

Rotary

INDIA NEWS

www.rotarynewsonline.org





15-16-17 JANUARY

THE ODYSSEY

A VIRTUAL JOURNEY

ROTARY INSTITUTE 20-21

ZONES 4, 5, 6, 7

**Enrich your
Rotary
exposure**

**Institute Convener
RI Director Kamal Sanghvi
extends a warm welcome
to you to enjoy the
Rotary Zone Institute —
The Odyssey, a virtual
experience — from the
comfort and safety of
your home or office.**

Listen to leaders such as
RIPE Shekhar Mehta, RIPN
Jennifer Jones, RID Peter
Kyle, TRF Trustee Chair
KR Ravindran, TRF Trustee
Larry Lunsford, Swiss
Ambassador Arthur Mattli,
Judge Silvia Fernandes de
Gurmendi, Argentina and
many more...

For more details contact:

Institute Chairman
Sanjay Khemka: 9431121176
Email: sanjay3250@gmail.com

Institute Secretary
John Daniel: 9249559999
Email: rtn.johndaniel@gmail.com

Visit www.rotaryodyssey.in

**Block the dates: January 15, 16
and 17, 2021. Time: 4 to 8 pm.**

**Registration fee for RI officers
(past, present, current and
incoming): ₹2,500. (Registration
fee is waived for spouse.)**

Inside



10



16



26



32



42



60

10 Chennai's flower sellers move from fragrance to frustration

Read about how the Corona pandemic has affected these flower sellers, whose wares form an integral part of Southern culture.

16 RC Pune turns 50 with a bang

Service projects in health and hygiene, women's empowerment and education, mark the golden jubilee celebrations of this club.

22 Challenges and opportunities for Rotarians in a post-Covid world

TRF Trustee Chair K R Ravindran talks about the Foundation's financial status at a webinar organised by RC Madras.

26 RC Bombay mends little hearts with help from two global grants

Over 100 little lives have been saved by this club through its paediatric heart surgery project.

32 Rallies, awareness campaigns mark World Polio Day

Rotary clubs organise awareness activities to commemorate World Polio Day.

42 A treat for aficionados of Gujarati food

Parul Bhatt's coffee table book can bring delicious Gujarati delicacies to your kitchen.

48 Women Rotarians beat pandemic with novel ideas & projects

Women Rotarians from across the world come together to form a Rotary Action Group for menstrual hygiene.

60 Power, energy, razor-sharp enunciation of Manna Dey

A portrait of the legendary musician who has mesmerised generations with his enchanting songs.

On the cover: A flower seller in Chennai.
Photo: Kiran Zehra.

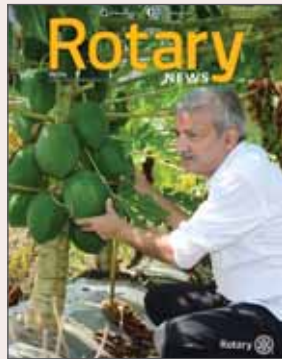


Community farming shows the way

Activist Mayank Gandhi has touched a magic lamp by introducing community farming in Maharashtra. This region, once known for farmer suicides, has become a prosperous area. PDG Rahul Timbadia has proved that Rotary, with its extraordinary network of people with focus and skills, can create big change.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus spelt out reasons for the world heading towards disaster — Global warming, concentration of wealth and growing, massive unemployment. An eye-opener.

KMKMurthy, RC Secunderabad — D 3150



have stressed the importance of TRF, our shining jewel. It's good that measles and rubella will be eradicated by 2023. RC Bombay Rotarians' effort, despite monsoon floods, are laudable. Delighted to read *A Rotarian doctor recalls his brush with coronavirus* and the article on RC Quilon turning 70.

Club Matters was more apt than Club Hop. The earlier photos were clearer and of viewable size, which is important to clubs. The content is meaningful; I appreciate the good work of the editorial team.

Philip Mulappone MT, RC Trivandrum Suburban — D 3211

The cover story on community farming was motivating, informative and imparted knowledge. If farmers in Marathwada can achieve *acche din* through the passionate efforts of Mayank Gandhi, then there is hope for India to realise the same. PDG Timbadia's acts are inspiring and worth emulating. Your write-up deserves wide circulation for motivating Indians.

Rajeev Chhabra, RC Nagpur — D 3030

Community farming can add so much in the growth of our nation. Glad to hear from the RI president that the RI board is forming a task force to assist clubs to attract new members, the need of the hour.

Editor's note covers many important aspects which require Rotary's intervention. RI directors

The November issue has impressive content. The story on community farming is interesting and in tune with Gandhiji's vision. The planting of fruit trees will promote the economy and conserve ecology. My compliments to the Editorial team for giving such useful articles. The gifting of a laptop to a deserving girl, the article on our melody icon SPB, with striking photographs, are interesting. Yet another landmark in the history of Rotary is the nomination of Jennifer Jones as the first ever woman RI president. With its sparkling inputs, this issue is a befitting Diwali gift.

PDG Tarachand Dugar
RC Madras East — D 3232

Great Indo-Pak initiative

I am very pleased with the Indo-Pak projects by Rtn Ravishankar Dakoju. Let these projects be the first steps to resolve misunderstandings and the festering border dispute between the neighbours. I request all the PDGs named in the article and Dakoju to adopt some more fellowship programmes and get more PDGs from India and Pakistan to join. Rotary, as a friend of both the countries, should persuade and suggest means to promote peace and our projects and programmes must become a people's movement in both countries. We the people of India and Pakistan

must come together to amicably settle all outstanding issues to establish peace and goodwill.

Ramakrishna K, RC Puttur — D 3181

Great articles on Yunus, our music legends

The October cover story on Yunus was an eye-opener. So many facets of his personality have been brought out. His faith in Rotary's ability to bring change in the world was heartening. *Rotary News* has done yeoman service by bringing us this article.

Group Capt V G Deodhar
RC Nasik — D 3030

The points made by Yunus were thought-provoking. The recognition of Rtn Tunji Funsho by *Time* magazine and SR Madhu's article on Kishore Kumar were great. Though Kishore sang his own songs whenever he acted, for some songs when the music director felt that Mohammed Rafi could sing them better, Kishore readily agreed. Once when a song to be sung by Rafi required yodelling, he requested the music director to get it done by Kishore, the master of yodelling. But when the music director insisted on Rafi singing it, he went to Kishore, got valuable tips on yodelling and then sang

LETTERS

the song, which was filmed on Feroze Khan. That was the camaraderie singers shared in the past.

*Santosh Tiwari, RC Jalna
Rainbow — D 3132*

The article on SPB's journey was interesting. He has carved a niche in the hearts of Tamils with thousands of songs, entertaining lakhs of people. Of course, one of the high points of his career is *Sankarabharanam* in which he has sung under KV Mahadevan's music composition.

*Dr S Subramanian
RC Puliangudi — RID 3212*

Thanks to *Rotary News* for bringing out the concept of micro entrepreneurs as envisioned by Yunus. His comment on not going back to pre-corona days is thought-provoking. His concern on Covid vaccine distribution needs to be addressed by policy-makers. Rotary can take a role in vaccine distribution among weaker sections.

*Vinod Kumar A K
RC Nileshwar — D 3202*

Reading the cover story on Prof Yunus through your article was great. I could not retain much on the webinar and was looking for details, which I got in our magazine, and which have created a deep impression of his ideas in my mind. Our district has adopted micro-credit projects. The newly-designed *Club Hop* looks nice and beautiful.

R K Bubna, RC Belur — D 3291

I read the cover story on Muhammad Yunus with lot of interest as my

father, the late Rtn Jayant Shah, had travelled specially to meet Yunus. This was before he got the Nobel Prize. He had gone to understand about micro-finance and the Grameen Bank, and was very impressed by Yunus's work. After returning, he started microfinance through the Disha Trust in association with RC Poona North and Janki Devi Bajaj Trust. It catered mainly to the remote villages near Pune.

*Yogesh Shah, RC Poona
Central — D 3131*

Muhammad Yunus has nicely explained the concept of social entrepreneurs, touching on a host of developmental issues. His visionary thoughts and plans will make the right impact in the world. Thanks for the excellent write-up.

*Dr Pon Muthaiyan
RC Aduthurai — D 2982*

A great story on the newly-formed Rotaract club in Arunachal Pradesh. It was with absolute delight that I read the news of the charter of RAC Namsai. This will help bring parity for the youth of the region with the rest of India in the coming years. More power to President Khusbu Sharma and DRR Tushar Jalan.

*Gopinath N Pandalai, RC Bangalore
Indiranagar — D 3190*

We are thankful to *Rotary News* for publishing our project on environmental protection. This was our first ever project published in this magazine since 1979. It was a great drive initiated by our club to develop a *Rotary*

Vatika at the Jagsundri temple. We planted around 300 saplings dedicated to our Rotary leaders. We also planted saplings in the name of Kiran Zehra and Editor Rasheeda Bhagat. On behalf of all Rotarians from our club, I thank you for the article.

*Sunil Kumar Dogra, president
RC Kangra — D 3070*

The September and October issues are just fabulous with both the cover stories epitomising the distinct character of Rotary.

I have listened to Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus in the webinar programme and his presentation was impressive and realistic. Covid has opened new opportunities on the virtual platform where we can listen to distinguished persons. I also admire the lines spoken by RIPE Shekhar Meta, "soft spoken, mild mannered, humble..." on the late PRID Yash Pal Das.

*Soumitra Chakraborty
RC Calcutta Innovation — D 3291*

Kudos to PDG Sylvia Whitlock

The article *When the mouse roared* in the September issue is an eye-opener. PDG Sylvia Whitlock, who fought the legal battle for the right of women to join Rotary, in spite of stiff opposition by the then leaders, and went on to become the first woman governor. It is great to learn that for the first time a woman, Jennifer Jones, will become the RI president in 2022-23. This is true empowerment of women in Rotary.

*Major D K Zarekar
RC Nashik-Ambad — D 3030*

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

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

Messages on your club/district projects, information and links on zoom meetings/webinar should be sent to the Editor only at rotarynewsmagazine@gmail.com or rushbhagat@gmail.com.

WHATSAPP MESSAGES WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

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



2020: A year of strength for Rotary

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global Covid-19 pandemic brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organisation.

I will choose to remember 2020 as a year of great change and strength for us; Rotary didn't stop, despite the pandemic. We removed obstacles, found new ways to connect, and embraced new approaches to service, such as online projects and virtual fundraising. I have invited two Rotarians to share their stories about how Rotary grew stronger this year.

When the pandemic shut everything down, our emerging e-club was already providing digital service, including internationally. Fourteen US women and I, members of multiple Rotary clubs, were using WhatsApp to mentor women entrepreneurs in rural Costa Rica, helping them to grow their ecotourism business, RETUS Tours. The project has grown, with 30 Rotarians now providing consulting and help with the RETUS website and social media. Most importantly, we continue building relationships and empowering these women to transform their own lives, and we are doing it online. I've even helped one of the women, Rosa, prepare a presentation in English for an online international conference. While our engagement with the Costa Rican women still requires some hands-on activity, the most transformative impacts haven't had to be

in person. — Liza Larson, Rotary E-Club Engage and Rotary Club of Plano East, Texas.

I was president of my club when Covid-19 hit, and many members didn't yet have zoom. Only 10 of our 53 members participated in the first zoom meeting during the pandemic. I thought that reaching out and getting guest speakers from around the world to engage our members would help. Many Rotary leaders, a Rotary Peace Fellow, and even RI President Holger Knaack visited virtually and spoke to our club. Meeting attendance improved, while we reduced running costs by cutting out meals. Some members who worked outside our city and had missed our meetings even rejoined us. Registering our online meetings on My Rotary enhanced contacts with clubs across the world, and the joint meeting addressed by Holger attracted more than 300 visitors. We also raised more funds as members and visitors contributed to our projects. To continue being flexible for all, we are now offering hybrid meetings. For me, 2020 has been the best year in Rotary as I've made many new friends. — Blessing Michael, Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North, Nigeria.

These stories should give us all reasons to be optimistic about Rotary in the year ahead. We are not just surviving; we are gaining strength. We are discovering how resilient our organisation truly is. We are seeing for ourselves how *Rotary Opens Opportunities* — even during pandemics — to grow, connect, and engage our members and the communities we serve.

From our home in Ratzeburg to yours, Susanne and I would like to bid you and your family the warmest of season's greetings. We can't wait to see the good things that 2021 will bring.

Holger Knaack
President, Rotary International



Liza Larson
Rotary
E-Club
Engage and
Rotary Club
of Plano East,
Texas.



Blessing Michael
Rotary Club
of Port
Harcourt
North,
Nigeria.



After Covid relief, India's poor need economic rehabilitation

The all-round distress brought about by the Covid pandemic notwithstanding, if one were to go by the Indian equity markets, our economy is booming, the equity indices have touched an all-time high and mutual funds are registering great returns. But the sobering factor is that this razzle-dazzle on Dalal Street is confined only to a minuscule percentage of Indians. You have to read our December cover story, which features the famed flower sellers of Chennai, to realise the kind of economic distress that the small and unorganised sectors, so valuable to our economy that kick on the streets of India, are facing. But underlying the economic woes that the women, who string together the fragrant jasmine and other flowers, are facing, is their grit and determination to put their shoulder to the wheel, and carry on. These feisty women need our salute of course, but also our help and patronage.

Through my four decades in journalism, and wide travel throughout the country, particularly to our smaller cities and villages, I have personally witnessed the stranglehold that moneylenders have on our vulnerable sections... the small vegetable and fruit vendors, flower sellers, domestic help and others who need to borrow money for emergencies. While medical emergencies are understandable, regrettably, in our social ethos, even the poor have to spend much more than what they have earned or saved, for weddings. And of course, those with daughters have their burden multiplied severalfold, with the dowry evil sucking the last paisa from them, and putting them at the mercy of moneylenders. With no bank willing to touch the poor, who have no collateral

to offer for a loan, they are at the mercy of the village moneylender, and the interest rates are so exorbitant, that they send your head reeling. The most common is 10 per cent a month; or a mind-numbing 120 per cent a year!

This is where one of the focus areas of Rotary — enhancing livelihoods — comes into the picture. We all know that several Rotary clubs in India and overseas have embraced the microfinance model and through club and district projects are disbursing loans to women's self-help groups. Having studied the Grameen model from the grassroots level in Dhaka and the surrounding villages way back in 1998 and later in 2006 when Prof Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace, I have seen at close hand how group dynamics work. If one member of the group faces a problem and is about to default on a payment, the other members visit her home, counsel her, try to help as much as possible, and ensure that she keeps up with the repayment of her instalments. Because in microfinance, only if you complete payment for one loan, do you become eligible for the next and bigger loan.

Rotarians across India have emerged as knights in shining armour when it came to providing relief to migrant workers, daily wage labourers, the homeless, as also safety and medical equipment to health workers and hospitals. But relief has to be followed up with rehabilitation. In the immediate post-Covid world, India's economically crippled people, such as Chennai's flower sellers, are going to need a massive infusion of economic rehabilitation. Will India's Rotary clubs rise to the challenge and do whatever they can? I know they will!

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

Rasheeda Bhagat

Governors Council

RI Dist 2981	DG R Balaji Babu
RI Dist 2982	DG K S Venkatesan
RI Dist 3000	DG AL Chokkalingam
RI Dist 3011	DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra
RI Dist 3012	DG Alok Gupta
RI Dist 3020	DG Muttavarapu Satish Babu
RI Dist 3030	DG Shabbir Shakir
RI Dist 3040	DG Gajendra Singh Narang
RI Dist 3053	DG Harish Kumar Gaur
RI Dist 3054	DG Rajesh Agarwal
RI Dist 3060	DG Prashant Harivallabh Jani
RI Dist 3070	DG CA Davinder Singh
RI Dist 3080	DG Ramesh Bajaj
RI Dist 3090	DG Vijay Arora
RI Dist 3100	DG Manish Sharda
RI Dist 3110	DG Dinesh Chandra Shukla
RI Dist 3120	DG Karunesh Kumar Srivastava
RI Dist 3131	DG Rashmi Vinay Kulkarni
RI Dist 3132	DG Harish Motwani
RI Dist 3141	DG Sunnil Mehra
RI Dist 3142	DG Dr Sandeep Kadam
RI Dist 3150	DG Nalla Venkata Hanmanth Reddy
RI Dist 3160	DG B Chinnappa Reddy
RI Dist 3170	DG Sangram Vishnu Patil
RI Dist 3181	DG M Ranganath Bhat
RI Dist 3182	DG B Rajarama Bhat
RI Dist 3190	DG BL Nagendra Prasad
RI Dist 3201	DG Jose Chacko Madhavassery
RI Dist 3202	DG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar
RI Dist 3211	DG Dr Thomas Vavanikunnel
RI Dist 3212	DG PNB Murugadoss
RI Dist 3231	DG K Pandian
RI Dist 3232	DG S Muthupalaniappan
RI Dist 3240	DG Subhasish Chatterjee
RI Dist 3250	DG Rajan Gandotra
RI Dist 3261	DG Fakir Charan Mohanty
RI Dist 3262	DG Saumya Rajan Mishra
RI Dist 3291	DG Sudip Mukherjee

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

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

Message from

Sound mind, sound body



The way the world looks at and treats disease and illness has undergone remarkable change over the centuries. In the 19th century doctors did not know how to prevent infection.

In field hospitals doctors cut off hands and legs of soldiers who suffered even minor limb injuries, fearing gangrene. All this has changed in the last two centuries. Pills, injections and surgeries save us from various illnesses and injuries today.

The average life expectancy in India has jumped from around 31–32 years in the early 1950s to 70 years in 2018. The focus now is increasingly on preventive healthcare. Preventive care helps detect or prevent serious diseases and medical problems. Today non communicable diseases (NCDs) — including heart disease, stroke, diabetes, lung diseases, kidney failure and cancer — are common health problems across the world. NCDs account for nearly 5.8 million deaths in India. One in four Indians is at risk of dying from an NCD before he/she can reach the age of 70. Many of these chronic diseases are preventable, as they are linked to poor diet and lifestyle choices including tobacco use, excessive alcohol consumption and inadequate physical activity.

Sugar is more dangerous than gunpowder. A person is more likely to die from drinking too much cola than being blown up by a terrorist attack. The biggest problem is not the junk we eat but the nutritious food we don't eat. The good news is that you have the power to help prevent chronic disease by making positive diet and lifestyle changes to help reduce risk.

In this Disease Prevention and Treatment month we once again focus on Rotary's Project Positive Health — Stop NCD. Its three important pillars are: Lifestyle modification — the *Ek chamach kum, char kadam aage* campaign; Regular check-ups — the 'Know your Numbers' campaign and Awareness — amongst Rotarians, our community and especially amongst school children. The One spoon less (of salt, oil and sugar); four steps forward (regular exercise daily) and 'No Tobacco' should become the guiding mantras for all.

This pandemic has also brought into sharp focus the issue of mental health. The stigma associated with mental health conditions needs to be replaced with empathy, support and medication, and underscoring the importance of mental health in the overall well-being of an individual. The focus should be on a sound mind in a sound body — *mens sana in corpore sano*.

Dr Bharat Pandya
RI Director, 2019–21

RI Directors

Rotary Zone Institute 2020-21

Rotary prioritises the safety and health of our participants, and the RI Board has been continuously assessing local and global health conditions when making decisions about Rotarians gathering around the world. Based on a thorough analysis of a variety of factors, and in sync with the RI Board policies, the Zone Institute committee has decided to conduct the 2020-21 Rotary Institute for Zones 4, 5, 6 and 7 virtually during January 15-17, 2021.



I believe the committee's decision is the best one based on current conditions, though I understand that you may be disappointed not being able to gather in Kochi. I personally assure you that the Institute team will leave no stone unturned to create a high quality Rotary experience for a successful virtual Institute. The programme will be robust and will include updates on Rotary programmes, initiatives, and inspirational speakers from the world over.

Enjoy the Zone Institute — *The Odyssey, a virtual experience* — from the comfort and safety of your home or office.

Block the following dates: **January 15, 16 and 17, 2021. Time: 4 to 8 pm.**

Registration fee for RI officers (past, present, current and incoming): **₹2,500.** (Registration fee for spouse is waived.)

Registering for the Institute will give you:

- Access to passcode for the virtual space.
- A gift for you and your spouse.
- Access to Rotary booths and other facilities.
- Certify that you attended the virtual institute.

Registering for the Zone Institute shows your commitment to the programme and will only defray a small portion of the actual expense. I look forward to 100 per cent participation of the RI officers at the Institute on the virtual platform.

Kochi Institute Registration Refund

We will begin the process of refunding your registration fees for the Kochi Institute from December 15 with no cancellation charge. We will also automatically register you for *The Odyssey — Rotary Institute 2020-21* and send the balance amount after deducting ₹2,500.

However if, for some reason, you do not wish to register for the Institute, please inform Institute Chair PDG Sanjay Khemka who will do the needful.

Kamal Sanghvi
RI Director, 2019-21

Board of Permanent Trustees & Executive Committee

PRIP Rajendra K Saboo	RI Dist 3080
PRIP Kalyan Banerjee	RI Dist 3060
RIPE Shekhar Mehta	RI Dist 3291
PRID Panduranga Setty	RI Dist 3190
PRID Sushil Gupta	RI Dist 3011
PRID Ashok Mahajan	RI Dist 3141
PRID P T Prabhakar	RI Dist 3232
PRID Dr Manoj D Desai	RI Dist 3060
PRID C Basker	RI Dist 3000
TRF Trustee Gulam A Vahanvaty	RI Dist 3141
RID Dr Bharat Pandya	RI Dist 3141
RID Kamal Sanghvi	RI Dist 3250
RIDE AS Venkatesh	RI Dist 3232
RIDE Dr Mahesh Kotbagi	RI Dist 3131

Executive Committee Members (2020-21)

DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra	RI Dist 3011
Chair – Governors Council	
DG Sudip Mukherjee	RI Dist 3291
Secretary – Governors Council	
DG Sangram Vishnu Patil	RI Dist 3170
Secretary – Executive Committee	
DG Prashant Harivallabh Jani	RI Dist 3060
Treasurer – Executive Committee	
DG S Muthupalaniappan	RI Dist 3232
Member – Advisory Committee	

ROTARY NEWS / ROTARY SAMACHAR

Editor

Rasheeda Bhagat

Senior Assistant Editor

Jaishree Padmanabhan

ROTARY NEWS / ROTARY SAMACHAR

ROTARY NEWS TRUST

3rd Floor, Dugar Towers,
34 Marshalls Road, Egmore
Chennai 600 008, India.
Phone : 044 42145666

e-mail: rotarynews@rosaonline.org
Website: www.rotarynewsonline.org

Now share articles from
rotarynewsonline.org on WhatsApp.





Chennai's flower sellers move from fragrance to frustration

Kiran Zehra

The lockdown and the corona pandemic have spelt death knell of the famed flowers sellers of Chennai. They are coping with a tsunami of turmoil, as they sell their fragrant and colourful wares in this coastal city.

Kalyani's fingers move fast as she twists the thread and adds fresh *malli poo* (jasmine) to the long flower string she is knitting together. Seated beside her on plastic sheets two other women — Rani and Vimala — are working on their flower strings too. For 35 years now the trio have met every day at 5 am in front of a pawn shop at the Perambur market in Chennai to string flowers for a vendor. "Except for the lockdown, we were busy all through the years," says the 62-year-old Kalyani, adding, "those were the worst months of our lives. For three days I survived on biscuits and water because I wasn't prepared and everything happened so suddenly and quickly."

In the pre-corona days, "*oru muzham* (a cubit measured from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger) *ku oru ruba kadaikum* (we used to get ₹1 per measure)," Rani says. But now that has been reduced to 25 paise. "The more we string the more we make now. But unfortunately, the vendor herself isn't

selling enough. So, our work has been reduced," she sighs. Stringers, she says, could easily make ₹100–150 a day earlier. "But now we make ₹10–25. How will that be enough? Do you know we have eaten nothing in the last seven months other than rice *kanji* (porridge)?"

Not much is different for the flower vendors either. Rolls of scented *malli* strings, bright and colourful *samanthi* and *sampangi* (chrysanthemum, marigold), vibrant December *poo* (Philippine violet)

Stringers could easily make ₹100–150 a day earlier. But now we make ₹10–25. Do you know we have eaten nothing in the last seven months other than rice porridge?

