

November 2019

Rotary

NEWS PLUS



Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

Drive Safe

A gala dinner at Armenia for Rotarians from Goa

Kiran Zehra



Rotarians of RC Panaji Riviera with KD Dewal, the Indian Ambassador to Armenia and Georgia, at his residence in Yerevan, Armenia.

Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Panaji Riviera, RI District 3170, were invited by KD Dewal, the Indian Ambassador to Armenia and Georgia, to attend the Independence Day celebrations at his

residence in Yerevan, Armenia. "It was a proud moment for the Rotarians to witness the Indian flag being hoisted in a foreign land, and sing the national anthem standing amidst many Armenians gathered around," says

Yogish Kulkarni, the Club President. Kulkarni handed over their club flag to the Indian Ambassador and briefed him about the community service projects undertaken by their club.

Rotarians were invited to attend a gala dinner post the valedictory event of the Rotary's summer camp for kids. The children who participated at the summer camp had come from Russia, Armenia, USA, UAE and other countries.

During the dinner, RC Panaji Riviera showcased their major community projects to Rotarians from all over the world. There were flag exchanges between Panaji Riviera and 10 other International Rotary clubs. The dinner provided an excellent platform for Rotarians from Goa and Eurasian countries to bond, and commit to work with each other on service projects. ■



Club flags are exchanged at the Independence Day celebrations.

On the cover: Rotarians of RID 3231, along with traffic personnel, distribute helmets to the public, as part of their traffic awareness campaign.

Youth Festival for physically-challenged students

Team Rotary News



DG K Vijayakumar giving prizes to the winners.



A cultural show.

The Rotary Club of Nagercoil Blossoms, RI District 3212, conducted a Youth Festival for the physically-challenged students in Nagercoil. Close to 21 special schools participated in the event. According to the club president, this is the first time that a club in RI District 3212 conducted a festival for the physically-challenged school students. Over 200 students participated in 10 different events and won awards. Every participant received a certificate by the club. Over 200 special children participated in this mega event. Dr Kathirvelu, District Welfare Officer, was the chief guest at the festival. ■

With an aim to commemorate the martyrdom of Sardar Shaheed Udham Singh, a mega blood donation camp at the Rotary complex was organised by RC Sunam, RID 3090, that saw a large turnout from the public, volunteers and youth to donate blood.

“It was great chance for senior Rotarians and charter members including Rtns Jagdish Singla, Subash Katyal and Shree Gopal Gupta to come forward and donate blood for a noble cause,” said Naveen R Garg, Club’s Communication Secretary. More than 200 units of blood was collected at the camp with “tireless efforts of youth leader Winnerjit Singh Goldy, legislator Aman Arora and Rotarians such as Ghanshyam Kansal led by Club President Yash Pal Mangal, who made it a great success, thus enhancing public image of Rotary,” he said.

The Rotaractors from RAC Sunam Main and Sunam Royal co-ordinated with the Rotarians to take care of logistics. “Women and girls from the community too dropped in to donate blood. Mehak Garg, a young donor and daughter of Rtn Kamal Garg, donated blood for the first time.”

A tree plantation drive was organised for two days to create a healthy, green environment for the community in Sunam, a municipality in the Sangrur district of Punjab. On the first day, the club planted 25 saplings on the campus of Hindu Sabha College for Women and made arrangements for proper care with regular watering of the new saplings. “The girl students took part with enthusiasm and a pledge was administered to them to promote such greening initiatives in their localities,” said Garg. Project Chairman Devinder Pal Singh along with Rtns Vaneet Garg, P S Handa, Parshotam Goyal, Lajpat Rai Garg and College manager Jagdish Singla, also a charter member, made this green drive a satisfactory project for the club.



A photo op during a religious tour.

Rotary Sunam knits community with service projects

V Muthukumaran

On the second day of the greening project, the club planted 50 ayurvedic and fruit-bearing trees in the industrial area of Sunam with the support of entrepreneur Rtn Parbhat Jindal. Club President Mangla, Secretary Rajesh Goyal and other Rotarians were involved in the plantation which would ensure a healthy environment and fresh air for the locals employed in the industrial belt.

