

Rotaract NEWS





SHARING HOPE WITH THE WORLD

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

#Rotary24





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Picture: Rasheeda Bhagat

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RI Director **Raju Subramanian**

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Zone 4, 5, 6 & 7**

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From RI South Asia

Managing club member data

A Rotaract club can report the following club officers with Rotary International:

- Rotaract club president
- Rotaract club secretary
- Rotaract club Treasurer
- Rotaract club Membership Chair
- Rotaract club Public Image Chair
- Rotaract club Service Projects Chair and
- Rotaract club Foundation Chair.

Any of the above-mentioned club officer reported with Rotary International can manage club members using their *My Rotary* account.

For more information refer *How to manage club members in My Rotary* in your *My Rotary* account.

Source: RI South Asia Office

The **ROTARY ACTION PLAN**



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Rotary-Rotaract relationship is still evolving: **RI President**

Rasheeda Bhagat

At a hall filled with enthusiastic Rotaractors and Interactors in Colombo, RI District 3220, RI President Gordon McNally and RI director Raju Subramanian interacted with the youngsters, answering their questions, clearing their doubts, recognising the projects they do and encouraging them to grow the organisation.

“What is widely known is that I joined Rotary through RC South Queensferry in 1984, but I was also a Rotaractor and my personal Rotaract journey began three years earlier in a Rotaract club, and being a Rotaractor gave me the opportunity to join Rotary. And today, I stand before you as the president of RI. Someone once asked me that when I was inducted as a member of my club was it your ambition

to become RI president? And I had to confess that I didn’t even know at that time that there was a president of RI!”

But, he added, “there might well be an RI president in this very room and I’d like to think one day one of you will become the leader of our organisation. This is indeed an opportunity in this amazing Rotary family with 1.4 million people in over 200 countries, all with a similar mindset

RI President Gordon McNally interacting with DIR Amir Akram as (from L) Rtr Amjad Yoosuf, RI Director Raju Subramanian and RID 3220 DG Jerome K Rajendram look on.



to do good in the world and make it a better place.”

His own personal goal, the RI president added, was to make the world a better place for his own grandchildren and all the children of the world, through the wonderful opportunity Rotary had given him.

But being Rotaractors also gave them personal opportunities to grow as leaders, develop skills and “recognise that we are very different people and to celebrate that.” A big fan of rugby, which he used to play as a young man, he always made a comparison between rugby and Rotary. Various players in a strong rugby team brought very different skills to the table — some could run fast, some



Don't chase awards

At the Colombo meet, District Interact Representative (DIR) Amir Akram asked RI President Gordon McNally on how RI would recognise on the global stage the good work they did, giving example of one of their projects. Recently the Kandy National Hospital in Sri Lanka needed blood and had contacted him for his help. “We collected 185 blood bags through an Interact club at a school and passed them on to the hospital. Later I got a letter from the National Hospital thanking Interactors and saying that but for the blood bags they had given so many people would have lost their lives.”

President McNally said, “Rotary recognises and promotes your work and we regularly see Rotaractors involved in district conference, zone institutes and conventions.”

RID Raju Subramanian added: “One advice I'd like to give Rotaractors and Interactors is that don't run after awards; let the awards run after you. If you do good work, awards will run

after you. I had never got an RI presidential citation. The then RI President John Kenny wanted me to create a new club, but I closed down three because I didn't think they deserved to remain in Rotary. But did that deter me? No. I am sitting here today as the RI director. So what does that piece of paper mean? It means nothing, so let's not run after awards.”

He also advised the young assembly: “Please learn to work together; that is one thing that is hampering our organisation today. We need to work together, we need to show a united face to the world. Differences may be there, but they must be settled without involving our egos. And once we present a united picture, focus on what we do, and share our stories, I am sure that the movement will grow and you will automatically get recognised.”

Congratulating them “for the fantastic work you do in Sri Lanka in areas such as cervical cancer, schools in Jaffna, etc,” he urged them to “sell you stories. Once such stories touch a person's heart he/she will surely join our organisation.”

were strong and had the ability to hold on to the ball, others could kick the ball long distances very accurately. “But only when these different talents in the team were combined, the team could go on to do great things.”

The same holds good in Rotary; when Rotarians from different countries brought their unique and individual abilities to any work or goal, “together they can do great things. That is why we need not only senior Rotarians but also young people like

Rotaractors and Interactors because you bring so much ability and energy into the organisation.” According to the official website *Rotaract in RID 3220*, the district has over 90 Rotaract clubs with more than 5,000 Rotaractors.

McNally said that as he went across the world — he had already travelled to over 30 countries in 18

months—“many people ask me that you fly from country to country, continent to continent, how come you don’t get tired? And I simply tell them that when I arrive anywhere and meet members of the Rotary family like yourselves, and see the energy of the audience, I get energy from them.”

Touching upon his presidential theme of ‘Creating hope in the world,’ the RI president said “I strongly believe this is the year we need hope in the world more than ever before. We are a very disunited world at present but a united organisation like Rotary, which of course includes all of you, can bring so much hope in the world in so many ways.” During his recent travel, he had met so many people who had been given hope by Rotary in different ways.

Recently in Ahmedabad, he had met Satish, who was confined to his wheelchair for most of his adult life; “I met him at a limb-fitting camp organised by Rotary. He came to the camp in his wheelchair, had his limb fitted and could return to

his wife and family and provide for them, because of the hope Rotary was able to give him.”

In Pakistan, on World Polio Day he had met Ahmed, a child, and administered to him two drops of polio vaccine. “When I close my eyes, I see those two drops of polio vaccine falling into Ahmed’s mouth, but more important than that, the look of gratitude on his mother’s face. She knew that, thanks to Rotary, Rotaract and Interact, Ahmed would not suffer from a crippling disease such as polio. I know you are also creating hope for the people of your country, and I thank you for that.”

Later, in an interactive session where RID 3220 DRR Sathma Jayasinghe and District Interact Representative Amir Akram quizzed the two senior RI leaders on topics such as the relationship between Rotary, Rotaract and Interact, the process of sanctioning global grants and Rotary’s adaptation and acceptance of the latest technological tools, President McNally said the “relationship between Rotary and



From L: District Interact Committee Chair Manjula S Ratnasekera, RID Subramanian, DIR Akram and DG Rajendram.





President McInally, RID Subramanian, DG Rajendiram, DRR Sathma Jayasinghe and DIR Amir Akram with Rotaractors and Interactors.

Rotaract, after the CoL decision to make Rotaract a part of Rotary was taken, was still evolving but we can be complementary to each other. We all have different talents and Rotaract in particular has a different set of talent and we have to embrace that talent and ensure it can be utilised well to do service. We continue to evolve our relationship, and it will take a year or two before we know where we stand exactly.”

RID Raju Subramanian added that both Rotarians and Rotaractors could learn from one another. “It’s a mutual learning process. Let’s not assume that either of us knows everything. We need to assess each other and work together to make a huge impact on the world we live in. This synergy will create magic, but there must be acceptability on both sides that ours is a life-long partnership.”

**When I plant something,
I want to make sure that
plant develops strong roots
and becomes established.
And that’s what we need to
do with our new members.**

**RI President
Gordon McInally**

Responding to a question from DRR Sathma on adoption of new technology and accepting new challenges and technological tools, President McInally gave the example of the ice lolly in Scotland called zoom. “That was the only zoom we had known till Covid came and told us about the online platform called zoom. I was amazed at how quickly Rotarians adapted to different digital platforms and were soon holding meetings and implementing projects with active participation in online meetings.”

He gave the example of a recently formed Rotary club in Scotland called the Passport Club; “many of its members are from clubs that did not survive Covid, but others are new members. They may be a little older than the



DIR Akram adorns President McInally's coat with a lapel pin as DRR Sathma looks on.

average age in this room (of Rotaractors and Interactors). My wife Heather is a member of this club and is about to become the club president, (by the way she has been president three times, I have been club president only once!) and when some members first said we'll connect through WhatsApp, there was protest from many members saying 'Oh no, we don't do WhatsApp'. Anyway, the group was

Don't run after awards; let the awards run after you. If you do good work, awards will run after you.

**RI Director
Raju Subramanian**

started and within a short time it was buzzing and the members are speaking to one another over it... they've found it's a wonderful way of connecting!"

Interjecting RID Subramanian told DRR Sathma: "I think that question should have been put by President Gordon to you and not vice versa. You young people are so technologically savvy and fully aware of the future prospects of so many things. So create impact... not only among the people in your country but across the world, especially among Rotaractors. Rotaract is suffering, even in India, where we lost 40,000 members last year, that's not a small number. But we are building up the numbers again."

He added that Rotary as an organisation does so much good in the world, "but so many people don't even know the major role we have played in bringing polio on the verge of extinction across the world. You are technically so savvy, and should spread awareness about our work using technological tools."

In response to another question, McInally said engagement and retention of members were very important. "We have to take care of them and make them comfortable when they join, because far too many people join Rotary and leave within a very short period of time... one in 10 people who joins Rotary today won't be a member after 12 months from now. That is a cruel statistic which means that we are failing them... we are not engaging them."

A keen gardener himself, he gave the example of the plants in his garden back home. "When I plant something, I want to make sure that plant develops strong roots and becomes established. And that's what we need to do with our new members. We need to make sure they develop strong roots and get well established in Rotary. That is what somebody did for me 40 years ago when I joined my club. People took care of me, helped and engaged me."

Pictures by Rasheeda Bhagat

Mock interview for MBA students

V Muthukumaran



A lecture-cum-interactive session in progress.

A two-day programme titled 'Interview techniques training programme with mock interview' hosted by RAC Anna University, Trichy, RID 3000, enabled over 100 PG students of management to hone their skills to crack the interview challenges which they would face during job placement.

On the first day, Prof P Mani, faculty advisor to the Rotaract club, gave an insight into various interview techniques and strategies being adopted by company boards and HR executives while hiring the freshers. During the second half of the day, P Baskaran, an expert, conducted a training and exercise on group dynamics in which students were evaluated for their teamwork skills and their effective role in a group set-up. "The training project is our signature event and it was an eye-opener for the PG students who learnt some basic techniques and worked on their aptitude skills for success in a job interview," said J Tony James, president, RAC Anna University, Trichy.

A mock interview was conducted for 25 shortlisted students by a panel of



Students in group discussion.

six professors with Baskaran anchoring the session on the second day. "The interview panel selected the top two candidates based on their overall performance and they were presented with special gifts," he said. Also, six students were chosen by the panellists for their skills in communication, confidence-level, genuine participation, vision, subject knowledge and personality. "All the six were presented with gifts for their extraordinary talent."

Event coordinators led by Mani and S P Dhandayuthapani were

felicitated by the club, while event chairman Rtr S Mohamed Shahul Hamid was appreciated by the college faculty; and he was also honoured with a memento.

Rotaract volunteers — Rifakath Khan, Jaikanth, Jerome, Ishaq, Alex, Jayanth and Irfan — came in for special praise for their 'selfless service' to make the interview training programme a success, said James. Club secretary Karthik Raj gave the vote of thanks to bring the curtains down to an eventful workshop for PG students. ■

Spreading joy through medical clowning

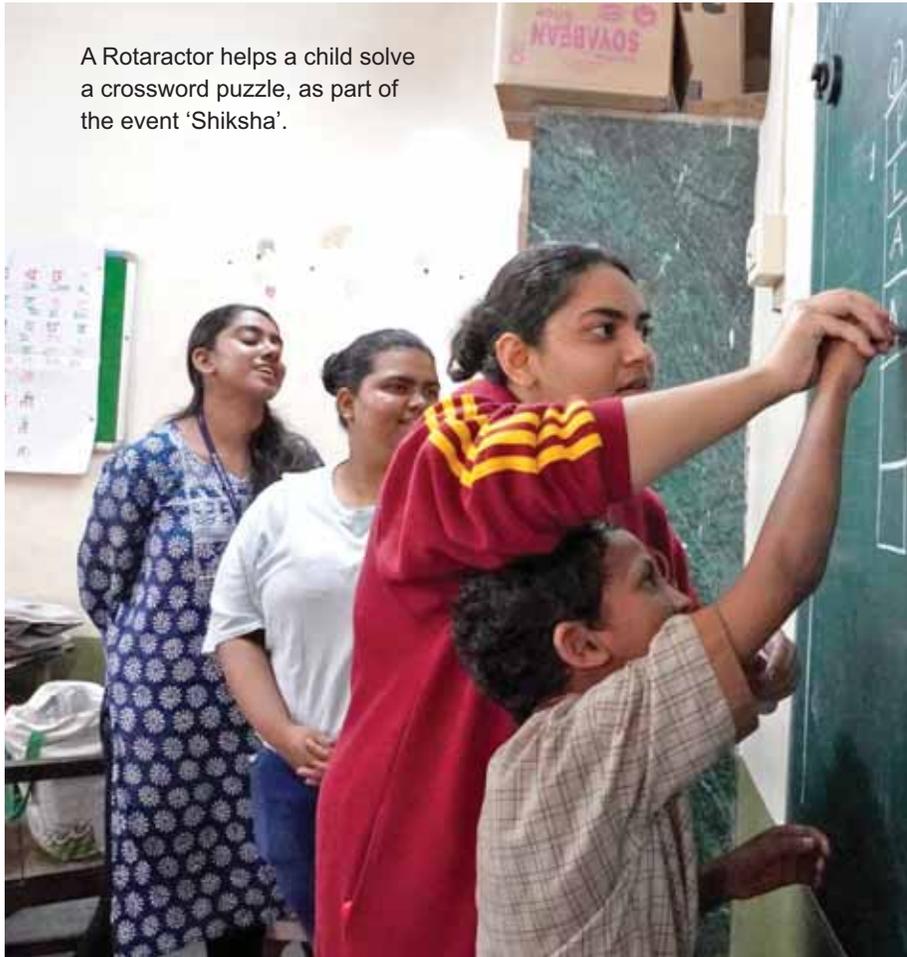
Jaishree

Clown care or hospital clowning is a therapy involving visits by specially trained clowns to help lift patients' moods with a positive power of hope and humour. Additionally, the sessions also lift up the spirits of the staff and the patients' family. 'Clown doctors' attend specifically to the psycho-social needs of the hospitalised, using techniques such as music, storytelling, magic, and other clowning skills. The objective is to distract the patient from pain and frightening medical procedures, anxiety, loneliness and boredom.

Rotaract Club of Spohia College for Women, Mumbai, RID 3141, organised a medical clowning programme, in association with Clownselors, a Delhi-based non-profit organisation. A team of seven Rotaractors, led by community service directors Mariam Mapari and Shannon Monteiro, and guided by three clown doctors and the organisation's founder Sheetal Agarwal, visited four venues — Radhika Old Age Home, Saddhaai Hospital, DG Special School and Kumbharpada — over four days.

