



# Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



**PRESIDENT :**  
Rana Safui

**RI PRESIDENT :**  
Sakuji Tanaka

**SECRETARY:**  
Gautam Ray

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR:**  
Uttam Ganguli

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## Giving a reason to live and celebrate life

By Saloni Mital | ENS - BANGALORE , 06th December 2012 09:21 AM



Dr Krishna Shama Rao has treated over 16,500 children with face deformities

There are a few samaritans in the life of children with deformities who have given them a second life, a reason to laugh again and to celebrate. One such person is Cranofacial surgeon, Dr Krishna Shama Rao, who has put a smile back on the faces of thousands of children.

Over the past 21 years, Dr Rao has treated over 16,500 children with face deformity. "All the patients are from backward socio-economic groups either genuinely below the poverty line (BPL) or slightly above it," he said.

Rao's life changed one day in 1991. "I saw an unoperated adolescent with an open cleft lip and palate deformity working as a waiter at a small restaurant in Mangalore. I immediately asked him whether he would like to get it corrected; he turned up in my department two days later seeking treatment. He was operated upon the same week," he said.

This small incident got Dr Rao thinking about scores of children with deformities in India.

"Nature by itself, though perfect, sometimes leaves behind small deformities which are within the reach of a well-trained surgeon to reconstruct and return them back to society as normal adults. Over 5000 such children are born in India every year. I am only making a small effort to make their life beautiful," he said.

Dr Rao redefined his purpose in life and set off on his goodwill mission to correct facial deformities in children free of cost. "I started working and operating on such facial and complex deformities involving the skull and the face together," he said.

The news of his work spread and lots of children started coming to Dr Rao for treatment. Rotary international stepped in to financially support free treatment of such children. By the end of the first year, Rao was a busy man, treating around 400 children.

"Later, the Maaya foundation was established as the first Indian NGO supporting free treatment for all kinds of complex skull and facial deformities. The smile on the face of such children and their parents more than made up for the lack of remuneration," said Rao.

With an inclination towards spirituality, the transformation for Rao was not difficult. The foundation now supports free treatment in 11 centers across India where surgery is undertaken and patients are given the benefit of speech therapy, orthodontics and even transportation to and fro from their villages. "Initially it was difficult but later even the hospital chipped in with a modest budget of '5 lakh per year. The rotary club stepped in a year later and eventually the rotary international supported us with a substantial amount of money in 1999. The turning point was the funding from NGO Smile Train which had no budgetary limitations," he said.

## RI president

### Monthly message, January 2013

Dear fellow Rotarians,

I am a Japanese businessman, and I wear a suit almost every day. The Rotary pin is always on my lapel. It is there because I am proud to be a Rotarian. Anywhere I go, people will see the pin and know who I am. Other Rotarians will see it and know that I am a friend, and people who are not Rotarians will see it as well. I want to be sure that all of them also understand the meaning of this pin.

This is why I am asking all of you to wear your Rotary pin and to raise awareness of what the pin means. I believe having that pin on your lapel changes you. It makes you think more before you speak and before you act. It makes you remember, all the time, that you are a Rotarian – and that as Rotarians, we are here to help.

All of us should be ready to talk about Rotary. When someone asks you about that pin, you should be ready to answer them. What is Rotary? What does Rotary do? These are questions that each of us should always be prepared to answer.

We cannot go to prospective members and ask them to join Rotary only because we want more members. We have to show them that Rotary is a wonderful organization, and that they will be happier because they belong to a Rotary club.

When we ask people to join Rotary, we are doing this to help them as well. I think all of us are grateful to the person who asked us to join. I know that my life is much happier, and has been much more productive, because of Rotary. It is clear to me that the day I joined the Rotary Club of Yashio was a day when I took my first step down a different path in life – a path of greater connection, greater satisfaction, and a deeper sense of fulfillment and peace.

This is a feeling that I want to share with others. And I know that one way to do that is through bringing in new members. But we must also do it by raising awareness of Rotary and Rotary's work, by focusing on our public image and wearing our Rotary pins every day.

## Did You Know?



Angel Falls is the highest waterfall in the world at 1,002 m, and is located at Canaima National Park in Bolivar State along Venezuela's border with Brazil.

It is more than 19 times higher than Niagara Falls. An uninterrupted descent of water falls 807m.

**We meet every Friday, 7.30pm at Hotel Park Palace, 49/2, Gariahat Road, Kolkata 700019**

## District Programme

1. 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> January 2013 : 'Prashanti', Conference of Peace at Swabhum
2. 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 : National Immunization Day

## Minutes

### Meeting no 1171

### Dated 04.01.2013

In absence of President Rtn. Rana Safui, Vice President Rtn. Samir Ray called the meeting no. 1171 to order.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Bibhas Kr. Roychoudhury  
Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

**Discussions:**

- Vice President, PP, Rtn. Samir Ray thanked the members for making the blanket distribution project at Jagaran Sangha at Natun Pally, Subhashgram on 30.12.12 most successful. He also thanked director-CSM, Rtn. Dr. Malay Chatterjee for his valuable speech on Cancer Awareness in the same venue.
- Club discussed and decided in favour of inducting Mr. Chandan Goswami as member of our club with effect from today. Ceremonial induction will follow.
- Members of the club discussed the probable candidates for the post of 'Club Membership Chair' and 'Club Foundation Chair' for the Rotary Year 2013-2014 and finalized Rtn. Santanu Ghosh & Rtn. Dr. Malay Chatterjee for the respective posts.

