

यद्यदाचरति श्रेष्ठस्तत्तदेवेतरो जनः।  
स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते॥  
(तृतीय अध्याय, श्लोक 21)

By performing their assigned duties, King Janak and others attained perfection. You should also perform your work to set an example for the good of the world. Whatever actions great persons perform, common people follow. Whatever standards they set, all the world pursues.

Dear Changemakers:

Today we start our journey into a new dimension of our lives. A dimension that we may not have explored to the fullest, but this one year shall unfold the rich and powerful potential that each one of us have been endowed with Almighty. The year that would plunge us into a Divine task of doing good, and as Past Rotary International President Raja Saboo said, to Look Beyond Yourself.

This is a year to look beyond ourselves and Serve to Change Lives.

We are proud that the fourth Indian has risen to the acme of glory in Rotary International, Shekhar Mehta, who has shown us the way to think Big, and make a true difference in the lives of the people.

The next one year is a challenge for each one of us; not to prove to anyone else, but to our own self. The world is looking at you, who is an ambassador of Rotary, that you have the extraordinary capacity to change lives.

And as I opened the Gita for my daily inspiration, the shloka shone like a bright light showing me the way forward...infact, for each one of us, as the shloka quoted above, makes it very obvious as to our task ahead.

Each one of us have suffered losses of our dear and near ones, making us realize that life is short, and in fact, unpredictable. You never know if you are going to be there tomorrow or not.

So each Rotarian has one year ahead...a lifetime opportunity; it is now or never.

Show your mettle. Show your power of determination. Show your empathy, care and concern for humanity. Demonstrate that you have the power to change the lives of the people who are suffering.

In this month, let us quickly work out our plans:

- To bring in new members. We have promised 2000 new members during the year, with 1000 alone to be inducted in the first month itself.
- To plant 15 lakh trees by 15th August. Just get cracking, identify the vacant plants with no tree covers in your community, get the seeds from us, and go green.
- To enrich the lives of little children who want to study but do not have the benches in their schools. We are starting with 10,000 benches, and I'm sure with your zeal and enthusiasm, we shall have many more in the schools;
- To collect one lakh units of blood so that no person dies for want of blood in our areas.
- To immunize teenage girls and vaccinate them against cervical cancer.
- To sign up people to Live Beyond Life by pledging their organs.

These and many such projects are in the offings. Let us become the saviours of humanity. Let us wipe the tears from the eyes of the diseased, the destitute, disheartened, or the disabled.

We are fortunate and lucky to be alive. Let us make the best of our times. Let us 'Serve to Change Lives'.

Ajay Madan  
District Governor