

March 2023

# Rotary

## NEWS PLUS





# Enhancing students' vocational skills

Team Rotary News



Career guidance and skill development programme at Manyavar Kanshiram Government College.

**R**C Ghaziabad North, RID 3012, announced the successful completion of a career guidance and skill development programme for 240 students at Manyavar Kanshiram Government College in Nandgram. The total project cost of ₹5,000 was fully funded by the club and involved the active participation of all the club members.

The career guidance and skill development programme

was aimed to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their career. The programme covered a wide range of topics, including communication skills, resume building, job interview techniques and entrepreneurship.

In addition to the career guidance and skill induction programme, the club also conducted a separate workshop on 'Learn to build your confidence — Be

a Winner.' The workshop was conducted by Nameeta Jindal, a life and mindfulness coach, and motivational trainer.

Sumesh Garg, the club president, said, "we want to conduct more vocational training and skills development initiatives that can empower young people to achieve their full potential. We are proud to have successfully completed these projects and help create a positive impact in the lives of these students."

More than 200 students actively participated in the workshop, where they learned various techniques to build their confidence, overcome their fears, and develop a winning attitude. The students were also taught about the importance of good body language and how to look confident in front of others.

The club also conducted a RYLA for school students in Ghaziabad. ■



Students at a RYLA conducted by the club.

**On the cover:** Students of the Government Primary School, Pethuchetty, at a Children's Day programme organised by RC Pondicherry Legacy, RID 2981.

# Pondicherry club celebrates the spirit of childhood

Team Rotary News



Club members distributing sweets to students on the occasion of Children's Day.



Members distributing food as part of Annapoorna Day.



Club members along with the winners of Puducherry Deaf Sports Championship.

On the occasion of Children's Day, the Government Primary School in

Pethuchettipet was abuzz with excitement as students, teachers and members of RC Pondicherry Legacy, RID 2981, gathered to celebrate the spirit of childhood. The highlight of the event was the announcement and handing over of an education fund of ₹15,120 for deserving students.

The fund has been made possible through the generous support of club members, who "have a long-standing commitment to supporting education in the region," said E Anbarasu, the club president.

In addition to the scholarship announcement, the event was followed by a grand celebration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Puducherry Deaf Sports Championship, which was also sponsored by the club. The programme aims to provide an inclusive platform for deaf athletes to showcase their sporting talent and promote awareness and understanding of the needs and abilities of the deaf community.

An *Annapoorna Day* initiative, which involved distributing food to the poor and underserved communities in the region was also carried out by club members. This initiative was part of the club's ongoing efforts to support vulnerable communities and give them access to a decent meal.

The club president emphasised the importance of investing in education and youth development. He said, "our club is committed to promoting the holistic development of young people in our community. We believe that initiatives like the education fund and the deaf sports programme can make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Government Primary School and other organisations in the region to create positive change and promote greater social inclusion." ■



# Badminton tournament in RID 3232

## Team Rotary News

More than 200 players from 65 Rotary clubs across RID 3232 took part in Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Memorial Badminton Tournament being organised by RC Chennai Nolambur for over six years. “There were 12 teams from different clubs and they had plenty of practice and strategy sessions after the curtain raiser in which teams were formed,” said event chair Mujesh Jayabalan.

It was during the tenure of Jayabalan the tournament was started in 2016–17. While PDG G Chandramohan was the chief guest at the inaugural, DG N Nandakumar presided over the



DG N Nandakumar presents a trophy to a winner.

valedictory event. Team Blau led by Rtn Shyamsundar won the trophy in this sixth edition.

Rotarians, Anns and Annets took part in the tournament with enthusiasm.■

## A special day for Kochi's special children



Differently-abled children with Rotarians at the art exhibition in Fort Kochi.

In a novel gesture, the Anns of RC Cochin Beachside, RID 3201, took the children of Buds School and Rehabilitation Centre, a home for the mentally-challenged, to Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2023, a four-month art exhibition in Fort Kochi.

The women Rotarians and Anns initiated the *Project 1 Day-Dayout* to give enjoyable moments for the differently-abled children and their caretakers. Logistics and food were arranged for the trip and the project came under the Inclusion objective of RID 3201's priority theme *Rainbow*.■

# A health camp at Gurugram

## Team Rotary News



An eye check-up in progress.

Around 130 persons were diagnosed for health issues at a medical camp conducted by RC Gurgaon Cosmopolitan, RID 3011, for members and students of the Institute of Chartered

Accountants of India, Gurugram. The health camp was supported by Rotary Blood Bank, Rotary Mammography Project, Yuvraj Singh Foundation, Fortis Hospitals, Viaan Eye and Retina

Centre and Lekha Sethi, a wellness coach.

Dr T S Kler, chairman, Fortis Heart and Vascular Institute, Gurgaon, gave a talk on health-care. Apart from general health check-up, eye and dental screening, mammography and BMI tests were conducted on the patients. Also, 36 units of blood was collected in a special drive.

Four handwash stations were repaired and renovated at the Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Badshahpur, with the help of CSR grant from Larsen & Toubro. Rotarians gifted notebooks to students and selected the best greeting cards designed by them for Christmas and new year. ■

# A cancer detection camp at Tumkur

Rotarians and doctors in front of cancer detection bus at Tumkur.



More than 100 people were screened at a cancer detection camp organised by RC Tumkur, RID 3190, in partnership with the Kidwai Memorial Institute, Bengaluru. A panel of doctors including Harshalatha, Raju and

Nilanjana spoke to create awareness on different types of cancer (prostate, tobacco, cervical and general) and how it spreads for the patients at the camp.

"Sometimes a group of cells show uncontrolled division and in excess

of normal growth, thus attacking the tissues and bones," said Dr Harshalatha. Dr Anita Nagesh gave information about prostate cancer. Club president Shivanna Malasandra and other members were present at the cancer detection camp. ■



**U**nder the leadership of Manoj Goyal, the charter president of RC Ambala Diamond, RID 3080, a blood donation camp was organised at Ambala. The event was supported by the district's assistant governor, Shubhdesb Mittal. Rotarians and their family members also donated blood. The club collected 103 units of blood.

The main objective of this newly-chartered club (October 2022), said Goyal "is to provide affordable health-related services to the underprivileged." He expressed gratitude to everyone who participated in the blood donation camp and added, "the club plans to organise similar events in the future to promote healthcare awareness and help those in need."

As its next project, the club plans to celebrate various

## Rotarians donate blood in Ambala

Team Rotary News



**From top:** Club members encouraging donors; Club president Manoj Goyal interacts with a blood donor in the presence of other club members.

occasions, such as club members' wedding anniversaries and birthdays, with the students of the Blind College, Ambala. Deepak Goyal, club secretary, said that "we will also conduct health camps for these

students." Abhinav Singla, chairman of the blood donation camp, said the club plans to conduct workshops and competitions to highlight the talent and skills of the students in the Blind School. ■

**P**urn Shaksharta (education for all), an adult literacy initiative, was launched by RI district 3190 in the presence of PRIP Shekhar Mehta and Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot.

In an event hosted by the district Literacy team, Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) joined hands with the Private Schools and Children Welfare Association (PSCWA), and in collaboration with the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI), launched the initiative. DG Jeetendra Aneja, RILM's national executive member PDG Rajendra Rai, RID 3190 district literacy committee chair Kashinath Prabhu, PSCWA national president Syed Shamael Ahmed, its state president Afshad Ahmed, FKCCI president BV Gopal Reddy and principals of over 200 private schools were present at the event.

The GoI had launched the 'New India Literacy Programme' for adult education for 2022-27 to address illiteracy in 180 million adults in the

# RID 3190 launches adult literacy programme

## Team Rotary News



From R: PDG Rajendra Rai, DG Jeetendra Aneja, Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, PRIP Shekhar Mehta, and RID 3190's Literacy Committee chair Kashinath Prabhu at the launch programme.

country. "Some of the salient features of this scheme are based on the suggestions given by RILM chairman Mehta in 2019 to the then education minister Prakash Javadekar. RILM

and PSCWA will work together on this programme in transforming five crore adults literate using the network for three lakh private schools in India," said Prabhu. ■

## Tailoring transformation



A sewing machine being given to a woman.

**F**orty women in Vadavalli, a suburb in Coimbatore, will be able to generate a steady income, thanks to RC Coimbatore Vadavalli, RID 3201, that identified them and transformed them into professional garment designers. The club had organised an eight-week tailoring class

at the Surabhi Institute of Tailoring in the city. The women learnt to operate the sewing machine, design and cut material and stitch blouses, petticoats, salwar suits, pillow covers and bags.

Club members Elango, Manivasagam and Gnanasundaram together sponsored sewing machines

for two women who could not afford to invest in the machines though they had attended the classes in earnest.

The club plans to continue this vocational service programme to benefit more women.

In another initiative the club arranged for a 'vegetable shop on wheels' to benefit 250 families of senior citizens residing in a colony. The nearest vegetable shop was 4km away which was tedious for the elderly to reach. So heeding their appeal the club arranged a mobile vegetable shop to visit the colony once a week. "Now the demand is for twice a week, and we are in discussion with the shops and the vehicle owners to visit the colony one more day every week," says club secretary Ramesh Subramaniam. ■





DG Anand Jhunjhunuwala inaugurates RID 3030's Interact conference.

