

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Footcare from **Rotary**

Rotary celebrates Kargil Vijay Diwas with Interactors

Kiran Zehra

More than 70 students from various Interact clubs, Rotarians of RC Jaipur Bapu Nagar, D 3054, and District Governor Neeraj Sogani, along with spouse Rtn Bindu Sogani, assembled at the Amar Jawan in Jyoti, Jaipur, to celebrate the 19th Kargil Vijay Diwas. The gathering paid homage to all the brave soldiers who served the nation during Operation Vijay.

Three retired Army officers who are also members of the club addressed the gathering about the tough geographic conditions



DG Capt Neeraj Sogani, along with Rotarians and Interactors, at the Amar Jawan Jyoti, Jaipur.



in Kargil and the act of bravery by the Indian soldiers during the war. They also highlighted to the young Interactors, the role of the Indian Army in maintaining peace and spoke about the importance of discipline in daily life.

DG Sogani, who had also served in the Armed Forces, shared his experiences of his service at the Siachen Glacier.

The event was telecast live on a local TV channel. ■

On the cover: Students of a government school pose with their new pair of shoes and socks gifted by Rotary Club of Bindi, D 3054.

Rotary's care for schoolchildren

Jaishree



Shoes and socks given to students by the club.

The Rotarians of Rotary Club of Bundi, D 3054, provided uniforms, casual clothes and footwear for the students of a government school. Most of

these children hail from underprivileged families where the parents find it difficult to send their wards to school. This would encourage the girl children to continue their

education, says the Club President Chandraprakash Sethi.

The Rotarians also organised an eye camp in the school and children with squint eyes were referred for coorrective treatment in an eye hospital in the town, the costs for which were borne by the club. Spectacles were provided for the needy children with vision defects.

The club members also sensitised the students on the need to protect our ecology and environment by encouraging sapling plantation inside the school campus.

Another eye camp, organised by the club in a nearby village, treated the residents for various eye-related problems and those detected with cataract were referred for treatment to the eye hospital.

New clothes were gifted to the children in the locality. ■



An eye camp in progress in a village.

Rainwater harvesting promoted at Chopda

Team Rotary News



DG Rajiv Sharma (third from left) participating in the RWH kit distribution event.

Sixty rainwater harvesting kits were distributed by Rotary Club of Chopda, D 3030, to recharge groundwater in the city. DG Rajiv Sharma handed over the kits to the beneficiaries. Ex-Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Arunbhai Gujarathi and other eminent people were present on the occasion.

Sharma also inaugurated Hareshwar Nalla, a water conservation project, which will benefit the community during summer.

A welcome board with Rotary logo and theme 'Be the Inspiration' was also installed at Kargil Chowk. ■

Madurai Rotary adopts a village

A village adoption scheme was launched by Rotary Club of Madurai North West, D 3000, at Keelamathur village, near Madurai. Tamil Nadu Minister for Cooperatives Sellur K Raju was the chief guest at the programme.

At the venue of the Happy Village event, a mega medical camp was organised with the support of Apollo Hospitals, Agarwal Eye Clinic and J L Dental Clinic. A number of medical tests including random blood check-up, ECG, eye and dental screening were done for the villagers. ■



Tamil Nadu Minister for Cooperatives Sellur K Raju gets a medical check up done at the medical camp organised by RC Madurai North West.

Donations galore at Rotary installation in Sivakasi

V Muthukumaran



PDG J Jesiah Villavarayar (third from left) gives a wheelchair to a beneficiary at the installation event of RC Sivakasi Sparkler President P Selvaraj (right).

A wheelchair was donated to a physically-challenged person and cash incentives along with notebooks were gifted to an underprivileged girl to support her education at the installation programme of P Selvaraj, the President of RC Sivakasi Sparkler, D 3212.

The club also honoured school toppers and 37 teachers on the occasion. ■



A student receives scholarship and notebooks from PDG J Jesiah Villavarayar.

