



New Delhi Update

Bulletin of Rotary Club of New Delhi

R.I. District 3010

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THE QUAKE—TSUNAMI DISASTER THAT ROCKED JAPAN ON 11TH MARCH 2011

Mrs. Hema Purwaha, who works in a Travel Agency in Tokyo had come to India under intense pressure from the family to return home after the great catastrophe that struck Japan on 11th March. As things are getting back to normal and the life in Tokyo is not affected, she is returning back to Japan on Sunday 27th March to resume her work.

Mrs. Hema Purwaha was the Guest Speaker on the evening of 24th March at our regular weekly Club meeting and addressing our members about the devastating disaster of Earthquake and Tsunami that struck Japan on Friday 11th March 2011, she said it was 2.46 pm in the afternoon on 11th March when the quake started. The buildings started moving and rattling. We all got scared. Within one hour it was the terrible Tsunami that also struck us. Everything was down, No connections, No transport, No trains, No telephones, No Cellphones, No Electricity, No Gas, No Vehicles on roads. Everything came to a standstill for first few hours. We were all very much worried and too much scared.

We had to walk all the way to reach our homes. I was not able to talk to my family—to my daughter and my husband who runs a small Restaurant in a basement. I was very much worried. I was not able to contact my husband or my daughter for many hours. It was quite late in the night, after I reached home that I was able to contact my family and talk to my husband. I was happy to learn that

हिन्दू नव वर्ष के शुभारम्भ पर हार्दिक
शुभकामनाएं

**मिति चैत्र शुक्ल 1, वि.सं. 2068
तदनुसार सोमवार, 4 अप्रैल, 2011**

विक्रमी संवत् २०६८

आपके भविष्य व पारिवारिक जीवन को चतुर्मुखी उज्ज्वल
एवं सुख-शान्ति, धन-वैभव, यश-पराक्रम
व समृद्धि से परिपूर्ण करें।

both my husband and my daughter were safe and nothing had happened to them. They were both safe and in good health. My daughter was with my husband and absolutely safe and sound.

There was lot of media hype. There was no food. There was radiation in Sendai Port due to problems in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant's Reactors. But there was nothing wrong in Tokyo. Things were back to normal the very next morning. Our family in India got worried and insisted we must leave Tokyo immediately and return to India and come back to New Delhi. It is only in view of the family pressure and insistence that we came to New Delhi and are now booked to return back to Tokyo on Sunday 27th March 2011.

The Japanese Government is taking all steps to protect their citizens, not

only Japanese nationals but all other people living in Japan. Japanese Govt. has told people not to worry and not to get panicky. Things will return to normal at the soonest possible time.

We were in two minds whether to stay back in Tokyo or come to India. Because of family pressure we decided to come to India for a short vacation to meet all our family people here. We had to close our Restaurant business, because three of the Indian cooks we had in our Restaurant also wanted to come back

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 31st March 2011
Time : 5.45 p.m.
Ashok Hotel, New Delhi

**FELICITATIONS TO
DGN 2013-14
Rtn. VINOD BANSAL**

MEETING WILL BE FOLLOWED BY COCKTAILS



families here in India. So we decided to close our Restaurant for a few days.

This devastating disaster has taught me how to be strong and become bold to face such situations and convince my clients to be calm, cool and have patience.

In a tragic situation and acute crises like this we have to be sympathetic and compassionate. I was working almost 20 to 24 hours trying to find seats on the airlines for our various customers who wanted to travel out of Tokyo. The airlines were also trying to make money out of this situation. The lower fare tickets were not available but the higher fare air tickets were available and the horrified customers bought air tickets at higher price fares. Lower priced tickets had vanished and were not available at all.

The Bread and other food items were available in Tokyo. The prices of eatables didn't go up. The Bread was sold immediately, it was off loaded from the trucks, but the prices of Bread didn't go up.

Situation in Fukushima was bad. Everyone on the North East Coast was affected severely. Japan will certainly come back more stronger after this disaster. Life is very much normal in Tokyo. Japanese don't panic. They don't sensationalise the news. There was no damage in Tokyo because of this disaster. Only Chiba area, near the Narita Airport was affected and as a result thereof the Haneda Airport was made a 24 hours operational Airport.

Our fellow member, Rtn. **Nirmal Kumar Gupta** and his Wife R'ann Madhushree were also in Japan on 11th March on the day of the disaster. Joining the Guest Speaker Hema, Nirmal said, I was in Japan on that day. Me and my wife, Madhu were there in Japan. I was in Tokyo and Madhu was in Yokohama. I have been travelling to Japan for last 40 years. But this was the worst earthquake in the history of Japan. The news was suppressed by NHK. Until I was there, things were normal in Tokyo. I was able to contact Madhu only after 26 hours of the tragedy.

In Japan they have a system that when they have an earthquake everything stops down. On that particular day on 11th March when the quake struck Japan, people were on the road. Everything came to a stop. Cellphone Connections were all jammed. We were able to get the landlines after some time but not the Cellphones.

Cellphones were not working at all. Tokyo became normal, the very next day.

Things became bad after Sunday 13th March. Nothing was available on shelf in the stores. All shelves in the stores selling items of daily necessities and food items became empty because supplies got delayed. There was shortage of petrol and fuel which was rationed. Only 10 litres of petrol was rationed and made available to each vehicle. Only 30% of energy power was available from Nuclear Plants in Japan because of damages in Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Japan police says it is estimated that more than 25,000 people will be dead by this Quake—Tsunami disaster. 10,000 people are already reported to be dead and another more than 15,000 people are reported missing. Japanese Yen became strongest, a week after the disaster, on Friday 18th March 2011. Because of this devastating disaster in Japan, the World Trade is going to suffer adversely. Japanese will have to revive everything now.

PP Rtn. Sanjiv Rai Mehra joining in the discussions said, there is an opportunity in every disaster. They will now have to spend more than US \$305 to \$310 billion in building infrastructure, making it the costliest natural disaster in the world.

Japan will spend their own money. They will be importing and exporting lots of items. The Japanese Yen is appreciating even today. The stock market in Japan has come up and things are stabilising. Japan's economy will strengthen after this devastating catastrophe of 11th March, 2011.

TEN THINGS TO LEARN FROM JAPAN

1. THE CALM

Not a single visual of chest-beating or wild grief. Sorrow itself has been elevated.

2. THE DIGNITY

Disciplined queues for water and groceries. Not a rough word or a crude gesture.

3. THE ABILITY

The incredible architects, for instance. Buildings swayed but didn't fall.

4. THE GRACE

People bought only what they needed for the present, so everybody could get something.

5. THE ORDER

No looting in shops. No honking and no overtaking on the roads. Just understanding.

6. THE SACRIFICE

Fifty workers stayed back to pump sea water in the N-reactors. How will they ever be repaid?

7. THE TENDERNESS

Restaurants cut prices. An unguarded ATM is left alone. The strong cared for the weak.

8. THE TRAINING

The old and the children, everyone knew exactly what to do. And they did just that.

9. THE MEDIA

They showed magnificent restraint in the bulletins. No silly reporters. Only calm reportage.

10. THE CONSCIENCE

When the power went off in a store, people put things back on the shelves and left quietly.

OUR CHIEF GUEST
DGN Rtn. VINOD BANSAL



Rtn. Vinod Bansal joined Rotary as a member of Rotary Club of Delhi Rajdhani in the year 2001. A Chartered Accountant by profession, Vinod is Managing Partner of Arora and Bansal, Chartered Accountants and Chairman of Matrix Processing House, a Pan-India BPO with branches and locations all over India engaging 5000+ people directly and indirectly.

Vinod is a Fellow Member of Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), Corporate Member Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), Member IT Committee of ICAI and Past Member of Fiscal Laws Committee of ICAI.

Vinod is Trustee Rotary 3010 Art & Cultural Foundation, Trustee Rotary Health Foundation, Member Paul Harris Society, Member DDCA and Member India Habitat Centre.

Vinod was elected to serve as the President of Rotary Club of Delhi Rajdhani in the year 2007–08. He was declared as the Best President of The District in 2007–08. During his Presidentship he made the Club 100% PHF Club with 43

new PHF's. He and his spouse, Sangita Bansal are 4th level Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

Vinod has been very active in the District and has served in various important capacities as District Secretary, TRF, Asstt. Governor, Dist. Sub Committee Chair (DGSC), Chairman District Assembly Prashikshan, District Director Membership etc.

He was elected as the District Governor Nominee R.I. District 3010 for the year 2013–14 at the recently held District Conference on 6th March 2011.

His wife, Rtn. Sangita Bansal is a member of our club and they have two daughters. Elder Damini, a graduate from Wharton School of Business, USA in working at World Bank, Washington D.C. Damini was Zonal Interact Representative (ZIR) for Dist. 3010 in 2003-04. She is a PHF. Younger, Aishani is studying at Cornell University, USA and was the Distt. Interact Representative (DIR) of our Distt. 3010 in the year 2007–08

AN OPINION:
THE PHOENIX SHALL RISE AGAIN

At a recent Club Assembly concerns were voiced about the dwindling attendance and participations of the members. A lot of views were expressed and promises to do something about it.

With a view to initiate a dialogue to **"Make The Club Vibrant"** I would like to present some of my thoughts.

An organization can advance in its path of progress if and only if it spends time to ponder on its past as under:

- Review what it had set out to do?
- Where it has reached?
- What mid-course correction is required?
- How to implement the course of action required?

- The club has some very specific needs that have to be addressed to achieve the goal of **"Making The Club More Vibrant"** and I suggest the following:

Firstly, the most important element of an organization is its members.

The questions need to be asked are: Why do people join this organization and how their aspirations can be met?

Secondly, what inputs are required from the members of the organization in terms of ideas, formulation of plans, providing the necessary inputs, implementation of the plans, review of the progress made, sizing the strengths and weakness and taking corrective actions?

Thirdly, the most important reason for the organization to survive is to meet the needs of the society and how we plan to fulfill and implement them.

We have members who have a lot of ideas on these subjects, members who can make sense of these ideas and give them concrete shape, members who can provide resources of ways and means to implement these ideas; members who are great at implementing ideas; and members who can review the actions taken and guide the organization on its well thought out course of rejuvenation.

I am sure the club in collective wisdom, can come up with a structured framework to take up the **"Making Our Club More Vibrant"** a meaningful plan than to just leave it at a one meeting discussion. It was only talk without achieving the goal that the lonely spark within had set out to reach. I earnestly want that this important subject be taken up further. It is widely said that extraordinary situations require extraordinary actions to achieve extraordinary goals.

Yes, the **PHOENIX SHALL RISE AGAIN FROM THE ASHES**, provided we take the necessary steps. I am confident that the membership of the club has the desire and capacity to do so.

