



District Grand Lodge of India S.C. & Grand Chapter of U.S.R.A.F.I.C.

FREEMASONS' HALL, SUKHADWALLA MARG, FORT, MUMBAI 400 001.



NEWSLETTER

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This Newsletter is only meant to convey the news and events
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The views expressed herein are solely that of the Editor, and not that of the District.

EDITORIAL

In an age characterized by rapid technological advancements and shifting social landscapes, there remains a timeless institution that upholds the values of fellowship, tradition, and enlightenment. Freemasonry, with its rich history dating back centuries, continues to intrigue and captivate the imagination of those seeking deeper connections and meaningful experiences. Freemasonry is a fraternal organization with a rich history that dates back several centuries. It is known for its elaborate ceremonial rituals, symbols, and traditions. While Freemasonry is not a monolithic organization and different jurisdictions may have variations in their rituals and practices, there is a strong emphasis on uniformity and consistency in the core principles and ceremonies across most Masonic lodges worldwide.

Freemasonry is renowned for its rich tapestry of ceremonial practices and rituals, which form the cornerstone of its teachings and traditions. These rituals, conducted with solemnity and symbolism, guide the Brethren through a series of symbolic experiences aimed at imparting moral lessons and fostering personal growth. Key elements of Freemasonic rituals include the use of symbolic tools such as the square and compasses, the apron, and the working tools presented in each degree carrying deep allegorical significance.

Throughout Masonic degrees, one is exposed to various stages of enlightenment, marked by ceremonial rites that symbolize moral virtues, such as brotherly love, relief, and truth. These rituals are often accompanied by allegorical narratives drawn from biblical and architectural symbolism, designed to convey timeless truths and inspire reflection on the nature of morality, spirituality, and human existence. Additionally, Freemasonry's ceremonial practices extend beyond initiation rites to include rituals for the installation of Lodge officers, the dedication of Masonic buildings, and the commemoration of significant events in Masonic history.

Central to Freemasonry's ethos is the secrecy surrounding its rituals, which serves to create a sense of reverence and preserve the sacredness of its teachings. This veil of secrecy, however, does not conceal the essence of Masonic ritual but rather underscores its symbolic depth and significance. Ultimately, Freemasonry's ceremonial practices and rituals form a mosaic of allegory and symbolism, inviting initiates to embark on a journey of self-discovery, moral enlightenment, and fraternal bonding that transcends time and space.

The basic structure and symbolism of Freemasonic rituals tend to be consistent across jurisdictions, although the specific wording and details may vary. This uniformity helps to maintain the integrity of the organization and ensures that members from different lodges can recognize and participate in rituals regardless of their geographic location. Freemasonry places a significant emphasis on the importance of tradition and preserving historical rituals. As a result, changes to Masonic rituals are typically made cautiously and only after careful consideration by governing bodies within the organization.

However, it's important to note that there are different branches or jurisdictions of Freemasonry around the world, each with its own governing body and variations in rituals and practices. Overall, while there may be minor differences in ceremonial rituals among different Masonic jurisdictions, the core principles, symbolism, and values remain consistent, reflecting the emphasis on unity and brotherhood within the organization.

INSTALLATION COMMUNICATION OF PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF IRELAND IN INDIA



Rt. Wor. Bro. Ardeshir Sam Aga



The gathering at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in India



Rt. Wor. Bro. Rummy Piroz Khan

The change of Provincial Grand Master within a Masonic Province is a momentous occasion marked by tradition, ceremony, and profound significance. As the mantle of leadership passes from one esteemed figure to another, it symbolizes continuity, renewal, and the enduring legacy of Masonic principles. This transition represents a chapter in the ongoing narrative of Masonic governance, where the incoming Provincial Grand Master assumes the responsibility of stewardship over the Craft within the province. Steeped in ritual and reverence, the installation ceremony not only honors the departing leader for their service but also heralds the beginning of a new era under the guidance of the newly appointed Provincial Grand Master.