Fellowship tour

Fifty-five members of the club were taken on a religious tour to Amritsar Golden Temple, Sultanpur Lodhi and Gohindwal Sahib with arrangements made by Project Chairman Pavanjeet S Hanjra who was also helped by other Rotarians. The



Girls perform giddha dance to mark the Independence Day.



A young blood donor receiving a certificate.

pilgrim tour was flagged off by Punjab Roadways former Vice-Chairman Winnerjit Singh Goldi. “We organised the religious-cum-fellowship tour to promote religiosity among members and take the blessings of the Almighty,” said Garg.

Teej celebrations were held by the Anns group led by Rozy Mangla and it showcased the women’s power as a range of programmes were conducted such as dancing, singing, lucky

draws and a ramp walk to judge the Miss Teej from the participants.

President Mangla hoisted the tricolour at the Dr Gagandeep Rotary Public School which was followed by an impressive array of cultural shows and skits reflecting patriotism to mark the 73rd Independence Day. Teachers joined students to perform the various skits, while the girls staged a *giddha* dance, a traditional folk art, to entertain the Rotarians.

In a thoughtful gesture, Mangla and other members distributed fresh and healthy food to more than 170 needy people. Sweets and ice creams were also given away to the beneficiaries by project sponsor Kewal Singla. The food distribution was monitored by Rtns Punit Bansal and Rajan Singla.

Focus on Rotaract

One of the key focus areas of the club is to groom the Rotaractors as future leaders in Rotary, said Naveen Garg. As ‘Rotaract’ means ‘Rotary in Action’, there was a need to mobilise the clubs to “work and implement the social welfare schemes for the community and vocational services rather than for purposes such as business development and fellowship,” he said.

Further, a Rotaractor can be a Rotary member through his or her leadership qualities and dedication in organising projects. “The kind of services rendered by Rotaractors will compel Rotary clubs to invite the youth into their organisations which will lead to a positive growth and transformation of a Rotaractor into a changed human being who is more responsible and mature,” he added. ■



A Rotary meeting in the skies

Team Rotary News



A club meeting on flight.

The Rotarians of RC Panchasheel Mysuru, RID 3181, had their Rotary meeting in August on board a newly-launched flight from Mysuru to Goa. This novel programme, called 'Mile High Meeting', at 33,000 feet above sea-level had the members of this four-month-old club excited in a big way. It is the club's 20th meeting and the charter president Prem Narayan SA called the meeting to order, in the presence of Club Secretary Harsha MK.

Community Service Director Harinath updated the members about the community service projects undertaken by the club.

The larger idea was an effort to break the shackles of rituals and protocols and enjoy the whole process of conducting a meeting, says the club's Bulletin Editor Shivkumar S. ■

Care for pilgrims

The Rotarians of RC Moradabad Midtown, RID 3100, distributed refreshments to pilgrims. This is a regular activity of the club where the Rotarians provide food and beverages to pilgrims every year, said Club President Pramit Singhal.

In another initiative, the members conducted a sapling plantation programme across the town. ■



Refreshments being given to pilgrims.

Collecting blood to save lives

Team Rotary News

Rotary Club of Coimbatore Meridian, RID 3201, under the leadership of Club President Thamilselvan, is running a blood donation campaign to collect at least one unit of blood a day during the year.

Under this programme, the club organised a camp in association with Shanthi Social Services Blood Bank in the city. With this camp the club has collected 200 unit of blood so far, and the collection was 80 units from this camp. ■



Of helmets and seatbelts

Four Rotary clubs of RID 3231 — RCs Maraimalainagar, Maraimalainagar Industrial City, Mahindra Industrial City and Chengai Chennai Corridor — jointly conducted a road safety awareness rally recently to promote the importance of wearing helmets by two-wheeler riders and seatbelts for four-wheeler drivers. The rally began at the Maraimalainagar Arch and covered 5.5 km around the locality.

