

## RBI Board 2019-20

### **President:**

Rtn. Manoj Agarwal

### **IPP:**

Rtn. Jagdeesh M

### **President Elect:**

Rtn. Dr. Srikanth AVS

### **Vice President:**

Rtn. Fazal Ur Rahaman

### **Secretary:**

Rtn. A. K. Sugunan

### **Jt. Secretary:**

Rtn. Balkrishnan Narayanan

### **Director Club Service:**

Rtn. Supriya Kandhari

### **Director Community Service:**

Rtn. Ambica Motupali

### **Director International:**

Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan

### **Director Vocational:**

Rtn. Gopinath N

### **Director Youth:**

Rtn. Ajay Gupta

### **Bulletin Editor:**

Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy

### **Sergeant At Arms:**

Rtn. Baskaramoorthy D

### **Treasurer:**

Rtn. Bhaskar N L

### **Fund Raising Chair:**

PP Rtn. Suresh D Patel

### **Deputy Director Community Service:**

Rtn. Philip George

### **Co opted Directors:**

PP Rtn. Shashank Kekre

PP Rtn. Mahesh Parikh

PP Rtn. Peeyush Jain

### **Advisors:**

PP Rtn. R. Badriprasad

PP Rtn. Suresh Hari

PP Rtn. Karthikeya Reddy

### **Mentors:**

PP Rtn. N. Krishnamurthy

PP Rtn. Dr. Nagesh Simha

### **WEEKLY MEETING VENUE & TIME:**

Rotary House of Service

2143, 16E Main, HAL II Stage,

Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008

Time 19:00, Monday

rotary.indiranagar@gmail.com

Ph: 080 25267014



## From the Editor's desk



Dear Reader,

In this issue we present RBI activities that occurred after the SEVA issue 07 was released. The intervening SEVA issue 08 carried an in-depth coverage of the Governor's official visit (GOV) to RBI.

Like we mentioned earlier, RBI is unceasing in its efforts to make our world that much better. A plethora of project work has gone on. We share with you only a fraction of it.

We feature the following events in this issue:

A personal account of the IC 814 hijack by PDG U B Bhat – Terror in the Air

Visit by RI President's Representative Mahesh Mokalkar and Ann Arti Mokalkar

RBI at District Conference Nexus 2020

Cardiac Care poised for a new turn at RBI

RBI Adult Literacy Initiatives

'Belief is a Multiplier' for Lake Manae

RBI at Pulse Polio – NID Jan 2020

Karunashraya Expansion

MoU by RBI for Sishukunj at BGMS

Urban Afforestation

RBI's Anganwadi inauguration unabated spree continues

Sree Cauvery School Interact Club installed

Saevis Eco Quiz held on 25th Jan at Sree Cauvery PU College

Rang Rotary Ke Sang

GSK Excellence Awards

Rotaract Club of SIBM, Bangalore Installed

For earlier SEVA issues, visit <https://www.rotaryindiranagar.org/newsletters/>

And please send your comments on this issue to SEVA.RCBI@gmail.com

Happy Reading,

Vidyut Shenoy  
Bulletin Editor, 2019-20



## Terror in the Air

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at RHOS, PDG Rtn. U B Bhat (UB) narrated his ordeal on IC 814 flight in December 1999, in great depth. As a passenger, he had an in-flight side view of that fateful hijacking



Christmas eve 1999 was a routine bright December day in Kathmandu with Christmas spirit in the air. PDG Bhat like other co-passengers hoped to have a wonderful Christmas in Delhi as he prepared to board the aircraft. He was somehow struck with the airport security staff's casual attitude at check-in. He attributed it to the unusually crowded airport. Staff laxity was normal at this airport but on that day it seemed more than usual.

Passengers boarded the aircraft and hoped to be in Delhi soon. The crew members served breakfast and a drink to those in the business class section. While nursing his drink, sudden commotion in the economy section alerted UB. One passenger had stood up masked, ostensibly holding a live grenade in his hand. All pandemonium broke loose in the cabin. A cabin crew member rushed to the pilot's cabin and informed about the possibility of a hijack. Quickly, 4 other masked passengers joined in to make up a 5-member hijack team. In his powerful authoritarian voice, the leader started barking commands. They informed the pilot about live ammunition in the cabin including a handheld gun, and that it was a hijack. Next, they demanded the business class to be vacated and passengers therein be accommodated in the economy section. And in a hurry. They got window panes pulled down. Passengers were ordered to remove their spectacles and blindfold themselves with the breakfast tray napkin (despite some of them being sambar stained). They barked orders and pushed the passengers to comply. Next, they ordered passengers to get into a crouch position and place their heads on their knees. They randomly chose 10 passengers, who were marched into business class and made to sit there blindfolded like the others. The entire plane was silent, with palpable fear. The flight was over Lucknow at that point. The reorganization within the aircraft had taken 8 minutes, but seemed like an eon. Drawn window shades, dimmed lights, and lack of light in the cabin served to heighten the fear.

