

"Success is going from failure to failure without a loss of enthusiasm"- Winston Churchill

With two more endemic countries – Niger and Egypt-being declared Polio free, the psychological pressure on India to finish the race is mounting. Indian Union Finance Minister announced that "to eradicate Polio completely from the country by 2007, a massive immunization programme will be launched".

The Polio Plus program in India has seen some major successes with 33 of the 35 states no longer being polio endemic. The dream seems closer to being realized now and efforts are being stepped up at various levels to wipe the slate clean.

This notwithstanding, India still remains one of the last four countries currently crippled by Polio. However, encouraged by the decreasing numbers, the Government of India, along with Rotary International's India National PolioPlus Committee, and its various stakeholders, are together marching ahead to intensify all related activities. The message is on the wall for all to see. India has to be freed from the clutches of Polio and this can only be achieved if we are able to mobilize and concentrate all our resources to attain the target.

The years 2005 recorded an all time low of 66 cases spread across the country. Currently, in the early months of 2006, 16 cases have been reported so far from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states, 12 and 4, respectively, as on 28 March 2006. Alarm bells have started ringing. Ever since the campaign began, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have posed the biggest challenge, with more than 90% cases still being reported out of these two States can be traced back to Poliovirus carriers originating from UP and Bihar. We need to concentrate once again on intense advocacy efforts at the district level in these States.

Eight rounds of Polio Immunization have been planned for the current year.

Special attention is being paid to UP and Bihar states and the support of all community stakeholders is being sought the drive a success. The India National PolioPlus Committee is utilizing its maximum resources in these two States and special meeting with political leaders, bureaucrats and religious leaders are being planned. Apart from Booth Immunization, house-to-house immunization is long being aggressively pursued.

Foreign Rotarians from across the World are constantly visiting India and volunteering their time, money and efforts for the polio eradication program in our country. With their presence in the field, enthusiasm amongst Rotarians and Government officials goes up several notches.

Friends, there is no room for looking back. We have once again to plunge ourselves headlong into the battle against Polio and reinforce and revitalize Rotarians to make them rise to the occasion. Mind you, if we falter this time, we may not be able to achieve our goal.

#### PROPOSED DATES FOR PULSE POLIO IMMUNISATION (2006) MAY 14, 2006 FOR HIGH BURDEN STATES

UTTAR PRADESH      BIHAR  
DELHI WEST BENGAL

JUNE 25, 2006

#### FOR HIGH & MEDIUM BURDEN STATES

UTTAR PRADESH      BIHAR                      DELHI WEST BENGAL  
PUNJAB              HARYANA              RAJASTHAN  
MADHYA PRADESH  
GUJARAT              ORISSA              ASSAM

AUGUST 20, 2006

NATIONWIDE

OCTOBER 8, 2006

NATIONWIDE

NOVEMBER 25, 2006

NATIONWIDE

If you want to participate in the above POLIO NIDs, please do not hesitate to write me.

Yours

PHF PP Surendra Bansal

Secretary

Taj Hosting and Fellowship Society Agra