

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



75th

வந்தே மாதரம்

INDEPENDENCE DAY

15th August 2022 | 9.30 am

Anaikatti Tribal Hills
Coimbatore



Grants, welfare aids at club installation

Team Rotary News



TN minister S Reghupathy presenting a hearing aid to a college girl during the installation ceremony at RC Pudukkottai City.

DGN R Raja Govindasamy, RID 3000, installed the new club president R Sivakumar, secretary S Senthilvel and other office-bearers at the investiture in RC Pudukkottai City. Earlier, past president G Marimuthu in his welcome address listed out the community projects done by the club recently.

TN minister S Reghupathy, Rajya Sabha member MM Abdullah, as chief guests, donated a grilled cage for garbage clearance to the Pudukkottai Municipality officials. A hearing aid was given to Beulah, a deaf college girl, to enable her to study without any hindrance through this device.

P Anuradha, a weightlifter and gold medallist in an international event, was presented with Young Achiever's Award. Two poor students were given ₹5,000 each as a

one-time educational grant. New clothes including veshtis and sarees were presented to nine conservancy workers of the municipality; and school bags were donated to nine college and school students

S Raghavan, a district topper in Class 10 board exams, was given a prize with a citation. Zonal secretary A Pandian and AG Lourdes Nathan inducted new members with Rotary pins and certificates.

Zonal secretary K 'Maruti' Mohan Raj, who is also president, Road Safety Awareness Association; charter president K Naina Mohammed; and senior Rotarians of the club spoke on the occasion. Past presidents S Parthipan and S Alagappan anchored the event.

Mohan Raj and club president Sivakumar gave a talk at a blood donation event when a member of Kuruthi Koodu, an NGO in

Pudukkottai, gave blood for a patient in need of an emergency surgery after an accident. Sivakumar, past president Marimuthu and Rtn Durai Nagarathinam felicitated doctor Rotarians and distributed sweets to them to mark Doctors' Day.

Independence Day was celebrated at the Thirukokarnam Primary School with the support of the Parent-Teacher Association of the school. Headmistress R Subbulakshmi presided over the event with ward councillor R Rajeswari as the chief guest. She unfurled the national flag and distributed sweets to the students.

A cultural performance comprising songs, folk dances and patriotic skits were staged by the children in the presence of municipal officials and Rotarians. Club president Sivakumar and other members took part and greeted the children. ■

On the cover: A young participant at the Independence Day event organised by RC Coimbatore Meridian, RID 3201, at a tribal school in Anaikatti, a hamlet near the city.

Birthday celebrations at orphanage

Team Rotary News



Blood donation camp at the Government Rajindra Hospital, Patiala.



Members of RC Patiala Midtown celebrate PDG Sewenter Raj Passi's birthday at Yadvindra Puran Bal Niketan, Patiala.

Members of RC Patiala Midtown, RID 3090, spent time with orphaned children at Yadvindra Puran Bal Niketan,

Patiala. The orphanage houses 30 children who were treated to lunch, snacks and ice cream as part of club member PDG Sewenter Raj Passi's birthday

celebrations in the presence of club president Bhagwan Dass Gupta.

The club also conducted a blood donation camp to collect blood for children suffering from thalassaemia at the Government Rajindra Hospital, Patiala. A total of 36 units was collected and donated to the blood bank at the hospital. Club president Gupta and other members distributed juice, sweets among the thalassaemic children.

Club members participated in a one-day training workshop to learn and implement RID 3090's district projects — *Going to School* and *Care for Seniors*.■

Cricket Fellowship Booth connects Rotarians

KR Parthasarathy

It is with pleasure I would like to share with you the wonderful times we had at the Rotary International Convention in Houston, USA, from Jun 4–8, 2022.

My joy knew no bounds when my application as district chair, Rotary Friendship Exchange, and convener of a world RFE group, for organising a breakout session, and another one for manning a fellowship

booth for the International Fellowship of Cricket Loving Rotarians (IFCR), were shortlisted by the RI Convention Committee.

The breakout session I had organised on 'Connect through recreational fellowship and Rotary friendship exchange' opened to a full-house. Debbie Roopchand, secretary of IFCR from West Indies, spoke on Rotary cricket fellowship. She is the DGN of RI district 7030. DG Ingrid Steinhoff,

RID 2202, Barcelona, Spain, and past president Isabel Rodriguez, from Peru, RID 4465, spoke on Rotary friendship exchange.

We had a Cricket Fellowship Booth at the House of Friendship and it was manned by RID 3232 DGN Ravi Raman, his wife Shobhana, and Rtn Neel, also from the same district. Rotarian friends from Puducherry, Hyderabad and other Indian cities visited our booth to discuss and recall the various memorable



From L: Rtn KR Parthasarathy, RI Director AS Venkatesh, PDG S Krishnaswami, Vinita Venkatesh, Shobhana and DGE Ravi Raman.



From L: PDGs Krishnaswami (3232), Krish Rajendran and Bhashkumar Rajan (both from 3220, Sri Lanka).

games played in the past and how we would enjoy every moment of the game irrespective of the country that was playing.

