



Stamp of Impact



The Governor of Maharashtra, Shri S.C. Jamir and his wife Shrimati Alemla, being greeted by A.H.Tobaccowala-Chairman, Impact India and Zelma Lazarus, CEO of Impact



Shri S.C. Jamir releasing the stamp along with A.H.Tobaccowala. Zelma and M.S.Bali (extreme right) Chief Post Master General of Maharashtra Circle applaud



Shri S.C. Jamir releasing Impact India's book- "Creating Rainbows" with Zelma, as A.H.Tobaccowala and M.S.Bali look on



Close-up of the unveiled stamp



Avantika Akerkar (on left) and Tara Sharma read excerpts from the Impact India's book "Creating Rainbows"



Ashramshala girl students with Shri. S.C. Jamir and his wife

A National Postage stamp was released on Impact India's Lifeline Express(LLE) by His Excellency the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri S.C. Jamir on May 12, 2009 at the Governors residence (Raj Bhavan) to a select audience, in recognition of the pioneering achievements of this acclaimed project. The Governor also released Impact India's Book "Creating Rainbows--an inspirational journey" documented by Rima Kashyap.

Avantika Akerkar and Tara Sharma, noted film and theatre actors read excerpts from the Book which were interspersed with clippings from Gerry Troyna's film for the BBC on the Lifeline Express.

Girl students on their very first visit to the city from Daggadipada Kurnze Ashramshala, (village residential school) in Vikramgad, Thane District, Maharashtra, opened the programme with invocations.

Governor Shri S. C. Jamir wrote in the Visitor's Book of the Lifeline Express Mobile Clinic which was stationed at Raj Bhavan:

"Human sufferings can be remedied by the efforts of philanthropic organizations. As long as we don't see the image of God in every individual, human sufferings shall continue. I hope Impact India Foundation will continue in the compassionate service of the people."

Lifeline Express gets Dental unit

A Dental Unit was inaugurated on the Lifeline Express on May 28, 2009 at Jabalpur Railway Station, Madhya Pradesh State. The unit with a Dental chair and accessories is sponsored by Neil Sikka of Barbican Dental Care, London, U.K. With the addition of Dental services Impact India has increased its free-of-cost treatment for the rural poor – already in place are surgeries for Orthopaedic, Vision, Hearing and Cleft Lips.

While inaugurating the Dental unit Mr. Hariranjn Rao, the Collector & District Magistrate of Jabalpur, praised Impact India's dedication to reversing disability and gave his commitment to support all projects. Mr. Rao has been very active in providing the Government's total support with four Lifeline Express projects in Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Sikka not only donated the Dental unit but also served on the Lifeline Express. He was ably supported by Dr. Rajesh Dhiravani and other Dentists from the local Dental College.

Neil Sikka wrote in the LLE' Visitor's Book: "To have been given the opportunity to sponsor the Dental unit on the Lifeline Express has been both an honour and a privilege. Spending time with Zelma, Neelam, Col Vishwen and all the team reinforces your belief in the good things done in the world. Their dedication has resulted in such an amazing project that is a true inspiration to all. I look forward to being involved for many years to come."



Neil Sikka stands next to the Dental unit donated by him on the Lifeline Express



Neil Sikka is all smiles outside the Dental room



Neil Sikka inaugurates the Dental unit with an extraction



Zelma Lazarus welcomes Neil Sikka and Collector of Japalpur, during the inauguration

First person account- Neil Sikka

"Sponsoring the dental unit of the Lifeline Express gave me an opportunity to see the daily life of the train as well as meeting those closely associated with it. Travelling to Jabalpur for inauguration, I observed at first hand just how dedicated all the team are. Hearing the stories about how Lifeline came about and its evolution since inception in 1991 was enthralling."

"The enthusiasm of the CEO, Zelma Lazarus is infectious and I found myself on the edge of my seat waiting for the next instalment."

"I did not appreciate just how large the project would be or the planning involved. Meeting the surgeons who had donated their time to provide free, much needed surgery in order to change peoples' lives forever only spurred me in my wish to become more involved."

"Commencing the dental camp I treated many patients who had never seen a dentist before and who must have been in some considerable pain for many years. Their gratitude for treatment illustrated just how important the new dental service will be in the future."

"It is an honour and an immense privilege to be part of the Lifeline Express and I look forward to continuing my involvement for many years to come."

Neil Sikka BChD
Principal
Barbican Dental Care
London -UK

The Magic Train story

Viewers responses to BBC film



Gerry Troyna speaks a few words at the stamp release function

Last year, British film-maker Gerry Troyna spent many months in India, observing and capturing the Lifeline Express project in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh.

