

RBI Board 2019-20

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WEEKLY MEETING VENUE & TIME:
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2143, 16E Main, HAL II Stage,
Indiranagar, Bengaluru - 560008
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From the Editor's desk



Dear Reader,

Welcome to this special edition of SEVA. We are sure that you will enjoy this issue just the way you have our earlier issues.

You will be pleased to know that RBI just scored almost a perfect 10 in our response to CoVID-19 and to the unwitting misery that befell some due to the lockdown. We just heard that RBI topped the Charts with our CoVID-19 effort. We will keep those details for the next issue of SEVA.

We have used the expressive logo on each page of this issue.

While most of us were just getting to grips with the sudden CoVID-19 sparked lockdown, there were a few brave-hearts who decided that they could not just look at the world go by. They chose to be at the frontlines of the fight against the CoVID-19 virus and the lockdown's aftermath.

Some others stayed at home and pulled appropriate strings to get vital work done quickly. It is this diversity of thought and action that makes RBI uniquely successful.

We reached out to some of these CoVID-19 heroes to get a peek into their work. These busybodies responded with their experiences.

We will begin with the recognition for RBI, thanks to its quick off-the-blocks action and resulting achievement. And then hear from the heroes.

All of RBI deserves applause for its terrific effort, especially our own CoVID warriors, whom we feature in the pages of this issue.

As always, we'd love to hear to from you about this issue of SEVA, with a simple message to SEVA.RCBI@gmail.com.

Please do indicate the specific point that you refer in your message. It helps us improve our connect with you.

Earlier SEVA issues are at <https://www.rotaryindiranagar.org/newsletters>

Happy reading,

Rtn. Vidyut Shenoy
Bulletin Editor, 2019-20

RBI's CoVID-19 relief project wins big

RI District 3190 recently announced awards and certificates for clubs and Rotarians who achieved significant results in the fight against hardships heaped by the Co-VID 19 related lockdown. RBI's result was a perfect .

In reality it was double that - a perfect 20 as seen from the 20 certificates that RBI and its partner organizations were awarded by RI Dist. 3190. As the work progressed, RBI not just exceeded its initial target but also those that were subsequently revised multiple times.

The perfect 10 was formed from the 15 certificates that we received for RBlans and RBI associates who got involved directly through us. The remaining 5 certificates have been sent directly to other associates in this initiative.

President Manoj Agarwal spearheaded the work by enabling all the support needed. He was our champion warrior who kept communication lines open at all times and channelized effort to where it was most needed.

These were some key CoVID-19 related projects that RBI embarked upon:

- RBI contributed Rs. 20 lakhs to PM Cares Fund through Rotary India. Prominent contributors - Rtns. Ghanshyam Agarwal (Rs.15 lakhs) PP Prabhakar Bothireddy (Rs.1 lakh), PP Peeyush Jain (Rs. 51,000), PP Suresh Patel (Rs.25,000), Wq Cdr Ashok Saraf Rs. 25,000/-, PP O P Khanna (Rs.25,000) were among the many who contributed to the PM Cares Fund.
- 50000 face masks were given to National Disease Control Center, New Delhi jointly with Rotary Club of Delhi Ashoka, Dist. 3190 & Dist. 3012 at a cost of Rs.8,26,875/. Our own Rtn. Pradeep Lal and his brother Rtn. Manoj Lal of Rotary (Dist 3012) spearheaded this initiative.
- Four clubs jointly plan to give RT-PCR CoVID-19 testing equipment to Anand Diagnostics. The total cost of the machine is Rs.22 lacs. RBI will contribute Rs.5 lakhs for the equipment. Rtn. Ghanshyam Agarwal contributed Rs. 2.5 lacs for this project.
- RBI provided essential rations to BGMS worth Rs.20,000/-
- A hand wash facility was installed outside Rotary House of Service with a poster of the correct hand washing technique to benefit the nearby community.
- IPDG Rtn. Suresh Hari & TRF Trustee Rtn. Gulam Vahanvati of Rotary Club of Bombay helped RBI get 750 nos. of PPE Kits valued at Rs.7,50,000. These PPE Kits will be supplied to Government Hospitals in Bangalore which face a shortage of PPE kits
- RBI undertook 6 crowdfunding projects through Fuel-a-Dream for CoVID-19 related projects

We briefly state work done by some of our CoVID-19 warriors in the paragraphs that follow. Later in this issue we expand these into the specific actions that made them heroes.

