



### Rotary Club of Gurgaon Harmony Iberis

District 3011

Club 89710

Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 12

**July 2020** 

www.rotaryharmonyiberis.com

Charter Date: 12 November 2018

Rtn Holger Knaack RI President Rtn Sanjiv Rai Mehra District Governor Rtn Mukta Malhotra
President

Rtn Anjali Rana Secretary

### **President's Message**

Dear Friends,

As we end the year 2019-20, the first full year of the new Club – there is a sense of satisfaction about what all we could do together and the new friends that we made. We got some very good new members in our Club, and made close friends with other Clubs in our Zone 15, the neighbouring Zone 16 which consisted of Gurgaon Clubs, and many other senior members in the Rotary District.



The last quarter was unusual, with the lockdown coming in. While this affected our project activity, we kept up our speaker meetings with video conferencing. While we missed meeting up with our club members, video conferencing gave us the opportunity to have a Joint meeting with large club in New Delhi, and attend many meetings with overseas speakers. This included the RI President Mark Maloney, President Elect Holger Knaack, the RI President Nominee Shekhar Mehta, and a galaxy of RI Directors more than once, whom we may have never got to meet in normal times. In this last quarter, I personally got involved in getting Video Conferencing well established in the incoming District Team, where I also helped in organising the District Training sessions for the incoming Presidents and other office bearers for the Rotary Year 2020-21.

My major focus next year is going to be on strengthening the Club, by bringing in new members, getting all the members up to speed to participate in the club's Rotary activities and get together with all the club members and their spouses, again and again. This will ensure that we look forward to working together, to further our club objectives. And, we also need to work together with our Interact Club, Sshakt in Shiv Nadar School.

I will also appeal to all of you to look around in your social, corporate circles, business contacts and friends in your neighbourhood community and identify potential members for our club – people with whom you would like to meet more frequently and who would like to work with us on our project activities.

And, just to remind you - our major Club Project, the Harmony Heart Project is likely to get approved by Rotary International in the next few days, or weeks. This will be our flagship project, which the club will take up for implementation soon. This will also drive us to do similar, ambitious projects this year once again.

The theme for the Rotary Year 2020-21 is *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, so let us get started with President Mukta Malhotra and team, to explore new frontiers.

With Rotary regards,

Lalit Sawhney
President 2019-20



### **Additions to the Club**







New Interact Club, Sshakt at Shiv Nadar School







New Members, Rtn. Vivek Gour and Rtn. Sandeep Mogalapalli Inducted by PDG Sushil Khurana







New Members, Rtn.O P Taneja and Rtn. Jayshree Sawhney, Inducted by Assistant Governor, Ravi Gupta



# Rotary's first virtual convention inspires members to innovate and stay connected ...

Rotary's first-ever virtual convention attracted more than 60,000 registrants and 175,000 viewers during its weeklong program. The robust participation shows that Rotary members are finding ways to experience fellowship and fun, key parts of Rotary's annual international convention, despite the COVID-19 pandemic that forced the cancellation of the in-person convention planned for Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, this year. The first general session was 20 June. Virtual attendees made nearly 19,000 chat comments during the 75-minute session, showing that members used the opportunity to engage and stay connected with each other.

RI President Mark Daniel Maloney acknowledged that canceling the convention in Honolulu was a difficult decision but said he was inspired by how members worldwide have stayed connected, adapted to their changing circumstances, and helped those in need during the crisis.

Maloney said that unusual times have forced Rotary to adapt and look for different ways to grow Rotary. "Now we are experiencing in real time how important it is to create new club experiences," he said. He also said, "We had hoped to hold the most environmentally friendly convention in Rotary history [in Honolulu]. Guess what? We succeeded. We are holding a Rotary Convention like no other, with no air travel, no hotel rooms, leaving a remarkably small carbon footprint."

He added that, at the beginning of his term a year ago, Rotary was promoting the importance of increasing our ability to adapt, one of the goals of Rotary's strategic plan, known as the Action Plan. "We are putting that plan into action out of necessity," Maloney said. "We all have a better understanding of growing Rotary by extending our reach beyond regular meetings."

Emmy Award-winning television journalist Alisha Davis introduced a video collage of Rotary members around the world taking action against COVID-19 in their communities. She also interviewed members on how they're adapting to meeting online.

RI President-elect Holger Knaack, who became Rotary's president on 1 July, said that clubs must continue to respond and innovate during these uncertain times.

"[Responding and adapting] brings many new opportunities for us, to innovate and to learn from our experiences," Knaack said. "Let us seize this moment and value it for what it is, the opportunity for Rotary to build on what we've learned, to embrace this new reality, to embrace new faces, to find new and better ways to shine and to have a continuing impact on the world."

"We all have a better understanding of growing Rotary by extending our reach beyond regular meetings."