Dressed as jesters, the team engaged the elderly at the Radhika Old Age Home in Bhayandar, Mumbai, with nursery rhymes and interactive activities, bringing smiles on their wrinkled faces. Despite hearing heart-rending stories, the team maintained high spirits, playing games, and dancing with the residents. A tea break offered a chance to connect with those with limited mobility. The event concluded with the elderly

A Rotaractor helps a child solve a crossword puzzle, as part of the event 'Shiksha'.





Left: Rotaractors donning the role of 'clown doctors' visit an old age home.

expressing appreciation and gifting roses, leaving the team deeply moved.

At the second location, Siddhaai Hospital, Virar, the team extended joy to all individual admitted, regardless of age. At the DC Special School, Virar, “we had some touching moments interacting with students with disabilities,” says club president Maryam Aarbi. At the next venue — Khumparpada in Virar — the Rotaractors and the clown doctors walked through the streets, lifting the spirits of the local community.

Beyond spreading joy, the laughter therapy activities have tangible health benefits, contributing to the regulation of blood pressure, reduction in sugar levels, and alleviation of stress. The physical movements involved in these activities promote body fitness, showcasing a holistic approach to wellbeing.



‘Clown doctors’ entertaining an elderly person.



A child examining a dress at the ‘Sas-tainance’ event.

Says Maryam: “The project left a profound impact on all of us. It made us aware about various social, economic and mental issues. We realised how blessed we are to be able to enjoy good physical and mental health. The experience instilled in all of us a commitment to uplift everyone and cherish life’s moments.”

The club has been active with service projects promoting education and spreading environment consciousness. An inter-school quiz programme was conducted under the project *Shiksha* and the Rotaractors engaged the students in various activities that emphasised on the love for learning. In another endeavour, the club members collected sparingly-used clothes from the neighbourhood, washed, sanitised, sorted them according to size and gender, and distributed them to children from less privileged homes at the Grant Road Station.

“We all got involved in this project we named *Sas-tainance* to denote our sassy yet sustainable effort. *Sas-tainance* exemplified the power of collective action and the potential for small yet impactful changes to make a significant difference,” said the club president. ■

Spotlight on Queer community

Team Rotary News

In line with Rotary's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), RAC Ramnarain Ruia College, RID 3141, organised *Crystal Queer* — “a celebration of the people of the LGBTQIA+ community” in the words of club secretary Anusha Potnis who is a Class 12 student of this college which has junior college and under graduation courses on its campus.

The celebrations extended to two days and included ‘Sunday Street’ on the Marine Lines in Mumbai on the first day. “Flash mobs, face paintings, free hugs and flowers and loads of laughter and love helped us convey the voices of the community to over 300 people around the area,” she says.

A seminar on ‘Queeriosity’ was addressed by Vikki Gaikwad. Curious teenagers and adults cleared several of their doubts on the topic. This was followed by a movie screening in the college auditorium.



Above: A participant in a flash mob.

Below: Members of RAC Ramnarain Ruia College at the event.



“In all, the project hit all the target spots; to promote the community, inclusivity, spreading awareness and reducing homophobia. “We also generated a lot of visibility for the college as a result of *Crystal Queer*,” says club president Snigdha Gavali.

The event proved to be significant in addressing homophobia, which alienates gay people in society. The impact of this project was huge. “Not only did we manage to get a massive number of people to change their thinking regarding the community, but also helped people confused with, or exploring their sexualities to gain more clarity about all the terms of LGBTQIA+. It also helped certain people find the strength to finally come out of the closet, be open, and to celebrate their own sexuality,” says Snigdha, who had put up a face painting stall at the Sunday Street event.

Club members Rucha Ranade and Avani Bhagwat were the chairpersons for *Crystal Queer*. ■

Mock fire drill at Mumbai apartment

Kiran Zehra

Motivated by the alarming statistics of 907 housing societies uploading fire-fighting measures certificates on the municipal corporation portal this year, RAC Mumbai Nova, RID 3141, aimed to go

beyond a routine mock fire drill with their *Project Agni Abhyaas*. Club president Meet Jain says “our mission was to instil a mental alert mechanism in residents against fire mishap for them to instantly get ready for evacuation.” The project



A fire fighter briefing the residents on the usage of a fire extinguisher.



Residents listening to instructions given by the fire and rescue official.



Residents try to extinguish a fire during the mock fire drill.

was also aimed at fortifying the safety procedures related to fire accidents.

In a city where safety awareness often lags, the groundwork for the project involved understanding the prevalence of fire accidents in Mumbai and the apparent lack of

serious fire prevention measures in many buildings. Shradha Heights, a sprawling apartment complex in Borivali West, was chosen and the Rotaractors with the help of the fire and rescue department studied the buildings to come up with a “well-versed evacuation plan that



Children on their way to enjoy a special movie screening organised by the club.

included which staircase to take, identifying the fire exits and reach an assembly point outside the complex,” says Jain.

The elaborate plan, including all exit routes, was shared with the occupants in advance. Logistics, including fire alarm systems, strobe lights and smoke detectors, were tested to ensure proper functionality and necessary permissions were obtained from authorities.

The Rotaract team reached the venue two hours before the drill to set up logistics. The drill was made

compulsory for all occupants, and instructions were announced to motivate and guide residents. The time taken for evacuation was noted for evaluating the performance of residents. They also engaged in a Q&A session, ensuring they understood the drill’s importance and were prepared for emergencies. Feedback was collected from participants of the mock fire drill.

Sharing the post-drill impact analysis, Jain says that “residents learned to respond quickly and safely in hazardous situations, and

Residents learned to respond quickly and safely in hazardous situations, and were able to practise emergency procedures in a simulated environment. We also assessed their ability to carry out emergency duties.

were able to practise emergency procedures in a simulated environment. We also assessed their ability to carry out emergency duties.” As for the Rotaractors “the event expanded our knowledge about the Life Saving Measures Act 2006 and the importance of safety protocols for efficient emergency responses.”

Recently the club brought smiles to the faces of underprivileged children and members of the LGBTQIA+ community through their heartwarming initiative, *Book a Smile*. The project aimed to treat these individuals to a day at the movies, “fostering inclusivity, social integration and community bonds,” says Hussain Udaipurwala, who along with a fellow club member Tanisha Khimavat, drafted the plan to take the children for a special screening at the Metro Inox Cinemas at the city malls.

First “we carefully selected age-appropriate movies, coordinated logistics, and focused on creating a gay and child-friendly ambience,” says Udaipurwala. BEST buses were used for transportation. Children were welcomed with enthusiasm at both venues and provided with snacks followed by the movie screening. ■

‘Khushi’ fosters new bonding

V Muthukumaran

Orphaned Mahima Patil (13) says, “I got my grandparents during RYLA and am grateful to Rotary for creating such a beautiful relationship for me.” For 70-year-old Vaishali Rajshekhar Bhutkar, it is like “moving to a new sweet home with the overwhelming love and affection of children kindling a never-before joy in me.”

A two-day RYLA, *Khushi*, hosted by RC Kolhapur Sunrise, RID 3170, helped create such close bonds when 200 orphaned children from the Bal Kalyan Sankul orphanage met 25 elders from the Matoshree Vrudhashram, an old age home in Kolhapur. It was a coming together of two generations and the bonding was instant. “It was touching for us, rather emotional, as Rotarians to see children enjoy a lively banter with the senior citizens, neglected by their families and forced to live in a special home,” says club president Chandan Mirajkar.

The programme was supported by the district Rotaract led by DRR

Pranjal Marathe and ZRR Abhijeet Patil. “It was a get-together between two generations who miss their relatives. And when they departed after the RYLA, most of them wept as by then the children and elders had really bonded,” recalls Mirajkar.