Hijackers told the captain that they would start randomly killing the 10 chosen passengers one by one if their request was not complied with. The fear multiplied. The closest passenger was the newly married Rupin Katyal, returning from his honeymoon - his wife was in the economy section. He was stabbed brutally in full sight of his neighbouring passenger. The stabbed passenger's requests for water, went unheeded. The death, so caused, served as an example of the hijackers' intentions if their wishes were not complied with.

Hijackers demanded that the plane be taken to Lahore, but it couldn't be, due to insufficient fuel. After negotiations, the plane was forced to land at Amritsar for refuelling, and parked right in the middle of the runway to ensure that no other plane could land. Due to perceived danger from an abruptly stopped fuel tanker, captain Sharan was ordered to take off from the same spot, despite the captain's objections - it being too short for the A 300 aircraft. The unmoved hijackers threatened to start killing passengers one by one. The pilot took off, barely managing to clear the tanker and boundary wall. Lahore ATC initially refused permission for allowing the aircraft land, but gave in, due to paucity of fuel, and the pilot's threat to land on a crowded

main road. The Lahore authorities hastily agreed to the landing, but no one was allowed to be offloaded.

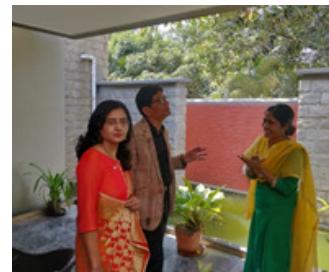
After taking off from Lahore post refuelling, Dubai allowed the plane to land, at Al Minhad Air Base, where it refuelled and took off for Kandahar. A few passengers and the body of Rupin Katyal were offloaded there. Since there was no mention of any Indian diplomatic action in the airwaves, hijackers taunted Indian passengers that their government did not care for them and had forsaken them. Hijackers suggestions of lightening of mood by asking passengers tell jokes and sing songs was met with silence for a bit. After a while, UB started off with a couple of jokes, which the hijackers seemed to enjoy. A Nepali on board the flight suggested that he would mimic the hijackers. UB's fellow passenger in his neighbouring seat, a RAW officer, felt it was a stupid idea. The Nepali actor did his mimicry only to quickly earn a lump on his head thanks to a sharp pistol whip from the hijacker who was the butt of his jokes.

IC 814's penultimate leg of the journey was from Dubai to Kandahar. A plane load of negotiators from India had landed and was waiting there. Protracted negotiations enabled the Indian plane to be released along with passengers after India let off a few dreaded Pakistani terrorists. Having been in their seats for 8 long days, the passengers were finally released after the plane took off for Delhi.

UB Bhat was greeted at Bangalore airport on his return by a number of his Rotarian friends that included PP Rtn. Dr. Simha, PP Rtn. N Krishnamurthy, PDG Rtn. PM Bhansali. Rotarians across Bangalore helped his family cope with the tensions and tribulations while he was captive, for which PDG U B Bhat is ever grateful. UB celebrated the new year - 2000 - with his extended family and Rotarians.

### **Visit by RI President's Representative Mahesh Mokalkar and Ann Arti Mokalkar**

RI President's Representative PDG Mahesh Mokalkar & Ann Arti Mokalkar visited Karunashraya & BGMS on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 2020. They interacted with staff at both institutions, and were impressed with both projects. Quite a few Rotarians and a galaxy of RBI PPs and two PDGs (IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari and PDG H.R. Ananth) accompanied them. Here are some moments from the visit.

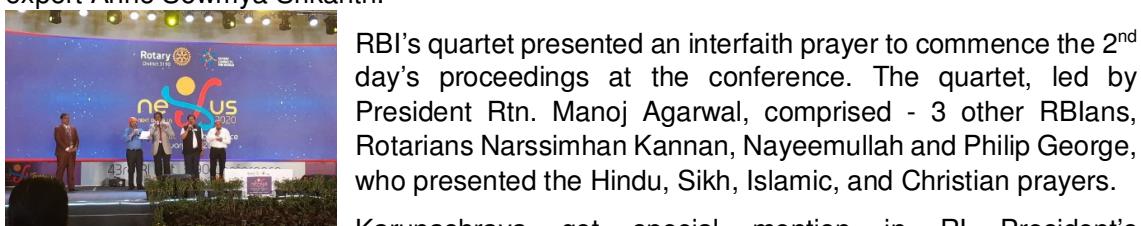


Inputs by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal

## RBI at District Conference Nexus 2020



In keeping with RBI's recent tradition, we played a key role at this year's District Conference at EBISU Centre on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2020. PP Rtn. Shashank Kekre presented the District Club Service slides of its work during the year. The slides were interspersed with wonderful animations created by our in-house animation expert Anne Sowmya Srikanth.



RBI's quartet presented an interfaith prayer to commence the 2<sup>nd</sup> day's proceedings at the conference. The quartet, led by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal, comprised - 3 other RBlans, Rotarians Narssimhan Kannan, Nayeemullah and Philip George, who presented the Hindu, Sikh, Islamic, and Christian prayers.

Karunashraya got special mention in RI President's Representative PDG Mahesh Mokalkar's opening remarks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. He spoke glowingly about the project, which he had visited a couple of days earlier.

PP Rtn. O P Khanna, Dist 3190 Community Service Avenue Counsellor, addressed the conference as well.

DG Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariani honoured RBI President Nominee Rtn. Fazal-Ur-Rahman and Secretary Rtn. A K Sugunan for their yeoman efforts at enhancing Adult Literacy.

And the icing on the cake was DG Elect Rtn. Nagendra Prasad's announcement of an all-women team for *Darbar Mysuru*, the 2020-2021 District Conference being held at Mysuru. It will be headed by PP Rtn. Ambika Narayan of RBI, and has three other RBI lady Rotarians Rtn. Supriya Kandhari, Rtn. Guna Thantry and Rtn. Kavita Paramesh heading various sub-committees.



Inputs by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal

### Cardiac Care poised for a new turn at RBI

For long, PP Rtn. O P Khanna has been spearheading RBI's cardiac care initiative through Needy Heart Foundation (NHF), an organization that he set up expressly for the purpose. As head of NHF, he established lasting partnerships with hospitals, cardiac surgeons, equipment manufacturers, voluntary organizations, corporate donors, Rotary clubs across the world and was the on-call face for RBI's Cardiac Care initiative. By managing just about everything for cardiac care he has been synonymous with it. Recently, he felt the need to share his expertise with others and gradually transfer ownership of the cardiac care project to RBI.

As a first step toward that goal, IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari convened a meeting, on 1st Feb 2020, of RBI volunteers for the cause.

The meeting attracted a sizeable number of members, who would over time shoulder the total responsibility of cardiac care for RBI.

Cardiac Care's many facets were covered in that meeting and a decision to document all of it in a process form to enable repeatability, role assignment and tracking.

The procedures are being documented so that responsibility can be borne by RBI members as a club project.

Secretary Rtn. A K Sugunan has roped in like-minded Rotarians into this little mentioned project of RBI. With an objective to get older people to read and write in local language Kannada, the project has attracted participation of many individuals from areas around RHOS. The classes are held at Little Flower High School in RHOS's vicinity. Rtn. Sugunan is ably supported by Bahadur, his Man Friday. The adjacent picture depicts enthusiasm of the students. Great commitment by Secretary Rtn. A. K. Sugunan. He and RBI President Nominee Fazal-Ur-Rahman were feted at District Conference Nexus for their stellar role in being enablers of Adult Literacy.



A related project that comes under vocational services is Computer literacy for retired people. GICET (Gandhi Institute for Computer Education and Training) at Bhavan conducts courses on popularly used tools such as Microsoft Word and Excel. It empowers retirees gain a new lease of professional life. Over the years, well over 300 persons have benefited from these sessions. You will recall its coverage in the SEVA Vol 39, Issue 08.

#### **'Belief is a Multiplier' for Lake Manae**



18th January 2020, was an incredible experience for RBIans who participated in the formal inauguration of Lake Manae on Kanakapura Road. The moribund lake was revived in just 22 December days. The architects were Anand Maligawad, called Bengaluru's lake man, and our own Rtn. K. Saravanan was his contact point at RHOS.

Significantly, funds for this rejuvenation were collected by 5 students of Vidyashilp Academy. These bubbly strong-willed children (4 of them girls) are to present this as a case study of WFUNA at UN HQ later in the year. They collected Rs. 8.47 Lakhs through crowd funding, and wished to do something worthwhile. Hats off to their perseverance.



