

March 2026

# Rotary

NEWS PLUS



# A Rotary bike rally across Karnataka

## Team Rotary News

**W**ith an aim to showcase India's heritage and culture, the India chapter of IFMR — International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians — based in Bengaluru organised a 12-day motor trip across Karnataka towns and villages for three foreign Rotarian bikers — two from Italy and one from France.

Starting from Goa, the motorcycle rally covered tourist spots of Karnataka including Hampi, Sakrbyle, Belur, Hallibeddu, Hassan, Bylekuppe, Kabini, Mysuru and finally, ending in Bengaluru. The bikers covered a distance of 1,500km, and in the course of their

journey, they were engaged by the local Rotary clubs on the way.

Vinod Agarwal from RC Bangalore Lakeside led the bike rally, and he was supported by Rajesh AR from RC Bangalore Central. "This IFMR rally was planned three months ahead, and all the bookings for the intermittent stays during the journey and the selection of scenic places were done in advance," said Agarwal.

The riders were hosted by RCs Hospet, Belur and Bangalore Indiranagar, and "we visited the various projects of these clubs. The foreigners were happy with the quality of work being done by Rotary in India," said Agarwal. The entire bike

ride was smooth, hassle-free without any mishaps or hiccups on the road. "The needs of the riders including food, water and accommodation were taken care of. And the bikers had a fantastic tour of UNESCO heritage sites in Hampi, Belur, Hallibeddu and the wildlife sanctuary in Sakrbyle and Kabini reserve forest."

Finally, the IFMR team visited Karunashraya, a hospice and the flagship project of Rotary Indiranagar which is extending care to terminally ill patients for over two decades. All the bikers were felicitated by RID 3191 DG Sridhar BR at the district event RISE that saw the presence of many Rotarians. ■

Foreign Rotarian bikers with Rtns Vinod Agarwal (right) and Rajesh AR (left).



**On the cover:** A student learning pottery as part of an environment care expo organised by RC Kalyan City, RID 3142.

# Making children environment-conscious

## Team Rotary News

**T**he Rotary Club of Kalyan City, RID 3142, in partnership with Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal, hosted the Kalyan Nisarg Mela at the Narendra Convent School. Over 250 students from 20 schools participated in the programme that focused on various ideas for environment conservation.

Students showcased working models of solar energy, rainwater harvesting and growing microgreens. Competitions were held on cloth bag painting with the theme 'Marine Ecosystem,' clean air poster-making and 'best out of waste' using used textiles.

Participants learnt pottery and making reels on environment protection. A special focus was given on millet-based cooking and an educational 'mangrove and snake species display.' Yakub Bhetasiwalla was the event coordinator.

A dental health camp was organised by the club at the MK Singh School in Kalyan where over 300 students were



Students display a solar energy model.

examined. The camp focused on creating awareness about oral hygiene and the importance of early treatment.

In another initiative, the club, through its *Project Restore*, repaired damaged wheelchairs meant for public use at the Kalyan Railway Station. These wheelchairs were originally donated to the railway station by the club under the leadership of past president Hycenth Bhetasiwala.

"Our club replaced the faulty wheels with extra heavy-duty, high-strength wheels designed for long-lasting use. This ensured smooth mobility for patients, senior citizens and differently-abled passengers," said club president Nikhil Parmar.

The club, along with the Esha Netralaya, organised an eye care camp in a neighbouring locality. Basic eye examination and vision screening were done. A blood donation camp done in association with the Kutch Yuva Sangh and the Kalyan Shakha, helped collect 157 units of blood which was handed over to a hospital to treat children suffering from thalassaemia disorder.

The club took the support of Disayana Digital to develop a website for Saksham Foundation, an NGO that empowers children with special needs. "This platform will help Saksham School reach more donors, volunteers and families. This is just the beginning. Our mission is to identify more NGOs and small trusts that lack a digital footprint and give them the online exposure they deserve," said Parmar. ■



RC Kalyan City's past president Hyacenth Bhetasiwalla with a student displaying a clay pot created by her.