Very early into the lockdown, Rtn. Sanjay Dugar foresaw a need for humanitarian service of food for migrant workers and daily wage earners. He brought it to the notice of President Manoj Agarwal, who agreed with him. Sanjay mobilized his wide network of specialists, in which he was ably supported by Rtn. Naresh Bhandia of our yet-to-be-installed satellite club. Their network did a superb job of coordinating, collating, packing and delivering. Upon realizing that many recipients were undocumented in civic records and that their abodes were temporary, the situation required some deft handling and quick process recalibration.

Parallelly, Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar mobilized his Mission Chai experience and network for this cause. He also walked that extra mile for additional impact by helping defog and sanitize closed spaces such as RHOS and the Jeevan Bima Nagar Police Station. He helped with food packet distribution in far flung areas as well.



Our experienced Blood Donation champion Rtn. Lata Amashi applied her years of experience spearheading camps for RBI, to seamlessly manage her effort. She liaised with like-minded NGOs and enabled a force multiplier.

Rtn. Vijay Mane's do-gooder spirit was vividly evident as he systematically launched into distributing Ration Kits with members of Rotary IT Corridor. Due to Vijay's long association with the club he has many close friends there. They worked together and helped reach kits to the target audience, while documenting the whereabouts of individuals thereof.

Rtn. Asha Vaswani pitched in by involving her own circle. Her work was timely and effective.

President Manoj, backed this solid team to the hilt by motivating them and mobilizing funds from well-wishers. His communication at vital times kept the team spirit up. He enhanced RBI's image in RHOS's neighbourhood by having a washing station installed on the RHOS periphery for use by locals. A poster depicting effective hand washing helped immensely too. He was the key to publicizing our work with our Rotary district and beyond.

Is it any surprise that we scored that perfect 10? The '10' icon of the previous page is expanded here, so that names of these heroes are visible on their certificates. Let us all applaud them for their yeoman effort in dealing with the CoVID-19 pandemic driven crises.



Exceptional external support



**RBI's CoVID-19
Heroes Circle of
12 Honour
Certificates**

RI Dist. 3190's Covid-19 Awardees from RBI	
Appreciation Certificates	
IPDG Suresh Hari	Rtn. Lata Amashi
PP Prabhakar	Rtn. Vijay Mane
Bothireddy	Rtn. Asha Vaswani
PP Ajith Rai	Rtn. Kasthuri Saravanan
PP Peeyush Jain	Rtn. Pradeep Lal
Rtn. Sanjay Dugar	Rtn. Ghanshyam Agarwal
Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar	Rtn. Lata Amashi
Acknowledgement Certificates	
Shri C. P. Bothra Charitable Trust	Shri V. P. Goel Trust

The COVID19 Pandemic, and what RBI accomplished

On 25th March 2020, Rtn. Sanjay Dugar and a friend Aparna Ponnappa, had an empathy filled conversation about people near their homes who needed help. These people were migrant labourers who were stranded in the lockdown situation – away from their family, with no money in the pocket, no home to stay in, and no idea where they would get their food from. And as they spoke, they got more information that there were many such cases in Bangalore. Immediately, they committed to supporting 10,000 such persons.

They began speaking with others to get them involved, and eventually put together a team that went by the name **COVID19 Relief Bangalore**. The team brought in people with varied skills in different areas such supply chain, logistics, nutrition, sourcing and packaging. One such person was Rtn. Naresh Bhandia from our yet to be installed satellite club (Rotary Bengaluru Disha).



The task force involved many NGOs who provided support at various locations around Bangalore, to distribute ration kits to families. They were



surprised to observe overlaps, with many areas getting less than required, and other places where people collected rations without real need. With these ground level insights, the task force developed a process of validating, geo-tagging, and distributing specifically to identified migrant labour. They were able to successfully eliminate duplication. The process ensured transparency with personal data confidentiality that was highly appreciated by many groups, including government bodies. Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar



fully supported this group, and when the process was shared with DG Dr. Sameer Hariani, he promoted it at the District level, and got many other Rotary Clubs



aligned to this process as well.

