

**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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District Grand Secretary/Grand Scribe Ezra



This Newsletter is only meant to convey the news and events under the jurisdiction of the Scottish District, but is not its official periodical. The views expressed herein are solely that of the Editor, and not that of the District.

**EDITORIAL**



*Bro. William Ramsay McGhee*

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Grand Lodge of Scotland shall witness a change of guard at the helm as Bro. William Ramsay McGhee – Most Wor. The Grand Master Mason hands over the reins of office to Bro. Rev. Joseph Joe Morrow.



*M.E.C. Rev. Joseph Joe Morrow*

Also, at the Half Yearly Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Scotland held on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023, The name of Bro. William Ramsay

McGhee has been proposed and confirmed as M. E. the Grand Superintendent of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland.

While we are saddened at our current Grand Master Mason demitting office after a very successful tenure during which he had constantly maintained a global interaction with all the Districts and Provinces, we are at the same time, elated at the news of Bro. Dr. Joseph Joe Morrow being appointed as the next Most Worshipful Grand Master Mason.

Human memory is a marvelous but fallacious instrument. The memories that lie within us are not carved in stone; not only do they tend to become erased as the years go by, but they increase as we ponder over pleasant reminiscences. My memory traverses to the wonderful time we had in the very recent past when Most Wor. Grand Master Mason visited us in February 2023 accompanied by Bro. George Donnelly, Proxy District Grand Master.

**MEMORABLE REMINISCENCES OF GRAND MASTER'S VISIT TO INDIA**

*At the Airport*



*After the meeting of Lodge Heather at Munnar*



*At the District Office*



The best things in life are the people you admire, the places you've seen and the memories you've made along the way. Some memories are unforgettable, remaining ever vivid and heartwarming! There comes a time in your life when you have to choose to turn the page or simply close it. In other words, memory is the diary we all carry about with us.

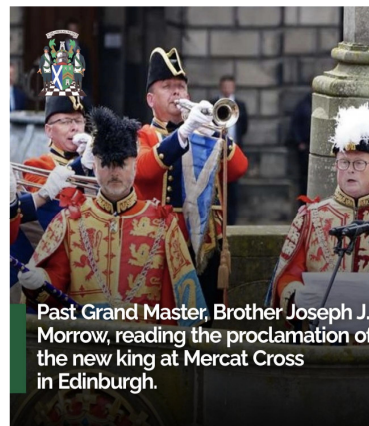
The incumbent First Grand Principal Most Wor. Bro. Joseph Joe Morrow is no stranger to our District. We cherish with nostalgic reminiscence his visit to India with Office bearers of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland in November 2018 when he had endeared himself to one and all with his amicable disposition and pleasing countenance.



Brethren in India will welcome his appointment, especially after his memorable visit to Hyderabad as the Most Excellent First Grand Principal of the Supreme Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland

Bro. Morrow is not just a prominent Mason but a highly decorated citizen of the UK and close to the Royal family. The telecast of the funeral of HRH Late Queen Elizabeth and the coronation of HRH King Charles III on the Television screen bore testimony to the prominent role played by him in the Royal Ceremonies. As the Lord Lyon King of Arms, he read the proclamation of the new King at Mercat Cross in Edinburgh. He then declared "God save the King" and the crowd shouted the phrase back to him. After the singing of 'God save the King', the national anthem was sung, and Lord Lyon led three cheers, saying "Hip hip", to which the crowd replied with "Hooray!". The proclamation was followed by a 21-gun salute from the city's castle.

Bro. Morrow was appointed in February 2014 by the HRH Queen Elizabeth. His responsibilities include overseeing state ceremonial in Scotland, the granting of new Arms to individuals or organisations, recognising Clan Chiefs, and confirming claims to existing Arms. In addition, he registers and records new Clan Tartans.



Past Grand Master, Brother Joseph J. Morrow, reading the proclamation of the new king at Mercat Cross in Edinburgh.

### **LANDMARKS OF THE ORDER**

During our obligation as Masters, we undertake to owe allegiance to the Ancient Customs and Landmarks of the Order, but many Brethren have little or no inkling about the term 'Masonic landmarks'. They could be safely defined as a set of ancient principles and precepts of Masonry. The context of landmarks could be applied when determining the "regularity" of a Lodge. However, the interpretations of these landmarks could vary, since each Grand Lodge is self-governing, with no single body exercising authority over the whole of Freemasonry.

