



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL TWINNING

District 317F × District 122

India — Czech Republic & Slovak Republic

Venue:

Prague

IN

LCI District 317F

Bangalore, Karnataka, India

DG Lion Akash A. Suvarna

CZSK

LCI District 122

Czech Republic & Slovak Republic

DG Lion Josef Cubon

1 April 2026

"We Serve"

CEREMONY MANUAL | SPEECH GUIDE | ANTHEM LYRICS

*Prepared for LCI District 122 — Czech Republic and Slovak Republic
by DG Jozef Čuboň and PDG Vojtěch Trapl*

PART ONE — HISTORY OF DISTRICT 122

Czech Republic & Slovak Republic — Background for DG Cubon's Address

CZ SK LCI DISTRICT 122 | Czech Republic & Slovak Republic

Origins: The Spirit of 1989 and the Dawn of Lions (1990–1992)

District 122 was born directly from the historic transformations of 1989, when the Velvet Revolution opened Czechoslovakia to democracy, civil society, and international engagement after four decades of Communist rule. In the spring of 1990 — within months of the revolution — Austrian Lions representative Dr. Klaus Hoffmann visited Prague and, together with Ernst A. Musil, Coordinating Lion for Central and Eastern Europe, approached Czech colleagues with the idea of founding Lions clubs.

The first club to be established was LC Praha Bohemia Ambassador, founded by Dr. Vojtěch Trapl — who would become the district's first ever Governor — together with a founding group of 20 colleagues. The club was registered with Czech authorities and chartered by LCI headquarters in Oak Brook, USA. Around the same time, LC Praha Orel also emerged, soon followed by LC Praha První, LC České Budějovice, and LC Teplice. These earliest clubs arose not from institutional initiative, but from the spontaneous energy of citizens newly free to build civil society.

The founding seminar of LCI in Czechoslovakia was held in Prague on 21 September 1991. Just a few months later, on 6 January 1992 — the Feast of the Three Kings — District 122 was formally established, with Dr. Vojtěch Trapl appointed as its first District Governor. On 18 January 1992, a solemn inaugural session was held at the Palace Hotel in Prague, attended by LCI International President Donald E. Banker, who officially brought District 122 to life. Crucially, the district was named from its very first day: "Czech Republic and Slovak Republic" — reflecting the vision of a binational Lions community that would outlast the peaceful separation of Czechoslovakia in 1993.

Surviving Separation and Building Roots (1993–2000)

When Czechoslovakia divided peacefully into two sovereign states on 1 January 1993, District 122 made a defining choice: it remained united. Czech and Slovak Lions continued to work together across the new border, maintaining joint conventions, programmes, and governance. This decision — which proved correct — gave D122 a unique identity within Lions International as a genuinely binational district, and a living symbol of the enduring friendship between the Czech and Slovak nations.

The early years were characterized by intense organizational work and the challenge of building a movement in a society undergoing radical transformation. Clubs emerged organically in Brno, Plzeň, Mariánské Lázně, and across Slovakia in Bratislava, Piešťany, and Košice. Austrian and German Lions clubs provided crucial early support — financial, organizational, and in the spirit of partnership — though D122 leadership was always clear that the goal was self-sufficiency. As Dr. Trapl

noted: "Do not give us fish — teach us how to fish." By the late 1990s, the district was fishing entirely on its own.

Landmark Projects and International Impact (2000s–2010s)

A landmark project in D122's history is the Lions Ophthalmic Educational Centre (LOEC) at the University Hospital Královské Vinohrady in Prague, established through a USD 1 million grant from the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) and inaugurated on 21 March 2002. The centre provides international medical education in ophthalmology and continues to serve as one of the district's proudest achievements and most enduring contributions to global healthcare.

In 2010, D122 launched its signature district project: Lví očko / Levie očko ("Lions Eye" in Czech and Slovak), a preventive eye-screening programme for pre-school children, funded through the LCIF Sight First initiative and supported by a grant of USD 50,000. The programme uses the specialized Plusoptics camera to detect vision defects in young children before they begin school — and has since screened thousands of children across both countries.

