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Rotary

NEWS PLUS



RC Surat West celebrates I-Day with patriotic fervour

Team Rotary News



I-Day was marked with flag hoisting and greetings by Surat Rotarians.

RC Surat West, RID 3160, celebrated the 74th Independence Day with great zeal and patriotic fervour. Several Rotary and Rotaract members along with volunteers from Seva Foundation Trust

marked the celebration with a flag hoisting ceremony amid the Covid-19 crisis. The Commissioner of Police Ajay Tomar and the Deputy Commissioner of Police Prashant Sumbe took part and hoisted the flag. The members of the club

distributed masks to the underprivileged people of the community.

To make the celebration more meaningful the club created awareness about the importance of face cover as the first defence against Covid. The club

plans to distribute more masks in the coming days as well. During the Independence Day celebrations, Covid-19 norms and safety protocols were followed by everybody who participated in the event.■

On the cover : Baby Durgadevi with her mother. The child's heart surgery was sponsored by RC Madras Chennapatna, RID 3232.

Providing cyclone and Covid relief to the needy

Team Rotary News

Champahati, a town in West Bengal, was affected when Cyclone Amphan ripped through the state in May. Several homes and appliances were damaged in the floods. The members of RC Calcutta East Central, RID 3291, with the help of Rupak Chowdhury, president, RCC Srijan Harinavi and assistant governor Jyotish Roy, reached out to the residents of this town and distributed relief material such as tarpaulins, mosquito repellants and nets, sanitary pads and grocery kits. The club has been taking care of this town and



Relief material being given to a cyclone victim.

The blood

donation camp was organised to benefit thalassaemia patients who require frequent blood transfusion.

its surroundings to tide over the Covid pandemic and the resultant lockdown by giving homeo medicines, masks, sanitisers and groceries to the people.

Over 50 people donated blood at a camp organised by the club, along with RC Calcutta Suncity, at the RCC

Kamarhat premises in the South 24 Paraganas district. The blood donation camp was organised to benefit thalassaemia patients who require frequent blood transfusion.

In another occasion, the two clubs organised a virtual leadership seminar. DG Sudip

Mukherjee was present at the webinar that was attended by club presidents, secretaries, and other district officials. Former police commissioner of Kolkata Rtn Gautam Mohan Chakraborty, the guest speaker, shared a lot of valuable insights on the topic. ■

Saving precious lives

Team Rotary News

The Rotary Club of Madras Chennapatna, RID 3232, recently sponsored a heart surgery for 17-month-old Durgadevi through its Tebrau Heart Fund project. The surgery was performed at the MMM Hospital in Chennai.

Durgadevi was diagnosed with a condition called 'patent ductus arteriosus (PDA)' on the 45th day of her birth.

According to doctors, after birth the ductus arteriosus normally closes within two or three days. In premature infants, it takes longer to close. The abnormal opening causes too much blood to circulate to the baby's lungs and heart. PDA closure is a minimally-invasive

(non-surgical) procedure to place a small device in the vessel, which closes the PDA.

The child developed breathlessness and she was advised to undergo the treatment immediately. Unfortunately, the parents could not afford the surgery and they contacted Dr S Kanchana of RC Madras Connemara, who is also its director, Community Service (Health). She in turn referred them to Dr Ani Grace Kalaimathi of RC Madras Chennapatna to sponsor the surgery.

The club's 'Tebrau Heart Fund' project provides free treatment to children with congenital heart diseases. Since 2000, it has sponsored over 200 surgeries at the MMM Hospital for children from underprivileged families.



Baby Durgadevi with her mother.

The whole process was completed in three days and the cost of ₹1.18 lakh was borne by the club. The child is doing well.■

A RYLA to help youth cope with changes caused by pandemic



RC Nilgiris, RID 3202, conducted an online RYLA programme through zoom. The three-day RYLA had 400 participants and consisted of eight sessions. Apart from leadership lessons, the programme focused on helping the youth understand the changes caused by the pandemic and how they should handle these changes. Other sessions were based on creativity, mental health and communications.■

Doing good in Kharar

Team Rotary News



Above: A cycle rally to mark I-Day.



Left: Rotarians planting a sapling.



Bottom: Covid-relief kit being donated to police.

