



LIGHT

WEEKLY BULLETIN July 28th, 2022 - Vol. 45 No. 04

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From Rairangpur to Raisina: 15th President of India, Droupadi Murmu

Droupadi Murmu, India's 64-year-old President, who hails from this village in Mayurbhanj district, has scripted history by becoming the first tribal woman elected to the top constitutional post.

From being a teacher to becoming a two-time MLA from Rairangpur and serving as the first woman Governor of a state.

Before entering politics, Droupadi taught at the Sri Aurobindo Integral Education Centre in Mayurbhanj's Rairangpur. She later went on to work as a junior assistant in the irrigation and power department of the Odisha government.

Following this, she served as a minister from 2000 to 2004 in the Naveen Patnaik-led BJD-BJP coalition government and was elected for two terms in the Odisha Assembly in 2000 and 2004 from the Rairangpur constituency.

Madam President's journey, however, has not been without setbacks. Over the years, her personal life was fraught with difficulties.

She lost three of her closest family members – her eldest son Laxman Murmu in 2009, her younger son Sippun Murmu in 2013, and then her husband Shyam Charan Murmu in 2014.

Despite her tumultuous losses, she has always been affable.

"She is deeply spiritual and soft-spoken person..."



**Birthday Greetings :**

Jul 29th : Spouse Rajshree, Wife of PP DK Rao

*Grab your own Bundle!*

Two men set out on a journey. Both of them had the same destination, so they travelled together.

Seven days later, it was time for them to separate.

First Traveller: Brother, we stayed together for a week. Have you recognized me yet?

Second Traveller: No, I don't know you.

First Traveller: Sir, I am a Famous Thug but you are certainly the Greatest Thug.. you have turned out to be my Guru!

Second Traveller: How?

First Traveller: I searched your belongings continuously for seven days in the hope of stealing something, but I didn't find anything. You have set out on such a long journey and you don't have anything!

Are you completely empty handed?

Second Traveller: I have a precious Diamond and a few Gold Coins.

First Traveller: Then why didn't I find them, in spite of so much effort?

Second Traveller: Whenever I went out,

I used to put the diamond and the coins in your bag and you kept searching my bag for all these days!

You did not bother to search your own **Bundle**, then how do you expect to find anything?

Moral: God always puts Happiness in our Bag, but we do not have the time to look at our **Bundle!** The Day we stop looking for happiness elsewhere, all our problems will be solved.

Bonding over Rotary Fellowships

Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, RI Director, 2021-23

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience.

Rotary Fellowships globally unite individuals around a common interest, vocation, or recreational activity with the primary purpose to network, further friendship and

build community. Starting a new fellowship requires significant time and dedication. Fellowship leaders are responsible for creating a meaningful, engaging, interactive and thriving global community of Rotary and Rotaract members and friends.

Thousands of Rotary members meet regularly as fellowship groups for adventure, music, sports, environment, motorcycling, flying, camping, gourmet cooking, scuba diving, sailing, camping, photography, golf, travel, hosting, etc. Such stalls are seen at Rotary conventions.

For general information on Rotary Fellowships and a list of currently active fellowships, visit www.rotary.org/fellowships. Reach out to rotaryfellowships@rotary.org to ensure that your new fellowship does not conflict with any of the above categories.



New Rotary Fellowships are subject to review by RI for recognition. Discuss your idea with existing fellowships to understand the details of managing an international group, especially on matters such as structure, bylaws, appropriate membership dues, communication between members, and election and changeover of officers. Addressing these administrative issues early can help to ensure the long-term viability of a fellowship. Consider using Rotary's online discussion groups to network with prospective international supporters.

To help you get started, review the following resources: Article 42.010 of the RI Code of Policy, Recommended Standard Bylaws for Rotary Fellowships, Rotary Fellowships Visual Identity Guidelines and Online Submission Form to Propose a new Rotary Fellowship. If your Fellowship proposal is approved, you and your fellow leadership team will be responsible for maintaining a vibrant, global Rotary Fellowship. The leadership team must periodically communicate with Rotary staff and apprise RI of your activities. Contact rotaryfellowships@rotary.org for more information.

I urge you all to join an existing fellowship of your interest or start a new fellowship. Fellowships will promote friendship and membership retention in Rotary. You will be able to invite several new friends and family members to join Rotary once you identify their fellowship interests. Fellowships will have diverse membership of youngsters, women and men promoting Rotary's DEI policy. This group will have the power to support service projects together. Together we can *Imagine Rotary* in a new dimension of friendship and fellowship.

‘Rotary looking at increasing representation of women in leadership roles to 30%’

Women accounted for 16% of Rotary membership in India, says RI’s President

Jennifer E. Jones, president of Rotary International (RI), said that the organisation has a target of increasing the representation of women in its leadership roles across the globe to 30% by 2023.

Speaking to The Hindu during her visit to Chennai on Wednesday, she said that 24% of the membership of the Rotary family are women. Pointing out that the composition varied across countries, she said that women accounted for 16% of Rotary membership in India.

