

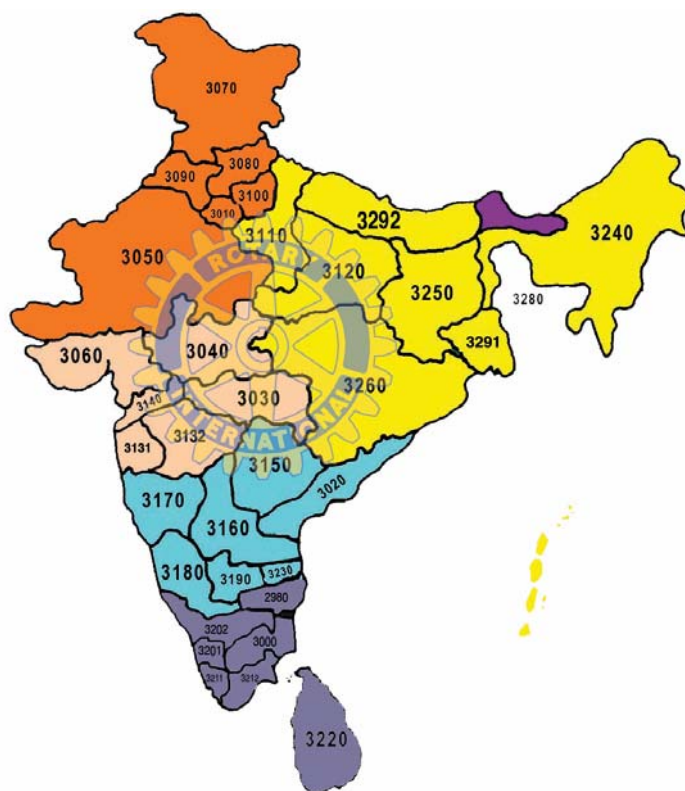
Major Impact

A study of The Rotary Foundation's 2008–09 Annual Report offers a comprehensive picture of the achievements of the Rotarians around the world. Despite the often repeated word 'global meltdown' during the year, Rotarians did show their concern for the people who need them most. We have reached the halfway mark in contribution to the Bill & Melinda Gates Challenge Grant. There was a move to simplify the grant structure by implementing the Future Vision Plan. Out of the 277 districts that applied for participating in the pilot scheme, 100 districts from 74 countries covering all the Rotary Zones were selected.

During the year 1,311 Major Donors were added worldwide to The Rotary Foundation. The total number of Major Donors worldwide now stands at 11,416 as on June 30, 2009. It is also significant to note that during the year 61,998 new Paul Harris Fellows from all over the world were recognised for their contribution. The total number of PHFs worldwide now adds up to 11,88,782.

What is very gratifying to note is that in India there are 1,185 Major Donors and India ranks number two. The first place goes to USA with 5,904 Major Donors. The third place goes to Korea and the fourth to Japan with 994 and 930 Majors Donors in each country. Taiwan follows with 601 Major Donors in the total list of 108 countries which have Major Donors. The other countries which have 100 and more Major Donors are Canada (274), Brazil (229), Philippines (190) and Hong Kong (100). We are far ahead of most of the countries.

The total number of PHFs in India is 48,919. There are only 36 RI Districts in the world with over 5,000 PHFs and from India, RI District



Rotary makes a major impact in India.

3140 finds a place in the list with 5,002 PHFs. Though India slipped to the fourth position last year, the total contribution was US \$8,165,466. Contributions to Annual Giving was US \$4,823,552, Restricted Giving was US \$2,837,844 and Permanent Fund was US \$504,070.

I appreciate the tremendous work put in by our clubs. All the Past RI General Officers from India, past RI Officers, District Governors of the year, RRFs, DRFCs and most importantly the Club Officers have made India proud. For the past two years we have shown that when it comes to giving we can rise up to the occasion. I would translate this giving to mean that Rotarians in India are now more concerned in ushering in world peace as they know that the imbalances in economy must be corrected and

the underprivileged must be given an equal footing in all spheres of activity. The small but effective club projects such as tree planting and caring for the environment, educating the rural poor, teaching the children better hygiene and conducting mass awareness programmes on a variety of issues that affect health and general welfare have had their impact in the society.

When you, the Rotarians of India have shown conclusively that you can top the charts in membership development and giving, it is a reward for your tireless work that the world has chosen PRID Kalyan Banerjee as the RI President for the year 2011-12. That is again a major year for all of us. There will be two RI Directors from India in addition to the RI President on the Board and I will have the opportunity to serve The Rotary Foundation during that year.

Every Rotary Club must make a major impact from now on. When you serve more than you sermonize, when you practice more than you preach and when you see the larger picture instead of a tunnel view, you know that the Rotary Foundation has been instrumental in doing good in the world. The Rotary Foundation is our opportunity to take a new programme to the next decade of Rotary. Support it.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation*