

RBI Board 2019-20

President:

Rtn. Manoj Agarwal

IPP:

Rtn. Jagdeesh M

President Elect:

Rtn. Dr. Srikanth AVS

Vice President:

Rtn. Fazal Ur Rahaman

Secretary:

Rtn. A. K. Sugunan

Jt. Secretary:

Rtn. Balkrishnan Narayanan

Director Club Service:

Rtn. Supriya Kandhari

Director Community Service:

Rtn. Ambica Motupali

Director International:

Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan

Director Vocational:

Rtn. Gopinath N

Director Youth:

Rtn. Ajay Gupta

Bulletin Editor:

Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy

Sergeant At Arms:

Rtn. Baskaramoorthy D

Treasurer:

Rtn. Bhaskar N L

Fund Raising Chair:

PP Rtn. Suresh D Patel

Deputy Director Community Service:

Rtn. Philip George

Co opted Directors:

PP Rtn. Shashank Kekre

PP Rtn. Mahesh Parikh

PP Rtn. Peeyush Jain

Advisors:

PP Rtn. R. Badriprasad

PP Rtn. Suresh Hari

PP Rtn. Karthikeya Reddy

Mentors:

PP Rtn. N. Krishnamurthy

PP Rtn. Dr. Nagesh Simha

WEEKLY MEETING VENUE & TIME:

Rotary House of Service
2143, 16E Main, HAL II Stage,
Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008

Time 19:00, Monday

rotary.indiranagar@gmail.com

Ph: 080 25267014

From the Editor's desk



Dear Reader,

As Rotary year 2019-20 draws to a close, we have to bid you goodbye. In this, anniversary issue of SEVA Vol 39, we bring a smorgasbord of information and pictures picked from SEVA issues through this year.

For RBI, 2019-20 has been incredible. We cover dazzling epochal projects, from the Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre to renovated Anganwadis that we dedicated to society. We speak of a wonderful trip in late 2019 to President Manoj Agarwal's home state Orissa where he led a bunch of energetic Rotarians. His knowledge helped the group stitch together a memorable trip.

RBI put in more effort in 2020. The COVID-19 spawned lockdown in late March 2020 was a huge dampener, threatening to throw a massive spanner in our works. But it only spurred us further. A few RBIs lead by our indefatigable President Manoj Agarwal took it upon themselves to offer relief to those most impacted in the lockdown. To migrant labourers who lived in temporary abodes and shanties, our support of food ration kits meant the world. We associated with a few like-minded NGOs and associations, for a stupendous end result. Our contribution to national funds was among the top few Rotary Clubs in the country.

RBI meetings went into e-mode. Weekly meetings, Board meetings, project discussions, fellowships, national appeals, all came through without a stutter. RBI's early mover advantage in utilizing technology helped greatly. Leading the group, was President Manoj ably assisted by Secretary A K Sugunan. Our speakers at e-meetings were exceptional, and so was member attendance. The lockdown was a productive sojourn for us. We carry a short interview of President Manoj Agarwal on his experience this year.

My innings as SEVA Editor began with the first few issues released from overseas, while on personal travel, and ends with remote releases in the CoVID-19 lockdown. Between these two points we released 16 issues. We just may release one more issue covering a few RBI events before this eventful year flows out. We hope you enjoyed this year's SEVA, wherein we endeavored to offer insights into RBI's functioning and reasons for its oft unchallenged status.

Grateful thanks are due to my exceptional editorial team, comprising Rtn. H. R. Seetharam, Rtn. T K Chandramouli, Ann Vidhya Pradeep and Ann Sharada Shenoy. They plucked faults out, untangled & straightened threads while checking on facts to ensure a clean, clear, correct and accurate SEVA. Despite delays in sending first cut documents of each issue, they turned them around in double quick time. Bengaluru based team members ensured capture and forwarding key information for SEVA, during my overseas stay. No thanks suffice for fellow Rotarians and Anns, who penned articles on projects. Impossible was never a word in their vocabulary. They carved time out from busy calendars and came up with outstanding pieces to make SEVA relevant and informative. As on now, 27 RBI Rotarians and 2 Anns have contributed 176 articles and a whopping 63506 words in the 198 pages of 16 issues we published this year. A big **Thank you** for playing a key role in making SEVA a cherished item and a Dazzler.