The Polio Eradication Man of Bhiwandi – Purshottamdas Patel

Team Rotary News

This 83-year-old Rotarian and past president of RC Bhiwandi, D 3142, is known as ‘polio-eradication man’ among his friends and in the community. In his 50-year Rotary journey, Purshottamdas Patel has maintained 100 per cent attendance in club meetings and never missed a district conference or assembly since 1972.

Born to a farmer’s family at Khanpur village in Gujarat, Patel

studied up to Class 10 before taking up agriculture. However, Lady Luck smiled on him when he landed at a junior clerk’s job in a small company at Bhiwandi, Maharashtra, in 1958. “With the gift of sound will, strong desire and determination, Patel set up four power looms in 1960 and in no time, he ventured into cotton yarn sizing business,” says Parag Mehta, Secretary, RC Bhiwandi and Avenue Chair, Public Image.

Rotary Journey

His life walked into a much broader lane, when Patel joined RC Bhiwandi in 1968 and began to work as Community Service Chair from 1969–70. During this tenure, he reached out to flood-affected people in Gujarat by providing containers filled with utensils, clothes and foodgrains for the needy.

In the aftermath of the 1970 communal riots in Bhiwandi, he



Rtn Purshottamdas Patel with a display of his awards.



Rtn Purshottamdas Patel receives an award from PRIP Kalyan Banerjee.

rehabilitated 650 people who had lost their houses. During his tenure as club president (1972–73), Patel launched a series of polio vaccination camps in remote areas of Bhiwandi. A medical centre set up to provide treatment to people affected by polio attracted nearly 100 patients daily.

When he became president for the second time in 1975–76, he organised eye camps which became a roaring success in Bhiwandi. More than 400 cataract operations were done and 1,500 spectacles were given to the needy at the eye camps. Given his reach and impact of the social projects, he was elected as president for the third time in 1979 during which time he took the Bhiwandi club to newer heights in project activities.

Patel took up family planning scheme for women in Bhiwandi with

proper post-operative care. In 1988, he started an asthma camp which became an annual project that benefitted over 400 people from across the country.

Community centre

Putting his business acumen to use, as club treasurer, the post he held for 17 years, he gave a strong financial footing to the club through savings in government schemes and bonds. “With this saving, he helped us build a grand two-storey Rotary community centre,” recalls Mehta.

His contribution in the medical field came to the fore when he was the zonal coordinator for polio (1990–2011) and further worked as Polio Programme Chair for which he was awarded with the title ‘Polio Eradication Man’ by the World Polio Committee.

In appreciation of his devoted service to the community, the club made him its president for the fourth time in 2017–18 which also gave an opportunity for members to celebrate his completion of 50 years in Rotary. “During his fourth tenure, he constructed four toilets for women in a remote area of Maharashtra and supplied nutritious food to tribal children.”

Whether it is a community hall to a deaf and dumb school; a college library; a water tank in a tribal village; or a classroom, Purshottam led his team with great passion to complete these projects on time. He visited Rotary clubs in Mauritius, Mombasa, Nairobi, Kathmandu, the US and took part in the RI Convention at UK in 2009. As life member in the governing boards of top colleges and industrial bodies, he extends his philanthropic activities to all segments of the society. ■

Sewing machines donated in Karambakkudi

Team Rotary News

District 3000 Governor RVN Kannan gave sewing machines to the needy at the weekly meeting of RC Karambakkudi. The Rotarians presented a cheque for ₹30,000 to the Governor as their contribution for the Foundation. ■



DG R V N Kannan (centre) donates a sewing machine to a beneficiary.

Drinking water facility at library



PDG J K Gaur (second from right) inaugurates the drinking water facility in the library.