D122 also maintains long-standing partnerships with national organizations for blind and visually impaired persons: SONS (Sjednocená organizace nevidomých a slabozrakých) in the Czech Republic, and ÚNSS (Únia nevidomých a slabozrakých Slovenska) in Slovakia, donating more than 3 million CZK annually to these causes and their beneficiaries. The annual Bílá pastelka / Biela pastelka (White Pencil) fundraising campaign is one of D122's most prominent public service activities — in recent years financed by D122 to the extent of 150,000 pencils per year.

D122 Today: Facts and Figures (2025–2026)

District 122 today comprises approximately 48 Lions clubs across Czech Republic (25 clubs) and Slovak Republic (23 clubs), with approximately 880+ active members. The district holds an annual National Convention alternating between Czech and Slovak venues, actively participates in Lions Youth Exchange (hosting approximately 40 young participants annually, sending around 100 Czech and Slovak youth to global camps), and maintains strong jumelage partnerships with Lions districts in Germany, Austria, and Poland.

The current District Governor is Lion Josef Cubon, leading the district in the 2025–2026 lionistic year. District 122 is headquartered at Náměstí 14. října 496/13, Praha 5. The district website is www.lci-d122.org.

A Personal Note for DG Cubon's Address — The Trapl Connection

Note for DG Cubon: This ceremony brings a remarkable historical dimension: the very first District Governor of D122 — JUDr. Vojtěch Trapl, now serving as Senior Partner of Dr. Trapl a partner advokáti s.r.o. — is present today. DG Cubon may wish to acknowledge this personally and thank Dr. Trapl for laying the foundations upon which today's historic twinning is being built. It is thanks to the work of the founding generation that D122 is able, 34 years on, to stand as an equal partner with a great Indian Lions district on the world stage.

| PART TWO — HISTORY OF DISTRICT 317F

Lions International District 317F, Bangalore, Karnataka, India

IN LCI DISTRICT 317F | Karnataka, India

Lions in India: A Continental Story

Lions Clubs International arrived in India in the 1950s, and India has since become one of the largest Lions nations in the world. In 2020–21, India surpassed the United States to become the country with the highest Lions membership globally — a remarkable achievement. India has produced several Lions International Presidents, and the Indian Lions movement is organized under multiple Multiple Districts spanning the entire subcontinent. District 317F belongs to Multiple District 317, covering the state of Karnataka and parts of surrounding regions.

District 317F: Bangalore and Karnataka

District 317F is headquartered in Bangalore (Bengaluru), the capital of Karnataka and one of India's most dynamic cities — known globally as the "Silicon Valley of India" and home to a rich cultural heritage, including the classical traditions of Carnatic music, Bharatanatyam dance, and the Kannada literary tradition stretching back more than 1,500 years.

District 317F currently comprises approximately 53 Lions clubs with approximately 1,600 active members. The district has grown steadily from its origins and today runs a wide range of humanitarian programmes spanning health camps, eye care, education, blood donation, disaster relief, and support for differently-abled persons. The district is part of Multiple District 317 India, and its clubs are spread across Bangalore and the surrounding districts of Karnataka.

The district office is located at Alumni Association, University of Agricultural Sciences Convention Centre, Hebbal, Bangalore — 560024. Website: www.lions317f.org.

District Governor 2025–2026: Lion Akash A. Suvarna

District 317F is led in 2025–2026 by District Governor Lion Akash A. Suvarna, a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow (PMJF). DG Suvarna was born into a Lions family — his late father, PDG Anand N. Suvarna, was himself a distinguished Lions leader. A civil engineer educated at the prestigious R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore, DG Suvarna is actively engaged in real estate, construction, and warehousing logistics.

His Lions journey began nearly 45 years ago in 1980 as a Charter Member of Leo Club of Bangalore Jayamahal. In 1998, he became Charter President of Lions Club of Bangalore Metro, now one of the most respected clubs in D317F with over 27 years of service. DG Suvarna was unanimously elected Second Vice District Governor in 2023–24, First Vice District Governor in 2024–25, and District Governor in April 2025. He has been recognized with 2 International President's Medals and 8 International President's Appreciation Certificates.