Anurag Patwary of IC Solutions was super quick in uploading new issues of SEVA to Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar's website – the place for all released issues.

And you dear readers have been dazzlers too. We will cherish your accolades forever and are delighted that you always waited for the next issue!

It is difficult to walk away from something that has consumed much of my creative energy this year. It has been exacting and tiring yet immensely satisfying.

Wishing the 2020-21's SEVA team the best in making SEVA fly again.

Thank you and Happy Reading - Vidyut Shenoy, **Bulletin editor (2019-20)**

President Manoj Agarwal's address – a gist

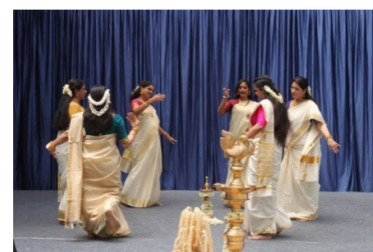
CLUB SERVICE AVENUE

The avenue led by Director Rtn. Supriya Kandhari and guided by Coordinator PP Rtn. Shirish Mathur has done a phenomenal job. We had 46 Weekly Meetings, including Joint Meetings. Not a single meeting was missed despite the problems posed by COVID-19. Once the COVID-19 lockdown was announced we conducted all meetings on online platforms. Prior to that we had a variety of meetings in RHOS and elsewhere. Celebrities like Kannada cine-star Prakash Belvady, legal luminary Justice Santosh Hegde, and serial entrepreneur BK Birla spoke to audiences ranging from young to-be Rotarians to Anns and Rotarians with lots of experience. Our club members also participated in an Inter-District Friendship Programme meeting at Rotary Bhubaneswar Friends, titled Bandhutwa, where many of our travelling members sang alongside members of the host clubs.

Our membership strength keeps growing. During this year we inducted 13 members including 5 lady members. We also started a new club called Rotary Bangalore Disha. In addition we started 1 RCC.

Our Fellowships remain as vibrant as ever. These are some highlights of the year:

- RBI participated in a joint meeting of 4 clubs (with Rotary Bangalore, Rotary Bangalore Cantonment & Rotary Bangalore North). The joint meeting was followed by an Inter Club Antakshari which our club won.
- A joint meeting & fellowship was organized with 4 other Rotary Clubs, Cubbon Park, Shanthiniketan, Shankara Park, & Kuvempunagara.
- Rtn. Kamalavadani & PDG Rtn. S. Udaya Kumar hosted an Independence Day Lunch Social in their new home at Laughing Waters, Whitefield, Bangalore.
- Monthly Board Meetings are followed by fellowship & dinner.
- Onam Celebrations were held at HAL Convention Centre, with a 'Kerala Traditional' dress code. 170 Rotarians, Anns/Spouses, Annettes & Guests enjoyed the cultural program & Onam Sadhya lunch.
- RBI's'. Diwali Social was held on 19th October 2019 at Rtn. V. Venkata Reddy's home, with 'Festive Ethnic' as Dress Code.
- Our Annual Picnic was held on Sunday 16th Feb 2020 at Rtn. G J Raja's farmhouse in Krishnagiri.
- 32 Rotarians & Anns travelled on a 4 night/5day trip to Bhubaneswar, Puri & Konark from 12th to 16th of December 2019.
- We moved from outdoor fellowships to e-fellowships after the lockdown. We had singing sessions, tambola and an energizing quiz.



