

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Rotary club honoured for good work

Team Rotary News

On its golden jubilee RC Chopda, RID 3030, was honoured by former president of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Arunlal Gujrathi, for all the good work the club has done in Jalgaon district.

DG Rajendra Bhamre along with Assistant Governor Yogesh Bhole, club president Nitin Ahirrao, and secretary Rupesh Patil were present at the felicitation ceremony.■

Past president Dhirendra Jain (right) being honoured at an event.



Focus on environment in Agra



A tree plantation drive at the KV Patel Hospital.

To help increase the green cover and raise awareness about the environment, RC Agra West, RID 3110, conducted a tree plantation drive at the KV Patel Hospital, Agra. Members of the club planted 200 saplings. The club also hosted a fellowship programme named *Daal Baati* on the occasion of Friendship Day.■

On the cover: Rotarians of RC Bangalore South, along with DG Fazal Mahmood, celebrate Independence Day atop the World Trade Centre in Bengaluru.

Blood donation camp at Jalna

Team Rotary News



Certificate being given to blood donors.

RC Jalna Midtown, RID 3132, conducted a blood donation camp with a view to promote inter-religious peace.

The club collaborated with a local newspaper and Jamat-E-Islami for the cause. Over 100 people donated blood and the initiative was appreciated by Maharashtra health minister Rajesh Tope. Club president Mahesh Dhannawat and secretary Prashant Bagdi, along with a few club members, donated blood at the camp.■

A Rotary home for a homeless family

Dinesh and Geetha are daily wage earners in Puttur village near Udupi, Karnataka. Their 'home' was a makeshift structure made with plastic sheets and coconut leaves. When the members of Rotary Club of Kallianpur, RID 3182, heard about their pathetic situation, they immediately decided to remedy it. "It rains for days together here and it would have been really difficult for the couple to live in that structure. Within 26 days we constructed a modest home and handed it over to them on July 8," said Braan D'Souza, a club member.■



Rotarians in front of the new home.

Rotary projects create impact in Karkala

Team Rotary News

In a mega health camp, RC Karkala, RID 3182, joined hands with Dr TMA Pai Rotary Hospital, Chirayu Clinic, Kushmandini Medicals and other voluntary groups in the town to screen patients for heart, BP, sugar, and chronic illnesses. ECG tests and ENT surgeries were also done.

Nutritionists and dietitians guided the patients on a balanced diet at this medical camp held at the Government Model Higher Primary School, Bajagoli. "Patients were registered at the counters

and they were divided based on symptoms. At the eyecare section, more than 120 patients were screened. Twenty patients were shortlisted for cataract surgery at the base hospital," said Rekha Upadhyaya, the club's IPP. During his official visit, IPDG Rajaram Bhat handed over an audiometer to the Government General Hospital, Karkala, on behalf of the club. This project was done in memory of late Rtn Indria Raghava Shetty.

The club donated a solar energy system at the autorickshaw stand. Taluk

Auto Owners Association president Balkrishna Shetty thanked IPDG Bhat and the club for the solar light. A series of wall paintings on the compound wall of Vanita Samajam was inaugurated by Bhat. PDG Dr A Bharathesh, AG Naveen Amin and club members were present. "Wall painting will create awareness in the public and students to keep their surroundings clean and tidy including toilet blocks so as to avoid infection and other health issues," said Rekha. Health messages such as Green India, Clean

India; Grow trees; Save girl child; Avoid child marriage; Don't spit in public places; and Avoid infection for healthy living etc were inscribed on the wall paintings. Another set of wall paintings on the SVT School campus was inaugurated by Bhat. Ann Vrinda Shetty, SVT Trust secretary KP Shenoy, treasurer Ravindranath Pai and staff members were present. School headmaster Janakinath Rao welcomed the gathering.

A fogging machine was donated to the Government Hospital, Karkala, under a global grant in partnership with RC Crown Point, RID 6540, US. Bhat handed over the machine to Dr KS Rao, chief officer, GH, and Dr Anantha Kamath gave a talk on the usefulness of this machine. During the governor's visit, a sheet roof shelter was inaugurated at the Suraksha Sevashrama, an old age home at Jalligudde village near Karkala. PDG Dr Bharatesh A, AG Naveen Amin and Rekha, among others, were present at the inaugural ceremony.

A cupboard was donated to the Government Higher Primary School at Ayyappanagara village



A water purifier inaugurated by IPDG Rajaram Bhat at a government primary school.



A mega health camp in partnership with Dr TMA Pai Rotary Hospital.

near Karkala; while a water purifier was installed at another primary school at Kalambadipadavu Nitte village.

Happy School

A Happy School with Kindergarten classes were started on the premises of Kervashe Main School, Karkala. "The classrooms were renovated with

wall paintings depicting nature, alphabets, and the floor was also nicely decorated. Furniture including 30 chairs were added to the new classes. Bhat talked about the need to impart quality education to children," said Rekha. The club built a bus stand at Bajagoli, a small village in Karkala taluk, in partnership with Jain

Milan Bajagoli. The tourist spots in Karkala in flex designs, a brief on Bajagoli's history, Rotary's 4-Way-Test and Jain philosophy adorn the walls of the bus stand.

