

**1 Man  
79 Years Old  
2600 Miles**



# **BOBBY'S WALK FULL CIRCLE PRESS PACK**

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India Association  
Reg Charity No: 1094366

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## **Press Release: 79-year old India Association Chairman to walk 2,600 miles, to raise £1,500,000 for Save the Children**

79-year-old explorer and Chairman of the India Association, Bobby Grewal, is preparing to undertake the most demanding physical and mental challenge of his life with 'Bobby's Walk Full Circle'. Bobby's Walk Full Circle is a 2,600 mile charity trek across India that will see Bobby walk from Kanyakumari (on the Southern tip of India) up the east coast, via Chennai and Calcutta, to Delhi, where he is due to finish the walk, in May 2015. The aim of the walk is to raise £1,500,000 for Save the Children (and other children's charities in the UK and abroad) and fulfil a lifelong dream for Bobby, of walking the 'circle of India.'

Bobby's Walk Full Circle' is the second part of an epic journey which began in 2004, with the 'Great Charity Walk', where Bobby spent five months walking 2,556 miles down the west coast of India, raising over £100,000 along the way, for Cancer and Aids research, in the UK and India.

He will complete his epic journey with 'Bobby's Walk Full Circle', (commencing December 2014). He will be accompanied by a single support vehicle and a team of four, consisting of; a walk manager, a driver, a physiotherapist and a chef and he will stay in a caravan each night.

Bobby will be faced with challenging conditions, due to his age, the extreme weather conditions and tough terrain, but he will need to cover 20-25 miles a day, in order to reach the various milestones along the route.

Bobby says of the walk; *"I feel very blessed. I have always enjoyed exploring and have had the privilege to fulfil my dream through the India Association, while raising money for extremely worthy causes, such as Save the Children."*

Bobby has been Chairman of The India Association since 2001 and in that time, has raised over £300,000 for various worthy causes with the help of Executive Members and Advisers.

The India Association is a voluntary West London based charity, whose aim it is to support noble charitable causes wherever the need arises, in the UK or abroad. The organisation is governed by a group of professional businessmen and women, who organise events, activities and challenges, to raise money for good causes.

### **Notes to Editor**

1. For more information, or to schedule an interview with a member of the India Association, please contact Cara Williams, on +44 7985 593 147 or email [cara@indiaassociation.co.uk](mailto:cara@indiaassociation.co.uk)
2. Save the Children International is the world's leading independent organisation for children. They work to inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives. [www.savethechildren.net](http://www.savethechildren.net)

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## **BALWANT SINGH GREWAL (BOBBY)**

### **Chairman, India Association**

Balwant S Grewal (also known as "Bobby" ), is the Chairman of the India Association; a West London based charity, dedicated to raising funds for other deserving causes in the UK and abroad. (Charity No. 1094366)

Bobby became Chairman of the India Association (IA) in 2001 and has since raised over £300,000 with the help of Executive Members and Advisers, for a number of charities including; Help for Heroes (£25,000), St Mark' s Research Hospital (£80,000) and Northwick Park Hospital (£95,000) and many more.

#### **The London Marathon**

Bobby's first charitable venture as Chairman of the India Association was the London Marathon. Aged 66, he completed the 26.2 mile course in just over five hours, raising £5,000 along the way, for the National Blind Children's Society, Ealing Hospital and Great Ormond Street Hospital.



#### **The Great Walk**

On 16th November 2004, Bobby embarked on his next fundraising challenge; 'The Great Walk', which saw him trek 2,556 miles, from the North Western tip of India, (Amritsar), to Kanyakumari, in the extreme South. Bobby walked across ten states, over a period of five months, covering 30 - 35 miles a day. The walk was physically and mentally challenging, but on 14th April 2005, Bobby completed the walk in Kanyakumari, where a huge crowd had gathered to greet him. Bobby raised over £100,000, which was donated to Northwick Park Hospital, for Cancer and Aids Research.

#### **Parliament to Parliament Walk**

After being approached by Professor Colin Green for funding towards Bowel Cancer Research at St. Mark's Research Hospital, Bobby set about organising the 'Parliament to Parliament' Walk; a 500 mile trek from the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh, to the Speaker's Apartment at the House of Commons, London. The walk took five weeks and Bobby attended a number of Fundraising events along the way, resulting in pledges of over £100,000. Bobby was joined on the last leg of his journey by Attorney General Dominic Grieve Q.C. MP, the Rt Hon. Keith Vaz MP and India Association Executive Members and Advisers.