Rani, a flower vendor.



and pink jasmine, adorn the roadside stall owned by Sumathi, at the Kilpauk Gardens. She waits to catch the eye of the few passersby and calls out “*aaiya poo vangi konga* (Sir, please buy flowers).”

Disappointed after three failed attempts of hawking, she says “nobody’s buying! Last November the road was abuzz with walkers, joggers, and temple goers and by 7.30am I would have sold most of my

flowers.” Pointing at the few rupee coins and a couple of ₹10 notes on her rugged stall, she says “this is all I have made so far today. You can check under the covers too. This is all I have got and am returning home with this poor income.”

Has anything changed for better for these vendors after the puja and Diwali season arrived? In response, Kamala Amma, a 75-year-old flower vendor, says, “what Diwali? It doesn’t feel like a festive

time at all as we are still bearing the aftermath of the lockdown.” After her husband’s death, she began selling flowers for a living. “It was a flourishing business earlier and I got both my daughters married with the money I made from selling flowers and had to take a very small loan.” Her daily income has plunged rapidly from ₹500–₹850 to ₹150 and during the lockdown her total borrowings piled up to ₹30,000. “I can only hope to pay back interest now and will

It was a flourishing business earlier and I got both my daughters married with the money I made from selling flowers and had to take a very small loan.

Vendors at the wholesale flower market at Madhavaram, Chennai.



Everyone has suffered from the lockdown and the situation could have been worse. We could have got infected and died because of corona.

Susheela, another vendor.

have to visit my granddaughters empty-handed for Diwali,” she rues, almost bursting into tears, but manages to control her emotions.

Let’s not forget that most of these vulnerable sections borrow money at abominable interest rates that range between 120 to 500 per cent an annum, and even more. In some cases, especially among vegetable vendors, a loan of ₹50 in the morning has to be paid off at the end of the day with ₹100. Work the math.

Kanamma, a roadside vendor, is lost in thought and snaps at me in response to my question. “There is nothing to say. I don’t know if I will be able to sell even one garland today. If you aren’t here to buy flowers, please leave.” A few yards away a mother and son sit at their roadside stall awaiting customers. “I did not send my son to school. All he knows to do is to sell flowers! I’m not scared for myself but his future. This is not just a job, it’s our life,” says the mother who blames Covid for “destroying our traditional trade of selling

flowers to devotees and housewives. How can anyone worship without flowers?”

Some feisty women

And yet, they show resilience. Susheela, another vendor, says “at least we have got work to do now that the lockdown

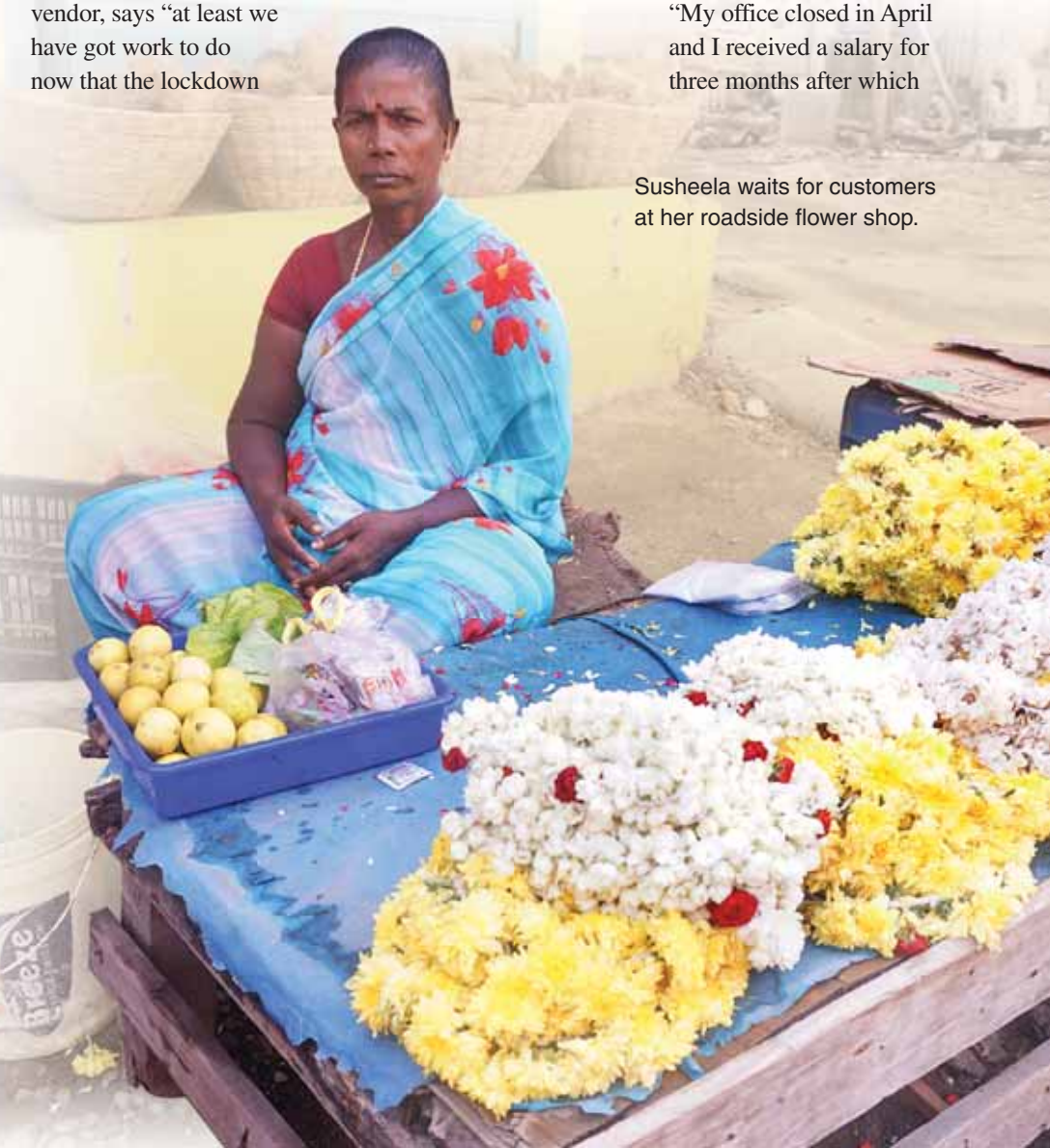
has been lifted. There is some hope that our situation will change. Everyone has suffered from the lockdown and the situation could have been worse. We could have got infected and died because of corona.” Navratri and Diwali are the best seasons for flower vendors. “We make good money during this season. But this Navratri, as the rates were down, we made very little money, but that is a hundred times better than no money at all.” She offers me a free *muzham*

of *malli* and says “take it amma, no one else is going to buy it anyway.”

“Like Swiggy, that tells you the body temperature of the delivery boy, I wish there was a way to tell that the flowers we sell are not infected. This way we could sell flowers without being looked at like people who will infect you,” says Soundar, who has a flower shop at the Perambur bazaar.

Both Malathi and Rekha worked as office attenders, but lost their jobs during the lockdown. “My office closed in April and I received a salary for three months after which

Susheela waits for customers at her roadside flower shop.



Sumathi shows her meagre earnings.



The Koyambedu market complex that once housed 4,000 shops with 20,000 people earning their livelihood was shut after it emerged as a Covid hotspot.

I was told that I will be contacted if the office opens again,” says Rekha. No call came for another two months and “I couldn’t depend on my drunk husband to support my son and me.” She asked her aunt who sold flowers by the railway station for help. Now Rekha sells flowers in the morning and evening

and during the day works as domestic help in three homes.

Wholesale market scene

Flowers, along with fruits and vegetables, are traded at the Koyambedu wholesale market since 1996 and the complex once housed close to 4,000 wholesale and retail shops with over

20,000 people earning their livelihoods there. The market complex was shut after it emerged as a Covid hotspot in April. Senthil, a wholesale flower vendor from Koyambedu, who had no choice but to move to Vanagaram, says, “only 50 per cent of flowers arrived at the market compared to last year and to add to our problems it rained exactly before Ayudha puja. Most of our flowers were spoiled as there is no facility to store them. Whatever arrived in the market could not be sold because everyone is too scared to buy. We had no choice but to dump the

beautiful flowers. Some of us borrowed money to buy the flowers hoping to make money. But everything seems to be going against us now.”

The ride to the Madhavaram wholesale flower market, which was set up as a temporary measure to move vendors out of the Koyambedu market complex, is bumpy as the approach road badly needs repair. But no pucca roads, makeshift tents of plastic sheets and bamboo to store and sell flowers isn’t that bad a deal for the vendors who have moved there. “Everything is alright. Even if there



Those must be about 100 tonnes of different flowers that were battered in the rain last month. That isn't garbage, it's our hard earned money turned into waste now.

Thirumal, a wholesale flower merchant.

was a problem what can we do about it?" asks Vijay, a commission agent there. He says the wholesale flower prices in the city crashed ahead of Ayudha Puja because of the rains. *Samandhi*, he says, was sold at ₹150–200 a kg while *malli* was sold at ₹300 and *sam-pangi* was sold at ₹260 to

300 but the local vendors bought it wholesale at a much lesser rate and sold at higher prices. "Our customers, the wholesale vendors, did not benefit as local vendors could not lift the newly arrived stocks (at the wholesale end) because the retailers continued to sell their flowers at

Kalyani, Rani and Vimala stringing flowers in front of the pawn shop in Perambur, Chennai.



inflated rates which puts off regular buyers". Many people across the city were unwilling to buy flowers due to exorbitant prices. "We can't blame the local vendors either because no one has made money for a long time," he adds.

Thirumal, a wholesaler at Madhavaram, points out "we continue to struggle to make a living without a proper marketplace to do business. The Koyambedu market has pucca buildings, proper transportation and storage systems, and enough workers to load and unload the flower baskets."

As it starts drizzling, he runs to his shop to tie

up the plastic sheets on the bamboo frame to protect his flowers from the rain. "We did not have to worry about the monsoon rain affecting our business at Koyambedu," he says and points to a huge pile of flowers dumped in the corner of the market and adds, "those must be about 100 tonnes of different flowers that were battered in the rain last month. That isn't garbage, it's our hard-earned money turned into waste now."

Pictures by Kiran Zehra

Designed by
Krishnapratheesh

RC Pune South turns 50

Rasheeda Bhagat



This June, the Rotary Club of Pune South, one of the oldest clubs in RI District 3131, and with 100 members, completed its golden jubilee with a rush of remarkable service projects in areas such as health and hygiene, women's empowerment, education and skilling, etc.

According to the golden jubilee president Abhijit Joag, one of its most impactful projects during the year was to bring dignity, self-respect and recognition to sanitation workers. He said, "through *Swachh Bharat*, India has achieved phenomenal success in building new toilets and creating awareness about cleanliness and hygiene. But the

people in the forefront of this drive, the workers engaged in sanitation and drainage cleaning, work under almost inhuman conditions. That one such worker dies every five days in India due to suffocation and other hazards is an embarrassing statistic for every Indian."

Moreover, due to lack of knowledge, these workers are careless about safety measures they should undertake and hence end up with all kinds of infections, resulting in a much lower life expectancy. Recognising that all these workers are a demoralised lot, who feel that nobody cares for them as they do a menial job, the club decided to take up their welfare and

improvement in their working conditions, and providing enhanced safety measures for their health and hygiene.

The club, in partnership with the KAM Foundation, domain experts in this field, conducted a 12-day pilot training programme in the field and classroom for 35 "sanitation soldiers", as it called them, to bring about in them behavioural change, inculcate self-respect and pride in their work, and follow strict safety measures."

The workers were given a set of personal protective equipment that included a cap, goggles, mask, hand gloves, a jacket and gum boots. "We felt that universally a person in

with a bang



Child beneficiaries of RC Pune South's Suvarnakanya project.

We felt that universally a person in uniform gets attention, recognition and respect. The workers who attended this programme discovered this too, and probably for the first time in their life, felt good about themselves and their work.

Abhijit Joag
president (2019–20)
RC Pune South

uniform gets attention, recognition and respect. The workers who attended this programme discovered this too, and probably for the first time in their life, felt good about themselves and their work,” added Joag.

The club was quick to strike up another important partnership with the Pune Municipal Corporation, which supported this activity and actively encouraged their employees and contract labour to get trained. Enthused by the positive feedback from the participants and “the tremendous impact the programme had on their self-esteem and safety habits, the club extended it to 1,000 sanitation workers and the amount of ₹20 lakh required for this

project was funded by Andreas STIHL, a German MNC, from its CSR funds.

The first two batches that completed the training course were given certificates and safety kits in a meeting attended also by Parind Prabhudesai, MD, Andreas STIHL India, senior officers of Pune Municipal Corporation, club members and their Anns. “The grateful and overwhelmed workers said for the first time they felt their work was important and recognised.” He added that such training programmes will bring a positive change in the lives of people at the bottom of the pyramid. The past president added, “we also wanted to give them a machine, costing around ₹10 lakh, that will dignify their labour. Andreas STIHL, which gave us the ₹20 lakh, is so happy with this project that they want to be further associated with us, but the corona pandemic has upset and delayed our programme. But it will be done.”

Making soap from goat milk

Another iconic project of RC Pune South is helping farmers' families to make soap from goat's milk. Joag explains that due to frequent droughts resulting from scanty rainfall, “in the Osmanabad district of Maharashtra, mere survival becomes difficult for farmers and suicides are rampant here, posing a huge challenge both for the government and the voluntary sector.”

To the rescue came the Shivar Foundation, a group of youngsters, who took on this challenge head-on to offer a sustainable supplementary income to the families engaged in farming. Joag explains that the Osmanabadi goat is a unique breed, and “its milk has exceptional properties that are really good for nourishing and taking care of the skin.” One of the youngsters, who is in advertising, first approached Joag on a commercial venture for making soap from goat's

milk. "But I felt that we should make it a service project Rotary should be involved as it is a farmers' welfare project, and hence our club took it up."

Shivar ('farm' in Marathi) now buys goat milk, which would otherwise be thrown away, and it is now used by the agri-families, mainly women, who add to this milk, organic herbs and other natural ingredients, to make goat milk soap. The Foundation helps the farmers to market this soap, costing about ₹150, and it is also available on Amazon.

This project is linked to the larger project of the golden jubilee milestone. Named the *Rotary Udyojak Mitra*, its objective is to enhance livelihoods and increase income "by leveraging

the vast experience and knowledge of Rotarians in various areas of business and industry to help budding entrepreneurs and mentor them through the difficult initial period of their business," says PDG Arun Kudale.

Thus, *Rotary Udyojak Mitra* worked closely with the Shivar Foundation to develop a brand for the goat milk soap, design its packaging, develop a marketing strategy and plan the launch. Rotarians also helped in patenting the product and printing the packaging boxes, with one Rotarian volunteering to place this soap on retail counters across India.

The soap was launched in November 2019 in Pune by popular Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane.

Under the Suvarnakanya project ₹20,000 was put into FDs for 50 girls below the age of five. This amount, which will grow to over ₹1 lakh, will be given to them once they turn 18, to help with their higher education.

Kudale adds that as the sales from this soap may not be that substantial, the club also has plans to donate four female and one male goat, costing ₹40,000, to farmers' families in the area, "providing them an end-to-end sustainable solution that will prevent farmer suicides."

Currently goat milk is being purchased from 250 families in one taluka of Osmanabad district, and in one year, the Shivar Foundation, with RC Pune South's help, plans to cover 10,000 families across all the eight talukas of Osmanabad district.

A surgical camp in Ethiopia

The club also conducted an endoscopic surgery camp in partnership with the Lokmanya Hospital for Special Surgeries, Pune, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia at the St Paul's Hospital from Feb 10 to 15, 2020.

Operations were done in general surgery, urology, orthopaedics and gynaecology. A team comprising four specialist surgeons, two anaesthetists and several Rotary volunteers worked with "both speed and commitment, and did about 100 surgeries, most of which were highly complex and critical," says Joag.

As doctors skilled in endoscopic surgery are not available in Ethiopia, many of the surgeries were being done

Doctors performing a surgery at the endoscopic surgery camp organised by the club in Ethiopia.





Geetanjali Purohit (second from R) handing over books to a school principal and teachers.

for the first time in the African country, giving great relief to the patients living with pain and discomfort for extended periods.

One of the operations performed was on a young boy, who injured a ligament in the knee while playing

football, and was “in huge pain for the last three years. Dr Bhushan Ganvir conducted knee arthroscopy on him and he will be able to play football again after four months. A woman suffering from a huge hernia could not get treatment for eight months.

Dr Suprashant Kulkarni treated her with a bloodless, endoscopic surgery.”

Another traumatised patient who could not pass urine and stools normally as he was badly injured in an accident and had to live with the indignity of two bags attached to his body, which needed to be cleaned regularly, had Dr Sandesh Surana coming to him as an angel, and reconstructing both his tracts. Now the grateful patient will be able lead a normal life.

These doctors, along with Dr Mukund Thatte, Dr Rajendra Gosavi and Dr Ganesh Ghongate, gave hands-on training to local doctors to perform these procedures and also gave lectures to both doctors and medical students. “This knowledge transfer and training was highly appreciated by the local medical fraternity. Our press conference, attended by India’s Ambassador Anurag Srivastava, was widely covered by the local media. We were invited to a meeting of RC Addis Ababa West, and met the presidents of all the Rotary clubs in Addis Ababa, and they all expressed their happiness and gratitude to us for helping the poor and needy patients in Ethiopia. We understand that this was the first ever



Abhijit Joag (L) and cricketer Ajinkya Rahane at the launch of goat milk soap.

international surgical camp organised by a single Rotary club in India, without any help or assistance from Rotary International,” he added.

Of the ₹20 lakh spent on this medical camp, ₹10 lakh was donated by the Lokmanya Hospital in Pune and the other half was raised by the Rotarians. He added that the local doctors were “so grateful and overwhelmed that we wanted to do this camp every year but thanks to Covid, we might continue this project after a year’s gap.”

For gender equity

Another worthwhile project which could be done thanks to the active involvement of the Anns, was a gender equity programme for girls from poor families titled *Suvarnakanya project* planned and executed independently by the women. Under this, ₹20,000 was put into an FD in the names of each of the 50 girls below the age of five from low-income group families. This amount, which will grow to over



Sanitation work in progress.

₹1 lakh, will be given to these girls once they turn 18, and help with their higher education. The strict condition is the girls should not be married before 18.

Other projects include publishing a book in Marathi on 15 iconic entrepreneurs which was distributed to over 125 schools in and around Pune, the purpose being to inspire senior students to consider becoming entrepreneurs instead of being job seekers. The book reached about 50,000 students in these schools; to ensure they are read, a written test based on this book was conducted in about 50 schools. Over 5,000 students participated and the top three winners were given cash prizes of ₹10,000, 7,500 and 5,000.

In Nov 2019 40 Rotarians and Anns from RC Pune South went on a car rally from Pune to Goa to promote the message of *Swacchh Bharat*. During the Covid lockdown too the members did service such as distributing food packets to migrant workers, sanitisers, PPE kits, masks, etc to others.

It’s not all work for these Rotarians. In Sep 2019, 50 members of the club enjoyed a three-night Mediterranean cruise and five nights in Spain. “Our club has a history of such tours for 10 years; this creates a strong bond of fellowship amongst members.” ■



Abhijit Joag gives a safety kit to a sanitation worker as Parind Prabhudesai, MD, Andreas STIHL India, looks on.

Humankind is our business



On a foggy Christmas Eve in Victorian London, the old miser sits at his desk.

Bitter and disillusioned with the world, Ebenezer Scrooge has only one interest: his bottom line. He declines his nephew's invitation to Christmas dinner, refuses to support the poor and deprived, and reluctantly grants his underpaid clerk, Bob Cratchit, time off for Christmas Day.

After he arrives home, strange things begin to happen. Jacob Marley, his deceased business partner, appears as a ghost tethered to a chain, telling Scrooge to change his self-centered ways, lest he meet the same fate.

That is the premise of *A Christmas Carol*, Charles Dickens' classic tale of a man's transformation from hardened recluse to generous humanitarian. To me, it offers valuable lessons for all, regardless of belief or time of year.

In one of my favourite passages, a spirit magically transports Scrooge to the Cratchit household. There, he sees his clerk from a new vantage point, observing a humble but heart-felt holiday gathering. Scrooge then understands that gifts like friendship, family and gratitude can't be recorded into any ledger. By the end of the story, Scrooge has learned the most important lesson of all: that as long as we are still alive, it's not too late to devote ourselves to serving humankind.

The year-end holidays are upon us. It is a time of giving and sharing, but it is not limited to our loved ones. It is also for the people we have never met and will never see, for those who are not so fortunate as we and could use a helping hand. The miracle of giving that Scrooge discovered on Christmas Eve is exactly what The Rotary Foundation does 365 days a year.

Our Foundation serves simultaneously as charity and performer in the field; Rotarians are on the ground, volunteering their skills and business expertise in support of grants that are funded by you. In this way, we carry out some of Rotary's most important work, such as protecting mothers and their babies and helping communities recover from the shocks of Covid-19.

Please remember The Rotary Foundation during this season of generosity. Remember that your gifts to the Foundation amplify our work in all areas of focus. They are perpetuated, not just today but long after we are gone. And the Foundation will continue to work its miracles in service to others tomorrow as long as we keep supporting it today. On behalf of TRF Trustees, I thank you for sending your generous contribution before December 31.

KR Ravindran
Foundation Trustee Chair

TRF: A beacon of hope

We celebrated a subdued Diwali a few days ago. In November, we also celebrated The Rotary Foundation month. Diwali signifies victory of good over evil, light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. And isn't 'hope' what our Foundation provides to those who face despair? Yes, Diwali and TRF's objective of doing good in the world are so similar! Diwali is a never-ending quest for light. For many, the light they seek is at the end of the tunnel.

For over a century, TRF has been the torch-bearer which carries the beacon of hope for millions of people. TRF needs you to contribute by monetarily lighting the diya that provides hope for those in the dark tunnel in need of our support. For TRF to continue to

do good in the world, it needs contributions, especially to the Annual and Polio Funds.

My fellow Rotarians, it's more than likely that the World Fund for global grants will be exhausted by end December, if not earlier. This only strengthens the fervent appeal to give to the Annual Fund because more money there will mean more in the World Fund.

We, the TRF Trustees, are grateful for your support to the Foundation and recognise that the Trustees must also take steps to address the financial pressure on the World Fund resulting from Rotarians' strong interest in implementing global grants. As a result, the Rotary grants staff has been restructured. This necessitated that some grant files be moved from one regional grants

officer to another. Please do confirm who your current regional grants officer is. For many areas, there is no change.

Thank you for your patience as your Foundation staff adjusts to these changing assignments and the increase in files handled by each grants officer. We value your support to our Foundation so that it continues to keep doing good in the world.



Gulam A Vahanvaty
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation

Challenges and opportunities for Rotarians in a post-Covid world

K R Ravindran



Words cannot express the gratitude the Trustees feel for those of you who have so generously contributed to the Foundation. As Goethe said “Enough words have been exchanged; now at last let me see some deeds!” And the donors we recognise today have certainly acted on that principle.

Today our Endowment consists of \$500.5 million in net assets and \$838.3 million in commitments, for a combined total of \$1.34 billion. Today we have 1,096 Arch Klumph Society members; 37,675 Major Donors and 1,765,280 Paul Harris Fellows. But as I face you today,

let me dwell a bit on the elephant in the room. And when it’s there, you can’t pretend it isn’t and just discuss the ants.

At a meeting in Feb 2018 at the WHO headquarters, a group of scientists met to discuss and plan what they had warned and expected for decades: an unknown pathogen with no known treatment or cure that would likely originate in animals, jump to humans and start spreading silently and quickly. Scientists couldn’t predict the precise genetic makeup of the pathogen, or when it would strike. But they knew it would come and even picked locations where such a virus might originate.

They had ideas about how it might begin infecting people and how easily transmissible it could be, and even plans on how to detect and stop it. But when the disease did come they found they were caught flat-footed.

As someone said, governments spend trillions of dollars to build vast militaries, track the movement of armies across the planet and practise wargames. And yet the world was unprepared to defend itself against a tiny microbe about one 10,000th the size of a full stop at the end of a sentence. Till now, over 46 million people have been infected and over 1.2 million have died around the world.

When one dies of Covid, the death is often a lonely death, usually in a hospital, the victim saturated with fear, seeing only ghostly figures covered in a space suit with not a friendly face in sight. Grieving families have to further incur indignities — no proper funerals, hurried burials, barely a chance to mourn.

