

April 2023

# Rotary

## NEWS PLUS



# Wheelchairs donated by RC Izatnagar Bareilly

## Team Rotary News

The members of RC Izatnagar Bareilly, RID 3110, took part in a number of CSR activities in Kashipur. Under *Project Karuna*, one of the flagship programmes of RID 3110, the club distributed wheelchairs to the disabled across age groups.

Rotary Vocational Awards were given to individuals who had contributed to the society by excelling in their professions. The 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International was celebrated on Feb 23 by paying floral tributes to the portrait of its founder Paul Harris and cutting a cake. Club president Rajiv Srivastava presided over the event.■



Rotarians with a student on a wheelchair.

## Emotional mastery workshop for students

Rotary Club of Ghaziabad North, RID 3012, conducted a workshop on emotional mastery at the Government Girls

Inter College in the city. Motivational trainer Nameeta Jindal addressed 450 students in a two-hour interactive session. She spoke about

overcoming fear, shyness, procrastination, moving up the ladder and out of one's comfort zone through various fun games and exercises.■



A motivational session at the Government Girls Inter College.

**On the Cover:** Students display the robot assembled by them at a workshop hosted by RC Chennai Velachery and other clubs.



# Robotic workshop for Interact students

Team Rotary News



Girls trying to assemble a mini robot at the workshop.

To create a new interest among students and with a view to improve their concentration and focus in academics, RC Chennai Velachery president K Gopalakrishnan is holding 'Robotics education' workshops for Interact students from Classes 7–9 across

government schools in Chennai, RID 3232.

As many of the students were found "lagging and showing disinterest in academics after the Covid pandemic, the idea of conducting a robotics workshop among Interact schoolchildren was born," said

Gopalakrishnan. In this three-hour hands-on session, students are taught about the basic components of robots, how to assemble them, programming and enabling them to work efficiently to do some basic tasks, he said. So far, six workshops were conducted and "the feedback we got was enthusiastic as the children have turned attentive and become focused as a result of the robotic sessions."

RCs Chennai Velachery, Ambattur, Chennai Sunrise and Chennai Metrozone have hosted the six workshops held so far, and "we have planned a total of 10 such events from Feb to April across government schools," he said. The robotic workshops are being conducted at different government schools at Velachery, Ambattur, Virugambakkam and Red Hills covering various parts of Chennai in partnership with the local Rotary clubs. ■



RC Chennai Velachery president K Gopalakrishnan conducting the workshop.

# An upcycling workshop draws huge response

## Team Rotary News

A two-day online upcycling workshop with competition was organised for multidistrict Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors by Rotary E-Club of Empowering Youth, RID 3132, in partnership with RC Pune Royals and RID 3131's Environment Committee. "The aim of the workshop was to motivate youngsters to adopt an upcycling mindset at an early age so that they become conscious consumers with respectful approach to the environment," said Bindu Shirsath, member, Rotary E-Club of Empowering Youth.

Around 1,000 Interactors and students from schools and colleges across South Asia had registered for the workshop and competition. The workshop also



introduced the participants to the innovative ideas in upcycling to create business opportunities for them.

On the third day, the students presented their newly-upcycled products which were assessed by jury members and the winners were chosen. The upcycled products like chairs, stools, water dispenser, paper dolls, photo frame, wall hangings, bags, purses, bird nest, pen holder and other decorative articles were presented at the competition. E-certificates and cash prizes were awarded to the winners.

The online upcycling workshop was conceptualised by Rajendra Saraf, president, RC Pune Royals, and Bindu Shirsath with support from RI districts

in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. ■

## New vocational centre near Coimbatore



DG B Elangkumaran at the inauguration of a new vocational centre.

DG B Elangkumaran inaugurated a new vocational training centre started by RC Karamadai, RID 3203, to provide training in tailoring to women for them to

earn regular income. Free sewing machines will be given to underprivileged women after their training at the centre.

The club had set up a new

bus shelter near the Government Higher Secondary School, Karamadai, near Coimbatore, which was also inaugurated by the governor. ■



# Rotary helps a government hospital

Team Rotary News



Wheelchairs and cots being donated to the government hospital by RC Pudukkottai City.

**R**C Pudukkottai City, RID 3000, donated wheelchairs and cots to the government hospital in Pudukkottai in the presence of club president

R Sivakumar, MLA V Muthuraja and a host of government officials.

In another initiative, the club members went to the Government Polytechnic College and

addressed the students on equity, diversity and inclusion. They sensitised the youngsters to treat women with respect and ensure that they follow the equal opportunity

policy in their workplace and wherever they go. The students were also made aware of their responsibilities as citizens and urged to mindfully follow road rules. ■

## A Rotary job fair

**R**C Vriddhachalam, RID 2981, organised a mega job fair in Virudhachalam in Cuddalore district, Tamil Nadu. Of the 380 people who attended the event, 170 of them were shortlisted for various jobs. DG V Selvanathan, along with club president Viruthagiri and AG Deepak Chand, handed over the appointment orders issued by the employing companies to the selected candidates. ■



DG V Selvanathan hands over an appointment order from a company to a candidate at the job fair organised by RC Vriddhachalam.

# Cancer awareness events in Bharuch

V Muthukumaran



Women Rotarians, Anns at one of the cancer awareness sessions.

**A**s October is observed as the Breast Cancer Awareness month, RC Bharuch, RID 3060, tied up with the Indian Medical Association to step up its efforts to create awareness on the disease through a rally, workshops and awareness sessions across the town. “The goal is to get as many people as possible involved in raising awareness and provide support to the affected individuals through counselling as thousands of lives could be saved each year if people are more aware of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer,” said Rachana Poddar, public image chair of the club.

To motivate and rope in Rotarians for the cancer awareness campaign, a Pink Party was organised which saw a number of women Rotarians, Anns and members of RC Bharuch Femina taking part in fun games along with an informative session chaired by

Rtn Palak Kapadia, president, IMA-Bharuch. Cancer survivor Rashmi gave an inspiring speech. The awareness sessions were held in various communities, apartments, societies, corporate offices and townships. For women in the corporate sector at Dahej and Ankleshwar Industrial areas, online sessions were conducted. A gynaecologist team from the club including Rtns Falguni Thakkar and Pratiksha Mahida was accompanied by the Anns and IMA, Bharuch, secretary Dr Pragati Barot at the awareness sessions across the town to sensitise the public. “With the knowledge of breast cancer, women will look for early help and intervention which is really effective during the initial stages,” said Dr Palak.

It was found that before the sessions, a majority of the participants had minimal basic knowledge of breast cancer, methods of conducting breast self-examination (BSE) or the

need for mammography. “Post-sessions survey had revealed positive results with the participants agreeing to perform BSE and willing to get themselves screened through mammography on regular basis,” said Dr Palak.

Apart from imparting basic knowledge about the cancer, the workshops and awareness sessions inform the participants about the risk factors as more than 30 per cent of the cases could be avoided by avoiding these factors. “Women were made aware that if they have inherited changes (mutations) to certain genes — such as BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 — then they are at high risk of breast and ovarian cancer,” said Dr Palak. With rapid strides in medical screening and treatment, the survival rates for patients have increased considerably. “Once detected a person has to undergo treatment that may include surgery, that is, lumpectomy or radical mastectomy, along with axillary lymph



node dissection (ALND) followed by radiation therapy, chemotherapy or hormone blocking therapy,” explained Dr Palak.

While there is no way to prevent breast cancer, “a person can take steps to reduce the risk factors. We informed the people about the importance of regular screening, check-ups through mammograms, clinical breast examination,” said project chair Kamaljit Kaur Bunet.

#### **Pink-A-Rotathon**

A 5km run or walkathon titled *Pink-A-Rotathon* was organised to reach out to the wider public

in spreading awareness on breast cancer. Around 260 women and girls took part in the walkathon and it was followed by an awareness session by doctors and motivational speech by a cancer survivor.

“The *Rotathon* got wide publicity in print and electronic media, and social media platforms, thus delivering the message of self-examination and the need for early detection and intervention to thousands of homes,” said Rachana.

In the final leg of the campaign, the club with the help of district health administration, reached out to the women in slums and lower

socio-economic class. “ASHA workers of Bharuch district were targeted as missionaries to take the message to the community. We held an awareness session for around 250 ASHA volunteers so that they could educate more people through their regular door-to-door community visits in their assigned areas of focus,” she said.

The primary goal of the breast cancer awareness programmes is to drive home the message of early detection which plays a key role in the effective treatment of the disease with better results, said club president Dr Vihang Sukhadi, a cancer surgeon. ■

## **Women's Day at RC Bangalore Downtown**

### **Team Rotary News**

**A**s part of its commemoration of International Women's Day, RC Bangalore Downtown, RID 3190, invited three women achievers to address the club and inspire the women to expand their horizons and be the best in what ever they do.

Some of the topics covered include challenges for working women, what motivates them to step up and take up leadership roles, work-life balance and pursuing one's passion with grit and determination amidst various diversions.

Goal-setting for oneself in life is very important, stressed one of the three guests Nidhiya Jayaraman, legal head, Tata Elxsi. She elaborated on



RC Bangalore Downtown president Tejaswini Jaisimha (L) and youth service director Purnima Murthy (R) with guest speakers Nidhiya Jayaraman, Rachel Shetty and Sruti Hariharan.

how she overcame struggles in work environment and spoke opportunities for women in the top management.

Sruti Hariharan, a film producer, spoke about successfully surviving in the male dominated cinema industry, and the importance of balancing workplace and home. “It is important to have your ‘me-time’ and space. Always protect your self-respect. Success comes to those who persevere with sincerity and dedication,” she said.

Rachel Shetty, administrative head, Karnataka State Cricket Association, spoke about working with the Under-19 national girls' cricket team.

“These cricketers hail from various backgrounds and social sectors. It is important to groom them for international exposure and impart financial literacy,” she said.

The programme titled ‘Fireside Chat’ was conceptualised by Usha Selvaraj, president-elect of the club and moderated by youth service director Purnima Murthy.

Rotary Bangalore Tandav, Rotary Bangalore Jeevanbhimnagar, Rotary Bangalore R T Nagar and Rotary Action Group for Mental Initiatives, South India chapter, participated in the event. ■

# A daily health camp in Sonipat

## Team Rotary News

With the aim to reach out healthcare to the under-privileged, RC Sonepat Midtown, RID 3012, is holding free health check-up camp daily at the Om Hospital and Diagnostic Centre, Sonipat. Dr Ankit Rangarh, a club member, is examining the patients daily from 10am to 2pm for free.

A blood donation camp, its fourth edition, was conducted at the district courts with the support of the District Bar Association. In all, 192 staff and lawyers donated blood at the venue and a team of medical experts from the Balaji Action Hospital, Delhi, helped to organise and collect the blood from donors. Protein diet kits were distributed to 60 TB patients as part of its ongoing programme



Dr Ankit Rangarh examines a patient at his clinic at the Om Diagnostic Centre, Sonipat.

to support people affected by tuberculosis.

Holi was celebrated with

club members and their families greeting each other in a festive get together.■

# A diagnostic camp for senior citizens



An eye check-up in progress.

Around 160 senior citizens were screened at a diagnostic and treatment camp organised by RC Bhusawal Railcity, RID 3030, at its Rotary Hall. A range of tests including for BP, blood sugar, complete blood count (CBC), ECG, 2D test, gynaecology, and screening for cataract and orthopaedic illness were carried out by a team of 10 specialist doctors from the Dr Ulhas Patil Medical College and Hospital, Bhusawal. All the medical tests were done free of charge and those in need of further treatment were referred to the hospital.■



# A bike ride to promote Rotary

Team Rotary News



DG B Elangkumaran along with the other riders from RID 3203.

