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#### WEEKLY MEETING VENUE & TIME:

Rotary House of Service  
2143, 16E Main, HAL II Stage,  
Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008

Time 19:00, Monday

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Ph: 080 25267014

### From the Editor's desk



Dear Reader,

We live in testing and trying times. The Covid-19 pandemic has thrown our normal routines haywire. Such extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. Adversity brings out the best in RBI Rotarians, and the lockdown sparked off innovative means of keeping in touch. It was business as usual as we continued our service to society - by reaching out to people needing assistance. We educated ourselves on the pandemic to discover ways to serve society. Much of this issue of SEVA focusses on our urgent efforts to be of service to society.

All RBI events, fellowships and in-person meetings were cancelled in conformance with lockdown regulations to ensure social distancing. Innovative tools helped bridge that gap. Even our fellowships and weekly meetings used internet tools such as ZOOM and got hyphenated with an e-.

In the specially sub-captioned **COVID-19** articles, we cover many of our dazzling CoVID-19 pandemic related projects. Our well-subscribed crowdfunding campaign for funds to provide rations to Bangalore's daily wage labourers is part of it. It threw up some heroes as well. We cover one young student warrior who came in from the cold, and worked out of his skin to ensure that his crowd funding campaign was oversubscribed.

RBI's weekly meetings were not given a miss in all of this, and were conducted through the Zoom App. We appreciate speakers and district officers who made it a point to not miss their date with us.

SEVA Issue 10 had somehow missed out an article on IFMR 3190 riders who went on a long ride to garner support for Rotary's Literacy Mission. Our apologies to Rtn. Vijay Mane for this miss. We include it in this issue.

RBIans' efforts to help reduce the CoVID-19 footprint and diminish impact of the resultant lockdown on underprivileged sections are much appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you about this issue of SEVA at SEVA.RCBI@gmail.com.

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

We urge all of you to keep safe, stay at home and remain healthy.

Happy Reading,

Vidyut Shenoy  
Bulletin Editor, 2019-20



## IFMRers for Rotary Literacy Mission

A group of 12 bikers of the International Forum of Motorcycling Rotarians District 3190 (IFMR 3190) embarked on a riding mission from Kanyakumari to Kolkata, to support Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM). Their objective – to raise Rs. 1.2 Crores through Crowdfunding for sponsoring 3000+ Asha Kirans across 14 RI Districts in India.

Asha Kiran seeks to bring out-of-school children back to formal school. Typically, such children are juvenile offenders and/or progeny of convicts, sex workers and migrant workers. Some are street children, a few special children and many who are HIV +ve.

The bikers rode over 4,200 km, in 19 days including 16 Stops. They traversed 11 Indian states encompassing 14 RI Districts, averaging 300 kms of riding each day. A typical day ended with a press conference and a public event. The 19 days, culminated in a recognition for the 12 IFMR bikers at Rotary India's Centennial Celebrations at Kolkata on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Rtn. Vijay Mane, of our club, with his 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020 talk had RBI spellbound with specifics about the unique ride. Rtn. Chandrashekar Vishwanath's Shekar Logistics was one of the 9 sponsors of the ride.



The riders had congregated at RHOS on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 along with Rtn. Vijay Mane.

Great work by IFMRers in helping make India better.



IFMRers at RHOS on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020.

**Rotary Literacy Ride**  
Kanyakumari to Kolkata

- +12 bikers
- +4000+ km
- +19 days
- +16 Stops
- +11 States/UT's
- +13 RI Districts

**Objective**

- Riding to support the Rotary India Literacy Mission
- Target to raise Rs. 1.2 Crores through Crowdfunding
- Sponsor 4500+ Asha Kiran's across 13 RI Districts

**Rotary Literacy Ride**

International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians (IFMR), India Chapter

Rtn. Vijay Mane featured in an information brochure about the Rotary Literacy ride.

Adapted from Rtn. Vijay Mane's documentation

## Lake Rejuvenation

RBI's 36th Weekly meeting was its 1<sup>st</sup> e-meeting. Joe Fernandes of IITians for Influencing India's Transformation (IIT - IIT) was the guest of honour and speaker..

Joe Fernandes, a social reformer who heads IITians for Influencing India's Transformation (IIT-IIT), harnesses collective effort for social development causes. IIT-IIT partners with NGOs to scale up programs in healthcare, livelihoods and education nationally.

The following is the gist of Joe Fernandes's talk.

Revival/restoration of Lake is a recent program of IIT-IIT. It has seen enormous success in Maharashtra. They hope to extend it to other states by using the same model. In their model, silt removed from the lake is carted away by farmers for their use. The farmers arrange transportation, thereby reducing the cost and effort for IIT-IIT. The silt is very nutritious for their crops.

All IIT-IIT projects have various NGO partners in them. Rotary India and more recently RBI and RI Dist. 3190 are part of this set of partners. Art of Living is another huge partner.

The IIT - IIT partnership with RI District 3190 is for multiple years.

For Year 1 Rs 45 L has been budgeted based on the Maharashtra figure of Rs. 25/cubic metre of desilting.

RBI has already contributed 6 lakhs as one of the 4 partners. We expect the project to scale up once the model succeeds in the first case.

There are other add-ons to lake rejuvenation, with possibility for further action, where RBI's continued involvement may be needed. These include planting trees, bunding, etc that call for active engagement and involvement of local villagers. Rotary can play a huge role in such areas

OVBI (Overseas Volunteers for A Better India) is one of the steady partners in this drive. And so is Caring Friends. IIT - IIT hopes to complete the project by end-June, once an MOU is signed with RBI and the other NGOs. 2 other Rotary clubs from Dist. 3190 are expected to participate in the project. *Impact of the Corona virus pandemic lockdown on the project has yet to be factored in.*

Active involvement of RBI members is essential in making the project a success.

Desilting of percolation lakes, that make up most of Karnataka's lakes, is a one-time activity. Best results are achieved when a lake's highest recharging point is chosen for desilting.

Bunding ensures that silt does not flow back into the lake. Often more bunds are required, to alleviate additional desilting. Desilting and transportation of silt is the largest cost in a lake rejuvenation project. Between Rs. 12 and 15 Lakhs of the lake rejuvenation cost is borne by villagers. Other partners need to put up the remaining Rs. 10+ lakhs.

*IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari interjected by sharing that Environmental projects such as Tree planting and lake rejuvenation will henceforth have TRF involvement. According to IPDG Suresh Hari RIPN Rtn. Shekhar Mehta's target of 10000 water bodies rejuvenation can easily be achieved in Karnataka itself, with so many lakes needing it here.*

*Will the projects be only around Bengaluru? It will enable RBI Rotarians to visit these projects.* President Manoj stated that we are taking up 4 projects close to RBI on the Eastern side of Bengaluru.

*When asked if afforestation around the lake could be taken up if the lake permits, Joe's response was that it is an add-on when rejuvenating percolation water bodies. Most lakes that they work on are percolation lakes. Historically Karnataka has favoured percolation lakes since*

they recharge ground water too. Hence there are few storage lakes here. Maintenance has been a big issue since a certain level of water and resultant pressure is needed for percolation to happen. The challenge in such lakes is keeping silt from re-entering it. Reforestation is also a challenge, but it must be an add-on that involves villagers for execution and carrying forward as a local activity. The local village community must be engaged for it to succeed.

*Who identifies the right water body?* Typically, an NGO does it. All 10 lakes up until now have been identified by Art of Living. Easily 1000 lakes fall in RBI area of interest. Permission is given at Panchayat level right now, but in future it may involve the Forest department and Water Management departments as well

Anganwadi renovation is another area of interest. But that can be taken up offline.

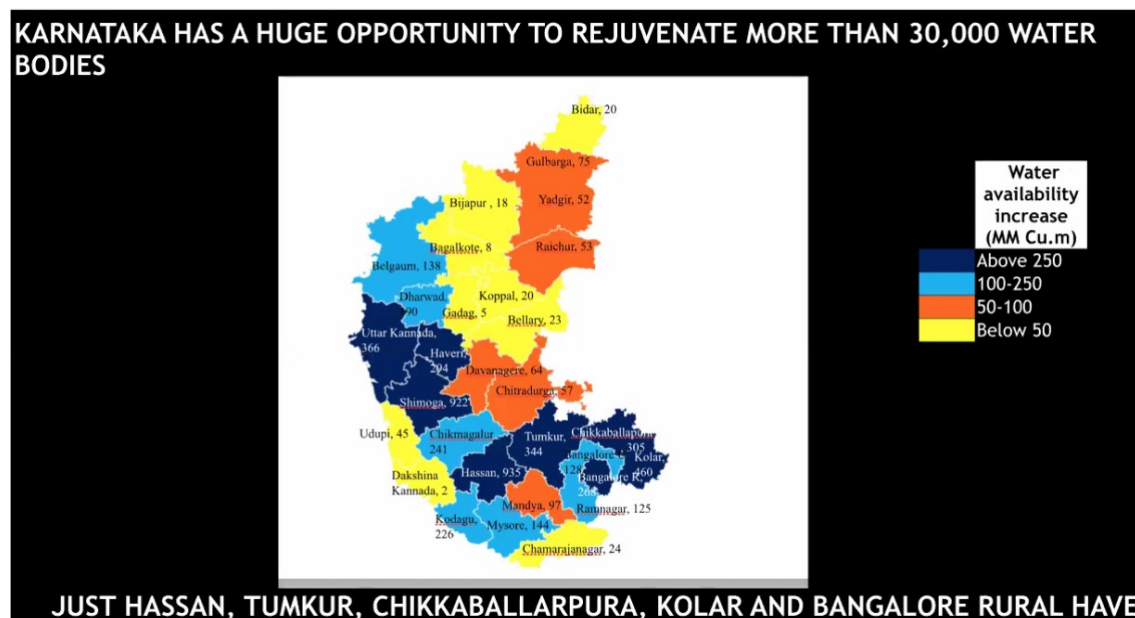
*What about micro enterprises for women (artisan community) and partnering with Sankara Eye Foundation?* Joe responded that other projects type will require separate conversations.