District Motto 2025–2026: "Serve... and Be Happy!"

Under DG Suvarna's leadership, the district rallies under the inspiring motto "Serve... and Be Happy!" — expressed in Kannada as ಸೇವೆಯಿಂದ ಸಂತೋಷ (Seveyinda Santosha). This philosophy perfectly reflects the universal Lions spirit and provides a warm, human note for the twinning ceremony: that service is not a burden but a source of joy.

The district's logo for 2025–2026 incorporates blue (trust and integrity), maroon (strength and service), golden yellow (Lions excellence), and a tricolor stripe representing both the Indian national flag and the Karnataka state flag — a symbol of pride in local roots combined with global commitment.

D317F Service Highlights

District 317F is active across all principal Lions service areas, including health camps and medical screening programmes, eye care through the Lions Eye programme, educational support for underprivileged children, environmental projects, blood donation camps, and disaster relief. Permanent projects of the district include long-term commitments to medical, educational, and social welfare institutions across Bangalore and Karnataka.

[PART THREE — SPEECH FRAMEWORK FOR DG JOSEF CUBON

Address at the International Twinning Ceremony — Agenda Item 8

Recommended duration: 6–8 minutes. To be delivered in English. The following is a detailed framework; DG Cubon should personalize with his own memories and observations.

Opening — Welcome and Honour

Suggested MC Script:

Distinguished Lions, honoured guests, Ladies and Gentlemen — and most warmly of all — my fellow Lions from District 317F, welcome to our home.

On behalf of every Lion in District 122 — from Prague to Bratislava, from Plzeň to Košice —

*I extend to you the warmest welcome our two nations can offer.
You have crossed oceans and continents to stand with us today.
We are deeply, deeply honoured.*

About District 122 — Our Story

DG Cubon should cover the following points from the history section above:

- ▶ D122 was founded on 6 January 1992 — just two years after the Velvet Revolution that ended communism in Czechoslovakia. We were born in freedom, and Lions was part of that freedom.
- ▶ Our first District Governor was Dr. Vojtěch Trapl, who — [gesture towards Dr. Trapl] — is with us in this room today. It is an honour to acknowledge the man on whose foundations we stand.
- ▶ We have always been one district, two nations: Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Our twinning with D317F is therefore no surprise — we have been practising multinational unity since our very first day.
- ▶ Our district today has nearly 50 clubs and more than 880 Lions, united in service — eye care, youth exchange, support for blind and visually impaired citizens, and more.
- ▶ We inaugurated the Lions Ophthalmic Educational Centre in Prague in 2002 — a project supported by a \$1 million LCIF grant that continues to train eye specialists from around the world.

The Meaning of This Twinning

Suggested MC Script:

*District 317F and District 122 are separated by thousands of kilometres.
But Lions have never measured distance in kilometres.
We measure it in shared values. In common purpose. In the willingness to serve.*

And by that measure — we are neighbours.

India and the Czech and Slovak nations have more in common than the world might imagine.

*Both our countries cherish learning, culture, and a deep sense of community.
Both our peoples have known hardship and have emerged stronger and more humane for it.*

And both of us have built, over centuries, a tradition of craftsmanship, hospitality, and care for others.

Today, Lions District 317F and Lions District 122 formalize what I believe was always meant to be: a partnership.

Vision for the Partnership

DG Cubon should outline concrete aspirations — for example:

- ▶ Joint youth exchange: Czech and Slovak young Lions visiting India; Indian young Lions experiencing Central Europe.
- ▶ Joint service projects: identifying a shared cause — perhaps eye care, given both districts' strong track records in vision health.
- ▶ Mutual visits: an annual delegation exchange, alternating between Bangalore and a Czech or Slovak city.
- ▶ Cultural connection: sharing the Lions magazine between districts, joint digital events, co-participation in LCI international conventions.