It is a time for reflection on the achievements of the past, anticipation for the future, and a reaffirmation of the bonds that unite brethren in their shared commitment to the tenets of Freemasonry.

There has been a change of guard at the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in India, as Rt. Wor. Bro. Ardeshir S. Aga handed over the reins of office to Rt. Wor. Bro. Rummy P. Khan as the Provincial Grand Master on 17th February 2024. The Installation ceremony was done by Most Wor. Bro. Rodney L. McCurley, Most Wor. The Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland who had come down to India for the purpose together with the Grand Secretary Rt. Wor. Bro. Philip A. J. Daley. Inter alia, a deputation from District Grand Lodge of India S.C. led by Rt. Wor. District Grand Master witnessed the ceremony.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF THE DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF INDIA S.C.

The bestowal of Honorary District Grand Membership in a Scottish Lodge is a distinguished honour conferred upon an individual who has demonstrated exemplary dedication, service, and commitment to the principles of Freemasonry. It represents the highest recognition bestowed, symbolizing not only his contributions to Freemasonry, but also his embodiment of Masonic virtues.

This esteemed title is bestowed with solemnity and reverence, where the recipient is acknowledged for his outstanding leadership, integrity, and fraternal spirit. As he is welcomed into the ranks of Honorary District Grand Membership, he joins a select group of esteemed brethren entrusted with upholding the traditions and values of Freemasonry within their Lodge and among the broader Masonic community. This honor serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication to the Craft and inspires others to follow in his footsteps, striving for excellence in all aspects of Masonic life.

The District Grand Master of the Scottish Constitution conferred this coveted honour on Rt. Wor. Bro. Ardeshir S. Aga on the occasion of his relinquishing helmsman ship of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Ireland in India on 17th February 2024.



(UNDER THE GRAND LODGE OF ARTIST, FREE, AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF SCOTLAND)
Certificate of Honorary Membership
Whereas the District Grand Lodge of India has bestowed as an appreciation of services
Know ye, that I, Bro. **KIRGI JAMESHEDA LIMATHIMALLA**, District Grand Master, in recognition of
exceptional dedication, unwavering commitment, and profound contributions to the tenets of
Freemasonry, it is with great honour and privilege that we bestow upon
BRO. ARDESHIR SAM AGA
the esteemed title of Honorary Member of the District Grand Lodge of India - Scottish Constitution, in
appreciation of his exemplifying the virtues of brotherly love, relief, and truth which demonstrating a
steadfast commitment to the principles of Freemasonry in both word and deed.
His unwavering support and tireless efforts have enriched our fraternity and strengthened our bonds
of fellowship.
As an Honorary Member, Bro. Ardeshir Sam Aga shall forever hold a cherished place within our
Masonic family, serving as a beacon of inspiration and wisdom to all who follow in his footsteps.
May this commendation stand as a testament to the profound gratitude and respect we hold for Bro.
Ardeshir Sam Aga, and may his legacy continue to illuminate the path of Freemasonry for generations
to come.
Presented this 17th day of February 2024.



BRO. SIDDHESHWAR WALE ASSUMES THE REINS OF LODGE ROYAL JUBILEE NO. 742 SOLAPUR

Visiting a Masonic Lodge is a unique experience that offers insight into the longstanding traditions and rituals of Freemasonry as practiced by individual Lodges. We, from the District, while stepping into the hallowed halls of daughter Lodges, are immediately struck by the aura of solemnity and brotherhood that pervades there. The visit typically begins with a warm welcome from Lodge members, who exemplify the principles of fellowship and mutual respect that Freemasonry upholds.