What made this relief work unique?

It was a massive collaboration effort where we had Educational Institutions and Alumni, like St. Joseph's Institutions, XLRI, Jamshedpur, IIM Calcutta, FMS, Bishop Cottons, Mount Carmel College, and many more getting involved.

Associations and Organizations, like **Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar, International Association of Facilitators**, PotHoleRaja, Bangalore Multi-purpose Social Service Society (BMSSS), AICUF, With Bengaluru, RWAs near Langford Road, and a few more.

Corporates, like Titan, Compass, Metro, Balurghat Technologies, Big Basket, Wipro, ITC, 3M, Himalaya, Intel, Goldman Sachs threw their lot in with the initiative

Many NGOs and Foundations, like Diya Ghar, Azim Premji Foundation, SDFMM, Utopia, Hasiru Dala, CFAR, Accelerate India, Janagraha, Development Focus, Whitefield Rising, Mercy Mission also chipped in.

All these organizations with different foci and varied objectives, came together to work as one body. It was streamlined through some facilitation by Sanjay Dugar. He was able to align all of them to a common goal and get people in the group to use their strengths and expertise to develop and implement processes and help optimize the output. Everyone was highly energized to perform. The group worked without a break for many weeks in trying times,

despite issues like a few volunteers getting beaten up and some vehicles being seized by the police. The team continued to move forward meticulously with consummate ease. The multifaceted team through the power of collaboration, eliminated duplicates, reached out to the poorest of the poor, brought in multiple types and levels of expertise, and made a huge difference. The knowledge gained has been shared with many others to replicate the methodology.

A very quick dip stick research claims to have brought in a minimum of 30% cost saving, and at least 50% time and effort saving.



Daily updates shown through eye-catching messages like the one alongside, kept everyone's spirits high.

In the home run lap, they easily managed to handover over an enormous number to kits to surpass the 80,000 kits target that was set. The report alongside, which was the last one published, indicates that the target has been more than exceeded.

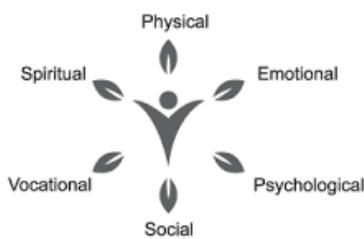
The story does not end here. The focused team brought together with its diversity harnessed, did not want to stop at this point.

The first objective was to decide until when the Relief process should continue. To decide its sustenance, the group's decision was that it be driven by Rotary's 4-Way Test.

The team wished to move ahead into the rehabilitation stage, and eventually into the redevelopment. Rotary Bangalore Indiranagar and Rotary District 3190 remain keen to support them as plans around these unfold.



6 Focus Areas of Rehabilitation



Rehabilitation is an interim step to be implemented before moving to the redevelopment stage. It is an involved process needing focus in multiple areas, as described in the picture shown alongside. Rehabilitation is an essential step which if delayed could result in consequences, worse than that from the pandemic itself. The effort needs professional assistance and inputs in each of these 6 focus areas.

Different approaches to achieve rehabilitation evolved through the facilitation process. They included methods such as bringing together diverse groups of individuals under one roof, facilitated conversations for ideation, creating task forces to build plans and implement tasks thereof. Communication to society at large as also building safety nets in each of the six focus areas were also highlighted by the group.

The group resolved to use their network to bring together and collaborate with diverse groups, go sector by sector (in parallel) and use the expertise of experienced facilitators and together accelerate by harvesting group wisdom. They also suggested using the *How Might We* template (seen alongside) to empower individuals for readying themselves for the post lockdown environment.

How might we

How Might We SUPPORT **Action**
What
for People who have lost their jobs **Stakeholder**
in order to Reskill them for new jobs **What change?**

The Mantra to accelerate to the new normal is possible by following Rotary's principles:

- We think service above self
- We connect the world
- We demonstrate Rotary in Action
- We execute as guided by the 4-Way Test

Rtn. Sanjay Dugar, through diligent leadership and facilitation, has shown how to step ahead with confidence to people who are yet to come to grips with the post-lockdown scenario.