Closing — The Pledge

Suggested MC Script:

*District 317F — you came to us as guests.
You leave as family.*

*We pledge to you today — as Lions, as servants, as friends —
that this twinning will not be a piece of paper.
It will be a living relationship, built year by year, project by project, handshake by
handshake.*

*From the heart of Central Europe to the heart of Karnataka — from the banks of
the Vltava
to the shores of the Indian Ocean —*

*We Serve.
Together.*

PART FOUR — CEREMONY GUIDE — ITEM BY ITEM

Full Protocol Notes for DG Cubon, MC, and D122 Cabinet

ITEM 1 Calling the Dignitaries to the Dias

Responsibility: Master of Ceremonies (MC) — D122

Appoint a bilingual, experienced MC — ideally a Past District Governor or senior Lion. Prepare the official order of precedence for the dias:

1. District Governor D122 — Lion Josef Cubon
2. District Governor D317F — Lion Akash A. Suvarna
3. Past District Governors present (both districts, in order of seniority)
4. Cabinet Officers / Council Chairpersons present
5. Club Presidents and other senior guests

A D122 Protocol Officer should physically escort each dignitary to their assigned seat. Prepare name placards in English at each seat. Seats should reflect equal status of both districts — D317F guests on one side, D122 hosts on the other, DGs in the centre.

Suggested MC Script:

Distinguished Lions, Ladies and Gentlemen — we now invite our honoured dignitaries to take their seats on the dias. We request District Governor Lion Josef Cubon of District 122 ... District Governor Lion Akash A. Suvarna of District 317F ... [continue in order] ... to kindly proceed to the stage.

ITEM 2 Lighting of the Lamp by the Dignitaries

Responsibility: D122 Organizers (setup); All Dignitaries (jointly)

The lighting of the lamp (Deepa Prajwalan) is a traditional Indian ceremony of auspicious opening — widely used in Lions events across India. D317F will bring electric lamps. D122 should prepare a small decorative table draped in a cloth in Lions colours (gold/purple or white). Ensure power supply is available if needed.

Brief all dignitaries in advance on the gesture. Include a short explanatory note in the printed programme for Czech/Slovak attendees. Consider complementing the lamp with a brief Czech/Slovak welcome: presenting bread and salt (chléb a sůl) — the traditional Slavic gesture of hospitality.

Suggested MC Script:

In the great tradition of Lions District 317F, and as a symbol of light, knowledge and friendship that unites our two districts across continents, we now invite our distinguished dignitaries to perform the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

ITEM 3 Meeting Called to Order — DG Josef Cubon

Suggested MC Script:

In accordance with the traditions of Lions Clubs International, and as District Governor of District 122, Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, I hereby call this joint meeting of District 122 and District 317F to order.

We are gathered today in a spirit of friendship, service and international fellowship to formalize the twinning of our two great districts.

Lions — We Serve!

ITEM 4 Flag Salutation in English

Designate a senior English-speaking Lion from D122 (PDG, Cabinet Officer, or Club President)

Standard Lions Flag Salutation (English):

"We pledge our allegiance to the flag of Lions Clubs International, emblem of our devotion to the cause of good fellowship and service throughout the world."

The designated Lion stands, faces the LCI flag, and leads the audience in the salutation.

ITEM 5 Flag Salutation in Local Language (Czech / Slovak)

Designate a Czech or Slovak-speaking Lion from D122

Czech version:

„Slibujeme věrnost vlajce Lions Clubs International, symbolu naší oddanosti věci přátelství a služby na celém světě.“

Slovak version (optional complement):

„Sľubujeme vernosť zástavke Lions Clubs International, symbolu nášho odhodlania slúžiť veci priateľstva a služby na celom svete.“

D122 should decide whether to deliver both versions. Doing so reflects the binational identity of the district and is strongly recommended at this international ceremony.

ITEM 6 National Anthem of India – D317F Delegation

Confirm with D317F whether they will sing a cappella or require audio accompaniment. Ensure the Indian national flag is displayed on stage. All D122 members and guests must stand for the duration of the Indian national anthem as a mark of respect.

