HARMONY

Rotary Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas Bulletin • Club No. 31297 • RI District 3190 Vol 26 - Issue 2 31st August 2021



President's Message

Greetings,

It has been an action packed July and August with meaningful online meetings and service activities. We continue to make a difference in the community with tireless service by our Rotarians led by Rtn.Sundar Prakash, Rtn.Usha Medina and Rtn. Rajaram Krishnamurthy in Ward 18/19 of Bangalore in supporting the vaccination drive. As July and August are the right months for tree plantation we focused on Environment related activities . Highlight of August has been the signing of Sister Club agreement with (Sekondi Takoradi). We hope to build new bonds and connect the continents through service activities and friendship. We have seen an active social media engagement (Facebook/ Instagram/Twitter) thanks to Rtn.Tanya Raj. One of the areas our club has been known for is the avoidable blindness project and we are participating in the campaign to get more sight ambassadors. I request all our members to sign up to be a sight ambassador as well as spread the message in your network.

One of the areas that our club has been known for is the area of avoidable blindness and we are participating in the campaign on being a sight ambassador. I request all our members to sign up for being a sight ambassador as well as spread the message in your network.

We are in the process of embarking on some meaningful projects like Special education Teacher Training , Mobile PHC , Afforestation as well as collaborating with our other clubs to do more projects

Rtn. Shankar Subramanian President 2021-22



Events in July & August, 2021





MONTHLY CALENDAR



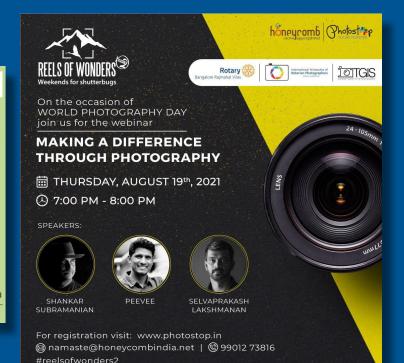
Events in July & August, 2021

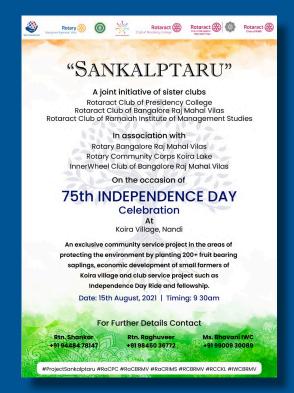


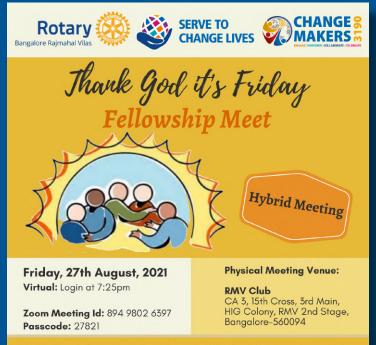


Zoom login: 856 1711 0339

5th August, 2021 at 7pm www.rotaryfellowshipforwildlife.org/







RSVP: Rtn. Sabareesan: 96208 45151; Rtn. Ravi Arora: 9342217497

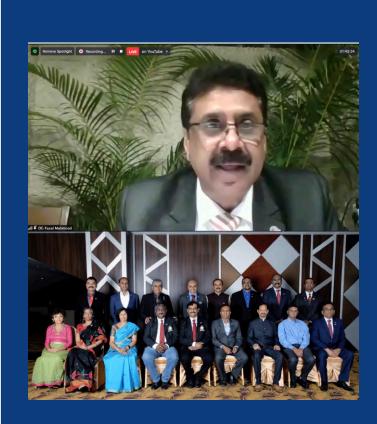
26th Installation

Installation of the Office Bearers for the RY 21-22 | 16th July, 2021

The 26th Installation of Office Bearers of Rotary Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas took place virtually on Zoom, with the District Governor Rtn. Fazal Mahmood as the installation officer. A comprehensive report of the club for the RY 2020-21 was presented by 2020-21 secretary Rtn. Rajagopal Hegde in his Secretary's report. The club bulletin was released by our AG Rtn. Rashmi Tanksali. 10 new members were officially inducted of which were 6 women members.