# Welfare initiatives of RC Erode Nexus

## Team Rotary News

The Rotary Club of Erode Nexus, RID 3203, in association with Thalar Kids Dental Clinic and Smile Train, organised a cleft lip/palate awareness programme at the KN Rao Memorial Hospital in Erode, Tamil Nadu. Special emphasis was placed on educating parents about the importance of early medical intervention and dispelling myths and stigma associated with facial deformities.

The awareness session highlighted that cleft lip and cleft palate are treatable conditions, and with timely and appropriate medical care, affected children can lead healthy, confident and fulfilling lives.

The session was conducted by cleft lip and palate surgeons Dr R Mithunraj and club member Dr K Pavithra. Information on free surgical treatment through Smile



Motivational speaker Jayanthasri Balakrishnan interacting with a student during a session in a college at Erode.

Train was also highlighted at the event.

*Saki*, a focused community initiative dedicated to the wellness, safety, emotional well-being, and holistic development of women

and the girl child, was launched by the club. The programme is envisioned as a sustained platform through which the club will implement exclusive projects addressing women's



A breastfeeding awareness programme for lactating mothers.

health, emotional wellness, safety, self-awareness and empowerment, while nurturing a strong sense of community bonding and support among women.

Educationist and motivational speaker Jayanthashri Balakrishnan guided the students of a government higher secondary school in the city on managing exam pressure, understanding their abilities, and approaching examinations with calmness and self-belief. The programme was organised to help students understand and overcome fear and anxiety associated with examinations. It aimed to build confidence, reduce stress, and equip them with practical strategies to face exams with a positive mindset.

The club, along with RC Virudhunagar, RID 3212, organised *Yaadhumaanaval*, a motivational and empowerment programme by Jayanthashri in two colleges in the city. The programme aimed to inspire young women and girls to recognise their inner strength, build confidence, and grow into resilient individuals capable of meeting life's challenges with courage and clarity.

The flagship initiative of RC Virudhunagar is being conducted at several educational institutions across the state by various Rotary clubs.

An awareness session on breastfeeding was conducted by club member Dr Shruthi Rajendran, a gynaecologist, to educate new mothers and caregivers. She explained the nutritional, immunological, and emotional benefits of breastfeeding, along with proper techniques, common challenges faced by mothers, and practical solutions. She also highlighted the significance of breast milk donation, creating awareness about how donated breast milk can save



A doctor interacting with a parent about cleft lip and palate treatment.

vulnerable infants and support neonatal care.

RC Erode Nexus launched a project to adopt patients undergoing treatment without attendants at the Erode Government Medical College Hospital. Club secretary Madhumathi R has pledged to provide monthly financial support for its sustained execution.

Through this initiative, the club will provide medical support, basic healthcare assistance, hygiene care and daily essential supplies, ensuring that such patients receive treatment with dignity and compassion. The project was inaugurated by district collector S Kandhasamy who appreciated the club's social welfare initiatives.

A dental health camp was organised for students at the Government Primary School,

with professional support from Sumathi's Dentistry. The camp aimed to promote oral health awareness among young children and to identify dental issues at an early stage. Around 350 students underwent basic dental screening and were educated on the importance of oral hygiene, correct brushing techniques and preventive dental care.

The Biryani Feast 2025 was a flagship fundraising initiative of RC Erode Nexus, executed under the leadership of project chairpersons S Prakatheswaran and RC Kanishk. It was conceptualised to raise funds to support the club's Varam Breastmilk Bank Project, a vital initiative focused on maternal and child health. This year the event recorded 600kg biryani orders, surpassing the initial target of 500kg. ■

