

July 2021

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



RC Delhi Manthan renovates childcare area

Team Rotary News

A childcare area at the Welfare Home for Children, an orphanage at Sarita Vihar, Delhi, was expanded and upgraded by RC Delhi Manthan, RID 3011, to include an indoor play hall, a classroom and bedroom with fully-furnished interior to accommodate the rising number of inmates.

The refurbished facility was inaugurated by IPDG Sanjiv Rai Mehra and spouse Rita Mehra in the presence of club's IPP Narinder Kumar Lamba, former district secretary Mohit Anand Bhatia, AG Garima Mishra, Rotarians, Anns and guests from other NGOs. The Welfare Home founders Mohinder Singh and Achla Khanna were also present. "One of the biggest sufferers of this pandemic are children some of whom have lost their parents to Covid. Someone who could hold their hand, support them financially and emotionally are no longer with them now," said Lamba.

The children were pleasantly surprised to witness the newly-developed play area and classroom and gave a well-choreographed dance performance to the delegates at the inaugural ceremony. Mehra appreciated the club for taking up this childcare project and completing it in a very short time, "thus responding to the needs of the community in this challenging time." The spontaneous smile on the faces of children at the special home offered the "greatest satisfaction for our club members who contributed for timely completion of the project before the end of Rotary year," said Lamba. ■



IPDG Sanjiv Mehra, club's IPP Narinder Lamba and other Rotarians at the new classroom.



IPDG Sanjiv Mehra (left) being felicitated by club's IPP Narinder Lamba.

On the cover: Rotarians of RC Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, launch a promotion for terrace gardens.

RC Agra Taj City holds menstrual hygiene session

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Agra Taj City, RID 3110, in association with the Rainbow Hospital, Agra, conducted a Menstrual Hygiene Awareness programme at the local cotton bazaar. Leading the awareness drive, Dr Niharika Malhotra said, “In our country we celebrate a pregnancy but not many people talk about menstrual hygiene. Why is it that a woman is taken care of only when she is pregnant? Why can’t she have a happy period?”

The Rainbow Hospital doctor is a menstrual hygiene advocate and along with spreading awareness, she provided sanitary products to women.

Post the awareness programme, women at the marketplace were given hygiene kits sponsored by the club.■



Participants at the MHM workshop.



An MHM awareness rally.

Taking care of Covid patients

Team Rotary News



Above: Rotarians distribute mineral water bottles.

Below: Food packets being distributed to attendants of Covid patients.



RC Kangra, RID 3070, has been providing two bottles of mineral water everyday to every Covid patient admitted at the Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College and Hospital at Tanda in Himachal Pradesh. Club's IPP Sunil Dogra said that the club provides 320 water bottles and fruits daily and 400 boxes of water have been distributed from mid-May till June end.

The club is also distributing food packets to 120 attendants of Covid patients daily under the

leadership of club member Vinay Gupta who prepares the food at his home.

The club members donate groceries, rice and vegetables for preparing the large quantity of food daily. The members assist him in distributing the food to the attendants at the hospital.

On the occasion of World Blood Donation Day, the club honoured blood donors who donated blood at the Tanda Medical College Blood Bank. Donors were given a rudraksh sapling. "While they are playing their part



A blood donor receiving a plant sapling.

by donating blood, we wanted to explain the importance of reducing our

carbon footprint and to start off, they could plant a tree. So we handed out

the plants to them," says Dogra who also donated blood.■

An artificial limb fitment camp in Hisar



Beneficiaries with artificial limbs along with Rotarians.

RC of Hisar, RID 3090, organised an artificial limb fitment camp followed by the distribution of tricycles and wheelchairs to the

physically-disabled as part of the club's golden jubilee celebration. The camp was carried out at the Divyang Punarvas Kendra, Hisar. Senior club members

along with the president carried out the programme in which 35 artificial limbs, two tricycles and two wheelchairs were distributed.■

A Rotary mega cyclothon in Latur

Team Rotary News

Latur district magistrate B Prithviraj flagged off a cyclothon organised by RC Latur Midtown, RID 3132, with the support of Rotaractors, municipal corporation and Indian Medical Association as

part of *Majhi Vasundhara* campaign by Maharashtra government and Fit India movement by the GoI. Over 500 cyclists pedalled from the 25km-long route from Chhatrapati Square in Latur to Kumbhari village.

Among the cyclists were Latur mayor Vikrant

Gojamgude, municipal commissioner Aman Mittal and participants from different places such as Nanded, Parbhani, Udgir, Jalna, Aurangabad, Satara and Solapur. Project chair Dinesh Soni, an avid cyclist, said, “during the pandemic,



Above: Rotarians and volunteers at the cyclothon.





Latur district magistrate B Prithviraj flags off the cyclothon.

we have seen how much physical fitness matters to us. In these difficult times, we have seen a rise in the use of bicycles. And we, as a social organisation, wanted to make sure that everyone understands the need for physical fitness.”

