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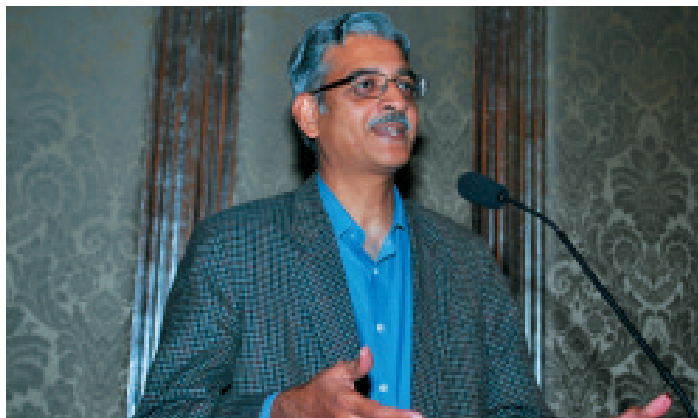
There are no easy answers to the question, how do we conserve the ecology in times of 9% economic growth?

Leopards are straying into settlements on the edges of metropolises like Bombay; tigers are turning man-eaters and spreading terror in villages in central India; elephants trample their mahouts and devotees at religious processions down south, or come in the way of railway trains and get mangled to death in the north-east. So just what is going on?

Are our forests being pushed back and hence becoming too small for our precious wildlife, or are their numbers really increasing by leaps and bounds? Is this due to the relentless efforts made by dedicated conservationists over the years? Or is it that stray reports are being highlighted because the media has turned into a gargantuan monster preying for news on a 24x7 basis?

Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, who was conferred the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment at the last meeting, has no clear answers to the above questions, but asserts that various conservation efforts are finally bearing fruit.

However, he adds a caveat: this is a time for consolidation; as the country grows at a brisk rate of 9%, it is necessary to ensure that the forests are not fragmented as that would affect both wildlife and the native populations inhabiting the forest areas.



Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, speaks after receiving the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment at the last meeting

Dr. Sukumar started by stating that his subject was elephants but he would refer to them only briefly in the course of his talk on "Ecology in the era of 9% economics".

It was largely on account of the pioneering work done by the Nobel Prize-winning Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change under the leadership of Dr. R.K. Pachauri that environmental issues had come to the fore. Fifteen

years ago, even educated sections of society had no idea about the loss of forests and biodiversity that the planet was facing.

And with high-profile environmental cases involving the corporate sector, such as the Vedanta and Posco mining projects in Orissa and Lavasa near Bombay, people had started wondering whether development had become a bad word.

The questions being asked were, "Do we have development or should we roll back to an earlier stage in human development?" "How is development or economic growth possible if there are obstructions from the environmental lobby?"

Some years ago, an influential group of people, mainly conservation biologists, had got together and promoted the concept of "zero economic growth". He, as a member of the Society for Conservation Biology, had been approached to sign the petition. But he had refused pointing out that a poor country like India could not countenance such a policy.

In the West, "zero economic growth" would lead to many economic problems; how could India, with a large proportion of its population below the poverty line, afford to embrace it?

"The question we need to ask, as we experience economic growth and aspire for 9% growth year after year for the next 20 to 30 years (ostensibly to lift the vast majority of our people above the poverty line) is this: what is happening to the environment and, in social terms, to the disparities between the rich and the poor?"

(Continued on Page 2)

Taru Lalvani Environment Award conferred on Dr. Sukumar

The Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment was conferred at the last meeting on Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science (IIS), Bangalore.

President Pradeep Saxena presented him with the Citation and Jetu Taru Lalvani who instituted the award, handed over a glittering silver salver to the renowned scientist who has done yeoman's service in protection of the environment, especially with regard to habitations for elephants and other wildlife.

Announcing the award, Rotary and Public Awards Committee Chairman Nelum Gidwani stated that Dr. Sukumar, who was the Managing Trustee of the Asian Nature Conser-

vation Foundation at Bangalore, had specialised in ecology and conservation biology and was an expert in wildlife ecology, tropical forest ecology and climate change.

He was a Fulbright Fellow at Princeton University, Adjunct Faculty at Columbia University and an associate faculty member with the Divecha Centre for Climate Change (also at the IIS).

