

April 2021

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Rotary makes a village literate

Team Rotary News



A village girl entertains Rotarians.

Rotary Club of Kasba, RID 3291, along with RC Calcutta Extension, have planned to extend the district's literacy project to Muragacha, a village 125km from Dhakuria.

"We will be teaching English and impart basic computer training to the village children," said club president Dr Kajal Ghosal. Some of the club members visited the village to talk to the children and adults about the initiative. "They are excited about the idea and eagerly awaiting the launch," she said. The village children entertained the Rotarians with cultural programmes and yoga.

The club has been implementing various literacy-related projects across the region for the past eight years. ■



Rotarians with children at Muragacha village.

On the cover: Trainers show off their horses at a pet show organised by RC Bharuch.

A visit to the Peacock Valley

Team Rotary News

Members of RC Cuttack Golden Star, RID

3262, went on a picnic to the Peacock Valley in Naraj, Cuttack. The place is home to 120 peacocks and a haven for nature lovers. The club felicitated Kanhu Charan Behera, the peacock man, with the Golden Seva Samman Award. Behera has been taking care of the birds in the valley since his grandfather's death in 2017.

The Rotarians took their families and Rotaractors on this nature trip and engaged them in kayaking and other adventure sports. "The trip was a learning experience for all of us as it sensitised us about the importance of taking care of our environment and made us realise how fragile it is," said club member Sushil Kumar Behera. ■



Rotarians on a pleasure trip.

Below: Kanu Charan Behera presented with the Golden Seva Samman Award.



Rotary Pet Show draws crowds in Bharuch

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Bharuch, RID 3060, along with its Rotaract and Interact clubs, organised a pet show at the Dudhdhara grounds in March. The event was inaugurated by MLA Rtn Dushyant Patel. Around 300 people from the neighbourhood showcased their pets at the exhibition. Dogs, cats, birds, horses, fishes and even rodents

participated in the competition which had a panel of three judges. The exhibition had a footfall of 1,500 people and local TV channels publicised the event.

A veterinary medical camp was also held as part of the event

and pet owners availed the facility to treat illnesses in their animals. Special pet food and medicine stalls were also present at the event. The programme spread awareness for animal welfare and encouraged pet adoption through a



special stall set up for the purpose at the venue.

Event chair Husain and co-chair Ankit planned the event meticulously with support from club president Talkin Zamindar, RAC president Kishan Patel and Interact Club president Pearl Chadderwala.

RC Bharuch, chartered in 1978, has several significant projects under its belt. Its Shantivan, an eco-friendly crematorium, has been serving the society for 28 years now and the MI Patel Rotary Youth Centre has been a preferred destination for sports lovers for the past 33 years.

The club's PD Shroff Rotary Diagnostic Centre offers state-of-art



Above: An Interactor poses with a parrot at the Pet Show.

Left: A winner collects the price at the Pet Show contest.

medical diagnostic facilities including radiology, pathology and mammography tests at subsidised charges for the needy. The club also runs four ambulances and a hearse van for the past nine years.

The Rotary Bharti Sirish Modi Women Empowerment Centre has been offering courses in tailoring and beauty treatment for underprivileged women. The Rotary Mobile Toy Library, Ramakdu, was introduced to

entertain children in anganwadis. The club runs a Rotary Literacy Project that provides coaching for tribal girls in a juvenile home.

The club has constructed pay and use toilet blocks in three localities across Bharuch and has installed around 50 RO water filters in various schools and villages. Dialysis machines and ventilators have been installed in many hospitals with the help of district and global grants. ■

Feeding stray animals in Alwar

Kiran Zehra

Rotaract Clubs of Alwar Hope and Alwar Pavas, RID 3054, are sharing a meal with stray animals in the city. “Strays are left to scavenge for anything they can get their paws on. It’s a struggle for survival where often they have to live on scraps, fighting with each other for just a bite,” says Yash Sharma, club president of RAC Alwar hope.

Since buying pedigree food for all the stray dogs would be an expensive affair, “we decided to mix 25kg of rice, 12litres of milk and pedigree food to make a tasty, healthy treat for our furry friends,” he says. Apart from feeding the animals, the club cleaned and nursed the wounds of injured dogs. Members of the clubs paid out of their own pockets for this initiative. “We just thought this is a good way to use our pocket money. Every member gave as much as



Rotaractors with food cans for the dogs.

they could and we could feed the dogs. We plan to come up with an idea to keep this project going,” said Tanvi Gupta, member, RAC Alwar Hope.

The dog feeding drive was carried out in Vijay Nagar, Hasanakha Mewat, Employees Colony, Budhwar, Shivaji Park and Jail Circle in Alwar city.■

A Pulse Polio campaign in Ballarpur

Team Rotary News



A Pulse Polio campaign in progress.

RC Ballarpur, RID 3030, in association with the Rural Hospital, Ballarpur, conducted a Pulse Polio campaign. The campaign was inaugurated by Dr Jyoti Dange, regional medical officer, and club president Vaibhav Menawar administered polio drops to infants and children below the age of five years. The campaign was also carried out at the local bus stand, railway station and other public places.

Club president thanked the club members, doctors, Arogya and Asha workers and volunteers for their efforts. Food packets and sanitary kits were distributed to all the volunteers, Arogya and Asha workers.■

Water Day rally creates awareness in Belur

Team Rotary News



Water Day rally being flagged off.