# RC Nasik West hosts Interact conference

**Team Rotary News**



DG Jhunjhunuwala with IPDG Ramesh Meher, Rotarians and Interactors.



**A**nand Balotsav, the Interact conference of RID 3030, was hosted by RC Nasik West at the MET Bhujbal Knowledge City campus. DG Anand Jhunjhunuwala presided over the meet.

Club president Sonal Shah, along with event convener Manisha Vispute, led the conference committee team to put up a grand show for the Interactors. Over 350 school students from 18 Interact clubs, and their 10 parent Rotary clubs attended the conference which was held in a physical mode after two years of Covid restrictions.

The Interactors had lined up a host of programmes that kept the audience enthralled. A dance performance by visually and mentally-challenged students drew a thunderous applause. Other sessions included a motivational speech, mental health guidance and career counselling. Mehul Gandhi introduced



An Interact show at the district conference.

the children to the concept of Rotary Youth Exchange programme. Zumba session and dance competitions had the children showcase their skills.

DG Jhunjhunuwala installed the district's first Interact club for blind students at the conference.

DGE Asha Venugopal, IPDG Ramesh Meher, PDG Dada

Deshmukh, and Rotarians from other clubs also attended the conference.

Jhunjhunuwala pointed out that the event showcased Rotary's DEI policy as there was participation from rural and semi-urban areas of the district, along with children from the city's private schools, and also differently-abled children. ■

## Solar power installed at Tata School, Jamshedpur



DG Sanjeev Kumar Thakur inaugurates solar panels at the Tata Workers Union High School in the presence of Rotarians.

**D**G Sanjeev Kumar Thakur inaugurated a solar energy project at the Tata Workers Union High School, Kadma, set up by RC Jamshedpur West, RID 3250. The entire school building consisting of an ICT room, smart class and eight classrooms is now using solar energy, thanks to the nine solar panels, batteries, inverter and earthing units which generate 5KW of green energy.

Now, this school is self-sufficient as it is tapping green energy due to abundant availability of solar power. Apart from environment care, the solar plant project also covered the skill development of youth. Students were encouraged by the club to work in the project along with the vendor. Two students who had completed their ITI training worked for the electrical connections of the project and were also paid by the club for their service. ■

**D 2981**

## RC Manora Pattukkottai

Medical devices were donated to a primary health centre and a RO water system was installed at a government primary school. In a gala event, Nation Builder Awards were presented to nine teachers for their exemplary work. Rotarians took up a mega tree plantation drive with the help of volunteers.



**D 2981**

## RC Veeranam Lake City

Food packets with water bottles were distributed to conservancy workers, destitute, elders and poor children at Kattumannarkoil village under *Project Annapoorna*. Charter president C Arockiadoss sponsored the project.



**D 2982**

## RC Salem Smart City

A motorcycle rally was flagged off by DCP Madasamy and AG K Mohanraj to create awareness on road safety. Over 80 bikers including police personnel took part. Diwali was celebrated with 60 leprosy patients at a rehab home. They were given sumptuous lunch, sweets, crackers and new dresses at a total cost of ₹40,000.







**D 3000**

## RC Madurai Metro Heritage

Around 150 patients were screened at a medical camp held with the support of NSS unit of PKN Girls HS School, Thirumangalam. Rtms Dr Mithran (ortho) and Dr Vijay (dental) were part of the medical mission. Inspiring Star Awards were presented to para and hearing-impaired badminton players Amudha and Jerlin with a cash prize of ₹25,000 each.



**D 3000**

## RC Pon. Puduppatti

Club members supplied groceries to an old age home run by Trupa, an NGO located at Kandavarayanpatti village near Tirupattur town. The ration supplies will benefit 40 inmates of the home taking care of their food needs for a month.



**D 3000**

## RC Srirangam

DG I Jerald inaugurated a Rotary Study Centre at Tiruvasi village in the presence of panchayat chief Banu Murugesan and AG G Kesavan. A large number of school teachers and public took part. Past president Michael Judy and public image chair Arivazhagan sponsored bedsheets for a primary health centre, Somarasampettai.

**D 3011**

## RC Delhi South

DG Ashok Kantoor flagged off a blanket distribution drive in the Delhi-NCR region. Over 3,000 blankets were distributed to girl students at a gurukul in Uttar Pradesh, slum dwellers, homeless people, migrant workers and poor families across Delhi and Gurgaon. The thick fabric provided warmth against the cold wave in the NCR region.



**D 3012**

## RC Delhi Mayur Vihar

Club members distributed woollen jackets to children of small farmers at Banphool School run by an NGO on the banks of Yamuna river. The jackets and breakfast were sponsored by past president Rajeev Gupta and spouse Shashi. The beneficiaries thanked the club.