During the weekly club meeting, a computer, CPU and other accessories were donated to the Sri Ramappa Higher Primary School

in the presence of Bhat. Rotarians planted fruits and vegetables bearing trees at the Government High School and College, Sanoor. A Rotary roundtana was installed at the junction of three roads in Nallur village to enhance the public image of the club.

Preloaded tablets were distributed to Class 10 students at the Sundara Puranik Government High School, Pervaje, for their online classes during lockdown. Rtn HR Keshav Mysore was the chairman of this project titled *Jnana Deevige* which was implemented with support from RC Karkala Rock City and Public TV, a local channel. At the venue, *Jnana Deevige* coordinator of Udupi district Prashant Hegde, also IPP of RC Manipal, was present. Children and teachers from 11 government schools attended, along with Rotarians. ■



A bus stand being inaugurated by IPDG Bhat at Bajagoli, a village in Karkala taluk.

Rotary vaccination centres in Panvel

Team Rotary News



Public being inoculated at a Covid vaccination centre.

Four Covid vaccination centres were started by the Rotary clubs in Panvel with the support of the Panvel City Municipal Corporation (PCMC) in RID 3131. “Rotary offered its medical centres and volunteers to assist and streamline the vaccination process as the local administration found inoculating the people a humongous task. Owing to its proximity to Navi Mumbai, and being a relatively new corporation with a growing population of 800,000, Panvel faced many logistic challenges,” said DGN Anil Parmar, RID 3131.

The first club to respond was RC New Panvel which offered its premises, Late Chandrakuwar

Kothari Rotary Mega Medical Centre, at Khanda Colony for the vaccination programme. PCMC readily granted permission to start the inoculation drive at this medical centre and from May 6, this facility is active in the vaccination front reaching out to the public.

Pleased with the success of the Rotary vaccination centre, the civic officials wanted to start a similar facility at RC Panvel Industrial Town’s Rotary Medical Centre at New Panvel. RC Panvel Central, Inner Wheel Club of Panvel Industrial Town and two Rotaract clubs extended their support and till date, this centre had vaccinated over 5,000 beneficiaries.

Not to be left out, RC Kharghar Midtown started a vaccination centre at the Rotary Manusmruti Medical Centre at Owe Gaon, Kharghar, under the aegis of the Panvel Corporation. The fourth centre was started by RC Panvel at the Panvel Gymkhana. Around 18,000 people were inoculated in the first month across the four centres and the clubs had spent ₹1.45 crore in meeting the administration cost of the mega vaccination programme, said Parmar. “With the involvement of Rotarians, Anns and Annets, all the centres are functioning seamlessly. We will open more vaccination centre at the PCMC area to enhance the public image of Rotary in the extended neighbourhoods,” he added. ■



At a registration counter.

Covid relief in Bhalki, Karnataka

Team Rotary News



Grocery kits and vegetables donated to families.



A sapling plantation drive.

The members of RC Bhalki Fort, RID 3160, distributed groceries, vegetables and essentials to 75 underprivileged families whose livelihood was affected during the Covid pandemic. Masks and sanitisers were given to sanitation and hospital staff. Deputy Superintendent of Police Dr B Devraj participated in the distribution event.

In another initiative the Rotarians planted saplings in various campuses across the town and in some of the surrounding villages. Children of Rotarians also enthusiastically participated in this endeavour. ■

Hygiene awareness in Hubli

Team Rotary News

To help the local government and bring awareness on best hygiene practices, RC Hubli Central, RID 3170, has installed a giant hoarding on the foothills of Nrupatunga Betta, a scenic hill attracting a large number of tourists in Hubli. “The unsanitary and uncivilised act of spitting and blowing your nose is a culture-specific syndrome. This act posed health hazards to the public. Hence, we have erected a hoarding that will sensitise the public against this practice and create brand visibility to Rotary,” said club president Sanjana Maheshwari.

The hoarding sponsored by Vijaya Gold Palace, a jewellery



IPDG Sangram Vishnu Patil inaugurates a Rotary hoarding in Hubli.

retailer, was inaugurated by IPDG Sangram Vishnu Patil in the presence of Sanjana, secretary Anjana Basangoudar, governor's special

representative Vasuki Sanji, IPP Radhika Gokhale and other Rotarians. “While the government has taken measures to curb spitting, we want to



IPDG Sangram Patil's wife Utkarsha Patil distributing menstrual cups to police women.



PDG Ganesh G Bhat and members of Rotary Hubli Dharwad Covid Task Force along with beneficiary children.

create awareness on personal hygiene through our projects,” she said.

As part of its ongoing programme on MHM, the club donated menstrual cups to five police women. Utkarsha Patil, wife of Sangram Patil, handed over the eco-friendly cups to the beneficiaries at the installation of new office-bearers of the club. Rtn Dr Nagarekha, chair of MHM projects, sponsored the menstrual cups and gave a talk on how to use them on the occasion. “We have plans to donate such hygienic cups to women from other professional fields. Menstrual products like tampons, pads, panty-liners,

etc take years to decay as a majority of them use up to 90 per cent plastic or non-degradable material. Pads, in particular, take over 500–800 years to decompose,” said Sanjana.

Starting at ₹300 onwards, menstrual cups are now being seen as a sustainable and cost-effective option that are eco-friendly and are easier to dispose of without any harm to soil.

