



# Reflections

CLUB BULLETIN

ROTARY CLUB OF DELHI SOUTH WEST

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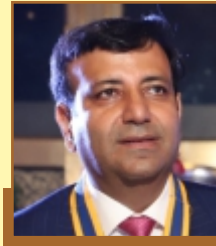
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**Jennifer Jones**  
RI President



**Ashok Kantoor**  
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President



**J.M. Singh**  
Club Secretary



**PP Rtn Subhash Dewan**  
Editor



## Editorial



**Rtn Geetika Jhamb**  
Co-Editor

Dear Club Members,

Let us all congratulate ourselves, to have been saved by Divine in the year 2022 gone by without a major trace of Pandemic, having our fingers crossed. Two & half years of pandemic taught us how to fight any disaster that may befall on humanity, There was a famous scene in the Hollywood movie 'Lawrence of Arabia', where Peter O toole, who plays the title character, Lawrence tells Omar Sharif: "Nothing is written (like destiny), after he saves Qasim, the Arab soldier, who falls off the camel in the burning sand of desert, while others want to leave behind saying his death was "written". We must not forget & all of us salute the doctors & health workers & other good hearted human beings, who risking their own lives saved millions & not left the vulnerable as "written" (as in destiny),

We are past half year of the Rotary year 2022-23, things have moved very smoothly, with Vikas/JM, making their best efforts along with members of organizing teams of

each meet or event. Take for example our major Children Painting Competition, after a very upto date faultless arrangement, who knew that with one thousand kids inside the college ground, there was a downpour, what next was to be done, Our DG Ashok Kantoor was shocked seeing none of kids on the ground. Little did he know that bright minds of Chairman event PP Ranjan Chopra & Co-Chairman PP Lalit Vohra took quick decisions & with College permission got all children in the classes with proper desks in front of children, properly settled with no time waste. It surprised one & all, DG & AG, Children, their parents & even we all Club members.

Well, look ahead, there might be more surprises for us in the rest of R.Y. We Rotarians take "Road less traveled".

Yours In Rotary,

**PP Rtn. Subhash Dewan & Rtn Geetika Jhamb**

Editors: REFLECTIONS



## Here's wishing a very **HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023**

to all the club members. As Jonathan Lockwood Huie said,  
**"We must Celebrate Endings—for they precede New Beginnings."**



**It is with these thoughts of his that we bade farewell to 2022 and embraced the year 2023 and now look forward to set another goal and to dream a new dream.**

## **Bollywood Star Night-A Party to Remember**

Parties are a fun way to catch up with our friends and family. We love partying and so the new year started with a bash for all the club members as they received a colourful and a cheerful invite for a Bollywood Star Nite.

The PST team added their magical touch by laying down a red carpet, a wonderful entrance gate and created a celebrity-like feel for all the guests.

The club members were bedecked in their colourful starry clothes and eager to stage their performances in-front of the audiences who waited with bated breath for the show to begin!

There were around 10 performances, Students of our Literacy Centre celebrated the Republic Day - some staged a duo performance as they danced to the tunes of popular Bollywood numbers-both retro and contemporary while others got together and let their hair down and danced their heart out. Team Safdarjung was the winner of the show.

Some fellow members even gate crashed;) to dance, however, they did so after asking the PST for permission. Their dance during the show was delightful to watch. Any guesses who they were? Yesssss! They were none other than our Sharabees & Khalnayaks viz. Rtn. Yogesh Singhal and Rtn. Jawahar Lal.

As they say, well begun is half done, the captivating performances left the club members yearning for more and that is how the next fellowship got planned-screening of the movie Pathan.











## Basant Panchali Celebrations

Students of our Literacy Centre celebrated the Republic Day and Basant Panchmi with love and merriment.

This year Basant Panchmi coincided with Republic Day celebrations. Basant Panchami is celebrated in many different ways across India. The fifth day of the lunar month of Magh, Shukla Paksha, is referred to as Basant Panchami or Vasant Panchami.

According to Hindu mythology it is believed that Lord Brahma created the universe on this day. It is also a day dedicated to Saraswati, the Goddess of Learning. This is the day when you are not supposed to touch books, as it signifies that the goddess is blessing all your books, and thus learning. The day is marked by many traditional delicacies like meethe chawal, raj bhog, boondi ke ladoo and kesari sheera. Which of these did you prepare?