# club matters



RC Pudukkottai City



RC Chambal



RC Pachora-Bhadgaon



RC Jodhpur Sanskar

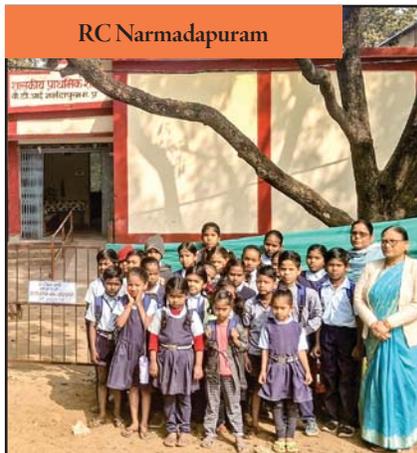
## RC Pudukkottai City – RID 3000

An awareness rally against gender violence and child abuse was conducted jointly with the Government Vocational Training Institute and Be Well Hospitals. Club president Mohammed Abdullah and hospital's chief physician Haritha Maheshwari were present.

## RC Pachora-Bhadgaon – RID 3030

K B Patil, former V-C, Kavayitri Bahinabai Chaudhari North Maharashtra University, gave a talk on career guidance for students at the Nirmala International School. Club president Mukesh Teli and Vaishali Suryawanshi, chairperson, Nirmal School, were present.

## RC Narmadapuram



## RC Narmadapuram – RID 3040

A fencing work was done at the Primary School, BTI, as the children were exposed to anti-social elements roaming near the institution. Club president Manish Gupta provided refreshments to the students.

## RC Chambal – RID 3053

DG Nisha Shekhawat and Morena chief SP Deepali Chandolia jointly inaugurated a PolioPlus Smart Booth at the Shaheed Museum. They administered polio drops to children. Around 115 infants were given oral drops at the polio booth for two days.

## RC Jodhpur Sanskar – RID 3053

A high-tech equipment, Haematology Analyser, worth ₹7 lakh was donated to the District Hospital, Pratapnagar. The new machine will enable precise blood testing, early disease detection and improve diagnostic efficiency leading to accurate medical care.



RC Sarigam



RC Pilathara



RC Kapurthala Downtown



RC Tirupattur

**RC Sarigam – RID 3060**

Around 275 girl students (9–26 years) at the Smt Devkiba Mohansinhji Chauhan College, Silvassa, had benefitted from the HPV vaccination camp held to protect them cervical cancer. The Rotary camp created health awareness among adolescent girls in the neighbourhood, lifting the club’s public image.

**RC Kolhapur Heritage**



**RC Kolhapur Heritage – RID 3170**

Thirty benches were donated to an anganwadi, Kurdu, for the benefit of its children. The project was funded by CSR grants and donations from the Annets, with the aim to provide a comfortable seating, along with a learning environment, for tiny tots.

**RC Pilathara – RID 3204**

A mini marathon was organised to create awareness on drug abuse with the participation of 50 school students in the age group of 14–18 years. With the enthusiasm of the runners, the event kicked off a buzz in this small town in Kannur district of North Kerala.

**RC Tirupattur – RID 3231**

Pongal festival was celebrated at the Annai Theresa Special School with SP Vijayakumar from RC Ambur as chief guest. Around 150 participants including special children enjoyed the fun games. Similar events were held at Vedha Matric HS School and Bethel Hostel.

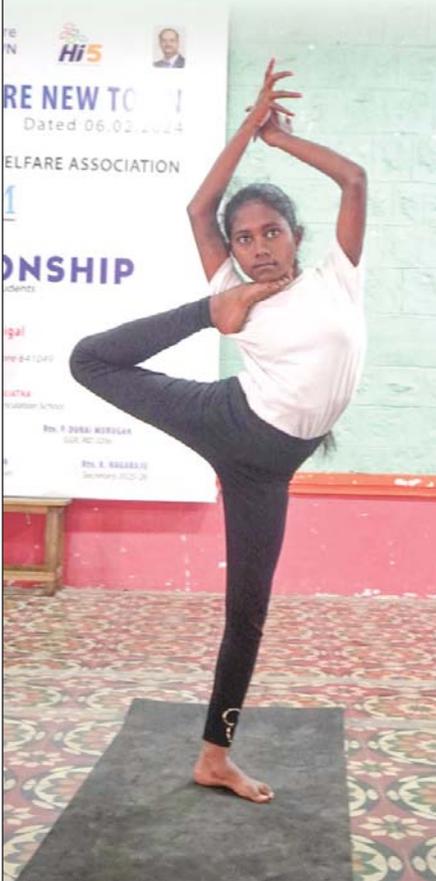
**RC Kapurthala Downtown – RID 3070**

A handwash station was donated to the Government Elementary School, Khanowal, along with soap packets for one year, to enable children to maintain hygiene. The club would install more such hygiene stations at government schools.

