

June 2021

Rotary

NEWS PLUS





Rotarians after distributing grocery kits to home guards. PDG Ganesh Bhat (L) is also present.

Reaching out to Covid warriors

Team Rotary News

The Rotary clubs of RID 3170 reached out to Covid frontline warriors such as the police personnel, nurses, sanitary workers and other volunteers and provided them support in various forms.

The members of the Rotary Hubballi Dharwad Covid Task Force led by PDG Ganesh Bhat handed over sanitisers and masks to nearly 1,500 frontline workers at the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation (KPTCL) and the Hubballi Electricity Supply Company (HESCOM) in Hubli and Dharwad. They also distributed water bottles and hand sanitisers to the police personnel for



Rotarians distributing water bottles, masks and sanitisers to police personnel.

10 days during the initial lockdown period.

The Rotarians of the Rotary clubs of Hubli distributed food packets to beggars and grocery kits to 200 families of

daily wage earners, home guards, temple priests, auto drivers, street vendors and hair cutting saloon employees in the town. Masks and sanitisers were also distributed.

The Covid Task Force spread awareness through radio broadcast for use of masks and sanitisers, observing social distance and importance of vaccination among the people. ■

On the cover: A walkathon to promote women's health organised by RC Kasaragod, RID 3202.

Rotary renovates a hospital ward in Bikaner

Team Rotary News



Above: DG Harish Gaur (second from left) at the inauguration of a refurbished facility at the district hospital, Bikaner.

Below: New hospital beds at the surgical ward.

Under Project *Sanskar*, RC Bikaner Aadhya, RID 3053, renovated a surgical ward at the government district hospital,

Bikaner, at a cost of ₹1.2 lakh. The block was painted, relaid with new tiles and equipped with necessary surgical equipment and furniture including hospital beds. DG Harish Gaur, who inaugurated the block, congratulated the club for its efforts.

Club members also distributed stationery and snacks to over 50 children attending the Saraswati Vidya Mandir School. Club President Shila Kumawat said that “the students at this school come from very underprivileged backgrounds but are also very smart in academics. However, they lack the facilities to excel in their studies. The club wants to help these children by providing basic learning material.” ■





Flowers were showered on corona warriors and masks, sanitisers distributed at the police station.

Rotary distributes masks and sanitisers in Merta, Rajasthan

Team Rotary News

To honour the frontline warriors engaged in the fight against Covid RC Merta Meera, RID 3053, showered flowers on doctors, medical staff, police personnel and anganwadi workers followed by the distribution of sanitary kits consisting of soap, sanitisers and masks at Merta city, Rajasthan. Club president

Mamta Modi thanked the anganwadi workers who “have been working tirelessly with compassion for the slum communities since the lockdown began.”

The all-women’s club aims to improve hand hygiene in water-scarce areas, particularly the police station, hold vaccination camps in schools and slum areas where communicable diseases can be

transmitted easily because of close proximity of residents. Mamta adds that “we wanted to ensure that corona warriors in the city do not struggle for want of sanitation and hygiene material.”

She also said that the anganwadi workers who are closely working with people living in the slums and rural areas have been trained on handwash techniques and have been given

the adequate awareness that “hand hygiene is the cornerstone of infection control and the use of hand sanitiser kills bacteria and microorganisms and is a portable prevention tool against Covid-19.”

The club plans to distribute PPE kits to medical staff at the government hospital and has installed a sanitisation tunnel on the hospital premises and at the Merta police



station. The club set up a vaccination selfie booth at the government hospital. “The vaccination selfie has gone viral. This is a

time where social media has become the primary means of communication, and images play a very important role not just to

get the news out, but to normalise the experience and influence others to take the jabs,” says the club president.”■



Rotarians with the anganwadi workers.

From Punjab to Goa, a memorable journey

Team Rotary News

A group of 18 Rotarians from nine Rotary clubs of RID 3070, along with their spouses, visited RID 3170 comprising Karnataka, Maharashtra and Goa on a friendship exchange programme in February this year.

On arrival at Goa, they were received by RID 3170 team leader Narinder Barwal, along with the president and secretary

of RC Vasco Port City. The first destination was Dandeli, famous for its reserve forest. The guests were taken on a tour of the eco-park; and the first paper mill of Asia, the West Coast Paper Mills which was established in 1955. RC Dandeli took them to the Rotary School established by the club with matching grants. The school is a boon for the underprivileged

children and it charges a nominal ₹2,000 annually from the students.

At Hubli, their next stopover, RC Hubli South took the guests to the Rotary Dialysis Centre that it had established. On their way to Hubli they were met by the Rotarians of RC Dharwad at a school run by the club for 70 years. The RFE team also visited ISKCON's Akshaya Patra, an NGO which serves fresh meals to

RID 3170 DG Sangram Patil (centre, left) and RID 3070 DG CA Davinder Singh (centre, right) at the RFE get-together in Kolhapur.



