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Rotary News *Plus*



Say 'no' to plastic

Reaching out to street children of North Chennai

V Muthukumaran

An ambitious project called 'Sunbeam' initiated by RI District 3232 reaches out to slum children and school dropouts in North Chennai through study-cum-tuition centres. Recently, two centres at Kannapar Thidal and Periyamedu in North Chennai were set up by the district to help the underprivileged students with 'after school studies'. They were also taught ethics, value-based education and engaged in sports along with snacks for a period of three months by RCs Chennai Capital and Madras Next Gen, at a total project cost of ₹45,000.

At present, there are 10 such centres in and around North Madras, but they are in need of financial support, says Rtn Mythili



DG R Srinivasan interacting with the children at a study centre.



A tuition class in progress on a narrow lane.

Muralidharan, Chairman of Project Indica which runs Sunbeam programme as part of its extension activities. "The parents and the public in the area are happy to see this Rotary initiative make an impact on their children who are given tuitions on their after-school studies," says Mythili.

While one study centre is being held on a terrace, the other one is conducted on a street corner. But club presidents have assured Project Indica of their support to continue with these study centres.

Project Sunbeam is being organised jointly with an NGO Karunalaya to nurture street children with noble ideas along with basic education so that they don't fall prey to nefarious activities. ■

Rotary joins hands for anti-tobacco campaign

Team Rotary News



In association with the Indian Medical Association and the National Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Agra, D 3110, initiated a campaign dubbed *No matlab No* to raise awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco.

Dr Alok Mittal, the club treasurer, coordinated a rally as part of the anti-tobacco campaign. Since March 2017, the team has organised over 75 awareness programmes in government offices, schools, colleges, factories and hospitals. Students were encouraged

to spread the message to their relatives, friends and general public.

Moreover, the club provided desks and benches to Prathmik Sikhsha Vidyalaya to improve classroom learning as part of its Happy Schools project.■

Say 'no' to plastic

Team Rotary News



In their bid to fight plastic pollution Rotarians of Rotary Club of Barabanki, D 3120, are saying it loud and clear — “If we can’t reuse it, refuse it.” On World Environment Day 2018 the club hosted a ‘Beat plastic pollution’ drive in the region. Cloth bags made at the club’s vocational centre Swavlamban, that trains women from underprivileged background in sewing, were distributed to the general public.

Rotarians discussed with the gathering the environmental hazards of using plastic and how it can be replaced with eco-friendly paper or cloth bags. A pledge to ban the use of plastic was also taken.■

Jammu Rotarians united in action

V Muthukumaran



DG Parvinder Jit Singh and other Rotarians at the inauguration of a Rotaract club in Jammu.

Under the Skill Development Mission, Rotary Club of Jammu Midtown, D 3070, organised a beautician course for young women. The club also holds summer camps in the slums to provide vocational skills to women.

The vocational training enables women to earn a decent income and thereby become empowered with economic independence, says Rakhi Singal, Secretary, RC Jammu Midtown.

The club members visited Ved Mandir, an old-age home, and held a Satsang programme for the inmates. The interactive session engaged the elderly citizens with fun activities.

"Some of the non-Rotarians joined us to bring

joy to the inmates. Most of the senior citizens enjoyed our programmes, while some of them shared their life experience with us," she says.

Some of the Rotarians turned emotional listening to the stories of the elderly at the home and decided to visit the place once in a month to bring smile on the faces of inmates. "We distributed sweets, fruits and other eatables with high tea which made them happy."

New Rotaract club

DG Parvinder Jit Singh installed the Rotaract Club of Jammu Midtown in the presence of District Secretary Narendra Pal and other Rotarians. Rtr Abhai Singh Bhadwal was elected as its Charter President and Rtr Jayent as Charter Secretary.

An inspiring speech was given by the district governor to the Rotaractors.

The DG also presented ₹10,000 to the parents of two children, who were adopted by the club, to be used for their study expenses. "We owe a special thanks to AG Sumil Goel for supporting us in all our project activities," says Rakhi.

World Earth Day

In partnership with the State Department of Environment and Remote Sensing, the club organised events in Raika Park to mark World Earth Day.

Tree crusader Om Prakash Sharma "Vidyarthi" who is also the Director (Ecology) of Environment and Remote Sensing, J&K government, gave a lecture

on the topic. Reetha, Rudraksha and Parijat trees were planted by the club members.

