



Rotary
Club of Bangalore Cantonment



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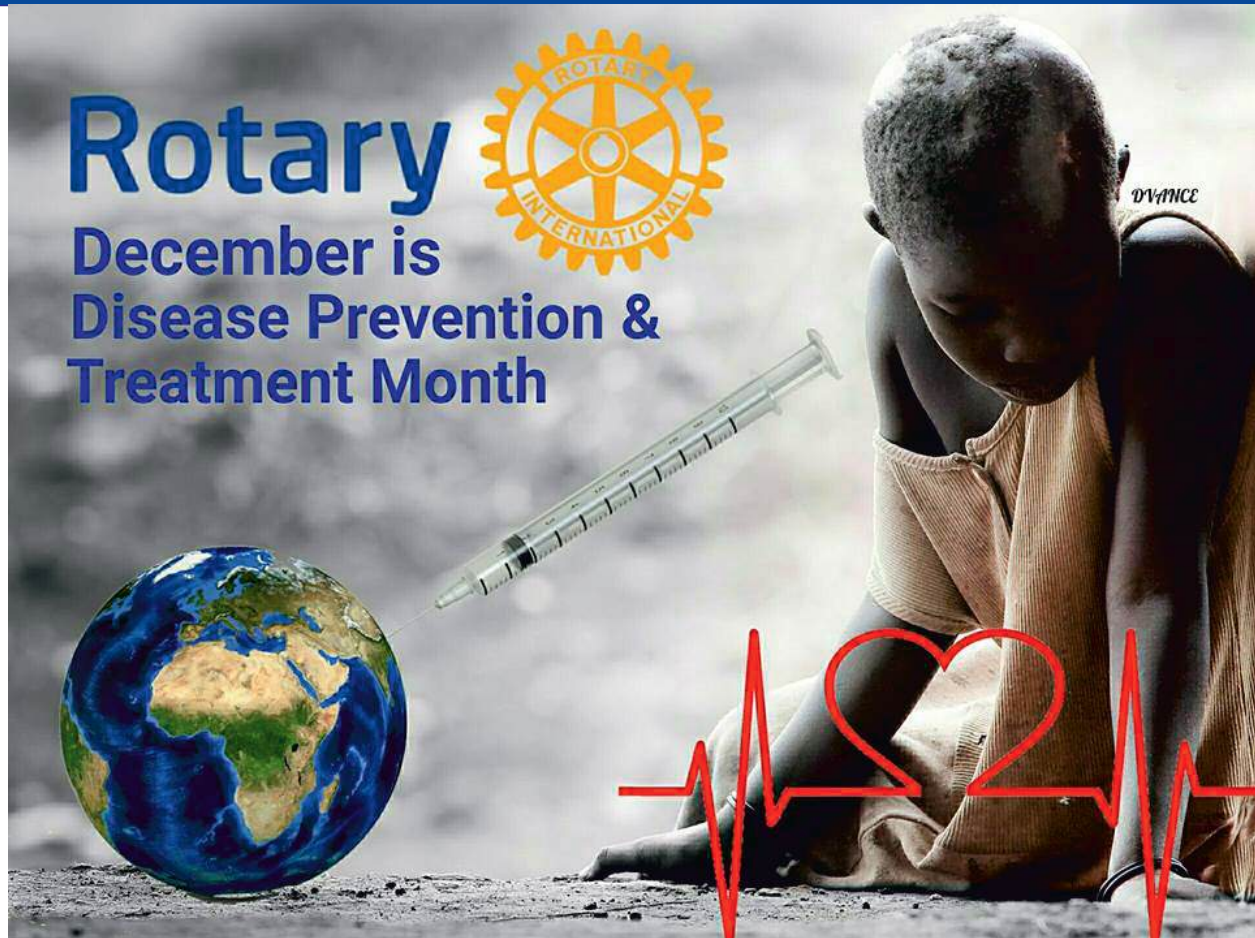
THE BANNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY B'LORE CANTONMENT

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WHAT IS YOUR ROTARY CLUB DOING TO FOCUS YOUR EFFORTS ON DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT?