Members present at the last meeting loudly applauded Dr. Sukumar as Pradeep and Jetu presented him with the Club's prestigious award.

Nelum read out the citation that was presented to Dr. Sukumar:

The Rotary Club of Bombay is pleased to present the Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment to Dr. Raman Sukumar for his contributions that led to the recogni-

tion of a remnant jungle in Chennai and the Guindy National Park, for his efforts in organising a multi-institutional comprehensive research programme in wildlife-human conflicts, for his contribution in preparing the blueprint for Project Elephant across 11 landscapes in India, for helping design the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, the first of its kind in India, for working to ensure long-term monitoring of the dynamics of forest communities in relation to external influences, for his outstanding work in reconstructing the effects of quaternary climate change on biodiversity, for his efforts in making this world a better place to live in, for both animals and humans.

Pradeep Saxena

President, Rotary Club of Bombay
2010-2011

Forthcoming meetings

February 22, 2011

A talk by Dr. Rashneh Pardiwala.

March 1, 2011

Ms Mimi Botawala on "Challenges I have faced".

Despite being visually challenged, Ms Botawala overcame her handicap and hoodwinked authorities of the World Trade Fair in New York and of the Tea Board and travelled all over the world independently (her amazing story is in the process of being published with the assistance of Dolly Thakore).

'THE ECOLOGY WILL BE AFFECTED AS THE ECONOMY GROWS BY 9%'

(Continued from Page 1)

Dr. Sukumar said he had worked at the grassroots level in states like Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Assam and West Bengal and witnessed the conflict between elephants and people. He had also witnessed the rise of the Naxal movement in large parts of the country, from Karnataka to Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, southern Bengal, Orissa and parts of Maharashtra. This movement did not have its roots only in ideology but in the stark poverty and deprivation in a large part of the country.

Mr. Jairam Ramesh, the Union Minister for Environment and Forests, had been stressing the need for a balance between environment and development. This did not mean (as many activists suggested) that it was time to shut down factories and to prevent all forms of development. What was needed was a proper balance.

Decision-making had to be science-based and sensitive to the social and economic realities of the people in the countryside. Social justice and equity had to be the cornerstone of all development activities. After all, for whom was development meant?

"You might think that (opposition to) all these high-profile cases of mining, steel plants, nuclear power plants and so on mean that the local people in the villages view large infrastructure projects, corporates (and Special Economic Zones) as threats to their livelihoods.

"But it is an irony that even nature conservation programmes are seen as a threat. For example, the tiger conservation programmes are viewed with great suspicion by villagers in forest areas because... the ideological basis of tiger conservation in India is the exclusion of people from the forests.

"Our Adivasis, the tribals, live in the forests. They view the nature conservation movement, or what I call the hardcore nature wildlife conservation movement, represented largely by tiger conservation, as depriving them of livelihoods. I know this because, especially in recent years, we have had a tendency to declare as tiger reserves as many forests as possible."

Dr. Sukumar said it was true that the tiger situation was precarious around the early 1970s and needed strong action for its protection.

But things had reached a stage where "we are somewhat saturated". If people were to be excluded from all forests areas declared as tiger reserves, it would mean the dislocation of millions of people, something that the country could not afford. And this was bound to

February 22 to February 28, 2011

happen because once a forest was declared a "tiger reserve", the human population had to leave.

Keeping this in mind, Dr. Sukumar said, when the plans for elephant conservation were drawn up, a policy of co-existence was recommended. Thus, in "Project Elephant" areas it was not necessary to relocate large numbers of people from forest areas. It was only in critical areas where there was a threat of fragmentation of habitat that it was necessary to relocate people; but this was to a lesser extent than called for by people promoting tiger conservation.

When development required relocation of people, it had to be done in a way that safeguarded their livelihoods.

What were the threats to the ecology from 9% economic growth? There were many. For example, road projects and super highways that required to be completely fenced off would prevent not just people but also animals from crossing over if they passed through major forest areas, thus fragmenting India's forests.

Less than 20% of India's land area was under forest cover and only half of this was under reasonably good forest cover. Thus, less than 10% of the country had some forest cover. But forests were a source of rich biodiversity. Innumerable species could be sourced and converted for economic gain by the pharmaceutical industry.