Chief guest DGP Dilbag Singh presided over the events in which many State VIPs took part and a pledge was taken by the Rotarians to protect trees for a healthy life. They also vowed not to use plastic in their daily life and instead promote organic tea, food servings on leaf plates and earthenware.

Reaching out to the border refugees, the club distributed blankets, biscuits, milk and woollen clothes to the people who were displaced in Pakistan firing at the RS Pura Sector of the Line of Control. A team of Rotarians led by Anamika Khajuria gave away the donations to the displaced people. ■

Rajpura club holds mass marriage for couples

Team Rotary News



Newlyweds with Rotarians of RC Rajpura Greater.

In its efforts to promote social harmony, the Rotary Club of Rajpura Greater, D 3090, organised a mass marriage for 12 couples on its club premises. The newly married couples were also presented with the household articles that are required in their daily life.

“City legislator Hardial Singh Kamboj and industrialist Laliet Jain from Chandigarh were the chief guests at the mass marriage ceremony. Our Governor Bagh Singh Pannu, the guest of honour, had appreciated our efforts to hold such an event,” said J K Bhutani, Club President.

In step with RI President’s call to Rotarians to plant trees, a massive green drive was conducted at the University College, Ghanaur in Patiala. Over 150 trees of different species were planted on the college campus and “we also honoured Principal Dr Lakhvir Singh Gill by presenting a memento.”



Schoolchildren with books at a camp in a government school.

Books camp

Notebooks were distributed at a special camp held at the Government Elementary School in Alampura village. Over 400 books were given to 100 schoolchildren studying in that school. “The teachers expressed their gratitude to us as most of the children can’t afford notebooks for studying in the class,” said Bhutani. Further, the club had installed a water cooler with an RO system at the government high school in Said Kheri village. ■

Students take pledge on Water Day at Kazhakuttom

V Muthukumaran



RC Kazhakuttom President Anil Nath (fourth from left) administering a pledge on conserving water to the students of Kairali Vidyamandir in Thiruvananthapuram.

A painting contest on saving and preserving water was held for students of Kairali Vidyamandir in Kaniyapuram to mark the World Water Day (March 22) by the Rotary Club of Kazhakuttom, D 3211.

Headmistress S Sreedevi introduced the Rotarians to the audience and spoke on the need to protect water bodies. She thanked the club for selecting her school to

observe the World Water Day as it would be "quite an experience for students". Nearly 60 students from various classes took part in the painting competition on conserving water which was done under the supervision of the Rotarians and teachers.

The students were urged to use water sparingly and adopt the practice of saving this precious resource. A pledge to save water was

administered by Anil Nath to students, teachers and the parents. Prizes were given to the winners of the drawing competition.

Apart from the club president, Rtms Johnson Peter, Balan Bhaskaran and S S Nair interacted with the students on the sidelines. The headmistress and teachers thanked the Rotarians for organising an event on such a topical issue at the school. ■

Jaipur club feeds the hungry with monthly ration

Team Rotary News



Rotarians distribute packed ration items to an underprivileged family.

The Rotarians of Rotary Club of Jaipur Kohinoor, D 3054, are reaching out to the underprivileged families on the outskirts of Jaipur.

They distribute monthly ration and clothes to these families. The club has 26 members and each of them takes turns to sponsor the food kit. ■

Women's empowerment, clean water and a new Rotary club

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Bikaner Midtown, D 3053, distributed 21 sewing machines to help women from economically weak background to earn a decent livelihood. Tailoring classes were conducted for these women who have

also been enrolled in an e-learning programme by the club. A free of cost, five-day beautician course was also conducted.

In order to provide clean drinking water to the students of the Government Women Polytechnic

College and Bhotra Girls College, two watercoolers were donated by the club. Close to 300 students have access to clean drinking water now.

The club also chartered an all-women club, Rotary Club of Aagha, with 29 members. ■

Rotary holds medical camp for budding athletes

Team Rotary News



A medical camp for young athletes was conducted by RC Jabalpur South, D 3261, at the Gol Bazaar Cricket Academy. The 15-year-old academy trains over 450 young budding cricketers

for domestic championships such as Ranji Trophy and other zonal tournaments.

All the children were screened for internal injuries by Dr Shirish Nayak, an orthopaedician from the

locality. He also spoke on first aid awareness for internal and external injuries. The Rotary club plans to assist children who have suffered from injuries during sports and treat them free of cost. ■

Computer training and TB awareness campaign in Kasba

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Kasba, D 3291, conducts basic computer training and spoken English classes for 200 underprivileged girls in batches of 20 students.

