



Rotary
Garden Reach



IMAGINE
ROTARY



LIGHT

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President - Rtn. Abinash K Singh • Secretary - Rtn. Debasis Das • TREASURER - Rtn. Chiranjib Sha • Editor - PP Tanu Roy

Who gifted the game of Football to Qatar

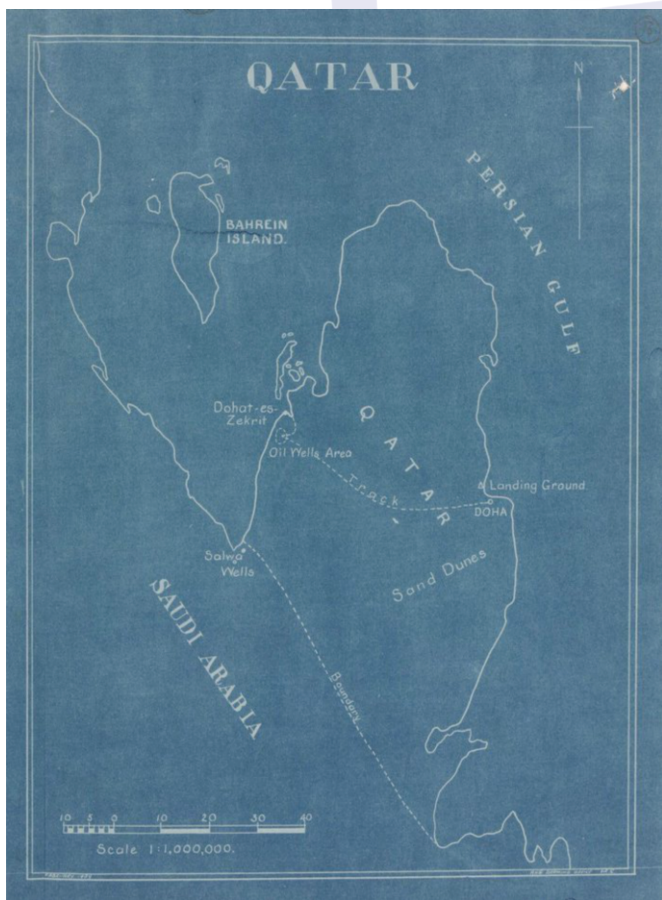
While the families of Indian migrant workers who perished in Qatar are still seeking answers, we remember the Indian workers, 75 years ago, who gifted the game of football to Qatar.



The industrial city of Dukhan is located in the western region of Qatar, about an hour's drive from Doha via the Dukhan Highway. The Dukhan region saw the prospect of oil back in 1935, marking the discovery of the peninsula's first significant oil reserve. The story was told by Tom Clayton, a 92-year-old former BP employee. When he first arrived in Dukhan in 1948, the country was not what it is

today. In those days, there wasn't even a road connecting the oil field in Dukhan with the capital, Doha.

Not to be surprised, very few people in Qatar had ever even seen the game of football being played in the 1940s. Their favourite pastime was the ancient sport of camel racing - a fiercely contested game that dates back to medieval times. It was also the time when the gulf countries saw a gradual increase in recruiting migrant workers from India. Along with Clayton, around 75 Indian workers from Mumbai also arrived in Doha by boat. They were bound for the Dukhan oil facility.



The Indian workers in Dukhan were mostly semi-skilled workers into catering and clerical jobs. They distributed food, cleaned premises, managed files, typed letters and monthly reports that were delivered to the corporate executives in London. Indian migrant workers did not have the best living and working conditions in the Gulf, and the British officers frequently treated them unfairly. Despite all the challenges, there are always stories to be told. The officers, however, would get bored after work because they had little to do. Though a few of them had ball. They used sacks as goalposts, and started kicking the ball around the desert fields outside the facility. It didn't take long for football to become the favourite pastime for

Indian workers and British oil officers. A few British manufacturing engineers would teach the Indian workers the rules of the game and they soon began competing with each other. While British engineers were working nonstop to start oil production, the Indian workers played football as they primarily worked in shifts. After their gruelling shift hours, football flourished. The Qataris didn't have to wait long to find themselves watching and getting amused by the unusual sight of British officers and Indian oil exploration workers playing an alien game. Soon enough, the locals took serious interest.

Football gradually grew into a much larger phenomenon. Leagues and cup tournaments were formed. Al-Najah, the nation's first football team, was established in 1950 with a monthly rent of 70 Indian rupees. And this was just the beginning. Qatar witnessed rapid development in the ensuing decades. As the World Cup kicks off in Qatar, the unnamed Indian workers who began the story have been lost to history.



**Today is our 2199th Assistant Governor's Visit – Warm welcome to AG Pradyumna Choudhuri
Members attended last RWM : 15**

Birthday Greetings :

Nov 25th Spouse Rubina, Wife of Rtn. Tanmoy



Birthday Greetings :

Nov 24th Spouse Moumita & Rtn. Samiran Das

Nov 28th Spouse Annu & Rtn. Abinash Singh

Agenda – 2199th RWM

Brief Discussion on RYLA

Proposal to have JRWM on Service Projects

Club Annual Meeting on December 20th, 2022

The last mile to wipe out polio

Mahesh Kotbagi, RI Director, 2021-23



It has been over three decades since the first World Polio Day (Oct 24) was marked by Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). The day is observed to remember the struggles of polio victims, Rotary's significant contributions towards polio eradication, and to pave the way for a polio-free world.

India's journey to become polio-free

Polio eradication in India began on Oct 2, 1994, when the first PulsePolio immunisation programme, targeting one million children up to three, was executed. India accounted for 60 per cent of the global polio cases. Within the next few years, the National Polio Surveillance Project was launched to track and immunise all children. Monovalent and bivalent oral polio vaccines (mOPV and bOPV) were introduced to tackle type 1 or type 3 virus. Through concerted efforts of Rotary and GPEI, WHO declared India polio-free on March 24, 2014. India has not had a single case of wild poliovirus since 2011.

National Immunisation Day was observed twice a year from 1995 to 2017 to mass immunise children,



after which it is being conducted once every year. Additionally, multiple rounds of sub-national immunisation day are conducted in high-risk states and areas. The government has also kept high vigilance and teamed up with Continuous Vaccination and Rapid Response teams to respond to any polio outbreak in the country.

The danger still exists

As the world has almost eradicated polio, wild poliovirus in places such as Pakistan and now New York cause concern. Recently, over 27 incidents of wild poliovirus have re-emerged from countries such as Afghanistan (2), Pakistan (19) and Mozambique (6). The detection of poliovirus and even cases of polio, in places where it hasn't been found for years proves that eradicating a human disease isn't easy, especially in the final stages.

Polio anywhere is a threat everywhere. Polio-endemic countries should address this challenge on a priority.

Rotary's role

RI President Jennifer Jones on Sept 24 announced a \$150 million pledge to highlight Rotary's commitment to eradicate polio globally.

Rotary's contribution plays a key role in bringing a revolutionary change to the polio landscape. Rotary began its journey to overcome 350,000 polio cases in 125 countries with its first partners, GPEI in 1988, and along with WHO, UNICEF and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it has made several countries including India, Nigeria and the African region, polio-free. The fight to eradicate polio globally continues.

Leveraging expertise with Ashoka

Rotary's partnership with Ashoka brings together the vision of Ashoka's social entrepreneurs with the local expertise of Rotary members to inspire innovation that can solve problems, create leaders, and change societies.

That kind of partnership couldn't be more necessary at this critical point in history, says **Tim Scheu, Director of Global Partnership Management** for Ashoka. People are trying to define the long-term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic, he says, even as the pace of global change is massively accelerating.



"The big question is: How do we help people become those who enact change rather than be subject to it?" he says. "Both Rotary and Ashoka offer role models, expertise, and networks that accelerate the power of good ideas and more responsive policies."