DG Sudip Mukherjee and DGE Prabir Chatterjee were the chief guests at the events hosted by RC Belur, RID 3291, to mark World Water Day.

Rotarians took out a car rally with posters on their vehicles urging people to conserve water with messages such as 'Save water save lives'. The convoy stopped at police checkposts and manned crossings to hand over water bottles, chocolates and biscuits to the personnel on duty under scorching sun.

Another team of Rotarians visited eateries, hangouts and restaurants in busy areas like Park Street to request the outlet owners to use water consciously without splurging on them. "We spread the message of avoiding water wastage as every drop is precious," said project chair Rakesh Bhatia. Club president Alope Kanodia and his team decided to implement Water Day projects after hearing PM Modi in his *Mann Ki Bhaat* programme on Feb 28. ■

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandi Ben Patel was presented with the Rotary's lapel pin during an interaction she had with the members of RC Khurja Shakti, RID 3100. She was briefed about the global activities of Rotary and the work being carried out by the club in Khurja.

Appreciating the service-orientation of Rotary, Anandi Ben said she was looking forward to the Rotary volunteers taking up the advocacy campaign for Covid vaccination. The interaction took place during the evening tea the governor had with the club members at the PWD Guest House. Club president Laxmi Gupta and his team apprised the governor on the service projects being carried out in Khurja. ■

UP Governor praises Khurja Rotarians

Team Rotary News



UP Governor Anandiben Patel interacting with Rotarians.

RC Purulia holds cycle rally to promote healthy living

Team Rotary News



A cycle rally to promote fitness.

As part of its fitness project aimed to inculcate a healthy lifestyle among the people, RC Purulia, RID 3291, organised a cyclothon, one of its first programmes in the Rotary year, in which club members rode bicycles with health and motivational messages along the way.

The cycle rally started from Purulia town to Lalpur village covering a to and fro distance of 61km. "The rally event motivated villagers and

commuters enroute to ride bicycle to remain fit and increase their stamina which will help them to fight Covid," said Vivek Kataruka, club president.

All along the route, around 1,000 saplings were planted by Rotarians, Inner Wheel members and Rotaractors under the Rotary India Environment Mission. The club has set a target of planting 25,000 saplings this year as part of the mission. "During the

pandemic, we promoted cycling for a healthy body, mind and also plantations for a green environment," he said.

In another initiative, the club felicitated 75 doctors who were working without respite to treat Covid patients in Purulia town. As a token gesture to keep the environment green, saplings were given to the doctors. Dr Nirbanandya Maharaj from AIIMS, Delhi, who is doing social service for the last 35 years was one

of the recipients of the commendation certificate and sapling.

Yoga, meditation workshop

A four-day yoga and meditation workshop was organised for Covid warriors, police officers, in partnership with the Art of Living Foundation at the Belguma Police Line. "Over 300 police officers took part and benefitted from the *pranayama* camp which was inaugurated by DG Sudip Mukherjee.

The workshop was attended by RID 3291 officials including district trainer Angshuman Bandhopadhyay, club presidents, Rotarians, Inner Wheel members, Rotaractors and other guests on zoom platform,” said Kataruka.

Around 8,000 PPE kits were distributed to Covid warriors under the Project Atmaraksha. The kit includes face shields with Rotary logo, masks, gloves, hand sanitisers, reusable rain coats, hair covers and cloth bags. More than 300 kits were distributed on the first day of the project.■



PPE kits being distributed to Covid warriors.

Rotary honours women achievers in Vizag



RC Visakha Port City president R Sairam Kali Prasad with women Rotarians, Anns and awardees.

Women who excelled in diverse fields including police constables, health workers, doctors, child coordinators and teachers were felicitated by RC Visakha Port City, RID 3020, to mark Women's Day. The gala event saw the presence of 40 women Rotarians and Anns. Dr Leela Digumarti,

gynaecologist, spoke on women's empowerment and the need to stay healthy for a happy life.

A computer training for youth at BNR Colony was started to prepare them for future challenges. "The students are being taught basic computer, software and hardware," said R Sairam Kali Prasad, club president. Forty

children below 10 years took part in a drawing competition on topics such as Rotary, Covid and polio.

"The aim of the contest is to create awareness among children and also create interest in them in world affairs," he said. The children drew beautiful sketches and paintings and the winners were awarded by the club.■

D 2981

RC Tiruvarur Midtown

More than 400 women were screened at the mega medical camp organised to mark Women's Day at the Tiruvarur Medical Centre. The patients were examined for skin diseases, diabetes, eye disorders and menstrual issues. Inner Wheel members were felicitated.



D 2982

RC Attur Midtown

A hearing aid camp for the deaf was held at the PHC, Malliakarai, near Salem in which over 100 patients were examined. They were given hearing aids at the government hospital, Attur. Rotarians sponsored the construction of a flag hoisting stage and CCTVs at a government high school.



D 3000

RC Aranthangi

A cancer awareness meet was held at the Naina Mohammed College of Arts and Science for Women, Rajendrapuram. Project Positive Health camp was conducted for club members. A teacher support programme was held under the RILM initiative.





