



R. I. President: Jennifer Jones

District Governor: Ashok Kantoor

ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH NEWSLETTER “ASHOKA” February, 2023

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO THE CLUB



Friends,

February may have been a short month on the calendar, but our club was as busy as ever. On one hand, our members were busy on many large projects, and on the other, we were busy helping in the major District event of the month – the District Conference.

On Leprosy Control, the month started with our Leprosy Foundation Chair Pradeep Bahri speaking on the Navbharat Times YouTube channel, moving on to Active Case Finding at the North East District Leprosy Office, and, the major announcement on the Rotary – LEPRO Referral Centre for Leprosy Control Services at Indira Gandhi Hospital, Dwarka; and inspecting progress of the Solar installation at the Mother Teresa Leprosy Home,

Tahirpur.

On Child Health Surgeries, we joined a major Rotary Global Grant of \$ 234,000, where our Club contributed \$ 25,000 this month, with contributions from a number of our members, led by Rtn. Vivek Gour. As the Grant gets disbursed from Rotary International in a month's time, we should have our share of child surgeries done in early April.

At the Clubfoot Clinic, Safdarjung Hospital, two of our members financed the Repair of the Plaster Cutting Saw, which is operational once again. And, our old Clubfoot pioneer Amarnath Goyal contributed Rs. 1 lakh towards the clinic at Safdarjung Hospital.

Our District Chair for Water, Rajiv Gujral organised a Water Conservation Awareness Programme on 2 Feb, with participation from 50 schools and more than 25,000 students being sensitised to Water Conservation in a single day, including our Sankalp Literacy Centres and Birla Vidya Niketan. Our Literacy / TEACH Committee Member Manoj Malhotra has worked with Vision Foundation and the SDMC Health Board to start

providing free spectacles to 500 school children, and made a start at the MCD Primary Girls' School at Malviya Nagar. As part of the Rotary Month on Peace & Conflict Prevention/Resolution, we had the EU Ambassador Ugo Astuto speak to our club on Indo-EU Ties and the Ukraine War.

We had a very busy day at the Annual Rotary-Rotaract Debate at India International Centre, which saw the resumption of a physical debate after 2 years of COVID. This excellent programme is reported in detail elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Our club members participated in the District Golf Tournament and won prizes too; and now our club is getting ready to participate in the District Cricket Tournament in early March.

As part of the revival of our old Club tradition, we had a Board Meeting at my residence, with 25 members and spouses joining in. We had a busy Board Meeting stretching on to more than two hours and excellent fellowship, as well.

Sincerely Yours,

Lalit Sawhney
President, 2022-23

From the desk of the **E D I T O R**



The month of January was brutally cold and broke several records for the length of its cold wave, heavy fog, a lung choking pollution and a shivering population. But it's not unusual, as we have braved through such weather year after year, except for the statistical comparisons that stare in the face as one picks up the morning papers, making us conscious of the vicissitudes of a miserable and calamitous weather!! Maybe it's not, and is only a psychological apparition, and a discomfort in imagination. I can recall freezing temperatures and white frost effected grounds. Homes without the comfort of air conditioned heating, the families huddled around the solitary or two concave shaped reflective heaters and for some the comfort of a hot water bottle to warm the feet bundled under thick quilts!! A tot of rum, a squeeze of a lemon and hot water, is enough to warm not only the cockles of the heart, but spread instant warmth and euphoria of well being!! In the pickling heat of summer we long for the cold of winter, and when it becomes all pervasive and chilling, we long for the comfort of warmth!! Alas, that's human nature.

February set in to the mellowing of temperatures, and one could experience what a thaw feels like. Temperature needle is moving upwards, and the weather predictions are of temperatures gradually but surely moving up. The sun still has a welcome warmth, but the sting of it will soon galvanise one to the comfort of a shade. It's a mixed month of emotions. One is loath to see the cold weather in retreat despite its gift of chilblains, stuffy nose, congested lungs and a myriad of viruses that seem to descend on us. And as the temperatures rise, so does the despondency of a long and relentless summer ahead. A summer of searing temperatures, hot winds or 'loo', followed by the stifling humidity and a myriad of associated discomfort. And as we near the entry into the month of March the February temperatures have been breaking one record or the other. The statisticians are busy pronouncing doomsday predictions, whereas, the weatherman is lost in his own calculations, some correct and other not so!! Regardless, we have no choice except to weather the inclemencies with fortitude!!

Let's perish these thoughts for the present and enjoy the tranquility and beauty of an approaching spring, the freshness of the cool and fragrant mornings, flowers in full bloom and nature at its overwhelming benevolence. Nature has always been kind even though we, the humans have interfered with every law of nature for personal gratification and profit. There are predictions of an impending apocalypse, an inexorable march, if we do not cease to imperil the delicate balance of nature. India is perhaps the only amongst a comity of nations, which is seriously engaged in getting the economic powerhouses to shed their greed and save the environment!!

Till a few decades ago India was insulated from customs, events and festivals which had their roots in the Western Hemisphere. Even though the Brits ruled India for two centuries and more, they did not attempt to influence or foist on the natives their customs. The brown sahibs who were in the service of the Raj, and for instance the military officers from Sandhurst, or the Prima Donna of civil service the ICS and many others, quite seamlessly adopted them. The Princely states were of course in the forefront of adopting many a custom to remain aligned with the rulers. February of course is the month, when there are heartbreaks and budding romances are in full flow with the arrival of Valentines Day!! In the early sixties when we were in the universities, except for Xmas and the New Year, there was a quiet disdain and nary a thought for such customs. Valentine's really took root in mera Bharat sometime in the eighties as an inspired surgical strike led by marketing initiatives such as Archie cards and others. Come February and the red roses reach the pinnacle of demand and pricing to match. Special events are planned, which are not restricted to five star hotels offering specially curated meals with select paring of wines by their in-house sommeliers, but even small eateries take a step forward to cater to the Johnny-come-lately who has just shed his milk tooth but, in whom the stirrings of love have struck home and is girdling for a rambunctious evening!! It's a festival of love with no holds barred and celebrated with great elan and passion!!

