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Rotary

NEWS PLUS

**A drive for women's
empowerment**



All Women's Car Rally spreads Rotary messages

V Muthukumaran

It was an exciting and unforgettable journey from Pune to Panvel for all the 72 women participants from 30 different clubs in D 3131. The All-Women's Car Rally winded through four States, eight Rotary Districts traversing 2,000 km from September 26–30.

"This was an amazing journey from the point of its conception,

planning, execution and finally celebration. Ever since I floated this concept DG Shailesh (Palekar) supported it and took up the idea with the district. Within no time, we were flooded with enquires and finally we had to close down our registrations to 72 members. It required taking care of logistics at every level," says First Lady Dr Shobhana Palekar, D 3131.

The car rally focused on woman's empowerment along with other issues such as vaccination for girls, Save the Girl Child campaign and organ donation.

DG Shailesh Palekar and PDG Sudhir Rashingkar flagged off the rally from Agha Khan Palace, Pune. The rallyists were welcomed with bouquets, garlands and grand music





The participants at the All-Women's Car Rally organised by D 3131.

Above: PDG Subodh Joshi and PRIP Kalyan Banerjee along with women rallyists.



PRID Manoj Desai flagging off the rally along with DG Pinky Patel.

everywhere. Even in the scorching heat, they were received on the highways and escorted by vehicles spreading out the messages to the locals.

They were served delicious food from South Indian cuisines to *dal bhat*. As the motorists weaved through serpentine roads from Pune to Bhusaval, Chopda, Dhamnod, Ratlam, Chittodgarh, Udaipur, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and finally Vapi, the outpouring of support from Rotarians made the journey an enjoyable one for the participants.

DGs Gustad Anklesaria (D 3040) and Pinky Patel (D 3060) received the motorists with affection and extended their hospitality. Besides, First Ladies Rashmi Sharma in Bhusaval and Bindu Sogani in Udaipur were there to greet the women drivers. The rallyists exchanged Rotary ideas and thoughts, and discussed projects with enthusiasm without being fatigued. “We were received by PRIP Kalyanda and Binotaji in Vapi and the humility of the couple touched us,” recalls Dr Shobhana. During the whirlwind visit to the Rotary Museum, Rotary

School and Rotary Hospital, “we were exposed to the vastness and the expanse of Rotary which we had never experienced before.”

The seven-member support team led by PDG Subodh Joshi, D 3131 trainer, stretched their limbs from planning to execution to make the Rotary Car Rally a great success. Also, the host club RC Pen Orion and convener AG Sneha Subodh Joshi took care of the minute details involved in logistics which made the car rally a memorable one for all the participants. ■

A Rotary Golu

Team Rotary News



Usha Ajith Prasad along with her family.

The past president of RC Tambaram Central, D 3231, Usha Ajith Prasad, on the occasion of Navratri, displayed the projects undertaken by her club as a theme for her golu, a festive arrangement of dolls.

Instead of depicting Hindu mythological themes she displayed various projects undertaken by her club and the six focus areas of Rotary. The golu had models of projects from End Polio to blood donation camps and road safety. Rotarians from D 3231 and D 3232 appreciated her efforts. ■

Adivasi schools get Rotary bounty

Team Rotary News



DG Shashi Sharma laying the foundation for Adivasi hostel at Ganjad.

DG Shashi Sharma did the *bhoomi* pooja for the hostel at Ganjad located 150 km north of Mumbai. This project, which will benefit 700 boys and girls of the village, will be completed in four phases at a cost of ₹7 crore.

In their quest to bring smile on the faces of Adivasi children, RC Bombay Airport, D 3141, has taken up the construction of hostel and other infrastructure at a tribal school (Ashramshala) in Ganjad village of Palghar district of Maharashtra. They have already set up hostels for boys and girls with a capacity to accommodate 300 persons at an Adivasi school in Maswan village in the same district. The hostels are equipped with a well-furnished kitchen, toilets with adequate water facilities, and a school building with e-learning systems in place.

DG Shashi Sharma did the *bhoomi* pooja for the hostel at Ganjad located 150 km north of Mumbai. This project, which will benefit 700 boys and girls of the village, will be completed in four phases at a cost of ₹7 crore.

“At present the girls are housed in a tin roof shed which leaks during the rains. But this ramshackle shed also doubles up as classroom and also turns into a dining area. At night, the girls sleep on the floor in the shed and they have no place to store their belongings and clothes,” says Rtn Shashank Malviya, Director of Public Image, RC Bombay Airport. ■

Moradabad Rotarians promote handwash and hygiene

Team Rotary News



Children holding handwash solution along with Rotarians.

