

February 2023

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Helping people walk

Team Rotary News

Prosthesis legs were distributed to 30 amputees by RC Alleppey Greater, RID 3211, with the support of Indian Coast Guard, Kochi. Through Rtn P G K Unnithan, an ex-Naval officer, club president C Vijayakumar was able to meet Kerala commander of Coast Guard, N Ravi.

The Coast Guard officer assured him that he would be able to provide 50 artificial limbs through the Round

Table Organisation in Coimbatore. Vijayakumar is also an active member of All Kerala Wheelchair Rights Federation and wanted to provide artificial limbs to the disabled. Following the assurance from the Naval officer, “we started the work and within 20 days, we identified 40 amputees.

They were taken in two buses to the Coast Guard headquarters in Kochi, 70km from Alleppey, for taking

measurements to fit the artificial limbs,” said Vijayakumar. But the club found only 30 amputees were eligible for the prosthetic limbs.

At a grand event inaugurated by former Kerala minister G Sudhakaran, Coast Guard commander Ravi distributed the arti-

ficial limbs to the beneficiaries. AG KG Gireesan, club’s charter president Pradeep Koottala, secretary Suvi Vidyadharan and project coordinator Unnithan were also present. The limb distribution event was widely covered by news channels and in the local print media. ■



A beneficiary trying an artificial limb.

Diwali clothes for children in Bengaluru

Diwali was celebrated by RC Bangalore Brigades, RID 3190, by distributing new clothes to over 500 children at Venkatapura area in the city in a project led by the club’s past president Ashwani Kinger. “We have been doing this project on Diwali for the last two years to bring joy to poor children,” said Kinger. “Just seeing the smile on the faces of the children gave us immense satisfaction,” he said. The new clothes distribution was supported by Rtns Sambamurthy, and Daniel



Children with new clothes on Diwali in Bengaluru

from RC Hamburg, Germany, who also took part in the event. Kinger managed the event with the support of club donors.

As part of its silver jubilee project, the club is supporting 36 free surgeries this year with the support of its members, Siva Shakti Foundation, Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, and making use of the government

support available for the BPL (below poverty line) card patients. Between July and October 2022, the club has successfully done 15 surgeries on BPL patients. The surgery cost of ₹1.4 lakh per patient is funded by the club (₹30,000), Siva Shakti Foundation (₹10,000), BMJ Hospital giving a discount of ₹40,000, and BPL card subsidy of ₹60,000. ■

On the cover: Members of RC Nagapattinam at the beautified lake in a polytechnic college.

Focus on Interact in Nainital

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Nainital, RID 3110, inducted 30 new Interactors into the newly chartered Interact Club of St Mary's Convent College, Nainital. The charter certificate of this club was handed over to the school principal Sister Manjusha CJ.

The club has so far started five new Interact clubs in Nainital. "Interact clubs bring together young people between ages 12–18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of *Service Above Self*. We are happy to offer a wonderful Rotary experience to these students," says Babita Jain, club president.

The Interact clubs of Nainital and Bhartiya Shaheed Sainik Vidyalaya with the guidance of their mentor Poonam Sharma conducted three cleanliness

drives and spread the message on cleanliness and hygiene, and the ill-effects of plastic bags.

The club has developed a Rotary Joggers Park, along with

an open gym, at Kennedy Park, Nainital, which was inaugurated by DG Pawan Agarwal. Recently the club installed 30 benches at this park. ■



Rotarians with the benches donated by the club.



At the installation of Interact Club of St Mary's Convent.

A dental check-up in progress for school students.



An active Rotary in Nagapattinam

Team Rotary News



Installation of office-bearers of the newly chartered Interact Club of Government Higher Secondary School, Akkaraipettai.



Endowment Donor NT Balasundaram hands over packs of eye drops to Dr V Visvanathan, dean, Government Nagapattinam Medical College Hospital.

Over 1,500 schoolchildren from three schools in the town benefitted from a dental check-up camp organised by RC Nagapattinam, RID 2981. The club involved its Interactors at the Nagore Matric Higher Secondary School to give them a first-hand experience in project management. Around 500 children were treated for dental disorders at the Adarsh Matriculation Higher Secondary School, and all students in the three schools were given lessons in oral health and hygiene through a special session organised by the club.

Club president P Karthikeyan and project coordinator Dr V Govindarajulu played a significant part in organising the camps at the venues.