*What is the gestation period of a typical Lake rejuvenation activity?* It has to be done post-harvest and must be finished before the monsoon sets in. The biggest problem is transporting silt. It takes 10 to 12 days work on the site depending on the transportation truck size. Smaller trucks have taken 30 days. The entire rejuvenation project takes between 75 and 80 days. Movement of tractor trolleys across the farm takes a long time.

*IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari wished to know the specifics of village involvement so that Rotary could be involved in perpetuity.* Joe informed that Ayyappa Masagi is the NGO partner for scaling up. JCB fork lifts come thru contractors. Rotary contacts with such organizations can help speed up the project and reduce cost.

Add-on work needs an NGO like Rotary to carry on ongoing engagement for reforestation, compartment bunding, drip irrigation and so on. Practical funding aspects could be considered too. IPDG Hari felt that this was TRF related.

A screen grab from RBI's first weekly e-meeting using the Zoom App, that shows regions where water bodies rejuvenation is needed. RBI could well take up projects in some of these areas.



As captured by SEVA editor during e-meeting



**Rotary adapting to changing times & Covid 19 initiatives by Rotary**  
***RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi***

37<sup>th</sup> weekly meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> E-meet, 53 participants) on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal welcomed members to the meeting.

He quickly briefed RI President's Representative Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi as follows:

- In these tough times, we are doing our bit to help
- Club meetings are held as planned, all in e-mode with not one being missed
- RBI had a musical fellowship on Zoom with IFRM District 3142
- Rtn. Ghanshyam Agarwal donated Rs. 1.8 Cr to TRF
- PP Prabhakar moved this year from 3<sup>rd</sup> Level to 4<sup>th</sup> Level Major Donor
- Rations to migrant labour ... crowd funding netted Rs. 12 Lakhs within 3 days
- 2000 kits will be distributed along with Rotary Sankarapark, thanks to Rtn. Sanjay Dugar's proactive effort supported by Rtn. Naresh Bhandia (of our new club)
- Rs. 7.5 Lakhs were received thru V P Goyal Trust, thanks to PP Rtn. Peeyush Jain
- Rtn. Pradeep Lal and his brother Rtn. Manoj Lal (RI Dist. 3012) handed 50000 masks (costing Rs. 8.36L) to National Centre for Disease Control
- 10 renovated Anganwadis are ready and await clearance from authorities for inauguration
- PP Rtn. Suresh Patel's friend Aneesh contributed Rs. 50000 toward Souvenir
- Rtn. Sanjay Dugar is doing great work for Covid-19 Rations Distribution. He foresees strife, exploitation, and feels need of facilitation of knowledgeable persons to alleviate it.

PP Rtn. Karthikeya Reddy introduced DG Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariyani.

In his brief address DG Dr. Hariyani stated that both President Manoj and RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi are adept at Shayari. He felt proud to adapt to changed times through e-meetings. He commented that RBI is the best club of Dist 3190, wherein all Rotarians live the Rotary ideals. The highest contribution to TRF from District 3190 has consistently been by RBI.

President Manoj acknowledged the nice words, and promised to do our best.

IPDG Suresh Hari then introduced RI Director Kamal Sanghvi as an RI International Training leader, who has done Aman Ki Asha for Heart surgeries.

A synopsis of RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi's address is featured below

He always feels butterflies in his stomach together with elation while addressing RBI. He was confident that Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariyani would turn the Corona problem into an opportunity. These are unprecedented, crippling and testing times for India. Flattening the curve is the key.

Gulzar once stated

"Muddat se Arzoo Fursat Ki, Shart yeh hai ke kisise Na milo". It rings so true these days.

He also quoted the oft quoted line, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going".

Rtn. Sanghvi commended RBlans for being such great citizens and heeding to the call.

At a recent national Rotary meeting of Sr Leaders (India), the great ground level work of Governors and Governor Elects was commended. Distributing masks and food, communicating and involving others (prisoners in jail have been creating masks from old clothes) were some of the actions mentioned.

He told Rotarians, "Keep yourself safe to serve others. Do not risk by going out. And be in sync with the government's directives".