RC Kharar, RID 3080, conducted a tree plantation drive dubbed *Vanamahotsav*. Members planted 70 saplings and tee guards were fixed. The club also distributed around 300 saplings to the general public. The club donated ₹21,000 towards the construction of a needy person's house. It was brought to the notice of the club that the house had collapsed after heavy rains hit the region. Unable to re-build the house, the man approached the club. With the funds donated by the club, the rain victim could construct a roof.

To create awareness on Covid, hoardings displaying dos and don'ts were displayed in three different languages at important places in the city. The club also distributed masks and sanitisers to the local police.

On the occasion of Independence Day the club conducted a cycle rally. ■

Dombivli Rotarians engage students, hold special lectures

V Muthukumaran

Vocational awards, medals and certificates were given to four teachers and 154 students of 25 schools at a gala event hosted by RC Dombivli Industrial Area, RID 3142, in a joint initiative with the Bharat Scouts and Guides and Sthanik Sanstha to mark Lord Baden Powell Chintan Day at the Manjunath School.

While Vocational Excellence Awards were

presented to four teachers for their meritorious service by the then club president Prakash Sinkar and then district secretary Prakash Shah, the students were honoured with medals and certificates for their extracurricular activities. Around 25 teachers and 400 students from various schools in Dombivli were present at the event.

The Janhavi Foundation School, Umbarli, got a fresh coat of paint at a

cost of ₹15,000 which was sponsored by the then club secretary Mohandas Kamat. The school chairman and its faculty thanked Rotary for giving a new bright look to the building as it will lift the morale of 100 students at this institution. Kamat also donated ₹5,000 for conducting *Infinity*, a two-day programme of the Physics Department at the Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College on behalf of the club.



A dental camp for the students of Greens English School.



Above: PDG Mohan Chandavarkar and the club's IPP Prakash Sinkar, along with Rotarians, at the Project Positive Health camp.

All the Rotary clubs in Dombivli came together to host Project Positive Health at the Rotary Health Centre in which over 100 patients were screened for chronic ailments like blood pressure, obesity and diabetes. The then DG Mohan Chandavarkar and other district office-bearers were present at the health camp venue.



Republic Day was celebrated at the Greens English School with the club felicitating senior inspector of Ramnagar Police Station Suresh Ahire, Rtn Shirish Deshpande, industrialist Vitthal Parvatikar and others. School headmistress, teachers, admin staff and over 200 students were present at the colourful event suffused with patriotic flavour. On the health front, a dental camp was held for students of this school at Milap Nagar in Dombivli East with a team of four doctors screening 250 students for oral health and hygiene. Sinkar,

Rtn Mangesh Jade, school chairman Mohan Gokhale, along with teachers, were present at the camp. To inspire Rotarians, a motivational talk on Mount Everest was given by Rtn Dr Lucky Kasat with a power point presentation. With illustrations and graphics on climbers "who had made it to the summit with courage and grit overcoming dangerous situations," he captivated the minds of over 20 Rotarians from five clubs who were present at the special lecture for club members.

A legal awareness seminar was held jointly with the KDMC Mahila

Samiti at the DNC High School in the presence of over 250 students and 10 teachers. Rtn Shirish Deshpande and Veena Chaudhary from Mahila Samiti gave their presentations.

Cyber Law institute

An awareness lecture on cyber laws and regulations was given by Rtn Shirish Deshpande, Veena Jadhav from Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation, ACP Dilip Raut Saheb and Prakash Sinkar, among others, to a select audience at the Holy Angels School. Around 15 teachers and 170 students were present at the lecture organised in

association with Mahila Bal Kalyan Samiti and the corporation.

The club has started an institute called Indian School of Cyber Jurisprudence, Cyber Crime and Management to offer a four-month certificate course in cyber laws. Apart from holding Cyber Safety Week, seminars and corporate training, the institute will also host programmes for women's empowerment, said Sinkar. "The new institute on cyber laws will also promote digital literacy and digital India by imparting training and education to students, teachers and professionals," said Sinkar. ■



Club president V Ruckmani, project coordinator Jeyalatha Martin and PDG ISAK Nazar at a press meet.

A roadshow to create public awareness

Team Rotary News

As the traffic signal turns red on a busy road in Chennai, a group of five elegantly-dressed women walk on the 'Stop' line

and hold aloft placards that read wear face mask; maintain six feet physical distance between people; sanitise your hands regularly, and more such

messages creating awareness about safeguarding against the deadly virus.