District Governor Deepak Jain inaugurated a Happy School at Kanya Daang, a primary school in which a WinS project was completed by RC Moradabad Achievers, D 3100. It was preceded by a WinS survey at the school. The club organised Handwash Day programmes at five educational institutions in the city.

Ration supply and monetary help were provided to a woman suffering from cancer who had lost her son, the only earning member of her family. "Our club is proactive in conducting meetings, projects, social activities and district events," says Abhinav Agarwal, Club President. A special Deepavali musical was organised with the participation of Rotarians and their families. The club members also actively participated in cleaning the premises of the local Kali Mata temple. ■



Students give a demo of new handwash station.

Celebrating World Thrift Day

Jaishree



Schoolchildren with their piggy banks on World Thrift Day.

October 31 is observed as World Thrift Day — a day devoted to the promotion of savings all over the world. The Day was first launched in 1924 during the first Thrift Congress held in Milan, Italy. Since then the concept was adopted by the banks of the US and Spain to promote better living

standards for the people. It also aimed to promote the value of bank savings and establish people's confidence in banks.

The Rotarians of Rotary Club of Kovilpatti, D 3212, observed the World Thrift Day at a municipal school in the town. They distributed piggy banks to 100 students and taught them the importance of

savings. The Rotarians encouraged the children to drop ₹1 everyday into their piggy bank and even gave the first contribution to their savings.

“Encouraging children to save at a very young age teaches them frugality and sensitises them about the value of money,” said the Club President Babu. ■

Enhancing Rotary's public image

Kiran Zehra



Rotarians holding posters during an anti-plastic awareness drive.



Senior citizens being honoured by the club.

From celebrating Independence Day with underprivileged children to catering to local needs Rotary Club of Faridkot, D 3090, is working to enhance Rotary's public image in the region. Recently the club organised a bone density camp at Dr Bimal Garg Multi-Specialty Hospital. At the camp, 130 patients were screened and those who required further medical treatment were referred to the hospital.

The club members celebrated Senior Citizens' Day by honouring five senior citizens who contributed towards the development of the city. Emphasising the need to stop using plastic bags, the Rotarians conducted an awareness drive. ■

D 3030

RC Chopda

A singing competition was held for students under the theme of patriotism to mark Independence Day with social worker Prabhaben Gujarathi as the chief guest. Prizes were distributed by Dr Vikas Hartalkar, AG Prasanna Gujarathi, Club President Poonam Gujarathi and Secretary Anil Agrawal.



D 3070

RC Ludhiana Greater

Teachers were honoured at a school for special children in Shimlapuri. The club presented a music system and cutlerys such as plates, tumblers and spoons to the school. The Rotarians also gave monthly provision for the school.



D 3070

RC Ludhiana Central

Annapurna Day was observed by providing food to over 300 schoolchildren at Shri Balaji Prem Ashram in Ludhiana.





D 3080

RC Paonta Sahib

On being alerted that oil was leaking on the road from an oil tanker, a team of Rotarians led by Club President Himanshu Bhatia rushed to the spot where 2–3 mishaps had already taken place. They warned the passersby and spread green leaves to cover the oil spread and avoid skidding of vehicles.



D 3100

RC Moradabad Midtown

Over 60 writing chairs were given to students of Prathmic Vidyalaya which caters to children from lower strata of society coming from nearby villages. The students were happy and assured that they would keep it in good shape.



D 3131

RC Nigdi-Pune

A handwash station was installed at Shri Bhairavnath School in Bhosari village near Pune to mark International Handwashing Day. The students were all smiles while demonstrating the usage of the hygiene station in the presence of Rotarians.

D 3142

RC Satellite City Navi Mumbai

The club joined hands with service partners to hold a blood donation camp with the support of Mahatma Gandhi Blood Bank, Thane. Over 65 units of blood was collected for treating Thalassaemic patients. Besides, it is conducting eye camps twice a week for the visually-challenged students.



D 3160

RC Guntakal

A two-day teacher training programme was held in which the participants were taught the latest methodologies in education. As part of the Doctor's Day Celebrations, a blood donation camp was organised. Free medicines were given to kidney patients.