**F**ifteen enthusiastic Rotarians from RID 3203, including DG B Elangkumaran, recently embarked on a bike ride to promote Rotary's public image and the seven Areas of Focus. The event was spearheaded by RC Tirupur North, with club president S Ravishankar and secretary R Sunilkumar, leading the motorists. The rally was flagged off on Oct 23 by district trainer Karthikeyan.

The bike ride covered four Rotary districts — 2982, 3180, 3201 and 3203 — comprising Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, a total distance of 840km in three days. The riders

took turns and spoke about the significance of Rotary's areas of focus and presented a wooden plaque showcasing the seven areas of focus to the clubs they visited.

---

The bike ride covered four Rotary districts — 2982, 3180, 3201 and 3203 — comprising Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, a total distance of 840km in three days.

---

As part of the initiative, 15 service projects worth ₹5 lakh were carried out jointly with Rotary clubs in the cities en route. The projects included donation of furniture to a government school by RC Erode; planting of 30,000 tree saplings; inauguration of *Project Namma Bhavani*, a river restoration initiative, at Athani; donation of solar lights to a tribal community by RC Thalavadi; funding to dig a well at a Gudalur tribal school; donation of wheelchairs to the differently-abled at Ootacamund; donation of water purifiers to a government school in Pollachi; and installation of traffic lights by RC Bharathi in Tirupur. ■

D 2981

## RC Neyveli

As part of 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International, the club gave a financial assistance of ₹28,000 to a poor medical student; presented National Builder Award to a teacher for excellence in her vocation; and Rtn Natarajan who spoke at the event donated ₹2,000 for the Polio Fund. It was also an occasion for fellowship among members.



D 2982

## RC Salem Elite

A polio fundraising programme was held during a get together of Rotarians and their families titled *Paasamalars* led by club president K Durairaj. World Greatest Meal India coordinator Rtn Elyas gave a talk on polio, following which members, Anns and Annets took out a pledge to eradicate the disease from the world.



D 3000

## RC Dindigul

Around 200 patients were screened at the eye camp held at the PSNA Engineering College, Dindigul, with the support of its Rotaract club. Among those examined, 18 were identified for cataract surgery. Nathira Eye Hospital was the co-host of the eye camp which earned goodwill for the club.







**D 3000**

## **RC Madurai Sangamam**

A science exhibition was organised at Dr T Tirugnanam Primary School to mark National Science Day (Feb 28). RC Madurai Star president D Ganesan was the chief guest. Uniforms were distributed to school students. Winners of the exhibition contest were given prizes at the end. It gave a platform for students to showcase their scientific knowledge.



**D 3000**

## **RC Pudukkottai City**

A special lung screening camp was conducted for children with the support of Prasanth Speciality Clinic. Club president R Sivakumar donated housekeeping items to the staff at the Government Hospital, Pudukkottai, in the presence of legislator Vai Muthuraja. Municipality chairman Thilakavathy Senthil, doctors and Rotarians took part in large numbers.



**D 3012**

## **RC Sonapat Midtown**

PDG Deepak Gupta was the chief guest at the Lohri festival that celebrates the harvest season in Punjab. Around 300 jackets were distributed to poor families living on the roadside. The club donated a TB patient kit containing proteins to a beneficiary.

D 3060

## RC Baroda Sayajinagari

More than 160 residents of Ambada village were examined at the general health and eye diagnostic camp held in partnership with Parul Ayurved Hospital. Those in need of further care will be treated at the hospital. In a similar initiative, the club joined hands with Manavata Seva Trust to screen 72 patients. For cataract patients, free surgery will be done at the hospital.



D 3060

## RC Chikhli River Front

All the eight permanent projects — *Aksharyaan*, funeral van service; *Manavjyot*, wall of humanity, that helps poor families with their daily needs of food and clothing; maintaining trees on the Chikhli and Khergam highway; tailoring centre; ambulance service; cancer detection bus; blood collection on wheels; and free tractor service for poor farmers — have reached out to over 1,000 beneficiaries.



D 3080

## RC Chandigarh Midtown

Reflectors were pasted on two-wheelers and auto rickshaws; helmets were distributed to motorists as part of Road Safety Week celebrations. With the help of traffic police, Rotarians and Rotaractors spread awareness on road safety. Around 30 helmets were given to women riders. Those wearing helmets were felicitated by club president Dr Sanjay Kalra.