Similarly, Dr. Sukumar said, the hilly or *ghat* areas and the Himalayas were the source of all rivers and water. These also needed to be protected.

But the most important thing was to ensure that infrastructural projects did not fragment the forests, because once the forests were fragmented to smaller patches, then the rate of ex-

tingtion of species would be hastened. And once species were lost, they would be gone forever. Species could not migrate from one forest stretch to another; nor could they adapt to the climate change that was looming ahead.

Threats to the ecology also came from dams that would submerge river valleys; and mining, which literally ravaged the earth.

"I am not saying that we should stop all mining; all I am saying is, let's have the best mining practices; let's ensure that these do not just remain on statute books or on paper and in contracts; corporates should be made responsible for restoration of mined areas and these clauses should be entered when clearances are given.

"We are still at a very early stage in our economic development. We have run the course for only about two decades, starting from 1991. (But that is only the common perception; the fact is, during the Moghul period the average Indian was richer than the average European).

"Now, it seems as though India is (once again) on a firm path to economic development. But there is the danger of completely destroying the ecology; this is a very real threat and we need to keep this at the back of our minds."

Further, India was an ancient that had been peopled for thousands of years. The land had been utilised for a very long time and the soil was no longer in a position to support highly productive agriculture because it had been tilled and re-tilled, ploughed and re-ploughed and lost most of its organic carbon and nutrients.

But how was it possible to restore the ecology without funding or economic growth? For this Dr. Sukumar

suggested the "Triple-C" approach – carbon credits at the international level, CampA (or compensatory afforestation) at the national level and CSR (or Corporate Social Responsibility) at the corporate level.

Ironically, he said, climate change offered a golden opportunity to cash in on carbon credits. At present, most of the funding received under the carbon credit (or clean development) mechanism was going into industry and was used for increasing energy efficiency and reducing carbon emission. This was fine because it was important to reduce carbon emissions or green house gas emissions as soon as possible.

But in the bargain the forest sector was neglected. Apart from reducing carbon emission, it was also necessary to do something so that the carbon being emitted was absorbed. This could be done by the plants in forests. They had the natural biological mechanism of sequestering or absorbing carbon through photosynthesis, converting it into biomass and into wood.

If some of the funds received as carbon credits were utilised in the forest sector, maybe through large-scale plantations or micro-financing tree plantation projects where the local communities were also involved, then this would be a way of putting money into the hands of the local people. Farmers would grow trees and these would be verifiable. Promoting carbon credits in this sector could thus go a long way in reducing the burden of carbon in the atmosphere.

The second 'C' in Dr. Sukumar's approach was CampA, or the compensatory afforestation fund. This money was available with the government of India; the fund was set up many years ago when it was decided that whenever an infrastructural project took up a part of a forest area, then a part of its cost would have to be given to this fund.

At present the money in this fund had swollen to Rs. 19,000 crores. This money was supposed to be given to the Forest Departments of the States for compensatory afforestation. But in many States the people had no clue about how to use it. Instead of trying compensatory afforestation, they bought more vehicles, constructed more buildings and went for civil works.

If utilised judiciously, CampA funds offered an opportunity to restore the ecology. All that was required was a proper choice of the best species for afforestation (not Australian eucalyptus or acacia just because they grew fast but did nothing for the ecology).

(Continued on Page 6)



This one is for the album. Dr. Raman Sukumar, Professor and Chairman of the Centre for Ecological Sciences at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (centre), who received the Rotary Club of Bombay Taru Lalvani Award for Protection of the Environment at the last meeting, with (from left) Awards Committee Chairman Nelum Gidwani, Jetu and Emma Lalvani and President Pradeep Saxena



Gearing up for the 'Terry Fox Run'. PP Gul Kripalani, who has been the driving force behind the popular annual event, has been firming up plans for the same. With him in this picture are his spouse Sheila, Fellowship Chairperson Shernaz Vakil and Hon. Joint Secretary Sitaram Shah. In the picture at right are three 'birthday boys' at the head table – from left, Shiv Kumar Israni, Chander Alimchandani and Dr. Sam Mahaluxmivala

'World Peace – A path to Bridging Continents,' a special event on World Peace and Understanding Day

The month of February, which is designated World Understanding Month in the Rotary calendar, also encompasses the anniversary of the first-ever meeting of Rotary held in Chicago on February 23, 1905.