PP Rtn Y.N. Bhargava

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. The 289th meeting of the club held on 24th March 2011 was called to order by President Rtn. Pratap Burman.
 2. National Anthem was led by Rtn. Prashant Sahgal.
 3. President welcomed all present and said possibly thin attendance may be on account of members may still be having a hangover of Holi.
 4. A special welcome was accorded to the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Hema Purwaha, who has just come from Tokyo only a few days ago after the great devastating quake and Tsunami disaster of 11th March 2011.
 5. President thanked PDG Asoke K. Ghosh for contributing US \$5000 to The Rotary Foundation. Asoke Ghosh was also thanked for sending in his cheque for ₹ 11,000 towards the Japan Tsunami Relief Fund. President informed that some more members have agreed to contribute towards Japan Relief. We have reached commitments to a total contributions of ₹ 75,000. Our Club's target is ₹ 1 lakh and I am sure we will certainly achieve our goal.
 6. President requested Rtn. Prashant Sahgal to introduce the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Hema Purwaha.
 7. Mrs. Hema Purwaha spoke about her experiences on the day Earthquake and Tsunami disasters struck Japan on 11th March and the situation thereafter.
 8. Rtn. Nirmal Gupta who was also in Japan with his Wife Madhushree on 11th March was also invited by President to share his experiences with the members.
 9. Rtn. Prashant Sahgal was again requested by President to propose the formal vote of thanks as well. Prashant said the presentations of both Mrs. Hema and Rtn. Nirmal Gupta were very enlightening and quite informative.
10. Mementos were presented to Mrs. Hema Purwaha and Rtn. Nirmal Gupta in appreciation of their informative and enlightening talks on the situation in Japan.
 11. President greeted IPP Rtn. Sanjay Kapur, on his birthday and PE Rtn. Rajen Mata and PP Rtn. Sudhir Malhotra on their Wedding Anniversaries, in absentia.
 12. President welcomed the presence of prospective members, Mr. Rajesh Puri and assured him that he will be inducted as a member of our club at the next meeting on 31st March 2011.
 13. Next week on Thursday 31st March 2011 we are going to felicitate, Rtn. Vinod Bansal on his election as DGN 2013-14 at the recently held District Conference on 6th March 2011. The meeting will be followed by Cocktails. Spouses will be Club Guests.
 14. Sunshine of ₹ 640 was collected by Rtn. Prashant Sahgal.
 15. President then declared the meeting adjourned.

POLIO RAVIVAR SUNDAY 27th MARCH 2011

On the last Polio NID on Sunday 27th March 2011 vehicle support was provided by following members:

1. President Rtn. Pratap Burman
2. PE Rtn. Rajen Mata
3. VP Rtn. Ashish Makhija
4. Secretary Rtn. Surendra Singh
5. Jt. Secy. Rtn. Vinod Gupta
6. Sgt-at-Arms, Rtn. Prashant Sahgal

Rtn. Harish Paruthi and R'ann Rekha Paruthi visited the Distribution Centre at Panchkuian Road.

In the evening our Medical Co-ordinator, Dr. Madan Narain informed that a total of 4856 children were administered the two life saving Polio drops on Polio Ravivar on 27th March 2011 in the area assigned to our club.

THE BOARD 2010-11

President	Pratap Burman
President-Elect	Rajen Mata
Vice President	Ashish Makhija
Secretary	Surendra Singh
Joint Secretary	Vinod Gupta
Treasurer	Pankaj Rai
Sergeant-at-Arms	Prashant Sahgal
Imm. Past President	Sanjay Kapur
Counsellor & Adviser	Asoke K. Ghosh

DIRECTORS:

Satinder Narang	Sanjiv Rai Mehra
Umang Das	Gaurav Bhargav
P.K.D. Nambiar	

Many Happy Returns

BIRTHDAY

Rtn. Harish Paruthi April 02

NO WEDDING ANNIVERSARY THIS WEEK

FELICITATIONS TO DGN 2013-14 Rtn. VINOD BANSAL

Our Club is going to felicitate Rtn. Vinod Bansal, PP of Rotary Club of Delhi Rajdhani on his election with overwhelming majority as the District Governor Nominee 2013-14 of our R.I. District 3010 on Thursday 31st March 2011 at Ashok Hotel New Delhi. Vinod is husband of our member, Rtn. Sangita Bansal. All members are invited to attend this very important event with their gracious spouses who will be club guests. The meeting will be followed by Cocktails and Snacks.

CONGRATULATIONS PDG Rtn. ASOKE K. GHOSH

We congratulate PDG Rtn. Asoke Ghosh for his magnanimous contribution of US \$ 5,000 (₹ 2,25,000) to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). Asoke Bhai always contributes every year substantial amount to TRF. Asoke had also sent his cheque for ₹ 11,000 towards his commitment for Japan Quake-Tsunami Relief Fund.

We thank you Asoke ji for your magnanimous contributions. We are all proud of you for your fine gestures.

KHEM CHAND—BAHADAR CHAND AHUJA

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Please visit us at our Club Website: www.rotaryclubofnewdelhi.com

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