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Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Gifts for Sri Lankan families

Team Rotary News

On Gandhi Jayanthi (Oct 2), RC Nanganallur Elite, RID 3234, visited a Sri Lankan Refugees Camp at Puzhal, a suburb near Chennai, and distributed sarees, multivitamin tablets, children's clothes, and biscuit packets to the refugee families. PDG Abirami Ramanathan and DGE Vinod Saraogi were guests of honour.

Ramanathan assured that he would donate sarees, veshtis, lungis and towels for all the 600 Sri Lankan families in the coming months. Club president-elect V S Gopalakrishnan came forward to sponsor the college education of three toppers of Class 12 board exam. RC Madras Pallava president Dilli Babu said he would pay



DGE Vinod Saraogi and PDG Abirami Ramanathan distribute essential items to Sri Lankan refugees.



A vending cart being donated to a woman at a park in Nanganallur, Chennai.

the full tuition fees of a college student, while RC Chennai Titans declared that they would donate laptops to students excelling in academics.

A vending cart worth ₹30,000 was donated to a woman who is the sole breadwinner in her family as her husband is bedridden due to ailments. RID 3234 Community Service Development chair Sarada Ramani donated the cart to the beneficiary at the Independence Day Park, Nanganallur. The woman turned emotional and thanked Rotary for the gesture. ■

On the cover: A student with her schoolbag filled with stationery and dental kit, gifted to her by RC Agra, RID 3110.

Addressing healthcare and education needs in Pune

Team Rotary News

In a collaborative effort to enhance public health, RC Pune Sports City, RID 3131, with support from Emcure Pharmaceutical's CSR wing organised health screening camps for over 1,000 employees of Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML). Conducted across six PMPML bus depots, the camps focused on raising awareness on breast and cervical cancer among women employees.

Despite awareness efforts, cultural hesitancy led to fewer women participating, with 117 undergoing mammography and 114 opting for Pap smear tests. Male employees were offered general health checkups, including blood tests, BP, sugar, cholesterol, dental and eye tests. The initiative was implemented with the help of Samarth Yuva Foundation and Dr Dada Gujar Hospital for Mother and Child Care. Screening results were confidentially shared with participants through PMPML depot managers.

The club in collaboration with Hodek Vibrations Technologies distributed 28 bicycles to underprivileged



A camp at Hadapsar.



A health screening camp at Kothrud.

girl students of Sharda Vidyalaya, Sahajpur, on Children's Day (Nov 14). The initiative, aimed at girls commuting over 2km to school, sought to reduce absenteeism and improve academic performance. The project was led by club members Ram Kulkarni and Prasann Chobe. ■



Students with their new cycles.

Empowering students and promoting wellness

Team Rotary News

The Rotary Club of Agra, RID 3110, organised a poster-making and slogan-writing competition at the Sacred Mother Junior School in the city for students from Class 3 to 8. “A decline in vaccination rates in the past few years has raised concerns, leading to the possibility of resurgence of polio cases. Recognising the urgency, Rotary has stepped forward once again to reinvigorate its efforts toward boosting immunisation rates. We aim to organise similar competitions and workshops in more schools as they provide an effective channel to engage with parents and the broader community,” said club president Namrata Panicker.

She added that 15 selected posters from the competition will be shared online to amplify polio awareness. The top three posters with the highest likes will receive awards.

The club conducted its 12th workshop on “Safe and Unsafe Touch” at the CF Andrew’s School, Balkeshwar, Agra. The initiative, aimed at empowering children with knowledge about personal safety, was attended by over 600 students from Class 3 to 8.

Through an engaging storytelling session, Namrata Mishra, an expert on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, introduced students to the concept of body boundaries and explained how to recognise and respond to unsafe touch. Her session

Participants of the poster competition displaying their artwork.







Students with their new bags.



Children displaying helpline numbers at a workshop.



Club president Namrata Panicker with students of the Midas Academy planting saplings in a farm.

emphasised practical steps to empower children in protecting themselves.

Child sexual abuse expert and parenting coach Reema Ahmad further enriched the session with an interactive discussion. She reassured students that any form of abuse is never their fault and encouraged them to stay positive and confident, and explained the importance of listening to their inner instincts, or "navigation system," which can help them recognise when something is wrong and take appropriate action.

