

July 2023

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Call to tackle water scarcity on priority

Team Rotary News

Major initiatives in water conservation were discussed at an RI district seminar hosted by RC Delhi South, RID 3011, through a hybrid platform. Two experts gave insightful talk on how to overcome water scarcity through better management and avoiding wastage of this precious resource.

In her presentation, Jyoti Sharma, founder-president, FORCE, an NGO working with the communities in solving water woes, pointed out that 54 per cent of India faces high to extremely high water-stress. “With the fall in available supply and increase in demand, we are headed towards water scarcity. In Delhi, about 3.1 million litres of water are supplied against a demand of 4.1 million. Moreover, 45 per cent of water supplied is lost in distribution, widening the demand-supply gap even more,” said Jyoti.

Water scarcity is a global threat as two billion people have no access to safe drinking water. “Decline in terrestrial storage, melting of glaciers, rising sea levels, and most importantly, climate change are the major causes,” she said. Jyoti called upon better water management, a healthy aquatic ecosystem and protection of wetlands like mangroves to reduce emission of greenhouse gases.

The wetlands and aquatic ecosystem will act as a buffer against climate hazards. “We also need to develop climate-smart farm practices like drip irrigation etc,” she said. As individuals we need to follow the five Rs — reduce, reuse, recy-



RKJD Dalmia Seva Sansthan chairman Raghu Hari Dalmia gives a presentation on his NGO's work at Rajasthan villages at the water seminar hosted by RC Delhi South.

cle, recharge and respect — to conserve water tables. “We can come up with new technologies, create models for water storage, introduce injection wells etc,” she added.

Raghu Hari Dalmia, chairman, RKJD Dalmia Seva Sansthan, an NGO which had transformed Rajasthan villages, cited the case of Chirawa block, a success story in water conservation. “In this village, 83 per cent of the groundwater was used for irrigating water-intensive crops. Also, the area suffered from erratic rainfall, poor water quality and total lack of awareness among the villagers,” he explained.

Some of the conservation steps included creating *tankas* (storage tanks), ponds without lining to recharge groundwater, and soak pits to recharge wells. For this, it was necessary to convince farmers to use less water for sustainable agriculture and take up large plantation drives. During his campaign, Dalmia worked towards ending

open defecation, and also usher in plastic-free and alcohol-free villages in Rajasthan.

As of March this year, almost four lakh trees were planted; 122 recharge wells were constructed; six man-made ponds, 4,209 water harvesting tanks, 2,222 toilets and 3,400 soak pits were built at Rajasthan villages. Modern devices created by IIT Delhi or CEERI, Pilani, like the sensor-based Water Quality Monitoring System or the groundwater table measuring device have been installed at select villages. At present, 55 villages are being supported by the Dalmia Seva Sansthan, “but we want to cover 88 villages at an estimated resource of ₹30 crore,” he said.

Earlier, IPDG Ashok Kantoor in his online address appreciated the club for holding the seminar which would create awareness on the dire need to protect and augment water resources. RID 3011-Water chairman Rajiv Gujral anchored the seminar.■

On the cover: Students of a zilla parishad school in Thane district display the nail cutters gifted to them by RC Thane Hills, RID 3142, as part of its sanitation project.

Tailoring lessons empower women in Chidambaram

Team Rotary News



IPDG V Selvanathan presents a certificate to candidate for completing the tailoring programme. Also seen are RC Chidambaram immediate past president P Ratnasabesan and AG M Deepak Kumar (centre).

Course certificates were given to 40 widows, destitute and economically backward women for completing a six-month tailoring programme run jointly by RC Chidambaram, RID 2981, and Dr Sabanayagam Memorial Trust.

Running this programme for the last 13 years, the club selects 40 deserving trainees after screening around 300 women every year. Till now over 500 candidates had benefited from the training programme. Once selected they are provided

with the necessary tailoring material in a joint venture with the Maruthi Tailoring institute. At the valedictory event, all the 40 women who had completed the programme and taken the examination were given certificates. The then club president P Ratnasabesan chaired the event in which IPDG V Selvanathan handed over the certificates and presented sewing machines to 11 meritorious students. The machines were sponsored by donors in and around Chidambaram. Till now, 130 women had received sewing machines.

Sabanayagam Trust trustee S Nadanasabapathy spoke about the aim of the project which reached out to the deprived women. AG M Deepak Kumar said the training programme empowered the less privileged women to earn a decent income. PDG R Ketharnathan felicitated the chief guest and other dignitaries. ■

Club's immediate past president Ratnasabesan presents a sewing machine to a beneficiary in the presence of IPDG Selvanathan and AG Deepak Kumar at the valedictory event.



A school toilet gets a facelift

Team Rotary News



Students with teachers at the new 'Sanitation Station' at the school. IPDG Kailash Jethani is seen third from left.

The students of the government zilla parishad school in the Nandwal village in Thane district are happy to go to school, all thanks to the two spanking new toilet blocks that RC Thane Hills, RID 3142, has built.

The club had constructed 161 toilets for that many number of homes in the village under its rural sanitation project — *Right to go* — in 2014–15. “Thanks to our initiative, around 1,000 villagers here have discontinued the age-old open defecation habit,” says Atul Bhide, the project coordinator. When the principal of the village school learnt about this endeavour he got in touch with the club with a request to help reconstruct the

toilet facilities at the school as they were in a dilapidated condition.

While the school building and other educational infrastructure was excellent, most of the boys were going out in the open to relieve themselves. The girls had a tough time answering the nature’s call in that dilapidated toilet structure, without any water tap. “Neither the school nor the gramsevak had funds to repair the facilities. As we had provided toilets to every home in the village, the children were used to using toilets and they found it difficult to manage at school as the toilets were unusable,” he says.

The club undertook renovation of the toilets at the school, along with installation of a water tank, through its charitable arm, Triumph

Foundation. The project was partially supported by RC Santa Monica Club, RID 5289, USA, and CSR funds from Luna Technologies.

Club member Pawan Adnani gifted nail cutters to the 100 students at the school and spoke to them about keeping their hands and feet clean to enjoy good health.

IPDG Kailash Jethani dedicated the ‘sanitation station’ to the staff and students in the presence of club president Jayaram Mendon, secretary Samir Limaye, representatives from Luna Technologies, Gurnath Makpekar, president of the school management committee, and the village heads. Saplings were also planted on the school campus to commemorate the event. ■

Rejuvenating water bodies

Team Rotary News



Members of RC Barabanki after cleaning the Piperi Talab pond.

Rotary Club of Barabanki, RID 3120, has adopted a pond named *Piperi Talab* in the town and the club members are directing their efforts to maintain it as an ongoing

project. Similarly, Rotary Club of Allahabad Academia, RID 3120, has adopted two ponds with an aim to maintain them for five years.

The clubs in the district

have taken up the cause after IPDG Anil Agarwal, during his regular visits to each club, urged them all to adopt and revive the water bodies in their areas.■

Electronic tabs for schoolchildren

Rotary Club of Delhi Mayur Vihar, RID 3012, gifted electronic tablets to 21 students at the Gandhi Smarak Inter College located at Mandola village in Ghaziabad.

The devices will help the children in their education.■



A student receives an e-tab from the Rotarians of RC Delhi Mayur Vihar.

Rotary mini forest in Sinnar

Team Rotary News

More than 2,000 herbal trees were planted on a half-acre of plot at Sinnar, a taluk in Nashik district of Maharashtra, by RC Nasik, RID 3030, to create *Ghanvan* (dense forest), an Indian equivalent of Japan's Miyawaki forest. The greening mission was funded by the CSR grant from Ring Plus Aqua.

The Vanprastha Foundation, Sinnar, will maintain the micro forest. "The dense forest is expected to curb and

reduce the pollution levels in Sinnar, a mofussil town. Once these 2,000 saplings grow up, they will emit 236 tonnes of oxygen which is enough for the annual requirement of 8,000 human beings," said Vinayak Deodhar, director, Communications, of the club. Apart from this, trees will absorb CO₂, emitted by human beings and the nearby industries, which will be an added advantage. Due to the cultivation of medicinal trees, the produce from plants could be used for

healthcare in future.

The Vanprastha Foundation, the project partner in Sinnar, has taken responsibility of nurturing the saplings planted over half-an-acre of plot, assigned by Sinnar Municipal Corporation, for about 11 years.

