

Rotary News *Plus*



**Adding cheer to
special children**

A special day out for special children

Team Rotary News

Project Indica, the signature project of District 3232 for the special children, celebrated World Sports Day with the involvement of 19 Rotary clubs. Children from various schools, NGOs and homes in and around Chennai gathered in large

numbers at the campus of National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD) to participate in the various sports contests between 10 am and 3 pm.

The parents and caretakers too joined and there were around 600

people at the venue who were all happy to spend a day meaningfully with Rotarians and invited guests who participated in large numbers to witness the events. The sports meet was kicked off with the lighting of the torch in the presence of Dr Himangshu Das, Director,

A race in progress for the differently-abled.



Right: Words of encouragement from a friend.

Right below: Winners being felicitated with trophies.

NIEPMD, Governor R Srinivasan, Project Indica Chairperson Mythili Muralidharan, Programme Head Bala Raghunathan and a number of club presidents and invited guests.

NIEPMD was chosen as the venue it being one of the largest in Asia for treatment of



differently-abled children who are also given counselling, physical training and taken care for overall development.

Green Chennai Head Father Jegath Gasper gave tree saplings that were planted on the sprawling campus by Rotarians along with some of the special children. These saplings will be nurtured by the children as well as their parents who come to this school regularly.

More than 250 special children were given t-shirts, caps, toys, certificates and the winners were felicitated with medals sponsored by all the 19 Rotary clubs. The children also danced and sang songs, along with parents, after the sports

activities were over. A sumptuous lunch was provided to all followed by the plenary session where the top three trophies were given to special schools for their overall performances in the presence of DGN G Chandramohan.

“I heartily thank all the sponsoring Rotary clubs, the organisers from NIEPMD and our team for their great support in making this programme successful,” said Mythili Muralidharan, Chairperson, Indica Project. She said the Sports Day would be etched in their memory and recalled how some parents thanked her for the opportunity given to them to be with their children on a day out full of fun and motivation. ■

D 2981

RC Nagapattinam Wings

The Rotarians conducted a polio immunisation programme in seven booths. They distributed food and water for the volunteers.



D 2982

RC Jalakandapuram

The club, along with the Interact Club of Vidhya Mandir School, conducted a science exhibition in the school, to inspire children to take interest in the subject. Around 75 exhibits were presented at the event.



D 2982

RC Namakkal Poultry Town

A feeding room was installed at the Namakkal railway station as part of Public Image service project. DG Dharmesh Patel and actor Gauthami were the chief guests for the inauguration.





D 2982

RC Namakkal Educational City

Seven teams from districts 2981, 2982 and 3000 took part in a Cricket Faceoff, a signature project held in its fifth year. The two-day event, that cost ₹1.5 lakh, helped to promote bonding among the Rotarians of the various districts.



D 2982

RC Villupuram

In partnership with Vanam Trust, the club had sown 1,000 palm seeds at an old lake's bed in Vikiravandi taluk. This is a small effort of the club to nurture palm trees which are eco-friendly in nature and also bring the attention of the public to the traditionally acclaimed tree.



D 3000

RC Karur Amaravathi

Sports activities were conducted for children in the area, in association with the Youth Welfare Association, to commemorate Pongal festival. Over 250 children participated in various events.

D 3000

RC Madurai North

The club contributed vessels, grocery items, fans and a mixie to an old age home. This will benefit 50 old people living there.



D 3000

RC Pudukkottai Palace City

Various dress materials including sarees and lungis, apart from sweets, were given to over 50 people afflicted with leprosy as part of the charitable activities of the club.



D 3030

RC Chopda

Seven teachers were given Nation Builder Awards to mark Teachers Day. The awards were presented by academician Dilip R Patil and ASC College Principal B N Patil. The club President Vilas P Patil and other Rotarians were present.





D 3030

RC Nasik West

Nearly 250 women benefitted from a seminar, titled Udaan, organised by the club. Various topics relating to women empowerment and personality development were imparted to them.



D 3054

RC Jaipur Kohinoor

On Republic Day, the club distributed 80 sweaters and school uniforms to students of a government primary school in Mansarovar.



D 3054

RC Jaipur Pink City

Free meals were distributed at the Delhi bypass Chowraha and Ajmer Road for the needy families. The club also organised a health camp and a lecture on healthy heart and healthy knee joints at Shalby hospital in Chitrakoot.