5 lakh homeless and schoolchildren around Hubli every day. All the seven Rotary clubs of Hubli hosted a grand reception for the visitors that evening. PDGs Dr PV Dati and Bazil D'Souza also attended the programme.

The guests were thrilled to visit the Badami Caves the next day. There are five caves in Badami — four are man-made and the fifth is natural. They then visited Pattadakal, which was accorded World Heritage status by UNESCO in 1987. There is no Rotary club in Badami and the Rotarians of RC Bagalkot and RC Ilkal received the guests at Badami, hosted and escorted them to Vijaypur (earlier called Bijapur) where they visited Gol Gumbaz, the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah.



DG Sangram Patil and Utkarsha honouring visiting DG CA Davinder Singh, RID 3070, at the RFE programme.



PDG Pranesh Jahagirdar welcomed the team at Kolhapur where they also met DG Sangram Patil. At Kolhapur they visited the famous Mahalakshmi temple, Panhala Fort and the Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj museum. The RFE also visited the Siddhagiri Math located in Kaneri village. The members of RC Kolhapur Midtown took care of their hospitality in Kolhapur.

The team wrapped up their tour at Goa where they were hosted by the Rotary clubs in Madgaon. On the last leg of their tour, they visited the Sneh Mandir, an old age home run by RC Ponda in Goa.

Rotary Friendship Exchange is a structured programme of RI which gives participants opportunities to explore new culture and discover diverse perspectives. It is a wonderful way to make new friends, understand the culture and ultimately connect with each other and accomplish the Rotary mission to enrich the world understanding and peace, says YR Bakshi, RFE chair, RID 3070. ■

Motivational speeches for women workers in factory

Team Rotary News

Prizes being given to winners of a Rotary competition at a garment factory.



Motivational speeches and games were conducted for women workers at a garment factory in S Ramalingapuram village by RC Sivakasi Diamonds, RID 3212, to mark Women's Day. Prizes were

distributed to the winners of various competitions.

An eye camp was held at a marriage hall at Thiruthangal village in which over 300 patients were screened for various eye ailments.

Spectacles were given to 16 people who had eye defects and 63 patients with major defects were taken to Aravind Eye Hospital, Madurai, for free surgery. The eye care project lifted the public image of the club.■

Vocational training for the mentally-ill at Ramnad

Vocational training in making handicrafts was given to 20 mentally-ill inmates at the Rehabilitation Institute for Mental Health, Ervadi, by RC Ramnad, RID 3212. "Out of 53 inmates, we have selected 20 persons who were given training for 15 days. These individuals were left as destitute by their relatives at the mental asylum at Ervadi in Ramanathapuram. There is another such centre at the Kilpauk Mental Hospital, Chennai," said JRa Geetha, club president.

Trainer M Bharat gave them training on Mugavai jute works which offered relaxation to the inmates. Rotarians were happy to extend their services to mentally-ill people. While the jute products made at the institute were put up



Trainer M Bharat giving training to the inmates at the mental health institute, Ervadi.

for sale, the trainer assured the club that he would follow up with the inmates on their work twice a month. Ramanthapuram collector Dinesh Ponraj Oliver and district mental health coordinator Dr Periyar Lenin appreciated Rotary

for taking up this project for the mentally-ill people at Ervadi.

MS Chellamuthu Trust which is taking care of the rehab centre thanked the club for the initiative to provide skill training to inmates at the mental institute.■

RC Kasaragod holds walkathon on Women's Day

Team Rotary News



College students take a rally to create awareness on women's issues in society.

DG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar inaugurated a walkathon hosted by RC Kasaragod, RID 3202, to mark Women's Day. Students carried banners to create an impact in the localities. A free

mammogram and bone density scanning camp was conducted in association with the KIMS Hospital, Kasargod, as part of Women's Day events.

A poster exhibition was held on World Down Syndrome Day

(Mar 21), followed by an event in which physicians and experts spoke on the subject. This programme was done in partnership with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics, Kasaragod, and the Indian Medical Association, Kasaragod. ■

A poster exhibition to mark World Down Syndrome Day.



D 2981

RC Aidrampattinam

An oral polio vaccine camp was held at the government hospital, Adirampattinam, in the presence of club president S Shahul Hameed and hospital dean Dr Karthikeyan. A large number of Rotarians including past presidents A M Venkatesh and T Mohammed Nawaz Khan took part in the event.



D 2981

RC Manora Pattukkottai

An oral polio vaccine camp was held at the municipality office. The then MLA CV Sekar inaugurated the camp in the presence of municipal commissioner, health inspectors and doctors. It was jointly held with other clubs in Pattukkottai.