Rotary's top priority is the eradication of polio, but our members take on far greater responsibilities to fight disease. They set up health camps and training facilities in undeveloped countries and in communities struggling with HIV/AIDS and malaria. They also design and build the infrastructure for doctors, nurses, governments, and partners to reach the one in six people in the world who can't afford to pay for healthcare. December is **Disease Prevention and Treatment Month on the Rotary Calendar**.

This is one of the Foundations Areas of Focus and one in which many of us would be aware of the numerous projects around the world supported by clubs and the Foundation. Look at your role in promoting improved health at home and abroad and supporting these vital programs that contribute not only to healthy communities but peaceful communities.

Disease prevention and treatment takes on many forms, from supporting studies to helping immunize people to improving drinking water and the sanitation infrastructure. The world relies on Rotary to tackle these global challenges, and to set an example for others to follow.

EDITORIAL

Fellow Rotarians & dear Anns,

*Brought to you in this issue is the Club BANNER,
for the month of December.*

Please take time to go through it.

*Besides the activities that has happened in RCBC,
we have a very interesting article on a visit to EGYPT
by Ravi Kumar.*



*And not to forget the article on
the theatre performance by
Susan Marcus & the other
articles.*

Happy reading.

- Rtn. Prem Kurian

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DemCon 2024 - International Dementia Conference at IISc Bangalore 29th & 30th Nov 2024.



ADRAG has sponsored 10+ members of our Senior Citizens Club to attend this 2 day conference

EYE CAMP



It was a very well organised 2nd camp of Project Divya Drishti at Robertson PHC, KGF, Kolar district on 27th November 2024. The Primary Health Centre (PHC) was well maintained and clean. The Shankara team led by Shiv Shankar, Dr Kalini along with optometrists and nurses were doing a step by step screening process to identify patients needing further eye treatments. Mr Chetan Kumar from Myrada was taking care of the registration desk. Pradeep and I were in attendance from RCBC.

- Rtn. Vinay Pai

EYE CAMP

First out of the 12 eye camps underway at Varthur Primary Health Centre



Christmas Bazaar Sale

The International Services Committee partnered with ICB (International Club of Bangalore) at the Christmas Bazaar that was held at the Wings Auditorium on the 23rd of November. We booked a stall at the Bazaar and invited two NGOs to display and sell their products here at no cost to them

AMOG, an NGO that the club has been associated with earlier sold merchandise made by people with Disabilities. URUMANA a NGO that works with the Adivasi Tribe of



Gudulur had products made by them on sale.

We had put up Rotary Club standy and distributed flyers that showcased our major service projects. We were able to generate a great deal of goodwill for the club for the initiative taken.

The Bazaar had tremendous footfall and was attended by expats from around the globe who are currently based in Bangalore. A true Melting Pot of different Nationalities

The NGOs were overjoyed with the response they received. We would urge subsequent International Service Committees to make this a recurring annual project.

- Nasser Fazal



The Enchanting World of "Robi's Garden" with Bangalore Little Theatre

After the roaring success of our fund raiser "Kabuliwala", Vijay Padki of Bangalore Little Theatre gave us an encore with a delightful screening of the play "Robi's Garden," a production by Bangalore Little Theatre (BLT), known for its innovative and engaging performances. This family entertainer, captivated an audience of all ages, including Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes. Bangalore Little Theatre, established in 1960, is the city's oldest and most respected theatre society. BLT is known for its translations, adaptations, and commitment to new playwriting. Their outreach initiatives include education and training for schools and colleges, promoting sustainability and creativity.