And there are also other costs. The equivalent of nearly 400 million jobs have been lost. IMF says global output will fall five per cent this year; far worse than during the financial crisis of 2008. The World Bank says 100 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty. The World Food Programme believes that a wave of hunger and famine threatens to sweep across the globe. UNICEF says 872 million students in 51 countries are unable to go to school and vaccination rates among children has dropped badly. And we see governments grappling with the difficult decision — should we shut down to keep people alive or should we stay open to keep the economy going? Either choice comes with drawbacks.

Covid vaccine

Finding a vaccine is the only answer to all these travails. But even if we do, the painful truth is that we are not returning to a pre-Covid-19 world, the recovery is a long way off and it isn't likely to be smooth. When a vaccine emerges, making and administering billions of doses will take much of next year. Early vaccines may well need two shots, and complex cold chains to keep them fresh. Medical glass could run short. Freight-ing these vaccines across the world in cold boxes will be a challenge. IATA estimates that we need 8,000 747 aircraft to deliver all the vaccines!

Life for us will certainly be different — at least for some time. When we are not mobile how can our members see the sickness left uncared for; how do we see the parched land which requires water; how do we notice bare classrooms

without tables and benches? How do our cadre members visit project sites? And how do our scholars thrive in an isolated environment when they don't have a campus to go to?

The new clubs that are being formed and the old clubs being lost are both happening in a virtual world not a real one. TRF's response to Covid was swift and impactful. We awarded 319 Covid specific disaster response grants for \$7.2 million. And we awarded 331 Covid global grants for proximately \$21.7 million, making a total outflow of nearly \$29.6 million in a matter of weeks. Many grants were processed and awarded in days. Our staff did a fabulous job.

In fact, the world over, the philanthropic response to the Covid pandemic has been phenomenal. At least \$10.3 billion have been donated globally by May 2020. All this augurs well for Rotary which relies on philanthropic-minded people and entities to raise funds.

Challenges

The flip side is that Rotarians themselves face unprecedented challenges. Many Rotarians have lost jobs, and some have even succumbed to the virus. We have all lost those who are near and dear. The income of many others remains slashed. The businesses of so many Rotarians have seen substantial drop in revenues and some are struggling to meet recurring costs. In this situation it's a worry whether our membership numbers on the one hand and contributions to TRF on the other hand could suffer.

But history shows that Rotarians have always been resilient and able to withstand challenges that others might succumb to. They are visionaries; an idealistic lot that dream big; and dream of a better world. However, TRF trustees do have an onerous responsibility of steering our Foundation at this most challenging of times. Leadership matters

Governments spend trillions of dollars to build vast militaries. Yet the world was unprepared to defend itself against a tiny microbe about one 10,000th the size of a full stop.

the most, and is most challenged, when people face independent threats, when customary ways of working are no longer possible, and when confusion and anxiety overflow.

During crises, leaders must make tough choices so that their organisations can survive in the short term and thrive in the long one. And one of the tough decisions we made with great unhappiness was to eliminate for the moment the 50 per cent match TRF gave from its World Fund to cash contributions from clubs for next year. The problem is that our global grants have become so popular that we have now become victims of our own success. For example, in 2013–14 there were 868 grants worth \$47 million; in 2018–19 there were 1,403 grants worth \$86 million. So contributions increased by 10 per cent, whereas the global grants increased by 80 per cent.

Our expenditure on our GGs only in the months of July and August was \$48 million, compared to a budget of \$16 million and a comparison of \$19 million for the corresponding months in the previous year. We funded 715 projects this year in these two months alone as against 271 last year for the same period. We were extraordinarily successful!

But there is a negative aspect to this. As each of you know you have to put money in the bank to draw it out! We have reached the point that the money

Rotarians are putting in is not keeping pace with the money we are giving out to fund projects. Not surprising, since nearly 20 per cent of our clubs do not contribute to our Annual Fund.

I must compliment JB Kamdar of your club who is doing a great job in increasing contributions to our Annual Fund. These supporters of the Annual Fund are the ones who have the vision to see what others cannot — the problems, potential, promise and the purpose.

Apart from Annual Fund which drives our World Fund, you are the ones who can see that we have to raise enough money for Polio and be able to take advantage of the Gates match. It makes business sense when \$1 of your DDF is matched by \$1 from the World Fund and those \$2 is doubled by the Gates Foundation to make a total of \$6! And speaking of Polio, you are the

ones who can play a significant role in the distribution of Covid vaccines when it is time to do so.

In fact, just last week the London *Times* commented that by working together and learning from the successful polio vaccination by Rotary International and others, we can consign other deadly diseases, including coronavirus, to the history books and save many more millions of lives. The polio infrastructure Rotary helped build is being used to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 by supporting preparedness and response activities in many countries, just as it did in the past to respond to outbreaks of Ebola, yellow fever and the avian flu.

So you see the nature of the business we do has not changed. We are still reaching out to people in distress, except that our methodology needs to change. Our process of preparing and delivering the project needs to change.

The way we communicate what we do, needs to change.

I ask you to be hopeful, and remind you to not forget, that we will be measured on our ability to handle the current adversity and uncertainty. We have a responsibility to provide the inspired leadership our members yearn for, to serve as a lighthouse for our Foundation, when the fog of life seems to leave you wandering in circles, and demonstrate in action our support for our Foundation in a tangible manner.

Also, the responsibility to vindicate the figure that Johns Hopkins University put on the value of work done by Rotarians in terms of volunteer hours spent — \$850 million per annum. If we have faith in God and step out boldly, we will succeed.

Excerpts from the speech delivered by the Trustee Chair at a webinar hosted by the Rotary Club of Madras.

Rotary Club of Pune Sports City, RID 3131, provided solar lanterns to light up the tents of the Dhangars, a nomadic community of shepherds who roam around the hilly grassland of the Saswad region near Pune.

They are basically from south Maharashtra and reside here for four months during the monsoons letting their cattle graze on the grass and then migrate to the Konkan region during summer. The local landlords allow free grazing and camping for them in exchange for the cattle droppings that serve as organic manure. The weeds on the land also serve as fodder for the cattle.

Plastic sheets serve as tents to protect them and their meagre belongings. "Oil lamps were being used to light up their 'homes'. They eke out a living selling milk and other cattle produce and the oil cost cuts a huge hole in their pockets," says club member Sandesh Savant. These solar lanterns will save

them fuel costs and safeguard them from wild animals such as wolves, hyena and reptiles.

The Grassland Trust run by about 100 young volunteers alerted the club

about this urgent need of the Dhangars and helped in distributing the lanterns. In the next phase the club plans to provide lanterns to the Pardhis, another nomadic tribe near Morgaon in Pune. ■



Solar lanterns illuminate shepherds' tents

Team Rotary News



Rotary
District : 2982



வர்ணஜாலம்

ரோட்டரி மாவட்ட மாநாடு 2020 – 2021
ரோட்டரி மாவட்டம் - 2982

★ **மே 1 - 2** ★

ஐடா ஸ்கட்டர் அரங்கம் (வேலம்மாள் மருத்துவமனை வளாகம்)
அனுப்பானடி, மதுரை - தூத்துக்குடி ரிங்ரோடு,
மதுரை



K.S. வெங்கடேசன்
மாவட்ட ஆளுநர் 2020-2021
HP : 98432 36679



V.சிவகுமார்
தலைவர்- மாவட்ட மாநாடு
HP : 99949 69012

RC Bombay mends little hearts with help from two global grants

Rasheeda Bhagat

With the help of two successful global grants, and a dedicated team manning its paediatric heart surgery project, Rotary Club of Bombay, RID 3141, has been helping to mend the hearts of children and the figure has crossed the 100 mark, with the children operated upon being 103.

“Our club had applied for a GG along with RC Bombay Pier during

2018–19 for \$175,285 (about ₹1.26 crore). Till now, we have completed 97 surgeries, through the first grant and six more through the second one. We have already disbursed or committed over ₹1 crore for this project. Dur-

ing this year alone, we have completed 25 surgeries and expect to complete another 25 surgeries in the coming months and close this grant,” says past president of the club Vijay Jatia.

He said that last year, with many of “our club members generously contributing money to sponsor heart surgeries for children, we applied to TRF

with a much bigger GG — \$509,653 and have already received an initial amount of \$255,780 equivalent to ₹1.9 crore. The balance amount of ₹1.9 crore will be disbursed by them once we utilise the first tranche,” he added.

As the corona pandemic hit India, there was a lull in this programme as “due to the fear of Covid-19 and strict government rules, families were reluctant to attend health camps and admit their children to hospitals. However, now with the relaxations in government norms, this is changing and families are now trusting hospitals to treat their children, taking adequate precautions and observing safety norms,” said Swati Jagodia, a club member involved in this project. Very recently, six heart surgeries on children have been successfully completed and the patients discharged.

Jaymin Jhaveri, chairperson of the paediatric heart surgery committee of RC Bombay, says the club identifies beneficiaries through health camps conducted in villages in partnership with hospitals such as the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, SRCC Hospital in Mumbai and the Rotary Haria Hospital, Vapi, Gujarat. These camps are attended by a cardiologist and a couple of doctors and tests are conducted on children brought here for complaints related to heart diseases such as breathlessness, murmurs in the heart, or palpitations.

On the cost of the operation, he says hospitals do offer a special rate



Alisfa Sayyad, a beneficiary, with her mother.

for Rotary. Also, different hospitals have different categories and “our commitment is to drastically reduce the financial burden of the parents. Those who can pay five or 10 per cent of the money, do so and we take care of the rest. But the extremely poor who can’t offer to pay anything at all, get their child treated totally free of cost.”

On an average a heart surgery, at a special rate, can cost about ₹1.5–1.75 lakh. There are a bunch of government schemes that also offer financial relief for the treatment of the poor classes, and the hospitals help to get money from them for the economically-disadvantaged patients.

I catch up over phone with Chavhan, the father of four year-old Sahil, who was born with a common congenital heart defect known as AVSD (atrioventricular septal defect), loosely defined as a hole in the heart, which results in too much blood flowing or gushing into the lungs and thus overworking one side of the heart. If not treated, the right side of the heart eventually enlarges and weakens. The blood pressure in the lungs can also increase, leading to pulmonary hypertension.

Sahil could walk but when he started playing or running, he would get breathless and his heartbeat would increase terribly, frightening us.

Chavhan
father of Sahil, a beneficiary.



Swapnil Pawar with his child Shivanya.

Chavhan is a daily labourer who used to cut sugarcane from the fields in the Yawatmal district of Maharashtra. His village is about 750km from Mumbai. He and his wife Gita were really distressed at Sahil’s condition. “He could walk but when he started playing or running, he would get breathless and his heartbeat would increase terribly, frightening us.”

As his daily wage hardly fetched him about ₹200–300 a day, there was no way he could afford open heart surgery for his child. He also has an older son, who is eight and “studies in an English medium school,” Chavan tells me proudly.

Thanks to help from RC Bombay and their paediatric heart surgery project, Sahil’s heart was repaired through an open heart surgery done in 2019. The child is now well “and has no problems.”

But to understand the kind of people who get help from Rotary let

us turn to the reality of Chavhan’s life. He says since the lockdown was announced in March 2020, he has found no work in the sugarcane fields.

But he and his family have been saved from starvation thanks to the common practice in agri families of buying their food grains annually. Chavhan too had bought three quintals of wheat, jowar (millet) and pulses, to last him a year. “So madam, we are managing to fill our bellies with that.”

What about rice?

No, we don’t eat rice, he responds.

And how does he manage to buy *subzi* (vegetables)?

With a grim laugh, the man comes out with a shocking response: “We have never purchased *subzi* in our lives. Where is the money to do that?”

And yet his elder son goes, not to a government school (“*udhar padhai acchi nahi hei* — the education is no good in those schools) but to an English



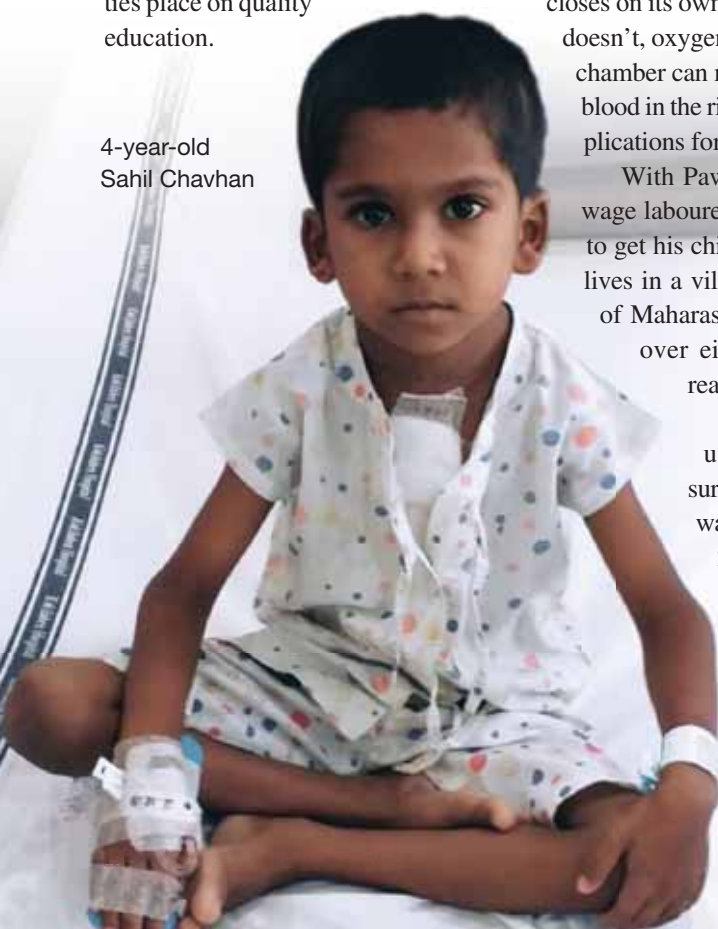
Rotarians with doctors at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai. DGN Sandip Agarwalla (second from left), and past president Vijay Jatia (fourth from left) and IPP Preeti Mehta (centre) are also in the picture.

medium school. The commute to the school is through an auto or a three-wheeler, for which he pays ₹500 a month. “Another ₹500 goes for his monthly fees. The total cost of his education is ₹25,000 a year.”

Gita adds to the family income by the money she gets from stitching clothes. But even those are now reduced, and “she makes ₹300–400 in a week,” he adds.

That shows us the great importance that even those in the poorer segments of our communities place on quality education.

4-year-old
Sahil Chavhan



Little Shivanya Pawar, another child whose life this project has saved, was born with a defective heart, which her parents discovered a month after her birth, as she “struggled to breathe and was perspiring all the time.” Her father Swapnil Pawar got a VSD (Ventricular Septal Defect) closure done with help from RC Bombay. She was only nine months old. Normally an opening in the wall (septum) dividing the two lower chambers of the heart (ventricles) closes on its own before birth. When it doesn’t, oxygen-rich blood in the left chamber can mix with oxygen-poor blood in the right one, causing complications for the baby.

With Pawar being just a daily wage labourer, he could not afford to get his child treated. His family lives in a village in Sangli district of Maharashtra “and it takes me over eight hours by bus to reach Mumbai,” he says.

Luckily for him, under this paediatric surgery project, his baby was operated upon in Oct 2019 at the Kokilaben Ambani Hospital and she was fine for some time.

But when I reach Pawar by phone, I find him worried about his

little daughter. He is a migrant worker who has always worked in Andhra Pradesh. The lockdown saw him returning home “as I had no work”. But now he is back at the shop in AP where he works at a monthly wage of ₹7,000. He tells me that though after the surgery Shivanya was fine, in the last couple of weeks she has not been keeping well. “We first admitted her to a local hospital near my home and she was given some treatment and was okay. But yesterday, my wife told me that she has once again got fever and a bad cold — earlier too she had got pneumonia — and I am very worried. They are rushing her to the Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai tomorrow.”

He too plans to take a train to Mumbai, “but I had to get permission to leave. I will take a train tomorrow but it will take me 30 hours to reach Mumbai,” says the distressed man. One has little doubt that the dedicated project team from RC Bombay will extend all possible help to ensure that the child recovers and gets back home.

Meanwhile this mega project continues. “We have also planned a few camps at various places in and around Mumbai to identify more children afflicted with heart disease,” says Jhaveri.

“If anyone wishes to recommend any poor and needy child suffering from a congenital heart disease, she can contact either me or Swati,” he adds. ■

Two clubs donate 14 dialysis units in Bengaluru

Team Rotary News

During the Covid lockdown, two Rotary clubs in Bengaluru have joined hands to donate 14 dialysis machines to the Bangalore Kidney Foundation (BKF) at the newly-constructed block on the premises of the Rangadore Memorial Hospital. “PDG Sameer Hariyani was supposed to inaugurate the new facility on March 14, but due to pandemic restrictions we have postponed the opening ceremony to a later date. All the machines are fully operational now for kidney patients,” says global grant chair UB Shankar from Rotary Bangalore Northwest, RID 3190. The GG project worth Rs 91 lakh has been done with support from RC Fort Collins Breakfast, RID 5440, Colorado, US.

BKF is providing dialysis to patients suffering from renal failure at many hospitals in Bengaluru for quite some time and its founder-chairman Dr P Sriram, a Rotarian from Rotary Southwest, cemented the partnership between the two clubs in this project. The new BKF block already had 50 machines, “but they



Patients undergoing dialysis at the Bangalore Kidney Foundation.

needed some more, and we provided 14 machines,” says Shankar. The club has a goal to provide 100 machines in all over the

next two years, as there is growing demand from kidney patients.

While well-to-do patients pay ₹1,500-2,000

a session, those from low-income families are charged ₹600 and dialysis is free for BPL patients, who are also given food or foodgrains.

“We have done 14 GG projects with our global partner, RC Fort Collins Breakfast, in over two decades,” says Shankar. The local community in Basavanagudi is greatly benefitted by this dialysis centre, especially during Covid restrictions, adds KT Suresh, IPP, Rotary Northwest. ■

We have done 14 GG projects with
our global partner, RC Fort Collins
Breakfast, in over two decades.

UB Shankar
global grant chair
RC Bangalore Northwest, RID 3190.



PDG Dr Tunji Funsho

A prelude to World Polio Day

Team Rotary News



WGM founder Susanne Rea (R)

Synergy Rotary Friendship Alliance comprising 12 Rotary clubs from 10 countries honoured Dr Tunji Funsho, Rotary's Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee Chair, for his instrumental leadership to eradicate polio in the African region, at the *Prelude to World Polio Day* virtual event hosted by RC Ampara, RID 3220, Sri Lanka in October.

PDG (RID 9110) Dr Funsho, a cardiologist and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, was recently recognised as one of *Time's* 100 most influential people for 2020. "The award

is for Rotary. Rotary has been on this mission for 35 years and incidentally that was the year I joined Rotary. And I literally dived into handling polio eradication because of my profession," he recalled, addressing the online meet.

In 1996 when the *Kick Polio Out of Africa* initiative, following Rotary's recommendation, was inaugurated by former South African President Nelson Mandela, Africa was seeing 70,000 cases of wild poliovirus every year. This initiative galvanised the African countries to launch regular mass campaigns, going from



About Synergy Rotary Friendship Alliance

Synergy is Rotary friendship alliance of 12 Rotary clubs from 10 countries in Asia. Synergy aims to:

- foster strong friendship among clubs across nations
- organise joint meetings on a scale that a single club or country cannot do
- progress later to international exchange programmes and global grants
- harness the power of the internationality of Rotary.

Participating clubs:



RI District 3201/3202

RC Kalamaserry
RC Cochin Harbour
RC Udumalpet Central, India



RI District 3220

RC Ampara, Sri Lanka



RI District 3271

RC Karachi, Pakistan



RI District 3272

RC Jalalabad, Afghanistan



RI District 3281

RC Dhaka Mavericks
Bangladesh



RI District 3292

RC Thimpu, Bhutan



RI District 3292

RC Dhulikhel, Nepal



RI District 3300

RC Melawati, Malaysia



RI District 3420

RC Semarang Kunthi
Indonesia



RI District 3790

RC Baguio Summer
Capital, Philippines

house to house to make sure that every child is protected with the oral polio vaccine. Nigeria was the last African country to be declared polio-free by WHO in August this year.

“If we can do it in Africa, we can do it in the world. If we can do it in polio, we can do it for any other kind of intervention,” said Dr Funsho.

Speaking at the meet, TRF Trustee Aziz Memon said that countries like Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan are leveraging Rotary’s existing PolioPlus infrastructure to check the spread of coronavirus. “The battles for both, polio and Covid-19, are yet to be won, but the experience with polio has provided Rotary the

readiness to meet the crises with more coordinated actions,” he added.

Susanne Rea, founder of the World’s Greatest Meal (WGM), a funding initiative for eradication of polio, said, “from as little as a dinner for two and a minimum gift of \$10, to leaping out of a plane with a banner to raise awareness, to tramping in the wild bush with coffee and biscuits and then donate generously online, nothing is too small or too big!” A polio survivor herself, Susanne has been motivating Rotarians to organise various WGM programmes to raise awareness and funds for polio, and her efforts has helped raise \$7 million so far, with matching funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The virtual event garnered more than 200 participants from Switzerland, the UK, Australia and Brunei. INPPC chair Deepak Kapur, Afghanistan PolioPlus chair Mohammad Ishaq, RID 3220 DG Ajit Weerasange and DGE Cindy Bachtar participated in the meet. ■



TRF Trustee Aziz Memon administering polio drops to a child.

Rallies, awareness campaigns mark **World Polio Day**

Kiran Zehra

From L: AG Ankur Garg and District 3011 secretary Mohit Anand Bhatia accepting a cheque for Polio Fund from RC Delhi Regency Next president Ashcharya Khanna.



On World Polio Day, more than 4,000 Rotary clubs in 136 countries hosted around 6,000 events to celebrate and raise funds to root out polio from the world. INPPC chair PDG Deepak Kapur and DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra flagged off the *Ride to End Polio* cycle rally organised by **RID 3011** in New Delhi.

Despite Covid restrictions, there was an overwhelming response from Rotarians to the End Polio

rally. “We received more than 500 registrations, but had to curtail the number of participants to only 125, because of Covid restrictions,” said district secretary Mohit Anand Bhatia. An additional 100 Rotarians from various clubs in the district were present to cheer the cyclists at the flag-off and various pitstops. At every pitstop, the clubs in the region came forward and handed out cheques towards the Polio Fund with RID 3011 collecting \$10,000 towards this fund. Cyclists were seen sporting End Polio Now t-shirts

Africa being declared polio-free is a great achievement made possible by the dedication and persistence of Rotary and its global partners.

M Pavan Kumar
president, RC Kakinada, RID 3020



and caps in the 30km rally that ended at the India Gate, New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjiv Mehra said, “India is polio-free for the last ten years. But we have to be on our guards and create awareness about keeping the country polio-free as our two neighbouring countries — Pakistan and Afghanistan — are still polio endemic and there is always a danger of transmission. We must participate with enthusiasm in all the polio NIDs and help in administering the two life-saving polio drops to all children below five years.”

In 2014, India was declared polio-free by the WHO after three years of reporting nil cases and now Africa has received such a certificate in August 2020. “Africa being declared polio-free is a great achievement made possible by the dedication and persistence of Rotary and its global partners. This year we celebrate a polio-free Africa, and hope to rid the world of polio soon,” said Pavan Kumar M, president, **RC Kakinada**, RID 3020. His club flagged off a car rally to mark World Polio Day. Rotarians visited a village, Boddu Chinna Venkatayapalem, near Kakinada, and conducted a polio awareness programme followed

With safety norms
insisting on ‘stay
home, stay safe’
we had a tough
job deciding what
impactful activity we
could do on World
Polio Day.

Ashwani Kinger
president
RC Bangalore
Brigades, RID 3190



East Godavari SP Adnan Nayeem Asmi flags off the car rally organised by RC Kakinada, RID 3020.

Below: RC Dehradun, RID 3080, donated giant umbrellas with the Rotary Wheel and End Polio Now logo to local vendors.

by the distribution of immunity-boosting medicines for children. The awareness programme was sponsored by polio chair Dr Shahzad Ali who expressed his disappointment “that the pandemic has forced immunisation efforts to stop. All we can do at this point is to create awareness and help strengthen the immune system of children.”