D 2981

RC Mayiladuthurai Delta

A mega medical camp was organised jointly with the Aishwarya Trust, MGM Hospital and Dharmapuram Adheenam Arts College in which a large number of people were screened for heart diseases and general illnesses. Masilamani Desigar Gnanasambanda Swamigal of the Adheenam inaugurated the health camp.





D 2981

RC Muthupettai

A road safety awareness rally was taken with support from police station. The club hosted month-long programmes and lecture events to create awareness among the public on the rising traffic accidents. Speakers urged motorists to follow traffic rules and pedestrians told to take precautions while walking on highways.



D 3000

RC Pudukkottai City

Oral polio vaccine camps were held at the old municipality building and the mother and child welfare home with club president K Arumugam presiding over the events. President-elect Dr G Marimuthu gave the first polio drops to infants. Road Safety Awareness Association president Maruthi K Mohanraj, charter president K Naina Mohammed, former AGs S Parthipan and G Dhanapal were also present.



D 3011

RC Delhi Connaught Place Raisina Hills

Three tricycles and two wheelchairs were donated to the physically-challenged people at the Kailash Hospital, Noida, in association with the Dadda Foundation.

D 3053

RC Alwar

An eye check-up camp was organised with the support of Dr Shroff Eye Hospital and regional transport office at the Alwar bus terminus. Bus crew members were screened for eye disorders. With the support of transport department and Laghu Udyog Bharati, Rotarians stuck reflectors on bullock carts, tractors and trolleys at the Krishi Upaj market to avoid traffic accidents.



D 3053

RC Alwar Shourya

The club donated a Canon printer, DTP scanner, thermo scanner and green boards at the Rajkiya Uchh Prathamik Vidyalaya at Chowki near Sheikh Sarai village. Students and faculty thanked Rotary for facilitating their classroom education with these gadgets.



D 3053

RC Greater Bhiwadi

The club distributed masks and sanitisers to over 300 students at the Government Girls Senior Secondary School, Bhiwadi. Around 80 students and teachers at the Government Senior Secondary School, Milakpur, were also given masks and sanitisers.





D 3053

RC Jodhpur Garima

The club joined hands with the Period Society to distribute over 300 packets of sanitary napkins to women and girls at Khejarli Khurd village. They were educated on adopting the best hygiene practices. A hair donation drive titled *Hair we share* was started to help cancer patients.



D 3053

RC Gwalior Mahanagar

A Covid awareness programme was conducted at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shinde ki Chhawani, at Jayendraganj. The students were told to observe social distancing and wash hands regularly. Masks and soaps were distributed to over 150 students. The faculty thanked Rotarians for their gesture.



D 3054

RI District 3054

Rotary founder Paul Harris' bust was unveiled on 116th birth anniversary of the organisation with all the clubs in Ahmedabad coming together to execute the project at the Appang Manav Mandal, an NGO, in the city. PDGs Joitabhai and Lalit Sharma, and AG Sangita Jigar Shah were present among others.

D 3060

RC Surat Roundtown

Three handwash stations were given to different government schools with the help of district grants. PDG Bharat Solanki and club members were present at the installations. Students were also given demos on the right handwashing technique for personal hygiene.



D 3070

RC Amritsar Midtown

A painting and slogan writing competition was conducted at the Bhawan's SL Public School, Amritsar. PDG Avinash Mohindru, Inner Wheel chairperson Sonika Gupta and club president Dr Ramneek Arora distributed prizes to the winners.



D 3070

RC Jalandhar Midtown

With generous contributions from its members, the club sponsored a cataract surgery on a needy patient, Ashok Kumar, at Oculus Eye Hospital, Jalandhar. The beneficiary, a resident of Bhargav Camp, expressed his gratitude to Rotary.





D 3080

RC Chandigarh Midtown

A Covid Rasoi was started with the help of Rotaract Club of Samaritans to provide free meals to patients and their families at their doorstep. Around 1,000 meals were served to distressed families within 15 days with orders expanding each day. Members from the Robin Hood Army help in the delivery of meals to those living in Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula and Zirakpur.



D 3080

RC Karnal Midtown

Oral polio drops were given at a special Rotary booth on National Immunisation Day with good response from mothers of newborns. Club president Krishan Gambhir coordinated for the success of the polio vaccine project. The public image of the club got enhanced with free doses to children.



D 3080

RC Kharar

Rotarians fixed around 190 reflectors on vehicles for their better visibility during night to avoid fatal accidents. Club president Ashok Chand Attri led his team who stuck reflector labels on different types of heavy vehicles, two-wheelers and cars.

