

February 2021

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Rotary celebrates Pongal in a village

Team Rotary News

Pongal, the harvest festival, is celebrated on January 14 throughout Tamil Nadu in a grand manner. RC Pernambut, RID 3231, involved the community by organising various exciting programmes and cultural events on that day at the Green Valley School in the town. DG K Pandian was the chief guest. Events such as *kolam* (rangoli) competition, traditional games and regional dances made the programme attractive and helped the visitors connect with our glorious culture. Sumptuous traditional lunch was also served to everyone at the venue.

“The *Pongal vizha* has helped to enhance Rotary’s public image in our region,” said the programme chairman VM Basheer Ahmed. Rotarians from the neighbour-

ing clubs such as the Rotary clubs of Ambur, Gudiyattam and Palligonda also participated in the event.



A child being given polio drops.

In another initiative, the club set up a polio immunisation camp at the bus stand, along with the government health centre in the town. Club president Iqbal Ahmed inaugurated the immunisation camp and the club members volunteered to administer polio drops to children less than five years old. Past president of the club T Basheeruddin addressed the parents of the infants and advocated the need to continue vaccinating their infants against polio although the country is declared polio-free. “We have to protect our children until polio is completely eradicated from the world and the entire world is declared polio-free by WHO. As of now, our neighbouring countries Pakistan and Afghanistan are reporting some polio cases and this might be a risk for our children as the virus knows no borders,” he said. ■



A gala Pongal festival by RC Pernambut.

On the cover: Schoolchildren who do not have access to online education attend physical classes organised by RC Nandnagari.

E-learning kits donated to Mumbai schools

Team Rotary News

Students
in front of a
digital classroom.



To enhance digital learning among students, RC Bombay Chembur West, RID 3141, donated e-learning kits to Amarnath School, RM Kate School and Model English School at a cost of ₹5.26 lakh. The digital classrooms were sponsored by past president SR Balasubramanian in memory of his late mother Sarada Ramanath.

The club has taken up a slew of projects for schools in the neighbourhood in the past few months with the aim to shape the personality and skills of their students. A nature trail was organised for the Interactors of Karnataka High School at the Mahim Nature Park with the involvement of Rotaractors. The project cost ₹5,000. In another

initiative, the club hosted a programme titled 'Green school, zero waste school' at the Vidyadhiraja High School, Bhandup, to create awareness on environment-friendly lifestyle and sustainable living among students.

An eye, skin and organ donation rally was held at the 'Parade of Chembur' Festival with the Interactors from Karnataka School taking part in large numbers. As many as 14 Rotarians and 30 Interactors took part in the march. The club reached out to 400 children by providing midday meals to them at the Aarambh, an NGO in Turbhe, Navi Mumbai. Stationery items including recycled paper, pencils were distributed to students of this school. A mammography camp for screening breast cancer was held for vulnerable women from low-income families. ■



A mammography camp in progress.

A birthday party for children suffering from thalassaemia

Team Rotary News



Sarvodaya Hospital for Children with Thalassaemia and RC Faridabad Tulips, RID 3011, celebrated the birthday of children suffering from thalassaemia who are under comprehensive care in the paediatric department of the hospital. Drawing kits and food packets were

distributed to all the children in the thalassaemia ward. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and the distribution of cheques of ₹5,000 to each child sponsored by the Foundation Against Thalassaemia, Faridabad. Chocolates and juice packets were sponsored by the Lions

Club of Faridabad. The monthly celebration aims to help the children improve their health and at the same time keep them happy.

The club as part of thalassaemia awareness initiatives conducts rallies and talks to sensitise the general public on the disease.■

A purposeful chocolate distribution drive

RC Kanpur North, RID 3110, has distributed around 5,000 chocolates among the general public to promote and support the club's service projects in Kanpur.

Be it a plantation drive or a mask distribution activity, the club members give out chocolates to "make the public reflect about our projects. Whether they eat it alone or share it, they will remember that Rotary gave it to them and will talk about why they got the chocolate. This helps in making them understand our cause sweetly and also works as a great activity to enhance the club's public image in a simple way," said club president Arun Goel.

The club is also conducting regular literacy drives in and around Kanpur.■



Children being given chocolates.

Kangaroo aprons to care for premature babies

Team Rotary News



RC Alwar members with the Kangaroo aprons.

In order to hold their babies, close to them to help mothers provide the natural heat needed for the baby's growth RC Alwar, RID 3053, distributed 21 kangaroo aprons at the Geetanand Infant Hospital. Dr Somdutt Gupta, chief doctor at the hospital, thanked the club for its efforts and pointed out that the aprons will help “the weight

and health of the child to improve over time and where machines like incubator are not used, the mother care will make the child healthy and safe.”

