

March 2021

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Malaria awareness programme in Kasba

Team Rotary News



Villagers with mosquito nets at the awareness event.

Speaking at a malaria awareness and prevention programme organised by RC Kasba, RID

3291, Dr Indrani Mitra, a paediatrician, pointed out that “in 2019 alone, malaria killed more than 400,000 people

globally, with an estimated two thirds of the deaths among children under the age of five.” She encouraged the villagers to “find out whether you're at risk of getting malaria,” and stressed on the need of using insect repellent creams. She also spoke about the benefits of homeopathy medicine in the treatment of malaria.

Club president Dr Kajal Ghosal said that “controlling the disease is the only way to stop any disease from spreading. So far in our attempts to eliminate any disease we have seen that there is a possibility for us to be complacent. We never take prevention seriously.” Post the talk, villagers were given mosquito nets for protection against mosquito bites.■



RC Kasba past president Subhasish Bose presenting a mosquito net to a participant. Also seen is club president Dr Kajal Ghosal.

On the cover: Rotary Club of Dehradun distributed colourful tents to street dwellers in the town.

A virtual teacher training programme

Team Rotary News

Teachers with their certificates.



In association with Tech Mahindra Foundation, RC Chandausi Lakshya, RID 3100, organised a teacher training programme for teachers from RID 3100, 3110 and 3120. The 100 enrolled teachers

received a five-day online training under RILM guidelines and all the participants received a certificate from both Rotary and Tech Mahindra. The virtual training programme was inaugurated by

RIPE Shekhar Mehta. Speaking at the certificate distribution event, Zonal Literacy Committee chair Lalit Mohan Gupta said that together the three districts have a target of training 3,000 teachers in the region.■

Taking care of community's needs

Rotary Club of Delhi Southex, RID 3011, distributed sanitary napkins, moisturisers, hand sanitisers and masks to young girls and women at the Andrews Ganj slum in Delhi. The club sponsored hand sanitisers and masks, and Rotary Club of Delhi Rajdhani, along with Sankalp Foundation, sponsored the sanitary napkins and moisturisers. The club members distributed blankets to the slum dwellers to provide them protection from the biting winter cold. The blankets were sponsored by Smita, wife of club president Madhuukar Khemka.■



Club president Madhuukar Khemka giving a blanket to a slum dweller.

The Cellular Jail in the Andamans

Dr Dinesh

These undulating islands are covered with dense forests and endless variety of exotic flora and fauna. The topography of the islands is hilly and abounds in evergreen forests. The sandy beaches on the edge of meandering coastline are fringed with coconut palms that sway to the rhythm of the sea. The sea around the islands offers excellent scope for adventure watersports, the rare gifts of nature. These blessed islands attract any nature lover who seeks absolute peace and tranquility in the lap of mother nature. A visit to these islands is

a memorable lifetime experience where there is unity in diversity. Tasty seafood is the speciality of these islands. The unpolluted waters of Andaman Sea abound with varieties of seafoods.

Port Blair is an excellent destination for organising corporate meetings, conferences and get-together. Such events are refreshing and rejuvenating in the cradle of nature.

The dreaded cellular jail in the Andamans saw our brave Indian freedom fighters fettered and chained and packed to 698 cells — each measuring 13 by 6 feet. From 1896, the

construction of cellular jail was started and it was completed in 1906 with 698 cells. It had seven wings spreading like seven petals and in its centre had a tower with a turret. That is why it is called cellular jail. Due to irreparable damage caused by an earthquake a portion of jail has to be demolished and a modern hospital was built in its place. Today only three wings exist.

Netaji's Azad Hind Fauj declared independence to Port Blair, Andamans. Netaji visited the Andaman Islands and hoisted the tricolour flag on Dec 30, 1943. He had declared