World Breastfeeding Week

The club members hosted a number of programmes at hospitals in Hubli to create awareness on mother’s milk for infants. Talks on ‘growth assessment’, educating fathers of newborns, ‘care for the cute babies’, and training for expectant mothers, would-be fathers were held by Rotarians.

Nutrition supplements were distributed to lactating mothers, and awareness sessions on breastfeeding was conducted at the hospitals. “These events and programmes to mark Breastfeeding Week were appreciated by the people in Hubli and nearby places. We also got a good coverage from the local press,” she said. The breastfeeding events reached out to 800 beneficiaries in all at a project cost of ₹60,000. A team of 25 Rotarians put together

the programmes which lifted the public image of the club in and around Hubli.

Aid to orphaned children

Rotary Hubli Dharwad Covid Task Force chairman PDG Ganesh G Bhat approached child welfare officer Angadi from Dharwad and asked her to give him a list of students who had lost their parents to Covid and in need of financial assistance to pursue their education.

Within 24 hours, the task force went into action, called the short-listed children and handed over to them cash support of ₹4,000 each for educational support and grocery kits for six months. “It was a moment of emotions with tears on the eyes of Rotarians and those present, as students from Classes 6–12 who came with the help of guardians or government officials were given cash support and other assistance from Rotary,” said PDG Bhat.

For Rotarians, it was one of the most satisfying moments as they could see joy in children and child welfare officer Angadi, supervisor Deepika and other officials thanked Rotary for this timely support to children in dire straits as they have lost their parents during the pandemic. ■

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D 2981

RC Kumbakonam

DG S Balaji donated goats to two women for improving their livelihood in the presence of club president Y G Gopidas, project chair VC Baskar and service director A Manikannan. Panchayat president Maragatham Swaminathan was the chief guest. A Covid vaccination camp was held in which 140 people were inoculated.



D 2981

RC Pondicherry White Town

Twenty-six new members were inducted at the installation ceremony of club president R Vaitheeswaran and his team of office-bearers. The club launched a video created to raise the public image of Rotary in and around Puducherry. A group photo session was held at the end.



D 2981

RC Tiruvarur Midtown

Tiruvarur district collector Gayathri Krishnan presented a commendation certificate to club's charter president VM Annadurai for doing 'selfless service' during the pandemic by reaching out to patients and vulnerable families. He was honoured during Independence Day celebrations of the club.





D 2982

RC Rasipuram Educational City

Food packets, masks and sanitisers were distributed to 50 children at the DSM orphanage in the presence of club president Sabarish and other Rotarians. The children were happy to receive the food packets on Annapoorna Day.



D 2982

RC Salem Junction

75th Independence Day was celebrated at the Niraivaazhvu, an old age home, at Gejjalnaickenpatti village. Film actor Benjamin distributed sweets to the inmates. Club president Balakrishnan unfurled the tricolour in the presence of Rotarians. A sumptuous meal was provided to the inmates. Special home manager Annadurai thanked Rotary for the event.



D 3020

RC Vuyyuru

The club donated 100kg of sugar worth ₹4,000 to Little Sisters of the Poor, an old age home at Guntur. Around 500 saplings were planted at various places in Vuyyuru in a greening drive. Twelve units of blood was collected at a blood donation camp.

D 3040

RC Dewas

New clothes and teaching material were distributed to poor students on World Tribal Day. In another project, free cataract operations were done on 25 patients at the Sankara Eye Centre, Indore. Over 300 fruit trees were planted on the Shankargad hill by Rotarians.



D 3053

RC Aadhya Bikaner

Five toilets were constructed, classrooms were renovated and walls got a fresh coat of painting, along with lacquering beautification, at a Government Higher Secondary School under the Happy School Project. The school authority thanked Rotarians for the revamp project.



D 3053

RC Alwar

Air conditioners, air coolers and geysers were donated to the SNCU (special newborns care unit) at the Geetanand Shishu Chikitsalaya following a request from the hospital. IPP Suresh Gupta handed over the electrical appliances to the hospital authority in the presence of former secretary Vikas Gupta and other Rotarians.





D 3053

RC Jodhpur Padmini

Numerous facilities were created at eight government schools under a WinS project through a global grant of ₹41 lakh. The amenities and school facilities were inaugurated by PDG Harish Gaur in the presence of club members and PDG Vinod Bhatia. The school authorities thanked Rotary for setting up the WinS facilities.



D 3053

RC Sardarshahar

Over 50 saplings were planted on the premises of KC College, Sardarshahar, to mark World Population Day. The club distributed 200 saplings at the Krishi Upaj Mandi and Rico Industrial Area with a pledge administered to traders for the upkeep of the plantations.



D 3053

RC Shivpuri

A one-day seminar on 'Covid-19: Assessment of knowledge and awareness in Indian society' was held in the presence of Shivpuri collector Akshay Singh and superintendent of police Rajesh Singh Chandel. Experts discussed on ways to prevent the spread of the virus. At the Covid vaccination camp, over 400 people were inoculated.

D 3060

RC Senoras Jamnagar

The club hosted a blood donation camp at the GIDC, Phas-3, an industrial area, and collected 26 bottles. IPP Dr Praveena Santvani, president Jaya Chavan and other members donated blood. The event was supported by the factory owners association and sponsored by Rotarians.