When Pranjal and Patil approached the club in October last year with the “idea of opening a platform for orphans and neglected elders, I readily agreed to support it with funding,” he explains.

There were several high moments at the RYLA. “During a visit to the DY Patil Hospital and Research Centre, Kolhapur, the children had a guided tour of the DPU Clinical Simulation and Skills Lab where high-fidelity manikins offer a hands-on experience in a



Children mark their palm impression on a white cloth to be gifted to DG Nasir Borsadwala.

controlled environment for medical students to reinforce classroom learning,” says DRR Pranjal. They also visited Gokul milk plant, one of the largest dairy facilities in the country, to learn the process of milk production and distribution.

However, the main highlight is the visit to the Kaneri Math, a seven-acre museum in a rustic set-up with lifelike sculptures and scenes that depict ancient life in India with its rich heritage. On the first day, childhood games were played, instilling a strong bond between youngsters and elders, followed by a pottery workshop. The ancient, but forgotten Mardani Khel, a martial art for self-defence, was showcased to the inmates. Both Mirajkar and Pranjal are excited to make this special RYLA an annual feature. ■



DRR Pranjal Marathe (L) and ZRR Abhijeet Patil, along with orphaned children, at the Bal Kalyan Sankul.



Rotaract is the present of Rotary

Jaishree

A lot of people describe Rotaract as the future of Rotary. But I very much believe that Rotaract is the present of Rotary. The skills that Rotaract can bring to the Rotary table are fantastic and complementary to the skills that Rotarians have,” said RI President Gordon McNally, addressing the DRRs and DRREs at the Rotaract seminar at the Rotary zone institute in Bengaluru. He is a former member of Rotaract Club of South Queensferry, Scotland.

Recalling the landmark decision when Rotaract was ‘elevated’ at the

2019 CoL, the RI president said that it has brought a whole new relationship between Rotary and Rotaract. “We are still fine-tuning the policies and exploring ways to make this partnership valuable.”

As a strong believer in collaborative working, he said, “Each one of us has unique strength and talent. Only by working together we can achieve great things and make a huge difference. Rotaract has such a healthy part to play in the growth of Rotary. Ultimately whether you belong to a Rotaract or a Rotary club,



we all have one common goal — to transform the world and make it a more peaceful place for our generation and the generations after. I need you to help me achieve my dream to make this world a better place for all of us which I am sure is the dream of each one of you too.”

Institute convener RID Raju Subramanian reaffirmed the president’s thoughts, saying, “There is no



RI Director Raju Subramanian, TRF Vice Chair Bharat Pandya and Rotaract Chair Abhinandan Shetty with Rotaract district leaders at the Rotary zone institute. Host district DRR Arun Teja is on the right.



DRRs with RI President Gordon McInally, RI Director Anirudha Roychowdhury, Rotaract Chair Abhinandan Shetty. Institute Chairman PDG K P Nagesh, PDRR Karthik Kittu and guest speaker Madan Padaki are seen on the left of President McInally.

difference between Rotaract and Rotary. We are one organisation.” Pondering over the declining Rotaract membership, he urged the district leaders to share with him the challenges they face in making Rotaract grow. “I want each of you to put your mind and heart into it to see that Rotaract becomes vibrant and happening in our part of

the world. Highlight the benefits you enjoy being in this prestigious organisation,” he said.

The registration fees for the institute and accommodation bills have all been waived for the Rotaractors. “You are part of us. We want to give you a peek into the world-class experience you would get being in Rotary, and

the lessons you will take from here is invaluable,” said Subramanian.

TRF vice-chair Bharat Pandya explained about Foundation grants and Programs of Scale. As part of the *Elevate Rotaract* policy Rotaract clubs can now work with Rotary clubs on global grant projects, and receive funding from district grants through a Rotary club. “Accountability and stewardship are very important. You must account for every paisa spent,” he reiterated.

Beginning July 2022, institution-based Rotaract clubs pay \$5 and community-based clubs pay \$8 to RI as per capita dues. To combat fall in membership due to resistance to paying Rotaract dues, institute chair KP Nagesh suggested that the parent Rotary club can pay 50 per cent dues for institution-based clubs, 25 per cent can be borne by the college/university and the Rotaractor can pay 25 per cent, which is just \$1 or ₹80. “Rotaractors of community-based Rotaract clubs can afford the cost as they are in comfortable careers,” he said.

The Rotaract sessions were moderated by PDRR Rajith Menon of RID 3141, and was led by Rotaract chair PDG Abhinandan Shetty. ■



RI President Gordon McInally interacting with a Rotaractor. Institute Chair K P Nagesh is seen in the centre.

A Rotarian turns Rotaractor

V Muthukumaran

It is rather unusual to find a Rotarian, that too a charter member of a proactive club in Udaipur, who has become a Rotaractor two years ago by choice. For, according to her, “I am enjoying my dual membership as it serves two purposes — first, it is simply great working with the youth in Rotaract to keep up with the current times and update myself. And at the same time, learn from the experience of seasoned Rotarians at RC Udaipur Yuva, RID 3056,” says Aishwarya Singh, president, RAC Aishwarya and also secretary of the parent Rotary.

Now at the helm of the institution-based club at the Aishwarya College of Education Sansthan, Udaipur, “you can say, I am grooming all my 20 Rotaract members with right skillsets to become Rotarians in the near future,” she smiles. After it was formed in 2003, RAC Aishwarya found the going tough and the Covid pandemic proved to be the last straw. “However, the club was revived on June 29, 2022 with a new vigour and from then on, there is no looking back for us.” *Project Antaryatra* (self-journey), a year-long activity, will reach out to over 5,000 students

at 25-plus government and private schools to create awareness on mental health issues.

Till now, interactive sessions were conducted by Aishwarya, an RLI trainer, and Sunita Kumari, a yoga instructor and naturopathy expert, at eight schools covering over 750 students. “We teach them the concept of mindfulness, meditation techniques, and various means to cope with stress and avoid depression,” says Aishwarya. Students were told to plug into Tele Manas App, a GoI’s initiative and co-designed by Nimhans, Bengaluru, to overcome symptoms of mental illness. “Also, schools were urged to hire a psychiatrist to give regular counselling to those vulnerable to mental disorders or depression.”

A Plastic-free Week was observed (July 3–9) on the college campus with Rotaractors urging the staff and students to use alternatives to plastic for an eco-friendly lifestyle. PDG Marja Ritterfeld from Uelsen, Germany, RID 1850, wrote an appreciative letter to both RC

RAC Aishwarya president Aishwarya Singh (left) during the Plastic-free Week at the college.



I am grooming all my 20 Rotaract members with right skillsets to become Rotarians in the near future.

Aishwarya Singh
president, RAC Aishwarya

Udaipur Yuva and RAC Aishwarya on their anti-plastic campaign that lifted their public image in Udaipur and beyond.

While book donation to government schools is a regular feature in their itinerary, “recently we distributed food to around 80 deaf and blind children at the Theosophical Society which gave us much satisfaction. Seed balls tipped pens were given to 1,000 students of government schools, and once thrown after use, it will grow into trees,” she recalls.

A symbiotic link

It is surprising to note that RC Udaipur Yuva, a two-year-old club with 22 members, is now mentoring a Rotaract club that was formed 20 years ago, but had to wind up during the pandemic due to hurdles. After the Rotaract club was revived in June 2022, their parent Rotary is a pillar of support and is mentoring the Rotaractors in all possible ways.

Shedding light on the genesis of her Rotary club, Aishwarya says, “we formed this club to attract young professionals in age group of 18–40 and thus become a crucible of ideas and innovation.” In fact, out of 22 Rotaractors at the Aishwarya College, started by her mother Rtn Seema Singh with 30 years of experience in academics, she had already identified five who could become Rotarians as “they have got the right experience, attitude and skill sets.”