The club also donates medicines to the Red Cross Society and frequently conducts TB awareness programmes for the general public. ■

Empowering girl child project from RC Madras T Nagar

Team Rotary News



DG R Srinivasan and PDG Abirami Ramanathan at the event.

Under its *Empower the Girl Child* Project, the Rotary Club of Madras T Nagar, D 3232, is paying the school fees of over 1,200 girl students from underprivileged families who are

studying in government schools.

The total cost of the project is ₹30 lakh and the club organised a gala event to disburse the amount to the beneficiaries in which a number of

celebrities took part. DG R Srinivasan, PDG Abirami Ramanathan were among the celebrities who shared the dais. The project was led by its Chairman and past president Mahaveer Bothra. ■

New toilet block at government school in Sivakasi

Team Rotary News



With donations from members, RC Sivakasi Town, D 3212, constructed a new toilet block at a government higher secondary school in Narnapuram village at a cost of ₹5.5 lakh. The sanitation

facility has an overhead water tank and a piped motor line with jet pump.

DG Dr Chinnadurai Abdullaah inaugurated the toilet block with PDG Arumuga Pandian being the guest of honour. ■



New classrooms, toilets at Panipat school

Team Rotary News

Four new classrooms and nine toilets were constructed at Ravikant Memorial School by the Rotary Club of Panipat South, D 3080, in an effort to completely revamp the school.

As the District Governor T K Ruby could not make it to the event, a team comprising DGND Ramesh Bajaj, Rtns Naveen Gulati, Project Advisor, and Atul Chopra inaugurated the new buildings on the school campus.

While the new classrooms will enhance the learning experience, the toilet facilities will ensure better hygiene among the students, said Gulati. The teachers and the school authority expressed happiness over the Rotary project. ■

Rotary holds medical camp in industrial area

Team Rotary News



A medical camp was held at the Chandpur Industrial Area by the Rotary Club of Varanasi Sunrise, D 3120, which benefitted over 250 people. The club organised the camp in association with its

Inner Wheel members. All the patients were screened, diagnosed for various illnesses and given free medicines. The health camp enhanced the Rotary's image in the neighbourhood. ■

Women Rotarians take wings in Salem

V Muthukumaran



DG Dharmesh Patel along with members of RC Salem Wings.

It was a proud moment for women in Salem as an exclusive club for them — Rotary Club of Salem Wings, D 2982 — was chartered by RC Salem Metropolis recently. Consisting of 32 members on the Charter Day, it was a gala ceremony that welcomed the new women Rotarians at the Rotary Hall in the town.

DG Dharmesh Patel, the chief guest, AG Zakir Ahmed, PDGs and district officials gave inspiring speeches and motivated the all-women's club to take up projects of social relevance including women's empowerment.

"Women have a significant role to play in Rotary and their

empowerment will make them take leading positions in the society," said Patel. "It encourages independence and confidence in themselves and makes them individuals in their own right."

Further, he gave suggestions on how to select project activities for the new members and promised his support in every possible way.

The District First Lady Ranjana Patel said her dream has come true with the chartering of the all-women's club in Salem and listed out some dos and don'ts for the new members.

RC Salem Wings President M Padmavathy listed out the projects they will be doing in the near future "with full commitment from all our members." Further, she said the members have shown "much enthusiasm to work closely with Rotary and take up several projects for the community." ■



RC Salem Wings President M Padmavathy along with other members receiving the charter from DG Dharmesh Patel.

Rotary opens vocational centre with YMCA

V Muthukumaran



A section of women trainees at the Rotary Singer Skill Development Centre.

It was another milestone for the Rotary Club of Delhi Southex, D 3011, as it opened a Rotary Singer Skill Development Centre by tying up with the YMCA and Singer, the sewing machine company. The club donated 20 tailoring machines and offered diploma courses to impart skills to underprivileged girls in the neighbourhood.

Club President Praveen Jain inaugurated the new centre. “All the girls being trained at the vocational centre will be sitting for the exams conducted by the officials from the Singer company who will present them the diploma certificates. Hence, the chances of getting placed in garment firms are bright after they get such

tailoring certificates,” said Madhukar Khemka, treasurer and secretary-elect, RC Delhi Southex.

Singer company is holding three-month and six-month courses at the new centre where an expert team

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will first impart training to teachers for them to later on pass these skills to the underprivileged girls. “There are plans to rehabilitate the girls by helping them find jobs and even donate sewing machines for their homes if needed for self-employment,” said Khemka.