Ashoka supports more than 4,000 social entrepreneurs who are developing solutions to challenges around the world. It wants everyone to

be empowered to make change in their communities — whether that's in their neighbourhood, their workplace, or their family. Rotary and Ashoka's partnership promotes opportunities for collaboration among Rotary members, Ashoka's staff, and the social entrepreneurs.

Scheu sees great potential in pairing the energy and inspiration of the Ashoka Fellows with Rotary members who are enmeshed in their communities and located around the world.

"Rotary is about being people of action. Ashoka envisions a world where everyone is a change-maker," he says. "That's incredible synergy — imagine what we can accomplish as we bring the Ashoka and Rotary networks together."

A Rotary club could contact Ashoka to identify and engage an Ashoka Fellow to speak at a meeting about how members can make a greater social impact. Members might get advice from Ashoka Fellows that helps them bring more focus and value to a service project. And the Ashoka Fellows might also be helpful as members implement Global or District Grant projects around the world.

"Ashoka Fellows' interests run the gamut," Scheu says. "We have people working on a campaign to end land mines, children's rights, and reforestation. If a club gravitates towards a particular theme, there's likely an opportunity to develop innovative solutions to some of a community's most pressing needs in partnership with an Ashoka Fellow working in the club's home country."

Rotary members contemplating the environmental or social impact of their businesses or their workplace decisions, for example, could work with Ashoka Fellows to create new business models that find "the intersections between business strategy and social impact," Scheu says.

In addition to being partners with Rotary, Ashoka has worked with leading institutions around the world on vital contemporary issues: helping children learn empathy, teaching young people to become change-makers, and ensuring that communities can access healthcare. Other Ashoka projects have focused on the relationship between people and technology, such as how global demographic shifts will affect aging.

This kind of change-making deepens people's sense of purpose, gives them more meaningful projects, and increases the positive impact institutions can have — a critical factor in retention for a company or for an organization like Rotary.

"We know that a key element of Rotary's Action Plan is increasing the ability to adapt at every level," Scheu says. "Our fellows... can see change on the far horizon. By working together, we can amplify the work of Ashoka Fellows and leverage the power of Rotary know-how and volunteerism. That's how you create a change-making culture, and transformation that really lasts."

Rotary Foundation (India)

Rotary Foundation (India) supports selected programs and projects of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. **Rotary Foundation (India) ("RFI")** is a society registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 on 22nd February 1988. RF (I) provides Indian donors with a tax rebate of 50% under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act 1961. These contributions to RF (I) are also eligible for Donor recognition from TRF.

Rotary Foundation (India) is registered under Foreign Contribution and Regulation Act (FCRA) with the Ministry of Home affairs, Government of India. Rotary Foundation (India) also has a CBDT approval for Intercontinental Medicare projects to be undertaken in the continent of Africa and the developing countries of Asia under section 11(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Rotary Foundation (India) is registered with Darpan (An initiative of NITI Ayog, Govt. of India); also registered with BSE Sammaan [an initiative by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)].

Rotary and CSR

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a concept that suggests that it is the responsibility of the corporations operating within society to contribute towards economic, social, and environmental development that creates a positive impact on society at large. Although there is no fixed definition, however, the concept revolves around the fact that corporations need to focus beyond earning just profits.

“Sustainability, social equality, and the environment are now business problems. And corporate leaders can’t depend on governments to solve them...” – Peter Senge, Founder, Society for Organizational Learning.

ROTARY'S CSR GRANTS (RY 2016-2022)



\$ 7.6 MILLION RECEIVED AS
CSR CONTRIBUTION



122 PARTNERS



148 PROJECTS

With the introduction of the Companies Act, 2013, there is a statutory obligation for the Corporates to take initiatives toward Social, Environmental, and Economic responsibilities. In the present day scenario, there has been a shift from philanthropy to CSR. Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013, inter alia, requires companies having a net worth of Rs.500 crores or more, or turnover of Rs.1000 crores or more, or a net profit of Rs. 5 crores or more in a financial year to spend at least 2% of the average net profits of the last three years for the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy. Section 135 along with Schedule VII and the corresponding Corporate Social Responsibility Policy Rules were notified on 27 February 2014 and came into effect on 1 April 2014.

