

June 2024

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Career prospects in defence sector

Team Rotary News

In collaboration with its Interact club, RC Virar, RID 3141, conducted a seminar on 'Opportunities in Defence' at the Professor's Academy in the city.

Prof Shivam Pandey, a physics faculty, spoke on the career opportunities available in the defence sector for students who have completed their Class 12. He gave information on the types and number of vacancies, ways to join the armed forces, and the diverse avenues in defence sector which need youngsters in different positions, aiming to equip students with insight for their future career.

The seminar was attended by Rotarians, including club president Kinjal Gosalia, secretary Sandeep Salvi and project chair Rajesh Kasat.

The club also organised a health check-up camp for Zomato food delivery agents at the CNC Hospital, Virar. The screenings included a full body check-up including tests for blood pressure, sugar levels, ECG, chest X-ray and dental check-up. Over 175 delivery agents benefitted from the health screening initiative. ■



Prof Shivam Pandey interacting with the students.



Club members with Zomato delivery agents at the hospital.

On the cover: A child being vaccinated at a cervical cancer vaccination camp organised by RC Thane Hills, RID 3142.

Symposium on mental healthcare

Team Rotary News

A one-day symposium on residential rehabilitation models for persons with mental illness, followed by an exhibition, was organised jointly by RC Bangalore Bhuvaneshwarinagar, RID 3192, at the Sakalwara Community Mental Health Centre (SCMHC) in the city.

The seminar-cum-exhibition was held to mark the first anniversary of SCMHC which is offering residential rehabilitation for mental health patients. The event jointly hosted by NIMHANS, Bengaluru, Indian Psychiatry Society, state branch, and World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation, India chapter, was funded by the Rotary club and Dr RN Moorthy Foundation. Around 75 delegates including NGO personnel, mental health professionals, caregivers and students took part in the symposium. During the sessions,



Club president D N Srinath felicitates NIMHANS director Dr Pratima Murthy.

specialists and doctors presented papers on the different treatment models in mental healthcare in India.

The exhibition had put up 20 stalls — the first 10 stalls exhibited the work being done at SCMHC like

clinical nursing, psychiatric social work, rehabilitation etc. The next 10 stalls displayed the products being made by the inmates at Sakalwara including edible items, embroidered cloth, baskets etc. ■

Facelift of an old age home

In a thoughtful gesture, RC Pune Kothrud, RID 3131, renovated the Matoshree Old Age Home which brought joy to 120 elders and children living in this home.

The renovation included major repair work like wall plastering, toilet plumbing, repairs and painting, and cleaning the windows and doors, all of which would enable the inmates to live comfortably without



The renovated Matoshree Children and Senior Citizens' Home.

water leakages, wet floors, dusty surface and sewage-clogged toilets.

Seeing the happy faces of the elders, children and the administrator of the old age home, boosted the

confidence of officials from the corporate sponsor PRGX India, whose CSR grant has funded the project, to work with Rotary in similar service projects in the future. ■

Combating cervical cancer

Kiran Zehra

My journey to take action against cervical cancer began during my postgraduate studies in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Ireland, where I worked at a tertiary gynaecological cancer centre,” recalls Dr Anagha Karkhanis, secretary of the Rotary Club of Thane Hills, RID 3142. “I witnessed advanced cases of cervical cancer, and it was heartbreaking to see women, most of them in their 40s, battling a disease that is largely preventable.”

This exposure to the devastating impact of cervical cancer, particularly on young mothers, ignited a passion in her to make a difference. She noted the stark contrast between comprehensive screening programmes in the Western world and the “opportunistic screenings in India, where awareness and timely intervention are sorely lacking.”

When she returned to India, she was determined to educate women about cervical cancer and the importance of regular screenings. “However, I quickly realised that my reach was limited. I had to think bigger.”

As club secretary, she saw an opportunity to expand her impact. Collaborating with club

president Govind Khetan, she conceptualised *Project EmpowHer — Because She Matters*, an initiative to prevent cervical cancer through HPV vaccination for girls aged 9–14 years, aligning with the World Health Organisation’s goal of vaccinating 90 per cent of girls by age 15. “This project is more than just preventing a disease. It is about empowering young girls with the knowledge and tools to safeguard their health,” she says.

Planning and funding

The project required extensive research and planning. “From the



Beneficiaries with their vaccination certificates.

outset, we knew that a project of this scale would require significant financial resources. The goal was to provide free HPV vaccinations to girls from underprivileged families, and we needed a reliable funding source to ensure sustainability,” says Khetan. The club began identifying potential corporate

Shool girls after taking the vaccination.