**D 3090**

## RC Patiala Mid Town

Basant festival was celebrated with children at *Masti ki Pathshala* in a slum colony. Project chair Inderjit Gill and club president Bhagwan Dass Gupta distributed prizes to painting contest winners. Rtn Balwinder Singh Bikhi, an assistant IG of police, celebrated his marriage anniversary with inmates of Sai Birdh Ashram, Chaura. He presented a cash amount of ₹5,100 for the inmates.



**D 3100**

## RC Moradabad

A team of Rotarians led by club secretary Sharmitabh Sinha celebrated new year with over 120 inmates at Vriddhashram, an old age home. Evening snacks, fruits and hot tea were served and Rotarians engaged the senior citizens in lively interaction. The event turned out to be highly emotional for club members.



**D 3100**

## RC Muzaffarnagar Vishal

A haemoglobin check-up camp was held for girls at Tarachand Vadik Putri Degree College with the support of Tata 1mg, a provider of diagnostic solutions. Around 1,000 iron tablets were given to those having low haemoglobin count. The camp enhanced the public image of the club.

**D 3120**

## RC Kushinagar

Woollen caps, notebooks, pens, chocolates and sweets were distributed to 125 children at Premwaliya Primary School. While teachers and cooks were given mementos and shawls respectively. Cyclist Laxman Chakraborty who was on a journey from Kolkata to Wagah border in Punjab, a distance of 2,200km, on a greening mission was honoured at Kushinagar.



**D 3132**

## RC Karad

Sweets were distributed to 100 sex workers in a slum colony on the occasion of Bhau Beej during Diwali. After getting the nod from the Women and Child Development Office, Satara, new dresses and sweets were distributed to 15 inmates at the Asha Kiran Women's Government Hostel, Karad, for them to celebrate Diwali.



**D 3132**

## RC Wai

Plastic barrels were given to around 180 families at Darewadi village on the foothills and they were told to collect wet and dry waste in them. With earthworm culture, they were trained to produce organic compost which was used to grow kitchen garden under *Project Garbage-free Village*. Plastic waste was collected separately and disposed collectively.







**D 3142**

## **RC Dombivli Diamonds**

Club president Sanjay Kagade exchanged club flags with Albert Wong, president RC Tanjong Pagar, his wife and past president Jora during a visit to Singapore. He had fruitful exchange of ideas with the Rotarians, while briefing them about his club's projects and initiatives.



**D 3142**

## **RC Hiranandani Estate**

Around 45 children from Mobile Creches took part in the Hiranandani Estate Rotary Olympics, *HERO 2023*, supported by the Inner Wheel club. Vocational Excellence Awards were given to six eminent people — Pradeep Lokhande, social entrepreneur; Vivek Kulkarni, wildlife scientist; Madhusudan Surve, ex-Army commando; Mrudul Sawant, women's rights activist; Anuja Sankhe, banker and writer; and Vikas Patnekar, water colour artist.



**D 3170**

## **RC Honavar**

An eco-friendly sanitary pad incinerator was donated to the Government High School which will help 150 girl students and 15 female teaching and non-teaching staff to safely dispose of used napkins. Each year, the club holds MHM awareness sessions reaching out to 1,000-plus girl students.

# RC Kundli supports government schools

## Team Rotary News



DG Lalit Khanna with club members at the inauguration of the event.



Students using their new chairs.



Rotarians along with the students and teachers of the Government Girls Senior Secondary School in Nangal Kalan, where the club constructed a stage.

In a bid to improve the infrastructure of government schools in rural areas of Sonipat, RC Kundli, RID 3012, launched several projects in a single day. The projects were inaugurated in early March by DG Lalit Khanna in the presence of PDGs Manoharlal Aggarwal and Deepak Gupta.

The government schools in the community were found to be lacking in basic facilities such as toilet blocks, hygiene and sanitation, furniture for students, and had irregular electricity supply. In response, the club immediately initiated the installation of a 2.5KVA solar inverter and provided 100 chairs at the Government Senior Secondary School in Atterna village.

