

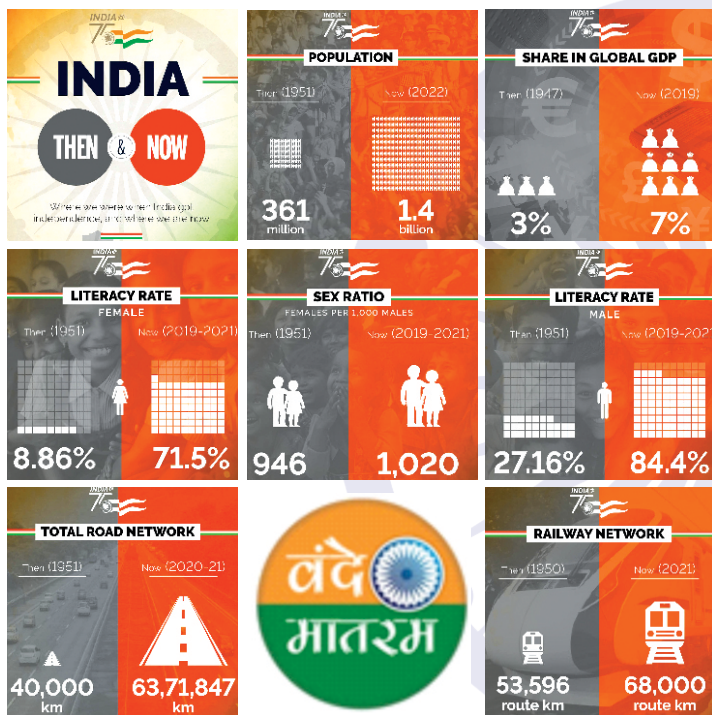


LIGHT

WEEKLY BULLETIN August 17th, 2022 - Vol. 45 No. 07

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

India at 75: Where We Were in 1947 And Where We Are Now





Birthday Greetings :

Aug 17th Sukriti, Daughter of Rtn. Tanmoy D Mahapatra



Agenda - 2187th RWM

1. Adopting Sree Shambhu Sadan Vidyalay as Happy School – Budget, plans & programs.
2. Pre-Puja Clothes distribution with RCCs
3. Invitation to all Club members from RCC Champa Mahila Samity on September 24th, 2022.
4. Blood Donation Camp and Thalassaemia Awareness program at Behala Arcadia.
5. Invoice for RI Dues and Dist Dues - members to pay SAD-I.
6. Teachers' Day Celebration – request to members to identify unsung teachers to recognise them. Suggestions.
7. Charter Day celebration – September 11th, 2022, Sunday.
8. Hridaya – Rotary Calcutta Old City's fundraiser for Child Heart Surgery.

*Independence Day: **The Indian dream turns 75***

At Independence, India was bruised. But then, in the past 75 years, it consolidated, it turned, it confronted challenges, it rose, and it changed.



To understand the importance of August 15, 1947, turn back 200 years. Since the 1757 Battle of Plassey, the British – first the Company, and then, from 1857, the Crown – had used its control over India solely to meet London's political, military, economic, and imperial objectives.

In the process of expanding and then exercising its control, the Empire killed Indians. It drained India's wealth. It impoverished Indians. It systematically, through a policy of divide and rule, deepened the gulf between Hindus and Muslims. It extracted Indian resources, both human and material, for its imperial objectives, including in the Second World War that preceded freedom.

The brilliance and bravery of Indian nationalists led to the triumph of freedom, but laced with the tragedy of Partition. It was a bleak political and economic landscape that independent India's leaders inherited as they went about the task of building a new republic on top of a bruised civilisation.

And that is why, in the first phase of Independence, between the years of 1947 and 1962, India had to work on foundations and consolidation.

The 1971 election victory and the Bangladesh victory added to her aura of invincibility. This was indeed her finest moment. West Pakistan's decision in 1970 to dishonour an electoral verdict triggered civil unrest in East Pakistan, reinforced language-based national identity, and created a refugee crisis of unprecedented proportions for India. India stepped in, demolished the two-nation theory and less than a decade after 1962, emerged into its own as South Asia's pre-eminent power.

But then, in the only formal interruption to India's democracy, Emergency was imposed in 1975. Fundamental rights were suspended. The freedom of press was severely curtailed.

Parliament was dissolved. The Constitution was amended, introducing the terms socialism and secularism in the Preamble. And a State-sponsored coercive approach to population control through forced sterilisations was initiated.

In 1977, Indian citizens decisively rejected this authoritarian turn. More significantly, the 1980s also inaugurated a period of unprecedented challenges to India's political stability, social harmony and internal security.

In the 1980s, India was hit by a storm of violent identity-based movements, both ethnic and religious, and often fused with territorial aspirations.

Operation Bluestar, assassination and anti-Sikh violence with the complicity of at least a section of the Government. The Assam student agitation and the rise of separatism opened an up an insider-outsider debate that isn't resolved till today.

The Valley also witnessed an attack on Kashmiri Pandits, leading to deaths and displacement. The Indian State's flawed approach didn't help. In a different context, in 1991, an identity conflict from outside India's borders, in Sri Lanka, saw yet another assassination.

If Mandir was about consolidating Hindu religious identity, Mandal was about consolidating backward caste based identity and cementing their electoral alliance with Muslims.

On the policy front, by the late 1980s, India was confronting an unprecedented balance of payments crisis, triggered by rising import costs. Meanwhile, its friend in the international system, Soviet Union, was about to collapse.

But like in each chapter of its journey, from this crisis, too, India emerged stronger in the next phase, over two decades of the 1990s and 2000s.

The economic crisis gave way to the 1991 reforms. Enhancing economic freedom and unleashing the spirit of Indian entrepreneurship. India's middle-class boomed. The Indian market became deeply attractive. Indian corporates grew. Aviation and telecom became lessons in the benefits of opening up the economy; information technology made India a global player and an object of aspiration for the young. It did deepen inequality and left many behind, but there was also a recognition, by the mid-2000s, of the need to make growth inclusive. This led to the introduction of the employment guarantee legislation.

The country faced its most severe security and identity challenges in the 1980s. It rose in the 1990s and beyond. But now it was getting impatient.







The New India enabled by shrewd and innovative use of social media and a return to mass rallies as a form of political campaigning.

Administratively, the State has become more centralised in terms of decision-making, without adequate checks and balances, but also more efficient in terms of delivery mechanisms.



Ideologically, the State has become more Hindu, in its representation patterns, ideological beliefs, and governing norms. And institutionally, an extraordinarily powerful executive has cast a shadow on other pillars of the State.

As India moves towards its 100th Independence Day in 2047, it has the task of preserving its democratic institutions.

-  It has the task of maintaining internal social harmony through political inclusion.
-  It has the task of providing millions with jobs every month.
-  It has the task of ensuring gender justice, especially by bringing women back into the workforce and creating a supportive structure for care.
-  It has the task of securing itself, in the midst of an uncertain international environment and two belligerent neighbours, one of which is the world's second most powerful country.
-  It has the task of battling the climate crisis.
-  And it has the continued task of fulfilling the vision of those who won this precious freedom for the nation – of a united, independent, just, democratic, inclusive India.

United in Friendship and Service






Rotary International's recent member survey reveals where Rotary is today, while suggesting where it needs to go tomorrow

“The motive power of Rotary is friendship,” said Paul Harris in his address to the Rotary Convention held in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1921. His remarks were greeted with a round of applause — and were endorsed 100 years later by current members of Rotary.

In the most recent annual survey of Rotary members, 45% of respondents cited friendship as the reason they remain in Rotary, and 84% said they were satisfied with their ability to connect with friends through Rotary. Meanwhile, 42% of respondents cited the opportunity to make an impact on their communities as the reason they remained in Rotary — another response that would have delighted Rotary's founder.

Gathering this kind of information is one of the reasons we survey Rotary members every year. The 2021 all-member survey, which was conducted last fall by Rotary International and drew nearly 70,000 responses from Rotarians and Rotaractors, will contribute to the long-term success of Rotary's Action Plan and its strategic initiatives. It also ensures that Rotary leadership understands and responds to the expectations and experiences of new and longtime members. On a more local level, clubs and

Rotary members: A snapshot

-  **65**
Average age of male Rotarians
-  **59**
Average age of female Rotarians
-  **25**
Average age of Rotaractors, male or female
-  **24%**
of Rotarians are women
-  **50%**
of Rotaractors are women

What members like about their clubs . . .





- Friendship and fellowship
- Learning new things from guest speakers
- Interesting discussion topics
- Opportunities to get involved in the local community
- Hybrid meetings that allow clubs to host different speakers and allow members who have difficulty attending in person to participate

. . . and what they don't like

- Virtual meetings without in-person interaction
- Weak, unresponsive club leadership
- Irrelevant, uninteresting guest speakers
- Poor time management (starting or ending meetings late)
- Cliques
- Exclusivity and lack of diversity
- Rituals and unneeded formalities like prayers and songs

districts can use this information to attract and engage new and current members.








Why members stay

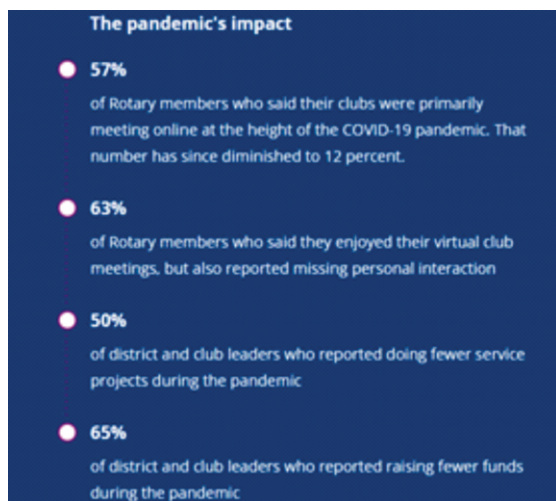
-  93% of Rotary members who were either very likely (78%) or rather likely (15%) to remain a member of their club over the next 12 months
-  61% of Rotary members who thought their clubs had made a positive impact on their communities
-  48.2 Volunteer hours (in millions) contributed by Rotary members in a 12-month period ending in October 2021
-  59% of Rotarians who participated in global grants by organizing projects, volunteering, and/or donating money

Why members leave

-  61% of Rotarians who joined Rotary in 2016 and had terminated their membership by 2020




Why?

-  Club does not represent my values
-  Club's lack of impact
-  Cost
-  Personal circumstances
-  Conflicts within club
-  Time
-  53% of Rotary members who are very informed about how clubs spend their dues



Takeaways from the data

To engage new members, include them in club meetings, introduce them to other club members, or invite them to serve in a leadership role for a committee or project.

-  **If cost is a burden, consider decreasing membership dues or offering flexible membership options.**
-  **Diversify your membership by inviting someone outside of your immediate social circle to join your club.**
-  **As a member's comfort level increases, so does their satisfaction as a Rotary member, so ensure that members feel welcomed, respected, and valued for who they are.**

Two sides of the same coin

Ian HS Riseley, Foundation Trustee Chair

During my travels, Rotary often comes up in conversation. Most people associate us with local projects and fundraisers – which is great – but few know what a global force Rotary is. It's easier to understand this aspect of Rotary through an example, such as how Rotary responded to the devastating bushfires in Australia in late 2019 and early 2020.

The result of extreme drought, global warming and adverse weather conditions, the fires caused catastrophic damage. The need for help was



obvious and substantial. No stranger to forest fires themselves, Canadian Rotarians knew the best way to help was through The Rotary Foundation. They were soon joined by Rotary clubs and districts in other countries and Taiwan, resulting in three Foundation global grants totalling \$280,000 to support the economic recovery of farmers affected by these fires.

One farmer wrote a letter of thanks on behalf of the remote communities we helped, saying they “were in disbelief that Rotary clubs from other countries would step up and help our relatively small farming region” and adding that “they were very grateful and honoured to be considered worthy of such aid.” Friends, this is the kind of impact your Foundation has every single day around the world and why it deserves the support of all Rotary members.

The most significant projects done in Rotary’s name are those accomplished through TRF. The list goes on and on. Think of the impact of our polio eradication efforts, our peace education programmes, and our Programs of Scale grants. All these efforts to make the world a better place emanate from our Foundation.

The Foundation also impacts our club experience, membership, partnerships, and so much more. The more visibility and impact we have through Foundation projects, the more people want to be part of what we are doing as partners or as members. Everybody wins.

To me, Rotary and its Foundation are inseparable – you can’t have one without the other. They are two sides of the same coin. I love the friendship and fellowship and projects I experience as a member of the Rotary Sandringham, Australia, but I am also thrilled to be part of a global movement that is changing the lives of countless people through TRF.