Club president Aishwarya (4th from L) with Rotarians, Rotaractors and children at the Government Varishtha Upadhyay Sanskrit School, Udaipur, in *Project Alpahaar* that provides nutritious meals to government school students.



Interactors with certificates after the essay writing contest on World Population Day at The Vision Academy School RMV.

While the Rotaract club has become the de facto B-team of RC Udaipur Yuva, “we are also grooming Interactors at RVUS Vidyalaya, a Sanskrit school in Udaipur, and The Vision Academy School RMV to fit into the shoes of Rotaractors at the right time.” In a way, Aishwarya and her team have sketched out the line of succession from being an Interactor to a Rotarian for service-minded youth in Udaipur for decades to come.

Interact programmes

Rotaractors engage around 20 Interactors at both these schools in a range of activities like essay

writing and poster-making, street plays and creating awareness on social issues through rallies and competitions. “Our Interactors are well aware of Rotary’s global reach and what it means to be a Rotarian,” smiles Aishwarya, the 32-year-old graphic designer and a Rotarian for eight years.

Her stint in RC Dubai (UAE) while living there for a brief period (2018–21) gave her much cross-cultural exposure that shaped her Rotary ideology.

Aishwarya is also the secretary of RID 3056-Women’s Empowerment Committee. ■

Creating awareness on obesity

Kiran Zehra

In a proactive move to raise awareness and combat obesity among children, RAC Panvel Elite, RID 3131, in partnership with the National Paediatric Association, recently organised an obesity awareness camp at the Dr Pillai Global Academy, Panvel. “We designed the camp to provide practical solutions for children facing weight-related health issues,” says Samruddhi Munot, club president.

Dr Swati Likhite, past president, RC Panvel Elite, “first sensitised the Rotaractors about the various issues related to obesity, so that the camp could have a more holistic approach. We could understand how the students struggling with weight-related challenges feel and it helped us create a supportive environment at the camp,” says Samruddhi.

The camp went beyond measuring body mass index (BMI) and included workshops on nutrition, exercise and mental wellbeing. To make the process enjoyable, the club included physical activities and games, changing the perception of exercise from a chore to a fun part of daily life. She adds “we invited expert nutritionists and counsellors to give personalised advice to both children and parents, equipping these families with the knowledge to make informed decisions about nutrition and lifestyle.”



A separate parent workshop focused on creating a supportive environment at home for healthy living. “Reinforcing the lessons to the parents at the camp was important because they play a vital role in the child’s development,” she says.

Club members, who are also animal lovers, rescued a sick mother dog and her six puppies affected by jaundice. Rotaractors donated blankets, newspapers, food, and essential medicines for the dogs. This incident, recalls the club president, “transformed how we looked at street dogs, from being seen as strays to domestic pets that deserve care and compassion. While the contributions provided immediate relief to the rescued dogs, it also fuelled the idea of a new project to extend help to other street dogs in need.”

Other projects

A recent garba event organised by the club raised funds to support tribal





Clockwise from top left:

Rotaractors at a fundraising event; A Rotaractor showcases the cards prepared by students for soldiers on raksha bandhan; Rotaractors, along with children and their parents, at the obesity awareness camp; Dr Swati Likhite administers a thyroid vaccine at a health camp organised by the club.

in the baking business learn the art of baking, icing and packaging. A few club members also joined the workshop.

During Diwali, the Rotaractors distributed gift kits to children living in orphanages. The kits included a traditional outfit, sweets, snacks, and other festive essentials. This was followed by an event that showcased the children's hidden talent.

villages near Panvel, addressing issues such as providing smoke-free stoves, empowering children through education, and promoting women's health and hygiene.

In another initiative, the club teamed up with skilled bakers and helped women who were interested

As part of *Project Jai Jawan*, in collaboration with RC Panvel Elite, the club honoured soldiers on raksha bandhan and Independence Day. Rotaractors collected 880 rakhis, 730 greeting cards and 145 letters from various schools, and they were sent as heartfelt wishes to soldiers guarding our borders. ■

Transforming a village

Jaishree

The Rotaractors of Rotaract Club of Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College, RID 3141, have given a facelift to the government school in Pimplipada village in

Palghar district, Maharashtra. “When we visited the village, we found the school in a very bad shape. The windows were broken and the floors were damaged,” said club president Ankita Singh. The

Children with school bags gifted to them by Rotaractors.



Rotaractors repaired the windows in the first phase of the project. They gave bags, stationery and lunch boxes to the students. A water storage tank was installed in the school to enable the students and staff to have access to clean drinking water.

The Rotaractors also distributed sanitary napkins to the adolescent girls and women in the village. The club has adopted the village to implement their developmental projects there. It will be an on-going process and “we are conducting adult learning classes for the villagers. We take turns to visit the village every fortnight and spend time with the villagers and conduct functional literacy classes for them,” she said.

Ankita is glad that the villagers can write their names in Marathi and “we were awestruck to see the



A young participant with her creation for the 'Best out of Waste' contest.



look of happiness on each of their faces when they achieved this feat. We have a long way to go but we are determined to walk with them.”

The club has plans to bring about a transformation in the village and improve its infrastructure.

The Colors Fine Art Competition, now in its 23rd year, is a cherished tradition of RAC Ramniranjan Jhunjhunwala College. Students from Classes 5–10 participate in various categories including sketching, drawing, painting, and ‘Best out of Waste,’ to showcase their creativity and talent.

This year the programme attracted 1,200 students in each of the two phases. The competition, says Ankita, “is a celebration, a testament to the power of creativity that unites communities, stirs emotions and kindles imagination.”

The Rotaractors conducted a cycle rally to promote cycling as an eco-friendly and a healthy mode of transport. The initiative also supported awareness about mental health and environment protection. ■

Pune Rotaract spreads positive vibes

V Muthukumaran

Though less than a year old, RAC Pune Synergy Next Gen, RID 3131, has got a charter president in Raghav Somani who is brimming with ideas and is ready to motivate his members to take up impactful service projects. “We have 21 members, 70 per cent of whom are businessmen and small entrepreneurs, and the rest are college students. Our maiden *Project Social Santa* donated around 100 food packets to homeless and destitute people at the Pune Camp area on Christmas eve,” says Somani.

Project Art Attack was conducted twice to showcase the painting skills of Rotaractors and, to hold a *Tie & Dye* event to nurture bonding among charter members. “Around 14 Rotaractors enjoyed the artwork and shared ideas that led to camaraderie among them,” he says. During the World Rotaract Week (March 13–20), the club tied up with Sahayata, a local NGO, to distribute food packets to 140 people at the market yard and Gultekdi areas of Pune. “We gave white caps to labourers in the market yard to shield them from scorching sun during summer.

Around 240 bottles of blood were collected at blood donation camps under *Project Mahadaan* during Rotaract Week in partnership with four other clubs,” he recalls.

Thanking the parent Rotary, RC Pune Synergy, for guidance, Somani says, “Rotarians have assured us timely help including monetary support, if needed, for executing social projects.” But the main challenge for him is to “create awareness about Rotary and Rotaract among his charter members, for many of them have to be initiated into the ‘service mode’

RAC Pune Synergy Next Gen president Raghav Somani with Rotaractors at *Project Fun 'o'* Clock where indoor fun games were held.



On its first anniversary (Nov 8), the club is planning to hold interactive sessions at IT companies with the support of HR staff to sensitise their employees on mental health issues.

for the first time in their life. Another issue is trying to avoid inertia through active participation in club meetings, planning and execution of projects.”