CLUB OFFICERS

Club President	Rtn. Shankar Subramanian
Immediate Past President	Rtn. Bharath Asuri
President Elect	Rtn. Vinod Singh
Secretary	Rtn. Sabareesan Venkatesh
Treasurer	Rtn. Chhaya Navandar
Vice President	Rtn. Pranjit Dutta
Jt. Secretary	Rtn. Ravi Arora
Sergeant-at-arms	Rtn. Rajagopal Hegde
Club Mentor	Rtn. Rajesh Kunder



DIRECTORS

Director, Club Service	Rtn. Dr. Karthiyayini Priya
Director, Vocational Service	Rtn. Pranjit Dutta
Director, Community Service	Rtn. Sanjay Krishna
Director, International Service	Rtn. Muralidharan R
Director, Youth Service	Rtn. Deepa Padmanaban
Director, Membership Development	Rtn. Rajaram Krishnamurthy
Director, The Rotary Foundation	Rtn. Kirti Mehta
Director, Club Projects	Rtn. Usha Medina
Director, Environmental Projects	Rtn. M.S. Raghuveer
Director, Additional	Rtn. Mahadev Dambal

CHAIRS

Chair, Public Image	Rtn. Ravi Ganapathy
Chair, TEACH/WINS	Rtn. Sarangan
Chair, Pulse Polio	Rtn. Anil Sharma
Chair, Fundraising	Rtn. E-Suhail Ahmed
Bulletin Editor	Rtn. Deepa Padmanaban

Weekly Meetings

Freedom beyond Judgement | 23rd July 2021

A joint meeting with Rotary Downtown and 6 other Rotary clubs on the topic Freedom beyond Judgement by Ramya Ranganathan, a life and leadership coach. This was followed by an interactive Q&A.



Working in teams in Rotary | 31st July 2021

A mega joint meeting with 10 clubs was facilitated by PDG Rtn. Sameer Hariani. He noted the key aspects of the structure and evolution of Rotary and talked about the leadership tools that can be employed in the different avenues of service.



Into the Wild: Wildlife Moments | 5th August 2021

Joint meeting with Rotary fellowship of Wildlifers for Conservation and International Fellowship of Rotarian Photographers. Renowned wildlife photographer, Rathika Ramasamy gave a talk on wildlife moments – sharing interesting and memorable moments of her photographing journey.





- Introduction to Wildlife Habitat
- Profile snd Environment
 Grooming ,Preening ,Bathing
- Grooming ,Preening
 Food Habit
- Friendship, Courtship, Love
- Parenting
- Territorial behaviour



On the occasion of International Photography Day, RB Rajmahal Vilas collaborated with international fellowship of Rotarian Photographers and Honeycomb for a session on photography as a catalyst of social change and a tool of heritage conservation. Three renowned photographers from Bangalore, our very own President Shankar Subramanian, along with Selvaprakash L and PeeVee spoke on the topic.



Thank God it's Friday - Fellowship Meet | 27th August 2021

First Hybrid meeting of the year. The meeting was graced by our AG, Rtn. Rashmi Tanksali. President Rtn. Shankar briefed the club members - those present physically and virtually - on the activities done by the club so far as well as the projects envisioned for the months to come in the RY 2021-22. This was followed by a few words by the AG. Actively participating members in the months of July and August, were recognised for their selflessness and service. The meeting ended with a cake cutting to celebrate birthdays and wedding anniversaries of which fell in the month of August.



Zero Hunger Project - Distribution of Ration kits | July 14th

A short-term support of dry food packets to 200 women in need was supplied via an NGO, Margadarshi Rural Development Society in Tumkur, Sira dist.

