



# Rotary Club of Sonarpur

Rotary District : 3291



**PRESIDENT :**  
Rana Safui

**SECRETARY:**  
Gautam Ray



**RI PRESIDENT :**  
Sakuji Tanaka

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR:**  
Uttam Ganguli

R.I. Club No. 23960 Charter dt. 30.06.1986

**NO. 33**

**VOL : XXVII**

**12<sup>th</sup> April. 2013**

## New resource available to Rotarians working on water and sanitation projects

By Arnold R. Grahl , Rotary News -- 26 February 2013



A Rotarian-led team of hydrologists, engineers, geologists, and other experts traveled to the Thane district of northwest India in October to help local Rotarians and their international partners design a global grant project to bring clean water and sanitation to more than 1,800 villagers.

The team, funded by The Rotary Foundation and a grant from the Annenberg Foundation, is one of

the first of its kind. It's the product of the Project Enhancement Process (PEP) pilot, which is designed to enlist the help of Rotarians with expertise in the water and sanitation area of focus so that clubs and districts can put together larger-scale, sustainable projects.

The PEP pilot runs through July and involves nine districts testing The Rotary Foundation's new grant model. The Foundation also collaborated with the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) to produce technical guides that walk Rotarians through planning an effective water and sanitation project.

"This process is an excellent approach," says Arvind Phukan, a civil engineer and member of the Rotary Club of Tacoma, Washington, USA, who served as team leader. "Sometimes districts don't have the technical expertise or the experience to do a larger project. This approach helps them think bigger and promotes better projects that will have a more significant impact."

After deciding to pursue a water, sanitation, and hygiene project in the Akre Gram Panchayat region of India, the Rotary Club of Thane North and its international partner, the Tacoma club, requested an evaluation team through the PEP Pilot to help them assess and plan their project. The

project would benefit about 350 households in nine villages in the Supi River watershed, where villagers are

trying to eke out a living growing rice.

### Needs assessment

The team met with villagers to assess their needs and determined that many of the local wells ran dry during nonrainy seasons because the area's shallow, impervious rock prevents water from seeping into the ground and replenishing the wells. In addition, some of the wells were poorly designed or damaged, and systems intended to funnel groundwater were inadequate.

As a result, many of the women are forced to haul water from the Supi River or one of its tributaries. The villagers use the same water for cleaning and bathing, and also share it with their livestock, all of which introduces contaminants into the drinking water. And since there is no running water, the toilets that do exist go unused. The villagers' lack of good hygiene contributes to the spread of disease.

The team's findings were the basis for recommendations that the Thane North and Tacoma clubs will turn into a global grant application with a budget of about US\$333,000. The recommendations constitute a holistic approach to the area's needs that includes installing bore wells with submersible pumps near several of the existing wells to pump

water to storage tanks, with the water flowing by gravity to the villages, where it would be treated and purified. A variety of rainwater-harvesting structures such as check dams and surface ponds would be built to replenish the groundwater.

### Sustainability

A cluster of latrines would also be built in each village, along with washing basins and cattle troughs. Trenching and diesel pumps would be used for irrigation so the villagers can grow vegetables along with the rice. Adults and schoolchildren would receive instruction in hygiene and its impact on disease and health. Phukan notes that the process began by talking to villagers, a key step in making a project sustainable. "It all starts with the community. You must involve the community at every step

of the process. You can't just hand them things." Sustainable, large-scale projects also require a broad base of support. Phukan and team members have been helping to recruit other clubs and districts to join the Thane North and Tacoma clubs in supporting this project.

"When this is done, and it can be done in phases, it will bring lasting change to the community," Phukan notes. "The villagers' lifestyle will change for the better."



**WHY DO WOMEN LIVE LONGER THAN MEN?**

Shopping never causes heart attacks.

**BUT PAYING THE BILLS DOES.**

**District Programme**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2013: Baisakhi adda at Marble Palace**

**We meet every Friday, 7.30pm at Hotel Park Palace, 49/2, Gariahat Road, Kolkata 700019**



## All women Rotary Club gives toilet block to government school

Special Correspondent **THE HINDU** TIRUCHI, November 28, 2012

In the month of October 2012, the Supreme Court directed all States and Union territories to ensure creation of basic toilet facilities, particularly for girl students, in all government schools within six months, for meaningful implementation of Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act.