The city saw a significant rise in use of bicycles for exercise as a result of this Rotary event. Another feature of cyclothon is that mayor Gojamgunde vowed to use bicycles for the entire commute once every week and that day would be observed as ‘No vehicle Day’ by him. He urged the public to follow No Vehicle Day at least once every week. “Cyclothon

The city saw a significant rise in use of bicycles for exercise as a result of this Rotary event. Another feature of cyclothon is that mayor Gojamgunde vowed to use bicycles for the entire commute once every week.

has started a positive trend in the city. We wish to see more cycles and less vehicles on the road. This cycle race will be an annual event and we will make sure that Latur becomes fitter and greener with passing time,” said Gojamgunde.

RC Latur Midtown IPP Anup Devnikar, RAC Latur Midtown IPP Sushrut Dharmadhikari, IMA, local chapter, president Dr Vishwas Kulkarni and over 300 policemen and volunteers made sure that the cyclothon was completed without any hitches. Winners were felicitated with gifts and prizes. Those who had completed the cyclothon were given a t-shirt, medal and certificate. Latur Municipal Corporation felicitated three brand ambassadors of *Majhi Vasundhara* campaign by gifting them brand new bicycles. The participants took a pledge to keep Latur clean and greener. ■

Panvel Rotarians hold vaccination camp for children

Team Rotary News

An influenza vaccination drive for children below 18 years was conducted by RC Panvel Elite, RID 3131, at the Likhite Hospital, Panvel, to mark Doctor's Day with the aim to boost the immunity of young ones against Covid-19.

The non-availability of Covid vaccines for children at this point leave them vulnerable to the dreaded virus and its many variants, hence the government has encouraged the citizens to inoculate



Children being inoculated for influenza.



children under the age of 18 with influenza vaccines to boost their immunity. The club took up the initiative to vaccinate children as the third wave of Covid is expected to hit India in the near future with multiple variants of the virus infecting people across age groups.

As many as 130 children were vaccinated at the special camp in which social distancing and Covid-appropriate behaviour were followed. "The children were allowed to select their time slots through the smart forms generated to avoid overcrowding at the hospital," said club secretary Ritesh Munot.

Citing health experts, he said as symptoms of Covid and influenza resemble in many ways, those vaccinated at this camp were believed to have got their immunity boosted by about 30–40 per cent against the coronavirus. With the club getting a positive feedback from the project, with many demanding this vaccination drive for children to be conducted once again, "we plan to once again hold this drive for the second dose of influenza vaccine in a month's time," said club president Raj Munot. Eight Rotarians including club president and secretary were present at the vaccination camp. ■

Women's empowerment projects at Ahmednagar

Team Rotary News

To overcome the hardships during lockdown, RC Ahmednagar Priyadarshini, RID 3054, donated a home flour mill (*atta girni*) to Jaya who had lost her livelihood and her family was struggling without having enough food on the plate. The small flour mill worth ₹22,000 would enable her to start her own business from home so that she can earn a decent income to support her family.

The compact flour mill was installed at her house for her to start a new business that will fetch a regular income. She started grinding grains for others

and earning money. She and her son visited the club a few weeks later and expressed their gratitude to Rotary for donating the flour mill. She invested ₹200 out of ₹750 she got in the first 15 days in buying Rangoli colours and made colourful Diwali clay *diyas*. These traditional lamps were sold in the market and thus supplementing her income from the grinding mill.

Two sewing machines were donated to needy women to mark Rotary Day. One of the beneficiaries who was working in a tailoring shop was unable to sustain her family. With



A girls' toilet block at the S S Jankibai Kavade Nagardevle Middle School in Ahmednagar.

the new machine, she is independent now and able to stitch masks and other accessories which are being sold to the public.

A gender-segregated toilet (₹20,000) was built at the SS Jankibai Kavade Nagardevle Middle School in Ahmednagar with

contributions from club members. The school principal said the new sanitation facility for girls has increased their regular attendance in the school with students quite happy over the new toilet block which would benefit over 200 girls. ■



A home flour mill being donated to Jaya, an underprivileged woman, in the presence of Rotarians.

D 2982

RC Attur Midtown

The club donated an oxygen concentrator and cylinders to the Government Hospital, Attur, for treatment of Covid patients. The doctors thanked the club for the facilities which will help them in handling the Covid cases. Also, the project created goodwill for Rotary in the neighbourhood.



D 3053

RC Alwar

A blood donation camp was held at the Seth Makhan Lal Charitable Blood Bank with seven donors taking part in it. This is a monthly project of the club. Project coordinator Vikas Gupta along with other office-bearers donated blood. Shortly, the club will be starting its own blood bank in Alwar that will benefit the needy public.



D 3054

RC Ahmedabad Divyam

An online poetry convention for the differently-abled (*Divyang Kavi Sammelan*) was organised in partnership with Darshu Care Public Charitable Trust. The programme was moderated by writer Rtn Darshita Babubhai Shah and her two books in Hindi and Gujarati were released at the event.





D 3060

RC Surat Roundtown

The club donated equipment and consumables to the Animal Care Centre being run by the Nature Club, Surat. Environment minister Ganpatsinh Vasava was the chief guest at the event in which donation cheques were handed over to the authority. IPP Esmayeel Saherwala presided over the event.



D 3070

RC Amritsar Cantonment

A breastfeeding room at the community health centre was inaugurated for lactating mothers to feed their newborns in privacy. This cabin will also ensure their dignity while waiting for the OPD at the health centre.