The "Rotary House of Learning" was transformed into a charming courtyard theatre, thanks to the single-minded efforts of our indefatigable SAA, Sameena Bhatia. Rtn. Sameena Bhatia who never seems to fall short in amazing us, also put together a short poem for the event:-

স্বাগতম (Swāgatam)

A Warm Welcome to Vijay Padaki ji and Minti Jain ji

To Vijay ji and Minti ji, stars so bright,
You grace our world with talent and light.
From theatre's grandeur to Rotary's call,
You inspire and uplift us all.

In Rotary Cantonment's (রোটারি ক্যান্টনমেন্ট) cherished domain, where purpose and service forever reign, you bring your brilliance, your art, your flame, and weave new stories in Rotary's name.

Like a theatre troupe, united we stand, bound by service, hand in hand. Together, we script a tale so true; of fellowship strong and deeds anew.

So welcome, dear Vijay ji and Minti ji, today, your journey with us lights the way.

In hearts and halls, your presence we cheer and together with RCBC, we strive with passion and pride, walking the path of service side by side."

The intimate setting with flowers and hand made crafts was perfect for the two-actor cast, who mesmerized the audience by transporting us back to our childhood. Through the magic of storytelling, Robi Da's tales fascinated us and encouraged us to appreciate satire.

"Robi's Garden" draws from Rabindranath Tagore's vast repertoire of writings, including verse, short stories, plays, and letters. The play takes the audience on an imaginative

journey with a group of children visiting Jorasanko, Tagore's ancestral home in Kolkata. Here, in the magical atmosphere of Thakur-badi's courtyard theatre, the children meet a caretaker reminiscent of the iconic Kabuliwala. He imparts an important lesson from Robi-da: imagination is the key to bringing stories to life.

In this Courtyard Theatre production, the entire play showcases the power of storytelling in intimate spaces. The play is designed and directed by Vijay Padaki, a Founder Trustee and Emeritus Trustee of BLT. Vijay

has been a driving force behind the Courtyard Theatre program, which aims to bring quality theatre to diverse audiences. RCBC and BLT have joined hands to create magic in the past and I am sure this partnership will continue to foster in the future as well. A special mention of Rtn. Sudhakar who has played a pivotal role in nurturing this relationship.

Following the mesmerizing performance, attendees enjoyed a delicious and sumptuous feast organized by Rtn. Jasbir Dhodi. The theme, "Bengali a la Punjabi", was just how Robi Da would have liked it, adding a perfect culinary touch to the evening.

So until next time let's await for more magical experiences that promise to inspire and entertain.

- Rtn. Susan Marcus



Presentation on Rotary and Peace Building , to Rotary Bangalore Cantonment, India, District 3190



**President Rotarian Sarita Karki,
Rotrary Club of Chandragiri, Nepal
Rotary Peace Fellow, 2014,
Rotary Peace Centre
Chulalongkron University , Bangkok**



Sharing a screenshot of the Zoom meeting conducted yesterday where President Sarita Karki (Rotary Club of Chandragiri, Nepal) shared a stirring presentation on Peace and Conflict Prevention & Resolution. She led us through the interpretations and nuances of what peace means to individuals, communities, and the world at large.

- Rtn. Maduchanda

INTERACT PRESIDENCY SCHOOL RT NAGAR INSTALLATION



BADMINTON



Captained Team India to third position in the IBAK Slam 2024 held in Kuwait. 8 teams participated with players from Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Canada & GCC.

GLIMSES OF A VISIT TO EGYPT

When My Brother who lives in Malaysia declared “ We and our neighbours in Kuala Lumpur are planning a trip to Turkey & Egypt my daughter Anjali's ears perked up.



The Sphinx with the Pyramid of Khufu. Giza.

When ? she asked my brother. End October he said. Great she said my daughter Arzoo has holidays then so we

will also join you in Egypt Who is we? asked my brother . Entire extended family she said. That is that .What my daughter says, like the king of Siam is final and binding .Thus it will be written and thus it shall be done. End of story.

We boarded the Etihad airline flight to Cairo via Abhu Dhabi on 25th October.