Rotary Club of Chennai Royals, RID 3232, have formed the

'Royals Crazy Crew' — a team of five transgenders who have been groomed and trained by the club to perform roadshows and sensitise the public about various social rules.

Project chairman Jeyalatha Martin launched the roadshow in the presence of club president Ruckmani V, secretary Rajukumar, director-community development Srinivasan and director-health Hazeena Syed. "The Greater Chennai traffic police is happy with our idea and are keen on working with us for more such awareness programmes," said Jeyalatha. The programme enjoyed publicity in print media and was aired in the local TV channels. ■



The Royals Crazy Crew in action.

Rotarians wish Jodhpur Maharaja on his birthday

Team Rotary News



Washing machines being donated at the children's home.

Jodhpur Maharaja Gaj Singh invited members of RC Jodhpur Midtown, RC 3053, for his 72nd birthday celebrations at the Umaid Bhavan Palace. It was a great honour for the club members who took part in the 'At Home' celebrations and the Rotarians extended their hearty wishes to the Maharaja on behalf of IPDG Harish Gaur and the entire Rotary family.

Over 200 blankets and sandals were donated to pavement and roadside dwellers across Jodhpur to protect them from harsh wintery nights. The Rotarians joined hands

with volunteers from Technosoft to reach out to the poor families. The club members took part in a 'Rally of vintage cars and Harley Davidson' which was led by Rtn Vishant Singhvi from the Umaid Bhawan Palace. The entire rally was coordinated by Rtn Sushil Nahar, director, Smile Train, Jodhpur Chapter. On this occasion, club's then president Puneet Rao and other Rotarians were felicitated by the Smile Train project coordinators for their contribution in increasing awareness on cleft surgeries in the city.

Puneet Rao and past president Vinay Kothari visited Bal Basera,

a children's home, along with a Rotarian from Australia, to gift two washing machines. The club hoped this small gesture will inculcate good habits of cleanliness and ensure better hygiene among the children at Bal Basera.

Cybercrime awareness

An awareness session on cybercrime was held for students and teachers of Lachoo Memorial College of Science and Technology. Cybercrime experts along with officers from Rajasthan Police, SBI Bank and a psychologist briefed a gathering of 500 students and teachers on ways to prevent online frauds, thefts and other forms of computer network-based crimes. Some precautionary steps were suggested while browsing the internet and the students were told to be vigilant against cyberstalking too.

The club organised a similar cyber workshop for entrepreneurs and businessmen at the Jodhpur Industries Association. The cyber professionals including a psychologist interacted with the businessmen on the need to guard themselves against cyber theft of their properties including bank accounts through digital frands. ■

Rotarians greet Jodhpur Maharaja Gaj Singh in his birthday.



D 2981

RC Pondicherry Midtown

Under the SCAW Project, over 500 bed kits were given to children at three government schools near Thirukanur. The project was inaugurated by Chief Education Officer Sundaramoorthy in the presence of government officials and Rotarians. The project cost ₹22 lakh.



D 3030

RC Malegaon Midtown

Past president Uday Rahude took part in the Mumbai Marathon titled *Keep India Polio Free*. He is passionate about eradicating polio from the world and ran the marathon with the Rotary's t-shirt and cap having the slogan on keeping India polio-free.



D 3040

RC Indore Meghdoot

A general health camp was organised at the Pardeshipura temple in which more than 80 people were examined for blood pressure, blood sugar and obesity with the help of Apollo Hospitals. More than 15 members assisted the doctors who gave free consultations to patients. Free OPD treatment was given at Apollo Hospitals to those who had attended this camp.





D 3053

RC Bhiwadi Shakti

Over 2,000 canvas bags were distributed at various places as part of a campaign against single-use plastics. A programme was held at the Baba Mohan Ram Kissan College in Bhiwadi to drive home the message to students and faculty in the presence of IAS officers.



D 3053

RC Jodhpur Padmini

The club has taken up revamp of infrastructure and co-scholastic facilities at two government schools to make them attractive and happy learning places for students and teachers. Rotarians visit the schools often to monitor the work in progress.



D 3054

RC Ahmedabad South

A Christmas-eve dance programme was held for the physically-challenged students at the Apang Manav Mandal in association with Darshu Care Trust. Over 270 students took part and enjoyed the special event.

D 3060

RC Rajkot Midtown

Around 50,000 people ran in the Rajkot Marathon flagged off by Gujarat CM Vijay Rupani. This fundraiser event turned out to be a big PR exercise for the club. Children of more than 100 schools and colleges were involved. The then DG Anish Shah was present along with district office-bearers.