On 14th March 2020 he had flown to Raipur to inaugurate the Satya Sai Hospital (for heart surgeries) - a project funded in part by Rotary (by 300 Rotarians for 400 heart surgeries). There he raised Rs. one crore in an hour. The flight to Raipur had Covid +ve co-passengers, and he had to be in 17-day isolation. Rtn. Sanghvi had got out of isolation that morning. 300 Rtns and Children in wards would have got infected had he not been in isolation.

He then advised Rotarians through these crisp comments:

- Be very, very careful
- Take opinions from District Admin and work in sync with them
- Give Personal safety highest priority, but don't stop from doing your tasks
- Be the angels of giving - make others happy and make them smile
- Carry on what you are doing

He referred to the National Lockdown Policy, and felt that Rotarians should use the time constructively.

GOI had done well with the steps it has taken. In an unprecedented move 100+ Cr people are sitting at home. The exceptional resolve shown by citizens who committed close to Rs. 300 crores heeding to the PM's call is amazing.

Let us give 25 Crore to PM's fund to fight COVID-19. We need to have a local focus but also a national view. Karnataka has a few cases, and Rotarians in Bengaluru and Karnataka need to be vigilant.

Methodology of contribution to PM's fund:

If each Rotarian gives at least Rs. 1000 to PM's National Fund (we will collect 15 Crores). DG Sameer will share modalities when they are finalized.

It affects everybody. Please donate and persuade corporates to help as well. "Money cannot buy happiness!" is a common refrain. In his view that is incorrect. Money can buy happiness by providing food and shelter. Thousands are walking home 1800 kms from Bangalore to UP just to be with family.

Make the country proud of Rotarians. Let us be there when we are needed.

He recalled former AB Vajpayee's poem which he felt reflects the current situation

Aao Phir se Diya Jalayein  
Bhari dupheri mein Andhiyara  
Suraj Parcchayise Hara  
Antar Tam ka Neha Nicchhode  
Bujhi Hui Baati Sulgaayein  
Aao Phir se Diya Jalayein

आओ फिर से दिया जलाएँ  
भरी दुपहरी में अँधियारा  
सूरज परछाईसे हारा  
अन्तर तम का नेह निछोदे  
बुझी हुई बाती सुलगाएँ  
आओ फिर से दिया जलाएँ

He reminded us that **Mankind is our Business** and we ought to follow it.

There were two RBlans who wished to comment

Rtn. Ghanshyam Agarwal stated that he has already contributed 15 Lakhs to the PM Cares Fund. He wanted it to go to the club and provide recognition to RBI. He stated that he only follows the 140 other members of the club who lead him.

Rtn. Sanjay Dugar then stated Rotary is a leader in all that we do. How can Rotary start thinking right away to deal with the aftermath of COVID? What can we do together?

RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi responded with

We need to start thinking right away.

Labourers will return, we need to think of how we can help them upon their return after a month. Let us create passages i.e. warehouses for temporary lodging and boarding, and help them find jobs. Factories will have lost a lot of effort by then. We can enable daily wagers get back their jobs in industry. Think with a large heart. Be kind to your servants and helpers. Global Grants for procurement of ventilators by hospitals can be thought of too. Rotarians cannot change the world on their own, we need to partner with others to make a better world. Come up with a Concrete solution.

President Manoj tasked Rtn. Sanjay Dugar to draw up a blueprint for a course of action, which he will with inputs from others. Sanjay cited the example of how 5 Japanese facilitators channelized thoughts of experts after the double whammy of Nuclear Disaster and Tsunami to cut down time and reduce rehabilitation effort.

Rtn. Chandrashekar Vishwanath announced a Rs. 25000 contribution to PM Cares.

PP Rtn. OP Khanna thanked RI Director Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi for his inspiring words, and wished to know if RBI could use the Raipur facility to help our heart patients who need assistance. Rtn. Sanghvi informed him that it is a '*No cash counter*' hospital.

Responding to a question about the psychological aspect of the disaster apart from hospitals, Rtn. Sanjay Dugar stated that the civil arm can help a lot. Let us keep such people ready for helping others as soon as it is needed.

To a question if unused fully constructed buildings could be used to house displaced labour, IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari hoped that such an event will not occur. He felt that it will be inappropriate to use unsold flats. Instead the entire accumulated funds (for social causes) in National CREDAI Cess fund can be channelized to help labour.

Rtn. Kamal Sanghvi felt that we ought to *Challenge others to help..*



Screen grab of e-meeting from ZOOM software.

As captured by the SEVA editor during e-meeting

## **Covid 19 Relief Bangalore, Ms. Aparna Ponnappa**

38<sup>th</sup> weekly meeting, (4<sup>th</sup> E-meeting, 44 participants) on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

RBI's 38<sup>th</sup> weekly meeting was held through the now familiar Zoom platform. The speaker Aparna Ponnappa, is an entrepreneur, social worker, President of the Bangalore Chapter of XLRI Alumni Association, and an exceptional certified facilitator. She is helping RBI co-ordinate activities of its urgent objective of delivering 21-day ration packets to migrants and daily wage earners.