Students and researchers visiting the Mukherjee Library and Reading Room in Pilkhuwa will no longer have to carry water bottles or step outside the library to find drinking water, all thanks to the members of Rotary Club of Pilkhuwa City, D 3012, who have installed a water cooler on the library premises. The footfall to this library between 9 am to 5 pm is close to 100 people every day. ■

Rotary opens permanent health camp in Silchar

V Muthukumaran



A permanent health camp was set up by RC Green Land Silchar, D 3240, for the needy people. Every month, the club will organise a camp on diabetes, hypertension and general health for the benefit of the community.

A team of doctors will treat the patients and provide them relevant medicines and health supplements. ■

A happy school in Salem

Kiran Zehra

In its bid to create a happy learning environment for children from underprivileged background, Rotary Club of Salem Cosmos, D 2982, under Rotary International's TEACH initiative distributed two sets of school uniform to 30 students of the Municipal Primary School at Kamarajar Colony in the town. The compound

wall of the school was painted and an existing handwash station was repaired in order to implement the WinS programme at a total cost of ₹60,000.

The club started the Happy School programme at this school three years ago by installing an e-learning equipment and providing some furniture. ■



DG Nirmal Prakash (centre) with the members of RC Salem Cosmos at the primary school.

Rotary vocational programme in Moradabad

Team Rotary News



Rotarians donate a sewing machine to a beneficiary in the presence of Union Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla.

A vocational training programme started by RC Moradabad Central, D 3100, under the *Beti bachao beti padao* theme will provide tailoring courses to the underprivileged girls which will help them to gain employment. Union Minister of State for Finance Shiv Pratap Shukla and his wife Janki Shukla were the chief guests at the project launch in which 10 sewing machines were donated.

“This was a useful project for the society as well as the girls from disadvantaged families. And we are happy that the Union Minister and his wife spent time interacting with Rotarians and the project beneficiaries,” said Anuj Agarwal, Club President. ■

Rotary eye camp for tribal children near Mumbai

Team Rotary News



Eye screening being performed for tribal children.

A mega eye camp organised by RC Bombay, D 3141, at the Phiroze Ratanshah Vakil Eye Centre in Talwada, near Mumbai, screened over 350 children from the tribal and backward families of the region.

The eye centre, started in 1979, is the oldest project of the club and caters to the tribal communities. Doctors from the club go every week and perform eye-testing as well as surgeries free of cost, says Rtn Satyan S Israni.

Catering to nearly 15,000 to 20,000 patients annually, the eye centre has a dedicated team of doctor Rotarians — Rahim Muljani, Rumi Jehangir and Priyanka Doctor — led by Project Chairman Arin Master. ■

Jammu Rotary greens the earth

V Muthukumaran



Rotarians provide food for the children at the SOS Home.

DG Barjesh Singhal participated in a tree plantation drive organised by RC Jammu Midtown, D 3070, at the Government Girls High School in Jammu. More than 50 saplings were planted in the campus and the students were also involved in the exercise.

The DG has given a message of “One Rotarian ten plants” and the club has planted over 200 saplings so far in this Rotary year at government schools, industrial areas and SOS Home, an orphanage, where Rotaractors joined hands with the Rotarians in a joint initiative.

The Rotarians observed Annapurna Day at the SOS Home by serving a sumptuous feast to the inmates.■



The club members participate in sapling plantation programme.

Let's have awards for 'Minimum Rotarians' too

Narayan Sharma

Most of us Rotarians are leaders of our vocation and are expected to be in full control of our time. So "being busy" is not a valid excuse. It is only a thin disguise for inherent inertia and unwillingness to get involved. Many club presidents (past and present) lament on the general non-involvement of Rotarians. This makes you wonder: Are there barriers to a Rotarian's involvement? Are there factors at play in Rotary which are putting off a Rotarian? A little introspection will set things right.



'Lack of time'. The Rotarian is bombarded with all sorts of data on schedules of his or her club, district and international events and hence, subjected to a high-volume traffic of forwarded emails. We need to tone down the rhetoric and de-clutter the Inbox a little to get a clear focus of our priorities.