Environment projects

On its sixth phase of tree planting, the club, along with ONGC and the district forest department, planted saplings on the campus of the Armed Reserve Police, Nagapattinam,

headquarters. Police personnel joined the Rotarians in the greening initiative which was executed in the presence of the club's environment committee joint chair Sundaramurthy. Tree guards were also installed to protect the new saplings.

Rainwater harvesting facility was provided at the ADJD Polytechnic College in the town. Two borewells were installed to save rainwater. The Rotarians cleaned up the college premises, beautified the area around the lake on the campus and provided stone benches for students to relax. Saplings were planted to provide green cover in the region.

In another initiative, the club members handed over ₹30,000 worth packs of eye drops to Dr V Visvanathan, dean, Government Nagapattinam Medical College Hospital, in the presence of PDG N Govindraj and DGN S Bhaskaran. Dr Govindarajulu was the project chairman. The eye drops will be distributed to less privileged eye patients at the hospital.

Youth service

The club installed two Rotaract clubs at the University College of Engineering, Tirukkuvalai, and at the TNJFU Fisheries Engineering College which is part of the Tamil Nadu Jayalalitha Fisheries University. Club treasurer Veerapandian installed the charter president Akash, secretary Pujashri and treasurer Yogeshwaran of RAC TNJFU college in the presence of DRR C Somasundaram, Rotaract Interact coordinator Maj Dr V Govindarajulu and Rotaract coordinator Karthik Kumar.

Three new Interact clubs were installed recently by the club; one at the Government Higher Secondary School, Akkarapettai, another at the Chinmaya Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, and the third one, at the Kumaran High School. The club has so far chartered nine Interact clubs. RC Nagapattinam president Karthikeyan presided over the installation of the office-bearers of the Interact clubs. ■

Cybercrime seminar in Bhusawal

Team Rotary News



Cybercrime expert Dhananjay Deshpande gives a lecture.



DG Anand Jhunjhunwala (2nd from R) and RC Bhusawal Railcity president Dr Makarand Chandwadkar (4th from L) along with the recipients of Pride Awards.

Noted cybercrime expert Dhananjay Deshpande from Pune gave a talk on the need to be safe and secure while doing online transactions and take precautions while surfing through the cyber highway at a seminar hosted by RC Bhusawal Railcity, RID 3030.

The lecture event held with the support of the local police department was attended by over 150 people, mostly senior citizens and

housewives, who were given useful tips and suggestions on preventing cyber fraud and the best practices to be followed on social media. DG Anand Jhunjhunwala handed over a patient bed donated by local resident Rakesh Pande, in memory of his late mother, to the Ortho Bank being run by the club in partnership with the Gurudwara Bhusawal. "The ortho bank provides utilities like ortho bed, wheelchair, walker, water bed et al to patients till they recover from

the chronic pain," said Dr Makarand Chandwadkar, club president.

At a colourful event, Bhusawal Pride Awards were given to five personalities who are doing social work without publicity and have brought global recognition to the city through their exemplary work. DG Jhunjhunwala presided over the ceremony and presented the awards. "The awardees felt inspired and vowed to do better service towards mankind," said the club president. ■

The joy of being a Rotarian

SK Malhotra



For the first time in its 117 years of its existence, Rotary International has elected a woman as its president for 2022–23. Yes, Jennifer Jones from Ontario, Canada, is our global president and rightly, she is continuing with the emphasis on empowerment of girls and women as initiated earlier by her predecessor Shekhar Mehta.

Jones is a communication specialist and joined Rotary in 2000. Since then, she is quite popular in Rotary conventions and global events for her oratory and great rapport she strikes with the delegates. Rotary is a wonderful organisation for members keen to do social service and they get recognised by Rotary clubs for their work. It was a humbling experience for me when I received the Avenues of Service Citation Award from the then RI President Ron Burton (2013–14) for the service rendered by me as vice-president of RC Patiala Royal including efforts to bring out a club souvenir titled *Jan Sewa* which was published under my supervision as editor.

As a Rotarian, there is personal growth and you are respected in society. Club members get opportunities to network and enjoy the fellowship.

Comprising professionals from all walks of life who are willing to provide humanitarian service for the needy so that goodwill and peace prevail in the world, Rotary does not discriminate people based on their caste, creed, religion, politics, nationality or social status.

