

Rotary District 3192 and IEEE MOVE: A Strategic Collaboration for Disaster Relief and Climate Awareness

In an era where humanitarian service and technological innovation are increasingly intertwined, Rotary District 3192 and IEEE MOVE India have forged a strategic partnership to address two of the most pressing challenges of our time—disaster relief and climate change. This collaboration, spearheaded by the decade old Rotary Bengaluru Heritage North club, is a model of how global networks with complementary strengths can combine resources, expertise, and vision to create a lasting impact on communities.

The Power of Two Global Movements

Rotary International, founded over 120 years ago, is built on the principle of Service Above Self. With more than 1.4 million members in over 200 countries, Rotary's reach is unmatched among service organizations. Its work spans a wide spectrum—from eradicating polio to providing clean water, promoting peace, and supporting education. Rotary District 3192, which includes the vibrant Rotary Bengaluru Heritage North club, continues this tradition of impact at both local and global levels.

IEEE, on the other hand, has been advancing technology for humanity for over 145 years. As the world's largest technical professional organization, IEEE has 400,000 members globally, including a strong presence in India. The organization plays a pivotal role in setting global technical standards and supporting innovation. IEEE's commitment to social responsibility is embodied in IEEE MOVE, a mobile emergency response program that brings communication, power, and technology resources directly to disaster-hit areas.

When these two forces—Rotary's service-driven grassroots network and IEEE's technology leadership—join hands, the possibilities for positive change expand dramatically.

The Launch of IEEE MOVE in India



On 21st July 2025, a landmark moment occurred with the launch of the IEEE MOVE Vehicle in India by Dr. V Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO and graced by IEEE President Prof. Kathleen Kramer, Rotary District Governor Rtn Prof. Elizabeth Cherian, IEEE President-Elect Mary

Ellen Randall and several IEEE dignitaries. This marked the beginning of a new chapter in how technology can support humanitarian missions in India.

The IEEE MOVE vehicle is no ordinary van—it is a solar-powered, all-terrain, mobile technology hub designed for rapid deployment in disaster zones. With a 36-hour battery backup, it can operate independently in the field, providing essential services such as:

- External power supply for critical equipment
- 4G communications to restore connectivity in remote or cut-off regions
- HAM radio repeater to enable long-distance communication when other systems fail
- Portable lighting for night operations
- Ruggedized frame and all-terrain mobility to navigate challenging environments

These capabilities allow first responders, relief agencies, and community volunteers to coordinate efforts effectively in the crucial hours following a disaster.



Custom designed by IEEE MOVE Volunteers and built and equipped in Bengaluru, this vehicle costs ₹75 lakhs (approximately \$87,000).

Disaster Relief on Demand

India is no stranger to natural disasters. From cyclones on its eastern and western coasts to floods in the north and landslides in areas that never used to have them, extreme weather

events have been increasing in frequency and severity—often linked to climate change. The MOVE vehicle is designed to arrive at disaster sites quickly, bringing with it the infrastructure needed to establish emergency operations.

Rotary's on-the-ground presence in nearly every corner of the country ensures that when disaster strikes, volunteers are ready to mobilize. IEEE MOVE complements this by delivering technological capabilities that can be the difference between chaos and coordinated relief.

In this partnership, Rotary members provide the human network—local knowledge, manpower, and coordination—while IEEE provides the technological backbone. The result is a synergy that accelerates recovery efforts and restores essential services faster.

Beyond Disasters: A Mission for Climate Change Awareness

One of the most innovative aspects of IEEE MOVE is that when the vehicle is not engaged in disaster relief, it serves another equally important mission—promoting climate change awareness.

Climate change is both a cause and a multiplier of natural disasters. Rising sea levels, unpredictable rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events have put millions at risk. Awareness and education are critical for prevention and mitigation.

The MOVE vehicle carries hands-on science experiments and educational kits that are designed to help students and communities understand the science of climate change. These mobile science labs make abstract concepts tangible, inspiring young minds to become part of the solution.

Rotary 3192's Bold Commitment

During the launch, District Governor Rtn Prof. Elizabeth Cherian and IEEE MOVE India Chair Ms. Sadhana Attavar announced a strategic collaboration with clear and ambitious goals. Rotary District 3192 committed to:

1. Supporting 100 schools with Climate Change Awareness Kits through IEEE MOVE
2. Sponsoring an additional MOVE vehicle to expand coverage and reach more communities



This commitment reflects Rotary's recognition that education is the most powerful tool in addressing the root causes of climate-related challenges. By equipping schools with interactive learning tools, the initiative aims to cultivate a generation that is environmentally conscious and technologically literate.

Technology Meets Humanity

The strength of this collaboration lies in the intersection of technology and service. Rotary brings decades of experience in humanitarian outreach, project execution, and community mobilization. IEEE brings technical expertise, engineering talent, and cutting-edge tools.

In practice, this means that when a disaster occurs, IEEE MOVE can deploy technology like satellite links, portable solar power, and real-time data systems, while Rotary coordinates local logistics, distributes relief supplies, and engages with affected communities. In peacetime, both organizations jointly run educational programs, workshops, and public awareness campaigns.

This model ensures that investments in technology are maximized—not only for emergency situations but also for long-term resilience building.

Community Engagement and Media Attention

The collaboration has already begun to attract national media coverage, with outlets like Deccan Herald, The Week, City Today, and News9 Live highlighting the initiative. This attention helps amplify the message, attracting more supporters, donors, and partners who can help scale the effort.

Community engagement is central to the plan. By involving schools, local governments, and volunteer groups, the project ensures that the MOVE vehicles are seen not just as emergency tools but as symbols of hope, preparedness, and learning.

The Road Ahead

The journey for Rotary 3192 and IEEE MOVE is just beginning. Over the coming years, the partnership aims to:

- Deploy multiple MOVE vehicles across different regions in India
- Train a cadre of volunteers and technical experts in each district to operate the vehicles and deliver programs
- Establish a disaster response playbook combining Rotary's local presence and IEEE's technology
- Expand climate education to rural and underserved schools where awareness is most needed
- Build collaborations with other NGOs, corporate CSR programs, and government agencies to strengthen both funding and reach

These steps are designed not just to react to disasters but to create resilient communities that can anticipate and adapt to the challenges ahead.

Why This Collaboration Matters

The Rotary-IEEE MOVE partnership is a case study in leveraging complementary strengths. Many organizations operate in isolation, duplicating efforts and missing opportunities for greater impact. By working together, Rotary and IEEE demonstrate that:

- Shared vision can bridge different organizational cultures
- Technology and community service are natural allies
- Preparedness and prevention are as important as relief and recovery

As climate change accelerates and disasters become more frequent, such collaborations will be vital. They serve as a reminder that solving big problems requires not just innovation in labs or acts of charity on the ground—but both at the same time.

A Call to Action

The success of this initiative will depend on sustained support from individuals, organizations, and policymakers. Volunteers can join Rotary's network, engineers can contribute their expertise to IEEE MOVE, and donors can help fund additional vehicles and educational kits. Schools can invite the MOVE vehicle for demonstrations, and local communities can participate in climate awareness activities.

In the words of Rtn Arun Tanksali, President of Rotary Bengaluru Heritage North as well as a Core Committee member of IEEE MOVE India, the goal is not just to respond to emergencies, but to prevent them where possible and prepare communities for the future.

For more information:

- Rotary District 3192: rotary3192.org
- IEEE MOVE India: ieeemove.in
- Rotary Bengaluru Heritage North: rbhn.org