Inter District Youth Exchange

From September 22, the club hosted Rotaract delegates from RID 3232 (Chennai) and RID 3055 (Ahmedabad) for a few days as part of Inter District Youth Exchange, a grand RID 3131 programme which attracted 120 Rotaractors from 22 RI districts, apart from a Nigerian and five Russians. “IDYE was hosted by around 65 Rotaract clubs in Pune with a theme of *Samyati* (travelling in Sanskrit) to provide good exposure to Ganesh Utsav celebrations in Pune,” explains Somani.

Rotaract District international service director Rajdeep Mule says over 4,000 letterhead exchanges were held among Rotaract clubs and the delegates were taken to various venues of Ganesh Utsav and briefed about the significance of this religious festival in and around Pune. “While Indian Rotaractors stayed in Pune for around 3–4 days, the six foreigners enjoyed the festivity for 12 days,” he says.

Mental wellness

On its first anniversary (Nov 8), the club is planning to hold interactive sessions at IT companies with the support of HR staff to sensitise their employees



Club president Somani doing a fluid art under *Project Art Attack 2.0*.

on mental health issues. “We will either put up stalls to distribute flyers on mental health or hold awareness sessions with AV presentations to forewarn the IT staff about the dangers of mental illness like depression and paranoia. We are working out the modalities,” he says.

Raghav Somani (23), a businessman, is “just happy to be a Rotaractor till 30 as I am enjoying the learning curve over the last one-and-half year. But I will definitely join my parent club, RC Pune Synergy, to expand my service activity,” he adds. ■

A special event for disabled children

Jaishree

The Rotaract Club of Akash, a 28-year-old club sponsored by Rotary Club of Madras Fort, RID 3232, organised one of their annual signature projects, *Punnagai*. The event was an exclusive platform for children with mental and physical disabilities to exhibit their talent across various

onstage and offstage events. The prime focus of the programme is to bring joy to children with special needs, says project secretary Angeline Sara Santosh, adding that the club has been organising this event since 2000.

“With the help of every club member, an initiative that started as a

carnival for these young talent has developed into what it is today. For every person who has witnessed the event over the years, these children’s abilities, despite their disabilities, have served as a huge source of inspiration,” she smiles.

This year, 800 students from across 20 schools from in and

around Chennai participated in the programme. Club president Dr Logeshwari led the inauguration and Ganesh Annadurai was the programme chairman. DG Ravi Raman; DRR Essaki Sekar; G Loganathan, president of the parent club, RC Madras Fort; RID 3233 DRRE Sanjana Varma and Shyamala

A dance performance.





A musical performance by a participating team.

Jayaprakash, chairperson of Asan Memorial Institutions, attended the event.

The children showcased their remarkable abilities in singing, dancing, skit, gymnastics and silambam, and the off-stage events included drawing and painting. "It was heartwarming to watch the performances of the children even as they rose above their challenges," says

Logeshwari. The Spastics Society of Tamil Nadu, Villivakkam, and Dr MGR Home and Higher Secondary School for the Speech and Hearing Impaired bagged the overall trophies.

"Punnagai is and always will be a true inspiration to each of us; a lesson that teaches us to never focus on what you can't do, instead focus on what you can do best," says Angeline. ■



Participants exhibiting their paintings.

The winning team with the trophy.



Honing leadership skills of Rotaractors

V Muthukumar

Unity, love and affection towards all people was the central theme of a two-day RYLA, titled *HUG: Change the perspective*, hosted by RAC Ambattur, RID 3232, with support from their parent RC Ambattur.

“We want to cultivate a sense of oneness among the participants. Around 75 Rotaractors from Chennai, Salem, Coimbatore,

Tirupur and Visakhapatnam took part in the third edition of this leadership grooming event which instilled a number of skills among them,” says Sundar Shanmugam, club president. The venue, SA College of Arts and Science, Avadi, a suburb in Chennai, was buzzing with interactive sessions, fun and entertainment, and stage shows as the RYLA covered a wide range of topics including time management, discipline,

personality development, teamwork, communication skills, project implementation, conflict resolution and social responsibility on all two days.

Speaking at the inaugural as chief guest, flight lieutenant L Ramesh, president, RC Ambattur, recalled the way his stint in Rotaract had disciplined his life that enabled him to join the Indian Air Force. A passionate follower of time management, he advised the Rotaractors to make the best possible use of time to achieve their life dreams. “We focused on nurturing leadership qualities among Rotaractors by instilling some basic skills related to entrepreneurship and holding motivational, interactive sessions,” says Shanmugam. Expressing his gratitude to the parent RC Ambattur, he says, “the Rotarians guide us through the year





Rotaractors during a leadership session.

Below: RAC Ambattur president Sundar Shanmugam (centre) along with Rotaractors from RID 3232 and other districts at the RYLA.



RAC Ambattur is gearing up for its signature event, *Nakshatra*, a one-day cultural jamboree for Rotaractors and college students, in February.

with valuable support including financial help as seed money for doing projects and community initiatives.

With a membership of 78 Rotaractors, this more than three decades old, community-based club is gearing up for its signature event, *Nakshatra*, a one-day cultural jamboree for Rotaractors and college students. The 19th edition of this flagship event is expected to draw at least 2,500 Rotaractors and college goers from across Tamil Nadu. “We are planning to hold the cultural show in February, and the programmes are on the drawing board right now. The

event will be funded by public donors, philanthropists and a few corporates,” he explains.

His six-year-old Rotaract journey has enabled him to hone his public speaking skills. “Before joining Rotaract, I had stage fear and used to shun large gatherings. But now I am adept at anchoring programmes, as I have got communication skills,” smiles Shanmugam, a senior executive at a medical transcription firm. Apart from developing human relations (HR) skills, “I am good at time management which is critical for success in any field.” Also, his network of friends has widened over the years, thanks to Rotaract.

Looking ahead, Shanmugam (26) wants to join RC Ambattur by 30 as “I want to use my Rotaract skills for the betterment of communities through Rotary work. Also, as a Rotarian, my efforts will have better reach and impact through a collective effort involving many stakeholders,” he adds. ■

Through collaborative efforts involving Rotaractors, teachers, and local leaders, RAC Atlas SkillTech University, RID 3141, has successfully distributed 1,200 notebooks to more than 550 students in Bhopoli village, Palghar, Maharashtra. “We not only wanted to boost academic performance but also address the broader goal of making education more affordable and accessible for every student in the village,” says Aryan Menon, club president.

Addressing hygiene concerns at the Government Higher Secondary School, Bhopoli, the club launched the *Sustainable Blaze*, initiative to install a pad incinerator in the school, and improving hygiene standards for more than 200 girls. Apart from focusing on hygiene and environmental concerns associated with the disposal of sanitary pads, says Menon, “girls and women often face challenges in managing menstrual hygiene in public spaces. The presence of an incinerator in the school provides a discreet and private means of disposal, thus contributing to the dignity and comfort of female students and staff.”

Under project *Dil Se Diwali*, the Rotaract club brought the joy of

Girls and women often face challenges in managing menstrual hygiene in public spaces. The presence of an incinerator in the school provides a discreet and private means of disposal, thus contributing to the dignity and comfort of female students and staff.

