

October 2024

# Rotary

NEWS PLUS



# A library in a village

Team Rotary News



Members of RC Coimbatore Zenith ready to inaugurate the library at the Kanjapally village.

Over 4,500 people will benefit from a library facility established at the Kanjapally village, near Annur in Coimbatore, by RC Coimbatore Zenith, RID 3201. The library

is packed with a wide variety of books which are mostly contributed by our club members, giving the villagers, including children, an opportunity to spend some quality time immersed in great books,

and enhancing their knowledge, said club president Vasanth Shanmugam. The club equipped the library with cupboards, furniture and electrical fittings.

District general secretary Subramanian and assistant governor Rajan Arumugam presided over the inaugural event.

In another initiative, the club organised the 'Zen Cricket League' fundraiser to raise funds to provide 1,000 free dialysis for the economically weak individuals at the Jain Dialysis Centre in the city. The two-day event had a participation of multi-district Rotarians who formed 12 teams. The event raised ₹10 lakh. ■



DG N Sundaravadivelu and DGE Chella Raghavendran promoting the club's service project at the cricket tournament.

**On the cover:** An artist at work in a Durga pandal in Kolkata as part of Durga Puja celebrations.

**Photograph:** PRID Mahesh Kotbagi.

# Navaratri celebrations in Bengaluru

## Team Rotary News

**T**he Rotary Club of Bugle Rock Bengaluru, RID 3191, organised the Dussehra Dance and Daandiya festival at the Ravindra Kalakshetra theatre in the city, part of Durga Puja celebrations.

Dance programmes by celebrity dancers and a dance drama titled *Sarvam Krishna Mayam* enthralled the audience comprising Rotarians from various clubs and the general public.

DG Sathish Madhavan inaugurated the festival. "It was an effective PR exercise as we displayed Rotary's service projects prominently at the venue," said A V Satyanarayana, director, Cultural Events. The visitors participated in the *dandiya raas* as part of the celebrations. ■



DG Sathish Madhavan inaugurating the Navarathri Festival at the Ravindra Kalakshetra auditorium.



PDG Rajendra Rai playing dandiya with A V Satyanarayana, director, Cultural Events.



A Bharatanatyam dance performance.

# Promoting safe **Ganesh Utsav**

## Team Rotary News



Members of RC Chopda and Rotaractors distributing *poha* and *sheera* to police personnel.

**T**he Rotary Club of Chopda, RID 3030, collected flowers and other organic offerings used for worship from various pandals during Ganesh Utsav. Carton boxes were kept at the pandals for disposing used floral offerings. “At the end

of the festivities, we collected the organic waste and converted it all into fertiliser, with support from the municipal council,” said club secretary Bhalchandra Shivaji Pawar. Through *Project Premachi Shidori*, the club distributed snacks such as *poha* and *sheera* to police personnel engaged in

regulating the crowd during Ganesh Visarjan in the city.

The club also organised an exhibition of local vegetables to showcase their health benefits and medicinal value. The event titled *Rambhaji Mahotsav* was organised in association with the Taluk Agriculture Office, Chopda. Special stalls demonstrated cooking various dishes using traditional vegetables. Farmer groups and women’s self-help groups participated in the exhibition. “Some of these vegetables are long forgotten and unheard of among the present generation. We want them to understand and appreciate the value of veggies such as *katurle* (spiny gourd), *chival* (a dal variety) etc,” said Pawar.

A seminar on financial management and investment options was hosted by the club for youngsters at the Social Works College in the city. Another seminar to educate people about cervical cancer and its prevention was organised at the college in partnership with the Inner Wheel Club of Chopda. Lectures and poster competition formed part of the event to drive home the message. ■



Club members collecting organic waste from a Ganesh pandal.



An orientation session for new batch at the tailoring centre.

# Tailoring to empower women

## Team Rotary News

**A**n orientation session was conducted for a new batch of 55 women trainees at the vocational centre where they are being trained in tailoring by RC Gudiyatham, RID 3231.

Club president C Kannan spoke on the methodology of training, its duration and other related issues to educate the new vocational batch.

Club secretary R Balamurugan, treasurer K Suresh and Vocational Service director Praveen Babu also motivated the trainees. Over 360 people were examined at an eye check-up camp and 100 were chosen for surgery. PDG JKN Palani and club advisor KM Bhoopathi honoured the doctors who extended their free service. Rtn C Sambath who sponsored this month's eye camp was felicitated by the club.

Teachers at the Olakasi Adi Dravidar Primary and High School were honoured by Kannan to mark Teachers' Day. Community Development director RV Harikrishnan and S Parasuraman urged students to excel in their studies which would make their teachers proud of them. A sumptuous lunch was arranged for the teachers. ■



An eye check-up camp in progress.

# Cyber security seminar at Surendranagar

## Team Rotary News

**A**round 250 residents of Surendranagar, Gujarat, attended a seminar on cybercrime and security awareness hosted by RC Wadhwan Metro, RID 3060. Rushi Mehta, senior programme manager at the union ministry of home affairs, and an official from the local police station gave lectures on the topic.

The psychology of children and the different ways to handle their behaviour like temper tantrum were taught to around 40 club members and Rotaractors by a parenting expert in a special session. Forty patients were screened at an eye check-up camp, titled *Netrayagna*, held at the Rotary Hall, Surendranagar. Among them, one was





**Above:** An official giving a presentation at a cybercrime seminar.

**Left:** A CPR session for Gujarat police constables.

**Right:** An eye camp in progress.



selected for cataract surgery with the club paying for the treatment, accommodation and food at the hospital.

Breakfast was provided to 200 children at a government school after the tricolour was hoisted at the 78<sup>th</sup> Independence Day event held with the support of Interactors. A *tiranga yatra* (flag rally) was held with Rotarians and students taking part in large numbers.

World Lion Day (Aug 10) was observed in partnership with the Interact Club of Wadhwan Metro Little Steps School. Around 250 students took oath to save lions and wore lion mask during a march on the playground. A CPR training was given to seventy LRD Guards (Gujarat constables) for them to provide emergency medical aid to those hit by cardiac arrest.

A Gujarati play, *Bluff master Gujjubhai*, was staged to raise funds for service projects like Annapurna and other community initiatives. The club spent ₹4.5 lakh for the play. A bike rally was held by a team of nine Rotarians on Friendship Day. Around 1,000 people were served food and buttermilk at various places under *Project Annapurna*. ■

# club matters

RC Elampillai



RC Nasik Mid Town



RC Madurai North West



RC Pride Mau

RC Elampillai – RID 2982

A gas crematorium was inaugurated by DG V Sivakumar following an MoU signed between the club and the Edanganasalai Municipality. Club president S Jagadeeswaran, DGE P Sivasundaram and AG K Kumaravel were present at the inaugural.



RC Visakhapatnam

RC Visakhapatnam – RID 3020

DG M Venkateswara Rao inaugurated the first Rotary Peace Pole in RID 3020 at the Government Girls Observatory Home. A protest march was held against the rape and murder of a young doctor in Kolkata.

RC Nasik Mid Town—RID 3030

48 teachers were given Nation Builder Awards. Educationist Ashwinikumar Bhardwaj and Hemlatatai Bidkar, president, Dang Seva Mandal, spoke. The awardees included college professors and government school teachers.

RC Madurai North West – RID 3000

Over 1,800 students from 83 schools took part in the district-level inter-school athletic meet. While DG Raja Govindasamy inaugurated the athletics meet, DCP Garud Karun Uddhavrao distributed medals and certificates to the winners.

RC Pride Mau – RID 3120

Nine teachers from various schools were honoured with citation plaques for their excellent work in the field of education. The awardees thanked the club for recognising their work, which will motivate them to further contribute to the nation-building process.





RC Ambajogai City



RC Siliguri Green



RC SPIC Nagar



RC Bhubaneswar Meadows

RC Ambajogai City – D 3132

A workshop on artificial intelligence (AI) was organised for teachers at the Swami Vivekananda Bal Vidya Mandir. Speaker Santosh Mohite introduced various tools and websites including ChatGPT, Google Lens and virtual reality for the participants.

RC Siliguri Green – RID 3240

Over 500 students were screened at an eye check-up camp held at the Doon Heritage School under *Project Sudrishti*. Held in partnership with the Siliguri Lions Netralaya, the camp identified 117 students for urgent eyecare.



RI District – RID 3231

RC Bhubaneswar Meadows – RID 3262

Over 500 students displayed their creativity at *Rangatuli*, an inter-school art competition, held jointly with the Odisha Museum. Puri MP Sambit Patra, Sahitya Akademi winner Jitendra Narayan Dash and PDG Aswini Kar were present. Cash prizes (₹50,000) were given to the winners.

RC SPIC Nagar –RID 3212

Thousands of labourers and students benefitted from a mega community outreach at the SPIC Nagar Medical Centre with the support of AM Foundation. SPIC chairman Ashwin Muthiah distributed artificial limbs to 88 amputees. It was followed by a blood donation camp, medical and eye check-up.

RI District –RID 3231

*Project Yaadhumanaval* (she is all) was conducted for over 8,000 school and college girls in Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Tirupattur, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur, thanks to RC Virudhunagar. Motivational speaker Jayanthasri Balakrishnan inspired the students.

Compiled by V Muthukumar

# Interactors at Rotary projects

## Team Rotary News

The Interact clubs of Positive Health Keshavrao Gadilkar High School and Positive Peace Sakharam Mehetre Prathamik Vidyalaya, Ahmednagar, sponsored by Rotary E-Club of Empowering Youth in RID 3132, volunteered at a haemoglobin check-up and anaemia prevention camp conducted at five schools in Ahmednagar.

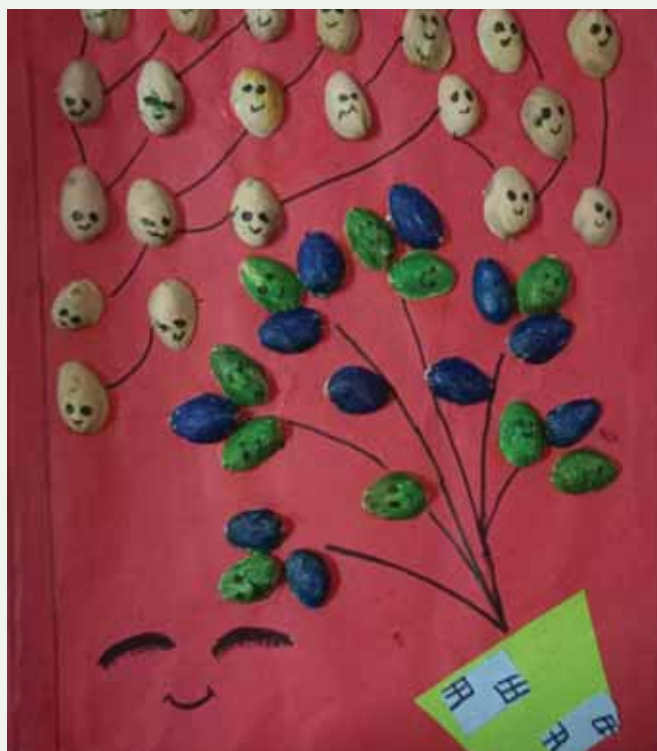
The event featured expert discussions on nutrition, anaemia prevention, skincare and disease protection. They also participated in an online session on addiction prevention, addressing both substance abuse and digital addiction.

The clubs have established a newspaper reading corner at their school to promote reading and general knowledge. They also created public health awareness posters on diseases such as malaria, dengue and Zika, with guidance from the district's malaria officer, and displayed them in schools and public areas.

The Interact members recycled pistachio shells and dried leaves to craft handmade greeting cards and decorative items. They are also preparing to install peace poles at their schools. ■



Interactors at the newspaper reading corner.



Recycled art work by the Interactors.



Interactors volunteering at the medical camp in Ahmednagar.

## A satellite club for Pune Annets

### Team Rotary News

A new satellite club was inaugurated by RC Pune Parvati, RID 3131, in the presence of PDGs Deepak Shikarpur, Rashmi Kulkarni and club president Vrushali Khire.

The age profile of the satellite club has been pegged between 35 and 40 years to reflect the spirit of new leaders in various fields. “We have expanded our club membership from 51 as on July 2024 to 59 at present. This is no small feat as each new Rotarian has to align with the high standards set by our existing members,” said club president Vrushali Khire. Further, she said the diverse group brings together individuals with a shared passion for service and leadership, ready to make a meaningful impact.



PDGs Deepak Shikarpur (4<sup>th</sup> from R), Rashmi Kulkarni (2<sup>nd</sup> from R), RC Pune Parvati president Vrushali Khire (centre) and charter president Ridhi Kulkarni to her left.

