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Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Yash Pal Das, a human being par excellence

David Hilton

When PRID Yash Pal Das sent me his favourite song on International Friendship Day (July 30) little did I realise then the lilting melody and meaningful words were apt eulogy for this exemplary human being. Yash was that trusty, solid, bridge of support, strength and comfort we could always rely on. He gave himself so fully and unreservedly to everyone and to righteous causes.

It is difficult to encapsulate in a few words a remarkable life. Each of us will cherish and treasure the precious memories of him as a family member, leader, friend or colleague. Endowed with sterling qualities of head and heart, sincerity of purpose, genuineness and charm, he was eminently successful professionally and in reaching the highest echelons of Rotary. His untimely passing has created a void, and

darkness surrounds us as in the closing of a glorious day. The ethereal glow and fragrance of his presence still lingers.

Yash was the quintessential gentleman. He was warm, urbane and genial, and had a calm demeanour with positive attitude. Everyone who approached him with a problem was happy to receive his sane guidance and advice. He strove to find a solution for the most vexing and difficult problems. However, in matters of principle or propriety he was unbending and of firm resolve.

I vividly recall our several trips together in the Garhwal hills of Uttarakhand for building and handing over the 32 pre-primary Rotary schools constructed by him in the aftermath of devastation caused by flash floods in 2013. He undertook this herculean task of rehab efforts on behalf of Rotary India with meticulous planning, passion

and commitment, transforming the devastated region. We marvelled at his limitless energy and inexhaustible drive in making numerous trips with PDG Prem Bhalla to the mountains in very trying and challenging conditions.

Yash would supervise every detail of the school construction to provide the children the best infrastructure and environment to learn. “We have not seen God or met him face to face. We have seen His work through your hands — Rotarian hands. Thank you, Rotary, for bringing back smiles to our children,” said a lady principal of a school in Chameli during the handover ceremony of a newly-built school. This will remain his lasting legacy.

I also had the opportunity of working closely with him at the Rotary National TB Awareness and Control Committee. He led the panel as its chairman with distinction having taken over the mantle from late PDG Laxmi Sagar. A project that was close to his heart was the Rotary Cancer hospital in Ambala that he helped set up and which actively engaged his time, effort and resources. He was always looking ahead, planning improvements to the existing facilities.

The Rotary School for special children in Ambala was another pet project that he was proud to be associated with. A stalwart of the Rotary fraternity, an outstanding leader and mentor, the noble soul will be remembered with deep respect and affection for inspiring and touching the lives of many. He has left a deep imprint in our hearts and souls by creating a safe place for us to feel loved and be special.

As we pay our humble tribute to a life lived in the service of others, let us draw comfort and pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul and give solace and fortitude to dear Manju and the bereaved family in their grief and loss. RIP, dear Yash.



From left: Sharmishtha Desai, PRIDs Yash Pal Das, Manoj Desai and PDG David Hilton.

The writer is a former district governor, RID 3080

Solar water heater for old age home

Team Rotary News



Rotarians at the installation of water heater.

In association with RC Mysore West, RID 3181, RC Kollegal donated a 200-litre solar water heater to Karuna Bhavan Home for the

Aged at Kollegal, Karnataka. The old age home has 70 residents and the nuns taking care of them approached the club for help as the cold season

was approaching. Rotarians donated the facility and spent time with the inmates. The club plans to extend its services at the home. ■

RC Alwar distributes masks to general public



Under the 'No Mask No Entry' awareness programme for protection against corona RC Alwar, RID 3053, donated 1,000 masks to the general public. The initiative was carried out with the help of the local traffic police. Residents of Alwar were sensitised on the importance of social distancing by club members. The efforts of the club were appreciated and the club plans to extend the awareness campaign. ■

A Covid awareness drive at Alwar.

Rotary notebooks with 4-Way-Test for girl students

Team Rotary News

The all-women's club RC Ahmednagar Priyadarshini, RID 3132, printed Rotary's Four-Way Test on over 3,000 notebooks and distributed them to interactors at five schools. Further, the club members explained to the students the importance of applying the Four-Way Test in their daily lives. "The Interactors pledged to help Rotary to connect with the youth of the community," said Dr Bindu Shirsath, past president and club trainer.

With an aim to promote literacy through Asha Kiran Project, the club sponsored the education of 26 children with contributions from its members to this child development programme under TEACH initiative of Rotary India Literacy Mission. The Asha Kiran



A diya-making workshop for underprivileged women.

Project cost ₹70,000. The club hosted a training programme for around 60 teachers from nine schools last year. The lectures were given on topics such as classroom management, creative pedagogy, human rights, stress management

and soft skills as mandated in the RILM.