D 3070

RC Phagwara Midtown

75th Independence Day was celebrated at the Government Primary Smart School, Mansa Devi Nagar. Meritorious students were given prizes. An oxygen concentrator was given to a Covid patient. Rotarians distributed biscuits at the ESI Hospital and juice packs at the Netarheen Birdh Ashram at Sapore village.



D 3080

RC Chandigarh Central

Over 600 saplings were planted to create a Miyawaki forest at the Burj Fateh Greens, a farm owned by Rtn Baljit Singh Sandhu in Mohali. The saplings were given by the DFO from a nursery at Mullanpur. Over 40 Rotarians were led by club president Ashish Midha.





D 3080

RC Mussoorie

The club is holding a Covid vaccination camp since July 1 in partnership with the health department. With the cooperation of all its members, the club is continuing with the camp to reach out to the maximum number of beneficiaries. The Rotary vaccination camp has lifted the public image of the club in Mussoorie.



D 3090

RC Sunam City

A tree plantation camp was organised under the leadership of club president Anoop Goyal. Around 100 saplings were planted at many locations in Sunam. The club spread the message of 'Go Green' among the residents by telling them the benefits of tree plantations.



D 3100

RC Moradabad Divine

A tree planation drive was held with senior Rtn Anshul Sharma as chief guest. Each member was given a potted sapling for planting at home. Rotarians were urged to grow trees for a healthy, green environment. Club secretary Shantanu Sharma, Rtns Kalpana Sharma, Sakshi Agarwal, Dr Pallav Agarwal, Rajesh Rastogi and Raina Bhatnagar were present.

Lake restoration in Kumbakonam

V Muthukumaran

A huge pond was desilted at Vadamattam village at Tiruvarur district, Tamil Nadu, by RC Kumbakonam Sakthi, RID 2981, an all-women's club, with contributions from all its members. "We express our gratitude to Rtn Dr Indralekha Muthuswami, who is the endowment donor for this lake restoration project. This is one of our long-term annual projects

for water conservation in villages being done over the last eight years," said club president Bhooma Sowmiyanarayanan. The water body reclamation costing ₹1.5 lakh will recharge the groundwater, thus benefitting the rural families.

In another initiative, Rotarians visited the houses of girls who had dropped out from their classes at the Government Girls Higher

Secondary School, Kumbakonam, due to various reasons. "We persuaded the parents to readmit their children in school by creating awareness on the need to have good education for a bright future to their wards. Efforts were made by Rotarians to send them to any nearby school without any prolonged break-up in their studies," she said.



RC Kumbakonam Sakthi president Bhooma Sowmiyanarayanan (2nd from right) at the desilted lake along with other Rotarians.

Self-defence workshop

Girl students at the Kavery Matric HS School, Kumbakonam, were taught basic steps in martial arts such as karate and other self-defence techniques by experts to equip them with necessary skillsets that will protect them against stalkers and eve-teasers. “Rotarians, teachers, parents and public were present at the martial art session. Such workshops empower women through practical lessons that will be useful to them in their daily life,” she said.

With an aim to encourage women at Kothangudi village to take up profitable ventures, the club organised a skill development workshop in vocational fields such as honey bee cultivation and honey culture, mushroom culture, making jute bags, and knitting palm leaves baskets. “We are taking up a number of vocational skills training programmes at this adopted village to benefit women. Once acquired, these skills will help them to start their own micro business which will enable them to earn a sustainable monthly income and with this, they can take care of their families with financial security,” said Bhooma. The nitty-gritty of starting self-employed ventures such as initial capital outlay and marketing the



Bhooma (3rd from left) at the honey bee-rearing and mushroom cultivation workshop for rural women.

produce were also taught to the rural women.

Covid vaccine awareness

Rotarians Dr Radhamani and Santhamani from the club took up an awareness drive on Covid vaccination at Palayanallur, its adopted village near Korukkai in Kumbakonam. Around 80 packets of immunity booster medicines were distributed to villagers. “We also gave haemoglobin tablets and honey packets to 15 girls aged 10–20. A general body check-up, along with blood screening,

was done for all villages around Palayanallur,” said Bhooma. The all-women’s club joined hands with RC Kumbakonam to conduct a Covid vaccination camp at Sri Balaji Mahal, a popular venue in the town.

Annadhanam

Throughout last year (2020–21), IPP Pandiselvi and her team conducted *Annadhanam* (mass feeding) which reached out to underprivileged families during the lockdown. She, along with her secretary Jayanthi, also distributed face masks while providing food packets to beneficiaries.

Pandiselvi visited the houses of 42 members to greet them on their birthdays and wedding anniversaries. Under her leadership, the club did a slew of community, social projects such as Miyawaki forests, village adoption, lake restoration, setting up village libraries, distribution of Covid kits to poor families, medical equipment to PHCs and hospitals, sponsoring marriage for poor girls, financial assistance, smartphones to students, wheelchair to disabled, artificial limbs to 10 amputees, supplying medicines and resources for siddha camps against Covid infection. ■



A Covid vaccination camp in progress.

D 3120

RC Kashi

Sewing machines worth ₹38,000 were donated to two women who were trained at the club's empowerment project. The Four-way Test mementoes were given to its members to inculcate Rotary values in them. A water purifier was donated to the police station at Sigra locality.