IFCR members Sajid Bhatti (Pakistan), PDG Isthiaque (Bangladesh) and PDG Rajan (Sri Lanka) and RIDs Mohammad Faiz and AS Venkatesh visited the booth. PRIP Shekhar Mehta played a couple of deliveries and that created a lot of buzz around.

The Cricket Fellowship Booth was a buzz of activity on all five days of the convention and it was heartening to note that a lot of interest was shown by the visitors from the US, Canada and various parts of West Indies. We were thrilled to see the interest shown by a group of Interactors from the US.

The writer is past president of RC Secunderabad, RID 3150

Health camp in Agra

Rotary Club of Agra Neo, RID 3110, organised a series of health camps across the city. The camps were held at three locations — Chiranjeevi Nursing Home at Sikandra, Agra Heart Centre and Deepshika Nursing Home. Rotarian doctors examined the people. Over 220 people benefitted from the camp.

Club president Dr Abhinav Chaturvedi and secretary Yatesh Kumar Singh spoke on the importance of 'Know your numbers' and how it helps in early detection of health disorders. They stressed on periodically checking blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and body mass index and have these parameters within the normal range. ■



PDG Sharat Chandra (centre), with Rotarian doctors, after inaugurating a medical camp at one of the venues.

A marathon for senior citizens at Mansa

Team Rotary News

A marathon was conducted by RC Mansa Royal, RID 3090, to mark Senior Citizens Day (Aug 21) that saw over 20 elders, above 65 years, taking part with enthusiasm. “The aim of the marathon was to spread the message of good health, prosperity and a happy life for senior citizens. Keeping in mind the age of the runners, this marathon was only 750 metre-long, taking place from Baran Hattan Chowk to Gaushala Bhavan,” said PDG Prem Aggarwal.

Mithu Ram Arora, a well-known personality in Mansa, flagged off the event that had some of the famous individuals — Dr K P Singla, Dr Gurbux Singh



Marathon winners with prizes along with Rotarians.

Chahal, Dr Rupinder Singla, Brij Lal Musse Wale, Ashok Garg, Ramesh Kumar and Sat Pal Garg — running along to spread the message of good health. Hot milk and fruits were given to all the participants. Project chairman Harish Garg sponsored the mini race for seniors on

the occasion of his birthday.

Ramesh Jindal, Sat Pal Garg and Ajit Singla took first, second, and third place respectively. Speaking on the occasion, Mansa MLA Dr Vijay Singla praised the club for holding this event exclusively for senior citizens. PDG Aggarwal, Rtn Dr Janak Raj Singla, senior citizens

Bikkar Maghanian and Ashok Garg, Dr KP Singha from the Indian Medical Association addressed a large gathering. Awards and mementoes were given to the participants. Club president Rajesh Singla, secretary Sunil Goyal and other club members were present to encourage the elders during the mini race. ■

A marathon for the elderly being flagged off in Mansa.



Plantation drive to mark Independence Day

Team Rotary News

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, as part of its Independence Day celebrations conducted a tree plantation drive. Under the initiative *Mother Earth* members of the club planted regional tree saplings in Coimbatore. The club also conducted various competitions for the students of RPM Vidyalaya Matriculation School.■

Club members planting a sapling as part of tree plantation drive.



Club donates wheelchairs to the aged



Club members along with beneficiaries at the St Vincent De Paul Aged Home.

RC Hubli East, RID 3170, donated wheelchairs for old people residing at St Vincent De Paul Aged Home in Hubli. Club members planted 50 trees at Amarnagar. The corporator of Hubli Dharwad Municipal Corporation, Sunita Maladkar, participated in the plantation drive and has assured the club to support the plantation drives carried out by it throughout the year.■

RC Alleppey Greater hosts I-Day event

On Aug 15, members of RC Alleppey Greater, RID 3211 celebrated Independence Day with 250 school students by hosting the tricolour and distributing sweets. Various competitions were held for the students and the winners received their awards.

Club president Vijayakumar and other members distributed essentials and medicines to people affected by the floods in remote parts of Alleppey.■



Students dress as Mother India during Independence Day celebrations organised by the club.



World Yoga Day observed with a special yoga camp for Rotarians.

Yoga for fitness

Team Rotary News

To mark Yoga Day (June 21), yoga guru Surendra Verma performed *asanas* (yoga poses) which was followed by Rotarians and their families.

A drinking water booth was set up at a busy junction with two big pots for the pedestrians to quench their thirst during summer months.

Rotarians distributed *prasad* and holy water to pilgrims who were on a *padayatra* on the occasion of Big Mars (June 14), during which Lord Hanuman is worshipped.

With the aim to facilitate morning and elderly walkers, RC Pallia Kalan, RID 3120, installed 10 concrete chairs near the lake coming up under the Amrit Sarovar Yojana, a central government scheme of developing water bodies under the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Act.

Sub-divisional magistrate Amresh, Palia block VDO Arun Kumar Singh and journalist Harish Srivastava, a scribe from *Dainik Jagran*, were the guest of honours at the installation of chairs on the lakefront. ■



A water booth with pots for pedestrians in Palia Kalan.