After a two hour halt at Abu Dhabi airport we were on our way to Egypt.

EXPECTATIONS:

Frankly Egypt was far down the list of places I would have liked to see as on 25th Oct 2024. Greece ,Italy Spain were top of the agenda. In my mind Egypt was the forgotten history of Pharaohs and Cleopatras, tombs and pyramids, incest and debauchery.

So I had no expectations.

And when we landed at the innocuous looking Cairo International



Sound and Light show at the Pyramids

Airport my suspicions were confirmed. The Cairo IP reminded one of Indian airports of the not so distant past. HAL, Meenambakkam etc. Grossly inadequate for the traffic they were handling , airport staff talking loudly amongst themselves, running hither and thither, as if in so doing the inadequacies of the airport infra would be mitigated. To keep this article short I will write sector wise on what we encountered / **experienced on our visit**

TRANSPORT:

Very nice A/c buses throughout our trip with Ice boxes in which were kept a variety of drinks including beer. The drivers were always polite and courteous and could speak a smattering of English. Generous tipping is expected. People

are friendly but one has to be wary of shop keepers.

The hotel had an aura of bygone grandeur , that era

when the French and Brits would descend in droves to embrace the warm Egyptian air and be treated like Kings and Queens. The rooms were decent and the bathrooms opulently French

The roads and flyovers are quite good . Traffic reasonably smooth.

After Two nights in Cairo we caught a flight to LUXOR.

Airline was ok as airlines go. Nothing

exceptional . Nothing to Complain.



Egyptian Woman

Internal flights are a little iffy -time wise but we were probably unlucky. Our return flight to Cairo from Aswan was delayed by 6 hours (our planned Shopping time in Cairo turned out be a no show)

The Cruise Liner in which we spent four nights from Luxor to Aswan (One Day Stop at Edfu and another stop at Kom Ombo before proceeding to Aswan, in a standard Liner 4 storeys high. It had 60 Double Rooms a dining hall , a lounge with bar, a large deck with bar and swimming pool. Excellent Service. Change of towels twice a day. Super food and cheap good quality Egyptian wine. Omar Khayyam if you will.

We took a balloon flight costing \$100 per person which by all yardsticks is cheap.

From ASWAN we took a bus to Abu Simbel 4hours ride through complete desert. With one stop in a very villagish dhaba. It had toilets. With passengers from about 100 odd buses not a very pleasant experience. But you do get a lot of packaged small eats a variety of Coffees and Teas.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY

Vegetarians will have no issues with food unlike in SE Asia. Plenty of salads and fruit, a variety of breads and cheeses, a



The Canopic jars in which the innards of pharaohs like lungs, liver, Stomach, intestines are kept before embalming the rest of the body

counter full of deserts, one chicken, one fish and one red meat dish with local rice. Par for the course on the liner.

The Egyptian food like Tabouleh, Hummus, Baba Ganoush with some Chicken and a variety of breads was very nice. Local speciality is Koshary. Otherwise Largely Mediterranean food.



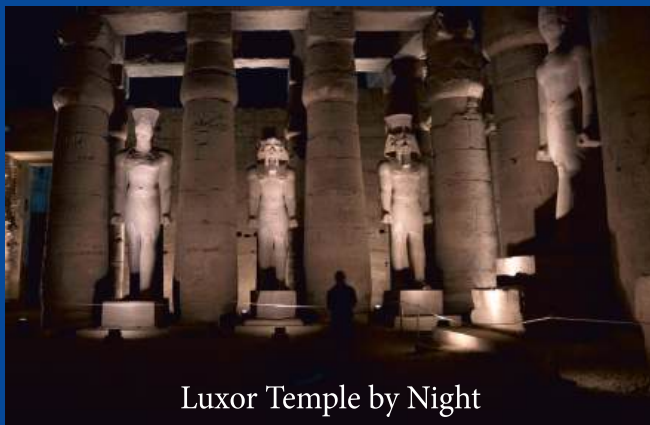
Part of Hatshepsut's 2nd obelisk destroyed by a 27BC earthquake at the Karnak Temple.