Four handwashing stations were installed at rural government schools at a cost of ₹1 lakh under the WinS Project in the presence of IPDG Suhas Vaidya. "The handwash stations will benefit 2,000 children at these schools. The sanitation facilities were made of stainless steel to ensure durability and recycle the water for growing trees at the school campus," said Dr Bindu.

A girl child Samiksha Bhausaheb Lhenge was sponsored by the club to pursue a course on MSCIT DP course, an IT literacy programme

in Maharashtra, as she had lost her father and her mother is a domestic maid. "Her mother wanted her to get married due to financial problems, but the club supported her in her aim to lead an independent life," she said.

New dress material were given to underprivileged families to celebrate Diwali and the club taught women in making colourful *diyas* and packing them for selling in the market. "We helped them by purchasing all the *diyas* made by them which brought smile on their faces and helped them to celebrate Diwali," said Jagruti Oberoi, past president of the club. ■



Students with Rotary notebooks having the Four-Way Test on wrappers.

Students of a government school at Doddaballapur near Bengaluru have taken up eye donation campaign with the support of seven teachers and with their promotional activities have motivated people to donate 1,200 pairs of eyes till now. “Whenever the students come to know of any death in the nearby locality, they inform their teachers, who then visit and counsel the family of the deceased. After the family’s consent, the teachers who are also trained to harvest the eyes, do the needful and take the eyes to the eye bank for transplant,” said S Jayaraman, director, Disease Prevention, RID 3190, and a member of Rotary Bangalore RT Nagar.

Jayaraman is the founder-trustee of the Nayana Jyothi Trust, Bengaluru, which partners with Rotary to promote eye donation in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. “The Trust not only motivates people to pledge their eyes but also confers the title Sight Ambassadors to eye donors. It makes eye donors to go beyond just donating their own eyes by motivating others to donate their eyes too while they are alive,” he said. After four years of efforts, he got the nod from the Karnataka and Tamil Nadu governments to use 104 health helpline for this noble deed of eye donation. Any family member of the deceased person can call on this number, if they wish to donate the eyes. The call gets diverted to the nearest eye bank, following which, a medical team goes over to harvest the eyes at home or where the mortal remains are kept.

Depressing scenario

In India 15 lakh people are suffering from corneal blindness. It is said to be the fourth most common cause of blindness in the world. It increases at the rate of 30,000 per year in India. “The country has less than 1,000 corneal surgeons and at the best they

A Rotarian ambassador for eye donation

Team Rotary News



Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan presenting an award to Rtn S Jayaraman, director, Disease Prevention, RID 3190, for promoting eye donation with 104 as helpline number in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

could perform about one lakh corneal transplants every year. This means every year, we need around one lakh corneas for transplants. From the possibility of around two crore eye donation every year, hardly 30,000 usable corneas are available for transplant. That means a minimum wait of 12 to 20 years for a corneal blind person to get his vision back,” explained Jayaraman.

As the sight ambassadors, the donors make other people understand the concept and encourage people to donate eyes. “It is ironic that around 99 per cent of opportunities for eye donation get missed

because nobody is there to request or remind a bereaved family for such a noble gesture. During this time, the sight ambassadors play a key role. They counsel the kin of the deceased person and after family’s consent, they call the nearest eye bank and help to complete the donation process hassle-free,” said Jayaraman.

Those who want to pledge their eyes can send SMS — Eye (space) name (space) place — the Nayana Jyothi Trust’s number 70396 70396 and become a sight ambassador. Their name and location get stored in the NGO’s records. ■

Until we root out polio from the world, no child is safe

Bijay Kumar Yadav

Every year on October 21, the world observes Polio Day and, on that day, we can't forget to look at the various measures taken by GPEI — Global Polio Eradication Initiative launched in 1988 — in which Rotary is a key stakeholder. Now the world is almost free from this crippling disease, except in Afghanistan and Pakistan where there have been 150 cases reported between January and October 2020. India has been certified polio-free by WHO in 2014.

In fact, the roots of Rotary's polio eradication efforts began on Sep 29, 1979, when volunteers administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children in the Manila barrio (locality) of Guadalupe Viejo at an event attended by Rotarians and officials from the Philippines' ministry of health. Then RI President James L Bomar Jr put the first drops of vaccine into a child's mouth, thus launching the Philippines' poliomyelitis immunisation drive and kicking off Rotary's first 3-H (health, hunger and humanity) Project in the world.