Club president Namrata urged the students to build a "safety circle" comprising five trusted individuals they can rely on during difficult times. The club also distributed informative posters on safe and unsafe touch, alongside emergency contact numbers, to be displayed prominently on the school premises.

As part of its literacy promotion efforts, the club gifted school bags, stationery items and dental kits to 140 students at a government primary school at Mehra Naharganj near Agra. A medical check-up camp was organised earlier for the students.

Under its environment protection initiative, the club conducted a sapling plantation drive in two locations — Sector 9 Park, Awasi Vikas Colony; and Rawat Farms, Sikandra — in the city. Club members Amit Sisodia and Ritunandan Singh took the lead by planting 60 saplings at the Sector 9 Park, and distributed 80 more saplings to the residents to plant them near their homes. Around 100 saplings were planted at the Rawat Farms with the participation of students from the Midas Academy. ■

Remembering road accident victims

Team Rotary News

The Rotary clubs of Visakhapatnam, RID 3020, came together to observe World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims on Nov 17. The event aimed to remember road traffic victims, acknowledge the work of emergency services, and advocate for better support and road safety measures.

Around 400 family members of road accident victims, 150 grievously

injured individuals, Rotarians, students, NCC cadets and traffic wing police personnel participated in the memorial meet which provided a platform for road traffic victims and their families to share their experiences and memories. Around 650 people took the road safety pledge, and candles were lit in memory of the departed souls.

Dr Shankabrata Bagchi, police commissioner (Visakhapatnam),

highlighted the city police's efforts to reduce road accidents and outlined measures such as controlling drunk driving, inspecting underage driving, and promoting awareness among school students and the general public. He commended Rotary's initiatives for road safety. Hearing the plight of victims' families, he announced that he will soon establish a 'Road Accident Victims Assistance Cell'

to ensure that the victims' families receive timely compensation.

Praveen Kumar, ADCP Traffic; G Adinarayana, deputy transport commissioner; and Dr Seshu Babu Lalam, HOD, Emergency Medicine, Apollo Hospitals, shared their thoughts on road safety and emergency services.

The programme was convened by C Balasatish, district chair, Road and Fire Safety. ■

Candles being lit in memory of road accident victims.



club matters

RC Chidambaram Central



RC JVPD Mumbai



RC Kottai Pattukkottai



RC Kalamassery

RC Chidambaram
Central – RID 2981

Nutrition kits were given to expectant mothers at the District Government Hospital, Cuddalore, to mark Breastfeeding Week. Medical college hospital special officer Dr N Sundaresh and medical superintendent Tirupati gave special address.

RC JVPD Mumbai – RID 3141

Over 100 bottles of blood and four bottles of platelets were collected at a blood donation camp held at the Technopolis Knowledge Park, Andheri East, in partnership with the Tata Memorial Hospital. It got 144 registrations.

RC Kottai Pattukkottai – RID 2981

Identity cards were issued to students of a government school at Pattukkottai, TN, who are mostly from underprivileged families. The IDs gave a new sense of confidence among the children and they thanked Rotary for the gesture.



RC Nasik

RC Nasik – RID 3030

Around 450kg of garbage was collected at a cleanliness drive by Interactors from Wisdom High School at the Navshya Ganpati temple, Nashik. They distributed paper bags to shopkeepers.

RC Kalamassery – RID 3201

Rotary Young Achiever Award was presented to Raul John Aju, a Class 10 boy, for his achievements in artificial intelligence and robotics. TCS vice-president Dinesh Thampi, a club member, gave the award.



RC Alleppey Greater



RC Nagercoil Blossoms



RC Sambalpur Central



RC Calcutta Metro City

RC Alleppey Greater – RID 3211

In a joint initiative with Alpha Genius Integrated School, Alappuzha, a beach run was conducted with club president Jincy Rojes leading the girl students. This is part of club's efforts to empower women through events and projects.



RC Tirupattur

RC Sambalpur Central – RID 3261

Locker facilities were installed at the Rajghat in Sambalpur to store the mortal remains (*ashthis*) of the deceased in a secure manner. At present, the club is offering 36 free lockers and more such facilities are being developed.