As part of the club's monthly blood donation drive the club collect 10 units of blood. The donors were given a nourishment kit post the blood donation drive.

With the reopening of schools for Classes from 9–12 the club was approached by schools requesting sanitisers and hygiene kits for students. The club distributed sanitisers to SMD Government School and the Government Sanskrit School in Alwar and plans to extend the distribution in many more schools.■



Sanitisers being given to a school.



A blood donor being greeted.

A fellowship for wildlife conservation

Team Rotary News

DG BL Nagendra Prasad, RID 3190, recently launched the Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation. The fellowship was recognised as a global group by Rotary International with its roots in India and a vision statement that reads: Together we make protection of wildlife a way of life.

Recounting the genesis of the fellowship, its chairman Sanjay Krishna said that it all started when the members of RC Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas went on a family trip in Dec 2019 to a wildlife resort near the Bhadra Tiger Reserve in Karnataka. "Watching wildlife in their natural habitat not only generated interest amongst the members to work towards creation of awareness on importance of wildlife conservation amongst the public in general and youth in particular, but also encouraged them to explore new opportunities for service, while having fun enhancing the Rotary experience." This interest resulted in watching a special screening of *Wild Karnataka*, a film narrated by Sir David



At the launch of Rotary Fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation.

Attenborough, shedding light on the state's rich biodiversity for Rotarians, their families, Rotaractors and friends as a multi-club service activity with the involvement 12 Rotary and four Rotaract clubs.

The enthusiasm of the Rotaractors and Rotarians led to the formation of the Fellowship group of Wildlifers for Conservation in Jan 2020. The group today has 150 members from India, Australia,

Kenya, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Jordan and Kenya.

Interested Rotarians may get in touch with the chairman Sanjay Krishna at hello@rotaryfellowshipfor-wildlife.org.

Polio awareness rally

The district Polio eradication team of RI District 3190 organised a vintage car rally in January to spread awareness on polio and the upcoming National Immunisation Day which was scheduled on Jan 31. The rally, organised in association with the Karnataka Vintage and Classic Car Club, had a participation of 44 vintage cars and seven motorbikes. The vehicles prominently displayed 'End Polio Now' banners and placards and the procession drew the attention of several hundred people on its 170 km route. DG Prasad flagged off the rally at the Manpho Convention Centre, Bengaluru, from where it went through Kolar to Honnashethalli. ■



PDG K P Nagesh (second from L) with Rotarians at the car rally.

Rotary wheelchair empowers disabled woman

Team Rotary News



Jyoti Gaikwad being greeted by Rotarians.

Despite odds and physical disability, Jyoti Gaikwad who can't use her limbs due to its shortness graduated with MA History. While she runs her own small business of sewing clothes and embroidery in Pune, doctors advised her that if she kept using her only good arm to move the wheelchair, it will also be unable to function.

With an aim to empower Jyoti, Rotary Club of Pune Shivaji Nagar,

RID 3131, along with RC Sarasbaug and EDARCH (Entrepreneurship Development And Rehabilitation Centre for the Handicapped) donated a motorised wheelchair at a cost of ₹25,000.

Born into a poor family, Jyoti's mother is a fruit seller. She has to face hurdles while graduating in MA. Rather than succumbing to a life of unemployment, she took up sewing for a decent livelihood. When asked

if she would like some money to attend a course to learn new sewing techniques or trends, she said that she looked it up on the Internet and learnt it on her own and therefore she did not need any course. Today she sews bags, crochet, dresses and stitches them with beautiful flowery patterns. The clubs have donated the motorised wheelchair as it will help her to do well in her sewing business in the years to come. ■

Children get sweaters in Surat

In a move to shield children from harsh winter, RC Surat East, RID 3060, distributed sweaters to 800 children at special camps held in different localities.

First, sweaters were given to children of sugarcane workers at Orgam village in Bardolli tehsil, Surat, and this was followed by distribution to students of a corporation school. "It was amazing to see the farm labourers' children smile when we



Children of farm labourers with sweaters donated by RC Surat East.

distributed the sweaters to them. We also gave best quality chocolates to them," said Dr Jagdish Vaghasia, president, RC Surat East.

An LN-4 limb fitment camp was organised in which 117 amputees were fitted with 153 prosthesis. The camp was organised in partnership with RC

Emory-Druid Hills, Atlanta, US, RID 6900, and the Narayana Seva Sansthan in the presence of DG Prashant Jani. The LN-4 camp was funded by the US partner. ■

Teacher training gets a digital makeover in Pune

V Muthukumaran

Due to the Covid lockdown, RC Pune Sports City, RID 3131, conducted its teachers training sessions on zoom with an aim to equip 4,840 teachers in government and government-aided schools in Pune district with the latest pedagogical tools and concepts.

