



UTSAV



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

E-Bulletin of Rotary Club of Indraprastha-Okhla

Rotary International District 3011

RI President : R Gordon R McNally DG : Jeetender Gupta President : Harinder Singh Arora

October 2023
Volume XV No 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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PP Cmde PS Bawa VSM PHF



Dear Rotary Parivar,
Rotary Greetings,

We are all busy with the festivities of Oct/Nov and family commitments but almost full attendance at both the speaker meetings this month shows there is always time for sharing caring and bonding.

At the very beginning of the month, we completed a long pending programme of our Club. We donated one Oxygen Concentrator to Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy, Greater Kailash-II

The month of October also marked quite a few important days in our Club's journey. We had motivational talks for chartering of an Interact Club in Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy, Greater Kailash-II and Rotaract Club in Don Bosco Skill Institute, Okhla besides a Blood Donation Camp at Jamia University. I would like to place on record the great enthusiastic involvement of members of our club who came in good numbers and wholeheartedly supported in organising all these three functions.

Let us enjoy reading about all these events in this issue of UTSAV.

Best wishes for Deepavali festival.

With Warm Greetings,

Rtn Harinder Singh Arora
President
Rotary Club of Indraprastha-Okhla

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DONATION OF OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR

On 6 October 2023 our Club presented a Oxygen Concentrator to Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy, Greater Kailash-II.

Present at the presentation were Rtn President Harinder Arora, Rtn Secretary Rajni Bagla, Rtn PP Dr Amita Rani Gupta, Rtn PP Narender Bhasin and Rtn PP Sunil Bandula.



REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2023

Rtn President Harinder Arora called the 390th Meeting of Rotary Club of Indraprastha-Okhla to Order at 7:40 PM on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at Friends Club.

Members sang the National Anthem led by Rtn PP Dr Amita Rani Gupta. Rtn PP Sunil Bandula read the 4-Way Test.

The President welcomed the Guest Speaker Mr Satish Chandra. IFS (Retd). He stated that Mr Satish Chandra will speak on his life in the Indian Foreign Service which he has very well documented in his book – “A Life Well Spent”.

Rtn PP Atul Dev introduced the Guest Speaker.



Mr Satish Chandra in a very interesting talk gave a fair insight on his life in the Foreign Service particularly his stints in Pakistan. He started his talk by giving reasons for writing the book. The prime being - acquainting family and friends of the texture of my work, putting to rest the mistaken notion that life in it is all glitz and glamour with little meaningful content, and providing fresh insights into developments that occurred on my watch. Regarding the Ups and Downs of the IFS he stated that the IFS it provides a work environment with minimal political

interference, allows much elbow room in determining one's pace and style of work, affords the opportunity of interacting with the highest, abroad and at home, insulates one from the pulls



and pressures of daily life on account of the diplomatic privileges associated with it, helps enormously broaden ones horizons and intellectual growth due to exposure to differing lands and peoples, and yes there is also glitz and glamour associated with it not the least of which comes from representing India. As for the negatives these inter alia include frequent transfers which are disruptive to family life, the ever present possibility of working in hostile and difficult environments, the sense of loneliness and of being cut off from one's roots particularly in smaller missions, and finally a disconnect with friends at home when one retires from service.



My Foreign Service career from 1965 to 2005, spanning four decades, was not particularly extraordinary and was, in fact, close to the prescribed norms. Accordingly, if I had three so-called very comfortable (or 'A') postings, by way of Vienna, Washington DC and Geneva, I also had three so-called very difficult (or 'C') postings, notably Karachi, Dhaka and Islamabad. As you may have guessed, my

Pakistan postings were most exciting and have helped me make good friends in that country who are very much still in contact with me. My tenures were marked with important events in India like the Pokhran Test in India.



India–Pakistan relations have been troubled since inception. After much reflection and my dealings with Pakistan over the decades, I am of the view that this is in the main due to Pakistan's visceral antipathy towards India, which regrettably animates all its actions. Pakistan's antipathy towards India is rooted in its failure at having established a sense of identity for itself and in using anti-Indianism as a glue to hold the country together. This has, over the years, metamorphosed into Pakistan's search for parity with India. The fact that this is impossible because of India's vastly greater comprehensive national power has added to Pakistan's frustrations and animus against the former.



The talk was followed by a series of questions by the members particularly on our relations with Pakistan. Rtn Cmde Pami Bawa proposed the Vote of Thanks to the Guest Speaker.

The Secretary Rtn Rajni Bagla conveyed Greetings for their birthdays to - Rtn PP Dr Amita Rani Gupta (10 Oct), Rtn PP Atul Dev (11 Oct), Rtn Subodh Vir Raheja (12 Oct), Rtn President Harinder Arora (14 Oct) & Rtn Anil Datta (22 Oct) and for Wedding Anniversaries to Rtn Bela Verma & Lord Khem Verma (6 Oct), Rtn Brig Devinder Singh & R'Ann Sunila Singh (10 Oct) & Rtn IPP Vandana Bhalla PHF & Lord Dr Neeraj Bhalla (27 Oct). She also announced that the next Regular Meeting will be held on Tuesday 31 Oct. Details of Speaker will conveyed in due course.

The Secretary also announced three upcoming programmes – Donation of Oxygen Concentrator (6 Oct), Interact Orientation Programme (18 Oct), Blood Donation Camp (27 Oct) and Rotaract Orientation Programme (30 Oct).

Sunshine Collection was Rs 1300. The President adjourned the Meeting at 9:00 PM.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR INTERACT CLUB



Interact Orientation Seminar was organised at Balvantray Mehta Vidya Bhawan Anguridevi Shersingh Memorial Academy, Greater Kailash-II on 18th October at 10 AM.

The principal Mr Mukesh Chand welcomed us and thanked us for the initiative. Rtn President Harinder Arora welcomed the students, about 40 students and two Teacher In-Charges, and explained to them the values of society. Rtn Secretary Rajni Bagla introduced Rtn PP Prashant Sahgal and Rtn PP Rakesh Kumar, Past District Chairs of Interact.

Both the speakers well motivated and explained the way an Interact Club functions.



Following the motivating talks interaction with the students took place in informal and congenial

atmosphere. It was noticed that the girls were more fourth coming, four of them offered to lead and gave logical reasons to be appointed the Charter President!



The orientation was well received by the Staff and Students of the school. The school management agreed to the proposed Interact Club. All formalities were completed and requisite forms duly completed on the spot. These would be submitted to the District for approval and issue of Charter.



BLOOD DONATION CAMP HELD



After a long time our club organised a blood donation camp at Jamia Millia Islamia University on Friday 20 October 2023. The Camp started well on time at 9.30 AM and was in till 5:30 PM.



During this period a total of 149 students,

boys and girls, came forward to donate but we could collect only 93 units of blood. 56 students couldn't donate blood for following reasons:

- Haemoglobin was less than 12.5, they were advised to take iron tablets and proper diet.
- Due to virus and other problems antibiotics were being taken.
- Weight was less than 52 kg.
- Age less than 18 yrs.

To each donor the Rotary Blood Bank provided refreshments and promised to send within 2 days a souvenir mug. Each student was also provided fruits along with the refreshments from our club. The Club also presented a cap as a souvenir to each donor.

National Service Scheme (NSS) students had come forward as volunteers and had

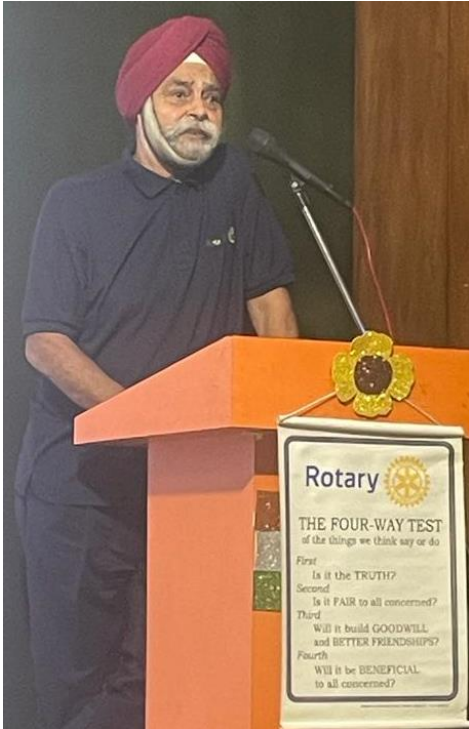


helped in the smooth functioning of the camp. We are grateful to Prof Waqar Siddiqui, NSS coordinator, for the help.