D 3070

RC Palampur

A Rotary gazebo was built with the support of the municipality to provide a scenic view of the Dhauladhar mountain ranges from the PWD guest house. This spot is chosen as it is a happening place with youngsters and elders taking a stroll in the evening. The tourists come to this spot for taking selfies.

D 3080

RC Kharar

Rotarians distributed chocolates, biscuits and snacks to underprivileged children living in slum colonies and on roadsides on the occasion of Holi. The club joined hands with India Food Banking Network and Annakshetra to distribute the food items to poor children.



D 3090

RC Sunam

A blood donation camp was held at the Rotary Complex, Sunam, in the presence of IPP Rakesh Kumar Singla and project chair Sumit Bandlish. IPDG Ghanshyam Kansal appreciated the efforts of the club and other NGOs in hosting the event which collected 50 units of blood. The doctors from Rajindra Hospital Blood Bank rendered their services.



D 3110

RC Shahjahanpur City

Five sanitary napkin incinerators were installed at five girls colleges to improve the menstrual hygiene of students. More than 7,000 students and college staff took part in the MHM awareness sessions. Club's IPP Abhay Singh, former secretary Rakesh Saxena and charter president Dr Hemendra Verma took part in the events.





D 3132

RC Barsi

Five sewing machines were donated to poor women to provide a sustainable livelihood on the occasion of 116th birth anniversary of Rotary International. The project cost ₹40,000. The beneficiaries thanked the club for this gesture which will enable them to earn a decent income.



D 3132

RC Lonand

The club donated a computer system under the Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) banner at a zilla parishad government school to facilitate e-learning at its classrooms. The faculty and school management thanked Rotary for the donation as it would promote digital learning during lockdown.



D 3141

RC Bombay Seaface

Four doctors honoured with Vocational Excellence Awards at a virtual event. They are Dr Sunil Shroff, transplant surgeon; Dr Muffazal Lakdawala, bariatric surgeon; Dr Neeta Warty, gynaecologist; and Dr Geetha Manjunath, technopreneur. IPDG Sunnil Mehra, DG Rajendra Agarwal, DGE Sandip Agarwalla and TRF trustee Gulam Vahanvaty were present at the awards event.

D 3160

RC Bhalki Fort

The club installed five precast benches at the Mahadev temple, Guru Colony and Lecturers Colony. A pipeline was laid with a tap at a water tank on the temple premises. All the new amenities have the club's name embossed on them.



D 3170

RC Navanagar Hubli

More than 160 personnel from the Karnataka State Reserve Police were screened at the *Project Positive Health* camp conducted with the support of KIMS Hospital, Hubli. KIMS principal Dr MF Kammar, Dr Sunil Gokhale and doctors from different specialties took part. Dr Kammar spoke on the importance of BMI and regular exercise.



D 3190

RC Bangalore East

Stationery items were distributed to children at Rainbow Homes in Domlur. Past president NJ Menon sponsored the donated items. PP Kodandapani thanked the sponsor and other Rotarians for arranging the event. A new Rotaract club was installed at the Maharani Women's ACM College.





D 3190

RC Bangalore North

Dry ration bags are being distributed to migrant workers hit hard by the pandemic with no work and having to struggle for food. In a day, the club is distributing 350 grocery kits including 100 cooked meals.



D 3201

RC Coimbatore Industrial City

A two-week yoga session was conducted online for Rotarians with experts giving a demo of various asanas. They spoke on the need to remain fit and healthy during the pandemic to ward off the virus. Charter president BA Prabhushankar coordinated the online sessions.



D 3201

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli

Forty people donated blood at the blood donation camp organised by RCC Vadavalli with the help of Indian Medical Association, local chapter. Rtn S Ravichandran, president of the RCC, coordinated the project. The event lifted the public image of the club in the locality.

Oxygen concentrator bank launched in Himatnagar

Team Rotary News

An oxygen concentrator bank was launched by RC Himatnagar, RID 3054, with the purchase of 10 oxygen concentrators worth ₹4.8 lakh, 30 oxygen beds, 15 oxygen flow meters and two BiPAP machines to serve the Covid patients. The Sabarkantha District Central Cooperative Bank donated ₹4 lakh for this project. The club donated a ventilator (₹5 lakh) to the Krishna Charitable Hospital in the presence of AG Rasik Patel from zone-11 of RID 3054. ■



Rotary builds amenities at Karkala crematorium



RC Karkala's IPP Rekha Upadhyaya along with Rotarians at the revamped crematorium.

A host of public amenities was built at the Sarvajnika Hindu Rudra Bhoomi (crematorium) at Kariyakallu village in Udupi district by RC Karkala, RID 3182, such as toilet block, a roof sheet in the sitting area and concrete benches for the families and relatives of the deceased during the funeral rites.

Club's IPP Rekha Upadhyaya welcomed the gathering at the inaugural ceremony which saw the presence of Rtns Niranjana Jain, Soujanya Upadhyaya and members of the governing council of the crematorium. These facilities will enable the smooth functioning of the funeral rites of the deceased with elderly and volunteers relaxing on the benches under a shade. The crematorium project enhanced the public image of Rotary in this remote village. ■

Gulbarga Rotarians distribute food to corona warriors

Team Rotary News

RC Gulbarga Sakhi, RID 3160, has been organising food distribution drives for frontline workers in Gulbarga, Karnataka. The club ensured that food supplies and ration for a month were delivered to the homes of municipality workers and underprivileged families. Club's IPP Uma Gachinmani said that "once the lockdown was announced our immediate focus was to provide ration and food to the needy." The all-women's club has been spreading awareness on Covid vaccination and is distributing masks and sanitisers to the general public.