Paul Harris started this charity movement on Feb 23, 1905 with three of his close friends in Chicago. Now Rotary has spread throughout the world having a global membership of 1.2 million across 37,000 clubs in various geographic zones. Rotary clubs perform their activities based on the guidelines from their

district governors. If you have the zeal to work, serve the people by sparing time and money, you can fulfill your dreams, and climb the Rotary ladder through persistent efforts.

Rotary opens up opportunities to multiply your business and enrich your profession through interaction with members of various clubs at fellowship, district-level meetings and at global conventions. As a Rotarian, there is personal growth and you are respected in society. Club members get opportunities to network and enjoy the fellowship, as a result there is a community feeling. Fun and fellowship become part of your life as we begin to work as a team and enjoy the Rotary journey. Hence, dream big and work towards realising that dream. It is said that if you give 365 days to Rotary, it will pay you back with lifetime of happiness. Quite true.

*The writer is a member of
RC Patiala Royal, RID 3090*

More than 3,500 people ran at the *Runathon of Hope* organised by RC Nigdi-Pune, RID 3131, a signature project and one of the most-anticipated public events in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

DG Anil Parmar and spouse Hema flagged off the 11th edition of the marathon, a fundraiser that also enhanced the public image of the club over the years. This time instead of following the tradition of holding the event in winter, the club chose to conduct it during monsoon. Since its inception in 2011 during the term of past president Srikrishna Karkare, the marathon has grown in strength and in addition to individual runners, they get participants from the corporates who display their banners during the run.

There were two categories, 5K and 10K runs, and each of it had two sections for under-45 and over-45 age groups. Around 30 corporate teams took part with many holding their company's banners and social messages. Preceding the run, an elaborate campaign was done on social media to create awareness about the marathon. Bank of Maharashtra and Tulip Group were among the major sponsors, while Manipal Hospitals, the medical partner, distributed gift

'Runathon of Hope' gets huge response in Pune

V Muthukumaran



DG Anil Parmar (L) and spouse Hema present the cash prize to the 5km winner in the presence of RC Nigdi-Pune president Pranita Alurkar (R).

bags with Rotary Wheel and the name of the club.

"As the event was held after a gap of two years, post-Covid, it was decided not to include schoolchildren and have races for 5km and 10km only. The marathon was promoted by all the clubs in RID 3131," said Mukund Muley, IT chair, RC Nigdi-Pune.

Runners had gathered in large numbers at the venue, Sanjay Kale playground, early dawn and went through a warm-up Zumba session before the start. Club president Pranita Alurkar, project director Ankaji Patil, AG Prakash Jethwa and TRF district director Nitin Dhamale, along with Rotarians and Anns, cheered the runners.

After the marathon, all the participants were given breakfast and awarded a medal each for completing the run. It was all music and dance at the finish line, which was followed by honouring the sponsors and distributing prizes to the winners. "The feedback we got at the venue and on social media for the event was upbeat and gratifying. The arrangements, event management and food, all came in for praise," said Muley. ■



Mosquito nets for Adivasis in Maharashtra

Team Rotary News

Mosquito nets were distributed by RC Dombivli Midtown, RID 3142, to Adivasi people in a village near Murbad in the Thane district of Maharashtra. "The nets will also protect them from insect and snake bites. We were happy to see a number of children gathered around our vehicles and some of us clicked selfies with the little ones," said club president Ajay Kulkarni. The idea of distributing mosquito nets was given by president-elect Pradeep Budbadkar after he read a news about the death of an Adivasi boy due to snake bite while sleeping in the night. The club will be distributing mosquito nets to other villages reaching out to more tribals in the coming months.

A two-day exhibition titled *Samanvay* was organised for Adivasis and rural artisans for selling their handicrafts to the city residents in Dombivli. "We provided forty free stalls to Adivasis and rural people



RC Dombivli Midtown president Ajay Kulkarni takes a selfie with children at an Adivasi village near Murbad in Maharashtra.

to sell their diverse goods," said Kulkarni. The club has been holding this rural fair for over five years and "thousands of residents visited the exhibition to buy products made

from cloth, bamboo, wood etc. Also, home-made food items were sold at the stalls." The profit from the sale of goods at the fair will help the "Adivasis earn some useful money that will bring happy moments in their life," he said.