Transforming Bhopoli village

Kiran Zehra

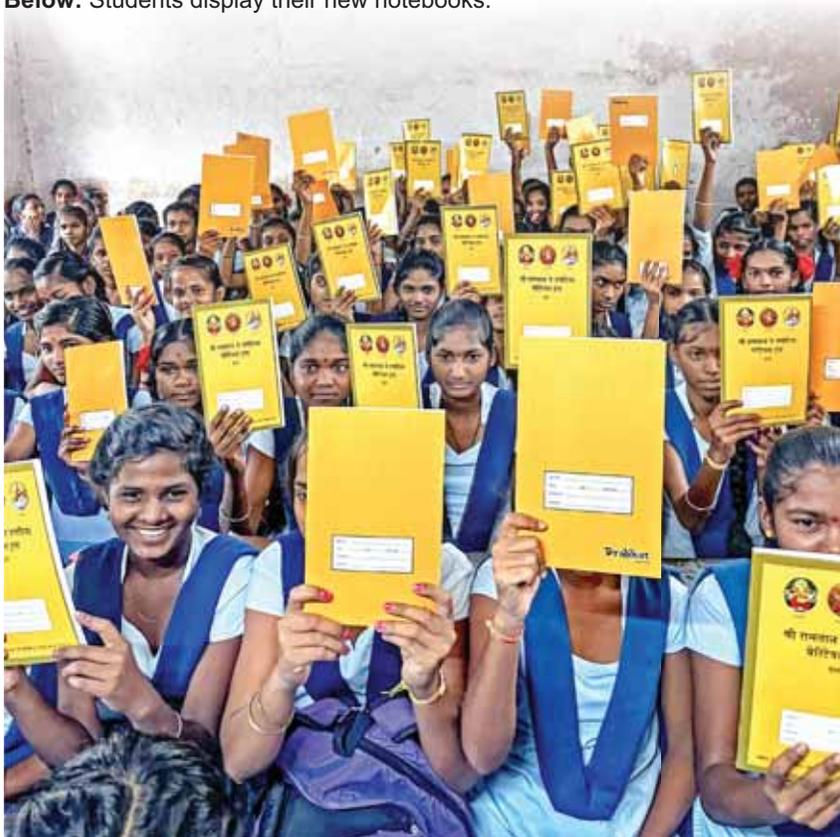




Left: Students filling up a cup with drinking water from the newly installed Aqua Station.

Above: Rotaractors hand over an incinerator to Government Higher Secondary School in Bhopoli village.

Below: Students display their new notebooks.



Diwali to the underprivileged children in the village. Sweets were distributed, and it was a fun day, “sharing happiness and festive spirit to the community,” he smiles.

The *Urban Girl* initiative by the club is championing menstrual health and hygiene awareness in the village. Menon says this programme through interactive and informative sessions is “challenging societal norms, reducing stigma through open conversations and fostering inclusivity.”

Once the club had established a strong relationship with the school management “they approached us with a request for a water cooler inside the school. So, we came up with project Aqua Station,” says Menon. He adds that “the installation of the new water cooler ensures access to fresh and clean drinking water for over 550 students.” ■

Rotaract dental camps across Mumbai

V Muthukumaran

More than five decades old RAC Government Dental College, RID 3141, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bombay, has tied up with Yasham Foundation of Rtn Sunita Mandelia to hold dental screening and treatment camps in and around Mumbai. “We will start with once-a-month dental camp with 4–5 Rotaractors, who are also interns, examining patients. In due course, we will hold more camps with

more participation from our college students and doctors,” says club president Mukta Kasture.

At present, the Rotaractors are taking part in the monthly dental camps being run by their parent Rotary at Talwade village in Karjat taluk of Raigad district. “We diagnose and treat not less than 50-60 patients who have mouth deformities and other oral issues in each camp at Talwade. Free medicines are given after consultations,” she explains.



Rotaractors and students at the World Diabetes Day seminar.



With the support of the Department of Periodontology, an education seminar was held for OPD patients on World Diabetes Day (Nov 14). In her address, college dean Dr Vasundhara Bhad urged patients to check their blood-sugar levels at regular intervals, maintain body fitness and be wary of risk factors associated with diabetes.

Over 100 patients were screened at the diabetes seminar; sugar levels of 67 of them were checked, and “we found that among those checked, eight patients had very high sugar levels.” The high-risk patients were referred to further consultations after they were given counselling on lifestyle and food choices. Dr Dimple Padawe and Dr CD Dhalakri examined the patients; while Dr Rajesh Gaikwad conducted the free blood-sugar check-up for high-risk patients.

Rtrs Shruti Sawant and Aditi Kadam gave a talk covering the entire gamut of issues related to diabetes — cause, risk factors, symptoms, treatment factors et al — with emphasis on prevention of the disease through lifestyle changes. “Through our regular dental camps with the local NGO we want to reach out to 150 more patients

in the next five months, thus benefiting not less than 300 people for the entire Rotary year,” she says.

Tough choice

While the club has 27 members on board, “only four have registered at the *My Rotary* website of RI. So, for all practical purposes we have only four Rotaractors to take up projects and for volunteering at Rotary events. As we are in a medical college, most of us don’t get enough time for Rotaract activities and we have to study hard for exams which add up to our pressure,” explains Mukta.

The RI annual dues of \$5 per head further kept away those members who rarely turn up for Rotaract events due to various reasons. While all the members pay the annual club fee of ₹150; “only active members have paid the RI dues till now,” says Mukta.

Doing her internship, she wants to set-up her own dental clinic, after graduating from the college. “I have not given a thought about either continuing in Rotaract or joining Rotary. Maybe in future, after a few years, I may join a Rotary club,” she adds. ■

Mega road safety campaign in MP

Jaishree

A massive, year-long road safety awareness campaign is being carried out by the Rotaract clubs of RID 3040 under the banner *Surkashayat* across various cities in Madhya Pradesh. This initiative is being done in collaboration with the state police administration; awareness on road safety rules and mobile phone usage, and proper

use of helmets and seat belts were few of the topics being covered under the campaign. “We are also planning to get experts to train volunteers in administration of first aid in case of accidents,” says DRR Aman Khan Jugnu.

Under the district initiative *Bagh E Rotaract*, the Rotaract clubs adopt a garden in their locality and nurture it. “We aim to plant 3,040 plants this year and all the clubs are enthusiastically





active in their efforts,” he says. Several environment care workshops are being conducted by the Rotaractors in schools, colleges and residential complexes.

Under another district project — *Matritva* — the Rotaract clubs organise programmes “for newborns and mother care, neonatal wellness and empowering girls.” The Rotaractors visit maternity hospitals and provide nutritional diet to the new mothers and

baby kits for the infants. They educate the parents about the various vaccinations and importance of breastfeeding and hygiene.

Over 25,000 sanitary napkins have been distributed to adolescent girls and young women. The club members are organising menstrual health management seminars for girls in government schools. “At least 10,000 girls and women have benefitted from this project and it is being replicated in RIDs

3011 and 3192,” says DRS Saurabh Nayak. Over 800 girls were trained in self-defence skills under this project.

Project MAA is a project to promote mental wellness. “We also aim to address mental health issues through fun and innovative techniques like art and music therapy, and other activities. Our programmes are designed to remove the taboo of psychological disorders among people,” he says. ■



A menstrual hygiene management session in progress at a school.

Cheering up children

Team Rotary News



A Rotaractor feeds a child during the *Masti Mela* event.

street plays at various locations like Churchgate Station, Bandra Bandstand and Andheri Station in Mumbai.

The campaign has impacted 2,100 lives within 190 families, including 325 children and more than 275 women. As an additional act of kindness, the club identified a struggling widowed woman with two young daughters in the slum and provided her with a sewing machine to help restart her life.

Zainab Jetpurwala, a member of the club, expressed the joy of witnessing smiles on the faces of children in the slum. She shared a heartening incident when an auto driver appreciated their educative street play, “urging us to share it on social media for wider awareness.”

