

# Get Engaged



Rakesh Aggarwal  
District Governor  
2013-14

# Get Engaged

District Governor's Monthly Letter

RI President Ron D. Burton

OCT 2013

GML

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## DG OFFICIAL VISIT OCT 2013

- 14th Nov Thursday Yamunanagar Reverb
- 15th Nov Friday Roorkee Midtown
- 16th Nov Saturday Sohanspur Continental & SHR-South
- 17th Nov Sunday Haridwar & Ranipur
- 21th Nov Thursday Mussoorie
- 22nd Nov Friday Nahan
- 21st Nov Saturday Ponta Sahib
- 30th Nov Saturday Saanya Uttarakhand

Please note that effective November 1, 2013, the exchange rate of US \$ shall be Rs.61/. Those who had kept their contributions to the Rotary Foundation due to an adverse exchange rate may now consider meeting their commitments.

## Condolences

We are sorry to inform about sudden and untimely death of Respected Sanjay Garbhasan Singhji Gandhoke father of PDG Manpreet Gandhoke. It is an irreparable loss. We pray that the departed soul may rest in peace.



Dear Americans and Aans,  
Rotary Greetings!

Rotary continues to amaze me - literally. Getting first hand experience of the services that Rotary renders, even beyond the National borders, leave me the foundation of the RI District, came up my way when I joined the Rotary International Medicare Mission in Ethiopia along with Distinguished and senior Rotarians of our District who looked after the medical needs of the needy native population. Rotarians and Doctors from Pune, Maharashtra constituted part of our team as did the local Rotarians and Structures of Ethiopia. One needs to be part of such a mission to comprehend the internationality of Rotary and of the true services it renders to the needy. Really, Long live Rotary in the service to mankind.

Equally interesting was my experience when I attended the 'Retreat' of the College of Governors at Udaipur before leaving for Ethiopia. I witnessed the ever-lasting bondages between the Rotarians and also between their spouses who count four straight days and devote all the time to Rotary. Here too, the Rotarians devoted one full day to attend to business and deliberate on important issues. It seems that the relationship for Rotarians is 'service - service & service only', and they enjoy to 'Engage Rotary Change Lives'.

Look forward to more such experiences which I shall only be too happy to share with you.

With Compliments of the season.

Nice! :-)

Warm Regards,



DG Official Visit to RC Jwalapur



DG Official Visit to RC Shimla



DG Official Visit to Kasauli



DG Official Visit to Shimla Midtown



## DGN Election Pilot

You will be pleased to note that RI President has approved the district's request for exemption under the DGN election pilot. However, please note that clubs in exempted districts still need to follow the below placed provision: Club with any outstanding (previous or current period) RI dues and/or district dues and/or magazine dues shall clear the same by 30 September of the year in order to participate in the entire election procedure, with an exemption limit of USD 50.00. Issues pertaining to club finances can be resolved by the governor in consultation with RI director of the zone.

## Forth Coming Event



7th to 9th Nov 2013 Yamunanagar

## "PRATISTHA"

Intercity on Vocational Service  
Kohinoor Resorts, G.T Road, Panipat  
10th Nov 2013

## "TRF Workshop"

1st Dec 2013 Rukmani Devi Hall,  
Ambala (Timing : 10am to 2pm)

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

October is the month of dedication to the Vocational Service avenue. Remember, we became Rotarians because of the vocations we pursue. This month we rededicate our sincere and ethical services to the community, through our vocations. Let the Four Way Test be our guiding force as we put our classifications to serve.

Serve we did when as a member of the dedicated team of volunteers, senior Rotarians went to Ethiopia to assist the medical professionals who under the Rotary International Medicare Mission were responsible for the looking after the needs of the poorest of the poor suffering from thyroid, gall bladder problems, tumours, eye and dental problems, hernia, fistula and prostate. The list is by no means exhaustive. I strongly recommend that Rotarians who get a chance in future MUST under go this path of helping the needy persons. It is a satisfying experience.

My visits to the various clubs during the month have been fruitful. I find that the clubs are engaged in various projects serving the poor and the needy. May God give them strength to keep up the good work; To serve tirelessly and Engage Rotary Change Lives.

More details shall follow in my next GML.