To create an impact and awareness on polio in the community **RC Dehradun**, RID 3080, conducted a Vintage Car Rally and a cycle rally. Forty cyclists from the Dehradun Cycling Club participated in the event alongside Rotarians. The vintage cars were decorated with polio awareness banners and the cyclists too displayed placards highlighting polio





RC Bangalore Brigades, RID 3190, marked World Polio Day with an awareness campaign in villages.

awareness. Bright umbrellas with the Rotary Wheel and End Polio Now logo were distributed to roadside vendors.

RC Kangra, RID 3070, conducted two cycling rallies on Oct 23–24 to celebrate World Polio Day. The event saw a participation of

50 members with all sanitation and hygiene protocols in check. **RC Bangalore Brigades**, RID 3190, marked World Polio Day with an awareness campaign in 37 villages in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Ashwani Kinger, club president, said “with safety norms

insisting on ‘stay home, stay safe’ we had a tough job deciding what impactful activity we could do on World Polio Day. We decided to reach out to the rural population and create awareness.”

Alongside **RC Kanakapura**, RID 3190, and **RC United Chennai**,

Cycling rally by RC Kangra, RID 3070.

RID 3232, Rotaract Clubs of Bangalore Golden Rocks and School of Ancient Wisdom, Ramaiah Institute of Management Studies, Presidency College, AIIMS Institute of Higher Education, and Subhash Chandra Bose School took up awareness campaigns. Posters and placards were made and displayed in local languages, followed by street plays sensitising people on the importance of immunisation. The clubs also conducted a follow-up campaign before the National Immunisation Day.

A Walk to End Polio, an event by **RC Kasargod**, RID 3202, helped create polio awareness in the city. Rotarians walked through residential areas and slums to sensitise people. The rally was flagged off by Mahin Kunil, a polio survivor from Kasargod. ■

Help provide safe drinking water to the distressed

Kevin Barclay



Worldwide, there are over 800 million people who do not have access to safe drinking water. Infrastructure projects provide long-term solutions but do not provide disaster relief, and don't go into conflict zones. That is where Aquabox comes in — we are first responders, aiming to get our water filters to disaster zones as quickly as possible.

Aquabox is a volunteer-led charity and community project, based in Derbyshire, England. It operates worldwide, providing safe drinking water (using filtration units) and humanitarian aid to crisis zones and refugee camps around the world.

Aquabox saw its beginnings at a Rotary garden party in the early 1990s. Mike Hoole and Peter Hare, both members of RC Wirksworth, England, were chatting

Aquabox saw its beginnings at a Rotary garden party in the early 1990s, and has distributed over 115,000 boxes to countries suffering from natural and manmade disasters.



about ways of improving the aid box which the club was then sending to disaster areas. Each box was filled by volunteer groups with items like blankets, pots and pans, cutlery and so on. Mike and Peter thought there was a way to make the box more useful. It could be used to hold water — preferably for drinking.

Fast forward to the present era; in 2018–19 Aquabox supplied water filtration units capable of producing over 4,000 litres of drinking water every minute, providing lifesaving support to over 50,000 desperate people throughout the world.

Over the years Aquabox has provided support throughout Asia. We respond to both natural and man-made disasters and at times face considerable

challenges in getting our aid through and ensuring its safe distribution.

We have a long-standing relationship with Nepal, supplying our aid boxes for rapid distribution from Kathmandu to remote communities affected by the all too regular earthquakes, mudslides and landslips which plague the area.

Although this was a challenging activity for us, we were able to safely distribute our aid to Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar into Bangladesh.

The floods in Kerala in 2019 brought further suffering to local inhabitants. Aquabox was able to distribute its water filters as an immediate response with further aid from us at a later date.

We have a proud record of working with

communities recovering from the aftermath of natural disasters such as hurricanes/cyclones. Recently we supported communities who had been devastated by the super cyclone Amphan in the Bay of Bengal.

The next project, working with a German Rotary club, is to deliver filters to remote communities in Senegal.

As part of our due diligence, we ensure that all of our aid distribution is managed locally by agencies who are familiar with the communities affected and in all of the above cases, Rotary is the trusted partner and a major player in this work.

Since its formation in 1992, Aquabox has distributed more than 115,000 boxes of water filters and aid, to countries suffering from natural and

man-made disasters, helping hundreds of thousands of people in more than 50 countries throughout the world.

It is run entirely by volunteers, so we have extremely low overheads, which means that the majority of the money raised goes where it is needed. It relies entirely on donations and the fund-raising activities of its supporters to fund the work and purchase the items which are supplied in the aid boxes. Historically, this support has come from within the Rotary family; Rotary, Inner Wheel, Rotaract etc.

Aquabox is acutely aware that it is only addressing a fraction of the world's need for safe drinking water. Whilst we have supported disasters on all five continents, there are many countries in the top 25 of the World

Risk Index where we are yet to ship filters; the need is growing. With the increasing frequency of natural disasters, countless long-running conflicts and continuing political instability in vulnerable regions, water supply is threatened.

Hence Aquabox has set an ambitious target

of providing sufficient filters to dispense water to 100,000 people a year by 2025.

To do so, it realises that it needs to expand its traditional funding base beyond the Rotary family, and is embarking on a corporate partnership initiative. It is keen to create long-term, mutually

beneficial relationships with companies with similar values. In return for valuable support it can provide a range of opportunities to satisfy its partner community's social responsibility objectives.

So, whether you wish to support Aquabox as a Rotary club, a corporate partner or an individual; any funding will provide much needed clean water to desperate people around the world. You can donate on the website; www.aquabox.org or the dedicated JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Aquabox>

It only takes a £250 donation to provide water filters which will supply enough clean water for 10 families!

For more information contact the writer, who is a Trustee, at kevin.barclay@aquabox.org



District Wise TRF Contributions as on October 2020

(in US Dollars)

District Number	Annual Fund	PolioPlus	Endowment Fund	Other Funds	Total Contributions	EREY Donors (in numbers)	EREY %
India							
2981	21,880	2,206	5,000	0	29,087	122	2.5
2982	9,158	8,249	20,770	36,270	74,448	41	1.3
3000	5,890	4,439	10	10,800	21,139	34	0.7
3011	(5,325)	7,381	40,450	157,646	200,153	52	1.4
3012	10,025	1,141	0	8,329	19,495	40	1.1
3020	44,091	16,041	0	2,726	62,858	115	2.8
3030	3,233	1,839	0	127,975	133,048	41	0.8
3040	1,604	67	0	50	1,721	12	0.6
3053	9,733	303	0	60,668	70,703	27	1.0
3054	60,315	343	0	79,108	139,766	218	3.6
3060	29,907	(579)	22,100	57,642	109,069	615	14.1
3070	5,453	100	0	17,745	23,298	49	1.6
3080	13,277	10,113	0	0	23,390	61	1.9
3090	15,871	0	0	(736)	15,135	34	1.5
3100	12,805	252	0	4,224	17,280	9	0.4
3110	10,509	0	0	0	10,509	25	0.7
3120	0	1,769	0	(1,769)	0	0	0.0
3131	31,066	21,799	109,000	275,715	437,580	211	4.1
3132	4,145	2,010	0	3,801	9,956	22	0.7
3141	175,428	9,178	15,865	587,079	787,550	372	7.0
3142	92,130	5,311	0	4,693	102,134	296	9.2
3150	17,406	801	42,667	22,023	82,896	260	7.9
3160	5,712	4,908	16	0	10,637	22	0.9
3170	8,623	13,836	125	93,979	116,562	46	0.8
3181	9,416	1,538	0	7,050	18,005	30	0.9
3182	17,975	2,865	0	7,265	28,105	31	1.0
3190	35,243	3,577	25,000	111,859	175,679	329	6.6
3201	12,478	13,634	0	110,591	136,702	205	3.7
3202	26,279	12,277	8,468	10,272	57,297	92	1.7
3211	934	1,899	0	39,738	42,571	3	0.1
3212	13,262	15,570	14	44,733	73,579	15	0.4
3231	(513)	245	0	10,194	9,925	2	0.1
3232	616	23,373	2,000	99,850	125,840	53	0.9
3240	19,146	12,050	0	46,117	77,313	106	3.5
3250	2,239	241	0	93	2,573	10	0.3
3261	9,578	601	0	2,833	13,013	21	0.8
3262	2,721	1,801	0	0	4,521	10	0.3
3291	6,584	643	0	44,004	51,231	23	0.6
India Total	738,892	201,822	291,486	2,082,565	3,314,765	3,654	2.5
3220 Sri Lanka	22,946	5,371	0	15,015	43,332	106	5.6
3271 Pakistan	1,006	1,025	0	22,100	24,131	0	0.0
3272 Pakistan	17,450	9,725	0	1,063	28,237	93	5.6
3281 Bangladesh	39,102	3,880	1,000	68,923	112,905	288	4.1
3282 Bangladesh	8,205	2,560	0	7,670	18,435	9	0.2
3292 Nepal	17,303	7,813	0	94,780	119,896	284	5.7
South Asia Total	844,903	232,196	292,486	2,292,116	3,661,701	4,434	2.6
World Total	28,722,251	6,783,831	8,243,500	10,116,324	53,865,905		

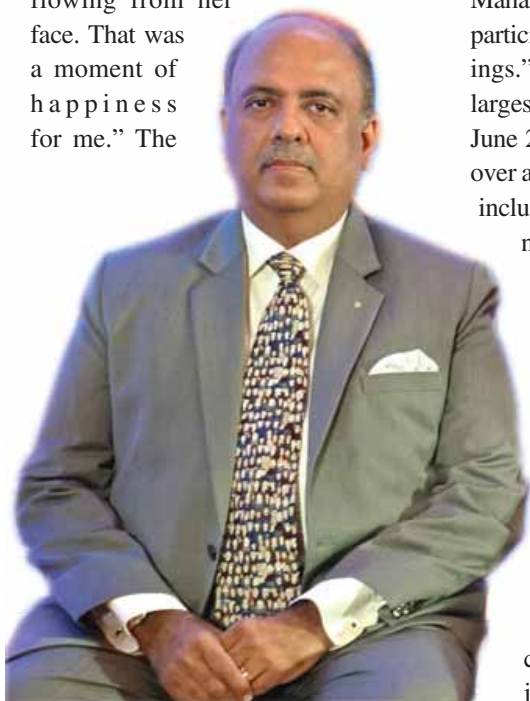
Source: RI South Asia Office

RC Madras Pallava to raise funds through special souvenir

V Muthukumaran

RIPE Shekhar Mehta celebrates every moment of his life. No, this is not a hyperbole... “Being in Rotary is an occasion for celebration. We relive the moments we brought smiles back on the faces of villagers by bringing them water, by serving people through various service projects, and we rejoice in their happiness,” he said.

He was speaking at the online launch of a specially-crafted souvenir by RC Madras Pallava, RID 3232, to commemorate 100 years of Rotary in India. Rotary is a celebration of giving ‘life’ to others, Mehta said and recalled the joy of an old woman in Nepal who had her vision restored after surgery in both her eyes. “She saw her grandchild for the first time and her joy was overflowing from her face. That was a moment of happiness for me.” The



RIPE Shekhar Mehta

pandemic had thrown up challenges but also given the new opportunities and possibilities, he said, referring to so many virtual meetings done by Rotarians.

On the common question he had been asked about being “excited” at being nominated RI president, Mehta said while it was a “great privilege to have the top post”, what made him most happy was doing things. The secret of his energy: “I am always happy.”

New opportunities

Underlining the need to aim big and keep doing big projects, Mehta said fundraisers can be done online, now that “more Rotarians can attend online club meetings. My club (RC Calcutta Mahanagar) is now able to attract 2,400 participants at its virtual regular meetings.” Rotary India hosted one of its largest fundraisers, *Chhoti si Asha* on June 26, a huge PR exercise, in which over a million took part, for three hours including Bollywood celebs and businessmen. “This was made possible only because of the lockdown.”

When RC Delhi South West invited him to inaugurate a drawing contest for children, “I was a bit hesitant, but found 12,000 kids from 22 countries had joined, instead of the usual 6,000 participants from Delhi. Just look at the positive side of the lockdown.”

From October, around 25 crore students from Class 1–12 are joining e-learning programmes, developed by Rotary, through the

government-owned Swayam Prabha channel. “We have made 1,400 videos for the TV channel to broadcast the curriculum for students across India. The content is now available in Hindi, Gujarati, Marathi and Assamese. It will be translated into other languages too.” He thanked RIDE AS Venkatesh for valuable inputs and ‘being a sounding board’ in the creation of the e-learning curriculum. “There is nothing that cannot be done.”

He said that a team under the guidance of PDG JB Kamdar is working on a coffee-table book which will feature some of the milestone projects of Rotary India. RIDE Venkatesh noted this club is known for thinking out-of-the-box and doing mega projects over the years. “The souvenir will bring a sense of joy, enable newcomers to know more about Rotary and old-timers to rededicate themselves to the organisation.” All the 128 clubs in RID 3232 can make this a common district souvenir an occasion to refresh their knowledge about Rotary and its great lineage, he said.

DG S Muthupalaniappan said the spotlight would be on India after Shekhar Mehta takes over as RI president in 2021–22. Project Orange, an eye care initiative with vision centres, will soon get seven global grants worth \$1.7 million and it will be implemented by 30 clubs. The project envisages 2.5 lakh eye surgeries and distribution of over one million spectacles.

PDG Kamdar noted the strong foundation laid by charter president AL Chidambaram had motivated the club members to do flagship projects



like Happy Village and Schools into Smiles which were later adopted as district projects. “The past presidents continue to be active in RC Madras Pallava in designing and mentoring mega projects,” he said.

In his speech, Chidambaram said 90 per cent of the club members were Paul Harris Fellows, three were major donors, two had made endowment gifts and one was an AKS member. The club is ranked eighth in TRF giving in the district.

Started in 1992 with 30 members, it now has 45 Rotarians drawn from various professions. DGE J Sridhar, PDGs A Subramaniam, Babu Peram, ISAK Nazar, AP Kanna, G Olivannan, V Rajkumar and other district leaders took part in the meet.

IPDG G Chandramohan wanted to mark the celebration

of 100 years of Rotary in India with something unique, during his tenure. “Our secretary D Ravi suggested we should do a specially carved souvenir which can be sold to many Rotarians and money raised for projects,” said M V Robert, president, RC Madras Pallava. The club hopes to sell 3,000 of these souvenirs — a beautifully sculpted peacock Rotary and two wheels — at ₹750 each. While 10 per cent of the funds will go to TRF, the rest will be used to reclaim a lake in Thirumullaivoyal on the suburbs of Chennai.

Meanwhile, 50 per cent of the work on creating giant murals has also been done and “we will be installing them at busy locations in Chennai as a PR exercise,” added Robert. ■



Addressing renal patients’ needs

Team Rotary News

RC Pune Central, RID 3131, has a tradition of creating medical infrastructure in Pune and has implemented multiple projects in eye care, cancer care and health awareness, where facilities are inadequate and expensive for the poor and needy, says Lekha Nair, the club’s joint secretary and PR director.

In keeping with this tradition, the club installed six dialysis machines at the KEM Hospital in February through a global grant funded from the CSR contribution of Arya Omnitalk Wireless Solutions. The project cost ₹45,29,000 (\$64,700). Two of these machines were installed at the hospital’s

paediatric dialysis ward to address kidney failure in children. “The waiting time for dialysis for renal patients has greatly reduced and the charges are subsidised for the poor,” says Lekha.

More recently the club installed a dialysis ward at the Surya Sahyadri Hospital, which had a renal department but was diverting patients elsewhere for dialysis, through another global grant involving RC New City, RID 7210, US, and TRF. The facility, costing ₹95 lakh (\$131,500), includes 13 dialysis machines, a washer and a bicarbonate mixer, and can serve 45 patients a day.

Since the hospital is empanelled under the medical insurance schemes of the state and central government, dialysis is offered free for the poor here, she says. ■



Rotarians at the dialysis centre in KEM Hospital, Pune.

A treat for aficionados of Gujarati food

Rasheeda Bhagat

As a little girl, Parul Bhatt would watch in fascination, squatting on the floor, as her grandmother turned out delicious, aromatic, vegetarian food for the family, on her modest stove placed on the floor. As the various ingredients came to life under her expert hands, the little girl developed a passion for cooking, which only grew with the passing years. “Just like my grandma, my mother, and also my *foiba* (paternal aunt) were great cooks, and I learnt so much from them,” she says.

Her love for cooking transformed into her marketing pickles,

papads and *podis* and other savouries as her friends encouraged her to share with a larger group her expertise in cooking.

But the elegantly produced coffee table book — *Parul’s Magic: Everyday delicious easy to cook Gujarati dishes* — really took shape “when I was in the US in 2014, to be with my elder daughter, during her delivery,” she smiles. The newly anointed mama and her younger sister back in Chennai, then 22, both loved their mother’s cooking. “Every night, when I chatted with my younger daughter, she would complain that she doesn’t like the food prepared by the cook. She was longing for my food. So I would compose on my iPad a simple recipe that she could prepare and then send it to her. She would try it out, share it with her colleagues at lunch in office and report back that they all loved the result,” smiles Parul.

By the time she returned home from the US, she had a neat pile of about 40 recipes on her iPad. Of course they were all traditional Gujarati, vegetarian recipes, and the idea took root in her



head that she should come out with a recipe book.

“But I had no idea how to go about writing a recipe book, or for that matter, writing anything at all.” But while helping her husband Satyan Bhatt, a Rotarian, in the family run PR business, and working closely with the late S Muthiah,



Khichdi



Lasun chutney, Kothamari chutney and Khajoor imli chutney.

Lapsi (Kansar)

Lapsi or *Kansar* is a traditional Gujarati sweet served as Prasad, or prepared during any auspicious occasion in the family. My aunt used to tell me that *Kansar* was one of the first sweet to be prepared in those days. This authentic sweet requires only four ingredients.

It is also customary to make *Kansar* on the wedding day in a Gujarati family.

Kansar Bhakshan ceremony: It is a first meal together for a couple immediately after the marriage. The bride's mother brings *Kansar* on a plate and the couple feed each other to symbolise their union.

Ingredients

- 1 cup wheat flour coarse (like fine semolina)
- 2 tablespoons ghee for mixing
- 1 cup water
- ½ cup jaggery powder
- For serving
- 4 tablespoons ghee
- ¼ cup castor sugar / powder

Procedure

- Take wheat flour in bowl and add 2 tablespoons ghee and mix thoroughly with your hand.
- Take 1 cup of water in a heavy bottom pan or nonstick pan, add jaggery and boil it for 10 minutes or till jaggery melts. Remove from the heat and strain it with steel strainer to remove any impurities in the jaggery.
- Again boil jaggery water in heavy bottom pan, add wheat flour in boiling water and stir it thoroughly with wooden spoon or rolling pin. Make sure no lumps are there.
- Keep tawa / griddle under the pan and cover the pan with the lid. Cook for 10 minutes on low heat.
- Remove from the heat. Stir it with rolling pin and make sure there are no lumps.
- Add remaining ghee and mix thoroughly. Serve hot adding castor sugar.
- You can mix this with your hand and serve.

Note:

- Quantity of water depends on the quality of wheat flour.
- If you find *Lapsi* too dry sprinkle or add little more water at the time of mixing.



Lapsi

Kansar Bhakshan is the first meal together for a couple immediately after the marriage. The bride's mother brings *Kansar* on a plate and the couple feed each other to symbolise their union.

a historian and passionate chronicler of Madras, on *Madras Day*, she once told the latter about her dream to publish a recipe book. "After that, he would constantly ask me about the progress I had made with this book. When I told him that frankly I had no idea how to go about bringing out such a book, he put me in touch with Chandra Padmanabhan (with experience in writing and publishing)."

This was in 2016 and by now Parul's recipe bag had 60 interesting Gujarati recipes. Chandra gave her one entire week and "over lengthy sessions in seven days, gave me a very good idea and constructive suggestions on what and how I should do the book.

She said just saying 'add salt or water' is not enough... specify ¼ teaspoon of salt, two cups of water, etc. Be specific. Because everybody is not an expert like you. She taught me the importance of measurements and said: 'Go back to your kitchen, make the dishes, measure how much spices or water, oil or ghee you put into the dish and then write the recipe. She literally hand-held me through how a book like this should be done.'

Parul took her advice seriously, went back to the drawing room — in this case her kitchen — and rewrote

Who would have guessed
that along with *haldi*,
pepper powder and honey,
you also have to put ghee
into *haldi* milk?

everything. Finally, the book took both shape and structure and the result is this fascinating book which has 142 recipes, which promise you Parul's 'magic'.

Take for instance *bajra vada*; the very name tells you that it will be healthy as the basic ingredient is a millet and not *maida* or wheat flour. "Today, not many people make it, even in Gujarat, but if you make it the right way, and follow my recipe, which is simple enough, these vadas will stay good for seven days even without refrigeration. It's a very healthy snack and you can have it at teatime with pickles or curds."

Another healthy dish she recommends is the *handvo*, "a typical Gujarati spicy baked dish, which has all the proteins and nutrition, because you can make it with any vegetable; I have given the recipe with *doodhi* (*lauki*) but you can use any favourite vegetable or yours," she says.

One recipe that catches the eye is the good old *lapsi*, a typical Gujju sweet made with wheat *rava*, ghee,

Thepla

Theplas are Gujaratis' ever green comfort food and they can never get tired of eating.

There are days when *theplas* find place at breakfast table with masala chai / Tea, in kids lunch box with *chundo* and as a dinner with plain *dahi* and *batata nu rasaloo shaak* (potato in gravy). *Theplas* are Gujaratis' travel and picnic companion also.

Masala Thepla

Ingredients

- 2 cups wheat flour
- 2 tablespoons besan flour
- 4 teaspoons red chilli powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon cumin seeds
- 3 teaspoons sesame seeds
- 3 teaspoons *amchur* (dry mango powder)
- 2 tablespoons oil and 1 tablespoon ghee
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup for kneading the dough
- Oil for shallow frying



Thepla

Procedure

- Mix all ingredients in a broad bowl (except oil for shallow frying).
- Pour water little by little and knead a soft dough. Cover the dough with a wet muslin cloth and keep it aside for 20 minutes.
- Divide dough into equal size balls.
- Roll each into a thin circle (5" diameter).
- Heat tawa on a low flame. Once tawa is hot, place *thepla* on it and allow it to cook.
- When you see bubbles forming turn and cook other side. Put 1 teaspoon oil on *thepla* and press it with a ladle and cook till both sides turn brown. Remove from tawa and keep it on a plate.
- Repeat the same with remaining dough.
- Serve hot with *chundo* — sweet mango pickle or any other pickle or curds. Goes well with tea / coffee also.

Methi Thepla

To make methi thepla add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup fresh fenugreek leaves (picked, washed and finely chopped), $\frac{1}{2}$ cup plain yogurt, 2 teaspoons green chilli paste and 2 teaspoons ginger garlic paste and knead a soft dough with yogurt, (add water if required). Follow the same procedure as above.

Tip:

- Can be stored at room temperature in an airtight container. Also handy when travelling.
- You can add little more oil while roasting on tawa.



Parul Bhatt with her recipe book.

Who would have guessed that along with *haldi*, pepper powder and honey, you also have to put ghee into *haldi* milk? And that honey should never be added when the milk is very hot?

Learn from Parul's book how to make delicious chutneys — be they coriander, *lasun* (garlic) or *khajoor* (date) and even the ever popular Gujarati snack — *gathiya*!

Those who travelled or attended Rotary events when Manoj Desai was RI director will be delighted to find a

jaggery and sugar sprinkled on top. “I remember that in my childhood, as soon as it was ready, my mother would sprinkle sugar on it, make it into balls with her fist, and give it to us. Now which child would refuse such a delicacy?”

From the humble dal or cream of tomato soup to the exotic badam soup, this book has it all.

Those of us who have been told to put *haldi* (turmeric) in everything that we can, to ward off the evil coronavirus, can root for *haldi* milk.

range of recipes for mouth-watering different kinds of *khichdis*. He would always root for any kind of *khichdi*!

Parul is particularly fond of the stuffed *dhokli* that her mother used to make; “she would stuff it with *doodhi*, and as it is best eaten fresh and hot” she would make it on Sundays. “But as my father was particularly fond of the potato, she would stuff it with potato too,” she laughs!

The best thing about these recipes is that they are simple,



Bhindi na ravaiya

easy and quick to make, and most of the ingredients required are normally available in an Indian kitchen.

The book is a veritable delight for vegetarians as it gives so many simple and tasty options. But, says Parul, even though she didn't plan it that way “I now realise that Jains who are very strict about not eating onions, garlic etc can use many recipes from my book. This was brought home to me by a Punjabi friend who said that during Navratri they don't consume onions and other roots, but as she had just bought a copy, she was able to make so many dishes from there which didn't have onions, garlic, etc!”

Printed on art paper, and with beautiful illustrations — most of the pictures she has taken at home on her iPhone — the book comes at a price of ₹3,000 (\$50).

When I comment that the price might not be affordable to many people, she says that she is toying with the idea of coming out with a paperback, which will be priced modestly, in the near future.

The book costs ₹3,000 and can be ordered at www.parulsmagic.com.



Bajra khichdi

Designed by Krishnapratheesh

WE'RE BUILDING THE FUTURE OF ROTARY

A bold plan, for and by People of Action

Rotary is charting a new course to a stronger, more effective and vibrant future. At the center of the effort is our Action Plan: a multi-year strategic roadmap that will help us become the Rotary we want to be—and the Rotary the world needs us to be. The Action Plan builds on the remarkable capabilities we've developed in our own professional lives and careers, and it plays to our strengths as leaders, as clubs, and as a global community of people of action.

To create our plan, we looked at data, membership projections, and emerging social trends. And we listened to Rotarians, Rotaractors, and others who shared their hopes for the future of Rotary and told us we needed to:

Be more nimble and open to new ideas and faces, so we can evolve along with demographic and social changes

Gather and use data more rigorously to improve programs and make a lasting impact on humanitarian needs

Capitalize on new technologies and provide more enriching, engaging, and accessible experiences, so more emerging leaders will connect through Rotary

We assessed what it would take to move from where we are now to where we want to be. Our Action Plan is ambitious—and achievable.

The Action Plan's Four Priorities

**PRIORITY 1.
INCREASE
OUR
IMPACT**

**PRIORITY 2.
EXPAND
OUR
REACH**

**PRIORITY 3.
ENHANCE
PARTICIPANT
ENGAGEMENT**

**PRIORITY 4.
INCREASE
OUR ABILITY
TO ADAPT**

Want to know more?

Take action with us to help create Rotary's future.
Visit rotary.org/actionplan to get started.



Women Rotarians

beat pandemic with novel ideas & projects

Jaishree

The Covid lockdown notwithstanding, a group of four women Rotarians from across the world have created an exclusive platform for women Rotarians to brainstorm and coordinate activities that can transform communities. What began as a casual Whatsapp group by Sharmila Nagarajan of RC Towers Hamlets, London, to beat boredom, has now transformed into a full-fledged Rotary International Women's (RIW) group which had 251 members across 21 countries by November-end. Sharmila, along with B Dakshayani, RC Chennai Meenambakkam, Vidhya Srin, RC Chennai Temple City, and Denise Kilschan, RC Ibiza, Spain, are the founding members of RIW which was formed in April this year.

Children learn to make cloth sanitary pads — a project of D 3060 (file photo).

Women Rotarians are welcome to join RIW, says Dakshayani. "Our projects are concentrated on Rotary's seven areas of focus and as a global group we look at activities for the global good. Rotary leaders all over the world have been supportive of our group," she adds.

RIW has been organising virtual sessions every month. The audience has male Rotarians too who are vocal with their constructive suggestions and appreciation. The July session titled *Power Up* had RI President Holger Knaack as chief guest where he stressed on Rotary's diversity, equity and inclusion policy. He called upon clubs to encourage women in leadership positions. "This year we will have

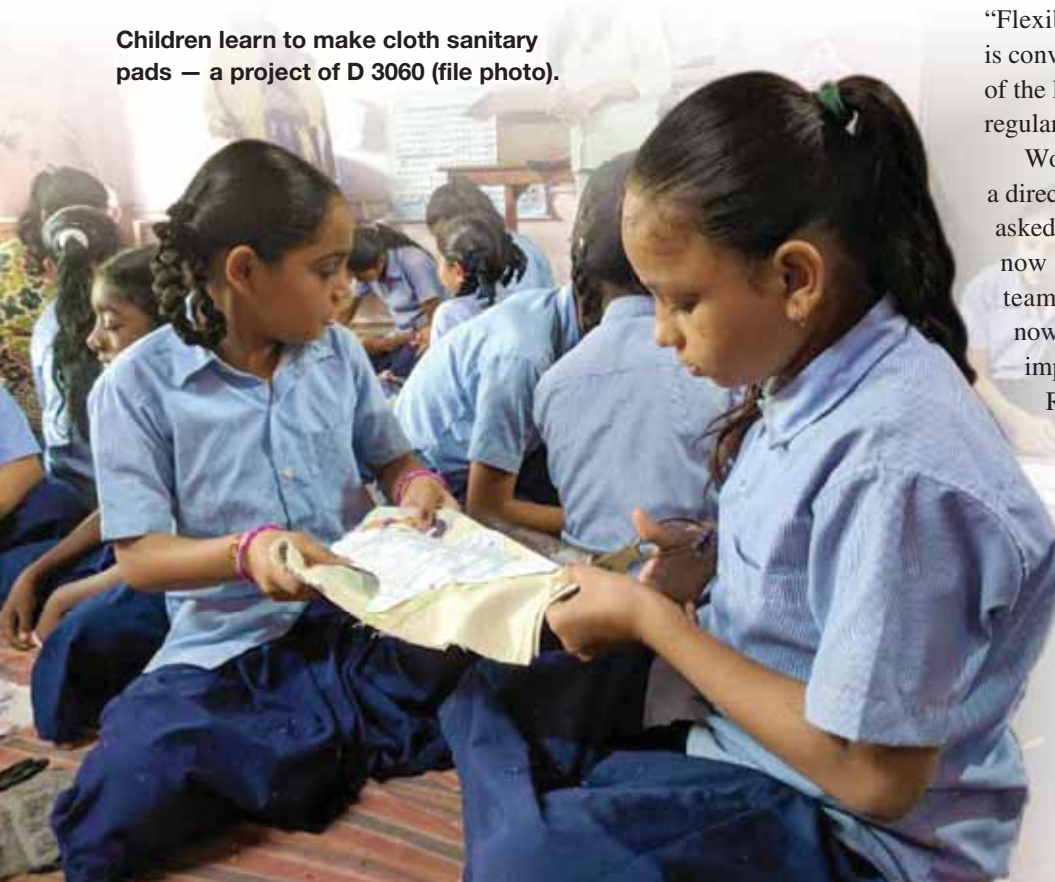
six women on the RI Board and during RIPE Shekhar Mehta's tenure there will be nine, including RIPN Jennifer Jones," he said.

In this interactive meet, he urged Rotary Action Groups (RAGs) to work in tandem with clubs/districts in the region as "RAGs support Rotary to achieve its strategic plans and enhance membership." His wife Susanne shared her journey as a Rotarian since 2014 when she chartered an e-club in Germany. "We started in September and by December we had 14 women and nine men. Now we are 36 members — 11 women and 25 men." To Vidhya's question on what would bring more women to Rotary, Susanne said, "Flexibility," adding that her e-club is convening meeting at 9pm "instead of the lunch or breakfast meeting that regular Rotary clubs follow."

Would you be interested to serve as a director for an RAG in your region, asked Vidhya. Susanne's reply: "For now I am happy to be in Holger's team. His role is more important now. If his woman is doing another important role, that is not good for Rotary. We need diversity; not a couple who is doing a lot of things."

RAG-MHH

On the second Saturday of every month the group discusses women-related issues with a global audience. Menstrual health and hygiene (MHH) was discussed



in one of the meets and thus was born the idea for a Rotary Action Group for MHH. Its registration with RI is under process.

In a recent meet titled *Happy Periods*, Global WinS Chair PRID PT Prabhakar assured WinS' support for the group's menstrual hygiene programmes. "Your RAG is the need of the hour as it will address poor menstrual hygiene which is a bane in most of the third world countries," he said.

Dr Meenakshi Bharat, member of RC Bangalore West, RID 3190, spoke about the menstrual cup and reusable cloth sanitary napkins. Her suggestion that Rotary should stop investing in sanitary pad dispensing machines and incinerators was well received. She

urged Rotarians to usher in a behavioural change in girls and women similar to what is being done for WinS projects.

When Prabhakar said, "This is such a wonderful topic, I wonder why Rotary did not think of it earlier," on a lighter note Denise commented, "I think there are too many men in Rotary," and Meenakshi added, "Men can't think of periods!"

This RAG is open to Rotarians and non-Rotarians and it facilitates sharing best practices from across the world, says Dakshayani. "We have curated a global project on menstrual health to be carried out in 25 countries in May 2021. Next, we will form an RAG for environment protection through RIW.

We will have teams to work on the various focus areas."

RIW has had PDG Bill Gray (RID 7040, Canada), TRF Trustee Geeta Manek and RI Vice President Johrita Solari address their virtual meets. "RIPN Jennifer Jones has also accepted our invitation to address us. We are planning a bigger meet with senior leaders including PRIPs Mark Maloney and Wilf Wilkinson in February in line with the International Service month," says Dakshayani who is the district director for International services for the year.

RI has set a goal to increase the number of women in Rotary and in leadership positions to 30 per cent by 2022-23 and RIW will work in that direction, she smiles. ■



Lighting up lives

Team Rotary News



Rotarians teach villagers to paint lamps.

This Diwali the homes of a tribal community living in Saag Pada hamlet near Nashik will shine a lot brighter, thanks to RC Nasik, RID 3030, that has provided them an income generating opportunity through the sale of colourful *diyas* extensively used to decorate homes during this festive season.

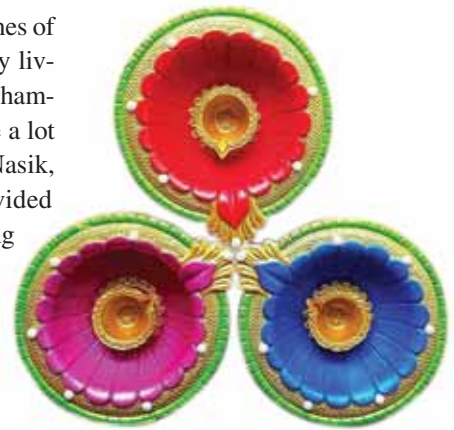
Earlier the club president Mugdha Lele, secretary Vijay Dinani and past president Anil Sukenkar visited the hamlet and, with Diwali round the corner, decided to train the villagers in painting earthen lamps. "Around 12 men and women were trained in the art. They were excited at the idea of making the *diyas* and earn some money by selling them," says Vinayak Deodhar, club member.

The club extended a micro-credit of ₹1 lakh to source the *diyas*, paints and packaging material and transport the

finished products to markets in Nashik, Pune and Mumbai. "We also included boarding and lodging expenses for the craftsmen to stay for a week and sell their ware in the various markets."

The club has been extending microloans for specific purposes in the last five years through its corpus of ₹5 lakh and "not once have we faced any default."

Deodhar is confident that the decorative lamps will fetch a net income of at least ₹40,000, providing ₹3,500 to each villager for a week-long work. ■



Pandemic relief by Rotarians across India

V Muthukumaran

Bracing up to the Covid challenge, Rotarians across the country have reached out to the frontline warriors, hospitals, health departments, needy families and migrant labourers during the lockdown. As the pandemic raged infecting lakhs of people, Rotary clubs have done Covid-relief projects worth \$30 million till October, including setting up Covid care centres, donating equipment, PPE kits and other critical supplies to hospitals and distributing food and grocery kits on a large scale to thousands of needy families.

With hospitals running out of beds for Covid patients and more people being home quarantined, PDG Dr

Hariprasad Somani, **RID 3132**, in consultation with presidents of six Rotary clubs in Latur and district officers including PDG Vijay Rathi and DGE Dr Omprakash Motipawale, supplied oxygen concentrator machines to needy patients at their homes. Many Rotarians donated for the purchase of 11 machines for the project managed by Sudhir Lature and Raj Dhoot.

Latur district collector G Sreekanth and mayor Vikrant Gojamgunde appreciated the efforts of Rotary. “After seeing the response from patients, Rotary clubs have decided to purchase more such oxygen machines for the community,” said PDG Somani.

Project Karuna

RC Belur, RID 3291, donated 6,600 PPE kits, 6,600 N95 masks and 3,300 face shields to the frontline warriors. *Karuna - Save our Saviours* is a global grant project that has received \$47,774 from TRF. A sizeable amount was crowdfunded through social media. The project was conceived by the club’s medical director Anand Agarwal with inputs from his friends — Ayan Sen from Singapore, Monalisa Sen from Belgium, Arpita Chatterjee and Arkadeep Kumar from Australia. “We are thankful to our global partners RCs Singapore and Singapore North who played an active role in fundraising,” said Alope Kumar

DG Rashmi Kulkarni (L) along with RIDE Dr Mahesh Kotbagi (6th from L) DGE Pankaj Shah (4th from R), DGN Dr Anil Parmar (3rd from L) and PDGs unveiling the PPE kits with Rotary logo.





Interact Club of Lakshmi School coordinator Padmaja Rishi donating Covid-relief material to the Madurai corporation commissioner S Visakan.

Kanodia, president, RC Belur. DGE Prabir Chatterjee, PDG Ravi Sehgal, secretary Amar Kumar Malhotra and club members were present at the distribution of Covid kits.

RC Calcutta New Alipore, RID 3291, gave smartphones to school girls in a remote village for attending online classes during the lockdown, said club president Ajay Baldawa.

DG Rajesh Agarwal presented three BiPap machines to the Krishna Sarvajanic Hospital under a global grant project for Covid-relief initiatives by **RC Himatnagar**, RID 3054. DRFC Lalit Sharma, PDG Jagdish Patel and other Rotarians were present at the handover event.

Equipment to Indore Hospital

DG Gajendra Singh Narang, RID 3040, handed over 10 BiPap machines (for infusing air into lungs), 25 nebulisers, 100 oximeters, 500 special non-breathing masks, a coffee vending machine, 25 wall clocks and supportive items for treatment of corona patients at the MRTB Hospital in Indore.

This global grant project was done jointly by **RCs Indore**

Meghdoot and **Indore North** with **RC Kathmandu**, RID 3292, as their international partner. RC Indore Meghdoot, the implementing club, is doing Covid-relief projects worth \$35,000 to support hospitals treating corona patients. “IPDG Dhiran Datta supported us in this GG project and found the global partner,” said Ghanshyam Singh, IPP of RC Indore Meghdoot.

Over 100 reusable PPE kits with Rotary Wheel emblazoned on it were donated to two charitable hospitals and a dialysis centre by **RCs New Panvel** and **Panvel Central**, RID 3131, in the presence of DG Rashmi Kulkarni, RIDE Dr Mahesh Kotbagi, DGN Dr Anil Parmar, DGE Pankaj Shah, RPIC Dr Deepak Shikarpur and district PDGs.

RC Amritsar North, RID 3070, had a project meeting for distribution of PPE kits at the circuit house in the city for the district grant project sanctioned under IPDG Sunil Nagpal’s tenure.

Grocery kits

Grocery kits were donated to daily wagers, migrant families and roadside

vendors by **Rotary Bangalore Lakeside**, RID 3190, through crowdfunding from the residents’ welfare association.

In the first phase, the club reached out to 1,300 families in a migrant colony. As the lockdown stretched, the Rotarians helped another 2,000 families in the eastern and southern parts of Bengaluru, this time with support from the Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), at a project cost of ₹14 lakh. “We have been working with APPI in other projects for long and they were happy to partner with us,” said Jayanta Tiwari, club member.

In the third phase, with funding of €22,000 from Freudenberg International, a German corporate, the Rotarians distributed groceries to orphanages, auto drivers, Asha Kiran workers, transgender communities and rag pickers in various parts of the city.

The club partnered with Project Durga, a women’s empowerment programme, and provided ration kits and toiletries to 3,000 more needy people. “We have travelled to around 10 villages spanning 400km from the city in the four months of lockdown,” said Tiwari.



From L: Project co-chair Raj Dhoot, PDG Dr Hariprasad Somani, DGE Omprakash Motipawale, Latur mayor Vikrant Gojamgunde and district collector G Sreekanth.

The club is providing medical equipment and PPE kits to hospitals in Victoria, Bowring, Nimhans and Kidwai in Bengaluru, Mysore, Mandya and Kolar. Also, the club is supporting Mercy Angels, a group of volunteers, to perform the last rites of Covid victims.

Special devices to GH, Madurai

To protect children from Covid, **RC Madurai North**, RID 3000, has donated equipment worth ₹7 lakh to

the children's division of the Rajaji Government Hospital, Madurai, funded by Smile Microfinance, said IPP DN Govardan.

In a novel fundraiser, the **Interact Club of Lakshmi School**, Madurai, sponsored by RC Madurai Midtown, RID 3000, organised a digital art competition for students. "The Interactors raised ₹2.32 lakh with the help of their parents and handed over the money to the Madurai district collector Dr T G Vinay," said R Srinivasan,

Interact advisor. The Interact club also donated Oximeters, PPE kits and furniture to the district collectorate, police commissioner's office and the district health department.

Oxygen line station at Dondaicha

RC Dondaicha Seniors, RID 3060, set up a central oxygen line through which a single cylinder can meet the needs of 12 Covid patients simultaneously. This was installed within 24 hours of the request made by doctors at the Sub District Civil Hospital, Dondaicha. This service, costing ₹3.47 lakh, helps to avoid or minimise Covid deaths. The club will maintain the oxygen supply network. A swab collection chamber has also been set up at a monthly expenditure of ₹35,000.

The project was inaugurated by legislator Jaykumar Rawal; DG Prashant Jani, AG Anish Shah, participated in the online inaugural.

With increasing number of patients pushing up the demand of oxygen cylinders, the club has decided to supply five cylinders daily to the Sub District Civil Hospital. The monthly expenditure is ₹75,000. ■



Rotarians of RC Bangalore Lakeside distributing groceries to the needy.

Taipei's fascinating temples

Susie L MA

When you're in Taipei for the 2021 Rotary International Convention, June 12–16, take time to visit some of the city's temples and other monuments. The Lungshan Temple, one of Taipei's most popular, is primarily Buddhist, but it also incorporates Taoism and Chinese folklore. This ornately carved and painted structure was originally constructed in 1738 and remains an active place of worship. The temple compound is a calming space that includes a small waterfall, fountains and a koi pond.

More than 100 deities are represented in this temple, including the goddess of mercy and the god of war. Students come to pray to Wenchang, the patron deity of literature, before exams, and on matters of justice and honour, people consult Guan Yu, a famed warrior of Chinese folklore. The temple is easily accessible via its own stop on the blue line of the MRT, Taipei's public transportation system.



The Xiahai City God Temple is known for its statue of the matchmaker god (pictured), or the “Old Man Under the Moon,” as some call him. This temple is on Dihua Street, home to trendy boutiques and cafes alongside traditional medicinal and artisan shops.

The Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall is Taipei's most prominent historical structure, built as a tribute to the former president of the Republic

of China. The hall is part of a complex that includes two performing arts buildings, a large plaza, manicured gardens, and peaceful ponds. You can see the changing of the guard on the hour between 9am and 5pm.

Learn more and register at convention.rotary.org



Apply to serve on the 2021–22 Interact Advisory Council

For the first time in Rotary's history a group of Interactors and Interact alumni will be able to serve at the international level and advise the RI Board to shape the future of Interact. The Interact Advisory Council will be comprised of eight current Interactors from around the world and two recent Interact alumni as advisers.

Eligibility criteria

Interactor applicants must be at least 13 years of age and current member in an active Interact club at the time of application. He/she must plan to be an active Interactor through June 30, 2022.

Interact Alumni Adviser applicants must be a Rotarian, Rotaractor, or an alumnus that was recently (within

the past 5 years) a member of an Interact club. Complete the application, including a short video, telling in your own voice why you think you should be selected for the assignment.

The application must be submitted before **December 20, 2020**. Applicants who are able to communicate in English are preferred.

Council members must participate in 2–3 virtual meetings and collaborate through email while being able to meet your personal commitments to school, family, work, club, etc; be passionate about Interact and have innovative ideas aligned with Rotary's Action Plan.

Visit <http://on.rotary.org/InteractAdvisoryCouncil> for more information.

For a successful global grant approval

Utsav R Doshi



Rainwater harvesting facility provided by RC Mumbai Cuffe Parade through a global grant (file photo).

TRF has an extremely credible system of vetting global grant applications. SOPs are followed while receiving applications, before disbursing funds, and while reviewing the implementation. This three-tier filter system has played a role in making Rotary what it is today apropos its transparency, integrity and most importantly the ability to create “living” projects.

Grants may be sampled for audit at any stage of a project. During audit, I often see that not all mistakes are mala fide; mistakes are mainly due to the club members not being well-versed with TRF protocols. The objective of this article is to give precise pointers on things to do and not do for a successful audit.

Dos

- Open a separate bank account for each grant with clear demarcated responsibilities as recorded in the minutes for operating that account.
- Keep a dedicated file accessible to grant committee members which contains everything, including but not limited to (a) minutes of club meeting confirming the project proposal, community assessment surveys, etc.; (b) stamped bank statements (not the ones downloaded from net-banking); (c) quotations and purchase orders; (d) invoices; (e) minutes of grant management committee meetings (f) print outs of communication done with Rotary and vendors; (g) proof of statutory and regulatory

compliances; (h) payment confirmation receipts; (i) warranty/maintenance agreements, et al. It is best practice to scan all these documents and upload them on cloud or as attachments in your mailbox.

- Think of sustainability at all points of time. A toilet block made of gold is useless if the tank remains broken. And likewise, a school bench with one leg off is a burden, not a blessing. One way to keep a project alive is by monitoring it periodically. Form a committee amongst the existing club members to delegate the tasks with close monitoring.
- Put up a loud and clear Rotary signage at the project site. Every beneficiary walking in must get to read

Rotary's name. A signage which carries the names of donors, corporates, cooperating organisation, club officials and a tiny Rotary logo will fail to bring out the good work by Rotary as an organisation and its Rotarians.

- Sign an MoU with the cooperating organisation. It could be in a regional language also which can be subsequently translated by a certified translator.
- Get inputs from a cadre resource. RISAO can help in identifying a nearby cadre Rotarian.

Don'ts

- ❖ Don't give a random beneficiary count in the application. Be realistic. For example, when you say 20,000 patients annually are expected to benefit from a diagnostic centre whereas the fact is

that the total number of walk-ins in the entire hospital is 12,000. Hence achieving that count for the diagnostic centre per se would be impossible.

- ❖ Don't procure goods or services from club members or their relatives unless that is warranted, absolutely necessary and thoroughly disclosed to every single person in the grant management committee as well as to the Rotary officials.
- ❖ Don't finalise a vendor unless 3-5 quotations are received for the same set of goods or services.
- ❖ Don't make large value payments in cash; make the vendor agree to transacting via banking mode. Remember even a farmer has a basic bank account these days.
- ❖ Don't take the requirement of training for granted, this is a must for any successful project.

- ❖ Don't seek credit of funds from the Foundation when there is a delay in project execution.

I hope this article helps you to bid adieu to your cadre auditor bare-handed, with an empty slate of observations but a happy heart. I thank the cadre chair, stewardship staff and fellow cadre colleagues for their valuable inputs.

Disclaimer: The scope of this article is limited to the words it can print. At all points of time, notwithstanding anything contained herein, kindly stick to TRF guidelines for grant compliances. Different types of audit have different requirements; the items mentioned here are a mere guidance to project's financial audit post facto.

The writer is a global grants technical coordinator – financial audit.



Tribal women learn mushroom cultivation

Team Rotary News

Adivasi women in Jabapanposh and other villages surrounding Rourkela are learning to cultivate mushrooms for their livelihood, thanks to the initiative of RC Rourkela Steel City, RID 3261. "Life has been hard for the villagers. Covid had taken away their jobs and they could not go out to seek work," says club secretary Annabelle DeSouza.

Gouri Nag, the project co-chair, is in mushroom cultivation and with support from



Project co-chair Gouri Nag teaching mushroom cultivation to women in Jabapanposh village.

club president Suchismita Biswas, she has trained to grow oyster mushrooms.

The local Food and Safety explained the procedure to maintain cleanliness

and hygiene. "As Western Odisha lacks an agricultural research centre to supply at subsidised rates, we will provide the seeds to the SHGs," says Annabelle. She is confident that each family can earn at least ₹100 daily from the vocation and "we will also help market the produce in our circles."