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In India, The Rotary Foundation functions through its associate foundation Rotary Foundation (India) [RF (I)] and is registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 in February 1988 and provides tax exemption under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act. Rotary Foundation (India) [RF (I)] is also registered with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) hence, fulfilling the eligibility criteria to act as an

implementing agency for undertaking CSR activities. In partnering with corporates, Rotary Foundation (India) works diligently to try and establish partnerships that are aligned to the core principles of the company/foundation.

All service projects are designed and implemented by members of community-based Rotary Clubs to ensure sustainability and maximize the results of their work. Given Rotary's profile and humanitarian efforts throughout India, Rotary Foundation (India) has now expanded its partnership base by cultivating corporate relationships for CSR projects and implementing sustainable and impactful humanitarian projects through Rotary Clubs/Districts. RF (I) started its Pan India CSR operations in October 2016.

Let's Meet Our Rotary Global Peace Scholar Jothi Udaya Shan

Rotary Global Peace Scholar Jothi Udaya Shan, here is chance to know her, in her own words..... Jothi Shan is a peace activist, yoga practitioner and an advocate for the rights of displaced peoples. She is a Tamil-Canadian and the founder of the social-enterprise P.E.A.C.E. that offers the mind-heart-body practice of yoga and mindfulness to displaced children and families. Jothi serves as a Development Manager at the United Nations Children's Fund. She holds a Bachelor's degree in peace studies and a Masters in Criminology and legal studies from the University of Toronto.

Becoming a "Catalyst for Peace"

"If all goes well, from the moment we become adults, we have about fifty years. Fifty years to find our own rhythm and place in the world, to discover our passion, to fall in love, to build friendships and to learn how to live without them. Fifty years of daily decisions which determine the footprint that we leave when we pass on."

I am finding my rhythm and place in the world.

I am grateful that the Rotary Foundation works to create, "*catalysts for peace*," by awarding fellowships for masters' degrees in this field of study. The fellowships are awarded to professionals with a minimum of ten years of work experience and



demonstrated knowledge in the field of peace.

Receiving Rotary's fellowship has been a pivotal moment in my journey of self-discovery and trauma healing. Without the support of this scholarship, I would not have had the ability to take the risks necessary to seriously investigate the pressing global issue of displacement.

When I first came across the scholarship, I was apprehensive to apply. I understood the privilege and responsibility of stewarding such an important investment in scholarly advancement. On a much deeper level, I felt, for it to be a truly meaningful endeavour, it would call for a thoughtful reflection on peace and a heightened level of mind-body-spirit healing.

Through the fellowship, I will complete a Master of Peace and Conflict Resolution at the University of Queensland in Australia. My academic training will focus on the areas of: conflict mediation, peace-making, civilian peace-building, forces that generate contemporary conflict and the practices that contribute to conflict prevention.

Informed by my own experiences of migration and displacement from Sri Lanka, I am interested in exploring how modern-day peacebuilding efforts and conflict mediation processes can honour the experiences of displaced peoples, and how peacebuilders can share power and responsibility to create inclusive and interconnected relationships with displaced peoples.

I envision us living in a world, where the people with power and resources move beyond the sentiments of charity and saviorism to face the complex causes and challenges of conflict. Together, we can acquire a deep understanding of the human experience and the need to heal our collective traumas.

How do we balance the political and the sacred?

Today, there are more people displaced than after the Second World War. Refugees are perceived as a burden and are often unwanted by potential host countries. Displaced people encounter unimaginable suffering and trauma in their search for safety. They are dedicated to protecting their children and have confronted the human condition in profound ways. They should be honoured for courageously exercising their right to life and liberty. They should be admired for choosing to live in dignity. To meaningfully experience our shared humanity, we would need to commit to healing our traumas, and I recognize that this may take multiple generations. The possibilities are limitless in what we can offer each other in our journeys to find our place in the world.

As a yoga practitioner and teacher, my practice is rooted in the belief that to be alive is to be in right relationship. This means our well-being is directly connected to the well-being of others and to this earth that is our shared home.

As I embark on this new chapter, I am left with one central question. I invite you to ponder on it and hope we can share our reflections the next time we meet.

What would our peace work look like if were to embody peace itself?

With Pencils Made of Pollution, Delhi Kids Wrote 1000 Letters Asking Adults for Clean Air

Sowmya Mani

Otrivin through its initiative 'Pollution Capture Pencils', is harnessing air pollution from schools to make pencils, and provide cleaner air to students

Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats in the world, especially for children. As per a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare report, India loses one child every three minutes due to this public health crisis.



Children are more vulnerable to air pollution as their respiratory organs are still developing. They also inhale more air and thus have more air pollutants per unit of body weight. All in all, its impact on children is devastating, even impeding upon their day-to-day activities — going out to play, going to school, and more, as per the Ministry of

Health's report The National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health.

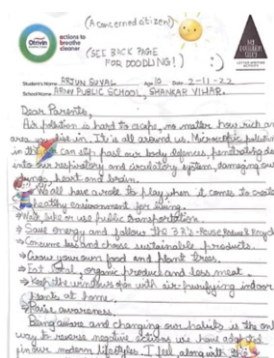
To bring this situation to light, Otrivin's Actions to Breathe Cleaner programme is highlighting the ill-effects of pollution through the words of children. This Children's Day, 1,000 children in Delhi, which is one of the worst-affected cities, have written open letters to adults, urging them to take an action to breathe cleaner.

They called out how they are unable to go out and play, or are forced to attend online classes, and many such instances.

Through these letters, which have been written with "Pollution Capture Pencils", the children are urging adults to take small actions, like taking a walk instead of driving, participating in tree plantation drives, turning off their cars while waiting at a red light, and using public transport. A common thread binding the words of over a thousand children is a desire to live in a pollution-free environment and a wish that every individual make small amends to build a better future.

As part of the Actions to Breathe Cleaner programme, Otrivin Breathe Clean installed air purifiers to improve the air quality for approximately 1,000 school children. The pollution residue collected from these purifiers was then mixed with graphite* to create 'Pollution Capture Pencils'. Kids have used these pencils as instruments of change by writing the open letters.

Otrivin Breathe Clean's initiative is a step towards bolstering this commitment. The



Actions to Breathe Cleaner initiative is trying to put the menace of air pollution centerstage in the minds of citizens of India by not only highlighting the problems it causes, but also by suggesting easy everyday actions that can combat it.

Bineet Jain, Pain & Respiratory Health Lead, India Subcontinent, Haleon (erstwhile GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare), said, “Rising levels of air pollution in Indian cities is a big problem and children are one of the most vulnerable groups exposed to it. The ‘Pollution Capture Pencils’ have been used as instruments of change by children to express themselves through heart-warming letters. The letters make us realise the world that we live in through the eyes of children. These letters struck a chord with me, and I am sure they will appeal to everyone at large. If each one of us can take a small action to breathe cleaner, then together we will make this a better world for our future generations.”

Sandipan Bhattacharyya, CCO and MD, GREY Group, India, said “When a message for change comes from the ones who contribute the least to pollution, but are the worst affected, it’s bound to be compelling. This is a campaign to trigger introspection and action. So, we hope these letters from children, written with pencils made from carbon extracts from polluted air, makes each one of us take a small step for change.”

Otrivin also plans to use the pencils to raise money to buy more purifiers and install them in more schools.

Meet the young Indians who are bringing an Adivasi language into the digital age

Karishma Mehrotra

Ho was languishing on the sidelines of the internet – until a few youngsters took it upon themselves to tear down the digital divide.

Over a video call, Ganesh Birua excitedly flips the camera to show a tree sitting in front of the school. This is the only place in his entire village where his phone gets network service. When he is not at work, this is where he spends much of his time, obsessively pursuing his life’s calling: spreading the Adivasi language of Ho on the internet.



