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Despite paralysis, this man is on a mission to spread the power of positive thinking

According to the medical dictionary, “quadriplegia” means paralysis affecting all four limbs with or without total loss of function. A person afflicted with paralysis of the cervical spinal cord has no control over any part of the body beyond the neck and is usually bedridden.

Since such persons have no sensation below the neck and are unable to do anything, to perform any normal human activity, they have to be cared for at all times and have to be looked after like new-born babies.

However, it appears that no one mentioned these problems to Mr. Girish Gogia, the guest speaker at the last meeting, who suffered a near-fatal neck injury while executing a dive into the sea at a beach in Goa in December, 1999.



Positive thinking can do wonders, says Mr. Girish Gogia, an interior designer who has been paralysed below the neck since December, 1999. Helped by a couple of assistants, he was speaking at the last meeting on ‘The power of positive thinking’

An engineer by training and interior designer by profession, he was in Goa along with his wife to welcome the New Year and to ring in the new millennium on January 1, 2000. He was quite adept at swimming in strong ocean currents but, as luck would have it, he miscalculated one particular dive and that turned his life upside down.

“On New Year’s eve, lying on a hospital bed with a battered body and a wounded spirit, I could not see any way out of the crisis. The fact that I was diagnosed with a damaged cervical spinal cord broke me even further. It was as if my whole world had come crumbling down.

“While the whole world was ushering in the new millennium with so much enthusiasm, I was lying there on a hospital bed, unable to move even an inch. Tears streamed from my eyes and my heart sank with despair.”

But he picked up the pieces of his life and, at the last meeting of the Club, Mr. Gogia (propped up on a wheelchair by two assistants) gave a stirring talk on “The power of positive thinking” that was heard in rapt attention by the members.

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New dates for final Club Assembly

The final Club Assembly for the Rotary year 2010-11 will be held at 6 pm on **Wednesday, June 22** (and not on June 15 as announced earlier), in the Babubhai Chinai Committee Room of the Indian Merchants’ Chamber, Churchgate.

(Please see Page 3 for more details)

Donor passes for fund-raising

Donor passes for the forthcoming “Salsa Nite”, to be held from 7 pm onwards on Friday, June 24, in the Regal Room of the Trident (Oberoi), are available with the Rotary Secretariat for a modest sum of Rs. 1,500 per person.

As members are aware, the “Salsa Nite” is being organised as part of the fund-raising drive to support the various Community Service projects of the Club.

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Kalyan Banerjee outlines emphases for the year

Rotary International President-Elect Kalyan Banerjee asked Rotarians at the 2011 R.I. Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, on May 25 to go back to their communities and think of “new and different ways” to take on the challenges of today.

“We are the doers of our communities, the leaders, the ones who are most involved, who see the problems and have the means to find the solutions. I am asking you to reach within and unleash your inner power and then use it to embrace everything and everyone around you.”

Kalyan, who will take office on July 1, said Rotarians should be guided by three emphases – the family, continuity and change – as they worked to support the 2011-12 R.I. Theme, *Reach Within to Embrace Humanity*.

Family was the first emphasis, he said, because it was the starting point for everything Rotary was trying to accomplish.

“The family is the building block of the community. If we wish to see a world that is more joyous, we first have to make sure that the families of the world are more joyous, that they have the things they need to be happy, to thrive and to move forward. We have to look at housing, at clean water and sanitation, at health care, at all the issues affecting mothers and children.”

Continuity involved continuing and strengthening those things that Rotarians did well, Kalyan said.

“There are so many areas in which we have been successful – working for clean, safe water; spreading literacy; working in so many ways with Generation Next, our youth. And, of course, our greatest project, polio eradication. If we want to really achieve the impossible, we have to have not only persistence, but vision – we have to be looking past what we are doing now at what we can and should be doing in the days and years to come.”

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Forthcoming meetings

June 14, 2011

A debate on “Genetically modified food and BT brinjal”. Mr. Ajay Jhakkhar, farmer leader, and Dr. Kameswar Rao of the NGO, Foundation for Biotech Awareness and Education (FBAE), will be on one side and Mr. Mor and Dilnavaz Variava on the other. Mr. Mor has organised farmers to grow organic cotton and is aware of their experience with Bt cotton. Dilnavaz will present the concerns of the Coalition for a GM-Free India since the Convener is based in Kerala.