A Government High School in Rasoi village, Sonipat, also received a 2KVA solar inverter and 50 chairs. The club has adopted this school. Under WinS the construction of new toilet blocks and installation of hand and dishwashing stations were completed along with the delivery of 50 chairs at the Government Primary School in Rai village. The club also constructed a stage at the Government Girls Senior Secondary School in Nangal Kalan.

These initiatives are expected to have a significant impact on government schools, as they will improve the learning environment for students. ■



# A campaign for literacy

## Team Rotary News

**R**C Surat East, RID 3060, and RAC Surat East organised a *Rotathon* in the month of March to promote literacy and create awareness against drug abuse. The event, which attracted 2,800 participants, included 10km, 5km and 2km runs. Among the participants were 500 students from Ashadeep International School and the RFE team from Mexico, RID 4195. Zumba sessions were also arranged as part of the event.



RFE team from Mexico, RID 4195, at the Zumba session.



Rotarians wave the Indian and club flags at the launch of the event.

The flag-off for the 10km run was done by Gujarat home minister Harsh Sanghavi, who urged the people to come together to make the state a drug-free place. The flag-off for the 5km and 2km runs was done by education minister Praful Panseriya and DRR Shivani Shah. Panseriya congratulated the Rotary and Rotaract clubs for their efforts to promote literacy and assured them of the government's support in their mission.

The club has previously organised a marathon and a cyclothon. "The *Rotathon* 2023 fits well within Rotary's area of focus of literacy and has given the organisation a big public image boost. The event was a huge success, with participants of all ages and backgrounds coming together to promote literacy and say no to drugs," says past president Jagdish Vaghasia. ■

**D 3170**

## **RC Hubli Central**

Sweaters and blankets, sponsored by club secretary Nagarekha Hebsur, were given to 100 orphaned children at Mahila Vidyapeeth, a government hostel. Around 190 women were screened at a cervical cancer detection camp at the PHC, Hirebagewadi, and 56 Pap smear tests were done. A health camp benefitted 200 people at Toll Naka Dharward, a slum colony.



**D 3170**

## **RC Karwar**

An eye check-up camp was conducted for auto drivers with the support of local police in Karwar. Food and grocery bags were donated to an old age home for the inmates to live comfortably. Both the projects lifted the public image of the club and the beneficiaries thanked Rotary for their outreach.



**D 3181**

## **RC Puttur East**

DG Prakash Karanth appreciated the work of Interactors at the Interact Club of Vivekananda Puttur East. Led by district interact representative Tanvee Shenoy, the Interactors spent time with elders at Anandashram, an old age home. They also installed sanitary pad incinerators at schools.







**D 3190**

## RC Bangalore Rajarajeshwari Nagar Centennial

*Project School of Wheels* targets slum children providing them basic education and nutritious lunch on a daily basis in a stationary bus. The project was launched with the support of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike with zonal commissioner Ram Prashath Manohar as the chief guest in the presence of club president B Nagaraja and civic officials.



**D 3201**

## RC Coimbatore Monarks

A *bhoomi puja* for a new toilet block (₹2 lakh) was done at the Government Panchayat Union Middle School, Kottaipalayam, adopted by the club, during the visit of DG S Rajmohan Nair. Also, Governor's Excellence Award for Teachers (GREAT Award) was given to the school headmistress. DG Nair was given an awareness campaign flag against child abuse, and briefed on the club projects done so far.



**RID 3203**

## RC Ootacamund

Eight personalities were honoured with Vocational Excellence Awards for their exemplary service to the community across professions at an event. Nilgiris SP Prabhakaran as chief guest presented the awards to the recipients. The awardees thanked the club of recognising their work.

D 3211

## RC Alleppey Coir City

More than 3,000 students were screened at eye camps held across four schools under *Project Amritam*. Among them, 179 were found to have defects and they were given spectacles. Alleppey Municipal chairperson Soumyaraj distributed the spectacles in the presence of club president Siju Joy at Leo XIII HS School.