One unit of blood a day to save lives

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Coimbatore Meridian, RID 3201, organised a blood donation camp with a difference to mark India's 75th Independence Day. It launched the 'One day one unit campaign' aimed at collecting 365 units of blood this year. The Rotarians were successful in collecting 75 units of blood at the Cheran College of Physiotherapy in the city.

"It is an ongoing project since 2019 and we have collected 1,000 units of blood in three years," said Thamilselvan, the



Rotarians with school students at the I-Day event in a tribal village.

club's community service director.

The club members visited a tribal school in Anaikatti, a hilly village

bordering Tamil Nadu and Kerala, and celebrated Independence Day with the children. Speech, essay and fancy dress competitions

on the topic of freedom struggle were conducted for the students. Rotarians distributed prizes and gifts to the children. ■

Focus on healthcare in Faridkot



Rotarians with children and elders at the Radha Krishna Dham.

The members of RC Faridkot, RID 3090, organised a medical check-up camp at the Amandeep Group of Hospitals in Amritsar.

Rotarians marked a birthday with the inmates at the Radha Krishna Dham, a holy place which takes care of abandoned children and elderly. Stationery items were also distributed to schoolchildren and the club installed a motor and pump to provide water to the school.

The club arranged the vaccination against lumpy skin disease for 200 cows in the town. ■

D 2981

RC Chidambaram Central

Around 150 patients were screened for bone mineral density, blood sugar, BP and had x-ray examination at a health camp organised jointly with the Mishrimal Mahaveerchand Jain Trust and GS Ortho Care. DGN S Baskaran and Rtn N Panjanatham, vice-chancellor, TN Teachers Training University, inaugurated the camp.



D 2981

RC Chidambaram Midtown

In a joint initiative with the Inner Wheel Club and Shanmuga Jewellery, 150 notebooks were donated to a government primary school at TS Pettai village. Charter president Gnana Ambalavanan's birthday was celebrated at his house, along with a Thanksgiving event for senior Rotarians. Under *Annapoorna* project, rice bags (2kg each) were donated to two Irular government schools at Killai village.



D 2981

RC Kumbakonam Sakthi

DG Selvanathan inaugurated a blood donation camp at the Rotary Blood Bank to mark the birthday of club president Mythili Muthuvel. Women Rotarians and Rotaractors gave blood to make the camp a success. DG praised the club for taking up service projects.





D 2981

RC Mannargudi

Club president Meenakshi Suriyaprakash distributed nutrition kits to 50 expectant mothers at the upgraded primary health centre, Vaduvur, to mark World Breastfeeding Week. Doctors spoke to beneficiaries on the importance of mother's milk for the newborns. A booklet was also released. A G T Jayakumar, past presidents and Rotarians were present.



D 2981

RC Panruti

Notebooks and sweets were distributed to all the 250 students at the Government Middle School, Soorakkuppam, as part of 75th Independence Day celebrations. Rtn Dr Kavitha Ganesan made the arrangements. Teachers thanked Rotary for the gesture.



D 2982

RC Attur

An awareness session to mark World Breastfeeding Week was held at the Government Hospital, Attur, for expectant mothers. The importance of mother's milk for the newborns was the focus of special lectures. Rotarians distributed nutrition kits to pregnant women and gave them tips for healthy diet for safe delivery.

D 3000

RC Jayankondam

A blood donation camp was held at the Government High School, Jayankondam, with a medical team from Ariyalur making the arrangements. Project chair M Vijayakumar and coordinator G Silambarasan took care of logistics with the support of club president A Jayaraman. District general secretary D Tirunavukarasu inaugurated the camp and gave a speech.



D 3000

RC Madurai Metro Heritage

Rtn Venkatesh CR took charge as the club president, along with his team, at the installation. The event turned out to be an occasion for fellowship among Rotarians and Anns. Dr C Ramasubramanian and Dr Aravind Srinivasan were inducted as honorary members. Venkatesh was felicitated by club members.



D 3030

RC Malegaon Fort

A yoga demonstration was held along with students, professors and the public to mark Yoga Day in partnership with the MVP Samaj's Arts and Commerce College, Soygaon. College principal HM Shirsagar and club president Dr Arun Pathade were present. A PolioPlus booth was set up at the Wadel Health Centre for children aged five and below.





D 3030

RC Nagpur Metro

Ramesh Borkute was installed as club president and Nishant Mishra his secretary at the installation event. Dr Sanjeev Chaudhary and AG Kamlesh Chotwani were the chief guests. Around 50 saplings were planted to restore a fragile ecosystem in a neighbourhood. Rotarians took part in the plantation drive.



D 3030

RC Pusad

Dr Vishwas Dange gave a special talk on World No Tobacco Day. It was jointly organised by the Association of Otolaryngologists of India (AOI), Vidarbha; IMA, Pusad; Patanjali Yog Samiti; Dairy Technology College; and Chintamani Coaching College. Over 200 saplings were planted at the Government Anusuchit Jati Residential School.