Suggested MC Script:

We will now honour the great nation of India as our visiting delegation from District 317F performs the Indian National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana. We request all present to please rise.

ITEM 7 National Anthems of Czech Republic & Slovak Republic – D122

D122 strongly recommends performing both national anthems — Czech and Slovak — in sequence, as an expression of the district's unique binational identity. Prepare audio backing tracks. Distribute printed lyrics in the programme booklet (with English phonetic guide) so the Indian guests may follow along.

Suggested MC Script:

Reflecting the proud binational spirit of District 122, which unites the Lions of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, we will now perform our national anthems. We request all present to please rise.

ITEM 8 Address by DG Josef Cubon + Presentation of Mementos to D317F

Full speech framework: see Part Three of this document. Recommended duration: 6–8 minutes.

Mementos — Checklist:

- ▶ Individual Lion pins for each D317F dignitary on the dias (confirm exact number in advance)
- ▶ Individual mementos for each dignitary: suggested Bohemian crystal, hand-painted ceramics, quality wooden craft, or a D122 commemorative plaque
- ▶ Special gift for DG Suvarna: Bohemian crystal vase/decanter or engraved commemorative plaque befitting his rank
- ▶ Have a Protocol Officer stand beside DG Cubon to hand each item in turn

- ▶ All items should be gift-wrapped or presented in a D122-branded box or bag

ITEM 9 Address by DG Akash A. Suvarna + Presentation of Mementos to D122

D122 dignitaries on the dias should be ready to receive pins and mementos. Prepare a list of D122 dignitaries for DG Suvarna so he may address each by name. A photographer should be positioned to capture each presentation.

ITEM 10 Response from Lions – One D122, One D317F

Select a senior D122 speaker (PDG or prominent Club President) for a 3–5 minute personal reflection on the meaning of Lions fellowship across cultures. Coordinate with D317F on their speaker.

🗣️ Suggested MC Script:

We did not meet as strangers today. We met as Lions — and that makes us family already.

ITEM 11 Vote of Thanks – DC Prasanna Krishna (D317F)

No primary speaking role for D122 here. Confirm the correct title and spelling of DC Prasanna Krishna's name with D317F. After the vote of thanks, the MC offers a brief formal closing acknowledgement.

🗣️ Suggested MC Script:

On behalf of District 122 and all Lions present today, we thank District Chair Lion Prasanna Krishna for those warm and gracious words. We are deeply honoured by the presence of District 317F among us.

ITEM 12 Meeting Adjourned for Fellowship & Dinner

Fellowship Dinner — Key Recommendations:

- ▶ Mix D317F and D122 members at dinner tables to maximize personal connection
- ▶ Offer clear vegetarian options — many Indian guests may be vegetarian for cultural/religious reasons (confirm dietary requirements in advance)
- ▶ Consider brief Czech/Slovak folk music or cultural entertainment
- ▶ Arrange a group photograph of both delegations before or after dinner

🗣️ Suggested MC Script:

*This formal session of the Twinning Ceremony of Districts 317F and 122 is now adjourned.
We invite all Lions and guests to join us for fellowship and dinner —
because as Lions, we know that the best decisions are made over a shared table.
Lions — We Serve!*

PART FIVE — NATIONAL ANTHEM LYRICS*For all participants — please stand and sing together***IN JANA GANA MANA — National Anthem of India***Composed by Rabindranath Tagore | Adopted 1950 | Sung in approximately 52 seconds***Bengali (Official)**

জন গণ মন অধিনায়ক, জয় হে
 ভারত ভাগ্য বিধাতা।
 পঞ্জাব সিন্ধু গুজরাট মরাঠা
 দ্রাবিড় উৎকল বঙ্গ
 বিক্র্য হিমাচল যমুনা গঙ্গা
 উচ্ছল জলধি তরঙ্গ
 তব শুভ নামে জাগে, তব শুভ আশিষ মাগে,
 গাহে তব জয় গাথা।
 জন গণ মঙ্গলদায়ক জয় হে ভারত ভাগ্য বিধাতা।
 জয় হে, জয় হে, জয় হে,
 জয় জয় জয় জয় হে।

Transliteration (for singing along)

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka, jaya he
 Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
 Punjab-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha
 Dravida-Utkala-Banga
 Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
 Uchchhala-jaladhi-taranga
 Tava shubha name jage, tava shubha asisha mage,
 Gahe tava jaya gatha.
 Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
 Jaya he, jaya he, jaya he,
 Jaya jaya jaya jaya he.