D 3131

RC Panvel Elite

The club members donated 27 bicycles, over 2,600 sanitary pads, 500 face masks and 50 drumstick saplings at its adopted village, Sindhala Chi Vadi, at Pen taluk in Raigad district. Rotarians returned home with satisfaction after seeing the happy faces of the beneficiaries.



D 3131

RC Pune Sports City

A primary school in Karunj village was transformed with revamped classrooms, new furniture, electrical fittings, metal roof, gender-segregated toilets, handwash station and clean drinking water. Tablets were given for students to attend online classes. RCs Douai-Sud, RID 1670, France; Khadki, Pune; CSR partner Hodek; and the village council were partners in this GG project.





D 3150

RC Nizamabad

To mark Kargil Vijay Diwas (July 26), the club donated a sewing machine to a late soldier's wife to provide a sustainable income to the family under its women's empowerment project. The beneficiary expressed her gratitude to Rotary for timely help. The project lifted the public image of the club.



D 3160

RC Gulbarga Midtown

A Covid relief task led by IPP Dr Sudha Ravindra Halkai gave food packets and water bottles to attendants of patients at the GH, ESIC and Basaveshwara Hospitals. The beneficiaries were also given sleeping mats, buckets and mugs for their stay on the hospital premises. In a month, they distributed over 6,000 food packets. Also, 100 theatre artistes who lost their livelihood were given groceries worth ₹3,000 each.



D 3170

RC Belgaum South

A Covid vaccination camp was organised at the Mahila Vidyalaya High School in the city with the participation of 43 Rotarians. Over 300 people across age groups were inoculated at the camp which lifted the public image of the club in the neighbourhood.

D 3170

RC Byadgi

A Rotary garden was created on the premises of the Taluk Government Hospital, Byadgi, at a total cost of ₹37,500. Legislator Virupakshappa Ballary inaugurated the green hub in the presence of club president Basavaraj Sunkapur, secretary Manjunath Uppar and other Rotarians.



D 3202

RC Kasaragod

A Miyawaki forest was created at the GLP School, Adruguli, in Kasaragod district. It was inaugurated by IPP Dr Janardhana Naik. Saplings were distributed on World Environment Day. IPDG Dr Hari Krishnan Nambiar gave mementoes, a framed Rotary certificate, to office-bearers at a farewell party.



D 3231

RC Vandavasi

PDG Abirami Ramanathan opened a Rotary hospital building on the club's premises with the first floor meant for club meetings. Two sewing machines were donated to beneficiaries for their livelihood, while a push cart was given to a vegetable seller.





D 3240

RC Siliguri Central

A mega vaccination drive was conducted in partnership with the Lions Club of Siliguri Terai in which 350 persons were inoculated with Covishield doses. Similar camps will be held in the coming months for hassle-free vaccination of residents across the neighbourhoods.



D 3262

RI District 3262

A three-day e-RYLA was hosted jointly by RCs Bhubaneswar Kalinga, Cuttack Cantonment and Cuttack Golden Star. IPDGs Saumya Mishra, Harish Motwani, Ajith Weerasinghe, RID 3220, Sri Lanka and PDG Debashish Mitra spoke at the inaugural. There were 500-plus Rotarians and Rotaractors from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Africa.



D 3291

RC Belur

Independence Day was celebrated at the SOS village in Salt Lake and Yuva Bharati Sangh at Arupota Dhapa village in South 24 Parganas district. Fruit trees were planted by club president Indra Goenka, Mayor Krishna Chakraborty and PDG Anirudh Roy Chowdhry. Greenman Rtn Santosh Mohta supervised the plantation project.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Rotary empowers rural women

V Muthukumaran

In a three-way tie-up to provide job opportunities to underprivileged women from rural areas, RC Madras Chenna Patna, RID 3232, offered a hybrid training platform, both in-person workshop and online sessions, on crocheting.

Club's past president K Vallekkannu, also director of Vocational Services, approached members of Mother India's Crochet Queens (MICQ), a group of crochet lovers, and the Manonmani Trust with the idea of empowering rural women with a sustainable

income. MICQ founder Subashri Natarajan and Sudha Ramalingam from the Trust readily came on board to kick off this vocational project.

"While Subashri needed a batch of 20 people to start with, Sudha was more than willing to send around 40 school students from villages around Periyapalayam in Tiruvallur district, 40km from Chennai," said N Anand, president-elect of the club. As most of the women and girl students (with schools closed) in the village

are engaged in plucking jasmine flowers during the day, they had enough free time. "So, I gathered schoolchildren for the first batch. When I informed them about crochet training sessions, they joined the programme without a second thought," said Sudha. On July 30, three volunteers from MICQ visited the Trust along with club members members and provided hands-on training for nearly three hours. Later, the crochet training was held through a virtual platform.



In a presentation, Subashri explained about the work being done by MICQ in making needy people earn extra income through crocheting. Besides, the group is supplying sweaters, fingerless gloves and caps to jawans guarding the frontiers. Following the success of this vocational programme, Sudha is now running training sessions on tailoring and cake-baking to women. Also, club president Senthan Amuthan has assured help to rural women being trained under vocational programmes of the Manonmani Trust.

Feeding the hungry

The club started the new Rotary year from July 1 with a mega *Annadhanam* (mass feeding) in which over 1,500 people were served freshly prepared meals. Three Rotarians sponsored *Feed the Hungry* Project which reached out



Mother India's Crochet Queens founder Subashri Natarajan monitoring the work done by a project beneficiary.



to over 100 beneficiaries in North Chennai, Thirumazhisai and at Manonmani Trust, Periyapalayam, the last two located on the suburbs.

Once again in August, a team led by Vallekannu provided breakfast to over 110 inmates at the three branches of Kaakkum Karangal, an orphanage and destitute home, at Thiruvannmiyur and Pallavakkam on the outskirts. "They were served piping hot idlis and vadas with sambar and chutney, and other delicious recipes," said Anand.

Amuthan and Community Service director S Karthikeyan, along with Anand, were present to serve the children and elderly people at the special home. Club secretary K Sathyanarayanan has

The club started the new Rotary year from July 1 with a mega *Annadhanam* (mass feeding) in which over 1,500 people were served freshly prepared meals.

decided to sponsor this programme on the first Thursday of every month for the entire year, while a team of Rotarians and Anns will identify the beneficiaries. The club has plans to stage an entertainment programme for the inmates of Aim for Seva, an NGO working for education of rural and tribal students at Tiruvallur district.

Last year, IPP B Chakravarthy made it a point to gift homemade cakes to Rotarians on their birthdays by asking Ann Egnitha to bake

Left: Rotarians at the Kaakkum Karangal, an orphanage, at the Project *Feed the Hungry*.



Rotarians serving food at an orphanage on the suburbs of Chennai.

it. “Both the cakes and Egnitha became famous overnight,” said Anand. This year, when the Vocational Services team is scouting for ways to empower women, past presidents J Ganesh, G Prabhakar and B Suryabaskar came forward to sponsor birthday cakes for Anns too. While Rtms Vishwanath Krishnan and K Satyanarayanan sponsored cakes for wedding anniversaries of Rotarians.

Women entrepreneurship

Ann Sukanya Sriram, wife of charter member Raja Sriram, is the first woman entrepreneur of the club, while Rtn Valli is a jewellery trader and Ann Revathi Karthikeyan is a textile exporter.

Sukanya is one among the 10,000 women entrepreneurs certified by Goldman Sachs Global from India in the field of air-conditioning. Her firm Technocrat Engineers specialises in the

President Amuthan launched the club’s mobile App for members to upload the past events, projects and future programmes, besides announcements, birthdays and anniversaries. Currently, the App is available in Android version.

maintenance of air-conditioners. At present, Ann Egnitha has a supply order to bake over 100 cakes this Rotary year and at the same time, she is keen to set-up her own bakery unit shortly.

Recently, DG J Sridhar appreciated the club for taking up innovative projects related to empowering women. The club is sponsoring tuition fees of girl

students in schools and colleges for years; providing micro loans to aspiring women entrepreneurs; and holds camps for detecting breast cancer in rural women through handheld device.

Installation

Senthan Amuthan took over as the new club president in the presence of DG Sridhar in a gala investiture. Over 100 Rotarians and their families were present at the installation. Rtms Praveen Mehra, R Saptagiri and G Prabhakar anchored the event in turns.

Sridhar lauded the efforts of IPP Chakravarthy for taking the club to greater heights with his innovative ways of mobilising funds from overseas sister clubs. Rtn Ramanathan was able to get ₹20 lakh through his overseas contacts that enabled the club to procure oxygen concentrators and medical equipment.

The medical devices were donated to deserving hospitals and old age homes in Tamil Nadu. Rtn J Ganesh and his 1985 batchmates from the National Public School contributed ₹3 lakh for purchasing Covid equipment and a matching contribution was made by the club.

President Amuthan launched the club’s mobile App for members to upload the past events, projects and future programmes, besides announcements, birthdays and anniversaries. Currently, the App is available in Android version, while its iOS version will be launched soon. During a club meeting, PDG AP Kanna spoke on the current year’s theme *Serve to Change Lives*. He narrated his own experience, which was an eye-opener to all. In another joint meeting with RC Madras Central, Rtn Varinder Singh Sahney gave a talk on ‘Free Air for All’. During the second wave of Covid, he provided oxygen cylinders to 500 patients. ■

Tribute to Covid martyrs in Haryana

Team Rotary News



Rotarians pay homage to Covid martyrs.

On the eve of 75th Independence Day, the members of RC Chandigarh Midtown, RID 3080, came together to salute the Covid martyrs in Haryana by paying a fitting homage to those frontline workers who had lost their lives in the fight against the pandemic.

A doctor who died fighting on the Covid frontline is a martyr and the healthcare workers served the nation in the best traditions of the medical profession, said AG Dr Rita Kalra, senior medical officer, Civil Hospital, Panchkula. While the people stayed indoors in the protective comforts of their homes, there was a first line of defence that was out in the

battlefield — the healthcare workers. “Leading from the front and fighting against the little-known enemy with thermometers, stethoscopes, oxygen cylinders, ventilators and a lot of hope, they worked 24x7 with a determination to come out with flying colours,” said Dr Rita. The battle is not over yet. “In the breather we have got, this is our effort to pay tribute to every single hand that stretched out to help in the crisis situation everybody was in for no fault of theirs.” The health workers across Haryana continue to live by the motto that they have the responsibility of bringing smiles on the faces of suffering humanity. ■

A Rotary Covid vaccination centre inoculates 10,000 people

Team Rotary News

Over 10,300 persons were inoculated at the Covid vaccination centre run by RC Gauhati South, RID 3240, for over three months till the last week of August. The vaccination centre was started after getting the nod from the state health department at a time when people faced problems in locating a Covid vaccine centre for getting their doses. The club’s past president Rajkamal Bhuyan led a dedicated team consisting of staff and student volunteers from the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, with the support of Rtns George Chacko,

Rajesh Bhatra and A Musrikin. Besides, the office-bearers of Durga Mandir Puja Samity extended their cooperation to the vaccination centre.

Nine media persons were felicitated by the club under Project *Medio Hero* of RID 3240 at the Welfare Trust Office of the club. Club’s Public Image chair Rtn R N Mazumder briefed the gathering about the milestone projects of Rotary International over the decades. The media persons were felicitated with a certificate and a copy of the club’s annual souvenir and bulletin. ■



Rotary's Covid care at Kangra valley

Team Rotary News



A sapling being given to a relative of Covid patient.

The members of RC Kangra, RID 3070, have been distributing mineral water to Covid patients and their

attendants at the Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College Hospital, Tanda, since May. The Rotarians are

also providing food and fruits to the patients. Vinay Gupta, a club member, along with his family, prepares food at his home,

said club president Sunil Dogra. The other members contribute groceries and vegetables for preparing the food. At least 120 food packets are prepared and distributed to Covid patients daily.

In another initiative the club distributed saplings to the relatives of patients who were cured of Covid as part of its environmental protection plan. The programme was inaugurated by the state president of Basketball Association Manish Sharma who planted a rudraksh sapling at the Tandon Club. Peepal and banyan plants were given as gifts to the relatives of corona patients under treatment at the Balaji Hospital and Fortis Hospital, Kangra. ■



Food packets being distributed.

Greening Sonapat

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Sonapat Midtown, RID 3012, and Rishihood University came together and planted 200 trees including kadamb, gulmohar and shisham in the university campus. A talk on climate change was organised by the club. Swami Sahajanand Saraswati, founder, Mission Green Foundation, an organisation that works towards rainwater harvesting and

teaching farmers ways to conserve water, and Jag Mohan Gupta, advisor, National Mission for Clean Ganga and joint secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, participated in the programme.

In another initiative, the club organised a blood donation camp at the Danblock Brakes India campus. Over 250 units of blood was collected. ■



A blood donation camp in progress.

Fellowship event in RID 3190

Team Rotary News

Under Project *Mirtatva* RID 3190 hosted its first club service — Inter City General Forum (ICGF). Clubs showcased the diverse talent of members and highlighted the characteristics of Rotary International — friendship, fellowship, connecting and doing good to humanity.

RI director Mahesh Kotbagi and Amita felicitated clubs that had achieved membership targets in a short span of time. “Engage members for them to remain in Rotary,” he advised. DG Fazal Mahmood spoke about the importance of membership and asked the members gathered at the event to “bring in quality members,” and also encouraged dual membership, starting of new satellite clubs, cause-based clubs, and passport clubs.

PDG Sameer Hariani in his address said that he was happy to meet fellow Rotarians “in



From L: DG Fazal Mahmood, RID Mahesh Kotbagi, Amita Kotbagi, Sabiha Fazal, Dr Roopa Hariani and PDG Sameer Hariani.

person after 14 months of being indoors.” The icing on the cake was the virtual presence of RI President Shekhar Mehta who appreciated the efforts of the DG for adding 1,001 new members and reminded the Rotarians about the wonders that Rotary has achieved.

“Rotary makes lives wonderful. Rotary gives us an opportunity to change people’s lives. Grab each opportunity that comes your way and enjoy Rotary,” he said.

PDG KP Nagesh handed over a cheque of \$35,000 towards TRF to Kotbagi.■



PDG KP Nagesh (2nd from R) presenting a cheque for \$35,000 towards TRF to DG Fazal Mahmood in the presence of RID Kotbagi.

A community service drive in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, donated pedestal fans to an orphanage for girls run by the Akshara Charitable Society, Coimbatore. Rotarians interacted with the inmates of the orphanage and distributed biscuits to the destitute girls.

Club members distributed biscuits at Pooluvapatti, a tribal village near Coimbatore.

A cheque of ₹4,000 was handed over to a special child Akshidha, who needed an eye treatment for poor vision. ■



A cheque being presented for eye treatment of a girl child.

Promoting Covid vaccination



People waiting at the vaccination camp.

RC Nasik, RID 3030, along with the Indian Valve and the Rotary Charitable Trust,

Nashik, conducted a Covid vaccination drive in Nashik at the MCG Manavata Hospital.

Over 630 underprivileged people including rickshaw pullers, autorickshaw drivers, construction labourers and residents of the Ganjamal locality were vaccinated against the virus.

The club also conducted advocacy sessions in the neighbourhood and educated the public about the need to get vaccinated and also to observe Covid protocols. The members distributed masks and sanitisers to the public on that day.