D 3030

RC Chalisgaon

Railway Safai Karmacharis (conservancy staff) and corona warriors at the Railway Hospital were felicitated with bouquets and sweet boxes. Rotarians along with staff cleaned the premises of Railway station under the Svachhata Abhiyan project.



D 3030

RC Chandrapur

A counselling session was held for sex workers on World AIDS Day. The possibility of setting up an anganwadi and providing push carts for them was explored. Project director Dr Asawari Deotale talked with transgender groups to understand their problems. He assured them of a training programme for regular income.



D 3053

RC Gwalior Mahanagar

A medical camp was conducted along with the Interact Club of Gwalior Mahanagar for tribals at Bhandera village in which 106 patients were screened for various illnesses. Also, over 300 blankets and sparsely-used clothes were distributed to tribal families in Bhandera and Barai villages.

D 3053

RC Gwalior Regal

Madhya Pradesh police was awarded for finding the valuables and sizeable amount lost by a doctor couple from AIIMS during their visit to the city. The club felicitated the policemen for returning the lost valuables with cash to the complainant in quick time.



D 3053

RC Jodhpur Garima

A health check-up camp was organised at Khejarli Khurd village under the supervision of doctors and surgeons. Around 150 patients were examined for diseases and free medicines were given. The club extended support to a young bride's family in organising her wedding.



D 3053

RC Jodhpur Padmini

The club joined hands with Interact Club of RKK and Maharaja Hanwantsingh Charitable Trust to distribute 600 sanitary napkins at the MGNREGA site in Salwa Kalan village. A blood donation camp was held to mark Kisan Diwas in which 45 units of blood was collected.





D 3060

RC Bharuch

Touch-free sanitiser dispensing machines, N95 masks, oximeters, electronic thermometers, face shields and handpump sanitisers were donated to the PHCs, urban health centres and police stations in Bharuch. Primary contact PDG Ashok Kapadia and club president Talkin Zamindar took efforts in this GG project worth ₹31.5 lakh.



D 3060

RC Dondaicha Seniors

DG Prashant Jani was the chief guest at the foundation-laying ceremony for the development of an open space given by the municipality into a children's park with play area at a cost of ₹15 lakh. Once fully developed, the new park can be used by elders for regular walk and for societies to host small programmes.



D 3060

RC Navsari

Two handwash stations were donated to the NP Mishrashala and Ambedkar Nagar Primary Schools. Rotarians distributed 60 sweaters to needy children at Navi Vasahat and 30 blankets to those sleeping on the pavement and the homeless.

D 3060

RC Wadhwan City

The club in partnership with Sadi Association distributed over 100 blankets in six different slum areas in the city. The project enhanced the public image of Rotary across the localities.



D 3070

RC Kangra

Mothers with their newborns were given saplings to mark Women's Day. Under environment protection campaign, the club has planted over 5,000 trees and this will continue in the near future. AG Prashant Bhasin lauded the club for honouring women on this special day.



D 3080

RC Kharar

Over 150 masks were distributed to newspaper vendors and policemen. In collaboration with the Pushpa Gujral Science City, the club made arrangements for more than 500 people to witness the conjunction of two planets, Jupiter and Saturn. The programme was held on the grounds of Khalsa School, Kharar.





D 3080

RC Roorkee

A tailoring centre for women was set up by the club to provide self-employment to needy women. Mayor Gaurav Goel inaugurated the new facility in a gala event. The facility shored up the public image of Rotary.



D 3110

RC Agra

A Covid vaccination camp was organised at the Om Diagnostic Complex for Rotarians and their families. Over 80 people were vaccinated at the one-day camp which was hosted by Rtn Dr Anupam Gupta in the presence of club president Dr Alok Mittal and secretary Ashish Agarwal.



D 3110

RC Kanpur North

A car rally was organised, along with five other clubs in the district, to create awareness on Covid vaccination. Food was distributed to around 2,000 people, mostly migrant workers, at the Naya Ganj area. All club members took part in this project.

Let's embrace 360-degree acceptability for Rotarians

NRUK Kartha

PDG JB Kamdar at the DGEs training seminar during the Indore Institute in December 2019.



Many countries are practising 360-degree acceptability for continuous improvement in performance across all growth sectors in recent years. This quality enhancement metric is more essential rather than desirable in all domains such as industry, agriculture, science, arts, education and human resource management in our country. This is primarily because of the need for achieving better and consistent quality, repeatability, cost effectiveness, better competitiveness and saving of all kinds of scarce resources.

RC Trivandrum Suburban, RID 3211, conducted a training session recently for 15 teachers of a Government Higher Secondary School for them to achieve 360-degree acceptability. Their response was very encouraging and the highlight of

the programme was that a teacher by name Sangeetha attended the session from the hospital where she was undergoing Covid treatment. Her virtual presence inspired the rest of the participants.

We need to accept 360-degree feedback (or acceptability) which has become the need of the hour in this time of uncertainty when we are yet to come out of the pandemic

Our membership at the global-level remains almost steady because many leave Rotary for one reason or the other. A cause-and-effect analysis can reveal the reasons.

situation. The club stakeholders are its members, past presidents, past AGs, PDGs, president, secretary and other office-bearers, including directors and chairmen, members of other clubs in the zone and district, district leaders and more than anyone else, the public who look at us for support, assistance and guidance. In-depth knowledge of Rotary, its avenues of services and past and present projects will make the members ready to carry out the assigned tasks.