We are thankful to Rotary Blood Bank for the support and expect they will send the blood reports to each donor in due course by email. Though we were short of our target of 150 units we are satisfied with the collection made at the camp. We are also grateful to our very own Rtn PP Prof Kohli for his help in establishing and maintaining our contact with Jamia University.

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR ROTARACT CLUB



Rotaract Orientation Seminar was organised at Don Bosco Technology Institute, Okhla on 30th October at 1.30 PM. The following members of our Club attended the orientation – Rtn President Harinder S Arora, Rtn Secretary Rajni Bagla, Rtn PP Narinder Bhasin, Rtn PP Pradip Mitra, Rtn PP Sukh Mohinder Singh and Rtn PP Dr GL Moondra.

At the outset all attending members of our Rotary Club met the Chairman of the Institute, Father Dr Sajan M George and Director Dr Vikas Rao, in the Board Room. There after we proceeded to the auditorium wher over 300 students were present. There our club members were formally welcomed and introduced to the students present. there.



Rtn President Harinder Arora welcomed the students, thanked Don Bosco Management for giving Rotary the opportunity to establish contact and establish an Rotaract Club in the Institute. He read the Four Way Test and emphasized its importance in Rotary and in society. A short video about Rotaract was shown on the screen.



Rtn Secretary Rajni Bagla introduced Rtn PP Prashant Sahgal and Rtn PP Rakesh Kumar, Past District Chairs of Rotaract. She also introduced Rotaractor Sherya Goenka. Both speakers explained what is Rotary and how it functions. They well motivated the students and explained the ways Rotaract Clubs functions and helps society.



Later Rotaractor Sherya Goenka shared her journey from Interact to Rotaract, her experiences as a Rotaractor and the benefits she draws. She substantiated her talk with the help of few slides.

After the meeting refreshments were served to all participants.

The orientation was well received by the Staff and Students of the Institute. The Institute management agreed to the proposed Rotaract Club. The Institute agreed to complete all formalities and ensure all necessary forms filled up shortly. These would be submitted to the District for approval and issue of Charter.



REGULAR MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2023

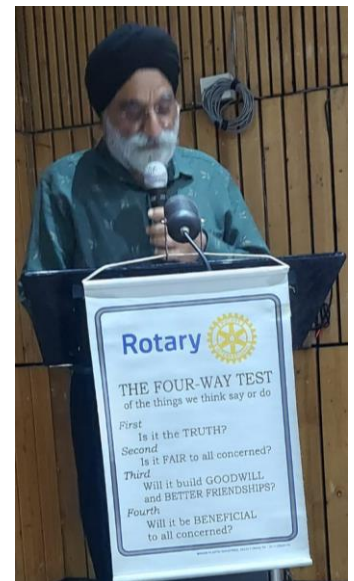
Rtn President Harinder Arora called the 391th Meeting of Rotary Club of Indraprastha-Okhla to Order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at Friends Club.



Members sang the National Anthem led by Rtn Secretary Rajni Bagla. Rtn PP Sukh Mohinder Singh read the 4-Way Test.

The President welcomed the Guest Speaker Ms Sonia Singh, Editorial Director NDTV. He stated that Ms Sonia Singh will speak on “The Power of Good News”.

Rtn PP Harjit Singh introduced the Guest Speaker.



Ms Sonia Singh started her talk drawing a parallel between what has been an attitude that Rotary has followed – Let your work speak for itself. One does not have to shout to be heard about your work – and what TV channels like hers have been following! Hearing the 4-Way Test of Rotary, she felt that journalist must also have a similar code! Today India has over 400 channels of TV. Each different from the other. They do need such a code of conduct.