On World Environment Day (June 5), then club president Praful Bardiya led the plantation initiative in which the then club secretary Omprakash Rawat, past president Anil Sukenkar, CSR director Kamlakar

Tak, former Sinnar MLA Rajabhau Vaje and municipal officials took part. Complimenting Vanprastha Foundation for their support, Bardiya said, "the project will provide pure oxygen for residents of Sinnar for many years to come and Rotary will continue to do similar projects."

Rotary Chowk

A lasting monument, Rotary Chowk, was created by the club with IPDG Anand Jhunjhunuwala unveiling

IPDG Anand Jhunjhunuwala (right) and RC Nasik immediate past president Praful Bardiya at the new Rotary Chowk.





A herbal sapling is being watered as club members and municipal officials look on.



RC Nasik immediate past president Praful Bardiya presents a sapling under *Project Ghanvan*.

the new edifice in the presence of PDGs Ramesh Meher, KS Rajan, DG Asha Venugopal, DGE Rajinder Singh and DGN Nana Shevale. “Thanks to the efforts of Praful Bardiya and his team, we have now got a new Rotary landmark in Nashik,” said Deodhar. The Rotary monument was designed by club member Kedar Devi, an architect. “Based on his design, the project was executed by ABH Builders, who also sponsored it, in a record time,” he said. Apart from enhancing the public image of the club, the Rotary Chowk will encourage many residents of Nashik to join the organisation in times to come.■

Educating children of migrants

Team Rotary News



IPDG B Elangkumaran and Rotarians, along with children, at the Panchayat Union Primary School.

With the aim to provide education to the children of migrant workers, RC Sakthi Mahalingapuram, RID 3203, had appointed a teacher at the Panchayat Union Primary School, Saravanapuram, at

Pallagoundenpalayam in Tirupur district, over six years ago.

As many as 30 children are being taught in English, Hindi and Odia languages and in the next academic year, the club is hopeful of adding

50 more students. In this regard, IPDG B Elangkumaran is in consultation with the club's charter president Mayilsamy so that they could achieve their objectives at this panchayat primary school.■

One-day yoga camp in Bhusawal



Participants doing yogic postures on World Yoga Day.

On International Yoga Day (June 21), a one-day yoga camp was organised by RC Bhusawal Railcity, RID 3030, in partnership with Kreedha Bharati, a social outfit that promotes sports and well-being among the people.

More than 300 people took part in the yoga sessions and performed asanas as instructed by the trainer. "A certified yoga trainer demonstrated various postures which was followed by the participants. All of them took pledge to continue these *asanas* through the year for a healthy life," said club's immediate past president Makarand Chandwadkar.■

Care for birds

Team Rotary News



Rotarians along with students holding the earthenware bowls.

During the distribution of earthen pots at the schools, the students were educated about the crucial role birds play in the environment. Anuj Agarwal, the then district Interact chairman and club secretary (2022–23), explained that “this small effort during the scorching heat would help the birds. India’s cultural values, teach us to feed and care for animals and protect our environment. Our campaign aims to align with these values by creating awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility among you.”

Members of the club participated in the campaign. ■

In collaboration with the newspaper *Dainik Jagran* and Interactors from RID 3100, RC Moradabad Brass City Stars launched a campaign titled *Life is their water*. As part of this initiative, earthenware bowls were distributed to students

from Maharaja Agrasen Inter College, Green Meadows Senior Secondary School and SSK Inter College, Moradabad. The students were encouraged to place these bowls on the roofs of their homes, providing food and water for birds every day.



Rotarians distribute earthenware bowls to school students.

D 2981

RC Chidambaram Central

On World Nurses Day, the club jointly with the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Jan Aushadi Kendra honoured 316 medical staff at the Cuddalore Government Medical College and Hospital at an award ceremony. Then club president P Rajasekaran chaired the event in the presence of college dean Dr C Tirupathi, superintendent Dr Junior Sundresh and AG Deepak Kumar. Gifts and shields were presented to the staff. The project cost ₹1.3 lakh.



D 2981

RC Nagapattinam

Around 500 people were given food under *Project Annapurna* which was presided over by club president K Karthikesan. Government Hospital dean Viswanathan and DGE S Baskaran inaugurated the project. They also spoke on the occasion. Tree saplings were distributed to 10 people as part of greening mission. Buttermilk was also given to needy people.



