

Rotary



Banyan Tree



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My Dear Rotarians

Presidents Message

December was a month to look back and introspect the work we had done and plan for the next 6 month of our rotary year.

When I looked back in the past 6 months I think one strong point was we had good family participation in all the fellowship we had conducted till now.

Every member to contribute in one project has taken off very well. We have completed 22 projects till now from 22 families. Many more have confirmed the dates, which we will follow it up and complete it.

Porur lake cleaning, puzhal jail medical camp of women inmates, medical camp at fourrts clinic, fund raise program. All was a successful with all your support. We had good weekly meetings with good turnouts except few. Till now we have got good speakers we will try and continue to bring in good speakers, request all your support to get good speakers.

NEW YEAR MESSAGE

We wish all our Members &
ANN, ANNETTE, HAPPY, HEALTHY, PROSPEROUS

2020

With the theme of 2020 will work for the next 6 months to keep up the momentum and complete what ever we have embarked upon in the coming six months.

We will reach out all our members in fulfilling one of Rotary international objectives in giving back to society EREY (Every Rotarian every year to contribute 100\$), with this objective we will reach out all our members this month. Thanks for all your support for the last 6 months, and for continued support for the next 6 months.

Plan for January

We will plan to felicitate the Zone 5 corporation workers, police personal of adyar area, and metrowater workers. We are planning to have this function on 25th of January. Request all our members to block the calendar and join us In the event.



3rd December Weekly meeting, Speaker meeting – Athmananda Perumal Topic- Finding the hidden treasure. How do we find out things or experience in a place when we travel. Athma is legal head with Sify Technologies he was sharing his experience on how he plans and go about getting to know things when he travels, how he plans his travel. Talked about forest trails and adventure trips.



AGM of Rotary club of Adyar was conducted on 17th December for passing of accounts for Rotary year 18-19, and passing of accounts for Rotary club of Adyar charitable trust 18-19.



Rtn Iyengar handed over the club charter and a book published about the history of Rotary Club of Adyar and inner wheel club.



As part of our this year theme every member to participate in a social cause, Rtn Vijay and Mrs Poonnguzhali provided lunch to Visually impaired children at little flower convent on account of his daughter first birthday Shivani.



Archana Suraj has donated two lower limbs below knee today on account of her daughter Akshara



Rotary club of Adyar along with Rotary club of Chennai Bharathi participated in Puzhal jail medical camp. For following checks CANCER, PAP Smear, Skin, Dental, Eye check, (Including spectacles) for Puzhal Women inmates. Followed by sumptuous lunch of biriyani With our D.G Rtn Chandramohan, and Guest of Honour A. Murugesan DIG Prisons.



As part of our theme of the year Every member to contribute towards social cause, Rtn Veloo Pushparaj donated one lower limb below knee and lower limb above knee at Mukthi foundation



As part of our theme of the year Every member to contribute towards social cause, Ann Meera Ragavan donated two lower limbs below knee at Mukthi foundation.



Family fellowship with the Christmas theme was celebrated on 22nd December, there was a good participation from all our members. In total there were 70 members including Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes participated.

PROGRAMME

Date

Meeting Details

- January 5th – Medical camp RCA and CSK Joitly with Fourrts and Delvin at east Tambaram
- January 7th – Speaker Meeting – Weekly Meeting
- January 21st – Speaker Meeting – Weekly Meeting
- January 25th – Felicitation of Zone 5 corporation workers, CMWSSB, and police personal of adyar zone.



- 2nd Jan – Rtn. Boopalan. C
- 3rd Jan – Rtn. Rajasekar. R
- 4th Jan – Rtn. Narasimha Iyengar. K
- 8th Jan – Annette Rasika Daughter of Rtn. Ramesh
- 9th Jan – Rtn. Seshiah. M.N
- 10th Jan – Rtn. Srinivasan. H
- 10th Jan – Ann Sugritha Jayaseelan
- 14th Jan – Ann Sashi Shyam Sundar
- 18th Jan – Ann Poonguzhali Vijay Prabhu
- 22nd Jan – Rtn. Ragavan. N
- 23rd Jan – Rtn. Sathish. T
- 24th Jan – Rtn. Sundarrajan. N

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

31st Jan – Rtn. Senthil Nathan & Ann Sunitha





Mexico



Mexico: How safe is it for travellers.

As I head back home from a lovely holiday, my mind goes back to all those words of concern and caution, which I had heard from my friends and family about choosing Mexico as my travel destination. People went on to say that Mexico can never be an option for solo travels, I should be wary of snatchers and pickpockets, walking around on the roads after sunset is an extremely dangerous option, so on and so forth.

Although Mexico is filled with breathtaking coastal scenery, awe inspiring coastal ruins and charming colonial towns, yet it suffers the age old reputation of horrible violence by warring drug lords, heinous crimes of kidnapping, extortion and robberies, thus making it sound extremely unsafe for travellers.