Club Finances

RI Dues, District Dues and Magazine Dues have been promptly paid

The Club Budget was presented at the Club Assembly and Audited Accounts were presented during the Board Installation

Monthly Accounts are perused at every Board Meeting

Public Image

We did exceptionally well on public image. Read a piece on **RBI's two quietly efficient COVID heroes**, later in this issue.

All RBI projects have been widely promoted in print, digital and social media

Our web-presence is updated constantly, improving our visibility on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube

Our online donation portal is now functional on our website.



The RBI Website is being redesigned, while being updated regularly in its current form

The print media, both English and Kannada, have given us extensive coverage. The installation of office-bearers 2019-20 at Karunashraya, our cancer hospice project, and our musical fundraiser Maestros-2, featuring veteran music director Usha Khanna, were allotted a lot of print inches in mainstream media

Fund Raising

Due to our multitudinous on-going projects, there is always a requirement for funds and more funds.

These are some ways by which we raised funds for different projects:

- Our Musical Fund Raiser “Maestros 2 - A tribute to the Legendary Usha Khanna ji and Mohammed Rafi Saab”, with legend Usha Khanna ji herself present was a resounding success
- “Kusur” (The Mistake), a Hindi Play starring Amol Palekar was hosted by RBI at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on the 23rd February 2020 to a packed audience.
- Corporates have been approached frequently to raise funds for our Service Projects through CSR Funding.
- Through Crowd Funding, RBI received funds for various causes including Vidya Daan, Lake Rejuvenation, COVID rehabilitation as also to help Tribal farmers who grow turmeric



Club Bulletin



Our Bulletin SEVA has been very vibrant this year and has been released punctually

Apart from the periodic issues, we have had special issues released for the following events:

Installation of Club Office Bearers
Governor's Official Visit
Karunashraya Silver Jubilee
COVID-19 Relief

The Anniversary issue of SEVA is also expected to be released on time

All Issues of SEVA have been uploaded to our website regularly and circulated to our Sister Clubs and Partners through email.

Support to District

RBI was Lead Club for Joshilay - the District's Club Service ICGF Event. PP Karthikeya Reddy and PP Shashank Kekre marshalled our troops for this event.



We were also the joint lead club for RI Dist 3190's Karnataka Rajyotsava celebration event Karnataka Sambhrama Rotary Sangama. Over 1300 people attended the cultural extravaganza held at Chowdiah Memorial Auditorium. PP Ambika Narayan was the point person for this event Succession & Strategic Planning

Over the years, RBI has evolved a well laid out succession plan. Consequently, we know our leaders for the next five years. All our major activities/ projects go through strategic planning.

The plan lays down the path for future projects & various activities for the next five years. All of it is done in consultation with the future leaders.

Club Bylaws & Constitution

These have been updated as per the resolutions in COL 2018/2019.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AVENUE

Director Rtn. Ambica Motupalli, worked in tandem with her coordinator, PP Rtn. O.P. Khanna. Here is a brief summary of activities in the avenue.

Karunashraya

Karunashraya's dedicated services to mankind notched up a silver jubilee. After 25 years of offering palliative care services, the 75-bed facility is now poised for an expansion with an OPD training block. The Bhoomi Puja was done earlier this year and construction work is now in progress. The estimated cost of this expansion project is Rs.6 Crores. As on now, the number of patients of Karunashraya is 2014. Of these the number for in-patient care is 1175, and for Home care it is 246.



Bharatiya Gramin Mahila Sangha

A number of activities and actions were done at this institution that are supported by RBI along with Jai Shiv Shakti Foundation. Some highlights through the year:

Through the process of crowd funding, RBI collected Rs. 13,27,869 to sponsor children at BGMS's Shishukunj Vidyalaya, an English medium school offering studies from class 1 to class 10. The amount was duly handed over to the institution.

President Manoj Agarwal and PP Rtn Peeyush Jain inaugurated Sanskar classes conducted by Sandipani Gurukul. The classes are held every Friday from 12:45 to 3:00 PM.