Club president Vedika Bansal says, “I am super proud of each team member for pulling off this month-long initiative. I hope that we continue to reach new heights in this new year as well.” The campaign not only made a difference in the lives of those in need but also garnered support and appreciation from the local community.

The club successfully hosted a vibrant fun fair called *Masti Mela* for children in Dharavi, the fifth edition of the Mumbai Students Film Festival, and Lit Fest’23 with diverse literary and an educational simulation of the United Nations to promote global awareness last year. ■

RAC Jai Hind College, RID 3141, recently concluded its *Silent Saturday* campaign, a month-long community service initiative with the theme ‘Brighter Days, Kinder Ways.’ Throughout November 2023, the club dedicated its efforts to a slum in Bandra East, focusing on four essential causes: health, hunger, safety and education.

The campaign involved daily donation drives from Monday to Friday, collecting items such as health kits, notebooks, one-time meals and sanitary pads. Each week, the club members dedicated their efforts to one specific cause, spreading awareness through



Dahisar Rotaract ignites children's dreams

V Muthukumar

Children are the focus of the 35-year-old RAC Dahisar Coast, RID 3141, a community-based club in the northernmost suburb of Mumbai. For, a slew of projects is being done with the aim to motivate students and children in their studies, creating awareness on social issues and lifting their morale through fun events.

Diwali was celebrated with 50 slum children who were given *diyas*, paint brushes and colouring material for decorating the earthen lamps under *Project*

Radiant Creation. “We joined hands with the Robinhood Army and gave *diyas* to the children who painted their imaginations on the clay lamps. We gave back the decorated *diyas* to them, and also distributed goody bags and sweets,” says Biplab Maity, club president. Rotaractors engaged 200 primary class students at the Tambe High School, Dahisar, in a ‘good touch, bad touch’ session as part of *Project New Beginnings*.

Rotaractors led by Maity gave an opportunity to around 30 deprived children seeking alms at

traffic zones and busy localities to eat what they liked, at least once in their lifetime under *Project Next Stop Food Stop*. “We provided drawing sheets, sketches and crayons for these poor kids so that they can draw their favourite dishes or cuisine. And we delivered to them all the food items they had drawn on the white sheets; the joy they had eating their favourite food had a lasting impact on us all,” says the club president.

Project Pages of Possibility is a quarterly event where students from Class 1–4 at different schools across Dahisar were given notebooks, drawing books and stationery to motivate them to excel in their studies. “Recently our club secretary Harsh Dubey visited Tambe School and distributed notebooks and stationery to the primary students.”

Thanking Rotarians from their parent RC Mumbai Dahisar for their “absolutely fantastic support to our projects and initiatives,”





Above: Club secretary Harsh Dubey distributes stationery items to students at the Tambe School.

Left: Children enjoy fun activity at the Diwali diyas painting event.



Above: RC Dahisar Coast president Biplab Maity (right) and his team deliver food packets to poor children at *Project Next Stop Food Stop*.

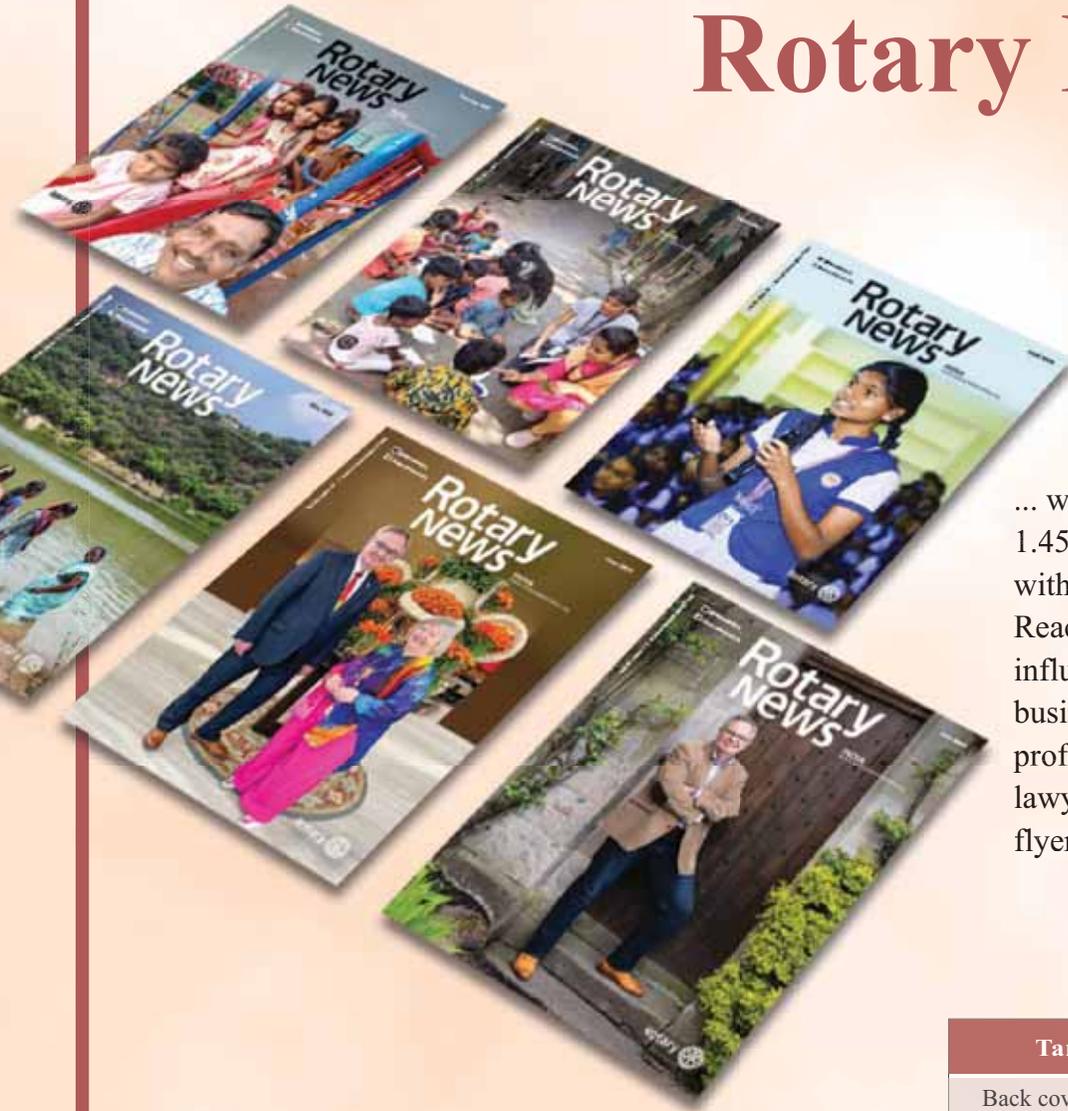
Left: Rotaractors hold a 'good touch, bad touch' session at the Tambe School, Dahisar.

Maity says apart from mentorship, “they guide us by providing resources, linking with contact persons and donating in both cash and kind for our events, programmes through the year.”

But still he has to tackle challenges on the RI dues front. “Our membership is made up of students and professionals like doctors, auditors and teachers. While the annual RI dues of \$8 per head is okay for the working members, students find it tough to pay the amount,” he explains. Apart from RI dues, they have to pay club fee of ₹1,100 and district fee of ₹100. But he is hopeful of convincing the student members on the need to pay RI dues on time.

While he is keen to become a Rotarian, Maity (24) says, “I will complete my Rotaract journey till 31, beyond which one can’t be a Rotaractor. After which I will join by parent Rotary.”■

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