Birua’s face breaks into a grin when he is asked to describe his journey. He adjusts the oversized ear-pads of his black headphones sitting snug against his wavy hair and begins. The year was 2014. He was staying in a hostel in Baripada, a town 100 kilometres from his village of Dighiabeda in Odisha, doing an arts course. At the hostel, a mention of Facebook by a friend intrigued him. Nobody from his village had ever been on the internet, he says.

Birua created a profile and promptly joined the Facebook group Ho Society of India. From the group, he learned something nobody had told him before - that his tribe, Ho, has a script called Warang Citi. The hitch was, “I couldn’t see our script anywhere online,” the 23-year-old recounted in Hindi.

An inspired Birua took it upon himself to redress the problem. A child of farmers, he learned the script and created a Facebook page on which he posts Ho letters, along with Ho words and their closest translation in Odia and English.

For the first few years, the effort was barely noticed. On a good day, his post would get five or ten likes. But, usually, there was no response. “Even though nobody noticed what I was doing, I kept on going,” said Birua. In 2018, he stepped up his efforts and opened accounts on Twitter, YouTube and Instagram apart from starting a blog titled Elabu Etona Warang Citi (Let’s Learn Warang Citi).

The days of being an arts student were behind him but the passion sparked during those days was not lost. While working at a photo studio in Baripada, he began learning Bengali, Hindi and Santhali, all to translate Ho words into these languages on social media. Nothing else seemed to hold his interest. Asked to name his hobbies, he

came up blank. But at least his work was beginning to pay dividends.

A student in Silicon Valley created a Braille script for Ho and sought Birua’s approval on Facebook in April 2021. Not much later, a Mexican American graphic designer made a Coca Cola can with a logo in Ho and shared it with Birua. The biggest encouragement, however, came

in November when Birua’s dictionary project was discovered by Subhashish Panigrahi nearly 2,000 kilometres away in Bengaluru.

Panigrahi is a digital language researcher who has built a career by fostering digital integration of fading languages. When he came across Birua’s “digital activism”, he was working with a volunteer community on creating the building blocks of foundational technologies in Santhali and Ho (categorised as a vulnerable language by UNESCO).

Panigrahi recognised that anyone wanting to evangelise about Ho on the internet had their work cut out. There were logistical obstacles in the path that couldn’t be nudged away. For instance, he explains, if you want to create a spell check for a language, you need a large word list, usually drawn from digitally published content. But, as Panigrahi found out when he began scraping data, “Birua’s handle and one other site were the only available primary sources for Ho.”

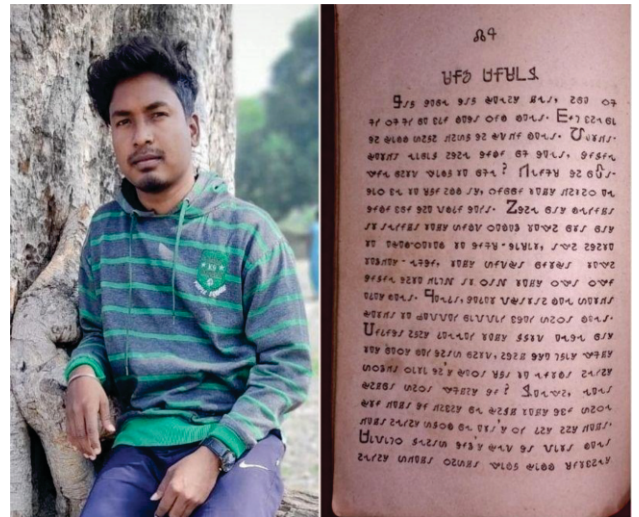


Panigrahi was nevertheless able to publish a list of 5,000 words. Now, he says, it is up to the “Ho community to build the repository over time”.