Assimilation process. The club does not assimilate and the Rotarian also takes no efforts to assimilate himself or herself. The club barriers are groups, coteries and cliques. Demographic issue and gender are also inhibitors. There is a severe and serious inertia in being disinclined to take the first step forward from both the new member and the old Rotarian.

Expectation mismatch. The new Rotarian is either happy, disillusioned or disgusted depending on the overkill. This shattering of expectations acts as a major barrier for a spiraling episode of non-involvement.



Lack of familiarity. The new Rotarian walks into a midst of unfamiliar people in the club and this experience can be quite unsettling till the ice is broken. Till then he is swimming in unfamiliar waters with a host of strange human beings.

Perception matters. In the initial few months, the Rotarian is bombarded with requests from presidents and project chairs to fund programmes, causes, introduction and vote of thanks requests, TRF et al. Nobody tells the newbies that only minimum commitments of time and money are expected from them and that such 'collective minimum commitments' are what sustain a club.



So, what is the game plan?

First-Set and communicate a realistic estimation of resources. Three hours of time for meetings and one hour for a project. No more than four hours a month. Is that too much to ask for or expect?

Second-Speak on your vocation in a club meeting in the first year. You are a leader of your vocation and I am sure you can speak fluently on this unaided. This will lower your inhibition to public speaking.



Third-Take part in at least one district event in the year. This will give you a window into Rotary International.

Fourth-Assist actively in one (again only one) Ladies Nite, picnic or get together. This will give you and your family a look into the fellowship aspect of Rotary.

Fifth-Donate a minimum amount to TRF and make a token contribution to a club project of your choice.

Last-Pay your half-yearly dues on time.

Rotary has provided you a stage and platform to showcase and act out your wishes. Make use of it. Choose the role you want to play and do not get swayed by the Project Director or audience. Leave the meatier roles to the Shah Rukhs of your club. But realise that it is your obligation to be on stage for a bit role maybe, but you shall be on stage.

Let us also change our accent from the high-fliers to the minimum accomplishees. Maybe we should rustle up an award, which is available in plenty these days in Rotary, for a 'Minimum Rotarian'.

*The writer is the past president of
RC Mulund Hills, D 3141.*

Namakkal Rotarians reach out to schools

V Muthukumaran



Above: Rotarians provide drinking water facility in an Anganwadi.

A smart class unit was donated to the Oduvanthur Pudur Elementary School by Rotary Club of Namakkal Poultry Town, D 2982, to enhance the learning process of students. In another initiative, the club gifted an RO water purifier for the Anganwadi School in Thathampatty village as part of its WinS activities.

Vessels and monthly provisions worth ₹15,000 were donated to an old-age home by the club members.

With an aim to sensitise the public on the World No-Tobacco Day, a human chain was organised in which doctors, paramedics and GH staff took part in large numbers.

During an inter-club meeting, a magic show was arranged to entertain the Rotarians and their families. The club bagged the District Best Club Award at the Awards Nite recently. ■



A smart class unit being gifted to a school.



Vessels and provisions being provided to an old age home.

Rotary's care for roadside vendors

V Muthukumaran



Rotarians gift an umbrella to a vendor.



Bird baths being promoted by the club members.

Umbrellas were donated to roadside vendors like vegetable and fruit sellers at the local market under Chayya project by the Rotary Club of Paonta Sahib, D 3080.

Food was provided to over 200 people at Vishkarma Mandir to mark Annapurna Day. The project cost Rs 6,750.

In a major green drive, a dozen Rotarians along with Rotaractors planted over 650 saplings worth Rs 15,600 on the banks of River Yamuna to beautify its waterfront.

Forty bird baths were distributed at AVN Resort at a total cost of Rs 2,800 to ensure refreshment zones for the birds. ■

Jaipur Rotarian exchanges flag in Mauritius

Team Rotary News

As one of the delegates at the 11th World Hindi Conference (*Vishwa Hindi Sammelan*) in Mauritius, Anubha Jain from RC Jaipur, D 3054, was invited by Ming Chen, President, RC Port Louis, D 9220. She exchanged her district flag with Ming and handed over a souvenir with a formal letter written by DG Capt Neeraj Sogani to DG Shelly, D 9220.

