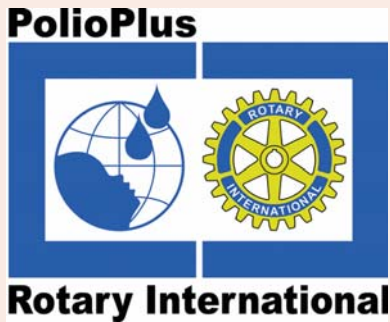


END POLIO NOW



There is good news but not excellent news. The good news is that only 22 polio cases have been reported up to June 2010 this year. This is a decided improvement compared to last year but we must realise that we have yet a long distance to go to have zero cases.



We can not afford to be complacent and every child must receive polio drops for protection against polio.

During our course of visit to every district in Bihar and U.P. we have tried and re-tried to emphasise the need to be more vigilant, more active and more effective. Polio eradication is very important to India because RI President-elect Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee has made a statement that India will become polio free by 2010. We must support him and ensure that his words don't fall by the wayside.

Our Polio eradication drive can be effective only when we ensure funds needed for the challenge. We must meet the challenge of US \$200 million and we should concentrate on this challenge. The Rotary Foundation lacks these funds as of today and unless we swell the coffers of The Rotary Foundation by our contribution, we will be found

wanting. We must work hard, convince many more and promote The Rotary Foundation amongst Rotarians and non-Rotarians to reach our goal. National Polio-Plus Chairman and member of India National Polio-Plus Committee

are available for your guidance and support. I am always a phone call away. Let us not give excuses to back out of our commitment. We had hoped that the world would be polio free by its centenary year. Five more years have passed. We cannot afford to delay our time-table. Let all Rotarians—new and old, young and senior—take up the cudgels and ensure a polio free world. When this occurs, Rotary will be applauded by the world when it presents the universe with a polio free existence.



The day is not too far. Act now. Act decisively.

*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
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Member, IPPC
Director, Rotary International,
2007–09*