

Speak Up for The Rotary Foundation

Pune is known as the 'Queen of the Deccan.' The scenic beauty and rich natural resources have made this part of Maharashtra famous. The city of Pune boasts of excellent educational and research facilities. Apart from being a highly industrialised area, the district of Pune has an important military base. This area has given India great poets such as Tukaram and freedom fighters such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gopal Krishna Gokale. The area was also in the limelight when natural disasters struck the region and more recently the much talked about 'swine flu.' But nothing dampens the spirit of the people here. The Rotary movement here has been very strong with stalwarts guiding the district and the newly carved district of 3131 has most of them in it.

In the line of the illustrious District Governors, this year DG Deepak Purohit, decided that it was time that the district made a mark in showing its generosity to The Rotary Foundation. He decided that his installation function is the best occasion to make that flying start. He wanted a person to speak and who could leave the audience with new ideas, excited to contribute to The Rotary Foundation, make them ready and create new giving tradition and who has an ambassadorial zeal for philanthropy. The one person who could do this all and much more was PRIP Rajendra K Saboo.



Installation ceremony

The Rotarians of the district were motivated to explore and experience the generous life. Just as they excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in their love service, they were made to see that they also excelled in the grace of giving. The motivational speech by PRIP Rajendra K Saboo resulted in twenty one major donors being added that evening. The District Governor, already a major donor, added US \$ 5,000 to his contribution and a member of the Arch Klumph Society contributed US \$ 25,000.

It is said that money follows your heart. Rotarians were encouraged to bring their heart and thereby their life closer to the Almighty by reallocating their treasure. They were made to see how by sharing their earthly possessions with others in need, they were recipients of eternal blessings. Giving shifts people focus from internal to external and finally to eternal. Talking on a more philosophical plane, when life ends—as it ultimately will—the earthly wealth people possess has

no value; whereas by giving people, treasure awaits them in eternity.

History does not judge people by the number of servants they had, but by the number of people they served. People who willingly donate to noble causes understand that it is far better to wipe a single tear than to shed a thousand. They realise that it is action and not words that count.

People's journey in generosity is an adventure measured not in kilometres, but in personal transformation and growth. Whenever, Rotarians contribute to The Rotary Foundation, it is step forward in their life. They become part of the process that aims to make the world better, each day. The power of The Rotary Foundation to do this must be emphasised frequently in every meeting.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
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