This global grant project (\$37,000) done with RC Albert Park, Melbourne, RID 9800, benefitted 110 municipal and district schools with a student population

of over 290,000. “The project was conducted jointly with ICEDC (Indian Career Education and Development Council) following the approval from the Maharashtra State Board of Higher and Secondary Education (MSBHSHE). We are also supported by RCs Akurdi and Pune Vibrant, among other local partners, in this endeavour,” said Sandesh Savant, primary contact of the project.

As per the original plan, the teachers training

was to involve one full day of live class with interactive modules in three sessions. “This was to be followed by three months of mentoring, assignments and feedback with the trainer assisted by the Rotarians and Anns as active volunteers.”

Based on the response and competencies displayed, the teachers will be awarded with three levels of dual certification by ICEDC, Australian Council for Computers in Education (ACCE) and Global Education

Solutions (GES), the training partners in this programme.

The district literacy team is encouraging Rotary clubs to support teachers training at schools in their vicinity, especially in rural areas of Pune, said Savant. Before the lockdown, 236 teachers were trained in classroom conditions in five sessions as per the original plan.

Shifted to digital platform

With the uncertainty looming large due to the





Above: An online training session.

Below: Rotarians and school teachers at one of the training programmes.



prolonged lockdown, the club with the technical support from ICEDC and MSBHSHE shifted the training sessions to zoom for two hours over three consecutive days.

The resource persons (trainers) were able to train teachers in multiple locations with slide presentations, interactive sessions and feedback. "Majority of the teachers used smart phones for viewing the training sessions at home. Rotarians from partner clubs who attended the online sessions gave their

inputs and feedback," he said. Since June 1, 2020, the project has trained 887 teachers in 18 online sessions, thus reaching a total of 1,123 teachers trained in 23 sessions including five live classes.

At present, the post-training online mentoring and assignments are in progress to test how much the teachers have progressed so far. "A training project which would normally take more than a year to complete offline due to logistical issues has now become possible to complete within months, thanks to tech platforms," pointed out Savant.

Using RILM guidelines, the implementing club and its partners will be presenting Nation Builder Awards to the outstanding teachers in RID 3131, including cash awards with certificates. "The awards recognise the role of teachers in building India's future through teaching millions of students in schools."

Moreover, the pandemic times has turned out to a blessing in disguise as it has enabled Rotary and its partners to make government school teachers tech savvy, so that they can impart these new digital skills to their students, added Savant. ■

D 2981

RC Chidambaram Central

A waiting hall and a toilet block were inaugurated to mark International Women's Day at the sub-collector's office at a project cost of ₹1.5 lakh. Rotarians took up tree plantation on the premises as a public image building exercise.



D 2981

RC Kumbakonam Central

An *Anbu Wall* (Wall of Kindness) was unveiled by the club to help people below the poverty line to access food, clothes and other household items that are donated by Rotarians, philanthropists and large-hearted people. The facility is located at a prominent spot in the town.



D 2981

RC Kumbakonam East

Project *Annapoorna* was conducted at the installation ceremony of the club in the presence of DG R Balaji Babu, PDG PS Ramesh Babu and DGE S Balaji. Around 120 persons benefitted from this free meal project held at the Holy Angeles Old Age Home.





D 2981

RC Nagapattinam Wings

Kabasura kudineer, an herbal concoction, and hand sanitisers were given to the public and auto drivers in the presence of town inspector. Annapoorna Day was marked by distributing food packets to more than 50 orphans and destitute people at the Namco old age home.



D 2981

RC Vriddhachalam

In the presence of DG Balaji Babu, the club kicked off a micro forest project (*kurung kaadugal*) that adopted the Miyawaki forest scheme. This is a pet project of the governor who is keen to take this initiative to all the clubs in his district.



D 3000

RC Pudukkottai City

A family get-together was organised on new year-eve with club president K Arumugan presiding over the event. A tricycle was donated to a differently-abled person. Tahsildar C Murugappan was the chief guest at the gala ceremony.

D 3011

RC Gurgaon South City

The club joined hands with RC Gurgaon and the Sanatan Dharam Sabha to conduct marriages for 10 girls from underprivileged families. PDG Suresh Bhasin was the chief guest. Sumptuous lunch was given to over 750 guests and the newly-wed couples were gifted with household articles worth ₹2 lakh each.



D 3020

RC Machilipatnam

A handwash, water and sanitation awareness session with demo was conducted at the primary panchayat school in Bandar mandal. Water bottles and glasses were distributed to over 150 students. A rally before the event created awareness on coronavirus and personal hygiene.



D 3030

RC Amalner

An eye screening camp was conducted at Gadkhamb village by Dr Rahul Muthe in which 23 patients were selected for operation. All the operations were done freely by Muthe and the eyecare project lifted the public image of Rotary in this village.





D 3030

RC Chandrapur

A medical camp was conducted for pregnant women at Londhili and Vyahad villages in which 100 beneficiaries were screened for illnesses and given medicines. Personal hygiene kits were also given. The club distributed 100 umbrellas to hawkers at various places.



D 3030

RC Nashik Smart City

Vocational Excellence Awards were given to seven personalities from diverse fields such as sports, medicine, education and environment at a gala event. The awardees thanked the club for honouring them.



D 3030

RC Nasik

More than 100 tribal girls took part in a two-day RYLA conducted each year for inmates from different special homes (ashram *shala*). All the expenses are borne by the club. The participants were exposed to different facets of leadership through interactive games and talks by eminent people.

D 3040

RC Bhopal Hills

Around 150 blankets were distributed to needy persons, mostly elderly men and women, at Barkheda Bondar and Mubarakpur villages in Huzur tehsil. Club president DC Verma, AG JC Sharma, secretary SB Singh and others took part in the event. Sarpanch and village heads guided the club to select the beneficiaries.



D 3040

RC Itarsi

Flag hoisting was done at the Rotary Vradh Ashram to mark Republic Day. Rotarians spent time with inmates of the old age home and interacted with them. The club took up a tree plantation drive with the help of volunteers and youngsters.



D 3040

RC Ratlam Prime

A hall was constructed at a cost of ₹5.52 lakh at the Dilip Nagar Shaskiya School. The room will enable students to read, eat and stage cultural programmes. During his visit, RIPE Shekhar Mehta saw the permanent projects of the club such as the Nishulak Nukkad Hospital, Dilip Nagar School and free digital lipid profile unit and appreciated the work done by the Rotarians.





D 3053

RC Alwar Fort

The club members distributed face masks, helmets and pamphlets at Hope Circus, a popular tourist spot in the city, as part of Road Safety Week and Jan Jagrukta Abhiyaan campaign against coronavirus.



D 3053

RC Jodhpur Padmini

The new Rotary year began with a blood donation camp at Bhopalgarh with the support of Arun Doodi, RCC president Sunil Vishnoi and their teams. Forty units of blood was collected by the Rotary Blood Bank. The club has taken up the beautification of Umaid Hospital Road by planting neem trees on its either side and protecting them with tree guards.



D 3060

RC Dondaicha Seniors

A blood donation camp was conducted at four different places under the chairmanship of Rtn Rajendra Pardeshi. In all, 247 people donated blood and it was agreed that 50 units of blood will be given free to the needy patients and another 50 units will be given at discount rates. All donors were given sanitisers and certificates.

Rotary holds traffic awareness camps in Kangra

V Muthukumaran



A demo on providing emergency first aid to road accident victims.

In a major outreach activity, RC Kangra, RID 3070, is holding traffic awareness camp each month in which the Good Samaritan laws will be explained to the participants along with a live demo on providing emergency care to the accident victims. The club has joined hands with the offices of sub-divisional magistrate Abhishek Verma and block medical officer Dr Sanjay Bhardwaj to organise the monthly camps aimed to prevent road accidents and offer emergency medical help to victims.

Fortis Hospital, Kangra, is also a joint

partner in this awareness campaign. During one of the camps, SDM Verma spoke to about 300 people who had come to renew or apply their driving licence on the need to be alert while driving, safe and also keep others safe.

Dr Bhardwaj made the public aware about the Good Samaritan laws that facilitate those offering emergency first aid to accident victims to lodge police complaints without disclosing their identity. "As the number of traffic accidents is increasing due to various reasons, persons helping the victims need not disclose their identity while

calling police to tip them off," he said. The police would not force a person informing about the accident under the Good Samaritan laws to reveal about his or her identity and other details.

If a Good Samaritan becomes a witness, the police can record his or her statement only once, and if "they don't wish to do so, the police will not force them to become a witness," he said. Citing the Supreme Court ruling dated March 30, 2016, Bhardwaj said the security of the Good Samaritan is now guaranteed by law, "hence, no one should hesitate to help the victims of road

accidents." A team of doctors from the Fortis Hospital gave a live demonstration on how to save the life of a road victim, the precautions to be taken after the accident and the emergency medical help that need to be given immediately to the patient.

Cataract surgeries

An eyecare campaign titled *Nazar* was launched at the SMI Hospital, Kangra, that offered free cataract surgeries to the patients from underprivileged families who get no health benefits from the government or were not covered under its insurance scheme.

Poor families who have no means of livelihood will be treated for free by eye specialist Dr Sandeep Mahajan. “We will get the operations done without charging any money from patients in collaboration with Dr Mahajan at the SMI Hospital. The club through donors will provide the required number of lens to the hospital,” said Sunil Dogra, club president. On an average, three surgeries are being done in a week and “we will continue the *Nazar* campaign without setting any time limit or restricting the number of beneficiaries,” he said.

Covid vaccination

The newly-elected panchayat presidents and vice-presidents were inoculated against Covid during their swearing-in ceremony at the SDM office. Speaking on the occasion, SDM Verma urged people to get vaccinated and also create awareness in their panchayat on the need to get Covid doses.

Dr Bharadwaj appreciated the club for taking up the vaccination campaign and called upon the Rotarains to make it a successful mission. “Rotary is always ready to make people aware and serve the society. We are reaching out to the community through polio campaign, road safety sessions, environmental protection campaign, sanitation drives,



PDG Sunil Nagpal along with club presidents at the tree plantation drive.

blood donation camps and providing free eye treatment. The goal is to serve the society to make it better,” said Dogra.

Tree plantation

Rudraksha saplings were planted at the Rotary Bhawan, Palampur, under an environmental protection campaign led by Dogra. The greening mission was conducted during the zone-wise elections to the nomination committee for DG

Nominee (2023–24) in RID 3070. PDG Sunil Nagpal along with presidents of Rotary clubs in Himachal Pradesh planted saplings on the premises of the Rotary building.

Environment award

SDM Verma awarded the club for its work in environmental protection as part of Republic Day events at the Municipal Council Ground, Kangra.

An environmental protection campaign led by Dogra had requested every resident of Kangra to plant at least one new plant near their house or in their vicinity.

“If you have land, you can either plant the sapling on the ground or in a pot,” he said.

Under the club’s environment campaign, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur along with his cabinet colleagues and MLAs had planted Rudraksh and Parijat saplings in Paridhi Ghar, Dharamshala. Many dignitaries including former CM Prem Kumar Dhumal and other celebrities have planted saplings. Moreover, 5,000 saplings were planted outside the state too as part of the club’s greening drive. ■

An eyecare campaign titled *Nazar* was launched that offered free cataract surgeries to the patients from underprivileged families who get no healthcare benefits from the government.

D 3060

RC Navsari

All members were requested to nurture at least two trees each and with the support of Rotaractors, the club planted 400 trees in three venues in the town. Members took pledge to take care of the environment. Plant species were chosen to enhance oxygen level and the air quality in the neighbourhood.



D 3060

RC Rajkot Greater

The club members donated lab and sports equipment to the Jabalpur Prathamik Shala to enhance the academic performance and physical activities of students. The faculty and students thanked Rotary for the donations.



D 3080

RC Dehradun Central

A workshop was conducted at the Rotary Deaf and Dumb Centre, Geeta Bhawan, in which a brainstorming session with various games stimulated the participants. Rtn Atul Kumar gifted a computer to the centre.





D 3090

RC Bhiwani DOWNTOWN

A blood donation camp was held at the Sanskritik Sadan and 50 units of blood was collected by the Red Cross, local chapter. Rotarians took part with enthusiasm. Adequate Covid protocols were observed at the venue.



D 3132

RC Akkalkot

Forty-six doctors from rural hospitals, taluk health centres and Akkalkot Taluka Medical Practitioners Association were honoured with corona warrior certificates. Dr Ashwin Karjakhede, taluk health officer, presided over the event. Club president Jitendra Kumar Jaju was present on the occasion.



D 3132

RC Latur Midtown

The club donated 10 barricades with its name and Rotary wheel embossed on it to the district hospital at Latur. This gesture will help the hospital staff to regulate traffic and avoid congestion at various place on its premises.

D 3141

RC Mumbai Kandivli West

Over 500 students from Classes 1–9 including differently-abled took part in a drawing competition titled *Udaan* with a ‘Go green’ theme. The event costing ₹75,000 was attended by 30 Rotarians and 20 Rotaractors.



D 3150

RC Mangalagiri

Push carts were given to 11 street vendors under Project *Aadarana*. Guntur sub-divisional police officer (north) Durga Prasad distributed the carts to the beneficiaries. The project costing ₹1.75 lakh lifted the public image of Rotary.



D 3181

RC Belthangady

An amount of ₹25,000 was handed over to Sevadhama, a rehab centre for spinal cord injured patients at Kokkada near Dharmasthala, for buying a wheelchair for the inmates. Club president B K Dhananjaya Rao and other Rotarians were present.





D 3201

RC Coimbatore Industrial City

A sports room with equipment and play items was set up at the Satguru School, Theethipalayam village, which will benefit around 450 students. Dr Vinod Balaji gave suggestions on Covid precautions at a zoom meeting.



D 3291

RC Calcutta Magnum

A new interact club was installed at the Vaishno Devi Academy having around 1,200 students. Interact district representative Mousumi Bhattacharya gave an audio-visual lecture followed by charter presentation to the new members and office-bearers.



D 3291

RC Kasba

An awareness programme on Covid-19 was held at the Kamala Park with two Rotarian doctors giving their presentations. The Covid session was held on the eve of Janata curfew (March 22) to sensitise the general public. Dr Abhijit Chaudhuri and Dr Kajal Ghosal addressed the gathering by following government norms.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Sanitary pads, sanitisers distributed at a Delhi slum

Team Rotary News



Rotarians distributing hygiene kits at the slum.

In a community outreach, RC Delhi Southex, RID 3011, distributed sanitary napkins, moisturisers, hand sanitisers and face masks to girls and women at the Andrews Ganj slum in the capital.

Sankalp Foundation, an NGO, and RC Rajdhani sponsored the sanitary pads and moistures. RC Delhi Southex president Madhukar Khemka, vice-president Praveen Jain, IPP HC Gaur, along with other Rotarians and Rtr Sayeesha Maini, were present at the distribution of hygiene products to the beneficiaries. ■

Cricket tournament binds Rotarians in Panvel

A Rotary Premier League Cricket Tournament was hosted jointly by RCs Panvel Industrial Town and Panvel Central, RID 3131, at the Rajiv Gandhi Sports Complex, Belapur, in Navi Mumbai. Six

teams from 18 Rotary clubs in the district from areas such as Panvel, Pen, Ulwe, Mahad, Pune, Pimpri and Nagothane took part in the tournament. Local MLA Prashant Thakur inaugurated the matches.

Team Aditya Fighters emerged as the winners, while Team Lawas Royals was the runner-up. Rtn Atul Bhagat was declared as best batsman of the series and Rtn Pritam Kaiya the best bowler, while Rtn Anand Mali was the 'Player of the Tournament'.



Winners at the Rotary Premier League Cricket Tournament in Panvel.

Earlier PDGs Dr Girish Gune, Dr Shailesh Palekar and Subhodh Joshi visited the ground to boost the enthusiasm of the players. RC Panvel Industrial Town president Harmesh Tanna and RC Panvel Central president Dr Amod Divekar thanked the Rotarians, volunteers, sponsors and donors who made the sporting event a huge success. Devendra Chaudhary, chair, Organising Committee, was praised for his behind-the-scene work.

"The dignitaries, spectators and various sections of the community admired Rotary for its endeavour to promote outdoor sports, team spirit and fellowship," said Rtn Hitesh Rajput from RC Panvel Industrial Town. ■

New classroom with toilet built in a Nashik village

Team Rotary News

A new classroom and toilet block were constructed by RC Nasik Grapecity, RID 3030, in place of a dilapidated building at a zilla parishad school at Thakurpada, a tribal village 48km from Nashik. "Through a fundraising from club members, their friend and relatives, we accomplished this project," said Rajan Pillai, IPP of the club. "Our task was not simple, but the enthusiasm and support from our members converted this dream into a reality."



Above: RC Nasik Grapecity IPP Rajan Pillai and Rotarians at the newly-built classroom.

Below: Rotarians and schoolchildren at the inaugural event.

To undertake the construction project, a committee was formed under Pillai. Rtn Suruchi Ranadive, an architect and member of the Indian Institute of Interior Designers (IIID), Nashik chapter, initiated the drawings and convinced her colleagues to support Rotary with floor tiles and toilet fittings. The foundation stone was laid on June 7 and the primary school building was inaugurated on June 30, the last day of the Rotary year.

Even though it was a major event in this village with a population of 450 (84 families), "we could not make it a big one due to the corona lockdown. But still few of our members attended the inaugural wearing masks and maintaining social distancing," said Pillai.

The gender-segregated toilet block with ceramic tiles and fittings was appreciated by all. "The smile and satisfaction on the face of villagers after the new school building was inaugurated is the greatest reward for us," said Pillai. Earlier, the club installed a water distribution system in this remote village solving the basic needs of the residents who had to trek to fetch water from a well located at a distance. ■



After my induction into RC Kalladikode, RID 3201, in July 2016, I was elevated to a higher level of thinking with Rotary's motto *Service above Self* occupying the mind like never before. In the early days of my life, the term 'self-service' caught my attention on occasions like reception parties or at hotels where such a board was displayed. I understood the meaning soon that I have to manage myself if I am on a party or if I am in a restaurant. When I decided to join priesthood after my graduation in BA English from the Government Victoria College, Palakkad, in 1995, I began to hear frequently the phrase *Selfless Service* which is the core of consecrated life. I was convinced that only a person who is immersed in selfless service can be a good priest or religious head at the service of the people.

The primary motto of Rotary International is *Service above Self*. In short, it means that the service for the betterment and well-being of others must be above the needs of oneself.

Twin mottos of Rotary

The origin of Rotary's two mottos — *Service above Self* and *One profits most*

'Service above Self' for well-being of humanity

Joseph Olikkalkoonal

who serves best — can be traced back to the early days of the organisation. In 1911, the second Rotary Convention in Portland, Oregon, US, approved the theme: *He profits most who serves best* as the Rotary motto, taken from the speech of Rtn Arthur Frederick Sheldon delivered in the first Rotary Convention in Chicago in the founding year 1910. Sheldon declared that "only the science of right conduct toward others pays. Business is the science of human services. He profits most who serves his fellows best."

Ben Collins, president, RC Minneapolis, Minnesota, US, adopted *Service, not self* as the motto of his club. While on an outing on the Columbia River with Rtn JE Pinkham who invited Paul Harris, the Rotary founder started a discussion over its relevance. Later, Paul Harris asked Collins to address the Portland gathering where the phrase *Service, not self* was met with great enthusiasm.

Rotary Convention in Detroit, Michigan, US, in 1950 approved formally two slogans as the official mottos of Rotary: *He profits most who serves best* and *Service above Self*. The 1989 Council on Legislation established *Service above Self* as the principal motto of Rotary because it would best convey the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. *He profits most who serves best* was modified to *They profit most who serve best* in 2004 and to its current wording, *One profits most who serves best* in 2010.

Practical applications

Human beings must be seen as part of a whole ecosystem and not in fragments or particular dimensions. When it comes to the service of Rotary, its philanthropic nature is the most important characteristic. If Rotary opens opportunities for *Service above Self*, it is mainly for the positive impact on the individual and the community as a whole. The term 'philanthropy' was modernised by Sir Francis Bacon who considered it to be synonymous with "goodness", correlated with the Aristotelian conception of virtue, as it consciously instilled habits of good behaviour. Samuel Johnson simply defined philanthropy as "love of mankind and good nature". This definition still survives today and is often cited as the 'love of humanity or love for humanity'. What Rotary does is *Service above Self* for the well-being of humanity.



Rotary clubs reach out to communities struck by natural disasters.

*The writer is a member of
RC Kalladikode and vice-principal
Yuvakshetra Institute of Management
Studies, Palakkad.*

Rejuvenating a pond in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News



Kadaikaran Kuttai, a pond, is being desilted.

Six Rotary clubs of Coimbatore — Aakruthi, Centennial, Kovaipudur, Manchester, Meridian and Coimbatore West — under the leadership of Assistant Governor C T

Thiagarajan and GGR C K Sashikumar have signed up an assignment to desilt a pond — Kadaikaran Kuttai in Devarayapuram, Coimbatore. The cost of the project is ₹2 lakh.

The Kovai Kulangal Pathukappu Amaippu (KKPA), an NGO, and Kovai Journalists and Media Welfare Club have partnered with Rotary for the project. The pond will help bring water secu-

rity in the area as it can store rainwater during the monsoons and also in irrigation as the region is an agriculture belt, said Dr Nirmala Natarajan, president, RC Kovaipudur, RID 3201. ■

Madurai schools get a facelift

Rotary Club of Madurai Elite, RID 3000, brought a massive transformation to the Government Higher Secondary School in Podhumbu, a village near Madurai. The Rotarians provided 30 desk-bench sets costing ₹60,000, e-learning kits worth ₹70,000, sports equipment worth ₹50,000 and fitted ceiling fans in all classrooms at a cost of ₹20,000.

The project was implemented under the leadership of project heads Ram Shankar and Muruganandham. ■



RC Madurai Elite president Saravana Muthu interacting with a school teacher.

The Rotary hive

Alok Beswala

During the lockdown period, each one of us got time to introspect and gain more insights about various personal matters. Even I had a strange fact-finding opportunity on a lazy Sunday afternoon. While I was recounting my fortunate times, it struck me that one blessing which I have been bestowed upon is worth mentioning.