D 3182

RC Byndoor

A waste management system was installed at the Uppunda market yard which included a waste disposal machine. This global grant project costing ₹31.7 lakh was funded by RC Chester, D 7450, USA, and other clubs. DG Abhinandan Shetty and DRFC S Sadananda Chatra were present.





D 3212

RC Sivakasi Sparkler

A mega eye camp was held in association with the Aravind Eye Hospital at Vembakkottai. Over 140 beneficiaries were screened for various eye disorders. Forty-eight of them were identified for cataract operation. The surgery was done in Tirunelveli after which the patients were sent home safely.



D 3231

RC Katpadi

An awareness event was held on Mother's Milk Day at a primary health centre in Pallikuppam village. A medical officer delivered a lecture and a competition was held for school students. More than 25 nutrition bags containing healthmix, fruits and towels were given to the beneficiaries. Over 1,500 cotton bags were given at an anti-plastic drive at Vallimalai Murugan temple.



D 3250

RC Ranchi Midtown

A tree plantation drive was held in partnership with a local NGO in which Club President Sunita Wadhwa, Secretary Bhupinder Singh and other Rotarians took part to usher in a green and clean environment. The project enhanced the public image of Rotary.

Compiled by V Muthukumaran

Healthy environment a priority for Jammu Rotarians

Kiran Zehra



Jammu Rotarians join hands with Rotaractors to create awareness on green environment.

Rotary club of Jammu Midtown, D 3070, distributed plant saplings as *prasad* for people visiting the Shiv temple at Trikuta

Nagar. The temple officials have undertaken the task of taking care of the plants planted inside the temple premises. Members of the

club also distributed food kits to the poor.

Rotaract Club of Jammu Midtown, under the guidance of Rtn Sushma Gupta, organised a tree plantation drive in memory of the martyrs of the Kargil War. They planted 200 trees and aim to plant 1,500 more within this year.

The club is also working with the Department of Environment and Pollution Control, Jammu and Kashmir, to combat pollution by planting saplings and taking care of existing trees and creating awareness among general public through its project *Tree Talk*. Through this project, the club members plan regular walks with the public, sensitising them about the use of each plant and trees in the region. ■



A plantation drive in progress.

RC Dombivli East ranks 25th in Membership Growth

Vishram Paranjape



New members of the club at the induction ceremony.

In what could be called the proudest moment in the history of RC Dombivli East, D 3142, the club has secured the 25th place globally in overall club membership growth. This includes 11 per cent growth

in woman membership. Vishram Paranjape, the club's Membership Chair said, "We became the No 1 district in the Rotary world among 546 districts for adding the highest number of new Rotary

clubs. Our district has achieved 18.7 per cent net growth, ranking No 1 in South Asia in the net percentage of membership growth." This includes 25 new classifications and an increase in young

members in the age group of 30 to 50.

Rotary ki Pathshala, a special initiative, was undertaken by Club Advisor Dr Madhav Baitule and Rtn Pritpal Singh Bhatia to enhance the efforts to increase membership. District Trainer PDG Ulhas Kolhatkar assisted them in conducting the orientation programme for all new club officers in the district at the Rotary Bhavan in Dombivli.

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The writer is Vice President and Membership Chairman (2017-18)

A bouquet of projects from Rotaractors

V Muthukumaran

A challenging target of holding 30 projects at the beginning of this Rotary year ended up in a grand achievement for the Rotaractors of D 3012. The district with a total of 1,400 Rotaractors across 45 Rotaract clubs surpassed its target by holding 336 sessions on 73 projects,” says DRR Manan Singla.

Project Chair Shubham Singhania coordinated with the clubs for daily updates as the

outreach activities covered a broad range of issues from child labour awareness, skill development and water bowl installations to tree plantation, anti-body-shaming, LGBT campaign and stress management. The multifarious projects were spread across the NCR region of Delhi and boosted the morale of Rotaractors in the district. “Though it is difficult to quantify the beneficiaries, our projects would have touched at least 100,000 people across age groups,” says Singla.

Marathon, a huge success

With the support of Delhi University students, the district organised a ‘Run for Fitness’ marathon which saw a participation of 3,000 runners from all walks of life. DG Subhash Jain, DGE Deepak Gupta and DGN Alok Gupta were also present on the occasion.

To mark the 113th Rotary year, the district will install 113 sanitary napkin vending machines in government schools and colleges in the NCR. “Corporates and sponsors

Rotaractors of D3012 during a sightseeing tour.



from Rotary clubs will fund the vending machines,” says Singla.