Over 1,500 stray dogs and cats were vaccinated against rabies in a week-long camp held with the support of the Veterinary Practitioners Welfare Association (VPWA) and dog lovers. Club member Dr Manohar Akole is doing this special vaccination drive for strays over the last 10 years. The club also took out a rabies awareness rally with the participation of 200 dog lovers and the public. "The rally was converted into a seminar with the chief medical officer of the Kalyan-Dombivli Municipal Corporation as the chief guest," said Kulkarni. ■



A rabies vaccination camp in progress.

D 2981

RC Kumbakonam Queens

A sumptuous feast was given to the elderly inmates at a destitute home in Thilaiyambur village. To mark International Day of the Girl Child, a general health-cum-dental camp was held for government school students. Both the projects enhanced the public image of the club.



D 2981

RC Manora Pattukkottai

Sewing machines worth ₹80,000 were given to 10 poor girls to enable them to earn a regular income. A veterinary camp was conducted at Ullur village at Pudukkottai. Both the club president and secretary donated blood at the government hospital, Pattukkottai.



D 2981

RC Panruti

Over 100 fruit-bearing saplings were planted with tree guards at Ravarpuram village with AG Kamaraj as chief guest. Rtn Ashok Raj Jain sponsored the project. Club president N Ravisekar and other members were present. Life insurance policies were arranged for all the conservancy staff at LN Puram Panchayat. Vegetables were also given to them.





D 3000

RC Madurai Metro Heritage

Lunch and refreshments were sponsored at the four-day cricket tournament for the differently-abled between India and Bangladesh. The organisers, Physically Challenged Association of India, thanked the club for the support in hosting the cricket tournament.



D 3000

RC Pon. Puduppatti

School uniforms, books and saplings were donated to students of a panchayat school at Kandiyannattham village. Groceries were supplied to the TRUBA old age home in Kandavarayanpatti village for 40 inmates to celebrate Diwali. The club is donating food and other supplies for 20 years to this home.



D 3011

RC Delhi Southex

Around 120 people were screened at the eye and diabetes check-up camp at the Mahila Panchayat, Govindapuri, held in association with YWCA. Children at the Basti Vikas Kendra, Mangolpuri, were given Christmas gifts. Musical chairs and other games were played, and songs were sung which brought smiles on their faces.

D 3020

RC Visakhapatnam

Interactors from Kids Create School took part in a blood donation camp held jointly with the Life Share Blood Centre at the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park. Rotarians, NCC cadets from colleges and zoo staff donated blood. Zoo curator Nandani Salaria and Rtn Sumana of Life Share centre were also present.



D 3020

RC Vizag Couples

Books, notebooks, snacks and fruits were distributed to 600 students of GVMC Primary and High Schools at Akkayapalem village as part of 75th I-Day celebration. Extracurricular activities were held and prizes were given to students. Total project cost ₹55,000.



D 3030

RC Akola Midtown

Medical kits worth ₹750–900 each, along with heating pads, were given to around 50 elderly patients suffering from chronic pain at tendons, ligaments, bones and in muscle joints due to severe winter. The beneficiaries were from in and around Akola town. The club will continue this project till the end of winter.





D 3030

RC Nasik Road

Over 1,500 Rotarians and the public, including youth from India and other countries, took part in a virtual event that combined walkathon, cyclothon and marathon. The project held for the third consecutive year will generate funds for building toilet blocks and handwash stations in rural schools.



D 3054

RC Kota Round Town

Desk-benches were donated to the Government Girls Upper Primary School at Retwali, a slum colony in Kota. The students were mostly children from the families of migrant labourers doing menial jobs like ragpicking. The project lifted the public image of the club.



D 3080

RC Dehradun Central

An eye check-up camp was organised in a rural area. Among the patients, 20 were shortlisted for cataract surgery. At the same venue, a blood donation camp collected 42 units of blood. The projects benefitted a large number of villagers.

D 3080

RC Kharar

A career guidance seminar was held at the Government Senior Secondary School, Radiala. Prof Ram Panday, an alumnus of IIT-Kharagpur, gave a speech and interacted with students on career prospects in biotechnology, and its future applications. Principal Surinder Pal Jindal thanked the club. AG Vinay Rajput visited the club to review project work. Club president Nitin Garg gave a presentation to the AG in the presence of members.