D 3054

RC Ahmedabad Divyam

A *Kavi Sammelan* (poetry recital) was organised in which 15 paraplegics, six senior lyricists and four women poets rendered their verses. The event at Vastrapur, a residential colony, was jointly hosted by Darshu Care Charitable Trust, Matobharati and Print Vision; and saw the recital of Gujarati songs. Senior poets were given mementos.

RID 3054

RC Himatnagar

Two public image hoardings were erected at a busy area in the city. One of the billboards mentions a global grant project of donating a Thermo Fisher Centrifuge machine (₹23 lakh) to the blood bank run by the Red Cross Society. This will benefit rural patients. The hoardings will enhance Rotary's visibility in Himatnagar.



D 3080

RC Bathinda Cantonment

Rtn Des Raj Goyal was installed as club president at a ceremony. This was followed by a blood donation camp, a blood sugar and BP check-up camp and cow worship at a *gaushala*. On Krishna Janmashtami, a tree plantation drive was held; and schoolchildren were given fruits and sweets during Independence Day.



D 3110

RC Haldwani

Bicycles were donated to students at the Government Girls School who were studying from Classes 9–12. Rtn Raghubir Singh Kalakoti coordinated the project. At the installation, Rtn Shirish Pathak took charge as the new president and Rtn Sunil Joshi the new secretary. PDG Kishore Katru and AG Dr DK Bhatt were the chief guests.





D 3120

RC Gorakhpur Midtown

A 15-foot high Rotary pillar was inaugurated by Gorakhpur Mayor Sita Ram Jaiswal in the presence of then DG Samar Raj Garg. On one side of the Rotary Wheel, the 4-Way Test was depicted and on the other side, details of this project were highlighted. The edifice has become a selfie point in Gorakhpur. Last year, 115 food and fruit distribution drives were held to mark birthdays and marriage anniversaries.



D 3120

RC Varanasi East

Daily essentials like toothpastes, towels and soaps, along with t-shirts, stationery items and fruits were donated to 26 visually-impaired children at the Amar Jyoti School, Manihara, 36km from Varanasi. Rotarians also planted fruit-bearing trees on the premises. The children displayed their extracurricular skills.



D 3131

RC Pune East

Club president Yogita Vaishampayan and her team distributed school uniforms to 25 deaf and dumb students at the Karnabadhvir Vidyalaya, Hadapsar, near Pune. The faculty thanked Rotary for the gesture. Rotarians interacted with the students in a lively session.



A multi-district meet in Dharwad

Team Rotary News

RC Dharwad Central, RID 3170, hosted a two-day multi-district seminar to help Rotarians brainstorm and discuss about service projects. Rotary districts 3150, 3160, 3181 and 3182 participated in the meet.

Inaugurating the seminar, past TRF trustee Gulam Vahanvaty urged the districts and clubs to undertake meaningful projects, and make

proper use of the global and district grants and CSR funds.

RID 3170 PDG Ganesh Bhat, the event convenor, and RID 3182 PDG Rajaram Bhat spoke about the features of the Rotary India website.

To commemorate the seminar, meaningful service projects were executed in each of the seven areas of focus.

Holy books were exchanged among people representing



Students all set to attend school, thanks to the education aid provided by the Rotarians at the meet.



Past TRF Trustee
Gulam Vahanvaty (extreme L),
RID 3170 DG Venkatesh
Deshpande and PDG Ganesh
Bhat, along with Rotarians,
after distributing sewing
machines to women at the
multi-district meet.

various faiths, to reiterate unity
in diversity as part of the focus
area — peacebuilding and conflict
resolution.

Under basic education and
literacy, the delegates sponsored the
education of 10 girl students who
had dropped out of school due to
their families' financial constraints.
Five children with deformities were
treated and six underprivileged
women were given sewing machines
to help them earn a livelihood,
as part of the community and
economic development initiative.
Under maternal and child health,
nutrition supplements were
distributed to seven women with
children below five years of age.

Addressing water and sanitation
focus area, water filters were given to
two schools and ten adolescent girls
received reusable sanitary napkins.
Under Rotary's environment care
initiative all delegates were given
tulsi plants and urged to grow plants
in their localities.

Host DG Venkatesh Deshpande,
and RID 3160 DG Vommina
Satish Babu, RC Dharwad Central
president Dr Uday Bande and
secretary Nanda Hampiholi were
present.

Rtn Dr Satish Irkal was the event
chair and Sanjay Ingle was the event
secretary.

PDGs Sivannarayana Rao,
Ranganath Bhat, Madhu Prasad,
Abhinandan Shetty and R Gopinath,
DGEs Naseer Borsadwada and HR
Keshav shared their thoughts and
best practices at the seminar. ■



D 3131

RC Pune Royal

A laptop owned by club president Rajendrakumar Saraf was donated to Sau Pratibhatai Pawar Vidyamandir Madhyamik Vidyalaya which will benefit 75 students. Six-month old saplings were distributed to students with an observation book to write down their experience of nurturing the trees. Around 200 students took part in the green drive.



D 3160

RC Davangere

Woollen blankets were distributed to newborns at the CJ Hospital, Davangere, in the presence of club president Roshan Revankar, secretary Somashekar and other members. The beneficiary mothers thanked the club for the gesture and the project earned goodwill among the patients and doctors.