Membership retention

Our membership at the global-level remains almost steady because many leave Rotary for one reason or the other. A cause-and-effect analysis can reveal the reasons and these may be club-specific or area-specific. Along with the mentoring of the



new members to familiarise Rotary, counselling of the existing members is essential for retention.

In order to make retention happen as early as possible, each district should have sufficient number of trained trainers who can be entrusted with this responsibility of retention. A timely and properly conducted Training Need Analysis (TNA) for the club members will make the process of training meaningful and effective. In order to make this happen well, the first step should be to conduct a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) analysis by experienced and dedicated Rotarians. The finding from this exercise will throw light on who should be allotted what or who is to be trained in what area. Some of the domains to be addressed in Rotary are leadership

A timely and properly conducted
Training Need Analysis (TNA) for the
club members will make the process of
training meaningful and effective.

development, effective communication, stress management, interactive skills, conflict management, negotiation skills and team-working skills. Individually, all Rotarians may be great but together, they may not be able to do well for a common cause.

Clubs and districts must consider seriously on making Rotary more professional and assign KRAs or Key Result Areas of service to all the Rotarians. Every member should

have some activity or other to perform every year. Senior Rotarians or board members, in addition to their task, can undertake development of members so that they do not become backbenchers and idle away their time. An idle mind is a devil's workshop and let us not promote this.

If continuous improvement is accepted in principle, past governors who are very familiar with the district and experienced in their areas of service can be requested to take up the onerous task of upgrading the quality of service of the Rotarians and the clubs on a time-bound plan, thereby achieving more acceptability for Rotary within and outside.

*The writer is a member of
RC Trivandrum Suburban,
RID 3211, and a PhD holder
in Total Quality Management.*

D 3120

RC Kashi

Winters clothes and food packets were distributed to an old age home at Ashapur. The donations will benefit 30 beneficiaries and the project cost ₹25,000. In a joint meeting with nine other clubs, a zoom meeting on 'Take care of your heart' was conducted.



D 3131

RC Poona West

Fifty-eight women were training in beauty care and stitching of fabric bags and totes. While 18 women got trained to work in beauty parlours with the help of Bhagini Nivedita Trust, another 40 learnt tailoring with the support from Seva Sahayog. The project cost \$2,315.



D 3132

RC Barsi

A three-day residential RYLA at the Jijau Gurukul, Khandvi, saw the participation of 35 youth in leadership sessions including lectures and group discussions. DG Harish Motwai, AG Subhash Patil and club president Madhukar Doiphode were among the speakers. Certificates were given to all the participants.





D 3170

RC Navanagar Hubli

Project Positive Health camp was conducted for 160-plus Karnataka State Reserve Police Staff with the support of Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli. KIMS principal Dr M F Kammar, Dr Sunil Gokhale and PG doctors took part in the camp. Kammar gave a talk on healthy living and mental relaxation.



D 3181

RC Mysore Midtown

A cycle rally was taken by the students of Seshadripuram College, Mysuru, to create Covid awareness in partnership with the NSS Department of the University of Mysore, and the Mysuru Corporation. Sanitisers and masks were distributed on the way.



D 3181

RC Mysore West

Scholarships were distributed to meritorious students of JSS Polytechnic for the Differently-abled, Mysuru. Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa was the chief guest. Club members were present in large numbers at the handover ceremony.

D 3212

RC Tirunelveli Town

Thirty-five bedsheets were distributed to children at the Udavum Ullangal, a special home, in the presence of club president M Ramasamy. The donations were sponsored by Rtn Senthil Kumar, owner of SRM Fashion. The inmates thanked Rotarians for the gesture.



D 3250

RC Chanakya

The club donated 51 wheelchairs and felicitated 30 doctors and 70 corona warriors including nurses, health workers, paramedics and hospital staff. Also, four chartered accountants at the AIIMS, Patna, were honoured by the club.



D 3250

RC Jamshedpur Midtown

The club is sponsoring the annual tuition fees of eight underprivileged students at the St Mary's Hindi School, till they pass out of the school. Club president Kusum Thakur, Rtns Moin Khan and Rajesh Chouhan were present while handing over the cheque to school principal Sister Premlata.





D 3291

RC Calcutta East Central

Polio-free India banners were installed at the Chaltabgan Dura Puja Pandal, D L Roy Street and other areas. District polio chair PDG Mukul Sinha, AG Hemanta Bose, district health chair Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri and club president Ranjan Jayswal were present. An amount of ₹11,250 was collected for the Polio Fund.



D 3291

RC Calcutta Majestic

World AIDS Day was marked by donating groceries, food, medicine, health drinks, sanitisers, fruits, chocolates and cake biscuits to HIV positive children at the Arunima Hospice. DG Sudip Mukherjee and singer Surojit Chatterjee were present. Children performed musical shows. Club president Bulbul Kundu presided over the event.