Remember that other side of the Rotary coin and support your Foundation. By doing so, you will also be supporting your fellow members who are bringing to life the projects our world truly needs.

Rotary India reaches out to Sri Lanka

Kiran Zehra

In June 2022, RID 3232 Past Ggovernor G Olivannan met Henry –Wickramasinghe, a Sri Lankan, for business in Chennai. But the meeting was interrupted by repeated calls Wickramasinghe received on his mobile. “He explained that it was from the Sri Lankan Prime Minister’s office. There was an urgent need for food in his country that was grappling with its worst economic crisis. I told him about Rotary and that we could help,” said Olivannan.

A meeting was set up at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Chennai where Olivannan, along with Rtns. –Chakravarthy and Kumar Rajendran, met Sri Lanka’s Deputy High Commissioner in Chennai D Venkateshwaran. After the meeting, the Rotarians posted a message on their social media accounts asking Rotary clubs to help source food for Sri Lanka. It was decided that the funds for this initiative will be mobilised through the Rotary Madras North Trust.

PRIP Kalyan Banerjee contributed Rs. 30,000 for the cause and “boosted our morale through a video call to appreciate our efforts.” PDG –Chinnadurai Abdullah (D 3212) donated food items worth Rs. 15 lakh. DG VR Muthu (RID 3212), an AKS member, donated 1,000 litres of cooking oil and RID 3291 contributed Rs. 2 lakh. Amma Trust, an NGO in Guntur, donated 100 tonnes of rice. DG JKN Palani (D 3231), PDGs Rajani Mukerji (D 3291), Sampath Kumar (D 3231), his spouse Dr. K -Saiprasanna, and DGND NS Saravanan (D 3232) coordinated with their districts to -collect funds and relief material.



Seven shipping containers of food items (including rice, wheat flour, oil, dal and milk powder) weighing 125 tonnes, valued at Rs. 90 lakh, and medicines worth Rs. 4.5 lakh were shipped to the island nation, he said. The Rotary Madras North Trust paid Rs. 5.5 lakh for shipping the containers through the funds collected from various sources.

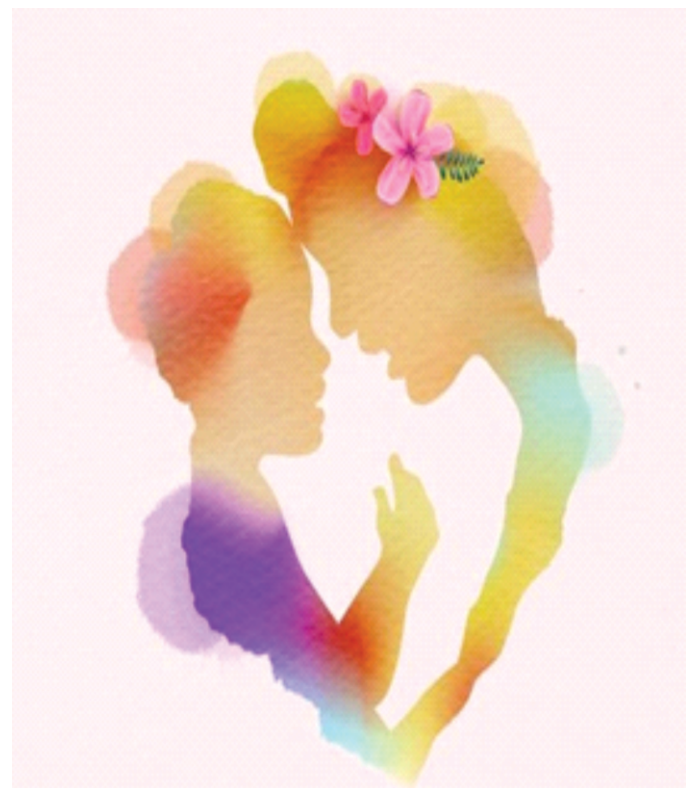
“The deputy commissioner was amazed at the speed with which we worked and requested us to meet him at the embassy in Chennai again.” This time the request was for 10,000 charcoal stoves. The commissioner explained that the Sri Lankan government is running short of funds to import these stoves for its people who have gone back to cooking over firewood because of the unavailability of gas. As an initial commitment, the Rotarians agreed to export 1,000 stoves. PDG Sampath Kumar and Saiprasanna immediately got in touch with a vendor in Rajkot. “These are tough times. Be it Ukraine or Sri Lanka the world is looking at Rotary for help and we must do everything we can,” said Olivannan.