— RI President Mark Maloney



### **Know your Fellow Rotarian**

#### Your Rotarian - Rtn. Neel Kamal Bhargava





Neel Kamal and Neelima Bhargava

Neel Kamal was born in 1957, to educationists parents and grew up in MP. He has a post graduate degree in Chemistry and started his career in Delhi in 1978. He joined an apparel export company called TCNS; worked hard to learn the trade and had international exposure there. In 1991, he decided to take the entrepreneurial plunge and set up his own company – *Contemporary Classique*. They are a well known apparel export house working with some of the best international clothing brands. Mr Bhargava shifted to Gurgaon with his family two decades ago. He enjoys his morning walks and has travelled widely on business trips.

Neelima is from Agra and is a post graduate in Fine Arts. As a young child she also lived in Iraq for sometime! She's been a homemaker and proud mother to her two grown kids, Archit and Kanika. She absolutely loves cooking and penning down poetry. She has recently revived her interest in art and spends her days painting serene landscapes and bringing nature indoors, in these uncertain times.

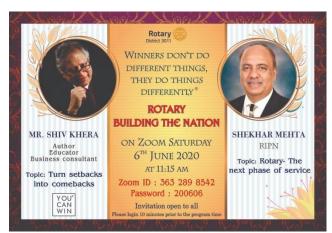


A little about the kids - the younger one Kanika is a qualified jewellery designer, married to Rahul Yadav from a business family. They have a son Adhiraj, who is almost 4 years old now, and who is a very perceptive and smart for his age. The three of them spend a lot of time at their farm where they have a bunch of animals and enjoy growing organic vegetables. Kanika also seems to have picked up the knack of writing poems from her mother, and has been writing some meaningful proses and short stories. And, of course she has turned out to be an amazing cook. Then comes Archit, the older son who is working in the family business and doing well for himself. He's married to Samar Bajaj who turns out to be a one of

the biggest animal lovers you will find, and also an extremely smart girl whose topped everything she's studied, and holds a double degree from LSE. Now, after a long stint working with the big consulting firms, she spends her time working with the Dell Foundation, where she's making a huge impact on the Indian Education sector. Archit and Samar have 5 dogs, out of which 4 are adopted from various shelter homes and are now living happily with them. All in all, this is a big happy family with lots of different personalities, who love each other a lot.



## District Fortnightly Meeting on 'Rotary Building the Nation' | 6 June 2020



The District Speaker Meeting had two motivating speakers, RI President Nominee Shekhar Mehta who spoke on 'Rotary – the next phase of service' and leading Business Speaker, Mr. Shiv Khera who spoke on 'Turn setbacks into comebacks'.

This video conference had more than 900 participants from different clubs from all over India. President Lalit Sawhney and Rtn. RS Atroley attended this very well attended meeting.

### Rotary Seminar on Preventive Health 14 June 2020



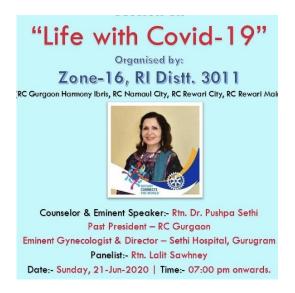
Rotary Seminar on Preventive Health was held on 14 June, 2020 over Zoom Video Conferencing. Speakers:

- 1. Dr Bharat Pandya, Director Rotary International
- 2. Dr Suversha Khanna, President Dharamshila Cancer Foundation
- 3. Padam Shri Dr K.K. Aggarwal, President Heart Care Foundation
- 4. Moderator: PDG Dr N Subramanium, Director Apollo hospitals

This was a very informative seminar with excellent and motivating speakers. President Lalit Sawhney and PE Mukta Malhotra from our Club attended this seminar.



# Joint Speaker Meeting, Zone 16 Clubs with CISCO WebEx Video Conferencing 21 June 2020



Joint Meeting with Clubs of Zone 16, our Club and clubs from Rewari and Narnaul - Speaker Dr. Pushpa Sethi, Past President, Rotary Club of Gurgaon spoke over a WebEx Video Conference, on *Living with COVID-19*. The meeting was moderated by President Lalit Sawhney.



Dr. Sethi spoke about living a regular life, and learning to live with COVID. She spoke about building immunity, eating the right kind of foods, carrying on work, going out shopping and taking the right kind of precautions - wearing masks vs. a face shield, measuring oxygen saturation levels regularly, management of home isolation, use of oxygen concentrators, etc. It was most informative and enjoyable. Members asked many questions and she answered them in detail.



## Joint Board Meeting, 25 June 2020 DLF Club5, Gurgaon

We were meeting face to face after a long time, and we were a large group of 10; so we wanted to be careful and not take any risks. We all wore masks, and sat far apart in a large room, without Air Conditioning.

We had a robust discussion on the Amendments to the Club Constitution and Bylaws, based on our experience during the first full year, and the need to explore options to expand membership.









The Board congratulated Rtn Vivek Gaur for his contribution of USD 10,500 to the Rotary Foundation and becoming a Paul Harris Fellow, Major Donor – Level 1. And, to Rtn Jayshree Sawhney for becoming a Paul Harris Fellow.