Our inauguration party included a host of dignitaries. The most important being the 5 children and their proud parents. Then there was Anand Maligawad who, as is his wont, was effusively full of words. The Manae family elders along with project spearhead Rtn. Harish Manae were present. Three earth mover operators who did most the heavy lifting stuff came next. Then there was a group of RBI Rotarians and Anns led by President Manoj Agarwal and RBI lake rejuvenation project chair Rtn. K. Saravanan. A few hidden peacocks and peahens provided a chorus for this motley bunch of happy individuals.

The RBI group's long journey that morning from RHOS, took us past deafening city traffic enroute and ended with a winding drive into farmlands. We passed a few fruit trees and a couple of vegetable garden beds before climbing an elevated bund, where others waited for us.



A balmy morning, with the Sun playing hide-and-seek, provided a perfect setting. The wide artificial bund was adorned with a table containing pictures of deities and pooja material. Standing next to it was a local priest. The visibly amused Manae family elders were evidently pleased with the visitors' interest. The chirpy but quietly confident children participated whole heartedly in the ceremony while moving busily around. After invocations seeking the almighty's blessings, the group was treated to a customary Bagini wherein the newly rejuvenated lake is feted with a basketful of fruits. A Manae family senior lady did the pious honours while a drone captured every moment of a simple ceremony.



Partners in its rejuvenation, including earth mover operators and support staff, were recognized. They were worthy recipients of the honour given for their exceptional hard work.

The 4.2 acre Lake Manae at the edge of Bannerghatta National Park, sits squat within the Manae agricultural property. Lake Manae provides potable water to domesticated animals, and is an essential part of their summer lives. Thus, the rejuvenation could not have come at a more appropriate time.

After the ceremonies, our talk turned to the project and how rejuvenation happened. Anand Maligawad explained in explicit detail all that was done. He felt *belief of all* those who participated *multiplied* and contributed in no mean measure in the project's success. A Vidyashilp parent on the side-lines exclaimed how she initially had misgivings about Anand's loquacious presence at a TED Talk, and wondered if they had decided correctly by enlisting him for their task. She then stated that he was the best, given the way he involved the children and made them understand underlying reasons for each activity and the sequence. She now thinks of him as a wonderful teacher.



The newcomers, i.e. RBI Rotarians, were treated to a typical village brunch made from fresh local farm vegetables. A horse gram *pachhadi* clearly stood out. Background music to the gathering was provided by an unseen group of peacocks and a few birds flying overhead. The arrangements were sparse yet complete.

We left feeling wonderful to have been a part of an amazing day. Thank you Manae family for being such wonderful hosts, and the children for being eco-warriors with a great sense of purpose. Kudos to the kids for showing us the way and our best wishes for unparalleled success on their presenting the project at UN HQ this month under the aegis of  .



## RBI and Pulse Polio – NID Jan 2020

19<sup>th</sup> January 2020 featured more than one project for RBI. The annual National Immunization Day (NID) was held on that day. RBI was responsible for 3 Public Health Centres, which we staffed with great pride. After all Rotary has played a central stellar role over the years in pushing Polio onto the back foot, and on its way to extinction.

RBI's Pulse Polio Chair Rtn. Deepak Agarwal, managed the show stupendously. He ensured capable people were linked up with respective PHCs to help them achieve and exceed the expectations.

The immunization drive was held over 4 days, and the results are incredibly heartening. They are tabulated here for your perusal.

Centre	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Total	Expected	Coverage%*
Murphy Town	9283	826	101	56	10266	10413	98.6
Bhuvaneswari Nagar	8500	813	711	562	10586	10541	100.43
Old Byappanahalli	8309	958	193	100	9560	9459	101.07
							100

Inputs by Rtn. Deepak Agarwal

\* The excess/deficit is often due to a floating population of migrant workers.

## Karunashraya Expansion



A Bhoomi Puja initiating construction of the new OPD block and Karunashraya Institute for Education Research (KIPCER) was held on 20th January 2020. It is Karunashraya's largest endeavour yet. The proposed facility includes a state-of-the-art auditorium with a large seating capacity.

Inputs by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal



A joint meeting with 4 other Bangalore based Rotary clubs - Cubbon Park, Kuvempunagara, Shankarapark & Shantiniketan - was held by RBI at Karunashraya on 26th January 2020. PP Rtn. Gurmeet Randhawa and PP Rtn. Dr. Nagesh Simha walked the audience through the Karunashraya story. Starting with the initial idea,



they covered its early days & trying times to emerge finally into the much-revered organization that it now is. To a deeply interested audience, PP Dr. Simha shared information about the new multipurpose OPD and Karunashraya Institute for Education Research. He touched upon Volunteering opportunities through CSR, Common Cancers observed, flow rate of admissions over the years, elements of Palliative Care, Home care, Rotary's involvement, as also its Mission & Vision, Objective & Core values. All queries from the audience were readily answered. Later the visiting group was entranced on a tour of the facility, after which many of them participated in a fellowship and lunch arranged at RHOS.

## MoU by RBI for Sishukunj at BGMS

On 20<sup>th</sup> January an MOU was signed by RBI with BGMS & JSSF for Sishukunj. In doing so, RBI's involvement in the BGMS project gets further enhanced.

## Urban Afforestation

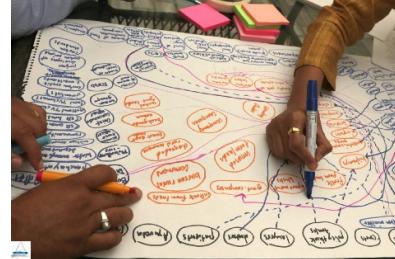
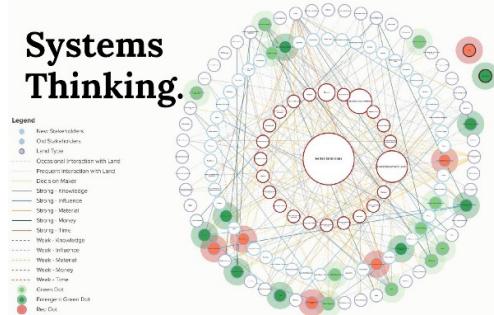
At RBI's weekly meeting on 20th January 2020, Ms Sheeba Sen, Founder and CEO of Aalap, spoke on the basic rules of afforestation that subsume urban afforestation. By keeping reversal of climate change as the focal point of the attempt to restore nature, she underscored the urgency more than ever before.



widely different environments, the heights of Uttarakhand and the exceptionally bio-diverse Karnataka. Both areas are victims of rapid deforestation resulting from poor policies. She feels the effects can be restored if handled well. Sheeba then shared information about a design sprint she had led at Belawadi, to uncover real and unarticulated needs of landholders. She explained Aalap's unique business approach using a scheme that pays farmers to lease 20% of their land for a 10-year period to grow a forest in the space, guaranteeing consistent monthly income from the lease

and carbon income. Aalap discovered that for farmers it was really about food, keeping in mind what the land means to them. Using the World Cafe approach for Systems Thinking they created a System Map which included stakeholders, land types, needs, knowledge, material, money and time. The impressive System Map was presented in a single picture. The land-holders primary motto is "No Food No Forest". She fielded audience questions and answered them patiently. Sheeba's

wonderfully illustrated climate change reversal talk was a symphony of digestible food for the brain and a veritable green treat for our eyes. Aalap's endeavour to green our world is a welcome sign, which we hope will bear fruit in abundance.



## RBI's Anganwadi inauguration unabated spree continues

*4 renovated Anganwadi's (106<sup>th</sup>, 107<sup>th</sup>, 108<sup>th</sup>& 109<sup>th</sup>) Anganwadis dedicated*

RBI's tryst with Anganwadi Renovation pushes further relentlessly. On 28th January 2020, 4 renovated Anganwadi's were dedicated to young school going children. Renovation of these Anganwadis was sponsored fully by M/s. Citrix R&D India Pvt. Ltd. Their Corporate Citizenship

Specialist Ms. Sohini Karmakar participated in the inauguration ceremonies at Sulibele (Centre 8), Sulibele (Centre 9) & Volagerepura.

Enjoy these moments from that day..



*And a few more on 6th February 2020...*

8 renovated anganwadis, at Olagerepura, Mylapura, M. Hosahalli, Gadigenahalli, Manchappanahalli, Gangapura, Lingapura & Tavarekere (Centre 2) villages in Hoskote Taluk, were inaugurated and dedicated to the children. RBI has now dedicated 117 anganwadis renovated under Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar's "Anganwadi Restoration Project" to society.