D 3060

RC Senoras Jamnagar

In the presence of Municipal Commissioner Satish Patel, past president Nisha Iyer and Nisha Aswar donated a set of washable masks for angandwadi workers and Asha volunteers to the ICDS officer.



D 3060

RC Surat

An eye camp was organised by RCC Lajpore, sponsored by the club, in which 144 patients were selected for cataract operation and over 970 spectacles were distributed with the support of Aether Foundation and Rotary Eye Institute, Navsari. The project cost ₹5 lakh.





D 3080

RC Dehradun Central

A health and hygiene workshop was held at a government girls school in the presence of Uttarakhand State Commission for Women secretary Kamini Gupta. Rtn Reeta Dhawan was the guest speaker. Under Project Chilly Winter, woollen sweaters were given to schoolchildren.



D 3080

RC Karnal

Republic Day was celebrated at the Mata Prakash Kaur Centre, a home for speech and hearing-impaired children. Tricolour was unfurled and sweets are distributed to the children. Many Rotarians took part and interacted with the special children.



D 3080

RC Mohali

The club's IPP Harjeet Singh was feted with Punjab Samman Award by CM Amarinder Singh on Republic Day for his contributions to Project Anganwari in which the club has adopted 12 centres in rural areas.

D 3090

RC Faridkot

A garbage dump was converted into a park at a government primary school with the help of Rtn Ashok Chanana. The club took four months to develop a beautiful park with benches for children to relax and talk. A number of fruit-bearing trees were also planted. IPP Parvesh Rehan took personal care in this project.



D 3090

RC Mansa Royal

A seminar-cum-medical camp under Stop NCD Project was held in which blood sugar, thyroid and obesity were examined by doctors led by Dr Sushil Kotru from Max Hospital, Bathinda. Then DG Rajeev Garg was the chief guest at the seminar. More than 200 patients were screened. PDG Prem Aggarwal thanked doctors for their service.



D 3090

RC Nabha Greater

Forty-one teachers were honoured with Nation Builder Awards for excellence in their duty. They were felicitated at a gala event attended by Rotarians and teachers. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to Rotary.





D 3090

RC Samana

A Health and Happiness workshop anchored by Art of Living faculty Vivek Bansal at the Rotary Bhawan gave insights on the ways and means to lead a simple, contented life for Rotarians and their families. Lohri celebration was held with music and dance which was enjoyed by Rotary families.



D 3110

RC Bareilly Shree

The club members distributed blankets and woollen clothes in a slum colony to keep shield them from harsh wintery nights. The project elevated the image of Rotary in the neighbourhood with families thanking the club for this thoughtful gesture.



D 3131

RC Panvel Elite

The club, in association with RCC Borgaon Elite and Robinhood Army, distributed 200 food grains kits at four tribal villages in the Pen taluk of Raigad district. Around 200 tribal families benefitted from this project costing ₹1.4 lakh. During the lockdown, the club has taken a number of Covid-relief efforts for the needy.

RC Tirupur West engages students, cleans waterbodies

V Muthukumaran

On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, RC Tirupur West, RID 3202, inaugurated a mega green drive that aims to plant over 1,000 saplings along the banks of Senkaraipallam-Noyyal river in Agrahara Puthur village. This social forestry project was taken up in partnership with Vanam India Foundation, a local NGO, whose secretary 'Sky' Sundarajan was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

Mangalam Police Station inspector E Nirmala was the guest of honour.

In a similar event, the club, along with Vanam Foundation, planted more than 2,000 palm seeds at the Vettuvapalayam pond in Mangalam village and once they become full grown trees in the next few years, it will transform the locality into a lush, green hub. The club's past president Nataraja Moorthy distributed 50 bed-sheets, fruits and packed foods

to inmates of Vallalar Old Age Home at Mangalam village to mark the International Day of Older Persons (Oct 1). He along with other Rotarians interacted with the senior citizens and assured them of all help including basic necessities and rations. The club took up efforts to root out *Seemai Karuvelam* (Prosopis Juliflora) trees that drain out groundwater and create other hurdles to the villagers in Kothapalayam.



RC Tirupur West past president Nataraja Moorthy (centre) launching a battery-operated two-wheeler for garbage collection.



Nataraja Moorthy presenting spectacles to school student at an eye camp.