Praveen Jain has come forward to give commercial orders to successful candidates for undertaking the job contracts of his company Padma Bazar near Safdarjung flyover.

“For the first time, we are doing a project with YMCA, Delhi. The company President Vijay Russell and general secretary J A Benjamin have extended their cooperation and are into social service with the spirit of a Rotarian,” added Khemka. ■

Rotary donates to old-age home in Namakkal

Team Rotary News



RC Namakkal Poultry Town, D 2982, donated cooking vessels, kitchen table items and provisions costing ₹15,000 to an old-age home. The edible items

will last for a month and it will help the destitute home in meeting its expenses. In another project, the club gifted an RO system to an anganwadi school in Thathampatty

where it had completed a WinS project recently. The school authority thanked the club for this gesture which enhanced Rotary's image in the neighbourhood. ■

May Day gesture from Pudukkottai club

Team Rotary News



RC Pudukkottai President R Kasirajan presenting sweet pockets to conservancy staff.

On May Day, a group of Rotarians led by RC Pudukkottai President R Kasirajan, D 3000, distributed sweet packets to over 25 conservancy staff of the municipality. "We want to recognise the service of the conservancy workers who are keeping their localities clean. This is the first time, we are doing the project as a token gesture," says R Kasirajan. ■

D 2981

RC Kumbakonam East

An RO water purifier plant was installed at the Government Hospitals in Kumbakonam and Kuthalam at a total cost of ₹5 lakh with financial assistance from the ONGC-Cauvery Asset, Karaikal division. The company has financed the RO units under its CSR activity.



D 2981

RC Nagapattinam

A RYLA programme was conducted by the club at a resort in Velankanni with two Rotaractors sponsored by RC Nagapattinam Wings taking part along with others. Rtn Raman led a team of trainers to hold a series of leadership sessions and events. IPDG Ramesh Babu inaugurated the event.



D 2981

RC Nagapattinam Wings

A five-member Rotarian team from South Africa, D 9370, visited the club under a friendship exchange programme. The foreign guests were felicitated at an event and they exchanged the flags and pins with club members.





D 2982

RC Salem

In partnership with the State Veterinary Department, the club organised a veterinary camp at Valapady Singipuram village. Over 20 vet doctors treated 800 animals for various ailments at the camp. In another event, the Rotarians, along with their Rotaractors, distributed blankets to beggars and underprivileged children.



D 3000

RC Pudukkottai Palace City

A road safety awareness rally was organised by the club, in association with the Government ITI and Regional Transport Office. School students were educated on road safety rules as part of the campaign.



D 3054

RC Bhuj Wall City

PRIP Kalyan Banerjee visited the Thalassaemia Centre being run by the club at the Adani Civil Hospital. Over 150 patients are treated at this centre and Banerjee was pleased to know that many underprivileged children are getting benefitted at this medical facility.

D 3054

RC Jaipur

An inter-school debate competition was organised by the club which saw enthusiastic participation of the top schools in the city. The rolling MCB Parekh Trophy was presented to the winner — Mody School from Laxmangarh.



D 3141

RC Bombay Hanging Garden

The annual cataract camp at Damani Eye Hospital at Akola in Maharashtra saw 1,500 surgeries in the last Rotary year. The ongoing project is being led by Rtn Dr Manish Shah.



D 3160

RC Bidar Fort

AG Basawraj Dhannur presented tee shirts printed with Rotary Wheel to over 20 students at Astoor School in the presence of Club President Rajendra K Agrawal, Secretary Dr Shivkumar Yalal and Rotarians.





D 3170

Rotary E-club Belgaum

An awareness programme on menstrual hygiene was organised in 43 schools covering 4,500 girl students over a three-month period. The programme was supported by a team of women doctors and club members under the leadership of Rtn Renu Kulkarni.



D 3182

RC Padubidri

The club, in association with Suzlon Foundation, organised an eye camp in Adve village. Over 150 villagers were screened and 40 of them got spectacles. Free cataract operations will be done on 35 selected people at Prasad Nethralaya, Udupi.



D 3182

RC Kadur

A general health camp was held in association with the Sahyadri Narayana Specialty Hospital, Shimoga. Over 200 people benefitted from the camp. A team of heart specialists diagnosed the patients.

D 3202

RC Dharapuram

Sixty college students took part in a RYLA camp organised by the club in which a number of leadership sessions were held to groom future leaders. The project cost ₹ 23,600.