These anganwadis were restored under RI District 3190 Grant No. DG 19722 of 2018-19, with the support and sponsorship of PP Rtn. O.P. Khanna and his family members - son Ashish Khanna, daughter Mini Khanna Chaudhuri, son-in-law Nilanjan Chaudhuri, sisters Raksha Khosla, Sulaksha Handa & Santosh Khanna, brother-in-law Krishandev Khosla, and his grandsons Shloke Chaudhuri & Aditya Khanna. Thank you PP Rtn. O.P. Khanna and family.

PP Rtn. O.P. Khanna & Mrs. Mini Khanna Chaudhuri who were present on the occasion, cut the ceremonial ribbons together to dedicate the renovated anganwadis to children of the respective villages. Anganwadi workers, helpers, parents and other residents were delighted with the improved facilities provided for the children.

RBI Rotarians PP Col. (Retd.) R.V. Subramaniam, IPP M. Jagadeesh, Secretary A.K. Sugunan, Rtn. Fazal-Ur-Rahaman & Rtn. Baby Cherian were present on the occasion. IPP Rtn. M. Jagadeesh coordinated with the contractor and the District Grants Committee to ensure timely completion of renovation of these 8 anganwadis.

A chosen few photographs of these 8 dedication events are shared below



The 117 restored anganwadis inaugurated by RBI are spread over 4 Taluks as below:

- Hoskote -69
- Anekal - 33
- Bangalore North - 10
- Bangalore South - 5

Inputs by Secretary Rtn. A K Sugunan & Rtn. Fazal-Ur-Rahaman

### Sree Cauvery School Interact Club installed

RBI installed Interact Club office bearers at Sree Cauvery School on 13 Jan 2020. The club that had receded into somnolence was resurrected by this year's Youth Service Avenue team. Here are a couple of images from the installation event.



### Saevus Eco Quiz held on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan at Sree Cauvery PU College

The Saevus Eco Quiz conducted by Saevus Wild Life magazine, Mumbai was organized at Sree Cauvery PU College on 25th Jan 2020 by RBI along with Rotary e-club. In the morning we arranged light breakfast for the attending teams and also lunch for qualifying team members. Rtn. Philip George, coordinator-in-chief of RBI's efforts for the quiz did an exceptional job.

The environment and ecology quiz was held in two parts. The forenoon session featured a preliminary round for Bangalore schools drawn from the multiple teams of 10 local schools. The qualifiers saw 6 teams step up from these multiple teams. Deens Academy - winners of the Bangalore round and runners-up Vidyashilp Academy - qualified for the semi-finals. In the afternoon session, schools from major South Indian cities – qualifiers from their respective preliminaries vied for honours at the South India Regional semi-final with the 2 Bangalore qualifiers of the morning.

The semi-final round had schools from Goa, Kochi, Trivandrum, Belgavi, Hyderabad, Mysore Chennai and Bangalore. It was won by Holy Angels, Trivandrum followed by DAV, Chennai and PSBB, Chennai. The 3 teams will represent South India at the finals to be held in Mumbai later this year.

Goa based Quizmaster, Rajiv D'Silva professionally ensured smooth conduct of the event.

Ms Sree Nandy, CEO Saevus Wildlife magazine, Mumbai, gave away the prizes along with our President, Rtn Manoj Agarwal. Ms. Nandy was visibly impressed with our arrangements for the event. Sree Cauvery PU College Principal's personal interest and deputing her own staff as volunteers made a significant impact. Over 20 RBI Rotarians, Anns, Rotaractors and Interactors cheered participants while volunteering, invigilating and correcting the entries. Rtn Gopinath N manned the e-scoreboard to keep it ticking on that wonderful day.

We captured these memories of our enchanting experience of the event specially for you.



Inputs by Rtn. Philip George



### Rang Rotary Ke Sang

RBI conducted a new project named "Rang Rotary Ke Sang" (रंग रोटरी के संग) on 19th January 2020. The painting/drawing/colouring competition for Sub-Juniors, Juniors, Seniors and Differently Abled school students attracted 315 registrations on-line, after which it was decided to stop registrations. The free event held at the Jawahar Bal Bhavan (JBB) in Cubbon Park provided wonderful environs for students, organizers and judges alike. The painting competition topics were drawn based on environment/pollution and road safety. RBI had a welcome surprise - visitor Assistant Governor Rtn. Davinder Grewal of District 5040, Canada.

A carnival like atmosphere descended on JBB as the children took their places. Each chose a topic from those mentioned against his/her age group.