God bless us all

With regards,

Warm regards,

Rakesh Aggarwal  
Dist. Governor



## PRIP Raja Saboo Letter on Uttarakhand Disaster

Dear friends,

Most of us who were at the Retreat at Udaipur have had a chance to hear about the update on Uttarakhand reconstruction plan undertaken by Rotary India. Before I start putting in writing the details as also acquaint those who were not with us in Udaipur, I want to echo the sentiments of all present there that we missed Lakshmi Sogaeji and Krishnaji, Arun and Rma Honi, Gulshan and Rashmi Thakral, Hemant and Sanita Arora, Kawal and Tikka Bedi, Dhian Chand and Meena, Chetan and Neelam and Manpreet and Poonam. Very recently we suffered a bereavement in our extended family with the passing away of Manpreet's father. Our profound sympathies with him.

I am now apprising you with the status of the reconstruction plan. Last few weeks have been fairly hectic in getting all the formalities completed and making some tangible progress towards our objective. I am glad to inform you that the Trust that will handle the reconstruction has been registered in the name of "Rotary Uttarakhand Disaster Relief Trust". This was done in a record time, thanks to PDG Hemant Arora. The account has also been opened in the name of the Trust in HDFC Bank in Ambala under the care and superintendence of the Trust Treasurer and PRIP Yash P. Das. The PAN Card has been received and the significant achievement has been that the Trust has got the 12A and 80G exemption under the Income Tax Act. Thus, donations made in the name of the Trust towards the Uttarakhand project will enjoy the benefit of tax exemption as eligible under the respective sections.



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USD 1= INR 61.00  
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Simultaneously, PRID Sushil Gupta has been pursuing with the government and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between our Trust and the Government of Uttarakhand. Vide this MOU, our Rotary Trust will be responsible for the reconstruction and repair of all government primary and upper primary schools in the districts of Uttarkashi and Rudrapur. In addition, our Trust will also provide benches and desks for 1,60,000 students for the government schools in the State of Uttarakhand with special reference to full requirement of the districts of Rudrapur and Uttarkashi.

In accordance with the above understanding, the responsibility undertaken by Rotary is for Reconstruction of schools that are totally destroyed (Uttarkashi 40 & Rudrapur 11) Average Cost per School is 10 lacs. Building of some schools may require higher cost. Schools that are damaged and will require substantial repair (Uttarkashi 50 & Rudrapur 70) Average Cost per School is 5 lacs. Benches and desks (seat) For 1,60,000 students, each seat to cost Rs. 700/- \*Building of some schools may require higher cost

The Executive Committee and the Core Committee of the Trust for undertaking the task are in place. PRID Yash Das who will be responsible for the operations has been authorized to form the working committee that will be responsible for the field operations. This will essentially include the outstanding leadership in Rotary we have in Dehradun headed by PDG Prem Bhatta and all the three current and incoming governors of our district Rakesh Aggarwal, Dilip Putnik and David Hilton. Other Rotarians from the region of Dehradun, Rishikesh, and Uttarkashi will also be inducted in the working group.

The work is going to start very soon and it is time that we have to sensitize the Rotarians and Rotary clubs in our district to come forward to provide financial muscles to get the job done.

The total outlay for our project is approximately Rs.24.00 crores. This is a challenge. Can we meet it? We did at the time of Gujarat earthquake, and Tsunami, and Latur and many other disasters. I suppose we can. This time this disaster has taken place in our district and we have to set example by going even beyond our normal means and resources. This is how we will encourage and motivate other parts of India to support the cause.

What is required is as follows:

1. Seeking donors from Rotarians and Corporate sector who are prepared to take on the building of one or more schools by donating Rs. 10.00 lacs per school. This is the minimum and if some are prepared to go beyond, say Rs. 12.00 lacs that will be appreciated because some schools will need higher outlay.

Each school will be given the appropriate name together with the name of the Rotary club, if so desired, to recognize the donation.

2. Seeking those who may not give for one full school but could be made interested to donate for repair of the damaged schools i.e. Rs. 5.00 for each school. This donation will also be recognized by suitably highlighting the name of the donor and Rotary Club/District.

3. Donation for benches and desks is most welcome. In fact, it is appealed to each district to donate for this furniture in the multiple of 30 or 45 seats which means that for 30 students the donation sought will be. (30x700) Rs. 21,000. Funds collected from our district so far have been not very substantial. I know some clubs have been holding on to the funds they have collected so that when the proper organizational structure, bank account with tax exemption etc. are in place then they would remit the money. Rotary Clubs of Panipat Midtown and Chandigarh are in such category. There may be others too. Now is the time to move forward to start collecting donations and remitting to the account. For any clarification, please approach PRID Yash P. Das. I firmly believe that the task and responsibility that Rotary India has taken upon itself can and will be fulfilled successfully, thanks to the lead that you will provide. My request to you is to please contact as many individuals and Rotary Clubs that you can influence for this purpose. I know that your reach is tremendous and you can reach the level never reached before. This is the time for it. Just imagine, in providing schools in the most effected areas of Rudrapur and Uttarkashi, Rotary will be looking after and caring for the future of those respective areas. You and I will not just be building schools or repairing them or provide benches and desks so that the children don't have to sit on the floor, we will be helping to build men and women who will then be building their future. There can be no task more noble than this.

The total Rotary leadership of India is on board with a sense of commitment. PRIP Kalyan Banerjee, Director P.T. Prabhakar, PRIDs Sudarshan Aggarwal, Pandu Setty, Ashok Mahajan, IPRIDs Shekhar Mehta and Yash Das, Trustees of our Trust are actively involved in collectively and individually taking up responsibilities in different functional areas of our project. I am part of the mission as Chairman of the Trust. Let us make the suffering turn into blessings for the children of the devastated Uttarakhand. Let this be Rotary's gift to them.

Greetings and warm regards,

Raja Saboo

Chairman

Rotary Uttarakhand Disaster Relief Trust



Leadership Development Seminar was organized by RC Panipat Midtown for zone 7 & 8.



RC Ind Midtown organizing free Eye camp & Free Operation camp



Membership Development Seminar "Vishnu" Host RC Saharanpur Greater



A team of 24 Indian doctors from D3080 & D 3131 which included five surgeons, one Urologist, two Gynecologists two ENT surgeons, two Plastic surgeons, five Anesthesiologists, two Dental surgeons and six Eye surgeons besides nine Rotarian volunteers assisted the team with logistics. The team reached Addis Ababa on 29th September and in a 10 days period doctors conducted over 1000 surgeries & procedures in hospitals located in four locations Zewditu Memorial Hospital for Laparoscopic, Urology, Gynecology and Plastic Surgery, Yekatit 12th Hospital for ENT and general surgery, Milink II Hospital for Dentistry & Eye with stress in training in use of PHACO equipment. Total number of surgery done is 1007 Surgeries are as Follows: Eyes Focus -77, Eyes Cataract Surgery - 421, Laparoscopic Surgery - 45, General Surgery - 40, Urology Endoscopy - 28, Gynaecology -18, ENT - 28, Plastic Surgery - 73, Dental Procedures - 273. The main centre of the mission was Zewditu II Hospital for Laparoscopies, Plastic Surgery, Urology & Gynecology cases at Yekatit 12 Hospital for General Surgery and ENT teams and at Milink Hospital the Eye and Dental Treatment teams were stationed. Besides these, a five member team of ophthalmic surgeons along with PP Tarun Bhatia, a volunteer, were assigned for the outreach Cataract Surgery camp at the Debra Brian Referral Hospital in the countryside about 130km away from Addis Ababa where they conducted nearly 451 surgeries including cataract & squint cases successfully.



At the Meeting of The College of Governors held in the third week of September, 2013, at Udaipur some of the decisions arrived at were as follows: The spouses of the Presidents Elect shall continue to participate in PETS- SETS while the spouses of the Secretaries Elect may do so in Effecting advance Registration /payment. The District Directory published each year should be simple and effective. Also that the advertisements amounts collected should be maintained and reflected in the accounts. The District Assembly should be for addressing the business issues with a probable recap of the training aspect of the PETS, SETS, Clubs Board of Directors and of the District Chairs / Secretariate. Consequent upon our "Uttarakhand Disaster Relief Trust" getting the exemption u/s 80 G of the IT Act and a bank account having been opened at HDRC, Ambala the Rotarians should be encouraged / collect funds at top priority so that our commitment to construct and repair and provide furniture for 175 schools in the allocated Districts of Uttarakhand be started forthwith. Project cost is Rs.24 crores. Also, each club should contribute for two shelter kits, each at a cost of Rs.16,500/- so that the District maintains a buffer stock of 300 units for immediate transportation to the area where a disaster / natural calamity warrants that we reach out to the affected people. The mandated position of "Vice Governor" would be filled up by the mutual decision of the immediate past, five, District Governors.