In commemoration of that event, February 23 is designated World Understanding and Peace Day. This year, this special day will be celebrated with an event christened "World Peace – A path to Bridging Continents", which goes with the Rotary International Theme of "Building Communities, Bridging Continents".

The event is being organised at the Taj Mahal Hotel by District 3140 with the Rotary Club of Bombay as the principal sponsor.

The consular corps in the city of Bombay has been invited to the event which will see presentations on the given theme (with relevance to their

countries), being made by the Consuls-General of China, Israel, New Zealand, Germany, Ethiopia and Canada (thus representing all the continents).

Beginning at 7.30 pm, the event will take place in the Crystal Room of the Taj Mahal Hotel and will be followed by cocktails and dinner.

(See also Page 8)

Birthday donations

President Pradeep Saxena stated at the last meeting that birthday donations had been received from several members.

He said that Hormusji Cama had donated Rs. 10,001; Prafulla Mogre and Mayank Kumar Rs. 5,000 each; Hiren Kara Rs. 2,501; and Kekoo Gandhi Rs. 1,000.

Pradeep thanked all the members for their generous contributions.

At the last meeting

(Held on February 15, 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	107
Visiting Rotarians	3
Spouses/Rotaryans	5
Guests	2
Total	117
Svc. box collection	Rs. 5,000

For 'Bhavishya-Yaan'

A donation of Rs. 21,000 has been received from PP Arun Sanghi for the Bhavishya-Yaan project.

President Pradeep Saxena made an announcement to this effect at the last meeting.

Are you ready for the 'Terry Fox Run'?

PP Gul Kripalani made an impassioned plea to members at the last meeting to cancel their plans for Sunday, February 27, and to participate in the 13th annual "Terry Fox Run" to be conducted along the iconic Marine Drive in Bombay.

The "Run" would be followed by a sumptuous brunch which would serve as a fund-raiser at the Trident Hotel of the Oberoi Group. It would begin at 12 noon and end around 3 pm. Donor cards for the brunch had been priced at Rs. 2,500 for adults and Rs. 1,250 for children aged between 6 and 12 years. No charges would be levied for children below 6.

"It's a beautiful event and by attending the brunch you will also be helping generate funds for research in cancer among children," Gul added.

As members are aware, the "Terry Fox Run" is a global event in which children help raise funds by participating in an athletic event. It was initiated in memory of a cancer-stricken Canadian teenager, Terry Fox, who had displayed the courage to "run" in order to collect funds to help other ailing children.

School and college students, individuals, families and groups get together in various parts of the world to take part in this non-competitive gathering to raise money in Terry Fox's name. It has been held in Bombay under the leadership of Gul and has become an important date on the city's philanthropic calendar. The funds raised are given to the Tata Memorial Centre and utilised for research on cancer in children.

Gul has the assistance of Fellowship Chairperson Shernaz Vakil in organising the event along with two other institutions, the Terry Fox (India) Committee and the Oberoi Hotels.



Leafing through the latest 'Gateway'. Sabira and Chotu Merchant at lunch last week. At right, Dr. Sorab Javeri and PP Ashish Vaid caught with their eyes shut. Did someone say they didn't want to measure up to Dr. Marek Dziki? February 22 to February 28, 2011



Three jolly good Rotarians got together on a cold and breezy Sunday morning to host a Fellowship party. They invited the entire Club and the turnout was excellent, as can be seen on these pages. Among those who can be recognised in these pictures are (from left) S.K. Mitra, Jacob Abraham, Nirav Shah (one of the hosts), Paul George, Sitaram Shah and Dr. Mukesh Batra; Nowroze Vazifdar and his spouse Niloufer with Nirav and his better half Devina; Ashok Minawala, Nirav, Ashok's spouse Urvashi, Bijal Kara, Roda Billimoria and Shreelekha Damani