GEOGRAPHY

Mostly desert but must have been very fertile over a very large area once. Still very fertile but in a reduced area. They grow a lot of fruits and vegetables (100 varieties of Mango), bananas, oranges etc. Besides dates of course.

Cairo, Edfu all seem to be caught in a time warp. You will understand what

I am saying when you take a bus ride to Giza. Hundreds of old mournful looking mosques surrounded by cemeteries. Unkempt surroundings, broken walls, plaster peeling off walls or unplastered walls as if



Luxor Temple by Night

devastated by war, with people appearing and disappearing suddenly out of the ruins. The more recent areas are full of 10, 12, 15 story apartments with no apparent setbacks or height restrictions, jostling cheek to Jowl in a city of 27 million. Many of even the new buildings are not plastered as if the owner had either run out of money or the climate (with annual 3 cm rainfall) in his opinion didn't warrant plastering. A sort of multistoried continuous slum. Browns and sepias as if the desert would not allow any other colour.

One gets a feeling of being in medieval times when Islam was at its pinnacle. We took a horse drawn carriage

to see the Temple of Edfu. I saw upto carriage number 700.

ECONOMY

Nominal per capita is slightly higher than India @ \$3500 but PPP is \$20,500 80% higher than India signaling a much cheaper cost of living. Inequities are much less pronounced than India.

The Lake Nasser (actually a reservoir) created by the Aswan Dam covers an area of 6000 sq KM and holds



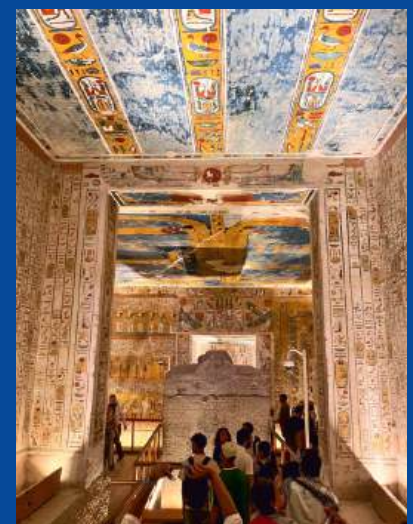
Early Morning Balloon ride.

162BCUM of water enough for 20 years for the whole of Egypt including its requirements for Agriculture.

THE SIGHTS

CAIRO:

1. The piece de resistance is of course Giza with its Pyramids King Cheops (Khufu) his son Khafra and Pharaoh Menkaure. All built 4500 years ago a marvel of engineering and precision. They had discovered a boat 142' long preserved intact in the pyramid belonging to Khufu 4500 years old, now kept at the Grand Egyptian Museum which was opened its doors to the public a few days after we left Cairo.
2. There is a Son et Lumiere in the night at Giza. Not so good.
3. The Sphinx
4. The Khufu Valley Temple near the Sphinx the funerary complex of Khufu built in polished Granite with monolithic pieces weighing 10-15 tons carted from Aswan by floods in the river Nile.
5. The Egyptian Museum. A museum of mindboggling artifacts including



Inner most chamber where the Sarcophagus of the Pharaohs were kept

Tutankhamon's Throne, Carriage, Sarcophagus and mummies of Yuya and Thuya the grandparents of Akhenaten and great grand Parents of



Painting inside the tomb-Original colours after 3500 years

Tutankhamon verified by DNA testing! 1400 BC!!
6. The Hanging Church

built over the Babylon Fortress. The Copt's and Muslim's favourite place to build over each others foundations.

7. Shopping El- Muiz Street and Khan El- Khalili Bazzar.

LUXOR:

1. **THE KARNAK TEMPLE:** As as soon as we landed we were taken to the Karnak Temple. The largest temple built in Egypt built over many Millennium.. Some things in the temple are just extraordinary.