Commissioned by BBC4, Gerry tracked the project in great detail right from the start- before the train arrived at the platform till after it had left for a new destination.

Gerry has documented all the nuances which go into making the train a magical and miraculous journey. He has portrayed varied emotions ranging from doom, fear, hope and joy to showcase the lives of the simple existence of rural Indians. All this against the trials and challenges faced by the administrative head of the Lifeline Line Express, Col. Vishwen Singh.

After it was broadcast on BBC4 on 26 March, 2009, we have been steadily receiving an overwhelming response from viewers in UK. We are grateful to Gerry for having delved into Impact India's soul and revealing that magic and miracles are all about believing and never giving up.

Thank you Gerry and BBC for this soul-stirring film.

48 Television



PETE CLARK'S CHOICE

INDIA'S HOSPITAL TRAIN — THE LIFELINE EXPRESS

9pm, BBC4

India is a big place and medical care is hard to come by in many of its vast territories. The solution to the problem was an ingenious one: if the people can't get to the hospital, then the hospital must go to the people. Hence the introduction of what is affectionately known as the Magic Train, which makes its way round the 70,000km of India's railway tracks. The train is staffed by volunteers, is fully equipped with operating theatres, and treatment costs nothing. This subcontinental tale is more heartwarming than Slumdog Millionaire.



Above and below, articles from various London press, quoting the film to be "more heartwarming than slumdog millionaire" and "a stroke of genius"

Critics' choice



India's Hospital Train: Lifeline Express 9.00-10.00 BBC4

The train in question is the Lifeline Express, a travelling hospital backed by international charity Impact (www.impact.org.uk) which visits India's rural poor communities offering free treatments and surgery. With its state-of-the-art equipment and team of specialised doctors and plastic surgeons, the train is seen as something of a miracle (our preview DVD was originally called 'The Magic Train') in the towns it visits, with people nearly causing riots to get on board, and some even lying on the tracks to stop it from leaving.

The colourful and engaging film follows a selection of patients who go to seek help there. As with any good idea, there is room for complications and, with nearby protesters blockading the railway lines, not everybody's story ends as planned. Even so, this is a hugely uplifting documentary on a stroke of genius. CW

"A simple note to congratulate you on a wonderful, fantastic programme. I am an avid follower of most of your documentaries, but this one hit a special note with me."

"I am a medical student who lost motivation to continue my course. The programme reminded me of why I wanted to do it in the first place and allowed me to make a pledge to myself that I will graduate and offer my services to the Lifeline Express. I will sleep well tonight...Thanks BBC."

- Jason Rogers - Brighton, UK

"It is hard for an outsider to imagine the lack of simple but life changing medical services to the rural poor in India. But this film is an eye opener in exposing the impact that preventable disability has on a human being. The film is honest and unpretentious in its portrayal of the many challenges that the hospital train faces. Yet despite these challenges the main message of the film is hope....that hope has a human face."

- Kate Higgins, Australian Volunteer



We wish to especially thank Gerry Troyna, Avantika Akerkar, Tara Sharma and Shobiz Pvt. Ltd for all their support.

Case study in Community Health Initiative-CHI



Ladkaya after his surgery

Ladkaya Navshya Paradhi a male Tribal (Warli) aged 67 years from Dongaripada, Block Talasari, Thane District, Maharashtra State had cataracts in both eyes for the last five years and was unable to recognize persons or objects from a distance of five feet. He was dependent on his family members for everything. His sons separated from him and kept him in a small hut adjacent to his house.

Surgery was not considered an option because of his poverty. He was clinically diagnosed on Impact India's Lifeline Express Mobile Clinic.

The clinic was donated by the Rotary Club of Bournemouth North. Impact organised his cataract surgery at Bhojraj Eye Hospital.

Now Ladkaya is able to see and work independently without support and has been reunited with his family and lives with his sons and grandsons. He is happy and grateful.

CHI Survey

Impact India's Community Health Initiative (CHI) is embarking on a survey supported by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) which will start in the Jawhar and Mokhada blocks of Thane district, Maharashtra. The survey aims to assess the health needs of the large tribal population present in this area.

This is a pilot survey and will be repeated in the other five blocks of Impact's CHI area. As a part of TCS's Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) activity, this data will be captured in an MIS - Management Information System database for measuring the efficiency of Impact's intervention.

The survey's main purpose is to provide Impact India with a benchmark against which to measure its progress in fighting disability in the CHI region.

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Cut here

For Rs. 1,000

One person will have sight restored through Cataract Operations on the Lifeline Express

Or

Seven children will have their vision corrected

Or

Three persons will have lifelong disability prevented

Or

Any contribution will go towards the Community Health Initiative

All Donations are 100% Tax Free

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