Earlier, Bomar and Filipino minister of health Enrique M Garcia signed

an agreement committing Rotary and the government to joint multilayer efforts to immunise about six million children against polio at a cost of about \$760,000. The grand success of this maiden 3-H Project in the Philippines led Rotary to make polio eradication a top priority.

PolioPlus programme

Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and was the founding member of the GPEI, a public-private partnership with a singular aim to end polio through collaborations between WHO, UNICEF, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Rotary International and



the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The global alliance, formed in 1988, chartered out with a roadmap to immunise every child in the world against polio and at that time there were roughly 350,000 cases of the wild poliovirus.

With a spurt in the number of measles cases now, the resurgence of this disease can't be ruled out. Hence, the GPEI's campaign must be extended beyond its finish line. "If extra efforts stopped for polio, we'd have big resurgences," said Dr Walter Orenstein, consultant, GPEI. Any easing of the pressure on polio virus could see a version of what is happening with measles

replicating in polio case as well, though on a slower, less visible but still insidious in its rampage. "Without consistent efforts to try to finish the eradication job, polio will move. If we stop the efforts, the virus is not going to ask for permission to cross the border," said Michel Zaffran, director, Polio Eradication at the WHO.

Virus scare

There is recent evidence that underscores his warning. In May 2019, the WHO reported that a strain of wild poliovirus was found in a sewage in southern Iran which has not recorded a case of polio

since 1997. Polio virus should not be floating in sewage in a country that has not reported polio cases for more than 20 years. Analysis of the virus showed it came from Pakistan; someone who contracted in their travel to this part of Iran.

Most infected persons are asymptomatic and discharge the virus in their stools during and for several weeks after infection. "So, you have a great opportunity for infected individuals to travel. If they end up in a community where there are a high number of (unvaccinated children), you are going to get polio cases," warned Dr William Moss, former director of IVAC at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

It cost about \$1 billion a year to keep polio transmission at the current levels. The GPEI is seeking to raise \$3.27 billion in support of the new 2019–23 Endgame Strategy. The GPEI vaccinates more than 400 million children annually and takes up surveillance in more than 70 countries, thanks to its 20 million volunteers, investments of \$40 billion, and the participation of 200 countries.

Unless we eradicate polio within 10 years, as many as 200,000 new cases could occur around the world each year. In the past few years, only two countries have reported polio cases caused by the wild poliovirus. But no child anywhere is safe until we've vaccinated every child. Polio mainly affect children under five, and there is no cure. But polio is preventable with a vaccine. Only two countries Pakistan and Afghanistan remain endemic. We have reduced cases by 99.9 per cent since 1998. Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.



Pakistan PM Imran Khan giving polio drops to a child.

*The writer is past president
RC Patna City, RID 3250*



Host club team at work.

Inspiring patriotism in Rotarians

Team Rotary News



Event chair Ajay Menon (L) and RC Mapuca president Abhijeet Walke.

RC Mapuca, RID 3170, has been hosting an Annual Patriotic Group Song Singing Competition on Aug 15 since 2010. The club celebrated the 10th anniversary of hosting this annual event as a district event with the consent of DG Sangram Patil.

Event chair Ajay Menon and club president Abhijeet Walke made it a memorable celebration by ensuring each club member donated \$5 to the PolioPlus Fund by associating the finale to the World's Greatest Meal (WGM) programme. The club has a strength of 81 members. A total of \$405 was donated to the PolioPlus Fund.

The event had a participation of 60 teams from across the district and over 200 people signed in to witness the virtual competition. RC Panaji won the championship and Rotaract Club of Bicholim came in second while RC Kumta won the third place.

Famous theatre personality Bharat Jadhav from Maharashtra, playback singers Sonia Shirsat from Goa and Sinchan Dixit from Karnataka formed the jury to judge the competitors.

This event was a fine example of the F.I.R.E principle — Family Involvement in Rotary Events, said DG Patil. ■

A cycle rally promotes first aid awareness and environment protection

Team Rotary News



Rotarians at the cycle rally.

Rotary E-club of Bangalore, RID 3190, along with RCs Bangalore Central and Bangalore Brigades organised a cycle rally named *Vidhiathon* to create awareness on first aid and environment protection.

The event was flagged off on Oct 2 by Baskar Rao, ADGP, Internal security, Karnataka,

in the presence of DG BL Nagendra Prasad and other sports personalities. Around 75 cyclists from various cycling groups in Bengaluru participated and cycled 25km from Vidhana Soudha to Guhantara Cave resort on Kanakapura Road.

At the finish point, tribute was paid to Mahatma Gandhi.

Jagadish D, President, Rotary E-club of Bangalore; Shravana, President, Rotary Bangalore Central; Ashwani, President, Rotary Bangalore Brigades and other Rotary officials of the district were present at the event.