A mega cycle rally for healthy living at RID 2981

V Muthukumaran

A mega cycle rally titled Roto Cycling was conducted jointly by more than 100 clubs in RID 2981 to mark the 116th birth anniversary of Rotary International on Feb 23. It was on this day in 1905 founder Paul Harris chaired the maiden Rotary club meeting with three of his friends — Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele and Hiram E Shorey — at the legendary Room No: 711 at the Unity Building in Chicago. They are popularly known as the First Four Rotarians.

Rotarians along with their families, Rotaractors, RCC members and the public took part in the rally which created an impact in the neighbourhoods. Speaking at one of

the cycle rallies, DG R Balaji Babu said, “Rotary is working towards a healthy society by holding a series of medical camps and awareness campaigns under *Project Positive Health*. “Chronic diseases like hypertension (BP), obesity and diabetes related to our heart, body weight and kidney functions account for 60 per cent of all deaths in the country. Under Rotary’s PPH, clubs aim to bring down the number of such diseases through lifestyle modifications,” he said. It is always better to prevent such diseases, rather than getting treated for these ailments. Hence, it is a must that regular exercise occupies an important schedule in one’s daily routine, he said.

By holding a cycling rally, “we are reinforcing the aspect of exercise in public consciousness so that we work for a healthy society.” If one takes to cycling or running as a regular habit, “his or her heart will be in good shape, body mass index will be maintained and through excessive sweating, bad cholesterol will be let out which is good for the body,” said DG Babu. Project chair Prabhakar said using bicycles to commute will reduce pollution levels, apart from taking care of our body and mind. RID 2981 has decided to conduct Roto Cycle rally every Sunday in which Rotarians with their families, Rotaractors and the public will be



DG R Balaji Babu (3rd from L) flags off Roto cycling in Thanjavur to mark Rotary’s birth anniversary.



Above: A career guidance camp under Project Deepam being conducted by RC Mayiladuthurai at the Guru Gnana Sambandar Mission Higher Secondary School.

Right: A career guidance camp under Project Deepam being conducted by RC Maruthur at a government school.



encouraged to participate in large numbers. The signature project will also showcase the GoI's goal of 'Healthy India, Happy India', said Babu.

Rotary Deepam

Higher education and vocational training guidance is being given to over 10,000 students through video, online and physical events at the government schools as one of the flagship district projects. Following the success of this programme, a new initiative called *Project Deepam* is being taken up with aim to create at least 100 medical students from poor economic backgrounds by preparing them for the NEET entrance exam.

"We will identify deserving students from government higher secondary schools in villages across Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Karaikal districts and Puducherry; they will be given free coaching at the Deepam centres," said Babu.

For most of the students at government schools getting admission in medical college is a pipedream as they hail from underprivileged families with their parents either doing agriculture or engaged in menial jobs. "Despite a good academic record and lot of talent, due to lack of proper guidance and right training for NEET exam, they are not able to fulfil their dreams."

Given these difficulties faced by rural students, RC Thanjavur Big Temple has joined hands with SQP NEET training centre to provide free coaching to poor, but meritorious students in rural areas. "We have conducted a series of special career guidance camps for 10,000 students (by different clubs), and followed it up with a model test to select the candidates for Deepam coaching centres," said Babu.

Through the model test, 100 students were selected who are now being given a 40-day crash course that consisted of online coaching, live classes, online tests and counselling. Food and accommodation are being given free for the Deepam students during their NEET coaching. ■

D 3080

RC Roorkee

Roorkee mayor Gaurav Goel and traffic inspector Akram were the chief guests at the event to fix over 100 reflectors on heavy duty vehicles plying on the highways. The club hosted a number of programmes to mark the Road Safety Month to create awareness on safe driving among the public. Club president Prem Sarin coordinated the month-long events.



D 3110

RC Kanpur North

A car rally was organised, along with five other clubs, to create awareness on Covid vaccination. This was followed by awareness workshops at the Treemurti Mandir, Rama Devi locality and Lal Bangla market in the presence of civic officials and Rotarians.



D 3131

RC Poona West

The club donated over 2,000 double-layered masks for traffic police force with Rotary logo embedded on them and 28 oximeters to police stations to protect their personnel against Covid. DCP (traffic) accepted the Covid relief kits and appreciated Rotary for their support during pandemic.





D 3132

RC Ahmednagar **Integrity**

An awareness lecture on 'good touch, bad touch' was conducted at a residential girls school at Shrigonda village in the presence of club president Rafique Munshi. Six frontline workers in Ahmednagar were presented with Corona Warrior certificates by the club.



D 3202

RC Tellicherry

A hospital bed and wheelchair were donated to the Kannur University for use at their first aid clinic at their Palayad campus. The college faculty thanked Rotary for their donations.