D 3100

RC Saket-Meerut

An interschool debating competition was held for students from nine top schools in Meerut. Major Gen Manish Luthra, the GOC, HQ 9 Infantry, and PDG Rajiv Singhal were the chief guests. Manya Ahuja from St Mary's Academy was the winner in the solo category, while Dewan Public School won the rolling trophy as team winners. Club president Nitin Garg welcomed the gathering.



D 3120

RC Kushinagar

A stall was set up at the Gandhi Chowk, Kasia, to donate old warm clothes to needy families hit hard by winter. Club patron Rakesh Kumar Jaiswal inaugurated the stall which has benefitted thousands of people over the last three years. Club secretary Wahid Ali urged the residents to donate liberally for the cause.





D 3120

RC Lucknow

Colouring boxes, school bags and pencils were donated to cancer afflicted children at the King George's Medical University. A variety show was staged by the children for Rotarians led by club president Praveen Mittal. At the club meeting, BFC Capital official gave a talk on financial management. PDG CP Agarwal also spoke.



D 3131

RC Pune Tilak Road

Tonnes of e-waste and other discards were collected in a special drive along with Swachh, a Pune-based social enterprise, as part of a mega cleanliness campaign. The waste including books, shoes, toys, mattresses and clothes et al and other dumps will be recycled in a proper manner after sorting and segregation.



D 3132

RC Wai

Ten tribal women from Jotshi community got regular work to create quilts (*godhadhi*) which will be sold to bulk purchaser Dattatray Trust at ₹7,000 per piece. Now, they will be able to support their families with a regular income.

Rotary medical camps in Chidambaram, TN

Team Rotary News



A medical camp in progress in a village near Chidambaram.

Rotary Club of Chidambaram Central, RID 2981, along with RCs Chidambaram Temple Town and Chidambaram Midtown; and the Misrimal Mahaveer Jain Trust, organised two medical camps in two villages near Chidambaram.

Medical experts from the Cuddalore General Hospital were present at both the camps to provide diagnosis and treatment to over 300 patients who had visited the camps from surrounding hamlets.

Tests were conducted for blood sugar, bone density analysis and blood pressure on older patients and people with other ailments were given medicines at the camps.

In another initiative, RC Chidambaram Central, along with the Inner Wheel Club of Chidambaram, donated 10 sets of benches and desks to a municipal primary school in the town to commemorate the school's centennial year. P Palani, member

of RC Chidambaram Central, sponsored the project which cost ₹75,000.

The club members organised an environment awareness session for the school students and urged them to stop using plastics in any form, and spread the message about its ill-effects to the environment among their neighbours and friends. Sanitary napkins were distributed by the club to the adolescent girl students. ■



Students and school staff with members of RC Chidambaram Central after donating furniture at the municipal primary school.

Rotarians help people deal with skin disorder

Team Rotary News

Marriage counselling was given to 54 prospective brides and grooms suffering from vitiligo, a skin condition where it loses pigmentation leading to white patches, by RC Nagpur Metro, RID 3030, with the support of Shweta Marriage Bureau, Pune.

Shweta Association, the sister concern of the marriage bureau, has been working for boys and girls suffering from vitiligo, also known as leukoderma, over the last 22 years, besides creating awareness about this skin disorder in the society. Shweta Association founder-president Dr Maya Tulpule, a general surgeon, informed the gathering that they have donated narrow band UVB phototherapy and Eximer Laser units to hospitals in Nagpur and other places for treatment of vitiligo. Dr Manjiri Oke, dermatologist, spoke on the scientific facts about the skin ailment and explained the benefits of the instruments donated by Shweta Association.

Rashmi Babhulkar, academican, presided over the marriage counselling session, while Dr Shyam Babhulkar, neurosurgeon, was the chief guest.



A vitiligo sufferer receives a sapling at the marriage counselling event jointly hosted by RC Nagpur Metro.

Till date, 1,250 weddings among vitiligo sufferers were conducted by the marriage bureau. Rtn Sandhya Dande anchored the programme. Club secretary Nishant Mishra represented the club on the dais and the event was the 54th marriage-fixing edition hosted by Shewata Association. Rtns Satish Dande and Dr Shyam Babhulkar donated ₹ 10,000 each to the marriage bureau.

Industrial visit

An industrial visit to Chikhala and Dongri Buzurg mines, near Tumsar district, 120km from

Nagpur, was arranged for 35 club members and their families. Both the mines are being operated by the state-owned Manganese Ore India Ltd, more popular as MOIL.