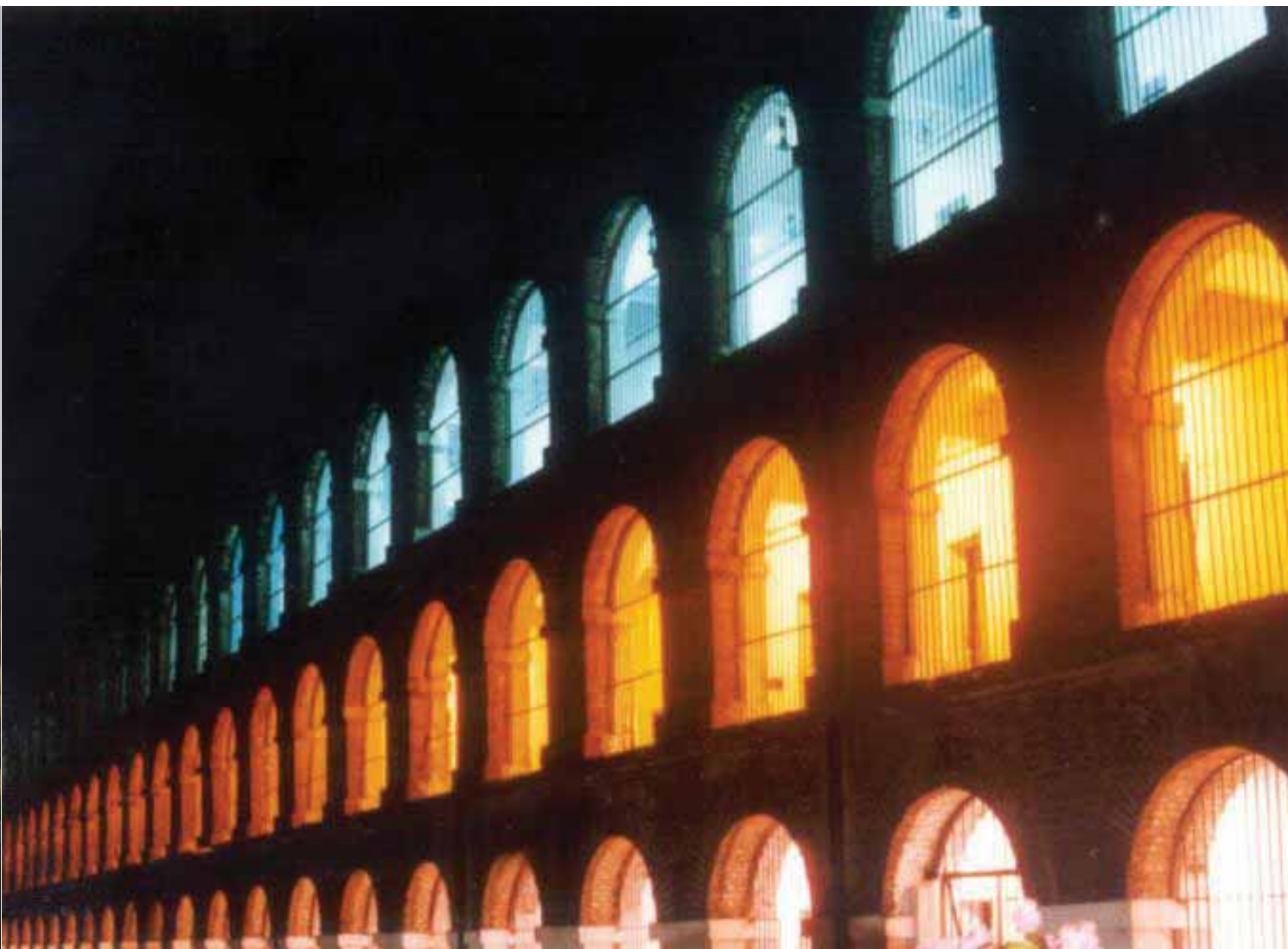


that the very first bastion to be relieved of the British yolk was the Andamans. On February 11, 1979, the then Prime Minister Moraji Desai dedicated the cellular jail as a national

memorial, and the sound and light (son-et-Lumiere) show was inaugurated on October 20, 1990. The centenary celebrations on March 10, 2006 has been a long journey for the jail, from

a torture machine to a national memorial; from a dreaded prison to a place of pilgrimage; a place where the memories of our brave freedom fighters are revived and patriotic fervour surges through the veins of the visitors. The centenary celebrations of the jail was a big event not only for the islanders but also for the entire country. Every brick of the cellular jail in Port Blair stands testimony to the inhuman treatment and torture meted out to the freedom fighters who challenged the might of the British rulers. Every Indian should visit this national memorial in Port Blair at least once to understand the sacrifices of our freedom fighters to achieve Independence.

The writer is the past president of RC Port Blair.



Tents for the homeless

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Dehradun, RID 3080, distributed tents to 15 families living on the streets in different parts of the city. “It will provide them better safety than sleeping in the open under the sky,” said club president Naghma Farooq. Club members Dr S Farooq, Rajat Sharma, Sandeep Aggerwal and Tae Bhatia went around the city with these collapsible tents and provided them to the needy. The bright coloured tents sport the Rotary Wheel and the club name, enhancing Rotary’s public image, said Naghma.

In another initiative, the club provided 2,000 disposable hygiene bags to be placed



Rotarians donate a tent to a street dweller family.



Hygienic vomit bags being given by the club members to transport authorities.

in buses. “As Dehradun is a tourist area and a hilly terrain, many people are prone to travel sickness and would vomit, especially while plying on the winding roads. This would result in soiling of the buses and other road users,” said Naghma.

The club decided to contribute in tackling this problem by tying up with the state transport authorities and place special plastic bags in buses.

Vinod Chamoli, MLA, was the chief guest. He appreciated the project and suggested that it be taken further to private buses. ■

Prisoners recognised for returning money

Team Rotary News

DG A L Chokkalingam, RID 3000, felicitated two prisoners working in a fuel station being run by the prison department, Pudukkottai, for returning to a customer his lost bag containing valuables and ₹1.75 lakh in cash. In a programme hosted by RC Karambakudi City, face masks were distributed to prisoners along with Diwali sweets. They prisoners were given motivational speeches to encourage them to turn a new leaf in their life.



DG A L Chokkalingam and RC Karambakudi City president E Gunasekaran present Diwali gifts to prisoners.

Muthukumar, a murder convict, and Karthik, convicted for stealing, found a bag containing, besides cash, a cell phone and gold jewellery worth four pounds at the fuel station and they immediately handed over the bag to their superior at the fuel outlet. In turn, the management went through the CCTV footage and zeroed in on the customer who had lost his bag and returned the same to him.

Chokkalingam praised the honesty of the two prisoners and

the club for having taking up such projects that raised the public image of Rotary in the locality.

Club president E Gunasekaran chaired the event with secretary Elaiyaraja delivering the welcome address. Major donor Abdul Kabir Khan, district secretary, AG A Pandiyan, prison superintendent Rukmani Priyadarshini, Department of Prisons vice-president R Kanagaraj and prison officer P Selvadurai spoke on the occasion. Club treasurer G Rangaraj gave the vote of thanks. ■

Homeopathy pills distributed at Nashik



As part of its Covid-relief efforts, RC Nashik Smart City, RID 3030, in association with

Mico Employees Forum, a local NGO, distributed Arsenic Album 30, a homeopathic pill, to around 1,500 families at

Jadhav Township, Satpur and Ambad Link Road in the city to build immunity among the beneficiaries. More than 6,000 people

benefitted from the distribution of anti-Covid pills with the residents of Jadhav Township appreciating the club for taking up this initiative.

A guest lecture on tackling obesity among women was organised by the club. Dr Sushma Bhutada spoke on the topic and gave valuable tips to the participants on how to address the growing cases of obesity by identifying its root causes such as diabetes, hypertension and heart ailments. ■

Covid vaccination: The choice is yours

Dr D P Prakash

I have been reading about Covid vaccines in almost every WhatsApp group including a dozen professional groups. As an eye surgeon, I want to share my perspective hoping that it might be of use to some readers.