RC Calcutta Metro City – RID 3291

World Tiger Day was celebrated at the La Martiniere for Girls School, Kolkata, in partnership with SHER, a local NGO. Club president Sunando Sen, secretary Dipu Mullick and PDG Shyamashree Sen were present. Forest rangers were felicitated.

RC Nagercoil Blossoms –RID 3212

Fifty artificial limbs were given to amputees at a special camp in partnership with the Kims Health Hospital, Nagercoil. The project boosted the public image of the club in the neighbourhood.

RC Tirupattur – RID 3231

Around 200 people were examined at the eye testing and surgery camp held at the Greenland Matric HS School, Pudupet. Dr S Jayanthan, a Rotarian, screened the patients and gave consultations.

Compiled by V Muthukumar

Road safety awareness rally

Team Rotary News

More than 100 students and volunteers took part in a road safety awareness rally conducted by RC Kumta, RID 3170, in a joint endeavour with the Kamala Baliga College of Education, Kumta, and the local police.

A street play staged by students was appreciated by the public, who were given free helmets during the rally which created a buzz in this small town in the Konkan region of North Karnataka. "With the support of Kumta police we held the road safety rally which was a resounding success, thanks to a large number of students who took part with enthusiasm," said Vinayak Hegde, club secretary. ■



Rotarians, students, police personnel and those who received free helmets at the road safety awareness rally in Kumta.

Diwali at children's home



Rotarians distribute firecrackers and sweets to children.

Diwali, the festival of lights, was celebrated with 30 inmates at the Joe Andrew Children's Home by members of RC Madurai Sangamam, RID 3000. "We distributed new clothes and sweets to children, burst crackers and spread love and laughter," said K V Baskaran, club secretary.

AG RMA S Rajeshkanna and club members distributed the clothes and engaged the children in fun games. "Our gifts brought smile on their faces which gave us satisfaction at the end of our visit," he said. Lunch was served to around 60 elderly inmates at an old age home in Therkuvasal, a neighbourhood in Madurai, in memory of late Rtn Inbavanan. Club president S R Ganesan sponsored the food, along with Rajeshkanna and past presidents B S Rajan and Soni Gelatham. ■

White canes for visually-challenged

Team Rotary News



Club members at the Madayi government school after distributing white canes to the visually-challenged.

The Rotary Club of Pilathara, RID 3204, observed World White Cane Day (Oct 15) by presenting white canes to 20 visually-impaired individuals. The

programme, held at the Madayi Government Higher Secondary School, aimed to raise awareness about the importance of accessibility for visually-impaired people. The event

commenced with a vibrant flash mob by the NSS unit of the school, which effectively captured the attention of the public and spread the message about the day's importance. ■

Shaping careers

Around 100 higher secondary school-going girls were introduced to various career options in a seminar organised by the Rotary Club of Kolhapur Heritage, RID 3170, under the district's flagship programme, *Pathway to Success*. The project aims to help the students choose the right course of study to equip themselves with the necessary skill sets to pursue a vocation of their choice.

The club donated 100 tree guards and vermicompost to the Rajshri Shahu Maharaj Medical College in the city. The Rotarians encouraged the students and staff to plant saplings in the college campus and nurture them. E-learning kits were installed at two schools in the city to enhance students' learning experience. ■



A career guidance programme in a school.

A fulfilling Diwali for Interactors

Team Rotary News

The young members of the Interact Club of SBC Academy sponsored by RC Dindigul Queencity, RID 3000, had a memorable Diwali this year. They celebrated the festival with 15 differently-abled children at Rotary Blossom. The Interactors cheered their guests with fireworks, and engaged them in various games. ■



Interactors helping a girl play with fireworks at Rotary Blossom.

Care for the elderly



Club members with brick kiln workers after providing woollen blankets to them.

The members of the Rotary Club of Karnal, RID 3080, provided lunch and dinner to senior citizens residing at the Subhadra Old Age Home and 100 orphans at the MDD Bal Bhawan. The club felicitated P R Nath, the founder of the orphanage,

for receiving the Garshom International Award bestowed on him at Yerevan, capital of the Republic of Armenia. Nath has been taking care of homeless and orphaned children for over two decades, said P K Jain, executive secretary of RC Karnal.