Valentine's Day does raise the ire of diehard groups opposed to it, as it is considered violative of the Indian culture and Vedic traditions. The goons of course hijack this narrative, and inflict physical harm and mental torture on the couples found enjoying the day!! The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has approved February 14 to be 'Cow

Hug Day!! The hugging remains, only the partner changes!! One recoils in horror at such bizarre abdication of common sense and it's likely fallout, from elements who seek such encouragement and license, to harass and unleash terror on an unsuspecting public!! A totally retrograde step, which demonstrates the petty minded thinking. Imagine a Ministry at the centre, expending energy and resources on a half witted idea, when so much more could be done to alleviate suffering by investing resources on a tangible programme. (I wrote this on February 10, but today on the 12 th the newspapers have reported that the Ministry has quietly withdrawn the order!!) Der aye darust aye - good sense finally prevailed!!

Now to that bit of the Valentine's history which is shrouded in mystery and contradictions. Contradictions aplenty. It's said or rather assumed as a historical assumption that there were two St Valentines who were executed by the Roman Emperors on February 14, but in different periods of history and many decades apart. It is believed that the Catholic Church established St Valentine's Day on February 14, to honour the two martyrs who were decapitated by the Roman emperors as pagans. It's also believed that one of the St Valentine's fell in love with a girl he tutored and wrote, what is generally believed to be the first Valentine's message of love, signing off 'from your valentine' which is now a commonplace refrain in addressing Valentine's messages. However, these anecdotes are really legends of history and it's very difficult to sift the chaff from the grain and get a true picture. It's only in the last century sometimes in the 1960's that the Roman Catholic Church removed February 14, as a Valentine feast day, though St Valentine continues to be recognised as a saint.

From the violent end of the St Valentines on February 14 many a millennium ago, the romantic twist was the work of the famous English literature duo of Jeffery Chaucer and William Shakespeare who are credited with popularising the amorous festival of love. It's, however, believed that the mid nineteenth century witnessed a substantial surge in commercialising this festival and which witnessed the rapid proliferation of products-flowers, red roses, Valentine cards, chocolates and much more. The credit for the first heart shaped box of chocolates goes to Richard Cadbury and for Valentine's cards to the 'mother of American valentines, Esther Howland' who later went on to create the famous Hallmark cards!! When you talk of love and romance can Cupid be far behind? Cupid the winged little boy carrying a quiver of arrows and a bow, is the son of Venus the goddess of beauty in Roman mythology, shooting arrows at men and women arousing in them the yearnings of love and romance. Images of Cupid proliferate on Valentine's cards and is much a part of the folklore around this festival!

February is eventful for the District, as it host's the annual conference and of which the district golf tournament is the first event. RCDS acquitted itself well on the course with a rich haul of prizes shared between Madhavan and Ajay Kumar, a freshly minted member of RCDS. RCDS has unobtrusively emerged as a reliable support to the District. IPP Anil Agarwal as the co-chair of the organising committee has not only raised substantial funds, but had also organised and invited the Minister of State in the PMO, Mr Jitendra Singh, to preside over the conference. A detailed report of the District Conference and our participation is covered elsewhere in the newsletter. Gazing into the crystal ball I can predict with conviction that, we will see IPP Anil growing in stature and wielding greater power in the affairs of the District. Hail Mary, full of grace, The Lord is with thee!! The best is yet to come.

It's a hard toil to discover interesting events of the past for our vintage column: Snippets Historical and Interesting.....!! This month we have been able to ferret out interesting memorabilia from the city of joy- Calcutta, which appears to be a reservoir of many an interesting tale and of which we have enjoyed sharing, in the columns of this newsletter. This comes courtesy a dear friend who is the niece of the owners of Trincas restaurant on Park Street in Calcutta. In fact, they are seeking nostalgic embellishments for their Trincas Timeline project which aims to capture the spirit of the times and life in Calcutta gone by. If members have interesting anecdotes, please step forward and share them which we will happily publish and forward for inclusion in the Trincas Timeline project.

It's almost certain that we are headed for a truncated spring, and if at all, we will enjoy one. The tulips on Shanti Path, and elsewhere in Lutyens Delhi, are already wilting in the higher than usual temperatures. Nature is sending out signals and it's wake-up call to heed it's distress, lest we go hurtling in a self destruct mode and are too late. We owe it to our future generations to redeem it for them to enjoy.

Inderjeet Singh,
Editor

Rotary District Golf Tournament

3rd February, 2023

The creme de la creme of the golfing fraternity in Delhi constantly compete in tournaments in the city & they have an air about them. The style, the gait, the attire & confidence of competing golfers is something quite distinct. Talking about style & golf attire, our Nishant Kalia's outfit was colorful, as behooves a Rotary District Golf Tournament. He was in a turquoise blue golf ensemble! Designed especially for golf (golfers are a colourful lot), I would imagine. We could get lessons from him on golf dressing and on playing good golf as well.

Experienced golfers keenly look forward to competing in tournaments. There are scratch players like our own Sarvapreet & single digit handicappers vying to compete. As a matter of fact, there were 136 participants including 100 Rotarians including DG (Ashok Kantoor), Ambassadors, Delhi Police personnel & Joint Secretaries to the government. It added the mandatory star power, influence & gravitas to the event.

It is in this milieu that we arrived with golf bags & all at QGC (Qutub Golf Course). The weather was gorgeous & the course looked divine in fresh winter sunlight. QGC should count as one of the most beautiful courses in India. The atmosphere was electric. There was keen anticipation on everyone's faces -Where was their name in the list, in which group were they playing, from which hole were they teeing off so on. Goody bags with cookies & chocolates & a sumptuous breakfast helped lighten the mood & introduce an easy camaraderie to the morning routine. After all, many golfers knew each other reasonably well.