When Covid was running amok and spreading like wildfire, every one of us were praying for a vaccine as early as possible. Even now the coronavirus is in its second peak in many countries like the US and UK. But suddenly we hear from almost everyone in the internet chats and private groups the speed with which some vaccines were approved. I guess it is basic human nature that when we are starving, we might eat anything but when the same hungry person is given a choice then he forgets the hunger and starts analysing which of the choice is better. The human mind always wants more.

Suddenly everyone is talking about phase-2 or phase-3 vaccine trials and starts comparing the efficacy rates, complication incidences, the acceptable daily intake (ADI) and adverse drug events. Such information was once circulated in the research scientific domain but unfortunately today it has become a WhatsApp time pass. Whether you want to be vaccinated or not is purely your choice. That's the only fact that you need to know. Everything else is relative.

Risk assessment

Your choice doesn't depend on the vaccine, its effectiveness or side effects but on the assessment of your

risk of dying from Covid. If you feel fairly comfortable with the assessment that you will not die of Covid then you don't need any vaccine.

Every medicine you and your family have taken so far including paracetamol has many side effects including irreversible kidney failure. Every antibiotic you have taken could've caused allergic reaction that could have killed you. Every anaesthesia that someone in your family had before surgery could have caused

complications like breath paralysis leading to death. Remember, these are complications known to doctors for decades, yet they chose to give you these treatments. For example, children with measles are given vaccine to prevent Subacute Sclerosing Pan Encephalitis (SSPE), a vegetable state, and complications arising out of this condition.

Does it sound intriguing that your own trusted doctor gave you something that could've potentially killed



No vaccine can guarantee a 100 per cent cure for a disease.

or paralysed you permanently?
No medicine is 100 per cent safe.
Every treatment offered by doctors is done in good faith to make you better. The doctors operate on a principal of risk versus benefit analysis.

If the potential benefit of a medicine or a treatment outweighs the risk considerably then we give this in good faith. The reason we follow this approach is that we are not god, and we are still very far from giving 100 per cent safe treatment for every disease.

On the safety aspects of the newly-approved Covid vaccines, it should be noted that these doses were approved for an emergency use only. This means the scientific community has not had adequate time to analyse the safety and effectiveness of all these currently available vaccines,



All governments around the world know that you are in an emergency, that is why you are offered the option of vaccine as millions have died due to Covid in less than a year.

in spite of the best of their efforts, knowledge and resources. So, it's up to you to realise whether you are in an emergency situation or not.

Medical emergency

All governments around the world know that you are in an emergency, that is why you are offered the option of vaccine as millions have died due to Covid in less than a year. But if you feel that you are not in any emergency, then you deny yourself the vaccine. But you take that extra risk which your neighbours have not taken. Even after you recover from Covid, you may suffer from its long-term complications like thromboembolism and lung fibrosis.

Doctors know that patients who recovered from Covid are also suffering from complications due to abnormal clotting of blood leading to pulmonary embolism and death too. Moreover, the lungs of patients recovered from Covid patients too are likely to lose their capacity to expand due to fibrosis and scarring resulting in severe limitations to their active lifestyle. A Covid vaccine not only prevents infections, it also saves you from the long-term complications of this virus after you have recovered.

Vaccines, the only solution?

In my opinion, any vaccine, including all the Covid vaccines, are a part of the solution for the pandemics and other diseases. No vaccine can

guarantee a 100 per cent cure for a disease. I state this from our experience with viral infections like polio, measles, influenza and HIV.

A good N95 mask worn with six feet-social distancing and hand hygiene can protect you 100 per cent from Covid. Unfortunately, we are tired of following this irksome ritual. The most difficult thing to implement is the six feet-social distancing for we are social animals. We like to meet and interact with fellow humans. We cannot live in isolation or lockdown for much longer, not because of the economic impact but more so due to the mental distress caused by social distancing.

Herd immunity

The vaccine is an easier way of attaining the herd immunity than the natural infection caused by the coronavirus. A Covid vaccine is safer than getting infected with the virus and fighting for survival in an ICU with a ventilator in your throat.

A vaccine is an additional safety like a helmet for a two-wheeler rider. Look at the Covid vaccine as an additional safety measure along with mask, social distancing and hand hygiene, not as a replacement. This we have to accept until the world develops herd immunity against Covid just like smallpox and polio.

A herd immunity is the only sure shot way to eliminate Covid from the world. The reality is each one of us is part of this herd and it is in each one of our hands to help reach the herd immunity as soon as possible.

Almost everyone wants herd immunity, but some want it without being part of the herd. Are you one of these people? Either get vaccinated or be ready to get Covid... or stay forever in a bubble distanced from other people. The choice is yours.

*The writer is a member of
RC Madras East, RID 3232.*

D 2981

RC Nagapattinam

DG R Balaji Babu inaugurated a wall painting at the municipality park, Thambithurai Poonga, in the presence of a large number of Rotarians and the municipality commissioner. The local chamber of commerce president Rtn R K Ravee was among those present.



D 2982

RC Attur Midtown

A Smart LED TV with stabiliser and internet connection was donated to the Sathappadi Higher Secondary School to aid students in their e-learning process. The faculty thanked Rotarians for the gesture.



D 2982

RC Salem North

The club distributed 32 Android Smart TVs to government schools at the Periyar University campus in the presence of DG KS Venkatesan. The project was executed by DLCC A Venkateswara Gupta under the TEACH initiative.





D 3000

RC Aranthangi

Vocational Excellence Award was presented to eight teachers including K Rajendran, headmaster, Government High School, Arasarkulam East, who was a recipient of the Best Teacher State Award 2020, to mark World Literacy Day. A new project *Athibagavan*, a training programme for students, was announced.



D 3020

RC Visakha Port City

A rally was conducted along with 13 clubs of Visakhapatnam to create awareness on End Polio campaign. Rotarians clicked photographs of street kids doing somersaults with End Polio flag on the eve of NID.



D 3054

RC Himatnagar

The club developed its own website (www.rotaryhimatnagar.org) to upload projects and community initiatives. The portal, inaugurated by DG Rajesh Agarwal, will enhance the public image of the club and enthuse its members.