Students, along with their parents, at an awareness session.

sponsors with a history of supporting healthcare initiatives through their CSR programmes. “We developed a comprehensive proposal outlining the project’s objectives, target population and the impact we aimed to achieve,” says Dr Anagha. The proposal also highlighted the high incidence of cervical cancer in India and the effectiveness of HPV vaccination.

The club secured ₹1.7 crore CSR funding from the Aditya Birla group. “PRID Ashok

Mahajan played a crucial role in facilitating their support,” notes Khetan.

The funds were used for “several critical aspects of the project including procuring a steady supply of the HPV vaccine Cervavac, conducting awareness sessions in schools and communities, organising vaccination camps with proper storage and handling, and performing medical screenings to identify and ensure the health of eligible beneficiaries,” he says.

Collaborating with local healthcare authorities, schools and community leaders in and around Thane and a few rural areas in Maharashtra, the club identified the beneficiaries for the HPV vaccination programme. Outreach programmes were conducted to raise awareness about cervical cancer and the benefits of vaccination.

The HPV vaccine was administered to 5,800 girls after getting consent letters from their parents. Certificates were given to the beneficiaries, and records were kept for future reference and follow-up for the second dose.

The community response was “overwhelmingly positive, with families expressing gratitude for the preventive measures. We created awareness about cervical cancer and the importance of early detection,” smiles Anagha.

Looking ahead, the club plans to educate boys and older women on cervical cancer. “We will sustain this effort through continuous monitoring, integration into community health programmes, and collaboration with government agencies,” adds Khetan. ■



A doctor administers vaccination as (from left) club secretary Dr Anagha Karkhanis, PRID Ashok Mahajan and club president Govind Khetan look on.

A skill training centre in Delhi

Team Rotary News



Former Delhi Lieutenant Governor Tejendra Khanna inaugurated a Skill Training Centre set up by RC Delhi South, RID 3011, at DNS Arya Samaj, Vasant Vihar, thanks to contributions from CSR partners and club donors. The state-of-the-art vocational centre will provide training in computer and communication skills, and other need-based skill training to youth from weaker sections of society.

Spread over 900sqft, the centre will host an advanced course on mental health which would be taught by Prof Nand Kumar from the AIIMS, Delhi. “The skill centre was started with a simple ethos, ‘Skill India, Build India,’ and was supported by Santosh Kapoor, president, Arya Samaj, and our CSR partners,” said Pramod Agarwal, club president. During the inaugural, officials from ITC, IDBI and other corporate partners, IPDG Ashok Kantoor, RISAO representative and district Rotarians were present in large numbers.

Over 200 girls were vaccinated against cervical cancer at the New Era Public School, Delhi, in a special camp. Along with five previous camps, over 780 girls were administered vaccine doses, including 40 girls who were given two doses. “The vaccination camp was led by our president-elect Sarvpreet Singh and AG Vandana Bhalla with support from the Max BLK team. Also, Rtn Ajay Narain had helped us to secure vaccine

Club member Anil Wadhwa (left), a former diplomat, being honoured with the Order of the Star of Italy title by Italian Ambassador Vincenzo de Luca in Delhi.

A health camp in progress.



doses at 50 per cent discount,” said Agarwal.

At the health check-up camp at Munirka Enclave, a gated community, held in partnership with the Max BLK team and Sankalp Centre, over 110 people had undergone BP, ECG, lipid profile, blood sugar and bone

density tests, apart from getting doctor consultations for their ailments.

A two-storey building with 48-beds were inaugurated for the elderly and homeless people on the premises of The Earth Saviours, an NGO at Gurugram. “It gave us a sense of satisfaction to provide a

comfortable life with good shelter for around 50–60 elders,” said Agarwal. DGND Ajeet Jalan and club members were present at the venue. PDG Deepak Kapur chaired a leprosy training seminar at the PHD Chambers of Commerce, New Delhi, in which experts from the WHO, Leprosy India and other Rotary clubs took part. DG Jeetender Gupta and DGND Jalan were special guests at the event.



From Left: PDG Ashok Kantoor, RC Delhi South past president Anil Agarwal and former Delhi Lieutenant Governor Tejendra Khanna at the inauguration of skilling centre.

Italy honours ex-diplomat

Club member Anil Wadhwa was conferred with the Order of the Star of Italy which is awarded to foreign citizens for their achievements in promoting friendly relations between Italy and other countries. As an Indian Foreign Service member (1979–2017), he served as ambassador to Italy, Thailand, Oman and Poland.

The former diplomat is currently a distinguished fellow at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi, and serves as independent director/advisor on the boards of corporate firms in India and abroad. ■

D 2981

RC Chidambaram Central

Ceiling fans were donated to a local library as many students visit the reading hall to prepare for competitive exams. Already, an RO plant, chairs and books were donated to the library. On Labour Day (May 5), around 25 loadmen were honoured. Along with the Misrimal Mahaveer Chand Trust, the club distributed buttermilk reaching out to over 250 people. This is a seven-year-old project.



D 2981

RC Chidambaram Mid Town

At a mega eye camp held jointly with RC Chidambaram Central, Inner Wheel club, Shanmuga Jewellery and Aravind Eye Hospital, 550 people were screened and spectacles were given to needy at the Sri Ramakrishna Vidyasala HS School. Dr Annamalai and his team diagnosed the patients, and among them, 250 were chosen for surgery.



D 2981

RC Panruti

Sumptuous lunch was served on plantain leaf to over 100 people to mark the wedding anniversary of Rtn Elumuali and Kumutha at the Siddhar Peetam, Panruti. Club members took part in the feast held under *Project Annapoorna* which distributes food to the needy people on a regular basis. The elderly, poor families blessed the couple on their wedding anniversary.



Matters



D 2981

RC Veppur

More than 150 patients identified at an eye screening camp had undergone cataract surgery at the Aravind Eye Hospital. Rotarians felicitated the doctors at the camp for their 'selfless service'. The club arranged for the transport of patients to the hospital and their brief stay before returning home. Villagers who did not have access to medical care benefitted from the cataract surgery camp.



D 3000

RC Srirangam

A yoga session was conducted for the crew of the state transport corporation buses at Trichy zone. Saravanan from the Isha Yoga Centre performed various *asanas* to mark World Yoga Day. TNSTC general manager, Trichy, Sakthivel gave a talk on the importance of yoga for a healthy life. Then club president Sathyanarayanan felicitated the guest lecturer and breakfast was served to all participants.



D 3011

RC Delhi Southend Next

A car rally, *The Braille Trail*, was organised as a fundraiser to support the national blind cricket team and for TRF-giving. Each car had a visually-impaired navigator who helped to decode the Braille clues. The winner was determined by the least distance travelled and the clues were spread across South and Central Delhi. The DG Ashok Kantoor flagged off the rally in the presence of Pranjal Patil, the visually-impaired IAS officer.

RID 3030

RC Nasik

Following the creation of a Miyawaki forest with over 2,500 saplings of indigenous varieties last year, the new set of office-bearers decided to repeat this successful project at a hamlet called Belgaon Dhaga. Over 2,000 saplings of medicinal trees were planted at an animal shelter home in this village, thus increasing the green cover in a barren area.



D 3090

RI District

Around 200 students from 20 schools and colleges took part in a one-day RYLA organised at one of the Rotaract club colleges in Patiala. Top district leaders including the then DG Gulbahar Singh Retole and 46 Rotarians were present during the leadership sessions. Rotarians including the then district RYLA chair Manik Raj Singla delivered lectures to shape the leadership qualities of students.



D 3090

RC Sri Ganganagar City

More than 50 units of blood was collected at the blood donation camp at the Tapovan Blood Bank, Sri Ganganagar. Club president Nagar Mittal, secretary Rakesh Goyal, treasurer Arpit Bansal and project chair Bharat Bhushan Goyal coordinated for the success of the event. Lauding the efforts of Rotary, Tapovan Bank president Udaypal Jhajarria spoke on the importance of donating blood to save lives.





D 3120

RC Allahabad Mid Town

Diwali was celebrated at the Radha Raman School by holding rangoli and diya decoration competitions for 100 students from Class 1–10. Certificates were given to the first three winners and consolation prizes were also given. Club president Amrita Agarwal sponsored snacks and juice to poor children on the bank of Ganga River to mark her birthday.



D 3141

RC Virar

An eye camp was held at the Navjeevan Academy in which people of all age groups were screened for sight defects. In partnership with RC Mumbai Juhu, the club distributed grocery bags for the inmates at the Libania Niketan, a home for the mentally-challenged and destitute girls, thanks to sponsor Rtn Hemang Jangla. Hundreds of devotees at the Ganpati Mandir are given Mahamangal Prasad, an ongoing weekly project to foster community spirit and harmony.



D 3170

RC Hubli Central

Over 100 patients were screened at a cancer detection camp for men and women at the Government Hospital, Elavatti village. Dr Sheetal, club member, and her team from Redon Cancer Hospital examined the patients. At the same hospital, 150 patients were checked for eye-related disorders in another camp led by Dr Varsha and her team from Ashoka Hospital.

Club Matters

D 3170

RC Kolhapur Heritage

I-Day was celebrated at the Avdoot Residential School for special children with DG Nasir Borsadwala donating clothes drying racks, sports equipment for indoor games, dress material, sweets and snacks to 80 students. Club president Sahil Maniyar, secretary Pooja Gandhi and others were present at the event.



D 3181

RC Kollegal

With the help of CSR grant from Karnataka Bank, the club renovated two ponds at Sathegala Agrahara village in Kollegal taluk. Now the water bodies will have an expanded capacity to store rainwater which will help in the recharge of groundwater in the nearby villages. Also, the ponds will be a source of water supply for the daily needs of rural farmers.



D 3240

RC Karala Valley Jalpaiguri

Two iron removal plants were installed at the Changrabandha High School in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal. The project costing ₹85,000 will benefit 2,500 students as it will ensure iron-free, clean drinking water to them. The faculty thanked Rotarians for the installation which will ensure the health of both students and teachers.



Compiled by V Muthukumar

Summer camp at a Rotary school

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Solapur, RID 3132, organised a summer camp at the Rotary Red Cross Swagati School for Slow Learners where the club focuses all its literacy-related projects.

The children and teachers were taught various skills and recreational activities were conducted to engage the children. ■



Teachers and students being taught to design paper napkins.

Promoting education among children

RC Moradabad, RID 3100, distributed stationery items and hygiene kits to children of labourers working at construction sites in Ram Ganga Vihar. Groceries to last a month were given to the families.

The Rotarians counselled the parents about the importance of basic education and urged them to send their children to school and not engage them in labour. ■



Members of RC Moradabad distribute stationery kits to children at a construction site.

Village school gets solar panels

Team Rotary News



Solar panels installed by RC Bokaro Steel City at a school in Ulgaro village.

RC Bokaro Steel City, RID 3250, installed solar panels to overcome power outage in a school in Ulgaro village, 30km from Bokaro. The club has been doing developmental activities in the village during the year. A Rotary Play School named

Asha Ki Kiran has a strength of 130 children. Extracurricular activities such as drawing and tailoring are being taught to children.

The club has constructed an indoor stadium where children play carrom, Ludo, chess and table

tennis. A library has also been added in the village to promote reading habit in children. Adult literacy classes are conducted regularly. Around 400 people get treatment every week in a homeo clinic set up by the club in the village. ■

Awareness on citizens' rights



Club members sensitise the public to exercise their franchise at the general election.

RC Sonepat Midtown, RID 3012, organised a marathon and a *nukkad natak* to spread awareness among the public about the citizens' rights and duties. Over 500 students from various colleges and from the Spread a Smile Foundation participated in both the events.

Environment care, reducing pollution and exercising the voting right were some of the messages that were highlighted at both the events. ■

India-Mexico Friendship Exchange

Team Rotary News

It was a memorable experience for the Rotarians of RID 3030 when they visited Monterrey and Tampico in Mexico, RID 4130, for ten days under a Rotary Friendship Exchange programme, and were hosted by the Rotarians there.

“The host families were warm and friendly and made sure we all were comfortable. We got an opportunity to meet Rotarians from Peru and other parts of Mexico,” said a team member Dr Rashmi Bansal. The visitors were happy to taste Mexican food such as tacos, chilaquiles, corn tortilla and tamales. They learnt to appreciate Mexican music and even learnt to dance to the beats.

“We attended the district conference at Tampico and were happy to interact and exchange ideas with



Rotarians of RID 3030 with host Rotarians in Mexico.

several club members. We also got to see presentations of projects of various clubs. To communicate with the host Rotarians we used Google Translate,” she said.

The Indian team had earlier

hosted the Mexican Rotarians in March 2023 when they visited Mumbai, Nashik, Jalgaon and Nagpur. Both teams shared notes on best practices in executing community service projects. ■

Vocational awards in RID 3020

Vocational Excellence awards presented to 28 persons by PDG CS Venkata Rao, IPDG V Bhaskar Ram, Club president Krishna Rao, AG Nagendra Kishore and Prof Suresh Varma.



Twenty-eight individuals were honoured by RC Rajahmundry Riverside, RID 3020, for their phenomenal service in their respective vocation. PDG CS Venkata Rao was

the chief guest of the event which was also attended by IPDG V Bhaskar Ram, club president VVS Krishna Rao and Rotarians from various Rotary clubs. ■