- V Muthukumar

# A yoga contest in Coimbatore

Team Rotary News



A student performing a yoga asana.

**R**C Coimbatore New Town, RID 3206, in association with the Coimbatore District Sports and Games Welfare Association, organised a district-level yoga championship titled *DREAM — Mann Sakthi*, at TKS Matriculation School.

A total of 225 students from 18 schools, studying Class 2–8, participated in the event, which aimed to promote physical fitness, mental well-being and discipline among children.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr Kumaragurupara Swamigal, president of Siravai Aadhinam, Kavumara Madalayam. The event was held in the presence of S Sujatha, principal of TKS School, and P Durai Murugan, the governor's group representative, RID 3206.

The programme was led by club president Thirunavukkarasu and secretary K Nagaraju. The event was coordinated by M Partheban, the project chair, along with N Ganesh, project co-chair. ■



Winners of the yoga competition along with club members.

# A bunch of public welfare initiatives

## Team Rotary News

A women's cancer screening camp was organised by RC Shahabad Markanda, RID 3080, in which 114 women benefitted. Doctors conducted screening tests and emphasised the importance of early detection, particularly for women from underprivileged backgrounds. The club also organised a diabetes screening camp at the Siddharth Hospital, where around 230 patients underwent blood sugar test. Doctors advised patients on timely testing and proper diet management to prevent diabetes-related complications.

In another initiative, a hands-on life-saving training programme was conducted using CPR mannequins. Participants were trained to respond to emergencies such as cardiac arrest, respiratory failure and trauma situations, to improve emergency response and patient survival.

The club donated 100 bags of cement to the charitable organisation Nee Asre Da Asra to support construction work for facilities serving the needy and destitute. Around 550 bundles of clothes were also distributed to the underprivileged at Maa Shakumbhari Devi Mandir. Two bicycles were presented to girl students from Khaneval Khalsa Senior Secondary School, Shahabad Markanda, to help them commute to school.



A CPR training in progress.



A clothes donation drive.



Beneficiaries registering at the cancer screening camp.



Republic Day was celebration at Satluj Senior Secondary School, Shahabad Markanda.

The club also organised a career guidance workshop at Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya on National Startup Day (Jan 16). Students explained their business ideas through audio-visual presentations, with eight teams participating and prizes awarded to the top three winners. Nidhi Baweja Baker served as the resource person.

The club honoured Navneet Kaur, who was named Best Player of the Hockey India League and serves as vice-captain of the India women's hockey team.

Republic Day was celebrated (Jan 26) at Satluj Senior Secondary School with cultural performances by students, distribution of sweets and the felicitation of 50 meritorious students. Rotarians and Inner Wheel members were present. Club members and their families also celebrated Lohri with a traditional bonfire gathering. ■

# Rotary TT tourney in Barshi

## Team Rotary News



RC Barsi members with the winners of the table tennis tournament.

An open table tennis tournament (Jan 17–18) was conducted by RC Barsi, RID 3132, in collaboration with the College of Education, Barshi, to mark the 123<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary of Mamasheb Jagdale, social reformer and founder of Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, a group of educational institutions.

The TT event saw 330 paddlers across age groups including those above 40 in the veterans

category, and came from different parts of Maharashtra such as Satara, Kolhapur, Dharashiv, Pune, Bidar, Latur and Nanded. Rajvardhan Tiwari, Sankalp Bandivdekar and Geet Jagtap were honoured as ‘Players of the Tournament’ for their outstanding performance.