D 2982

RC Salem Junction

After Salem (North) DCP Gautam Goyal expressed his interest to join Rotary, AG Jagadees recommended his name. Charter president C Kannan made arrangements for Goyal to be inducted as honorary member. Club's IPP Ranganathan presented the membership certificate to the DCP at his office. The club would join hands with the police to create public awareness on social issues.





D 3000

RC Jayankondam

A mega 10-day cataract surgery camp at the MRC Merit B Ed College in Ariyalur saw 247 patients — out of over 1,450 people screened — undergoing surgery at the mobile operation theatre. The camp was held with the support of ARSR Charitable Foundation, US, and Sankara Nethralaya Hospital, Chennai. At the valedictory event, glasses were distributed by the then DGND J Karthik. Ariyalur Deputy SP A Raja Soma Sundaram delivered a special address.



D 3020

RC Visakhapatnam

An RID 3020 Interact conference titled *Abhyaas* saw the participation of 550 students and over 30 Rotarians who shared their learning experience in Rotary. Interactors enjoyed the quiz, speeches and interactive sessions at the Alluri Vijnana Kendram. Cultural programmes were staged. IPDG Bhaskar Ram and PDG M V Prasad gave support to the conclave.



D 3020

RC Vizag Couples

Rotarian couple KRB Prakash and Vani donated study materials and sports equipment worth ₹2.75 lakh to Generation Yuva, a special home for destitute children. Around 800 foreign students of Andhra University took part in a cultural event hosted jointly with the ICCR and the Ministry of External Affairs. The event showcased the culture of 52 countries and the dinner was sponsored by club president Subodh Kumar Rakhecha and Prakash.

D 3030

RC Nagpur Fort

DG Dr Anand Jhunjhunwala inaugurated *Project Prerna* which aims at holistic growth of slum children. Antarbharati Ashram is the joint partner. Children will be taught various crafts including music, dance and games at the pre-primary school. Project chair Meenakshi Desai said children will be assisted in doing homework and basic hygiene will be taught.



D 3040

RI District

The Postal department has released a ₹5 denomination stamp in memory of late Rtn Sadhana Singh who died due to Covid. She was working for several social organisations striving for the betterment of communities. The Indore Philatelic Society took up with the department the contributions of Sadhana and it has posthumously honoured her by releasing a postal stamp in her memory. She was a member of Indore Meghdoot.



D 3056

RC Jaipur Royal

Following a request from the Turkish embassy, the club raised ₹2 lakh overnight and bought 500 woollen blankets and 5,000 sanitary pads which were sent as relief material to the quake victims in Turkey. Then club president Arun Bagadia led the fund collection drive for the purchase of relief items with contributions from members. The project was completed in just two days.





D 3060

RC Amreli Gir

Two Miyawaki forests, each 100 sq metre, were developed at the Deaf and Dumb School, Amreli. Over 700 saplings were planted under the Rotary's focus area of environment and the club will maintain the forests for 12–18 months. Rotarians took special care in selecting the tree species for the Miyawaki forests.



D 3060

RC Surat Tapi

Over 1,000 rural patients were screened at a mega medical camp at Jamaliya village in Valsad district. Among them, 128 had undergone cataract, plastic, laparoscopic, ENT, urology, dental and orthopaedic surgeries. The camp was supported by Kaka Ba Hospital, Gopal Charitable Trust and Lok Mangalam Charitable Trust. The project cost ₹2 lakh excluding the cost of doctors, travel expenses of the medical team and bringing patients to the camp site.

D 3080



RC Kharar

Lohri winter festival was celebrated by lighting a bonfire during the visit of IPDG VP Kalta. He went around project sites such as an eco-friendly crematorium, Miyawaki forest, vocational centre at a temple, and a government primary school adopted by the club. Kalta reviewed the condition of rainwater harvesting unit at a Khalsa school and toilet blocks under construction for girl students. The IPDG honoured 10 government servants for their excellence in work.

D 3090

RC Bathinda Cantonment

Nutrition kits are being distributed to TB patients on a regular basis. Medicines are being distributed at homeopathic dispensary for underprivileged patients. Reflectors were pasted on tractor trolleys and other vehicles to prevent accidents in the night. Among the ongoing projects, the focus is also on enhancing the fellowship among members.