The Fellowship brunch was arranged on the sun deck-styled terrace of Damani House at Cuffe Parade, IPP Nandan Damani being of the three hosts. It was held from 12 noon on Sunday, February 6. Those who can be identified in these photographs are (again from left) Devina, Honorary Rotarian Mr. Ajay Piramal, Nandan, Shreelekha and Dr. Swati Piramal; PP Sandip Agarwalla, Madhusudan Daga and Mallika and Sidharth Punshi; Mudit Jain, Mayank Kumar, Pankaj Baliga, Divyaa Kummer and Malti Jain



More fun, more merriment and more bonhomie. Most of the members, who came along with their spouses, had a difficult time deciding which sumptuous item to choose, what with a large number of dishes laid out. Once again, beginning from the left, those who can be identified in these pictures are Alok Sekhsaria, President Pradeep Saxena and Gulrez and Ishraq Contractor; Damini Kamdar, Manish Reshamwala, Kirit Kamdar, Rakhee Reshamwala and Manoj Kumar Patodia; Nandan, Madhup Vaghani, Dipan and Radhika Mehta and Subhash Sagar



Members let their hair down as they enjoyed the sumptuous snacks and heady victuals before heading for the tables weighed down by sumptuous dishes. In the first picture, PP Nalin Parikh makes a point to S.K. Mitra as Arvind Agarwal, the third host, looks on in the centre. In the centre, President Pradeep enjoys a quick bite in the company of Zinta Lawyer and Shernaz Vakil. In the last picture, Vijay Mansukhani seems to be the only person without a plate. Others are (from right) PP Arun Sanghi, Rajas Doshi and Mudit Jain

THREE HOSTS AND ONE GRAND FELLOWSHIP PARTY



Here are some bird's-eye views of the Fellowship brunch in progress. Although no one actually counted the number of guests (something the hosts might have done much, much later), it is believed that the total was easily in excess of 250. Or was it 300? The hosts are not telling, so your guess is as good as ours. Several guests were heard complimenting the three hosts for the superb fare that was served and for making such excellent arrangements for the Sunday morning brunch



More Rotarians mean more fellowship and more camaraderie. Among those who can be spotted in this series of three photographs at the Fellowship event are (from left) Jimmy Pochkhanawalla, Vera Umrigar, PP Dr. Kekoo Kavarana, PP Dr. Zerxis Umrigar and Navaz Pochkhanawalla; Manoj Israni, Satya Bansal, IPP Nandan Damani, President Pradeep Saxena and Honorary Member Mr. Ajay Piramal; Renu Basu, Nandan, the Sheriff of Bombay, (Dr.) Indu, and Ranjit Shahani and Subhabrata Basu



Welcoming old friends. PP Harry Singh Arora (in the first picture) snapped with Suresh and Dr. Shakuntala Lulla and Tarjani Vakil. In the centre, Dolly Thakore appears to be breathing in the aromas flowing in from the luncheon tables. Giving her company are Sanjay and Pallavi Jha. The last picture in this row features Nandan in the company of Vijay Meghani (right) and Priti and Shreepal Dalal. All the guests were full of praise for the outstanding arrangements made by Nandan and his co-hosts



Pradeep and his brother Ashok Chinai snapped with Irma Chinai (at left in the first picture) and Farouk Chinoy. The second photograph shows PP Harry Singh Arora coming into his own as the music starts playing at full volume. Sheila Kripalani at left is preparing to join him on the floor. Others in the picture are Mehul Sampat and Malti Jain. And the last picture shows Prof. Indru Lalwani, accompanied by his spouse Mona, thanking two of the three hostesses, Devina and Rachna Agarwal, for the excellent brunch

Laws relating to forests are predatory, absurd and vague, says Dr. Raman Sukumar

(Continued from Page 2)

"CampA is a huge opportunity, the money has to be spent wisely. And this calls for good governance and community involvement. It also a way in which we can appease the people living in forest areas, the Adivasis and the tribals. Let's give more money in their hands and make them feel good and believe that a part of the country's prosperity is reaching them.

"Unfortunately, as often happens with the bureaucracy, there is a tendency to hold on and to say that we will control it and we will not get local panchayats and people involved in this process."

The third 'C' enunciated by Dr. Sukumar was CSR or Corporate Social Responsibility. Members of the Rotary Club of Bombay did not need a lecture on this, he hastily said. But he made the "humble" suggestion to extend CSR activities to environmental protection and to involve local communities where possible.

Turning to the role of the ecology in reaching the goal of 9% economic growth, Dr. Sukumar noted that the Western world grew rapidly at a time in global history when it could exploit resources from other parts of the world (through colonialism) and when oil was cheap. Now, most economists agreed that oil production had peaked in 2010 but cheap, abundant and clean energy was still some decades away.

If the planet's physical and biological systems were to remain in a stable condition, then the vast populations of India and China could not consume the same amounts of energy on a per capita basis as the Western world had done in the past. It was one thing to speak at UN Conventions on Climate Change and demand equity in terms of carbon space, but if India and China allowed carbon emissions to go up, then "the planet will completely break down".

Signs of global warming and its impact were manifesting slowly but surely. The Bombay deluge of 2005, when one metre of rain fell in a single day; the cloudburst over Pakistan that inundated 10% of the country's land; the La Nina phenomenon which inundated South-West China; and the recent storms that battered Australia – all of these were ominous signs.

The extra green house gases being emitted were causing the trapping of heat in the atmosphere. And heat being energy, it was bound to do something – it was changing the planet's climate systems and increasing climate variability.

Countries like India, which were still in an early stage of economic development, would be more vulnerable to climate change. Had the super-cyclonic storm that hit Australia recently (in which hardly anyone died) hit Bangladesh or Orissa, there would have been over 100,000 deaths.

Finally, Dr. Sukumar referred to Africa which was being seen as "the last frontier for resources" by China and India. He decried this tendency and said it was a throwback to the exploitative policy that the colonial powers had adopted two centuries ago. India had to follow a more sustainable course of economic growth and development.

Mahatma Gandhi had stated that "The earth has enough for every man's needs but not for every man's greed". Had Gandhi lived today, he would probably have stated, "The earth has enough for every man's needs but not for any man's greed".

The floor was then thrown open for questions. Chander Alimchandani recalled an expedition in the Sunderbans where man-eating tigers had driven out the local populace and even wild animals voluntarily entered certain enclosures to escape the tigers.

Dr. Sukumar said as far as the tiger was concerned, the mangrove vegeta-

tion of the Sunderbans had a very low density of prey and that could be the reason why they preyed on humans.

According to the Imperial Gazetteer of India, in the first decade of the 20th century tigers had claimed an average of 1,000 people in the old province of Bengal. Today, the figure was down to 40 or 50. Thus, in many ways the conflict between man and animal had abated.

Burjor Poonawala said that he had bought barren land 15 years ago with the necessary permissions and built a house. He had also grown a lot of greenery. As far as the ecology was concerned, he asked, had he improved the area or deteriorated it? For, one fine day he received a notice from the government of India stating that the land that had been barren was actually forest land!

Dr. Sukumar replied that he was aware of such cases and said they arose because of "our absurd laws; our laws are very vague in many ways. I think they are purposely kept in that manner. I think we need to speak out against it".

He recalled a recent discussion with an official in the Environment Ministry about a private entrepreneur improving a given area by growing rare species on it and nurturing it for 20, 30 or even 40 years. And then suddenly the government entering the picture and trying to take over the land because some rare species were growing on it!

He had argued against such an attitude and pointed out that the laws were absurd, vague and deliberately predatory in nature. They affected not only Adivasis and tribals, but also those who had worked hard and improved barren lands.

Burjor added that his so-called forest land was eventually "released", but at a price.

President Pradeep Saxena said it had been reported that the earth had warmed up by 0.7 degrees in the last year. And that every year in this century had been warmer than the years in the previous one. The ocean also contributed to the problem, though to a lesser degree. This was a major problem but there seemed to be no urgency in the powers-that-be to do something about it. Had the scientific community, through its channels of communication with the government, pointed out the looming threat?

Dr. Sukumar said the government was being advised on many issues, but finally it was the government that had to take the call.

As far as warming was concerned, the actual figure was close to 1 degree, or 0.9 degrees; this meant that in ev-

ery decade the average temperature was going up by about 0.1 degree. During the 20th century there had been an increase in warming by 1 degree all over the globe.