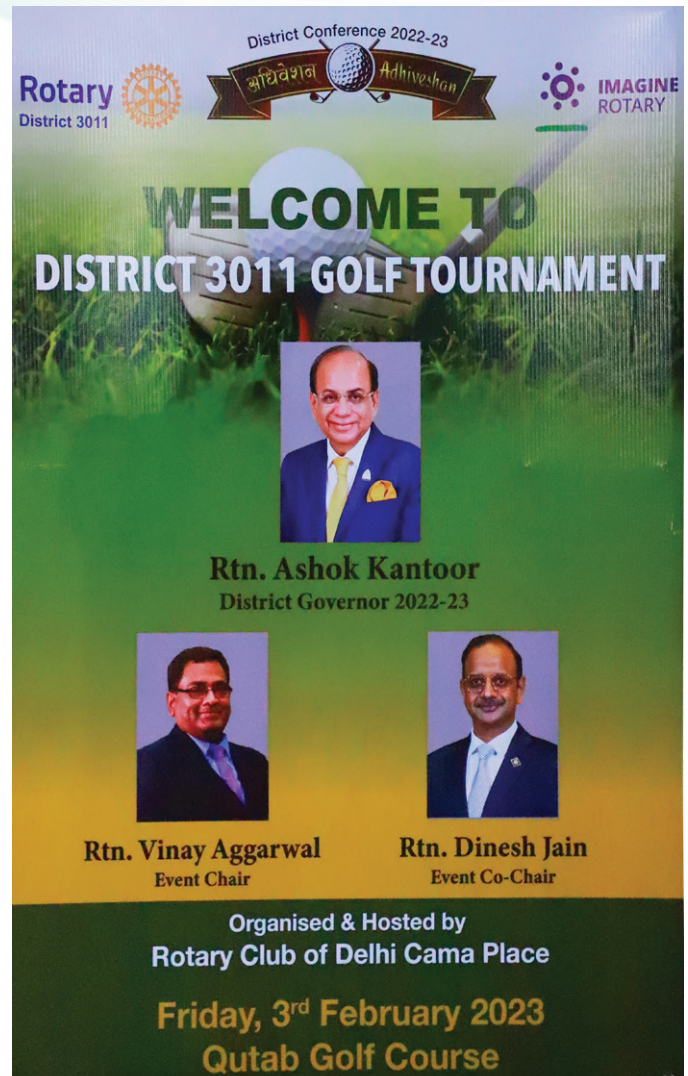
The action seamlessly shifted on to the course.

The landscape became familiar & golfers were actively warming up & teeing off. Concentration, anguish, frustration, astonishment & elation was writ largely on the faces as we moved along. Rough patches, adjacent fairways, bunkers and a rare tree top shot gave us a glimpse into the versatility of the golfers. Murphy's Law is always at play in golf. And so, when there is a prize for the longest drive in a hole, the ball will roll just 15 ft from the tee and leave you dumbfounded, prize for the straightest drive and it will fade away without any warning. All in the game, as they say. That is why golf is such a tough game. The mind & body has to work in tandem & they seldom do!

Burgers & cold drinks helped us to erase the memory of some bad shots along the way. And so, we trundled along, caddies in tow, to all the 18 holes. Finally, it was time to make a beeline for some cold drinks (read beer) & lunch. Discussions on scores, shots & how they missed a birdie or a par got louder as the drinks did the rounds.

Winners- I think it was simply fantastic that a couple of our Rotary members were mentioned in the dispatches. Ajay Kumar from our club won a prize in his group for closest to the pin shot & the longest Drive & Madhavan won the overall prize in the seniors category.

As Nishant Kalia aptly mentioned, it was one of the best



The banner features a green background with a golf ball and a golf club. At the top, it says 'District Conference 2022-23' with a banner below it reading 'अधिवेशन अधिवेशन'. Logos for 'Rotary District 3011' and 'IMAGINE ROTARY' are present. The main text reads 'WELCOME TO DISTRICT 3011 GOLF TOURNAMENT'. Below this is a portrait of Rtn. Ashok Kantoor, District Governor 2022-23. Further down are portraits of Rtn. Vinay Aggarwal (Event Chair) and Rtn. Dinesh Jain (Event Co-Chair). At the bottom, it states 'Organised & Hosted by Rotary Club of Delhi Cama Place' and 'Friday, 3rd February 2023 Qutab Golf Course'.

organized Rotary Golf tournaments. He says it was great catching up with Delhi South Golfers including Ramesh Chander and Past President Kishor Thakur. He mentions that the camaraderie between the players was one of the main reasons that he likes to participate in such tournaments.

And I, for one, could not believe I was playing with some of the best golfers in Delhi. (Thanks to Sarvapreet who insisted that I sign up for this tournament). We do hope that golfers who missed out on a fun event participate in more robust numbers the next time around. Golf is PASSION & that alone drives golfers to the next round of golf.

The Rotary District Golf tournament money goes to sponsor the following:

1. Cancer Detection Camps
2. Supporting an Old age home in Rajinder Nagar
3. Water Reservoirs at Balmer Rajasthan
4. Water Saving projects

The organizers were, Rotary Cama Place. Mr. Viny Aggarwal, who is a keen golfer himself, was the man behind the show.

Kausy

Club Meeting

4th February, 2023



February, being the Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month, The European Union Ambassador Mr Ugo Astuto, was invited to give a talk on the EU Indo Ties and The Ukraine War to our Club Members on the 04th of February 2023.

He spoke about the relationship between India and The European Union which has seen marked progress in recent years, about investment protection, Trade agreement which is very significant between India and The European Union, partnership development and also about the future of our bilateral relationship.

He also spoke about the concerns of the War in Ukraine and the Conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

A very informative and interesting talk the members were very pleased to interact with the Ambassador and his Lady wife.

Archana Katariya



The District Conference - 'Adhiveshan'

11th-12th February, 2023

It's with a sense of pride we report on the formidable presence of the Rotary Club of Delhi South and its pantheon footprints across Adhiveshan - the District Conference 2022-23 of District 3011 on February 11 th & 12th, 2023. Nine members led by President Lalit Sawhney represented the club. The other members were PDG Deepak Kapur, IPP Anil Agarwal, PP Tridibes Basu, Amarnath Goyal, PE Pramod Agarwal, Rajeev Bajaj, PP Rajiv Gujral and Ajay Kumar.

The editorial has covered the laudable 'exploits' of IPP Anil Agarwal and his impact at the District Conference. It has certainly elevated the stock of RCDS amongst the comity of Rotary Clubs, for its contribution to the success of the conference!! A donation of Rupees Five lakhs for the district function and inviting Mr Jitendra Singh, Minister in the PMO, and Minister of Several other Ministries, as Chief Guest to inaugurate the conference, was the inestimable contribution by RCDS courtesy IPP Anil. In addition, the DG proposed Anil Agarwal as Co Chair of the conference and as a MOC, Plenary Session3 alongside several other important assignments.

Another interesting session 'Rotary ki Adalat' with the famous TV personality Mr Rajat Sharma, Editor in Chief of India TV was moderated by PDG Deepak Kapur and received rave reviews.

A collage of photos tell their own story and are printed alongside.

Inderjeet Singh
Editor





Rotary- Rotaract Debate 2023 Building Peace and Resolving Conflicts

19th February, 2023

The flagship event of our club the annual Rotary-Rotaract Debate 2023 was held at India by International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi on 19 Feb 2023. The debate returned to its physical format after a two year hiatus and was a resounding success. We had participation from 10 premier colleges from NCR and an excellent panel of jury and moderators. This year's event was also unique and it was RCDS's unique way of celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by trying to explore ideas of an issue which is now troubling our nation's growth.

The event was split into two rounds. Round 1 was a round table conference on a topic commemorating the 75th year of independence "Revamping the Reservation system for an inclusive growth". This was a new format of debate as panelists put forth their views and answered questions from other panelists making the event live and exciting. New perspectives were discovered including on revamping not only the policy but its implementation as well. Our Chair for the event Rtn Kriti Makhija was splendid as usual as she moderated the session with trademark excellence ably supported by Co-Chair Rtr. Yash Goyal. The jury of our very own Rtn Rotary Kirit Javali and former BVN Interact teacher Mrs Sumana Ganguly had a tough job on hand as they zeroed down on the winners Simar Aneja (Gargi College) and runners up Shivansh Singh (Dayal Singh College). District Rotaract Chair Rtn Anil Sachdeva was spell bound by the high level of energy and debate quality and the manner in which it was conducted.

Round 2 was the conventional oxford style debate and was centered on the Topic United Nations has diminished its relevance a topic which resonated with the Rotary

theme of the month of Conflict and Peace Resolution. The audience saw some very interesting perspectives being brought forward. Our jury of Rtn Kirit Javali, Rtn Pomela Bali Prasad and former EY partner and current head of CSR R. Balachander were equally participative as they challenged the speakers and brought life into the event. District New Generations Chair Prateek Jain was all praises for the event and is very keen to turn this a District level event with RCDS leading the initiative. The laurels went to Jamia Milia Islamia and the second position went to Mata Sundari College with the participant from Maulana Azad Medical College bagging the best Interjector award.

The Guest of Honor PDG Sanjeev Rai Mehra enthused the audience with his kind words and was all praise for RCDS. The audience also had the privilege of hearing from our esteemed judges Kirit Javali, Pomela Bali Prasad, R Balachander, Sumana Ganguly and Chair for Round 1 Kriti Makhija.

The audience also benefited from insights provided by RCDS President Rtn Lalit Sawhney, IPP Rtn Anil Agarwal, event chair Rtn Naman Agarwal who shared their views and suggestions. The audience were in splits when PP Rtn Deepak Kapoor in his quirky style compared the Role of the UN to the elderly father in a household and kids challenging him "Ki aapne kiya hi kya hai"!!

While the event which is one of the premier events for youth development was also RCDS's way of celebrating 75th year of independence and also deliberating and reiterating ourselves of the RI theme of the month "Conflicts and Peace Resolution."

Naman Agarwal



Snippets Historical and Interesting.....

100 Years of Calcutta Winter Mornings 1939 - 2039

This story is based on facts, re-imaginings and a smidge of fantasy.

Don't miss the pictures at the end ~ they are amazing, and have been taken in December 2022 by self-taught baker and photographer @WildYeastStories

The first part of this story has also been published by the Indian Ministry of Culture in a gorgeous book: *The Baking & Confection Legacy of Bengal*.

It's December 1939. A honey-coloured sun is inching into view over Park Mansions to the east. Cinzio Trinca stands at the corner of Russell and Park Streets as a horse-drawn buggy clops by. It's on its way towards the center of town, likely the shops on Esplanade or The Great Eastern Hotel.

Trinca crosses the freshly washed street from Galstaun Mansions (to be renamed Queen's Mansions in another 14 years) to his newly established bakery at 17 Park Street. It stands clean and white under a pillared portico. The lettering in black stands starkly against the outer edifice "Swiss Confectioner C. Trinca Ltd Tea Room".



Trinca's Tearoom 1939 - 1959

Only months ago, he would have been walking towards a similarly named confectionery, one that he ran successfully for 12 years with his friend and compatriot Joseph Flury.

He steps through the double doors, one of glass - to keep out the cold in winter, and the other of mesh - to keep out the flies in summer; and enters the high ceilinged dining room.

Crisply laid tables greet him - white tablecloths, starched and pressed, cutlery gleaming. A silver-plated urn stands sentry in a corner next to a stack of ivory-coloured porcelain cups. A waiter bustles about bringing in steaming water in an enormous kettle; another is wiping down an accidental smudge of vanilla icing on the display case.

The long glass display cases run almost the entire length of the room along the back wall - 40 feet in all! They parallel Park Street from east to west and have been freshly stocked with patties, mince pies, fresh bread, biscuits, butter croissants, delicate pastries and layered cakes.

A door in the back of the room leads down a wide service corridor, past the large laundry room on the left and on into the buildings that house the storage shelves and kneading tables and the newly made ovens of the bakery.

The door swings open to accommodate a trolley laden with teapots and neatly portioned saucers of butter. On the other side of the hall, the front door opens and the morning's first customer walks in. The cold breeze outside mingles with the warm breath of the

kitchen. The smells of 6 AM on a Calcutta winter morning paint a particular picture for the Swiss born Trinca.

This is a perfume with a palette of its own. There is fresh green from wet dew on maidan grass. It blends with the acrid orange of leaves burning in neatly swept piles. Swirls of wood-smoke-brown and coal-smoke-grey add themselves in; busy bakery ovens must eat too! Above this all, is a gentle waft of soft yellows and pale beiges - buttery patties and warm bread loaves, and a sprinkle of red cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg from festive cakes soaked in rum. The morning, in a word, smells of comfort... and comfort is a memory... of something good.... that connects people and places... across time and space.

Cut forward 30 years... It's a purple December 1969 and the pre-dawn glow indicates 5 AM. Swarni Puri walks past a still-sleeping Kwalita; slightly musty, bookish Oxford; the gleaming Kodak shop; and staunch Saheb Singh Chemists. She crosses Park Hotel's driveway and passes Alijoo the mysteriously empty shop with the Persian rugs. Finally she arrives at the wooden façade of Trinca's locked front door.

Ten years have flown by since she, her husband and their partner Josh bought Cinzio Trinca's confectionery business. A lot has happened since then. An entire building has risen above and behind the Tearoom. While the main hall and kitchen remained the same, the old bakery buildings in the back were demolished to make way for the looming bulk of brick and mortar. All the open grassy spaces around the pucca kitchen sheds in the back were built upon with steel and concrete, and smaller, more compact bakery folded into the restaurant's kitchen. Without demolishing the old structures in the back, the new hotel could never have been built.

The recently refurbished Trinca's itself is magnificent. Air conditioning was added in 1960. The train of display cases of the old tea-room was shortened. Only a small portion of it remains in a corner section. The back wall now hosts a padded velvet stage and the tiled floor is covered in thick carpet. The prim, wood-and-rattan chairs and elegant tables of the tearoom have been replaced with comfortable, low-slung furniture very much in vogue these days. The restaurant now has a glass frontage looking out onto the street. It feels like a Chicago jazz club met a Parisian cafe but on the other side of the world!

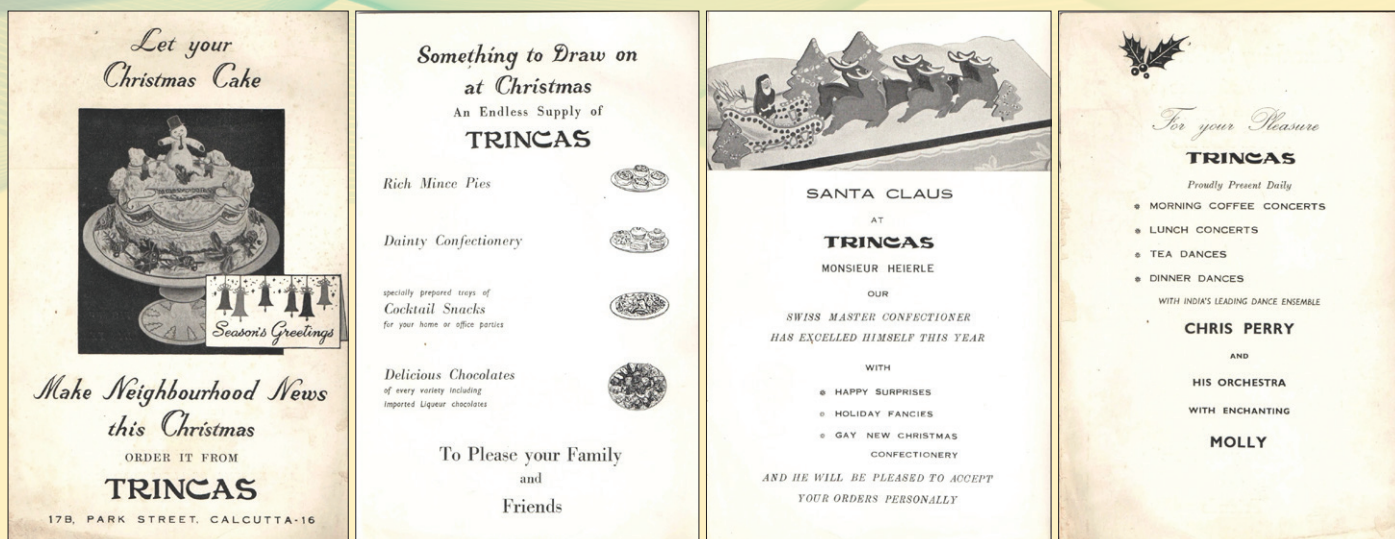
Swarni, as she's called, is used to 5 AMs by now. Her husband Omi works all evening and into the night. She manages the mornings, supervising, taking stock and organising for the evening. It's a hard-working life, but it's good to have some control.

She unlocks the front door, hearing the chatter and bustle of the bakery staff as they arrive through the back entrance to begin their day. Last night's final batch of milk bread has cooled and is ready to be sliced. It will be the first thing to sell out as customers arrive early to stock their breakfast tables.

The restaurant smells of cigarettes and conversation, fading cologne, food on sizzling platters that charred at the edges and a night well-lived. Soon there will be an overlay of dark coffee and that cocoa-y smell of beautiful chocolate figurines. Flaky palmiere biscuits taste and smell like melting butter, almond cheesecakes have soft vanilla noses. There are cream filled éclairs wafting airy, and a salty tang from cheese straws balance the golden smell of Trinca's now famous patties.

In 10 more years, the Trinca's bakery will close. No one could possibly foresee that quiet ending. Officially mandated price controls, heavy labour demands and a proliferation of newly arrived competition will force the hand that's been feeding the many.

But for now... it's 1969, there's a nip in the air, and the smells of comfort mingle with those of beautiful life. The combination couldn't be more heady!



It's 9 AM on a December morning in 2039.