D 3291

RC Kasba

A sanitary vending machine was donated to the Bidyadharpur High School for Girls for its residential home where 200-plus inmates are staying. School principal Suchindra Bal thanked Rtn Subhasish Bose for his support to the Literacy project. Club president Dr Kajal Ghosal, PP Niladri Dutta and Rtn Avishek Saha were present.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Kasargod Rotary on a service drive

Team Rotary News



As part of the district project — ROPE (Rotary Police Engagement) — RC Kasargod, RID 3202, installed convex mirrors in blind curves to alert vehicles and avoid accidents. The club equipped the Kasargod Police Station with cupboards and furniture as part of the ROPE project.

DG Harikrishnan Nambiar, RID 3202, inaugurated a bus shelter constructed by the club in the town.

In another initiative the club donated water purifiers to the offices of the revenue department in Kasargod. Since the onset of Covid the club members have been regularly distributing food for patients and their attenders at the government general hospital in the town.

The club members cultivated paddy in a 2.5-acre abandoned field. The first harvest was celebrated joyously in the beginning of February.

The club constructed a toilet facility for an underprivileged family who could not afford it.

Lessons in basic life support was organised for the B Ed students at the Kannur University, in association with the IMA, Kasargod chapter. ■



From top: Paddy crop being harvested; A convex mirror being installed; Food being distributed to patients; Cupboards donated to police station.

A blood donation camp for thalassaemia children

Team Rotary News

Following the growing need at a thalassaemia centre in the government hospital, RC Bhuj Wallcity, RID 3054, conducted a blood donation camp at a community hall with Covid protocols in an airconditioned ambience. The club collected 104 units of blood at its 17th blood donation camp in which first time donors and those



A donor at the blood donation camp hosted by RC Bhuj Wallcity.

who gave blood for more than 100 times were felicitated with gifts and mementoes.

There are over 325 children who visit the thalassaemia centre run by the club and the camp will benefit them as they get blood transfusion

at this centre regularly. To be on the safe side, the club always keeps a roster of donors for emergency treatment of children. The blood donation camp was arranged with the support of the paramedical staff at the Government Hospital. ■

Lord Ganesh on a tree trunk at Bhavnagar

In a novel celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi, RC Bhavnagar Round Town, RID 3060, carved a Ganesh idol on the trunk of a big tree and decorated it with natural materials to spread the message of celebrating festivals in an environment-friendly manner.

“There is no sculpting, use of Plaster of Paris (PoP) or use of chemical dyes in the making of Ganesh idol on a tree. After the celebration, the tree is being worshipped, preserved and nurtured as

a divine tree,” said Mona Mehta, club president. The main purpose of this celebration is to spread the message of tree planting, conservation of trees and taking care of the environment. The celebration was organised in the presence of Mona Mehta and Kashmira Sutaria, principal, BN Virani High School. ■

From L: RC Bhavnagar Round Town IPP Manisha Gohel and club president Mona Mehta.



Tirupur Rotarians take up multifaceted projects

V Muthukumaran

A stainless steel stretcher and 15 IV fluid set-up stands were donated to the Avinashi Government Hospital by RC Tirupur Celebration, RID 3202, at a cost of ₹31,000. DG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar handed over the medical accessories to the hospital authorities in the presence of club president Melwin Babu, secretary N Manikandan, state coordinator Kora Krishnamoorthy, zonal coordinator J Venkatesh and AG Rathinaswamy.

With the aim to keep the court premises clean and tidy, the club joined hands with RC Tirupur Pride to install 185 dustbins worth

₹1.35 lakh at various locations of the Combined Court Campus. The dustbins were distributed to principal district judge in the presence of Rotarians and district-officers of RID 3202. The club installed its Rotary Community Corps (RCC) with 27 members. Melvin Babu handed over the charter in the name of RCC Devarayampalayam to its charter president K Rayappan in the presence of its secretary S Mohanasundaram and treasurer R Nagaraj. District community service chairman Nallasivam along with other district office-bearers took part in the installation ceremony which was held observing the Covid protocols.

Job for a poor student

A sum of ₹10,000 was given to a meritorious student Gowtham who got a job offer from a reputed company after completing his studies at the Anna University. Earlier, his college education was sponsored fully by Venkatesh as he secured high marks in Class 12 Board exam, but hailed from an underprivileged family. Following the death of Rtn Muthurathinam (from another club) in a heart attack, the club distributed emergency cardiac care kits to all its members in Tirupur.

“This emergency healthcare kits were given to Rotarians after

Rotarians donating a stretcher and IV stands to the Avinashi Government Hospital.



consulting doctors. Rtn Dr Sathish explained the need for such kits to all members in an event. The project idea was given by Venkatesh who also planned and executed it successfully,” said Manikandan.

To observe the literacy month in September, the club did a joint project with RC Avinashi by organising a career guidance programme for college students who were counselled on the type of courses to pursue for fulfilling their career objectives and future goals. “The career counselling was packed with information and an interactive session with experts including an IPS officer, scientist and a sportsman. Exclusive sessions were conducted on trends in engineering, legal studies, medicine, liberal arts and political science,” he said.

In another joint initiative, the club, along with RCs Tirupur Everest and Dindigul Central,



Teachers with Nation Builder Awards.

distributed face masks for the public and the medical fraternity at the Government Hospital, Dindigul. The project cost ₹2 lakh. The club, a 100 per cent PHF one, donated around 106 units of blood to Rotary IMA Blood Bank, Tirupur, in a mega camp.

“Following the inclusion of environment as RI’s seventh area of focus, we planted 100 saplings and this will be followed with a series of major greening drives in the city,” he said. For the End Polio campaign, each member contributed \$2 as one of the first projects of the Rotary year. The club gave \$26,881 to TRF in the first month of the year.

In partnership with RCs Tirupur Everest, Cheyur, the club donated Covid Wisk, an automatic sanitiser machine, along with a Covid awareness banner to a primary health centre, Cheyur. Rtn Roopa Selvanayagi was honoured as her Amirtham Foundation is providing monthly essentials to the NICU (neonatal ICU) at the GH, Coimbatore. In September, the delivery included 49 litres of human milk donated to its human milk bank which would help at least 60 newborns. Nation Builder

Awards were given to 13 teachers at a gala event that saw the presence of 15 Rotarians, 10 RCC volunteers and 25 people including teachers and their families. Reaching out to the orphans at the Sri Sankara Sevalayam, the club donated a washing machine, grocery provisions and other essential items worth ₹60,000 to make life comfortable for them at this special home.

Covid awareness posters were stuck on the back of 100 autorickshaws to create awareness on the virus among the public in Tirupur. A medical shop owned by Rtn Jeevanantham has erected a flex board on Covid dos and don’ts to inform the people on the steps to be taken to ward off the virus. “Since the flex board was installed on College Main Road, a busy thoroughfare, it will get a lot of traction among the public which will enhance our public image too,” said Manikandan. Regional Public Image chair K J Thivagar and Rotarians took part in the unveiling of the flex banner. The Four-way Test boards were presented to 50 important personalities in Tirupur as part of public image building initiatives of the club. ■



Organic farming gets a boost in a Bengal village

V Muthukumaran



Rotarians at the organic farm in Duttapukur village.

Farmers doing organic farming in Duttapukur, a village in the Barasat Sadar subdivision of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, under a global grant project of RC Calcutta Metropolitan, RID 3291, were asked for their feedback on the impact of such cultivation. “As the phase-2 of our GG project is nearing completion, we visited Duttapukur to take stock of the situation from the farmers. We are doing this project with the support from Maple Orgtech India who are providing the organic manure along with onsite technical assistance to farmers,” said Sashi Dhacholia, past president of the club.

It was found that the crop yield has more than doubled after farmers shifted to organic farming and they incurred less expenditure on manure than on fertilisers. “The produce is chemical-free, the soil retained its nutrients and the groundwater is not polluted,” he said. Organic farmers were told to invite more farmers to do such eco-friendly cultivation and if a farmer brings 10 such converts, he is being offered free organic manure as incentives. It was decided to do soil sample survey to document the improvement in soil fertility in areas where organic farming were being done.

Microfinance project

The club is working out a mega plan to organise and train large groups of farmers in other districts of West Bengal and is exploring the possibility of tying up with government agencies such as NABARD to avail incentives. The club is also mulling over the possibility of starting a microfinance project in Duttapukur to offer timely credit to organic farmers. Rtn Anugule Bab is in charge of putting together a team to identify beneficiaries. Over 20 blankets were distributed to farmers who attended the meeting with the Rotarians. The farmers of Piyali Kholagata were also given blankets in another event.

Republic Day

DG Sandip Mukherjee was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebration held on the premises of Mahavir Seva Sadan by observing all the Covid protocols. Artificial limb beneficiaries gave a demonstration of how their life has changed for the better under the club's *Leg for Legless* project to DG Mukherjee who was impressed by the show. He gave scholarships to physically-challenged students to pursue their studies.

Mukherjee requested club president Harsh Rungta to send a detailed report on the artificial limbs project and also the one for cerebral palsy children for publishing in the GML of RI District 3291. The DG also handed out lifetime support cards for artificial limbs to the beneficiaries. "We discussed the proposal for a centre for rehabilitation and education of cerebral palsy children in Joka, South 24 Parganas, under a global grant which could also be used for supply of training equipment to the

patients," said Dacholia. So far, the club has donated around 50,000 artificial limbs through global grants and other projects.

Since April 2020, the club is providing free rations to around 250 girls at the Pace Learning Centre in Piyali, 30km from Kolkata. The centre is joint venture between Pace Universal, a US-based NGO and the club. Some of the girls are living with their families ever since the lockdown. Gift hampers were also given to the girl students.

Under *Project Prochesta*, the club joined hands with RC Calcutta Endeavour to hold a Covid testing camp in which 110 antibody tests were conducted at the Star Community Hall, Kolkata. Club President Rungta, DGE Prabir Chatterjee and other Rotarians took part in the medical camp.

Donations to special home

Dry rations, medicines, a ceiling fan and sparsely-used clothes were donated to the Barrackpore Avenue

Women's Cultural and Social Welfare Society. The donations will help the inmates, mostly destitute and orphaned children, to lead a comfortable life. A musical concert by Pandit Bickram Ghosh, a fundraiser to mobilise resources for the Pace Learning Centre, Piyali, enthralled Rotarians from RID 3291. The classical tabla player rendered soulful music that regaled the audience and the club raised over ₹13 lakh from this concert. "With this collection, we can make a real difference to the entire Piyali village and its surroundings," he said.

Zoom meet on eyecare

A panel discussion on 'Eyecare—A vision' was conducted on zoom with the participation of experts — Dr T S Surendran, vice-chairman, Sankara Nethrayalay, Chennai; Dr Anirban Bhaduri, oncologist, Susrat Eye Foundation; Rtn Hiralal Yadav from RC Hooghly who is an architect of several Rotary eye hospitals in RID 3291 and the host club's president-elect Dr Somen Ghosh, eye surgeon.

Some of the common eye diseases such as macular degeneration, cataract, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, amblyopia and strabismus were discussed at the panel meet. Rungta assured the panellists and Rotarians that some of their suggestions will be acted upon through global grants so that IOL (intraocular lens) and phaco surgeries are taken up to tackle eye diseases.

Rtn Mike Jansen from RC Thousand Oaks, California, RID 5240, took part in the zoom discussion and assured all help from his club for projects related to eye surgeries. The American club was the global partner of various GG projects of the club. Another Rotarian Robert Prater said his club would support the club's *Leg for Legless* project. ■



RC Calcutta Metropolitan president Harsh Rungta with children at the Barrackpore Avenue Society.

RID 3132 clubs host End Polio car rally

Team Rotary News

An End Polio car rally was organised by all the Rotary clubs in RID 3132 to mark World Polio Day (Oct 24) in their respective towns and cities.

These car rallies attracted the attention of the public to the fact that infectious diseases like polio is about to disappear from this world. They displayed banners, posters, announced slogans and spread a message emphasising the need for continuous immunisation against polio.

The End Polio rally was also aimed at creating awareness on the efforts taken by Rotary International towards polio eradication since the 1980s. The car rally took off from multiple locations in RID 3132

including Beed, Ahmednagar, Latur, Chakur, Panchgani, Mahabaleshwar, Karjat, Osmanabad, Wadwani, Umbraj, Sangola and other cities and towns. DG Harish Motwani flagged off the mega event at Beed with the participation of a large number of Rotarians.

RC Ambajogai City raised an amount of ₹1.11 lakh for the Polio Fund through a series of innovative projects. While RCs Satara, Wai, Aurangabad, Jalna, Solapur, Omerga and Paithan also engaged themselves in varied activities. “RID 3132 is working in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by RI and its clubs have been doing diverse projects across the seven areas of focus. Our clubs are committed to spread

the message of kindness and generosity,” said Vinod Ladda, district public image coordinator.

Word Interact Week

For a week (Nov 2–8), 17 Interact clubs along with their sponsor Rotary clubs in RID 3132, namely RCs Ahmednagar, Ahmednagar Midtown, Ahmednagar Priyadarshini, Solapur, Solapur MIDC, Latur Midtown, Shevgaon City, Barsi and Omerga, celebrated World Interact Week by organising a range of events.

The major highlight of these programmes is the gifting of hygiene kits containing bath soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, hair oil, combs, etc and sweets to street children and those living in the



End Polio car rally at Umbraj.

RC Shrirampur
flags off car rally.

Below: Interact
week celebrations
at RID 3132.



slums. “Around 350 children benefitted from the gifting of hygiene kits to needy young ones,” said Bindu Shirsath, district interact chair, RID 3132.

Interact clubs hosted exclusive events for schoolchildren such as Rangoli competition, poster contest depicting social issues, essay writing, slogan writing, helping slum children with their homework, gifting notebooks and storybooks, handwashing demos for children in slum areas and health awareness sessions through online lecture series. “We also organised workshop on financial literacy, took up cleanliness drive and tree plantation in various cities. The events were jointly organised by Rotarians and Interactors,” said Bindu.

Around 1,000 Interactors took part in the week-long events across RID 3132. “All the 17 Interact clubs and their sponsor Rotary clubs got Certificates of Recognition from RI for successfully completing the Interact Week events and programmes,” said Bindu. ■

New playground at Bhalki

Team Rotary News

DG B Chinnapa Reddy and spouse Mahalakshmi, RID 3160, inaugurated a playground created by RC Bhalki Fort, RID 3160. The club installed play equipment and other facilities for children on the premises of Shri Khadkeshwar Vidya Mandir.

"The project was a self-funded programme aimed to create a fun space for children to enjoy and learn at the school at the old town in Bhalki," said Yuvraj R Jadhav, club president. AG Dr Jagdish Patil was present at the inaugural along with other district office-bearers.

DG Reddy also donated desk-benches to the school under a district grant project in the presence of Rotarians. The students and school staff welcomed the DG and his spouse by reciting Sanskrit slokas. "The children were happy to see the new benches in their classrooms and they thanked DG and other Rotarians for the donation," he said.

A welcome board

The club installed a welcome board at the entrance to Bhalki town on the

Humnabad-Bhalki state highway in the presence of DG Reddy and other district office-bearers. "This signage with Rotary logo and the club name will shore up our public image in the locality," said Jadhav.

Club members celebrated Women's Day with Anns and Annettes. Brahmakumari Radha Behan was the chief guest. "Celebrations were needed in this pandemic to motivate Rotarians and their families who stand always with each Rotarian of our club. We had a get-together along with entertainment shows. A jute bag with Rotary logo and a mug with Rotary Wheel were presented to all participants," said Jadhav.