**D 3012**

## RC Sonapat Midtown

Club members welcomed the Nagar Kirtan rally of Sikhs on the eve of Guru Nanak's birth anniversary. Along the procession, a langar stall was set up to serve the public and obeisance was paid to the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book for Sikhs. The club joined hands with RAC Ashoka University to hold a blood donation camp in which over 150 units of blood were collected.







D 3020

## RC Kakinada Golden Jubilee

The club donated ₹80,000 to the district polio fund after conducting a TRF seminar in October last year. After budgeting the savings from the event, the cheque was handed over to district polio programme chair Kalyan Chakravarthi. Club president G V Krishna Prakash handed over the cheque.



D 3030

## RC Jalgaon West

Rotary Premier League, a cricket fundraiser, was organised with the participation of 18 teams from district clubs. While DG Anand Jhunjhunwala inaugurated the tournament, the prize distribution to the winners was done by PDG Rajiv Sharma. RC Jalgaon Stars won the trophy and RC Pachora was the runners up team. The sports committee led by project chair Nilesh Agrawal worked for the tournament's success.



D 3030

## RC Nagpur Fort

DG Dr Anand Jhunjhunwala inaugurated *Project Prerna* which will develop the all-round faculties of slum children near Khamla Square. Antarbharati Ashram is the joint partner. Children will be taught various crafts including music, dance and games. Project chair Meenakshi Desai said children would be helped in school homework.

**D 3053**

## RC Jodhpur Padmini

To mark its charter day, September 12, the club members did small acts of kindness for 43 days from Aug 1. Under *Project Kindness Chain*, sports equipment were donated to schools, marriage sponsored for underprivileged couples, given financial grants for students and provided basic essentials to poor families.



**D 3070**

## RC Phagwara Mid Town

To mark National Pollution Control Day, Dec 2, the club organised a pollution check-up camp for two days. Additional deputy commissioner Nayan Jassal honoured the club for its efforts to create awareness among the public. Club president Raj Kumar Heer and project director Narinder Saini coordinated the event.



**D 3080**

## RC Yamunanagar

A new wheelchair was donated to a disabled youth who is plagued with multiple organ problems since birth and is from a poor family. The club is providing him with medicines on a regular basis. The family thanked the club for this gesture.







**D 3110**

## **RC Kanpur Green**

Tea, biscuits and sweets were distributed to homeless people, destitute, elderly and poor families with PDG Chandra Rishi inaugurating the project. A district 'Save Life' webinar, along with organ donation pledge, was hosted by the club in partnership with RCs Kanpur Gaurav and Kanpur Atulya. It also provided an opportunity for networking among Rotarians.



**D 3131**

## **RC Panvel Elite**

Around 200 people were inoculated at the typhoid and hepatitis B vaccination camps at Anjuman-i-Islam Kalsekar Technical Campus and Likhite Hospital, both in Panvel, at a total project cost of ₹15,000. A haemoglobin check-up camp and talk on anaemia for 30 girls and their mothers were held on International Girl Child Day at a project cost of ₹1,000.



**D 3131**

## **RC Pune Laxmi Road**

*Project Dhadkan* was conducted in partnership with seven other Pune clubs at the National Film Archives of India and Tilak Smarak Mandir to create awareness on healthy heart. DG Anil Parmar initiated the programmes with the support of Dr Jagdish Hiremath, cardiologist from Revive Heart Foundation. Over 1,500 booklets on 'Healthy heart tips and CPR' were distributed.

# Clubfoot awareness seminar in Delhi

## Team Rotary News

**R**C Delhi South, RID 3011, organised a clubfoot awareness seminar at the Gangaram Hospital in the capital. The seminar was attended by many Rotarians and presidents from 10 Rotary clubs and parents of children with clubfoot disorder. Counsellors from CURE India, the healthcare NGO with a vision to eradicate disability caused by clubfoot, delivered lectures on how to treat the disorder and instilled

confidence in the parents that it can be corrected if the treatment is begun early.

Clubfoot is a congenital abnormality in the foot, where the ankle is twisted and looks like the head of a golf club, giving it the name. It is caused because the tissues which connect the bones to the muscles are shorter than their adequate size. This causes the ligaments and tendons to stick to the bones in a tight manner which then leads to the

abnormal position of the foot. Most children born with clubfoot have the defect present in both feet. If the child has a clubfoot problem, then it may be hard for the child to walk normally, therefore clubfoot surgery is usually recommended by the doctors soon after birth. Ponseti method is the specific technique widely followed to treat the disorder and thus a permanent disability can be avoided.