Eager yet apprehensive parents were assuaged that their wards would be taken care of well within the JBB confines. Parents and teachers were requested to step outside the gates for the duration of the event. RBI had provided sufficient seats for them. To keep them engaged for the 90-minute duration of the competition, RBI arranged a talk on Environment and Bangalore Traffic. The speaker Retired Director General of Police KVR Tagore covered these two topics in inimitable style. The highly interactive session interspersed with simple advice, anecdotes, humour, word play and examples was more than a sell-out. Hardly anyone ventured away from the talk as he had them all spellbound. A brief of that talk is covered at the end of this article.

Ann Sowmya Srikanth was the brain behind the event, while President Elect Rtn. Dr. A V S Srikanth was the engine that drove it. His countless trips to the JBB authorities to cajole and convince evinced great results. We doff our hats to your perseverance Doc.

278 children participated in the painting competition, making it memorable. There was a rush at the registration desks and some names appeared to be missing. Only to discover that they had registered online in incorrect groups. Given the inevitable absentees at the event, a spot decision was taken to register a few more children. Some of these won prizes too.

Based on their scholastic class, children were assigned specific age groups at the competition. They went about their painting quietly in areas allotted to their age group within the JBB. The ambience will have kindled their imaginative minds. They hardly moved from their places ... even when the JBB Toy Train made its repeated merry trips round the venue.

Competition judges, painters and artists in their own right, were absolutely thrilled with the participation. After some time had elapsed in the competition, they roamed amidst the

engrossed participants to see their progress with their art. They also commented on the superb organization of the program.

At the end of the allotted time, judges took to their task with vigour and purpose to choose the award-winning entries. It is only fitting to say that all of the children gave off their best, only some did so better than the others.

The winning pictures were announced at an amphitheatre overflowing with family members, contestants, volunteers, Rotaractors and a lot of bystanders who were just curious to see what was happening. The open-air amphitheatre made watching easy despite the hard and hot mid-day sun bearing down.

The event was an unqualified success, given the number of participants turning up, despite a much-advertised larger event being held in the city concurrently. Rang Rotary Ke Sang got off to a stupendous start, prompting organizers to get back to the drawing board with lessons learnt from our inaugural foray. We now look forward to the next year with renewed vigour and expectation of an even better turnout.

The judges, parents, participants and even JBB workers were wowed by the professionalism with which the event was conducted.

The organizing team, its brains trust, and foot soldiers had pulled off a stunner that Bengaluru will remember with awe. Congratulations on creating a superstar event that began with just a seedling of an idea. It augurs well for a very long life for the event.

Here is a just sample of what you may have missed ..



From waiting at registration



to sweating with the throng



and tranquillity



From overseeing



to observing



and intermingling



From completion



to recognition



and achievement



From anticipation



to expectation, hope



and accomplishment

For RBI ... it was heartening, satisfying and absolutely fulfilling ....

## **Adults' Day out at Rang Rotary Ke Sang**

KVR Tagore, Retd IPS officer → *Retired no way he insisted*

He began by asking people their feelings when approached by traffic police. Most experienced anger. He pointed that it was just one alphabet away from danger (D anger), and prodded them to reflect before responding.

A large fraction of the audience was not fluent in Kannada, but were very conversant with English. He stated that knowing Kannada was an additional qualification while communicating with locals. Hence his talk was a healthy mix of English and Kannada.

He lamented that the Pollution Control Board is seen as a somnolent body. They are doing their bit but citizens too need to reciprocate. He shared how every home can help Karnataka become the paradise it is. The bio-diversity, variety of terrain, and natural beauty of Karnataka is unparalleled. He spoke of how even in ancient times, Karnataka had exceptional artisans backed by great technology. He directed people to the Gol Gumbaz, Hampi, Belur and Hale Beedu as examples.

Knowing Kannada is an additional qualification he felt, but it should not be forced. There is nothing wrong with knowing English, it communicates to 60% of the world, while French accounts for the remaining 40%. *Malinya* is the Kannada word for pollution. He felt the name of pollution control board should be changed appropriately.

Mr. Tagore suggested that we start with automatic composting by letting wet waste remain untouched for a month. It will help both the home and environment.

To be as attractive as a rose, one has to learn to adjust with thorns. Similarly allow children to grow in their own environment and don't shield them too much. That way they will learn to deal with the world better.

Pick garbage and consign it to the correct place and be an example that guides children. Children are more intelligent than is thought - they are creative, focussed and instinctively love the world. If you love children, plant at least two fruit plants. Ask children to wash their hands at its roots. Trees manage all the filth by themselves and consume what they can. Allow plants to shed their leaves. It turns on its own into manure. Nature is self-perpetuating and results in zero waste.