Rotaractors of RAC JDC Byto also participated in organising the crowds and distributing refreshments to people who had come to get their vaccination. ■

Indian Tricolour flies high in Bengaluru

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Bangalore South, RID 3190, decided to celebrate the 75th Independence Day this August, in a unique manner. Brimming with patriotic spirit and pledging to serve a resurgent India, the club members planned to take

the national flag to its greatest height possible in Bengaluru as they hoisted it atop the World Trade Centre on the Brigade gateway. At 450 feet, it is one of the tallest buildings in the metro.

“The sight of our national flag (12ft x 9ft) and Rotary

Wheel (6ft), swaying in the wind at a height of 450 feet was a glorious moment that will be cherished by every member. The sound of our national anthem, *Bharath Mata Ki Jai* and *Vande Mataram* vibrated through the morning air at the top of the building. The patriotism





DG Fazal Mahmood, DGE Jeetendra Aneja, PDG Sameer Hariani and other district office-bearers at the World Trade Centre, Bengaluru.

The event symbolises the hope of taking Rotary to new heights in serving our nation and changing the lives of people facing the pandemic.

Rajeshwari Sunil
club president

imbibed in each of us can never be explained but experienced during such occasions,” says the club president Rajeshwari Sunil. Placards with messages ‘Get Vaccinated’ and ‘Join Rotary — Serve Humanity’ were displayed at prominent places and atop the buildings along with the flags.

“It was a public image building exercise and several people watched the entire event on that day,” says Indira Jai Prakash, the club’s bulletin editor.

DG Fazal Mahmood with wife Sabiha, DGE Jeetendra Aneja, PDG Dr Sameer Hariani and his wife Dr Roopa, PDG Manandi N

Suresh and wife Srimathi, district secretary DLV Sharma, district Public Image director Rajesh Hiremath and his wife Vidya, zone governor Srinivas KR, assistant governor Vijay Kumar Pobbathi, members from Rotary Bangalore South, Rotaractors and Interactors were present at the event.

Club secretary Shivram and the programme chairperson Lakshmi Sreenath played a key role in the initiation and the execution of the programme.

Club President Rajeshwari wanted this occasion “to symbolise the hope of taking Rotary to new heights in serving our nation and





changing the lives of people facing the pandemic.”

Promoting Covid vaccination

Cyclothon 2021 was organised by RC Bangalore South, RID 3190, in partnership with its Rotaractors and United Hospitals with two-fold objective — Covid vaccination campaign and urging public to join Rotary — to mark the 75th Independence Day.

Around 200 cyclers took part in the rally to spread the message of Covid vaccination. The rally was jointly flagged off by legislator Ravi Subramanya, DG Fazal Mahmood and District Youth Service director John Bruno at the VVN School. United Hospitals assured free vaccinations to those who took part in the cyclothon. Bengaluru City Police and Vasavi Vidyaniketan Trust extended their support to the organisers. ■

Financial aid for Odisha Paralympian

With an aim to encourage differently-abled in sports, RC Bhubaneswar Meadows, RID 3262, gave a cash assistance of ₹30,000 to Pujaswini Nayak from Odisha, who represented India in the Tokyo Paralympics, for meeting the expenses of a fencing set. Wheelchair-bound, the beneficiary was able to practice hard before the games. She was presented the equipment under the club's *Joy of Giving* Project.

In another initiative, the club donated vegetables, toiletries and detergents to

the Mission of Charity, an old age home at Jaanla. Rtn Gopal sponsored Covid kits including over 50 sanitisers (100ml each), vapourisers, pulse oximeters, digital thermometers (five each), and 10 oxygen cans (10 litres), all worth ₹15,000, to the special home. The club also distributed 100 Phenyl bottles to the transgender community. ■

PDG Aswini Kar
presenting a cheque for
₹30,000 to Paralympian
Pujaswini Nayak.



Rotary on a service drive in Palia

Team Rotary News



A tree plantation drive at Palia Kalan.

Rotary Club of Palia Kalan, RID 3120, collected 15 units of blood through a blood donation camp and gave it to the Blood Bank in Lakhimpur.

A massive plantation drive was undertaken by the club in various parts of the town. At least 2,500 saplings were planted on various days across campuses and residential colonies. About 2,100 saplings were planted by the club members, jointly with the Border Security Force, on either side of the Sampurna Nagar Road in Palia. "The initiative has created a green corridor for almost 8km from the Dhaka farm to Gadnia," said club president

Sandeep Bansal. SSB Commandant Munna Singh and his 400 jawans, and members of the Interact Club of Palia, participated in the campaign.

The club installed a 'Selfie' booth at the Government Hospital in Palia to encourage more people to get vaccinated against Covid. "We also honoured Dr Ajit Singh, Ankit Dixit and Superintendent Harendra Varun for their immense support and contribution when Covid was at its peak," said Bansal.

Bicycles and school uniforms were donated to school-children who had lost either one or both their parents to Covid. This will help them to

continue their studies instead of dropping out of school, he said.

On Independence Day, the Rotarians visited the Balika Ashram at Padati Vidyalaya/ Tharu Chatrawas in Palia and celebrated the occasion with the children. Club president Bansal hoisted the national flag and distributed sweets to the children. Club members spoke to them about the freedom struggle and urged them to aim high and bring laurels to the nation. Later in the evening the Rotarians gathered near the statue of Ram Chandra Shah at the Station Square and paid tribute to the martyrs who laid down their life for India's freedom. ■