“At the seminar we presented 12-year-old Shweta who was born with clubfoot and was operated upon by Vikas Gupta at the Safdarjung Clinic. She has recovered so well that she is now playing tennis at the national level, and her tennis annual coaching fee of ₹3 lakh having been waived, thanks to one of our Rotarians’ efforts,” said Lalit Sawhney, president of RC Delhi South.

DG Ashok Kantoor urged the Rotarians to set up clubfoot clinics to treat children with the disorder and three offers poured in. His club, RC Delhi West is in the process of starting one at the Ambedkar Hospital. A regular clubfoot clinic will be operated at the Sir Gangaram Hospital. Rajesh Gupta, a member of RC Delhi Rajdhani, offered to start a clinic at the Agrasen Hospital, and another one will be set up by RC Delhi Panchshila Park.

Earlier Dr Manish Dhawan, clubfoot chair, RC Delhi South, and Amarnath Goyal, district clubfoot chair, addressed the audience. The faculty also included Dr Mathew Varghese,



RC Delhi South president Lalit Sawhney with a child who had recovered from clubfoot disorder and her father.





DG Ashok Kantoor releases the booklet on clubfoot.

Dr Vikas Gupta, Dr Atul Vaish and Santosh George from CURE India. Three past district governors — Sanjiv Rai Mehra, Vinay Bhatia and Raman Bhatia — and district secretary Mukesh Kohli were present at the seminar.

An information booklet in English and Hindi, written by the seminar faculty, was released and distributed to parents of children with clubfoot disorder. The seminar ended with a live demonstration of the Ponseti method of treatment, showing the way the plaster cast is done for clubfoot-affected children.■

## Shaping young minds



Rotarians with RYLA participants at RC SPIC Nagar.

Commemorating its golden jubilee year, RC SPIC Nagar, RID 3212, organised a three-day residential RYLA programme for youngsters last December. Forty-three students from various colleges participated in the RYLA which gave them insight into 360-degree leadership techniques. The programme was

inaugurated by P Kumarappan, a member of RC Madurai Innovators and a Rotary Leadership Institute faculty.

The participants learnt about the three dimensions of leadership — towards self, teams, and society. They were also trained in public speaking and overcoming stage fear.

RID 3000 Rotaract advisor Saravanaraj was the chief guest for the valedictory event. Assistant governor R Radhakrishnan, RYLA chairman C Prabhakaran and Rotarians S Srun Jeyakumar and A Saravana Kumar offered guidance to make it an effective, beneficial programme for the youngsters.■

D 3132

## RC Ambajogai City

Reflector tapes were stuck on the trolleys of sugarcane tractors at the Waghala sugar factory in partnership with the Inner Wheel Club of Ambajogai. This initiative follows an accident in which three persons on a trolley were killed. Club president Moin Sheikh, Inner Wheel president Meghna Mohite, Amba Sugar Factory MD Jangam Saheb were among those present.



D 3132

## RC Karad

Over 200 people benefitted from an orthopaedic camp conducted with the support of Sancheti Hospital, Pune. Rtn Shivraj Mane, former police sub-inspector, is holding weekly yoga classes at a village school. Rtn Anagha Barde spoke at a village school during a personality development workshop. The club is conducting handwriting improvement sessions at various schools in Karad.



D 3142

## RC New Bombay Seaside

A two-day art exhibition, *Kalasarjana*, was organised at the Nerul Gymkhana in Navi Mumbai. Over 100 artworks done by various artists were on display and they were much appreciated by the visitors. DG Kailash Jethani visited the art expo and complimented the club for the initiative.







D 3150

## RC Nizamabad

Bicycles were given to three girl students to mark National Girl Child Day (Jan 24). The cycles will help them commute to and from school without hassles. Vocational Excellence Awards were given to five eminent persons for their service to society. Rangoli competition was held at the club's adopted village, Linga Samudram.



D 3170

## RC Karwar

For the first time, the club members took part in the Kannada Rajyotsava rally with a tableau on Rotary's End Polio Now initiatives. Rtn Vinod Kotharkar, an IIT-Madras alumnus, gave a talk on career guidance for Class 10 students who are going to sit for the public exams.



D 3181

## RC Moodbidri

A rainwater harvesting facility was inaugurated at the Jain Math by Swami Charukeerthi Bhattaraka Pandithacharyavarya under *Project Jala Siri*. The RWH unit, set up with the assistance of Rotary Charitable Trust Moodbidri, will replenish the groundwater, apart from saving the rainwater for future use.

**D 3201**

## RC Coimbatore Monarks

Around 1,500 people in Karadivavi and four other villages were diagnosed for ailments at a health camp held in partnership with PSG Hospitals and Coimbatore Cancer Foundation. Free spectacles, medicines, walking and mobility aids, sanitary pads, and nutrition and health counselling for children and mothers were provided. Those shortlisted will have free cataract surgery and treatment at PSG Hospitals.