D 3211

## RC Alleppey Greater

Christmas and new year were celebrated at Shanti Bhavan Sarvodaya, an old age home in Alleppey, with 170 inmates. Club president C Vijayakumar chaired a meeting in the presence of AG Gireesan KG. A cake cutting was done and distributed to all inmates.



D 3211

## RC Chengannur

A fellowship event was organised to mark Rotary's 118<sup>th</sup> anniversary with Rotarians dressed as seven characters depicted in artist Ravi Varma's paintings. Each character symbolically represented Rotary's seven focus areas of action. Rotarians took part with their Anns at the social get together.







**D 3212**

## RC Tirunelveli Town

An eye camp was conducted for truck drivers with the support of Regional Transport Office and National Highways Department at the Nanguneri tollgate as part of Road Safety Week celebrations. State transport officials and club president M Ibrahim were present at the camp which screened a large number of motorists.



**D 3261**

## RC Raipur Greater

DG Shashank Rastogi was the chief guest at the district WASH seminar, while DGE Manjeet Singh was the guest of honour. PDG Ramesh Aggarwal, RI WASH chairman, delivered the keynote address. The club has done over 100 handwash awareness seminars in schools led by its president Vinay Agrawal. PDGs Rakesh Chaturvedi, Harjeet Singh Hura, Rakesh Dave and Subhash Sahu were also present. The club celebrated its 27<sup>th</sup> charter day at the seminar.



**D 3262**

## RC Rajdhani Bhubaneswar

New clothes were distributed to underprivileged families at Kateni village in Chandaka tehsil near Bhubaneswar. Around 150 persons benefitted from the project and the smile on the faces of children gave satisfaction to Rotarians. The beneficiaries thanked the club for the gesture.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

# Rotary Excellence Awards presented

Team Rotary News



Rotarians along with the awardees.

**R**C Bombay Sea Face, RID 3141, hosted its Annual Vocational Excellence Awards at the IMC Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The club has been honouring individuals and organisations who have displayed “the highest standards of integrity and honesty, gone beyond the call of duty, and contributed significantly to their field and society at large since the early 1990s,” says Manishi M Vora, vocational service director of the club.

The aim of these awards, explains Vora is to inspire and kindle enthusiasm, “particularly in the youth, to strive for vocational excellence for the benefit of their discipline and the community.”

The awards recognised Sudhanshu Mani who led a team of engineers and designers at the ICF Chennai and conceptualised, designed, developed and produced the Vande Bharat Express train.

Amongst the recipients of the Vocational Excellence Awards were Dr Ashok Mehta, cancer surgeon;

Subedar Major Yogendra Singh Yadav, a Kargil War hero, who led the Indian Army’s mission to liberate Tiger Hill after sustaining 15 bullet injuries; and Sumedha Chithade, wife of ex-IAF officer, the late Yogesh Chithade, who set up two oxygen generation plants in Siachen and Kupwara District Army Hospitals for supplying oxygen to Army men and citizens free of charge.

Additionally, the Indian Institute of Chemical Technology and Maithri Aquatech, a private company based in Hyderabad, were honoured with the Vocation Service Awards under the startup category. The startups provide affordable access to clean drinking water through atmospheric water generator called Meghdoot. A team of four young entrepreneurs, all below 30, from Genrobotics Innovations received the Vocational Excellence-Human Dignity-Award for their work on eliminating manual scavenging by making a robotic scavenger. ■



Sudhanshu Mani, the mastermind behind the production of the Vande Bharat Express trains received the Vocational Excellence-Make in India-Award.



## A Run for multiple causes

Team Rotary News



Participants along with Rotarians at the closing ceremony of the *Annual Dombivli Pride Run*.

The Annual Dombivli Pride Run, a marathon conducted by RC Dombivli West, RID 3142, has helped to create awareness on thalassaemia, provided aid for malnourished pregnant women, clean water for schools in Shahapur, near Mumbai, and provided free heart surgery for children. This year's run focused on raising funds to develop underprivileged schools.