D 3054

RC Jodhpur Padmini

DG Harish Gaur inaugurated two Happy Schools at Budhnagar and Akthali villages. The schools were provided with toilet blocks, handwash stations, clean drinking water facilities, classroom furniture, and uniforms and shoes for all students. Three RCCs were chartered on the occasion.



D 3060

RC Nandnagari

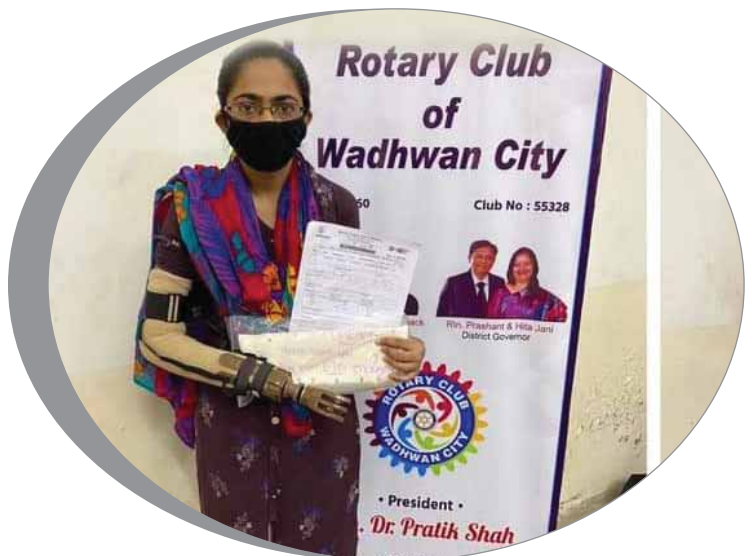
Sanitary napkins and sarees were distributed in a joint project with the Lions Femina Club as part of Navaratri celebrations. The beneficiaries were told about MHM and the children were given food packets and tutored on personal hygiene.



D 3060

RC Wadhwan City

At the LN-4 prosthetic hand camp titled *Koshish* conducted in partnership with RC Jamnagar, 26 beneficiaries received artificial hands and they were also trained on how to make effective use of them. Breakfast was arranged for all the beneficiaries.





D 3070

RC Amritsar Midtown

A painting and slogan writing contest was organised for schoolchildren. PDG Avinash Mohindru and Inner Wheel chairperson Sonika Gupta, guest of honours, distributed prizes to the winners. Club president Dr Ramneek Arora was also present.



D 3080

RC Kharar

A night sky watching programme was arranged for students in view of the closeness of planets Saturn and Jupiter. The club brought powerful telescopes from the Pushpa Gujral Science City, Kapurthala, to aid the students in observing the planets.



D 3080

RC Mussoorie

The club observed National Immunisation Day by giving oral polio vaccine to over 40 infants at the polio booth set up at the Tilak Memorial Library. PP DP Singh sponsored refreshments and End Polio masks for the volunteers.

D 3110

RC Agra

Dr Surabhi Gupta, a radiation oncologist, gave an awareness talk on breast cancer through zoom meet for Rotary Anns and other women from social circles. DGE Dr Gauri, RID 3182, called for holding more such meets. Club president Dr Alok Mittal said they have been holding medical and health-related events for the benefit of participants.



D 3120

RC Ballia

The club members distributed toiletries such as soap, shampoo, hair oil and other personal hygiene products to an old age home at Garwar town in Ballia district. Forty-eight inmates were provided with a sumptuous lunch by a team of 20 Rotarians to mark Dussehra festival.



D 3120

RC Kashi

Food packets and essentials were distributed to five children and their mothers at Shiwpara. This is a monthly project under the maternal and child health focus area. A Diwali family meet was held for Rotarians and their families at the Mandapam lawn, Morilla.





D 3120

RC Sitapur

Face masks were distributed to leprosy patients as a safeguard against Covid. Also, study material were given to needy children for their primary education. Both the projects were led by club president Praveen Gupta.



D 3131

RC Pune Cantonment

A public image zone meet was organised in association with RC Pune Magarpatta City to review the PI initiatives taken by the clubs in zone-3. PDG Deepak Shikarpur chaired the session in the presence of PI director Vivek Dikshit and PI zone-3 director Mukesh Gupta.



D 3131

RC Pune Parvati

President-elect Shekhar Lonkar handed over a cheque for ₹20,000 to Col Dr R K Mukherji, director, Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Pune, as a small contribution that will help in the treatment of soldiers who had lost their limbs and a salute to their bravery.

Wai Rotarians help Covid patients with machines, treatment kits

V Muthukumaran



Above: Food packets were distributed to families who lost their livelihood during lockdown.

Below: RC Wai president Ajit Sadashiv Kshirsagar felicitating a traffic police with Corona Warrior Award.

In an urgent meeting, RC Wai, RID 3132, decided to purchase around a dozen oxygen concentrator machines for donating to Covid patients who are under home quarantine. "The machines will help patients to quarantine at home and stabilise their oxygen at saturation-levels. When the oxygen level is going down and hospital beds are not available, they survive for few days. This machine will control the spread of coronavirus," said Ajit Sadashiv Kshirsagar, club president.

More than 600 people are benefitting from the machines and "in future, they will be given to asthma patients and those patients in need of external oxygen support." Following a surge in Covid patients, the club donated two machines to government-owned quarantine

centres which accommodated those unable to get admitted to hospitals.

On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the club gave an infra-red thermometer (thermo gun), pulse oximeter, vapouriser, manual thermometer and an assorted medical kit to the Highway Police Station at Joshi Vihir, 15km from Wai taluk. "The Covid devices will help policemen to guard themselves against virus infection from truck drivers while checking their vehicles on the highway," said Kshirsagar. Traffic policemen were felicitated with Corona Warrior Awards for their diligent work, especially while monitoring the traffic of commercial vehicles on the highway.

Sub-inspector Dattatraya Gurav gave a special talk on the duties and responsibilities of highway



police constabulary for Rotarians. A well-quipped van is deployed to apprehend over-speeding cars and penalise them, he said.