Anubha briefed the foreign Rotarians about her district projects and activities. She informed that in July 2017 two districts 3051 and 3052 merged and formed D 3054, combining the clubs in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Further, she



Rtn Anubha Jain hands over the flag to DG Neeraj Sogani.



Rtn Ming Chen (left), President, RC Port Louis, and Rtn Anubha Jain exchange their club flags in Mauritius.

recalled the visit of RI President Barry Rassin to Jaipur in April and his interaction with Rotarians and Rotaractors.

She highlighted the fact that D 3054 has 6,395 members in 130 clubs as of March 2018, of which 1,015 are women.

Anubha invited the Rotarians, their families and Rotaractors to India under Rotary's friendship exchange programme. After returning to Jaipur, she handed over the district flag of Port Louis to DG Neeraj Sogani. Likewise, Ming Chen presented the flag of DG Sogani to DG Shelly in Mauritius. ■

Care for birds and cleanliness

Kiran Zehra

While people can retreat into air-conditioned comfort in hot weather, birds and tree animals go in search of water puddles or shady places to cool off. Keeping this in mind, Rotarians of Rotary Club of Roopnagar, D 3080, installed 20 bird baths at the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Park in Roopnagar and distributed 30 pots among club members to encourage them to provide water for the thirsty birds.

The club members also organised a cleanliness drive at Roopnagar Railway station. Volunteers from the Railway Department and Rotarians cleaned the station. Three banners displaying messages on cleanliness along with club logo and Rotary Wheel were displayed at prominent locations near the railway station. ■

A Rotarian fills up the bird bath with water.



Rotarians and volunteers of the railway department engaged in garbage collection on the railway track.



Kolkata Rotarians promote love for plants

Team Rotary News



Five hundred saplings of different varieties were given to farmers and needy families in Panskura town by RC Calcutta North Suburban, D 3291, as part of its environment project. “This event has created a big public image in the locality,” says Bhaskar Bandyopadhyay, the Club President.

PDG Jhulan Basu was the chief guest. Local children gave a cultural performance which lit up the mood among the gathering.

Rotary takes up rainwater harvesting at Chandrapur

Team Rotary News



PDG Mahesh Mohalkar inaugurated the rainwater harvesting (RWH) project of RC Chandrapur, D 3030, which aims to solve the growing water scarcity in the city.

The club members also sensitised the public to using water judiciously and urged them to adopt rain water harvesting in a big way, educating them on how it will help improve the ground water level.

School gets facelift through WinS

Team Rotary News



Rotary Club of Tiruppur South, D 3202, implemented the WinS facilities at the Nanjappa Boys Government Higher Secondary School in Tiruppur. A toilet

block at a cost of Rs. 3.5 lakh was constructed in the school premises and the students were given awareness lecture on the significance of hygiene and sanitation on health. The Rotarians demonstrated the proper handwash lessons to the

students and urged to take the message home to their families and neighbours.

They also cleaned and prepared the playground at the school and provided 30 black boards for the classrooms.

Greening Bhusaval

Rotary Club of Bhusaval Railcity, D 3030, has undertaken a sapling

plantation project – Smrutivriksh – whereby the Rotarians encourage the locals to donate a sapling

in memory of their loved ones. Forty-seven such saplings have been planted by the club in various

areas and the Rotarians have taken it upon themselves to tend to these saplings until they find their roots. Tree guards are also installed to protect the saplings and the Rotarians have planned to take turns to water the plants regularly.

District Governor Rajiv Sharma took part in the inaugural event, along with Rotarians of other clubs and the local government officials. “We plan to involve everyone in this environment preservation drive so that the public are also sensitised about it,” says Makarand Chandwadkar, Secretary of the Club.



Rotary Shahabad Markanda focuses on health and road safety

Team Rotary News



Hygiene awareness talk for adolescent girls.

An adolescent health awareness camp was organised by RC Shahabad Markanda, D 3080, at the Government Senior Secondary School in Deeg village.

Project Chairman Dr Deepak Sharma gave a lecture on healthy living, followed by Dr Komal Saini briefing girls on how to take care of menstrual hygiene.

More than 60 girls benefitted from the project. Club President Deepak Kakkar, PR Committee Chairman Dr Ghumman along with other Rotarians were present on the occasion.

A diabetic retinopathy medical camp was held at the Sidharth Hospital with a team of doctors from Delhi checking 50 patients for eye disorders. Free medicines were distributed to the patients.

In a step to ensure road safety, 150 reflectors with Rotary logo were pasted on the rear side of vehicles such as tempos, trucks, tractor trolleys and school buses. This is part of the club's TARA (Traffic Awareness Rotary Awareness) project. ■



Rotarians paste reflectors behind vehicles.

D 3070

RC Phagwara South East

Rotarians gave food and water to the passengers at the Phagwara Railway station as part of their community outreach activities which earned kudos in the locality.



D 3080

RC Roorkee

Earthen bird bath pots were distributed to the public as part of their environmental projects. A felicitation meet was held at National Emporium to honour the charter member V P Vasih.



D 3090

RC Sriganaganagar City

A blood donation camp was organised in which club members and their families donated 71 units of blood. It was organised under the guidance of Swastik Blood Bank. DG Dr V B Dixit, the chief guest, appreciated the club for holding the mega blood donation camp.





D 3110

RC Agra West

Tree plantations were organised at Mufid E Aam Inter College in the city to mark the Installation ceremony and the Doctor's Day. Both the events were a huge success and helped Rotary to shore up its public image.



D 3110

RC Bareilly Grace

Nearly 40 saplings from different species were planted at Urbaniya Construction Site on Dohara Road. Club President Dr D K Dwivedi gave a talk on global warming and the role of Rotary in greening the Earth through environmental projects. Charter President Dr Manish Sharma, IPP Umesh Dhirwani and other Rotarians took part in the plantation.



D 3120

RC Mau Nath Bhanjan

A blood donation camp was held at Sharda Narayan blood bank in which Rotarians and their spouses took part and gave blood. The camp turned out to be a huge success for the club and enhanced its public image.

D 3141

RC Bombay Bayview

The club, in association with Mission Green Mumbai, took up tree plantation at the Central Railway Workshop. Club President Nayan Maskai announced that there will be plantation drive on the first Saturday of each month along with the promotion of cloth bags in a bid to avoid use of plastic.



D 3142

RC Navi Mumbai Bayside

A tree plantation drive was organised along with Rotary Clubs of Navi Mumbai Palm Beach, Navi Mumbai Smart City and Navi Mumbai Industrial Area at the Chirner forest near an Adivasi village.



D 3160

RC Proddatur

The members of the Blue Colts, the police force that keeps round-the-clock vigil and reaches instantly to any place of distress, were felicitated by the club with mementoes for their service.





D 3170

RC Mundgod Heritage

Steel desks were donated to RKN Convent School at Indoor under the district grant by the club as part of their Happy School project. The faculty thanked the Rotarians for their thoughtful gesture.



D 3181

RC Ivory City Mysuru

Two eminent doctors Dr C D Srinivasa Murthy, cardiologist and Dr Rajkumar Wadwa, gastro-endocrinologist, were honoured to mark the Doctors Day. PDG Dr R S Nagarjuna was the chief guest. In their acceptance speech, they thanked Rotary for recognising their service to the humanity.



D 3190

RC Tirupati

Rotary cloth bags were distributed to the public at the temple city through Chittoor District Collector PS Pradyumna and Corporation Commissioner as part of its anti-plastic campaign. The campaign also enhanced Rotary's image in the city.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran