

# TEXCITY

Rotary



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE



texcity

# TIMES

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# President Speaks



The spirit of Christmas is an unaware global sub-conscious like entity of harmonious goodwill, and loving light that instills a general feeling of soothing warmth, emotional beneficence, marvellous merriment, and hope for the humanity for the new year. It's most potently felt by those who celebrate Christmas, with genuine thoughts of self-less giving. And we are fortunate that we have so many in our Texcity family. This Festive cheer is infectious and engulfs the whole of the Texcity family.

It's also that time of the Rotary year, when we are half way through the Rotary year to take stock of what we have done and what needs to be done.

Texcity is moving in the right direction. Bore Wells, tree planting, wheel chairs, Mattresses, aid to deserving students, medical aid to the marginalized, computers and training at our adopted school, 16 school libraries, a Texcity village in the tribal area in the hills of Annaikatti, etc etc.

What we have chalked out for the next six months is the donation of a dialysis machine, our RYLA at Ooty and to take forward the building dream of ours. I am sure you all will continue to support all our endeavours with all your might. Lots has been done and lots more needs to be done. Remember we have all pledged to make a difference.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

Live and let live.

# Editorial



'Tis the season to be jolly and what better way to honour the festival than make Texcity Times all about it? It's such a beautiful time of year, with the weather at it's best, the spirit of giving in the air, bells jingling and red, white and green along with gold and silver abounding everywhere. It's the season that St. Nicholas brings gifts for all. Gifts that his elves have been working on all year round. Aren't Rotarians much like elves of Santa Claus...working to make people happy while finding happiness in that very effort? It's the season to spread cheer, so make it a point to smile a lot more than you usually do. The results may sometimes surprise you. Smile at a harried shop assistant and make their day seem worthwhile, smile at a doorman and acknowledge his presence. It matters. It's the season to be grateful for the abundant blessings you have and to remember to share some with those share some with those who are less privileged. Gratitude and Giving just expand your consciousness.

It's the season to be close with your family and relive happy memories. It's the time of year to make many happy memories. Show you care by taking the effort to give thoughtful gifts, wrapped with love.

It's the season to let out the child in you. Over the years he/she may have found a deep place within you, unable to find its way out. This is the perfect time to dance in gay abandon, sing at the top of your voice and do the fun things children do. It's the season to connect with old friends and renew friendships. Use the precious resource of time to invest in relationships. It pays rich dividends.

It's the time to gratefully recollect the year that's going to close and look with renewed hope to the one that's to come. It's the right time to pray for strength to serve and be useful. May the elves in us jump to the fore and be all set to spread cheer all through the year!

In this issue, we have the Christmas theme running through along with updates from Texcity and around the world. Your feedback is welcome. If you'd like to contribute in the form of an article, please mail [alkanichani@gmail.com](mailto:alkanichani@gmail.com)





# Texcity Diary - Nov

There has been a lot of Rotary Activity in the month of November. Here is a recap:



Computer (Vocational) Training in Tally and Photoshop softwares was held for 45 beneficiaries at PSG Rural Vocational Centre.



At Chenanur High School, 8 Toilet Doors were replaced benefitting 400 students.



A Motivation and Leadership Training program was held for the students of Chenanur High School. 175 students gained knowledge from our Rtn Trainers Prasanna, J.C. Kumar, Aggarwal and Ann Sumi.

4<sup>th</sup>



Texcity was one of 8 hosts at a G36 meeting where motivational speaker Mr. Suresh Rangarajan from Bangalore spoke eloquently on "Looking at life glass half full."



8<sup>th</sup>

All the way from USA, Mr Aara Krishnan came to Texcity with a fabulous presentation and his guitar to tell his life story and help the Texcicians "Unleash their Potential". The meeting was held at Raddison Blu and had a whopping attendance of 38 Rotarians and 7 Anns.



10<sup>th</sup>

The Texcity motivational team took their stuff to Nanjandapuram High School where they handled a training program for 90 students of Class IX and X. Rtns Prassanna, J.C Kumar and Nagaraj were the trainers for the day.



18<sup>th</sup>

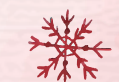
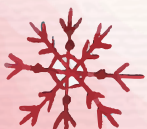
Texcity's ongoing program, Inter School competitions held at Divyodaya Inter-religious Centre saw 750 participants in its 27th year. Texcity's contribution towards this program was Rs 91,000.



28<sup>th</sup>

The weekly meeting consisted of interviewing hopeful candidates for Texcity's prestigious RYLA to be held in Jan.

A cheque of Rs 7000 was handed over to "Humane Animal Welfare" towards the treatment of sick street dogs.





# Ann's Club Projects

Report by Anns President Padmini

Ms. Sindhu, a third year BE student of PPG College of Technology was financially supported for paying college tuition fees. Our Ann Sumithra donated Rs 7000 and Anns Club added Rs 3000.



On 11th of November, 25 children in an orphanage were served food, sweets and ice-cream. We thank Ann Sumithra for the heart-warming gesture.

We contributed Rs 5000 towards the treatment of a child with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. We thank Rtn JC Kumar and Ann Rajshree for coming forward with the donation.



On the occasion of the Children's day, we participated in the colourful celebrations at Brindavan School. Also, 18 children were provided much needed spectacles free of cost, to augment their vision.

A Computer was donated to ARC Foundation, a NGO working amongst underprivileged community. We thank Ann Geetha for the donation and Rtn Nagaraj who took a personal interest in visiting the place for the installation.



On 16th of November, Rs 12000 was handed over to Sneha Positive Faces. This NGO works for the HIV affected people. This is an ongoing project of our club and we are thankful to Ann Lana to have initiated this effort years ago. This is an ongoing project of Texcity Anns Club.



# Annets Projects

Report by Annets President Kripaa



Texcity Annets Club has contributed to Society in the following ways last month:



Rs 3000 towards the fees of Priyadarshini, a needy 2nd year B.Sc (IT) student of GRG College.



Rs 3000 on 14th of November (Children's day) to AROH foundation, an NGO which makes life easier for kids affected by terminal diseases

Rs 9000 towards issuing 236 ID cards (with photo and blood group) to the students of Nanjundapuram High School on 10th of November.



# Digital - Revolutionizing Rotary

Kids are born with a silver-tinted smartphone. They are truly digital natives, while we, as people who have embraced our many firsts, colour televisions, floppy discs, our first feature phones quickly moving onward to iPads etc, are digital immigrants. Regardless of nomenclature, the one direction the world is moving in is a digital one.

Rotary, being the stalwart in human relations and charitable associations, would need to adapt and transform itself to become a digital force to reckon with. The great work we do as an organization, is isolated to regions and city clubs. Armed with a digital voice, we can reach millions, connecting not only those who provide help, but also those most seeking them.

A revamped website and a mobile app would ensure messages are reached, great stories are shared and most importantly, the entire brotherhood is connected seamlessly. A forum on the pages could help initiate conversations between a Rotarian sitting in India with her / his similarly tuned counterpart in Senegal or Slovenia. Inter-clubs will now become webinars and live-chats.

Rotary needs to build a going-in plan, dedicating resources to help set up the one digital world with the one Rotary at the heart of it.

Digitally yours,



**Annet Anusha Srinivasan**  
Digital and Ecommerce head,  
Mead Johnson India



## Rotary International News

- **PDG Gulam Vahanvaty** has been appointed Trustee of The Rotary Foundation for a term of four years (2018–22). A management graduate from IIM Calcutta, Gulam Vahanvaty worked for a while at Tata Administrative Services, and later joined the family business of scrap processing and ship breaking. The TRF Trustee Designate is himself a beneficiary of a Rotary scholarship and exchange programme. In 1978 he was selected as a member of TRF's Group Study Exchange programme and went to Indiana, US, which he describes as "a life changing experience" that made him want to join Rotary.

In 1979 he joined RC Bombay Downtown, and was unanimously nominated DG of D 3140 in 2002–03, and oversaw a record contribution to TRF — \$654,000; the largest in Indian Rotary Districts till 2006–07. His tenure as DG was marked by transparency and integrity, the two qualities, said PRID Ashok Mahajan, when Vahanvaty was felicitated by his D 3141 during the Rotary World Festival in Mumbai in November, which were mainly instrumental in his being appointed TRF Trustee Designate.

Vahanvaty was appointed RRFC during 2004–07 for Zone 5, was later a member of RI President Nominee Kalyan Banerjee's "think-tank" and was in charge of his Secretariat in Mumbai during his tenure as RIPE and President. Earlier, he was appointed by TRF Trustees to be Assistant Advisor to D 3280 (Bangladesh) for five years (2007–12); has served as a member of TRF Stewardship Committee and was appointed RI Training Leader for the International Assembly in San Diego in 2007, 2008.

Observed PRID Mahajan at Vahanvaty's felicitation: "The million dollar question is how did Gulam get nominated as a TRF Trustee, because the selection of Trustees is very crucial and important. Well, the RI President Elect sees the involvement of the individual in TRF activities, knowledge of TRF, integrity and honesty. Seeing his performance, credibility and integrity, the President Elect put forth his name to the Board. This is a proud moment for D 3141 and our country as a whole."



*The world is a multicultural place, with its people celebrating myriad holidays during the final weeks of the year, from Hanukkah to Kwanzaa. With one-third of the world's population Christian, Christmas is celebrated in many nations. Yet in places where Christians are in the minority - take Japan, for example, where less than 1 percent of the population follow the religion - many may still honour the holiday, albeit in unexpected ways.*

## **WHEN** do Christmas celebrations start for Philippines?

No other country in the world celebrates the season quite like Filipinos, the third-largest Catholic nation in the world. Christmas is celebrated from September until January in the Philippines.

The Philippines one-up the United States' propensity for immediately replacing Halloween décor with Christmas lights by commencing celebrations in September — making it the longest Christmas celebration in the world. The Southeast Asian's Catholicism is a holdover from the Spanish colonial era of the Philippines, as are traditions like the marathon nine-day series of Christmas masses called Simbang Gabi. So, too, are the festive parols, or star-shaped lanterns, that brighten windows during the entire holiday season. The lights, which are meant to reflect the Star of Bethlehem in design, are named after the Spanish word for lantern, farol. This year, the lighting of the traditional Christmas lanterns carries particular meaning in the aftermath of Typhoon Yolanda. In the Philippines,

*Merry Christmas is "Maligayang Pasko."*



## **WHY** do Swedes build a goat of Straw?

The Yule Log is customary in European-derived Christmas traditions. It crackles brightly on many an American TV as something of a faux hearth. The French bake a confectionary version of the holiday-themed tree part. But Sweden skips the wood and goes for the goat instead. Yule Goat isn't a real animal; it's typically made almost entirely of straw. In the Swedish tongue, the Christmas goat is known as the Julbok. The Julbok's origins are rooted in mythology, but it's been warmly adopted by Swedes as part of modern Christian tradition — perhaps too warmly. The Swedish town of Gävle has erected a giant version of the Yule Goat since 1966. And every year since, people have tried to torch it, kidnap it and otherwise harass the apparently rather expensive symbol of Christmas joy. At least 28 of the 45 goats have succumbed to what the authorities dub as "vandals." But, according to The Local, an English-language Swedish newspaper, "half of (Gävle's) inhabitants take pride in the giant animal, while the other half take equal pride in attempting to burn it down."

*Merry Christmas in Swedish is "God Jul."*







## WHAT

do Australians do differently from the rest of the world at Christmastime?

In Australia, Christmas falls right in the middle of some of the hottest weather of the year. Because of the extreme heat, Christmas is often marked by electrical storms and brush-fires rather than gently falling snow. Australians celebrate Christmas during the hottest part of the year with barbecues and outdoor concerts. But that doesn't keep Aussies from getting into the Christmas spirit. A Canberra family recently broke a world record by stringing more than 31 miles of Christmas lights around its property. Some Australians who celebrate Christmas honour the nation's Anglo-Celtic influence with English-style holiday fare likely more appropriate for colder climes. Roast turkey, steamed pudding and gingerbread all might end up on the table. But it's not all about plum pudding, which is increasingly served with ice cream to help tolerate the Australian summer temperatures, anyway. To further beat the heat, up to 40,000 Australians flock to Bondi Beach in Sydney at Christmastime — and beaches mean barbecues. Carols by Candlelight, derived from a 19th-century Australian tradition, has turned into a big, down-under outdoor Christmas festival. Held on Christmas Eve in Melbourne for the past 76 years, the outdoor concert is now a fundraiser for Vision Australia. Similar events are now held around the world.



## WHO

in the world eats "Rudolph meat" at Christmas?

Finland seems made for Christmas. Reindeer run rampant in Finnish Lapland and Joulupukki, a bearded mythical figure who looks and acts for all the world like Santa Claus, is said to make his home where those same reindeer roam. But it's not all snowflakes and cookies on Christmas Eve, when at noon the Declaration of Christmas Peace is read in a formal ceremony in South Finland. The statement, which has been tweaked a bit since it was first read in the 13th century, offers a surprisingly emphatic reminder that any sort of unruly behaviour that challenges the holiday "shall under aggravating circumstances be guilty and punished according to what the law and statutes prescribe for each and every offense separately." In other words, hooligans, don't mess with Finnish Christmas. The peaceful declaration goes on to wish the inhabitants of Finland a joyous Christmas feast. There, a feast is made joyous with the addition of Christmas ham, smoked and pickled fish, cheeses and sweet Christmas breads. The people in the northernmost parts of Finland sometimes even eat reindeer for Christmas. Sorry, Rudolph.

*In Finland, people wish each other "Hyvä Joulua" on Christmas.*



## WHERE

is Christmas the celebration of Culinary Arts?

In France, Christmas Day is always preceded by a "Reveillon", which means staying awake to usher in the next day, according to Susi Seguret, who leads the Seasonal School of Culinary Arts in several different cities, including Paris. "This means essentially gathering with friends, often a dozen or more, and enjoying a multi-course dinner, in company of many bottles of wine and much champagne," Seguret says. "This is a time to dress to the nines, even if at home, and to get out the best china and silver and crystal and all the candles." Seguret says the meal always includes fresh oysters, a fish course, a poultry course, a meat course, an extensive cheese platter and delicate desserts. "In the south of France, around Provence, les treize desserts — the 13 desserts, representing Jesus and the 12 apostles — figure into the season." The components of the dish vary by local or familial tradition, but tend to include dried fruits, nougat and other traditional sweets. In Northern France, particularly in Alsace, traditional Christmas markets abound. They burst with holiday sweets like the bredele and gingerbread as well as warming mulled wine. On Dec. 6, white-bearded St. Nicolas walks through the streets of Alsace, passing out sweets to all of the "good" children. Sound familiar? Merry Christmas in French is "Joyeux Noel."







Let's get to know  
Rtn. Padmanabhan



I feel proud and happy in serving the society and belonging to a branch of this big old Banyan tree called Rotary that has its roots and canopy spread across the globe.

I was born in the year 1973 in Coimbatore to my parents Mrs. Kamalam and Rajakondalar Ranganathan Naidu as the first child. My greatest privilege is that I have had my grandparents, parents beside me till date, from whom I learnt a lot. I hope and pray this passes on in the coming generations. My father introduced me to the business of gears and pulleys at a very young age and in 1996 I started manufacturing SPM (Special Purpose Machines) for food, agro based processing and mineral industries. I was pursuing my education and active in business simultaneously which was a huge advantage for me. I completed my B.E in Mechanical Engineering from CIT, Coimbatore and my M.B.A from Bharathiyar University. Having always had a passion to serve the society, during my teens I had joined a service organization. I am grateful to Rotary today, for having given my daughter the same upliftment that I got in serving the society. I am the person I am today because of all the people who shaped me in my life path. I enjoy my game of tennis regularly and travelling is a passion. I have been to Sri Lanka, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Japan, many countries in Europe, U.S.A. and Canada.

I was married to Usha in the year 2001. As the saying goes marriages are made in heaven, and it is very true in my case -though we were neighbours we never knew that we would tie the knot someday. Born in the year 1978 and a native of Coimbatore, I have always seen her as a studious student trying to achieve her set goals in life. She did her B.E in Electrical Engineering from Amrita Institute of Technology and her M.B.A from Bharathiyar University. She works hand in hand with me in my business.

We have an industry with an integration of foundry, fabrication shop and machine shop. We are into machinery manufacturing for various applications. We cater to both domestic and export markets. We export our products to Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, UAE, Hong Kong and U.S.

We are blessed with two children Kripaa and Reshma. The elder one was born in the year 2002, studies in grade 10 and is currently serving as our Annets President. The younger one was born in the year 2005 and is in grade 7.

As the saying goes, Rome was not built in a day and we also strove through our lives to achieve success and we hope to be role models to our children. A thing of beauty is a joy forever, its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness and I would like to say a big thank you to my beloved friend Irfan who led me into this beautiful banyan tree to become a part of one of its beautiful branches.

*Let the tree grow and let us nurture this with the almighty's blessings.*