An old fashioned Ambassador glides down Park Street on an air cushion. Green canopies of leaves sprout from hydroponic balconies and terraces overlooking the street and soft golden sunlight sprinkles onto the smooth road below. Migratory birds in exotic hues warble, tweet and sing in branches over the happy chatter of people walking down the peaceful avenue.

The air-car stops in front of a wooden facade on Park Street as it's passenger takes a deep breath...

... and the rest of this story will have to be written in good time!

Trincas' Breakfast (pictured above) is available from 8 AM to 12 Noon every day throughout the year

BREAKFAST DETAILS



These amazing Christmas goodies made by @wildyeaststories will be available for a short while at Trincas reach out to them on Instagram for more breads and daily specials or check out their website

This story is part of the **Trincas Timeline Project** - an exciting **community-based memory project** aimed at collecting stories, photos, and anecdotes going back almost a hundred years.

It aims to cover not just **Trincas' storied history**, but also provide glimpses of **'the Park Street Scene'** and **Calcutta/Kolkata as it has evolved** over the last century.

The project **focuses on history, culture, music and food by connecting with patrons, musicians, celebrities and historians.**

Anecdotes, photos and interviews are converted into short blog posts documenting the personal connections that so many Calcuttans past and present have with this iconic institution.

The goal is to collect a living history of sorts under one virtual roof and create a cultural treasure-house for present and future generations.

We'd love to hear from you!

Mr. & Mrs. Trinca

"Serendipity" means finding something valuable by chance.

This is a strange story of how history was found.

It's December 2019. The band is tuning up for the evening. A guitar strums and a keyboardist trills through notes. Small red lamps cast warm glows on neatly set tables.

Sitting in a cozy booth at Trincas at 6:00 PM, I pore over neatly printed sheets of paper – one shows a family tree, another has information in German along with its translation, the others pages have printed pictures and maps.

In front of me sit a couple - Heinz and Brigitte Schwank of Thun, Switzerland. We've met through chance and thanks to the power of the internet. They've brought me something I didn't quite realize I would find – information and pictures on the origins of Trincas!

Here's our first email dated November 2019:

Dear Mr. X

Cinzio Trinca opened your restaurant in 1939 and ran it until 1960.

On your Website and in the newspapers are hardly any information from this time.

Why do I tell you this?

I work as a nurse in Thun (Switzerland).

When I told a patient of mine that I will visit Kolkata during my next holidays she said, that the husband of her aunt had a restaurant in Kolkata, but she does not know if it still exists. The restaurant was called Trincas. After that conversation I found your website and some information on the internet.

When I told my patient that I found your restaurant, she told me multiple interesting facts from those old times and showed me pictures of Mr. Cinzio and Mrs. Lilly Trinca in Kolkata. I could took 5 pictures from her old photoalbum. In case you are interested in those pictures and any further information, please let me know.

Kind regards,

Brigitte

At this point in 2019, I am in the process of conceptualising and starting the Trincas Timeline Project. It's to be a Community Based Memory Project. I want to collect people's experiences of Trincas and build stories around them. Gathering these stories under one virtual roof would preserve the legacy of one of Calcutta's icons and make it accessible to all.

I'm realising that every true blue Calcuttawala has a Trincas connection – whether personally or through one degree of separation. This is not merely a restaurant. It's an institution and an integral part of the Calcutta experience!

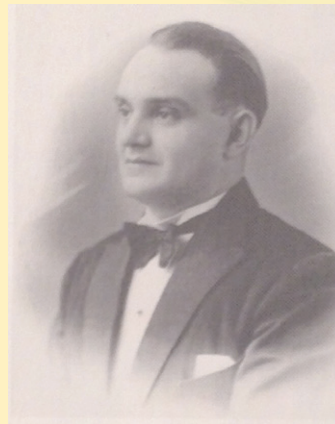
Without knowing what I've been working on, the Schwanks have tracked me down from half a world away. They've brought me direct information from the Trinca family and pictures that I hadn't thought I'd find.

My (late) grandparents Omi and Swaran Puri, and (their partner) Ellis Joshua bought the business in 1959.

As the third generation, I know very little of what existed before that date. There are no pictures prior to 1959, and almost no one from that generation lives on today to pass on real facts and tell stories of the time.

If this cache of memories and pictures is not serendipity at a point when I'm about to start my quest for more information, what is?

(follow the link at the end of the pictures to read the next part of the story and see pictures of the original Trinca-Flury Tearoom).



Quinto Cinzio Trinca 1896 - 1975



Lilly Studer-Trinca 1902 - 1975



Brigitte & Heinz Schwank at Trincas in December 2019

Lilly Trinca's family tree had an attached picture (see below). Her niece - Marlys Studer-Volkart shared these pictures with us. They are from her family photo album. Brigitte Schwank (above), is elderly Mrs Volkart's nurse.



Cinzio & Lilly Studer-Trinca, a young Marlys Studer, Ella Studer



Misinformation and Urban Legends at Metcalfe Hall, Kolkata

The above graphic displayed at the museum at Metcalfe Hall in Kolkata is incorrect.

- Lilly and Cinzio Trinca were married in 1934 (5 years before Flury and Trinca split their business).
- They continued to live happily together until their demise in 1975.
- Trincas today is not a pub. It is a restaurant, music venue and heritage institution in the heart of Kolkata.

The **Trincas Timeline Project** is an exciting **community-based memory project** aimed at **collecting stories, photos, and anecdotes** going back 80 years.

It aims to cover not just **Trincas' storied history**, but also provide glimpses of **'the Park Street Scene'** and **Calcutta/Kolkata as it has evolved** over the last (almost!) century.

The project focuses on **history, culture, music and food** by connecting with **patrons, musicians, celebrities and historians**.

Anecdotes, photos and interviews are converted into short blog posts documenting the personal connections that so many Calcuttans past and present have with this iconic institution.

The goal is to collect a living history of sorts under one virtual roof and create a cultural treasure-house for present and future generations.

Since this is an effort to reconstruct the past all Calcutta residents, fans and diaspora (now spread across the globe) are welcome to contribute memories, photographs and facts. We would love to hear from you!

