

## About Soroptimist International and SIGBI

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement of service clubs of women in business and profession. There are over 80,000 members in 3000 clubs in 125 countries across the globe under 4 Federations – Federation of the South West Pacific (Australia), Federation of the Americas, Federation of Europe and Federation of Great Britain and Ireland Limited (SIGBI) who work at a local, national and international level to educate, empower and enable opportunities for women and girls. We have consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations (UN), which gives us a voice on important discussion papers, and allows us to attend the Commission on the Status of Women in New York each March, and contribute to the “Agreed Conclusions”. The Vision of Soroptimist is the enable women and children to achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide. We do this by transforming the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. Our goals and projects are linked to the Sustainable Goals Goals (SDG's) of the United Nations. The word Soroptimist originated from Latin.”Soror” means sister and “Optima” meaning best – so we want “best for women”. From the founding of the first Soroptimist club in Oakland, California, in 1921, through to the present day where over 3000 Clubs are flourishing throughout the world, Soroptimists have continued to strive to achieve ‘the best for women’ in every sphere of their lives.

### Vision

Soroptimist International is committed to a world where women and girls together achieve their individual and collective potential, realize aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong, peaceful communities worldwide.

### Mission

Soroptimists transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, employment and enhancing opportunities.

### Principles

- Advancement of the status of women
- High Ethical Standards
- Human Rights For All
- Equality, Development and Peace; and
- The Advancement of International Understandings, Goodwill and Peace

## About NASI

The NASI – National Association of Soroptimist International clubs of India is the Parent body of all of the SI Clubs in India. Today, we have 14 SI clubs all over India. Kolkata (2), Burdwan, Mumbai (3) Pune (2), Bangalore (2), Chennai (2), Kodaikanal and Madurai. The newest club is SI Hyderabad which was chartered on 17 November 2018. All the SI Clubs in India belong to the SIGBI Federation – Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland, Federation. We are actively looking at extension of clubs in other cities too.

NASI was conceptualized 25 years ago .In 1989 the prominent clubs were Calcutta (original), Burdwan, Jubbulpore, North Bombay and South Bombay. Bombay North was the first SI Club in India. South Bombay came second followed by Calcutta and Jabbalpure. The last does not exist any longer.

Chitra Ghosh from Calcutta and Antoinette D 'Costa from South Bombay were instrumental in forming the National Body as the then SIGBI officials were keen about a National Region in India. The NASI Board was formed only in 1990-91 and it was formally registered in 1994. The main officials at that time were the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Pres Elect and PAC. The post of Councilor came much later in 2003-4.

NASI meets twice a year for its meetings and conducting business: June and November. These are typically 1.5 days meetings. Twice a year, there are EC Meetings and once a year there is a AGM. These meetings are rotated across different Clubs. The meetings are attended by the Club Representatives, Programme Action Committee, NASI Board .All members of SI Clubs are also encouraged to participate in these meetings to build friendships, learn from each other and take ahead the agenda of creating a better future for girls and women.

Some of the Past Presidents of NASI have been: Aroti Dutt, Anntionette D'Costa, Chitra Ghosh, Shirin Warne, Kamala Suri, Shibani Das, Kasturi Shankar, Kamla Prasad, Promila Khandelwal, Sheela Rao, Deepanwita Chowdhury, Annette Mascarenhas and Shreelata Naraynan

Visit us at [www.SOROPTIMISTINTERNATIONAL.ORG](http://www.SOROPTIMISTINTERNATIONAL.ORG) and [www.SIGBI.ORG](http://www.SIGBI.ORG)

## **NASI President Lata Krishnan's Report 2016-18**

Two years have flown past so quickly and our NASI Committee 2016 - 18 is at the end of its term. We welcome you to read about our work reported in the NASI website. Visit [www.sigbi.org/india](http://www.sigbi.org/india).

The NASI Committee 2016-18 will be making way for the new NASI Committee 2018-20 led by the vibrant NASI President Anu Wakhlu. I wish her and the new team all the very best!

Taking over from IPP Shreelatha Narayanan, and her team we were in the midst of transformation. We had the privilege to complete successfully what had been started by the previous committees that of Annette Mascarenhas and Shreelatha Narayanan. We did manage to set the house in order as desired by Past NASI Secretary Mallika Venkatramini. We thank Mallika for her efforts to document and take forward along with NASI President Shreelatha the NASI Byelaws. The governing documents are now in order.

With the help of Chartered Accountants NASI was able to procure a PAN Card and file returns with the Income Tax Office. Formalities with the Charity Commissioner's office too have been complied with. We thank the services rendered by these professionals as it was '*ad honorarium.*'

The community connect initiative at every NASI Meeting particularly the '**Educate to Empower**' Rally and street plays performed in Kodaikanal during the June 2017 NASI EC and AGM will always remain in my memory. Credit goes to Kodaikanal Founder President Anju Mittal and Kodaikanal President Malini Devanandan for all the efforts they have taken. The talk on **Environment and distribution of saplings** were a brilliant idea by SI Kodaikanal.

The community connect initiative at NASI EC held in Bangalore in November 2017, where we joined the host club to '*orange the city*' on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016 participating in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November). Credit goes to host club SI Bangalore President Anuradha Pradeep and her team for an impressive rally on the busy streets of Bangalore. The 25th of every month has been designated "**Orange Day**" by the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign **UNITE to End Violence against Women, to raise awareness and take action to end violence against women and girls**. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls. Orange Day calls upon civil society, governments, and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), but every month.

The NASI EC and AGM held in June 2018 in Chennai hosted by SI Chennai Downtown club were very well organized by President Naaz Tyebbhoy, Naina Shah, Vidya Singhand Team SI Chennai Downtown. The political environment in Chennai was not conducive for the community connect programme and hence we had talks organized indoors. The Talk on '**Child Sexual Abuse**' by Vidya Reddy was packed with facts and set all of us thinking.

**SIGBI responded immediately to our Appeal for a donation for Kerala Flood Relief work. They sent a sum of 2,000/- two thousand Sterling Pounds to the Kerala Chief Minister's Flood Relief Fund. We are grateful to SIGBI for their generosity and feel happy and proud to be a member of SIGBI Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland.**

The highlight of the term 2016-18 is the opportunity to charter a new SI club in India! SI Hyderabad was chartered on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. Deepika Chalasani a young, dynamic

Founder President of SI Hyderabad worked well at getting her team together for the big day. The installation ceremony was a grand glittering one organized in the Century Hospital Auditorium between 2.00pm to 4.00pm. The Charter ceremony was well attended by members representing SIGBI, NASI, SI India clubs, SI clubs from UK and Germany and VIPs from Hyderabad. The Chief Guest was Ms. Shikha Goel IPS. Add. Commissioner Crimes & SIT. We missed IPP SIGBI Sue Biggs but had her good wishes for the Charter Ceremony. Kudos to Rema Ramchandran NASI Membership Officer making this possible.

The concluding NASI EC meeting for the term 2016-18 was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 in Panchgani Asia Plateau. It was followed by a joyous Fellowship evening and concluded with a splendid installation ceremony on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November. The new NASI Committee for the term 2018-20 were installed by the NASI President Lata Krishnan. Best wishes to the new incoming NASI President Anu Wakhlu and team for the NASI term ahead. The destination installation ceremony was a grand spectacle and will be remembered by SI India Soroptimists for a long time to come. We had an exciting community connect opportunity at the Asia Plateau on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 where we met members of PARI. PARI is an NGO that works with villages in and around Panchgani to enable women and girls lead a dignified life. Host club SI Poona had made arrangements for this event and worked very hard for organizing a memorable installation ceremony. We wish SI Poona President Kulsum Abid, Punam Gupta, Anjana Mitra, Sheela Rao, Anu Wakhlu and Team SI Poona success and good luck for the ensuing event.

I thank all the NASI Committee members for their good work. Thank you NASI Secretary Achina Kundu, NASI Treasurer Rukma V, NASI Membership Officer Rema Ramchandran, NASI Communications Officer Ranjana Bannerjee, NASI Development Officer Annapoorna Patil, NASI PAC Nisha Ghosh and NASI President Elect Anu Wakhlu. All of you are shining stars and excellent Soroptimists to work with! I sincerely thank NASI Past Immediate Past President Shreelatha Narayanan for her guidance and support at all times. With a lot of love and respect I acknowledge Past NASI Presidents Annette Mascarenhas and Sheela Rao for mentoring me through my journey... I thank SIGBI Assistant Programme Director Advocacy Margaret Clark for her visit to India during my tenure. I fondly thank SIGBI President Sue Biggs for her support and guidance.

I thank the Presidents and members of all the SI India clubs and commend them for all the project work they have undertaken to help and support less privileged women and girls in the community. All the SI India clubs have taken up projects on the NASI Theme “ Educate to Empower” in 2016-17 and “Educate to Enable “ in 2017-18. NASI PAC Nisha Ghosh has worked very hard conducting PAC workshops to help enable club PACs report their project work online. We acknowledge her efforts. We are certainly moving towards 100% PAC reporting from SI India.

Sharing on social media has been very good and networking among clubs too has been successful. The NASI India website is updated regularly. Members have attended the SIGBI Conference in large numbers and the CSW sessions too have been well represented!

I sincerely thank SIBC Soroptimist International of Bombay Chembur Founder President Dr. Daphne Pillai for her faith in me and for being my mentor and guide. Dr. Daphne Pillai introduced Soroptimist International to us and founded the SI Bombay Chembur club. I thank Dr. K.M.Vasudevan Pillai Sir, for all the support and participation in Soroptimist initiatives. I thank Mahatma Night Degree College Principal Dr. Padma Rangan, an enthusiastic Soroptimist for her guidance and participation in all my endeavours as a Soroptimist.

Well done Team SI India! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to work with you!

***Please click on the links below to read the news letters published during the NASI term 2016-18 of NASI President Lata Krishnan***

### **NASI News Letters**

<https://sigbi.org/india/files/2014/11/Newsletter-June-17.pdf>

<https://sigbi.org/india/files/2017/12/News-Letter-Nov.-2017.pdf>

<https://sigbi.org/india/files/2018/07/Newsletter-June-2018.pdf>

<https://sigbi.org/india/files/2018/12/News-Letter-November-2018.pdf>

<https://sigbi.org/india/newsletters/>