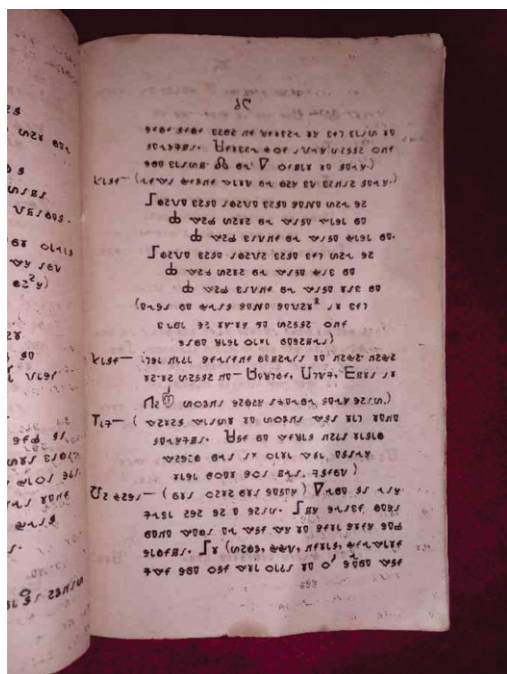
This meandering journey shows the struggle indigenous Indian languages face in making digital inroads. As per the last Census, there are as many as 19,500 mother tongues spoken in India, but on the internet, it is dominant languages like Hindi, Bengali and Telugu that reign supreme. At least 100 languages spoken by more than 10,000 speakers are languishing on the sidelines of the internet because of the absence of digital “tools and technologies”, says the Indian information technology ministry.

“I think it’s a chicken and egg problem,” said Kalika Bali, a researcher at Microsoft Research. “Is there enough content for there to be tools? And if you create the tools, who is going to use them? I think that’s a problem that most low-resourced, marginalised and endangered languages have. For a script to get accepted, the community [requires] not only activism but also resource generation.”

For languages like Ho, that resource generation has been mostly organic, with enthusiasts like Birua toiling selflessly to make word lists, fonts, keyboards and codes in the hope of leveraging their mother tongues into the online age.



The next big steps in Ho’s journey came relatively recently. On one hand, Ho intellectuals began strengthening the language base to seek its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. And on the other, a linguist in Scotland launched a campaign to get Warang Citi script included in the international Unicode system.



Asoka Kumar Sen has closely studied the Ho language and its roots for years. A retired Professor in Chaibasa, Jharkhand, Sen says the Ho community descended from the highlands into Jharkhand’s Singhbhum roughly 1,000 years ago, cleaving off from the rest of the Munda family into a distinct culture and language. For a millennium or so, Ho remained scriptless until a community leader named Lako Bodra designed Warang Citi (also spelt Varang Kshiti) in the 1950s.

NOTICE

Kindly note, December 20th, 2022 we have our Club Annual Meeting.

Members willing to serve as **Club President 2025-26** and **Club Secretary 2023-24** may kindly submit their application addressed to "The President, Rotary Garden Reach," by **December 6th, 2022** in a sealed envelope duly marked.

Minutes of the 2198th RWM held on November 15th, 2022 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

1. President Abinash called the RWM to order and requested to rise for the National Anthem.
2. PP Mousumi was requested to brief about Daspur Medical Camp.
3. PP Capt. Naresh was requested to brief about the Children's Day project at Shramik Vidyalaya, Garden Reach.
4. Planning for the Winter Project at Nayantara Memorial Charitable Trust at Daranda with the tribals' student. Along with members & family get-together on January 21st-22nd, 2023.
5. President informed the members regarding the Club Society formation. And discussed the legal formalities needs to be updated regarding the same and it needs to be done urgently.
6. Club was the Lead Host for "Abhaa", the 1st PETS for the Rotary year 2023-24 at Amaya Resorts at Uluberia on November 12th-13th, 2022-23.
7. Club Annual meeting will be held on December 20th, 2022 at our venue. President informed that the notice will be mailed to the members by November 20th, 2022.
8. Club Secretary, Rtn. Debasis conducted Club business.
9. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.