D 3054

RC Palanpur

Educational kits were distributed in an adult literacy class at Kamalpura school to inspire the people to attend classes regularly.



D 3060

RC Senoras Jamnagar

A team of Rotarians visited RC Rajkot Midtown following their invitation to review their projects. The visitors went around the vocational training centre for women, the Rotary Midtown Library, dolls museum and the permanent medical centres.



D 3070

RC Jammu Midtown

Woolen apparels including blankets were distributed to slum children in the area.





D 3080

RC Karnal Midtown

A handwashing unit and toilets with washbasin were installed in government middle school in Hemda. Two wall clocks were also given to the school. The children were sensitised on hygiene and oral health.



D 3110

RC Bareilly Metro

A medical camp is being held at Mundia Ahmad Nagar in which over 160 patients were screened for various ailments. Rotarians led by Club President Govind Modi distributed free medicines to the patients. The club is holding the health camp regularly at this venue since 2002.



D 3120

RC Greater Faizabad

The club conducted an eye camp at Salarpur village. Over 300 villagers were screened at the camp. Close to 170 patients were given spectacles and 25 cataract patients were operated at the Ayodhya Eye Hospital.

D 3131

RC Nigdi

A basic commando training with 27 different skills like rifle shooting, human pyramid and archery, besides personality development were taught at the 8-day RYLA held at Pragati Vidya Mandir in Pune. A speech was also given on Rotary activities and its global objectives.



D 3131

RC Pune Kalyani Nagar

Along with Rotaractors, a river clean-up was undertaken at Koregaon Park for the safe disposal of garbage as part of Global Goals Drive 3.0. The project cost Rs 50,000. The club members also donated blankets to needy people and underprivileged students at the railway station and a slum area, thus reaching out to 800 beneficiaries at a total cost of Rs 80,000.



D 3132

RC Latur Midtown

A painting contest titled *Chitrakala* was organised in which over 4,500 school students took part exhibiting their drawing skills. Around 250 hearing and speech impaired children also participated in the competition. The best painting will be showcased in different countries with the help of Rotarians across the world. The project also serves in enhancing Rotary's public image.





D 3132

Ahmednagar Priyadarshini

The members of the club-sponsored Interact club raised money for End-Polio campaign through a sale of greeting cards which they created. The amount raised was contributed to the Polio Fund of TRF.



D 3141

RC Bombay North

A programme on women's safety and empowerment was held at Dr BMN College of Home Science. The one-day event saw participation of 280 career women. Club President Dr Ashok Ajmera along with his spouse Pragati was present at the seminar. The event was held in partnership with RC Bombay East.



D 3141

RC Mulund Hills

A two-day workshop on cinema appreciation attracted around 60 participants. Film historian and author Amrit Gangar conducted the workshop. The different aspects of filmmaking were explained during the sessions. It was chaired by Past President S K Sengupta.

Rotary cyclothon unites Padubidri

Team Rotary News

With an aim to create awareness on three topical issues, namely drug abuse awareness, road safety and water conservation, RC Padubidri, D 3182, organised a cyclothon which was flagged off by Priyanka Mary Francis, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Udupi district.

The bike rally started from Kapu Vidyaniketan College in the early hours with the participation of a host of local VIPs and celebrities, including Kapu legislator Vinay Kumar Sorake, ACP Rishikesh Sonavale and film and TV artistes.

Over 450 cyclists from Udupi Cycling Club, Mulki Mantra Surfa Club, Rotarians along with their family members, school and college students made the cyclothon a successful project.

The club distributed 400 t-shirts and caps as compliments and spent ₹3 lakh to organise the cyclothon.

Ensuring public safety

Two traffic barricades were donated to the police station during the celebrations of Road Safety Week. The structures will help the police to regulate movement of the vehicles in the busy junction.

Moreover, the club sponsored a 'curve road' safety mirror to a village panchayat which was installed at the accident zone of Bengre-crossing in Padubidri. The donation further boosted the public image of Rotary in the town. ■





D 3160

RC Jammalamadugu

To mark Police Amara Veerula Samsarana Dinoshavam (Oct 21), the club took out a rally led by its President Y Chandrasekhar Reddy who was joined by police officers, high school students and NCC teams.