June 21, 2011

Mr. Alyque Padamsee, theatre personality and ad film maker, variously described as the “King of the Ad World” and “The Communications Guru of India”, to speak on “The ideas explosion”.

June 28, 2011

President Pradeep Saxena to present his annual report for the year and to give away the Club Awards.

MAHATMA GANDHI WAS THE MOST POSITIVE MAN EVER, AVERS GIRISH GOGIA

(Continued from Page 1)

Premnath, who introduced him, recalled that Mr. Gogia had been practising interior designing for about 20 years and said that he had done some outstanding work for corporate offices, showrooms, private residences and so on.

Although he had suffered an injury that had paralysed him below the neck, he had not given up and had displayed rare courage, a strong will, a burning desire and a positive attitude to live life in spite of all that had happened to him.

Mr. Gogia started his presentation by screening an audio-visual clip (of about five minutes). It was extremely short in length but heavy with positivity and inspiration.

Interestingly, the lovely visuals in his presentation, peppered with philosophical words of inspiration, were accompanied by a motivational song from the Hindi film *Lakshya* in which man is egged on to decide on a goal in life and to then strive on the narrow but difficult path of achieving those goals – even in the face of insurmountable difficulties.

At the end of the audio-visual part of his presentation, Mr. Gogia described his journey from despair to acceptance and from there to acquiring a positive attitude towards life. The decision to spread the word about the power of positive thinking to all was a natural progression as far as he was concerned. So much so, that he even acquired a new moniker, viz., “The positive man”.

He said that it was when he was lying in the hospital bed, unable to move an inch, with tears streaming from his eyes and his heart sinking in despair, that he realised that being

happy or sad, fulfilled or frustrated depended on nothing but his own thoughts.

“I had cried and whined enough. Even though my limbs were not working, my bladder was not functioning, my bowels had given way and my respiratory system was working just about 50%, yet there was a brighter side to the entire tragedy.

“A healthy heart and a fully functioning mind was what I was left with and I was going to make the best of what I had.

“Lying there like a living corpse, focussing on what I had lost, with thousands of negative thoughts crossing my mind, I realised (that it was time that) I rather focus on what I still have left with me.”

Breaking into Hindi for a moment, Mr. Gogia said that he decided at that moment that if he lived, he would rather live with pride, with a smile and with a positive attitude. Positive thinking enabled him to focus on the brighter side of life, to forget the past, to stop concentrating on all that he had lost and to make a new beginning.

He told himself to open a new (bank) account and to start depositing in it only positive thoughts at every moment of his life. He was determined to be happy.

Of course, he was also aware that such things were easier said than done, because it was an extremely difficult job to tackle innumerable obstacles at every step of life. Then he remembered the beautiful words of a poet-thinker who had said:

God never promised the sky to be always blue and flower-strewn pathways all the way through;

God never promised sun without rain, joy without sorrow and peace without pain.

Struggle being the essence of success, he decided to “wear the wings of fire and fly”.

Mr. Gogia said that during his period of immense struggle and suffering he derived a lot of inspiration from the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. He had heard a lot about him in his childhood and had also read some of his works. He was a very simple man who had a lot of depth and sheer intensity.

It was his positive attitude that had enabled him to come up with the amazingly positive formula of non-violence and *satyagraha* with which to extract freedom for the country from the yoke of the powerful British Empire. Such was the strength of positive thinking; and Mahatma Gandhi was easily the most positive man ever.

“A single, strong positive thought can turn around life completely. A single positive thought inevitably turns into positive words, followed by positive action, thus giving positive results.”

Mr. Gogia stated that his parents were also a great source of encouragement for him. As he had grown up, he had seen them going through the various ups and downs of life. But what had kept them going through difficult times was their positive attitude, the power of positive thinking and their never-say-die attitude.

They had fought every battle with immense optimism and had always emerged victorious. They never gave up because “winners are not those who never fail, but those who never

quit”. He had gained a lot of inspiration from them.

Even during his trips around the world, from the poorest countries of Africa to the richest in Europe, he had come across innumerable examples which proved that only a positive attitude helped a person to emerge stronger and to defeat worldly desires.

Thousands of thoughts crossed one’s mind every day; therefore, it was important to monitor one’s thoughts.

