

# Proud to partner TRF

Everyone remembers the top giving nation. However, Rotarians in India are not far behind. India is the world's second largest growing economy. There are more English speakers in India than in England. We have over three million households who have in excess of US \$100,000 of investible funds. India is the second most favoured destination for medical tourism. We have over 600 million active mobile phone users making India the second largest mobile phone market next only to China. There are over 30 million fixed line telephone users and 12 million Indians have broadband. We are also growing in membership in Rotary and have crossed the 1.12 lakh mark.

All these statistics are fine. Oh, one more statistics is that we have also crossed the US \$11 million mark last year in giving to The Rotary Foundation. But the question now being asked is, "Is this the potential of India?" Certainly not.

We in TRF have been constantly reminding you that today The Rotary Foundation is the most credible tool to engage warring factions in the process of peace. A hungry person will not lend his ears to a sermon about peace. So, TRF has embarked on an ambitious programme to eradicate poverty. This means that your small contribution will feed many children who can then go to school.

The Rotary Foundation needs to become a household word. You must make the masses know about it; its functioning and its ability to

change the world. Why has this not been done so far? Please do some soul-searching and come up with the truth. The answer is — the Rotarian has not propagated its presence and message in the community. Every club needs a mentor to guide them through the programmes of TRF. The word mentor is derived from Greek



mythology. Goddess Athena took the shape of the old man mentor to guide Odysseus's son Telemachus in his time of difficulty. Today, TRF's funding gap for polio eradication is not yet bridged. More projects, including the newly approved low cost shelters are waiting for matching grants. The erstwhile projects which were commissioned, such as hospitals, schools, orphanages, peace and rehabilitation programmes need constant recharge of funds to help the people who have been saved by TRF.

Why is it that mentors are hard to come by in clubs, especially when it comes to fund development? A quick analysis shows that there are fewer people today in the districts with the skills, temperament and time to walk the members through TRF. This

is disturbing. The senior leaders of Rotary in every district have a vital role to play in promoting The Rotary Foundation. This Diwali, transform your club. TRF believes that its programmes can do a lot more than just bring brightness in the lives of some people. Transform the way Rotarians see The Rotary Foundation.

It is not enough if just one in two members give to The Rotary Foundation. I am afraid that this might have largely come into the system as many people are accustomed to ask, "Ek cutting chai lana bhaiya," or as they order for a 'one by two tea.' Be proud to partner The Rotary Foundation, for it is the contribution of every Rotarian every year

that will bring about peace, happiness, joy in a polio-free world. This polio-free world will happen only when you understand that it is The Rotary Foundation that made eradication possible and we are on the verge of eliminating polio from India. Again, it is the programme of the masses and when they know, they will also be proud to partner The Rotary Foundation. Spread the word.



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