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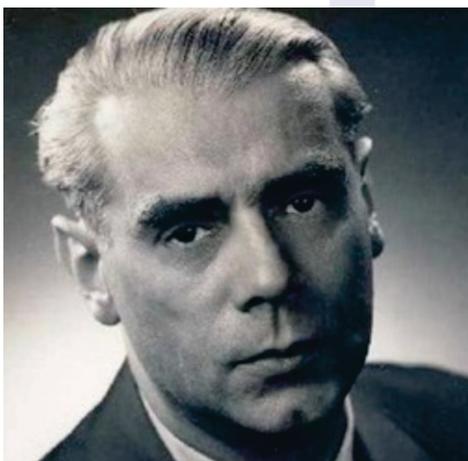
WEEKLY BULLETIN August 23rd, 2022 - Vol. 45 No. 08

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

What's extremely fascinating about history is that we're repeatedly taught to expect the unexpected. Let's take the example of when a British man, a would-be Pakistani national, and a Jewish refugee brought together all of India. Surprised? Read on. Back in 1923, the **Radio Club of Bombay and the Calcutta Radio Club** started broadcasting for 3,000 licensed radio owners across the country. Sadly, it looked like they put all their effort into a dead mic. Under the influence of then Viceroy of India, **Lord Irwin**, the radio stations converged to form the **Indian Broadcast Company** in 1927, only to be liquidated in less than 3 years.

In those trying times, the Indian government stepped in and bought both stations to form the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS). Under the Department of Industries and Labour, the company was set to commence on an experimental basis. Lionel Fielden took the reins and was appointed the first controller of broadcasting for ISBS in 1935.

On June 8th 1936, the **All India Radio (AIR)** officially came into being. The appointed director of music at AIR, **Walter Kaufmann**, was asked to compose AIR's official intro tune. Kaufmann was one of many Jewish refugees who had arrived in India in 1934 in search of haven.



When Kaufmann got the opportunity to compose the AIR intro, he decided to Indianise it in such a way that everyone would be able to connect to it. Along with **Mehli Mehta**, he composed the melody based on raga **Shivaranjani**. The tune went on to become an iconic.

Newly appointed Controller of Broadcasting, Fielden, holding on to the reigns of the most powerful media in India, he went looking for like-minded people to help him harness its power. He scouted **Zulfiqar Ali Bukhari**, the Head of the Bureau of Translation for the British Army in India.

With time, AIR became the 'ear' of India. The intro tune before each program was the glue that held together people across all households, shops, and streets.

Today, AIR is accessible to almost the entire Indian population, broadcasting in 23 languages and 146 dialects and to a vast spectrum of socio-economically and culturally diverse populations.



**Birthday Greetings :**

Aug 25th PE Dr. Mayamaha Sharma
Aug 26th Rtn. Anupam Pal

**Agenda – 2188th RWM**

1. Charter Day Celebration.
2. Announcement of adoption of Sree Shambhu Sadan Vidyalay on Charter Day.
3. Co-hosting “Rotary Friends in Kindness: Presenting RI President-elect Gordon Mcinally”, on Zoom, on September 3rd, 2022.
4. Date & venue of 3rd Board Meeting
5. Discussion about installation of submersible tube-well at Bharatgarh, Sundarbans.
6. “Vridhi” Membership Seminar on August 27th, 2022 at Rotary Sadan.
7. “Grow With Your Future”, a discourse on Membership by PP Subhojit Roy, Advisor, Rotary Promotion

When a village adoption project helped save a young girl

Jaishree

When a fire cracker burst on Kamina Patil’s face on Diwali in 2014, the entire family was distraught. The eyeball on her right eye popped out of its socket due to the impact, in addition to causing minor injuries on her face. “That Diwali was a dark day for me and even today I don’t touch firecrackers. I was just 14 then and was too scared to look at myself on the mirror for a very long time,” she says. She was taken to the local hospital immediately but nothing much could be done. She lost her vision on the affected eye.