Club president Sanjay Hingmire and secretary Madhukar Doiphode gave away the trophies to the winners from different categories. Club member Amit Khatod, Raj Dhole and

treasurer Jaykumar Shitole, and College of Education dean Landge also distributed the prizes. The trophies were sponsored by Anil Bandewar. The TT event was coordinated with efforts of Rotarians and players from the Barshi Table Tennis Academy.

### Peace rally

On World Rotary Day, Feb 23, a cycle rally was organised with 125 school students and 20 Rotarians to spread the message of peacebuilding being fostered by Rotary clubs across the world.

The rally started from Shivaji Mahavidyalaya, Barshi, and coursed through major thoroughfares of the town before ending at the Shiv Srushti temple. “The objective of the cycle rally is to instil the values of peace, brotherhood, and social harmony in society,” said club president Hingmire.

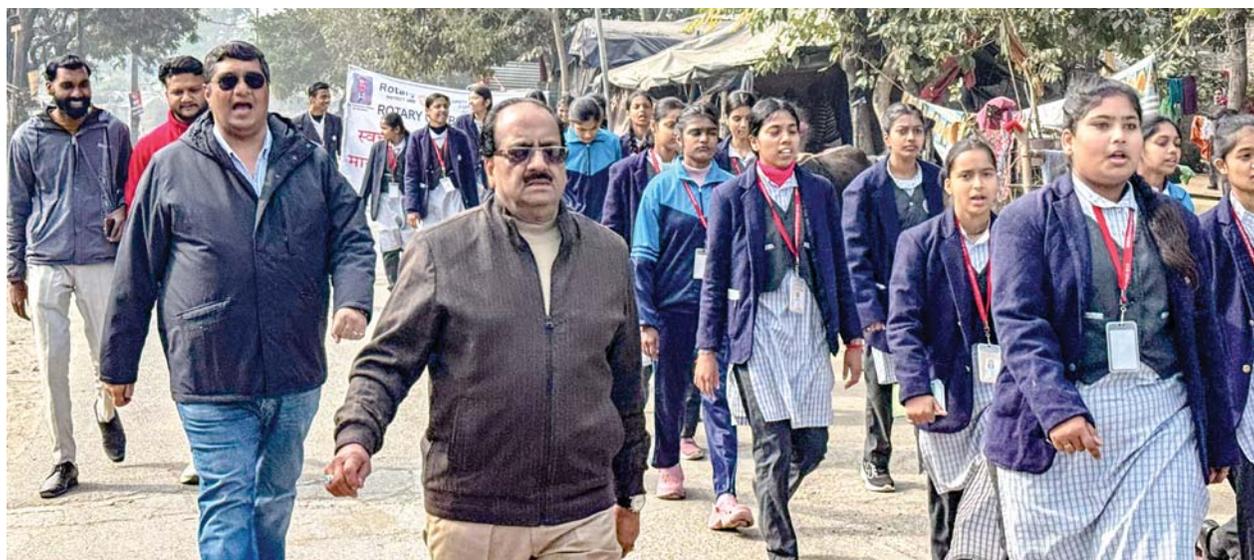
During the rally, the pedallers, conveyed the message of peace and unity through placards, and also by raising slogans. The public gave a rousing welcome to the rallyists across the town. ■



Students at the Rotary Peace Rally.

# RYLAs for Haridwar students

## Team Rotary News



A rally promoting hygiene and sanitation undertaken by RYLA participants, along with club members.

**R**otary Hardwar, RID 3080, organised four half-day RYLA programmes for school students during the first week of January.

The first programme focused on disaster management with Manoj Kandyal, master trainer for GoI's District Disaster Management Department, providing training. He detailed practical methods of rescue and protection in various types of

disasters and emergencies. Rotarians also shared their experiences.

The theme of the second RYLA was health and hygiene. Dr Swati from the Government Hospital, Haridwar, and Dr Sonu Raut, a gynaecologist from Vardhan Hospital, provided valuable information to students on healthcare, daily habits and a healthy lifestyle. Rotarian Vivek Mishra spoke on staying healthy and keeping away from steroids and drugs.