Project Chairman Kumar Behera

is working with the government to support the women. ■



MAGAZINES

Read all about 'em

Rotary's magazines reach audiences around the world

Rotary launched *The National Rotarian*, a magazine for its members, in 1911. Since then, we've undergone two name changes, to *The Rotarian* in September 1912 and to *Rotary* in September 2020. As the Rotary movement spread across the globe, members from other parts of the world began publishing magazines of their own to spotlight local Rotary stories; there are now 34 regional magazines in 25 languages serving members in 129 countries and geographic areas. Rotary's magazines provide a direct link between Rotary International and each of its members, sharing news and information and inspiring readers with stories of people of action. In honour of this magazine's 110th anniversary, here's a look at the scope of all of Rotary's magazines.

Compiled by Donna Cotter

Extra, extra
As part of a pilot programme, Rotary Russia is published as a digital-only magazine serving Chechnya and Russia. And in Venezuela, where hyperinflation makes subscriptions prohibitively expensive, *Revista Rotaria* continues to publish for a limited readership.

(Rotary News Trust (RNT), India, also brings out a quarterly issue of *Rotaract News* which is mainly a digital publication. RNT believes this is the only *Rotaract* magazine that is published by a regional Rotary magazine.)

THE ESSENTIALS

► Rotary

First published: **1915**
Language: **English**
Circulation: **45,000**
Areas served: Great Britain and Ireland
rotarygbi.org/magazine
Facebook: /RotaryinGBI
Twitter: @RotaryGBI
YouTube: /RIBImarketing

► Rotary Canada

(a quarterly supplement to *Rotary* magazine in North America)
First published: **2009**
Languages: **English and French**
Circulation: **22,700**
Area served: Canada
Email: rotarycanada@rotary.org

► Rotary en México

First published: **2017**
Circulation: **5,500**
Language: **Spanish**
Area served: Mexico

► Rotary en el Corazón de las Américas

First published: **2017**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **3,700**
Areas served: Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama
rotaryca.org
Facebook: /rotaryca.org

► Revista Colombia Rotaria

First published: **1970**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **2,300**
Area served: Colombia
colombiarotaria.com
Facebook: /Revista-Colombia
-Rotaria-117107886359044
YouTube: /channel/UCGrZVr8m1D782st8roUb3A

► Rotary

First published: **1911**
Language: **English**
Circulation: **400,000**
Areas served: United States and Canada
rotary.org/magazines
Facebook: /rotary
Twitter: @Rotary

► España Rotaria

First published: **2001**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **5,000**
Area served: Spain
Facebook: /España-Rotaria-604139663042334/

► El Rotario Peruano

First published: **1932**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **2,300**
Areas served: Ecuador and Peru
revistarotarioperu.com
Facebook: /elr.peruano
Twitter: @RotarioPeruano

► Vida Rotaria

First published: **1955**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **7,900**
Areas served: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay
editorialrotariaargentina.com.ar

► Revista Rotary Brasil

First published: **1924**
Language: **Portuguese**
Circulation: **46,500**
Area served: Brazil
revistarotarybrasil.com.br
Facebook: /revistarotarybrasil
Twitter: @revistarotarybr
YouTube: /BrasilRotario

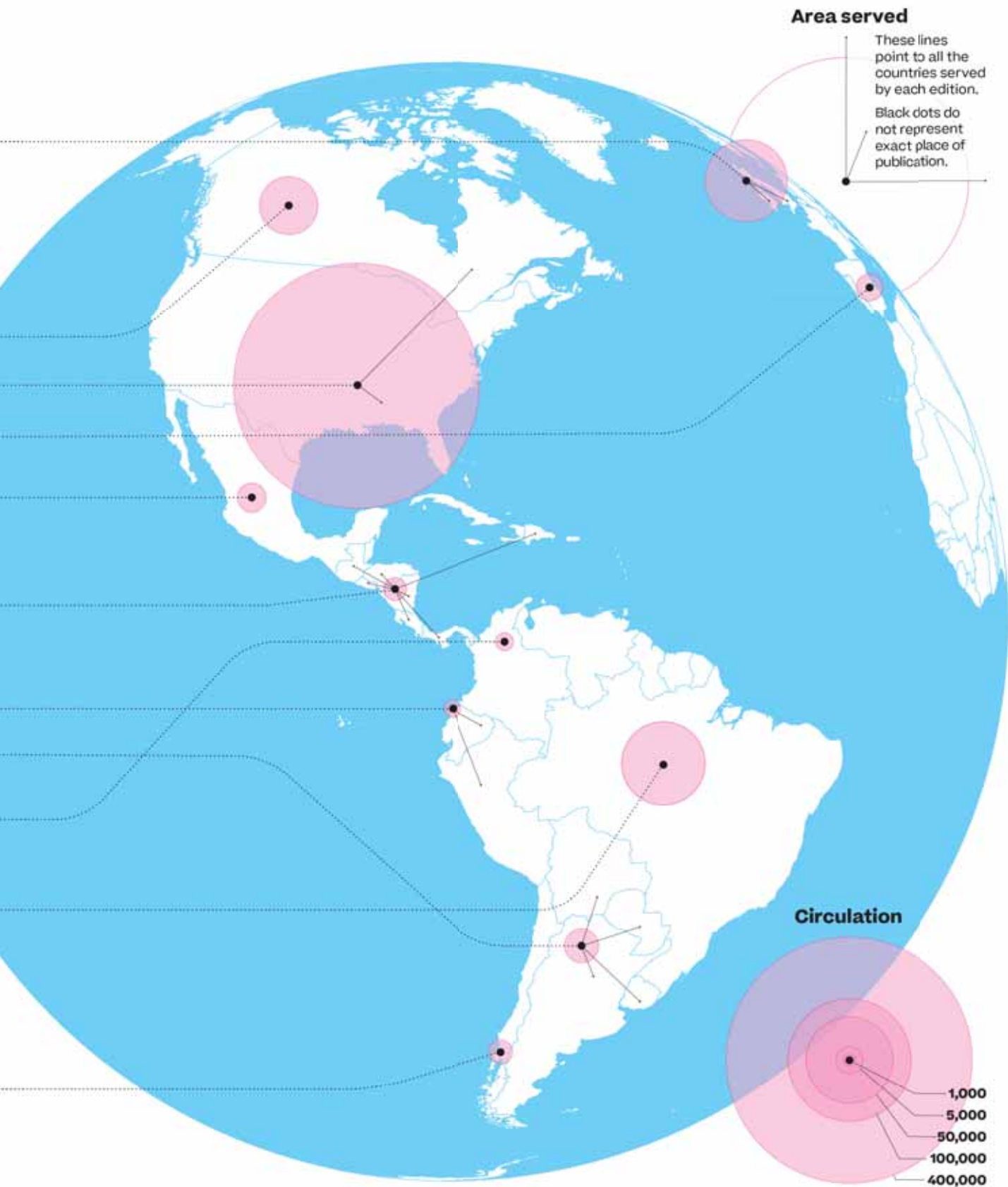
► El Rotario de Chile

First published: **1927**
Language: **Spanish**
Circulation: **4,000**
Area served: Chile
elrotariodechile.org

Total circulation

1.08 million

Illustration by Francesco Muzzi/StoryTK



► Rotary Norden

First published: **1936**
 Languages: **Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, and Swedish**
 Circulation: **50,000**
 Areas served: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden
rotary.no/no/rotary-norden

► Rotary Magazine

First published: **1927**
 Language: **Dutch**
 Circulation: **17,300**
 Area served: The Netherlands
rotary.nl/rotarymagazine
 Facebook: /RotaryNL

► Portugal Rotário

First published: **1984**
 Language: **Portuguese**
 Circulation: **3,100**
 Areas served: Angola, Cabo Verde, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Guinea-Bissau, Macao, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe
portugalrotario.pt
 Facebook: /portugalrotario

► Rotary Contact

First published: **1984**
 Languages: **Dutch and French**
 Circulation: **11,000**
 Areas served: Belgium and Luxembourg
rotarybelux.org
 Facebook: /RotaryBelux

► Rotary Suisse Liechtenstein

First published: **1926**
 Languages: **French, German, and Italian**
 Circulation: **13,200**
 Areas served: Liechtenstein and Switzerland
rotary.ch

► Rotary Magazin

First published: **1929**
 Language: **German**
 Circulation: **64,000**
 Areas served: Austria and Germany
rotary.de
 Facebook: /RotaryDeutschland
 Twitter: @RotaryDE

► Rotary Italia

First published: **1924**
 Language: **Italian**
 Circulation: **41,000**
 Areas served: Albania, Italy, Malta, and San Marino
rotaryitalia.it
 Facebook: /RotaryItalia

► Rotary Mag

First published: **1952**
 Language: **French**
 Circulation: **33,600**
 Areas served: Algeria, Andorra, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, France, French Guiana, French Polynesia, Gabon, Guadeloupe, Guinea, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Martinique, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Monaco, Morocco, New Caledonia, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Réunion, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, and Vanuatu
rotarymag.org
 Facebook: /RotaryMag
 Twitter: @rotarymagfr

► Rotary Dergisi

First published: **1983**
 Language: **Turkish**
 Circulation: **4,300**
 Area served: Turkey
rotarydergisi.com.tr

► Rotary Magazine

First published: **1929**
 Languages: **Arabic, English, and French**
 Circulation: **2,500**
 Area served: Egypt
rotaryd2451.org
 Facebook: /RotaryD2451
 Twitter: @RotaryD2451

► Rotary Africa-South

First published: **1927**
 Language: **English**
 Circulation: **4,000**
 Areas served: Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
rotaryafrica.com
 Facebook: /rotaryafricamag

Languages

25

► **Rotary Polska**

First published: **2017**
Language: **Polish**
Circulation: **1,600**
Area served: Poland
rotary.org.pl/media/magazyn-rotary-polska
Facebook: /RotaryPolska

► **Rotariets**

First published: **2007**
Language: **Ukrainian**
Circulation: **1,000**
Areas served: Belarus and Ukraine
rotarietsmagazineukr.readz.com
Facebook: /RotaryInUkraine
Twitter: @RotaryUkraine

► **Rotary Good News**

First published: **1990**
Languages: **Czech and Slovak**
Circulation: **1,500**
Areas served: Czech Republic and Slovakia
rotary2240.org/cs/good-news
Facebook: /RotaryDistrict2240

► **Rotari na Balkanite**

First published: **1995**
Language: **Bulgarian**
Circulation: **1,700**
Areas served: Bulgaria, North Macedonia, and Serbia
rotary.bg
Facebook: /profile.php?id=100009822010550

► **Philippine Rotary**

First published: **1978**
Language: **English**
Circulation: **18,200**
Area served: Philippines
rotaryphilippines.com

► **Rotary Down Under**

First published: **1965**
Language: **English**
Circulation: **32,400**
Areas served: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu
rotarydownunder.com.au
Facebook: /rotarydownunder
Twitter: @rotarydownunder
Pinterest: /rotarydownunder

► **Rotary Thailand**

First published: **1983**
Language: **Thai (with English online)**
Circulation: **8,300**
Areas served: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand
rotarythailand.org/mag
Facebook: /rotarythailand

► **Rotary News**

First published: **1952/1983/2018**
Languages: **English/Hindi/Tamil**
Circulation: **127,000**
Areas served: India, and Nepal
rotarynewsonline.org
Facebook: /RotaryNewsIndia
Twitter: @NewsRotary

► **The Rotary Korea**

First published: **1963**
Language: **Korean**
Circulation: **64,300**
Area served: Korea
rotarykorea.org/index_rk

► **Taiwan Rotary**

First published: **1960**
Language: **Chinese**
Circulation: **10,800**
Area served: Taiwan
taiwan-rotary.org

► **The Rotary-No-Tomo**

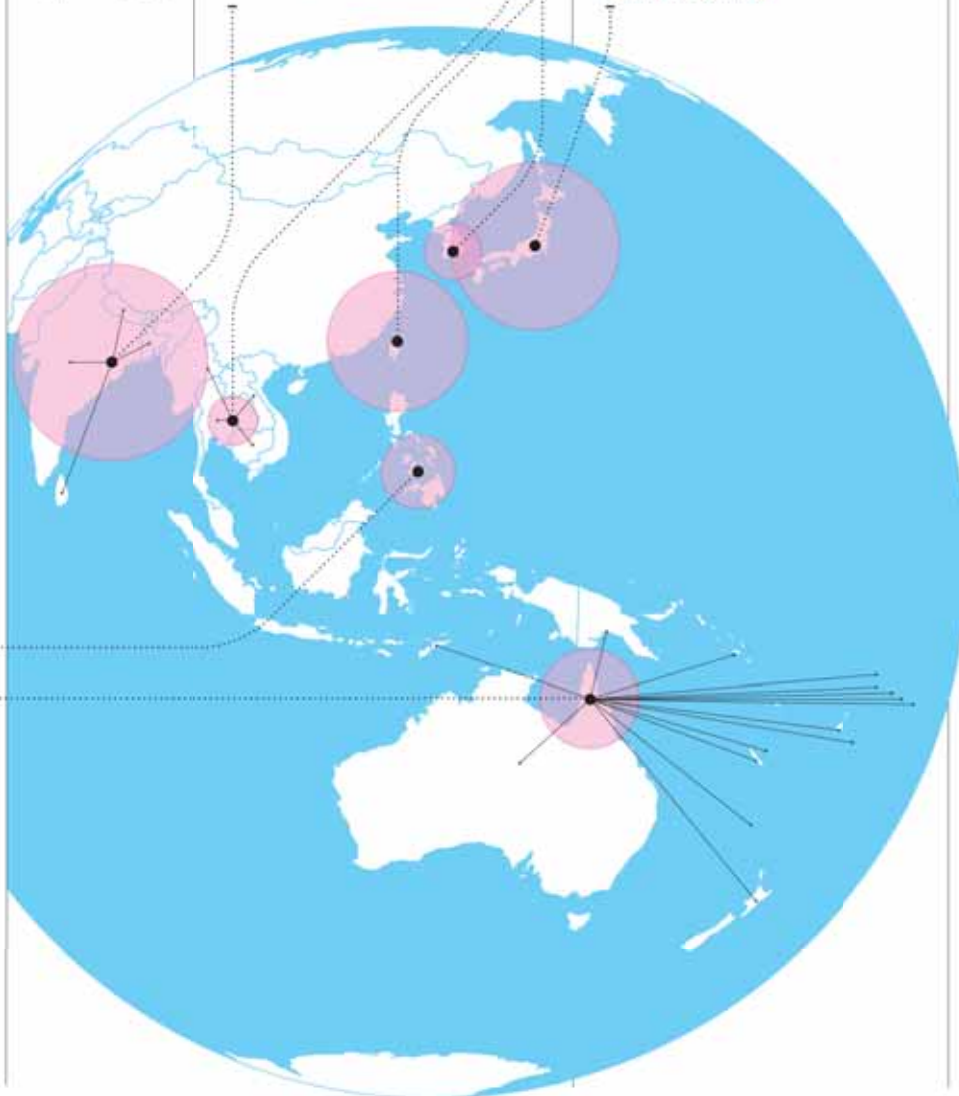
First published: **1953**
Circulation: **92,500**
Language: **Japanese**
Area served: Japan
rotary-no-tomo.jp

Regional
magazines

34

Countries and
geographic areas

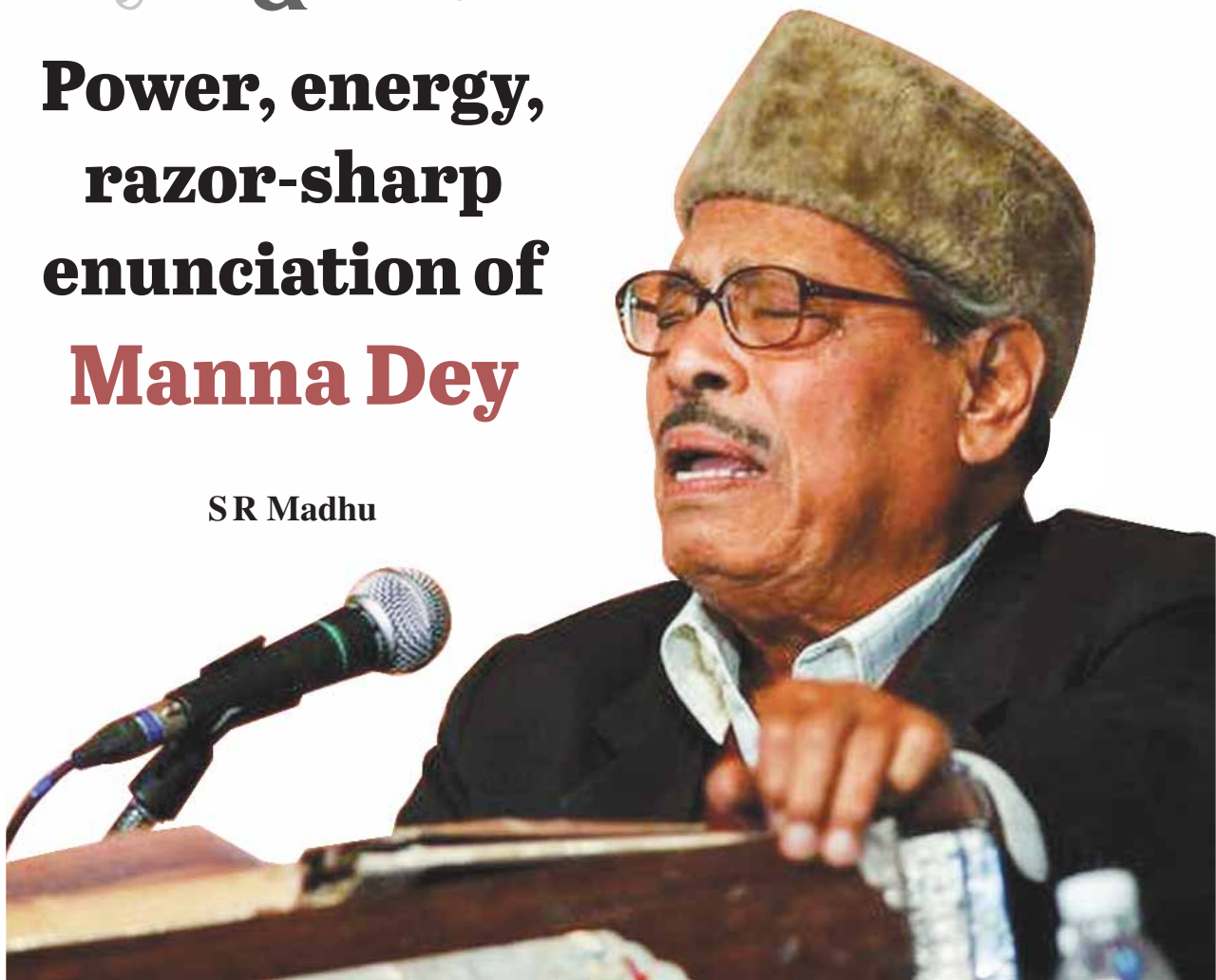
129





Power, energy, razor-sharp enunciation of **Manna Dey**

SR Madhu



Young singer Kavita Krishnamurthy was excited. A film song of hers had become a chartbuster and she visited her guru Manna Dey to share the happy news with him. “Which song?” Manna Dey enquired. *Tu cheez badi hai mast mast* from the film *Mohra*, she responded.

Manna Dey lost his temper and gave Kavita a dressing down.

“This song insults the Indian woman, it calls her an object. How can you sing such a song, and denigrate your own gender?” Kavita left the house in tears. But the guru’s harsh words, (which he later regretted) didn’t diminish Kavita’s regard for him.

This incident highlights Manna Dey’s approach to music. He shunned anything obscene or in bad taste. He would refuse

to sing if a lyric smacked of vulgarity or had double entendre.

His singing too was principled and organised. He would come to recordings fully prepared, armed with notes and notations — a practice no other playback singer followed.

Manna Dey was the last of the super six male singers of the golden era of Hindi film music — the others being Mohammad Rafi,

Hemant Kumar, Mukesh, Talat Mahmood and Kishore Kumar. He outlived all the others — he was 94 when he passed away in 2013. (Mukesh departed in 1976, Rafi in 1980, Kishore in 1987, Hemant Kumar in 1989, Talat Mahmood in 1998). He sang some 4,000 songs in nearly a dozen languages (mainly Hindi and Bengali) in a career that spanned six decades.

It is often said that Rafi used to pour his heart out in songs; well, Manna Dey poured out his soul. Rafi would tell his fans, “you may listen to anyone, but I listen to Manna Dey.” Composer Anil Biswas perhaps paid Manna Dey the best tribute — “He can sing anyone’s songs, be it Rafi or Kishore or Mukesh, but they can’t sing his songs.” Kavita Krishnamurthy remarked: “Manna Dey gets the toughest

of compositions and sings them beautifully.”

He was a master of many styles. But connoisseurs lauded him for the classical excellence he imbibed from his uncle — the legendary blind singer KC Dey — as well as from Ustad



Manna Dey’s proficiency with classical music was both a gift and a curse. He

wanted to be a singer of mass appeal, but got branded as a classicist.

Aman Ali Khan. His strengths as singer, apart from classical training, were the power, energy and expressiveness of his voice, his razor-sharp enunciation, and his emphasis on originality. He pursued his own style.

His proficiency with classical music was however both a gift and a curse. He wanted to be a singer of mass appeal, but got branded as a classicist. His songs were often filmed on elderly, mythological or secondary characters. His very first playback song was filmed on sage Valmiki!

He won many honours — the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Filmfare and Central government awards for best playback singer, and lifetime achievement awards. A documentary film on him in Bengali was made in 2008.



(From L) Actor Mehmood, Mohammed Rafi, music director Kalyanji, Manna Dey and IS Johar.



He inspired reverence in many. In his 2007 autobiography, he recalled a touching experience. When he went to a hospital in Bengaluru (the famous Narayana Hrudayala hospital set up by Dr Devi Shetty) for treatment of chest pain, he was astonished to see the entire hospital staff at the gate with bouquets for him. He was treated free of charge: Dr Shetty said that treating Manna Dey was a privilege.

Manna Dey was amazingly versatile. Reputedly the king of qawwalis (he was the prime singer of the inimitable classic *Na to caravan ki talash hai*, the longest qawwali of Hindi cinema, composed by Roshan in *Barsaat ki Raat*), he was equally captivating with bhajans. The divine *Tu pyar ka sagar hai* composed by Shankar-Jaikishen for *Seema* is really soul-stirring. He excelled both in romantic duets such as *Nain mile chain kahan*, the peerless duet with Lata Mangeshkar composed by Shankar-Jaikishen for *Basant Bahar* and philosophical reflections such as the unforgettable *Zindagi kaisi hai paheli*, composed by

When Manna Dey went to the Narayana Hrudayala hospital in Bengaluru for treatment of chest pain, he was received with bouquets by the entire hospital staff at the gate.



Salil Chowdhury for *Anand*. His patriotic songs, such as the heartbreaking *Aye mere pyare watan* composed by Salil Chowdhury for *Kabuliwallah*, were as magnetic as his toe-tapping numbers, such as *Ae bhai, zara dekh ke chalo* from *Mera Naam Joker* composed by Shankar-Jaikishen, for which he won a Filmfare Award. Yet, he couldn't shake off the "classicist" tag and that unfortunately limited his opportunities.

Born in Kolkata in 1919, Manna Dey belonged to a large joint family of 32 members. Sports (football, cricket, kite-flying, boxing and wrestling) consumed his early years, so

did pranks and tomfoolery. And of course, music. "As my first uncle, singer and composer, KC Dey, was always singing, there was always music at home." He sang at school stage shows at the age of 10, and won several music contests in college. He didn't take up law (which his father wanted him to) or engineering (as his second uncle suggested), but music — as desired by KC Dey.

Manna Dey moved to Bollywood in 1942 along with uncle Dey. But it was a long hard struggle for recognition, and he often thought of giving up his playback dreams and returning to Kolkata.

His first hit song, *Upar gagan vishal* in the 1950 film *Mishaal* for which SD Burman

composed music, dramatically changed his career. The singer later became a disciple of SD Burman, almost in the guru-shishya tradition. He would regularly buy groceries and bananas and puffed rice for Burman. He would also organise a supply of *paan* — which Burman was always chewing.