Residing in a remote village, Kunde in Palghar district, Kamina was ridiculed at school by her classmates for her appearance; she dropped out of school and slowly withdrew into a shell. “I used to feel so miserable and avoided stepping out of my house. It pained me even more to see my parents suffer on my account but there was nothing we could do. Any advanced treatment was beyond our means.”

Around the same time Rotary Bombay Kandivli, RID 3141, was implementing rural upliftment projects in Palghar. The club had adopted few villages in the district and was setting up schools, toilets, crematoriums and water facilities, and organising health camps in these villages.

One such medical camp was held at Kunde village in 2015. As the doctors wanted to use the washroom, Kamina’s father who was the gram panchayat head directed them to his house. Deepa Goenka, the then club president, noticed Kamina sitting in a dark corner in the house. “When I tried to chat up with her, she remained silent and hid behind the curtains. I got to know about her accident from her father. He told me how Kamina avoided people and always stayed indoors, and how she was ridiculed.”

Deepa immediately consulted with the doctors in Mumbai and decided to sponsor Kamina’s treatment at the LM Patil Rotary Eye Hospital in Malad. But it did not have sophisticated equipment that can treat her condition. Immediately Krishna



Chaturvedi, a member of Rotary Bombay Kandivli, agreed to sponsor the machine that cost Rs. 45 lakh. It arrived in two weeks and the hospital was all set to treat Kamina.

“But convincing her parents for the treatment was a huge challenge,” she recalls. They were worried about the risk involved and doubtful about the success of the treatment. Subsequently after Deepa’s reassurance they conceded. The club bore the travel cost of Kamina and her parents from Palghar to Mumbai for the entire treatment that lasted for three sittings.

The Treatment

The doctors removed the damaged eye and let the tissues heal. An artificial eye was then placed in the socket. Though the surgery did not bring back –Kamina’s vision, it transformed her face. “At first I could not believe myself when I looked into the mirror and my parents were ecstatic,” she says. The surgery was so sophisticated that it was nearly impossible to differentiate between the real and artificial eyes. “As part of their contribution, the hospital did not charge anything for her treatment. It was established 50 years ago by Rotary Northwest Malad,” says Deepa.

After the surgery, –Kamina went back to school and completed her secondary education. She got married in 2021. Deepa, along with her club members, visited her recently at Kunde village. “We were delighted to see her with a cute baby girl, Himani. Now her success story is a favourite topic in our club and it has strengthened our faith in Rotary and its power to transform lives.”

As Avenue chair Deepa was instrumental in –coordinating with 75 Rotary clubs of RID 3141 to distribute 50,000 –reusable sanitary napkins among rural women and girls, and educate them on puberty and menstrual hygiene management under the district’s Project Red. “We had engaged women from less privileged communities to make the napkins and thus helped them earn their livelihood,” she smiles.

Rotary India members receive message; hacking complaint filed

The private software company, which is in charge of protecting data, approached the police with a written complaint this month, following which an FIR was registered on August 12 with the Kasarwadavli police in Thane.

Some miscreants hacked into the website of Rotary India club and sent messages to its members saying they are in possession of their personal data and will sell them for Rs 20,000.

The private software company, which is in charge of protecting data, approached the police with a written complaint this month, following which an FIR was registered on August 12 with the Kasarwadavli police in Thane.

The complainant told the police that his company has been providing data protection service to Rotary India since 2014 and several important people in the country are members of this club.

As per the complaint filed on July 28, the complainant received a phone call from Gujarat from one of the members of the club who said he received an email from a hacker. The email

filled with grammatical errors read, *“Data of 1,00,000 Members of Rotsry India for sale at Rs.19,999/-only. Detsils include Membars Name Mobile Number Email id Business Classification Date of birt,Wedding Date Email id Business Classification Dats of birth Wedding Date Address etc.Hurry Limited period Offer.”*

Later, some other members received a similar WhatsApp message from a couple of unknown mobile numbers. The complainant said he tried to communicate with the hacker on email and the two phone numbers but got no reply.

By August 8, many more members contacted the complainant and said they received similar messages too. Based on a flurry of complaints, the complainant suspected that his software may have been hacked to leak the data and decided to approach the police with a complaint.

The Kasarwadavli police refused to comment on the matter. Responding to a phone call provided by Rotary India on their website, a person said a senior person from the organisation will call back but no comments were received till the time of filing the story.

The success of India @75 resonates beyond its borders...

Alex Ellis, British High Commissioner to India

The UK has been the beneficiary of great talent of Indian heritage as a consequence of the two nations’ long, complex and sometimes painful history. Both must now look ahead to the next 75 years, which offer a tremendous opportunity to write new chapters.

The first person from India I saw in the flesh was the legendary spin bowler Bishen Singh Bedi. It was a good start. Even at the distance from the stands to the square at Lord’s, and with the inexperienced eyes of a nine-year-old, I had some sense of this great Indian cricketer’s craft, intelligence and strength.

Nearly 50 years on, it is my pleasure and honour to serve as the British High Commissioner to India on the landmark anniversary, 75 years of India’s Independence, marking the moment when this great nation awoke to “life and freedom”. It represents an important milestone which will be celebrated from the top to the tip of India. This tryst with destiny resonates well beyond the subcontinent including in my own country. So, like India — and indeed the world — I want to mark the contribution which my compatriots of Indian origin have made, are making and will continue to make to the United Kingdom.

The extraordinary success of 1.5 million British people of Indian origin is apparent in many walks of life in the UK. It is evident in politics with several high profile members of recent cabinets, and from across both Houses of Parliament, of Indian heritage. So too in the UK’s engagement with the world; the British minister who banged the gavel on the Glasgow Climate Pact bringing together 192 countries, was Alok Sharma, born in Agra. It is evident in health, with Indian nationals comprising the largest group of professionals working in the National Health Service after the British themselves; and in the contribution of outstanding researchers and academics, including the last President of the Royal Society, Nobel Prize-winning scientist Venki



Ramakrishnan.

Indian culture is ever more part of British life; the celebration of Diwali and of Holi in the streets of UK's biggest cities, the Indian food served inside and outside the home, including the Bombay restaurant which fed me through my university years, the support given by gurdwaras and temples during the worst stages of the pandemic, and indeed the extraordinary response of British Indians to the second wave of Covid in India, are all testament to the contribution of the Indian diaspora in the UK.

This contribution extends to my own profession, diplomacy. In a new twist to diversity, two of the most senior diplomats in the British foreign office are an Iyer and an Iyengar, and the lead British official for our Free Trade Agreement negotiations with India started his life in Punjab. Statistics show the wider story of success; one estimate is that British people of Indian heritage rank amongst the highest in educational attainment are twice as likely to go to university and are amongst the top wage earners compared to the population at large.

That extraordinary contribution has not happened by accident. It is a testament not only to the ability of the people themselves, but also to their families. Many of those families, whether coming directly from India or very often via East Africa, took risks in coming to the UK and had to face adversity and sometimes hostility when they arrived. As they settled and integrated, overcoming these challenges, their children thrived, benefiting from a strong emphasis on education and aspiration. On this day we should celebrate and give thanks to those families too.

That the UK has been a beneficiary of such talent of Indian heritage is the consequence of our long, complex and sometimes painful, history. Some of those who have prospered in the UK came because of the terrible events around Partition, including Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, the British minister now responsible for our relationship with India and South Asia. But his subsequent story and that of so many others is perhaps one of the happier chapters in our shared history, and one which I think my grandfather, who served in the Indian Army for a decade before becoming a teacher, would have welcomed.

We must now look ahead to the next 75 years, which offers a tremendous opportunity to write new chapters for both countries, whether on science, sustainability or shared prosperity. I am delighted that this year will see 75 talented Indians going to the UK on government scholarships — supported by iconic British and Indian companies like HSBC, Hindustan Unilever, Tata, the Adani Group, and Pearson. I hope to see even more Indian students coming to the UK and vice-versa. The British Council is celebrating a season of culture bringing together British and Indian artists. And I hope Indian athletes received a warm and familiar welcome at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

These exchanges help strengthen the living bridge between our nations — to build an even stronger relationship based on mutual respect and understanding. There will be growing economic opportunities, hopefully underpinned by a Free Trade Agreement by Diwali this year. I am sure future high commissioners will be able to celebrate a genuine partnership of equals between two natural partners which is wider, deeper and more confident than ever — and supported by the huge contribution which the British people of Indian heritage will continue to make. The United Kingdom is the better for it; my thanks to them all on India at 75.

Let's adapt to change

AS Venkatesh, RI Director, 2021-23

A couple of weeks ago, I had a conversation with a senior Rotarian. We discussed the impact of the recent pandemic on Rotary at the club level. We quickly agreed that technology came in handy to keep our members engaged in some form and to keep the connect alive. Not

surprisingly, we also agreed that such meetings held online can never be a substitute for the real thing, an in-person meeting, and that we should soon be getting back to pre-pandemic style of club meetings.

Though the conversation ended there that day, I was still thinking about it thereafter. It appeared that we were not ready to move away from our comfort zone, regardless of the benefits such a move may offer. Is this mindset of those who are already in, a hindrance to our growth? Are we refusing to see the elephant in the room?

Rotary's greatest strength is its ability to adapt with the changing times. This quality of ours has ensured our survival and growth over twelve decades. The success of e-clubs, hybrid clubs, passport clubs and various other forms that reflect the changing landscape of Rotary membership is testimony to this. We would be doing ourselves a disservice by turning a blind eye to it. Doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome would be foolhardy. If we want to attract and retain those who are not presently in, the next-gen in particular, we need to embrace change. While maintaining status quo gives us a sense of stability, it may also be our biggest threat. Our willingness to change gives us the ability to go far.

Let us look around. Let us assess what needs to be changed and be brave enough to accept those changes. Ability to adapt is a part of our action plan. Let us not miss this piece of action!



How I found a sense of belonging in Rotary

Maricler Botelho, Rotary Marilia-Pioneiro, & Assistant Governor, District 4510

When I share my Rotary story, it is one of recognition, support, and acceptance. I believe it also tells the story of Rotary's commitment to inclusion.

I was born in Tupi Paulista, in the countryside of São Paulo, and grew up in the northern part of the state of Mato Grosso, in the city of Juara. I come from a simple family that set a high value on respecting others. I had to move about 600 miles away from my town to pursue my desire to be a lawyer. I'm the first on my mother's side of the family to get a college degree.

Our socioeconomic status created real limitations, which is why I grew up accepting a feeling that I didn't really belong. Then I was introduced to Rotary.

I first discovered Rotary through my husband, Laércio G. Domingues, who had become a member. I was already participating in various service projects when I was invited to become a member.

When I joined, I received great support from the club, and was encouraged to become involved in all sorts of activities; they had a calendar with different initiatives aimed at the goals set by Rotary International.

Within my first year of becoming a member, under the direction of our club President Sandra Craveiro and Governor Márcio Cavalca Medeiros, I was nominated to become



President of the club for the 2021-22 Rotary year. This was my first feeling of inclusion, the trust that the club placed in me.

In July of 2020, I was invited to be on a video about the eradication of polio in Africa. I never imagined that I would be chosen for the video. I didn't feel I was good enough to be a part of it. For those of us who come from great hardships, it is normal not to feel worthy. But my feelings were unfounded and as I worked on the video, it further awakened my sense of belonging.

I started learning more about our organization, and joined Rotary Action Groups to meet other members and learn about their work. I was welcomed in every group. I discovered Women in Rotary Group founded by Julia Gangwani and took part in their online meetings. We shared our experiences and information about the work that was being carried out around the world. At the very outset, I asked about my ability to participate in this international group, as I am not fluent in English. But Julia reassured me that they very much welcomed my participation. She encouraged me to invite someone who could interpret for me whenever I felt I needed translation. My language abilities were not a barrier.