The club members emphasised on the need for the pillion riders also to wear helmets to protect their head in the event of any accident and in the case of cars, the co-passengers



Rotary clubs on a road safety awareness rally.

were sensitised on fastening their seatbelts while on the move.

The Rotarians distributed helmets to those who had not worn one. They also highlighted

on the adherence to other road safety rules by all road users. Apart from Rotarians, police personnel, Rotaractors and Interactors also participated in the rally. ■

Roorkee Rotarians take up multiple projects

Team Rotary News

A slew of community projects and fellowship events made the first two months of this Rotary year (2019–20) a memorable one for the Rotarians at RC Roorkee Midtown, RID 3080. In line with the tradition, the club observed *Annapurna Diwas* on July 1 to commence the year on an auspicious note by giving freshly-prepared food to more than 200 needy people. “It was a sumptuous meal that included ice cream too. It is customary for us to begin the year with *Annapurna Diwas*,” said Akshay Pratap Singh, Club Secretary.

On the same day, doctors and chartered accountants of the club were felicitated. DGN Ajay Madan was the chief guest in both the events. A variety of species including peepul, gulmohar and bel were planted in a green drive and it was proposed to make tree plantation a regular feature throughout this Rotary year.

The second plantation drive for the year was taken up at Railway Road, Roorkee, where 20 saplings were planted, thus taking forward the pledge to grow more trees in the coming months, he said.

Reaching out to an auto driver who had lost his mobility in an accident, the club donated a wheelchair. DGE Ramesh Bajaj was present on the occasion.

As thousands of pilgrims transit the city during Kaanvar Yatra to worship Lord Shiva, a special camp was organised in which more than 1,500 packets of biscuits and



Rotarians offer food packets to pilgrims.

bananas were given to the yatris. “Keeping with the spirit of Rotary, we organise this camp each year to facilitate the pilgrimage,” he said.

Nice gesture

During the installation of Club President Dr Sanjeev Garg, the entire fee of a physically-challenged person who got selected to IIT-Mumbai was given as donation and credited into the IIT bank account by the club. DGE Ramesh Bajaj and legislator Pradeep Batra, a Rotarian, presided over the installation ceremony.

A blood donation camp was organised at the RIT Roorkee Engineering College with the help of Rotaractors. “Thanks to all-round support, 85 units of blood was collected at the camp,” said Pratap

Singh. A tree plantation drive was taken up on the campus. In a special drive, the members collected utility and food items including clothes, medicines and daily needs which were then delivered to the victims of the recent flood disaster in Uttarakhand.

A team was sent to represent the club at an Inter-city event titled *Parvaaz* at Panipat. “It was a good learning experience for the Rotarians at the meet which was well-organised by the host clubs,” he said.

Rotary Rasoi

On the first and third Fridays of each month, a *Rotary Rasoi* offers freshly-prepared food for the wards of the admitted patients at the Civil Hospital in the city. ■

Orientation seminar for Dombivli Rotarians

Team Rotary News

Following the guidelines given by the DG Mohan Chandavarkar, RID 3142, the Rotary Club of Regency Estate has organised an orientation seminar for new members which was co-hosted by 13 clubs in the Dombivli area of Mumbai. DG Chandavarkar, his spouse Veena, District Secretary Prakash Shah and club presidents along with 25 Rotarians were present.

Seventy-third Independence Day was celebrated at the Greens English School, Dombivli East, with the chief guest, senior police inspector Dada Hari Chougule, from Manpada Police Station inaugurating the event. ACP Dilip Rautsaheb from



DG Mohan Chandavarkar addressing the Rotarians.

Ramnagar Police Station and RC Dombivli Industrial Area President Prakash Sinkar were present.

After the tricolour was hoisted by the chief guest, Sinkar felicitated him with a shawl and bouquet. Green

English School Vice-President Shirish Deshpande, advocate Shashank Deshpande and Dr Arun Patil, among others, spoke on the occasion.

A large number of students and teachers were present at the event. ■

School Chalo rally organised by RC Mirzapur Diamond



Students at the school chalo rally.

The importance of education was highlighted at the *School Chalo Abhiyan* rally organised by RC Mirzapur Diamond, RC 3120, from Mahewa Prathamik Vidyalaya to Mahewa village. The students held banners and placards during the procession to create awareness among the villagers. Panchayat leaders took part in the student rally.

The club donated a sanitary vending machine to this adopted school in which a number of projects are being taken up. The club members took part in the first inter-city meet and bagged the award for maximum registration and a consolation prize for Rtn Indu Gupta for her speech on *Rotary Connects People*. A mega tree plantation drive was inaugurated at the Nagar Palika Parishad by Manoj

Jaiswal, Chairman of the local body. Special events were organised to mark Doctor's Day and CA Day with Rotarians taking part along with professionals.

Now, the visitors to the town will be greeted by a huge Rotary hoarding erected by the club. The hoarding with the pictures of the club's office-bearers will further enhance the image of Rotary among the public. ■

D 2981

RC Kottai Pattukkottai

The club sponsored a World Ozone Day Seminar along with Science Congress, a training programme for students at the Municipal Middle School. National Green Force manager Dr B Ram, who is also the Thanjavur District Educational Coordinator, spoke at the event.



D 2981

RC Pondicherry Cosmos

Teacher's Day was celebrated by felicitating 28 teachers with Nation Builder Awards. All the recipients were either honoured with State or President Awards earlier by the government for their contributions to society.



D 3000

RC Madurai North

In an attempt to enhance public image, a Rotary Wheel monument was installed at a busy market in the city. Over 5,000 people visit this place for shopping each day.





D 3011

RC Faridabad Sanskar

Past president Sandeep Singhal celebrated his birthday with around 70 thalassaemic children. Earlier, he had organised a movie show at a multiplex for children, after which he cut cake with them for a memorable occasion.



D 3030

RC Ballarpur

On two Sundays in a month, the club undertakes 'Walk and Clean Ballarpur' Project in which Rotarians pick up plastic waste and other dumps littered on the road from the tollgate to the powerhouse. They spread the message against single-use plastic.



D 3030

RC Chandrapur

With an aim to increase the green cover and improve the environment, Rotarians took up a plantation drive at Lohara village. Around 200 saplings were planted with tree guards. Over 25 Rotarians took part in the green drive.

D 3040

RC Indore Meghdoot

With the help of municipal corporation, the club made a temporary water tank for immersion of Ganesh idols (*Visarjan*) so that waterbodies can be protected from the harmful effects of this event. More than 500 idols were collected and immersed in the artificial pond by Rotarians.



D 3053

RC Bikaner

A Smart Class with e-learning gadgets was inaugurated by Rtn Shashi Mohan Mundhra at a government higher secondary school in Khara village near Bikaner. Club President Vikas Kelly assured the school that Rotary would continue to support it in future.



D 3054

RC Himatnagar

A blood donation camp was organised at a pharmacy college to mark the birthday of PM Narendra Modi with the support of BJP Yuva Morcha at the Sabarkantha district. The camp collected 83 units of blood.





D 3060

RC Amreli Gir

A cervical cancer diagnosis camp was organised at Devaliya village in which around 270 women were screened by doctors. Club Secretary Ambrish Rajaguru was present along with a panel of doctors to conduct the special camp.



D 3060

RC Ankleshwar

School uniforms were distributed to over 1,500 students at nine Prathmic Shalas in the city. All the uniforms were stitched at the Rotary's Women Empowerment Centre which offers job work to needy people.



D 3060

RC Dhule Femina

A new member orientation seminar was organised in which Rotarians from other clubs took part in large numbers. It was also an occasion for fellowship among the new members of Rotary clubs.

D 3060

RI District

Following a call given by DG Anish Shah, the district clubs held blood donation camps on July 1. A total of 3,685 units of blood was collected on that day and in the subsequent weeks. RC Surat alone collected 619 units from 21 camps.



D 3060

RC Surat Roundtown

A mega tree plantation drive was taken by club members in their neighbourhood with PDG Bharat Solanki leading the green brigade. The project enhanced the public image of the club.



D 3070

RC Amritsar North

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





D 3070

RC Jalandhar West

A teacher training programme was held by joining hands with Inner Wheel members. Fifty teachers from government schools benefitted from a lecture by Prof JK Gulati, HoD of MBA Studies, from Guru Nanak Dev University. Eight Rotarians and four Inner Wheel members took part.



D 3080

RC Dehradun Central

World Senior Citizen's Day was observed at the Prem Dham old-age home. Rotarians and Anns engaged the inmates in fun sessions and gave them refreshments. Rotarians shared their wonderful moments after the event.



D 3110

RC Bareilly Shree

Hariyali Teej was celebrated in a grand manner by the club members in a hotel. Sonal Agrawal was crowned the Teej Queen 2019. Independence Day was celebrated at the Saraswati Shishu Mandir in the old locality of Bareilly.

Bringing cheer to the elderly

V Muthukumaran



RC Jammu Midtown President Meena Jamwal (centre) at the old-age home.

Literacy Day was celebrated with cultural programmes and contests by RC Jammu Midtown, RID 3070, at the Sunrise Public School at Channi Himmat in the city. “Painting and dance competitions were held and prizes were given to the winners. Rtn Sushil Singhal donated a big amount to the school and its principal honoured him with a certificate,” said Rakhi Singal, past president of the club.

Rtn Rohit Gupta adopted a student on the occasion. Stationery items were distributed to the

students by Rtn Chakshu Kapoor. “Two teachers from this school were presented with Nation Builder certificates. It is noteworthy that the school is motivating children from slum areas to get enrolled and also provides free education, uniforms and meals,” said Rakhi. Besides, the school has all the modern facilities that are available in private, convent schools to offer a very good classroom-based education, she said.

World Senior Citizen’s Day was observed by visiting an old-age home at Amphalla in the city. The

home also accommodated infirm and destitute people. Following an hour-long interactive session, the inmates sung bhajans and other devotional songs. All the inmates were served a sumptuous lunch. Rtn Atul Tyagi donated ₹1 lakh to the shelter home’s secretary who appreciated this gesture. Club President Meena Jamwal and its Secretary Agya Kour were present along with other Rotarians on the occasion.

Teacher’s Day

Five teachers from the club’s adopted schools

were presented with Nation Builder Awards to mark the Teacher’s Day. “One teacher from the government school in Dilli; two teachers from Gorkha Nagar and another one from the government school in Gandhi Nagar were felicitated by the club,” she said. The awardees were also given a nicely-crafted diary, a pen with Rotary Wheel logo and colourful dupatta in recognition of their “excellent services to build our nation.” Rotarian teachers were also felicitated at the



Jammu Rotarians and Anns during the Hariyali Teej celebrations.

event. The awardees gave their acceptance speech, thanking Rotary for their thoughtful gesture.

Around 120 saplings of different tree varieties were planted on the campus of MBS College of Engineering and Technology in a green drive by the club members. Some of the saplings were distributed to six departments in the college. "We made sure that the plantations will be nurtured in the coming

years by the respective departments. The students and faculty extended their cooperation to make this green drive a big success," said Rakhi.

College seminar

A seminar was organised at the MBS College with Dr SS Sudan, eye specialist and advisor, Batra Hospital, inaugurating the sessions with a talk on holocaust and the consequences of nuclear war. He is

also President of Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD). Child specialist Dr Nira Singh, also the state coordinator for IDPD, spoke on environment and healthy lifestyle. Rtn Muhammad Afzal shared his ideas on topics such as networking, marketing and career counselling. Meena Jamwal explained about the community projects of Rotary across the world and its role in the eradication of polio.

Secretary Kour gave the vote of thanks.