D 3202

RC Thiruvambady

The club donated a specialised cot for a bedridden patient at Kodencherry which will be useful to shift him to nearby hospital during an emergency. The patient thanked Rotarians for this facility that helped him to recline in a comfortable position throughout the day.

D 3211

RC Trikaripur

DG Dr Thomas Vavanikunnel inaugurated a plastic trash bin installed by the club. People are being sensitised to use the trash bin for discarding plastic bottles and other non-bio waste and keep the environment clean without degrading the soil.



D 3291

RC Ballygunge Uptown

Blankets and sweet packets were distributed to poor families at the Patharkumkumi village, near Midnapore town. Fifty blankets were given to two old age homes — Ramakrishnapur Sevashram, Bishnupur, and Ramthakur Bridhyasram, Narendrapur.



3291

RC Calcutta Metropolitan

A virtual panel talk on the topic 'Can peace ever be guaranteed' saw the chief guest DG Nagendra Prasad, RID 3190, giving an impressive speech. Around 40 mosquito nets were distributed at Kantapukuria village in South 24 Parganas district. Panchanam Mondir Seba Samity, a local NGO, helped the club to implement this project.





D 3291

RC Calcutta Nabodiganta

A mega health camp was organised at the Idgha Maidan, Howrah, benefiting around 340 people. Besides normal health check-up, the club distributed spectacles, wheelchairs and free cataract operations were done. Blood was donated to children suffering from cancer.



3291

RC Calcutta South City Towers

Cardiologist Dr Kunal Sarkar, chairman, Kolkata Heart Foundation, gave a talk on Covid lessons at a webinar attended by around 250 participants and over 4,000 through Facebook. He gave a candid presentation on dos and don'ts during the pandemic, and also dispelling the myths about the virus.



D 3291

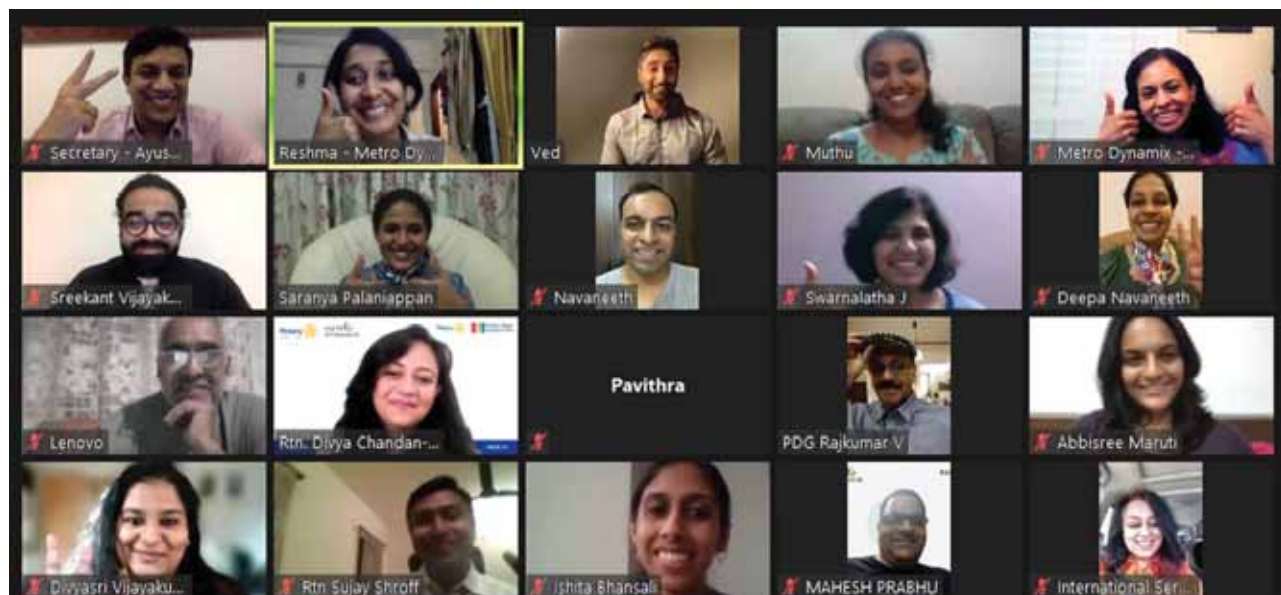
RC Serampore

Over 50 people were screened for various illnesses and other parameters at a health camp conducted with the support from RN Tagore Hospital. An oxygen cylinder was donated to Sanskritik Parishad, an NGO reaching out to poor Covid patients.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Fellowship, sharing family joy key to Rotary's growth

Divya Chandran



A zoom meeting of Rotary E-club of Metro Dynamix.