GSK Excellence Awards were presented by PP Rtn. O. P. Khanna to meritorious students at Shishukunj Vidyalaya, for academic and extracurricular activities.

Construction of the Front Office at BGMS is in progress and is expected to be completed shortly. RBI has contributed Rs. 10 lacs for this project.

Ann Sowmya Srikanth conducted Awareness program on Menstrual Hygiene.

The children from BGMS participated in the Karnataka Rajyotsva Celebrations.

Heart Care

During this year so far, we have completed 150 Heart Surgeries. A Global Grant application for another 90 Heart Surgeries has been submitted.

RBI is in the process of filing its biggest Global Grant application to provide a Cath lab at the Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research.

Our Homograft Bank project conducted jointly with Manipal Hospital & NHF continues to serve the community, ensuring a supply of Heart Valves.

Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre (CRC)



CRC at the Jayadeva Hospital was inaugurated on 2nd Sep 2019 by Trustee Chair Rotary Foundation, Rtn. CK Gary Hwang, Trustee Rtn. Ghulam Vahanvati & DG Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariani. The centre assists in post-surgery rehabilitation of heart patients. The facility, a first of its kind in South India, has so far benefited hundreds of patients.

Eye Care

4772 patients were treated in Nethralaya's Kolar & Tumkur facilities and in other camps conducted. Funds for 3773 patients were generated through crowdfunding. Camps identified and treated 1500 patients.

TEACH

As part of this key initiative, Rtn. Suresh Balasubramani organized 2 Teacher Training sessions facilitated by Rtn Sanjay Dugar's team of facilitators.



'Accountability and Responsibility' for 41 Teachers at Navaprajna Public School, on 17 Aug, 2019, and 'Values, ethics and behavior' at APS ASC center in Sept, attended by 72 teachers, were some of the programmes organized.

Adult Literacy

Our club conducts Adult Literacy program in two centres. We also got the adult literacy book translated from Hindi into Kannada. Thanks to Secretary A K Sugunan's efforts, the bedrock of our Adult Literacy program is formed by the Forum for Former LRDEians which comprises retired LRDE employees.

Pediatric Cancer Treatment

In this joint project with Rotary Bangalore Southwest, medicines and needles were supplied for 30 children undergoing Pediatric Chemotherapy treatment at Kidwai Memorial and St. John's Hospitals. 20 more children have been identified.

WINS

Hand Wash Stations were installed in 9 Schools in the Hoskote area. This effort was led by Rtn Bijith, Rtn Philip George and Rtn Fazal.

Anne Sowmya Srikanth conducted a workshop on "Menstrual Hygiene" at GFDC, Hoskote for 146 girls and at BGMS for 75 girls.

C V Raman Hospital - Tonometer

The Tonometer installed as part of an early RBI project of this year, was used to screen 1496 OPD patients for Glaucoma. 167 of these have been diagnosed with Glaucoma.

Vidyadaan

The project's underlying belief is that Education is a catalyst of change in society and creates harmony, mutual tolerance and social upliftment. It aims at providing an opportunity for students from underprivileged sections of society to meet their aspirations. Vidyadaan funds studies of students from Class XI to Degree.

We support 550 students at present, through returns from a corpus amount of Rs. 220 Lakhs. The project target is to support 1000 students by 2023.

GSK Excellence Awards

Under the auspices of Rotary Indiranagar, GS Khanna Excellence Awards are presented to school children who excel in academics & extra-curricular activities.

Students from 15 schools were awarded this year.

Rural Schools & Colleges

2 laser Printers for College for printing handouts for students of MSc Physics and English, installed at Government First Grade College (GFGC), Hoskote.

Drinking water equipment to meet requirements of 1500 students.


Organized laptops from Sankya Foundation for Scholarship Girls.

An athletic meet was conducted at Hoskote School on Aug 27, 2019.