WinS Seminar

A WASH in School project was done at the Government Primary School, Chettipalayam, in which an awareness seminar on right handwashing practices with a demonstration was held for the students to mark the World Handwashing Day (Oct 15). "We distributed tables and grammar books to all the students and installed a water tank with pipeline for the handwash station," said Moorthy.

In another initiative, the club desilted and cleaned a decaying pond at Agrahara Puthur to make it a perennial source of groundwater recharge for the villagers. The Rotarians cleaned and renovated this neglected pond with a JCB machine. The Kousika river was also cleaned in a 10-day project in which the club used JCB machine to desilt and renovate at least 4km of the river stretch at a cost of ₹4 lakh.

The club laid a concrete floor spread over 7,500 sqft at the Mangalam High School at a cost of ₹7 lakh to ensure safety of children. Two rainwater harvesting pits were constructed at this school at a cost of ₹1.4 lakh to save rain water and increase recharge of groundwater during summer. Besides, the Rotarians distributed over 100 spectacles to the visually-impaired students at this government school in Mangalam.

Garbage collecting vehicle

A battery operated, garbage collecting vehicle was presented to the Regional Development Officer V Kanakaraj during a planting drive held jointly with Nanbarkal Narpani Iyakkam, a local NGO, at the Sultanpet canal near Tirupur. "We cleaned the surface of the *vaikkal* (drain) and erected a wire fence in and around it for

its upkeep at a total cost of ₹3.4 lakh," he said.

Past presidents were felicitated with mementoes at the 14th Charter Day event held at the Rotary Hall.

During a seminar on dengue awareness at the Primary Health Centre, Pongalur, the club distributed 100 t-shirts and 50 bedsheets to pregnant women. The then club president Moorthy presided over the event and distributed the gifts to the beneficiaries.

Eye camp

The club joined hands with City Opticals to hold eye screening camps at the Government Higher Secondary School and Government Middle School at Velampalayam. A panel of doctors examined all the students and 30 of them were given free spectacles by Nataraja Moorthy. ■

Badagara Rotarians reach out to schools with diverse projects

Team Rotary News



Nation Builder Award being given to Saleena, a government school teacher.

Dustbins were distributed to schools in a waste management project done by RC Badagara Central, RID 3202, at the St Antony's Girls High School in association with the Vatakara Municipality. The then club president AK Venugopal chaired the event, while its secretary Kuniyil Balakrishnan welcomed the gathering. Rtn Dr Bijin spoke on the proper segregation of waste for a healthy environment. Municipal Chairman K Sreedharan, the chief guest, handed over the

dustbins to Rekha, the headmistress of the school.

Guest speaker Manalil Mohanan took a session on waste management and cleanliness among students. Around 18 schools in and around Vatakara received the dustbins from the club.

Nation Builder Award was given to Saleena, a teacher at the Villiappally LP School for her humanitarian activities in addition to her career as a teacher. The then AG Dr N Mohanan presented the award to Saleena.

Past club treasurer Rajan gave a cheque for

₹6,500 to the Indian Veterinary Association for purchasing 10 bags of cattle feed at a 5F Seminar in Kozhikode. Due to the recent floods, there was a scarcity of cattle feed and many bovines suffered. Hence, the club donated the amount which will take care of the needs of dairy animals.

In another gesture, the club gave ₹13,500 to a tumour patient Usha, wife of Shaji who is an auto driver at Makkoolpeedika. In addition to the amount of ₹5,000 approved by the Board, seven

Rotarians pooled in ₹8,500 for helping the needy patient.

A WinS programme was held at the Chennamangalam LP School with a demonstration on the right handwashing technique. Dr Mohanan inaugurated the event in the presence of Venugopal and Balakrishnan. Rtn Dr KM Abdulla took a class on the importance of handwashing to the students.

WinS material were handed over to the school authority in the presence of Rotarians. A renovated footpath leading to the new

bus stand was inaugurated by the traffic sub-inspector Krishna Das. The project cost ₹28,000.

Ayurveda camp

The club joined hands with a charitable trust in memory of Dr Balakrishnan to hold an ayurveda camp at the Karthikapally LP School.

District panchayat member Rajan Master inaugurated the camp in which a team of three doctors consulted the patients and gave free medicines. Three pharmacists also attended the camp. More than 120 patients benefitted and 20 Rotarians were present at the alternative medical camp.