Separator plastic sheets were distributed to autorickshaw drivers to protect them from Covid-infected passengers. This project was supported by Disha Academy and Pushpak Electronics and the sheets were distributed to various auto stands across Wai.

Over two dozen copies of *Rotary News* were given to readers at the Lokmanya Tilak Library. The magazines were kept for the readers visiting the library as well as students coming for their studies. Wai Rotarians joined hands with 13 other clubs to host a zoom meeting with a motivational speaker over breakfast. The aim of such virtual meetings is to motivate Rotarians and help them to hone new skills during the extended lockdown.

Under the government project *Maze Ghar Mazi Jababdari* (My house, my responsibility), the club distributed aprons, caps and masks to health workers and Asha volunteers of panchayat samiti. "The volunteers were reluctant to collect data from each household as they were afraid of getting infected with



Club president Ajit Kshirsagar donating an oxygen concentrator machine to a Covid patient.

Covid during door-to-door enumeration. Hence, we provided them with protective wears having Rotary logo. This enhanced the public image of Rotary in Wai," he said.

Reaching out to PHC

In remote, far-flung areas of Maharashtra, villagers get treated at the local PHCs which lack basic equipment and medicine to treat corona patients. So the club gave an oxygen concentrator machine, pulse oximeter and face masks to the PHC, Kusumbi, that comes under Jawali taluk.

With the help of Andhshradha Nirmulan Samiti, the club hosted a *Premat Padtana Karyashala*, a workshop for children and their parents, in which Aarti Naik and Mahendra Naik spoke about the ways to express love and affection to younger ones in a familial set-up. "This event also served as a platform to dispel certain misconceptions and myths about friendly love and took up issues such as 'good touch, bad touch'," said Kshirsagar. More than 100 students with their parents attended the workshop.

Food distribution

Food packets were distributed to families at Ramoshi Vasti who had

lost their livelihood during the pandemic. "In normal times, they used to earn at least ₹100 a day, but due to lockdown they did not get any work and their families suffered. Hence we gave them food packets."

Goat rearing

A training programme on goat rearing was conducted to 35 shepherds and their families at Oholi village in Wai taluk. Ravi Bawiskar from the IAF and his spouse trained the goat farmers who enjoyed the session as it was held amidst scenic backdrop. "We distributed medicines and proteins to nurture the goats which were provided by our club. The farmers were happy as this project helped them to increase their monthly wages," he said.

Scribes felicitated

Local reporters were presented with motivational books, greetings and flower bouquets as a mark of thanksgiving for their contributions in making the public well-informed about events around them. "The journalists also report about Rotary events in Wai, thus helping us to shore up our public image," said Kshirsagar. ■



D 3141

RC Mulund Hill View

A diabetes-cum-eye check-up camp was held at Bhandup in which over 120 people were screened. A medical team from Thyrocare, Lotus, diagnosed the patients. The camp benefitted the local community.



D 3142

RC Dombivli Midtown

More than 1,000 stray dogs and 20 cats were vaccinated during the week-long rabies vaccination drive. Dog lovers, Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and veterinary doctors took part in this special event. Municipal corporator Rahul Damle, chief guest, and PDG Ulhas Kolhatkar felicitated 26 persons.



D 3142

RC Thane Midtown

An online chess tournament was organised in which over 1,200 contestants took part from all over India. Grand Master Pravin Thipsay was the chief guest at the online event that saw DG Dr Sandeep Kadam and other Rotarians making it a grand PR success.





D 3181

RC Mysore North

A renowned sculpture in Mysuru who had sent many of his idols all over India was honoured by the club under the vocational service excellence. He was felicitated with a citation, garland and fruit baskets.



D 3190

RC Bangalore Orchards

To create awareness on social distancing and also install a shield between the auto driver and the passenger, the club has put up Rotary boards that informed the public about the various projects like End Polio, eyecare, happy schools and Covid-relief initiatives of Rotary while travelling in the city autos.



D 3201

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli

Over 100 masks were distributed to sanitary workers of the municipality and they were told about importance of wearing them to prevent Covid. Two acrylic Covid shields with Rotary logo were given to the local police station.

D 3202

RC Pollachi

A prosthetic was donated to a patient who had undergone breast cancer surgery (mastectomy). The club has signed an MoU with Saaisha Foundation, US, to provide free breast prosthetics to needy people. Inner Wheel Club has identified the beneficiary.



D 3211

RC Chathannoor

A well was dug at the Saphalyam flats, a government housing project for low-income groups, and it was given to the 48 families living there by IPDG Shirish Kesavan. The club installed a biogas plant at this complex under REACH project.



D 3212

RC Sivakasi Diamonds

A speech and dance festival was organised for children from Child Guidance Speech Therapy, Sivakasi. The club honoured Sivaprakasam, a modern organic farmer who is cultivating 46 acres with the latest technology by using only organic manure.





D 3231

RC Pernambut

Christmas and new year were celebrated with charter member AR Kasi Vishwanadhan cutting a cake. Club president K Iqbal Ahmed and AG B Anbarasu were also present. It was an occasion for fellowship among Rotarians.



D 3231

RC Vandavasi

The club donated ₹30,000 to a Rotary affiliate for building a toilet block to a local school. The project enhanced the public image of Rotary in the neighbourhood.



D 3250

RC Chanakya

Sawan month, a sacred period in the Hindu calendar during which Lord Shiva is worshipped, was celebrated through zoom with music and dance. IAS officer N Vijayalakshmi spoke on the significance of the month. Rtn Moni Tripathi from Lucknow and Malvika Hair Om, a famous poet, expressed their views.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Rotarians desilt rural lake in Tirupur panchayat

V Muthukumaran



RC Tirupur Thirumuruganpoondi members and district officials inspecting the lake restoration work.

In a landmark project under Rotary's focus area of water conservation and sanitation, RC Tirupur Thirumuruganpoondi, RID 3202, desilted Rasathal Kulam (lake) and its 5km canal from Kaniyampoondi check dam to the lake in 48 days at a cost of ₹5.5 lakh. The lake restoration project would benefit over 10,000 families living in and around Rakkiapalayam village as the waterbody is the main source for drinking water and other needs in this rural area coming under Thirumuruganpoondi town panchayat.

The lake clean-up project was inaugurated by IPDG A Karthikeyan in the presence of town panchayat executive officer T Eswaramoorthy, AG Sivasubramaniam and ex-panchayat presidents. Club president Dr Hari Vira Vijayakant and secretary N Kathirvel said that

once the lake restoration work was completed, it would provide safe and assured supply of drinking water to the villagers. The club's past presidents Venkat, Samandam, Vivekanandan and IPP Raveendra Kumar, district Interact chair Muruganandan, Rtns Tirumoorthis and Chandran took part at the project inaugural.

The ritual ceremony was done by spiritual guru Sundararaj Adigalar. Project chair R Rajkumar, co-chairman A Prakash took care of the logistics and coordinated for the smooth launch of lake restoration work.

In tune with the Tamil Nadu government's new scheme of family membership in its branch libraries to promote reading habit among the youth, "we have done a unique project in which we introduced family library membership to all our mem-

bers," said Vijayakant. "The district library officer has given an appreciation letter to honour our club for this initiative," said Vijayakant.

Cricket tournament

A Challengers Trophy cricket tournament was organised by the club in partnership with IMA, Tirupur chapter, on the TEA grounds with four teams competing in it with much enthusiasm. Vijayakant inaugurated the sporting event. Chief guest PDG Dr A Muruganathan and AG RK Sivasubramanian distributed the trophies to the winners. Project chair Dr D Karthikeyan and district Interact chair Muruganandan felicitated the chief guest and assistant governor.

A new project titled *Poonthalir* was initiated by Vijayakant to provide health mix for pregnant women at the government PHC.

Rotary Friendship Exchange district chairman K Nagesh was the chief guest at the one of the *Poonthalir* events in which 50 expectant mothers were given protein powder and fruits at this health centre. Friendship Exchange state chairman Dr V Manigandan and Rtn Anitha Manigandan, along with other Rotarians were present. Project chair Poongodi and co-chair Dr Soumya Nandhini made arrangements for the event's success.

In an earlier programme, the club donated health mix to around 100 pregnant women at the PHC, Poondi. The event was well-organised by Poongodi and her team and got a good coverage in language dailies.

Covid-relief efforts

Arsenic Album, the homeopathic pills, were distributed to 300 families during the Covid relief campaign taken up by the club. All the beneficiaries were employees of SN Exports and their families. Vijayakant and club treasurer Ramu Shanmugam spoke on the health benefits of the medicine. SN Exports MD Murthy was honoured by Kathirvel.

Arsenic Album pills were given to 200 employees at Cotton Collections, MSV Fabrics and Venus Garments in another special drive against Covid. Rotary Peace Fellowship district chair K Chandran as chief guest distributed the anti-Covid pills in the presence of AG Sivasubramaniam, project chair Muthukumar and co-chair RS Shankar.

The club members handed over 11,000 paper cups and vapouriser machines to Covid patients at the exclusive ward set up for them at the Maharaja College. Medical officer Dr Karthigai Sundaram from the general hospital, Avinashi, was present. The project was sponsored by Rtns

Samandham and Chakrapani.

Polio digital board

As part of its End Polio campaign, the club installed a digital display board at a cost of ₹5 lakh. The public image project was inaugurated by state coordinator Kora Krishnamoorthy at the Reliance petrol outlet, Ammapalayam in Tirupur. Also, a digital flex board was installed at the Varanasi Cinemas; this board was inaugurated by zonal secretary Chidambaram and past president Venkat.

Another digital flex was installed at the Tyre Port, Thaneer Pandhal and the event, well-attended by Rotarians, was organised by the club PolioPlus chairman Gokulakrishnan.

A blood donation camp was held at the Rotary Hall, Tirupur, in which over 55 units of blood was collected. The camp was conducted in partnership with RC Tirupur South and



District library officer (left) giving an appreciation letter to club president Dr Hari Vira Vijayakant for making Rotarians and their families members of government libraries in Tirupur.

Rajini Makkal Mandram, a fan club of actor Rajinikanth.

The club members visited Poondi PHC and all the 17 polio booths under it to donate over 1,000 masks to the staff and volunteers. Lunch was provided to all of them. The project was led by Gokulakrishnan with support from Vijayakant, Kathirvel and other members.

Republic Day

The 72nd Republic Day was celebrated at the TISSO School, Tirupur with Vijayakant unfurling the tricolour. A similar event was conducted at Duraisamy Nagar with Rotarians distributing sweets to the residents. Vijayakant sponsored breakfast for children at the TISSO Home.

A clutch of five events were held jointly titled *Aimperum Vizha*. Charter Day, family get-together, Christmas, New Year and Pongal were all celebrated at the same time with a magic show enthralling the children and adults alike. "Fun games were conducted for Rotarians, Anns and Annetts separately and the winners were given gifts. This was followed by a grand dinner and it was a memorable evening for all Rotarians and their families," said Vijayakant. ■



Club president Dr Hari Vira Vijayakant presenting nutrition kit to a pregnant woman under Poonthalir project.

Rotary builds overhead water tank in Kodungallur

Team Rotary News

Despite Covid restrictions and lockdown, RC Kodungallur, RID 3201, in cooperation with the municipal authorities and its global partner RC Binghamton, New York, RID 7170, completing a drinking water project in seven months at Padanna, a coastal area in Methala village, Kodungallur, in Thrissur district of Kerala.

The project costing ₹35.42 lakh involved construction of an overhead RCC water tank, bore wells, installation of electric motor and laying of supply lines across 12km to reach all the 250 houses and the Government Upper Primary School in Kunnamkulam. Suitable land was provided by the municipality for the construction of the overhead tank.

More than 1,000 people living in 250 houses and 150 students at the school would benefit

from the water supply project. DG Jose Chacko handed over the newly-built water tank in the presence of the local MLA to the

municipal chairman. A society was formed with all the beneficiary families for the operation and maintenance of the facility. ■



Inset: DG Jose Chacko inaugurates the water supply facility.