Lake Revival

We revived Lake Manae, located just off Bannerghatta Road.

5 amazing kids of standard 8 at Vidyashilp Academy crowdfunded the project. Bangalore's Lake man Anand Malligavad executed the project.

These 5 children from Vidyashilp Academy presented the lake revival project at the UN as part of  .



Blood Donation

We collected 9400 units despite the COVID-19 pandemic scare.

RBI donated Rs. 42 lacs to the TTK Blood Bank, to support pregnant women, accident victims and BPL citizens. A big thank you to the MCK Trust

Water Wheels



We gave away 100 Water Wheels to people of Kogunde village in Chitradurga Dist.

These water wheels help ladies to fetch water with ease from distant locations.

700 more Water Wheels will be given next week in the Kalaburgi area, a dry district of Karnataka. Our sincere thanks & gratitude to DG 3160 Rtn. Nayan Patil, who had this project implemented in Dist. 3160.

Pulse Polio

NID was conducted on the 19th of January 2020

Interact Club of Cauvery School and Rotaract Club of Surana College volunteered for it.

No. of kids immunized during the NID Pulse polio campaign

Murphy Town - 9283 out of 10413

Bhuvaneswari Nagar - 8500 out of 10541

Old Byappanhalli - 8309 out of 9459

COVID-19 Relief

1,18,000 ration kits were distributed to migrant labourers & daily wage earners

We provided 1,05,000 face masks to the National Centre for Disease Control, SSLC appearing students & others

Rs. 20 Lacs was contributed to the PM Cares Fund

850 PPE Kits were given to Sir C V Raman General Hospital & Bowring Hospital

20000 meals were distributed to daily wage earners

We supported stressed tribal farmers with a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds to sell their organic turmeric.

1200 Hand sanitizers were distributed to Asha workers and fruit & vegetable vendors

As a joint project with three clubs, we provided an RT PCR Testing machine to Anand Diagnostics

17 migrants were sent by flight to Calcutta and Bagdogra

Another batch of 16 migrants are ready and waiting to fly

OUR COVID-19 INITIATIVES TOUCHED 6 LAC PEOPLE

A TOTAL OF 1800 MAN HOURS WERE SPENT

THE COST OF PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN IS Rs. 15 CRORES.



Anganwadi Renovation



RBI started the year with 49 Renovated Anganwadis that had been dedicated to society. As on now, we have gone past 100. A number of renovated anganwadis are ready, but are being held back from being dedicated due to the CoVID-19 pandemic driven lockdown.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Director Rtn. Narssimhan Kannan with Co-ordinator PP Rtn. Suresh Patel's guidance did a great job.

Flag Exchanges

A number of Rotarians who visited overseas Rotary clubs exchanged flags with them. Rtn. Philip George, Rtn. Supriya Kandhari and Rtn. T.K. Chandramouli exchanged flags with clubs they visited

SEVA Bulletin issues sent to Sister clubs

RBI's periodic Bulletin/newsletter SEVA has been routinely emailed to our sister clubs across the Rotary World.

International Night



The International Night Event held at Bangalore International Center (BIC) on 6th Jan 2020, was very well received. A host of Rotarians and Anns turned up dressed in International Costumes. The event featured a musical extravaganza presented by PP Rtn. Pradeep Vishwanathan's group NYOTH. There were also, the Best International Dress competition, Latin / Salsa and Contemporary dance & a Stand-up Comedy act.

Rotary Foundation

Rtn. Ghanshyam Agrawal joined the Arch Klump Society by contributing USD 1,50,000.