D 3100

RC Muzaffarnagar Midtown

A water cooler was installed at the Swami Kalyan Dev Higher Secondary School at Bhikki Bhandur village. Recently, the club has built a toilet block for the school and IPP Ankit Mittal assured the principal that all the needs of the school will be met. The staff and children of the school, along with Rotarians and their families, were present at the inaugural. The funding was through member contributions.



D 3110

RC Kanpur Aryans

Around 250 patients were examined at a health check-up organised jointly with the Gahoi Vaishya Mitra Mandal, Rama Dental College and Hospital and Centre for Sight, Kanpur. Doctors, ayurvedic and homeopathic experts screened the patients for chronic ailments. The medical camp was inaugurated by industrialists Bachchu Lal Seth, Ram Prakash Suhane and charter president Bhakti Vijay Shukla. BN Acharya was the project coordinator.





D 3131

RC Panvel

As many as 25 Rotaractors took oath at the charter ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Karjat Pharmacist on the premises of Konkan Gyanpeeth Rahul Dharkar College of Pharmacy, Karjat. The charter was handed over to the new club president Deepesh Gamare and secretary Riya Kamble in the presence of DRR Akash Chikate. Rotaract pins were given to the new Rotaractors. The club has sponsored three Rotaract clubs so far.



D 3131

RC Poona

A Miyawaki forest spread over 2,500 sqft with over 1,000 trees, mostly native species, was created at the Rao Saheb Patwardhan School, Pune. The social forestry was done in partnership with RC Poona Downtown and the Inner Wheel Club of Pune. City municipal commissioner Vikram Kumar inaugurated the forest in the presence of Rotarians and school authorities.



D 3142

RC Ambernath Smart City

A three-day RYLA was organised for 50 students from the MGM School of Biomedical Sciences with focus on shaping the leadership qualities of the participants. The students enjoyed the speaker sessions on deaddiction, communication skills, cybercrime and use of social media, and yoga sessions. A number of competitions was held, while medical camps examined the students. IPDG Kailash Jethani was the chief guest at the valedictory session.

RC Ghaziabad North boosts Rotary's public image

Kiran Zehra

RC Ghaziabad North, RID 3012, recently procured 2,000 notebooks and printed the club's name along with the Rotary logo on their cover page. The 4-Way Test in both Hindi and English is printed on the back covers. By distributing these notebooks, the club aims to spread Rotary's moral code for fostering strong personal and business relationships.

The club has also donated two dead body freezer boxes to the government health department in Ghaziabad. The chief medical officer, Dr Bhavatosh Shankhdhar,

received the freezers, which will be utilised at the postmortem house of the hospital

Club members distributed brochures to around 250 students at the ABES Engineering College in Lal Kuan, Ghaziabad. The brochures outline the club's diverse activities and initiatives. "This will spread awareness about Rotary's impactful work, as we aim to inspire the students, fostering a connection with Rotary's ideals and motivating them to consider joining Rotary in the future," says club's IPP Sumesh Garg.

Under the *e-Clean India* initiative, the club completed its 5th

e-waste collection project.

A total of over 150 electronic waste items, including old desktops, CPUs, laptops, mobile phones and UPS systems were handed over to their partner company, Attero, for safe disposal.

The project under Happy School and WinS (WASH in Schools) focused on improving





Clockwise from above left: Students holding the new notebooks distributed by the club; Electronic waste items being handed over to waste management company Attero for safe disposal; Club members at a blood donation camp in Ghaziabad; The Government Composite School in Raeespur village, Ghaziabad, received a facelift by the club.



the overall educational experience and well-being of the students at the Government Composite School in Raeespur village, Ghaziabad. At a total cost of ₹5.25 lakh, the project transformed the school.

The extensive renovation work included repairing and re-plastering all the classrooms, boundary walls and roofs, ensuring a safe and conducive learning environment for the students. The provision of handwash facilities, clean drinking water, separate toilet blocks for girls, boys and staff, and a renovated school kitchen was also made. Additionally, the entire school was painted, creating a vibrant atmosphere for learning.

The club paid (₹16,500) the school fees for an underprivileged child, Vivek Kumar, a student of Class VI at Bhavishya International School, Ghaziabad, for the year 2023–24.

The club also conducted two blood donation camps in Ghaziabad. ■

D 3142

RC Thane Ghodbunder Road

A health check-up camp was organised to mark Women's Day with the support of DPO's Nett College of Physiotherapy and Jeevan Rekha Diagnostic at the Vijay Nagari Clun House, Thane. Past president Milind Ballal, editor, *Thane Vaibhav*, inaugurated the first edition of the club's monthly newsletter *Manthan*.