D 3160

RC Dharmavaram Midtown

An IOL camp was conducted in partnership with the Sankara Eye Hospital, Bengaluru. Among the 315 patients who had registered, 203 were chosen for operation. Transport, accommodation and food were arranged by the club for the patients who were all given spectacles. Eyecare pamphlets were distributed to create awareness about ophthalmic diseases.





D 3181

RC Chamarajanagar

In the last Rotary year (2021–22), the club had screened 2,635 patients and done IOL surgeries on 1,667 among them at the Aravind Eye Hospitals, Coimbatore. Food, travel and accommodation were arranged. Rotarians contributed to the success of the eye camps.



D 3182

RC Sringeri

As part of *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav* to mark the 75th year of Independence, the club supported the family of an elderly woman struggling to meet both ends. Grocery bags, cash and new clothes were donated to the indigent family who expressed their gratitude to Rotary for the largesse.



D 3201

RC Cochin Beachside

DG Rajmohan Nair distributed bedsheets, pillows and food to inmates at the Mariyalayam Old Age Home, Panangad. He also planted a jackfruit tree on the premises as part of the *Go Green Project*. The home in-charge thanked Rotary for the donations.

D 3201

RC Coimbatore East

A waiting shed for bus commuters was inaugurated at Arugampalayam village under SS Kulam Panchayat Union. Panchayat officials and Rotarians were present at the event chaired by the then club president Dr PR Muthuswamy. Community service chair Ramesh Kumar and project head Devarajan took care of logistics. The commuters' shed will benefit people from six villages.



D 3201

RC Coimbatore Vadavalli

Over 230 saplings were planted at the Rotary Adarvanam, Peedampalli. On the same day, food was provided to senior citizens at Anbu Illam, an old age home at Perur. This was sponsored by Rtn Saravanan. A large number of Rotarians served the needy people.



D 3212

RC Nagercoil

Two competitions were held for students on designing handmade paper cover instead of using plastic; and smokeless cooking with the winners getting a prize money of ₹4,000. Best Sewing Trainer Award was also given with the support of Guild of Service. Earlier, Rtn M Kumarapandian was installed as the new club president at a ceremony with TV anchor Sumanth Raman as the chief guest.





D 3212

RC Virudhunagar Elite

School fees of 10 poor students at the Mathi Prakasam Memorial Nursery School are paid by the club. Twenty Rotarians contributed ₹18,000 for the project in the presence of club president KB Kamalasekaran. Saplings were planted at the local cemetery with the support of the municipality, Shell Trust and Illamthalir, an NGO.



D 3231

RC Vellore North

DG JKN Palani distributed bicycles to girl students at the Gandhi Nagar Ladies Club, Katpadi. Club president Ravindran, secretary Sekar, past presidents K Loganathan, Kubendran and club members were present. The beneficiaries thanked Rotary for the cycles as this would reduce their commuting time to and from school, thus enabling them to concentrate more on education.



D 3261

RC Jabalpur Premium

PDG Vivek Tanka, Rajya Sabha member, was the chief guest at the installation of new club president Dr Amarendra Pandey and his secretary Ashutosh Pyasi. Outgoing president Varun Tanka spoke on some of the outstanding projects done last year. Saplings were planted by past presidents Baldeep Singh Maini and Manu Sharat Tiwari to mark Doctors' Day.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran



RC Agra past presidents Ashish Agarwal, Dr Alok Mittal and other members at the launch of 'No tobacco' campaign.

'No tobacco' campaign launched in Agra

V Muthukumaran

An awareness campaign against consumption of tobacco in any form was kicked off by RC Agra, RID 3110, on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day (May 31) with the support of Rotaractors and the district administration. "We organised an event for the public and morning walkers at the Paliwal Park and urged them to stop consuming tobacco. An appeal was made to the district authority to declare this park a tobacco-free zone as the first step," said Rtn Manoj R Kumar, club secretary and its primary contact.

Both Rotarians and Rotaractors took out a rally

around the Paliwal Park with banners and placards to sensitise the public on the health hazards of tobacco products which killed half its users before they reached adulthood. Addressing the gathering, Dr Surabhi Gupta, radiation oncologist, SN Medical College, Agra, highlighted the health issues one would face due to tobacco consumption, apart from cancer and urged the public to avoid such deleterious products for a healthy life.

Club president Ashish Agarwal (2021-22) urged the morning walkers at the park to make this green hub a tobacco-free space so that people could get fresh

air. A pledge was read out by Dr Alok Mittal, past president, for the club members, Rotaractors and the participants as part of the anti-tobacco campaign aimed at stopping people from consuming it. Senior members Shanti Swaroop Goyal and Umesh Gupta were also present, along with Anns and a large number of Rotaractors who made the arrangements for the event.

Flag exchange

Eight members from RC Coimbatore Aakruthi, an all-women's club, led by club president Kavitha Gopalakrishnan (2021-22) and AKS member Leema Rose Martin visited Agra and exchanged club flags with RC Agra then president Agarwal in a gala event. "Members of both the clubs had a good interaction sharing best practices as part of fellowship. Some of them narrated their Rotary experiences so far," said Kumar.