During the installation of the new satellite club, 13 new members were inducted, while Ridhi Vinay Kulkarni took charge as the charter president of this Annet club. “We believe that with mentorship and guidance, the members of the Annet club will infuse Rotary principles in their daily lives, thus fostering a positive impact not only among themselves, but also on the wider community,” said Vrushali. ■

## Fun show at old age homes

In a novel outreach to the elderly people, RC Navi Mumbai, RID 3142, is conducting *Manoranjan Seva*, an interactive fun show for the inmates at the old age homes. “What the



Elders watching a classic Hindi film song at *Project Manoranjan Seva*.

residents of old age homes really need is people’s involvement, spending quality time with them, that will bring cheer and smiles on their faces,” said Premkumar, past president of the club.

So, with this objective in mind, they have devised an entertainment session for members of old age homes that includes Bollywood music with video clips, anecdotes and a lively quiz-cum-interactive show, he said. Each show is filled with humour, jokes and lively interaction with the elders, that are both informative and exciting. “This Manoranjan package has delighted the elders who clamour for more such visits by our club members,” he said. They have visited 28 old age homes, and “each time, the video content is changed and the quiz is also reformatted to make the entire show interesting for the participants.”

The Bollywood theme show has a lot of fun elements, thus bringing joy to the elderly inmates. “We will extend *Project Manoranjan Seva* across the district and beyond,” said Premkumar. ■



Rotarians at the inauguration of a water pump at the Vimal Kanya Prashala, Solapur.



DG Suresh Saboo (second from L) with students at the school.



Staff members with DG Saboo and Rotarians.

# Transforming a school

## Team Rotary News

**R**otary E-Club of Solapur Elite, RID 3132, has been enhancing the facilities at Vimal Kanya Prashala, Solapur a school for underprivileged children. The school has a strength of 300 students. Since 2022, the club has undertaken various projects to improve the educational ambience and well-being of the students.

In the Rotary year 2022–23, under the leadership of president Atul Soni and secretary Prasad Kulkarni, the club constructed washrooms and upgraded the flooring to ensure the safety of students and their hygiene.

Continuing its efforts, with president Vyankatesh Somani and secretary Sandeep Kulkarni (2023–24, the club donated benches, an RO filter for clean drinking water, and bicycles for girls commuting long distances to school.

In 2024–25, president Sachin Toshniwal and secretary Adarsh Goydani identified the need for additional benches and funded a borewell to address the needs of the school. ■



Club members at the inauguration of the handwash station at the Government Primary School in Honavar.



A beneficiary undergoing dental screening.

## Improving facilities at a government school

### Team Rotary News

**R**C Honavar, RID 3170, installed handwashing stations and constructed an overhead roof at the Government Primary School in Honavar, Karnataka.

The project aims to improve hygiene by providing a clean water supply and soap dispensers for regular handwashing. The overhead roof ensures the handwash stations can be used throughout the year, benefiting 50 students and five staff members. This initiative supports better hygiene practices and a safer environment for the school.

The club in collaboration with KMC Hospital, Manipal, and Sangama Seva Trust, organised a dental camp at Siddhivinayak High School, Kharwa village. Over 240 villagers received dental care, with 22 dentists performing more than 90 fillings and cleanings. The camp addressed the community's need for accessible dental care and created awareness on oral hygiene. ■



School children at a yoga session.

## Holistic learning for students

### Team Rotary News

**R**C Mumbai Kandivli West, RID 3141, led by its president Devsingh Shahani, has implemented the *Vyakti Vikas* project to enhance the holistic development of underprivileged secondary school students. The ongoing project covers six schools in and around Kandivali West, benefiting 300 students.

The programme offers 77 hours of coaching over 25 weeks, focusing on mental, emotional,

spiritual and physical development. Students receive education in preventive healthcare through yoga for intellectual and emotional growth, and financial literacy. Key partners include Rise Development Academy, Equipoise Learning Academy and the Art of Living, Mumbai.

The project is valued at ₹8 lakh. It is supported by Rotarians, CSR contributions, and other sponsors.■



Students attending a lecture.

# Welfare projects in Sonapat

## Team Rotary News



Club members after inaugurating the automatic sanitary vending machine at GVM IITM, Sonapat.

**R**C Sonapat Midtown, RID 3012, installed a sanitary vending machine at GVM IITM, Sonapat.

This initiative aims to provide convenient access to sanitary products for girl students at the institute. The club also conducted a tree plantation drive on its campus. Pushpa Tiwari, a teacher of the Art of Living, delivered a talk on yoga during the event.

In another project, the club distributed 220 pairs of shoes to underprivileged students at a government school in Pabsara, Sonapat. The distribution was followed by a cultural programme where students performed various cultural shows.

Club member Pooja Bhardwaj addressed the children, encouraging them to focus on their studies and personality development. ■



Children and Rotarians after the shoe donation drive.



Children, along with club president Priya Oberoi (L) and members, after receiving the notebooks.

## Celebrating literacy month

### Team Rotary News

Under the leadership of president Priya Oberoi, Rotary Club of Delhi Safdarjung, RID 3011, celebrated Rotary's September Literacy Month by distributing 300 primary-level storybooks and notebooks to children at the primary wing of Raisena Bengali School, Harmonious Children Rehabilitation Association in Faridabad, Udyam



PDG Ramesh Agarwal, DG Mahesh Trikha and club president Priya Oberoi inaugurating the thalassaemia screening machine.



Rotarians at the Anmol Sahara NGO, Delhi, where the club has started the Beauty Culture course.

NGO and Anmol Sahara NGO in Gautam Nagar. The club also introduced the concept of a hanging library at Raisena Bengali School, giving students direct access to reading material. The initiative was supported by DG Mahesh Trikha.

A thalassaemia screening machine was installed at the Rotary Blood Centre to mark Doctors' Day. This initiative aims to enhance early detection and prevention of thalassaemia, contributing to better health outcome in the community.

The club, guided by president Priya, installed a seed bank at St Paul Diocesan School, Delhi, to promote environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students.

A Beauty Culture course was inaugurated at Anmol Sahara NGO to empower underprivileged women and girls with skills to support themselves and their families. ■



# A rural school gets a digital classroom

Team Rotary News



Students in the digital classroom set up by RC Bangalore Palmville.

Rotary Club of Bangalore Palmville, RID 3191, sponsored a digital classroom at the Sant Singaji Educational Society in Sandalpur district, Dewas, Madhya Pradesh. This project will benefit 1,100 students enrolled in the school. The project cost was

₹3 lakh. “We are planning to reach out to other rural schools around Bengaluru, and strengthen them with similar digital classrooms to benefit students,” said club secretary Pallavi Agrawal.

The club provided 210 bedsheets and 30 blankets to the

Gowripalya Maternity Hospital in Bengaluru. “We gave the bedsheets in sets of seven colours to help them change the linen everyday. We also covered the windows with nylon mesh to protect the patients from mosquitoes and other insects,” she said. ■

## Introducing DEI to children

Rotary Club of Pune Sports City, RID 3131, engaged ‘Shikandi’, a dhol band comprising transpeople, to perform at their annual Ganesh Maha aarti programme at the Balkalyan Sanstha, an educational institution for differently-abled children in Pune.

“It was heartwarming to witness the inclusive and energetic atmosphere as the transpeople and the children vibed with the festive scene. The children joyfully danced with the performers, displaying respect and equity,” said club member Neeraj. It was a good idea to introduce the concept of diversity and inclusion at an early age, he added. ■



Children enthusiastically vibing with a transwoman during the Ganesh festival.

# Sports events for the differently-abled

## Team Rotary News

**R**otary Club of Cuddalore Coastal City, RID 2981, organised a state-level volleyball tournament for school and college students at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School in the town.

In another initiative, the club, along with the Inner Wheel Club of Cuddalore Coastal City Blossoms, conducted Sports Day for children with special needs. Over 80 children participated in the various competitions. The club distributed prizes for all participants. ■

Members of RC Cuddalore Coastal City greet the participants.



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## A pond rejuvenated



DG Raja Govindasamy with members of RC Karur Angels at the project site.

**R**otary Club of Karur Angels, RID 3000, dredged and restored a pond spread over eight acres at Pambaramuthampatti, a village 25km from Karur. The pond is a major water source for the village and its surrounding areas. The project was completed in 22 days, said club secretary Vishnuvardhan Ravindrakumar. DG Raja Govindasamy who visited the project site, appreciated the club.

In another initiative, over 50 lactating women attended an educational seminar on breastfeeding and infant care organised by the club. Health kits were distributed to the expectant mothers. ■

# Free treatment for expectant moms

## Team Rotary News



RC Durgapur Central president Anuja Agarwal (third from Left) with other members and expectant mothers.

In a collaborative venture, RC Durgapur Central, RID 3240, has launched *Project Mother Care and Nurturing Babies* in which the IQ City Hospital will provide free treatment and care to expectant mothers from under-privileged families from the day of admission till the delivery. Also, the

hospital will support the pregnant women with the necessary medical facilities including tests.

Club president Anuja Agarwal and IQ City Hospital CEO Superna Sengupta kicked off the project with the admission of the first patient under this mother and child care initiative. Other expenses like those

for medical consultation and the travelling to and from the hospital are being sponsored by Rtn Giriraj Kothari, joint secretary of the club. Health kits and Horlick packets were distributed to lactating mothers at Bidhannagar by a team led by Anuja in partnership with the Inner Wheel Club.

West Bengal minister Pradip Majumdar was the chief guest at the installation of club president Anuja Agarwal. The outgoing president Sandeep Bhattacharjee handed over the charter and collar to Anuja. In her address, she said her focus would be on social welfare projects and urged members to extend their support for their implementation. Majumdar welcomed the new president wishing her “the best and success in the current Rotary year.”

The minister released a special souvenir, named *Symphony*, to mark the occasion. The minister also honoured a few members for “their remarkable work and achievement in the last Rotary year.” ■



Outgoing president Sandeep Bhattacharjee hands over the club charter and collar to incoming president Anuja Agarwal at the installation.

## 100 days, 47 blood donation camps, 3,700+ units



Club members promoting blood donation at a railway station in Mumbai.

**A**round 115 Rotary clubs of RID 3141 participated in the *Vibrant Life Saving Express* Blood Donation Drive and clocked in 3,719 units of blood through 47 blood donation camps conducted over 100 days across Mumbai.

Camps were strategically set up at railway stations in collaboration with the Indian Railways, effectively reaching

donors travelling along the busy routes from Churchgate to Borivali and CSMT to Thane on both the Western and Central Lines. These locations were chosen to maximise accessibility and convenience for potential donors, said Bhavin Toprani, PR director of RID 3141.

In addition to railway stations, clubs extended their outreach by conducting camps at residential

societies, business hubs and educational institutions, engaging diverse segments of the community and raising awareness about the importance of blood donation.

The mega blood donation drive was led by DG Chetan Desai, avenue chair Nilima Inamdar and avenue councillor Anup Nathani. ■

## E-learning facility for Kolhapur school

**T**he Rotary Club of Kolhapur Heritage, RID 3170, gifted digital learning accessories to the Nutan Marathi High School in Kolhapur. The project worth ₹1 lakh will enhance the learning experience and make children future-ready. The teachers will also benefit from better access to online resources and educational content. ■

Members of RC Kolhapur Heritage demonstrating e-learning facility to students.



# Memorable Rotary experiences

**RV Rajan**

I bid farewell to Rotary on June 30, 2024 and from the next day, I became an ex-Rotarian. After being a member of RC Madras South for 47 years, I have now settled in Coimbatore and don't want to join any club in this city. This article is to list out some lessons I learned as a Rotarian which will benefit young Rotarians or those wishing to join Rotary.

Only those who excel in their profession have the privilege to join Rotary, a global service organisation. Though Rotary's motto is *Service Above Self*, it is always better to remember your family comes first, followed by your vocation and only then Rotary. However, being a member of this global NGO gives you a new respect in social standing, besides offering many avenues to serve the society.

Join Rotary only if you have the time and resources but don't expect any rewards immediately in terms of new business opportunities. To begin with, participate in club activities that interest you. The satisfaction you get in terms of appreciation from fellow Rotarians will be immense. Of course, there are fellowship events like family get-together, picnics and group activities that will cement your bonding with Rotary. Some of the service projects and fellowship events will lead to lifelong friendship. These friends will be available to you in your hours of distress and would form a support system.

Unlike your business where you are the boss, or the CEO of a big firm, as club president you can only persuade your members to work for you. For, remember they are all leaders in their own fields and won't brook

a commanding order from you. In Rotary, everyone is equal and there is no question of subordination.

Being a club president is an onerous responsibility. It includes meticulous planning of events, finding the right person for the right job, and following a democratic process in decision-making. Even if you become a past president, you can offer support to the incumbent as your experience will be useful to him. Allow young Rotarians to experiment with new ideas.

At a broader level, taking part in district events and RI conventions will enlarge your network of friends, that will broaden your world vision. But if you want to climb the Rotary hierarchy, you need to have deep pockets, along with a large circle of friends to keep you in the race. Also, you need trusted people to look after your business.

I quit this great organisation with a satisfaction that I could contribute my part, however small, to my club and in turn, received the love and affection of my club members. Some of my best friends are from the Rotary world!

*The writer is former member  
of RC Madras South*