Medical aid for pilgrims



Medical assistance being given to devotees.

For the last four years, RC Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, through its RCC Vadavalli, has been providing medical aid to over 1,000 devotees who visit barefooted to the Marudhamalai hill temple on the occasion of Thai Poosam festival. This year too, the RCC volunteers gave medical assistance to pilgrims from the night of Jan 27 till the late-night hours of the next day. Most of the beneficiaries are elderly and children. The club has been doing this medical project with the support of Rtn Dr Ravikumar from Mowthi Nursing Home.

End Polio campaign was taken up at the primary health centre, Vadavalli, which was followed by the administration of polio drops to children at the PHC, Kalveeranpalayam, and the corporation office. Around 10,000-plus children were given polio drops at these three PHCs. ■

Winter jackets, blankets distributed in Moradabad

Team Rotary News

Winter jackets, blankets and beddings were donated to needy people by RC Moradabad Brasscity Stars, RID 3100, at different localities in the city. Distribution camps were organised at places such as railway station, night shelters, Sai Baba temple where beggars gather in large numbers and areas where rickshaw pullers were stationed, for handing out winter clothing and accessories to the needy people.

Winter jackets and blankets were also given to security guards on night duty at factories, schools and gated communities. Also, caretakers of Kali Mata temple, Lal Bagh, Moradabad, and street vendors were some of the



Rotarians gifting winter clothing to an elderly.

beneficiaries. “Elderly monks and poor people on the banks of Ganga river were provided with jackets and blankets. These clothing were

arranged with the fund mobilised from the club members,” said Bharti Agarwal, assistant governor, RID 3100. ■

Mega corona testing camps across Delhi



A corona testing camp at Jasola Vihar in Delhi.

Following instructions from DG Sanjiv Rai Mehra, RC Delhi Manthan, RID 3011, has been holding coronavirus testing camps with a target of conducting 5,000 antigen and antibody testing at a cost of ₹25 lakh.

It all started with five coronavirus camps during Jan 2–6 in which 733 antigen and antibody tests were conducted at different localities in Delhi such as Jasola Vihar, NRI Colony (Greater Kailash) and Panchsheel Park.

“We organised the five camps in a professional manner conducting 733 tests with test kits donated by Oscar Medicare. The paramedics from Health-well Diagnostic Services conducted the testing for coronavirus,” said Narinder Kumar Lamba, club president. ■

Getting inspired by business leaders

Team Rotary News



Club members at the thermal power station.

Rotary Club of Chandrapur, RID 3030, invited business leaders in the city for a summit and honoured them

with vocational service awards. Many of them shared their best practices and success stories, inspiring the audience.

The club organised an industrial visit for its members to the Super Thermal Power Station to understand the generation and distribution of electricity. It was an information-packed experience for the 50 families who participated in the tour.

The club installed an automatic hand sanitiser unit at the Priyadarshini Kanya Vidyalaya school in Ghugus and the Rotarians delivered an awareness talk on Covid and how students can safeguard themselves from contracting the virus. The club has installed an Interact club in the school. ■



Rotarians install an automatic hand sanitiser facility in a school.

Campaigning for a clean environment

Team Rotary News



Club members on a cleanliness drive.

A cleanliness drive was carried out by RC Kushinagar, RID 3120, in association with the Municipality of Kushinagar. Members of the club and employees of the Municipality Kushinagar swept, collected and disposed wet and dry waste separately. The club spent a total of ₹5,000 for this drive.

Blankets, sweaters and woolen caps at a total cost of ₹28,700 were distributed in the slums of Kasia, near Kushinagar. Club members also distributed chocolates, snacks, books and pencils to the children in this area.

District NEET topper Akanksha Singh was honoured

by the club. She has been the first student from the town of Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh to have scored a 720/720. Akanksha and her mother were greeted by club members and given the idol of Goddess Saraswathi as a token of appreciation. The club plans to help her in her future endeavour. ■



Children with their goodies gifted by RC Kushinagar.

District collector lauds RC Pernambut for Covid-relief work

Team Rotary News

Vellore district collector Shanmuga Sundaram presented an award with citation to RC Pernambut, RID 3231, during his visit to the Red Cross Society. The club was awarded for its Covid-relief work in this area such as distributing masks, food packets and grocery kits to the needy families in the last 10 months during the lockdown. The club's IPP Jaweed Khan received the award in the presence of Rotarians and government officials.

As part of its road safety awareness programmes, the club donated road barricades to the Pernambut Police Station. Inspector Venkatesan received the metal frames from Jaweed, who is also the chairman of Green Valley School, the venue of the event. Pernambut Vanigar Sangam (traders' body) president Aliyar Ameen Ahmed, a Rotarian, donated helmets to motorists in the presence of RTO inspector Venkatraghavan. TN State Transport Corporation (Pernambut) division manager V S Ganesan, Venkatraghavan and Venkatesan spoke on the need to drive safe and follow traffic norms to prevent road fatalities.



Helmets being donated as part of Road Safety Awareness programme.



TN wakf minister Dr Neelofer Kafer presenting a certificate to a Covid warrior.

Club president K Iqbal Ahmed along with PPs Basheer Uddin, S Kothandaraman, and Rtms P Subramanian, Dr Prabhat Kumar, Sundresan, J Asif Khan, Thouseef Ahmed, M Salman Ahmed, Imthiyaz Ahmed and other Rotarians took part in the road safety programmes. Secretary O S Junaid gave the vote of thanks.

During the installation of new office-bearers, the club distributed face masks to over 250 persons in the presence of DGN JKN Palani, AG B Anbarasu, Pernambut tahsildar C Murgan, BDO Selva Kumar and municipality

commissioner Nithiyanandan.

Also, 5kg rice bags were distributed to 75 needy families at the installation event.

Certificates to volunteers

The club felicitated 20 volunteers for taking up Covid-relief work during the lockdown with certificates of appreciation for their 'hard work and selfless service'. "We also gave similar certificates to teachers and members of other organisations for their valuable support to the common people during the pandemic," said Junaid Ahmed, club secretary.

