

February 2020

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION

Reaching out to school girls

RC Dombivli East takes up school-centric projects

Team Rotary News

A toilet block was constructed at the Annasaheb Jadhav School, Talegaon, near Murbad by RC Dombivli East, RID 3142, with funds from the district grant for 2018–19. And in the current year (2019–20), a water purifier and cooler were installed in the same school under the WinS project, said Santosh Bhanage, Club President. Both the projects were inaugurated by DG Dr Mohan Chandavarkar in the presence of club office-bearers.

DG Chandavarkar also donated a handwash station and an e-learning kit to Choughule Vidyalay at Sonarpada on behalf of the club. This project would benefit over 700 students. Under the Literacy Project, “we conducted a workshop for school dropouts at the Golavali School with the help of Wacha, an NGO, and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). The event was attended by 75 students who were told the importance of going

to school regularly for a bright future,” said Bhanage. The workshop for dropouts also enhanced the public image of Rotary in the neighbourhood.

In the healthcare segment, a cancer detection camp for women

aged 40–60 years and a general eye camp were conducted with the help of Abhinav School and Gopalkrishna Charitable Trust. “More than 80 women were screened for cancer, while around 70 people got their eyes checked for disorders,” he said.

Balmela fest

Students from various schools took part in the *Balmela* festival which offered a platform for young talent to showcase their diverse skills in dance, music, elocution, skits, mono acting and other art forms. “More than 700 students exhibited their talent in multiple contests that brought out their extracurricular skills in the *Balmela* festival, a prestigious event for the club,” said Santosh Bhanage. ■



Students at the *Balmela* festival.



DG Mohan Chandavarkar at the inauguration of water cooler and purifier units.

On the cover: A workshop conducted by RC Chandrapur, RID 3030, at the Priyadarshani Girls High School, Ghugus.



A health camp for postal staff.

Illuminating villages

Team Rotary News

Thirty families living in the remote tribal villages of Sindhalachi Wadi, Tilore and Kharbachiwadi were happy to see their houses illuminated for the first time when the Rotarians of RC Panvel Elite, RID 3131,

along with their Rotaract Club, installed solar lamps and panels there. The lamps were sponsored by the Jain International Trade Organisation, Navi Mumbai chapter. The club plans to maintain the facilities with the support of the RCCs.



Rotarians and Rotaractors give solar lighting facility to a child member of a family.



Polio drops being given to a child.

The club is aiming at installing 200 solar facilities across various remote regions where there is no electricity.

In another recent initiative, the Rotarians, along with the Rotaractors, organised a medical check-up camp for the postal staff in Panvel. Around 100 postmen and staff benefitted from the camp. Tests for bone density, lipid profile, diabetes and eye

health were conducted in association with various pharmaceutical companies. Rotarian doctors also pitched in for the endeavour. Three postmen who were diagnosed with cataract were treated immediately and they were happy to have their eyesight restored.

The club executed polio immunisation camp in two centres in Panvel and administered polio drops to 200 children. ■

A host of service activities at RC Madras Chenna Patna

V Muthukumaran

It is customary for RC Madras Chenna Patna, RID 3232, to honour outstanding individuals each year through its Vocational Awards programme. This year, the Awards Committee has decided to felicitate such personalities in two phases. PDG G Olivannan and District Vocational Services Director Mythili Muralidharan gave away citations and trophies to young achievers — V Jayaveena (swimmer); Mathangi Kumar (entrepreneur); and Saipriya (travel photographer) — in a gala event.

In their acceptance speech, the awardees recalled their hardships on the way to achieve the goals. They thanked their parents and coach for the support they have given during tough times. Jayaveena has bagged more than 150 gold medals, Saipriya was awarded five times in the past and chef-cum-entrepreneur Mathangi also bagged a number of

top honours. Olivannan appreciated the club for selecting the right personalities for the Vocational Awards.

Club's Vocational Services Director Senthana Amuthan said the second phase of the awards programme to be held in February would honour legends from different fields. RC Madras Chenna Patna President B Suryabaskar welcomed the gathering at the awards event attended by over 60 people including Rotarians, Anns, Annetts and special invitees.

Interact RYLA

Around 100 schoolchildren from three Interact clubs at the Hindu Senior Secondary School, Vana Vani Matric HS School and Swami Dayananda Rotary Matric HS School, Kadalur, in the age group of 11–18 took part in a two-day RYLA workshop at the International Institute of Tamil Studies at Taramani on the city outskirts. The students

were accompanied by eight teachers as coordinators at the RYLA.

The moderator at the first session Arul Mozhi asked the students to form four groups with the help of playing cards and they readily agreed to it. All the participants learnt something new on leadership skills in each session. In one of the sessions, a docu-film on Tamil culture, theatre and artefacts were screened in the library. Prizes were given to the Best Rylarian and Best Participants.