While the Chikhala mine is an underground set-up, in Dongri Buzurg it is opencast mining. Both the mines have good deposits of manganese which is in great demand in the steel industry. One of the highlights of the visit for the Rotarians is standing on the Level-I area of Chikhala mines which is 50 feet underground and “it was a thrilling experience for our members.”

“The main purpose behind visits to industrial mines is to educate our members on the process of mining, lifestyle of the workers, problems they face in their daily work,” said Mishra. After visiting both the mines, club president Ramesh Borkute said his club would conduct a mega health check-up camps for mine workers and their families at both the sites.■



Club members during the visit to the Chikhala and Dongri Buzurg mines.

D 3142

RC Ambernath Smart City

A motivational seminar was conducted by Sadashiv Panchal, a mind trainer and counsellor, for over 800 students from Classes 8–10 and 35 teachers in a school. Nation Builder Awards were given to 12 teachers from the government schools for their outstanding service. IPDG Mayuresh Warke was the chief guest.



D 3150

RC Nizamabad

Over 250 artificial limbs (Jaipur foot) were fitted on amputees at a limb fitment camp which was inaugurated by the Telangana High Court chief justice Ujjal Bhuyan. The project costing ₹11 lakh was appreciated by the judge as it gave a new lease of life to the beneficiaries. The Jaipur foot camp also lifted the public image of the club.



D 3170

RC Bailhongal

Around 600 people were diagnosed for general illness at a health camp at the General Hospital, Bailhongal. Legislator Mahantesh Koujalgi inaugurated the medical camp in the presence of assistant commissioner Shishidar Bagali, taluk health officer Dr Sanjay Sidhannavar and CMO Kaviraj Naganur. Meals were sponsored by the then club president Mahesh Bellad and Rtn Raj Metgud.





D 3170

RC Honavar

Scholarship cheques and certificates were given to 24 meritorious children who passed Class 10 in 2021–22. The awards were distributed to motivate and recognise their hard work which earned them top ranks in Honavar taluk. A one-day RLI session was held with Rtms Nagaraj Joshi, Binoy Momaya, Dr Gaurish Padukone and Anil Jain delivering inspirational talks.



D 3170

RC Kolhapur City

Twenty-five desk-benches were donated to a zilla parishad school at Nandgaon village, Karveer taluk, which will benefit around 50 students of Class 1 who were sitting on the floor earlier. Rtn Vilas Redekar funded the project with contribution from the Rotary Kolhapur City Charitable Society.



D 3201

Rotary E-Club Metro Dynamix

Breakfast was provided to over 200 children of Desire Society across their six branches in India on the eve of World AIDS Day, one of the biggest initiatives of this year. The NGO is a safe haven for orphans and destitute who are HIV positive. Also, *Project Book Nook* has set up a mini library for the kids of Desire Society.

D 3203

RC Karamadai

Around 2,800 saplings were planted at Chikkarampalayam village in a joint plantation drive with ESRA South Asia and Tree Club, a local NGO. Rtn Gnanasekaran took care of the logistics. Club president Magesh and secretary Sathish motivated the volunteers including school students. ESRA members visited the other urban project sites of the club.



D 3203

RC Mettupalayam Prime

The club sponsored the wedding of polio-affected couple — Shanmugam and Esther — who are going to start a new life. Club's charter president Dr Aravinth Karthikeyan assured support to the couple in their newly-married life, so that they can set an example to others afflicted by other diseases.



D 3203

RC Tirupur Celebration

Mother's milk is being donated each month to the Government Hospital, Coimbatore, to help those who can't breastfeed their babies. Over the past three years, around 5,000 infants had benefitted from the project which has delivered over 2,500 litres of mother's milk to the government hospital.





D 3203

RC Tirupur West

Fifty bicycles, each costing ₹6,000, were donated to school girls from nearby villages who found it difficult going to school. DG B Elangkumaran presented the cycles to the girls in the presence of PDG EK Sagadhevan, member, National PolioPlus Committee, club president P Shanmugasundaram, district general secretary V Varadaraj and coordinator RP Raj.



D 3211

RC Chengannur

New Year 2023 was ushered in with gala cultural events including dance and music by Rotarians and their families in the presence of Kerala DGP Alexander Jacob. It was also an occasion for fellowship where members greeted each other, wishing a prosperous year ahead. Women Rotarians and Anns came in traditional attire.



