

RBI Board 2019-20

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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

rotary.indiranagar@gmail.com
Ph: 080 25267014

From the Editor's desk



Dear Reader,

We bring you an issue of SEVA wherein everything featured was accomplished during the CoVID-19 induced lockdown. It is a surreal feeling to have been a part of so many activities, without being physically present at the events. However, the satisfaction and accomplishment remain undiminished.

There were weekly e-meetings on very interesting topics, and a few fellowship events - a music event held by RBI, an e-tambola pioneered by our fellowship team, as also an Antakshari. These events helped to pep up the spirits of home-locked RBlans through welcome interactions with RBI Rotarians and Anns whom everyone missed.

There were a few energetic and selfless RBlans like Rtn. Sanjay Dugar, Rtn. Vijay Mane, Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar, Rtn. Saravanan Kasturi, Rtn. Lata Amashi and Rtn. Asha Vaswani who ran that extra mile. We are collating this information and will shortly bring to you (in a special SEVA issue) accounts of their efforts to help many whose lives were adversely impacted by the pandemic and the resultant lockdown. All of these proved that RBI Rotarians are **DAZZLERS** in action.

RBI did stupendously when contributing to help CoVID lockdown affected people. We include a short report shared by DGND Rtn. Jeetendra Aneja on Facebook.

Our next crowdfunding project to provide food for daily wage workers is already underway.

All of RBI deserves applause for its terrific effort, and especially our own CoVID heroes.

We welcome feedback at seva.rcbi@gmail.com with your comments on specific points in this issue, and help us improve our connect with you.

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

Happy Reading,

Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy

Bulletin Editor, 2019-20



RIPN Shekhar Mehta's address to RBI on 13th Apr 2020

President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal commenced with a customary Shayari before sharing information about our efforts to alleviate the hardships of migrant and daily wage earners. Here is a summary of our CoVID 19 related work..

For providing rations to migrant Labour & daily wage earners, RBI has thus far disbursed packets worth Rs. 59 Lakhs (Of this Rs. 19 L was collected from well-wishers and crowdfunding)

He then listed out key RBI projects:

- New Club (Rotary Bengaluru Disha)
- PM Cares already collected 19 L will cross 20 L (Thanks to Rtn. Ghanshyam Agarwal)
- An RTPCR machine worth Rs. 24 Lakhs to be installed at Anand Diagnostics
- We have so far touched 1.3 Lakh lives by expending 1100 manhours and Rs. 19L

DG Rtn. Sameer Hariani introduced RIPN Shekar Mehta, and IPDG Suresh Hari welcomed him to the meeting.

RIPN Shekhar Mehta began by stating that *Service is the rent we pay for living on this earth*

RIPN Mehta's Vision 2025 is the Power of One (3500 clubs in India)

The present time is the most trying time in our lives. A total lockdown has never been heard of in India earlier. India is 25 times the size of Italy. He believes it is a bold decision by the PM to earmark Rs. 15000 crore for health. It has been the result of minute thinking

Rotarians have done well, by sitting at home and using Zoom to communicate.

It has been a lesson in thinking big .. a contribution of Rs. 25 Cr to PM Cares would be as good as Dhoni's and Birlas. Rotarians give from savings, while others have done so from their profits.

After 100 years of Rotary in India, we have 13 % of the world's Rotarians and we are the No 1 in number of clubs. We get USD 20 Million for Rotary India projects (No.2 is UK with 1.5 Million).

The value of projects in India in 2025 will be over Rs. 2000 Crores by the 13% Rotarians globally who are part of Indian Rotary clubs.

He urged members to grow Rotary, but not necessarily their club. His suggestion for clubs - add 2 clubs in 2 years.