Both the clubs had agreed to undertake joint projects in the

coming months. Club trainer Rajeev Lotchan Bhadraraj, Dr Mittal, president-elect Dr Mrinal Sharma (2022–23), secretary-elect Manoj Kumar and treasurer-elect Netrapal Yadav were present at the interaction.

Rtns Surya Pachamuthu and Vijay Kumar who were on a motorcycle rally from Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu to Ladakh were given a rousing reception by the club. “They were visiting Rotary clubs enroute travelling over 7,500km in their bikes to create awareness on eye donation across the country.” Ashish Agarwal, Dr Mittal and Manoj Kumar were present to welcome the Rotarian bikers from Tamil Nadu. “We extended our hospitality to the two noble messengers on wheels after they entered the city of Taj Mahal.”

Health camp for women

Around 70 women got a free testing of their haemoglobin count and blood sugar level by Scientific Pathology, a diagnostic lab, at a free health check-up camp for women at the Sacred Mother Junior High School, Agra. Gynaecologist



Bikers, Rtns Surya Pachamuthu and Vijay Kumar from Tiruppur, being honoured by Ashish Agarwal and Dr Alok Mittal, past president of RC Agra.

Dr Rashmi Singhal explained the gynaec-related problems of women and how to tackle it with right treatment and medicine. “The pathology lab also gave 50 per cent discount to patients for any clinical test prescribed by the doctor. We gave iron tablets to patients,” said Kumar.

Smart class inaugurated

A smart class was inaugurated at the Basic Primary School in Nagla

Paima village at the Tajganga area of Agra. Speaking at the inaugural event, club president Mrinal Sharma pointed out that Rotary India is determined to make all government schools in the country digital-enabled by 2025. Already, smart classes were set up in five schools by the club in June and “we will continue to do similar projects in this year too,” he said.

Rotary is continuously helping the communities in the fields of education and healthcare, said past president Agarwal. School teacher Shrikant Kulshrestha, event coordinator, said the institute will be able to upgrade its teaching quality with support from Rotary as it will bolster the confidence of the faculty and also strengthen its funding base.

The smart class programme was conducted by Dr Mittal. Pencil boxes were given to around 100 children of the school. District government counsel Rajesh Srivastava, police officer Vikas Chaudhary, club secretary Manoj Kumar, Rtns Netrapal Yadav, Namrata Panekar, Aarti Mehrotra and Sangeeta Agarwal were present at the event. ■



Club's past president Agarwal presents a citation to gynaecologist Dr Rashmi Singhal at the health camp for women.

Tackling anxiety for mental wellness

Team Rotary News

A Rotary Action Group in RID 3030 for mental health, DAGMHI — District Action Group for Mental Health Initiatives — has executed a three-phase programme for the public as well as Rotarians with the aim to create awareness about the need to reduce anxiety and stress in everyday life.

While the first phase is open to all, the second and final phases were need-based sessions with mental health professionals and allied service providers.

The anxiety workshop was conducted in Nashik with the support of Rotaractors and there were 30 young participants during phase one of the programme. Dr Nilesh Jejurkar, a top psychiatrist, spoke on the topic of anxiety, its related disorders and questionnaires were distributed to all, which was followed by an interactive session. During phases two and three, there were personal interactions with the experts.

DAGMHI was formed by a group of committed Rotarians

of RID 3030 and non-Rotarians to take up a series of community projects, activities and develop toolkits to promote mental health and wellness in the society.

One of its flagship projects is 'Interventions for strengthening school mental health'. For this, DAGMHI has joined hands with the NIMHANS, Bengaluru, to conduct an online diploma course, a training for government and aided school teachers on counselling. "We are also holding personality training programmes for school and college students. A few online contests like *Joyful July*, review writing and *Manonmeh* (slogan, handmade, digital poster competitions) were organised to sensitise the participants about mental wellness," says Dr Aabha Pimprikar, president, DAGMHI.

With the motto 'Rotary cares for mental health', the DAGMHI comes out with a monthly e-magazine *Mind Matters* to its members in India and abroad.

Global grant project

RCs Nagpur and Naples, Florida, RID 6960, have together for a global grant project titled 'Wellness in a box: Peer leadership and prevention of depression' which is being executed by DAGMHI. "We are trying to expand the reach of the GG project as we have got good feedback from Rotary clubs, RI districts and Inner Wheel clubs," says Aabha.

DAGMHI is also working to set up more district chapters in India and abroad by inviting members from across the world. "These new members will not only help us in promoting the activity; they will also be working as mental wellness ambassadors by means of participating in various activities and projects throughout the year," says DAGMHI chief. ■



Dr Nilesh Jejurkar, psychiatrist, at a workshop to sensitise the public about anxiety disorders.

Rallying for plastic ban

Team Rotary News



From top: Rotarians, Rotaractors and the public at an anti-plastic awareness rally.

A CPR demo in progress.