D 3170

RC Karwar

A *Save Water* rally was taken with NSS volunteers from the Government Polytechnic College, Karwar. Students held placards and banners with messages on conserving water to sensitise the public. In a similar initiative, World Earth Day was observed by taking out a rally with medical students of Karwar Medical College. Both the rallies lifted the public image of the club with a large number of Rotarians marching with the students.



D 3181

RC Mangalore Central

Vandana Award, state-level coveted Rotary award jointly instituted with the Rotaract Club of Mangalore City, was conferred on Kannada actor Ramesh Bhat for his achievements in the Sandalwood film industry. Nitte University vice-chancellor Sateesh Kumar Bhandary presented the award to the actor. Vandana Awards Committee chairman Devdas Rai complimented Bhat for his work in the growth of Kannada film industry.





D 3191

RC Bangalore Palmville

A flow cytometer was donated to the Neurology department of NIMHANS, Bengaluru, with CSR funds from Inflow Technologies. The device is used to monitor the immune status of patients from neurological diseases like multiple sclerosis, myasthenia gravis and autoimmune encephalitis, among others. The club will be doing a number of projects with NIMHANS in the fields of neurology and mental health.



D 3192

RC Bangalore Udyog

Under a personality development programme, interactive sessions were held for three days covering over 5,000 students of Class 10 from government schools in phase one. The aim was to inculcate self-confidence among students by overcoming the fear of board exams. The workshops were conducted by Roots Education, an NGO. Club's IPP Jaishankar and then secretary Ankit Agarwal coordinated with block education officer K C Ramesh. In phase two, another 4,000 students were benefitted.



D 3203

RC Tirupur West

IPDG B Elangkumaran flagged off a crematorium van (₹27 lakh) at the Mangalam panchayat. The project was done with contributions from the Rotary club, Tirupur district administration, panchayat union and the public. Panchayat president Maruthachala Murthy, a Rotarian, presided over the event in which the then club president P Shanmugasundaram took part.

D 3211

RC Alleppey Greater

To mark Nurses Day, a special programme was held in which rose buds were pinned on a white coat as a tribute to Dr Vandana Das who was killed by an undertrial patient, a drug addict, during his health check-up at the taluk hospital, Kollam. Club's IPP Vijayakumar chaired the meeting which was inaugurated by AG Gireesan and attended by Rotarians and hospital staff.



D 3212

RC Sivakasi

Around 135 children were diagnosed at the *Golden Heart* check-up camp organised with the support of Apollo Children's Hospital, Chennai, at the Rotary Matric HS School, Viswanatham. Among them, 23 were taken to Chennai with an attendant each for surgery. PDG K Vijayakumar inaugurated the heart check-up camp. Over 1,000 cloth bags were donated to students of Arasan Ganesan Polytechnic College through its Rotaract club.



D 3232

RC Chennai Velachery

IPDG N Nandakumar and Sumedha accompanied by the then district secretary Sriram Duvari and AG Aneez Begam were given a reception at the Madras Race Club, Guindy. Club's IPP president K Gopalakrishnan and other office-bearers briefed the IPDG about their service projects and the roles played by members. Nandakumar urged the club to take a proactive role at the district-level projects.





D 3240

RC Dharmanagar

Over 520 students took part in an art competition on Rotary's two focus areas — peacebuilding; and water and sanitation. For parents, a quiz competition was also held and 30 prizes were given to the winners. A rally was staged with Rotaractors and Bharat Scout Guide volunteers. Club's IPP Subir Som urged the public to maintain peace and harmony, save water, take up tree plantations and avoid use of plastics.



D 3262

RC Bhubaneswar Meadows

Rotary Day (Feb 23) was marked with IPDG Pravudutta Subudhi inaugurating two projects – a computer literacy centre and *Project Sathee* where oxygen cylinders, hospital beds, BiPAP machines, oxygen concentrator, walkers, wheelchairs and crutches were donated to needy families. Rajamani Devi Charitable Trust was the partner in the both the projects done at the Harmony Therapy Centre.