By and large, the landmarks could be defined as under:-

- 01 The fraternal modes of recognition is perhaps the most important and accepted across all Constitutions.
- 02 The division of Masonry into 3 symbolic degrees i.e. Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason (though of later origin), and including the Holy Royal Arch.
- 03 The integrity of the symbolic legend of Hiram Abiff in the third degree. The Legend has been well preserved as the same is practiced universally across all Constitutions, though the lectures may vary.
- 04 The government of the fraternity by a presiding Officer (i.e. Grand Master) who bears the authority to govern the Order and whose office is indebted for its existence to a Landmark of the Order.
- 05 The prerogative of the Grand Master to preside over every assembly of the Craft, wheresoever and whensoever held. It is in consequence of this law, derived from ancient usage, and not from any special enactment, that the Grand Master is entitled to preside at the communication of every Subordinate Lodge, where he may happen to be present.
- 06 The prerogative of the Grand Master to issue dispensations for conferring degrees at irregular intervals; and to forego the requirement of time to elapse between the presentation of a petition and the election of a candidate. The Grand Master also has the power to set aside or dispense with this probation, and allow a candidate to be initiated at once.
- 07 The prerogative of the Grand Master to issue dispensations for opening and holding Lodges otherwise not established. He may grant, by virtue of this, to a sufficient number of Masons, the privilege of meeting together and conferring degrees. The Lodges thus established are

called "Lodges under Dispensation.

- 08 The prerogative of the Grand Master to make Masons at Sight is the conferring of the degrees by the Grand Master, at once, in an occasional Lodge, constituted by his dispensing power for the purpose, and over which he presides in person. The real and only mode of exercising the prerogative is that The Grand Master summons to his assistance not less than six other masons, convenes a Lodge, and without any previous probation, but in sight of the candidate, confers the degrees upon him, after which he dissolves the Lodge and dismisses the brethren.
- 09 The necessity for Masons to congregate in Lodges. This prescribes that Masons should from time to time congregate together, for the purpose of either operative or speculative labor, and that these congregations should be called Lodges.
- 10 The government of Lodges is to be by a Master and two Wardens. The presence of a Master and two Wardens is as essential to the valid organization of a Lodge as a warrant of the constitution is at the present day.
- 11 The necessity that every Lodge when congregated be duly tiled. The necessity of this law arises from the esoteric character of Masonry. The office of Tyler is wholly independent of any special enactment of Grand or Subordinate Lodges, and the duty of guarding the door which involves keeping off cowans and eavesdroppers.
- 12 The right of every Mason to be represented in all general meetings of the Craft.
- 13 The Right of every Mason to appeal against the decision of his brethren in Lodge convened, to the Grand Lodge or General Assembly of Masons. This is highly essential for the preservation of justice, and the prevention of oppression.
- 14 The right of every Mason to sit in every regular Lodge. This is called "the right of visitation" which has always been recognized as an inherent right, which inures to every Mason as he travels through the world. This right may, of course, be impaired or forfeited on special occasions by various circumstances; but when admission is refused to a Mason in good standing, who is desirous of visiting a Lodge as a visitor, it is to be expected that some good and sufficient reason shall be furnished for this violation, of what is in general a Masonic right, founded on the Landmarks of the Order.
- 15 No visitor, unknown to the brethren present, or to some of them as a Mason, can enter a Lodge without first passing an examination according to ancient usage. Of course, if the visitor is known to any brother present to be a Mason in good standing, and if that brother will vouch for his qualifications, the examination may be dispensed with, as the Landmark refers only to the cases of strangers, who are not to be recognized unless after strict trial, due examination, or lawful information.
- 16 No Lodge can interfere in the business of another Lodge nor give degrees to brethren who are members of other Lodges. This is founded on the principles of courtesy and fraternal kindness, which are at the very foundation of our institution.
- 17 Every Freemason be amenable to the laws and regulations of the Jurisdiction in which he resides and this although he may not be a member of any Lodge. Non-affiliation, which, in fact, in itself a Masonic offense, does not exempt a Mason from Masonic Jurisdiction.
- 18 Candidates for Freemasonry should be required to meet certain qualifications like being a man, being un mutilated, free-born, and of mature age. A woman, a cripple, or a slave, or one born in slavery, is disqualified for initiation into the rites of Masonry.
- 19 A belief in the existence of God as the Great Architect of the Universe. It has been always deemed essential that a denial of the existence of a Supreme and Superintending Power is an absolute disqualification for initiation. An avowed atheist can never be made a Mason.

- 20 A belief in a resurrection to a future life is a requirement for membership. To believe in Masonry, and not to believe in a resurrection, would be an absurd anomaly, which could only be excused by the reflection, that he who thus confounded his belief and his skepticism, was so ignorant of the meaning of both theories as to have no rational foundation for his knowledge of either.
- 21 A "Volume of Sacred Laws" shall constitute an indispensable part of the furniture of every Lodge and it is that volume which, by the religion of the country and of the members, is believed to contain the revealed will of the Grand Architect of the universe.
- 22 The equality of Masons has no reference to any subversion of those gradations of rank which have been instituted by the usages of society. The doctrine of Masonic equality implies that, as children of one great Father, we meet in the Lodge upon the level and that on that level, we are all traveling to one predestined goal. In the Lodge, genuine merit shall receive more respect than boundless wealth, and that virtue and knowledge alone should be the basis of all Masonic honors, and be rewarded with preferment.
- 23 The secrecy of the Institution is an important landmark. Freemasonry is not a secret society. Its design is vaunted by its disciples as something to be venerated; its disciples are known, for its membership is considered an honor to be coveted; it works for a result of which it boasts, the civilization, and reformation of his manners.
- 24 The foundation of a speculative science upon an operative art, and the symbolic use and explanation of the terms of that art for purposes of moral teaching. All the comparatively modern rites of Masonry, however they may differ in other respects, religiously preserve this temple history and these operative elements, as the substratum of all their modifications of the Masonic system.
- 25 None of these landmarks can be changed. Nothing can be subtracted from them-nothing can be added to them-not the slightest modification can be made in them. As they were received from our predecessors, we are bound by the most solemn obligations, of duty to transmit them to our successors. Not one jot or one tittle of these unwritten laws can be repealed.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, understanding the above 25 points to be a summary of Masonic "common law", seven of them were adopted:

- a) Belief in a Supreme Being.
- b) Belief in immortality.
- c) That a "book of sacred law" is an indispensable part of the "furniture" (or furnishings) of the Lodge.
- d) The legend of the Third Degree.
- e) Secrecy (not specifying as to what).
- f) Symbolism of operative masonry.
- g) That a Mason must be a man, freeborn, and of lawful age.

### **CHARITY DRIVE**

Benevolence is an act of kindness or an inclination to be kind; a desire to do good to others; goodwill; to be filled with benevolence toward one's fellow creatures. Such humane considerations are essentially a part of the psyche of us Freemasons, who regularly organise Charity Projects.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023, District Grand Lodge of India joining hands with Grand Chapter USRAFIC and our Scottish District Ladies Wing, gifted medical supplies to a Hospice functioning under the name of 'Shanti Avedna Sadan'. Established in the year 1986 by Dr. Luis Jose De Souza at Bandra West, he continues to function as its Managing Trustee and regularly visits the Hospice regularly even at the age of 79. Shanti means Peace,

*Delivering DGLI's relief materials*



*The outer facade of the Hospice*



Avedna signifies absence of pain and Sadan is a Home to all who need it irrespective of community, caste or creed.



The visit was the brainchild of our District Grand Master, who in keeping with the Masonic virtues, holds as his prime mission, Charitable activities for the amelioration of poverty and providing relief to the unfortunate, the needy and the deprived. Pursuant to the visit, he recounted that the Hospice caters to mostly the chronically afflicted who await that solemn moment when the Soul takes wings to the realms above at the beck and call of the Almighty. As a result, the institution witnessed as many as fifty demises of the inmates in a month.

### **REVIVIFICATION OF LODGE K. R. CAMA NO. 1366 S. C., NAGPUR**

It is a travesty of providence that constituents of as Noble an Order as Freemasonry have occasionally, fallen into hard times. With the rapid-paced modern lifestyle, the youth inducted in its fold, is perhaps not well acquainted with the high ideals, subtleties, and nuances that Freemasonry encompasses in its bosom. One such case obviously preponderant is that of Lodge K. R. Cama No. 1366 S.C. founded in Mumbai in the year 1930.



Named after no less a personality than the universally renowned doyen of Masonry in India, it was once a thriving Lodge with many a famous Mason on its roll. As fate would have willed, it fell in bad times with a dwindling membership and with an eye to its resurgence, the Lodge was transferred to Nagpur in the year 2003. Things were hunky dory until the year 2015 when disaster struck, in the form of mass exodus by Brethren bowing to pressure from certain local unmasonic powers to be.

*Historical Installation Night*



With the membership complement reaching its nadir, the Lodge became inoperative with the advent of the unfortunate COVID pandemic. But the never-say-die spirit of its RWM Bro. Mehernosh Mavalwala could not be daunted easily. Standing tall as a rock, he carried on the activities delving deep into his own resources to convene informal assemblages with an aim towards adhesion of the brethren in fraternal bondage.

*Truly Masonry knows no boundaries*



Between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2023, we, from the District deemed it essential to visit Nagpur to revitalize the Lodge to its pristine glory and what an event it was!!!! To our utter surprise, in a show of true fraternal solidarity,

*With supportive Brethren*



Bro. Mavalwala had mustered the support of Brethren from other Constitutions in convening and holding an impressive communication of the Lodge where over 25 were present. It was sheer pleasure for me to install Group Captain Bro. Digvijay Mohbe in the Eastern Chair.

The prevalence of camaraderie and fraternal bon-homie reassured us of the essentiality of resuscitating the Lodge, what with so many brethren coming forward! Next day, an initiate of the Lodge was passed to the Fellow craft degree at the hands of our D.G.M. amid an impressive concourse.

*Flag Hoisting on Independence Day*



With the National Independence Day coinciding on our day of return, the local Brethren across Constitutions assembled at the Freemasons' Hall grounds to hoist the National Tricolour.

*Eco-friendly environment*



*Outside Freemasons' Hall*



DGM and myself were pleasantly surprised to find ourselves as the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Prior to the ensuing refreshments, saplings were planted at our hands in the compound, keeping the ecological green environment in mind.

*Greenery is essential*



## **LODGE SILVERY DAWN NO. 7700 E.C.**

Lodge Silvery Dawn, Constitution, is one of those innovative ideas very often, to us to partake in their with its convention, it had meeting on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> that all the attendees don a



belonging to the English Lodges which comes up with and also extends invitations celebrations. In keeping organised its regular August 2023 with a proviso traditional ethnic dress.

In keeping with our cordial Constitutions, our District Grand Master Bro. Limathwalla and District Grand Secretary were invited as guests at the meeting. It was a unique but pleasant experience for all present as the vast variety of Indian Ethnical wear was preponderantly conspicuous.

relationship with sister

The meeting was followed by a banquet where a traditional South Indian dinner was hosted at a ladies' night that followed where the fare served was devoured with lip-smacking delight.

## **NEWS FROM SOLAPUR**

The roots of all goodness lie in the soil of appreciation for goodness. Feeling grateful or appreciative of someone or something actually attracts more of the things that you appreciate and value into your life. In a similar vein, we need to appreciate the toil and labour put into by some of our Brethren during their prolonged service to Freemasonry. With a firm belief in that maxim, and as a gesture of appreciation, on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Lodge Royal Jubilee No. 742 S.C. honoured some of its Brethren who had completed 25 years of service to Freemasonry. The recipients were Bro. Ravi Hegde and Zubin Amariya. Also on the list of the honorees was Bro. Dilip Bachuwar, who continued to offer his services at the age of 76.



Also, the greatness of a culture lies in its festivals. The festival of lights, more popularly known as Diwali or Deepavali is a time to illuminate the world with positivity and love. We Indians, embrace the diversity of Indian festivals and celebrate the unity they symbolize. Rt. Wor. Master of Lodge Royal Jubilee informs me that the brethren that Lodge with their spouses of celebrated Diwali by lightning 108 oil lamps. Also, on the occasion a specially designed 'Akash Kandil' giving message of Truth, Brotherly love, Relief and Morality was launched and delicious sweets were distributed to all families.



Mrs. Sharlet Arun Mane, wife of the caretaker of the Lodge building late Mr. Arun Mane was felicitated by the Lodge on her 60th Birthday and a celebration cake was cut on this occasion and greetings were shared and tasty snacks were devoured.