**D 3211**

## RC Alleppey Greater

An awareness programme on drug abuse among children was organised at the Alleppey beach. Club president Vijayakumar spoke in the presence of Rotarians, students and staff of Swanthanam Buds School. Students performed a flash mob. New Year was celebrated with 170 elderly inmates of Shantibhawan Old Age Home. AG Gireesan KG inaugurated the event at the home.



**D 3232**

## RC Chennai Chola

An awareness rally was taken by 75 visually-impaired people at Tiruvottiyur in North Chennai to mark International Day of White Cane (Oct 15). Rotarians too participated in the rally from the corporation office to a government school. White canes were distributed to the visually-challenged for walking and food was sponsored by the club.







**D 3240**

## RC Guwahati Luit

Around 130 blankets were distributed to villagers in the interior parts of Karbi Anglong region of Assam. Project chair Pramode Begani and co-chair Amit Ajitsaria took care of the logistics. The Phuloni Youth Development Committee and Karbi Student Association were joint partners. The beneficiaries were happy to receive the blankets on Christmas eve.



**D 3250**

## RC Chaibasa

A huge structure 'I Love Chaibasa' was installed at the local railway station in the presence of divisional railway inspector Moinak Dutta, Rungta Steel general manager Arvind Kumar, AG Anil Sharma and club president Ritesh Mundhra. The edifice was sponsored by Rtn NP Sao in memory of his late father MP Sao. A public event Fun@railway station was organised.



**D 3262**

## RC Bhubaneswar Meadows

DG Prabhudatta Subudhi and PDG Aswini Kar were present at the Republic Day event at Madhurmayee Adarsha Siksha Niketan. More than 100 students took part in the gala programme. Club president Santanu Mahapatra and other members were also present.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

# RC Kushinagar fetes cyclists from Nepal

V Muthukumaran

**W**ith the aim to foster cordial and friendly relations between India and Nepal, a 45-member team of cyclists from Lumbini, Nepal, reached the Gandhi Chowk, Kasia. They were given a warm reception

by members of RC Kushinagar, RID 3120, led by club president Dr M H Khan.

Speaking on the occasion, Khan said, “the cycle rally is aimed to strengthen friendship between India and Nepal; their objective is also environment protection by creat-

ing awareness among the public.” Among the cyclists, 32 were from Nepal and 13 were Indian members. The cyclists were garlanded and given mementos and *angavastram* (religious stole). Club secretary Wahid Ali, event coordinator Rajeev Jaiswal Lakshya, vice-presidents

Cyclists from Nepal being honoured by RC Kushinagar president Dr M H Khan (2<sup>nd</sup> from R) and club members at Kasia.





Ajay Kumar Singh and Anjali Kharwar felicitated the rallyists.

More than 450 patients were screened at a mega eye check-up camp held with the support of Raj Eye Hospital, Gorakhpur, at the Malti Pandey Girls Inter College, Kasia. Among them, 187 were identified for cataract operation. Spectacles and medicines were also given.

Dr Khan recalled that in April too they had organised a similar eye camp at the Junior High School, Kasia, reaching out to over 360 patients. Project convener Shailendra Tripathi Sonu said the club will provide free eye treatment and surgeries, if needed, to those

patients identified at the eye camps. Club patron Rakesh Jaiswal inaugurated the medical camp.

On Gandhi Jayanthi (Oct 2), a special event was organised at the Shaheed Memorial Park, Kasia, in which sub-divisional magistrate Kalpana Jaiswal, as chief guest, praised the multifaceted service projects of the club to fulfil the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi. Rich tributes were paid by the public and Rotarians, who also placed earthen lamps and wreaths at the Gandhi statue. The spinning wheel (*charkha*) was the centre of attraction with many taking selfies with it at the venue.

### Diwali at old age home

On the eve of Diwali, Rotarians exchanged greetings with the inmates at the Vridhaashram old age home. The home was lighted with diyas, sweets and fruits were distributed; and colourful sparklers were lit which were enjoyed by the elders. "Spending time with the elderly at this old age home on Diwali is an annual event. Our presence along with patron Jaiswal and senior members gave a sense of belonging to the elderly inmates," said Khan.

World Polio Day (Oct 24) was observed through an awareness event in which Khan recalled the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, GPEI, by Rotary and the WHO in 1988 when there were around 350,000 polio cases in 125 countries. Rotary celebrates Oct 24 to mark the birth anniversary of Jonas Salk who developed the first vaccine against poliomyelitis. "Rotary members and volunteers risk their lives to reach some of the most remote and dangerous areas to vaccinate children under five years of age," said Khan.