After the lockdown was relaxed, the club in association with the Indian Academy of Paediatrics conducted an adolescent health awareness programme. Healthy



Food packets being distributed to healthcare workers.

diet, active lifestyle, and ways to improve mental health were discussed. "Adolescent girls have to be made aware about the changes their body goes through at the onset of puberty and that there is

nothing to be ashamed about." The programme also focused on creating awareness among the teachers to guide the adolescent students at a time when they go through mental and physical changes. ■



Rotarians along with students at an adolescent health awareness event.

D 3202

RC Mukkam

Club's IPP K P Anil Kumar handed over torchlights and utility items to inspector S Nissam at the Mukkam police station. Oral drops were given to newborns during the Pulse Polio immunisation at the community health centre. Kumar distributed colour balloons to children.



D 3202

RC Tirupur Thirumuruganpoondi

Khaki uniforms were donated to sanitary workers in the presence of ACP (Law and Order) Vetri Vendhan, panchayat executive officer Eswaramoorthy and district chair for community service S Nallasivam. Rotary wheel and End Polio Now logo were embroidered on the uniforms. Charter president V B Muruganandan's family stitched the dresses.



D 3211

RC Cherthala Green City

DG K Srinivasan distributed over 300 jackfruit saplings to guests at the marriage of Annette Nikitha, daughter of Mohan Shaji, former club secretary, with Sethunath. This was done as part of the Rotary India Environment Mission which was appreciated by the invitees and Rotarians.





D 3211

RC Tiruvalla

Club members visited an ongoing global grant project at Thayankery on World Water Day. The project involves the installation of a tube well and an RO plant to provide safe drinking water to villagers. They inspected the project site and took stock of the work in progress.



D 3212

RC Karaikudi

More than a dozen frontline workers were felicitated with shields and certificates for their selfless service during the pandemic. The volunteers were drawn from the police, health departments, municipality, chamber of commerce, doctors, nurses, government hospital staff and other service organisations. The event was organised jointly with the Apollo Reach Hospitals, Karaikudi.



D 3231

RC Vandavasi

Meritorious Awards were presented to around a dozen women for excellence in their professions to mark Women's Day. In another event, the club felicitated eight individuals with Vocational Excellence Awards for their contributions to society. The events were widely reported in the local media.

D 3250

RC Jamshedpur Midtown

Over 500 sanitary pads were distributed to tribal women and girls at Tirildih village by Rtn Sauvik and volunteers of Change for People, an NGO. This project was sponsored by a relative of club's IPP Kusum Thakur. The club provides sanitary pads to tribal women on a monthly basis.



D 3261

RC Raigarh Steel City

A primary government school in Kachar village was transformed into a Happy School with the donation of desks and benches for all its five classrooms as part of the club's WinS programmes. Masks were given to students who were made aware of Covid and the need to take precautions. The project cost ₹2 lakh.



D 3262

RC Baripada Heritage

Around 70 students were screened at the dental camp held at the Bireswarpur Government High School at Badasahi block in Mayurbhanj district. Dr Chandra Mohan Singh from Kidhantandi CHC supervised the camp. This was followed by an awareness session on oral hygiene. Students with dental deformities were advised to go to PRM Medical College Hospital, Baripada, for treatment.





D 3291

RC Calcutta Presidency

With the help of Little Roti restaurant, the club provided hygienic meals to Covid patients in home isolation and their families at their doorstep. The Project *Aap ki thali* supplied 300 meals per day to the patients. The club expressed its thanks to Anu Kothari from Little Roti restaurant for offering its services.



D 3291

RC Kasba

A book fair on 'Peace and Conflict' was organised with the support of 20 clubs. PDG Angsuman Bandyopadhyay, DGE Ajay Law and Shoutir Chatterjee from the Ramakrishna Mission were present at the inaugural. Kasba Library secretary Sujata Biswas and past president Nirmal Saha from RC Belur were also there. Rtn Subhasish Bose felicitated the guests of honour.



D 3291

RC Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

Around 250 patients were screened by club doctors and technicians from the ILS Hospitals at the *Know Your Numbers* camp, jointly conducted with RC Hoogly at the Amragachi and Malia localities. Fifty people were detected with high sugar and BP levels, and consultations were given.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Wai Rotarians create social awareness through students

V Muthukumaran

A financial RYLA was conducted for students of Maharshi Shinde High School by RC Wai, 3132, to impart in them the skills for money management and handling investment issues. “We taught them on effective handling of money in daily life which are not found in their regular syllabus in the course of leadership training at this RYLA,” said the club’s IPP Ajit Sadashiv Kshirsagar.

To aid students in online classes during the lockdown, the club donated four computer tablets and six smartphones to the school committee which will decide on the needy beneficiaries. Under a global grant project, the club donated equipment such as refrigerated centrifuge, deep fridge, platelet incubator, agitator, blood collection monitors, portable blood donor lounges and portable tube sealer, among others, to the Mauli Blood Bank, Satara. “With these gadgets, the blood bank will be able to serve the villagers much better,” he said.