The third RYLA was a cleanliness awareness rally with students and Rotarians walking through a slum area, urging residents to maintain personal and community hygiene.

The final RYLA focused on personality development, conducted by club president Dr Alok Saraswat. This session provided guidance to students on facing real-life challenges, building self-confidence, and developing communication skills.

In another initiative, the club organised HPV vaccination drive in two schools in the city, reaching out to 460 adolescent girls. The parents were also invited to the drive where medical experts educated them about the vaccine and its role in preventing cervical cancer. This project is part of the district initiative where DG Ravi Prakash has sought the support of the Rotary clubs to collectively vaccinate 10,000 girls and protect them from cervical cancer.

"We have completed two drives during this year, and over 700 girls have been vaccinated," said club president Saraswat. ■



A student being given an HPV vaccine at a school.

# Interactors distribute cloth bags

## Team Rotary News

Interactors from the Interact Club of GH Raisoni Public School, under the guidance of RC Nagpur Horizon, RID 3030, conducted an environmental conservation drive to promote the use of cloth bags instead of plastic. The drive aimed to instil environmental responsibility among students while motivating the local community to adopt more sustainable practices.

As part of the initiative, students and teachers visited a nearby market area, where they interacted with shopkeepers and customers to raise awareness of the harmful effects of plastic and polythene on the environment. Cloth bags were distributed to encourage people to adopt eco-friendly alternatives.

The cloth bags were stitched by specially-abled individuals from Sweekar Association's Aashiyana workshops using recycled materials such as old sarees, curtains and bed covers. School principal Meenakshi Bhatia encouraged the students and appreciated their efforts towards environmental protection. ■



Members of the Interact Club of GH Raisoni Public School interacting with vendors at the market.

# Water facility for visually-challenged hostellers

Team Rotary News



PDG Rajendra Bhamre (3<sup>rd</sup> from L), along with club members, at the inauguration of the water tank.

To mark March as Water and Sanitation month, RC Nasik, RID 3030, supported the construction of a 50,000-litre underground water tank for a hostel being built by the National Association of the Blind at Belgaon Dhaga village near Nashik.

The project aims to ensure reliable water storage for the hostel and support better sanitation facilities for visually-impaired students.

The initiative received financial support from JK Maini Precision Technology, which contributed ₹10 lakh under its corporate social responsibility programme.

The water tank was dedicated by PDG Rajendra Bhamre, in the presence of Rotarians and members of the National Association of the Blind. Asha Gorane, a volunteer at Belgaon Dhaga village, was also present on the occasion. ■

# A RYLA for college students

## Team Rotary News



From 2<sup>nd</sup> left: DG Bhupesh Mehta, Mansa MLA Vijay Singla, club vice-president Vijay Garg, president Harish Garg, and (extreme right) PDG Prem Aggarwal at the inaugural session of RYLA.

A two-day RYLA titled *Chethna* (Empowering Her) was organised by RC Mansa Royal, RID 3090, with the support of their Inner Wheel club members and college faculty at the SD Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Mansa.

DG Bhupesh Mehta, Mansa MLA Vijay Singla, deputy

commissioner Navjot Kaur, college principal Garima Mahajan, PDG Prem Aggarwal and District RYLA chairman Naveen Jindal addressed a gathering of 130 students and college faculty. A heritage village built by the students was inaugurated on the campus.

Club president Harish Garg and event chairman Prof Anand Bansal inspired the participants with their speeches. Mansa sub-divisional magistrate Kala Ram Kansal was the chief guest at the valedictory session which was also attended by principal Garima, PDGs Amjad Ali and Aggarwal. ■

## Anti-drugs rally in RID 3231



School students at the rally.

An anti-drugs awareness rally was conducted by RC Vandavasi Town, RID 3231, with the students of Sri Venkateswara Matric HS School in this town in Tiruvannamalai district of Tamil Nadu.

The students raised slogans and carried a banner to drive home the message of harmful effects of drug abuse among the youth. Also, the students' rally created awareness on the importance of a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle among the public. The project boosted the public image of the club in this taluk. ■