Tree plantation drive | 18th July 2021

Environmental projects Director, PP Rtn. Raghuveer coordinated a tree plantation event at Nelamangala -The Green Path - Sukrishi Farm. The saplings of sandalwood and coconut trees had been kindly sponsored by Rtn. Ravi Arora and Rtn. Raghuveer.



Rotary Sundara Vana - Tree Plantation | 25th July, 2021

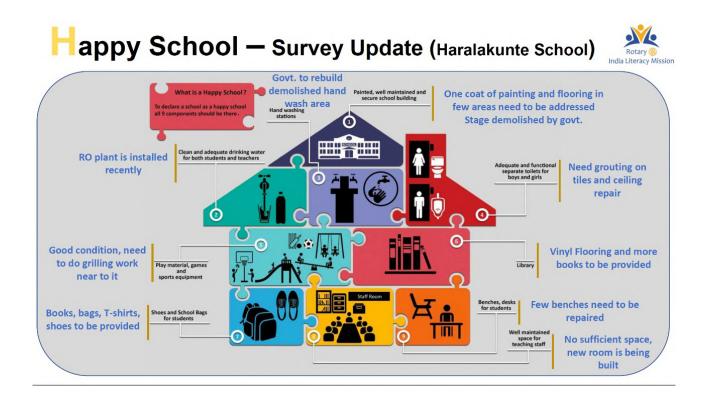
5000 indigenous saplings were planted at Kommasandra Village Government land, as a part of the Rotary HSR and Rotary Rajamahal Vilas joint project with CSR funding from iValue. The Chief guest for the event was DGE Rtn. Jitendra Aneja and Guest of Honour DGN Rtn. Uday Bhaskara.

Service Activities



TEACH - Happy Schools Joint Project with RB HSR | July, 2021

As a part of the Rotary Literacy Mission Program - TEACH, to upgrade the infrastructural and coscholastic facilities in schools to make them secure and happy learning places for the students RB Rajmahal Vilas with Rotary Bangalore HSR club, has contributed towards a Happy school project via CSR funding.



Service Activities

Inauguration of Tailoring Training centre for women at Suragajakkanahalli | 5th August, 2021

The Inauguration of the joint CSR project between RB HSR and RB Rajmahal Vilas, to set up a Tailoring Training Centre for Women, was graced by chief guest DG Rtn. Fazal Mahamood and Guest of Honor, Rtn. Frank Coelho, Director Public Image.



Zero Hunger Project - Ration Kits for PHC staff | 7th August, 2021

We distributed ration kits to the staff of the PHC who have been working diligently over the many months supporting the vaccination drive. Rtn.Sunder Prakash sponsored 39 Ration Kits on the occasion of his Spouse Ann. Malini's birthday.



Covid relief | 6th August, 2021

An oxygenerator purchased by the club in the month of June, with the intention to lend to those in need on a rental basis - was lent out on August.





ICGF Club Service - Mitratva | 14th August, 2021

RB Rajmahal Vilas participated in the Club service ICGF, where a girl empowerment project, 'Girls on Wheels' conceptualised by our club was launched. The project aims to support girl students in rural schools with 1000 bicycles.



Sankalpataru – Tree plantation drive at Koira village | 15th August, 2021

On the occasion of the 75th Independence day the Rotary Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas, Rotaract clubs of RIMS, Presidency and RajMahal Vilas along with Innerwheel club of Rajmahal Vilas and the new Interact Club of Rajmahal Vilas, participated in a flag hoisting ceremony organised by the Rotary Community Corps Koira Lake. During the event 240 coconut and other fruit bearing tree saplings worth Rs.40,000 were distributed to farmers who have their fields near the lake.