The DB Jadhav Group of companies and EuroSchool, Dombivli, along with the club sponsored the event. ■

## Veteran journalist honoured

RC Mira Road, RID 3141, honoured Walter Alfred, aged 103, with a Lifetime Achievement Award in Journalism at the club's Annual Vocational Excellence Award.

PDG Sunnil Mehra honoured the veteran journalist in the presence of club president Dr Durgesh Aroor, vocational service director Vinod Shukla, and Alfred's family.

Walter Alfred, who worked as a Press Trust of India (PTI) correspondent, has covered some of the most historic moments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from India's Independence to Indira Gandhi declaring Emergency in 1975, as well as the India-Pakistan and Vietnam



RC Mira Road vocational director Vinod Shukla and Rtn Anand Bhatkal present the Rotary Lifetime Achievement Award to Walter Alfred in the presence of club president Dr Durgesh Aroor and Alfred's family members.

wars. His work as a journalist gave him the opportunity to meet several world leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Pakistani PM General Ayub Khan and former Indonesian

President Sukarno. In 1952, Alfred became the president of the Bombay Union of Journalists, and helped set up the Press Guild of India in Mumbai in 1954. ■

## A Run for the girl child

Team Rotary News



Participants of the *Kanyathon* event.

**R**otary Club of Mumbai Bravehearts, RID 3141, along with the students of the Vijaybhoomi University, recently organised the second edition of *Kanyathon*, a marathon to support the cause of the girl

child, at Karjat. More than 650 people participated in the event and it helped raise ₹10 lakh by way of registrations and generous contributions from corporates such as Radisson, Discover Resorts, Sattviki Jewellery, DGains

Valley, Pushpam, RK Enterprises and Star Windows. RC Karjat also contributed for the cause.

The 10km and 3km-run were followed by a 5km and 3km 'family walkathon' and the Zumba session had an energetic participation. ■

## Empowering girls in Karwar

**R**ID 3170 has been organising several workshops and seminars aimed at educating adolescent girls on various issues such as self-defence

techniques, menstrual hygiene, understanding their rights, and combatting harassments and violence of any form.

The district project named *Asmita* is being conducted by all Rotary clubs across the district in schools and colleges in the respective regions.

RC Karwar, led by its president Raghavendra G Prabhu, recently organised such a

programme for girl students at the New High School and REM High School in the city.

Specially designed booklets containing literature on various women's issues were distributed to the students. Interactive sessions with experts in various fields such as gynaecology and self-defence were conducted in both the schools as part of the programme. ■



Club president Raghavendra G Bhat and club members, along with schoolchildren after distributing booklets to them.



## Oral health camp at Khamgaon

Team Rotary News

To promote oral hygiene among children, 700 students at AK National High School were screened at a dental check-up camp hosted by RC Khamgaon, RID 3030. Their teeth and gums were examined with

the dentists giving tips on good oral hygiene habits such as brushing teeth twice day, flossing regularly and avoiding sugary foods and drinks.

Many students were found to have minor dental issues that were detected early and they were advised to avoid further tooth decay. The camp held with the support of dentists from the club educated the students on the need to take care of their teeth and gums for oral hygiene.

Also, the parents appreciated the effort of the school and the club to promote good habits among their children. Pleased with the outcome, both the club and the school administration have decided to hold similar medical camps in the future to ensure students continue to give priority to their health. ■



A student being screened.

RC Baikampady, RID 3181, organised a motorbike rally to honour 19 veterans of the Armed forces. The *Ride for Rotary Rally* was led by 30 Royal Enfield motorcycles and 10 cars and was flagged off by DGND Vikram Datta.

The rally stopped at various locations to felicitate the veterans. Joint press meets and club meetings were conducted, and a briefing about Rotary's humanitarian activities and the significance of the rally was given. Among 35 clubs of zones 1, 2, 3 and 4, five participated in the rally. The event ended with fellowship and a cultural programme. ■

## Ex-servicemen felicitated



Participants of the rally along with two veterans who were felicitated at the War Memorial at Kadri, Mangalore.