



# GRAND LODGE OF INDIA

MW Bro. Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal, OSM  
Grand Master

## FROM THE GRAND MASTER'S DESK



My Dear Brethren,

The current Dispensation has completed six months in office after taking over the reins of the Grand Lodge and I must say that these days have been very hectic, productive, activity oriented and joyous. It was a time when we did many productive work, sorted out lots of pending and leftover work and, above all, relentlessly pursued the glorious Principles and Tenets of the Institution.

The welfare and happiness of the fraternity was and shall always remain our only aim and we pursued the same with lots of vigour, vitality and enthusiasm. I am ably assisted by the Deputy and the Assistant Grand Master in achieving our common aim of instilling a sense of discipline and belonging to the Institution amongst the Brethren and the Lodges. The Grand Wardens, President of the Board, the Registrar have worked tirelessly to improve the overall working and have devoted many hours in streamlining the affairs of the Grand Lodge. I am sincerely thankful to each one of them. My Special thanks to R.W. Bro. Sanjiv Gandhi, the Grand Treasurer for his untiring and persistent work in bringing all the accounts of the GLI up to date on a daily basis. He got the Accounts of the GLI finalized and audited within a record time of 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

The Grand Secretary of course was required to work the most and R.W. Bro. Vishal Bakshi has put in his best foot forward in tackling some very sensitive and precarious matters. He is very meticulous in his working and has a very positive approach. Under his guidance, the Grand Lodge has become proactive and dynamic. A word of appreciation is also due for the Grand Chaplain R.W. Bro. T.N. Manoharan for his outstanding Orations and Recitation of the various Prayers in different ceremonies. Well done all of you and thanks.

My brethren, the basic concept of Freemasonry is to be Happy and communicate happiness. A candle does not lose anything, when it lights another one, so is happiness, which only grows with sharing. Remember my brethren, Life smiles at you, when you are happy, but life salutes you when you make others happy. The time we spent with our brethren whether in the Lodge or outside, should be full of Joy and cheerfulness, and Freemasonry has no place for jealousy, back biting or bickering on petty matters.

Remember also the 3 As of spreading happiness amongst others. They are Attention, Affection and Appreciation. All these attributes are absolutely free and should be spent by each one of us like a millionaire. You lose nothing but everybody gains a lot. What a win-win situation? My Brethren, always try to be happy, initially it will become your Looks, gradually your habit and finally your personality. This is the primary teaching of Masonry and each one of us must imbibe these traits.

In February 2019, R.W. Bro. Anish Kumar Sharma was installed as the new Regional Grand Master of the Regional Grand Lodge of Northern India and he has begun well. Amongst other things, he has envisaged another Show Case Project of a fully equipped and modern Eye Hospital at Janpath, which would cater to all sections of the society in equal measures. This will be another feather in the cap of the Northern region and the Grand Lodge will also be a Partner in Service with them. The brethren and other institutions of the Northern region also rose to the occasion and contributed handsomely towards this noble project. I exhort all of you to join the Northern Region in this worthy project. We wish R.W. Bro. Anish Sharma a very successful tenure in office and are confident that under his dynamic stewardship, the Region will grow leaps and bounds. Brethren such Show Case Projects are the need of the hour for Freemasonry and each and every Lodge should strive to create one such project for itself.

The Grand Lodge has also identified "Operation Jyoti" and "Gyan Daan" as two of the basic but long term projects of the Grand Lodge and post Grand Board sanction, the Grand Lodge will issue a detailed Circular to all lodges to inculcate these Grand Lodge Projects in each and every lodge. Operation Jyoti will be in two parts. First, it will revive the "Jyothirgamaya" Projects afresh and secondly will promote "IOL and other Eye Surgeries", in which Grand Lodge will be a Partner with the Lodges and the Regions who take up these projects. Gyan Daan will motivate individual Lodges to identify deserving students for their educational assistance, in which GLI, Regions and the Lodges will be Joint Partners in Service. Necessary details will soon follow.

My brethren, recently we had to take some tough decisions and the fall out is unpleasant. When Individuals start feeling that they are greater and larger than the Institution, it becomes a warning sign for the Institution. When Lodges feel that it would be their way or the highway, the Institution as a whole suffers. We at the Grand Lodge are sure that no Mason or the Lodge is bigger than the great Institution of the Freemasonry and to uphold that Principle, we had to take some unpleasant and unprecedented steps to curb rank indiscipline. No Grand Master wants to be harsh to any Brother or the Lodges under his command, so long as the

Brethren and the Lodges do not cross the red line. Once crossed, these erring Lodges and Brethren are no longer the masters of their Masonic destiny and must be prepared to face the unpleasant consequences of their un-Masonic actions. Nothing can be gained by spoiling the credibility of the Grand Lodge worldwide, by inappropriate circulations of WhatsApp and Facebook messages. These

brethren are spoiling the credibility of the very institution of which they are proud members. Once they choose to do so, they make themselves open to reactions in equal measures. Brethren, I exhort you all, to generously use the Social Media only to promote Peace and Concord amongst the Brethren and public at large.

We were fortunate to have Foundation Stone laying Ceremonies, Consecration of new Craft and Chapters, 60 and 50 years Long Term Service Jewels presentations, inauguration of the new Masonic Temples, Centenary and Golden Jubilee Celebrations and many other heart warming events within this short time and all kudos to the concerned Regions, Lodges and the Brethren for having organised them brilliantly. Keep it up brethren and we look forward to many more of such events.

I sign off now and will be writing to you all from time to time. In the meanwhile, be happy and "Keep Smiling".

**Rajeev Ramkrishna Khandelwal**