End Polio fundraiser

Two Interact clubs did a fundraiser for \$2 for two polio drops, a pet project of DG G Chandramohan, over a period of nine days. While Vana Vani School collected around ₹20,000, Hindu Senior Secondary School collected ₹5,500. The amount was handed over to Suryabaskar during a joint meeting.

PDG G Olivannan and Club President B Suryabaskar with the young awardees.





Students at the Interact RYLA.

All the three Interact clubs sponsored by the club were handed over End Polio collection boxes during the RYLA. DGN J Sridhar gave the Pulse Polio boxes to the school authorities who were asked to return the donation boxes on Nov 6.

“It is really a team effort by our Interactors, around 100, who toiled day and night to collect the amount,” said Vijaya Abhirami, Teacher Coordinator at the Vana Vani School; while the teacher

coordinator at the Hindu Senior Secondary School said they have not yet completed the collection drive, and “we will contribute more to End Polio campaign.”

As per the RI guidelines, RYLA District Chairman Raja Sriraam conducted the first workshop on Rotary Youth Protection Guide. The event, one of the first such workshops in the country, supported by the club was attended by Rotary trainers.

Farm visit

Over 85 students of Vana Vani School went on a day-long trip to Farmguru Agritech Centre in Karanodai, a northern suburb of Chennai, to understand rural life and how a farmer lives by taking care of his paddy fields. “The students enjoyed breathing fresh air, learnt about organic farming and got to know farm life in all its rustic glory,” said N Anand, Club Secretary.

Rtn B Rajkumar gave a special talk at the weekly meeting about his profession in the construction sector and how he turned into an entrepreneur. Since 2000, he has completed several residential and industrial projects. In 2011, he went into reverse integration by starting Adhitya Precast Products that made concrete blocks and flyash bricks for the realty sector.

A photo contest titled *Kannaal Kanden* was organised by the club in which Rotaractors from 10 clubs took part. Certificates were given to the winners and participants. ■



An Interactor, along with teacher coordinator, hands over funds collected in an End Polio drive to Club President Suryabaskar.

Reviving a water body

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Pudukottai City, RID 3000, recently cleaned up the Vengobar water tank in the city. The freshly spruced up water body was rededicated to the public at a simple event which was presided over by Madras High Court Judge R Suresh Kumar as chief guest. District Collector Uma Maheshwari, Municipal Commissioner Jeeva, DGE AL Chokkalingam and members of the club were present at the event. Club President K Dhanagopal presented a report of the work done and the club's future plans to revive other waterbodies in the district. ■



Encouraging the habit of reading

Rotarians, teachers and students with library books.



The Rotarians of RC Akola Midtown, RID 3030, set up a library for students of the Swami Vivekananda Primary School in the town. Each of the members contributed children's books for the library to make it interesting for the students.

The club has always been encouraging the habit of reading and its projects have been focusing on this endeavour for a long time, says the Club Secretary Yogesh Shrawgi. Books are the best source of knowledge, he adds. ■

Rotary job fair in Katpadi benefits youth

Team Rotary News

A job fair was organised by RC Katpadi, ARID 3231, at Gandhinagar with eight companies taking part in the spot interview sessions for 2,500 eligible youth. Of which, 750 candidates were given appointment letters by different companies. The then DG CR Chandrabob along with senior Rotarians from the district were present at the venue.

In another initiative, the club gave yoga training to pregnant women at the government's primary health centre in its happy village. Sixty women took part in the yoga workshop that saw a yoga master and a medical officer providing expert advice to the beneficiaries. ■



Candidates at the mega job fair.

Books, stationery distributed in Jammu schools



Schoolchildren with gifts presented by Rotary clubs.

During the start of academic year, Rotary Clubs of Akhnoor, Rajouri, Katra, Jammu Elite and Jammu City, RID 3070, came together to distribute school bags, notebooks, stationery items and refreshments to needy children of government schools in Jammu under the Basic Education and Literacy focus area. AG Sachin Gupta supervised the project implementation across government schools.

In this joint project executed by the five clubs in the Jammu zone, over 300 children benefitted. Besides this, RC Jammu City under the supervision of PP Anil Swaraj Gupta distributed books and study material collected under the Rotary Book Bank Project. ■

Kanpur club completes third happy school

Kiran Zehra



DG Arun Jain (4th from L) and RC Kanpur Vinayak Shree President Anupama Gupta look on as children wash their hands at the new facility in a primary school.

Rotary Club Kanpur Vinayak Shree, RID 3110, inaugurated its 3rd Happy School project at Sambharpur Primary Government School, Kanpur. The club developed the infrastructure of the government school to enhance the quality of classroom education. DG Arun Jain, Club President Anupama

Gupta, and Secretary Alok Gupta inaugurated the renovated Government Primary School.

Club member Prem Kumar Tripathi donated ₹75,000 towards the renovation of the school. With around 50 students and five teachers, the school was facing an acute problem of drinking water. Also, there were no proper toilets for students

and teachers. The club provided a 1,200-litre underground sump and installed a drinking water station along with a handwash unit. Also, the toilets for the students and staff have been renovated.

“When we visited the school, children were sitting on the ground, the playground was useless and the library was



DG Arun Jain, Club President Anupama Gupta and PP Sachin Dixit distribute colouring books to students.

nothing but an empty steel shelf,” says Alok Gupta. After the club provided the benches and desks for students, levelled the playground and

set up swings and play equipment and donated new books for the library, “it’s a pleasure to go back there and see them smile,”

he adds. Rotarians have also planted saplings on the campus and distributed stationery kits to the students.■

Villagers pledge to send their children to school

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Bareilly Shri, RID 3110, conducted a literacy meet at Padarathpur, Chainpur and Sauripur villages near Bareilly. Rotarians addressed adults on the importance of education, and insisted on parents encouraging their children to go to school regularly.

“If your child has dropped out of school encourage them to go back. Talk to the school authorities if you need any help or reach out to us,” said Saket Sudhanshu Sharma, the Charter President of the club.

Speaking at a primary school in Sauripur, Sharma focused on compulsory education and attending school regularly by the students. Other topics of discussions were on health, hygiene and cleanliness. The programme was followed by a pledged taken by the villagers to send their children to school followed by distribution of stationery kits to the school students.■



Charter President Saket Sudhanshu Sharma distributing stationery kits to students.

D 2981

RC Kumbakonam Central

Fifty helmets were given to women two-wheeler riders in a road safety awareness campaign and they were urged to commute safely by observing traffic norms. The event at the Kumbakonam Town Police Station enhanced the public image of Rotary.



D 2981

RC Thanjavur Cauvery

A blood donation camp was conducted at the St Peters Higher Secondary School in association with blood bank attached to the Thanjavur Medical College. The camp attracted a large number of youth and local residents.



D 2981

RC Tiruvarur

A girls toilet block was constructed under a global grant in partnership with RID 9820, Australia, at the Government Higher Secondary School at Ammayappan village. DG N Manimaran inaugurated the sanitary block.





D 2982

RC Hosur

Diwali dress material were given to 125 girls at a special home by Rotarians. Sumptuous meal was also served to all the inmates to celebrate the festival. The club members interacted with children with fun sessions.



D 3000

RC Alangudi

In association with the traffic constabulary, the club organised a road safety awareness programme at the Government Higher Secondary School in which around 400 students took part. Rotarians distributed road safety pamphlets to students.



D 3012

RC Sonipat Midtown

Karva Chauth was celebrated by women Rotarians as they came together to observe rituals and perform group dance. They prayed for the longevity of their husbands and exchanged greetings on the occasion.

D 3030

RC Nagpur Greencity

On World Diabetes Day, a health check-up camp was held jointly with Patina Hospital and other clubs in Nagpur under *Stop NCD Project*. A range of tests including ECG, sugar, BP and health consultations were given to the beneficiaries.



D 3053

RC Jodhpur Padmini

An awareness session on menstrual hygiene was conducted at the Pal Road Sansi Colony, a slum area. Club President Rajshree Chowdhary and Secretary Vidhi Shah interacted with the women on pain management during periods. Sanitary napkins were distributed.



D 3054

RC Jaipur

Member of Parliament Diya Kumari inaugurated a physiotherapy centre at the Rotary Bhawan in the presence of DG Bina Desai. The centre will benefit patients from lower and middle class families who can't afford the hospital charges.





D 3060

RC Baroda Kalanagari

Club members distributed foodgrains, food kits, washing solutions and notebooks to tribal children at Dediapada village near Vadodra. The children and adults were happy to receive the gifts which enhanced the public image of the club.



D 3060

RC Bharuch

Adult Literacy Classes are being held as part of TEACH programme at the Ayodhya Nagari, a slum area. The classes were conducted by RCC Bharuch. Traffic awareness campaign was taken up on Gandhi Jayanthi with focus on helmet use at the Panch Batti Circle.



D 3060

RC Surat

DG Anish Shah inaugurated the 83rd Charter Day celebrations in the presence of DGE Prashant Jani, DGN Santosh Pradhan and PDG Ruchir Jani. The club organised 100 lectures in a single day to mark the occasion. PRIP Kalyan Banerjee was the chief guest at the valedictory session.