However, I didn't depend on hearsay and did my part of the homework before embarking on this journey. I connected with people, who have actually travelled there in recent times, read up about the country, its capital city and various travellers' blogs, which are written about travelling to Mexico. I also chatted up with a few on platforms like Instagram, who have visited the country and travelled at length there in group or solo. I ended up finding tons of travellers making a beeline to this country every year. Around 40 million international visitors travel to Mexico annually bringing in approximately 24 Billion dollars of annual revenue.

However, what I got from my chats with such travellers were pretty mixed reactions. Those Indian friends / acquaintances of mine who had travelled there in recent times, mostly discouraged me about travelling alone in Mexico. Whereas, there were numerous happy accounts of solo travels in Mexico and that too by females all over the Internet. Lot of foreigners, I chatted with were delighted about their solo travel experiences in Mexico and totally recommended it. So, the obvious happened. I took the plunge and booked my tickets.

What gave me confidence were:

1. The government of a country, which earns about 8.5% of its GDP from the tourism sector, can't be any less watchful of its tourists under any given circumstances. So, I, as a tourist, can expect a minimum amount of vigilance coming my way from the authorities themselves.
2. I have lived all my life in India, out of which a sizeable amount of time was spent in the capital city of Delhi-NCR, which lives by a certain reputation, no matter how harsh it sounds.
3. From all my earlier travels to few other countries, I have learnt that one must use common sense and caution when traveling to any foreign country.

So, here I am, on my way back all safe and sound, after having a good time. In the past couple of weeks, I have walked around the streets as much as I could to appreciate the city lights and take in all the happy vibes of the cities I visited, even during late evenings, taken the metro, booked Uber off and on using wifi connectivity, visited museums and monuments of interest all by myself or sometimes with fellow travellers from the hostel. Never for once did I feel uneasy or petrified by anything around. I landed in Mexico City at midnight and it was extremely easy to book a cab and head to the city centre. I walked on the streets of downtown at 1 am to find this amazing 'hole-in-the-wall' kind of taco shop.

My takeaways about this destination would be:

1. The highly populated touristy areas are heavily guarded by local police to keep the visitors safe and happy, thus ensuring those dollars from tourism sector rolling in.
2. I am not trying to say that violence and crime don't exist in Mexico. Those are restricted to isolated areas like many other countries including ours. So, one shouldn't venture out in dark lanes, far off places and sparsely populated areas. In other words, you should not go out looking for trouble.
3. Robbery and pickpocketing seems to be common here but I know of friends who were attacked by robbers in the subway stations of cities like Paris and Rome too. These can be avoided by using some common sense and precautions like not leaving your purse or camera equipment unattended, not keeping all your money in the pocket and stowing all important travel documents in your hostel/ hotel locker etc. Now these are very basic things, which all of us are aware and happen to practise for all our regular travels.
4. Avoid over speeding while driving (if you choose to). Their highways are amazingly smooth with serene and breathtaking views. Hence, the temptation to apply that extra pressure on the accelerator needs to be curbed. Avoid back roads and nighttime driving. It is advisable to hire taxis and driving services through the hotel where you're staying.
5. There have been incidents of spiked drinks, car rental scams, foreign currency switches etc but those are very common in tourist places and one just needs to be careful and exercise caution. Otherwise the locals are not there to loot you. The people there are very friendly, warm, kind, happy and eager to help. While knowledge of Spanish is an added plus but that doesn't stop you from exploring or venturing out as most of the people around the touristy places have a decent understanding of English.

My last evening in Mexico was spent walking around in the streets of the historic centre of Mexico City. That's where I chose to stay as most of the attractions were in and around here. As the realisation dawned upon me that I am hours away from leaving this vibrant city and the picturesque country, I decided to step out and make the most out of it.

As I freshened up and stepped out, I could see the roads were teeming with people. It was a Friday night. Every where it seemed like a festive mood. Everybody seemed to have fun - both tourists and locals, carefree couples and bunch of friends making merry and having a good time amidst frequent police patrolling. My Indian judgemental mind was making a note of the activities around but never for once did anybody or anything made me feel uneasy. I didn't find anybody staring at me, bunch of boys here and there were too busy having fun among themselves but not drunk and swaying all over to make your antennas go up. Couples holding hands were kissing away to glory but the policemen around were not indulging themselves in to moral policing.

I decided to grab some dinner and later walked around by myself till 11 pm on the streets enjoying the dance & music by the street performers, taking in the aroma of the food being cooked around and clicking pictures - something, which I wouldn't have dared to do in the streets of Connaught Place, New Delhi at that time of the night. That is the kind of confidence this country and its capital city gives to its tourists and travellers.

Mexico should be a 'must visit' in the bucket list of every explorer and passionate traveller.

Courtesy: Shrawanti saha (dustyroads_beckon on Instagram)