D 3160

RC Bidar New Century

A cancer awareness event was held at the Karnataka College in which a patient from Pune explained on the need for early detection to make it curable. About 300 students benefitted from the programme.



D 3160

RC Bidar Fort

Nation Builder Awards were given to ten teachers in an event presided over by DCP Mahadev and Bidar MP Khoba. Club President Rajinder Agarwal, along with other Rotarians, were also present on the occasion.





D 3170

RC Sangli

A one-day workshop on menstrual hygiene was organised by District Secretary for Literacy and WinS Kishor Lulla which was attended 750 girls, 400 teachers and 200 parents attended. Eminent faculties gave lectures on the subject.



D 3181

RC Mangalore Central

Rotarians donated clothes worth ₹15,000 to over 100 needy children which brought smile in their faces and further elevated Rotary's public image in the society.



D 3182

RC Narasimharajapura

A water filter was donated to two government schools to facilitate children access safe drinking water.

D 3182

RC Padubidri

Nearly 200 students took part in the science exhibition for school students at Saraswathi Mandir High School in Uchila. A number of competitions were held to test their science knowledge.



D 3182

RC Kadur

An awareness rally was taken out by school students to create awareness about polio. Rotarians distributed pamphlets to the public. Club President K H Srinivas, Polio Project Chairman Shivanadaiah and others took part in the event.



D 3202

RC Tirupur Knit City

Medical insurance policies were provided to differently-abled persons at Sai Kirupa School in Tirupur. All the 200 inmates were given free lunch. The total project cost is ₹7,500.





D 3202

RC Tirupur South

A polio vaccination camp at the Rotary Hall was organised by the club in which 1,000 food packets were given to volunteers who reached out to 89 vaccination centres in the city.



D 3202

RC Tirupur Thirumuruganpoondi

A talk on hygiene and healthy habits was given by Rtn Dr Sundaram to students of Rakkiyalalayam High School. The students were urged to know their blood group for help during emergency. Over 300 students were issued blood group report by the doctor.



D 3202

RC Dharapuram

Two Kinderact clubs were chartered at Sakthi Matric School and Priyadharshan Primary School in the town. DG P M Sivashankaran was the chief guest and the project cost was ₹7,000.

D 3202

RC Udumalpet Tejas

A disaster management and environmental awareness camp was organised at Chinnar forest range, Anamalai Tiger Reserve, for NSS students from SKP School. Seventy-five students were guided through the reserve habitat by forest officers.



D 3212

RC Dhalavapuram

New clothes were given to children in an orphanage at South Venganallur. The Rotarians were thanked profusely by the inmates for their kind gesture.



D 3212

RC Golden Kadayanallur

A career guidance programme was held for Class 12 students with valuable tips on how to face the public exams. DGN Sheik Saleem was the chief guest and over 1,400 students from nine schools took part in the workshop.





D 3212

RC Tinnevely

A heart check-up camp was held for 100 inmates of Bishop Sargent Orphanage for the mentally-challenged and aged people in which ECG and Echo were done, in partnership with Narayana Heart Centre. The club also organised a career guidance programme for 750 students of corporation schools with the help of subject trainers.



D 3232

RC Madras

A State-level yoga competition was held at Gummidipoondi in which students from various districts took part. Over 30 boys from the club's Boys Town performed *asanas* at the event. The boys joined hands with Nalamdana, an NGO, to stage a rally creating awareness on sanitation and hygiene. With drums and street plays they entertained the villagers.



D 3240

RC Katwa

A polio immunisation camp was organised by the club with good response from the community.

D 3250

RC Samastipur

A pre-heart operation check-up camp was held at the IMA Bhawan in Kashipur. A total of 18 children were selected for the next level of check-up in Patna. District Board Chairman Premlata was the chief guest and IMA Vice President Dr A K Sahu was the guest of honour.



D 3261

RC Jabalpur South

A photography contest titled *Chitrangali* was organised in memory of photo journalist late Mahendra Choudhary in which over 400 entries were displayed under a specific subject. A 4-member jury selected the first three prizes with cash awards of ₹20,000, ₹10,000 and ₹5,000, besides 10 consolation prizes of ₹1,000 each.