Training sessions were held for blood bank staff and trustees for efficient handling of equipment, better communication and good rapport with personnel. The workshop was conducted by Ravindra Baviskar, lead, outreach projects at India chapter of International Association of Facilitators.

Posters against summer blaze

It is customary to burn wild grass in forest and hilly areas in

summer, but this practice harms the environment and kills several animals. “We made posters and stuck them at different places where this incident occurs usually to create awareness against this harmful habit that disturbs the ecology. Our members distributed posters and handbills to residents of Kharoshi village and urged them to avoid such abhorrent practice,” says Kshirsagar. Some of the posters were given to forest officer Mahesh Zanjurne for spreading the message against forest fires across villages in the Satara district.

Women’s Day was celebrated at the Dravid High School, Wai, with the participation of students, teachers and parents. Banners and posters were exhibited and lectures were arranged on women-specific topics to drive home the message of gender equality and empowering girls.

Similar programmes were held at the Kanya Shala Wai, a higher secondary school for girls; Maharshi Shinde High School; Joy Children’s Academy and Zilla Parishad School, Gulumb. Posters were displayed, guest lectures were arranged;





A RYLA on financial literacy.

Below: Library books, journals and syllabus books, along with computer tablets, were given to students of the Zilla Parishad School, Gulumb, in the presence of teachers. RC Wai's immediate past president Ajit Sadashiv Kshirsagar is at the centre.



and students performed in stage drawing kudos from the audience.

With the support of Geetanjali Multi Specialty Hospital, the club organised a health camp for women that saw around 340 patients being screened for various ailments. After consultations, medicines were given to them. Two minor operations were done at the camp. Library books including magazines, story books, science journals and curriculum books were donated to the Zilla Parishad School, Gulumb. Computer tablets were distributed to students of this school to enable them to attend online classes during the pandemic.

Rotary Best Couple

As everyone was locked in their homes, the club organised a Rotary Best Couple competition for Rotarians and their spouses to come out and relax for a while. Seven couples took part in different rounds of the contest moderated by Rtn Dr Shantanu and Dr Rupali.

A state-level essay and poetry competitions were held on topics such as 'children, parent and inter-

net' and corona pandemic that saw over 100 participants expressing in apt words the social churn caused by the virus.

Computer tablets were distributed at a teacher training programme hosted with the support of RC Pune North at the Yellow Retreat Resort. "Teachers need to be techno-savvy with right skills to handle digital classes in vogue now. All the participants were taught on digital delivery of classes in the programme," said Kshirsagar.

National Science Day was conducted at the Parkhandi High School with students displaying science experiments and models on various concepts.

Around 30 Rotarians took part in a food festival competition. "The dishes were served along with information on their nutritional value, preparation and other tips for making healthy recipes. Two examiners tasted the cuisines and graded them based on the various culinary aspects." Cake-cutting was done at the Rotary Hall to mark the 116th Rotary anniversary as Rotarians, spouses and Annets

enjoyed the moment with lively interaction.

Nutritional food

Nutritional foods were distributed to students of Zilla Parishad School, Kharoshi, with Rtn Madankumar Salvekar explaining the vitamin and nutritional content in each menu including the local banana and grape varieties. The club gave quiz cards to the teachers which will enable them to hold quiz contests among students. A similar programme was held at the Kanya Shala, Bavdhan, during which Rtn Nilam Bhosale addressed the students on a good, balanced diet for a healthy and disease-free life.

Elocution contest was held to mark the death anniversary of Savitribai Phule, social activist, with 10 girls taking part and prizes were given to the winners. A fixed deposit fund was created for the personality development of girls at Kanya Shala. "Every year, the *Bhagwad Gita* contest will be held and the first three winners will be awarded with the interest money from the FD," said Kshirsagar. A WinS programme was held at this school with students washing their hands by singing a song on personal hygiene.

On Charter Day, Kshirsagar and other office-bearers visited the house of all Rotarians and presented them with cakes, greeting them on the special occasion. An entrepreneurship programme was held online for district Rotarians and public with guest speaker Abhishek Ghagre delivering an inspiring talk.

A Pulse Polio campaign was taken up by the club with the help of Rural Hospital, Wai. Food packets were given to health workers at 150 polio booths.



Club's IPP Ajit Kshirsagar presenting a campaign poster against summer fire to forest officer Mahesh Zanjurne.

Posters and manuals were shared on social media like WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram on Cycle Day. Some Rotary posters on healthy life through regular cycling were distributed to the public.

ENT surgeon Dr Prashant Pol spoke at a 'Mucormycosis prevention and treatment' session arranged on zoom platform and YouTube. He detailed on precautions to be taken with dos and don'ts to ward off the virus infection.

Swachh Abhiyan was held at various locations in Wai taluk and at Oholi village to create awareness on plastic waste and garbage that harm the environment, and on the need to create a litter-free society.

The club in association with the Young Raviwar Mitra Mandal conducted a blood donation camp at the Raviwar Peth, Wai. Around 140 people attended the event and 95 bottles of blood were collected. A three-day virtual yoga camp was conducted with support from the Art of Living. Trainers performed various *asanas* and gave lectures for the benefit of about 150 participants.