Using catchy PowerPoint slides to reinforce her points, Aparna began by thanking Rtn. Sanjay Dugar and the Rotary Indiranagar family for helping with funds, volunteers and packets of food. The first slide summarized the objective aptly, *Covid-19 Relief Bangalore – We're in it together, We'll be out of it together*. She was speaking from the Covid Relief Centre, Bangalore that co-ordinates the relief activity. Throughout her talk, whoops of joy erupted from outside her office. She attributed it to volunteers unloading relief material from trucks. It almost felt as if we were there in the midst of all the great work.

*From Humble beginnings come great things* was another catchy statement that summarized the relief activity. The idea to start a relief program for migrant workers was a brainwave as she sat in the quarantined balcony of her home a week and a half earlier. Having been in social work for a long time, it was a no-brainer. The most vulnerable section of our society would have it rough in the aftermath of the lockdown precipitated by Covid-19. They would be without a job, and more importantly without money for daily needs. Oh yes, all she needed to do was appeal for funds, get friends and acquaintances to donate (and perhaps raise funds as well). However, the enormity of the problem meant that a vastly different approach was needed.

Money did not seem to be a problem, as people were more than willing to donate. The number of people needing help and the wide geographical spread of their shanty dwellings was quite another issue. An added point was travel between locations. The lockdown made it a challenge for volunteers to travel. Lastly, wholesalers were not amenable to sell in these trying times. Government departments helped alleviate the raw materials supply issue. That sorted, they had to ensure that the logistics worked seamlessly. Here is where the facilitators group assisted to create a seamless process. Executing the plan was the next challenge. Though in theory it was simple, on the ground it got difficult for multiple reasons:

- There was no documentation of the city's migrant labour population, and much of it had to be collated as they distributed the packets. Many labourers did not have any sort of documentation on them either.
- Other individuals and agencies had the same idea as Aparna's, thereby creating a crowd of givers, with little communication between each other.
- The multitude of agencies operating in the same area meant repetition of the giving in a single area, but nothing in others. Was there a possibility of hoarding too?
- How could different giving agencies co-ordinate with each other to ensure there was no duplication? They had to come up with a way to ensure that only one database was used. That meant a quick update as soon as these kits were handed over. Aparna took it on herself to ensure that.
- Lastly, traveling with supplies was impossible during the lockdown. They met up with civic, government and police officials to give them special passes for the humanitarian work. They had to prove authenticity to the authorities and convince them that it was only rations that were being distributed and nothing else. Special passes helped simplify the process.

She waded through all of these issues and emerged a well-deserved star.



## RBI's Fund Raiser for providing Food Packets to Daily Wage Labour

**COVID-19 FUND RAISER- GIVING FOOD PACKS TO DAILY WAGE LABOUR IN BENGALURU, TO COMPLEMENT GOVT EFFORTS**

Bangalore, Karnataka, India

**BANGALORE INDIRANAGAR ROTARY TRUST**

RAISED **INR 15,61,980**  
GOAL INR 15,00,000

DAYS LEFT **7** FUNDERS **331**

104% FUNDED

Accepts funds from outside India, too.

Rs. 100,000 1000 5000 or more.

**CONTRIBUTE**

To contribute any amount without rewards.

Follow campaign Charity: Covid-19 Started on 25/03/2020 Ending on 15/04/2020 Message Campaign Owner

Campaign Updates(2) Comments(0) Funders (331)

Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar identified a key area where it could be of service in the COVID-19 Pandemic driven lockdown scenario. The plight of daily wage labourers who reside in the Indiranagar area is pitiable. The labourers have nowhere to go, and in the absence of work, they do not get paid. In a bid to help these severely distressed citizens, RBI chose to provide them with packets of food rations for the duration of the lock down. **Rtn. Naresh Bhandia** (of our new club) and **Rtn. Sanjay Dugar** front-ended the effort to put together

and distribute the packets to distressed citizens. Some of the recipients had been hungry for a few days, when they received these packets. RBI chose **Fuel-a-dream** to crowdsource funds for this cause. The wonderfully crafted campaign was oversubscribed in a matter of days. **Rtn. Lata Amashi** too helped in disbursing the packets.