While observing the time-honored ceremonies and symbolic practices that characterize Masonic gatherings, as also the rituals steeped in symbolism and allegory which convey profound moral lessons serving to strengthen the bonds of fraternity among members. Beyond the ceremonial aspect, visiting a Masonic Lodge provides an opportunity for individuals to engage in meaningful dialogue, share perspectives, and forge connections with like-minded individuals committed to moral and spiritual growth. A visitation to a Masonic Lodge offers a glimpse into a centuries-old institution dedicated to the pursuit of enlightenment, charity, and the advancement of humanity.

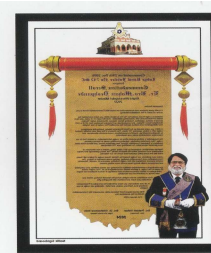
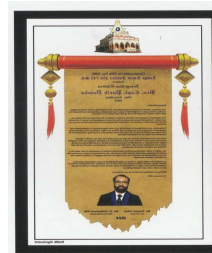
All the above qualities and more were apparent during our visit to Lodge Royal Jubilee at Solapur on 24th February 2024, when Bro Siddheshwar Wale was elevated to the Eastern Chair at the hands of outgoing Master

Bro. Mohan Deshpande. The Stewardship Report of Bro. Deshpande was a treat to peruse as it highlighted multiple events organized throughout the past year, leaving us pondering as to whether any other Lodge can boast of so many events. In appreciation of their services, the brethren of the Lodge presented both the IPM Bro. Mohan Deshpande and the Lodge's dynamic Secretary Bro. Parth Dawda with plaques of appreciation.

Bro. Siddheshwar Wale



RWMs with the D. G. Sec.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

As we approach the mid-point of the Masonic year, it is with great pleasure that we extend warm fraternal greeting to each member of our distinguished fraternity and extend a hearty welcome to attend the Half-Yearly Communication of the District Grand Lodge and the Half Yearly Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.R.A.F.I.C. scheduled to be held on 11th & 12th May, 2024. The events have been organised under the auspices of Lodge Cataract at Belgaum. The Organising Committee, inspired by the motto "*Better Men for a Better World*" has already approached each one of you to register your presence at the event and make the same a grand success.

This Half Yearly Communication/Convocation of the District serves as an essential opportunity for all of us to come together, reflect on our progress thus far, and chart the course for the remainder of the Masonic year. Your active participation and engagement are vital in ensuring the continued success and growth of our District Grand Lodge.

Brethren/Companions, let us reaffirm our commitment to the principles of Freemasonry as we convene for this Half-Yearly Communication/Convocation. Together, let us strengthen the bonds of brotherhood, share knowledge, and inspire one another to uphold the values of our esteemed fraternity. We look forward to seeing you all at the Communication and anticipate a fruitful, inter-active and productive gathering.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR CEREMONIAL REJUVENATED

Freemasonry, being a fraternal organization with a long history and a diverse membership, can exhibit variations in rituals across different lodges within the District. While there are core principles and symbols that remain consistent throughout Freemasonry, the specific rituals and ceremonies can vary based on factors such as geographical location, historical influences, and individual lodge traditions. As a result, individual lodges often develop their own traditions and customs over time and these can include variations in the way certain rituals are performed, unique symbols or regalia used, or specific protocols observed during meetings. Some Lodges may have slight variations in ritual practices, wording, and ceremonial procedures.

Overall, while Freemasonry maintains certain core principles and symbols, the variations in rituals across different lodges add to the richness and diversity of the Masonic experience, allowing each lodge to express its unique identity within the broader framework of the fraternity.

The Sub-Committee for Ceremonials constituted within our District is responsible for planning a uniform approach to the various ceremonial rituals as well as other rites and observances that are central to Masonic tradition and also ensuring that all ceremonies are uniformly conducted with proper decorum and solemnity. Overall, the Ceremonial Committee plays a crucial role in upholding the traditions and values of Freemasonry, and ensuring that its ceremonies are conducted with dignity and reverence. After having discussed the finer points amongst themselves, the Committee under Bro. Farokh Santoke, convened a virtual meeting of all the Scottish Brethren throughout India on Sunday 4th February 2024, when the participants had a fair exchange of views on the ceremonial aspects of Scottish Freemasonry.