Pulse Polio

A Pulse Polio campaign was taken up by the club with the help of Rural Hospital, Wai. Food packets were given to health workers at 150 polio booths in Wai taluk and public announcement was made through autorickshaws for three days. "Oral polio drops were given to over 800 infants in Wai with the efforts of our volunteers," said IPP. More than 70 women including those pregnant took part in a mother and childcare camp organised at the Modern Clinic, Wai. Dr Shantanu and Dr Salunkhe explained to them the importance of healthcare and how to nurture the newborns for a trouble-free post-natal period.

All the 20 candidates who passed out of a nursing course being conducted by the club with support from the Modern Clinic and the curriculum affiliated to Shivaji University, Kolhapur, were placed in local and regional hospitals in and around Satara district. "Certificates were given to graduate nurses during their felicitation ceremony," added Kshirsagar. ■

RID 3190 organises a hair donation campaign

Team Rotary News

IPDG BL Nagendra Prasad inaugurated 'Locks of Hope', a hair donation campaign in February at a beauty parlour in Bengaluru, initiated by RC Bengaluru Lake World and RAC Bangalore Kalyan, RID 3190.

Other clubs such as RC Platinum City and Inner Wheel Club of Bangalore Junction partnered for the cause. During the campaign five salons owned by Rotarians across the city offered complimentary haircuts for the donors. "We collected hair locks from over 150 donors and more people are coming forward," says Vivian John Thenguvilla, a Rotaractor and Rotarian who inspired the inception of the campaign having lost his grandfather to cancer.

Speaking about how it all started Vivian says, "My grandad's biggest asset was his hair, from grooming

it every day to ensuring it stays healthy, he'd give it the best care. When he was diagnosed with cancer he began to lose hair due to radiation from chemotherapy. I saw him wake up every morning with pain as he watched a lot of his hair fall. This was when I decided to grow my hair for as long as it can and donate it for a cause."

While some donors donated their hair and others helped financially, few others pledged to volunteer at Karunashraya, a hospice, for 10 years on a significant date that they

lost their dear ones on. To open up opportunities for donors who wished to support the cause financially, the club associated with Karunashraya Bangalore Hospice Trust. "With support from Rtn Swaminathan Narasimhan we raised over ₹2.5 lakh through a fundraiser and that went towards Karunashraya, which solely depends on donations to offer free care to cancer patients who are in their last stage," he says. The club collaborated with the Jain University in the city and inspired by the speeches by cancer warriors students and teaching staff donated their hair.

In order to make these tresses into wigs for cancer warriors the Rotarians reached out to *Hair for Hope*, which directed them to a wigmaker in Kerala. The locks were couriered to this vendor who charged ₹2,500 per wig. "In an attempt to help those who can't afford a wig we sponsored the wig after making a background check."

The campaign received active publicity on media and "we received hair from different parts of India," smiles Vivian. ■



IPDG BL Nagendra Prasad, along with Rotarians, at the campaign.

Pune Rotarians celebrate birthdays at an orphanage

Team Rotary News

Each club member's birthday at RC Pune Fortune, RID 3131, is being celebrated at the Aniket Sevabhavi Sanstha, Bavdhan, an orphanage located on the city suburbs, with the aim to motivate the inmates with storytelling sessions and interactive games.

Principal Kalpana Changdev is the founder of this NGO for orphaned children and destitute. The special home has more than 60 inmates, including the differently-abled, in the age group of 4–40 years. Ten teachers manage the school, hostel, food, and take care of the routine life at this home by fulfilling the needs of the children.

"We visit the orphanage once a month to donate grocery, utility items and other essentials for their daily needs. Recently, we had installed a computer, provided bed sheets and clothes to children. During birthdays of our members, we serve healthy snacks," said Nikhil A Takale, club member.

On their part, children present Rotarians with handmade greeting cards as return gifts. "Rotarians narrate historical anecdotes and tell the story of our freedom fighters and their sacrifices to inspire the children. They ask us questions which will be readily clarified by us," he said.

Some of the students at this school have travelled overseas as

contingents to represent the country in various sports. "Extraordinarily talented students in different sports are being trained at the Sevabhavi Sanstha. They are also being given coaching to become leaders with communication skills," said Takale.

Following a request from them to provide independent work to earn a monthly income for those above 20, the club will be offering them training in tailoring and embroidery with sewing machines. "Such training with machines will give them a platform to showcase their creative talent. Our club will sell their products at the market to give a regular income to the beneficiaries," he said. ■

Children at the Aniket Sevabhavi Sanstha in Pune along with Rotarians.



Promoting herbal and terrace gardens in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News



Above: Terrace garden being launched by Dr Bhuvaneswari, deputy director of horticulture, Coimbatore district.

Below: Food ready for distribution at the lepers' colony.



Rotary Club of Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, installed two herbal gardens in Vadavalli, a suburb of Coimbatore. Around 40 herbal plants were planted in the gardens.

With the district's focus for the current year being Earth, Water and People, the club launched the promotion of terrace garden in the city in the presence of Dr Bhuvaneswari, deputy director of horticulture, Coimbatore district. Terrace garden kits were given to five garden lovers.