She made out a case to differentiate between journalism and good journalism. We expect journalism to be in public interest but is that so. One needs to examine who profits most from today's journalism? The proliferation of news channels has been primarily due to the self interest of their promoters. While doing a story we need to see whose public interest is it being fed. There is a dividing line but unfortunately today one links contents to TRPs and thus sensational news become prime news. We as journalists must see that whether our journalism makes peoples lives better or does it help society to get better. I feel journalism must inform, illuminate and finally inspire. Journalism needs to keep abreast with changes. We cannot remain in a time wrap and not keep abreast with modern trends in society as well as in science and technology.

One must note that people are turning away from news that they are currently being dished out. They are bored with repetitive stories of crime and sensational petty events. In TV, it is easy, just change channel! We need to do stories which

inspire people to know how much the world is getting better. In our changing India we also need a change in our journalism attitude! Journalism cannot take sides. It needs to report fairly all points of view and let the reader/viewer decide. Responsibility is a key issue in journalism. We can't go the way of social





media where they circulate anything and people reading/seeing it believe it. Credibility and integrity in journalism is important. It is this credibility that we look at when we have favourite anchors or reporters or even channels and newspapers. We need to note as to who journalists are responsible to? No one really knows the answer. It is only when people turn away from a channel that one realises that they are going wrong. We do expect a revolution to take place in journalism of the future and not continue the present way.

The talk was followed by a series of questions by the members on various issues concerning the media which were responded to by the Guest Speaker with very detailed explanations. Rtn PP Atul Dev proposed the Vote of Thanks to the Guest Speaker.

The Secretary Rtn Rajni Bagla conveyed Greetings to Rtn Sandeep Garg (7 Nov). There were No wedding Anniversaries this month. She also announced that the Club is holding its Diwali Dinner on Friday 3 Nov at the Friends Club at 8:30 PM. Members are also invited to join Friends Club for their Tambola Programme at 7:00 PM. The Club is holding two Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programmes (Second Dose) during Nov. Dates will be notified to all in due course.



Sunshine Collection was Rs 1500 collected by R'Ann Dr Anita Singh. The President adjourned the Meeting at 8:45 PM.

ROTARY FOUNDATION RECEIVES HIGHEST RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR FOR 15TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the 15th consecutive year, **The Rotary Foundation** has received the highest rating – four stars – from **Charity Navigator**, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

“We are delighted to provide the Rotary Foundation with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence,” said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. “The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Rotary is able to accomplish in the years ahead.”

ROTARY AND PEACE

Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever.

Today, over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children.

We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary projects provide training that fosters understanding and provides communities with the skills to resolve conflicts.

Rotary creates environments of peace

As a humanitarian organization, peace is a cornerstone of our mission. We believe when people work to create peace in their communities, that change can have a global effect. By carrying out service projects and supporting peace fellowships and scholarships, our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources.

Our commitment to peacebuilding today answers new challenges: how we can make the greatest possible impact and how we can achieve our vision of lasting change. We are approaching the concept of peace with greater cohesion and inclusivity, broadening the scope of what we mean by peacebuilding, and finding more ways for people to get involved.

Rotary creates environments where peace can happen.

Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace

Rotary and its members are:

Practitioners: Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies.

Educators: Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,600 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.

Mediators: Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk.

Advocates: Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

THE 4-WAY TEST

THE 4-WAY TEST OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY OR DO

- Is it the **TRUTH**?
- Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I present to you the Fourth Issue of **UTSAV**, the E-Bulletin of Rotary Club of Indraprastha-Okhla, for the Rotary Year 2023-24.

The month of October was a busy month for the Club with two regular meetings and a series of camps/orientation programmes.

Otherwise too the month of October has been a busy month for our members. It is that time of the year when the weather changes and social and cultural activities in the Capital City start taking off. Rotary does not lag behind. Taking advantage of the good weather we manage to get quite a few camps and other activities going. We at **UTSAV** have been able to keep up and have managed to bring before you report of all our activities.

Enjoy Reading !

Yours-in-Rotary,
Rtn PP Atul Dev
Editor **UTSAV**

Greetings in November

Birthdays

7 Nov – Rtn Sandeep Garg

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries this month

November Programmes

3 Nov – Club Diwali Dinner

Two Cervical Cancer Vaccination (Second Dose) camps have been planned.
Dates Later.