Signing of MoU with Sister club in Ghana | 15th August, 2021

RB Rajmahal Vilas was one of 15 clubs from RI Dist. 3190 and RI Dist. 9102 to sign a MoU with a sister club in Ghana. The agreement was formally signed and recognised between our club - Rotary Bangalore Rajmahal Vilas, RID 3190 and Rotary Club Of Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana, RID 9102, on the 15th of August 2021. The agreement is to :

- Promote friendship and understanding.
- Coordinate and cooperate with each other regarding projects and/or activities of mutual interests. Encourage visitation either individually or in groups.
- Exchange messages, information, and such other publications pertaining to Rotary Activities.
- Where feasible, engage in joint activities and joint projects in the pursuit of the Objectives of Rotary.



Ghana, officially the Republic of Ghana, is a country in West Africa. It spans the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean to the south, sharing borders with the Ivory Coast in the west, Burkina Faso in the north, and Togo in the east. The capital and largest city is Accra; other major cities include Kumasi, Tamale, and Sekondi-Takoradi.

Ghana spans a diverse geography and ecology that ranges from coastal savannahs to tropical rain forests.

Sekondi-Takoradi is a city comprising the twin cities of Sekondi and Takoradi. It is the capital of Sekondi – Takoradi Metropolitan Assembly and the Western Region of Ghana. Sekondi-Takoradi is the region's largest city and an industrial and commercial centre. The chief industries in Sekondi-Takoradi are timber, cocoa processing, plywood, shipbuilding, its harbour and railway repair, and recently, sweet crude oil and crude oil. The fundamental occupation in Sekondi-Takoradi is fishing.





New members

We welcome our new members - all dynamic women to the club.

Alice Abraham is an educator and the President of the IMPACT group of Institutions. She is a Bachelors and Masters in Electrical Engineering, and a Doctorate in Computer Networks from the Bangalore University. She has also completed her MBA from IIM Bangalore. She has three children and her husband Mr. Sunil Kurian Abraham works in Project Management.

Sagarika Singh is a teacher in at the Delhi Public School Bangalore North. She has one son. She is passionate about Animal Welfare.

Nisha S. (Vijayakumari) is a highly skilled Makeup artist and is a business owner of the Golden Feather Family Saloon. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate for her service in training. She has three sons, and her husband Mr. Sekar is a business person.

Shashikala K is a Senior Financial Analyst at Hewlett Packard Computing and Printing. She is also a Traffic Warden. She has two daughters. Her husband Mr. Padmanabha Rao is a video journalist and also a Rotarian.









Avoidable Blindness | 25th August, 2021

The Club supported the Inauguration of Diabetic Retinopathy Vision Screening Centre as a joint project between RID 3201 and RID 3190 by sponsoring eye screening equipment.



Volunteering at the PHC for Covid-19 Vaccination drive | August, 2021

As a continued effort, three of our Rotarians have been at the Vaccination Centres everyday with additional Rotarians helping regularly at the Sanjaynagar Urban Primary Health Centre, facilitating crowds and the public to get vaccinated.

We also set a record number of vaccinations at our Sanjaynagar PHC - 622 jabs - at the Ward 18 office, the PHC and at the Shastri Memorial Hall.

In 3 days alone 1400 jabs given in Ward 18/19.

August vaccination = 10,380 Total vaccinations till August 31st = 38,242



Service Activities

Zero Hunger Project - Ration Kits for the specially abled | 30th August, 2021

The club distributed ration kits to 20 families who had a person/s with disability in the Bhoopasandra, Nagashettihalli areas of ward 19. The Beneficiaries were identified by social worker Theja. 50% of the provisions were provided by *Jagruti*, an NGO, and remaining was provided by our club. Rotarians Ravi Arora, Sarangan and Paddy assisted in the door to door distribution through two wheelers as access to these places was not possible by car.



Motivational Talk | 31st August 2021

Our President Rtn. Shankar Subramanian also gave a team building and motivational talk to the staff of the Sanjaynagar PHC on 31st August, 2021.





Announcements

District awards

IPP Bharat Asuri and several members of the SkyRockers Team received awards from the district for various projects during the district award function on Aug 1st.