Training in basic first aid was provided to all the participants by Vidhi, an NGO.■

Safeguarding people against Covid



Covid gears being donated to residents.

The Rotarians of RC Badagara Central, RID 3202, distributed face masks and sanitisers to the residents of Thuruthiyil, a locality in Vadagara. They organised an awareness programme for the people to sensitise them about Covid-19 and why it is important to use face masks and sanitisers and maintain physical distancing as compulsory protocols to

safeguard against the virus.

The programme was inaugurated by Rtn P Rajakumar in the presence of club secretary Balakrishnan and treasurer Rajan P.

KP Anju, the president of the Thuruthi Residents Association and its secretary Anish thanked the Rotarians for the protective gears and assured them that they will follow the rules strictly to stay safe.■

D 2981

RC Kumbakonam Sakthi

An awareness programme was held in a village to mark World Breast Feeding Week (Aug 1–7) with expectant mothers attending the session. They were given a health mix and Horlicks, while the newborns were also provided with diapers and overalls.



D 2982

RC Salem Gugai

A telephone directory for district Rotarians was released during the visit of the then DG A K Natesan to the club. He also kicked off a tree plantation drive to mark the occasion. The then club president Ramesh Ramalingam felicitated Natesan. Polio Day was observed on the occasion.



D 2982

RC Sankagiri

The club joined hands with the two RCCs to provide *kabasura kudineer*, an herbal concoction, to the public across various localities for 30 days as part of its Covid relief projects in Sankagiri. This project enhanced the public image of Rotary.





D 3000

RC Tiruchirappalli Royal

Rotarians led by club president Dr S Prakash donated masks and gloves worth ₹15,000 to Tiruchi Police Commissioner Loganathan for distributing the same to his police personnel as a safeguard against Covid. The club has taken a series of Covid-relief projects enhancing its public image.



D 3011

RC Delhi Manthan

Polio drops were given to more than 100 children at a polio booth set up by the club. Covid precautions were taken while implementing this project. Club president Narinder Kumar Lamba, Community Services director Subhash Shishodia and International Services director Shashi Chopra, among others, were present at the camp.



D 3011

RC Delhi West

A Covid testing camp was organised in partnership with the district administration of South Delhi at the Freedom Fighters Colony in which 150 people were screened for the virus. The camp elevated the public image of Rotary in the neighbourhood.

D 3030

RC Nagpur Fort

DG Shabir Shakir felicitated students, teachers and Rotaractors from GH Raisonni Information Technology at an event in Antarbharti School where children from underprivileged families were given a mentorship talk on academics, sports and extracurriculars such as singing and dancing. The project was led by Smita Hastak, the then director, Community Services.



D 3040

RC Mandsaur

The club distributed winter jackets to 30 children in Mundri village. Also, 400 blankets were distributed to villagers to keep themselves warm during winter. The project lifted the public image of Rotary in the locality.



D 3053

RC Ajmer Midtown

Independence Day was celebrated by hoisting the flag at the Rotary Bhawan and planting of fruit-bearing trees on its premises. A sweeper from a colony hoisted the tricolour.





D 3053

RC Gwalior Central

A rally was held to mark World Cancer Day (Feb 4) to create awareness on the disease among the people. Led by project chairman Vivek Mishra, the Rotarians after reaching the Cancer Hospital and Research Institute distributed fruits, snacks and milk to the patients.



D 3053

RC Gwalior Mahanagar

The club members took part in the movement called *Shuddh ke liye Yudhh Abhiyaan* which was started by Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia. Many Rotarians with their families joined volunteers to hold placards and raise slogans on cleanliness.



D 3054

RC Bhuj Wallcity

On Pulse Polio Day, a polio booth was set up for three days at the Jubilee Circle in Bhuj. The club vaccinated 877 children who were given toys to play with. The Inner Wheel Club and Interact Club of Bhuj Wallcity partnered in the polio project. A number of district officials visited the Rotary booth.

D 3054

RC Himatnagar

The 115th Rotary Day was celebrated with cake cutting and a joint pain check-up camp was held with the support of KD Hospital, Ahmedabad. A surgeon diagnosed the patients, some of whom were chosen for further treatment.



D 3060

RC Nandurbar

A 2D Echo camp was organised for poor students of government schools with the support at the SMBT College of Nursing. Around 180 children were screened and medicines given. Of which, 21 students were chosen for heart surgery and further treatment.



D 3080

RC Panchkula Midtown

More than 700 police officers took part in an online session on building immunity against Covid. Rtn Pankaj Kapoor distributed over 500 immunity booster kits, masks and sanitisers to all police stations in Panchkula as part of Covid-relief efforts.