Bobby is married to Harjeet and they have two sons and a daughter. Shani, (the eldest), is a film Director in the British film Industry; Han is a Liver transplant consultant surgeon in Florida; and daughter Mina graduated from LSE and worked at the Cabinet Office for some time, before becoming a teacher. Bobby lives in South Buckinghamshire and enjoys gardening, swimming and outdoor pursuits.

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## **BOBBY'S WALK FULL CIRCLE** **One Man, 79 years old, 2,600 miles**

'Bobby's Walk Full Circle' is a 2,600 mile charity trek across India, that will see India Association Chairman, Bobby Grewal, walk from Kanyakumari (on the Southern tip of India) up the east coast, via Chennai, and Calcutta, to Delhi, where he is due to finish the walk, in May 2015.

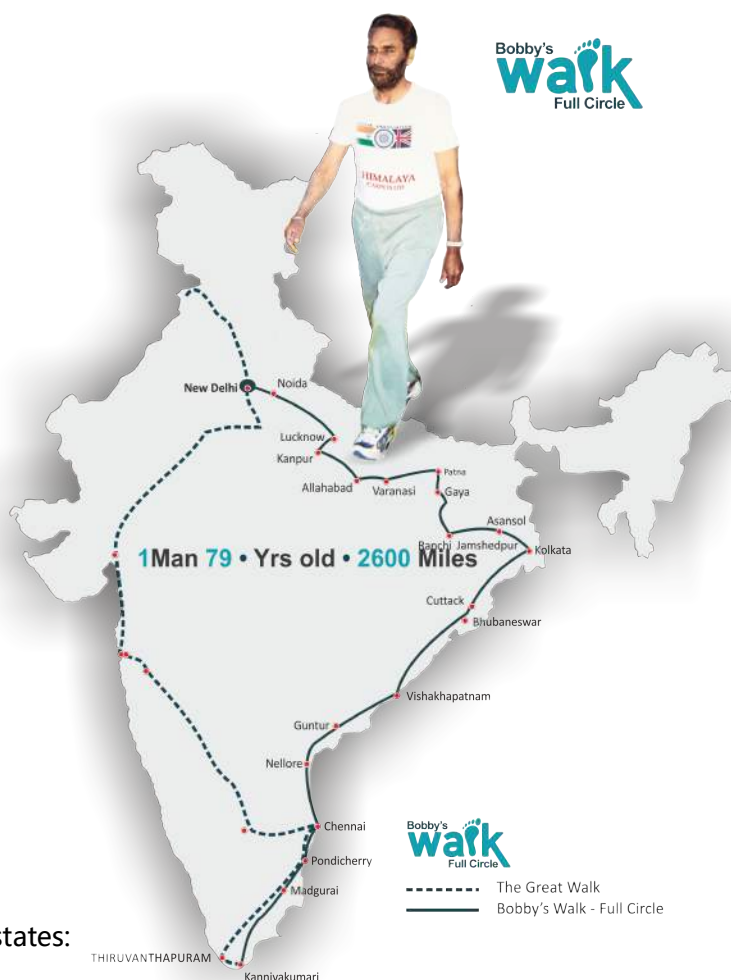
79-year-old Bobby will embark on the five-month walk in December 2014, with the aim of raising £1,500,000 for Save the Children and other children's charities in the UK and abroad.

The walk will be extremely challenging, due to Bobby's age, the extreme weather conditions and tough terrain, but Bobby will need to ensure he covers 20-25 miles a day, in order to reach the various milestones along the route, where he will attend publicity and fundraising events

Bobby will be accompanied by a single support vehicle and team of four; a Walk Manager, a Driver, a Physiotherapist and a Chef and he will stay in a caravan each night.

Bobby will walk through the following states:

- Tamilnadu**
- Andhrapradesh**
- Odisha**
- West Bengal**
- Jharkhand**
- Bihar**
- Uttar Pradesh**
- New Delhi**



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## THE INDIA ASSOCIATION

**[www.indiaassociation.co.uk](http://www.indiaassociation.co.uk)**

### History

The India Association was founded over twenty-five years ago, by the late barrister Jaswant Singh, with the help of Lord Swaraj Paul and a number of other prominent Asian business men in Britain at the time. Initially, the objectives were political and social, but when the West London India Association became independent from the National Branch in (approx.) 1992, under the chairmanship of Mr Dilbag S Chana MBE, the aims were reviewed, resulting in the organisation being registered as a charity (number 1094366).