### Kalam remembered

The 91<sup>st</sup> birth anniversary of former president Abdul Kalam (Oct 15) was marked with a special event at the Malti Pandey Girls Inter College. Khan, secretary Wahid Ali and other Rotarians paid floral tributes at the portrait of Abdul Kalam, along with the faculty. "Kalam was born in an ordinary family, but achieved his towering dreams during his illustrious life journey. He breathed his last like a true soldier of the country," said Khan.

The cremation ground near Hiranyavati river at Kasia was cleaned with the support of the forest department and Kushinagar Municipality as part of *Namami Gange Swachhata hi Seva* campaign. "A pledge was taken by the volunteers to keep the river and







**Above:** RC Kushinagar president Dr MH Khan (left) at the eye check-up camp at the Malti Pandey Girls Inter College, Kasia.

**Right:** A sapling is being planted near the crematorium on the banks of Hiranyavati river during the *Namami Gange Swachhata hi Seva* campaign.

**Below:** Club president Khan honours a cyclist.







crematorium clean. We planted saplings of peepal, pakad, banyan, mango and gular with chanting of mantras for *pitra visarjan*,” said Khan. The mantra was recited by Chandrika Sharma, former principal, Maharishi Arvind Vidya Mandir.

A name board was installed at the community health centre with its superintendent Dr Markandey Chaturvedi expressing his gratitude to the Rotarians for this initiative. Fruits, sweets, cookies and beverages were distributed to over 55 inmates at an old age home in Kasia to mark the birthday of Sahil Ahmed, vice-president of the club. Elders blessed the Rotarians for their charitable work.

Seven senior physicians of Kushinagar including Dr C P Gupta, Dr Qazi Hasan and Dr Ramanan Singh were honoured with souvenirs at their homes/clinics to mark Doctors’ Day. As part of its greening mission, 300 saplings of different species were distributed at a stall and the beneficiaries were asked to sign an affidavit that they will take care and nurture them till the end.

#### I-Day events

*Har ghar tiranga* campaign was taken up at the Mahaparinirvana temple as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day. Rudraksha saplings were planted at the main entrance of the temple and national flags were distributed to the people. “We also cleaned monuments under the control of ASI as part of their *Swachh Smarak - Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* drive,” he said. Bottle palm saplings with tree guards were planted at the Junior High School and over 300 children were given ball pens to mark I-Day. Block education officer Satyendra Kumar Pandey praised the club for its social outreach with a service motto. A cultural programme later in the evening saw Rotarians and

their families performing stage shows in which their children showcased their talent.

Rudraksha saplings with tree guards were planted at the Shiva temples, while Ashoka saplings were planted at the Junior High School during the Shravan month. This holy month for Hindus ushers in monsoon and Lord Shiva is worshipped during the period.

Around 950 patients were examined for general health at a mega medical camp in Roadways Bus Stand complex hosted jointly with the City Super Specialty Hospital and Synergy Institute of Cancer Care. Doctors from Gorakhpur, Lucknow and Delhi treated the patients who went through ECG, BP, blood sugar and fibro scan liver tests. Medicines were also distributed.

#### Kargil Vijay Diwas

Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed by holding two minutes silence at an old age home and laying wreath on a picture to pay tributes to martyred soldiers. A banquet was organised for the elderly people of the home in the evening. Rotarians called for strengthening their fight against illiteracy, social evils and environmental pollution.

Rudraksha and Ashoka saplings with tree guards were planted at the Bhaluhi Madari Patti (Shiva) temple and Sun temple, Turkpatti, as part of environment protection campaign. Retired teachers were honoured at the Birla Dharmshala for their contributions to society to mark Teachers’ Day. The awardees thanked the club for recognised their work. A blood donation camp was held at the Madrasa Umar Farooq to pay homage to soldier Abdul Hameed who was killed during the Indo-Pak war. Though 68 people registered for the event, also 33 were found eligible for donating blood. ■

# A mega blood donation camp in Patiala

Team Rotary News



DG Gulbahar Retole, Bhagwan Dass Gupta, president, RC Patiala Mid Town, and Janhvi Gangwar, president of RAC TIET, interacting with the donors.

**R**C Patiala Mid Town and RAC Thapar University of Engineering and Technology (TIET), Patiala, RID 3090, organised a blood donation camp at the university's campus. The event was held to support the Government Blood Bank at Rajindra Hospital and the Lifeline Blood Bank, Patiala, in their efforts to save the lives of thalassaemic children.

The event was attended by Gurpreet Thind, additional deputy commissioner of Patiala, and DG Gulbahar Retole. Bhagwan Dass Gupta, president of RC Patiala Mid Town, and Janhvi Gangwar, president of the Rotaract Club, were also present at the camp.