In another initiative ‘Unite for Better Vision’, the Rotaractors collected 9,000 sparingly-used spectacles which will be distributed to needy patients at the eye camps organised by Rotary clubs in the district.

On Independence Day, a novel fellowship meet called *Jashn-e-Azadi* was held at Silverline Prestige School which offered Rotaractors an opportunity to interact with one another and exchange notes. A number of fun-filled activities such as Treasure Hunt, group dance, kite flying and music were organised. A two-day trip to Udaipur added to the fun.

Summing up the great start to the Rotary year for the Rotaractors, Singhanian says, “It was a pleasure working with all the clubs of the



DRR Manan Singla with PRID Y P Das.





The Run for Fitness was a huge success with the good turnout.



RIPN Sushil Gupta and Vinita along with Rotaractors.

district. Only with the wholehearted support from our DRR and the Rotaractors, we are able to surpass targets in Project 3012 as well as the marathon.”

Kerala flood relief

As an expression of solidarity with Keralites hit by massive floods, the Rotaractors collected two metric tonnes of relief material consisting of food items, clothes and toiletries which were sent to the Kerala House in Delhi for dispatch to the respective centres in Kerala. “Out of ₹75,0000 in cash, we have given ₹50,000 to our DG and the balance was sent to various Rotary clubs in Kerala. On his part, the DG is mobilising donations from Rotary clubs for onward dispatch,” adds Singla. ■

Mid-sea fellowship thrills Rotarians

Team Rotary News

Doing fellowship in style with panache has been the forte of RC Madras Chenna Patna, D 3232, and in keeping with its trait, the club organised a mid-sea fellowship off Chennai coast with around 70 Rotarians, Anns and Annets enjoying a voyage in Bay of Bengal.

All the Rotarians wore red attire in tune with the colour of the vessel *Shandavina* which departed from Chennai Port. The idea of such an experience was mooted by the club's

Fellowship Chairman Satyanarayanan and it was lapped up by many within few minutes. In a surprise package, a

mid-sea induction of M Raja Marthandan was done by Membership Council Deputy Chair N S Saravanan.

After a nervous start, the Rotarians settled down on the deck with a soothing music offering light entertainment. It was time for bonding and social interaction for Rotarians and their family members on board with the sunset providing a perfect foil to the exuberant mood. At the end of the voyage, the participants went gung-ho over this maiden event and urged for more such outings in the sea.

In the past, the club members had scaled a mountain (Tirumala fellowship), went to an archipelago (Bali), played dice and casino gaming, danced with film actors, and had an adventurous treasure hunt during the all-women's car rally. ■



A new member being inducted on board the ship.



Rotarians sporting red attire in tune with the vessel's colour.

Let us open up more space for transgenders

Anubha Jain



Following the initiative of Rajasthan Transgender Welfare Board, the Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) had decided last year to take up skill training for transgenders.

But the programme got delayed because of problems ranging from funds to identity cards for transgenders. Pushpa, Founder-chairperson of NGO Nai-Bhor and human rights activist, demanded that either the government give loan for setting up the skill training centre or provide infrastructure





Above: Social activist Pushpa (right) with Ganga Kumari.

Left: Transgenders at a Mahotsav.

Bottom: Activist Pushpa (extreme left) during a rally.



for 2–3 hours daily. She also said that employment to trained transgenders is also a big problem due to low awareness in society about the community.

Two years ago, the Transgender Welfare Board was formed in Rajasthan with Pushpa as one of the Board members. Suman Sharma, Chairperson, Rajasthan State Commission for Women, said transgenders can now file FIR in police stations unlike in the past when there was no separate column for them earlier to file cases. A four-member Transgender Commissionerate will be formed in association with Rajasthan State Women Commission to settle their legal and other issues.

Winds of change

It is in this context, following a two-year battle in the High Court, 24-year-old Ganga Kumari became the

first transgender to be inducted into Rajasthan Police in November 2017. The court directed the police department to appoint Ganga as constable, after officials denied her the post due to her gender and lack of clarity of rules. However, today Ganga Kumari is working as a constable and has won nine medals so far for her services, but despite court orders she is registered as a female instead of a transgender in the records.

There is a need for people's broad-minded approach to accept transgenders as part of the society with open arms. Government as a mediator should play a vital role by extending public platforms to create awareness campaign on transgenders to create an inclusive society.

The writer is a member of RC Jaipur

A Rotaract club raring to go with new leader

Team Rotary News



A new leadership takes over at the Rotaract Club of SDM PG Centre.