## Our Date with Pathan on 26th JANUARY

Jhooma jo Pathan meri Jaan to humari mehfil hi lut gayi. The action packed spy thriller lived up to the hype as the screening of the show saw an outpour of more than 82 members who were served piping hot & delectable dishes of their choice (at Haldiram's), all of which were devoured in minutes before the movie started. The PST team was as hospitable as ever. They even filled our bellies with popcorn and cold drinks during the movie screening. The only thing which was missing apparently was a digestive :)



## 21st Painting Competition on 29th January

The most awaited gala event of our club-the 21st On the Spot Painting Competition was held at Atma Ram Sanatan Dharam (ARSD) College on Sunday, 29th January, 2023. Over 1000 students from Delhi enthusiastically participated in the event and showcased their talent and creativity by painting the white canvas.

The competition was divided into four categories. The 1st category included participants from 3+years to 6 years, the 2nd category included students from 6 +years to 9 years, 3rd category included students from 9 + years to 13 years and the last category comprised of students of classes/age groups 13+ years to 17 years.

The children's students touched many aspects related to the environment in their paintings like coronavirus, save trees, green cities and global warming. The children wonderfully depicted the dangers harming the planet and also the uniqueness of the planet was showcased through the variations of colours.

The organisers had pre-empted a bright sunny winter day when they had planned for this contest and accordingly had made arrangements in the open ground of the college campus but as the saying goes, Man proposes but God disposes, arrangements went hay-wire as Delhities woke up to a cold & breezy winter morning. Later during the day, rains lashed Delhi city.

However, the Event Chairman PP Ranjan Chopra & Co-chairman PP Lalit Vohra along with team members PP Pankaj Agarwal, PP Ajeet Jalan, PP Sanjeev Verma, PP Vinod Bansal, IPP SB Singh, PE Sandeep Agarwal, Club Treasurer Yogesh Kalra, Club Secretary JM Singh and Club President Vikas Dhingra, supported by 25 rotractors re-worked the entire sitting arrangement and voila ! In a matter of a few minutes, all the children were seated in the classrooms.

A novel initiative this time was the presence of the jury on the spot.

We are thankful to PP IM Singh, PP Manoj Bansal & PE Sandeep Agarwal for sponsoring this event.







## Maa ki Rasoi on 29th January

How can our rotary month conclude without a recurrent cycle of Maa ki Rasoi. So, it had to happen as planned on the last Sunday of the month and it did.

Notwithstanding the winter rains, the rasoi served food to the impoverished on 29th January evening at Ram Mandir, Safdarjung Enclave. The club members who reached the venue braving the chill, distributed Rajma Chawal, Chole Kulche & Gulab Jamun to more than 700 people.



## Let's Volunteer

Volunteers are the backbone of all our club's initiatives. We are immensely humbled and grounded by the pouring volunteer support we receive each day. Be it, monetary support for the Painting Competition, Maa ki Rasoi or contributions to the Rotary Foundation or the support by our mere presence and hands & feet on the ground, best practice sharing or even writing articles for our newsletter, we welcome more and more volunteers to join the great journey of ours, where priceless smiles are made, where hopes are reassured, and lives become more meaningful.

## December Quiz Questions & Answers

1. Name the president elect for the rotary year 2024-25?

**Ans- Rtn. Mani Bajaj**

2. Who is the winner of the November quiz ?

**Ans- Rtn. Kokila Jindal**

3. Name any one Rotarian who donated something in November.

**Ans - IPP Rtn. S.B. Singh, PP Rtn. Vinod Bansal, Rtn. Sanjeev Verma, R'Ann Neerja ji and PP Rtn. Subhash Dewan**

- 4) Where was the dental camp held?

**Ans- South Extension**

- 5) What was the occasion on which the blood donation camp was held?

**Ans- NCC Day**

## January Quiz Questions

1. When was the universe created as per Hindu mythology?
2. Name the two rotarians who gate crashed to perform on the Bollywood Star Nite.
3. Name two events held on 29th January.
4. Name any one sponsor of the 21st On the Spot Painting competition.
5. Name the Chairman of the 21st Painting Competition?

Article by Club Member

## MY DATE WITH LORD SHIVA AT HIS ABODE MOUNT KAILASH

Part 2 of my yatra continues...



**12.8.2018** So our D day was here and we were given a ceremonial send off by the Indian Army at NathuLa (14149 ft) 7 km away from Sherathang as we entered China. After examination of our documents we were taken in two buses to a check post further downhill where our documents were rechecked and baggage

subject to thorough x-ray. Our cameras were examined and pass ports handed over to a Chinese liaison officer and were to be returned on last day of our yatra. From here we were taken to Rinchengang where we were treated to a sumptuous authentic Chinese lunch and we deposited US \$ on account of lodging and travelling expenses in mobile ATM especially deployed for yatris. We discernibly noticed that Chinese public toilets don't have walls or doors and all seats are there in a row.