Rotary India has 1.5 Lakh outstanding professionals, and does 10% Water & Sanitation projects globally (including 10000 check-dams)

By 2025, (through Rotary) we will do 10% of the 1 Lakh Lakes being rejuvenated. Rotary Madras who converted a stream into a water body, plans to work on 100 lakes. RBI can do more than that he felt. RBI, which is No 2 in giving to the Rotary world should double its membership,

He felt that RBI is one of the jewels in the crown of India (India is the Rotary World's Kohinoor). He suggested these areas for us to consider taking up:

- Water, Sanitation, Health, Disaster Mgt, TEACH
- 1000 villages tap water to every household
- ODF+ (Open Defecation free)
- Improve education system in India

- Push e-Learning in Karnataka (Rotary will pay for software it gets developed)
- From Swachh Bharat to Shikshit Bharat
- From 34% to 90% literate India by 2025

1.5 Lakh Rotarians will work on Mission mode. Everyone is seeking help from India

Rotary should get the NOBEL PEACE Prize → Rotary's body of work is exemplary. It almost says '*Whenever you see service .. think of us*' like the Jensen & Nicholas slogan.

He also came up with these slogans for Rotarians in India

- Rotary Mere liye
- From the heart (not from the mind)
- Find the Goal and the path will follow

Rotarians in India have raised Rs. 17.5 Crores for Polio eradication

When asked about his thoughts on Vocational Education, he said

"In TEACH, one of the verticals of Adult Literacy is Vocational education. 30K people are being trained (15+ years). The new Education policy will probably have it. In your district there is Project Dignity (Adult Literacy 3190)."

RIPN Shekhar Mehta invited PP Rtn. OP Khanna to be a part of the Health Committee

Courage is key he stated and came up with a typical couplet to give his talk a positive end:

Yun He Nahi Milti Rahi Ko Manzil,
Ek Junoon Sa Dil Main Jagana Hota Hai
Pucha Chidiya Se... Kaise Bana Ashiyana?
Boli-
Bharni Padti Hai Udaan Bar Bar
Tinka Tinka Uthana Hota Hai!

यूँ ही नहीं मिलती राही को मंजिल,
एक जुनून सा दिल में जगाना होता है
पूछा चिड़िया से... कैसे बना आशियाना?
बोली-
भरनी पड़ती है उड़ान बार-बार
तिनका-तिनका उठाना होता है!

Here are some memories of the weekly e-meeting on 13th April 2020.



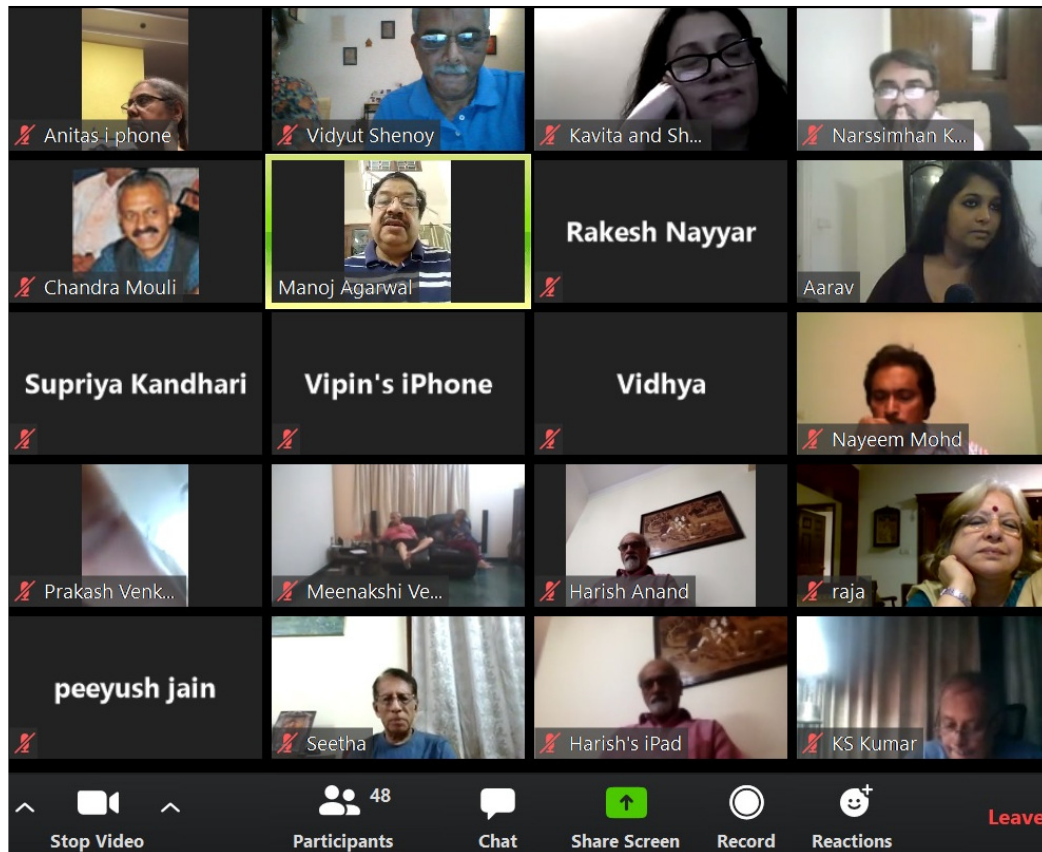
Musical e-fellowship involving invited singers

