a mediator between the contributor and the receiver. "A lot of potential is out there in people whose ticket size ranges from Rs 100 to 10,000,

not just the HNIs. Crowdfunding taps these donors," says Ishita. More than a dozen crowdfunding platforms such as Milaap, Ketto, FundDreamsIndia, BitGiving and LetzChange are available in India currently for social causes. "The beauty is that just by sitting at your home or office, and with the help of your social media contacts, you can raise huge sums," says Rahul Chovva, CEO and Director of LetzChange.

According to Crowdfunding Research firm Massolution, globally, the industry has grown from \$6.1 billion in 2013 to \$34 billion in 2015.



Of this, a huge amount goes to charity funding. A report by the World Bank says that the industry will touch \$93 billion by 2025. Market experts say that crowdfunding is growing more than 100 per cent (year-on-year) in India. A report from Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) India says that 20 per cent of all giving in the country will occur online within two years and 50 per cent within 10 years.

“Crowdfunding for philanthropy is very common in western countries. However, the concept is just emerging in India. Post demonetisation and with the digital India initiatives of the Government, there is a huge surge in digital payment platforms. This is reflecting in online donations to charities as well,” says Chovva.

Young donors

Today, the majority of the crowdfunding contributors are youngsters. “Online crowdfunding platforms are attracting the younger generation to

Only 28% for charity

Even though Indians are generous, our donations are more for religious purposes. According to the CAF report, 84 per cent of Indians, irrespective of their social status, donate, but 72 per cent goes to religious funding, and the rest to charity. “This is because we are culturally conditioned to donate to a religious place but not to a charity,” says Chovva.

Steps in crowdfunding

- Develop your story. Crowdfunding is all about stories
- Write your script. Visuals and videos will appeal more
- Submit it on a crowdfunding platform
- Spread it in social media such as Facebook, Twitter, etc
- Find initial contributors, with your close friends and relatives pitching in
- Crunch your numbers
- Do PR outreach
- Submit

charity. Almost 90 per cent of our donors are in the age group of 20–35 years,” says Ishita. Donations here are easier to track and the process is transparent. “Our donors usually look at specific projects and donate. The transparent funding system gives both credibility and information to the donors about their money,” she adds.

Agrees 53-year-old Mukesh Verma, a central government employee from Delhi. Verma has been a regular charity donor for the past 30 years. “I used to donate to a few NGOs around Nizamuddin, which work for uplifting children from backward class, in cash or cheque. A few years ago, one shut down and some of them shifted their office. Some agents then started coming to collect the money. I was not comfortable in giving money to an agent,” says Verma.

Verma’s son, who is associated with many crowdfunding campaigns, introduced him to this online way of charity. “This February, I donated to a campaign for child development on a crowdfunding platform. Though I’m not very good with the computer, the

process is transparent, easy and a great time saver. And you get the receipt then and there,” says Verma.

Not only individuals like Verma, NGOs too are now taking this online path of charity. “This is crucial for the survival of NGOs,” says Chovva. Echoing this, Varun Seth, founder of Ketto, says, “We started with a handful of NGOs in 2012. Now we have more than 5,000 onboard. Many more NGOs are opting for crowdfunding because of the positive feedback they have received from the crowd in the form of funds.”

Trust is the key

But despite opportunities, online crowdfunding is not a cakewalk, as trust is the key. “Since it is a virtual concept, the trust is to be carved in people’s mind,” says Seth. This is done through multi-step verification processes and ensuring the campaigns are genuine and convincing. “Content is the key here,” says Albin. “And because of that we got support from so many people. Thanks to all who contributed, Amit is out of danger now,” he adds. ■



In Brief



National Anthem in sign language

The Indian Government has launched a 3.35-minute video of the National Anthem in sign language. Directed by filmmaker Govind Nihalani, the video features film star Amitabh Bachchan performing the Anthem in sign language, along with differently-abled children, against the backdrop of the Red Fort. Apart from Delhi, the video was also launched in Goa, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Kolhapur.

Solar-powered train

The Indian Railways has introduced a solar-powered DEMU (diesel electrical multiple unit) train from the Safdarjung railway station in Delhi. The train runs between Sarai Rohilla in Delhi and Farukh Nagar in Haryana. Sixteen solar panels, each producing 300 Wp (Watt-peak), are fitted in six coaches. The train has a power back-up and can run on battery for at least 72 hours. The solar panels, currently installed on non-AC coaches, generate about 17 units of power in a day which enables the lighting system in the coach. The solar power will reduce 2.7 lakh tonnes of carbon dioxide emission and save Rs 672 crore a year.



‘Power’less schools

It is sad to know that only 62.81 per cent schools in the country have electricity, the Minister of State for HRD Upendra Kushwaha informed the Rajya Sabha. While Jharkhand is at the bottom of the list with only 19 per cent schools with access to electricity, Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep and Puducherry top the list with all schools having electricity. Assam has 25 per cent schools with electricity, while Meghalaya has 28.5 per cent. Others in the list include Bihar (37.78), Madhya Pradesh (28.8), Manipur (39.27), Odisha (33.03) and Tripura (29.77).

Monkey waiters

Monkeys wait to serve customers at the Kayabukiya tavern in Japan. The uniformed macaques, Yat-chan and Fuku-chan, are certified restaurant employees. While Fuku-chan is quick to give diners a hot towel to help clean their hands, twelve-year-old Yat-chan is the crowd-pleaser as he moves quickly between tables taking customers’ orders. If they do a good job, they are given soya beans as tips and their salaries come in the form of bananas. The restaurant owner Kaoru Otsuka is training three more baby monkeys for the job.



Cardboard furniture

From cradles to coffins, and every furniture in between, Mumbai-based Paper Shaper, a cardboard manufacturing company is making durable, lightweight, recyclable and eco-friendly cardboard furniture with a shelf-life of up to seven years. This eco-friendly furniture, an alternative to wooden, metal and plastic furniture, is portable, durable, easy to assemble and store, as also recyclable. The price starts at Rs 3,000.

PRIP Kalyan Banerjee calls on Pakistan President

On August 17, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, accompanied by Pakistan's NPPC Chair Aziz Memon, DG (D 3271) Ovais A Kohari and DG (D 3272) Faiza Qamar called on the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain in Islamabad, to discuss and endorse the work being done on polio eradication. Thanking the Pakistani Government for its ownership and commitment to the polio eradication programme in a difficult situation, Banerjee said Pakistan had come a long way in the task of eradicating polio.

PDG Memon pointed out that the main concern today was that the polio programme should not be derailed, as had happened in the last election. Dr Rana Muhammad Safdar, Coordinator, National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC), thanked



PRIP Kalyan Banerjee presents a book on Rotary's role in polio eradication to the President of Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain as Pakistan National PolioPlus Committee Chair Aziz Memon looks on.

Rotary for its dedication and said agreements have been reached with all political parties that during the elections, polio immunisation work will continue and receive the full support of all political parties. Memon added that the Quetta Block needs

special attention as the transient population keeps crossing the Pak-Afghan border.

He added that Karachi is a very volatile city, and though no new cases have been reported since the last 23 months, "we cannot lose sight or let our guard

down, as with a population of about 23 million it has an ethnic fusion of communities."

PRIP Banerjee presented a bas relief replica of the PolioPlus statue, and a PolioPlus history book to the President of Pakistan. ■



From L: D 3272 DG Faiza Qamar, PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, Pakistan President Mamnoon Hussain, NEOC National Coordinator Dr Rana Safdar, NPPC Chair Aziz Memon and D 3271 DG Ovais A Kohari.

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