In another initiative, the club members distributed blankets to 75 brick kiln labourers in Bijna, a village near the city.

The club installed a water cooler at a prominent place in the city for the use of the public. ■

Health camp for children

Team Rotary News

The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, RID 3291, organised a medical camp for 250 children of Dakshini Prayash, a school for the less privileged children in Anandpur in Kolkata. Club members Dr Rajesh Goel and Dr Aruna Tantia, along with doctors from the ILS Hospital, screened the children for oral hygiene, skin disorders and other vital parameters. Nutritional advice and lifestyle changes were recommended to the children's parents and teachers.

"Most of the children were suffering from dental issues, something which worried us regarding the source of water or eating habits. We advised the teachers to get the water from source checked for impurities or fluoride," said Dr Aruna. ■



A medical camp in progress at the Dakshini Prayash school.

Dance competition for children



The young participants with club members after the dance competition.

The Rotary Club of Vijayawada, RID 3020, conducted a classical dance competition for school-children in Krishna district. "This event was part

of our youth service programme and we aimed to instil pride in our culture and traditions in young minds," said district secretary and club member MV Sureshkumar. ■

RI District 3141 in collaboration with the Indian Navy organised a unique tour of INS Shikra, the naval airbase in Mumbai, for over 800 schoolchildren and 75 teachers from across various schools in Mumbai. Retd Cdr Rtn BK Ahluwalia helped in coordinating the event with the Indian Navy.

A film on the Indian Navy and how it is supported by the Air Force wing in seven strategically located ports was shown to the visitors, who also got to see the different types of helicopters used for various services at the naval airbase, and the battle ships Tarkash and Teg.

Some of the students were excited to witness a Chetak helicopter return to the ship after a trip over the sea. A mock drill to show how the Navy helps in rescuing a person from the deep sea was also performed.

The Rotary Club of Mumbai Millennials led by its president Onkar Sarang streamlined the entries and ensured the smooth conduct of the programme. ■

Introducing the Indian Navy to students

Team Rotary News



DG Chetan Desai with district Rotarians aboard a navy ship.



DG Desai, along with Rotarians and schoolchildren, at the naval airbase in Mumbai.

A mobile medical clinic

Team Rotary News

RC Muzaffarnagar Mid Town, RID 3100, in collaboration with RI District 3522, Taiwan, inaugurated a state-of-the-art medical bus under a GG. This mobile healthcare unit, donated to Muzaffarnagar Medical

College, is equipped with facilities for eye, dental, and general OPD services, X-ray and pathology sections aiming to improve healthcare access in rural areas.

Club secretary Naresh Sharma highlighted the bus's potential to transform rural healthcare, ensuring essential medical services reach underserved communities.

The project was inaugurated by Rtn Anil Jain from Canada and appreciated by TRF trustee Bharat Pandya, DG Deepa Khanna, DGE Nitin Agarwal, DGN Payal Gaur, PDGs Ashok Gupta and Rajiv Singhal attended the event.

The event was coordinated by Suneel Aggarwal, Umesh Goyal and Ankit Mittal. ■



Rotarians in front of the medical bus.

Goa's seniors walk for good health

RC Panaji Riviera, RID 3170, organised a walkathon for seniors at Miramar, Goa. The event aimed to promote physical activity, social interaction, and overall well-being among senior citizens, encouraging them to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

With the theme *Walk-Talk-Enjoy*, the non-competitive event allowed participants to choose walking distances between 1 and 4km. The morning began with a warm-up session led by a fitness instructor, followed by a leisurely walk along the scenic Miramar route. Post-walk refreshments and a social gathering added to the lively atmosphere, culminating in a medal presentation ceremony for all participants.



Senior citizens at the walk.