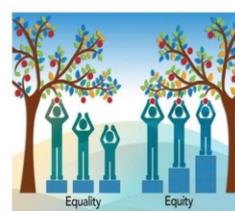
It was also through another **Rotary Action Group** that I learned about the work of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force, and what had been done in Brazil. I was invited by Caio Cruz to meet the group - a team of Rotary members with extensive experience and talents. Even among so many talented people, I was heard and able to share my ideas. And I was involved in the development of a wonderful initiative that resulted in the creation of the DEI Committee in Brazil. Murillo Alvarez Alves, District Governor, 2022-23 invited me to be the DEI District Chair during his year in office, another demonstration of inclusion in trusting such a role to a new member.

On another occasion, Ann Frisch and Helen Peacock introduced me to their work in the Rotary Action Group for Peace and, even though we don't speak the same language, we were able to align our efforts and actions. Our virtual meetings were very encouraging and inclusive.



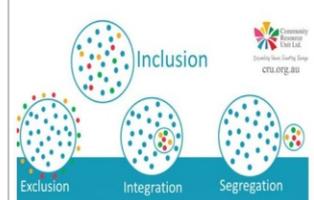
DIVERSITY

diversity is less about what makes people different—their race, socioeconomic status, and so on—and more about understanding, accepting and valuing those differences



EQUITY

equity is about creating fair access, opportunity, and advancement for all those different people. It's about creating a fair playing field, to use a familiar metaphor



INCLUSION

inclusion is the extent to which various team members, employees, and other people feel a sense of belonging and value within a given organizational setting

Once again, I found my language abilities did not present a barrier. I was able to connect with other distinguished members from all over the world.

Rotary has shown me that we are diverse - that we have limitations precisely because we are diverse. But it has also shown me that these limitations cease to exist when we unite. We break down barriers, distances, and differences.

Rotary has instilled in me a sense of belonging, not only to a single club, but to a great, international organization of people committed to taking action to create lasting change in the world.

MINUTES OF THE 2187TH RWM HELD ON AUGUST 17TH, 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 Dr. Arabinda was requested to share about 'Naman', celebration of 75th year of Independence on August 10th, 2022. He shared his view on the grand event.
3. PN Biswajit Saha was requested to share about the program on Independence Day. On August 15th, flag hoisting was organised at 'Na Manusher Swarga' with 40 under privileged students. The T-Shirts were donated by Membership Chair PP Timir Roy.
4. Club will adopt Sree Shambhu Sadan Vidyalay at Taratala as Happy School - Budget, plans & programs will be prepared.
5. Pre-Puja Clothes will be distributed at the RCCs - Badartala Tarun Sangha, Joypur Seva O Sanskritik Sangathan, Champa Mahila Society & Nayantara Memorial at Daranda.
6. PP Tanu informed that he had approached St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore for sponsoring an Interact Club in the School.
7. RCC Champa Mahila Samity has invited members of Rotary Garden Reach to their annual function on September 24th, 2022.
8. President informed that a Blood Donation Camp along with Thalassaemia Awareness program will be held at Behala Arcadia in between Durga Puja & Shyama Puja.
9. President informed that Invoices for RI dues and Dist dues have been received. Members were requested to pay at the earliest. He informed that few members have paid the dues.
10. Teachers' Day Celebration - members were requested to identify unsung teachers to honour them for their selfless devotion towards students.
11. Club's Charter Day will be celebrated on September 11th, 2022.
12. 3rd Board Meeting will be held on September 20th, hosted by PP Kumud Kar and Rtn. Sudip Dey, at BNROC.
13. President informed about "Hridaya" - a Rotary Calcutta Old City's fundraiser for Child Heart Surgery. Members were requested to support.
14. A brief discussion for adopting a Vocational Centre near Abani Mall, Howrah was held. PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta was requested to look into the matter.
15. Club Secretary, Rtn. Debasis conducted Club business.
16. Minutes of the last RWM were confirmed. President terminated the meeting.