About 250 girls in the Government Higher Secondary School at Siruganoor did not have to wait for that long. On Monday, a girl-friendly toilet block was dedicated for their use by Rotary Club of Tiruchirappalli Shakthi, an all women club. The project was initiated during July this year when Collector Jayashree Muralidharan laid the foundation stone.

The block comprising six toilets constructed with Rs.2.75 lakh contribution by the club and able financial support from Mangal Home Builders features a vending machine for sanitary napkins and incinerator for their eco-friendly disposal.

The club mobilised the funds by organising Kala Sangamam, a three-day cultural festival in association with Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

The toilet block, says Rani Muralidharan, Immediate Past President of the club, will encourage parents in rural areas to continue educating their daughters after they attain puberty.

So far, all the girls had to depend on a single toilet at a desolate spot in the school campus. Now, the location is quite ideal for the students, providing them the much-required privacy.

The all-women Rotaract Club of neighbouring M.A.M. College of Engineering will monitor the maintenance of the toilet, vending machine and incinerator, and gradually hand over the task to a committee of higher secondary girls in the school.

On Tuesday, experts apprised the higher secondary girl students of the corollary between health and hygienic toilets and told them that discussing about biological changes in the body was not a taboo.

Inaugurating the toilet block, the MLA of Mannachanallur T.P. Poonatchi observed that the new toilet block was of a modern kind in the real sense of the term. The MLA inaugurated the facility in the presence of the president of the Club Sheeba Mathuram, secretary Allirani Balaji, and treasurer Subashini Manohar.



### Top 10 Health Benefits of a GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

1. Sleep Keeps Your Heart Healthy
2. Sleep May Prevent Cancer
3. Sleep Reduces Stress
4. Sleep Reduces Inflammation
5. Sleep Makes You More Alert
6. Sleep Bolsters Your Memory
7. Sleep May Help You Lose Weight
8. Naps Make You Smarter
9. Sleep May Reduce Your Risk for Depression

**GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE**



## Minutes

### Meeting no 1181

Dated 02.04.2013

President, Rtn. Rana Safui called meeting no. 1181 to order.

National Anthem led by Rtn. Chandana Mukerji of RC Calcutta Ridge.

President expressed heartiest thanks to the members of RC Calcutta Ridge for hosting the Joint meeting and exchanged flag and accolades with Rtn. Mukul Banerjee, President of the host club.

Minutes of the last meeting confirmed.

### Discussions:

- o President discussed our achievements and efforts through the year.
- o Rtn. Gautam Ray, Secretary, informed successful completion of the child heat surgery.
- o EIRWT Grant project discussed and progress reported.
- o Secretary Rtn. Gautam Ray reminded concerned members to attend SETS, TETS, CMCTS & CFCTS on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013

President handed over the business to Secretary Rtn. Gautam Ray, who announced the receipt of bulletins from neighboring clubs, and upcoming District events. Secretary handed back the meeting to the President.

Having no other business, President terminated the meeting.

Members Present: 13

Sunshine Collected : Rs. 260/-

### Our Jt. meeting with RC Calcutta Ridge



On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2012 our club participated in a Joint meeting with Rotary Club of Calcutta Ridge, held at RCGC Maidan tent premises.

Members of both the clubs shared their experiences, strength and weaknesses while discussing their service projects and looked forward to work together for serving the community.

### Focus on eye care needed in India, says Rotary International

NEWS TRACK INDIA

Kolkata, March 19

Lauding Rotary India's efforts in attempting to eradicate polio, Rotary International president Sakuji Tanaka Tuesday said specialised eye care is the need of the hour for India.

"There are a lot of issues related to ophthalmology that are emerging and need to be looked at. Specialised eye care is the need of the hour. There are huge incidences of cardiac diseases too in the country," Tanaka said at a media conference here.

Tanaka, who heads an organisation spread over 215 countries with a global membership of 1.2 million, said India's contribution to control the polio menace is "a great achievement".

"It is a great achievement by Indian Rotarians. We don't know when polio will be eradicated completely, but there has been a significant improvement in the situation. It is a great effort that India has not seen any polio cases in the last two years," he said.

Highlighting his theme for Rotary year 2012-2013 'Peace through Service', Tanaka said there should be a focused effort to eradicate polio.

The last polio case was seen in West Bengal January 13, 2011. If there are no reports of the disease in the next three years (till January 2014), then India will be declared polio free.

every last child