Nurturing fellowship and bonding among members is one of the key fundamentals of Rotary International. We have to understand that by extending a platform to foster acquaintances and friendship Rotary is giving an opportunity to serve others. Fellowship is the bedrock on which Rotary service is built.

If we are to live out the Rotary ideal, to create a better world, we must start with the family, the basic unit for bonding. We need to care for all the members of our Rotary family, because without each other there is no community. The Rotary families across the world strive to make the world a much better place by reaching out to the underprivileged and have-nots. By showing empathy with the suffering people,

we encourage generations of Rotarians to follow our footsteps and continue with our community activities.

Sharing joy among clubs

Encouraging clubs to share joys of being a Rotarian with their families is the key to membership retention and vice versa, sharing joys of their families in their Rotary activities and events will usher in bonhomie among clubs.

This goal of sharing joy between clubs and families is deeply ingrained in our club, Rotary E-club of Metro Dynamix, made up of Annets, children of Rotarians from across the world. Our club was formed with the help of our parent club, RC Coimbatore Metropolis, RID 3201, and as the first E-club in the district we have members from all over the world.

We are a young club with members in the age group of 20–40 and 70 per cent of them are women. We have already executed a women's empowerment project during our charter ceremony in December 2020 and hopeful of a 30 per cent membership growth by the end of the Rotary year. The club has six Paul Harris Fellows and our members are keen to contribute to the Rotary Foundation.

Ours is an innovative club formed to serve the people across the world. The world needs Rotary more than ever. We are happy to serve during this pandemic.

Divya Chandran is the charter president of Rotary E-Club of Metro Dynamix. She is daughter of PDG Pratap Gokuldas and wife of DGN Kamlesh Chandran. She is a third generation Rotarian

Waiting shed at Covid care centre, Tirupur

Team Rotary News



A cheque for ₹10 lakh being presented to Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin by RC Tirupur West president V Ragupathy.

To facilitate vaccination of people, RC Tirupur West, RID 3202, installed a waiting shed at the Covid vaccination centre on the premises of the Primary Health Centre, Mangalam. Club president V Ragupathy inaugurated the camp and on the first day,

Covishield doses were given to 100 people.

Rtn R Natarajan, owner of Rasi Technology, installed CCTV cameras at the Rotary Covid care centre, Tirupur. The 125-bed centre was built jointly by Revathi Hospital and all Rotary clubs in Tirupur. "The CCTV cameras will ensure the

safety of frontline workers including doctors, paramedics and also patients and their families," said Ragupathy.

Hundred bedsheets were donated to the Covid care centre in the presence of TN minister for information and publicity M P Swaminathan, district collector

K Vijayakarthiskeyan, Tirupur South legislator K Selvaraj, IPDG A Karthikeyan and DGN B Elangkumaran. In a similar manner, the club donated 100 bedsheets to the Covid care centre attached to the government hospital, Dharapuram. TN minister for Adi Dravidar welfare N Kayalvizhi Selvaraj as chief guest delivered the material to the chief medical officer Rtn T K Krishnakumar in the presence of RC Dharapuram president Balakrishnan and other Rotarians.

Ragupathy presented a cheque for ₹10 lakh to CM's Public Relief Fund to CM M K Stalin when he visited Tirupur. The club renovated the PHC at Mangalam and also painting its building. The new look PHC was inaugurated by Ragupathy in the presence of PP S T Bharathidasan and other Rotarians. ■



Bedsheets being given to the government hospital in Dharapuram.

Grocery kits distributed in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News

For over a month Rotary Club of Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, has been providing grocery kits comprising rice, dal, sugar, jaggery, and other items, enough to last for a month to underprivileged families residing on the city's outskirts.

The club distributed herbal preventive medicines, masks and sanitisers, and cooked food for the needy in the surrounding areas since the earlier lockdown. ■



Grocery kits being provided to needy families on the outskirts of Coimbatore.

RC Poona Midtown provides oxygen concentrators to rural PHCs

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Poona Midtown, RID 3131, donated 10 oxygen concentrators to PHCs in rural areas surrounding Pune. "We understood that medical care is almost nil in some of these areas and with the Covid crisis, the number of patients are also increasing steadily there. With the increasing demand, we found that concentrators which were rented out at ₹3,000 a month shot up to ₹20,000 a month, which is unimaginably high for the people here," said club member Rajkumar Tambe.

The club, in association with RCs Daund, Bhigwan and Manchar, provided the machines to PHCs at Patas, Bhigwan, Nasarapur, Velhe, Manchar and Ambi in Pune district, Pusegaon in Satara district, and Malvan and Vengurla in Sindudurg district. The Rotarians also gave sanitisers and masks for use by the frontline staff in the PHCs.

The Annets also helped in fundraising for the project, he said.

The 51-year-old club had distributed PPE kits, masks and sanitisers to hospital staff during the earlier corona wave last year. ■



An oxygen concentrator and other Covid kits being given to a PHC near Pune.

Digital classrooms at Goregaon schools

Team Rotary News

As part of commemorating its silver jubilee year, RC Mumbai West Coast, RID 3141, installed e-learning kits at five municipal schools with aim to provide digital infrastructure which is a key element in online classes during lockdown.

The e-learning classrooms are equipped with ceiling-mounted Android LED projector, pull-down screen, Bluetooth speaker and a software with audio-visual content

for Classes 1–10. “The software also has a lot of other offline content like art and craft, moral stories, adult literacy for parents of the students etc. This facility will complement the regular classroom teaching with audio-visual content which help students to understand the subjects through good retention of concepts, facts and theories,” said project chair Vijay Mahajan. The project implemented with a district grant had reached

out to municipal schools in Goregaon, a western suburb of Mumbai.

The e-learning project was taken up under the RILM (Rotary India Literacy Mission) banner which is implementing a series of literacy projects across RI districts in India. “Audio-visual presentation in schools will create interest in studies among students, thus ensuring better attendance in classes, reducing dropout rates and increased concentration in

subjects,” said Mahajan. The e-learning facilities in five government schools would benefit over 1,500 students in the next three years, according to a school principal.

The project team followed the RILM guidelines in implementing the project with the support of teachers and principals. “We worked hard during the pandemic to complete this e-learning project by systematically following the RILM prescriptions,” said Mahajan. ■



RC Mumbai West Coast members after installing e-learning facility in one of the schools.



An artificial limb fitment camp in Kota

Team Rotary News



Beneficiaries at the limb fitment camp.

RC Kota, RID 3054, organised a five-day artificial limb fitment camp in which over 2,200 amputees were benefited. Organised at a cost of ₹2 crore in association with

the Shri Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur, and Bharat Seva Sansthan, the camp was held on the club premises from Feb 20–24. In January this year, the club hosted

a car rally across 614 gram panchayats near Kota to help the disabled in the rural areas to register for the camp. This car rally was flagged off by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

Four lakh pamphlets were distributed and the registration was promoted through Facebook and WhatsApp. People with disabilities from the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar registered for the camp.

The camp saw the fitment of 245 prosthetic feet and 56 LN-4 hands, and the distribution of 148 callipers, 215 crutches, 858 hearing aid machines, 335 wheelchairs and 343 tricycles. Food and lodging expenses of the beneficiaries and caregivers were also taken care of by the club. ■



LN-4 hands and prosthetic feet on display.

Rotary Blood Bank at Kumta

Team Rotary News

RID 3170 DG Sangram Patil recently donated ₹1.5 lakh to Dr M V Mudlagiri, Administrator of the Uttara Kannada Blood Bank located in Kumta, a picturesque town on the Arabian Sea coast in North Kanara district in Karnataka. The blood bank was set up by RC Kumta 21 years ago and “it has served nearly 30,000 people so far,” says club secretary Atul Kamat, adding that health conditions like haemophilia and anaemia are very common in the region. Accidents are also common as the town is situated on a highway and the need for blood to treat emergency conditions has always been more pronounced here.

In 1998 Dr Deepak Nayak, the then president of RC Kumta, initiated the blood bank project with the support of dedicated Rotarians. A society, Uttara Kannada Blood Bank and Health Services, was formed involving other NGOs.



M K Shanbhag, president of this society agreed to donate the required land and the blood bank started its operations in 2000 and this, along with the government blood bank at Karwar, served a population of 20 lakh people then, says Kamat. Equipment worth ₹15 lakh was procured through a matching grant

with RID 4750, Brazil and TRF. Vasant Prabhu, a member of RC Chestor County, USA, donated an ambulance to the blood bank. Now the Rotary Blood Bank and a blood bank in Sirsi maintained by a multi-specialty hospital are the only two blood banks that handle medical emergencies, he adds. ■

Covid vaccination camp in Palghat

DG Jose Chacko inaugurated a mega vaccination camp organised by six Rotary clubs of Palghat, RID 3201. Assistant governor E T Janardhanan guided the clubs in arranging the camp with necessary protocols.

Around 1,200 people received their vaccine shots in the one-day camp. Some of them got their second dose too.

Rotary Clubs of Palghat, Palghat East, Olavakkode, Chittoor Palakkad, Palakkad Fort and Palakkad Ace participated in the vaccination drive. ■



DG Jose Chacko (2nd from R) at the Covid vaccination camp.