Rotary Club of Karad, RID 3132, organised a rally to sensitise people against the use of plastics. The campaign was supported by Rotaractors of RAC Karad, the Karad municipal corporation and Enviro Friends Nature Club.

RC Karad president Prabodh Purohit, corporation commissioner Ramakant Dake and Enviro Friends Nature Club president Jalindhar Kashid led the rally and at the end of it, they spoke on the ill-effects of using plastic of any form. They reiterated a blanket ban on plastic bags and urged the public to carry cloth bags when they step out of their homes.

On July 28 — World Hepatitis Day — the club organised an awareness rally to shed light on hepatitis and its prevention.

Club member Dr Shekhar Kognulkar, who is also the medical officer at the Undale Rural Hospital, educated the audience about the infectious viral disease that affects the liver.

In another initiative the club members arranged for a demo on CPR — cardiopulmonary resuscitation, an emergency procedure that can help save a cardiac patient. ■

Promoting mangrove cultivation in Kolkata

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Kolkata Benevolence, RID 3291, organised a seminar — Mangroves crisis and solution — to create awareness about mangrove plantations, and its related challenges and strategies. The sessions involved discussions with representatives of the WWF, forest department, panchayats, other NGOs and Rotary clubs of the district.

The topics included destruction of mangrove beyond human control, various ways of conservation considering biotic and abiotic factors, community engagement and sustainable livelihood support. The seminar also sought to busting the myths surrounding mangrove plantation.

The seminar was chaired by the club's vice-president Chandan Gupta. PDG Sudip Mukherjee was also present.

Rtn Kaushik Sen was installed as president of RMB (Rotary Means Business), Kolkata chapter, in the



PRIP Shekhar Mehta, RIDE Anirudha Roy Chowdhury and DG Ajoy Kumar Law release the club bulletin during the installation event of RC Kolkata Benevolence.

presence of DG Ajoy Kumar Law, his spouse Mitali Law, PDGs Raj Khandelwal, Brojo Gopal Kundu and Ajay Agarwal. Sen got the charge from immediate past president Manoj Jain.

DG Law urged more Rotarians to join the chapter to make it more vibrant and beneficial for all.

Any Rotarian looking for business connections can join RMB Kolkata by paying an annual fee of ₹15,000. Two meetings will be held every month. Only two members from the same profession can be admitted in RMB, said Sen who is a member of RC Kolkata Benevolence.

The club celebrated its second installation in the presence of PRIP Shekhar Mehta, RIDE Anirudha Roy Chowdhury, DG Law, Mitali, PDGs Rajkumar Rajgaria, Raj Khandelwal, Angsuman Bandyopadhyay, Rajani Mukherjee, Pinaki Prasad Ghosh, Kundu, Ajay Agarwal, Sudip Mukherjee, DGE Hiralal Yadav and DGN Krishnendu Gupta.

Charter certificates were handed over to four new RCCs. A training programme was launched, in association with Benevolence Rihad RCC, to teach rural women to make food products. Text books and 1,000 notebooks were donated to Benevolence Gramin Sewa RCC and Benevolence Nalua South RCC.

Three new members were inducted by the club to take the member tally to 45. ■



Rotarians at the mangrove plantation seminar organised by the club.

Rotarians green a Phagwara village

Team Rotary News

Members of RC Phagwara Midtown, RID 3090, celebrated World Environment Day (June 5) by planting 100 native saplings in Mehli, a village near Phagwara.

The club donated groceries and nutritious food items to Birdh Ashram, an old age home in Saprur village near the town. ■



Rotarians distribute food items at an old age home.

A mega Interact installation at Ooty

Seventeen young presidents and secretaries of 17 Interact clubs were installed by the

parent Rotary club, RC Ootacamund, RID 3203. DGN Dr Suresh Babu presided over the event. ■



Tree plantation drive by Mysuru club

Team Rotary News



Mohan M, the club president, and secretary Muralidhara KN distributing vitamin powder to lactating mothers and pregnant women.



Students with the Prathibha Puraskara Awards.

Under *Project Vanasiri*, an initiative by Padmashri Salu Marada Thimmakka, a 111-year-old environmentalist, RC Mysore South East, RID 3181, planted 700 saplings at a 2.5-acre site in Silicon City, Mysuru. This event was inaugurated by Thimmakka.

As a part of *Project Arogya Siri*, the club is educating, supporting and creating awareness of

the importance of breastfeeding for mothers. At the awareness programme, Mohan M, the club president and secretary Muralidhara KN, along with the other members, distributed vitamin powder to lactating mothers and pregnant women at the Jayanagar Government Hospital.

The club conducted a talk on Rotary Council of Legislation (COL) by PDG Lakshmi Narayan

at the West Club Auditorium, Mysuru. Interactive sessions helped members understand how COL — Rotary's parliament — meets every three years and has the authority to amend Rotary International's bylaws.

As part of a fundraising initiative the club screened a movie. A sum of ₹34,000 was collected through this event. To enhance Rotary's public image a badminton tournament was hosted in association with a radio channel. The club president was invited by the channel for an exclusive interview on Rotary.