D 3080

RC Roorkee Midtown

Vocational Excellence and Rotary Community Corps Awards were presented to eight professionals and 12 individuals who contributed to Rotary projects as RCC members. A CPR training on basic life support during emergency was held at the Arya Kanya Pathshala, Roorkee, where more than 200 students took part.



D 3090

RC Faridabad Greater

A blood donation camp was held at Shahjahanpur village in which 45 units of blood was collected. It will be donated to thalassaemic children. A mass Covid testing was done at Jawahar Colony in which around 180 people from this slum area were screened for the virus.



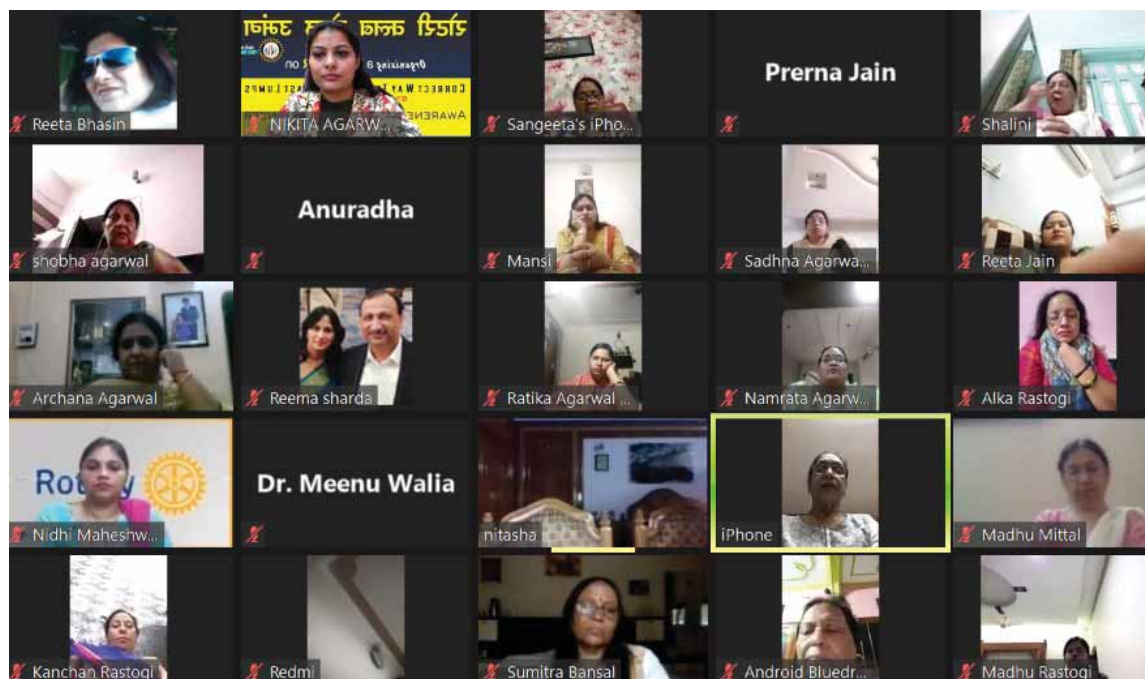
D 3090

RC Faridkot

Republic Day was celebrated at an old age home that also sheltered deaf, dumb, blind and mentally-retarded children. Deputy Commissioner Jyoti Singh Raj distributed fruits and refreshments to the inmates. The then club president Parvesh Rehan thanked the official for appreciating the work done by Rotary.

RC Meerut Umang hosts cancer awareness webinar

Team Rotary News



A screenshot of the webinar.

On 19 September 2020, a webinar was organised by Rotary Club of Meerut Umang, RID 3100, in collaboration

with Max Hospital to create awareness on breast cancer and share measures to prevent it. Dr Meenu Walia, a gynaecologist, said that “by adopting some simple measures in your lifestyle, you can protect yourself from cancer. Prevention is better than cure.”

Dr Kanika Gupta, from Max Hospital, said that “instead of being afraid of cancer, get appropriate treatment. Cancer should not be taken carelessly and when the primary symptoms are seen do not delay to get examined by a specialist.”

The was counducted in collaboration with RCs Aman Chandausi, Ganga Bijnor, Dhampur Royals, Meerut Cosmos, Meerut Mahan, Moradabad Heritage, Muzaffarnagar Midtown, and all women’s club Shamli.■



Dr Meenu Walia

FM radio lessons for Akola students

Team Rotary News



Rotarians and teachers at the FM radio programme.