WHY THE DECLINE OF FREEMASONRY?

Freemasonry, which enjoyed abundant peace and prosperity later developed into apathy, pleasure became licentiousness, morality and responsibility declined, all of which created an atmosphere leading to inability of Lodges and Masons to withstand prosperity.

In the early years of Freemasonry, emphasis was particularly directed toward needy brothers or their widows and orphans. The community, in which they lived, came to regard Freemasons as generous and caring people, and their individual assistance was also extended to others outside the Craft. Masons were recognized as being "good" people, and it was a real honor to be known as a Mason. There was a general rule of thumb that, on the average, one out of every five applicants would be rejected. This was at a time when Masons would not sponsor a petitioner unless they were not only certain of his moral qualifications, but also that he had talents that would contribute to the Order, and that he would be a credit to Freemasonry.

We have, for many years, suffered a loss in membership. Many good and conscientious Masons have labored at great length to develop programs to reverse this trend. There have been many instances of waived rules, special dispensations, programs of education which amount to actual solicitation. As Freemasonry is purely a moral, philosophical science, how effective will such actions be? How long will members continue after initiation, and will they remain interested when they discover what Freemasonry promises but fails to produce?

It takes time to make a Mason. We freely admit that we can never learn all that can be found in our philosophical science, but we must continually strive for perfection. The problem is that the sands of time are running low in the hour glass. We are becoming too old, and too few.

It is often said that the public does not know for what Freemasonry stands, and that we must cultivate public awareness, or that we must be more active in the community affairs. In the affluence of our prosperity, we lost sight of our guidelines and began deviating from the Ancient Standards, and the Masonic image faded from public recognition. The basic cause of our condition is the fading of the Masonic image in the public eye. If that image had been kept bright and shining, we would be receiving sufficient applicants to replace our natural losses. Loss of membership is not entirely caused by death, but instead, by loss of interest and involvement, failure to pay dues, and lack of attendance. Part of this loss of interest is due to the fact that the member did not understand what he was joining, part is due to his feeling that the Lodge has lost interest in him, as it does very little to further his education, and part is undoubtedly due to his disappointment upon finding that the Lodge is not doing what it proclaims Masons must do.

Over the years, we ignore the generally accepted Masonic Law, and deviate from the Ancient Standards, all in the name of political correctness. The deviation from our standards has resulted in a high percentage of illiterate Masons, blissfully unaware of the true Masonic philosophy. Masonry's greatest success was evident when our public image was brightest. It was the popular thing to become a Mason. Unfortunately, Lodges began contesting for great numbers, and this led to diminished investigations and lowered standards. It also led to failing to promote the masonic education and understanding of new members, as well as ignoring the needs of our brothers and their families -- in other words, forgetting our obligations.

In too many cases, we parrot the ritual but do not absorb the lessons it contains. We do not study or understand Masonic Law, especially that portion concerning traditions, usages, practices and procedures which constitute the unwritten law.

We often hear that we must change Freemasonry, that we must simplify admission, we must abolish memorization, we must shorten the ceremonies, we must publicize our good works, and above all, we must, as Lodges, be vitally active in community affairs. Let us analyze these suggestions. In the first place, Freemasonry is a moral, philosophical science. You may disagree with its philosophy, and adopt some other, but that doesn't change the original philosophy upon which Masonry is based. The Masonic philosophy is not subject to change, you can only deviate from it. The suggestion to simplify admission means lowering the standards of applicants, which overlooks the fact that the Masonic image will not be improved by such procedures. Masons are a special class of people, carefully selected for quality, not quantity. We are told that memorization must be abolished because that is not used in school now, and many people cannot memorize. How have they learned to do so for hundreds of years?