Onam festivity

In partnership with Thodannur BRC (Block Resource Centre), the club members celebrated Onam with 40 differently-abled students at



A student being felicitated.

Manaveeya Kendram, Chemmarathur. Block panchayat president Suma Thykandy inaugurated the event and block representative Gopinarayanan presided over the special events. Circle Inspector Sri Manoj was the chief guest.

Venugopal along with Balakrishnan and

Rtn Shinoj distributed new clothes to the special children. At a Career Guidance Class hosted by the club at the Masters Academy Hall, Abdul Vahab from Centre for Information and Guidance interacted with the Plus Two students and spoke on the ways and means to shape their

professional life. A painting contest was held at Samskara Nilayam of the Vatakara Municipality on the theme of Rotary's Literacy Mission. The event was inaugurated by Gopalan Master, chairman, Education Standing Committee.

World Heart Day

The club organised a rally to mark World Heart Day in partnership with Vatakara Riders and local chapter of the Indian Median Association. Sub-inspector Shamsudhin inaugurated the event.

After the rally, a team from the Baby Memorial Hospital conducted a demo class on CPR for rescuing victims in emergency cases. Dr Mohanan and Venugopal spoke on the occasion. Fifteen Rotarians took part in the programme. ■



WinS material being distributed to school authorities.

D 3141

RC Bombay Seaface

Vocational Excellence Awards were given to Karishma Swali and Monica Shah (women's empowerment); Maharashtra's ex-DGP D Sivanandhan (service to humanity); Dr B Ramana Rao (medical service) and Manipuri dancer Darshana Jhaveri (Lifetime Achievement) for their contributions in their respective fields. The then DG Harjit Singh Talwar presented the awards.



D 3160

RC Dharmavaram

The club set up a polio booth at the government hospital for giving polio drops to infants. Food packets were distributed at the booth which received good response from the families who thronged to immunise their children. The stall also enhanced the public image of Rotary in this town.



D 3160

RC Guntakal

The club distributed tablets, fruits and nutritious food to around 100 pregnant women at the Primary Health Centre, Nagasamudram. This project was sponsored by Rtn Sravan Kumar. Rotarians distributed stationery and exam pads to students of a primary school.





D 3160

RC Tadipatri

Monthly provision kits were given to 55 physically-challenged persons. A Pulse Polio rally was held with municipality workers and Asha Kiran volunteers. Also, blankets were given to 30 leprosy patients to mark National Anti-leprosy Day.



D 3170

RC Dharwad Central

A district Interact sports meet saw over 130 students taking part in athletic events and games. The then DG Dr Girish Masurkar and PDG Ganesh Bhat inaugurated the event. The Vocational Excellence Awards were given to prominent individuals. Sriniketan School sponsored by RC Sirsi won the overall championship. It was followed by Interact conference attended by around 1,000 students.



D 3170

RC Kumta

Rtn Madhukar L Hegde, a scientist from the US and recipient of many awards, was honoured by the club during its weekly meeting. A G S Hegde and the then president Suresh V Bhat feted the scientist. The then DG Girish Masurkar presented District Vocational Award to sibling-Rotarians Praveen Shet and Chetan Shet for their art work

D 3181

RC Mangaluru Central

The club hosted the 14th annual district-level Inter Club Rotary Quiz in which 13 teams took part. RC Mangalore City represented by Dr Ranjan Rao and Sumith Rao emerged winners while RC Vijayanagar Mysore was declared runners up. PDG Dr R Nagarajan appreciated the role of Rtn Dr Devdas Rai who was the quiz master.



D 3182

RC Kota City

Nutritious food worth ₹15,000 were given to 50 children at the Anganwadi Kendra in Kota Thattu. The chocobites help in improving the immunity and brain power of children.



D 3201

RC Parur

The then DG Madhav Chandran handed over keys to a house constructed by the club to a beneficiary as part of their rehabilitation efforts for the flood victims. This is the third house being given to flood victims by the club which has taken up rehab efforts on a large scale.





D 3202

RC Tirupur South

The club members distributed 500 t-shirts and food at the Pattaya orphanage in Thailand with project chair K Mohanasundaram and the then president N Muthurathinam coordinating the activities. A pulse polio camp was organised and around 800 food packages were distributed to the volunteers in Tirupur.