D 3070

RC Amritsar North

A dialysis centre was set up at the KD Hospital with a global grant. Member of Parliament Gurjit Singh Singh Aujla inaugurated the new facility in the presence of DG Sunil Nagpal, Club President Ramesh Mahajan, PDGs Upkar Singh Sethi, Gurjit Singh Sekhon and IPDG Barjesh Singhal.



D 3070

RC Hoshiarpur

DG Sunil Nagpal flagged off a Polio Day rally which was conducted with the support of the Health Department. A toilet block was inaugurated by PDG Parvinder Jit Singh at a government senior secondary school in the city with the district grant. Club President Varinder Chopra and others were present.



D 3070

RC Jammu

Global Handwashing Day was observed at the Government Girls Higher Secondary School with Club President Dr Anil Amla and Secretary Dr Gaurav Vaid giving lectures. Project Director Sunil Sawhney gave a demo on proper handwashing practice. Detergents were supplied to the school.





D 3070

RC Ludhiana North

PP Dr Vijay Obed took part in a medical mission to Harare, Zimbabwe, led by an American NGO. He did operations for cleft lip and palate, among others. He was invited as a guest speaker at RC Harare Central and exchanged the club flags.



D 3090

RC Samana

An eye camp titled *Muskan* at the Government Senior Secondary School in Gajipur screened more than 450 students. Of which, 35 were selected for further treatment by Dr Atul Kakkar. The club sponsored the tuition fees of two deserving and needy students.



D 3120

RC Varanasi East

A blood donation camp was conducted jointly with Swastika Charitable Trust and RC Lucknow Rajdhani. RIPN Shekhar Mehta was the first donor at the camp which enhanced the public image of Rotary.

RC Chandrapur strikes a chord with students, tribals

Team Rotary News



Club President Smita Thakre giving nutrient supplements to lactating mothers at the hospital.

During the five-day Army recruitment drive held recently, RC Chandrapur, RID 3030, provided food to the youth aspiring to join the Armed forces. The candidates from across the districts didn't have money for accommodation and food and following a request from the District Collector Dr Kunal Khemnari, the club sponsored the food on all the five days of Army recruitment camp.

The food was distributed by the Collector himself who appreciated Rotary for its timely gesture of supplying nutritious food as it helped the enthusiastic youth to cope with the demanding physical tests at the camp.

A health check-up camp was conducted for pregnant and lactating women at the Primary Health

Centre in Pombhurna town near Chandrapur. Two hundred women were examined for various illnesses and given consultations for healthy, disease-free living by Rtn Dr Asawari Deotale. The beneficiaries were also served a sumptuous meal at the PHC by the club which

Rotarians celebrated Diwali with Adivasi families at Dhanak Devi village near Gadchandur town by distributing sweets, *namkeens* (savouries), diyas and dress material to the tribals.

has drawn up plans to take up this health camp at other villages in the district. On World Diabetes Day, the club screened around 700 girls and teachers at the Priyadarshani High School in Ghugus village in partnership with the Madhavbaug Clinic.

An inter-school quiz competition at the Priyadarshini Hall saw over 1,000 students, parents and Rotarians attending the finals. Over 35 schools took part in the quiz contest and the winning team receiving a trophy and a cash prize of ₹10,000. The runner-up got ₹7,000. "The quiz contest among schools is one of our signature projects which is a much awaited programme among school students," said Project Director Dr Rekha Dandekar.

An under-16 cricket tournament was organised that saw 16 school teams competing on a turf pitch and young talent showcasing their all-round skills in cricket. PDG Dr Prafulla Mokadam gave the prizes to the winners. Rotarians celebrated Diwali with Adivasi families at Dhanak Devi village near Gadchandur town by distributing sweets, *namkeens* (savouries), diyas and dress material to the tribals. This village having 112 mud and thatched dwellings is one of the most backward areas and the Adivasis eke out a hard life. Sandals were also distributed to the villagers as most of them used to walk on barefoot. The Diwali gifts including footwear to the tribal families brought a ready smile on their faces.



PDG Dr Prafulla Mokadam at the under-16 cricket tournament.

Awareness programme

An awareness session was conducted for students at the Gopalrao Wankhede Vidyalaya at Nandgaon Pode village. Dr Balmukund Paliwal interacted with the students

on issues like cleanliness, hygiene and waste management. The school management thanked Rotary for the sensitisation camp which benefitted over 400 students in this village. ■

Books, dress material distributed at Lucknow school

Team Rotary News

Books and dress material were distributed by RC Lucknow Khaas, RID 3120, to 25 orphaned and poor students at the Kranti Vidyalaya Mandir in Bangla Bazaar. Nineteen girls and six boys from Class 6–10 benefitted from this gesture.