An installation ceremony was held at the Rotaract Club of SDM PG Centre for Management Studies and Research in Mangaluru with a new set of office-bearers keen to carry forward some of the popular activities of the club.

Roto Quiz and beach cleaning are the two major events of the Rotaract club. RC Mangaluru President Dr M Vasanth Pai was the installation officer. Faculty

coordinator Prakash HS administered the oath to the new office-bearers with Shreya Shetty taking charge as the Rotaract club president.

Addressing the Rotaractors, Pai said Rotary is a platform for all successful men. He dwelt on the achievements of Rotary, notably the anti-polio campaign. The Rotary club, along with the IQAC (Internal Quality Assessment Council) of the college, distributed fruit-bearing

saplings to the students under the green initiative of the college.

Earlier, chief guest U Rajinikanth, Chief, Learning and Development, Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd, urged the students to enjoy whatever task, work or duty they have been assigned to do irrespective of the situation. "Only such an approach will make our life colourful and successful," he said. ■

Marathi books on Rotary

Team Rotary News



PRIP Kalyan Banerjee releasing the RI volume *A century of Service – The Story of Rotary International* in Marathi. Also seen are (from L) publisher Mohit Barve, PDG Abhay Gadgil, Rtn Rajiv Barve, PDG Deepak Shikarpur, DG Dr Shailesh Palekar and translator PDG Sudhir Rashingkar.

PDG Dr Sudhir Rashingkar, D 3131, has translated into Marathi, two books — *A century of Service - The story of Rotary International* and *Doing Good in the World* — originally written in English by Dr David Forward. RI had given special permission to Rashingkar for the translation.

PRIP Kalyan Banerjee released the Marathi version of RI's centennial volume at an event in Pune, while the TRF book release was done by RIPN Sushil Gupta. Comprising 23 chapters, the RI volume, priced at ₹450, traces the evolution of the concept of Rotary, the pioneering role of its Founder Paul Harris and the growth of this

movement across the world in the last 100 years. The five annexures to this book give year-wise achievements of Rotary and related information.

With 14 chapters, the TRF centennial book, priced at ₹300, takes the readers back to the days when the Foundation was started by Arch Klumph and its evolution has a major non-profit endowment fund in the world, earning kudos for being the “most transparent and dedicated fund.” The four annexures give detailed information on TRF.

For Rotarians, the two books are available at concessional rates of ₹300 (RI volume) and ₹200. The two books were published by Dilipraj Prakashan, Pune, being run by a family of Rotarians.

Author Dr Rashingkar has been bringing out Rotary-related literature in Marathi consistently for over three decades. He has to his credit over 20 Rotary-related books and booklets which include *Frank Talk* series of Past RI President Frank Devlyn's five books. ■



RIPN Sushil Gupta releasing the TRF volume *Doing Good in the World* in Marathi. Also seen are (from L) publisher Rtn Rajiv Barve, IPDG Prashant Deshmukh, Rtns Madhumita Barve and Mukund Kamalakar.

Spotlight on women's rights at Jaipur seminar

Team Rotary News



Rajasthan State Commission for Women Chairperson Suman Sharma addressing the meet.

A brainstorming session on Women's Equality and Rights organised by RC Jaipur, D 3054, gave a platform to exchange progressive views on the subject. The recent SC ruling on women's entry at Sabarimala temple in Kerala; adultery verdict; suitable ways to approach women's rights at grassroots level; and atrocities against women were some of the issues taken up for discussion.

Rajasthan State Commission for Women Chairperson Suman Sharma called for creating awareness in women on Indian laws and their legal rights. "Women can take

decisions but they are not aware of the legal process such as lodging an FIR or helpline number," she said. They should come forward with courage and develop inner strength for confronting people with wrong intentions.

Rajasthan State Commission for Minorities Chairman Jasbir Singh said, "people are blindly following Western lifestyle nowadays. They have forgotten the culture and tradition of India." People should try to be rooted with the Indian ethos, he said. Education which is the source of true empowerment should be used to bring change in the society, he opined.

DG Capt Neeraj Sogani said for the overall development of women their "mental block should be removed." Suppression of women by the society is the main cause owing to which they were lagging behind in many sectors of life, he said.

In her closing remarks, Rotary's Women Empowerment Committee Chair Anubha Jain said women have to take the weapons of education and economic independence to liberate themselves. Men and women should equally stand against injustice and inequality for a better tomorrow, she said. ■