Cataract surgery

Around 95 patients were screened at the eye check-up camp and 32 patients were chosen for cataract surgery. "This is a signature project of our club. Till date over 5,000 patients were tested for eye diseases and over 2,000 were operated for cataract ever since the club was chartered a decade ago," he said. ■

Patients after undergoing cataract surgery.



DG B Chinnapa Reddy and spouse Mahalakshmi inaugurate a new playground.



DG B Chinnapa Reddy along with students after donating desk-benches.



Hair donation to help cancer patients

Team Rotary News



Above: Rotarians donate hair for cancer patients.

Below: Celebrating Rotary Day with children in an orphanage.



Rotary Club of Udaipur Vasudha, RID 3054, observed National Hair Donation Day (Mar 7) by encouraging its members to donate hair to make wigs for cancer patients who have lost their hair following chemotherapy. Club president Meena Mandot set an example by donating 12 inches of hair at an event organised by the All India Hair and Beauty Organisation. The donated hair was sent to the Tata Memorial Hospital for Cancer Research, Mumbai.

The club, along with RAC Udaipur Vasudha, celebrated the 116th anniversary of Rotary (Feb 23) with the children of Muk Badhir Chhatra Waas Vidyalaya, an orphanage for hearing and speech-impaired children. The Rotarians and Rotaractors sponsored a sumptuous feast for the children and distributed gifts to them. ■

Sensitising public against gender discrimination

Team Rotary News



A mega rally in Agra against gender discrimination.

Rotary Club of Agra West, RID 3110, along with the Indian Radiology Union, BD Jain Girls College, Dr Tandon Nursing

College and the IMA, Agra chapter, organised a rally to raise awareness against gender discrimination and girl child abuse.

The rally began at the Agra College ground and ended at Subhash Park. School students also participated in the rally. ■

Supporting community's needs

Rotary Club of Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, extended support for upgrading infrastructure in the locality.

The club members pooled in ₹80,000 to renovate library in the Marudhamalai High School and handed over cheques for ₹10,000 each to support purchase of an ambulance for an orphanage and to an old age home at Mathipalayam to help meet monthly expenses.

The club donated a hot water purifier to the paediatric surgery ward at the Coimbatore government hospital to benefit newborn babies, mothers and healthcare staff. ■



A hot water purifier donated to the Coimbatore GH.

Helping a student with a wheelchair

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Gurgaon Cosmopolitan, RID 3011, donated a wheelchair to Neha Kumari, a physically-challenged student of Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya in Ghitorni, Delhi. "Neha is a brilliant student. Her physical disability should not hinder her academic performance," said club president Abhinav Bhansal. He, along with secretary Abhishek Aneja, president-elect Vivek Duggal and club members Dinesh Aggarwal met Neha at her school and gave the wheelchair to her. ■



Neha Kumari with Rotarians.

Covid protection kits given to hospital



PPE kits being donated to the Civil Surgeons Office.

Rotary Clubs of Kapurthala Elite and Kapurthala Downtown, RID 3070, provided PPE kits to the health department at the Civil Surgeons Office in the town. The clubs have been distributing masks and sanitisers in residential colonies, market

places and schools to provide protection from Covid-19 for the public. Awareness campaigns are also being organised regularly to sensitise people on the safety norms to be adhered.

The club members actively volunteered in administering polio

drops to little children during the National Immunisation Day in February. They went door-to-door and educated parents on the need to give polio drops to their infants even though the country is declared polio-free. ■

Rotary builds new classrooms in Nashik village

Team Rotary News

A ground-breaking ceremony was done by RC Nasik president Mugdha Lele, RID 3030, for the construction of three new classrooms at a zilla parishad school at Ganeshgaon, a tribal hamlet in Trimbakeshwar taluk which is 30km from Nashik.

Rtns Sachin Bagad and Nilesh Sonje from the club are involved in different projects to ameliorate the conditions of the villagers. During an interaction, the case of a dilapidated building at the Zilla Parishad School came up for discussion. Around 100 children are studying there, but more than 200 students either left the school or not joining due to the dilapidated building and other infrastructure. "Few of them used to walk for a distance of 5-10km to join other village schools," said VG Deodhar, chairman, Communications Committee.



RC Nasik president Mugdha Lele along with club members at the zilla parishad school, Ganeshgaon.

The architects from the club gave an estimate of ₹20 lakh for new buildings.

Through a fundraising drive, ₹19 lakh was mobilised — zilla parishad: ₹10.4 lakh; club funds: ₹2.5 lakh (including CSR funds from Taparia Tools); teachers' group

Setu Bandh: ₹3 lakh, apart from donations from villagers. The club is confident of tying up the remaining funds and hopes to complete the project before the monsoon so that all the 150 children can study in decent classrooms from the new academic session, said Deodhar. ■

Asha workers get masks, face shields in Akola

To protect Asha workers from Covid infection, RC Akola Midtown, RID 3030, distributed 4,000 masks and 4,000 face shields, three each to a volunteer in the district. The ground-level workers were given the Covid kits for using them



Asha workers get masks and face shields.

during their field trips to distant villages as part of their daily routine.

The club distributed over 1,000 masks to labourers on the field at different places in Akola.

Renowned oncologist Dr Gaurav Mantri delivered a

special talk on cancer prevention for Rotarians on the zoom platform at the 75th meeting of the club. On Diwali, the club members distributed new dresses and other gifts to 17 girls at an orphanage. ■