The Origins of Trincas, Park Street

It's 5 AM on a morning in June 2020. If you're from Kolkata, you'll know that dawn comes early here, especially in summer.

A perfect sky is soft-lit by the rising sun and has faint scratchings of cloud floating like mere wisps of stories now spent. I'm sure the clouds will rebuild and travel, like stories do. This is Bengal after all and clouds are the romance-within for us all.

Here's a story re-built then. History reconstructed from pictures and information that have come to light after decades.

The beginning of the Trincas Timeline Project and a serendipitous meeting late in 2019 with a Swiss couple brought to light pictures, verified information, and old but relevant news about the history of Trincas and it's original owners.

Sitting at a table in the now legendary restaurant in December 2019, I learn a lot more over the course of the evening:

Quinto Cinzio Trinca was born in 1896 in Poschiavo, Switzerland. He ventured out to India some time in the 1920s - a move that was considered daring, ambitious and reckless at the time.

In 1927 he joined with another compatriot Joseph Flury and his wife Freida to start a Swiss Confectionery and Tea Room on Park Street in British Calcutta.

Over the years, the business thrived, had a loyal clientele and was even mentioned in the foreign press (see picture below).

The Trinca-Flury partnership broke up in 1939 due to unknown reasons and Cinzio Trinca and his wife Lilly moved Trinca's Tea Room and Confectionery diagonally across the street to it's current location at 17 Park Street.

20 years later in 1959, Trinca sold his business to Omi Puri and Ellis Joshua. He had been adamant the Tearoom be passed on within the Jewish community in Calcutta and Joshua's presence in the new partnership was reassurance of that.

The Trincas were in their sixties when they decided to sail back to Switzerland in 1960. They had lived an exciting life far from home, weathered World War II in a foreign country, seen Partition and the collapse of the British Empire in India and watched a new nation take shape.

In 1961, Cinzio Trinca bought another tearoom in Pfäffikon in the

Canton of Zürich. Five years later in 1964 the couple chose to retire comfortably. In 1975 both passed peacefully within months of each other, having lived long and fulfilling lives.

In a slower world, where handwritten letters took weeks if not months to traverse the globe, one wonders if the Trincas kept in contact with their friends in the far-flung east?

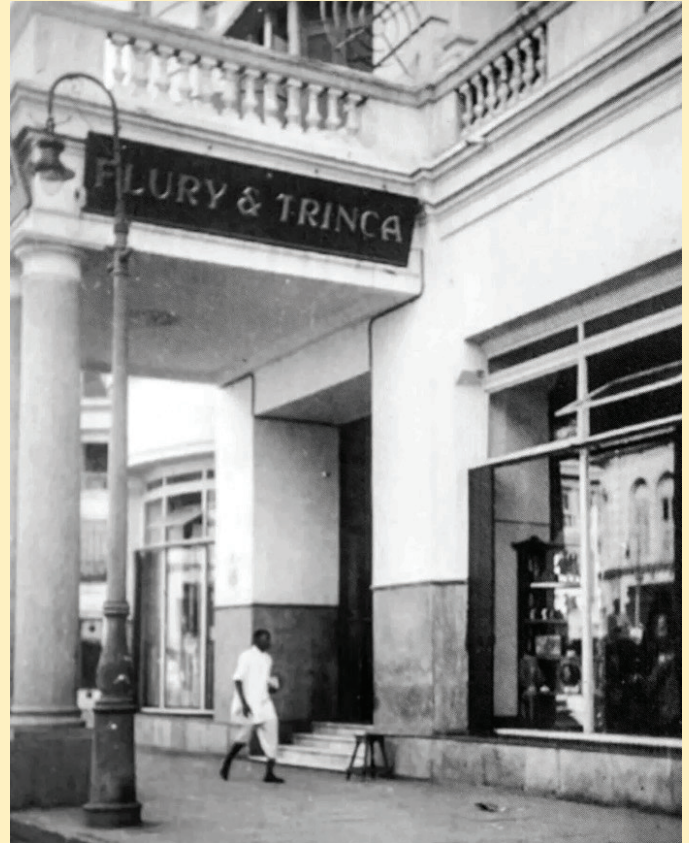
Did they hear of how their establishment metamorphosed in the 1960s? I wonder if they ever imagined that their beloved Confectionery & Tea Room would one day be linked to legend; that urban folklore would carry the name "Trinca" in so many stories, and that several generations and almost a hundred years later, it would remain imprinted on the living conscience of an entire city...



The signboards read: TEAROOM | SWISS CONFECTIONERS



The Tearoom in Pfäffikon, Switzerland



FLURY & TRINCA

Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung
Ausgabe 41, 6. Oktober 1937



Mr. Trinca, a Swiss confectioner who, together with another Swiss, Mr. Flury in Calcutta, runs a very successful pastry shop and a modern tearoom. He is the pattern of a humanly fine and hard-working compatriot. Despite the tropical climate, he is actively helping in his business. Despite the resentment not uncommon among Europeans in Asia, he worked his way up.



Herr Trinca, ein Schweizer Konditor, der zusammen mit einem andern Schweizer, Herrn Flury, in Calcutta eine sehr gut gehende Konditorei und einen modernen Tea room führt. Er ist das Muster eines menschlich feinen und arbeitsamen Landmannes, der trotz des tropischen Klimas in seinem Betriebe tätig mithilft und sich trotz der unter Europäern in Asien nicht seltenen Mißgunst hocharbeitete.

Epilogue

This story originated as part of a Community Based Memory Project. **The more this story is shared, the more people write in to Trincas, the more history gets recorded and is accessible to all**

Facts and stories are often misremembered and forgotten unless preserved in articles like these and from the memories of Calcuttans now spread across the world.

