

August 2022

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Health camps for pregnant women

Team Rotary News



Pregnant women at the health check-up camp in Pusad.

From July to May in the last Rotary year (2021–22), 10 health check-up camps were organised by RC Pusad, RID 3030, benefitting around 500 pregnant women. The medical camps were held with the support of local administration and NGOs in Pusad.

Free haemoglobin tests and distribution of iron, calcium tablets,

along with iron syrups, were the major highlights of these camps under Project *Mission Pink Health*. “The health camps created awareness on anaemia among women as this chronic ailment is one of the major causes of maternal and child mortality in India,” said Dr Vishwas Dange, a club member.

Apart from health check-up, the doctors

engaged the patients with guidance talk on various health issues during pregnancy like the need to maintain the blood count, mental health, sleep and rest pattern, moderate exercise, nutritious diet and a good lifestyle, all of which have a bearing on safe child birth.

The club got financial support from the Dange Hospital, Pusad,

and technical assistance from Dr Meera Dange, gynaecologist, for the smooth conduct of the health camps. “We worked closely with the subdistrict hospital, taluk medical office, rural health department, local administration and NGOs like the Patanjali Yog Samiti and OBGY Society for successful conduct of the medical camps,” said Dr Dange. ■

On the cover: A transgender being inducted as Rotarian in RC Dombivili North, RID 3142.

A tree plantation drive in Latur

Team Rotary News



Members of RC Latur Shreyas at a plantation drive.

To emphasise the importance of plants and trees, RC Latur Shreyas, RID 3132, organised a tree plantation drive at Gulmohar Colony, a neighbourhood. Club president Dr GM Kulkarni in his address on keeping the

environment healthy said “through these plantation drives we have to engage and inspire the younger generation to create a safe and green future.” Green Latur Vriksh, a local NGO that is working towards planting and

safeguarding trees and improving the air quality in Latur, supported the club in this endeavour.

Saplings of regional plants like Akash Mogra, Gulmohar, Kadamba, Karanj and Bahawa were planted.■

Entertainment and food for inmates of old age home

Rotary Club of Madras Magnum (RCMM), RID 3232, organised a musical programme followed by dinner for the inmates of Daya Sadan, an old age home in Ayanavaram, Chennai, that houses 110 elderly people who have been abandoned by their family. Two professional singers entertained them as they clapped and danced to popular Tamil, Telugu and Hindi songs. Club members distributed snacks and served dinner to the inmates.■



Club members distribute snacks to the inmates of the old age home.

Machine to produce eco-friendly logs in Jalandar

Team Rotary News

Under Project *Gau Kasht*, a machine was installed at a *gaushala* by RC Jalandar, RID 3070. Nupur Sandhu, club president, explained that the machine will produce eco-friendly logs made from cow dung which in turn can be used as fuel for cremation and religious ceremonies. "This will help save our environment and trees while the cow dung will be put to good use," he said.

DG Barjesh Singhal, project director Mahesh Gupta and assistant governor Rajesh Bahri, were present at the installation.■

Club members at the inauguration of the machine that produces eco-friendly logs.



Health camps in Agra



To highlight the importance of being proactive about health, RC Agra Neo, RID 3110, conducted health check-up camps at three different hospitals in Agra. Titled *Know Your Numbers*, these camps screened over 500 people for cholesterol, HDL, LDL, triglycerides, glucose, blood pressure, weight, body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference.

The club also conducted a tree plantation drive.■

Club members plant a sapling.

Educating prisoners' children

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Nagpur Metro, RID 3030, along with RCs Nagpur West, Nagpur North and Rashtriya Sewak Sangati, distributed school bags, uniforms, lunch boxes, water bottles,

notebooks and raincoats to 150 children of prisoners lodged in the Central Jail, Nagpur.

The project was coordinated by club member Dr Keshav Walke with

the Maharashtra Shasan Karagruh Vibhag and TATA Samajik Vigyan Sanstha. These children had cleared their Class 10 board exams despite challenges.■

Greening drive in Haldwani



The members of RC Haldwani, RID 3110, planted saplings in various localities across the town as part of their environment care project. They also organised a fogging operation to check mosquito menace in the town.

A session on kidney diseases and care, and cancer awareness was organised by the club. Oncologist Dr Shalabh Arora and nephrologist Dr HS Bhandari spoke at the programme which was attended by Rotarians and general public.■

A mega eye camp for tea estate workers

Team Rotary News

More than 400 plantation workers at the Temi Tea Garden, South Sikkim, were screened at the mega eye camp organised by RC Gangtok South, RID 3240, in partnership with the Greater Lions Eye Hospital, Siliguri.

Speaking at the inauguration of the eye camp under Project *Ujjyala*, Sikkim minister for commerce and industries, tourism and civil aviation BS Panth said,

“as the workers at the tea estate hardly have time to visit a primary health centre for check-up, the eye camp will benefit them a lot. For eye testing, they have to visit the district hospital, Namchi, where the facilities are not affordable to them.”

The beneficiaries, mostly tea workers, were happy to get eye-care facilities at their doorsteps and spectacles were given to needy patients. “Among those screened,

75 were chosen for surgery including cataract. The eye camp got a huge response from the locals and tea workers,” said Gopal Chettri Basnett, club president (2021–22). Temi Tea Garden chairman Tashi Tshering Bhutia was also present at the inaugural event.