PP Rtn. O P Khanna paid a Term Gift for Heart Surgeries. Each Rotarian of RBI contributed USD 26.5 towards the Annual Fund. PP Rtn. Prabhakar Bothireddy moved from level 3 to level 4 by bringing his total contribution to 1,00,000. Rtn. Wg Cdr. Ashok Saraf has agreed to become a Major Donor. The total contribution to TRF from RBI is USD 2,28,710

Global Grants

6 open Global Grant projects were completed during the year. 4 projects relating to Pediatric Heart Surgeries totaling 391 heart surgeries. The other completed projects were the Nethradeep Tumkur Eye Care hospital and the BVB BBMP School Upscaling project.

Of the other 4 projects, the Global Grant project for 90 Heart Surgeries is awaiting approval, while the project relating to ICU equipment for Jain Mission Hospital for Rs. 81 Lakhs has been approved. The Bangladesh Eye care project awaits approval, while the last one, for CRC equipment is partly completed, with equipment already installed and inaugurated, from 75% funds received earlier. The remaining 25% funds have been received and will be utilized shortly.

4 new Global Grants have been proposed. These are a Water filter project valued at Rs. 1 Crore, Cathlab Project at Sri Jayadeva Hospital, Equipment for Phase II of Kolar Eye Care Hospital. And that for expansion at Karunashraya.

Sister Club Agreements

We have the following sister club agreements:

- ROTARY CLUB OF RAMNA (R.I. District 3281, Dhaka, Bangladesh)
- ROTARY CLUB OF MEDAN DELI (R.I. District 3410 Indonesia)
- ROTARY CLUB OF COLOMBO (R.I. District 3220, Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- ROTARY CLUB OF WHEELERS HILL Inc (R.I. District 9810 Australia)

Family Overseas Trip

The planned family overseas trip to Russia, which had already been arranged and confirmed had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 73 Rotarians and family members had confirmed their participation.

VOCATIONAL SERVICE AVENUE

Rtn. Gopinath Narayanan directed the avenue guided by PP Rtn. Dr. Krishnan Menon.

Career Guidance

RBI conducted 9 sessions in 7 schools, reaching out to 550 students. These were conducted by PP Rtn. Ganesh Balakrishna of Rotary Lalbagh and Rtn. Suresh Balasubramani. They were all well received.



Vocational Visit

26 Rotarians visited our epochal CRC project at SJICER.

Skill Development



In association with Jeevika Skills, 87 students of Banking & Finance courses were covered in three batches at Government First Grade College KR Puram (2 batches) and one batch at Dream a Dream, Bommanahalli

Through our online donation platform, we raised ₹1.26 lakhs for skill development initiatives.

At Gandhi Institute of Computer Education & Technology

- 345 students were trained in MS Excel, MS Word, MS PowerPoint and Tally
- The refurbished training centre was inaugurated by DG Rtn. Dr. Sameer Hariyani on Dec 2, 2019.

Four Way Test

Every career guidance session featured the Four Way Test.

A 4 Way Test seminar scheduled for April 2020 was postponed due to the COVID 19 crisis.

Vocational Service Month

We celebrated October 2019 as vocational service month

On 14th October Kannada film actor Rtn. Prakash Belvady addressed a joint meeting of RBI, Rotary Bangalore Kalyan and Rotary Bangalore North West.

A seminar on Rotary's vision featuring PDG Rtn. Paras Bhansali, IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari and PP Rtn. Karthik Reddy was facilitated by President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal during a regular weekly meeting on October, 28 2019.

Vocational Awards

RBI facilitated 3 luminaries with Vocational Excellence awards



- Veteran music director Usha Khanna during the Maestros 2 Fundraiser on September 28th
- Noted actor and director Rtn. Prakash Belvady on 14th October 2019, for his contribution to the world of stage and art
- Test cricketer Mayank Agarwal during the GOV on Dec 2nd, 2019

YOUTH SERVICE AVENUE

With Coordinator PP Rtn. Harish Anand guiding Director Rtn. Ajay Gupta, the Youth Service avenue was vibrantly active.

The 29th edition of the Dr. G S Randhawa Memorial Hockey tournament was held at the KSHA Astroturf from 17thAug to 26thAug 2019. The keenly contested tournament was won by RDT, Anantapur who prevailed over Sports School, Kudige.