RC Akola Midtown, RID 3030, is promoting a learning programme for students under the name *Masti Ki Patshala* hosted by Radio Orange 91.9 FM.

In association with Interactors,

this programme is helping students catch up with lessons during the lockdown. Every Sunday from 11am to 1pm guest teachers are invited to give lessons, share their schooling experience and funny anecdotes to keep the

children entertained while imparting lessons from their current syllabus.

On the occasion of Teacher's Day, the club donated food and stationery kits to 100 girls living in orphanages in Akola.■

Rotary's environment care in Shoranur



Farmers being honoured by RC Shoranur.

Rotary District 3201 observed September as environment month as suggested by DG Jose Chacko Madhavassery.

Rotary Club of Shoranur followed this initiative by honouring farmers in one of their programmes. Twenty farmers were identified from around the region and given agricultural implements worth ₹40,000. Chelakkara MLA U R Pradeep presided over the event.

The club has planned other events related to environment care. This includes setting up a sapling centre called Mahatma Gandhi Vrukshodhyan at three localities from where saplings will be given free of cost to interested people; planting 300 trees at the Cheruthuruthy government high school and planting bamboo shoots on the banks of the Bharathapuzha river to prevent soil erosion. This project is named *Arunamruth*, after Arun R Nair, the club's charter member.■

D 3100

RC Moradabad Central

A two-day intercity meet was held in a resort hotel at the Jim Corbett National Park. Around 300 Rotarians and their families took part in the event which had a theme of 'Involvement of youth in Rotary and health'. PDGs Kanti Mehta and Sharat Jain took part as guests of honour. Rtn Himanshu Garg was the Intercity chairman.



D 3141

RC Mulund Hill View

A diabetes-cum-eye check-up camp was held at the Mayuresh Park, Bhandup. Around 120 patients were screened at the camp which was supported by teams from Thyrocare and the Lotus medical team.



D 3160

RC Kavali

World AIDS Day was observed at the Tallapalem AIDS Centre with the distribution of food grains to the special home. The project was sponsored by Rtn B Veeraswami. On World Disabled Day, two tricycles were donated to physically-challenged. The vehicles were sponsored by Rtns B Ravikumar and Dr Vijaya.





D 3170

RC Dharwad Central

A district Interact sports meet was held at the R N Shetty stadium with the participation of around 130 students in the age group of 12–18 from Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka. IPDG Dr Girish Masurkar and PDG Ganesh Bhat inaugurated the event.



D 3170

RC Panaji Riviera

The club distributed long jackets and gloves to 100 garbage collectors from the corporation as part of Swachh Bharat initiative and public image building. Likewise, 50 long aprons were distributed to fish cutters at the fish market in Panaji.



D 3170

RC Sangli Midtown

A three-day blood donation camp was held at the Red Cross Society's Blood Bank in the town. Over 31 bags of blood were collected in the first community project of the year. Due to Covid outbreak, the club followed strict government guidelines and adhered to social distancing norms.

D 3181

RC Mangalore Central

The state-level Vandana Award was presented to NITTE Deemed University chancellor N Vinaya Hegde at a gala event. Kota Srinivas Poojary, district in-charge minister, presented the award. The Award Committee chairman B Devdas Rai, then AG Geethanand Pai, club's former vice-president Prakashchandra and PDRR Ganesh G T were present.



D 3201

RC Kodungallur

A water and sanitation project was taken up at Padanna, a costal hamlet, through a global grant and in partnership with RC Binghampton, RID 7170. The project costing over ₹34.66 lakh involved the construction of overhead tank, installing borewells, electric motor and laying of pipelines to reach households.



D 3212

RC Tirunelveli North

Club president Jason Presely along with secretary Shanthanu interacted with children at the AIDS Home. The inmates were advised on the need to take regular medicines for healthy life. At the end of the interactive session, they were given sweets and confectionaries.





D 3240

RC Katwa

A district seminar titled *Sanjeevani* on tuberculosis was conducted with the National TB Control and Awareness Committee former chairman the late PRID Y P Das taking part as chief guest. PDG Debashish Das, DGN Kushanava Pabi, Rotarians and government officials attended the deliberations. A rally through the busy areas of Katwa was held preceding the seminar to create awareness on the disease.



D 3250

RC Patna Aryans

The club in association with RBM Learning System hosted a communication skill and personality development programme through zoom app. A gala event through zoom was organised at the Tender Heart International School, Haziganj, to celebrate Ganesh Chaturthi.