The Literacy Project has been donating stationery items and uniforms to school students from underprivileged families over the last 20 years. Besides the annual distribution, the club has set up a drinking water tank with taps,

gender-segregated toilets, a staff room and 12 computers at the Kranti Vidyalaya.

Recently, a water cooler was installed at the staff room. A medical camp was conducted at the Visheshwar Dayal Inter College, Aliganj, in which around 60 patients from slum areas were screened for various ailments. Club President Dr RC Chadha joined hands with Rtns Dr Vijay Nigam and Manjushree Mehta to diagnose people and provide free consultations and medicines. The club donated a 195-litre refrigerator to this school for the benefit of the staff. AG Ajay Anand handed over the appliance and a cheque to school manager HN Srivastava. ■



School girls with books and dress material.

Guntakal Rotarians excel in community projects

V Muthukumaran

As part of its 'Go Green' campaign to save the environment, RC Guntakal, RID 3160, joined hands with municipality to conduct a plastic eradication drive in the town. "During the awareness session, we spoke on harmful use of plastic in our society and the need to nurture a green environment," said Somasekhar Mamani, Club President. On the occasion of Police Commemoration Day, a candle light rally was held with a good turnout of Rotarians, Rotaractors and Rotary School staff.

The club distributed 20 benches to the Zilla Parishad High School, Kasapuram. Former AG B Shirish Kumar and IPP Anuradha and other Rotarians took part in the event. On World Polio Day (Oct 24), a mega rally was held with a large number of students, Rotaractors and Rotarians taking part to create awareness among the public. Over 300 students marched with placards and banners to sensitise the people.



DG Nayan S Patil, seated right, at the Open Chess Tournament.

With the help of Rotaractors a medical camp was conducted on Gandhi Jayanthi. "An awareness session was held for students who were given homeopathy medicines against swine flu, dengue and Chikungunya at an orphanage. Prizes were given to the winners of an elocution contest on Mahatma

Gandhi. Over 100 orphans benefitted from this programme," said Mamani. During the weekly meeting, the club felicitated senior citizens of Guntakal including charter members — V Ramakrishnaiah, Chintha Muni Swamy, B Chinnaiah, Anjaneyulu, Dr Abdul Ghani and



A mega rally to mark World Polio Day.



Students and Rotarians with new benches at the Zilla Parishad High School, Kasapuram.

Swayamprakashananda Swamy — for their 'selfless service' to the community. In another club meeting, the office-bearers of 2018–19 were honoured for bagging the Best AG, Best Club, Outstanding President Awards among others at the district-level. "We congratulated our immediate past president Anuradha Gupta for her efforts in taking the club to the top at the district-level," he said.

Rtn G V Srinivasan donated a body freezer to the Rotary Kaivalya Dhamam, a municipal burial ground in Guntakal, to expand its services. Rotaract Angeles Charter President G Vaishnavi's birthday was celebrated by visiting a movie theatre. The film show was sponsored by District Rotaract

Committee Chair Uma Vakkala and 32 Rotarians enjoyed the movie at the KPS Theatre.

A handwash programme was conducted at the Indira Gandhi Primary School and an awareness speech was given to the students on the need to adopt better hygiene standards. Yoga guru Chintha Munuswamy gave a lecture on the importance of yoga for healthy living at the weekly club meeting. "We also organised a 40-day yoga camp at our Rotary Shathabdh Auditorium for the benefit of the public."

The club in partnership with Syndicate Bank gave interest-free loans up to ₹50,000 to street vendors for their welfare needs. Sports and essay competitions were held to mark Children's Day

and prizes were distributed to the winners at the end of event.

DG visits programmes

DG Nayan S Patil visited the club and presided over the assembly and general meeting. He kicked off a tree plantation drive at the Rotary Kaivalya Dhamam, a permanent project of the club. He also inaugurated a State-level Open Chess Tournament in which over 350 players took part from all the 13 revenue districts of Andhra Pradesh. Organised by the club, prizes were given to the winners and certificates were given to all the participants of the chess tournament. During the zonal meeting at Dharmavaram, the team led by Club President Somashekar Mamani interacted with members from other clubs and shared notes on best practices.

Rtn S Vasudhara Devi sponsored medicines, fruits and breads to pregnant women at the Guntaka Area Hospital to mark her 60th birthday and this gesture enhanced the public image of Rotary in the locality. She also donated ₹5,700 to a needy student to meet educational expenses. The family meetings are a big draw among Rotarians as birthdays, anniversaries and festivals are celebrated by club members who bring their families to enjoy games and other forms of entertainment. ■



Children with handwash solutions during a WinS programme.

D 3141

RC Mulund

The club did a haemoglobin check-up for 1,200 girls (11–16 years) in a phased manner covering all the municipal schools in Mulund West. As most of the girls were anaemic, haematinic tonics were given to them. The camp was conducted by Rtns Sattar Sheikh, Ramesh Motwani and Thapar.