An internship programme for young by RID3131

Team Rotary News

Amidst the pandemic and the ongoing lockdown RID 3131 comprising Pune and parts of Maharashtra have completed the New Generation Service Exchange (NGSE) internship training for one inbound student and two outbound students with RI districts 3420 (Indonesia) and 4420 (Sao Paulo). "Training of four inbound

students and five outbound students is running smoothly currently with RI districts 3420 and 4420," said Asmita Patil, NGSE Inbound Chair.

The New Generation Service Exchange (NGSE) programme initiated by Rotary International in 2012 is designed especially for young adults between age group of 19 to 30 years. The main motto behind this programme is to create internship

opportunities globally for young adults. The students in the age group of 19 to 30 years usually complete their graduation and aspire for further higher studies or join professional career. The programme facilitates youngsters' needs by providing right opportunity to excel in their vocation and profession by engaging themselves in internship programme of their area of interest and choice.

RI district 3131 is engaged in this programme since 2013 and till date has done remarkable exchanges of 25 young graduates various countries globally, successfully completing the internships in their respective fields. Similarly, the district has also hosted a team of 15 candidates from Taiwan as Group Exchange under the NGSE programme. The district has established relations with





various Rotary districts globally by successfully completing exchanges with countries such as Brazil, France, Germany, USA and Taiwan.

Considering the pandemic situation, Rotary International had suspended all exchange programmes under the NGSE. RID 3131's NGSE team brought out an out-of-the-box concept of 'e-NGSE' - a virtual internship programme. The team decided to create internship opportunities through which candidates, sitting at their own homes in their respective countries, get connected with the internship

provider globally. This e-NGSE eliminates travel and related expenses for the candidates. "This opened opportunities for rural youngsters too," said Asmita.

To take this programme ahead the NGSE team floated two Google application forms for 'Interested Candidates' and 'Internship Providers'. A database of the candidates and internship providers was created. The district team reached out to various districts through online meetings with various RI districts, to make them understand this unique e-NGSE

programme and its benefits to the participating candidates.

On Jan 25, the first virtual NGSE was initiated between RIDs 3131 and 3420 with the participation of Yohan Candra (Bali, Indonesia) and Akhil Naushad (Pune). The inbound candidate Yohan successfully completed his virtual internship in food processing with Kutwal Foods, Pune in March 2021. In exchange, outbound candidate Akhil (sponsored by RC Koregaon Park) successfully completed his internship with Mortiz Logistics, Indonesia.

Meanwhile District 3131 NGSE team also had successful online meetings with various Rotary districts from Indonesia, Brazil, Canada and Nepal. As a result, Amhal and Debbie from Indonesia and Lucas and Joao from Brazil had initiated the process of virtual internship exchange in March 2021, and more exchanges are lined up," says Asmita. Also six students from RID 3131 are taking internships with RID 4420 (Sao Paulo, Brazil) in various fields with the efforts of NGSE District 3131 Chair Niraj Mehta and RID 4420 coordinator Jany Hatanaka. ■

A Rotary Dialysis Centre in Surat

Team Rotary News



New dialysis machines at the Gurunanak Dharmarth Hospital, Surat.

Rotary Club of Surat, RID 3060, has started a dialysis centre at the Gurunanak Dharmarth

Hospital and christened it as Rotarian Bhavani Narendrakumar Mehta Dialysis Centre. The Gurunanak Dharmarth

Hospital is run by a charitable trust and provides treatment to patients from poor economic backgrounds. The club installed the centre to help poor patients avail dialysis at subsidised rates.

The total cost of the project is \$60,000 and has been supported through a global grant from TRF and RC Victoria Island, Lagos, RID 9110, Nigeria. The club handed over the machines and UPS to the hospital. This facility can carry out 450 dialysis a month benefiting close to 400 needy patients. DG Prashant Jani inaugurated the Rotary Dialysis Centre with seven machines. ■



DG Prashant Jani (left) at the inauguration of the new dialysis centre.

Hygiene workshop for hospital staff in Wai

Team Rotary News



A vaccination camp in progress.

Rotary Club of Wai, RID 3132, conducted a hygiene awareness and training workshop for the medical staff to protect themselves against Covid at the Geetanjali Hospital, Wai. The project aims to help the

healthcare staff from various hospitals understand the importance of a clean and sanitised premises which will curb the spread of coronavirus. The club has also started a vaccination centre at this hospital.

Members of the club distributed library books to students in Kanya Shala, a home for orphan girls. Each student got a collection of science, language and story books. The club hosted an online drama competition.■

Street plays create awareness on Covid vaccination



Rotary Club of Nandnagari Nandurbar, RID 3060, in association with the Tathapi Trust, Pune, conducted a Covid vaccination awareness drive across Nandurbar. The initiative was flagged off by district collector Rajendra Bharud. The initiative includes street plays and interactive sessions with villagers from rural and Adivasi areas. The club plans to reach out to 200 villages in the region.■