Eight students were honoured with the club's Prathibha Puraskara Awards for scoring high marks in their board exams. "It is important to acknowledge the achievements of deserving students. This will also encourage other students to perform better," says Mohan, club president.

The club conducted a hepatitis blood test for 51 villagers at Kergalli village, near Mysuru. ■



Club members, along with environmentalist Salu Marada Thimmakka, planting a sapling at the inauguration of *Project Vanasiri*.

Blood donation camp to mark I-Day

Team Rotary News



Members of RC Pondicherry Elites organised a blood donation camp on the 75th Independence Day.

RC Pondicherry Elites, RID 2981, held a blood donation camp, in association with the JIPMER Hospital, to mark the 75th Independence Day. Around 100 donors gave

blood. The club provided breakfast, lunch and dinner to the patients who had undergone cataract surgery at Karikalapakkam Government Primary Health Centre,

Pondicherry. The club has been providing food to cataract patients at this PHC for the last six months. So far around 500 patients have benefitted. ■

5km-run to mark I-Day at Dombivli



Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of Independence was celebrated by RC Dombivli West, RID 3142, with a 5km-run in which 125 people took part.

The club announced that it will hold a 'Dombivli Pride Run 2023' on March 5 next year. "Every year this marathon is conducted, along with different social activities. In the past, water conservation, nutrition kits for pregnant women and thalassaemia awareness projects were done as part of the Pride Run," said club president Shailesh Gupte. Rtns Prakash Shah and Manoj Oak coordinated for the success of the run on August 15. ■

Breast cancer awareness on wheels

Team Rotary News



A breast cancer check-up van was dedicated to the public by RC Pune Katraj.

RC Pune Katraj, RID 3131 under the leadership of Namita Nitin Naik donated a breast cancer check-up van to the Lokmanya Hospital, Pune.

Named *Nidaan* the self-contained van will travel to remote areas in and around

Chinchwad, Pune, providing under-privileged and rural women with state-of-the-art digital mammography services. The club partnered with the Lokmanya Medical Research Centre for this project. "This will also help in spreading awareness about breast

cancer in rural areas," says Namita.

Club members celebrated Raksha Bandhan with the students of Pune Vidyarthi Griha, an institute that offers education, food and accommodation to poor children. The club partnered with RC Pune

Mid-East and distributed gifts and snacks to the students. This is an annual project of the club for the last 10 years.

An eye check-up camp followed by distribution of spectacles for construction workers was organised by the club. Over 280 spectacles were distributed and 25 cataract surgeries were completed successfully at this camp.

In association with Jairaj Industry and Pune Merchant Chambers, the club gifted scholarships worth ₹5,000 each to 20 students. These students are children of Swachha Sanstha (sanitation and hygiene workers). These students were chosen for the scholarship for having scored above 80 per cent in their Classes 10 and 12 board exams. ■



Raksha Bandhan celebrations at Pune Vidyarthi Griha.

RCs Honavar, Uxbridge share best practices

Team Rotary News



An interactive online session between RCs Honavar and Uxbridge.

An online joint meeting was held between RC Honavar, RID 3170, and RC Uxbridge, Canada, RID 7070, with Rtn Steve Rutledge giving a presentation on a Rotary water project

at Laos, a southeast Asian country. He also gave details about some of the milestone projects of Rotary that rehabilitated victims of war in strife-torn areas like Beirut and other volatile places. DGs Venkatesh

Deshpande and Losif Ciosa were present at this online event. While 24 Rotarians from Honavar took part, 26 members from RC Uxbridge interacted with the delegates.

A seminar on drug de-addiction was conducted as part of the Vyasana Muktha Bharatha Jatha, a rally by students hosted by Pattana Panchayat to mark the birthday of Mahantha Shivayogi Swami who worked against drug abuse in society.

Rotaractors from the SDM College and other NGOs took part in the anti-drug awareness programmes.

Dr Vishal V, psychiatrist at the St Ignatius Hospital, was the resource person at the de-addiction seminar. The event turned out to be a big public image builder for the club as it created awareness on the ill-effects of drug abuse, especially among the youth. ■



School students take out a rally against drug abuse and its ill-effects.

Clothes for flood victims

Team Rotary News



Club members along with PDG Ravi Vadlamani standing in front of a truck loaded with clothes for flood victims.

RC Guntur Vikas, RID 3150, distributed basic clothing essentials worth ₹6 lakh to people living in Bhadrachalam,

Telangana, as the floods washed away the homes of many families in the region. The kits were handed over

to the flood victims in the presence of DG Rajasekhara, PDGs Ravi Vadlamani and PDG Siva. ■

A blood donation drive in Sirhind



RC Sirhind, RID 3090, organised a blood donation camp in association with the Blood Bank, Civil Hospital, Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab. The camp was aimed at facilitating the availability of blood and blood products for the patients admitted at the Civil Hospital. The camp collected 77 units of blood. Lakhvir Singh Rai, a local MLA inaugurated the camp and appreciated the club for its efforts.

Shekhar Bither, the club president, highlighted that the club is “committed to promoting humanitarian causes and has always organised blood donation drives with great enthusiasm.” ■