



## *The Rotary House of Friendship*

**T**he Rotary Club of Bangalore was inaugurated on June 5, 1934 at the Central Hotel (now extinct) on Lavelle Road.

The Charter was presented to the Club on October 27, 1934, at a meeting held in West End Hotel. Then onwards, the weekly meetings took place in the same venue, till July 1948 when the Bangalore Club Annexe became the meeting place of the Club.

As years passed by, it was felt that the Club should have its own building. The seed of this thought was planted in 1957 by the then President Rtn. K.S.Menon. Speaking at the inauguration of the Rotary year 1957-58, he said : "Several Rotarians of other Clubs of this country and abroad pass through the City of Bangalore without ever getting an opportunity to meet Bangalore Rotarians. What is contemplated is to meet this long-felt need by providing a suitable building



for the purpose. We shall call it 'International House of Friendship and Culture'. It shall be our aim to build goodwill and mutual understanding between peoples of different parts of the world. There are similar institutions in certain big cities of the world, which are (in my view) veritable laboratories where interesting experiments in human

relations are being carried on. In a country like ours and in a city like Bangalore, the need for such a centre cannot be exaggerated.



We shall cater to the social needs of not only our members but also of less fortunate citizens. The scope of such an institution is unlimited. A committee of citizens shall manage its affairs, organize programmes and thus bring together people of the community and imbue them with the desire to serve society better".

But it took quite some time for anything concrete to happen. The Bangalore Club could no longer continue offering its facilities for Rotary meetings and it became

imperative to make alternative arrangements.

It took the devotion and good offices of a dedicated Rotarian like P.Gopalan Nair and the far-sightedness of Rtn. PDG. Dr. M.N.Mahadevan to give proper shape to the Club's dream. Rtn. Nair managed to get a bit of land for the Club at a most prestigious place, and by coincidence, in the same compound where Rotary in Bangalore was born.

A decisive turn took place with the



laying of the foundation stone on June 2, 1963 by Rtn. PDG Dr. M.N.Mahadevan who had been a member for 26 years out of the 28 since the inception of the Club.

Within 14 hours after the evening



function of laying the foundation stone, it was a thrilling sight to see PDG Mahadevan, Shri S.Nijalingappa, Chief Minister of Mysore State, President S.Rangasami and other Rotarians ceremoniously turning the first sod for the commencement of construction of the building.

The elevation plan of the proposed

building prepared by architect Shri V.V.Alur was on display at the site. Rtn. B.N.Gupta had taken the initiative



of getting the plan prepared and seeing that the building was completed expeditiously.

Outlining the details of the project, PDG Mahadevan said in 1964: "In order to implement the fourth object of Rotary namely 'advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a worthy fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service', the

Rotary Club of Bangalore Charitable Trust has sponsored a scheme of constructing an auditorium and rooms for committee meetings on a plot of land measuring 100 ft. by 80 ft. at Lavelle Road. This auditorium will be the venue for the meetings of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, and will also be used on other days of the week for meeting students and tourists of countries other than our own who happen to be in Bangalore. This will be the meeting ground between the cross-section of the community of Bangalore, foreign students and tourists. Such facilities are available in almost all the big cities of Europe, United Kingdom and America. This will give an opportunity for personal contact and courtesy to the visitors and make them feel at home in a strange country".

Speaking of costs, Dr. Mahadevan said "This project will naturally cost a lot of money. The plot of land has already cost us Rs. 50,000/- (for which we had a generous donation of Rs. 25,000/- from

Mr. Srinivasachari). Besides we shall be spending about one lakh of rupees by the time the building is completed. The finance for this is being raised by way of debentures, donations and benefit performances".

The Rotary House of Friendship was formally inaugurated on July 7, 1967, by Shri V.V.Giri, then Vice President of India. The Rotary Club of Bangalore thus became the first Club in India to establish a Rotary House of Friendship.

In 1986-87 the club took upon itself a massive programme to provide facilities at the auditorium. Arrangements were made to furnish the walls with rose wood paneling and glazed tile flooring. The work was

completed in a short span of time. Later, the fellowship area adjoining the main hall was provided with necessary infrastructure. In 2003-04 the terrace of the House of Friendship was provided with tile roof covering. This enabled the club to host dinners or even hold committee meetings. In 2004-05, Rtn. President K.V. Pradeep arranged for air conditioning the auditorium at practically no cost to the club. In 2009, the office space and other facilities were added.

The House of Friendship owes its existence to late Rtn. Gopalan Nair and the beautification of the terrace to Rtn. Itty Zachariah.

The most pleasant feeling is the move to provide for better seating and fellowship area.



*Rotarians  
and  
Golden Years*



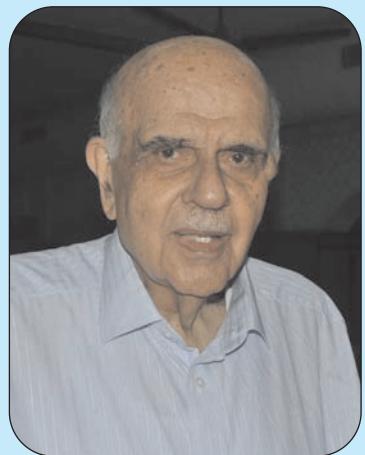
PRID Rtn.  
M.K.Panduranga Setty

Pandu joined the Rotary Club of Bangalore in 1959 served as the Second Governor of the newly formed R.I.District 319 in 1978-79. His involvement in Rotary is total. To fulfill the dream of establishing a Regional Magazine of this Zone, Pandu took over Rotary News from Debu Hosali, who was hitherto editing and publishing the magazine, first Secretary of the newly formed Rotary News Trust and later taking the challenge of editing it. Thanks to Pandu's effort and RID R.K.Saboo's

support Rotary News (English) and Rotary Samachar (Hindi) were recognized as Regional Magazines, in January 1984.

He served as Rotary International Director for 1991-93 and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board in 1992-93, the only Asian to serve in that position. Pandu has been asked by several distinguished RI Presidents to serve on vital committees like Dream for the Future Strategic Planning; Centennial History Population and Development and others. He is the longest serving member of the Strategic Planning Committee of Rotary International. Completing 50 years of Rotary with immaculate

attendance of 100%. He is a Trustee and Chairman of the Rotary Foundation India. Pandu has been passionately working all along for polio eradication and has served as Vice Chairman South East Asia Regional Polio Plus Committee. He has received the 'Service above Self' award from Rotary International.



*Rtn. Narendra Vithaldas*

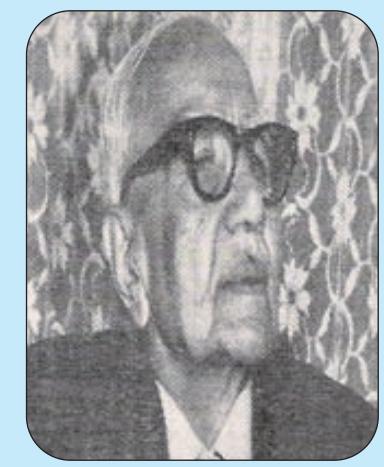
**R**CB is privileged to have in its midst Rtn. Narendra Vithaldas, who has completed 53 years in the Rotary movement.

Rtn. Narendra Vithaldas was inducted into the Rotary at the young age of 26 in Bhopal in the year 1956. He has been a Rotarian in Bombay for six years and in Delhi for 23 years before joining RCB in 2000. A man of few words, he has contributed immensely

to Rotary and among his achievements are organizing the first eye operation camp in Delhi as well as setting up the Cancer wing at the AIIMS, Delhi. This apart, his most memorable contribution was to the Asia Regional Conference, for which he managed to register over 10,000 participants.

Rtn. Vithaldas believes that his Rotary life would have been incomplete had it not been for the unstinted support offered by his wife Jaishri. He says, "In RCB I have rediscovered my home and I greatly appreciate the warmth and compassion I share with my fellow Rotarians".

RCB salutes the indomitable spirit of Rtn. Vithaldas and continues to be inspired by his commitment to the Rotary movement and wishes him and Ann. Jaishri many more enjoyable years at RCB.



Rtn. Dr. L.R.Sharma

**H**e was born in Jullundur on 7-7-1900. He passed his M.B.B.S. from Punjab in 1926 M.R.C.P (EDIN) 1930, and D.P.H., (Camb), D.T.M. and H(Camb) 1929. He has published several original papers in medicine and pathology. He retired from Mysore Medical Service in 1956 as Chief Physician of the Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospitals, Bangalore. He was appointed and served as Medical Adviser to I.T.I. and was Consulting Physician to its general hospitals for 10 years. Dr. Sharma was a member of the Association of Physicians of India, the Association of Industrial Medicine, of which he was Past President in the Bangalore branch and a member of the Bangalore Club.

Dr. Sharma's interest covered reading-medicine, history, religion and social work. Dr. Sharma joined Rotary Club of Bangalore in 1935 and he was a senior active member holding the classification - Medical Practice – Physician.

Dr. R.L.Sharma passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 1985.

*Down  
memory  
lane...*

# *Bangalore Yesterday*





Rtn. Y.V.S. Vinod

## Bengaluru Now & Then

Perched at an altitude of 3113 feet above sea level in the Deccan Plateau of India is the City of Bangalore. Enshrined by King Veera Ballala of Vijayanagara kingdom, "Benda Kala Ooru" was tongue twisted by the British as "Bangalore". In 1537 the city was plotted to scale by Kempe Gowda I. In a series of captures of the city, Shahajirao Bhonsle, father of Chatrapati Shivaji was the first in 1638 to be followed in 1687 by Aurangzeb who sold Bangalore to Krishnaraja Wodeyar. The Wodeyar gave it away as a Jagir to Hyder Ali who in turn fortified Bangalore as his army headquarters. When Hyder Ali's son Tipu Sultan succumbed to wounds on the battlefield in the fourth war of Mysore in 1799, the British bestowed

the kingdom to Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. Bangalore became the official residence of the British. Once again the British regained control of the administration of the Kingdom of Mysore under the premise of misrule by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III and as with the rest of the India, established infrastructure. Bangalore saw its first train in 1859, the first motor car in 1900, the sprawling Cubbon Park in 1864 and towards the end of 1800's the Attara Kacheri and the Bangalore Palace.

From then to this day, Bangalore, among all the cities of this nation carries a taint of the stiff upper lip. Bangalore's global communication started as early as in 1800 when the General Post Office was established. Sometime in 1881 Bangalore reverted to the Wodeyars who appointed some outstanding Dewans like Sir Mirza Ismail (who addressed the Rotary Club

of Bangalore in 1934) and Sir M Visveswaraya who characterized the modern outlook of Bangalore.

The cantonment of the city demarcated in 1809, was the best destination for the British armed forces and they christened many of its streets with military description such as Artillery Road, Brigade Road, Infantry Road and Cavalry Road. The southern end of the parade grounds, for short the 'South Parade' used to be the favorite of the soldiers to visit the Plaza Theatre (built in 1936). The concept of 'dress circle' traces back to those days when one had to go dressed in a suit to watch the cinema from the rear seats of the theatre. The road that lead to the British Representative's residence came to be known as Residency Road. Sometime in 1880's the cantonment extended to Richmond Town, Benson Town and

Cleveland Town where most of the residents were Anglo - Indians and Tamils of the British Raj.

Rotary Club of Bangalore should pride itself that one of the city's localities is named after its first President in 1934, Rtn MacIver.

Bangalore had its worst famine in 1875-77. That is when Millers Tank came up to supplement water pumped from the Halsoor, Shoolay and Pudupacherry tanks and a *Karanjee* system from Dharmambudhi and Sampangi tanks. On June 23, 1896 Arkavathi River water was pumped from the Chamarajendra Reservoir (Hessarghatta) and later came the Thippagondanahalli Reservoir in 1933. The Integrated Water Supply Scheme of Cauvery River was inaugurated in 1961.

Bangalore was hit by a plague in 1898 and many temples sprang up during this time, dedicated to the goddess Mariamma who was believed to cure the city. The epidemic lead to the establishment of modern sanitation public works in the city. The first Health Officer was appointed in 1898 and the Victoria hospital was inaugurated in 1900 by Lord Curzon, Viceroy and Governor-General of British India. In this Hospital, ignored and battered lies a 'burns ward' that was set up by the Rotary Club of Bangalore.

In 1906, Bangalore became the first city in Asia to have electricity, supplied by the plants situated in Shivanasamudra. Basavanagudi, Malleshwaram, Kalasipalyam and Gandhinagar came up in 1921-1931 and the plant at Kumara Park and Jayanagar in 1947-48. The 1960s and 1970's saw the rich and famous of modern Bangalore settle in the newly developed "Palace Orchards" or

Sadashivnagar.

Post Independence, Bangalore saw significant industrialization and many large Public Sector industries such as HAL, ITI and BEL among others were set up. They saw the growth of the city and many new extensions sprang up. This brought in the cosmopolitan outlook to the city as people from all over the country came to Bangalore in search of careers and opportunities that included ancillary and small scale industries. To this day the city prides itself as the best educational centre in the country for all round development of the student.

This paradise for learning touched a brilliant chord with binary languages and dished out Information Technology professionals. The mantra of the 'Computer Age' began in the

latter half of 1980's. This period also saw slowing down of the ancillary and small scale industries as most of them ended as fossils in all extensions of the city. By the early 1990's Bangalore wore the new name badge of the 'Silicon city' and shed the 'Garden city' name tag giving way to the new high rise creeping out of the green tops. The new rich were born and the docile Bangalorean turned flashy. The dress code of the female population of the city liberated by leaps and bounds. Discos and Pubs mushroomed everywhere. Despite all these emerging changes, the one thing that stood ground was Bangalore's love for Cricket. GRV, BSC, EAS, SMH and Rahul Dravid kept their commitment to the game in their true spirit of 'team

players' and won matches for their team caring precious little for individual records.

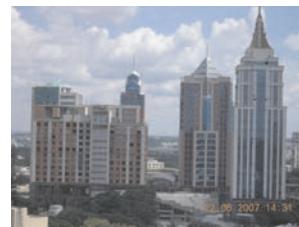
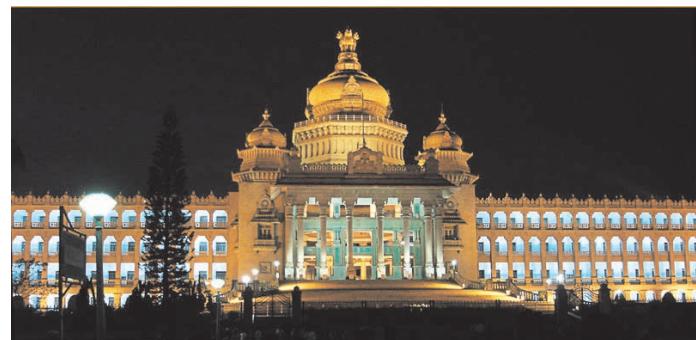
In the field of Art, Anna avaru Rajkumar (means elder brother) took Kannada film industry places.

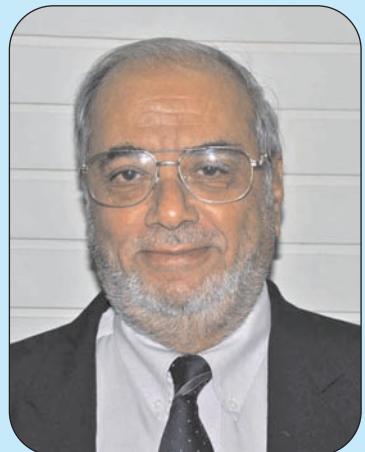
Bangalore's love for music and theatre is abundant in the packed audiences at all concerts, be it of Gangubai Hangal or Sir Mick Jagger.

Bangalorean's spending budget on capital account increased with ESOPS, stock market gains as real estate became dearer and bungalows and heritage homes gave way to apartments. The shortage of space in the city and absence of natural boundaries gave room for expansion of the city into newer extensions beyond

Kempegowda's imagination. Could he ever imagine that he would have to drive 40 or 60 kilometres to the all New Bengaluru International Airport? Today Bangalore is bursting at its seams and faces severe challenges of traffic management. As I close this article I can hear on the TV in the background that there are more job losses at TCS. But who cares, it is time for me to take that 'autorikshaw' ride to go to Koshy's or Mavalli Tiffin Rooms for that 'by two coffee'. We are going through difficult times. "Swalpa adjust madkoli" (means 'kindly adjust to the situation').

# *Bangalore Today*





PP Rtn. Phiroze B. Bharda

## Bengaluru - 10 years down the line

To look into the future is quite a challenging proposition, but even more so if the focus is on Namma Bengaluru. Only the naive would predict the manner in which our city will grow even within the short span of 2 to 3 years from now, leave alone a decade. One is likely to arrive at certain conclusions based on the lopsided growth of the city in the last decade, the erratic run-up to various infrastructure projects and above all on the basis of the current character of the city and its people. In doing this one could go terribly wrong. We can dare to see into the future and make predictions with regard to the likely condition of any city if the leadership is strong, vibrant, and above all blessed

with a vision. History clearly demonstrates that the well-being of a city, township, or even a village comes through inspired leadership and proper governance. The great authors and writers of the past have described and spoken highly of various civilizations, whose people and gentry were happy and contented only because they had enlightened rulers and administrators at the helm. Vision, inspiration, administrative intellect and above all unflinching integrity make for good administration and a predictable future. Bangalore of old, with the likes of Sir Visveswaraya, Sir Mirza Ismail and a few more, superbly proved this observation. Strong leadership, exemplary character of moral fibre combined with a fierce pride in their ability made for a Bengaluru which for a variety of reasons stood out like a beacon amidst the cities of India.

Unfortunately we in today's Bengaluru are not so blessed. Therefore, the next 10 years presents a picture of uncertainty. A haze seems to cloud the

thinking of our planners, who, at best choose to make short term plans which are basically knee jerk reactions to each situation as it arises. Growth, lopsided as it may be, is there. However, there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that this growth is not consistent with the needs of the city, or for its future, nor have they provided the solutions that are required.

I do not claim to have the acumen or the intellect to see into the future with any degree of accuracy. Nevertheless, a panoramic sweep of today's Bengaluru, leads me to the conclusion that, and sadly, I may just be right. These are my predictions – and predictions they must be, since as already stated only a person lacking in wisdom and foresight would dare to arrive at any firm conclusion with regard to our city and its onward march.

☞I see Bengaluru intensifying its focus on the development of hi-tech industry which necessarily includes information technology and its growth. In the process we will slowly see the old world charm that characterized Bengaluru as the California of the East and the Pensioners' Paradise slowly but surely vanishing.

☞I see greater influx of people from other States and indeed from other countries which would change the character of the city. If there is even a slight resemblance to the Mysore State of old it will vanish. With a new breed of people coming in, there will be change in values, new systems, but above all, new behavioural attitudes not necessarily for the better.

☞I see our youth becoming more competitive and subjected to more

stress. If today's child has to battle it out in the midst of severe rivalry in school, college, or wherever, the position will steadily become worse as the new environment will not tolerate mediocrity.

I see dramatic increase in stress levels. With it will be a steady decline in the social life of our youth. They will have more time to improve their professional competency but hardly any time to enjoy the fruits of their labour. They will be robbed of their youth quite early in life.

☞Conflict areas will increase to such an extent where we will have our people building many a relationship but not as many friendships. This possibly will be the worst offshoot of the changes that will take place, for if interaction is not at the level of a friend, but only with a partner or an acquaintance, human values, sensitivity, care and concern for others seem to diminish. That would be a sad day.

☞In the 10 years past, development of infrastructure to meet the demands of the increase in population has been slow and tardy. I do not see any perceptible improvement either in terms of the time frame, planning or the additional civil works required. So on the one hand we shall continue to see an unbridled increase in population whether it is from within or as a result of the influx, and on the other hand the infrastructure projects will not be able to keep pace with these new needs. The result – unbearable pressure on the people and their daily life.

☞A once beautiful city with wide open spaces, has already been reduced to a metropolitan jungle. A decade from now we shall see our landscape dotted with massive flyovers and taller and bigger high rise buildings. Old bungalows, a few that still exist to remind us of those golden days will give way to these eyesores.

☞The ever increasing population and their transport needs will bring about a network of rapid transport systems. These may be in the form of an elevated railway system, underground and surface metro rail network and a few more in the fullness of time. The initial start to these ambitious plans gives one a clear picture of the shape of things to come.

☞I see Bengaluru facing a crisis of unprecedented proportion in our natural resources. We are experiencing water and power shortages intermittently all over the city and whilst admittedly this is receiving the attention of our politicians and administrators it leaves us wondering what will be our position 10 years down the line. Do we have any major plans that involve the creation of huge water resources and power generation? Have our city fathers realised the need for such projects? Is there a blue print for the future?

☞I also see the widening of the gap between the 'Haves' and 'Have nots'. Progress in its wake brings in low paid labour and therefore many slums. Poverty will be on the increase and the wealthy few will get wealthier.

☞I see the traffic situation becoming a nightmare. It will assume unimaginable and unmanageable proportions. Things can get worse and this is the nightmare. Poor and slow developments of roads and without any restraint on the increase in private and public transport will eventually lead to total chaos of unprecedented proportions. Newer brands of motor vehicles will vie with each other to get or increase market shares, totally unmindful of the congestion, and the resultant emissions. Consequently health hazards will increase.

☞It is but natural to assume a sharp decline in human values. Alienation and dehumanization of people will

naturally follow. We will enter a rat race of such dimensions that the cliché, survival of the fittest, will assume new and frightening proportions..

☞I see an escalation in the cost of living, a phenomenon which is a natural corollary to growth and progress.

☞I see change in the life style of people who would abandon the age old family values of togetherness for separate and riotous living.

☞The final picture of Bengaluru that will emerge in 10 years would not be that of a serene, well structured and disciplined city. Like many other major cities of the world, it would present a combination of growth and progress as well as degeneration in quality of life and mental discipline.

☞I sincerely hope that in the fullness of time my predictions will turn out to be just a figment of my imagination. It is too much to expect a sudden awakening in our elders who could with vision and drive give this city a form of government that it deserves. After all, they can derive inspiration from our great administrators, scholars and planners of yesteryears. What is required is a political commitment to the city and its people. I BLEED FOR YOU, BENGALURU!!!

# *Bengaluru Tomorrow*





Rtn. R. Sundaram

**T**here is a growing recognition of the value of good environment. The continuous increase in the emission of greenhouse gases, mostly of carbon dioxide is the cause of global warming so dangerous to humanity that people will be unable to breath freely in the near future if left unchecked. Only realization of this phenomenon is not adequate, but definite remedial measures to be taken which are being done in various ways all over the world.

The aim is to bring down the emission level to the 1990 level in the next 15 years.

Bangalore has certain problems in addition to the global problem of carbon emission and they also add to global warming.

The salubrious city of Bengaluru, because of its inherent location enjoys many

benefits with regard to climate. The serious consequences of carbon emission worldwide are not felt to that extent in Bangalore. However, because of the unprecedented increase in the traffic including automobiles, two wheelers and buses, people cannot enjoy breathing fresh air. Asthma cases increase. People are reluctant to move out of their houses. Social get-togethers are getting less. A beautiful metropolitan city, Bengaluru many times comes to a grinding halt and it is definitely a pity.

Intensely developed cities like New York don't have such problems.

What are the remedies for Bengaluru.

Major complexes including IT firms must be encouraged to develop housing projects near their main complexes so that staff can even cycle to the work place. Actually, earlier that was the scheme. Industries like ITI, BEL, HMT, HAL etc. had their own housing colonies with all required infrastructure like schools, playgrounds, shopping streets, hospitals etc. Hence walk-to-work system was there.

## *Shape of things to come...*

Another important point which everybody knows is mass transportation. Of-course Metro work has started. To give access to all roads, we must start mono-rail systems. Thus the vehicular traffic must be reduced to 30 percent of the existing traffic on the roads.

Any amount of flyovers will not solve the problem but on the contrary will encourage more vehicular traffic resulting in higher pollution levels.

What is the solution? Rotary at its District level must form a committee on environment. This committee must meet regularly once a month and co-ordinate with government officers to continuously take forward solutions for all environmental problems. May be the committee must have some environmentalists on the Board.

I hope and pray that wisdom will dawn on all connected with environment to act on reducing green house gas emission.

Finally a quote from Prof. Mehta of University of California, Berkeley:

“The term, global warming, refers to the green house-gas effect leading to a steady increase in the earth's surface temperature since 1950s.

According to a World Watch Institute report, 24 of the last 27 years have been the warmest on record. Weather scientists around the world have concluded that a linear relationship exists between the earth's surface temperature and the atmospheric concentration, about 380 ppm [mg/L] in 2005, is the highest in recorded history. With business as usual, it is projected to increase at an exponential rate. In 2006, the annual global CO<sub>2</sub> output reached a staggering 30 billion tonnes.

Evidence of global warming is not confined to temperature measurements. The

following list includes some of the observable effects of the phenomenon:

- A sharp increase in the melting rates of glaciers, polar caps, and ice sheets.
- Rising ocean levels - a potential threat to coastal populations.
- Unusual increase in frequency and intensity of rainstorms, flash floods, cyclones, hurricanes, heat waves, droughts and wild fires.
- Adverse impact on current sources of agriculture and water.
- Disruption of the earth's carbon cycle due to changes in the botanical species on land and oceans.

In a series of reports, issued earlier this year by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, leading weather scientists of the world have unequivocally stated that “ global warming is occurring and that it has been triggered by human activities. They have warned about devastating consequences of global warming if immediate action is not taken by national and industry leaders to reduce the carbon dioxide emission to the 1990 level or less”.

I trust any person who reads this article realizes the gravity of the situation. Please act and follow some simple remedies immediately and they are: usage of solar water heaters, harvesting rain water, reuse of waste water for gardening, usage of less air-conditioning, adopt green building standards and lastly run or jog or walk or cycle.