D 3291

RC Calcutta Metro City

Independence Day was celebrated by holding a quiz on freedom struggle for around 100 children from underprivileged families in south Kolkata. The club president Sunando Sen distributed sweets and drawing material to the children. A webinar was conducted in partnership with SRL Diagnostics on the Covid pandemic.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Rotary Mussoorie gifts mobile phones to Board exam toppers

V Muthukumaran



Chief guest Harshada Vohra, hotelier, presenting a mobile phone to an exam topper under the scholarship project. Also seen is club president Neeraj Gupta (centre).

Under its scholarship project that encouraged meritorious school students in the city, RC Mussoorie, RID 3080, honoured four students who excelled in their board exams for Class 12 and 10. Nikita, Rahul Pawar and Pooja, toppers in science, arts and commerce streams (Plus Two), and Rohit Bhandari (Class 10) who topped the district were felicitated.

The school board exam toppers were gifted with high-end mobile phones worth ₹79,000 and each was given a framed certificate and a mask. Moreover, the club gave prizes and certificates to six students of SD Girls Inter College who won the online poster-making and rakhee

design competitions. Chief guest Harshada Vohra, a hotelier, gave the prizes and the event was organised by Past AG Shailendra Karanwal, chairman, Scholarship Committee, and his team.

“The scholarship project was made possible through CSR funds with industrialists Vohra and Gaurav Bansal contributing the amount for us to gift mobile phones to board exam toppers of Hindi medium schools,” says club president Neeraj Gupta.

Mussoorie legislator Ganesh Joshi was the chief guest at the I-Day celebrations held at the MYSSVM Inter College. Karanwal conducted a quiz on freedom struggle and post-Independence India for

school students. Gupta gave prizes to the winners.

TEACH Project

The club donated eight sets of desks-benches for teachers at the SD Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya under the TEACH Project of Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM). The furniture sets were sponsored by past presidents D P Singh, D K Jain, S B Lall, Sanjay Agarwal and president Gupta. In addition, notebooks, registers and masks were distributed to students. “School principal Brijesh Syana thanked us profusely for making this facility available to the teachers. This project was led by TEACH chairman Nitish Mohan Agarwal,” says Gupta.

The club distributed notebooks and registers to students of five schools — Sanatan Dharma Girls Inter College, Mussoorie Girls Inter College, Ghananand Inter College, Arsh Kanya Gurukul and Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya — in Mussoorie, thus benefitting over 650 students and the stationery will help them in taking notes during their online classes during the lockdown.

Garden umbrellas were given to 100 street vendors on Charleville-Kempty Road by Gupta along with club director Manoranjan Tripathi. The umbrellas with Rotary Mussoorie branding were sponsored by AG Jagat Batra.

Plantation drive

A series of tree plantation drive at



School students with notebooks donated by the club. Also seen is club president Neeraj Gupta (centre).

various places in the city was taken up by Rotarians led by Gupta who was supported by Karanwal in this greening mission. Over 300 citrus, fruit-bearing and ornamental trees were planted in July. During the fifth phase of plantation, over 70 fruit and citrus trees were planted by club members at Thalwal village near Santura Devi temple. Community service director Manoranjan Tripathi and Environment chair Manmohan Karwanwal took part in the sapling plantation.

Gupta's daughter Nandini has designed an environment-friendly and biodegradable sapling vase which was presented to all members on their birthdays and special occasions. "This beautiful vase is gifted to all visiting Rotarians and guests of our club to spread awareness on *Each one, Plant one* Project," says Gupta.

Online installation

The digital installation of all the clubs of RID 3080 was conducted by DG Ramesh Bajaj in the presence of RI general secretary John

Hewko. The formal club installation of incoming president Neeraj Gupta and his officer-bearers took place on July 16 with past president Bishan Mohan as the chief guest. Social distancing norms were followed strictly during this meeting.

Similarly, a new team of office-bearers took charge at RAC Mussoorie with IPP Anish Agarwal handing over the baton to the new president Kapish Juneja. Gupta congratulated the new Rotaract team and assured them of full cooperation.

Dry rations were donated to Brahmins at the Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya as part of *Annapurna Day* Project. Taking over the reins of the club, Neeraj Gupta sought the blessings of purohits and gave fodder to the cows at the *gaushala* on that premises.

In a nice gesture, the medical fraternity at the Landour Community Hospital was felicitated on Doctor's Day. Gupta presented each doctor with a PPE kit, a memento, two masks, gloves and a special sapling.

Fellowship meet

A fellowship meeting of club members was arranged at Gupta, then president-elect, and Anne Sarika's house. The hosts organised a gala get-together for Rotarians with tasty snacks and beverages. It is customary for the club to host such fellowship meetings during the winter months of January and February.

