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GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

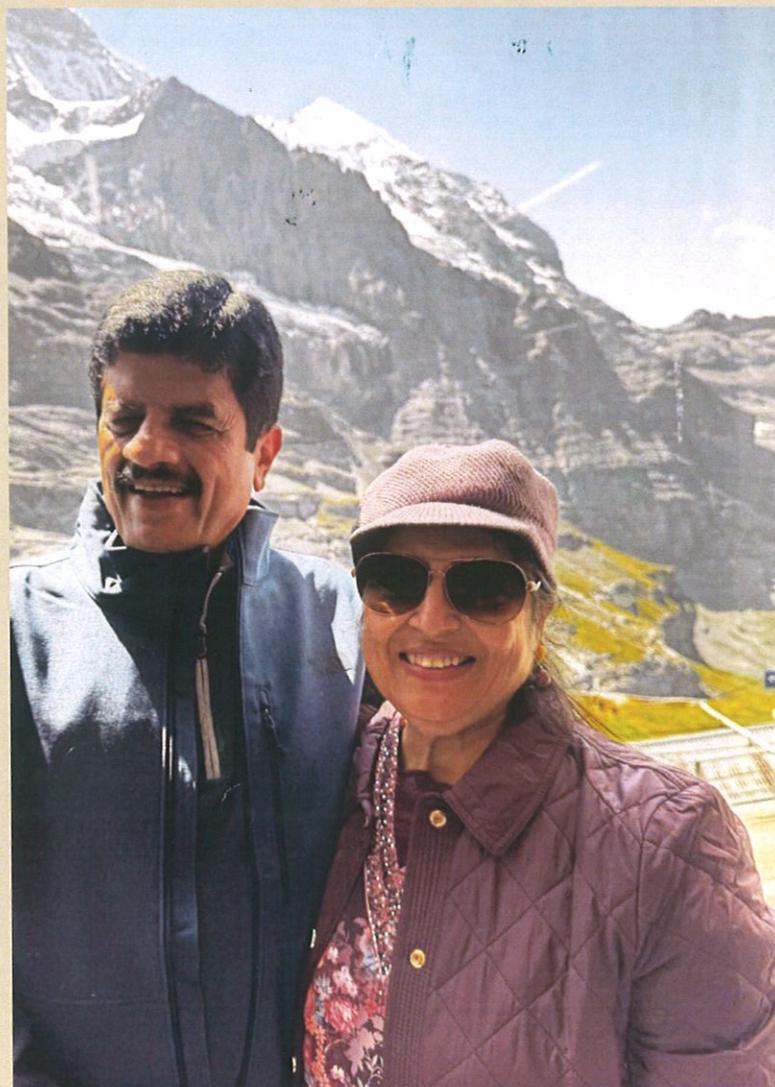
District Governor's Message

Rotarians of RI District 3234,

August has been a high-performance month and every club have started their service activities to make a difference in the society. Rotary Olympiad was a mega success program held on 27th July with participation of more than 1500 students. Every club came forward bringing Interact School students to participate in the two categories. More than 65 schools participated and the arrangements at the Nehru Stadium was phenomenal. Lt. Gen. Karanbir Singh Brar, General Officer Commanding, Dakshin Bharat Area, was the Chief Guest for the Olympiad and he was highly impressed with the NCC March-Past the participation of the students, the unfurling of the National Flag and the Rotary Flag, the Olympic Torch which was taken around the stadium and the wonderful March-past by the participating students gave the real feeling of an Olympic being conducted. Presidents, Club Rotarians, District Officials gathered in large numbers and the entire program was orchestrated flawlessly. The winners were delighted to receive the Gold Medal, Silver Medal and Bronze Medal. Breakfast and lunch for all was provided and well appreciated. Every participant was given a goody bag, a sports T-Shirt, and a Certificate of Participation.