Adapted from Rtn. Sanjay Dugar's original manuscript



A leaf from ROTARY DIST 3190's MAY 2020 BULLETIN



RB Indiranagar Covid 19 initiatives:

1. We have provided more than 103000 ration kits for the migrant labourers and daily wage earners. This was a joint initiative with XLRI Alumni Group & Global SME Hub. Cost of the project Rs. 11 Crores
2. For the PM Cares Fund we have contributed Rs. 20 lakhs, out of this Rtn. Ghanshyam Agrawal contributed Rs. 15 lakhs.
3. We contributed Rs. 5 lakhs towards joint project of 4 clubs to provide RT PCR testing machine at Anand Diagnostic. Total cost of the equipment Rs. 17 lakhs.
4. We have donated 50000 face masks jointly with Rotary Club of Delhi Ashoka & Dist 3190 & Dist 3012 to National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi. Cost of the project Rs. 8.26 lakhs. Another 1000 face masks distributed in Indiranagar area.
5. We provided 20000 food packets to the needy through the District program. Cost of the project Rs. 4.5 lakhs.
6. We have distributed 1200 hand Sanitizers to vegetable, fruit & kirana shops in New Thippasandra and for Asha workers in Ramnagaram. Cost of the project Rs. 1.8 lakhs.
7. We will be providing 750 PPE Kits to Sir C V Raman General Hospital next week. This is a joint project with Rotary Club of Bombay. Cost of the project Rs. 7.5 lakhs.

Total cost of projects undertaken - Rs. 11.5 crores Number of lives impacted - 6 lakhs Man hours spent - 1500 hours.



From receiving wholesale packets

to creating subpacks for ration packets

and despatching to different locations

Rtn. Sanjay Dugar co-ordinated action down to the last detail

Mission Chai founder turned CoVID-19 warrior

Rakesh Nayyar, a junior engineer at ISRO, and his daughter Prerna Nayyar started Mission Chai with a vision to help people in need. It is now supported by a dedicated team

Mission Chai commenced on 16th August 2015 with the simple idea "चाय तो बहाना है, हमें लोगों के पास जाना है" (Tea is just an excuse to interact with people)". Starting with 200 cups at Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology's Hospital it began with the support of friends and like-minded people who wanted to serve society. Mission Chai has today expanded to 1000+ cups providing biscuits and fruits at Kidwai Hospital and Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, Bengaluru. Similar services have started at MNJ Cancer Hospital, Hyderabad, Gandhinagar General hospital, Gujarat by Mission Chai members who moved to these cities. Apart from serving tea, they hold blood donation camps every three months with the support of Kidwai blood bank and GURUDWARA SRI SINGH SABHA ULSOOR. Their recent projects also include setting up Drinking water facility in all wards of the Kidwai memorial hospital.

When the 'service minded' Rtn. Rakesh joined RBI in 2019, he learned about our many सेवा (service) related activities. He believes that these have been very helpful in the Covid19 crisis. His approach to service is to be hands on and have direct contact with the people in need. Since day one of the lockdown, Mission Chai started a centralized kitchen to cook food and distribute Ration Kits in multiple areas across the city. He has also been a very active participant in RBI's Ration kits distribution project. Rakesh and his team went a step further and helped sanitize police stations, slums and other public places (including RHOS). Their regular midnight Mission Chai seva at police check-posts is a big hit with our hardworking police force. Importantly, his group also distributed masks. Rtn. Rakesh arranged Food and Ration kits to be distributed to Taxi drivers, as also in village areas near Devanahalli where migrants were stuck.

He feels a lot of synergy with RBI's goal to help and empower society.

Given their multifaceted service, it is difficult to estimate the number of lives that these Mission Chaiwallas have touched in the CoVID-19 effort. It will easily exceed 20000. And much of it has been with their own funds. We share just a few memories of their work.

Thank you, Rakesh and your agents of सेवा.

Adapted from Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar's original



Sanitizing Magadi Road Police Station



Ration kits to Pourakarmikas in Devanahalli



Packed food for migrant workers at Devanahalli



Breakfast packets delivered to Jeevan Bima Nagar Police Station

When Blood Donation experience helped in CoVID-19

While others battled physical lockdown at home, I was fighting a drift into mental lockdown. An unexpected call by Corporator Shilpa Abhilash and Mr. Abhilash made me focus on distributing food grain hunger kits to the poor. I got exposed to a powerful platform hitherto unexposed to me. My earlier experience of conducting blood donation helped me craft the CoVID service initiatives, videos on social distancing for maids, hunger kits for marginalised people, supply of masks and sanitizers to push cart vendors, sanitizers to ASHA workers and supply of PPE kits to COVID accredited hospitals.