Each packet contains sufficient material to make meals for 21 days for a family of 4. Volunteers put together its contents from high quality raw material sourced from wholesalers at wholesale prices. The cost of each packet works out to Rs. 1500. The packets were created to suit the preferences of labourers from North and South India resp. Here are the typical contents.

| 21 day ration package (North) |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| White Rice                    | 9 Kgs (5 Kg + 2 Kg + 1 kg X 2) |
| Wheat Flour                   | 4 Kgs (1 Kg packets x 4)       |
| Toor Dal                      | 3 Kgs (1 Kg packets x 3)       |
| Turmeric/Chilli               | 1 Pkt                          |
| Oil                           | 1 ltr                          |
| Potato, Onion                 | 3 kg, 1kg                      |
| Tea/Coffee                    | 250 gm pkt                     |
| Soap                          |                                |
| Sambar powder                 |                                |

| 21 day ration package (South) |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Raagi Flour                   | 4 Kgs (1 Kg packets x 4)       |
| White Rice                    | 9 Kgs (5 Kg + 2 Kg + 1 kg X 2) |
| Toor Dal                      | 3 Kgs (1 Kg packets x 3)       |
| Jaggery                       | 3 Balls                        |
| Turmeric/Chilli               | 1 Pkt                          |
| Tamarind                      | 1/2 Kg packet                  |
| Oil                           | 1 ltr                          |
| Soap                          |                                |
| Sambar powder                 |                                |

The Fuel-a-dream campaign attracted a few high school students who motivated people to contribute for this worthy cause through the crowdfunding site. On the next page we capture the experience of one of these committed youngsters who managed to not only attain but also exceed his target through sheer dedication.

Our sincere appreciation to all Rotarians and students who worked hard to bring a smile on the faces of the distressed daily labourer in these trying times.

Compiled by the SEVA editor

Soon after sharing our Crowdfunding campaign (for daily wage worker rations) on my friends' groups on WhatsApp, I received a call from an erstwhile neighbour, Physician and Consulting Cardiologist, Dr. Anupama Kakade. She wished to know how it worked and whether her son could be a part of the project. Her 15-year-old son Ameya, a Standard IX student at an elite International school in Bangalore, wanted to participate in it. President Manoj Agarwal spoke to Ranganath Thota (Ranga) of Fuel-a-dream, and asked that Ameya speak with Ranga and that his project would be amalgamated with RBI's other student projects.

Ameya must have impressed Ranga, because in just a few minutes, Ameya's campaign was online with a target bigger than those of other students. Ameya was quickly off the blocks, and easily exceeded his Rs. 50K target within a day. When I sought a short telephonic interview with him, Ameya was speaking to Ranga as one particular donor contribution that was not reflecting under his campaign.

Earlier, Ranganath Thota, Founder and CEO Fuel-A-Dream, in a 45-minute coaching session with Ameya over telephone, had shared key lines for interaction, statistics, as also the process of successfully completing a funder's transaction. Along with it, he offered suggestions on crafting a successful appeal. Follow-up as the key to success was firmly reinforced. Ameya ascertained contents of the ration package and that these would be distributed locally. All of Ameya's queries about acknowledgement of his contribution to the project got answered.

Ameya's mother Dr. Anupama Kakade, a cardiac consultant, was elated that this success had enhanced her son's self-esteem almost instantaneously, in front of her very eyes.

After congratulating him on his stellar maiden performance at crowd fundraising, it required little prodding for the normally reticent Ameya to share his insights and learning. These are excerpts from my freewheeling interview with Ameya.

'I am very inhibited about asking people to contribute money, and was initially scared about making so many calls asking for just their contribution.'

Now it feels really good to know that people are willing to contribute, if it is for a good cause, especially when everything is transparent. The Rotary name and the project's local nature for a huge current cause also helped.

Ranganath sir was a very patient coach. He said that if my campaign had no money to start with, it would attract few funders, and asked me to be the first funder. Thereafter prospective funders would feel confident about contributing to the campaign by noticing my personal intent and the non-zero balance. Ranganath Sir's analogy of an empty restaurant being a put-off for would-be diners helped reinforce the idea of initial seeding.

My mother funded first, and thereafter I made my first hesitant call (to my grandmother). She was very supportive and immediately contributed her mite. I approached my other set of grandparents and they too became funders. Grandparents from both my mother's and father's side contributed readily. My funded amount looked very healthy as did my confidence. Within an hour I had 15K in my campaign from mom, me and close relatives.'

*How did he go about soliciting contributions?*

'I first made a note of all people I knew - relatives, my friends and friends of parents, and then prioritized based on their ability to contribute

Next, I called up friends and their parents. Some did contribute but a few deferred.

I then spoke to some people that I had never spoken with. One of them was Chander K Baljee, of Royal Orchid Hotel, whom I greeted with a namaste (as per Ranga Sir's instructions).'

*Did people contribute without question?*

'I found that calls work better than an inanimate message. Potential funders want their queries answered right away. An ongoing current issue makes it easier.

I was asking on behalf of a local campaign, backed by a reputed organization. The Rotary Indiranagar name helped convince many who were indecisive. Later I shared with them pictures, on the actual ration packet distribution already underway by Rotary volunteers, that my mother had received. That had enormous impact too.'