Ragalahari (Music & Dance) a competition that promotes Carnatic Classical Music & Bharatanatyam among youth for Children was held at Vasavi Education Trust's School on 10thNovember 2019. It featured 4 events, across age-wise categories. As in earlier years, it was a popular draw. 189 youngsters participated in 200 unique performances.

A Rural Athletic Sports Meet was held on 27th August 2019 at Hoskote. Young students from 10 local institutions participated in 7 track and field events

Our annual Non-medalist Swimming Competition for Boys & Girls was held at the Basavangudi Aquatic Centre on 25thDecember 2019. It featured 3 age categories with 4 events for each gender. In addition, there were medleys for each gender in the two senior groups.



Rang Rotary Ke Sang, a painting competition for children was held on 19thJanuary 2020 at Cubbon Park. It was well contested. The event attracted 278 students. Former IG of Karnataka Police, KVR Tagore was guest of honour. For 2 hours, KVR Tagore, the retired IPS officer, spoke to parents of participating children, on Culture, Pollution and Traffic etiquette while their wards were painting their pieces. An artist himself, the former IPS officer

handed out the prizes to winners.

The SAEVUS Eco- Achievers Quiz 2019-20 was held on 25thJanuary at Sree Cauvery Junior College premises. The first part was a preliminary round featuring 10 teams from schools in Bengaluru. In the afternoon the semifinals featuring 8 teams, including the Bengaluru winners was held. Both were conducted by Quizmaster, Rajiv D'Silva. Ms Sree Nandy, CEO Saevus Wildlife magazine, was visibly impressed with our arrangements.



Interact

RBI has these 15 Interact clubs:

1. Army Public School, ASC
2. GEAR Innovative International School
3. Interact Club of Bangalore Indiranagar
4. Sree Cauvery PU College
5. Little Flowers English School
6. BBMP Public School
7. Navaprajna Public School
8. Army Public School, Kamaraj Road
9. Frank Anthony Public School
10. Airforce School, MP
11. Government Lower Primary School, Garudacharpalya
12. Charan's School,
13. The Deens Academy, ECC
14. Army Public School, PRTC
15. Sree Cauvery School



Our Interactors visited Karunashraya, BGMS, slums, orphanages and old age homes. They conducted Food drives, Fun Fests, Career Guidance Programs and participated in Swachh Bharat Mission.

Rotaract

RBI has 5 active Rotaract clubs at

- Xavier Institute of Management & Entrepreneurship (XIME)
- Govt. First Grade College, Krishnarajapuram
- Community based Rotaract club at RBI
- Surana College
- Symbiosis Institute of Business Management, Bengaluru

Our Rotaractors were involved in a number of activities that included Campaign for Literacy, Pulse Polio, TEACH Mission, Blood Donations camps, Tree Planting, Quiz Competitions and Youth Service Month Programs.

Our community based Rotaract club was awarded the Platinum Citation by Rotary International.

President Manoj Agarwal's thoughts about RBI in 2019-20

Just before embarking on the anniversary issue of SEVA, we thought it would be nice to get President Manoj Agarwal's insights into the year that went by.

The questions and President Manoj's responses are reproduced below.

1. What is the most memorable event of your year as President? Why?
Lake rejuvenation project. One of the biggest challenges the world is facing today is environment protection. This is our first step towards it.
2. What were your first thoughts upon hearing about the nationwide lockdown?
My first thought was what its impact would be & how Rotary could help in this situation.
3. What were the initial steps that you took upon hearing of the lockdown?
I spoke to some of our members and things started falling in place. We took quick decisions & moved fast. There was no dearth of funds.
4. How did your family take to your year as President?
My family was very supportive and lent their full support.
Manju would always remind me of things to do.
Mohit joined the new club Rotary Bengaluru Disha.
Megha joined the Rotaract club of Jindal Law School.
5. What is the most satisfying aspect of your presidency?
During the year we could impact more than 7 lakh people through wide range of projects of our club.
6. What is your message to future RBI Presidents?
Keep your eyes and ears open for projects.
Don't worry about funds, they will come.
Act fast. Have patience and persevere.
7. Were you able to execute all of your original plans? Do you have any regrets vis-à-vis projects?
Yes, executed much more than my plans. No regrets at all.