Early into the CoVID-19 induced lockdown, President Manoj, sensing a need for some revitalizing of spirits, suggested a musical fellowship wherein requests made from RBI's family were sung. On the evening of 16th April 2020, RBI singers and two invited professionals Samavitha Sharma and Govind Kurnool entertained the RBI family. Given the professional singers' hectic schedules, requests for them were taken up first, while the home singers came in later. Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan, Rtn. Nayeemullah and Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy of RBI sang a few requests. Rtn. Kavita Kekre and Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan donned roles of event co-anchors and coordinators.

From all accounts it was an enjoyable evening. It most certainly provided a melodious release for the lockdown RBI family.

The event also proved that Zoom based entertainment was eminently possible at RBI. Hitherto it had been used only for RBI official business meetings.

Here is a snapshot from the Zoom software showing the audience and singers.



The Power of Sport

RBI's 40th weekly meeting (our 6th e-meeting) on 20th April 2020, was a visual treat. The meeting commenced with an interesting twist. RBI inducted 4 new members who had been patiently waiting in the wings. In a first, all four, Rtn. Harish Manae - the lake revitalizer, Yogendra Mahipal, Ann Kavitha Pishay and Ebrahim Sabjan were e-inducted by DG Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariani. That done, we moved to the speaker of the day.

The Power of Sport to Do Well and Do good

To begin with, the speaker's name was uncommon as was the topic. For those of us who disregarded these little oddities, it was an education, and more importantly a visual treat.

Paul Dupuis is a diehard sport enthusiast. As a young Canadian, he dabbled in various sports that his native country offered. He became proficient in games he chose to play. He was good at Baseball, Ice Skating and Ice Hockey. As a young child he helped set up the *Optimist Club* (ice hockey) in Windsor. He also is a Karate Dojo. His interest in karate made him explore Japan, where he lived for a few years, before moving to Bangalore as CEO of Randstad India, an HR consulting firm. He was unsure about Bangalore's offerings. But once here, he followed his instinct to explore Namma Uru. In Bangalore he sorely missed ice-skating, but did the next best thing by going roller skating/roller blading. On one of those outings in Cubbon Park he met a local roller bladers group → the *Bangalore skaters*. He befriended them and discovered later that though they had not tried it yet, they were not averse to playing Roller Blade hockey.



His search for an Ice Hockey rink in India, took him to Ladakh. It is a place he now loves going to, given its similarity to Canada, especially the cold weather. He used his time in Ladakh to improve the competence of the local Ice hockey team - all equipment for the team was airlifted to Ladakh from Canada. The Bangalore skaters accompanied him and played an ice hockey game with the local team in Ladakh, for which they set a Guinness World Record for playing an ice hockey game at the highest altitude.

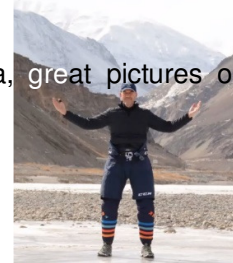
Ladakh's ice hockey rink is maintained by the Indian Army. Due to Climate change, the winter in Ladakh is getting shorter and milder. Hence maintaining the rink is getting increasingly difficult and expensive. The army decided to stop maintaining the rink given its huge expense. Since ice-rinks rapidly deteriorate if not maintained regularly, the local rink could see the end of its tryst with ice-hockey. The army therefore chose to host **'The Last Game'** at the rink. To make it memorable, Paul Dupuis invited an ice hockey team and the highly decorated, and globally recognized ice hockey legend, Viacheslav Fetisov. The local players were absolutely energized. It diminished the pain of losing their precious stadium to nature's vagaries. Paul believes that the Ladakh team, which hopes to participate at international level has a few merited players.



He used the event to highlight the plight of remote places like Ladakh, and put the focus back on ways to arrest Climate change.

His presentation had stunning pictures from his childhood in Canada, great pictures of Ladakh's landscape and a few from his stays in Bangalore and Japan.

All we can say is THANK YOU Paul.

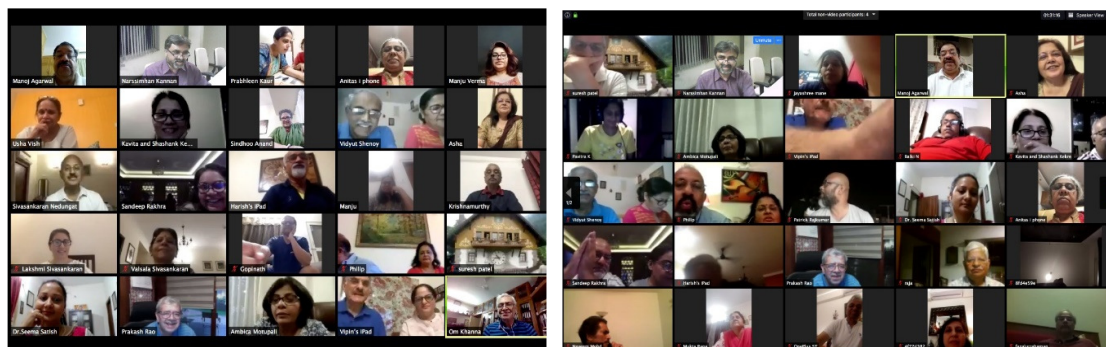


E-Tambola for RBlans by Fellowship team

There is no stopping RBI, when it comes to fellowships. Soon after the *farmaishi* musical evening, there was an e-tambola that the RBI fellowship team put together to infuse some fun and excitement in drawing rooms across the RBI family on 22nd April 2020.

The tambola was attuned to changing times. The called number was simultaneously shared on WhatsApp and Zoom chat. Everybody had unique (numbered) e-tickets sent to them on WhatsApp. Any exclaim of scoring a win, was checked by the back-room group of the fellowship team. The excitement banter and fun of a normal tambola was present in full form.

A measure of its appeal can be seen from the number of eager participants in the screenshots below, all of who were locked to their screens during lockdown.



It got over all too soon despite there being multiple prizes for top-line, bottom-line and middle-line. There were multiple full house prizes as also the Jaldi 7, Bamboo and 4 corners.

In keeping with the e-theme, prize money was transferred to respective PayTM or G-Pay accounts. How's that for a clean, paper-free and no waste tambola?

Covid 19 Myths and Facts

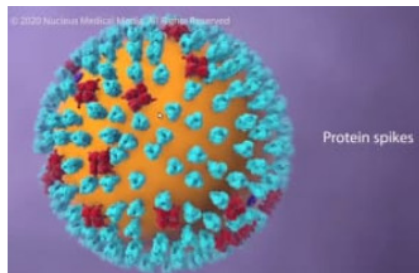
In these CoVID-19 ridden times, it was essential for a subject matter expert to throw light on the matter and dispel some myths. That is exactly what Dr. Maneesh Paul, microbiologist, and Director R&D Acharya Group of Institutions did at our 41st weekly meeting (7th e-meeting) on 27th April 2020. Needless to say, it was a near full house.



The gist of Dr. Paul's talk is captured for you below.

3 months have changed the way we look at the world.

Dr. Maneesh Paul's explanation through expressive slides helped us understand infectious diseases and pandemics through great slides and lucid details.



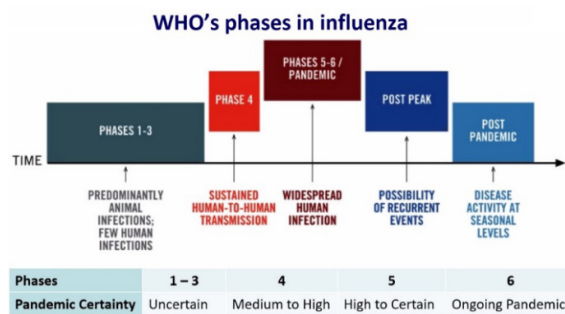
life. While DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) has a double helix structure made up of two strands,

Dr. Paul commenced his talk with the beautiful world of microbes. He explained that these are (electron) microscopic and their sizes are expressed in micrometers or nanometers. Many of them live routinely in a healthy human body. Only when some of them decide to feast on a healthy organ, for whatever reason, does a person fall ill. He then went into some details about viruses, which are made up of genetic material, the normal building blocks of

a typical RNA (Ribonucleic acid) is single stranded. Some RNA based viruses have two strands and these are termed double stranded RNA viruses. Many two stranded RNA viruses cause human diseases such as common cold, influenza, SARS, COVID-19, hepatitis strands, West Nile fever, Ebola virus disease, rabies, polio and measles. Once these are studied in depth, scientists can identify and come up with antidotes and vaccines.

He informed us the differences between Endemic, Epidemic and Pandemic. The primary differentiators are geographic. While an endemic is always in a particular place or community, an epidemic is specific to a city, region or country. When the number of people, in an area or part, experiencing an infection is higher than the expected number it is an epidemic. A pandemic occurs when a disease spreads across a wide geographical area, beyond national boundaries and often worldwide. It is caused by a rapidly spreading novel infectious agent. Often humans have little or no immunity against such agents. Invariably Pandemics have far higher death tolls than Epidemics. Resistance to antibiotics increases risk of future pandemics.

Infectious diseases occur due to human demographic change, travel, civil unrest and war, biowarfare or bioterrorism, and evolution of infectious agents. Often these diseases reemerge in a new form.

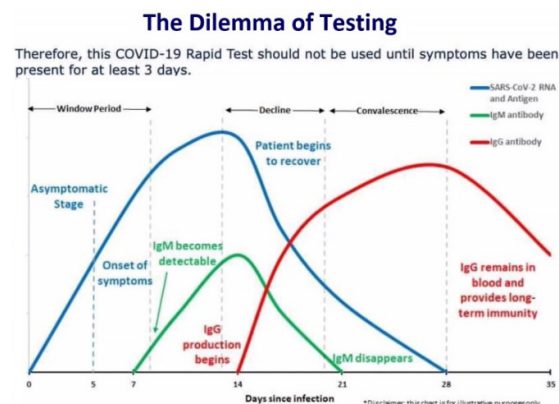


He explained the (time) phases of influenza as defined by WHO in pandemic phases. It starts with predominantly animal infections, with a few human infections in the first three phases. In the next phase it shows sustained human-to-human transmission. When widespread human-to-human infection occurs (in phases 5 and 6) it is declared a pandemic. After this peak there is a stage (7) of possible recurrent events.

The last stage is post pandemic (8), where the disease activity resurfaces seasonally. The phases of a disease also tell us about the extent of a pandemic.

He then helped us understand the difference between bacteria and a virus. While bacteria are able to reproduce themselves, a virus invades another living cell (host), takes it over and causes it to make copies of viral particles. This is what an infection is. While bacteria respond to antibiotics, a virus responds only to antivirals.

Vivid visuals detailing the current CoVID-19 pandemic explained the sequence of events in a human lung. And then its spread and impact on other parts of the body. He explained CoVID symptoms as also prevention techniques, persistence of Coronaviruses on surfaces and how long they last there. He shared different diagnostic tools available today for CoVID-19.



In tune with the current discourse, Dr. Paul explained the dilemma of testing .. through a visual representative chart illustrative of the different stages.

Dr. Paul also walked us through the 4 stages of drug-development, and continued in the same vein about treatment goal in relation to the end purpose of the drug being developed.

And lest we forget, he covered the entire life cycle of identification, contact tracing,

monitoring, symptom tracking, isolation, treatment, tracking and discharge, all in easy to follow visuals.

Throughout his talk, Dr. Paul quoted from reputed medical journals.

He dispelled a few myths, especially these:

- The Indian immune system is better than the west's
- Coronavirus passes through mutton and chicken
- The lab developed virus was manufactured and deliberately released
- Chinese food is unsafe to eat now
- You can get the virus from Made in China products
- Ordering or buying products shipped from overseas will make one sick

He ended with a note on India's pluralistic health care system that has both public and private sectors. Most of the hospital beds, ICU beds and ventilators are concentrated in 7 states. He also mentioned that capacity of government hospital beds is saturated and accommodating an influx of CoVID-19 patients calls for urgent expansion of current capacity or modification of admission policy.

He also believes that in the days to come, all suspected cases will be home-isolated, close contacts will be traced, congregations must be avoided and physical distancing mandated even after the economy opens up. Use of face masks will be made compulsory.

The talk ended with a slide on resistance development in the virus to antibiotics used on it.

Dr. Paul thank you for making it so easy to understand for non-medical people.

Quarantine Antakshari

Does anything else lift the collective RBI mood more than a vibrant Antakshari? Given the obvious answer, President Manoj Agarwal tasked the Fellowship team to come up with a short session to engage as many RBI Rotarians and family members as possible.

On 30th April, a little over a month after the lockdown was in force, RBI had its Quarantine Antakshari over the Zoom platform. There were 11 teams plus the audience and an enormous buzz around.

The rounds were different from a usual run-of-the-mill Antakshari event

1. 2 regular rounds of evenly fought Antakshari - to set the mood just right
2. Songs on pairs of stars (with bonuses for movie name) started making things more interesting
3. The Antara, sung by a member of the fellowship team, to recognizing and singing the Mukhda by teams, resulted in a number of face-palms and amusement
4. Asking teams to sing songs featuring a word given by the anchor, got the tempo further up that little bit
5. To slowly wind down the event and yet leave on a high, there was the round to 'Identify the song in a specifically described scene' (naming movie and actors fetched bonuses)

The event attracted a lot of participation from teams and the audience, banter among RBians and much needed fun. And all of this sitting in the comfortable ambience of home, with one's own choice of beverage and knick knacks.

Every participant won on that evening and retired with an elevated mood. Rtn. Manju Verma secured the highest number of points.

Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan and Rtn. Kavita Kekre anchored the rounds, while Ann Sharada Shenoy kept score. Rtn. Shashank Kekre and Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy played support roles.