Shortening our ceremonies would be unnecessary if those performing are able to give impressionable performances, sufficient to hold a candidate's interest. Rebuilding the Masonic image depends upon educating and activating the individual Mason. He must be taught the true Masonic philosophy and filled with its spirit, which motivates him to act. He must fully learn, believe in, and be faithful to, his Masonic obligations, and his schoolroom must be his Lodge. Each Lodge must assume its obligation to educate its members, point out their duties, and lead them as they go about their Masonic labors.

It is not the will of the Great Creator that the light of Freemasonry shall be completely extinguished. The developing degradation of the world, the common weakness of humanity, and our tendency to ignore our laws and abandon the Ancient Standards will continue until that light will only dimly flicker in the faithful breast of a very few intelligent and dedicated Freemasons, probably operating in deepest secrecy. Upon the promised return of Holy Rule, it may then be resurrected, a Phoenix, arising from the ashes of the past.

The decline of Freemasonry has been a topic of discussion and speculation in recent times. While Freemasonry's prominence and membership numbers have fluctuated over time, there are several factors that have been suggested to contribute to its decline. One of them is the Changing Social Dynamics meaning Freemasonry historically thrived in an era when fraternal organizations were more common. However, as society has evolved, the need for such organizations has diminished, leading to a decline in membership.

Freemasonry's secretive nature, including rituals and symbols, has led to suspicion and scepticism in some quarters and can be off-putting to potential members. Freemasonry has often been viewed as an exclusive and elitist organization, which can deter individuals who do not feel they fit the perceived mould. The demographic profile of many Freemason lodges skews older, and efforts to recruit younger members have not always been successful. Younger generations may not see the relevance or appeal of joining. Decline in Community Engagement on account of some lodges having to struggle to maintain this level of engagement, further erodes their relevance to broader society.

Other Internal aspects like leadership disputes, financial difficulties, and membership management issues have weakened the cohesion and effectiveness of individual lodges and contribute to overall decline.

Despite these challenges, Freemasonry continues to exist in many parts of the world, and some lodges have undertaken efforts to adapt to changing times by modernizing their practices, increasing community outreach, and revisiting membership criteria. However, the overall trend of declining membership is a significant concern for the future viability of our cherished Order.

VISITATION TO LODGE IMPERIAL BROTHERHOOD NO. 1041 - TRIVANDRUM

Recently, D.G.M. and D. G. Sec had the privilege of embarking on a Masonic visit to a lodge nestled in a bustling city at the Southernmost part of the country, its unassuming exterior belying the profound sense of history and purpose housed within. I am referring to Lodge Imperial Brotherhood now located at Trivandrum, which was once located at The then Bombay and in earlier times boasted of a galaxy of members restricted to those with Royal lineage. We were welcomed with warmth and hospitality, immediately enveloped in an atmosphere of camaraderie and mutual respect. It was evident from the outset that Freemasonry is not merely an organization but a way of life, a brotherhood bound by shared principles and a commitment to self-improvement.

One of the most striking aspects of the Masonic visit was the symbolism woven into every facet of the lodge. From the intricate designs adorning the walls to the solemn rituals conducted within, each element served as a reminder of the fraternity's venerable heritage and enduring values. Beyond the rituals and symbolism, what truly resonated with me during the Masonic visit was the sense of belonging fostered within the fraternity.



Lodge Imperial Brotherhood on Installation day 06.03.2024



Ten pieces Air Mattresses donated by Brethren of Trivandrum to Pallium India at the hands of the DGM- 6th March 2024

Freemasonry transcends boundaries of race, religion, and social status, welcoming individuals from all walks of life into its fold. It is a place where differences are celebrated, and unity is forged through shared ideals and mutual respect. One of the important tenets of Freemasonry is the attribute of Charity practiced by it. In a world often divided by strife and discord, the inclusivity of the charitable inclination of Freemasonry serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us of the inherent goodness that lies within each of us.