D 3291

RC Calcutta Metro City

Project Save the Sibling was launched jointly with Cordlife, Renew Healthcare and HCG Eko Cancer Centre to minimise the genetic transmission of diseases in the newborns using stem cell banking. PDG Shyamshree Sen gave a talk. Club's IPP Amrita Basu flagged off an anti-thalassaemia tableau from a mall.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Culinary training for Vizag women

Team Rotary News

Two batches of 18 women were given certificates for completing a training programme under *Project Good Food* of RC Vizag Couples, RID 3020. “The successful candidates displayed and sold the cuisines they learnt during the training. While some of them take orders for home delivery, others like to come and work part-time or full-time cooks,” said then club president R Subodh Kumar.

To beat the summer heat, the Rotaract Club of Vizag Couple Prism distributed buttermilk to policemen at the RTC Complex near the Maddilapalem-Jagadamba junction. Then club president Vivek took up the initiative to provide respite for police personnel during summer.

Club members Gurumurthy Seshu Babu and Kanchrala Ramprasad attended the Rotary



RC Vizag Couples immediate past president R Subodh Kumar presents a certificate to a candidate at the valedictory event of *Project Good Food*.

Convention in Melbourne on May 28–29. They exchanged their club flags with the delegates. The new

clubs flags they received were handed over to club president Subodh Kumar.■

Medical camp in Bahraich



An elderly patient is being examined.

In a medical camp hosted by RC Bahraich, RID 3120, 40 patients, mostly elderly people, were examined for chronic ailments and relevant tests were taken. They were given medicines for one week and 18 patients were asked to attend physiotherapy sessions.

In another initiative, the club is holding tuition classes for small children at the Rotary Centre in Bahraich. Both the medical project and after-school classes have enhanced the public of Rotary in this town.■

Interactors help Balasore train accident victims

Team Rotary News



Interactors along with Rotarians at a felicitation event. PDG Lalit Sharma (third from left) is also seen in the picture.

In a heartwarming gesture, the Interact clubs (ICs) and Rotary Kids clubs (RKC) of Abhijat Vidhyavihar, Vishwabharati English Medium School, Vishwabharati Girls' High School and Zebar School, Ahmedabad, came together to contribute ₹13,111 to the Rotary Club of Balasore Disaster

Fund. The donation was made in response to the tragic train accident that occurred in Balasore.

Following the incident, the ICs, RKC, and their teachers engaged in discussion with the Rotary Club of Ahmedabad Greater, RID 3055, to extend their assistance. Arup Sinha, the then club's Interact chair, connected with IPDG

Santanu Kumar Pani, RID 3262, Balasore, to facilitate the donation process. Although the amount contributed may seem modest compared to the magnitude of the disaster, Pani expressed his gratitude for the contribution made by the students.

The Interact Club of Zebar School donated ₹30,000 to the Rotary India Foundation for polio eradication. The donation was presented at an event that honoured the interactors, especially those who completed their Class 10 and 12, with certificates.

PDG Lalit Sharma, DRFC 3055, accepted the donation on behalf of the Foundation and appreciated the interactors for donating towards the cause. RC Ahmedabad Greater IPP Pradeep K Chaturvedi, Mana Choksi, trustee of the school, Sharmistha Sinha, principal, club members Manju Malaviya and Punita Mehta attended the event. ■



PDG Lalit Sharma receiving the cheque from an Interactor.

RYLA empowers youth in RID 3090

Team Rotary News



Rotarians along with winners of a dance competition at the RYLA. Manik Raj Singla, the then District Interact and RYLA chair (fourth from left), is also seen in the picture.

Under the leadership of IPDG Gulbahar Singh Retole, RID 3090 hosted RYLA 2023, fostering leadership skills and personal growth among the youth. The event witnessed the participation of 20 schools and

colleges, with over 200 students engaging in 28 events.

Rotaract Club of Modi College, Patiala, hosted the RYLA and “ensured a well-organised and memorable experience for all the students who attended the event,” says Manik Raj Singla, the then

District Interact and RYLA chair. The event garnered attention from local media and was attended by DG Gulbahar Singh Retole.

In addition to the youth participants, 30 teachers and five school and college principals attended the event, emphasising the collaborative efforts between educational institutions and Rotary. Each participant received a Rotary certificate and trophy, acknowledging their achievements.