In another initiative, the Rotarians visited Mahatma Gandhi Leprosy Colony on the city's outskirts and distributed food packets to 100 people there. ■

Environment and fellowship projects in Tirupur

V Muthukumaran

A 10.5-acre land parcel owned by Arulmigu Kulanthai Velayuthasamy Temple, Malai Kovil, was levelled, cleared of wild bushes and weeds and a wire fence was installed with a new gate by RC Tirupur West, RID 3202. The revamped plot of land under the Project *Malaivanam* was inaugurated by RI Director A S Venkatesh in the presence of IPDG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar, club's IPP V Ragupathy, former secretary L Nagaraj, PDGs, district officers and Rotarians. Venkatesh planted saplings and around 500 trees were planted at the inaugural ceremony.

A low-cost, affordable hotel for poor, Vallalar Makkal Hotel at Agraharaputhur was inaugurated by Venkatesh. "The hotel is being run

for the underprivileged families. We make sure that quality food is sold at low prices for the poor. On the hotel wall, we have displayed district Rotary projects such as medical hospital, blood bank, dialysis centres and HEAL projects that offer free screening for cervical and breast cancer," said Ragupathy.

A footpath for pedestrians and devotees was thrown open by Venkatesh on the seven-acre land around the Vana Bathrakaliamman Koil. "We also installed street lights for public use and to ensure safety of residents during night," he said. The club presented Vocational Excellence Awards to 42 people who had served the community in different fields of panchayat and village administration, medicine (paramedics and doctors), police, health,

electricity, education departments, social volunteers, nature lovers, home guards, eye donation collectors, cooperative society workers and farm innovators. Venkatesh felicitated the awardees.

A foundation-laying ceremony was held for Noyyal Water Source Management Trust Project on the premises of Gokul Dyeing Factory, Mangalam. Former TN minister for animal husbandry Udumalai K Radhakrishnan laid the foundation stone in the presence of ex-legislator Karipudur A Natarajan (Palladam constituency), panchayat, district officials and Rotarians. The minister honoured Rtn A Subramani, owner of Gokul Dyeing, who donated 15 cents of land to the club for setting up the water management project at a cost of ₹7 crore.

RI Director A S Venkatesh presents Vocational Excellence Award to a recipient in the presence of IPDG Hari Krishnan Nambiar and RC Tirupur West's IPP V Ragupathy.





Battery-operated electric vehicles were donated to the Iduvai Panchayat for conservancy work.

Earlier, during a presentation on this mega greenery project at the district collector's office, Ragupathy gave a cheque of ₹10 lakh to district collector P Vijayakarthiskeyan on behalf of the club.

New club chartered

Rotary Club of Thekkalur was formed at the Thekkalur Kongu Hall with PDG T George Sundarraj presenting the charter in the presence of DSP L Baskar, IPS, from the Avinashi sub-division, Tirupur. IPDG Nambiar greeted the charter president V C Vasudevan and his team through zoom.

With a JCB machine, the club removed the *seemai karuvelam* bushes and desilted the Vannanthurai stream and nearby water bodies at Vanjipalayam. Project chair S Paramasivam led the clean-up work of the water body. Around 500 saplings were planted in a joint initiative with Vanam Foundation and local panchayat at Kodangipalayam village.

As part of its greening mission, the club dug 825 pits with JCB machine at Semmandampalayam Pudur, a village in Avinashi block, in partnership with a local NGO for planting trees. On the occasion of former president Abdul Kalam's birth anniversary (Oct 15), the club installed a new RCC Tirupur Malai Kovil and four Rotaract clubs. Ragupathy donated ₹10,000 each as

initial fund for the five new entities to take up service projects.

Hygiene and food package kits worth ₹650 each were given to 88 conservancy workers at the Mangalam Panchayat who are keeping the surroundings clean during pandemic times. Each kit consisted of a blanket, a food item, Dettol soap, masks and groceries.

Seminar hall

A newly-constructed seminar hall (₹12 lakh) on the first floor of Tirupur West Rotary Mahal was inaugurated by PDG A Karthikeyan in the presence of state coordinator Kora Krishnamoorthy, zonal coordinator J Venkatesh, AG PS Prakash, Ragupathy and club members.

The club donated an RO water purifier (₹20,000) to the Mangalam police station to mark National Police Day. In another initiative, the club erected a wire fence and donated cots for the police retiring room at the Mangalam police station.

With the aim to provide clean drinking water to residents at Pallipalayam, a pipeline was laid at the dugout stretching up to 3km.

On National Girl Child Day (Jan 24), the club opened small savings accounts under *Sukanya Samridhi Yojana* (Selvamagal Semippu Thittam) for 1,000 poor children through the postal service. The club deposited ₹1,000 as seed money in each account of girl children to

promote the idea of small savings in them at an early age, said Ragupathy. He distributed the passbooks to the beneficiaries.

Cycle rally

A cycle rally to mark Polio Eradication Day (Oct 24) was organised at Mangalam during which 100 banners were installed at key places in Tirupur to create awareness among the public. Posters were also stuck on buses.