We were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to visit the precincts of an N.G.O. in Kerala run by the Social Justice Department situated at Paruthikuzhy, Thiruvananthapuram which works towards alleviation of health related suffering of the unfortunates and to integrate palliative care into the mainstream healthcare. This Institution, under the leadership of one Dr. M. R. Rajagopal, provides holistic palliative care to more than 4000 patients annually, in addition to which they also educate health professionals and volunteers in pain management in consonance with Central and State Governments.

Our Brethren at Trivandrum donated ten Air Mattresses to the centre which were handed over through the hands of our District Grand Master Bro. Kersi Limathwalla, who was considerably impressed with their activities. This visit provided a glimpse into the profound teachings and philosophies that underpin Freemasonry. Central to its ethos is the pursuit of Charity, Benevolence and alleviation of suffering of the world at large. Through such acts of striving to mitigate the woes of the unfortunates, Masons seek to cultivate virtues of compassion, striving to make a positive impact on society and leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



The icing on the cake was a visit organised by our Brethren from Thiruvananthapuram to the serene and pristine beach resort at Kovalam, where we basked in the natural beauty of the surroundings, free of the urban contamination of the elements of nature that we live in. Our grateful thanks to Bro. Commodore Raveendranath Vishwanath who hosted us to a delectable lunch at a local resort.



As I reflect on my visit, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunity to partake in the ancient traditions of Freemasonry and to connect with like-minded individuals on a profound level. The Masonic visit served as a reminder of the enduring relevance of brotherhood, tradition, and enlightenment in an ever-changing world. In embracing these values, we honour the legacy of those who came before us and pave the way for a brighter, more harmonious future.

In conclusion, the Masonic visit was not merely an event but a transformative journey that deepened my understanding of Freemasonry and its timeless principles. It reaffirmed my belief in the power of fraternity, unity, and the pursuit of truth, serving as a guiding light in a world fraught with uncertainty. As I bid farewell to the lodge, I carry with me the lessons learned and the bonds forged, knowing that I am part of a lineage stretching back centuries and a legacy that will endure for generations to come.



BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY WEDDED LIFE

Yasmin and Bro. Rumi P. Khan organised a glittering reception at the “Gallops” at Mahalaxmi to celebrate the wedding of their son Shiroy to Ms. Lola on Friday, 9th February 2024, when amidst a vast gathering, Brethren from Mumbai were present in large numbers.

Bro. Shiroy is a commercial pilot with Air-India Express and is a member of Lodge Zoroaster No. 800 S.C., in the footsteps of his Late grandfather Piroz M. Khan and his father Rummy, who also have been associated with the same Lodge.

We, from the District wish the newly wedded couple a long and happy marital life.

VISITATION TO LODGE HEATHER NO. 928 MUNNAR

Lodge Heather situated at Munnar is nestled amidst breathtaking scenic beauty, characterized by lush greenery, majestic mountains, serene lakes, and sprawling tea estates. The defining feature of any hill station is its undulating landscape adorned with verdant hills covered in a blanket of greenery. These hills offer panoramic views of the surrounding valleys and towns below. Towering peaks dominate the skyline, creating a dramatic backdrop against the horizon. These mountains often showcase rugged cliffs, rocky outcrops, and snow-capped summits, especially in higher altitudes.



Dense forests cloak the slopes of the hills, providing a home to a diverse array of tiered tea plantations. The lush foliage includes towering trees, colorful flowers, and vibrant shrubs, creating a haven for nature lovers. The High Range Club, where we were Lodged during our visit to the Lodge from 8th to 10th March to attend its Installation meeting gets often shrouded in a mist during the early hours of the day, creating an ethereal atmosphere. As the day progresses, the mist lifts, unveiling breath-taking vistas of the surrounding landscape. The evenings are adorned with mesmerizing sunsets, painting the sky in hues of orange, pink, and purple.