D 3291

RC Belur

Past president Rakesh Bhatia and his team distributed masks and hand sanitisers to the needy people including retailers and roadside vendors as part of Covid relief efforts. The team has taken up a number of activities to prevent the spread of coronavirus.



D 3291

RC Kasba

West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankar was inducted as honorary member of the club at an event in Rotary Sadan. The then DG Ajay Agarwal put up the Rotary pin, while PDG Angsuman Bandyopadhyay handed over a flower bouquet to the new member. The Governor received membership certificate.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Madurai Rotarians take up women, student-centric projects

V Muthukumaran



RC Madurai North past president DN Govardan (2nd from L) at the floormat vocational project.

A five-day vocational training project was taken up by RC Madurai North, RID 3000, in which 30 women from underprivileged families were taught the process of making floormats on the premises of Mother Teresa Women's University. In his address at the project inauguration, club's past president DN Govardan urged the women trainees to make the best use of this programme so that "you could make a reasonable earning to uplift the lifestyle of your families." Fifteen Rotarians took part in the inaugural event of the vocational programme. College authorities thanked Rotary for its commitment to enhance the

livelihood of poor, deprived families, said B Manoj Kumar, club's past secretary.

In an anti-polio awareness campaign, Rotarians led by ex-secretary Manoj Kumar and PolioPlus Committee chair Dr K Bagath Singh assembled at the Public Health Centre in Puthuthoppu to help the health workers and volunteers in administering polio drops to children.

Sweets and playballs were distributed to children to provide light entertainment to them. "We went on a door-to-door canvassing to create awareness on immunisation for children," said Kumar. City Health Officer Dr S Senthil Kumar also joined the campaign team for a

brief period. Though Govardan was not there having left for Mumbai a day earlier, he took part in a similar project at a PHC located in a slum area of Andheri, Mumbai. His dedication to the End Polio Now campaign was lauded by IPDG Dr Zameer Pasha.

One of the flagship projects of the club, *Kannoli 1000*, holds a series of eye camps in government schools in which free spectacles are given to the visually-impaired students and villagers. Besides those in need of regular eye treatment due to defective eyesight or recurring disorders are identified and referred to private hospitals or clinics. "The highest form of service is to help a person

who is incapable of thanking one in return. Like in previous phases, the poor students who were in a perplexed state of mind due to visual impairment heaved a sigh of relief on receiving free spectacles,” said Manoj Kumar.

Besides Govardan and Manoj Kumar, Rtns R Sivakumar, S Sabarinath, R Dhandapani, S Kumar and C Surendran made arrangements for the success of the ‘Kannoli’ camps. Spectacles were given to around 50 poor students at St Britto Higher Secondary School, Arapalayam, who were earlier diagnosed as having impaired or partially-impaired eyesight. Govardan explained about the Kannoli project to the beneficiaries and thanked the school authority for allowing Rotary to carry out the eye-testing camp.



Polio drops being administered to a child.

The mobile medical unit would improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote villages.

Mobile Medical Unit

A specially-designed medical van was launched at the GHCL (Gujarat Heavy Chemicals Ltd) campus by the club under a global grant project executed with the support of The Rotary Foundation, GHCL Foundation Trust and Apollo Hospitals, Madurai.

Addressing the gathering of doctors, paramedics and Rotarians at the inaugural ceremony, IPDG Zameer Pasha said the mobile medical unit worth ₹58 lakh would improve the accessibility of healthcare services in remote villages where the poor people will be able to get better medical care and diagnosis at their doorsteps. Seven villages around Madurai would benefit from the mobile medical unit to begin with, he said.

“Unlike in hospital ambulance, this medical vehicle consists of ultrasound, Echo, ECG and other modern gadgets that would diagnose the diseases instantly,” said Dr D Shyam, general manager, Apollo Hospitals, Madurai. GHCL CEO M Sivabalasubramanian, who is also the club’s past president, assured more CSR funds would be made available for another mobile medical unit to cover more villages around Madurai. Govardan, Rtn T Malaivasan and past secretary Manoj Kumar spoke at the event. ■



Govardan fitting a spectacle on a needy student at a Kannoli camp.

RC Bhavani Komarapalayam holds RYLA in Yercaud

Team Rotary News



The student winners at the RYLA.

A two-day multidistrict RYLA titled *Annyonyam* was organised by RC Bhavani Komarapalayam, RID 3202, at Yercaud, a hill station near Salem, in December with an aim to train Rotaractors and college students in leadership qualities and spread the Rotary ideals among the youth in this region.