Wild bushes were cleared and trees were pruned on the banks of Noyyal river at Vaduganpalayam. The club joined hands with Vanathukkul Tirupur, an NGO, to dig trenches for 3,000 saplings in Cheyur and nearby villages at a total cost of ₹36,000. A set of iron plates (₹19,000) was donated to the Mangalam police station to protect the visitors at the waiting room from Covid infection. Nation Builder Awards were presented to 11 government school teachers on Teacher's Day.

Badminton tournament

Fellowship was promoted through a badminton tournament held at the Velayuthasamy Indoor Stadium, Mangalam. "A special feature of this contest was that participants from all age groups took part with enthusiasm," said Ragupathy. Trophies and medals were presented to the winners. The project cost ₹65,000.

A Rotary delegation led by Ragupathy met former TN minister



IPDG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar felicitates the Gudalur Flood Relief Project members in the presence of Ragupathy.

for municipal administration and rural development SP Velumani to expedite permission for the Tirupur West Rotary Trust Hospital (₹5 crore) and to bring water from the Pallapalayam pond to Vettuvapalayam. District collector Vijayakarthykeyan and other officials were present during the meeting.

In a week-long project, the club members used JCB machine to clean a pond and removed wild bushes and scrub jungle in Pallapalayam, Malai Kovil and Samalapuram at a cost of ₹46,000. The club joined hands with RC Perunthalthanna to distribute 50 bed sheets to the Covid care centre at Angadipuram Panchayat at a cost of ₹25,000. Sponsor Rtn TP Aboo handed over the donated items to the panchayat president O Kesavan.

With the help of JCB machine, *Seemai Karuvelam* trees were uprooted, land levelled at the Malavi Kovil temple and Perumbalayam at a cost of ₹21,500. Similarly, the club cleaned the Pallapalayam pond and strengthened its bank at a cost of ₹19,800.

Electric vehicles to panchayat

Battery-powered electric vehicles were donated to the Iduvai Panchayat for conservancy work. Ragupathy presented keys to the vehicles (₹3 lakh) to the panchayat official. Chinnaputhur temple and nearby streams were

cleaned with the JCB. The bushes and other wild growth near the Mangalam post office were cleared to ensure public safety during this project at a cost of ₹24,800.

DGE B Elangkumaran was the chief guest at the induction of 62 new members of the club at the West Rotary Hall, thus taking the membership to 202. AG P S Prakash sworn in the new members who took oath in a gala event.

Rotary Trust Hospital

A foundation stone was laid for Tirupur West Rotary Trust Hospital (₹5 crore) which is a global grant project. Chief guest Laxmi Venkatachalam from RKR Cotton Mills laid the foundation stone, while the keynote was delivered by past president K Balasubramaniam, president, V3 Project. IPDG Nambiar addressed the gathering through zoom.

All the Rotary clubs in Tirupur came together to distribute flood relief material for Nilgiris victims at the West Rotary Hall. The relief van was flagged off by PDG Karthykeyan in the presence of DG K Shanmugasundaram, DGE Elangkumaran, state coordinator Kora Krishnamoorthy and club presidents. "A total of 400 cartons were packed with relief material and distributed to families who are affected by the flood

in various parts of Nilgiris district," said Ragupathy.

IPDG Nambiar appreciated the Gudalur flood relief organised by Tirupur district office-bearers at an event hosted by RCs Tirupur West and Tirupur Smart City. Rtn J Venkatesh gave a presentation on Gudalur flood relief project and the zone performance was read out by DRFC S Sivaprakash. PP Balasubramaniam donated his Innova car to the club for implementing service projects.

Ragupathy donated medical equipment worth ₹60,000 to the Siddha Medical Centre, Tirupur. It was received by the Siddha medical officer Maru C Dhanam and the donated gadgets will be helpful to treat Covid patients.

Masks to panchayat staff

The club distributed 5,000 face masks (washable) to 31gram panchayat staff under the Avinashi union. Ragupathy handed over the masks to the Avinashi Union Committee chairman Jagadish and regional development officer Hariharan.

A three-day polio awareness campaign was taken up through a vehicle in surrounding villages. The club members distributed handbills to the public and covered around 15km to reach out to the vaccination centres, PHCs and government hospitals. ■

RC Ramnad refurbishes an RO plant at a rehabilitation centre

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Ramnad, RID 3212, sponsored the repair works for an RO plant at the rehabilitation and training centre for mentally-challenged people in Ervadi in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu.

The centre takes care of more than 50 mentally-ill persons abandoned on the roadside, marketplace or seashore. They are trained in various arts to keep their mind engaged.

When the RO plant broke down the centre had to procure water from service providers as the underground water at the centre was high in salinity due to close proximity to the sea. Soon the exercise became unaffordable for the centre which relies mostly on donations from kind-hearted Samaritans. The centre found it difficult to meet the water needs of the inmates and staff and even planned to close down.



When the club came to know of the centre's plight, the members decided to pitch in with their support. They pooled in ₹1.75 lakh to service the RO plant to satisfy the basic water needs for the inmates. "Now the centre gets at least 10,000 litres of water, sufficient enough to take care of the

personal needs of the inmates," said club's IPP JRa Geetha.

The Rotarians provided masks and sanitisers to the centre for distribution among the inmates and saplings were also planted on the campus. They engaged the inmates and taught them to tend to the plants. ■