“We should always monitor the positive thoughts in our mind and filter out the negative thoughts. We have to understand that positive thoughts are the building blocks of our life.

“A negative person always sees the difficulty in every opportunity, a positive person always sees the opportunity in every difficulty. And that’s exactly what I did.”

Mr. Gogia recalled an incident. He and his wife were just getting used to his paralysis, when one day while helping him to change clothes she lost her balance and rolled off the bed. And he had rolled off, too.

Panicking, she picked herself up and rushed to his side, only to find him laughing. Bewildered, she asked him whether he was hurt. And why was he laughing? She was absolutely flabbergasted at seeing him laugh.

He told her that it was one of the advantages of having no sensation in 80% of his body (being paralysed from the neck-down), that he could not feel a thing (neither pain, nor sensation) in his body. So, how could she even expect him to cry? All he could do was laugh because he couldn’t feel any pain. Such was the positive attitude that had helped change their tragedy into comedy.

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You will be the happiest person in the world if you open a ‘bank account’ and deposit only positive thoughts in it every day, claims Mr. Girish Gogia (centre). And, as these pictures show, he manages to get members to raise their hands and repeat positive affirmations after him June 14 to June 20, 2011

Final Club Assembly on June 22

The final Club Assembly for the Rotary year 2010-11 will be held at 6 pm on Wednesday, June 22 (and not on June 15 as announced earlier), in the Babubhai Chinai Committee Room of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Churchgate.

Hon. Secretary Bipin Kapadia made an announcement to this effect at the last meeting and requested all Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons of the current and the ensuing Rotary years to make it a point to attend this important Club Assembly.

He also appealed to all outgoing Chairpersons to send to the Rotary Secretariat immediately, detailed reports of all the activities conducted by their respective Committees during the year gone by which ends on June 30.

This would help in the compilation of an overall report of the projects and programmes undertaken by the Rotary Club of Bombay during the year 2010-11.

New members have been especially requested to attend the forthcoming Club Assembly as it would give them an opportunity to see how the Club functioned.

'Salsa Nite' fund-raising event on June 24

Fellowship Chairperson Shernaz Vakil joined President Pradeep Saxena in appealing to members at the last meeting to buy the donor passes and to attend the forthcoming "Salsa Nite" to be held on Friday, June 24.

She said the "Salsa Nite" event was being organised as part of the fund-raising drive and the passes were available for a modest Rs. 1,500 per person; the proceeds from the event would help support the various Community Service projects of the Club.

The "Salsa Nite" would be held from 7 pm onwards on Friday, June 24, in the Regal Room of the Trident (Oberoi) and would feature the auction of watches, jewellery, paintings and a few rare artefacts. All of this would be embellished with live music and dance that would help make the evening a memorable one.

President Pradeep, who made a brief announcement about the fund-raising drive, had requested Shernaz to take the mike and make an appeal to members to buy the donor passes.

June 14 to June 20, 2011



Yes, Mr. Gogia does a very good job while designing interiors. These three members seem to be in agreement. They are, from left, Nanik Rupani, Premnath and Pranay Vakil

At the last meeting

(Held on June 7, 2011)

PRESIDENT Pradeep Saxena called the meeting to order and welcomed the guest speaker, the Visiting Rotarians, Rotaryans, guests and others.

BIRTHDAYS

Members and spouses celebrating their birthday during the week were felicitated.

ATTENDANCE

Members	104
Visiting Rotarians	3
Spouses/Rotaryans	3
Total	110
Svc. box collection	Rs. 5,150

Four projects completed by the Rotaractors of H.R. College

Members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College have reported the completion of another four projects, most of which were aimed at benefiting the underprivileged and/or unseen sections of society. Here are brief reports on some of their newest activities:

'Sahas', a personality development workshop

Personality development workshops are invariably conducted in schools and colleges. Add to them a spate of career guidance programmes, aptitude tests, seminars to guide students in achieving their dreams and lectures to give them as much information as possible to further their education and career prospects; in fact, they have an information overload.

But it has been noticed that the underprivileged sections of society have largely been denied the "privilege" of such workshops, seminars and counselling sessions. Most of them have little exposure to such programmes.

Members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College debated this issue and felt that if the less privileged sections of society were given such information, it would motivate them and perhaps turn ordinary people into special persons.