RBI's two quietly efficient COVID heroes



The quiet persistence of Rtn. Narssimhan and Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar in helping migrants fly home, got noticed by volunteers from another group. Here's what one of them, Alice, wrote in her institution's (NLSIU) Alumni Group on 5th June 2020. Evidently, her observation of our two champions was limited only to checking-in of the first-time air passengers. She would not have been aware of the intensity of their journey in the story of migrant labourers returning home en masse. The title of this piece is SEVA's contribution, but contents of Alice's original article are reproduced verbatim, except for the *italics* font of *RBI relevant info*.

RBI's Santas flood migrants with Labour of kindness

What a fantastic labour of care, love, perseverance and persistence to see this all come together. Our 17 travelers on their way to Kolkata by air today. These are no ordinary 17! They have had the harshest hands dealt to them already. Besides being financially unsteady, they have been hit by a loved one getting sick with cancer/tumor/kidney disease and so on.

When we met them, it was apparent they could not go home by trains or other modes of transport. So Preeta reached out to her friends in Mumbai, who as an initiative of their NLS alumni group had sent a whole plane of people back home! *Before we knew it, we got support from not only her Mumbai friends but other groups in Bangalore (Fuel a Dream – a crowd funding platform, Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar and their partner Rotary in Kolkata). Funds were raised literally overnight and logistics were arranged quickly.*

One volunteer made baggage tags that are now necessary. Another acquired flight friendly suitcases to give them. They were counselled on the whole process of flying including how to pack, what to pack etc.

5th June 2020, bright and early, at 6.55 am, the first volunteer showed up and soon 4 of us awaited the bus that Inventure academy organized with Bhagirathi. Breakfast arrived lovingly cooked in the morning by one volunteer and packed with such care including a little add-on for in flight food. Our Bangla speakers make them all feel comfortable. An important detail - a volunteer brought Horlicks. Apparently, every Bengali appreciates Horlicks! And another volunteer brought sandesh that is considered a good omen. No wonder, the travellers said, this was not food – it was Prasad!

The two younger ones Noor (15 years old and operated for a brain tumor) and Aryan (4 years old, one kidney removed) had excitement writ on their faces. The mothers were dressed in their best! Little did we expect these extra joys, busy as we were with the mundane details of logistics.

The Rotary team of Narsi & Rakesh was all geared up to take over from us at the airport and the first part of the relay was successful! Affectionately dubbed as Santas for all their kindness, they ensured that our 17 successfully navigated check-in, security! That was a

milestone as we had discovered a pocket knife earlier in one of our passenger's carry-on as he had intended to cut fruit on the flight 😊.

At 1pm, many of us had a prayer in our hearts as we knew that Spice Jet would be taxiing for takeoff with our special group. *By 3.30 we started receiving cheerful word of their being near baggage claim and finally the pictures of them all getting into the specially arranged Tata Sumos to take them home courtesy Rotary Kolkata.* Little Aryan was spotted wearing a PPE his size and we all heaved a sigh of relief.

Many of us have never met each other before. But here we are working across groups, across states to help this small group of 17 reach home even as we ready ourselves for the next set. This, is the power of people coming together in times of crisis.

Write-up by Alice in NLSUI alumni group 🙌



Register for the convention at:

https://www.riconvention.org/en/sign-2020-rotary-virtual-convention?cid=soc_virtualconvention+20200610_soc_fb_mem_na_signup_en