August 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 was the Breastfeeding Awareness Week. Six top hospitals of Chennai catering to mother and child, welcomed the Rotarians, First Ladies, Lady Rotarians who came in large numbers to give a very attractive kit to the mothers containing all essentials and nutritional supplements. The mothers with their babies thanked Rotarians for the wonderful kit and for appreciating their babies. The five days event was hugely successful and appreciated by Doctors and hospitals and gave much satisfaction to all the ladies who participated. I congratulate Women Health Chair Dr. Susan and First Lady Usha Saraogi who spearheaded this program.

The District organized an International Trip to Switzerland which was joined by 52 Rotarians and their families. A very well conducted tour to the exotic destination was enjoyed and appreciated by all. Very good arrangements for travel, hotel, food was made. A double-decker bus was exclusively allotted for the entire trip. We met Rotary Club of Interlaken and agreed to work. We also met the DG Andrea in Zurich and the Rotarians of Zurich who would be signing sister-club arrangement. Switzerland was a memorable trip and will be remembered for a long time.



Rotary Action for Women 2 - Awareness on Child and Maternity Health

- Rtn. Dr. Susan Verghese, Chair – Women Health



In a remarkable display of community service and maternal healthcare support, more than 45 Rotary clubs and club First Ladies across RI Dist 3234 joined hands for the RAW2 (Rotary Action for Women) distribution of Maternity kits & much needed equipment for these hospitals initiative. The project was to distribute 1000 plus kits in 6 of the largest Govt hospitals during World Breast Feeding week from 1st-5th Aug,'25 .

Thoughtfully curated by First Lady Rtn Usha Saraogi it was implemented by the Women's Health team led by Rtn Dr Susan Verghese. These maternity kits consisting of mothers nighties, reusable pads, baby dresses, blankets, diapers, Horlicks, dates and health mix in a baby bag benefit antenatal and postnatal mothers. Also much needed equipment for these hospitals was donated such as wheelchairs, suction apparatus, breast milk pumps and chairs. The structured schedule planned was August 1st at RSRM, August 2nd at IOG and at ICH, August 3rd at KGH-ISO, August 4th at Shenoy Nagar UCHC, and August 5th at Adyar UCHC and few other leading maternity hospitals at Chennai ensuring maximum impact during this globally recognized period dedicated to promoting breastfeeding awareness by the

leading doctors of these hospitals .* The Global theme being "Prioritize Breastfeeding: creating sustainable support systems in communities ", efforts were made to teach the paramedical workers and health assistants who assist the new mothers with lactation in the first few hours thus creating awareness ensuring that maternity care reached the most underprivileged.



An evening with RI President Francesco Arezzo

- Rtn Krishna, Chair – GML

Traffic was bustling, Rotarians proceeding towards Hyatt Regency on Anna Salai, Chennai, on 24th Aug 2025 evening, to be at the Presidential Dinner hosted by our district. The long-awaited moment came when RI President Francesco Arezo and his spouse Ana Maria walked in with RID Muruganandham M and the Rotary dignitaries. Our District Governor Vinod Saraogi and First Lady Usha Saraogi welcomed them. As the evening was set for more interaction, after the group photographs with the dignitaries were taken, it opened with an invocation dance followed by DG Vinod welcoming the large gathering.

PDG Sridhar along with DG Vinod ensured that contributors to The Rotary Foundation were recognized. The list of donors from RID3234, who continue to contribute to TRF reaching AKS levels were recognized, followed by individuals who committed to name Endowments and more. The galaxy of the council of governors from RID 3234, with present and past RIDs, graced this occasion.

PRID A S Venkatesh moderated a panel discussion with RI President Francesco, RID Muruganandham and DG Vinod Saraogi as the panelists. The panelist spoke about the tremendous growth of Rotary membership in the East compared to the West, emphasis was laid on Retention, Engagement of members, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Everyone on the panel delivered their message eloquently. The audience also gained knowledge on green and black olives from RI President Francesco himself, who besides being an orthodontist, has other businesses, of which olive cultivation is one of them.

The evening concluded with a closing dance by a mother and daughter duo, bringing out the rich culture of our Southern Indian dance form, Bharathanatyam. A formal Vote of Thanks was delivered by District Secretary Rtn Saptagiri to close the evening's proceedings. A wonderful spread of delicacies was catered to give a treat to our palates and desserts for the sweet-toothed.