It was with this thought in mind that they organised "Sahas", a personality development workshop, to reach out to underprivileged children and to motivate them at an early age so that they could go on to create a brighter future for the world.

The workshop was conducted at the Father Agnel Ashram in Bandra in the fond hope that if even a small percentage of the children grasped what was conveyed to them it would make their futures bigger, better and brighter.

Yes, indeed, every dog has his day

The above is a pithy old saying that is quite true. But to take the dictum further, the day of the dog does

not come very often; in some cases it probably never does.

And what does one say of a stray dog that has suffered severe injuries in a street-side brawl? Man can express himself and find treatment for any injury. Dogs can't do the same.

An NGO called "The Welfare of Stray Dogs" (WSD) has its kennels at Mahalaxmi where it tends to about one hundred stray dogs at a time. It cares for them, applies medicines on their open wounds, administers treatment for internal problems (after due diagnosis) and even adopts some of the strays that enter its portals.

When some members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College went to the shelter (they did so last year, too), they were pleasantly surprised to see the amazing work being done by the workers and volunteers of WSD both in adopting dogs and providing them with shelter and care.

The Rotaractors went there to get sensitised, to see how the quadrupeds were cared for and to attempt to understand their misery so that they could be kinder to them in future. They offered biscuits to the dogs and took them around the campus for strolls.

A race involving the healthier strays was conducted and the Rotaractor leading the winning dog was awarded a medal. A large amount of biscuits was donated to the WSD.

On the whole, it was a great experience for the Rotaractors as it helped them to overcome their fears and to have a thoroughly good time with "man's best friend".

'Care and share'

Going back to nature is a hidden desire that is barely expressed by most people.

Acknowledging the fact that the word "nature" made one think of the colour "green" and that the word "green" made one visualise plants and trees, members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College thought of going green with a vengeance and doubling the pro-

cess of planting saplings so that there would be more greenery around.

This was the basic idea behind their innovative project, "Care and share", which involved giving three saplings every week to three members. These members would take care of the three saplings for a week and present them to another member a week later – but only after doubling their number. In other words, they would take three and return six.

Not only was the concept appreciated by all, it was also implemented with a great deal of enthusiasm, with the result that the month of April, in the words of the Rotaractors, was "greener than usual".

'Anubhav', a quiz contest for the underprivileged

A book is a gift that one can open again and again. In the same way, knowledge is a source that can never get exhausted.

To spread knowledge and put the above dicta to test, the Rotaractors of H.R. College organised "Anubhav", a quiz competition, for the residents of a shelter home for orphan girls.

After each participant had introduced herself, the quiz competition with three rounds was started. It consisted of an elimination round, a buzzer round and the final round.

There were several props that were utilised in each round in order to engage the children and keep them interested in the quiz. At the same time, the Rotaractors mingled with the children, prodding them, giving hints and clues and engaging in friendly banter with them.

Interestingly, the children who had been eliminated in the first round did not go away to sulk in a corner. They retained their interest in the goings-on, encouraging their friends to win the competition.

All in all, the Rotaractors did a fine job of engaging and interacting with the girls.

Keep it up, H.R. College!

A letter from the R.I. President

WHEN THE SMOKE SETTLES

There was a time when gunpowder smoke was so thick on battlefields that it was difficult to determine the victors until the smoke settled. Evaluating the success of this year in Rotary is similar because we won't learn the final figures until the year has ended. However, there are some achievements that can be reviewed – before the smoke settles!

The major accomplishment has been the creation of a new culture of innovation which has encouraged both Rotarians and R.I. staff members to review our policies and procedures at all levels and to determine if they are truly best practices or merely traditional practices. Many changes towards more modern business methods have resulted and I am encouraged by our progress.

The innovative climate has produced a simplified and streamlined R.I. Strategic Plan that calls for us to support and strengthen our Clubs, focus and increase humanitarian service and enhance public image and awareness. The first two priorities reaffirm our core values and the third priority recognises the need for more public awareness and support in our local communities around the world. The plan has measurable goals and it provides an excellent road map for Rotary's future growth and development.

Other improvements have included the new Regional Rotary Coordinators whose job is to help our District Governors to help our Clubs to become Bigger, Better and Bolder. The new Presidential Citation programme has provided a score sheet for all of our Clubs to test themselves against the other Clubs in their Districts and the results will be very helpful to both the current and the incoming Governors and to R.I. as well.

We also have given additional attention to our New Generations programmes, particularly Rotaract and Rotary Youth Exchange, and we have focused more emphasis on the Reach Out to Africa initiative. We also have shaped a new approach for the training of incoming District Governors and more meaningful assignments for Past District Governors.

All in all, we have made some significant improvements. But the most important question is whether we have paved the way for an even better year next year. Have we done the right things to ensure that the best days of Rotary are still ahead? But we won't know that – until the smoke settles!

– Ray Klinginsmith
President, Rotary International



Sharing the secret of their success with the President. Pradeep Saxena with some members of the Rotaract Club of H.R. College at the last meeting

120 BLIND PERSONS FROM NINE STATES TAKE PART IN CRICKET CONTEST

The Committee for the Differently Aabled, which has PP Kalpana Munshi as its Chairperson, joined hands with the Blind Welfare Organisation (India) recently and arranged a national cricket tournament for the blind.

It was held over two days, May 16 and 17, at the historic Islam Gymkhana on Marine Drive.

A unique event in many ways, the tournament featured eight teams which played with one another on a league basis over the two days of the tournament.

One hundred and twenty blind players from eight different States took part in the competition. They came from both near and distant places.

The States they represented were Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal.

Each team consisted of eleven players of whom five were totally blind and six who had about 25% vision.

President Pradeep Saxena, Kalpana and Shyyamniwas Somani, a member of the Committee for the Differently Aabled, gave away the prizes to the winners on May 17, the final day of the competition.

The Rotary Club of Bombay sponsored 120 T-shirts that were presented to all the players.

Well done, Kalpana. Keep up the good work!



What you hear is the sound of the hollow ball with pebbles inside it so that it makes a loud noise. The batsman hears rather than sees the ball approaching and thwacks it away to the boundary. Or he is clean bowled. That's how the blind play cricket. These shots were taken at the national cricket tournament for the blind organised over two days, May 16 and 17, at the historic Islam Gymkhana on Marine Drive



President Pradeep Saxena, PP Kalpana Munshi and Shyyamniwas Somani were among those who distributed the prizes and awards at the end of the tournament. A total of 120 blind players from eight different States, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal, took part. The Club organised the event in association with the Blind Welfare Organisation (India)

'If you cannot see light at the end of the tunnel, blast your way with the power of positive thinking'

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But even before his accident he had always been positive and words like defeat, failure and impossible had never existed in his dictionary.

It was his positive attitude that had helped him in executing about a dozen interior designing projects over the last eleven years. It had happened because he had turned his weakness into strength.

Mr. Gogia admitted that earlier, while working on his projects, he used to focus on making money and achieving the goals that he had set for himself; but he would often stop short and ask himself what was it that he wanted to achieve in life.

"There is a reason for everything, a reason behind every life. Am I here only to make money? Am I here only to do interior designing projects, to eat some good food and to enjoy my life?"

"An inner voice told me, 'No, you have to do something else. God has given you a second life'. God has been kind, he has given me this positive attitude; and because of that I am living life king-size and with a smile, in spite of all the possible adversities and trying times that I go through each day to survive.

"I was always searching for the purpose of life and finally one day I heard my inner voice that said, 'Your strength is a positive attitude and your strength is always looking at the brighter side of life'. Then I realised that the purpose of my life was to spread the power of positive thinking. I felt that it would be wonderful since there is so much of negativity all around. Why shouldn't I spread this positive thinking attitude

to everybody? Why don't I share my smile with everyone?"

That was how he had started his new mission, that of spreading the power of positive thinking.

Positive thinking was all about looking at the brighter side of life; always keeping in mind that one's mental attitude was far more important than anything else. Any situation in life, however difficult it might be, was not as important as one's attitude towards it.

Of course, one could have a bad day, as he often did when he felt tired, but even on his worst day he only rested, he never quit. For, "winners see the gain and losers see the pain".

He then decided to embark on the mission of spreading the message of the power of positive thinking across the globe for world peace; he considered it his moral responsibility to share the positive attitude that had helped him emerge from the doomed morass of life and made him what he was today.

Mr. Gogia recalled the lines of another motivational tale:

As your desire is, so is your will,

As your will is, so is your deed,

As your deed is, so is your destiny.

"You should always keep in mind that if your circumstances have pushed you into a black hole and you cannot see the light at the end of the tunnel, then you must blast your way through with the power of positive thinking."

Finally, Mr. Gogia requested all members to raise both hands and repeat after him a few positive and extremely powerful affirmations. These would make them feel good and would work like magic (as they had for him):

I am happy; I am very happy;

I am very, very happy;

I am positive; I am very positive;

I am very, very positive.

Hum toh bade mast hain,

hum toh bade mast hain

Hum to bade swast hain,

sabse zabardast hain.

Answering questions, Mr. Gogia told PDG Manibhai Doshi that his extremely devoted wife had taken excellent care of him for seven years after his accident. Unfortunately, she had been stricken with multiple sclerosis, a brain disorder, and had become completely bed-ridden.

However, she was as positive in her thinking as him and both of them were together in the mission to spread the power of positive thinking all over the world.

As for his inspiration, he recalled that when he and his wife had travelled to some of the poorest third world countries in Africa, they had seen the poverty in which the people lived and the myriad problems that they faced every day.

"Yet they had smiles on their faces and were all very happy with their lives. It was nothing but their positive attitude. We were inspired by them as well.

"We had everything, yet we had nothing; they had nothing, yet they seemed to have everything.

"That's positive attitude. We saw and learnt a lot and we have always felt that positive thinking is the ultimate mantra – it can change everybody's life."

When Sitaram Shah wanted to know whether his positive thinking drew credence from his inner consciousness or "soul power", Mr. Gogia said he drew a lot of energy from nature.

He believed in the power of the universe and did a lot of meditation every morning. "I speak to the universe, to the supreme power, to the sun and draw a lot of energy from it." This suffused him with positive energy.

Of course, this was possible only when one was in complete rhythm with nature. Sadly, most people turned negative because they failed to keep pace with the rhythm of nature.

"We are never in synchronisation with the universe, with mother nature. I draw a lot of energy and a lot of positive attitude by keeping myself completely synchronised with mother nature, Mr. Gogia added.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Abhin Alimchandani.

Kalyan Banerjee outlines emphases for the year

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Change was the third point that he emphasised.

If Rotarians wished to achieve peace, reduce child mortality, prevent hunger and stop environmental degradation, they had to be the instruments of that change.

"We will need to think in new and different ways, explore new ways of seeing. If we do what we have always done, we will get what we have always got – nothing better, nothing more. This would not satisfy us professionally and it certainly should not satisfy us in our Rotary service where the stakes are so much higher."

Interestingly, during the fourth plenary session of the R.I. Convention, attendees were treated to a preview of the 2012 R.I. Convention in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Host Organisation Committee shared a taste of Thai culture, including a performance by dancers representing four regions of the country. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Past R.I. President Bhichai Rattakul of Thailand greeted attendees through a pre-recorded video. A Bangkok-themed luncheon followed the plenary session.

John Hewko addresses plenary session

John Hewko, incoming General Secretary of Rotary International, said that one of his top priorities would be "to better connect Rotarians with the Secretariat, to increase awareness as to what the Secretariat can offer and to make sure the Secretariat is an effective, efficient and useful resource for Clubs, so that Clubs are able to grow and carry out the mission of Rotary".

John, who will also assume office on July 1, was speaking at the 2011 R.I. Convention. He insisted that the future of Rotary was bright.

"We will rid the world of the terrible scourge of polio – we will rid the world of this terrible disease – and then we will be bold and aggressive and identify and conquer the next big global challenge.

"We will redouble our public relations efforts to enhance our brand and image so that the world better appreciates and understands the great works of Rotary and the value of connecting through Fellowship," John Hewko added.