Itr. Deepti Padmanabha donated Rs. 4000/- towards the Avoidable Blindness Project, which she raised by selling her paintings to friends.

RB Rajmahal Vilas co-sponsored an **Interact District 3190 project 'Engage to Empower series'** for high school students between 12 to 16 years of age. The series of talks aims to enhance emotional awareness among the participants to help them better manage their emotions such as fear, anxiety, anger etc. and takes place on the last Friday of each month over 5 months starting from July.

RB Rajmahal Vilas along with several other clubs across the country **cohosted National RYPEN**, from Aug 2nd to Aug. 12th for students between 10 to 15 years of age. The event was led by Rotary club of Thane Central.

New Interact club -

We have chartered a new community- based Interact club Interact Club of Rajmahal Vilas on 28th July, 2021.

The installation ceremony is planned for September 19th. **We have an all-girls PST team** – President - Itr. Deepti Padmanabha Secretary- Itr. Sanjukta Nair Treasurer- Itr. Vibha Sabeerasan

The rest of the Board of Directors for the year are:

Club Service Director - Itr. Ayman Ahmed International Service Director- Itr. Omar Syed Community service director- Itr. Anirudh Jagannath Vocational Service Director- Itr. Abheek Dutta Youth Service Director - Itr. Anupriya Sarangan

(We welcome more members -any student from grade 8 to grade 12 residing in ward 18/19- to join the club. Those interested can get in touch with YSD Rtn. Deepa Padmanaban.)



HARMONY SHOWCASE

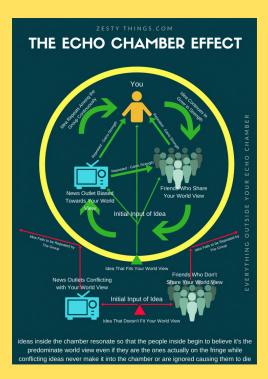
Social media bias

Of late, social media has been intertwined further and further with news outlets and information networks, to the point where people are now using social media as their regular source of information. This has many dangers, as social media is not regulated or filtered for reliability and welcomes all opinions without reservation. Social media is like a chaotic ocean that contains everything that anyone could have said or thought.

When people use social media to receive information, it can often lead to strong selection bias. Anything can pass of as the truth since there is no verification, and people decide for themselves which sources can be deemed trustworthy. It is no surprise that they are often wrong in those judgements, which leads to misinformed perceptions and selection biases of information.



The two main forms in which this selection bias happens, according to C. Thu Nguyen, a Philosophy professor, are echo chambers and epistemic bubbles. An epistemic bubble restricts the information available such that there is only one possible truth that is circulated within the bubble.



For example, if a group on some social media platform perpetuated the belief that vaccines are harmful, a person in that group would constantly see support to that belief and almost nothing to the contrary. Without any alternate explanations that offer a different possibility, this person exists in a bubble where only the possibility that vaccines are harmful can be true. Unless this 'bubble' breaks and allows for alternate explanations to be seen, it is very unlikely that they would change their beliefs.

Echo chambers, on the other hand, occur due to the priming bias, i.e., the first evidence one is exposed to influences how one perceives any other views or evidence after that. People can be exposed to opposing views in an echo chamber; however, they reject these opposing views in favour of the first one.

Echo chambers also attack the sources of these opposing views and view them as untrustworthy. This leaves the belief promoted in the echo chamber to be the only trustworthy one that they accept. An example might be a flat-earther forum, where people claim that the earth is flat. Not only is everyone on the forum staunch in this belief, but they also believe that the claim of the earth being round is a government conspiracy.

Views from people outside this forum are treated as attempts to deceive or brainwash them and are automatically discounted. For a person to come out of the echo chamber, they need to have their trust in other sources restored. Simply having evidence for opposing views is not enough if the source of the evidence is not trusted. In fact, attempts at persuasion with such evidence might only make them more wary of these opposing views.