President Elect (PE) Mukta Malhotra gave a broad overview of the ambitious plans for the new Rotary Year.



### Virtual Talent Show, District 3011 'Zoom pe Jhoom' | 27 June 2020



Our Club Members participated in a Talent Show of the District over Zoom Video conferencing.

This consisted of various members dancing and singing, skits and hilarious sequences. And, towards the end, we were treated to various seniors known for their singing skills being invited to entertain us.

This was a highly enjoyable programme, a memorable finale for the Rotary Year 2019-20.

## Supporting the environment becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus: supporting the environment

More than \$18 million in Foundation global grant funding has been allocated to environment-related projects over the past five years. Creating a distinct area of focus to support the environment will give Rotary members even more ways to bring about positive change in the world and increase our impact.

**Supporting the environment** becomes Rotary's seventh area of focus, which are categories of service activities supported by global grants.

The other six areas of Rotary focus are:

- peace building and conflict prevention
- disease prevention and treatment
- water, sanitation, and hygiene
- maternal and child health
- basic education and literacy and
- community economic development.



#### Joint Clubs Speaker Meeting, 27 June 2020 Speaker – RIPN Shekhar Mehta



We had more than 200 members from multiple Districts and 4 countries joining for this E-Meeting over Zoom Video Conferencing. President Lalit Sawhney also participated.

In his highly motivating talk RIPN Shekhar Mehta spoke showed how different Rotarians from India - these single individuals - have made a major difference over the years by taking up various pioneering activities, which have become major Rotary service projects today. He talked about his own project work in his Club in Kolkata, about another Rotary Int'l President's work in Vapi, Gujarat, and about Rotarians from our District. He also talked about some of our Rotary India initiatives in Literacy, Water and Sanitation which are becoming part of the Government of India's flagship programmes.

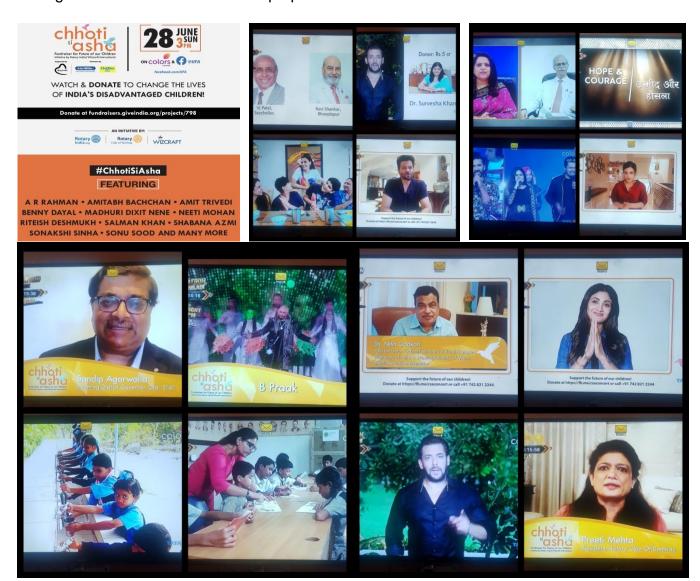
He highlighted how this 'Power of One' can transform each one of us into leaders in our own right. His basic message was, **one** person can make a difference if they put their heart and soul into it



### 'Chhoti Si Asha' | Project TEACH, Child Development

#### Fund Raiser, 28 June 2020

The Asha Kiran Child Development program aims to bring/send back out-of-school children to schools. The objective is to facilitate these children' access to mainstream state funded primary/elementary schools. Sending a child back to school costs Rs.2500/- for a year. Rotary organised a Fund-raiser for this purpose



Our President Lalit Sawhney contributed Rs. 10,000 towards sponsoring 4 children under the 'Chhoti Si Asha' programme, in memory of his parents.



### From the Secretary's Desk

Rotary Designated Months	
July	Start of new Rotary
	officers' year of
	service
August	Membership and
	New Club
	Development
September	Basic Education and
	Literacy
October	Economic and
	Community
	Development
November	Rotary Foundation
December	Disease Prevention and Treatment

Calendar of Events	
1 July 2020	Installation Ceremony of District Governor Sanjiv Rai Mehra and Club Presidents (2020-2021)
8 July 2020	Regular Club Meeting at DLF Club 5, Gurugram
22 July 2020	Regular Club Meeting at DLF Club 5, Gurugram

# Best Wishes & Felicitations Birthdays

3 July R'anne Seema Singhania 30 July R'anne Neeru Atroley

8 August Rtn. Mukesh Bhargava

#### **Anniversaries**

15 August R'anne Gowthami Anisha Vallampati &

Rtn Sandeep Mogalapalli



**Editor: Rtn Anjali Pandey** 

**Published by: ROTARY CLUB OF GURGAON HARMONY IBERIS** 

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY





#### Three generations of leaders for Rotary International

Holger Knaack 2020-21 Mark Maloney 2019-20 Shekhar Mehta 2021-22