The project chairman and member of RC Patiala Mid Town,

Dr Sham Jindal, oversaw the collection of 500 units of blood. "This will go a long way in helping both the blood banks to provide safe blood for children suffering from thalassemia and also help raise awareness about the importance of blood donation and saving lives," he said. Every donor was provided with a certificate of appreciation. ■



# RC Surat West holds photo contest

## Team Rotary News

A Rotary Photo Contest hosted by RC Surat West, RID 3060, received 367 pictures on various themes and genres from across India. Of these entries, a panel of five eminent photographers — Chitrnanjan Desai and Saurabh Desai from Surat; Joydeep Mukherjee and Tanya Chatterjee from Kolkata; and Rtn Santosh Kale from Shirol, Kolhapur — short-listed 33 best pictures for further evaluation.

Finally, the jurors chose three winners. While the first prize was won by Sourav Das on the Swachh Bharat theme; the second and third prizes



The photograph of first prize winner, Sourav Das, based on the Swachh Bharat theme.

were bagged by Dnyaneshwar Vaidya and Rahul Saha, both submitted pictures on the 'culture and festival of

India'. Rtn Vivek Goel, past president, RC Surat West, managed the photo contest. ■

## Care for TB patients



Rotarians along with school girls at a sanitary pad distribution drive.

RC Sonpet Midtown, RID 3012, sponsored the diagnosis for 60 tuberculosis patients and provided nutrition supplements to them in response to the government of India's call for

support to its health initiative, *Nikshay Mitra*. The club plans to support the patients with nutrition and medical aid. The GoI's health ministry has appreciated the club with a certificate.

In another initiative the club members distributed 1,600 sanitary pads to less privileged girls studying in a government school in Shahpur Turk in Sonapat. ■

# Eye camps across Faridkot

## Team Rotary News

Eye glasses were distributed by members of RC Faridkot, RID 3090, during eye check-up camps at Gurudwaras Dukh Niwaran Sahib, Bolu Wala Sahib, Mai Godri Sahib, Langar Mata Khiwi and Hari Nau Sahib; Pracheen Sidhpeeth Hanuman Mandir; Government Senior Secondary Smart School, Machaki Mal Singh; four Government Middle Schools; a Government High School; and at residential colonies benefiting people across age groups.

As part of its religious service, the club members visited Gurudwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur, in Pakistan under the leadership of DG Gulbahar Singh Retole. To caution motorists, speed limit boards were installed at busy roads and junctions in Faridkot. A dental check-up camp was held at the Government Balbir



Patients being screened at the eye check-up camp at the Gurudwara Dukh Niwaran Sahib in the presence of Rotarians.

Middle School during which sweaters were distributed to the students. Hundreds of patients were screened for chronic ailments at the medical camp held at the Jindal Health Care, Faridkot. Also, a blood donation camp at this centre received a

good response from the public. Children's day was celebrated by club members at a get together in a hotel. Carpet mats were distributed to students of a primary school which will help them to sit comfortably in the classrooms.■

Carpet mats donated to a government primary school.





For the past 30 years, RC Madras T Nagar, RID 3232, along with Neeta Memorial Charitable Trust, has been organising the Rota Talent Contest, a day-long carnival for the differently-abled from various special schools in Chennai. The programmes are designed in such a way to bring out their inherent talents. The children participate in dance, music and skits. “It is an opportunity for them to enjoy the day with friends and make it memorable,” says club president Meenakshi Perikaruppan.

This year DG N Nandakumar, along with his spouse Sumedha, inaugurated the carnival in an auditorium in Chennai; 1,400 children visited the carnival and they were accompanied by 350 caretakers. The visitors were treated to sumptuous breakfast, lunch, and snacks throughout the day. “Children had a fun time eating their favourite snacks such as popcorns and candies. The mehendi and tattoo stalls, and games arenas were a huge attraction,” says Meenakshi.

Drawing and painting competitions were conducted by Inner Wheel Club of Chennai Presidency.

# A talent show for the differently-abled

## Team Rotary News



**Above: A painting by one of the participants at the talent carnival.**

**Below: DG N Nandakumar and Sumedha with participants at the Rota Talent Contest.**

School bags were gifted to each child and their caretakers received travel bags. Physiotherapy sessions were conducted by sports medicine doctors.

DG Nandakumar hailed the club for conducting this mega event for three decades continuously. RAC Saveetha Medical College also participated in organising the event.

RC Madras T Nagar honoured two special people for their vocational excellence. The club conferred the Beacon of Light Award on Jyothikalai, a talented musician with multiple disabilities, and Ambal, a physically-challenged woman, was honoured with the Alchemist Award. Having qualified in accounting, Ambal helps people with disabilities find jobs.

Medals and trophies were given to the winners and runners up in all categories by district Rotaract chairman Kathirvel Ganapathiappan. ■