Rotary acts a catalyst to improve the world, as seen by the painting competition topics - industrial pollution, trees, greenery. These he felt will help the children understand and express their thoughts.

If our culture is intact, he said, it is so overseas but not in India!! People abroad cling to their heritage and propagate it better, whereas locally we take it for granted.

Karnataka's hospitality is unparalleled. He feels no country is better than India, and no state better than Karnataka for sheer exploration. Stone architecture at Halebeedu and Belur, natural beauty at Jog falls, Deserts at Talakadu, bird sanctuaries, Mysuru palace (only 30% is shown), wild life sanctuaries, 14 times echoes in Gol Gumbuz's whispering gallery. Tunnel 14 inside Bijapur palace. One could almost visualize these places as he described them.

Karnataka also has the best educational institutes, medical facilities, IT services and climate.

As for improving one's life he said we should aim for 'One more friend tomorrow and Respect for everybody by being good to everyone'. Never retire he says. Visit one place in Karnataka

every year with your children and allow them to experience it. Visit the best country in the world once a year → India.

Now on to traffic ...

When he took over as head of the Traffic Police in Karnataka, he looked at the statistics and realized that drivers were at its root, especially drunken ones. There were 12000 accidents per year in Bangalore. He ordered the arrest of drunk drivers to keep them overnight so that they would not unknowingly commit accidents. The instances of accidents by drunken drivers came down significantly. He also felt that people should become more human when they drive. Some of the axioms he shared at various points in the program ...

*Smile begets smile ... dissolves anger and makes a better world.*

*Don't complain about anybody else ... just highlight their goodness.*

*Non questioning children are not normal. Don't correct them ... just help them understand.*

*Extract answers from children ...*

*Be a model to your children ... learn yourself and help your children learn*

The almost completely adult audience hardly realized passage of time and only reluctantly got up from their chairs, once time for announcement of the painting competition results raced in. IPS Officer Tagore, sans slides, had their ears and minds completely glued in.

*Reta IPS officer KVR Tagore held parents spellbound ... for almost 2 full hours*



*The RBI family (with community Rotaractors) that made a success of the event. AG Rtn. Davinder Grewal District 5040, Canada is also seen*

## GSK Excellence Awards

PP O P Khanna on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, again did what he is well known for – Philanthropy. He presented the GSK Excellence Awards to deserving students of the Government High School, Ejipura. These are some pictures taken at the event.



Annet Mini Khanna accompanied her father not only at this event, but at the next one - Government Urdu High School in Ejipura - as well. The following moments are from the Government Urdu High School.

Inputs by Rtn. A.K. Sugunan



## Rotaract Club of SIBM, Bangalore Installed

On the afternoon of 29th Jan 2020, President Manoj Agarwal installed office bearers of the Rotaract Club SIBM Bangalore. Dr. Rajesh Panda, Director of the institution who was present at the event urged the new office bearers to carry forward the good work that Rotaractors of the institute have been doing. The installation had been delayed due to unforeseen circumstances. We share with you these few moments from the event.



Inputs by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal



#### FEB-MAR BIRTHDAYS

Rtn. Naresh Agrawal	23
Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy	25
Anne Savita Hegde	26
Rtn. Jeremy Johnson	28

#### MARCH

Ann Srimathy Baskarmoorthy	03
Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar	03
Spouse Prabhat Amashi	04
Rtn. Sushil Kumar Sonika	04
Rtn. Shirish Mathur	05
Anne Tara Jhunjhunwala	07
Rtn. Cyrus Unvalla	07

#### ANNIVERSARIES IN FEB-MAR

Alice & Roshan Jacob	25
Pushpa & Damodar Nawka	28
Sri Shaila & G J Raja	28

#### MARCH

Chandra & Col. (Retd) RV Subramaniam	01
Meher & Cyrus Unvalla J	09
Kuki & Bhupinder Singh Lamba	10

#### RBI's fundraiser for Cathlab Project at Jayadeva Hospital

**Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar**

**Director & Actor AMOL PALEKAR**

**In aid of the Cath Lab project at Sri Jayadeva Hospital.**

**VENUE** Chowdiah Memorial Hall    **DATE** Sunday, 23rd Feb 2020    **TIME** 7 PM    For online booking, log on to bookmyshow  
₹2,500/-, ₹2,000/-, ₹1,500/-, ₹1,000/-, ₹800/-

**FOR TICKETS, CONTACT:** KAVITA KEKRE: +919886010830 | NARSSIMHAN KANNAN: +919820026636 | MANOJ AGRAWAL: +919845012716