Salute the Spirit

From 50 paise, she now earns Rs. 200,000 a day. She started her career 31 years ago as an entrepreneur, selling eateries from a mobile cart on the Marina Beach amidst all odds -- battling a failed marriage, coping with her husband, a multiple addict, and taking care of two kids.

Today, she has overcome the hurdles and owns a chain of restaurants. She married against the will of her parents. Unfortunately, the marriage failed but her parents never forgave her and she was on her own along with 2 children. “I knew I should either succumb to the burden or fight; I decided to fight my lonely battle.” she said.

She started selling pickles, squashes and jams she made at home. Eventually she started her own cart on Marine Beach. On the first she just sold one cup of coffee, making 50 paise the first day. But she never lost hope and earned as high as Rs. 25,000 a day. One day the Slum Clearance Board gave her an offer to run the canteen at their office with a proper kitchen. The Chairman met her during her morning walk. It was a huge success. Thereafter, she never looked back. She suffered the second shock of her life in 2004 when she lost her daughter and son-in-law in a road accident. The ambulance refused to carry their dead bodies. Finally, somebody carried all the dead bodies in the boot of a car. She couldn't bear the scene and broke down. That is when she decided to keep an ambulance on that very spot to help people whether the victims are alive or dead. It is in memory of her daughter. Today, Patricia along with her son runs the chain of restaurant ‘Sandeepha’ in her daughter's memory and around 200 people work under her. She was awarded ‘FICCI Entrepreneur of the Year’ in 2015.



Brief

On the 75th Anniversary of Independence Day & let us salute the spirit of the unsung heroes of our beloved for her for determination and wishing she celebrates abundance of Joy, Happiness & Best of Health ~ Happy Independence Day!



4th August : RILM Healthy Food packets were distributed to 680 students of Sree Shambhu Sadan Vidyalaya, Taratalla.



4th August : 104 spectacles were distributed to beneficiaries of Rotavision Eye Check up camp held at Bamangachhi, on 24th May.



♥♥♥ 10th August'22, BNROC 🇮🇳 Rotary Garden Reach celebrated, "Naman": Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Celebration of 75th Year of Independence. 🇮🇳 Chief Guest - DG Ajoy K Law & First Lady PP Mitali Law 🇮🇳 Guest of Honour RIDE Anirudha Roychowdhury & Ma'am Shipra Roychowdhury



15th August : Flag hoisting ceremony at "Na Manuser Swargo", Shamali. 30 students of 6 to 16 yrs were provided with Rotary T-shirts and food packets.

**MINUTES OF THE 2186TH RWM HELD ON AUGUST 10TH, 2022 AT
BNR OFFICERS' CLUB, GARDEN REACH**

1. President Abinash called the RWM to order and requested to rise for the National Anthem.
2. On August 4th, 680 health food packets which was collected from RILM, were distributed to the students of Sree Shambhu Sadan Vidyalay. President Abinash, Secretary Debasis and PP Ashfaque were present. On the same day Rotavision was held at 3 pm; 104 spectacles were distributed at Bamangachhi, Howrah. President Abinash, PPs Ashfaque & Naresh, Rtn. Sudip and coordinator of Bamangachhi Mr. Ajit Verma were present.
3. On August 15th, 2022 flag hoisting will be held at 'Na Manusher Swarga' at Bakhrahat. Food packets will be provided to under-privileged students.
4. 2nd Board Meeting will be hosted by PP Dr. JK Singh, PP Ranjit K Basu, PP Sanjay Bhatt and PP Capt. Ashfaque Ahmed on August 17th, 2022 at BNROC.
5. The 75th year of Independence: Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav will be celebrated on August 10th, 7pm at BNROC. Registration charge Rs. 400.
6. President informed that our Club will Co-host the District event, 'Amreet Dhara'. It will be held at ICCR on August 13th, 2022 from 5 pm.
7. Club Secretary, Rtn. Debasis conducted Club business.
8. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.
9. President invited everyone to witness 'Naman' - Celebration of 75th Year of Independence.