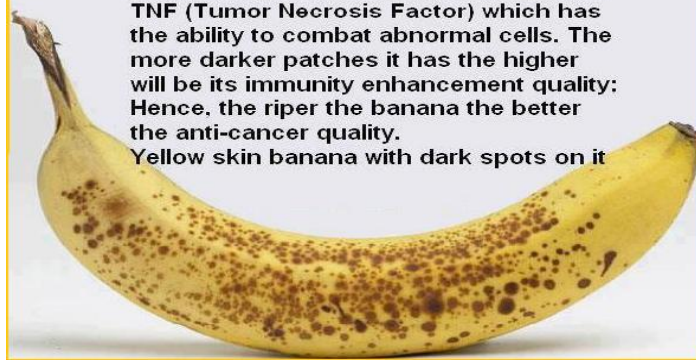
President handed over the business to Secretary Rtn. Gautam Ray, who announced the receipt of bulletins from neighboring clubs, and upcoming District events. Secretary handed back the meeting to the President.

Having no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members Present: 10                      Sunshine Collected : Rs. 200/-

### Health Corner

Full ripe banana with dark patches on yellow skin produces a substance called TNF (Tumor Necrosis Factor) which has the ability to combat abnormal cells. The more darker patches it has the higher will be its immunity enhancement quality: Hence, the ripier the banana the better the anti-cancer quality.  
Yellow skin banana with dark spots on it



Edited by PP Rtn. Dipankar Sen and published by President Rtn. Rana Safui. Visit us at : [www.rotaryclubofsonarpur.org](http://www.rotaryclubofsonarpur.org)

## Celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Peace Ambassador, Swami Vivekananda

For Vivekananda, service to God meant service to the disadvantaged. He coined a new word, Daridra Narayana - seeing God in the less privileged - and it was upheld as a religious axiom.

He explained: Any religion that divides people or exalts privileges, encourages

exploitation and instigates wars cannot be justified. Hence his was a gender-neutral espousal of lofty religious values that he believed would help expand human consciousness. According to Vivekananda, we need to renounce hatred and cultivate love and compassion for all; only then can we begin to live in peace and harmony.

It is not possible to live an isolated life. As more and more people migrate to urban areas, an increasingly greater number of people of different faiths live side by side. Hence there is the need for greater understanding of each other's aspirations, faiths and beliefs as well as practices.

To Vivekananda, Vedanta was not Brahmanism or Buddhist, Christian or Muslim. Vedanta was the sum total of all of these. In his historic address to the Parliament of Religions in Chicago on September 11, 1893, Swami Vivekananda clarified as follows: "The Christian is not to become a Hindu or Buddhist, or a Hindu or a Buddhist to become Christian; each must assimilate the spirit of the other and yet preserve individuality and grow accordingly." Swamiji greatly valued plurality of approach in human affairs and spoke against uniformity that ends any kind of diversity.

Vivekananda said: "The greatest misfortune would be if all were to recognise and accept but one religion, one universal form of worship, one standard of morality. This would be the death-blow to all religious and spiritual progress."

*Vivekananda, established the Ramakrishna Order to share and spread the values of Vedanta, and reach food, clothing, shelter quality education and healthcare to as many people as possible.*

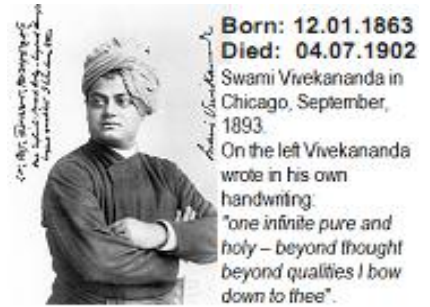
We are living in a world which is marked by hatred and violence, terrorism and suicide squads. Terrorists are using religious slogans to justify their gross deeds. But how could a man of religion be a terrorist? How could a religious person join a suicide squad if he believes in service of the disadvantaged? Swamiji's answer was to encourage plurality of faiths and harmony among religions.

Swami Vivekananda declared in the Parliament of Religions that "If anybody dreams of the exclusive survival of his own religion and the destruction of others, I pity him, and point out to him that upon the banner of every religion will soon be written, in spite of resistance: 'Help and not Fight', 'Assimilation and not Destruction', 'Harmony and Peace and not Dissension.'" As we celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, let's also celebrate all that the young monk stood for.

### Four Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do

- Is it the **TRUTH** ?
- Is it **FAIR** to all concerned ?
- Will it build **GOODWILL** and better **FRIENDSHIP** ?
- Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned ?



**QUOTE**

Religion is a question of being and becoming, not of believing.

Let each one of us pray day and night for the downtrodden millions who are held fast by poverty, priestcraft and tyranny. Pray Day and night for them. I care more to preach religion to them than to the high and the rich.

~ Swami Vivekananda