And this is to remind you of the afternoon you spent with us. President Pradeep Saxena is about to present a memento to Mr. Girish Gogia, the guest speaker at the last meeting



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COMMUNITY SERVICE - Non-Medical	
Director	Suresh Goklaney
RCC	Shyamnivas Somani
Global Warming/ Green Vision	Jagdish Malkani
Old Age Homes/ Senior Citizens	Naresh Kumar Jain
Women Empowerment	Poonam Lalvani
Rural Development	Dilnavaz Variava
Water Management	Ramesh Dhir
VOCATIONAL SERVICE	
Director	S.K. Mitra
Rotary & Public Awards	Nelum Gidwani
Promotion of Arts, Music & Dance	Sabira Merchant
Four-Way Test	Manoj Kumar Patodia
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Director	Shailesh Haribhakti
R.I. Programmes	PP Rajnikant Reshamwala
Rotary Foundation/ Matching Grants	PP Arvind Jolly
Fund-Raising	Ashok Minawala
NEW GENERATIONS - Education	
Director	Vineet Bhatnagar
Education for All	Alok Sekhsaria
Rotary Suraksha Loans	Ashok Jatia
Merit-cum-Means	
Scholarships	Madhusudan Daga
Management Studies	Poonam Kumar
Legal Case Practice	Apurva Diwanji
NEW GENERATIONS - Youth	
Director	Roda Billimoria
Interact	Arjun Jolly
Rotaract	Mehul Sampat
Night Study Centres	Sunny Pariyaram
Vocational Train. Centres	Jacob Abraham
Road Safety	Deepak Kapadia
DISTRICT THRUST PROJECTS	
Director	Shivkumar Israni
Differently-Abled	PP Kalpana Munshi
Disha	Subash Gogia
Rural Lighting	Kiran Nanda
Adoption of Police Station	Nirav Shah

Legendary ad man Alyque Padamsee is one of India's most distinguished theatre personalities

Mr. Alyque Padamsee, the guest speaker at the meeting of June 21, is one of India's most distinguished theatre personalities and ad film makers. He is best known for playing Muhammad Ali Jinnah in Richard Attenborough's Oscar-winning film *Gandhi*.

Apart from being involved in theatre as an actor and producer, he is well known as an advertising professional who headed the advertising company Lintas.

A man of many talents, he is also known as the "Ad Guru of India" and is responsible for revolutionising the advertising scene in India. However, since theatre has always been his passion, he has had a long and fruitful association with the stage, both English and Marathi.

The legendary Ayn Rand has had an influential role in his life and, apart from Shakespeare he considers her works to be his favourite. He has particularly enjoyed the romanticism of *The Fountainhead*.

Mr. Padamsee is one of the few people who have been involved in different communication streams at the same time and yet has succeeded in excelling in all of them. The creator of many memorable projects in the arena of theatre and advertising, he started his stage performances when

he was very young. Later, he kept diversifying his talents into different related fields as he stepped from his teens to young adulthood.

As a stage director, he has created legends such as *Evita* which launched the stage career of Sharon Prabhakar; *Tughlaq* which flagged off the career of the internationally known actor Kabir Bedi; *A Streetcar named Desire* which made stars of Dalip Tahil and Sabira Merchant; and *Kabaret* which catapulted Shiamak Davar to fame.

Apart from these productions, Mr. Padamsee has acted in and directed numerous stage productions that have won worldwide acclaim.

On television, he can be given the credit for introducing the serial and introducing *Karamchand*, who remains one of the unforgettable characters of the small screen.

A recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Sangeet Natak Academy, Mr. Padamsee has had many successful advertisement campaigns to his credit which have gone on to become great brands. Some of them are Liril, MRF, Timex, Monte Carlo, Kitply and Kamasutra.

However, his most memorable character is Lalitaji (Surf), who became a household name due to the creativity of this "Communications Guru of India".

He is also the only Indian to be voted into the international Cleo Hall of Fame, the Oscars of the World of Advertising. He has been conferred the *Padma Shri* for his contributions to the field of advertising and has several other international awards to his credit. He published his autobiography, *A Double Life*, in 1999; it went on to become a best-seller.

Happy Birthday



Shernaz Vakil
June 16



PP Vithal Palekar
June 17



Jayant Vora
June 17



PP Sandip Agarwalla
June 18



Aijt Lalvani
June 19



Sunil Vaswani
June 19

Spouses/Rotaryanns

Mita Dalal
June 16

Ritu Didwania
June 17

Sheila Paul
June 18

Birthday donation

President Pradeep Saxena thanked Vineet Bhatnagar at the last meeting for his birthday donation of Rs. 5,100.

Vineet celebrated his birthday on May 31.

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THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOOD-WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Refreshment Centre

Refreshment centre | Multi-utility kiosk
Convenience store | Book store | ATM

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