D 3291

RC Kasba

A TB awareness programme was held, in association of the Interact club of Kasba Modern School for girls, in which doctors of West Bengal TB Institution spoke on best hygiene practices. The programme benefitted over 100 students.





D 3291

RC Nowda Murshidabad

All the 26 blocks in the district took part in a health awareness programme in which doctors from reputed hospitals in Kolkata and medical colleges spoke on issues like water and airborne diseases, cancer and thalassemia. The talks sensitised the participants on the need to follow a healthy lifestyle in this backward region.



D 3291

RC Tollygunge

A health camp was held, in partnership with Rabindranath Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences, at Asutosh College in Kolkata. The medical camp also created awareness on breast cancer, besides screening the eyes of college students.



D 3291

RC Kabitirtha Calcutta

Blankets were distributed to 50 needy people on the streets near Kalighat temple.

Elders can do their bit for government schools

Suresha Balachandran

More often than not we hear about community-run schools, both in urban and rural areas, that lack the right teaching methodologies. But it is where parents of low-income groups send their wards for education. Teeming with problems related to infrastructure and skilled teachers, these schools are crying for attention

and is it not the duty of the larger society to revitalise such institutions in our neighbourhoods?

While we hear or read about senior citizens distributing notebooks, uniforms and shoes to students, our son or daughter sponsoring children at government schools or clubs and organisations donating furniture and books, thus make invaluable offerings in

streamlining these institutions, we can do much better and a lot more to make students a morally strong citizens.

The elders who had retired from professional life and now basking in leisure can intervene directly to improve education in government schools where teaching and learning methods are in shambles. The senior citizens can fully make use of their





Children in government schools need guidance.

vast experience in personal life and career to guide the schoolchildren to a bright future.

As a first step, they can visit alone or with a group to government schools in their locality or any

faraway school of choice on special occasions like Republic Day, Teachers Day and Children's Day to distribute sweets and socialise with the students.

The elders can hold a brief conversation with the school head, teaching and other staff, gather information on the ways in which they can contribute to the students' education. During such interactions, one should be careful to discourage solicitations for help or support for activities other than academic pursuits as we would then be encroaching upon the administrative domain of the local government.

Mentoring sessions

Having acquainted with school faculty and students, now it's time to start your mentoring sessions after getting permission from the school head. One can start the sessions in a gradual manner starting from once-a-week class in which we can share moral stories, the sacrifices of our national leaders, and then move on to science experiments, basic English, fun math, and indoor games like chess, carrom too in the course of the engagement.

The crux of the matter is how passionately one involves in the mentoring process and kindle interest in the young mind to listen

to the elders' words of experience. We can be creative by encouraging plays, debate, essay writing or chess competition during these special classes and offer small gifts to all the participants as token of appreciation.

The elders can also involve their friends and family members in their classroom activity with students of community schools.

Fun time with children

Consider every visit to government schools a fun-filled endeavour and as a duty towards the students with less exposure to quality education. Such an attitude will imbue service-orientation among the elders as invoked by Lord Krishna in Bhagavad Gita: "सर्वं भूत दय सर्वं भूत हित".

The elders will no doubt face hurdles on each trip to the school, especially from their children and spouse reminding them of their health or medical condition which will aggravate because of this (mis) adventure.

Hence, it would be prudent to be within one's limits while taking classes for the students of government schools. Just kill boredom by enjoying the newly discovered passion. They have to keep in mind that they are acting as a catalyst to create a generation of not only educated citizens but also knowledgeable and cultured individuals.

The elders will feel energised being with the schoolchildren who make them forget all their worries, be it physical, mental or emotional. These visits to educate students of government schools will make the senior citizens healthy and relaxed. In this way by visiting government schools in their locality, the elders can take a lead in building a progressive nation.

(The writer is past president of RC Bangalore Spandana, D 3190)



Inspiration AROUND EVERY CORNER

The ring that changed everything

Serving others is pretty much reflexive for Rotarians, whether it's spreading hope or orchestrating critical connections. When the husband of Lesley Barmania, a Rotarian from Canada, became seriously ill in Korea just after they attended the 2016 convention, fellow Rotarians put her in touch with In-Seok Kim, a Rotarian from Busan, who launched an emergency blood drive for her husband's rare type. The connection proved to be lifesaving.

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