This was the first multidistrict RYLA conducted in RID 3202 for Rotary year 2019–20 and it saw 80 students sponsored by various clubs taking part in various events and interactive sessions. Among the

participants 45 students were from RID 3202 and 35 from RID 2982 representing their colleges and institutions. In his address, the then DG A Karthikeyan, RID 3202, dwelt on the leadership qualities, Rotary projects and community activities that shaped the personalities of youth.

The then DGN K Shanmugasundaram, District RYLA Chair M Karthikeyan, Regional RYLA Chairman ST Sivakumar, State Coordinator (Erode, Ooty regions) M Sakthi Nallasivam addressed the inaugural session.

RC Bhavani Komarapalayam president A Chandrasekaran (2019–20) welcomed the participants from the two districts.

In the opening session, district deputy trainer B Elangkumaran gave a peek into Rotary's history, its milestone projects including polio eradication and its motto and theme. Nallasivam spoke on leadership qualities touching upon the 'learning curve' involved for the aspiring young leaders. This was followed by a magic show that entertained the participants.

A trekking to Kiliyar

Falls was arranged on the second day. DG (2019–20) AK Natesan, RID 2982, gave a talk on the link between friendship and youth leadership.

Motivational expert Nellai Jayantha spoke on the topic "Will it be beneficial to all?" The Best Performance Award was bagged by the students of Agriculture Department from JKKM Institutions, Komarapalayam. The RYLA event was coordinated by project chair R Dhandayuthapani and co-chair L Barani, Regional Coordinator, Erode. ■

RC Pudukkottai observes World Breastfeeding Week

Team Rotary News

The importance of mother's milk to the newborn was explained at a guest lecture by Dr A Malathy, a gynaecologist, at an event to mark World Breastfeeding Week organised by RC Pudukkottai City, RID 3000, at the S K Hospital in Machuvadi village.

Club President K Arumugam presided over the event. Besides creating an affinity between mother and her child, breastfeeding provides all the required nutrition for the newborn, she said, and urged lactating mothers to breastfeed their children for their healthy growth. Awareness manuals on mother's milk were given to all the participants.



Club president K Arumugam presents Covid relief material to Municipality Commissioner A Jahangir Pasha.

A rainwater harvesting (RWH) event was held under the leadership of Arumugam. This is one of the district projects and is being implemented with instructions from DG AL Chokkalingam. Road safety and Awareness Association President Maruti Mohanraj was among the participants.

Face masks and hand sanitisers were distributed to the public in the presence of Municipality Commissioner A Jahangir Pasha. In another initiative, Covid relief material were given to journalists and those working in the media by Arumugam. A large number of Rotarians including Mohanraj, club secretary P Chelladurai and others took part in the programme. ■



A manual on mother's milk being given to a participant.

PHCs in Goa get swab collection kiosks

Team Rotary News

Understanding the risk faced by doctors, health officers and frontline staff during swab collection of patients who go for Covid-19 testing, RC Panaji Riviera, RID 3170, led by its president Ryan Costa donated seven swab collection kiosks to the primary health centres in the north district of Goa. This will help reduce the risk of passing infection to the collection officers and staff significantly.

The project cost ₹42,000. It will benefit around 650 people in the PHCs at Mapusa, Corlim, Candolim, Betki, Mayem and Choroa. ■



Doctors at the Candolim PHC with the swab collection kiosk installed by the club.

Newborns get a gift from Salem Rotarians



Rtn MSO Chockalingam gifting kits to the mothers at the MGR Hospital. Club president R Mangeshwar is also in the picture.

MSO Chockalingam, a charter member of the 36-year-old RC Salem South, RID 2982, until recently,

used to be a regular visitor at the Urban Health Centre (MGR Hospital) in Salem for the past 25 years. The 75-year-old Rotarian would

visit the hospital on the second Wednesday of every month carrying with him a bag full of 200 sets each comprising a towel, soap, talcum powder, stainless steel cup and spoon and a feeding bottle. He distributes these sets to the mothers of neonatal infants. So far 5,000 babies have benefited from Chockalingam's noble endeavour. It all started when his friend who was donating the kits got transferred and so he stepped in to continue the project.

"This year Chockalingam has discontinued his Rotary membership due to old age, but we are continuing this little gift to the parents and children at the UHC as our flagship project," says club president R Mangeshwar. ■