D 3202

RC Tirupur Gandhinagar

An eye camp was held at Chikkanna Government Arts College reaching out to over 900 students from underprivileged families. Spectacles worth ₹2.75 lakh were distributed to over 50 students.



D 3202

RC Tirupur Thirumurugan Poondi

Study material worth ₹1.5 lakh were distributed to over 300 students in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, in partnership with RC Jaffna, D 3220.





D 3212

RC Virudhunagar

More than one lakh students benefitted from the Vision Screening project which is holding eye camps for the last 16 years in various schools. Students are screened and brought to ophthalmologists for further eye care. Over 5,000 spectacles were given to needy students.



D 3262

RC Berhampur East

Rotary Day was observed with the formation of a human Rotary wheel with thousands of school students taking part in the arrangement. PDG Dr Narayan Mishra inaugurated the event at St Xavier's High School with the welcome address given by Club President B Kusha Patra.



D 3292

RC Damauli

Computers and a laser printer were donated to the Madarsa Primary School at Vyasnagar as part of the e-learning initiative under the Literacy project.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

A picnic was arranged at the Timber Garden Adventure Club, Jaisinghpura, with over 160 Rotarians from RC Jaipur Round Town, D 3054, and their family members enjoying the get-together.

It was an eventful day with games, group activities, snacks, music, dance and singing were followed by a sumptuous lunch. There were guests from other clubs too who interacted and mingled with the gathering in a one-day memorable event. ■

A gala picnic for Jaipur Rotarians

Team Rotary News



A motivational seminar at Butwal

Team Rotary News

A motivational seminar titled "The Life Changing Experience" was organised by RC Butwal, D 3292, with Rtr Mitra Neupane, President, RAC Butwal, chairing the event. Over 600 people took part in the seminar which was inaugurated by Butwal Mayor Shiva Raj Subedi. ■



Mini-library at Coimbatore police station

Team Rotary News



A mini-library was installed at a police station by RC Coimbatore East, D 3201, which is one of the 36 libraries opened by the clubs in this district.

Club President Vasant Raj, Secretary Rajesh Chinnasami and other Rotarians were present at the inauguration of this library at the K K Chavadi Police Station. Police personnel and members of the public took part in the event. ■

Eye and diabetes camps at Shengottai

Team Rotary News



An eye camp was organised by RC Shengottai, D 3212, in which over 400 patients were screened for ailments. Of which, 100 were given

spectacles, and another 150 were recommended for operations at Aravind Eye Hospital in Tirunelveli.

While free medicines were given to the patients,

the club has arranged food and water at the camp. A diabetic camp was also held with consultations and guidelines being offered to over 200 patients. A

manual with dos and don'ts for diabetic patients were distributed at the camp. The club spent over ₹40,000 for both the medical camps. ■

A Rotary seminar on world peace in Lucknow

Team Rotary News

An international seminar on “World Peace and Understanding” was organised, along with an awards function, at the Kafi Azmi Academy by the Rotary Club of Lucknow Main, D 3120.

Charter President Dr S S Hashmi, presiding over the event said, “the month of February is special in the Rotary calendar as it was designated World Understanding Month. Also, it includes the anniversary of the first meeting of Rotary held on February 23, 1905, and the day was observed as World Peace Day.” He said the global organisation strived for goodwill, peace and understanding among citizens of the world through events that promoted unity in diversity.

Foreign delegates from Spain, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Lesotho, Thailand, Mauritius, the UK, the



Foreign delegates being honoured at the seminar in Lucknow.

US and Germany expressed their views on global peace and dwelt at length on Rotary projects that led to cultural exchanges between countries and races. Chief guest Syed Sibte Razi, former Governor of Jharkhand and Orissa, lauded the club for its service projects.

Guests of honour — UP’s former DGP Mahesh Chandra Dwivedi, Professors Arif Ayyubi and Sabra Habib from the Lucknow University — were felicitated by the club.

Dr Hashmi presented the Certificates of Appreciation to the foreign delegates for their “untiring contributions” in the field of Peace and World Understanding. Four special honours under “Rotary World Peace Award 2018” were presented to classical singer Sunita Jhingran, educationist Rakesh Kapoor, Urdu poet Mohammad Ali Sahil and Prof Arif Ayyubi.

Three new members Munindra Kumar Singh, Ratnesh Kumar Singh and Gagan Kumar were inducted as Rotarians by the past president N V Tiwari. Charter Secretary Anish Srivastava Lall gave a presentation on the past and future projects and community programmes of the club. ■



A section of the audience at the seminar.