D 3262

RC Bhubaneswar Meadows

DG Prabhudatta Subudhi inaugurated a library at Ashayen, a slum at the Buddheswari colony, for the benefit of its 35 residents. With over 400 books donated by Rotarians, the library will enable the beneficiaries to shore up their knowledge and enhance their life skills. Sweets and refreshments were distributed.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Pongal sports at a school in Madurai

Team Rotary News



Lunch being served by Rotarians to students after the Pongal celebration.

Traditional sports and Pongal-related village games like pallaanguzhi, uriyadi and kolam contest were conducted by RC Madurai Sangamam, RID 3000, for two days at the Government High School, Viraganoor,

to celebrate the harvest festival.

On the final day, DGN Raja Govindasamy and AG Senthilnathan distributed prizes to the winners of the Pongal competitions. Headmistress Santhi presided over the valedictory

sessions during which prizes and gifts were distributed. “At the end of the two-day gala event, a grand lunch was provided to around 300 students. The food was sponsored by Rtn Nalan Senthil,” said TG Pravin Kumar, club secretary. ■

A Rotarian from Trivandrum visits an Australian club

It was a memorable experience for Rtn Sivaprasad S Pillai from RC Trivandrum South, RID 3211, to make a presentation about his club and its project activities as a guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Wynnum and Manly, RID 9260, Australia.

The club is located 25km east of Brisbane and after the guest lecture, the Rotarians made a donation to the Foundation’s PolioPlus campaign to mark the occasion. “My talk was well accepted by the members and I got some leads for a joint international project,” said Pillai.

Club president Tracey Wyatt and Sivaprasad Pillai exchanged club flags. She also presented a certificate to Pillai thanking him for the guest lecture



RC Wynnum and Manly president Tracey Wyatt (left) and to her right Rtn Sivaprasad Pillai, along with club members, at an event.

and mentioning the donation to TRF’s PolioPlus campaign which will help immunise 10 children affected by polio. The lecture event at RC Wynnum and Manly was a “classic example of cultural integration and global networking of Rotarians,” he said. ■

Pathway of school repaired

Team Rotary News



DG Nandakumar along with club members at the inauguration of the project.

RC Chennai Mugappair, RID 3232, recently revamped the pathway of VPU Middle school. The 4,000 sqft area was leveled and tiled at a cost of ₹4 lakh.

DG Nandakumar inaugurated the project. The club has previously repaired and reconstructed the pathways of two other government schools in the city.

In addition to this, the club under its signature project *Go back to School* is offering free breakfast for students of five government schools in Mugappair, Chennai. ■

RC Coimbatore Monarks sponsors athlete

RC Coimbatore Monarks, RID 3201, has sponsored the trip and kit expenses for P Oviya from Amrita Vidyalayam Senior Secondary School, who had qualified for the CBSE swimming national competition in Rajkot. She was qualified for both the 4x50m freestyle relay and 4x50m medley relay in the Under-11 girls state team. ■



A club member hands over the cheque to P Oviya.

RID 3000 boosts Rotary's public image

Team Rotary News



DG I Jerald inaugurates the public image seminar.



Actress Khushboo being felicitated by DG Jerald at the musical nite in Trichy.



End Polio Now rallyists at the seminar.

DG I Jerald, RID 3000, inaugurated a mega public image seminar in Trichy. The event was hosted by RC Tiruchirapalli Midtown. PDG M Muruganandham was the chief guest at the programme and film director Thankarbachchan was the guest of honour.

An End Polio rally taken out by Rotarians from Madurai culminated at the seminar in Trichy. Over 750 delegates attended the seminar.

Musical fundraiser

A fundraiser musical nite was organised by RID 3000 in Trichy to raise funds for the district's signature project — the Rotary Study Centre — that will train students to face civil services exams such as TNPSC, UPSC, RRB, VAO and bank exams with confidence.

Popular film artistes and playback singers from the South film industry entertained the 15,000-strong audience for over three hours. Rotarians from the neighbouring towns such as Manapparai, Pudukkottai, Karur, Perambalur, Ariyalur and Thuraiyur were present at the programme.

Jerald promoted the district's project to attract donors and sponsors, and shared his aim to establish 200 Rotary Study Centres across villages in the district so that no youngster is deprived of the opportunity. ■