



Rotary Club of Bombay East (Since 1955)
June-July 2023



Aatmic Energy



R. Gordon R. McNally
President

Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations. McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, Create Hope in the World, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

Watch the theme address "The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

McNally spoke about a woman he met in Ban Taling Chan, Thailand, where Rotary members helped build houses, a meeting hall, and childcare and health care facilities following the tsunami that devastated South Asia in late 2004. The woman had lost her husband, her daughter, and her son in the tsunami, as well as her livelihood. But she still had a gift to offer McNally: a beautiful seashell.

"She went on to tell me that Rotary... had restored her optimism. We gave her hope," McNally said.

"This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world," he added, "one restored or newly created hope at a time." Promoting peace A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McNally said. He cited the action Rotary members have taken in the past year to support the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. Rotary has made humanitarian relief a priority, attracting more Ukrainian members in the process. But McNally noted that true relief won't come without peace — not just in Ukraine, but in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and dozens of other places around the globe.

"Peace is the soil where hope takes root," McNally said.

McNally also emphasized the power of continuity, calling for Rotary members to continue the work of some past leaders. He pledged to maintain the Empowering Girls initiative launched by 2021-22 President Shekhar Mehta and uphold the emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout Rotary. He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease. To do that, McNally said, Rotary must continue to raise at least US\$50 million each year to receive the full 2-to-1 funding match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

McNally asked the district governors-elect for support creating a new sense of urgency in their clubs to help realize Rotary's vision of a polio-free world. "This is the time for us to go beyond what's necessary year to year and make sure we provide every resource necessary to succeed as quickly as possible," he added.

Hope in Environment Awareness

Even though the environment took a backseat to the recent pandemic when it came to recent news headlines, the climate remains in crisis. Sometimes, though, you need inspiration to walk back out to your car in the rain to get your forgotten reusable bags or sort your recyclables instead of tossing everything.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

One must first understand what the term environmentalism and environmental awareness means. According to Pachamama Alliance, “Environmentalism is an ideology that evokes the necessity and responsibility of humans to respect, protect, and preserve the natural world from its anthropogenic afflictions” and “environmental awareness is to understand the fragility of our environment and the importance of its protection.” It further states that “promoting environmental awareness is an easy way to become an environmental steward and participate in creating a brighter future for our children. By teaching our friends and family that the physical environment is fragile and indispensable we can begin fixing the problems that threaten it.”

Once we have a thorough understanding of the environmental issues such as deforestation, environmental pollution, water crisis, global warming and climate change, loss of biodiversity etc. every one of our actions will come out of a place of concern for our surroundings, out of love for mother nature, out of the willingness to contribute towards sustainable development and make a positive change in the world.

Another issue is that, a lot of us have not experienced the adverse effects of environmental degradation due to humans first-hand. For example, most of us who have the access to read this blog probably have not had to walk a mile in the scorching heat to fetch a bucket of water and walk a mile back home with the weight. In all probability, our crops have not perished totally due to the droughts this year. Our homes have not been cut down to fulfill some more advanced species’ purpose. Our habitats are not melting into the sea, and the sea is not rising a foot higher and drowning our native island home. But we can feel the summer heat, due to global warming and climate change, right? It is affecting us too, and can destroy all life on Earth, no matter how long we turn on our ACs and worsen the condition even more, or get potable running water at the turn of a tap in our sinks and basins. Therefore, environmental awareness also has to do with empathy.



DG ARUN BHARGAVA

PROJECT NATIONAL INTEGRATION



This is going to be an incredible year under leadership of DG Arun Bhargava, who do not believe on taking stress. He has motivated each leader to do its best. Project close to his heart is National Integration. The team has geared up under his leadership to create hope in Kashmir on various grounds.

The Rotarians who form the core team of DGE Bhargava for his year as governor in 2023–24, were so enthused with this presentation and the Army's invitation to help it improve people's life in this region of Kashmir along the LoC, that several of them, including Anand Ramnani, past president of RC

Mumbai Parleshwar, volunteered to take up this cause. "We got immediately interested as the Army, in collaboration with NGOs, wants to develop the villages close to the Indo-Pak border in Rotary's core focus areas such as education, healthcare, women's empowerment, etc," he says. What they saw in those villages literally melted away the 2,300-odd-km distance between Mumbai and Kupwara. As the group was there even as the villagers were celebrating the end of Ramzan and the arrival of Eid, not only did the Rotarians participate in the Iftar party but on Eid day they went to the home of the top military commander who had hosted an Eid-milan for the villagers to celebrate Eid. "We took some gifts for the sarpanch and the maulvi of Machhal, and on receiving these gifts, they became very emotional and said: "Look at this miracle; people come to our village from thousands of km and give us Eid ka tohfa... imagine Mumbai se Rotarians aatey hei aur hamein Eid ka tohfa detey hei." They felt a sense of belonging to India, and we all sang Jana gana mana together." Later they learnt that some of these villagers had sung the Indian national anthem for the first time ever!

Entire district will stand rock solid behind DG to this highest service to humanity.



Glimpses of June - July
Charter Night, DOP, Anganwadi Agreement with Honourable Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha Ji



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Ashok Gokhale	June	2
Sunita Ghokhale	June	7
Abbas Karu	June	11
Dilip Parmar	June	15
Shashi Sharma	June	16
Abid Kanchwala	June	18
Hasina Kanchwala	June	20
Nirmala Kulkarni	July	16
Jeannette Lobo	July	21
Jayram Latha	June	15