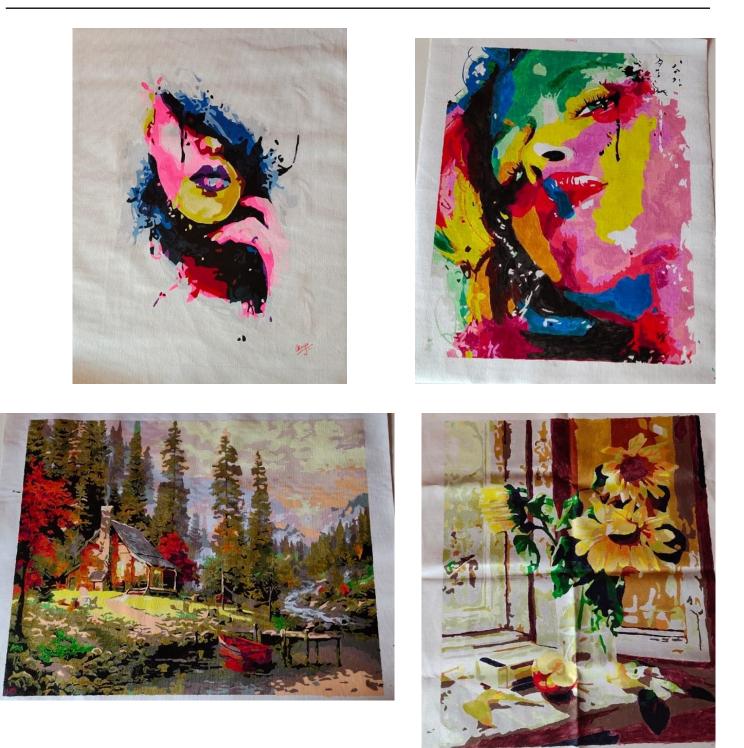
To bring someone out of an echo chamber, one must act only in good faith, without attempting to change their beliefs. Only after they are comfortable enough to trust your good intentions would it be possible to broach the subject with them. Without trust, there is no way to get through.

There is no perfect strategy to decide which sources are trustworthy and which are not. However, the one thing we can trust are our own senses (In normal circumstances of course). If all the members of the flat earth forum were put into a rocket and sent out into Earth's orbit, whatever they may have heard in the echo chamber would immediately become inconsequential, as what they would see with their own eyes would override all of it.

by Annette Akshar Jagannath, son of Rtn. Deepa Padmanaban

HARMONY SHOWCASE

Artist's corner



Acrylic paintings by Annette Aanya Singhvii, daughter of Rtn. Surendraa Singhvii

HARMONY SHOWCASE

Artist's corner











Photographs by Rtn. Muralidharan R.

Birthdays in August

We would like to wish all the members who have their birthdays and wedding anniversaries in August, a wonderful and special day.

- 6th Rtn. Dr. Prakash Satihal's Birthday
- 13th Rtn. Sudhir Kumar Bajaj's Birthday
- 18th Rtn. Lakshmikant Yadav's Birthday and Anniversary
- 20th Rtn. Col. Haridas & Sujata Haridas' Wedding Anniversary
- 21st Rtn. C. A. Anzar's Birthday
- 22nd Rtns. Usha & Shankar's Wedding Anniversary
- 22nd Rtn. Dr. Adari Vasudev Srinivas & Sunanda's Wedding Anniversary
- 23rd Padmanabha (Paddy) Rao's Birthday
- 25th Rtn. Sanjeevi Singh's Birthday
- 29th Rtn. Shankar Subramanian's Birthday

Editor's Note

We are into the second month of the Rotary year, and our club has already engaged in many projects and activities, which we have covered in this bulletin. It is also heartening to see the response to our call for contributions from Rotarians, Annettes and Rotaractors. We hope to continue receiving more contributions from the members.

Stay safe and healthy, Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Deepa Padmanaban Bulletin Editor

SERVICE ABOVE SELF