Jammu Rotarians came together to celebrate Teej festival that primarily welcomes the onset of monsoon in North India as the women join hands to dance, sing and express joy over rains. The Anns including girls danced and rendered songs in rich attire in green, red and orange colours with mehendi sketched hands, thus sharing a festive mood in the community. The event was accompanied by prayer rituals.

The Teej gala showcased women's skills in fine arts. "We played games, took selfies and distributed saplings to all participants as Hariyali Teej is also about worshipping greenery and Mother Earth," said Rakhi. A festive dinner capped the gala ceremony. Club President Meena and her team made the Teej celebrations a memorable event for Jammu Rotarians. ■



Stationery items for distribution at the Sunrise Public School.



Emphasis on traffic rules and health and hygiene in Alwar

Kiran Zehra

The Rotary Club of Alwar, RI District 3053, conducted various traffic rules awareness programmes in the city. Partnering with the Rotaract Club of Hope,

the club offered sweets to people waiting at the traffic signal and requested them to follow the traffic rules. In another campaign 700 students from the Achievers Academy College were

educated about traffic rules by Traffic Inspector Suresh Kumar. At the seminar the club also highlighted Rotary's End Polio, TEACH and WinS programmes.

In order to promote

RILM in the district, the club presented the Nation Builder Awards to teachers from different government primary schools in the region. The SMD Girls School was given a facelift



Clockwise: Rotarians present the Nation Builder Award to a government school teacher; Rotaractors assist in creating traffic rules awareness in Alwar; Rotaractors and Rotarians with the traffic police.

and the construction of five classrooms was undertaken by the club. Fans were fitted and the library was revamped by club members. Manish Jain, President of RC Alwar, said, "We want

to enable these students to make the most of their school years and will be happy to help the management with improving infrastructure and basic needs." SuperGirls, health and hygiene initiatives are being executed across the government girls' schools in the city. Girls are taught the correct way to wash their hands before and after every meal and after using the toilet. They were also taught about the importance of having healthy bones and advised on including calcium-rich food in their diet.

The club also donated furniture and fans to the Government Senior Upadhyaya Sanskrit School in Alwar. ■



D 3110

RC Kanpur Shaurya

The club donated ₹32,000 to Prastuti Foundation which funds girl's education. The then DGN DC Shukla was the chief guest. Three cycles were donated to meritorious students. Food packets were distributed to over 50 students and their mothers at the NGO.



D 3131

RC Panvel Elite

The club along with 10 other Rotary and Rotaract clubs did a synergy project called *Nirmalya Abhiyan* at the Khanda Pond. Rotarians collected and segregated the litter strewn on the waterbody during the Ganesh Visarjan. It was sent to recycling unit for converting into organic fertilisers.



D 3141

RC Mulund

Study material, toys and weighing machines were given to 150 anganwadis. A cancer detection camp was organised for the maids and helpers at these childcare centres. While a magic and puppet shows were held for anganwadi children.





D 3142

RC Aurangabad

Twenty-five primary teachers from government schools were awarded Nation Builder Awards for their service. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University Pro Vice-Chancellor Prawin Wakte urged teachers to help students to tackle failures in life to avoid extreme steps.



D 3142

RC Dombivli West

Project Chair Atul Gokhale organised a CPR and AED training course for 15 participants. Dr Shruti Pataki, anaesthesiologist and CEO, Anubandh Institute, gave a lecture related to life-saving interventions. She spoke on how to handle the scenes of heart attack with right techniques.



D 3142

RC Dombivli Saudamini

A tree plantation was held at Madhavrao Rokhade Madhyamik Shala in Murbad which was adopted by the club for its Happy School projects. Eight Rotarians along with 150 students planted 50 big trees and shrubs along the school boundary. Everyone had fun planting saplings on a rainy day.

D 3202

RC Bhavani Komarapalayam

A regional-level orientation seminar for new members titled *Arichuvadi* was held for Rotarians from the Erode region. A total of 90 new members took part in the interactive seminar, including a few delegates from RID 2982.



D 3211

RC Kazhakuttom

The club has inducted 29 new Rotaractors into the Rotaract Club of AJ College of Pharmacy at Mangalapuram in Thiruvananthapuram. With the increase in its strength, the Rotaract club will be able to take up a greater number of community projects in their locality.



D 3211

RC Trivandrum Suburban

Club member Dr Sabarinathan presented a cheque to Secretary Albert Alex for the flood relief assistance being carried out by the district team. He handed over the amount during Independence Day celebrations at the Rotary Tower.





D 3250

RC Patna Midtown

Flood relief kits worth ₹10 lakh were distributed to 2,600 beneficiaries in villages at Muzaffarpur and East Champaran districts with the help of Rotaractors. The volunteers delivered the relief packs in boats as most areas were flooded.



D 3262

RC Berhampur

Annapurna Day was celebrated with inmates of Red Cross Blind School at Ambapua. A sumptuous lunch was provided to around 95 students along with the staff. Over 400 saplings were planted at eight schools. A diabetes and hypertension camp was held at the RCS Hall.



D 3291

RC Central Calcutta

Polio drops were given to children across wards. An auto was hired to spread the message of *polio raviwar* (Sunday) among the public. A blood donation camp was held at Adarsha Uccha Balika Vidyalaya at Nandannagar in which around 200 women volunteers donated blood.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Awards galore at Gangtok

Team Rotary News



Rotarians with the awardees at the Nation Builder Awards ceremony.

Rotary Club of Gangtok South, RID 3240, honoured 13 teachers from four districts of Sikkim with the Nation Builder Awards. Raj

Yadav, the District Collector, as chief guest felicitated the teachers. The club also presented the Meritorious Service Awards to Anil Agnihotri, a teacher

from Tathangchen Secondary School, and Sabita Gazmer from Modern Secondary School for their dedication and innovation in the field of education.

The awardees expressed their gratitude towards the club and thanked Rotary for the recognition. Club members have also pledged to make Sikkim a 100 per cent literate state with the help of RILM.

The chief guest, congratulated all the awardees. He shared his ideas to develop the school's learning environment in the North-East region. Post the award ceremony, a journal on the Rotary Club of Gangtok South was released to mark the special occasion. ■



District Collector Raj Yadav addressing the gathering.

Keeping schoolchildren hydrated with safe water

Team Rotary News

Eight schools in Wada, Mokhada and Jawahar villages in Palghar district now have safe drinking water for the students, thanks to an initiative of Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Palm Beach, RID 3142. The club, with support from RC Endeavour Hills, RID 9820, Australia, and TRF, has installed water filtration plants in eight government ashram schools which provides education for tribal students from the neighbourhoods.

The initiative came about after the Diganta Swaraj Foundation, an

NGO working for the welfare of the people in the area, requested the club for water filters for schools around Mokhada, a place with 92 per cent tribal population who suffer from poor health and has a good number of school dropouts. The

Maharashtra government has provided a decent school infrastructure here but availability of clean drinking water was a problem.

Rotary has been working with these villages since 2014. The water filters were

inaugurated on a single day in all the eight schools in the presence of Rotarians and government officials. David Longworthy, a member of the Australian club, was present at the inauguration. ■



Rtn David Longworthy inaugurating a water filtration plant in one of the schools.

Greening the environment



Rotarians on a greening mission near Pondicherry.

The Rotarians of RC Pondicherry Cosmos, RID 2981, planted 2,000 palm tree seeds in a village near

Pondicherry. This is the club's initiative to promote greenery around the area.

With an aim to enhance bonding among

the members, they, along with their families, went on a pilgrimage trip to the Navagraha temples. ■



Enhancing people's welfare in Chembur

Team Rotary News

The members of Rotary Club of Bombay Chembur West, RID 3141, engaged in a variety of programmes aimed at the welfare of the community.

They distributed school uniforms to 80 underprivileged children in a locality and provided midday meal for 645 children at two primary schools.

On another occasion, a diabetes screening and treatment camp was organised by the Rotarians which benefitted around 60 people. Diet counselling which is vital to manage diabetes was also provided at the camp.

The Rotarians executed a polio immunisation drive around the area on a Polio NID and administered polio drops to children in bus stops, railway stations and on the roads.

They further taught the art of making eco-friendly Ganesh idols and *rakhis* to the Interactors and Rotaractors.■





Clockwise: A diabetes screening camp; Polio drops being administered to a child; School uniform being given to a student; Midday meals to primary school children; Students display eco-friendly Ganesh idols.



Two Interact clubs installed at Pune schools

Team Rotary News



A sapling being planted before the inauguration of Interact clubs.

Two interact clubs were installed by RC Poona Downtown, RID 3131, at the Mahatma Phule Schools which have enrolled children from low-income families. A tree plantation was taken up on the school premises with 10 pits kept ready for planting the tamarind and amla (Indian gooseberry) saplings. “All the saplings were brought by past president Rajesh Gupta. However, we could plant only one sapling as it was raining heavily amidst cheers from students, teachers and Rotarians at the venue,” said Anil Latey, past president and advisor to Mahatma Phule Interact Clubs.

District’s Youth Director Mangesh Hande from RC Rajgurunagar planted sapling as chief guest for the installations of new Interact clubs.

“The hall was filled with students, aspiring Interactors, teachers

and the admin staff led by Shilpa Bhosle and Chhaya Bhosekar, headmistresses of the girls and boys school respectively,” said Latey. A large number of Rotarians were also present. The two Interact Presidents Nikita Dande and Baburao Patil, both studying in Class 10, were installed by Hande and Club President Dinaz Tarapore respectively.

Hande urged the students to focus on their studies and briefly touched on the opportunities they have now with the installation of Interact clubs. The boys school Interact President Patil administered the pledge to all Interactors of Mahatma Phule Schools. The headmistresses urged the club to take up Happy Schools Project here as “most of the students are from deprived communities living in backward areas.”

Top scorers feted

Zuber Sheikh and Neha Rasal who topped the Class 10 exams were felicitated with gifts by Rotarians. “This year the gifts were backpacks for keeping their books and stationery items and the bags will be very useful to them when they enter Class 11,” he said.

RC Poona Downtown — Interact Chairman Nanu Iyer, Rtns Yezdi Batliwala, Anil Chadda, Rajesh Gupta, Phiroze Masters, Pinky Mehmi, Kirti Mehta, Biman Mookerji and Asis Raj were also present at the event. Like in the past, the club will provide uniforms to the students of the two schools. “Our members donated liberally to present uniforms to poor students who were able to wear them from Aug 15,” added Latey. ■

Sports meet for special children at Kumbakonam

Team Rotary News

An indoor sports meet was organised for the mentally-challenged inmates at Sudar Academy in Thirucheraï village by RC Kumbakonam Sakthi, RID 2981. This is one of the signature projects of the all-women's club which has taken up a number of community initiatives to enhance its public image. The Rotarians



Rotarians play games with special children.

played handball and ring with the inmates to enthuse them and they were also presented with gifts and sweets.

To mark the National Agriculture Day in March,

16 kg of dal seeds were given to farmers. Charter Day was celebrated with DGND Balaji and District Executive Secretary Ameer John taking part as guests of honour. ■

Nilavembu water given to special kids at Pudukkottai



Nilavembu water being given to children.

Nilavembu water was provided to special children by RC Pudukkottai Maharani, RID 3000, who joined hands with the Mission Mental Health Livelihood

Training Centre to organise the event.

Club President Meenu Ganesh presided over the event in which top officials from the Sivagami Blood

Bank, Mental Health Centre and Road Safety Awareness Association President Rtn Maruti K Mohanraj took part. Over 30 special children benefitted from this event. Teacher's Day was celebrated at the Government ITI campus with its principal S Ramar, Rtn Mohanraj and Bharathidasan University official RS Kasinathan delivering speeches.

Pudukkottai District Revenue Officer MS Dandayuthapani as chief guest felicitated the ITI teachers who were given mementos and certificates. Club Secretary Sneha gave the vote of thanks. ■