The grim truth is that health quality is inequitably distributed among people. It was vital to address marginalized people during the lockdown. These crises pushed my sense of duty, since it is undignified to ignore the trauma of another human being. And stepping out of my comfort zone helped me grow and transform.

The lockdown forced us to concentrate on providing dignity of decent living to those in need. We concentrated on clusters of migrants across Bangalore and its periphery. To that we added needy farmers in Hoskote and Kolar (impacted by transport bottlenecks) and the specially-abled in Kolar and Bangalore.

We estimated the number of needy individuals in the areas of coverage, that included construction workers, pourakarmikas and garbage collectors. Our channel partner in rural areas, a technocrat turned agriculturist, built a software to effectively bridge the consumer - producer gap

Traders tend to hoard food grains during crises and arbitrarily hike prices. Consequently, the farming community needed support by directly sourcing their pesticide free and naturally healthy food grain. It also helped women cooperatives become financially independent and feel empowered.

We procured and distributed the following:

- 1200 food grains kits (with 570 still in the pipeline) to farmers and specially-abled people. It touched the lives of 80000 individuals.
- 400 masks and 160 sanitizers to pushcart vendors on the entire Thippasandra Main road
- 1100 sanitizers from a Rotarian's factory to ASHA workers in Ramanagaram, Indiranagar and Sarjapur.

Others who offered a helping hand were

- 1) Immediate family
- 2) Close friends
- 3) Ladies clubs (Friends of Tribal Society, Bengaluru Mahila Chapter and Sneha Charitable Trust Indiranagar chapter)
- 4) Local Corporator Shilpa and Abhilash
- 5) Members of our Resident welfare association
- 6) Friends and relatives from overseas
- 7) A few NGOs
- 8) Well-wishers and neighbours on my road

The activity was full of MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- 1) The gleam in a 95-year-old lady's eyes in Kengeri satellite town, the sole bread winner in her family (her son had lost both his legs in an accident), upon receiving her Hunger Kit made us brim with joy.
- 2) My book - COOKING INITIATIVES IN THE WONDERLAND OF THE PINEAPPLE - using pineapple as the primary ingredient, to support pineapple farmers, got featured in METROLINE (HINDU). The book has been well received.



Here is a summary of my LEARNING during this crisis

- 1) Sharing is caring
- 2) Being healthy is unrelated to being wealthy
- 3) An early warning system is key to effectively manage crises
- 4) We are everyday stewards of each other's dignity
- 5) Sustainable development results from balancing pressure on Mother Earth by protecting all living things (from animals to insects) and the environment
- 6) Eliminating middleman in aggregating agricultural production can help immensely
- 7) Compassion during medical crises has no boundaries, religion, race caste or creed
- 8) Believe in yourself - You are braver than you think you are, more talented than you know and capable of more than you can imagine
- 9) Life is about accepting challenges along the way, choosing to keep moving forward while savouring the journey all the way
- 10) Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries - without them humanity cannot survive (HH Dalai Lama)
- 11) Don't ASK, ACT. Action will delineate and define you (Thomas Jefferson)

President Manoj Agarwal pandered to my every request, be it gloves, masks, sanitizers, PPEs suits, or hunger kits or indeed additional funds or project contacts. He was there all the time like a rock, supporting, guiding and accommodating. He never let show the extreme physical and mental stretch caused by pressure exerted on him by many people like me.

Contributed by Rtn. Lata Amashi



Rations packs distribution at HAL III



200 PPE packs delivered to Bowring Hospital



Vegetables with ration packs delivered at HAL III stage

Service Above Self

Since Rotary believes in "*Service above self*", I never wanted to miss an opportunity to serve during this pandemic. Looking at the lockdown scenario & Section 144 imposed, I evolved a way by which to support the cause by distributing **RTE** (**Ready To Eat**) food initially & staple grocery kits later, to the needy & migratory labourers. Here is the process that we followed:

Step 1- The Police Connect

We connected with the police to be the angels in distribution along with Rotary. The DCP, Whitefield appreciated the idea and committed all support. With the 144 section in place, we convinced the Police department to work with RBITC (Rotary Bangalore IT Corridor) in this endeavour.