“RYLA serves as a platform for youth to develop essential leadership skills, enhance their personal growth, and cultivate a strong sense of community service. Through engaging activities and workshops, RYLA empowers young individuals to become confident leaders who can make a positive impact in their communities,” explains Singla. ■



Rotarians along with the RYLA participants.

Bicycles for girls

Team Rotary News



IPDG Venkatesh Deshpande with members of RC Sawantwadi, after presenting bicycles to girls.

Rotary Club of Sawantwadi, RID 3170, gifted bicycles to 50 girls

to help them commute to school and back. The Rotarians shortlisted the beneficiaries based on

the financial status of their parents. The cycles will make them self-reliant and it will prevent

them from dropping out of school. They are residing in the remote areas of Sindhudurg where transportation is not so developed, said the club's IPP Vinaya Baad. IPDG Venkatesh Deshpande was present at the distribution event.

Earlier in February, the club, along with RC Thane Imperial, RID 3141, had organised a RYLA for Rotaractors to skill them with leadership qualities. Satish Damankar, a member of RC Belgaum, was the chief guest. Over 300 Rotaractors from various colleges participated in the programme which was enriched by inspiring speakers and resource persons. ■



Club's IPP Vinaya Baad (second from L) with Satish Damankar presenting a certificate to a RYLA participant.

A village gets transformed

Team Rotary News

The intervention of RC Bokaro Steel City, RID 3250, in Ulgora village, near Jharkhand struggling with limited resources led to the development of a Happy School, Asha ki Kiran Play School, in

the village. The club has also added additional facilities to aid the development of this village.

Under the guidance of a retired local teacher Mohan Azad, drawing classes have been introduced for students from

Classes 7 to 12. These students have actively participated in various state and national-level competitions. A homeopathy clinic has been established in the village, providing free services twice a week by club member Dr P C Mahto.



A solar water tower installed at Ulgora village near Bokaro.

In an effort to empower young girls and women, tailoring classes have been introduced, enabling them to earn a livelihood from the comfort of their homes. The village has recently witnessed the development of indoor sports and volleyball facilities in memory of the late Jagdish Seth, father club member Vanit Seth, who donated the entire amount for the construction of these facilities.

The club has initiated the construction of a solar water tower, funded by the village chief, ensuring fresh and hygienic water for the children and villagers.■

Medical screening for women

Rotary Club of Bangalore Downtown, RID 3191, screened over 5,000 women last Rotary year for various ailments under its *Project Brace*.

What started as a breast cancer awareness and early detection programme in 2017, has transformed into a multi-detection and screening programme aimed at women in the urban and peripheral areas of Bengaluru, says Tejaswini Jaisimha, the club's IPP. Back in 2017, the club began the project with a free breast cancer screening camp at the PD Hinduja Hospital which was equipped with a mammography unit and an onco-gynaecologist.

Last year 30 medical camps were conducted at the PHCs, the Karnataka State Reserve Police and at eight units of Texport Industries, a garment factory. Primary scanning,



A medical camp for women in progress.

cervical cancer screening through Pap smear test, dental check-up for tobacco abuse and counselling for alcohol abuse were done for 5,000

women under this project. Follow-up sessions were also arranged for patients by the club through its collaborating medical facilities.■

A wildlife awareness competition

Team Rotary News



The poster release event for the competition.

RC Bangalore, RID 3192, has launched an online competition called 'Voices of the Endangered (VOTE)', from June 5–18 to raise awareness about wildlife conservation in India.

The competition aims to engage students and provide them with a platform to showcase their skills and knowledge in protecting endangered species. Renowned wildlife filmmaker Amoghavarsha and musician Rahul Rajkhowa are supporting the initiative. The contest, organised by the Rotary Club of Bangalore, is open to schoolchildren from Classes 4–12 and includes categories such as painting, collage, photography, essay, poetry and skit.

The Rotary Action Group for Endangered Species (RAGES) is part of Rotary International and works to protect endangered species across India. ■

A blood donation camp in Thane



Rotary Club of Thane Ghodbunder Road, RID 3142, began the new Rotary year 2023–24 with a blood donation camp, in association with the Tata Memorial

Hospital Blood Bank. Around 34 units of blood was collected and it will be used for the treatment of patients with cancer ailments. Some of the club members also donated blood at the camp.

Club President Rahul Kawitke, secretary Santosh Ambekar, project director Nitin Sali and project coordinator Anand Singhee were present at the event. ■