The Hypostyle Hall with columns 70' high on the Capital of which 30 people can be



Queen Hatshepsut's palace undergoing restoration

accommodated. The Obelisks of Queen Hatshepsut erected around 1490 BC towering close to 100' high a single monolithic Polished granite weighing 340 Tons prepared in Aswan and transported to LUXOR by floods and erected at the temple!!!

Most obelisks in Egypt have been given away to or stolen by Western Powers.



Vibrant colours as good as new after 3500 years.

There was an unfinished obelisk being made at Aswan towering 42 metres and weighing

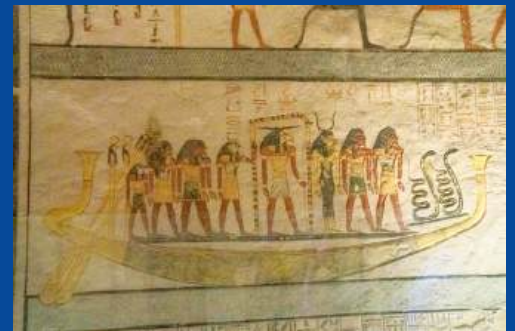
close to 1000 tons. This Large obelisk is the Lateran Obelisk, in Rome whisked away from Karnak temple weighing 455 tons. Made in 1425 BC the unfinished obelisk.

2. VALLEY OF THE KINGS

The Valley where most of the Pharaohs are entombed. Magnificent tombs . As a quick fix for the Pyramids because the mountain towering over these tombs looks like pyramid. All the Pharaohs were buried with all possessions they might need in

the afterlife including all sorts of day to day paraphernalia and copious amounts of Gold ornaments Etc.

Out of 60 odd tombs all except Tutankhamen's tomb



Another Image

discovered by Archaeologist

Howard Carter in 1925 have been robbed. The GPS to the tombs provided to the robbers by the very workers who built them !!!

3. QUEEN HATSHEPSUT'S PALACE.

A magnificent piece of architecture still under restoration. The only palace with landscaped grounds with plants imported from Somalia . Trust the only Woman Pharaoh to give the edifice a feminine touch.

4. THE LUXOR TEMPLE

I think for the rest of the highlights I will need another article.

But one last observation. Egyptians like Indians probably never had a sense of the greatness of their own History. And Egypt Like India lives simultaneously in many Centuries.

I forgot to write about the Rosetta Stone which was discovered in 1799 in Rashid (Rosetta)in Egypt written in 196 BC to commemorate the reign of Ptolemy V. It's written in Hieroglyphic, Demotic and Greek. This helped decipher the Hieroglyphics of the Old Pharaohs. The stone is in the British Museum.

- Rtn. Ravikumar

Wedding Anniversaries



- Venkat Ramann (PHF) & Sowmya : 03-Dec
- Sadashiva Shetty (PHF) & Vidya : 06-Dec
- Suri J (PHF) & Sundari : 13-Dec
- Chinmaya P Chigateri (PHF) & Shubhangini : 15-Dec
- Rajendra S. Rane (PHF) & Shilpa : 18-Dec
- Ramdas Pai (PHF) & Aruna : 18-Dec
- Vinay M. Pai (PHF) & Radhika : 19-Dec
- Srikanth K. P. & Prathima : 26-Dec
- Prashanth D Nair (PHF) & Anjana : 26-Dec
- Ravi Narasimhan (PHF) & Indrani : 28-Dec

Rotarians' Birthdays



- Shabbir Choilawala (PHF) : 11-Dec
- Rajendra S. Rane (PHF) : 19-Dec
- Pradeep G Agrawal (PHF) : 21-Dec

Spouses' Birthdays



- Sudhakar S (PHF) : 04-Dec
- Santosh Venkatappa : 06-Dec
- Chaitra Mukund : 19-Dec
- Venkat Ramann (PHF) : 23-Dec

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