Here's how the Antakshari session looked on a laptop screen...



e-Meeting with Past RI Director Jennifer Jones

PRID Rtn. Jennifer Jones, during the 1st May 2020 meeting, began by explaining how Canada has quarantined CoVID-19 infected patients in a big way. She noted too that many hospital staff in Canada have been infected with the virus. Consequently, patients were shifted to a community hospital. Now, everyone takes ample precautions, such as a shower before touching anything or meeting anyone upon returning home.



It is a horrible pandemic but there are positives such as cooking at home. Rotarians she says are much better connected during this pandemic. She explained how one president inducted two members in e-mode just that day.

She then urged Rotarians to be engaged and review their own clubs to identify those who only attend meetings but do no Rotary work. Also, she urged members to seek out those who are not attending, since they may be all alone.

The economic landscape after lockdown ceases, may change significantly. Before going into lockdown, RI allowed the Disaster Relief fund to respond by moving US\$ 1 Million to its active account. The amount was completely utilized in 5 days, necessitating infusion of another US\$ 2 Million. But even that got depleted quickly.

She announced the holding of a global telethon through Facebook live on 2nd May, wherein stories of CoVID-19 related activities from across the globe would get shared. It would be in the 8 official languages of Rotary, in a first time ever initiative. The aim is to spread Hope, Inspiration and Gratitude. She implored Rotarians to donate to the Disaster Relief Fund knowing how well Rotary stewards the funds.

An audience member, upon seeing RI's Facebook page, stated that many US districts now seek Global Grants. It doesn't augur well, since this means funds will dry up for countries like India. The member wished to know if RI rules would be changed to reflect the new reality.

The response was that North American clubs have underutilized their DDF, and we are now in uncharted waters, especially since no International partner is seeking Disaster Relief Funds. It means the current scenario will be a case for new best practices to add to existing ones. She then encouraged districts to disburse and release their DDF funds, since it has no value when not used.

She commented that the Polio eradication surveillance network is something that every Rotarian should be proud of. It is now being utilized for CoVID-19. In the past it helped address the Ebola virus issue. She was certain that we will eliminate Polio. All of Africa including Nigeria is free from Polio. Only Pakistan and Afghanistan have a few cases. Polio has a vaccine, it is our moral responsibility to cross the finish line by ensuring everybody is vaccinated.

She was confident of seeing a woman at the helm of Rotary soon - not because of the gender, but because she is qualified for the role.

PDG Rajendra Rai wished to know the Programs of Scale that TRF is looking for, and the kind of sustainable effect we can achieve.

The response was that as yet there is no test. The focus is only on investment returns, using the conservative approach. The losses will be small, but not negligible. The information will be shared when available.

With this Pandemic, will TRF contribution also come down?

The only data that can be compared is that during the Spanish Flu epidemic in the 1920s and WWII. There were no significant dips then, hopefully the same will be true now.

We are currently US\$ 19 Million short of the targetted 50 Million for Polio, in order that the Bill and Melinda Gates donation comes through. Districts need to be come out and donate.

Can the DDF be moved to Districts like 3190, that need the funds?

She felt that it is a good opportunity to cultivate networks and build on them.



Responding to a request by Nigeria for Rotary help to release funds that it needs urgently for PPEs and PCRs, she promised to share an HK-based Rotarian's contact, who had helped a Jamaican Rotarian to obtain ventilators from the source. Since all of these are Rotarians, it would help to get in touch with them directly. She was confident that the HK contact could come through with PPEs and PCRs for Nigeria.

RIDN PDG A S Venkatesh holds forth at weekly e-meeting on 4th May 2020



RI Director Nominee PDG A S Venkatesh (Venky) launched into his talk after an AV clip that depicted his exceptional career.

He shared his thoughts on where Rotary should be, and how we could handle the shift.

He began by describing past expectations from Rotary. The primary motivation was attending weekly meetings that exposed attendees to fresh ideas apart from providing networking opportunities. Over the years he felt that both these objectives have become irrelevant at Rotary, thanks to Google and networking

applications such as WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram.

