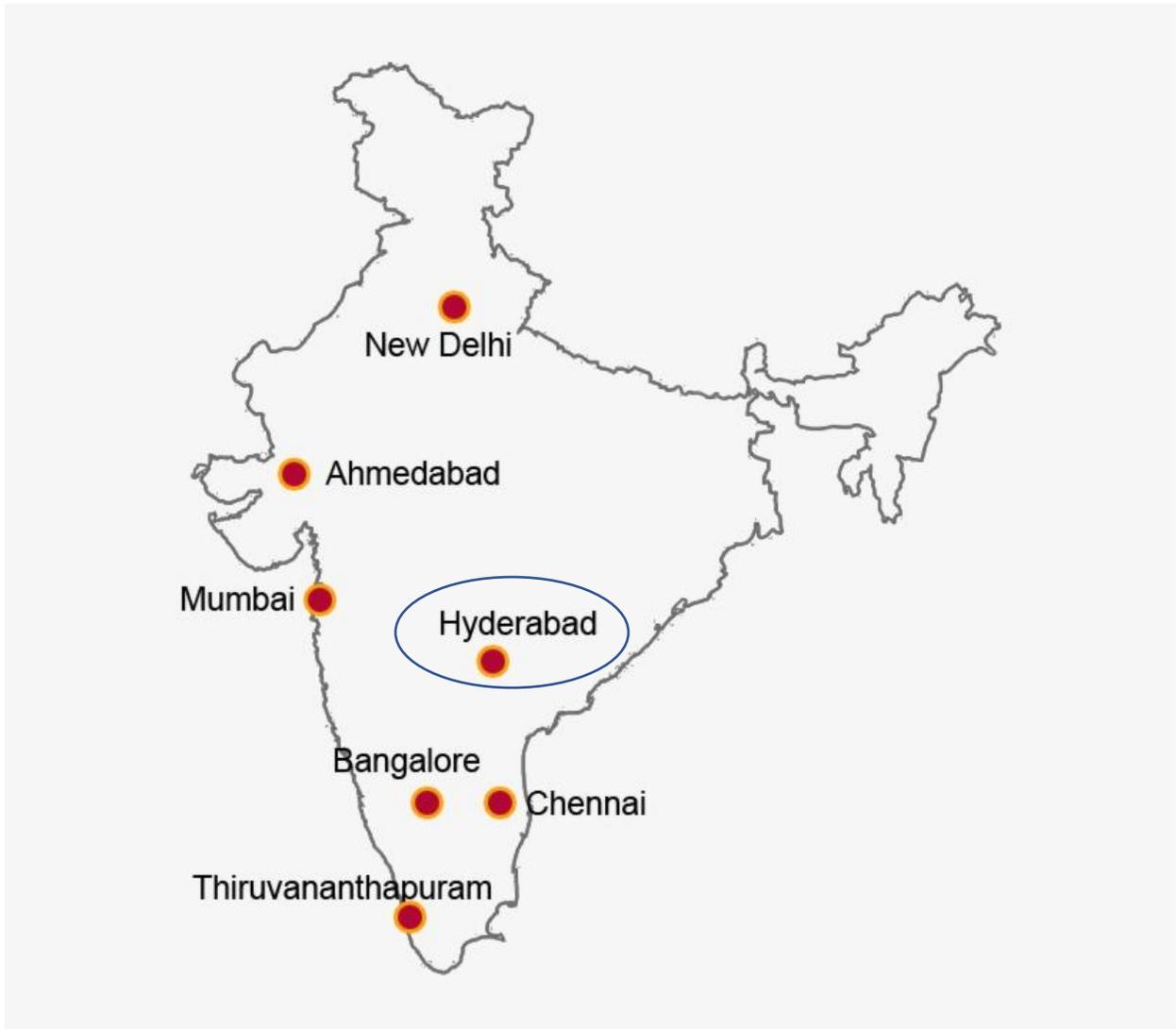




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# PROBUS CLUB HYDERABAD

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# Story of Probus Club Hyderabad

**Source: Probus Global March 2021 article**



**Ram Mukherjee**

**Founding President, PCH**



**Dr. RHG Rau**

**President, PCH**

It is with great pleasure we are introducing Probus Club of Hyderabad to Probus Global.

Hyderabad was a princely state of South Central India, founded in 1591 by Nizam Qamar-ud-din Khan. After independence, it became an integrated part of India. With a population of about 10 million the city has grown enormously last two decades. Known for its monuments and heritage structures, Hyderabad is a hub of Information Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals and Genetic Research. The city has 34 Rotary Clubs, but only one Probus Club.

During 1985-86, Parliamentarian Minoos Masani was speaking on 'Right to die with dignity' and told a story of elderly Gopal Mandlik of over 80 who felt his life mission had come to an end. Since under the law, attempt to suicide was a crime, he wrote to successive Prime Ministers Morarji Desai and Indira Gandhi requesting them to change the law so that he could legally put an end to his life. With no reply for over two years, he got impatient and did what he wanted with a dying declaration. "I have waited long enough. I have now decided to act in accordance with my conscience."

This led to a few distinguished elders, under Ram Mukherjee's initiative, coming together and making remaining part of their life worth-living, active through fun, fellowship and social interaction having an impact on quality of life and mortality.

At that time The Probus Centre—South Pacific, formed in 1981, was active to make Probus popular, and thus Probus Club of Hyderabad, formed with the help of several senior Rotarians was accredited by Probus Center-South Pacific on 27th Oct .1998. Our Club is a Combined Club with a total membership of 42. We follow the Constitution of Probus Center – South Pacific and our bylaws are written without violating any clause of the Constitution. When necessary, we modify the bylaws for efficient running of the Club.

The procedure of admission of new members into the Club is rather elaborate. The admission is by invitation. The proposed candidate is required to attend two meetings of the Club as a guest of the proposer to familiarize himself with the club members and support a home visit before induction. Later, he/she goes through usual induction procedure.

The primary objective of our club is fellowship and intellectual stimulation. We meet on last Sunday of every month over lunch and invite well-known speakers on various topics of interest. Sharing of experiences by our own members is also encouraged. The Club brings out Newsletter every month detailing functioning of the club during the month.

Around the middle of every month, we organize fellowship meetings (lunch-meetings) generally arranged in a resort or hotels where the members display their entertainment skills, play games, tell jokes and have festive time.

Several of our past members are of advanced age. We keep contact with them and invite them on special occasions like Club Foundation Day. The oldest member of our club is 104 years old, and we have two members of 95 + years old and ten members between 80 to 90.

The club celebrated 20<sup>th</sup>. anniversary in 2018 and on that occasion, we brought out a coffee table book compiling the history of the club. The club elections are held in Feb. each year to elect President, Vice president, Secretary, Joint Secretary, Treasurer and two committee members. The immediate past president is an ex-officio member of the committee. The managing committee is assisted by five sub-committees, namely Publication Committee, Membership Committee, Programme Committee, Fellowship Committee and Facilitation Committee.

We have a plan to bring in all the Probus Clubs in India together, and create PROBUS INDIA. We hope we will soon achieve this goal.

# Ram Mukherjee, Founding President Probus Club Hyderabad

***Source: Probus Global Interest Groups***

Our Founder President, Probian Ram Mukherjee, popularly known as Ram, was Born in a tiny but a picturesque village, Piashula , abounding with flora and fauna , in Birbhum district of West Bengal, on 3rd July 1935 . Pr.Ram , had his early schooling here. Right from childhood, he was fond of reading books on diverse subjects, written by famous authors. The Country's Freedom Struggle was at its peak at the time ,and the clarion call given by the Great Leaders of the Day to the youth of the Country , to come forward and serve the Country and the Community , left a deep impression on the young Ram , which became the Leading light and the Guiding Principle for the Rest of his Life .Thus, he was drawn to Community Service and it started in a small way with offering his helping hand for building Roads , cleaning the lakes etc in the village.

After obtaining his Degree in Science from Calcutta University, he worked for a short while in the local Refugee Camp, consoling and counseling the hapless and homeless Refugees. Thereafter he worked as a teacher briefly in the local Secondary School. In pursuit of his ambition, to go for higher studies, he went to West Germany, for Specialized Training in Fermentation Technology and research work for citric acid. As a Member of the USIS (United States Information Service), his thirst for knowledge and doing Research work, increased enormously. He did Research work in Citric Acid and was closely associated with the first plant to produce citric acid in India in Citric India Ltd., Nasik. He underwent advanced courses on winemaking at Oenological Research Institute, U.K and Wine Institute, Davis, California. He was awarded Fellowship by British Bottlers' Institute, U.K. During his professional career he provided his expertise to set up several wineries and produced sparkling wine (Champagne) in a winery in Nasik with French collaboration. During his work with the TATA group for 15 years in their alcoholic beverage department he developed several brands of alcoholic drinks winning appreciation certificate from the company. He worked with ' Khoday Group' in Bangalore and was associated with a champagne –making project with French collaboration. In this group he was also in-charge of all their franchise distilleries as vice president of the company.

During his long association, with the Tata group, he visited several countries and interacted with the Tasters of Renowned Distilleries and Wineries in the World. He contributed to the framing of the ISI standards for Indian Table Wines as a Member of the Wine Subcommittee of Indian Standard Institution. He was the Quality Consultant for PEPSI for a year after his retirement. He along with an Indian-American partner (friend) started a wine consultancy firm and was offering Consultancy Services to Wine Industries in India, keeping himself fully busy in the field which he loves immensely. However, during the recession the firm was closed.

He joined Rotary Club in 1983 and became the President of Rotary Club of Deolali in 1985. It was here, that he got the idea of founding a Club for Senior Citizens, after listening to a Talk by Minoo Masani, a renowned Parliamentarian, and thus the PROBUS CLUB OF HYDERABAD was born on 4th Sept 1998. He not only started the Club but looked after it and nurtured it with great care, first as a Founder President and thereafter as a Member of the Management Committee. He was also a Member of the Masonic Lodge and held key positions in that Organization as MASTER of the lodge as well as in the district level. As the first president of 'Amruta valley welfare association' Banjara hills Road no. 12 for continuously several years he contributed to the development of the gated complex.

In 1969, he married Nanda, who was born and brought up in Chirala (A.P). After completing her graduation and B.Ed. she took the course of Montessori teaching from AMI (Association of Montessori International) and worked as a teacher for more than 30 years and is presently teaching at the Nasar School in Hyderabad. She was the first lady ROTARIAN of Deolali Rotary club. Ram & Nanda have two lovely daughters, Moushumi and Shikha. Moushumi is a Master of Speech Pathology from Reading University, U.K. and is married and well settled in Canada. Shikha is an MBA, married and wellsettled in Canada. She is now working in ALBERTA HEALTH in HRD. Both their daughters are fully associated with the Rotary Movement from childhood. Moushumi was President of Interact Club and Shikha was Secretary of Rotaract Club.