*What got him interested in this cause?*

'My aim is to be an Automobile engineer who constantly tracks current environmental issues. At present I keep in touch with these issues through an organization called Advanced Placement. It helps with credits for my undergrad applications. With so many TV discussions around the Corona Virus, and its impact on migrants and poor people in Bangalore, it was impossible to miss. I wanted to be a part of the effort to help these unwitting bystanders impacted by the lockdown. I spoke to my mother about it. The crowdfunding effort was a timely campaign that came my way. And I am very happy that I participated in it.'

Here is Ameya's campaign page. At the time of compiling this SEVA issue, his appeal has notched Rs. 1,44,200 (288% of his target). How's that for his maiden appearance at helping out in crowdfunding? Congratulations Ameya, you make us proud.

**AMEYA S KAKADE'S COVID-19 CAMPAIGN - GIVING FOOD PACKS TO DAILY WAGE LABOUR IN BENGALURU**


Bengaluru, Karnataka, India




**BANGALORE INDIRANAGAR ROTARY TRUST**

SEE FULL PROFILE  
Profile Verified

CAMPAIGN TEAM



CROWDRATING  
**9/10**



I am AMEYA S KAKADE, 15 years old and in Grade 9. I am raising funds to provide 21-day food packs to daily wage labourers across Bangalore who are impacted because of COVID-19.

★ Star Campaign ★

**RAISED**  
**INR 1,42,700**  
GOAL INR 50,000

**DAYS LEFT**  
**7**

**FUNDERS**  
**41**

**285% FUNDED**

Accepts funds from outside India, too.

Rs. 100,500, 1000,5000 or more.

**CONTRIBUTE**

To contribute any amount without rewards.

Follow campaign

Charity: Covid-19

Started from 01/04/2020

Ending on 16/04/2020

Message Campaign Owner

**Campaign**

Updates(1)

Comments(0)

Funders (41)

Interview conducted by SEVA editor



## Lasting impressions of RBI's Food Ration Packet distribution activities



Wholesale packages of rice being unloaded



Smaller packets created for ration packs



Sorting tamarind for ration pack



Stacked & stored for Ration pack assembly



Ration pack contents



Rtn. Sanjay Dugar oversees Ration Pack creation



Packs on way to recipients



Handing over a Pack



Packs await recipients

### BENEFICIARY LOCATIONS PLANNED





## Handwash at RHOS



When the threat of COVID-19 loomed large, RBI thought of different ways to ensure that the general public would remain safe and healthy. Realizing that the area around RHOS does not have a handwash for general public use, on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, RBI decided to install one, along one side of the RHOS perimeter wall. The two-tap handwash is easily accessible and can be serviced very quickly. Our resident staff, Bahadur, has been tasked with ensuring that it is always in a working state. The handwash has a soap dispenser, and pictorial representation of the correct hand washing technique to clean hands effectively. The pictorial representation has been adapted from Rotary's WINS program.

RBI's decision to install the handwash could not have come sooner, given the regular stream of users of this facility. And especially so in the wake of the national lockdown.

The image alongside captures a typical queue at the installed handwash.

## A date with RI President Elect Rtn Holger Knaack

A number of RBI Rotarians were present at a joint e-meeting arranged by our sister club Rotary Club of Colombo on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020. The speaker was RI President Elect Rtn. Holger Knaack. After a round of introductions from RC Colombo, he started speaking from his home in Germany. As with everyone else, he felt it was 'Like a miracle' right then. Despite a lockdown, the miracle of technology had helped to connect Rotarians far away from his home. He planned to reach out to Kathmandu later. He had been continuously on Zoom speaking with Rotarians around the world, after returning from the US a couple of weeks earlier.

He acknowledged feeling safer in Germany and was enjoying spring. No one had expected things to take such a turn. A few thousand people have died in Germany, and the country's economy has closed. No one is sure about the future. And interestingly, more people are in zoom meetings than in physical ones. He urged Rotary leaders to take care of people in their clubs and ensure that everybody has a smart phone. It is easier than a PC he said, especially with its superior camera.

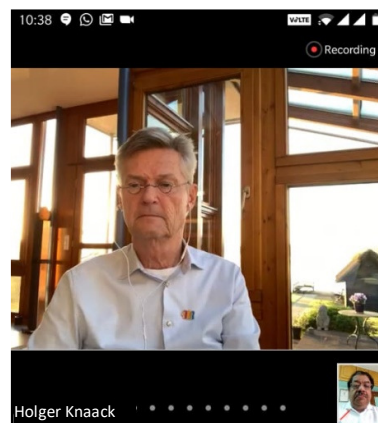
He then advised Rotarians to take care of people in the community. It is now a good time to reach out to communities by meeting community leaders. He asked us to identify large industries and seek donations from them. Another source would be local charities. He firmly believes that after the shutdown ends there will be other issues to contend with. It will be difficult to return to normal, but we should strive to improve. He felt it was now time to be revolutionary.

He wished that there be at least one strategic meeting each year in every Rotary Club. These should focus on:

- What are we giving to our constituents?
- Are we attracting younger people?
- What do we do to provide opportunities?