He then rhetorically asked ... 'What will attract and retain Rotarians?', and proceeded to answer his own question in 4 parts:

1. Opportunity to experience something yourself.

Now that attendance is irrelevant, how can members be engaged by retaining interest?

Hands on engagement is the key. It is something that no app can offer. We could spread the Rotary message through meaningful projects, Interact, Rotaract, fund raisers and family meetings for large clubs.

2. Adopt new technology

While it was already on the cards, the CoVID-19 driven lockdown has only accelerated it. The pace of technology seeping into Rotary is rapid, as can be seen by On-line reporting, Online application for funds, and even the RI Annual Convention being replaced by a virtual one, where no physical presence is required. It is amazing how quickly technology has taken centre stage. He believes that RI will phase out all its in-person meetings by Dec 2020. Adapt or be left out, could well become the credo at Rotary. Weekly meetings will be all online. He disclosed that recently 130 PDGs were trained on leading Zoom meetings .. it was led by RI President Nominee Shekhar Mehta.

Similarly, most fundraising will be done through online means such as crowd funding. These will be exponential changes, and technology challenged Rotarians will need to change ... since even Rotary is changing.

3. Large Projects

Large scale projects will become more common place. Rotarians are getting increasingly restless doing only small projects. Most are not content by doing business as usual. The feeling is epitomized by a Delhi-based Rotarian who said, "If I were to do the same things that I did before I joined Rotary, what was the point in joining Rotary?" Similar sentiments are being expressed by many. Small projects can no longer be the mainstay.

He invoked the term 'Power of Collective Charity', where *1+1 does not equal to 2, but is 11*. A few weeks ago, he met Rotarians from all verticals of Rotary in India, and obtained information from them about projects that they do. He stated that the value of projects planned by Rotary in India by end of 2021 will be Rs. 758 Crores. The number would have been met by raised eyebrows just a few years ago, but not any longer.

How do we achieve such big numbers and do such projects?

Small clubs could join with each other and execute big projects.

Those who do not do so will fall by the wayside.

4. External partnerships

He carried the collaboration idea to the next level and suggested that Rotary clubs could do large projects by partnering with other organizations and 'Aim for the Stars'.

These external organizations could be in the Public or Private sector. They could also be other NGOs who provide skills that complement Rotary's.

5 years ago there were a few such deals, now these are almost commonplace.

Once he concluded, President Manoj Agarwal thanked RIDN Venkatesh for sharing the roadmap for growth of Rotary. He informed Venky about RBI's various collaborative projects over the years. He shared these few examples:

- Karunashraya with Indian Cancer Society Karnataka
- Heart Surgeries with Needy Heart Foundation, and
- Vidya Daan with CanFin Homes

He shared that external partners expect transparency, which RBI offers. President Manoj also explained how RBI has not missed a single weekly meeting during the lockdown by adopting technology options. It showed how RBI has adapted quickly to the new normal. RBI also participated in the 2nd May 2020 Telethon on CoVID-19 efforts across the Rotary World.



BIRTHDAYS

MAY

Rtn. Krish Kumar	15
Anne Alice Roshan Jacob	17
Rtn. Ravindra Gaikwad	17
Rtn. Asad Hajeebhoy	18
Rtn. R. N. Hedge	19
PP Rtn. Ambika Narayan	20
Rtn. Suraj Chalam	20
Anne Srividya Mouli	22
Anne Padmaja Balaji	22
Rtn. N M Nayeemullah	22
Rtn. Vipin Labroo	23
Anne Rajini Narayanan	25
Spouse Pradeep Kandhari	26
Rtn. Kamalavadani Udaya Kumar	27
Rtn. Rajendra Karnawat	28
Anne Chandra Lalit Anand	30
Anne Usha Manohar	31

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Anne Prasanna Chandri	02
PP Rtn. Harpreet Singh Rana	05
Rtn. Thomas Abraham	06
PP Rtn. N. Krishnamurthy	07
Anne Nalini Muniraju	10
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