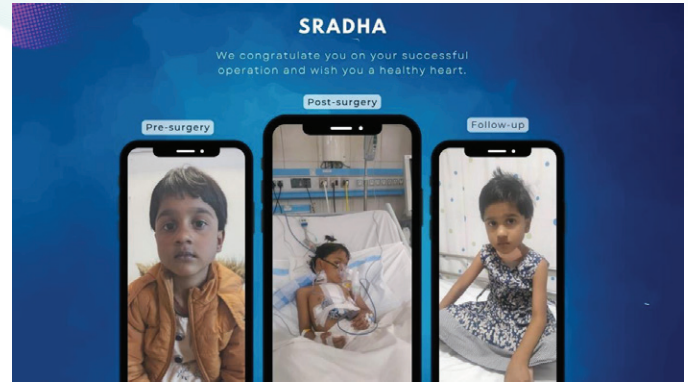
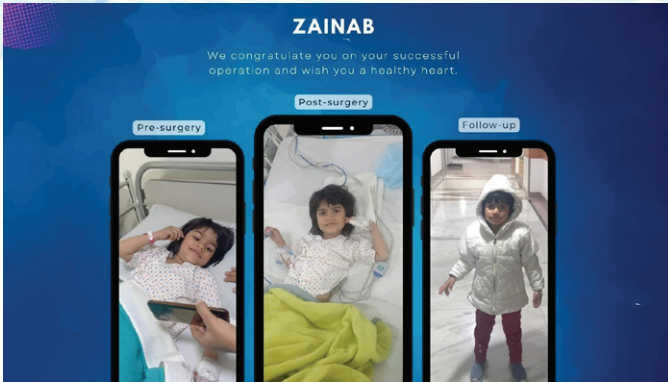
If you have any old photographs or recollections about Trincas from any point in time, please, please write in to hello@trincas.in and I will be happy to paint a picture with a magic brush to enliven the past and (hopefully) preserve it for years to come.

Feel free to click through to the other stories attached to this one. Enjoy, and please do daydream!

contributed by
Inderjeet Singh

CHF-DSRF HEART WARRIORS – FEBRUARY 2023

February 2023



ZAINAB

Zainab is a 3.5-year-old girl who lives in Bulandsahr, a small town 13 kilometres from Delhi. She became seriously unwell when she was just 9 months old. She developed pneumonia frequently and was in and out of the hospital regularly. When Zainab's pneumonia became so severe that her body turned blue and she had a seizure, they decided to get her a full diagnosis. Her parents claimed that it was as if someone stole all of her joy. They were not far off the truth. After multiple episodes of pneumonia, her local physicians did an echo test and discovered a hole in her heart at the age of nine months. Zainab's mother couldn't get her the treatment she desperately needed because she lived so far away from the city. A family member advised that they visit Dr. Vikas Kohli in Delhi. Zainab was diagnosed with PDA and advised for PDA DEVICE CLOSURE and BALLOON ANGIOPLASTY for her treatment. The overall cost of the procedure would cost estimated at Rs. 3 Lac – 3.5 Lac which her parents couldn't afford. Her father is a simple man who works as a carpenter, while her mother had to stay home to take care of her.

Her family had organized Rs 70,000 and was unable to raise more so, Zainab got registered under the HRIDAAN programme. She got her procedure on an urgent basis. Her parents were more than thankful for saving their child's life. It was an emotional moment for her parents as well as for us.

SHRADDHA

Shraddha, 05, is a cute girl from Patna, Bihar. Her parents were informed of her problem when she was one month old. They went to a government hospital, where the doctor discovered a hole in her heart. The parents were distraught, but they quickly realised they had to take command of the situation and gather some bravery for their daughter. After few months of birth, the parents decided to get her echo done at Apollo Hospital in Delhi based on her condition and symptoms. What happened next destroyed them even further. The Doctor informed them that she had COA and needs urgent treatment. The family made all efforts to get her first surgery done, COA REPAIR, in 2018. However, their grief was not over since she needed another operation to live a life free of dread and stress. The doctor advised her parents to get the second surgery within 2 years. But more than 3 years had passed, the family could not get the surgery done due to financial constraints. After many efforts the family arranged some money but were unable to do so. Then a Dr. from Apollo Hospital advised him about Dr. Vikas Kohli. Parents met Dr. Kohli and Shraddha got registered under the HRIDAAN program. for financial assistance for the surgery. We managed to get him treated by support from our donors. Her parents were more than thankful for saving their child's life. It was an emotional moment for her parents as well as for us.

Free Spectacles to School Children

Rotary Club Delhi South and Vision Foundation NGO are working together to assist School Health Services South Zone NDMC in providing eye care to primary government school children in Delhi. SHS provides health care to almost 30000 children of more than 130 schools of South Zone NDMC. Today Feb 13th, 2023, President Lalit Sawhney and Rt Manoj Malhotra handed over the first tranche of prescription eye glasses to SHS Representatives and also distributed glasses to children at the MCD School Primary School Malviya Nagar.

Manoj Malhotra, Lalit Sawhney
Literacy / TEACH Committee



RCDS Sankalp Epilepsy Day

Even though there are 65 million epileptics worldwide, the condition still carries some stigma. International Epilepsy Day was created to raise awareness of epilepsy and to show people how to better care for those who have the condition. Since Seizures and epilepsy are more common in young children and older people, children were made aware of this condition.



Lunch at Mother Teresa Home

A twin birthday celebration at Mother Teresa home

A lunch was organised by Naman and Priyanka Agarwal at the Missionaries of Charity - Jangpura to celebrate the birthday of their son Kartikeya. The day coincided with the birthday of another home inmate and it was ensured that there were two cakes to cut. It was a very heartwarming experience to see both the kids cut the cake and feed the same to those who long for love and care.



Sankalp on Cancer

As you are aware that RCDS Sankalp spreads awareness on various social issues. One such theme was World Cancer Day. The idea is to convey to the students that any kind of social change is a collective responsibility.



MARCH

HAPPY Birthday

Ahuja, Hemant	03-Mar
Makhija, Sumit	07-Mar
Anand, Hardeep Singh	13-Mar
Singh, Dimple	13-Mar
Lalit Sawhney	22-Mar
Agarwal, Priyanka	30-Mar

Anniversary

Rajeev Seoni
Singh, Daljit

Vandana
Jasmine

11-Mar
14-Mar