He suggested some sort of self-assessment to help clubs change direction if needed, and shared a Check Test at his Rotary club. They ask these questions:

- What we do need to change?
- How do we grow Rotary?



People do not usually worry about the numerical strength of a club. And people leaving Rotary speak about Rotary. Some of which is not always flattering. He wanted sustainable growth in Rotary by identifying and inviting people who fit well within their Rotary Club and adjust too. That he felt was the best way to grow Rotary.

Have friends for life in Rotary, he said. Such lifelong members engage in Rotary. We should look for both young and experienced members to ensure stability and energy. Age is no bar, just get those who fit the best. Invite more women to be members to help Rotary live up to one of its core values. We have people from different backgrounds, languages and culture, but remain bound by friendship.

The Rotary experience, he explained, in different countries is different. But the 4 Way Test remains unchanged. He urged Rotarians to take up every opportunity to serve. Each such act of service changes and grows us. Projects, he advised, ought to be sustainable and relevant. Do things together. For a Rotarian it has to be '**We** and not I', and '**Our** not Mine'. He believes that it is a great joy to share with others, the more we share, the better the world will be. *Our ambition should be to improve Rotary for the future.*

He answered a few audience questions next

*Q. How did Rotary clubs in Germany react to the deaths and extent of Corona virus?*

Thankfully we are in a better state than others, in that we have beds and medicine. Angela Merkel is a Rotarian. The government is doing much better than others. It is honoring all those who are working right now (in hospitals). Easter in Germany is the most important festival. Yet, they are working to serve others without caring about themselves. They are also working on disaster relief fund.

*Q. Our President Manoj Agarwal wondered whether under prevailing circumstances there would be a cut in the number of global grants.*

RE President Elect Holger Knaack felt it is for Club members and Trustees to decide. He did not think there would be curtailment. Rotary, he said, runs on money. And believes that people in the Rotary world must contribute to TRF. RI needs the money now.

Member, College of Governors PDG Rtn. K R Ravindran added that there will be no reduction in global grants. However, each may not be more than USD 25000 and restricted to no more than one per club. He spoke of how countries have used such funds well, and shared the example of how Sri Lanka improved the quality of their labs using global grants.

He also believes that Round Tabling approaches may help reduce Rotary's formal ways. Tablers learn about service, and meet in person. 20% of members from RI PE Holger's club are Tablers'.

Another question asked was whether RI was planning for the recovery period after CoVID-19. *Can we come up with a plan so that we are not taken by surprise? Is Rotary doing anything?* RIPE Holger agreed that all were taken by surprise by the COVID pandemic. And that there will be a huge need for rehabilitation soon. Every country has a different challenge. Rotarians across a country need to be in touch with each other. He stated that there were no plans to send an official and unified message across the world, and stated that we ought to look in our areas and discover those special needs where Rotarians can adapt.

*All President elects will have restrictions placed on them. What message will you give us on interactions with members and projects to take up?*

It depends on the country you are in. Take decisions based on local concerns. Try and ensure that everyone attends meetings. Keep members involved. Let us make sure we discover and address needs of the community.

*CoVID-19 is an unprecedented problem. Will it impact Rotary's Polio campaign?*

Globally door to door Polio campaign may be stopped. But don't stop contributing to Polio... your help is needed now.

All our facilities and logistics are trained on the Corona Virus. Corona showed us how fast the virus travels. It suggests that other viruses can also travel as fast.

*How many Rotarians have been affected by the virus?*

5 staff members have been affected by the virus. But not while they were working for Rotary. I believe Rotarians in Italy are doing a lot of projects that will improve their economy.

Member, College of Governors PDG Rtn. K R Ravindran felt that next year will be challenging. He stated that in RI President Elect Rtn. Holger Knaack, we have the right man in the right place at the right time.

All of us need to keep our spirits up and get through these troubled times together.

### Joint e-meeting between IFRM 3142 members, IFRM 3190 CC and RBI IFRMers

It was a song-filled evening on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, when a first of a kind joint e-meeting was held, with IFRM Dist. 3142 members, IFRM 3190 Core Committee members and RBI IFRMers in attendance. Members logged in with enthusiasm into Zoom, and launched into songs almost right away. All of those attending either sang or offered interesting insights into the songs. The soulful evening lasted almost 2 hours. We invaded their homes in Thane and they ours in Bengaluru. Here is a screenshot of the 21-participants Zoom singing session. What a way to overcome lockdown constraints!! Thank you IFRM 3142 for reaching out and livening up the evening!



## EVENTS

### KEY DATES IN MARCH - APRIL

Zoom e-meeting with RI President Nominee Rtn. Shekhar Mehta on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2020. 19:00 to 20:00

Due to space constraints we are unable to carrying the regular Birthdays and Anniversary information. Our apologies for the inconvenience.