But Manna Dey says he did not resent doing such chores for Burman, because there was a deep bond of affection and respect between them, cemented by many common interests. For example, both were crazy about football. While Manna Dey supported Mohun Bagan, Burman was a votary of East Bengal. The two sparred often.

Manna Dey's most famous song for Burman was the matchless *Poocho na kaise main rain beetayi* (*Meri soorat teri ankhen*, 1963), a classical masterpiece filmed on Ashok Kumar.

The singer was eloquent and emotional about the role of



(From L) Manna Dey, music director Khayyam and Mohammed Rafi.

Shankar-Jaikishen, particularly Shankar, in promoting his career. He said, “Shankar was the first music director who made me sing romantic numbers... He felt that my masculine rendering of love songs would appeal to the public.”

His first song for Shankar-Jaikishen was the *Awara* duet *Tere bina aag ye chandni* with Lata Mangeshkar. Several chartbusters followed. Like *Lapak jhapak* in *Boot Polish*; that eternal romantic

It is often said that Rafi used to pour his heart out in songs; well, Manna Dey poured out his soul.

masterpiece with Lata, *Pyar hua ikrar hua* (*Shri 420*); and the two majestically beautiful *Chori Chori* duets with Lata Mangeshkar — *Aja sanam* and *Ye raat bheegi bheegi*.

It was again for Shankar-Jaikishen that Manna Dey sang three alluring classics in *Basant Bahar* — *Sur na saje*, *Bhey bandana* and *Ketaki ghulab juhi champak ban phoole*. The last one etched its way into immortality — a song with Hindustani classical giant Bhimsen Joshi.

Manna Dey says he was petrified of competing with — let alone defeating — a maestro like Joshi for this song. In fact,



with Kishore Kumar.



he left Bombay and disappeared for some time when the idea of the song was mooted. He said, “I thought it ridiculous that I should prevail over Bhimsen Joshi.” But he was coaxed back and went on to record the song. He was elated when Joshi complimented him, and urged him to become a classical music singer.

Talking about other composers, Manna Dey said Madan Mohan’s compositions stood out with their excellent fusion of classical and folk melodies. The famous song *Kaun aya mere man ke dware* for *Dekh Kabira Roya*, is so beguiling, it can stop



Lata Mangeshkar lauded Manna Dey’s Marathi pronunciation — saying it was as impeccable as that of a learned Marathi Brahmin.

a listener anywhere. The two *Bawarchi* songs *Tum bin jeevan* and *Bhor aai gaya andhiyara* composed by Madan and filmed on Rajesh Khanna were a rage.

Manna Dey was full of admiration for Salil Chowdhury, for whom he sang *Dharti kahe pukar ke* — a paean on mother earth — for Bimal

Roy’s epic *Do Bigha Zameen*. Salil also gave him memorable songs for *Madhumati*, *Kabuliwala* and *Anand*. Importantly, Salil helped Manna Dey gain a foothold as a playback singer in Bengali films, and got him to sing the mesmerising love song *Manasa maine varu* in the Malayalam blockbuster *Chemmeen*. The song, for which

his Kerala-born wife Sulochana Kumaran gave him helpful lessons — became a runaway hit.

His immortal melody *Kasme wade pyar wafa sab* for Kalyanji-Anandji for the film *Upkar* created national euphoria. It didn’t win the expected national award for Manna Dey but won him a beautiful tribute by Lata. She said: “This song keeps haunting me, even when I’m about to record a song, and I’m tempted to cancel my own recording session! How did you manage to emote so well?” Two other much-feted, much-loved Kalyanji-Anandji songs sung

with Lata Mangeshkar.



by him were *Yari hain imaan mera, yaar meri zindagi* from *Zanjeer*, filmed on Pran; and the delightful, magical *Ae meri zohra jabeen* in *Waqt*, based on an Afghan song and filmed on Balraj Sahni.

Manna Dey describes RD Burman as “the last genius of Hindi cinema”. His music knowledge and his flair for synthesising Western and Indian classical notes were extraordinary. For him, Manna Dey sang *Ao twist karen* in *Bhoot Bungla* (RD told the producer that only this singer, and no one else would sing that song); *Aayo kahan se Ghanshyam* in *Buddha Mil Gaya* (which demonstrated RD’s mastery over Indian ragas); the riotous and zany *Ek chatur nar* (with Kishore Kumar in *Padosan*); and *Yeh dosti, hum nahin chhodengey*, the boisterous *Sholay* motor cycle song with Kishore Kumar.

He was the quintessential singer’s singer. Fellow-singers, Lata Mangeshkar for example, showered him with lavish praise. Manna Dey quotes Lata saying that she had sung 107 duets with him. “She must be right, I have not kept count myself,” he



(From L) Mahendra Kapoor, Manna Dey and Raj Kapoor.

laughed. She lauded Manna Dey’s Marathi pronunciation — saying it was as impeccable as that of a learned Marathi Brahmin.

Rafi was another self-confessed fan of Manna Dey — he once hugged Dey after a recording, saying just one word: “*Lajawab*”. Manna on the other hand considered Rafi the best Bollywood singer. Both shared a passion for kites and battled each other from their terraces when they were for some time neighbours in Bombay. The Bengali managed

to cut down Rafi’s kite often, much to the latter’s discomfiture.

Manna Dey was surprised that in later years Bollywood singers couldn’t stand each other. “It was never like that in our time. Outside the studio we were the best of friends and shared our joys and sorrows with each other.”

Though he didn’t climb the dizzy heights of musical stardom that Rafi and Kishore did, he was admired by one and all as a singer of exceptional brilliance. He was also one of the straightest and cleanest men in the film industry, says Kavita

Krishnamurthy. Which is one of many reasons he must be remembered and honoured.

Editor’s pick

- *Laga chunari mey daag mitaao kaisey*
- *Poochho na kaisey mainey raat bitayi*
- *Ae mere pyare watan, ae merey bichhrey chaman, tujh pe dil kurbaan.*
- *Yeh raat bheegi bheegi, yeh mast samaya*
- *Ae meri Zohra jabin*

The writer is a senior journalist and member of RC Madras South.

Designed by Krishnapratheesh





30 small clinics to offer healthcare to needy families

Alok Gupta

Self-adhesive tape manufacturer
RC Ghaziabad Shatabdi, RID 3012

Medical projects are Alok Gupta's top priority, and his first project was the inauguration of a plasma bank at the Rotary Noida Blood Bank in early July. "It was a district project costing ₹1 crore and a first-of-its-kind in UP. We will open 30 dispensaries and small clinics in Delhi and UP, where patients will be charged only ₹20 per consultation," he says.

A Rotary Medicare Centre will be operational in Noida by next January, with diagnostic services including CT and MRI scans, and a cath lab, under a GG project worth ₹2.5 crore. "A small fee paid for the diagnostic services will make the centre self-sustainable." Recently, his district hosted a three-day artificial limb fitment camp in Ghaziabad and identified 92 amputees who will be fitted with artificial limbs. "We have contributed ₹50 lakh to RILM this year, and will do 100 Happy School projects including setting up of e-learning facilities, toilet blocks and handwash stations," explains Gupta. The project, costing ₹2.5 crore will be done through a mix of GG and DDF.

He plans to add 500 new members and five new clubs. In Rotaract, he wants to open 25 new clubs. With a target of \$1 million for TRF he has asked every Rotarian to donate at least \$100.

A third generation Rotarian, his father inspired him to become a Rotaractor in 1987, and he joined Rotary in 2005, adds Gupta.

Meet your Governors

V Muthukumaran

He wants to make “every Rotarian feel important”

M Satish Babu

Stockbroking, RC Vijayawada Midtown, RID 3020

Before taking charge as DG, he got the district directory printed and distributed to all the 4,075 Rotarians in 73 clubs of his district to make “every member feel important,” says Satish. Even the GML is physically delivered to all Rotarians each month.

Recently, a high-tech equipment was installed through a GG worth \$200,000 at the Goutami Eye Institute in Rajahmundry. An expanded retina centre with an advanced microscope (GG worth \$32,000) will be given to the Rotary eye hospital run by RC Vuyuru. “The retina centre will do both OPD services as well as surgeries for free. Total cost of expanding the surgical retina wing is ₹4.5 crore.”

Sewing machines will be given to 1,000 women after training to increase their income. A state-of-art

water distribution system (GG: \$160,000) will be installed at an orphanage with 1,000 students. Toilets will be built at a cost of \$40,000 in schools.

One of his pet projects is paediatric heart surgery (GG worth \$80,000 was sanctioned) and at least 70 surgeries will be done this year. He is confident of a 20 per cent net growth in membership which is poised to cross 4,800. On TRF giving, his target is \$1 million.

He will be opening 20 Rotaract and 20 Interact clubs with around 20 per cent growth in their membership. In 2007, when a Rotarian friend invited him to his club meeting “it changed me forever.” His home club, RC Vijayawada Midtown, among the largest in the world, “will touch the 1,000 mark this year,” he says.



Rotary is his family mantra

Gajendra Singh Narang

Realtor, RC Indore Dynamic, RID 3040

Representing the third generation in Rotary, Gajendra Singh Narang wants to grow the district membership “by 50 percent, and maintain cent per cent retention.”

A new Rotary and Interact club and five new Rotaract clubs were chartered, and “many more RCCs and clubs are in the pipeline.” A roadmap is ready for doing projects in all the seven areas of focus — one lakh saplings to be planted, 1,000 Nation Builder Awards, health camps for at least 75,000 people, each club adopting at least one Happy School, RYLA events, friendship exchanges and robust End Polio campaigns.

On TRF giving, he has a target of \$100,000; “I have designed special programmes to induct more women such as The Big Pink Card for health awareness camps.” With literacy “important for the country’s development” he is giving literacy projects a big push.

Multidistrict events like National Wildlife Seminar, Global Green Photography Contest, *Baand-havya* and an auction for polio fund are some of the projects on the drawing board. The district has tied up with Lions International, Red Cross Society and other NGOs to do joint community projects.

Rotary has captivated his family; he watched his parents working for the voluntary sector as a child. When he set up the factory in Indore, his chartered accountant, PDG Nitin Dafria, insisted he join Rotary. His wife Sarthika is charter president of RC Indore Dynamic and an assistant governor. His daughter Samarth, a past district Interact representative, is now president of RAC Indore Dynamic. His son Avhaan as the youngest DIR at 13 and has hosted national and global online events.



Rotary Swaman stores to help the poor

Prashant Harivallabh Jani

Financial consultant, RC Wadhwan City, RID 3060



Till October, 22 Rotary Swaman stores are being opened across the district to give dignity to poor families and give them utility products. “These collect, repair and repack used household items like furniture, fans, electric appliances, clothes, shoes and trinkets. These are sold at modest prices ranging from ₹20–100 to needy families,” says Prashant Jani. Around 40 stores will be opened this year.

He wants to install at least 1,000 handwash stations and so far, 250 units have been put up in government schools and public places like temples and parks. Two cancer detection vans for mammography, Pap Smear and oral cancer tests will screen over 75,000 beneficiaries. While one van is already doing the rounds, the second one, procured through a global grant worth \$150,000, will be pressed into service shortly.

In February, a mega car rally will be flagged off from the Somnath temple to Dhule covering a distance of 2,000 km in eight days. The idea is to spread awareness on Rotary projects. He expects around 700 participants. The district will add 1,640 new Rotarians taking membership to over 6,000 by year-end. “I am confident of opening 25 new Rotary clubs, 35 new Rotaract clubs and inducting 400 new Rotaractors,” he says.

On TRF giving, his target is \$1.25 million. An avid social worker, he waited for over three years to become a member of RC Surendranagar, an iconic club, but “they put me in the waiting list for so long that I decided to become a charter member of RC Wadhwan City in 2001.”

Finding funds for service projects is his mantra

Manish Sharda

Plywood manufacturer, RC Meerut Mahan, RID 3100



With the pandemic bringing to nought many project ideas, Manish Sharda is now visiting clubs “to motivate Rotarians to do whatever projects that are feasible.”

He has applied for a global grant worth \$60,000 for a vaccination project to prevent cervical cancer and another GG worth \$50,000 for installing eight dialysis machines — four at the Rotary dialysis centre in Meerut and the rest in a private hospital in Muzaffarnagar. But his problem is paucity of funds “as our district was delisted for three years till 2018.” Sharda is in touch with RIPE Shekhar Mehta, Trustee Gulam Vahanvaty and others to find funds for service projects.

His first priority is member retention and adding 300 new members. When he took over

as DG, the district membership was 2,249 and so far, 60 new Rotarians have been added.

“I will open 10 new Rotary clubs, 10 new Rotaract clubs and add 5,400 Rotaractors for the current year,” he says. On July 1, in an online meet, he chartered RAC IIMT Umang with 5,000 Rotaractors.

For the Foundation, he has set \$100,000 as his target. Though he joined Rotary in 1997, “I was not active as I was pursuing higher studies. Within six years, I became a member of RC Meerut Mahan with past president Ramesh Kapoor being my mentor.” In this new club, Sharda became involved in club meetings and project activities, thanks to the inspiration from his mentor.

Designed by N Krishnamurthy

A virtual meet on Basic Education & Literacy

Team Rotary News

Rotary has committed to achieve 100 per cent literacy in South Asia by 2025 and it is therefore the responsibility of every Rotarian in the region to work for the fulfillment of this grand objective, said RIPE Shekhar Mehta addressing a virtual meet to promote Basic Education and Literacy (BEL) programme under leadership of PDG Ramesh Agrawal, member, Major Gift Initiatives (MGI) Committee, BEL.

The event jointly hosted by the RISAO team had the participation of TRF Trustee Gulam Vahanvati, BEL-MGI chair Anne Mathews, Nafisa from RI headquarters and Sanjay Parmar from RISAO. Ravi Shankar Dakoju, past president,



Children working with computers at the Ideal Jawa Rotary School (file photo).

Rotary Bangalore Orchards, motivated the audience with his own story of being able to make a difference in the communities around him. He pointed out that every penny contributed results into a well-spread out, multiplier effect.

Vahanvati cited the various studies at Rotary and UN to highlight that literacy was perhaps the most important millennium goal. A 100 per cent literacy is the prime need for a sustainable prosperity and lasting peace, he said.

Anne Mathews narrated anecdotes to show that the most impactful are endowment contributions to BEL.

AKS members Suresh Poddar and Uday Pilani made presentations on their Happy Schools projects. ■

Rotary Podcast from RC Theni Metro Kings

Rotary Club of Theni Metro Kings, RID 3000, recently launched *Planet Rotary*, a podcast series to talk about Rotary and its many worthwhile causes. The idea was conceived by club president Narmadha Vijayakumar. She, along with her husband Rtn A R Vijayakumar, have hosted two episodes so far.

A podcast is a recording of audio discussion on a specific topic and often uploaded on apps such as Spotify, Anchor and iTunes. “This dynamic medium is a perfect way to humanise our relationship with each other and propagate ideas. This means, sitting in Theni we can talk about our Happy School project while someone sitting in Toronto could be listening to the podcast

figuring out ways to executing something similar,” says Narmadha.

The club’s podcast had a virtual inauguration with DG AL Chokkalingam, DGN I Jerald and PDG Dr Zameer Pasha logging in. ARRFC P Gopalakrishnan released the Planet Rotary logo. The first episode — *Who is a Rotarian* — was released by PDG RVN Kannan and the second one has Rtn Raja Govindasamy sharing his experiences as a beneficiary of Rotary’s Graduate Fellowship Programme which supported his higher studies at the Ohio University in the US.

Tune in to Planet_Rotary on Spotify or Anchor. ■





Wordsworld

Money money money, it's so funny

Sandhya Rao

The world of India's gilded age and
the spawning of newbie billionaires.

It was the docu-series *Bad Boy Billionaires* that finally pushed me to read *The Billionaire Raj* by James Crabtree, published by Tim Duggan Books. This beautifully bound item featuring on its dust jacket the Ambanis's home Antilia reaching disjointedly up into a purple sky had landed on my shelves almost two years ago, courtesy my son. However, despite his constant prodding, I had not got down to reading it, although that had always been on my cards. Perhaps the fact that the makers of the docu-series occasionally called upon Crabtree to share his views on this or that matter finally tipped the balance.

Whatever the reason, I now find myself unable to dislodge my nose from the pages of this curious, complex story communicated in clear, engaging prose. Innumerable voices share innumerable experiences: some come as a bolt from the blue for the average reader, others jog the recall button and the memories come flooding back. And as you read you get a sense of the socio-political, socio-economic and eco-political implications of making more than 'just a living' in a country with potential for corruption.

The series that's airing focuses on three dubious stars of corporate

mega-compromise: Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Subroto Roy. The book goes far further, examining the business of business at the topmost echelons, the number of billionaires who have emerged on the Indian scene thanks in large part to their willingness to mix risk with savvy, and not afraid of wheeling-dealing. While the docu-series left me feeling indignant, the book stirs up questions on both sides of the coin as it even-handedly draws an enormous picture that demands your attention.

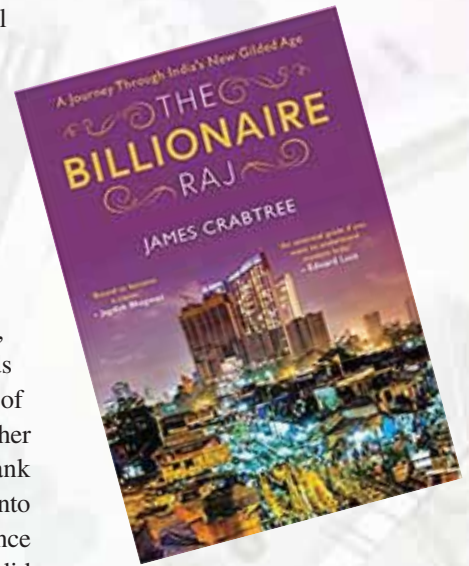
There's a context to the description that follows the title: *A Journey through India's New Gilded Age*. The term 'gilded age' is taken from a reference to the period between the end of the Civil War in 1865 to the turn of the twentieth century — in the United States. Crabtree quotes a historian as saying it was the era of 'the great corporation, the crass plutocrat [and] the calculating political boss'. A nation that had all along seen itself as 'a rural, egalitarian idyll: a nation of yeoman farmers governed by gentlemen politicians' was transformed 'into a giant continental economy and the world's leading industrial power'. This 'growth gave birth to a new generation of plutocrats', people who grew their businesses and their

wealth at an impossibly fast pace and were not averse to vulgar displays of that wealth. For this they earned the sobriquet 'robber barons'.

The phrase 'gilded age' is apparently from American writer Mark Twain, 'describing a period that glittered on the surface, as if painted in gold, but was decaying underneath. That decay was to be found in politics above all, as the expansion of the franchise in the early 1800s gave birth to the rampant corruption of the "spoils" system. Powerful urban political machines traded bribery and patronage for jobs and votes'. Crabtree goes on to write that he thought India might be going through something similar after reading an article in the *Financial Times* by venture capitalist Jayant Sinha and academic Ashutosh Varshney. 'In its rot and heady dynamism, India is beginning to resemble America's Gilded Age,' they argued in the article headlined, 'It is time for India to rein in its robber barons'.

Crabtree does an organised, thorough job, talking about the rise of such industrialists in the first chapter entitled, interestingly, 'Robber Barons'. They were, undoubtedly, inspired and daring; equally undoubtedly they paved the way for others on the road to super-wealth, particularly in a climate of economic liberalisation. However,





as India's most celebrated intellectual, the economist Amartya Sen, comments, while 'economic reopening had indeed created a more vibrant economy, [it was] one that was less equal and fair'. Crabtree reminds us that 'Sen also looked to the successful "tiger" economies of east Asia, but mostly because of the way that they grew rich by investing heavily in basic health and education, which in turn helped to provide social support to poorer workers as they moved from farms to factories and onwards into the middle class. Modern India, by contrast, more often looked like an economy in Latin America, with a weak social safety net and yawning inequality.'

Then the book goes on to discuss the Narendra Modi effect, the series of scams that upturned the economic climate, the collusion of money, power and politics and the special brand of cronyism practiced in South India, with special mention of J Jayalalithaa and Tamil Nadu. The book then winds down with a section entitled 'A New Gilded Age'. Here Crabtree discusses the 'House of Debt' companies; it's a fascinating account of how stock analyst Ashish Gupta sniffed out the fact that many big industrial houses were caving under mountains of debt. His research led to a 35-page document, 'House of

Debt', that laid bare the financial mess that followed some years of investment boom. Crabtree writes, 'Beginning in the early 2000s, many of the country's major tycoons had gone on a serious borrowing binge, vacuuming up bank loans, layering on leverage and using the resulting funds to fire up bold new projects, from power stations and toll roads to ports and bauxite mines.' Most of these did well. Then there was another round of big investments and bank loans around 2008... and these ran into trouble. While the Tatas and Reliance had decent balance sheets, others did not. They were found to be running entirely on debt. The unravelling of this period of India's economic history is an eye-opener.

Crabtree makes no judgements in his unravelling of the particularities and peculiarities of India's various systems and Indians' financial practices. Whether it is Naveen Jindal, or Gautam Singhania or the Reddy brothers of Satyam Computers fame... the writing is clear and objective, the book a must-read. Incidentally, Singhania's JK House in Breach Candy, Mumbai, is the tallest family home in India, rising up 36 floors. And his speedboats are named after James Bond movies: *GoldenEye*, *Goldfinger*, *Octopussy* and *Thunderball*! There's mention of impossibly fancy weddings too. A wedding in the family of mining tycoon Gali Janardhana Reddy (remember the iron ore scandals in Karnataka?) bears recounting. The invitation to his daughter's marriage came in a box that had a small television screen built into the lid. This played a video in which the bride, groom and Reddy himself danced, Bollywood style. The wedding was conducted in a set constructed to resemble the Hampi heritage site and was attended by about 50,000 guests over several

days of celebrations. All this bang in the middle of the demonetisation drive! Reddy claimed he had spent some ₹300 million; the media put the figure at about ₹5.5 billion, to quote Crabtree.

The IPL features in the account as also the current bad boy of television, Arnab Goswami. Yes, 'India's ultra-wealthy are thriving' today, despite everything. Crabtree brings us back down to earth with sane voices, such as that of Amartya Sen: 'There is something a little deceptive about focusing on the very rich. Having lots of rich people is not always a big problem so long as they get no special favors and pay fair taxes.' While India's gilded age has transformed India, Crabtree writes, 'into one of the world's least equal countries', he goes on to say that 'without action, this gap between rich and poor is only likely to widen. Perversely, the closer India comes to its ambitions of near-double-digit growth, the faster this will happen'. We might all want to think about this. *The Billionaire Raj* definitely helps us think about this.

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

Designed by Krishnapratheesh S

Rotary News Subscription Remittances

You can pay the
Rotary News / Rotary Samachar
subscription online

Our Bank details:

Bank : HDFC Bank
SB Account

Branch : Montieth Road
Egmore, Chennai

A/c Name : Rotary News Trust

A/c No. : 50100213133460

IFSC Code : HDFC0003820

E-mail us following details:

Name of club

President/secretary's name

Amount/date of transfer/UTR number

For physical payment by cheque or cash in bank, write **Club Name only** without prefixing "Rotary Club of". Eg. Rotary Club of Delhi Central should be written: Delhi Central.