D 3181

RC Mangalore

Rotaract Club of Yenopaya Institute of Arts, Science, Commerce and Management was formally inaugurated at the College Hall. Club's Rotaract Chairman Vinod D'souza and Youth Service Director Kevin inducted the office-bearers. Rotaract President Munim Shetty gave his acceptance speech.



D 3182

RC Udupi Manipal

A huge, more than 50-year-old banyan tree was transplanted from Udupi to MIT Manipal campus which has created a forest patch called *Vajra Vana* as part of Diamond Jubilee fest. With help from the forest department, the club relocated the uprooted tree near the old DC office. A pit was made with rich soil at the MIT campus for planting the tree.





D 3201

RC Coimbatore Meridian

With the help of One Care Medical Centre, the club organised a screening camp for differently-abled children to correct their deformities. Out of 37 children, 22 were selected for surgery. This is a signature project of the club which will be expanded with the global grant.



D 3202

RC Badagara Central

A cleanliness drive was conducted on the premises of Railway station to mark Gandhi Jayanthi. Fifteen Rotarians took part in the activity. AG Dr Mohanan and Club President Venugopal took part in a public function at Gandhi statue.



D 3202

RC Dharapuram

WinS programmes were organised at St Aloysius Girls Higher Secondary School and NCP Municipal School with Project Chair Lakshmi Priya speaking on the importance of handwash for personal hygiene. The proper handwash technique was demonstrated to students. Pamphlets were distributed. Around 1,500 students took part in the event.

D 3202

RC Tirupur Knit City

A 1,000 litre-water tank and a pipeline with handwash unit were installed at a Government Primary School in Kundah taluk, Ooty. DG A Karthikeyan, AG Prakash Kumar and members of RC Kundah were present at the inaugural ceremony.



D 3202

RC Tirupur South

An auditorium is being constructed at the Government Higher Secondary Tribal School in Gudalur in partnership with RC Gudalur Valley. Sports equipment were given to KSC Government HS School to conduct Tirupur District Revenue-level Athletics Meet.



D 3212

RC Kovilpatti

A tree plantation drive was conducted at the Lakshmi Mills Government Higher School at Aavalnattham village. Club President Parameswaran led his team in the green mission. Saplings were also distributed to students. Under the *Swachhata Hi Seva* campaign, a cultural programme by schoolchildren spread the anti-plastic message.





D 3212

RC Nagercoil Blossoms

Two cupboards filled with dress material and towels worth ₹50,000 were donated to the Government Medical College Hospital by Club President Sridevi Prince and her team to provide emergency help to road accident victims during late hours. Dr Balajinathan, Hospital Dean and PDG Arumuga Pandian were present.



D 3291

RC Belur

Residents of Victoria View were given training on COLS — Compression Only Life Support, a lifesaving technique during emergency situations. IPP Rakesh Bhatia along with Rtn Dr Sarbari Swaika and Dr Simantika Ghosh from the Indian Resuscitation Council trained the residents.



D 3291

RC Kasba

World Polio Day was observed by holding a health camp in association with Prabhu Amarabas Welfare Society. A rally was also conducted in which students took part in large numbers to spread the message of polio-free world. The event showcased Rotary's efforts in eradicating the disease.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Keeping children warm

Team Rotary News

To protect children from the harsh winter in Jamnagar, the Rotarians of RC Senoras Jamnagar, RID 3060, visited a neighbourhood slum locality and distributed sweaters and warm clothing to 80 children.

In another initiative, the club members visited the Urban Health Centre in the city and distributed nutrition-rich food to 100 pregnant women. Rtn Kalpana delivered a talk on the importance of consuming healthy food for the benefit of the pregnant women. ■



Children with their sweaters.

A freedom fighter- Rotarian honoured



Rtn K V Chalamaiah being felicitated.

Eighty-five-year-old Rotarian K V Chalamaiah is a freedom fighter and member of RC Nellore, RID 3160. He is also a staunch disciple of Potti Sreeramulu who fought for a separate

Telugu state of Andhra Pradesh for 58 days in 1952. In his honour, Nov 1 is being observed as Incarnation Day of the State and Nellore district has been renamed as Sri Potti Sree Ramulu (SPSR) Nellore.

Chalamaiah was felicitated on Incarnation Day by the District Collector of SPSR Nellore for his contribution towards the freedom movement. In his acceptance speech, Chalamaiah recalled the

work of his guru and leader and suggested the District Collectorate to recommend the Bharat Ratna to be conferred on Potti Sreeramulu as an acknowledgement of his sacrifices for the country. ■

'Pride Run' in Bengaluru against global warming

Team Rotary News



DG Sameer Hariani flags-off the 'Pride Run'.

The annual marathon titled *Pride Run* to create awareness on global warming and the harmful effects of climate change was organised by RC Bangalore RT Nagar, RID 3190, with the 10km run being flagged off by DG Dr Sameer Hariani in the presence of IPDG Suresh Hari, PDG KP Nagesh, IAS officer Mahendra Jain, Additional

Chief Secretary, Energy, and other district Rotarians.

More than 2,000 people took part in the marathon which began at the St Joseph's School in Bengaluru at 6 am and had five different categories — 10, 5 and 2kms — to suit different age groups. The event brought to light the hazards of carbon emission due to the burning of fossil fuel and was supported by Chronic

Foundation, Karnataka government and trade bodies.

The 5km run was flagged off by DGE Nagendra Prasad and former IAS officer Amaranarayana in the presence of Prasad Punathi, State Principal Chief Conservator of Forests. The *Pride Run* was also supported by RCs Bangalore JP Nagar, Bangalore Orchards and Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas. ■

Spreading literacy among rural women



A girl child gets an award at the literacy meet for rural women.

Rotary Club of Kumbakonam Queens, an all-women club in RID 2981, undertook an activity to promote functional literacy among rural women near the town. The Rotarians taught the women to read and write and sign their names.

In another endeavour, the Rotarians distributed *nilavembu kashayam*, an herbal concoction that prevents dengue, to the public in the region. ■



Sweaters for students in Jabalpur

Kiran Zehra

Standing in the row waiting for her turn to receive her “Rotary sweater,” Chandini, a Class 2 student at the MD Public School, Jabalpur, says “I didn’t have a sweater. *Meri mummy ke paas kharidne ke paise nahi the* (My mother didn’t have the money to buy one). My brother and I share one sweater,” she says. Every year Rotary Club of Jabalpur South, RID 3261, distributes sweaters, shoes and socks to the students of government and government-aided schools in and around Jabalpur.

“These students are from extremely

poor families. In the peak winter, when its 8 degrees Celsius or below it is impossible for students to attend school without a sweater,” says Akhil Mishra, the Club President. Members of the club donate without hesitation to this cause. This year, the club has spent ₹70,000 and distributed sweaters to over 160 students from three schools in the region. Although there is a government sweater distribution scheme “these schools have hardly ever received a sweater through the scheme,” adds Mishra.

The beneficiary schools were identified

through a survey conducted by the club three years ago. “We focused on the student strength of the school, the boy-girl ratio and the rate of attendance of the child.” Mishra says most of the schools selected had an equal ratio and “the staff of these schools were

supportive to run the Rotary sweater scheme year on year without any malpractice.”

Principal of MD Public School Sudhakar Jog says “the sweaters are of a good quality and reach our students without fail. These children come from poor



Club president Akhil Mishra (5th from right) and members with children at the sweaters distribution project.



Rotarians along with the beneficiaries of the sewing machine distribution project.

economic backgrounds. Some parents can afford to buy sweaters but a majority cannot afford to. The sweaters sometimes are

the sole motivation for the children to attend school.”

This year during the winter the club distributed 100 blankets at the cost of

₹52,000 to students living in a tribal hostel on the outskirts of Jabalpur. Apart from keeping the people of Jabalpur warm, the club

also distributes sewing machines to women from underprivileged backgrounds to help them earn a decent living. ■

DG inaugurates new Interact club in Varanasi

Team Rotary News

The purpose of Interact clubs is not just limited to social service, but also mould the leadership qualities of students by shaping their personality, said DG Sanjay Agrawal, RID 3120. “They get an opportunity to move forward on the world stage,” he said.

The DG was addressing the students after inaugurating an Interact club at the Seth M R Jaipuria Schools Banaras, Babatpur campus. The new interact club was sponsored by RC Varanasi Central, RID 3120. Agrawal shared his memorable moments of his Interact life. Agrawal and spouse Poonam pinned the lapels to all new members and office-bearers of the interact club. While Kushagra Sharma was sworn in as club president, Jahnvi Singh took oath as his secretary with

50 students inducted as Interact members.

The school chairman, Deepak Kr Bajaj offered the presidential collar to the new president and the DG gave away the charter certificate to the club on behalf of Rotary International. RC Varanasi Central President Sanjay Gupta welcomed the gathering and said there were over 20,000 Interact clubs with an estimate of over 4.6 lakh Interactors in the world.



DG Sanjay Agrawal presenting the charter certificate to the newly-inducted Interact office-bearers.

Interact advisor Rtn Nirmal Joshi called upon the students to work hard to achieve their goals in life. ■

A flight of fancy for Madurai children

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Madurai Meenakshi, RID 3000, provided an opportunity for school students to board an aircraft and fly to Chennai. The students selected from a government school were accompanied by the Club President Thavasumuthu, secretary Jayaseelan and club members Shantharam and Dr Murugesan.

Rotary Club of Chennai Royals, RID 3232, received the team from Madurai and gifted t-shirts, shoes, goggles and travel bags to the children. They then took them around Chennai on a sightseeing trip and organised a grand lunch for them.

The young visitors had an interaction with the Sailendra Babu, DGP (Railways), who counselled them on safe travel and practising cyber safety, besides regaling them with his rich career experiences. ■



School students and Rotarians at the Chennai airport.

Learning and entertainment for little children



A Smart TV distribution project near Ahmedabad.

Rotary Club of Cosmopolitan Ahmedabad, RID 3054, has been equipping anganwadis in the surrounding rural localities with television sets since its inception six years ago. Besides engaging little children through various colourful programmes, the facility is helping older children learn

alphabets and rhymes through AV equipment provided by the club. “Parents find that their children are fluently reciting English and Gujarati rhymes,” says the Project Head Dipak Thakore.

The club is also focusing on improving personal hygiene of women in these regions by distributing

sanitary napkins to them and educating them about menstrual hygiene.

Recently, J J Desai, a club member, helped to raise \$3,000 for the project from a Rotary club in Hamilton, USA, when he visited the place.

So far, the club has distributed 40 television sets benefitting 1,300 toddlers, says Thakore. ■

Treating cleft lip and palate

Team Rotary News



Rotarians with school girls in Agra.

More than 20 little children who were earlier suffering with cleft lip/palate disorder were treated by maxilla-facial surgeon and secretary of RC Agra West, Gaurav Mahesh Gupta, at the Pushpanjali Hospital and Research Centre in the town.

The club publicised the proposed camp extensively in the print and social media to provide the benefit to maximum people. All the beneficiary-patients hail from less privileged families with no means to treat the children. Left untreated, CLP may lead to other complications such as ear infections and hearing loss, besides

affecting the child's psychological health arising from the cosmetic abnormality. The camp was organised in association with the German Cleft Lip Society.

On another occasion, 30 teachers were felicitated with Nation Builder Awards in an event where the Agra Mayor Naveen Jain was the chief guest and Dr Ashok Shiromani, the President of IMA (Agra), was the guest of honour.

On the environment protection front, the club members are actively campaigning against plastic use regularly and distributing cloth bags among vendors and the public in market places.

Inter-school debates were organised by the club on topics related to social media benefits and bane and fashion consciousness. Twelve schools participated on each occasion and the endeavour helped in enhancing Rotary's visibility among children and the school staff.

Besides, the club also organised a mega blood donation camp which helped to collect 100 units of blood which was given to a hospital to be stored in its blood bank. Sanitary pad vending machines and water coolers were given to various schools in the town. ■

Rotarians repair battered roads in Faridkot

Team Rotary News

With the rains damaging the roads in the city making it difficult for motorists and pedestrians to pass through some of the thoroughfares, the members of RC Faridkot, RID 3090, fixed the potholes, craters on the streets and lanes caused by heavy downpour during the rainy season. Rotarians led by Club President Parvesh Rehan and under the guidance of DG Rajeev Garg took the initiative to patch-up some of the badly damaged roads in Faridkot.

“There was a number of cases of accidents involving school-going students and two wheelers on some of the battered roads. So, we decided to fix the potholes and do patch work to facilitate easy commuting for two-wheeler riders,” said Rehan. “Within six hours, the 5 km-stretch of Circular Road was repaired by our team displaying the spirit of Rotary.”

The club used to take up tree plantation as a regular project in which nests for birds are also



Schoolchildren with books and stationery items.

made to attract winged creatures. In one such drive, the Rotarians planted over 20 fruit-bearing and ornamental trees with nests placed on tree branches at different places.

Birthdays, marriage anniversaries and social events are celebrated at Radha Krishna Dham, an orphanage which shelters girl children in the age group of two and seven years. The marriage anniversary of Rtn

Pardeep Kataria was celebrated at the orphanage in which diapers and milk powder packets (Lactogen) were distributed to the children. “A heart-touching and loveable smile on the face of these children made our spirits soar high,” said Rehan.

Stationery items were distributed to the Government Primary School at the Zila Jail to mark the birthday of AG Pritpal Singh Kohli. He also donated 10 chairs to the school. Also, fruit-bearing trees were planted at the Rotary Naomika Garden. In another initiative, the club organised a plantation camp in this primary school in which children were taught the importance of protecting the environment. “Now children look happy at the school and they very much value the service done by Rotary for their betterment. We have adopted this primary school at the Zila Jail in which a number of programmes will be held,” said Parvesh Rehan. ■



Rotarians do patch-up work on damaged roads.