Flagged off by PDG Gaurish Dhond, the event saw enthusiastic participation from 290 senior citizens. The seniors expressed their joy, feeling rejuvenated and inspired by the initiative, which reminded them of their capabilities and importance in society. ■

Eye camp, tournaments in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News

Around 250 people were screened at an eye check-up camp in Nayakanpalayam village organised by RC Coimbatore East, RID 3201, with the support of Sankara Eye Hospital. Among them, 21 were selected for cataract surgery at the hospital.

Club president Raj Siddarth, secretary Karthik Narain, AG Ramasamy, zonal community service chair Sivaprakash and other Rotarians were present at the venue. “We conducted the eye camp for the fourth consecutive year which benefited thousands of rural people,” said project chair Ramesh Kumar.

Over 350 students from 21 rural government schools took part in a cricket tournament held at the TKS Matric HS School, Chinnavedampatti, with the support of District Sports Welfare Association. Rolling trophies, medals and cups were given to the winners from



The winners with their trophies, along with Rotarians, at the cricket tournament.

the Under 12 and Under 15 categories in the tournament.

In a similar project, kho-kho tournament was held for boys and girls from 24 rural schools in a joint event with their Anns club, RC Coimbatore New Town and District Sports Welfare Association. AG Ramasamy presented trophies and medals to the winning teams.

New dress material worth ₹1.5 lakh were given to 190 differently-abled and 40 orphaned children at the National Federation for Blind during Diwali. RID 3201-Public Image chair Varadharajan was the chief guest at the event, which was followed by midday meals to all beneficiaries. ■

Environmental RYLA at Barsi

Fifty students from the Meher English Medium School, Barsi, participated in a one-day RYLA organised by RC Barsi, RID 3132.

They visited Surdi village, 21km from Barsi in Solapur district of Maharashtra, and returned home after the educational tour. The students were taught about the importance of our ecosystem and the need to preserve the environment for a healthy life system on the planet. ■



Students enjoy their visit to Surdi village.

Blood camps and charity

Team Rotary News

A blood donation camp at Kushinagar International Airport, Uttar Pradesh, organised by RC Kushinagar, RID 3120, saw 67 donors taking part with enthusiasm. It was held with the support of the Kushinagar Charitable Blood Bank.

Another camp, held on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day at Fazilnagar, saw 25 donors. Club president Wahid Ali emphasised the rejuvenating and life-saving impact of blood donation.

During Gandhi Jayanti, the club hosted a tribute at Shaheed Smarak Park, distributing sewing machines to 10 women to promote



Beneficiaries receiving the sewing machines.

self-reliance and honouring 13 individuals for their selfless service to society. A selfie corner featuring a charkha added a unique touch to the event.

A CME programme on 'Transfusion medicine' was jointly organised with the Indian Medical Association and Kushinagar Blood Bank.

Club members celebrated Diwali at the Kasia Old Age Home, lighting lamps, distributing sweets, and sharing festive joy with elderly inmates. ■



Club members, along with donors, at the blood donation camp organised at the airport.

Eye, skin, and organ donation awareness

Team Rotary News



Rotarians, along with students, after an organ donation awareness seminar.

The Rotary Eye Donation Centre, established by RC Bombay West, RID 3141, in July 2019, has completed five years of collecting 704 corneas. Operating 24x7, the centre serves Mumbai's suburbs from Dahisar to Colaba in partnership with the Eye Bank Coordination and Research Centre (EBCRC), Parel.

Supported by the Inner Wheel Club and awareness campaigns, the initiative has significantly boosted public engagement, facilitating eight corneal transplants.

Rotary clubs across RID 3141, including RCs Mumbai Kandivli West,

Bombay Kandivli and Bombay North, are actively raising awareness about eye, skin and organ donation through school presentations at institutions like Lilavatibai Podar High School and MVM International School.

Efforts include WhatsApp banners consolidating donation contacts, donor recognition frames and PR campaigns. The Live Beyond Life Foundation, a Rotary initiative, is also holding organ donation seminars at NSS-affiliated colleges, with the first session addressing over 60 students at the Dr Ambedkar College, Mumbai. ■

Digital education for rural kids

Satish Madhavan



Rotary District 3191 in partnership with the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) department of Karnataka has launched a statewide Soft Skill and Literacy Enhancement programme as part of its Rural Digital Library Mission.