The pristine natural beauty of the High Range Club at Munnar

The Installation meeting of Lodge Heather on 8th March 2024 was well conducted by Bro. Manish Singh who acquitted well in installing Bro. Jacob Chacko in the Eastern Chair, and was ably supported by Bro. Pramod Krishna as the Director of Ceremonies and Bro. B. P. Kariappa, Bro. Mathew Abraham and others.



A morning of relaxation amidst nature



No dearth of Flora and fauna in nature's lap



Floral decorations at the Banquet



Magnanimous size of the Sunflowers

The banquet to ensue was attended by nearly a hundred, including invitees and families and turned out to be a gourmet befitting a connoisseur's delight.

VISITATION TO CHAPTER CAMELLIA NO. 871 MUNNAR

9th March 2024 saw the Masonic Temple at Munnar bustling with activities as we witnessed three candidates undergoing the ceremony of advancement in the Mark Master's degree. The visiting deputation of the District comprising of the Bro. Kersi Limathwalla – District grand Master and yours truly as the District Grand Secretary joined in guiding the Companions in the various stages of the ritual. Overall the ceremony performed with dramatic precision was a very satisfying experience for us.

The same evening was the Annual Installation meeting of Chapter Camellia which was performed with gusto by all the Officers enacting their respective roles. MEC Pramod Krishna, as the Installing Principal was an embodiment of confidence while re-installing MEC Manish Singh as the first Principal of the Chapter. MEC Jacob Chacko was installed as the Second Principal and MEC Pramod Krishna occupied the Chair of the third Principal.

The enthusiasm of the Companions remaining unabated, on the morning of the next day, the visiting deputation of the District informally went through the paces of the Excellent Master's degree and the Holy Royal Arch degree with the Companions of the Chapter so that they could perform the same for the incumbent candidates in the coming times.

Overall, the scenic beauty of Munnar as a Hill-station is a harmonious blend of natural wonders, cultural heritage, and outdoor adventures, making it an idyllic destination for travellers seeking solace and rejuvenation amidst the lap of nature.

DGLI VISIT TO THE RGLWI



In response to an invitation from the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India, a Deputation from the District Grand Lodge of India (S.C.) led by our District Grand Master attended their Installation Communication on Saturday, 16th March 2024, when R.W. Bro. Subhash Saraf assumed charge from RW Bro. Yagnesh Thakkar.

The event was attended by over 400 Brethren including Deputations from all the three Sister Constitutions led by their respective Heads witnessing the proceedings which lasted for five hours.

MASONIC QUOTES

Masonic labour is purely a labour of love. He who seeks to draw Masonic wages in gold and silver will be disappointed. The wages of a Mason are in the dealings with one another; sympathy begets sympathy, kindness begets kindness, helpfulness begets helpfulness, and these are the wages of a Mason. [Benjamin Franklin](#)

The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity. Like all things worth knowing, no one can know it for another and no man can know it alone. [William Howard Taft](#)

Masonry was not made to divide men, but to unite them, leaving each man free to think his own thoughts and fashion his own system of ultimate truth. All its emphasis rests upon two extremely simple and profound principles, love of God and love of man. [Joseph Fort Newton](#)

Freemasonry is founded on the immutable laws of Truth and Justice and its grand object is to promote the happiness of the human race. [George Washington](#)

I violate no secret when I say that one of the greatest values in Masonry is that it affords an opportunity for men of all walks of life to meet on common ground where all men are equal and have one common interest. [Theodore Roosevelt](#)

The real secrets of Masonry are never told, not even from mouth to ear. For the real secret of Masonry is spoken to your heart and from it to the heart of your brother. Never the language made for tongue may speak it, it is uttered only in the eye in those manifestations of that love which a man has for his friend, which passeth all other loves. [William Howard Taft](#)

Freemasonry teaches not merely temperance, fortitude, prudence, justice, brotherly love, relief, and truth, but liberty, equality, and fraternity, and it denounces ignorance, superstition, bigotry, lust tyranny and despotism. [Theodore Roosevelt](#)