She said that RI was keen to increase the role of women in the organisation, both in terms of membership and leadership roles. “We do not want to include women simply because of their gender. We want to look for the best and brightest. I am confident that we have got a lot of incredibly talented women who belong within our ranks. I think it is incumbent upon us to take an opportunity to raise awareness,” she said.

Ms. Jones is the first woman president of RI since it was formed 117 years ago in 1905.



“I think quite candidly that is the reason why the opportunity that I have in this role right now is to shine a light on this and perhaps breakdown the stereotypes that exist within our organisation or externally that it may be male dominated,” she said.

Highlighting that a number of successful projects were being implemented by Rotary International across India for many decades now, she said that the country, which largely remained a beneficiary of aid, was now becoming a “giving nation.” “It is about taking care of your own community while caring for the global community as well,” she said. She said that the contribution from Rotary members in India towards RI’s disaster relief fund for the ongoing war in Ukraine was significant.

Hepatitis Vaccine

She launched “A million hepatitis vaccination drive” on Wednesday, which will be carried out jointly by Rotary District 3232 along with Chennai Liver Foundation. She said that Rotary’s experience in polio eradication programme has given it the strength and framework to tackle other health-related challenges.

Ms. Jones, who is planning to call on Chief Minister M.K. Stalin during her Chennai visit, said that she will be briefing him about the polio eradication programme and the Rotary initiatives happening in Tamil Nadu. “Advocacy to government is incredibly important,” she added.

A.S. Venkatesh, RI Director, said that “A million hepatitis vaccination drive” will have a two-pronged strategy, which included creating awareness and social mobilisation, and raising funds to vaccinate one million people by June 2023. R.P. Shanmugam, founder, CLF, and N. Nandakumar, governor, Rotary District 3232 also spoke at the launch.

Let us rededicate ourselves to TRF

Dr. Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee, 2022–26

While Rotarians are at the heart of Rotary, The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is the backbone of Rotary. Much of the good work in Rotary is possible because of TRF. The programmes of TRF benefit millions; providing water to thirsty, food to hungry, medicines to sick, education to illiterate, shelter for homeless. The Rotary Foundation is the shining jewel in Rotary's crown.

One of the greatest opportunities for Rotarians to work for peace is through the programmes of TRF. Helen Keller was blind. She was once asked by a reporter, "Miss Keller, is there anything worse than being blind?" She said, "Yes, having sight but no vision." It is The Rotary Foundation, through its programmes and the good work that it does, that provides a forward looking vision to Rotary to make our dream of a better world come true.

As the new Rotary year begins, it is time to recommit ourselves to the



Foundation. The 3rd Programmes of Scale application process has begun. These support a competitive grant process resulting in one award of \$2 million from TRF that is distributed over a 3-5 year period to a club or –district-sponsored project showing success and readiness to expand to help more people in more places. The larger grant investment enables Rotary members to make an even greater impact in our areas of focus.

Over several years, more programmes are developed to create sustainable, impactful change with measurable results. The 2022-23 Programmes of Scale competitive grant application is open till August 1, 2022. I encourage clubs and districts of our zones to consider participation in this much-needed activity. Link - <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/apply-grants/programs-scale-grants>.

As we imagine what Rotary should be, can be and will be in 2022-23 let us rededicate to supporting our Rotary Foundation. Lead The Way to ensure Rotary Making a Difference.

GLIMPSES OF OUR 45TH CLUB INSTALLATION



Why I am a peacebuilder and how you can be one too

Kiran Singh Sirah, President, International Storytelling Center & Rotary Peace Fellow Alumnus

In early June, I was a keynote speaker at the Rotary Presidential Conference Houston: Serve to Bring Peace. We were a group of about 1,500 people, many who are leaders in their communities, and all interested in peacebuilding. They were from all over the world. And every day, I was asked the question: what led me to become a Peacebuilder? There are so many ways I could answer that question because I've been doing this work in one way or another my whole adult life. And even before that, I can trace the answer back to the values that were instilled in me by my parents, who were both refugees driven from their home by a genocidal dictator. I can and do share my "origin story" as a Peacebuilder in terms of my family, or explain the trajectory of my career as I've been doing this work—but I don't think that's what people are really asking when they say: "Why do you do this?"

I think what they want to know is why I believe that peacebuilding is possible. Almost everyone believes in peace, at least in theory. But I think a lot of folks have lost hope in it as a real, attainable goal, and as something we can strive for together. Too many people see peacebuilding as a huge, daunting, totally unrealistic goal. And so an important part of my message everywhere I go is that peacebuilding isn't just demonstrations and organized actions; it can also be comprised of unexpected connections, small acts of kindness, and quiet conversations in our day-to-day lives. This is work that all of us can do every day, and I think that the stories we share with one another are the structure on which we can build a better future.

To that end, I wanted to share a few ideas based on stories from my own life about how I think we can go about this work.

Cultivate a can-do attitude.

When I was a little kid on the south coast of England, I'd look out across the sea and imagine the world. I was curious and I wanted to travel, and I loved hearing the stories about the places where my parents had been. When I told my mom I wanted to see the world, she said, "Go on, then." I packed up a small bag and set out that evening. Of course it started getting dark, and then my socks got wet in a creek a few blocks away from my house. I headed back home, determined to try again a different day.