Step 2- Core Team

As soon as the police support was secured, it took RBITC barely minutes to agree & put in place a core team - (President Rtn. Vamsi, Secretary Rtn. Pawan, PP Rtn. Abhishek, Rtn. Manoj Jhanji, Rtn. Ezhi & Rtn. Sumedha).

Step 3- Fund Raising

The core team supported by all of RBITC, started raising funds through corporates, and commenced crowd funding, apart from individual contributions. I helped catalyze diversion of corporate CSR funds through the Police department connect.

Step 4- Survey

Along with Police personnel, we quickly identified labour camps, mapped the areas, got names of labourers & built a data team that personally visited the camps to ensure credibility and accuracy.

Step 5- Strategy

Since many government agencies & NGO's were engaged in providing food & grocery kits, we wanted to avoid repeat supply. We marked huts and handed appropriately coloured coupons to individuals who had not received kits on a particular day. They could collect the kits in exchange for the coupons.

Step 6- Sourcing RTE food

For ready to eat food, the team identified a pop-up restaurant run by Mr Asad & got food prepared under strict & hygiene conditions. We shortlisted veg pulao with a lot of vegetables, potato & soya chunks to make it nutritious in a 350 gm. pack. That is more than sufficient to sustain a person for 1 day. We discovered that many had not eaten for 2 days in a row.

Step 7 - Sourcing Staple grocery kits.

Initially, we sourced kits locally. But after noticing the superlative team work of Rtn. Sanjay Dugar & RBI, we started sourcing from them. There could not be a better trusted partner than RBI in procuring the kits. The team of Sanjay Dugar, Aparna & Vishal Ponnappa had converted St Joseph's College into professional distribution hub. The grocery was packed into (15 day or 30 day) kits for a family of 3 to 4 persons.

Step 8- Logistics

Logistics were planned by RBITC Rotarians and Volunteers from Whitefield Ready & Whitefield Rising - with their cars and Hoysala Patrol vehicles engaged to travel & distribute the kits.

Step 9- Awareness on Safety, Health, Hygiene & Social distancing.

Not just distribution of kits, we also helped create awareness on these aspects among the recipients.



Step 10-More than just Food & Grocery kits

While the food & grocery kits were still being distributed, we also distributed masks, face shields, etc.

Ultimately it is a perpetual *Service Above Self* through these pandemic relief measures.

For me the heroes are RBITC, Police, Whitefield Ready volunteers, & Team Sanjay Dugar.

We chose to serve, with no intention of indulging in any publicity through social media. Our media presence was only among the donor community and Rotary Clubs to inspire donations and engagement.

Contributed by Rtn. Vijay Mane

Here are some memories from the COVID Relief activities spearheaded by Rtn. Vijay Mane



The Beginner's Touch

Relatively new Rotarian Asha Vaswani's story is unique. She ensured the last foot (mile is just too far) connectivity and ensured that aid reaches the target population. She believes that she did hardly anything to deserve recognition and is touched to be treated as a COVID hero. However, we know that the eternally modest Asha was a vital cog in our distribution chain.

Here is what she told us:

'I am really touched to be treated as a COVID Warrior! There's very little I have done to deserve this. Here is what I did:

- organized tea for the Indiranagar traffic police through Mission Chai and had it distributed
- arranged ration kits through Sanjay Dugar and distributed them to daily wage workers
- connected up with Compass for cooked meals
- arranged funds for ration kits locally and from overseas

It's hardly worth mention but since you have asked there's very little I have done and all through I never ventured out from the house.

We got about 100 cups of chai delivered through Rtn. Rakesh Nayyar's *Mission Chai*.

Distributed biscuits and water to the traffic policemen cops at Jeevan Bima Nagar signal by my son Maneesh Vaswani

Arranged 50,000 cooked meals by Compass coordinated by my son Maneesh Vaswani !

These are some chosen pictures from Asha's effort.