From here we were taken to Kangma (13700 ft) for an overnight halt covering a distance of 193 km. The hotel was good. We had brought along four cooks from India to prepare our food and they were deployed in preparing dinner. The Chinese fellows provided us a bounty of fruits and vegetables for the whole yatra. Mineral water was also provided to each yatri every day.

**13.8.2018** After breakfast in the morning we drove to Lazi (13297 ft) at a distance of 295 km where we reached by evening, after having a quick lunch of vegetable biryani. The hotel where we were lodged was also quite decent.

**14.8.2018** This day we had a 477 kms long drive to Zhongba (15512 ft) which is basically an underground army cantonment with nothing visible except few soldiers entering through some buildings. The place where we were lodged were ramshackle barracks with village style toilet on pits with no latches on doors. A stream was flowing underneath the pit. There was no facility for bathing. Hot water was provided in big flasks in rooms so that we could wash our face and hands in a tub kept which was kept on a stand. Anyway we coped up with the situation.

**15.8.2018** Early in the morning we left for Qugu (15157 ft) which was on the banks of lake Mansarover. It was a 395 km drive. We celebrated our Independence Day in our respective buses, singing the National anthem. As per Hindu mythology, this lake was conceptualized in the mind of Lord Brahma and then it was manifested on earth, that's how it got its name Manas (Mind) Sarovar (Lake). Here also, we were accommodated in barracks with six beds each. Toilets were clean but this time again there were no bathrooms. We hurriedly went for a dip in Lake Mansarover even though it was not permitted. One had to fetch water from the lake in a bucket and had to bathe at a distance with big sauce pan style mugs. A cook helped me get a bucket of water which I kept in Sun so that it became lukewarm and I took bath around 3 pm.

**16.8.2018** We performed yagya on the banks of lake Mansarover and had the privilege of doing so under Mahant Gopal Das of Ayodhya. Thereafter we went to Darchen (15322 ft) 87 kms away crossing Rakshas Tal where Ravana had undertaken severe penance. It is not considered pious to drink water of this lake, or bathe in it. Darchen is the base camp for Kailash parikrama where we had the first clear view of Mount Kailash.

**17.8.2018** We started the first leg of our yatra to Deraphuk (16600ft) on ponies and crossed Yam Dwar which is 12km away from where the trek begins. It is said that Yama the Lord of Death comes from this gate to take the life of a person. It is said that whoever passes the Yam Dwar, loses the fear of death. Thereafter, along the way, there were magnificent rocks, cliffs, towers around water falls emanating from them and a stream flowing below. After travelling for 12 km on ponies we reached Deraphuk which means cave of the Female Yak's Horn by evening. We reached closest to the Almighty. It was a spectacular sight illuminated by the rays of the setting Sun. The younger lot dared to undertake the treacherous trek to Charan Sparsh of Mount Kailash. I was left in a trance for around two hours standing before the Almighty. Here we were allotted barracks to accommodate six pilgrims each. The toilets were pathetic.

**18.8.2018** This day was the toughest of the yatra having started at 5 a.m. in the morning for the 19 km trek to Zunzhui Pu on a trail which ascends to an 18600 ft pass, supposed to be guarded by a Tibetan Goddess Dolma. This is the toughest part of the journey. This is Shiv Sthal where Yama the Lord of Death is supposed to judge those who cross it. Crossing Dolma Pass remains a test of faith and determination as blizzards are known to strike without warning. A rock here is said to represent Tara Devi. As we descended Dolma Pass for around 3000 ft in 3 km, walking on ice sheets, we passed the emerald green Gauri Kund, the lake where goddess Parvati is believed to have bathed. Our porter brought up water from the kund as descent was hazardous. In Zunzhui Pu also we were lodged in barracks with only one pathetic toilet for all yatris.

**19.8.2018.** With grace of Almighty the Kailash parikrama was completed after a 5 km trek from where we were taken to Darchen by bus. We bid goodbye to our pony handlers as well as porters after adequately tipping them for facilitating the tough yatra.

**20.8.2018** We started our return journey which ended on **23.8.2018** in Gangtok after a felicitation ceremony by the Government.

It was the grace of the Almighty that I was able to complete the parikrama, surviving only on apples, tea and proteinex chocolate for three days.

Rtn Vijay Srivastav