English Translation (for understanding)

*Thou art the ruler of the minds of all people,
 Dispenser of India's destiny.
 Thy name rouses the hearts of Punjab, Sindhu,
 Gujarat and Maratha,
 Of the Dravida and Orissa and Bengal;
 It echoes in the hills of the Vindhyas and Himalayas,
 Mingles in the music of Yamuna and Ganga
 And is chanted by the waves of the Indian Sea.
 They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.
 The saving of all people waits in thy hand,
 Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
 Victory, victory, victory to thee.*

CZ KDE DOMOV MŮJ — National Anthem of the Czech Republic

Lyrics: Josef Kajetán Tyl (1834) | Music: František Škroup | First verse sung officially

Czech (Official — First Verse)

Kde domov můj, kde domov můj?
Voda hučí po lučinách,
bory šumí po skalinách,
v sadě skví se jara květ,
zemský ráj to na pohled!
A to je ta krásná země,
země česká, domov můj,
země česká, domov můj!

English Translation

*Where is my home, where is my home?
Water murmurs through the meadows,
through the rocks the pine trees whisper,
in the orchard blooms the spring,
earthly paradise to see!
And this is that beautiful land,
the Bohemian land, my home,
the Bohemian land, my home!*

SK NAD TATROU SA BLÝSKA — National Anthem of the Slovak Republic

Lyrics: Janko Matúška (1844) | Music: traditional | First verse sung officially

Slovak (Official — First Verse)

Nad Tatrou sa blýska, hromy divo bijú,
zastavme ich, bratia, veď sa ony stratia,
Slováci ožijú.

To Slovensko naše, posiaľ tvrdo spalo,
ale blesky hromu vzbudzujú ho k tomu,
aby sa prebralo.

English Translation

*Lightning flashes over the Tatras, the thunder pounds wildly,
let us pause, brothers, they will surely pass,
the Slovaks will revive.*

*This Slovakia of ours has been fast asleep until now,
but the thunder's lightning is rousing it
to wake up.*

PART SIX — D122 MASTER CHECKLIST

Summary of Actions Required Before 1 April 2026

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Confirm full dignitary list from D317F	D122 Cabinet Secretary	3 weeks prior
Appoint bilingual MC (English + Czech/Slovak)	DG Cubon	3 weeks prior
Prepare Lion pins for each D317F dignitary	Protocol Officer	1 week prior
Prepare special memento for DG Suvarna	DG Cubon / PDG	1 week prior
Confirm dietary requirements (vegetarian options)	Organizing Committee	2 weeks prior
Prepare audio tracks for all 3 anthems & test AV	Technical Team	Day before
Source & display: LCI flag, Indian, Czech, Slovak flags	Organizing Committee	Day before
Print bilingual programmes (EN/CZ/SK)	D122 Secretariat	3 days prior
Brief all D122 dias dignitaries on protocol	MC / Protocol Officer	Day before
Confirm electric lamp logistics with D317F	Organizing Committee	1 week prior
Prepare name placards (English) for dias seats	Organizing Committee	Day before
Appoint photographer for pin presentations	DG Cubon	1 week prior
Provide list of D122 dignitaries to DG Suvarna	Protocol Officer	Day before
Prepare Czech/Slovak cultural welcome gift	DG Cubon	1 week prior
Arrange dinner seating mixing both delegations	Organizing Committee	2 days prior



Lions International — Uniting D122 & D317F in Service and Friendship
1 April 2026

Jozef Čuboň
DG D122 Czech Republic and Slovak Republic