One of the three clubs in Sikkim, a Himalayan state attracting a large number of tourists, the club has taken up a number of community projects led



by its president Basnett despite the challenges posed by the corona pandemic.

After taking charge from outgoing president Geeta Sapkota, he called on Sikkim Governor Ganga Prasad at the Raj Bhavan accompanied by seven other Rotarians. The governor was presented a Rotary pin and inducted as the honorary member of the club. Appreciating the club for taking up community service, Prasad urged them to create

Below: RC Gangtok South president Gopal Chettri Basnett (2021–22) at the centre during the inauguration of eye camp at the Temi Tea Garden. Also seen are Sikkim minister B S Panth (5th from R) and to his left is tea estate chairman Tashi Tshering Bhutia.



A child being examined at the medical camp.



awareness on organ donation in the hill state. “One of my priorities is membership drive, though we had lined up a few service programmes subject to certain conditions,” said Basnett.

Singapore delegation

A delegation of Singapore Rotarians visited the club and interacted with Basnett and others. “We apprised them about our projects and they in turn, shared their Rotary work back home,” he said.

IPDG Dr Mohan Shyam Konwar visited the club, along with his spouse Minoo, and he was briefed about the ongoing projects and activities. Konwar shared about the work of his home club, RC Tinsukia, and the growth of Rotary in the eight northeastern states and some parts of West Bengal under his jurisdiction. Senior Rotarians — Kiran Rasaily, Udai Sharma and AG Prakash Sundas — gave a detailed account of the club projects for Konwar. ■

Cataract surgery camp at Honavar

Team Rotary News

Around 120 patients were screened at the cataract eye surgery camp hosted by RC Honavar, RID 3170, at the St Ignatius Hospital. Among them, 36 were operated on by a medical team led by Dr Narendra Shenoy from Udupi. "We have been doing this cataract eye camp for 52 years, benefitting mostly the less privileged families in the rural communities," said Rtn Mahesh Kalyanpur, primary contact of the club.

Twenty computers were installed at the Government First Grade Degree College in a joint project with Cognizant Technology Solutions and Deshpande Skilling



Beneficiaries after cataract surgery.

Foundation. College Development Council trustee Shashikala Shastri was the chief guest at the hand-over

event in which zilla panchayat members and college faculty took part in large numbers. ■

Stationery donated to **Pondy students**

DG V Selvanathan distributed stationery items worth ₹20,000 sponsored by RC Pondicherry White Town, RID 2981, to around 150 students at the Kombakkam Government Primary School in the presence of MLA R Siva, leader of the opposition in the Puducherry Legislative Assembly.

The club repainted the school building and walls with drawings having social messages to create awareness among the students. The project worth ₹90,000 was sponsored by Keerthi Traders. DG Selvanathan praised the club for beautifying the school campus with colourful drawings. ■



DG V Selvanathan and club president S Vaitheeswaran to his right at the government school with a new coat of colourful sketches on its walls.

Club inducts transgender members

Team Rotary News

Rotary of Club Dombivili North, RID 3142, has inducted three transgenders as members of the club. Club president Dr Ramesh Natekar says, “As our commitment to DEI in Rotary we have inducted them as members and we are honoured and

privileged to have Dr Yoga Seelesh Nambiar, Nadiya Uvtukuri and Manasi Laxmi as our members. All of them are strong representatives of the transgender community.”

Yoga Seelesh is India’s first trans person with a PhD in Mental Health, a classical dancer

and a social reformer. Manasi Laxmi, president of the Aarju Foundation, has helped improve the lives of hundreds of sex workers during the pandemic, and Nadiya Uvtukuri is providing transgenders a platform to showcase their talent through her NGO.

The club has developed plans to reach out to more than 5,000 transgenders during the year with various sustainable projects. “We want to work with this community and ensure their representation in Rotary,” says Natekar. ■



DG Kailash Jethani (3rd from L) along with club president Dr Ramesh Natekar and newly inducted transgenders.

D 2981

RC Nagapattinam

PDG S Piraiyon inaugurated a renovated toilet block at a government high school in Azhinchamangalam village which was adopted by the club. An RO plant was installed at the school, while Rotarians planted saplings on the campus. A new Interact club was started by district Interact chairman T Jayakumar with the support of club president P Karthikeyan.



D 3000

RC Karur

The club donated 16 desk-benches for two classrooms at the Vengaampatti Government Higher Secondary School at a project cost of ₹1.16 lakh. With this furniture, children will be able to sit in a relaxed manner and can write on the notebooks without straining their back.



D 3000

RC Pudukkottai City

A new club, RC Arandai, was chartered in the presence of IPDG R Jeyakkan. He presented the citation to the charter president R Muralidharan and secretary S Meyyappan. The then AG G Krishnan, zonal coordinator A Karate Kannaiyan and district office-bearers were present. The then club president G Marimuthu chaired the installation.





D 3012

RC Delhi Mayur Vihar

A health check-up camp was organised to mark International Women's Day with the help of Sree Krishna Medical and Research Centre. Mammography, cervical cancer, blood sugar, haemoglobin and bone density tests were done on patients. The project enhanced the public image of the club.



D 3020

RC Narsipatnam

Desk-benches were donated to Venkunaidupeta Primary School for students to study in a relaxed manner in classrooms. Also, cot mattresses were given to a Covid care centre, Narsipatnam. Both the projects were covered in the local media including dailies earning goodwill for the club.



D 3030

RC Chandrapur

More than 30 women had registered for the tailoring programme, which is an ongoing vocational project aimed to provide a sustainable income for less privileged families. Local MLA Kishor Jorgewar donated five sewing machines. Project director Smita Thakre and Rtn Dr Asawari Deotale worked for the success of the project.

D 3030

RC Chopda

A Rotary Garden was developed for children to play in the evening, apart from a 300-metre walking track for senior citizens. Sub-divisional police officer Krushikesh Rawale inaugurated the park in the presence of club president Pankaj Borole, project chairman Vilas Patil and secretary Pravin Mistry.



D 3030

RC Jalgaon East

Six-year-old Annet Nandini Sangramsingh Suryawanshi installed a 'No Entry' board at a spot filled with potholes and had seen 30 accidents recently. She executed the project with the help of Rotarians under Project *Road Safety*. Around 500 vehicles which passed through this spot would benefit from the Rotary sign board. She is the daughter of club president Sangramsingh Suryawanshi.



D 3030

RC Malegaon Fort

A PolioPlus campaign was conducted at the Wadel health centre and children below five years were vaccinated. IPP Dr Arun Pathade, then club secretary Nilesh Patil, district polio committee chairman Shishir Hire (2021–22) and Rtn Sagar Lonari were present at the inoculation programme.





D 3040

RC Indore Adarsh

A mega tree plantation drive was conducted at the Katherine Home, a special home run by the missionaries, at Tillor Buzurg village near Indore as the maiden project for the new Rotary year. Around 200 saplings were planted by Rotarians in the presence of club president Monica Purohit and secretary Dr Lalita Sharma.



D 3054

RC Ahmedabad Greater

The club distributed sanitary napkins to girls at the Jivan Tirth vocational training centre, an NGO, at the Juna Vadaj slum area of the city. This project *Green Periods* was done jointly with three other clubs from RID 3131. Rotarians celebrated the first day of new Rotary year, 2022–23, by spreading smiles among the less privileged families.



D 3060

RC Senoras Jamnagar

A talk on menstrual hygiene was delivered by Dr Kalpana Khandheriya and Dr Pravina Santwani at the DKV Commerce College, Jamnagar. During the interaction, a lot of questions on personal hygiene and lifestyle raised by the girls were answered by the experts.

D 3060

RC Surat East

In a mega drive, over 60,000 notebooks were distributed at 25 schools having more than 12,000 children at slum areas and a remote forest belt at a total project cost of ₹16 lakh. Also, the beneficiaries included over 750 orphans and 50 children of widows.



D 3060

RC Udhna

New club president Chetan Jariwala was installed by past president Dr Laxmikant Kasat in the presence of IPDG Santosh Pradhan, AG Dr Ajay Mahan, Rtn Tushar Shah, PDGs and presidents of other clubs. A large number of Rotarians attended the installation at the Science Centre, Surat. Public image chairman Bilal Memon made the arrangements.



D 3120

RC Lucknow

UP minister Arun Kumar inaugurated an herbal park on the campus of King George Medical University, Lucknow. A large number of dignitaries were present at the event chaired by club president Naren Kumar Agarwal (2021–22). A yoga session was held at the National Botanical Research Institute to mark World Yoga Day with a large number of Rotarians and their families doing the *asanas*.





D 3120

RC Sultanpur

A sanitary pad vending machine was installed at the Swami Vivekanand Inter College, Gopalpur Madhaiya, during an MHM workshop for students conducted by Dr Sudhakar Singh. Rtns Neerav Pandey, Nimendra Goyal and Indresh Pandey were present. A Facebook programme titled *Medi Charcha* was conducted by Dr Ashish Srivastava on asthma awareness to mark World Asthma Day. It was moderated by president Sundeeep Kumar (2021–22).



D 3120

RC Varanasi East

Three teachers from a self-help group were felicitated for teaching 75 poor children. Rotarians provided them with stationery items and gave ice cream and juice tetra packs to children. They assured the teachers all the help. Free spectacles were given to inmates of the district jail, Varanasi, following a request from the jail superintendent.



D 3131

RC Poona West

In partnership with RC Kolhapur Sunrise, RID 3170, four trolley mounted, high-capacity dewatering pumps were donated to the Kolhapur Municipal Corporation through a CSR funding of ₹80,000. This will help the civic agency in its emergency relief efforts during frequent floods that inundate the city and nearby areas.

Rotary Literacy projects in Chidambaram

Team Rotary News

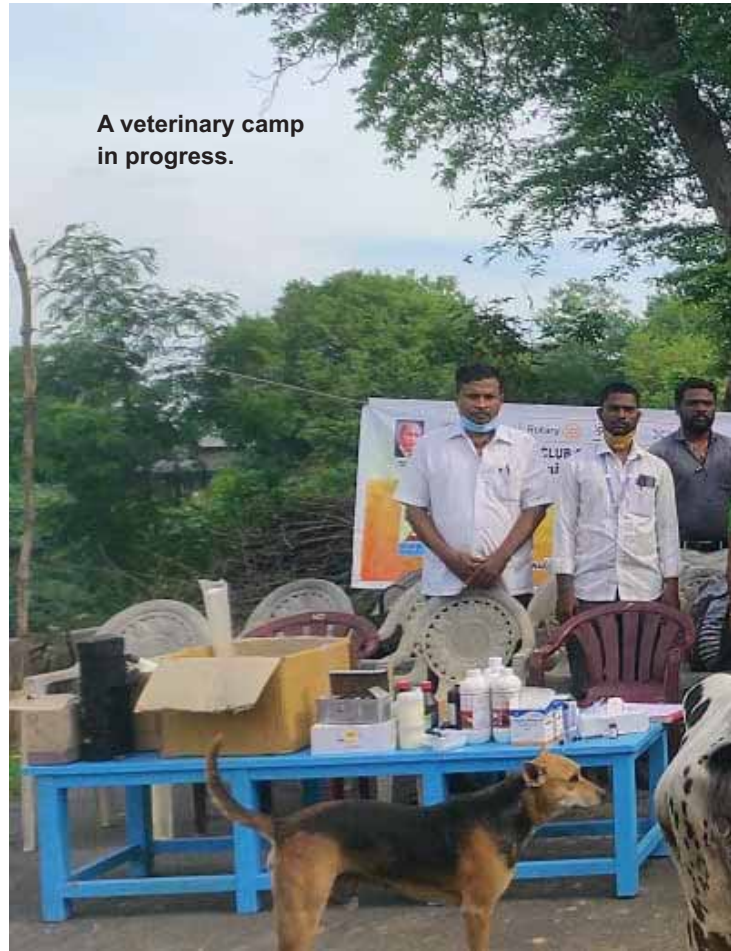
RC Chidambaram Midtown, RID 2981, is reaching out to schoolchildren with its various literacy-related service projects this year. The club members have been distributing notebooks and stationery to village schools.

“We are providing scholarships and financial aid to students who are unable to pay the school fees,” says club president S Praghadeeswaran, adding

that ₹10,000 was given to a college student pursuing a degree course in the Annamalai University, and ₹2,000 was given to a girl student who had lost her father recently.

The club, along with RCs Kollidam and Chidambaram and Winsoft, organised a career counselling workshop for youngsters. Resource persons from the Annamalai University provided guidance and

A veterinary camp in progress.



PDG Balaji Babu inaugurates Rotary Bhawan in Chidambaram.



Grocery kits being given to school students.

tips to students on equipping themselves with soft skills and career-related courses. They provided them information on various career opportunities available in the government and private sectors. Winsoft director K Nirmala urged the students to get trained in the accounting software Tally which will give them sure shot employment.

PDG Balaji Babu inaugurated the club's Rotary Bhawan in Chidambaram recently.

The club organised a veterinary camp in the town. Cattle owners from surrounding villages brought their cattle for checkup and treatment. A breast-feeding awareness camp and a mental health camp were also organised by the club. ■

D 3131

RC Pune Sports City

A computer lab was set up at the Bal Kalyan Sansthan, a centre for the training, welfare and education of special children, to enhance the classroom experience of visually-impaired students. Five desktop computers, Braille keyboards, speakers, LAN connectivity and printer were part of the digital classroom sponsored by Rtn Nitin Karia.



D 3160

RC Gulbarga

Vijayashree Mathad, consultant, Narayana Health CSR, Kalaburagi, gave a talk on Swami Vivekananda to mark National Youth Day. The then president Shankar Kodla and secretary Shivaraj Patil (2021–22) felicitated the guest speaker. In another meet, Somesh Chikkamath, branch manager, KSFC, Kalaburagi gave a talk on 'Development of industries'. He was honoured by Kodla.



D 3170

RC Honavar

A science lab experiment kit was donated to the Government High School, Prabhatnagar. The kit costing ₹5,000 can do up to 200 experiments in the local language for students from Class 8–10. The project will benefit 240 students to begin with and 25 Rotarians were involved in its execution.





D 3170

RC Hubli East

PDG Bazil Dsouza gave certificates and cash prizes to meritorious, poor students of Rotary School, Bengeri, who had scored 95 per cent and above in both Kannada and English medium at the Class 10 board exams. Fifty-two people donated blood at the two camps at Amargol village and the Sushruta Hospital. The events were supported by the Rastrotan Blood Bank and Sushruta Hospital.



D 3170

RC Kolhapur City

Fruit-bearing and flowering trees were planted to mark Van Mahotsav Week on July 1 in the presence of new club president Jayant Nerlekar, secretary Abhijit Pimpalkar and AG Praveen Kumbhojkar. During the installation of Nerlekar and his team by DGN Sharad Pai, two sewing machines were donated.



D 3182

RC Hassan Royal

A workshop on Domestic Violence Act was conducted for 50 women KSRTC employees. Club president SR Manu (2021–22), senior advocate Girijambika and KSRTC Training Centre chief Mallikarjun were present. Another session on healthcare was conducted for women at the KSRTC centre. The then district chairperson for disease prevention Dr Sowmya Mani shared information on women-related health issues.

D 3182

RC Shimoga Central

An UV water filter was installed at a government school in Konagavalli village, a remote area. PDG GN Prakash spoke on the importance of education and urged village elders to send their children to school. The UV system will benefit all the 36 students at this school.



D 3190

RC Bangalore Udyog

With the support of other Rotary and Inner Wheel clubs, Rotaractors and trade bodies, mega donation camps were held at eight locations in Bengaluru and around 600 units of blood was collected. Vocational Service Awards were presented to six physicians to mark Doctor's Day. Club president P Jaishankar and secretary Ankit Agarwal coordinated the events.



D 3211

RC Kadakkal

Under Project *Poomukham* floor tiling was provided to the veranda of the houses of seven less privileged families at a cost of around ₹1 lakh. IPDG K Sreenivasan inaugurated the newly-laid floors in September last year. The beneficiaries thanked the club for the gesture.





D 3212

RC Sivakasi

Mayor Sangeetha Inbam inaugurated the first project of Rotary year, cleaning the garbage and debris, at the Government Hospital, Sivakasi. Bulldozers were used to clear the weeds and bushes in the hospital's vicinity. Rotarians gave food packets to conservancy workers including sweepers who work in the night. Club president R Natarajan, IPP MN Manoharan and project chair S Selvakumar were present.



D 3262

RC Bhubaneswar

A district DEI seminar on the LGBTQ community was hosted jointly with RC Bhubaneswar Utkal, Flamingo, Centennial and RC Khandagiri with IPDG Santanu Kumar Pani as the chief guest. Social activist Meghna Sahoo, writer Sahadev Sahoo and lecturer Biswaranjan Jena were among the resource persons. District chair Smita Sinha (2021–22) was the project chair; while the then club president Harichandran took care of logistics.



D 3262

RC Rajdhani Bhubaneswar

Rtn Parthasarathi Jena led the Odisha girls and boys' teams of roll ball, a new sport being played by skaters, as their coach at the national championship in Pune. Charter president Sandeep Nanda (2021–22) was the team manager.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

A summit on Rotary Action Groups

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Bangalore Downtown and the International Service Avenue of RID 3190 together conducted an awareness programme on Rotary Action Groups (RAG) in Bengaluru. The programme was initiated to impart greater awareness about RAGs and its importance in international service among Rotarians, said Tejaswini Jaisimha, president, RC Bangalore Downtown. Twenty-eight Rotary clubs participated in organising the event.

International service directors Rashmi Tanksali and Shankar Sastry provided a bird's eye view presentation of international service,



Rotarians at the Rotary Action Groups Summit.

including cultural exchange, Rotary Days, Rotary Foundation and global grants.

RAG chair Raghu Allam gave an overall picture of Rotary Action Groups, its role, membership, the freedom it gives to serve beyond borders on a specific focus area, sharing one's knowledge and experience, networking, public image and increasing membership.

Allam informed that there are 27 RAGs in the world and of that nine

groups are active in the district. He encouraged clubs to start new action groups.

DGN Satish Madhavan was the chief guest. About 140 Rotarians participated in the summit at the end of which seven clubs formed seven new RAGs. The newly-formed actions groups include mental health, basic education and literacy, food plant solutions, peace, domestic violence, family health and endangered species. ■

Rotarians celebrate Independence Day



Rotarians celebrate Independence Day with police.

Rotarians of RC Dombivli West, RID 3142, celebrated Independence Day by organising a variety of events. A 5-km marathon had the participation of 125 people, and a 15-day run was held for the police personnel. T-shirts were distributed for the participants.

The club has announced its ongoing fundraiser for the next year, the fifth edition of the *Dombivli Pride Run 2023*. Every year this marathon is organised to support a particular social activity. So far activities such as 'pregnant mata adoption scheme for nutrition', 'Thalassemia awareness and treatment', and 'water conservation' have been completed with the help of this fundraiser, said club president Shailesh S Gupte. ■

Rotary roundabout to enhance public image in Nashik

Team Rotary News



DG Anand Jhunjhunuwala (centre) doing the *bhoomi puja*.

DG Anand Jhunjhunuwala participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a Rotary Chowk by RC Nasik, RID 3030, at a prominent place in the city. The island will give good visibility to Rotary as the area

receives several footfalls all day through, says Vinayak Deodhar, club's primary contact.

The 77-year-old club has a Rotary Hall in the heart of the city and it serves as a preferred venue for conducting meetings

by various Rotary clubs and other NGOs. The Nashik municipal corporation gave permission to the club for the construction of the Rotary Chowk. ABH Builders and Developers have agreed to sponsor the construction. ■

Dombivli Rotarians include transgenders in their celebration



Rotarians celebrate with transgenders.

Rotary Club of Dombivli Midtown, RID 3142, celebrated the *Shravan Haldi Kumkum*

(Maharashtrian festival where women visit each other's homes and exchange turmeric and

vermillion powder) with transgenders. "We want to observe Rotary's new DEI (diversity, equity

and inclusion) mantra," said club president Ajay Kulkarni. The festival was celebrated in association with NGO Sudhashree which is run by club member Balwant Joshi. The programme was conceived by Madhuri Joshi under the guidance of past president Leena Lokras.

The transgenders were very happy to interact with the Rotarians and thanked them for setting an example to consider them as equals, said Kulkarni. ■

An elders' wing of RC Bangalore South

Indira Jia Prakash

There are separate wings for young people and students in most Rotary clubs. RC Bangalore South (RB South), RID 3190, has the distinction of having the 'Senior Citizens Sangha' (SCS) to provide a separate platform for seniors to engage in service activities apart from their regular participation in RB South.

SCS of RB South was chartered in 2011 by Rtn Dr Rajasekhara Setty. Since then it has engaged in several community activities

involving seniors. The sangha has a president, chairman, secretary and 10 board members. At present it has 73 members. The sangha conducts a board meeting and a general meeting every month. This Rotary year, under the chairmanship of Anand Kota and president Revathi, SCS has conducted several programmes.

The sangha has adopted several old age homes and conducts medical camps and supports other organisations in health check-up camps. Providing drinking water and other

basic necessities especially during Covid lockdown and aftermath has been one of its useful projects. In association with the Indian Dental Association, a camp was organised to care for dental health of seniors. Partnering with Rotary Whitefield Central, SCS conducted an eye and dental check-up camp at Varthur.

Along with Swabhimana and other Rotary clubs it has worked for empowerment of women through health awareness and entrepreneurship development. The sangha participated in a





Above: Blankets being distributed at the Gandhi Seva Ashrama.

Below: DG Jeetendra Aneja (4th from L), along with members of RC Bangalore South, at the launch of cloth bags distribution.



SCS keeps in mind the social and mental health of its members. Every month members assemble for fellowship. Birthdays and anniversaries of members are celebrated with gusto.

blood donation camp organised at Adichunchanagiri College, Nelamangala.

Over 2,000 blankets were distributed to residents of Shri Annapoorneshwari Old Age Home on Magadi Road and to several needy families in Bangaluru. It joined RB South in donating blankets during winter months at Udaya Bhanu Kala Sangha, Bengaluru.

Walking sticks worth ₹40,000 were distributed to 150 elderly patients requiring assistance to walk at the Kuppam Hospital.

SCS has joined hands with RB South in its scholarship projects and provided financial assistance to two students. On International Women's

Day, it distributed sarees to women. The sangha plans to distribute notebooks and uniforms to children from disadvantaged background.

The members of SCS recently distributed cloth bags to the public. Rajesh Hiremath, district director, Public Image, launched this programme with AG Vijay Kumar Pobbathi. This is a huge public image initiative wherein the bags are printed with 4-Way Test on one side and Rotary's seven areas of focus on the other side. Hundreds of saplings are being planted throughout the year by the sangha members.

SCS keeps in mind the social and mental health of its members. Every month members assemble, usually at the VVN School premises for fellowship. Birthdays and anniversaries of members are celebrated with gusto. Celebrities are invited and honoured occasionally. The members participate with enthusiasm in Janapada (folk artist) event, family and cultural events of RB South.

The seniors are proving that in Rotary mind triumphs over matter.

*The writer is a member of
RC Bangalore South*

Deonar Rotarians focus on women's empowerment

Team Rotary News

Vidya Subramanian, president, Rotary Club of Deonar, RID 3141, began the Rotary year with an initiative, *Yes, we can* — as part of the club's 'encouraging the

empowered' programmes. The first event under this initiative was to felicitate the all-women crew of the city's BEST bus — Lakshmi, the bus driver, and Sujata, the conductor. The women were honoured at

the club's first meeting for the year. They both narrated their struggles and how they went on this unique path to achieve not just success but also establish a voice of their own.

The club organised a fundraiser by collaborating with budding artists through *Art for the Soul*, an exhibition of their paintings. They donated part of the proceeds from the sale of the paintings for the club's women's empowerment programme — *Project Pink Angels*.

A seminar was organised for school students to create awareness about burns prevention, first aid and organ donation. This seminar was held at the General Education



Above: Umbrellas distributed to students at the Shahaji Nagar school.

Top right: Club president Vidya Subramanian and her team at the *Art for the Soul* exhibition.

Left: Little Roshni Malik celebrates her birthday at the hospital.



Academy School in Chembur by a team from the National Burns Centre. The talk by Dr Kanan Gharat focused on burns safety and club member Dr Sunil Keswani shed light on the importance of organ, eye and skin donation to an audience of 185 students, staff and Rotaractors.

Three-year-old Roshni Malik was treated for a congenital heart defect known as the Tetralogy of Fallot, a situation where the child had four defects in the heart and required immediate surgery. She was

treated at the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, under the club's ongoing global grant; RC Campo Mourao, Brazil, is the international partner.

Project Barsaat

The club has been distributing umbrellas, under its Project *Barsaat*, to schoolchildren studying in underprivileged localities during the monsoons. Recently 200 children studying in the Subhaschandra Bose Vidyalaya in Mankhurd and

100 children in the Shahaji Nagar Tamil Municipal Public School in Datta Nagar and Trombay in Mumbai received umbrellas from the Rotarians.

The club has been associated with this municipal school for several years. "We have supported the school with computers, water purifiers and notebooks, and an urban forest was developed on the school grounds using the Miyawaki technique," says club member Vivek Khandelwal. ■

High-visibility projects in Kushinagar

V Muthukumaran

Around 200 people were screened for ailments and chronic diseases at a mega health camp organised by RC Kushinagar, RID 3120, in partnership with the Medanta Hospital, Lucknow, at the courtyard of bus terminus, Kasia.

Sub-divisional magistrate Purna Borah inaugurated the camp in which Kushinagar MP Vijay Kumar Dubey, its MLA PN Pathak and Khadda MLA Vivekanand Pandey took part

and got their health examined. In his address, Dubey praised the club for arranging the health camp which will benefit those coming from the rural areas as they now had access to modern diagnosis by top class physicians who also have an opportunity to serve the people. Free testing was done for heart, stomach and general diseases with a panel of doctors giving consultations to the patients. Dr Ashutosh Sharma (cardiology), Dr Asutosh Tiwari (gastroenterology), Dr Parijaat

Mishra, paramedics Shobha Singh and Ayushi Mishra and admin staff offered their free services. Club patron Rakesh Jaiswal felicitated the political representatives and doctors.

Two youths, Satyajit Pawar from Mumbai and Vishwajit Sarkar from West Bengal, who were trekking from Arunachal Pradesh to Ladakh, a distance of 3,500km, were felicitated by club members after the duo reached the Mahaparinirvana Stupa of Lord Buddha, Kushinagar. They began their





Above: 10-year-old Arav Bhardwaj being felicitated by club members during his cycling expedition from Manipur to Delhi.

Below: RC Kushinagar president Dr MH Khan (sitting, 3rd from L) and secretary Wahid Ali (right), along with club patron Rakesh Jaiswal (centre) at the eye camp at the Junior High School, Kasia.



journey on April 10 and would travel by foot for 72 days to reach Ladakh. "We garlanded the youths, and honoured them with shawls, mementoes and Rotary flags," said Wahid Ali, club secretary.

To record their travel experience, they are writing a book which will also motivate people to plant trees regularly to save the environment. "One of their goals is to know the civilisation, culture and traditions of different states of India," said Ali. Besides Ali, club treasurer Gaurav Madheshia and Rtns Ajay Singh, Dinesh Yadav, Rajiv Jaiswal, Abhishek Pandey, Alok Yadav and Adarsh Shukla were present at the felicitation meet. To mark Environment Day, 100 Ashoka saplings were planted at government schools in Fazilnagar panchayat near Kushinagar with the support of a construction firm. A Rotary memento was given to the chief guest SDM Borah.

Eid celebration

Rotarians exchanged Eid greetings with the elders at the Vridhashram

old age home in Kasia. "We offered vermicelli, curd, chickpeas and fruits to the senior citizens and sought their blessings on the occasion," said Ali.

Club patron Jaiswal said he was happy to celebrate Eid, a festival of brotherhood and harmony, at the old age home. "It was pleasure for us all to spend time with the elderly people at the retirement home on Eid," said Dr MH Khan, club president. Project coordinators Sahil Ahmed and Sandeep Kumar Rauniyar conducted the programme in a successful manner.

Cycle expedition

A 10-year-old Delhi boy, Arav Bhardwaj, who was on a cycle expedition from Moirang in Manipur to Delhi, pedalling 2,500km to spread the message of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, was honoured by the club in the presence of his father, grandfather and friends during his pit stop at Kushinagar.

The Class 6 student began his journey on April 14 from Moirang



Club secretary Wahid Ali exchanges club flags with RC Darjeeling Himalayas president Dipankar Talukdar (R) during an inter-club meeting.

where the Indian National Army of Subhas Bose hoisted the tricolour for the first time on this date in 1944. “All the cyclists including his father and grandfather were honoured with mementos, Rotary emblems and caps on the day of their departure from Kushinagar,” said Wahid Ali.

Arav said he was inspired by his grandfather Mitra San Bhardwaj who narrated to him the gallantry of INA troops led by Bose and wanted to spread Netaji’s message on his 125th birth anniversary, 75th year of India’s Independence and 78th anniversary of hoisting the tricolour. “I want to join the Army and serve the nation,” he said.

Infused with national pride, he said that his father, Dr Atul Bhardwaj, supported the idea of going on a cycle expedition to spread the message and idealism of Netaji Bose. The boy’s relative Rohtash Kumar Bhardwaj and friend Jespar Balsara were also honoured by the club. The cycle rally will end after reaching the National War Memorial in Delhi spreading the message of unity in diversity.

Inter-district inter-club meetings were held with RCs Guwahati Metro,

Gangtok South and Darjeeling Himalayas, RID 3240. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss among the Rotary members new ideas, plans and achievements in social work. RC Guwahati Metro secretary Ravi Shankar Dutta (2021–22), RC Gangtok South then president Gopal Basnet and RC Darjeeling Himalayas then president Dipankar Talukdar made presentations about their club projects and outreach activities.

Mega eye camp

Around 370 patients were examined at an eye check-up camp at the Junior High School, Kasia, in a joint event with RC Gorakhpur Midtown.

Inaugurating the eye camp, Kushinagar MLA PN Pathak noted the noble work of Rotary and said, “whenever the club needs help while doing social projects, I will always be there with you.” Jaiswal and president Dr Khan felicitated the MLA. Among the patients, 114 were chosen for cataract operation and 90 were given spectacles. “All those screened were given medicine and free surgeries were done at the Rajan Eye Care Hospital, Gorakhpur,” said Ali.

Ration bags were distributed to 30 families to mark the 131th birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, father of Indian Constitution, at a slum colony. Wreaths were laid at his statue and club office-bearers paid tributes to Ambedkar. Stationery items, toffees and biscuits were distributed to the children. Jaiswal recalled the contribution of Ambedkar in the social, economic, political, educational and religious fields in the 65 years of his public life. “Babasaheb Ambedkar fought a lifelong struggle against untouchability and social inequality for which the country still remembers him,” he said. The memorial event was done jointly with RC Gorakhpur Midtown and the Nine Foundation, an NGO.

As a ‘thank you’ gesture, eight workers at the community health centre, Hata, were presented with Corona Warrior Awards for their selfless discharge of duty during the corona pandemic. “Despite the risks involved, the health workers continued to attend to their duty, which saved thousands of lives,” said Dr Khan. ■

A mega medical camp in Chennai

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Chennai Crown, RID 3232, in association with TPR Ortho Solution, conducted a mega medical camp in the city. The camp included general check-up, orthopaedics and ophthalmology. Over 300 people benefitted from this initiative. Medicines were provided to patients.

In another initiative the club, along with RC Madras Industrial City, conducted a goal-setting workshop for 400 students to help them have a clear vision of their future and guided them with steps to achieve their ambitions. Club president VS Sashikumar was the resource person.■



An MHM workshop for rural girls



Rotarians at an MHM workshop for rural girls.

A menstrual health and hygiene management programme was organised by RC Bangalore East, RID 3190, at the Domlur Government High School for girls. Reusable sanitary napkins were distributed to 80 adolescent girls.

In another initiative, the club conducted POCSO (Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act) awareness workshop at Domlur to throw light on its provisions with regard to child sexual abuse. Club president Shiv Kumar, its secretary Rajesh Kumar and Youth Service director Krishnan were present.

Groceries were distributed to 50 underprivileged families under the club's ongoing project.■

A Rotary foster home in Kolar

Team Rotary News

In an initiative reaching out to orphaned girl children, RC Bangalore Lakeside, RID 3190, inaugurated a foster home for them at Kolar, 66km from Bengaluru, through a joint project with Rotary Bangalore Brigades, Palmville and Platinum City; Dream India Network (DIN); and Sarwa, an NGO.

The new residential home will provide care and guardianship for girl children in the 6–10 years age group whose parents are either dead or unable to look after them due to economic condition. To begin with, the foster home will have 16 girl children. “For RID 3190, this is yet another milestone in the focus area of child care and providing support to children from the rural belt of Kolar district. The children will be looked after by a caretaker mother,” said Kashinath Prabhu, former

president, RC Bangalore Lakeside and DLCC chair.

The district has plans to set up 3–4 more foster homes in partnership with the DIN. PDG KS Nagendra inaugurated the foster home in the presence of Father Edward Thoma, mentor of DIN, presidents and members of the partner

clubs. “Special thanks to Father Edward from DIN for helping us to do the need assessment study at the community and identify the beneficiary children for the care home,” said Prabhu.

Rotary creche

A Rotary creche was started at an urban slum

colony at Doodakennali in association with the Navajeevan Mahila Pragathi Kendra (NMPK). The daycare centre is the tenth such facility set up by the club with the aim to provide basic education and literacy to children in the age group of 2–6 years whose parents are mostly daily





Above: Children at the inauguration of a Rotary creche at a slum colony;
Below: PDG KS Nagendra (centre) with girl children at the foster home.
 Also seen are (from R) RC Bangalore Brigades past president Gayathri Nayak and RC Bangalore Lakeside past president Kashinath Prabhu.



wage earners living in slum colonies.

“The new daycare centre will support 50 children who will be given breakfast and lunch. Basic education will be taught to them in a safe environment. Also, counselling will be given to parents on holistic development of the community,” said Prabhu.

Father James and Sister Clara from the Jeevodaya Ashram, Sister Elsa Mary, members of NMPK and club members, along with their children, were present at the inauguration of Rotary creche. The community members thanked Rotary for setting up the daycare centre in their colony as the nearest anganwadi is far away from their locality. ■

A new Interact club in Pune

Team Rotary News

Rotary E-club of Pune Diamond, RID 3131, chartered the Interact Club of Shree Gopal High School on June 28. Pawan Joshi, club president (2021-22), encouraged the young Interactors to enjoy the experience of being part of Rotary and design programmes and service projects that would interest all the club members.

The parent Rotary club's Youth director Gauri Shikarpur, PDG Deepak Shikarpur, club president Neethi, assistant governor Mukesh were present at the installation of the Interact club. The school principal Tejaswini Rajput expressed happiness and thanked the Rotarians for the initiative that will help the young students grow into responsible adults. ■



PDG Deepak Shikarpur puts a pin on a new Interactor in the presence of then club president Pawan Joshi.

RC Bailhongal gets its Rotary Bhavan



DG Venkatesh Deshpande and IPDG Gaurish Dhond, along with other Rotarians, at the new Rotary Bhavan.

RC Bailhongal, RID 3170, now boasts of its own Rotary Bhavan which was inaugurated on June 27 by the then DG Gaurish Dhond in the presence of MLA Mahantesh Koujalgi and TMC president Basavaraj Janmatti. DG Venkatesh Deshpande, PDGs Avinash Potdar and Durgesh Harthi, and Rotarians from Belgaum, Hubli, Dharwad and Gokak were present.

The club has got its own building now after it was chartered 20 years ago. The ₹1.8 crore worth building was completed in five months. ■