### Today

When Balwant 'Bobby' Grewal became Chairman of the India Association in 2001, The India Association was registered as a charity, (No. 1094366) with the aim of; *'providing relief from poverty, sickness and distress to those-in-need, in the UK and abroad'*.

Since becoming Chairman of the India Association, Bobby (with the help of the Executive Committee and Advisors) has raised over £300,000 for various charities, through social functions, fundraisers, marathons and charity walks. Notable fundraising activities have included, 'The Great Walk'; (a 2,556 mile trek, from the northern city of Amritsar on the Indo-Pakistan border, to the city of Kanyakumari on the southernmost tip of India) and the 'Parliament to Parliament Walk', which started at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and ended in London at the Houses of Parliament. Both of these walks were organised and carried out by 79-year old Balwant (Bobby) Grewal, (Chairman of the India Association, with the support of Executive members and Advisors), who raised £180,000 for Cancer and Aids charities in the UK and India.

The India Association committee is made up of some 300 professional businessmen and women from all walks of life, who use their expertise and contacts to help raise awareness and funds for other charitable organisations. Members do not receive a salary, so every penny raised goes to charity, (minus minimal expenses for stationery, printing and postage).



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## **INDIA ASSOCIATION CHARITABLE DONATIONS SINCE 2001**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Donated</b>
2013	Ealing MS Society	£6,000
2013	First Step Foundation	£5,000
2012	UK Thalassaemia Society	£7,500
2012	Harlington Hospice	£3,000
2012	Search Charity (Poona) Supporting eunuchs	£1,500
2012	Free Dental Clinic (Hanali)	£750
2011	Help for Heroes	£25,000
2011	Greeb Nivaj School (Delhi) Charity run school for poor children	£1,008
2011	Roko Cancer (India) Mobile cancer screening in Punjab	£500
2010	Haiti Earthquake	£1,000
2010	Chile Earthquake	£500
2010	New Children's Hospital (Amritsar) Building Construction	£1,500

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2010	Pakistan Floods	£500
2010	Heart & Stroke (Harrow) Northwick Park Hospital	£1,000
2010	Bhagat Hari S. Children's Hospital (Punjab)	£1,500
2010	Mayer's Charity, (Jalandhar, India)	£2,000
2009	St Marks Hospital (Harrow) Bowel Cancer Research	£80,000
2009	Heart & Stroke (Harrow) Northwick Park Hospital	£1,000
2008	Bhagat Hari S. Children's Hospital (Punjab)	£1,000
2007	Northwick Park Hospital (Harrow) Cancer Research	£50,000
2007	Northwick Park Hospital & Oxford University HIV Research	£45,000
2006	Navjivni School of Special Care & Education, Patiala, India	£1,000
2006	Punjabi University (Patiala)	£1,200
2006	Cancer Support Unit (Delhi)	£500
2005	Earthquake Relief, (Gujarat, India) House build in Bhuj	£2,000
2005	Navjivni School of Special Care & Education Patiala, India	£1,270
2005	Hillingdon Hospital Support for premature babies	£1,005
2005	Hillingdon Hospital Support for bone fractures	£650
2004	Tsunami Disaster	£10,000

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2004	Cyclone Relief (Bihar, India)	£250
2004	Oxfam Emergency Appeal (Ethiopia)	£250
2004	Navjivni School of Special Care & Education Patiala, India	£1,000
2003	British Red Cross (Mozambique) Famine Relief	£500
2003	Marjory Kinnon School (Hounslow)	£500
2003	Kerala Foundation for the Blind (London)	£350
2002	Imperial Cancer Research	£500
2001	Great Ormond Street Hospital	£500
2001	Sight Savers International UK	£1,500
2001	National Blind Children's Society UK London Marathon	£1,500
2001	Children With Leukaemia UK	£250
2001	Ealing Hospital Cardiology Department	£500

## PRESS OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact Cara Williams for Bobby's Walk logos, to arrange an interview with Bobby, or for a fundraising pack: T: 07985 593 147 E: [cara@indiaassociation.co.uk](mailto:cara@indiaassociation.co.uk)

Address: C/o Castle Hill Property Services, 23 The Avenue, West Ealing, W13 8JR

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