It is the culmination of record numbers of Rotary families under one housing society. I consider myself lucky to be staying at the upmarket locality of Goregaon East, Mumbai. The locality is home to a large number of Rotary families and to top it all, the building in which I stay, DB Woods, has the record number of Rotary families. I was just making a wild guess to begin with and thought there could be around 100 Rotarians living in my building and to my surprise the number actually turned out to be true. To check the facts, I got in touch with the office bearers of my home club which is RC Mumbai Western Elite and here are the



DB Woods, Goregaon

numbers. In all my home club members of RC Mumbai Western Elite are 46 in number which is excluding Rotaractors who are 11 and Interact members at 26. In my building we also have 20 members from the Rotary Club of Goregaon West. My wild guess of around 100 Rotarians staying together in one housing complex turned out to be actually 103 members which is really remarkable I must say.

I really believe that this is the reason which makes my housing society one of the sought-after complexes in the locality as you would never get such a large number of premier club members living together anywhere in the world. I feel proud and happy about this fact and cannot stop myself from sharing this with my fellow Rotarians.

We indeed create benchmarks in community living which is seen

from all the members who stay in my building. All of them are proactive and enthusiastic about all the aspects of living in a community. I thank my stars of being a part of the great Rotary family and happy to be one of the family members living in the large family of Rotary at DB Woods, Goregaon.

*The writer is member of
RC Mumbai Western Elite
RID 3141*

Offline classes for students without internet access

Team Rotary News



An offline class for rural students.

For those students who don't have access to smart phones, RC Nandnagari, RID 3060, has started offline education to help them continue with their school studies. With taglines such as 'School closed

education resumes' and 'Teachers at your doorstep', students from Nashinda, Khaparkheda and Borala villages were given physical guidance by a school headmaster who was assisted by teachers in classrooms.

With the consent of parents, the students are being allowed to attend 'offline guidance classes' by observing Covid protocols such as social distancing, wearing mask and using sanitisers. ■

Rotary workshop on varicose veins

A series of workshops on lymphedema (swelling that generally occurs in arms and legs) is being conducted by RC Delhi West, RID

3011, in association with Saathi & Learn, an NGO, in which stockings for varicose veins are distributed to the doctors, paramedics and

staff of various hospitals in Delhi.

One such event was conducted at the Aakash Healthcare Super Specialty Hospital,

Dwarka. Dr Shashi Gogia, president, Saathi, gave a talk on lymphedema, a medical situation caused by long hours of standing on one's legs which results in varicose veins. DGN Ashok Kantoor spoke on the global activities of Rotary, while club president Arun Roongta coordinated the event.

The club distributed 50 pairs of stockings worth ₹2 lakh to the hospital staff. The first such project was done at the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, Delhi, where 75 pairs of stockings worth ₹3 lakh were distributed. ■

DGN Ashok Kantoor giving stockings to a paramedic.



Rotary medical camp brings solace to villagers

Team Rotary News

A mega medical camp was organised by RC Calcutta Sun City, RID 3291, at Nalua and Roydighi villages near the city. More than 1,000 villagers visited the camp and medicines were given to the needy. Five doctors including three doctors from the club — R Hom Chaudhuri, Bandana Hom Chaudhuri and Apurba Ghosh — and nine Rotarian volunteers participated in the camp.

Awareness talk on managing lifestyle disorders such as diabetes and blood pressure and healthy diet options was arranged at the camp. ■



Handwash sessions at government schools in Srirangam



As schools have reopened for Class 10 and 12 students in Tamil Nadu after Covid lockdown, RC Srirangam, RID 3000, organised awareness sessions on the correct procedure of

handwashing at the government and government-aided schools in this temple town.

During these hygiene sessions, 100 soaps were distributed to each school. "We have given sign

boards giving instructions on following Covid protocols like wearing masks, maintaining social distance and washing hands frequently," said R Sathyanarayanan, club secretary. ■

Felicitating farmers

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Dharmavaram Midtown, RID 3160, felicitated the farmers in the town with gifts and certificates. The Rotarians organised a seminar to update them with information about latest farming technology and crop protection methods. The club distributed hybrid seeds, organic pesticides and fertilisers to them.

In another endeavour, the club sponsored classroom furniture to the municipal high school in Santhinagar. DG Chinnappa Reddy participated in handing over the furniture to the school administration. He also participated in distributing a month's grocery kit sponsored by the club for the less privileged.

A math competition was organised by the Rotarians at the BSR School to enhance interest in the subject among the students. Winners were felicitated with gifts. ■



From top: A winner at the math competition being felicitated by RC Dharmavaram Midtown; Farmers being honoured with gifts and certificates; DG Chinnappa Reddy donating grocery kits.