



August 2017 Report from India

As always, working in India provided moments of tremendous joy and profound sadness.

Annu

Annu's maternal grandfather died. He lived in a village not far from Khajuraho, so the whole family went there for his cremation and mourning for almost a month. In addition to mourning the death, the extended family is using this opportunity to find a husband for Annu. Annu's father, Laxmi said that though they haven't chosen one yet, they were looking and getting close.



A very special invitation from Annu's family

Annu's plastic surgeon, Dr. Choudhary, that he was sure he wanted Annu to have 3 laser treatments a week apart. When we contacted Children's Burn Foundation (CBF), they agreed to cover these procedures. Annu saw Dr. Choudhary on June 5, 2017 for her first laser procedure.



Baba & his family in Khajuraho

Baba's Family

Baba's mother got sick and was hospitalized. Her illness is related to her years of smoking, plus the Indian pollution that includes all that smoke in the house from cooking inside. TIG paid for her treatment, and she seems to be improving.

Baba's brother-in-law, who works in construction in Kashmir, was hit by a car and suffered at least one broken limb. The family asked Baba to go to Kashmir to check on his brother-in-law and, if possible, bring him home. Baba did. He did not ask for money related to his brother-in-law. He used the money he makes for transporting the children to and from school to pay for his trip. The family relies on him as the one who knows most about the world in his wife's family and probably relatively he does.

Bablu's Family

Sadly, Bablu's father committed suicide on the night of Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Bablu and the rest of the family, including his wife and their children, were forced to wait hours for the police to come and cut Bablu's father down from the fan he had hung himself from. The idea/reality that the family had to spend the night with Bablu's father hanging from the fan was beyond even Indian unbelievable.

Here's the story as we know it: Bablu's father went on a drinking binge three days prior to his death, demanding that his wife give him money to buy liquor. She wouldn't or didn't have it, so he sold his rickshaw to get the money. He remained drunk for three days, stopped eating, and argued with everyone. Tuesday night, his wife found him hanging from the ceiling fan.

Bablu's extended family came from across India to mourn. They took the ashes to Allahabad and put them into the Ganges. With the loss of her husband, Bablu's mother may have to work construction (as many low-caste women do in India) or farming.



Bablu's family in happier times

Annu's Treatment Update

Annu has had three laser treatments since having plastic surgery for her burns. The doctor wants to perform four more treatments, but she has declined, saying the treatments were painful. TIG will talk with Annu and her family since her plastic surgeon has recommended continuing treatment.

TIG Administrative News

TIG began revamping its social media efforts. If you are on Facebook or Twitter, please Find, Like, Share, Tweet, Re-tweet, & Follow the TIG accounts: <https://www.facebook.com/TheIndiaGroup> and <https://twitter.com/TheIndiaGroupNY>

Children's Burn Foundation

Due to our success working with CBF for Annu, CBF has requested TIG's cooperation when working with burn victims in India. TIG began exploring this idea along with the possibility of bringing the children and families we work with through CBF into TIG. While still in its nascent stage, we hope that this relationship grows and blossoms.

Keep us in your thoughts and prayers. Peace and Love



Blessing Neelu & her groom

Weddings for Annu & Neelu

Laxmi, a father of six young ladies, shrewdly—and frugally—held a double wedding for both Annu and her older sister Neelu on July 3, 2017. Congratulations and best wishes to both sets of newlyweds.



Blessing Annu & her groom



Neelu & Annu dressed in bridal finery for the big day



The brides' home decorated for the weddings



Annu



Grooms arriving at the wedding

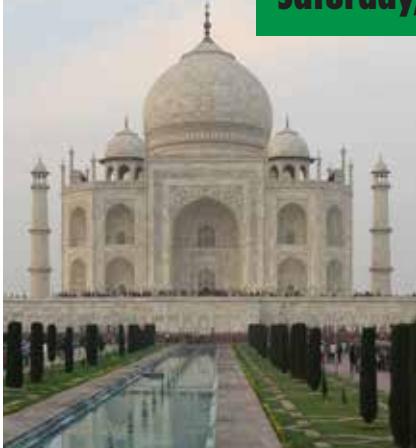


Neelu

You're
invited to

Friends of  Gala

Saturday, November 4, 6-9 PM



Please help us continue our mission & plan now to attend our annual event at the home of Paul Ramsey & Richard Coburn in New York City. Tickets are \$40 each.

Can't make it yourself? This is TIG's "Friend-Raiser" so please consider giving tickets to your friends who will enjoy an intimate evening of fun.

- **Silent Auction**
- **Live Music**
- **Fabulous Food**
- **Wine & Spirits**