More than 250 students were screened at the eye camp at the Mussoorie Girls Inter College in which spectacles were distributed. "The eye camp was sponsored by PP D K Jain in memory of his father NP Jain," said Nitish Mohan Agarwal, immediate past president of the club.

Homeopathy pills were distributed to the club members as a preventive measure against coronavirus. The medicine was prepared by Dr Rahul Uniyal with the aim to boost the immune system of Rotarians and their families. ■

Helping flood victims in Bhopal

Team Rotary News

In end-August, Bhopal saw heavy rains and with the opening of the sluice gates of the Kolar dam and the Upper Lake, villages around the town were flooded. Around 50 families lost their homes and several more households were severely hit with floodwaters entering their homes and washing away their meagre belongings.

Three Rotary clubs in the city — Bhopal Hills, Shahpura and Arera, RID 3040 — got together and pooled in resources. The Rotarians provided clothes, utensils and grocery kits to the villagers. Cooked food was also served to the flood victims. DGN Jinendra Jain participated in the relief activity. ■



Flood victims at a Rotary relief camp.

A Rotarian doctor saves a life



Rtn Dr Debanshu Das giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

When Dr Debanshu Das was on his routine rounds of examining patients in a nursing home in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal, he came across Anutosh, a patient lying unconscious on a stretcher bed. He was being rolled in to his ward after a brain CT scan for which he was taken to another clinic in an ambulance.

Immediately Dr Das examined him and found his BP and pulse alarmingly low. Without a second thought and overlooking the corona fear, he gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and a cardiac massage, and revived Anutosh who was then rushed into the ICU. He is fine now.

The doctor's action was greatly cheered by the waiting patients at the hospital. Dr Das is member of RC Karala Valley Jalpaiguri. ■

An online meet on Chola dynasty

Team Rotary News

A zoom meeting organised by RC Tiruchirapalli Fort, RID 3000, saw an attendance of around 700 Rotarians including DGs, PDGs and club presidents from seven RI districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The guest speaker Ar Ka Vikrama Karna Pazhuvettarayar, a descendant of Chola dynasty who has done extensive study on his royal clan, provided interesting details that kept the audience in rapt attention throughout the session.

The online meet reached to over 5,000 people on Facebook “which was made possible with the meticulous planning by our project team,” said club president



V Nagarajan. He used his wide contact list and invited as many as possible for the zoom meet. “Many government and civic body officials attended the online guest

lecture, some of them incognito,” he said. The guest speaker narrated the Chola lineage and answered questions from the Rotarians with interesting anecdotes. ■



Rotarians presenting stationery kits to school students.

Making students understand the need for social distancing

RC Jodhpur Garima, RID 3053, donated storybooks, notebooks and stationery kits to the students of Rajkiya Prathmik Vidyalaya at Marudharnagar in Jodhpur. Members sensitised the students on Covid 19 and stressed on the need to practise social distancing. A mask, along with a hygiene kit, was given to all the students and staff at the school. ■

Encouraging farming

Team Rotary News

The Rotarians of RC Kasargod, RID 3202, in association with a youth club in Ariyapady, organised an organic rice farming event and participated in planting rice saplings in a 0.6 acre barren land belonging to a farmer in the locality. Club president Janardhana Naik inaugurated the event in the presence of the State Agriculture officer Hamzeena. Naik ploughed the land in a traditional manner engaging two bulls tied to a wooden plough. Club secretary Ashokan Kuniyeri and community director Dinakara Rai also participated in the programme.

On the occasion of Onam, the state festival, the Rotarians distributed grocery kits to needy families in the Badiadka panchayat



An awareness rally on World Heart Day.



Above: Rotarians all set for organic rice farming, along with farmers.

Below: Food kits being delivered to the needy to help them celebrate Onam.

Left: Rotarians engaged in sanitisation of public places. Sub-inspector of police Roopa launching the event.



in Kasargod. They also furnished a police station with cots in the resting room which will enable police personnel to take rest in between schedules.

The club conducted a fumigation and sanitation campaign in public places such as bus stands, railway stations and market areas in the city to prevent transmission of Covid-19. The programme was inaugurated by sub-inspector of police Roopa.

The club joined hands with the Indian Medical Association to observe World Heart Day (Sept 29) by conducting a health walk which was flagged off by Kasargod MLA NA Nellikunnu. The event spread awareness among the public to take care of their heart and follow a healthy diet.

The club through its annual *Annapoorna* project distributed fresh, hot food to patients and their attendants at the government general hospital and the ayurveda hospital in the city. Around 300 people benefitted from the initiative every day with the club launching the service as soon as the lockdown was announced by the central government. ■