This ambitious initiative, aimed at uplifting rural communities across 31 districts in Karnataka, was formalised through a memorandum of understanding signed on Aug 12, in the presence of key dignitaries, including Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and minister for rural development Priyank Kharge.

The programme, launched on World Librarian Day, is designed to enhance the quality of education and digital literacy in rural areas, focusing on underserved communities. In collaboration with Arivu Kendras (digital learning centers), the initiative will impart foundational literacy and numeracy skills to children aged 12–18 years.

The online sessions, available in Kannada, cover various topics, including communication skills, financial literacy, leadership, mental wellness and environmental awareness, delivered by experts from various fields.

Since its launch on Aug 31, the programme has already impacted over 700,000 children directly and is expanding through YouTube uploads for easy access to training material. Aiming for 52 sessions in its first year, the project is on track to reach one million rural children. The initiative underscores Rotary's commitment to empowering communities and fostering long-term sustainable change.

With Uma Mahadevan at the helm, known for her inclusive approach to rural development, the programme exemplifies how collaborative leadership can bring about meaningful, lasting transformation in rural Karnataka.

The writer is the district governor of RID 3191



Government schoolchildren in a digital classroom.

RC Calcutta hosts Positive Peace seminar

Team Rotary News

A global Positive Peace workshop was organised by RC Calcutta, RID 3291, on its 106th Foundation Day (Sept 26) with RI President Stephanie Urchick congratulating the district Rotarians for hosting this mega peace seminar to “foster peace among friends, families, communities and societies which is truly admirable.”

Having a tagline ‘For humanity let the world be one

nest,’ the event at the Rotary Sadan, Kolkata, brought together Rotary leaders from around the world for sharing their diverse

perspectives on peace-related issues.

In her video message, President Stephanie urged the



Rotary President Stephanie Urchick giving her address through video link.



DG Krishnendu Gupta (2nd from L) inaugurates the Positive Peace workshop at the Rotary Sadan, Kolkata. Also seen are (from L) RC Calcutta past president Raj Agarwal, president Subrata De, event chair Saumen Ray, PDGs Ravi Sehgal, Rajendra Khandelwal, Angsuman Bandyopadhyay and Rajani Mukerji.



delegates to keep “advancing the magic of Rotary.”

Sharing his experience in Rwanda where he saw the devastating impact of genocide and the power of reconciliation, PRIP Gordon McNally said the focus should be on peace, rather than conflict. “We have to work together to build a peaceful future as even in the darkest of times, hope and resilience can prevail,” he said.

In his address, PRIP Shekhar Mehta turned the spotlight on service projects which will facilitate positive peace. “Fulfilling the basic needs like food, water and healthcare are essential for creating a peaceful environment,” said Mehta.

Speaking on the joy of giving, DG Krishnendu Gupta called upon the Rotarians to give generously to TRF, a key player in promoting peace and global understanding. RC Battersea

Park past president Gill de Warren from London talked about the efforts of women in Afghanistan to overcome restrictions imposed on them since 2021 after the Taliban assumed power. Thousands of children are dying because of malnutrition, she said, calling for “urgent humanitarian assistance.”

In their joint video presentation, John Hickey and Margi from RC Wilmington, US, detailed their five projects (\$288,000) with a number of Rotary clubs in war-ravaged Ukraine. “We provided thermal clothing, clean water, food, medicines, shelter boxes, blankets, mats for underground schools etc. We stand with the people of Ukraine in this crisis,” they said.

RC Calcutta president Subrata De said events like this

peace seminar remind them “about the true position of ourselves not only at the club level, but also in the world. The peace workshop on our Foundation Day is a landmark event not only in the City of Joy, but also for the country.” Positive Peace workshop chair Saumen Ray said the Four-Way Test aligned with the assessment of community needs and service projects. “We need a holistic approach to peacebuilding that addresses both individual and societal needs,” he said.

The participants were involved in group discussions that explored the challenges and opportunities for creating a harmonious world. There was a consensus among the delegates that such peace seminars and workshops are essential to foster collaboration, share knowledge and inspire action to address global challenges. ■



PRIP Shekhar Mehta addresses the delegates. Also seen is DG Gupta.