When we were kids, we had an outsized sense of our ability to do things and our personal impact on the world. We were also less afraid of looking foolish. I remember organizing political protests at my elementary school and writing letters to Ronald Reagan. I think as we get older, the world drums out some of that enthusiasm and earnestness and belief that we can do big things. Part of the work of any type of activism is simply recapturing and nurturing that sense of belief that came so naturally to you as a child.

Seek Perspective.

In high school, one of my teachers, Mr. Ellis, had an interesting and unusual approach to teaching history. Instead of reading about the past, our homework was to watch the

evening news. We'd learn about then-current events like the conflict in Northern Ireland and the Arab-Israeli conflicts, and then the next day in school, we'd discuss them. We'd work backwards to learn about what had led to those conflicts, building a deeper, broader sense of understanding. Mr. Ellis encouraged us to explore the different events that started wars, and to research different sides of the story. Essentially, he asked us to work like detectives, to probe and ask questions and to seek the stories behind what we saw, so we could form our own opinions.

 **Remember that entrenched problems aren't permanent.**

Sometimes it's helpful to see an old problem with fresh eyes. In Glasgow, Scotland, there's an old and horribly violent rivalry between two of the country's soccer teams, Celtic and Rangers. When I first moved there, I was shocked by how sports and religion and politics all intertwined in this rivalry. Watching a game, you could see hundreds of years of religious turmoil between Catholics and Protestants unfold as fans threw potatoes on the field to mock the descendants of Irish immigrants. And across the city, after games, violence would spill out of the pubs and onto the streets, or even start conflicts between neighbours and families.

As a newcomer, this conflict was shocking to me. But in my conversations, people explained that it was just part of the culture that would never go away. There was a feeling of complacency or even acceptance. I started a program to address it, and I think part of the reason I was able to act was simply because I hadn't grown accustomed to the problem.

 **Don't reinvent the wheel.**

When I was a young education curator, a very talented photographer called Jenny Matthews came for an exhibit and a series of talks. Over coffee in the museum café, I asked her if she'd be willing to offer me a bit of advice. I told her I had this desire to go and do human rights work in the world, perhaps to start a non-profit. She said, "Why do you want to start a non-profit when there are already so many great ones out there?" She really encouraged me to go find an existing project to support that aligned with my vision.

When we're getting started in our careers, I think there's a certain amount of ego we bring to the table. But often we can get so much farther if we build on something that already exists.

 **Positive outcomes compound over time.**

In today's world, I think we get a little too caught up in the hard facts of metrics. Statistics and measurable outcomes are great, but these tools can't capture the cumulative and long-term impacts that peacebuilding and storytelling can have. At ISC, we often measure the impact of a particular program on the participants. There are questionnaires and other tools we can use to do this. But that information can't reflect the big picture of what those participants then go on to contribute in families, schools, workplaces, and wider communities. These are returns on investment that unfold over lifetimes.

I'm still learning from the stories that my parents, teachers, and other mentors shared with me when I was very young. I think about them all the time! I think when we share a story; we don't necessarily know the impact it will have on someone else. There's a lot about this work that's unknowable, but that doesn't mean the work isn't taking place. Stories are living things that shape our understanding and drive us to act. I think of storytelling and peacebuilding as wide and nebulous movements that we can all be part of and contribute to and benefit from. You don't have to work to end all wars, everywhere. You can just do a little bit every day to make your community a better place to live, and go from there.

MINUTES OF THE 2183RD RWM & 45TH CLUB INSTALLATION HELD ON JULY 18TH, 2022 AT BNR OFFICERS' CLUB, GARDEN REACH

1. IPP Amitav called the RWM to order and requested members to rise for the National Anthem.
2. IPP delivered his address, Secretary Report for 2021-22 was presented by PP Mousumi.
3. Club Trainer PP Mousumi announced exchange of Collar, Charter, Hammer and Gavel.
4. President Abinash addressed the House. He mentioned about starting the year with signature Project Thalassaemia and informed that's blood donation camp in aid of Thalassaemia patient will be held on July 24th, 2022 at Nabarun Samity, Maheshtala. A series of such camps will be held throughout the year.
5. Club Secretary, Rtn. Debasis conducted Club business.
6. Cheques of Rs. 10,000 each was handed over to President Tumpa and Secretary Minu of Inner Wheel Garden Reach and to Rotaract Garden Reach.
7. Board for Rotary Year 2022-23 was announced and introduced by PP Dr. Arabinda Ray.
8. TRF worth USD 1400 was handed over to DG Ajoy & DRFC PDG Sudip Mukherjee by Club Foundation Chair, PP Tapan K Roy.
9. RI Director-Elect Anirudha Roychowdhury addressed the gathering.
10. DG Ajoy K Law delivered his address. He insisted on doing more of Service Projects and to donate more to the TRF.
11. PN Biswajit Saha offered formal Vote of Thanks.
12. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting and invited the House to join for Fellowship.