"There is a certain amount of unevenness in this spread and we are already committed to another 0.5 to 1 degree increase in global temperatures. But it doesn't mean that we have to shut down all our economic activities, not use vehicles any more or shut down all factories and go jump into the sea. We have already put out that there is a time lag in the response of the earth system.

"We have to learn to adapt... Species will have to migrate and adapt. We need to keep our landscapes intact and provide passages for species to migrate. If we start fragmenting our forests and everything turns into small patches, then no species can move from one patch to another if the first one becomes unsuitable. This is where the carbon credit mechanism, getting the CampA money to raise plantations, can help restore the ecology."

PP Harry Singh Arora said that agriculture was likely to face bad times because of climate change. In view of this, what was his take on organic foods vs. transgenic crops?

Dr. Sukumar said some transgenics was necessary to produce varieties that were resistant to global warming or salinity. But the real problem would arise if traditional varieties were destroyed or allowed to wither away. Usually, when transgenic varieties come into the picture, the supply of seeds passed into the hands of a select few and the old, traditional seeds disappeared from the market and became extinct. This meant that the traditional genetic pool and the traditional genetic varieties were lost.

As for organic foods, good models of organic agriculture were needed. Some people were now showing how organic agriculture worked. He had learned from his colleagues that there were many examples and organic foods were slowly becoming a reality. Many tea plantations had gone organic and carved a niche in the international market, their produce fetching higher prices.

"I think we have to move in that direction. I am not saying that there should be absolutely no genetic modification. There will have to be some... social control of seeds. Local farmers should not go out of business when a particular variety comes in," Dr. Sukumar added. He also answered questions posed by Jagdish Malkani and Nelum Gidwani.

The vote of thanks was proposed by PP Vital Palekar.



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 Hepatitis & Polio Immu. Dr. Vandana Bulchandani
 Cancer Aid Zinia Lawyer

COMMUNITY SERVICE - Non-Medical

Director Suresh Goklaney
 RCC Shyyamniwas 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 Manojji 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

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

Bell ringing, landmark lighting to mark Rotary's 106th anniversary

Rotary International will join Sanofi Pasteur, a leading provider of polio vaccine, in ringing the opening bell in four financial markets in Europe on February 23 in honour of Rotary's 106th anniversary and in support of a polio-free world.

R.I. President Ray Klinginsmith will also ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in New York City.

Representatives of the two organisations will take part in openings in Lisbon, Portugal; Amsterdam; Brussels, Belgium; and Paris. The stock exchange ceremonies represent the first time the bell will be rung for a single cause in all five markets.

As the largest company in the world devoted entirely to human vaccines, Sanofi Pasteur has played a major role in the effort to push polio to the brink of eradication.

Sanofi has contributed millions of doses of the oral polio vaccine to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a spearheading partner, along with the World Health Organisation, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF. Since 1988, the company has donated 120 million doses of oral polio vaccine for the immunisation

of children in war-ravaged Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Southern Sudan.

Throughout the week of February 23, Rotary Clubs and Districts will also be illuminating iconic landmarks around the world with the **End Polio Now** message to raise awareness of Rotary's pledge to rid the world of the crippling disease.

The landmarks include the Trevi Fountain in Rome; the parliament building in The Hague; the soccer stadium in Cape Town, South Africa; a gate at the Lantern Festival in Taiwan; Kanazawa Castle in Kanazawa, Japan; the government building in Karachi, Pakistan; the planetarium in Seoul, Korea; the Globe of the Mall of Asia in the Philippines; and the **Charminar in Hyderabad, India.**

Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland sold and planted 4.6 million crocus bulbs across the region in October so their purple blooms would flower around Rotary's birthday.

The Rotary Club of Hitchin Tilehouse, Hertfordshire, England, has earned a Guinness World Record for the most people (636) simultaneously planting flower bulbs during an event at Butt's Close Park in Hitchin.

Happy Birthday



Nadir Modi
February 22



Shiv Dev Gorowara
February 24



Ramesh Narayan
February 24



Roda Billimoria
February 28

Spouses/Rotaryanns

Achala Shah
February 23

Indira Kotak
February 24

Aruna Jagtiani
February 26

Mr. Sasha Mirchandani
February 26

Dolon Ghosh
February 28

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