Rotary at a glance

Rotarians : 1,196,478

Clubs : 36,397

Districts : 525

Rotaractors : 211,714

Clubs : 11,077

Interactors : 351,762

Clubs : 15,294

RCC : 11,412

As on November 17, 2020

Membership Summary

As on November 1, 2020

RI District	Rotary Clubs	No of Rotarians	Women Rotarians %	Rotaract Clubs	Interact Clubs	RCC
2981	120	5,137	6.33	51	39	225
2982	72	3,151	6.54	87	96	56
3000	130	5,261	8.34	188	256	211
3011	107	4,193	25.97	64	103	35
3012	110	3,866	24.86	60	71	59
3020	73	4,491	6.48	58	156	351
3030	95	5,157	14.76	125	184	325
3040	92	2,256	12.01	44	52	147
3053	64	2,786	16.73	23	40	112
3054	142	6,482	19.64	101	149	524
3060	103	4,710	14.76	61	63	147
3070	116	3,454	17.46	49	22	59
3080	84	3,385	9.51	107	148	116
3090	81	2,290	5.94	44	9	122
3100	100	2,331	8.32	14	14	146
3110	135	3,746	8.97	29	7	105
3120	83	3,362	14.72	50	21	54
3131	138	5,303	21.44	117	199	121
3132	88	3,483	10.13	41	97	165
3141	105	5,744	24.79	134	147	94
3142	91	3,346	21.04	84	118	69
3150	89	3,540	10.68	66	124	118
3160	78	2,586	6.81	28	3	83
3170	134	5,778	13.59	84	213	169
3181	83	3,437	9.16	63	192	118
3182	83	3,201	8.15	50	103	98
3190	145	6,128	16.16	157	166	66
3201	146	5,701	8.35	109	73	52
3202	141	5,893	6.82	103	252	48
3211	144	4,705	7.10	9	24	132
3212	108	4,359	9.08	104	187	150
3231	100	4,006	12.23	53	81	419
3232	128	5,905	19.39	136	199	93
3240	92	3,205	13.57	60	393	203
3250	101	3,811	18.32	72	65	185
3261	76	2,736	16.19	20	21	43
3262	107	3,789	13.06	54	40	78
3291	159	3,873	21.04	105	88	629
India Total	4,043	156,587		2,804	4,215	5,927
3220	71	1,960	15.05	86	126	74
3271	116	1,839	17.67	70	19	22
3272	160	1,906	17.52	59	15	44
3281	240	7,163	17.23	249	51	201
3282	160	4,120	10.90	179	42	46
3292	141	5,581	16.27	148	121	121
S Asia Total	4,931	179,156		3,595	4,589	6,435

Source: RI South Asia Office

Paul Harris' statue installed in Aurangabad

Team Rotary News



Rotarians with the newly-installed statue of Rotary Founder Paul Harris.

Now the residents of Aurangabad can appreciate the role of Rotary in making the world a better place with the inauguration of its founder Paul Harris' bust at a prominent spot in the city. As part of its public image building exercise and to pay homage to Harris, his bust was unveiled by IPDG Suhas Vaidya at a simple ceremony due to Covid restrictions.

RID 3132 district secretary Ashok Toshniwal (2019–20) put forth the idea of installing the statue of Paul Harris with a short

inscription in Marathi on the pedestal to inform the public about the origin of Rotary and its global activities over the decades. The then DG Suhas Vaidya liked the suggestion and agreed to part-fund this project. Toshniwal called a meeting of all eight club presidents in Aurangabad to explain about the project and expressed his willingness to donate space in his building complex located at a three-road junction.

RC Aurangabad Central agreed to implement the project and its then president Bharat Chopade

formed a three-member committee for this purpose. The committee briefed ward member Surendra Kulkarni from the municipality on the project. "Kulkarni is well aware of Rotary's work as we have joined hands with the municipality in doing several projects in the city. He liked the idea and extended his support to facilitate the installation of the statue," said Vaidya.

The project work began on June 24 and was completed in quick time for Rotarians to inaugurate the Paul Harris statue through a simple ceremony on July 12.

The bust was sculpted by Niranjan Madilgekar, son of late Rtn Subhash Madilgekar. Only 15 Rotarians including Vaidya, PDG Prafulla Mirajgaonkar, Kulkarni, AKS member Asasingh, Toshniwal, committee members and club presidents were present on the occasion due to lockdown restrictions.

"A brief information in Marathi about Rotary, its founder and the global work being done was put up on a granite stone below the bust for the people of Aurangabad to take note of our organisation," said Vaidya. ■

Of emotional intelligence and maturity

Bharat & Shalan Savur

More than ever we need to live in a huge, transparent emotional bubble. The reason being: there is so much information about Covid, war clouds, drugs, economic distress, suicides, murders, deaths and destruction around us that we could end up in an emotional mess if we are not careful. According to the US Supreme Court Justice W Douglas, our emotions direct our life — “90 per cent of our judgements is how we feel about things and 10 per cent is used to justify these feelings.”

Power off to power on. A good way to test your emotional state is to switch off your cellphone — Now, sit quietly by yourself. Is your mind racing, jumping all over the place, are thoughts running around, dialogues and monologues happening continually? “Thoughts are the shadows of our feelings,” Friedrich Nietzsche had said. If due attention is not given, they make your emotions swing like a monkey from tree to tree, from like to dislike, from pleasure to despair. To be buffeted between opposites is tiring.

And this is where emotional intelligence comes in. It's the ability to understand how our feelings and thoughts work on our mental state and manage our emotions wisely. Don't become the emotion. The way is: not to push away the feeling. *Feel*, but don't become the emotion. Meaning, don't flip your lid! It's like stubbing your toe accidentally against a heavy table, getting wild and becoming the pain and kicking the table. When we lose our equilibrium to anger, the prefrontal cortex in our brain that regulates our emotion loses its ability to control our emotional limbic system. Thus we act stupidly and give ourselves more pain.

How do we hold on to our equilibrium? Do not label yourself as ‘an angry person’ or ‘an emotional person’, but understand that somewhere within you there exists a supremely intelligent, conscious self who is eternally in peace and bliss. With this knowledge, you hold on



to your equilibrium and feel the emotion release itself.

The heart is big enough... Jack Kornfield, a spiritual teacher, explains the process beautifully. He observes, “A desiring mind can take you anywhere — to the mall, to marriage, to divorce... But to be able to sit and say ‘Ah, this is desire, this is longing, this is love...’ you begin to discover that the heart is big enough to hold it all.” Isn’t that a wonderful revelation — the heart is so large that it can hold all desires and all kinds of emotions. He reels off, “You say, ‘this is restlessness, this is joy, this is fear, this is hate...’ When you acknowledge it, you get curious, you wonder, ‘What is this energy in me, how does it feel if I let myself experience it?’ Then, you invite it to open out and say, ‘All right, show me... the whole nine yards...!’”

Most of us are normally caught up in the current of our thoughts, feelings and emotions. We resist our fears and sorrow. It’s uncomfortable to be pushing against those emotions, for sadness can be an overhanging dark malevolence in the mind. We don’t even know that we are fighting with shadows. But when we identify each emotion by name, as Jack tells us to, and say, ‘It’s okay to show yourself,’ magically, the intensity dies down. The shadows fade under our attention — that’s why it’s referred to as ‘the light of attention.’ And, as Tenzin Palmo, a Buddhist teacher, says, “With awareness, we can observe it all without

being swept away.” Ergo, we retain our equilibrium and sense of balance even in these disruptive, different times.

When we are not drawn into the drama of the information coming our way, we are able to view it from the transparent emotional bubble I spoke about in the beginning. This does not mean we become unfeeling, rather it means, with the practice taught by Jack, we become emotionally unshackled and emotionally mature. We cannot work on what’s happening outside of us except silently send out healing thoughts to all troubled people, but we can, in our new maturity, work on ourselves. A long view. “Educate the heart,” urges the Dalai Lama. He advocates taking a long view. Calm all inner turmoil. Be selfless and compassionate. Create a force that acts for good — small acts like cooking for the old lady down the street from where you live. Let people know they are not alone. He points out: Every day there are many more acts of kindness than the headlines show. It is important to remember that and keep a sense of proportion.

In his words: “The whole world is interdependent, just one family. Have a feeling of oneness and come closer.” He cites his own experience which he says may help us: “When we were in Tibet, we were isolated. When we came to India as refugees, we have that feeling that we are the same, all are human beings. Then we feel much happier!” It’s a marvellous perspective without trivialising the truth.

Never feel helpless. “Use human intelligence!” He taps the side of his forehead. “Then you can see reality. Emotion is always very narrow. Human intelligence is very helpful to develop our emotion and become wiser, otherwise only emotion is just me, me, me...” he says, “Never feel helpless. Without losing self-confidence, make the effort... make

At age five children learn about me and mine, become more self-focused. Then, in school, unfortunately, they are not taught kindness but competition.

the effort... that’s important.” He says he will never give up on Tibet. “We will always make the effort!”

When we forget ourselves, we are emotionally free. Watch infants. They are emotionally free and compassionate. You ask them for something they are holding in their little hands and they give it readily. Experts say, at age five, children learn about me and mine, become more self-focused and not so ready to part with their toys or biscuits after that! Then, in school, unfortunately, they are not taught kindness but competition. And this attitude, with few exceptions, remain with far too many of us. The Dalai Lama wants every school to include kindness in its curriculum.

He lives in a bare room, has a few robes and that’s it. The only time he shopped, he bought a little bowl for his cat! The world needs him, we need his spirit of selflessness, his kindness to pervade us. I have looked into the Dalai Lama’s eyes when I met him at Dharamshala. There’s something transformative in being with him. He personifies John F Kennedy’s beautiful words: “Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

Let’s be a force for the good. And usher in a new healing world.

The writers are authors of Fitness for Life and Simply Spiritual – You Are Naturally Divine and teachers of the Fitness for Life programme.

Emotion is always very narrow.
Human intelligence is very helpful to develop our emotion and become wiser, otherwise only emotion is just me, me, me...!

RC Mannai Green City — RID 2981



A neglected pond at Mannargudi was spruced up by Rotarians in the presence of AG G Manoharan and club president J Sudhakar.

RC Delhi Manthan — RID 3011



Polio drops were given to over 100 children at the Sudhaar camp in a slum area at Kalkaji. Three Rotarians including club secretary Srinivas Kotni were present.

RC Sankagiri — RID 2982



A tailoring class for needy women was started. Certificates will be given on completion of the course and job assistance will also be provided to them.

RC Sonapat — RID 3012



Scholarships worth ₹10.6 lakh were given to 45 needy students. Project Chair Sanjeev Bali contributed from his family trust.

RC Madurai Elite — RID 3000



A walkathon titled *Kalam's Vision Walk* was organised to mark the 89th birth anniversary of former President APJ Abdul Kalam. More than 300 students took part in the event.

RC Waltair — RID 3020



A sanitiser production unit was set up. Over 10,000 litres of sanitisers have been distributed and seven villages were disinfected.

RC Chandrapur — RID 3030



To mark Breastfeeding Week, a special camp was held for pregnant women at Jibgaon, a tribal village. Nutritious food and sanitary napkins were distributed.

RC Kapurthala Elite — RID 3070



The club members distributed eye drops, masks and spectacles to inmates of the Kapurthala district jail.

RC Bhopal Hills — RID 3040



The club, along with RCs Bhopal Arera and Bhopal Shahpura, provided food grains to around 50 families whose houses were washed away by floods at Lalit Nagar.

RC Umbraj — RID 3132



Welcome gifts are being given to around 200 mothers of newborns at the primary health centre, Umbraj, in Karad tehsil, Satara, under the *Shishu Shubhachintan* project.

RC Navsari — RID 3060



Huge quantity of waste collected after Ganesh *utsav* and from river banks were transported to the Agricultural University for converting into organic fertiliser.

RC Mumbai Greencity — RID 3141



Tribal students at an adopted school in Samba village in Palgarh district were guided to save water and avoid use of plastic. Cloth bags were distributed.

RC Thane Aces — RID 3142



Under a multidistrict project *Ankur*, fertilisers, micro nutrients and seeds were given to 40 families of kin of deceased farmers in Karmad and Phulambri taluks near Aurangabad.

RC Karkala — RID 3182



On World Heart Day, the club joined hands with Cardiology At Doorstep Foundation (CAD) and Senha Jyothi Friends to hand over an ECG equipment to a PHC, Muniyal.

RC Nizamabad — RID 3150



On World Polio Day, a giant banner was released along with posters by the district health officer to create awareness on Rotary's efforts to eradicate this disease.

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli — RID 3201



Masks with Rotary logo were distributed at the Bharathiar University and to the employees of PN Pudur post office.

RC Navanandi — RID 3160



Sewing machines were given to 30 needy women in the presence of DG B Chinnapa Reddy at a cost of ₹2 lakh.

RC Karamadai — RID 3202



Around 7,000 pamphlets on polio awareness were distributed. The club members with polio t-shirts and masks took part in a walkathon.

RC Trivandrum North — RID 3211



Twenty Covid boards with a list of safety precautions were given to the medical college police station to be installed at prominent spots in the city.

RC Sibsagar — RID 3240



The club members distributed fruits to 100 patients at a Covid care hospital.

RC Ramnad — RID 3212



DG PNB Murugadoss flagged off a End Polio car rally. ARRFC Chinnadurai Abdullah released a postal stamp.

RC Phulbani — RID 3262



Blankets were distributed to needy families to keep them warm during the winter season.

RC Cheyyar Temple City — RID 3231



Fifty pregnant women, doctors, frontline workers including health volunteers were feted at the PHC, Kovilur. An RO water unit was installed.

RC Serampore — RID 3291



DG Sudip Mukherjee gave away clothes to children and women under *Paridhan* project. Masks and sanitisers were given.

Compiled by V Muthukumar

From RI South Asia Office desk

Webinars on diversity, equity and inclusion

Throughout 2020–21, Rotary will host a webinar series to explore diversity, equity and inclusion. The first in the series was held in September on *Design and inclusive plan for your organisation*.

Some of the other topics in pipeline are *Holding each other accountable*; *No justice, no peace*; *Intergenerational relationships* and *Building an inclusive brand*. Recording of all webinars will be available at <https://vimeo.com/channels/rotarymembership>

PAN requirement for RF(I) contributions

Effective April 1, it is mandatory to provide PAN numbers for all contributions made online/offline towards RF(I), irrespective of value or the donor's intention to claim tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Contributions received without PAN details will not be processed by RI South-Asia Office.

Paul Harris Society — way to enhance Annual Fund contribution

The Paul Harris Society (PHS) recognises Rotary members and friends of TRF who contribute \$1,000 or more each year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund or approved global grants.

The Paul Harris Society has more than doubled in size since 2013–14. Society members make up a vital community of leaders whose contributions account for over 18 per cent of the donations to TRF's Annual Fund and over 17 per cent of donations to the Foundation overall. This support allows the Foundation to fund extraordinary projects and activities close to home and around the globe.

To strengthen Paul Harris Society within your district/club, you may access the Paul Harris Society report available under Foundation Reports in My Rotary. This report helps you to identify prospective members based on past giving, thank members who have fulfilled their annual commitment, and remind those who have not.

Foundation Recognition Points

Foundation recognition points are awarded to donors who contribute to TRF through the Annual Fund or PolioPlus, or who contribute to sponsorship of a Foundation grant.

Donors receive one recognition point for every dollar contributed to these funds. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are not eligible. Donors can transfer Foundation recognition points to others to help them qualify as a Paul Harris Fellow or Multiple Paul Harris Fellow. A minimum of 100 Foundation recognition points must be transferred at a time, and the donor must complete and sign the Recognition and Transfer Request form. The points may not be transferred from individuals to a club or district.

Club and district leaders can view the online Club Recognition Summary, which includes the recognition amount, recognition points, current Paul Harris Fellow level, and date that level was achieved through My Rotary login.■



Rotary gifts a blood analyser to a hospital

Team Rotary News



Rotary Clubs of Salem South and Salem Central, RID 2982, donated a fully-automated six-part blood analyser to Sri Ramakrishna Mission Charitable Dispensary in the city that caters to 50,000 patients annually. The equipment costing ₹4.55 lakh is used to count and identify blood cells at high speed and accuracy to diagnose various diseases. DG KS Venkatesan handed over the equipment to the dispensary in the presence of RRFC P Vasu, ARC C Sivagnanaselvam and AG P Prabhakaran.■

On the racks



Romancing the Heart

Author : **Dr Akshay Mehta**

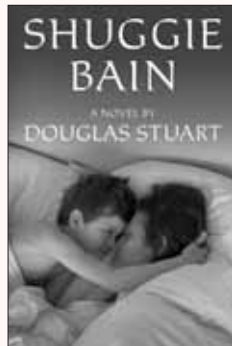
Publisher: **Kindle Edition**

Pages : **320; ₹285**

Keeping both the young and old in mind, Dr Akshay Mehta lays out affordable, effective and universally available means to a healthy heart and spells out how heart diseases can be avoided altogether. He points out to the early warning signs of a heart attack, and if struck by it, the correct choices of treatment and guidance to the path of recovery.

With 30 years of experience in cardiology, the author explains in details some of the most frequently asked questions and also some of the lesser known facts about heart disease. This book shares knowledge and works as an actionable guide to aid anyone who wants to lead a healthy life.

For a hard copy of the book email: heartbook.akshay@gmail.com



Shuggie Bain

Author : **Douglas Stuart**

Publisher : **Grove Press**

Pages : **430; ₹499**

With a dream of a perfect life, Agnes Bain leaves her husband for a taxi driver who later abandons her. Agnes believes in having everything picture perfect as opposed to how it is actually supposed to be. She puts up a proud face, when in reality her world is falling apart. She turns alcoholic to cope with her struggles and it is up to her six-year-old son Shuggie Bain to take care of his mother. We follow the life journey of this small boy from age six to 17 giving up on everything for the sake of his mother, who wrecks his life. As a result, he grows up amid poverty and violence. Bain also struggles to conform with the standards of his society in terms of proving his masculinity.

Winner of the Booker Prize 2020, this book weaves a tragic tale that showcases the grim realities of life.



The New Wilderness

Author : **Diane Cook**

Publisher : **Harper**

Pages : **416; ₹299**

A group of twenty people from a world overrun by pollution and population are sent to the only remaining pocket of nature — The New Wilderness. In the group is Bea who desperately wants to improve her daughter Agnes's health spoiled by the contaminated city they used to live in. The wilderness is governed by Rangers, who check the movements of the group. With minimal possessions, the group is expected to live by hunting while carefully leaving no trail of themselves behind. All of them are strictly supposed to adhere to the rules laid out in a manual. While the daughter thrives in the new setting, learning new skills and taking things positively, the mother misses her old life and finds herself becoming a reluctant leader of the group. The story follows the community's struggle to survive in a new land as they step out of the guidelines.

Compiled by Kiran Zehra

A slap in time

TCA Srinivasa Raghavan



Recently I was asked a strange question by a young nephew. He is about 10 years old and, according to his parents, overly energetic. They said a teacher in his school had given him a whack one day. I said he probably deserved it, whereupon he angrily asked his question: have you ever been slapped by a stranger, that too in front of others? If so when was the last time?

I thought back and realised I had been whacked only twice. Once was when I was caned by the headmaster for laughing during the morning prayers. I was 13 at the time. The second time was in 1978 when I was 27 years old — and about 1,000 feet up in the air.

It happened like this. My girlfriend had dumped me a couple of months earlier. As a result weekends which I used to look forward to had become a terrible burden. In the 1970s there was absolutely nothing to do except mope and drink. Moping was free but drink cost money, of which I didn't have enough.

A very close friend of mine who was a pilot got worried and suggested I become a member of the gliding club to learn the basics of flying. "It takes so long to get your turn that the weekends will go by quickly," he said. "Also, it is very cheap and you can

easily afford it." So that's what I did by filling a simple form that asked only for my name, address and hundred rupees as membership fees.

The first two weekends were spent on ground instruction which consisted of how to tell wind direction — you just looked at the wind sock — and how the controls worked. The rest was doing coolie work of pulling the gliders out from the hangar, wiping them, and helping to attach them to the winch that pulled them up into the air. I must say I enjoyed it all very much.

My turn for my first flight came on the third weekend. The instructor was a tough, no-nonsense man. He asked me to get in on the front seat and he took the back seat. The glider had an

open cockpit and dual controls. He showed me the speed meter and the altitude meter and finally gave the sign to the winch man to pull us up. And off we went, up into the cold December air. Believe me there's nothing to beat that soft hiss of air rushing past, no other sound and everything below you, floating by silently. The only other sound was the occasional sound of a car horn. It was blissful — till the third flight.

As soon as we had got up to 800 feet, the instructor asked me what would happen if I pulled the stick back. I should have said the nose will go up but I said we will climb. OK, said the instructor, let's climb. I pulled the stick back, the nose went up — and after a few seconds, we started falling towards the ground like a stone. I was frightened out of my wits but worse was to come. Suddenly the glider's nose was pointing down, and from the front seat I saw the ground rushing up at me. I almost passed out with fear when the thing quietly righted itself, and we were floating gently down to land. It was then that I got the stinging slap, wham! "That," said the instructor, "will help you remember that a glider has no engines and if you pull the nose up, it will stall."

I told my nephew the story and told him that he too would stall if he didn't remember to do well in tests. ■

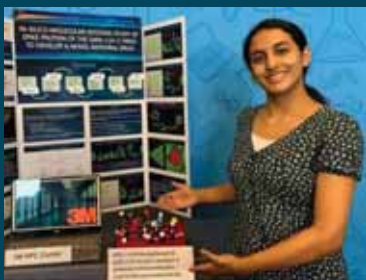
**Suddenly the glider's nose
was pointing down, and
from the front seat I saw the
ground rushing up at me.**

**I almost passed out with
fear when the thing quietly
righted itself, and we were
floating gently down to land.**

In Brief

Indian-American teen develops potential Covid drug

Anika Chebrolu, a 14-year-old from Texas, won the 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge for her work on developing a molecule that can bind to a certain protein of the coronavirus and prevent it from functioning. The Indian-American teenager has been awarded \$25,000 for her research on a potential drug to treat Covid-19.



Goddess Durga as migrant mother

Barisha Club's Durga Puja Committee in Kolkata is paying a tribute to migrant workers with a statue depicting the goddess as a migrant mother with her children. The installation of the statue highlights the plight of migrant workers who were left without jobs and forced to walk hundreds of kilometres home during the lockdown. Rintu Das, the sculptor, has gained a lot of online appreciation for creating the statue.



Pregnant woman runs a mile in less than 6 min

In a viral video on Instagram and Twitter, Makenna Myler, a 28-year-old pregnant woman, ran a mile in less than six minutes. This was her response to her husband's \$100 bet that she could not run the distance in less than eight minutes while being nine-month pregnant. Myler dreams of representing the US in the Olympics. Her husband, captured the feat on video and asked "Someone find whether this is a world record?" on his Instagram and TikTok posts.



Assam doctor dances for Covid patients

ENT surgeon Dr Arup Senapati from Silchar Medical College, Assam, is winning hearts with his dance moves to the song *Ghungroo* from the movie *War*. Clad in a full PPE kit, the doctor was trying to cheer up Covid patients at the hospital. Within few minutes of his colleague Dr Syed Faizan Ahmad sharing the video, it had over two lakh views.



PDG Agarwal donates blood for the 100th time

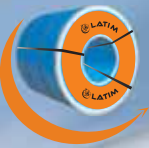
PDG Anil Agarwal, RID 3054, donated blood for the 100th time on his birthday on Sep 18. He was accompanied by Dr Sudhir Bhandari, principal and controller of SMS Medical College and Hospital, the largest government hospital in Rajasthan.

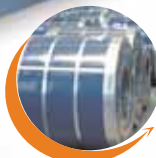
Dr Bhandari honoured him for his commitment to blood donation. RIPE Shekhar Mehta also tweeted and congratulated him.





Vibrant, Robust







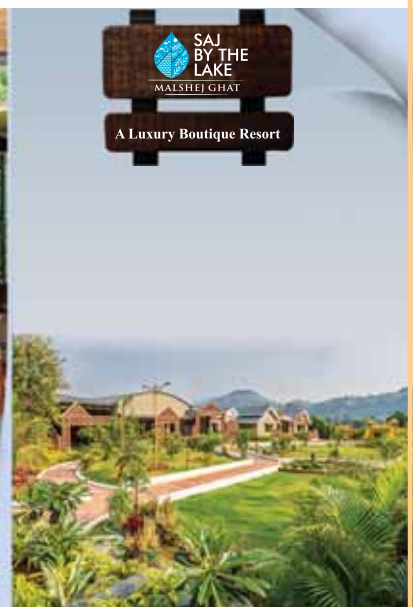

LATIM

COLOUR COATED STEEL

LATIM's high quality coloured / pre-painted galvanized / galvalume steel coils can be used for various Applications - Roofings, Claddings, Crimping, Warehouse, Cold Storage, Furnitures, False Ceilings, Shutter Doors, Vehicle Bodies, Decorative Container & Trunks, etc. **Ideal for Interior and Exterior Applications.**

- Coloured / pre-painted sheet in various profiles available
- Available in various thickness, sizes and colours

E-mail : sales@latimsourcing.com • Web : www.latimprofile.com



102, Navkar Plaza, Bajaj Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400056.

Tel. : +91 22 26202299 / 26203434 / 26203399 / 62875252 | E : enquiry@sajresort.in • Instagram: [sajbythelake](https://www.instagram.com/sajbythelake)



**SAJ
HOTELS
PVT. LTD.**

www.sajresort.com