State minister for labour and wakfs Dr Neelofer Kafeel, the chief guest, spoke in praise of Rotary's community projects that reached out to the underprivileged people. PDG K Jawarilal Jain, Anbarasu, PP AR Ramesh Babu, industrialist M Surendra Kumar and Rotarians from RCs Ambur and Guidyattam were present at the event to honour Covid warriors. ■



DG Chinnappa Reddy gives a sewing machine to a woman.

Cardiac screening camp helps the poor in Dharmavaram

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Dharmavaram Midtown, RI District 3160, organised a cardiac screening camp in the town. Over 150 people visited the camp

and 15 of them were identified for surgery. The club has tied up with the Peepul Tree Hospital in Bengaluru to sponsor the surgeries for the needy.

In another initiative, the club donated sewing machines to 10 underprivileged women as part of its silver jubilee celebrations. DG Chinnappa Reddy

participated in the distribution programme.

A bike rally was undertaken by some of the club members to create awareness about polio immunisation. The rallyists met young mothers and spoke to them about the need for immunising their children with polio drops although India is declared polio-free. The club arranged food for all volunteers manning the booths in the locality during the NIDs.

The club conducted essay and sports competitions for girl students on National Girl Child Day (Jan 24). The winners and participants were recognised with gifts and certificates. ■



Cardiac screening camp in progress.



Rotarians celebrate National Girls Child Day with children.

Supporting education in Karkala

Team Rotary News

With online classes being the norm during the Covid pandemic, Rotary Club of Karkala, RID 3182, donated tabs pre-loaded with lessons in Kannada to 21 SSLC

students of the Sundra Purinaka Government High School in Karkala. The devices will help these students, who otherwise do not have access to mobile phone or computers, to follow their lessons easily.



Students receive tabs from club members.

In another endeavour, the club, with the support of Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers, sponsored prosthetic limbs for the physically-challenged to help them be independent

to an extent. Club president Rekha Upadhyaya, secretary Shashikala K Hegde and club members Mohan Shenoy, Vasanth M, Niranjan Jain and Soujanya Upadhyaya coordinated in identifying the beneficiaries. The prosthetics were custom-designed to suit the beneficiaries so as to make them feel comfortable with the device.

The club, along with RC Karkala Rockcity, set up 16 polio immunisation booths in the city on the NID in January and sponsored food and beverages for the volunteers manning the booths. ■



An artificial limb being given to a physically-challenged man.

A polio immunisation camp was organised by RC Mysore South East, RID 3181, at the Hadinaru village on the outskirts of Mysuru. The club members volunteered in two booths set up at an anganwadi campus and besides administering polio drops to little children the club members advised the mothers to feed nutritious diet for the infants and gave them hygiene tips to take better care of them.

In an initiative to promote sports among youngsters the club distributed t-shirts to all badminton players who participated in the district open doubles tournament organised by the Mysore District Badminton Association in January. The Rotarians also participated in the zonal badminton tournament at the ARC indoor stadium in Hebbal, Mysuru. The club bagged six trophies and qualified for the finals to be held in March. The event, hosted by RC Vijayanagar, was inaugurated by DG Ranganath Bhat, DGE Ravindra Bhat, District secretary Vikramadatta, AGs Harish H M and Ramaradhya.

The club, in association with RCs Mysore East, Ambari and Vijayanagara, organised a fundraiser titled Rotary Unwind. DG Ranganath

Services galore from RC Mysore South East

Team Rotary News



Hygiene kits being given to young mothers.

Bhat and DGE Ravindra Bhat attended the event.

To protect the underprivileged from the biting winter chill, the Rotarians distributed blankets to the tribal community at the Herur village.



Blankets being distributed to the underprivileged.

The club celebrated World Rotary Day (Feb 24) along with the Inner Wheel members and Rotaractors at the Bharath Nagara Ambedkar Community Hall in Mysuru. A magic show was organised for the children of civic workers in the city. Stationery and sweets were distributed to them. Earlier the Rotarians cleaned the Kukkarahalli lake by conducting a plastic and e-waste collection drive at the site. An awareness programme discouraging plastic use and the need for keeping the surroundings clean was organised for the general public in the locality. Corporator Vedavathi and Mysore City Corporation health officials also participated.

The club members, along with the Inner Wheel members, distributed nutritious food among pregnant women at the Jayanagar Primary Health Centre. ■

Cancer awareness in Bengaluru

Team Rotary News

Rotary District 3190, in association with the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology and Global Prostate Cancer Foundation, launched a cancer awareness programme on World Cancer Day (Feb 4) at the Kidwai auditorium. The programme was led by Dr C Ramachandra, Director of Kidwai Institute, DG B L Nagendra Prasad, Col C A Aiyappa (retd) and Dr S K Raghunath, trustees of Global Prostate Cancer Foundation. Over 200 people attended the programme. Medical experts provided detailed information about the disease, its prevention and availability of cure with advanced medical facilities. Dr Ramachandra gave an overview of the latest medical facilities available at the Kidwai hospital for everyone who walks in to the hospital with less or no money for their medical treatment.



Donors give their hair for making wigs for cancer patients.



A Rotaractor donates his hair as DG B L Nagendra Prasad looks on.

RID 3190 signed an MoU with the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology and Global Prostate Cancer Foundation for creating awareness on cancer disease, prevention and facilitating the needy to avail latest facilities available at the Kidwai hospital.

Rotaract Club of Bangalore Kalyan, in association with Rotary Club of Bengaluru Lake World, launched a hair donation campaign at a beauty salon in Domlur. The hair donation drive was supported by Rotary Club of Bengaluru Platinum City and Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore Junction. The

campaign which was extended till the end of February saw many donors who willingly donated their hair for the purpose of making wigs for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy. The hair stylists too gave free haircut for the donors.

The district, in association with Karunashraya Bangalore Hospice Trust, aims to raise Rs 10 lakh to support the cause. People who could not participate in the hair donation campaign were invited to donate for the cause. The campaign was widely publicised on social media. ■