



Rotary  
Club of Bangalore Cantonment



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# THE BANNER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ROTARY B'LORE CANTONMENT

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NOVEMBER IS



ROTARY  
FOUNDATION MONTH

*The Rotary Foundation transforms more than 90% of its gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.*

The  
Rotary  
Foundation



[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## Morning poem: By Sameena Bhatia

The morning whispers soft upon the breeze, as the sun ascends between the quiet trees.

The flowers lift their heads to greet the day, as the morning's kiss ignites their quiet glow.

The morning light so pure and soft, dance in joy ; as the gentle breeze blows; bringing to life the dreams that night conceals.

Oh the peaceful dawn ; your silence speaks of grace, in you we find a pure and quiet space; ... calling the world to rise, as the birds sing their melodies so sweet, with their awakening song, bringing life anew, reminding us of the morning's gentle hue.

With every ray, let peace within us find new strength and guide us to where we must go, and face the world with eternal glow.



Greetings Fellow Rotarian's & Partners,

I am happy to bring to you, the fifth & November issue of the BANNER.

We had a very interesting Panel Discussion on "Life as an Expat" and I bring to you excerpts of the same.

Please continue to read the article on the Rotary School of Channapatna and I bring you inputs from DV.

An article written by Saby had appeared on the Times of India and is being featured in the Banner.

A very nice day picnic was organized @ Silver Oak Resorts and the pictures tell of the good time all had at the venue.



Happy reading,

- Rtn. Prem Kurian  
The Editor



## LETTING-GO THE UNWANTED

When I took voluntary retirement from the Indian Air Force, I had boxes full of dress items that included eight different types of uniforms, six types of shoes, five types of headwear, four types of belts and three types of medals to be worn on various occasions. I won't share how I got rid of them, but one thing I can share: My wife was the happiest person on seeing my wardrobe almost empty!

**My second load shedding** came after another fifteen years when we had to shift permanently from Chandigarh to Bengaluru; from a 4 bed-room house to a 3 bed-room apartment to be shared with my married son. His instructions were clear: Just move in with your personal items only. I had no problems in distributing kitchen and dining room items and drawing room stuff including curtains and cushions to my subordinate staff. All the woollens too were given away with ease to needy people. There was a bit of discomfort to let go my trophies and mementoes, but the biggest problem was to off-load my study room racks. The



books, hundreds of them, were left in college and military hospital libraries with a heavy heart. It was the disposal of magazines, namely Reader's Digest, Sarika and National Geographic, that gave me sleepless nights. There were almost 150 of each, arranged month/year wise in my racks that had to find suitable homes as I was determined not to give them to a raddi-wallah!

**My third load-shedding** was when I decided to let go almost 140 newspapers and magazines that I had brought surreptitiously with me from Chandigarh. These contained my articles that had appeared over the last three decades. I just cut the articles and put them in a folder. And just a few months back, I disposed-off this folder as well, after taking snap-shots of these and storing them in my lap-top. Another act of decluttering that needs a mention is getting rid of more than 20 photo-albums. I prepared two big albums, one each for my two sons, in which I pasted, both uncut and trimmed pictures from their birth to the time of their getting married! Each album took about two months' time, but the results were sim-

ply superb: One shelf emptied and lot of hugs from my sons.

**My fourth act of decluttering** was when my better-half passed-away after a prolonged illness. In just three days I emptied her suitcases and cupboards and distributed everything to an orphanage, a blind-house and the helping hands in the medical-home where she had been hospitalised for more than a year. However, the next day my heart skipped a beat seeing her barren cupboard. Immediately I shifted my items into hers and even now, after six years, whenever my son asks for anything, I tell him, 'It is in your mama's cupboard. Go and get it from there!'

**The fifth and final act of decluttering** was a year ago when I decided to live a simple life after my cancer-surgeries. I gave away my suits, shirts, trousers, ties, shoes and other paraphernalia. I almost emptied my book-case except keeping a copy each of my own books and a few encyclopaedias that I had bought when I could not spare the money! Nowadays, I declutter my room on a continuous basis. Whatever books I buy or receive as gifts, I read and pass on. My wardrobe contains about eight sets of undergar-

ments and kurta-pyjamas. I intend to reduce the number even further and there is a reason for that. I travel a lot, almost every month for a week or so. My small suitcase, that I carry as cabin bag, contains five pairs of kurta-pyjamas. What is the need to keep anything behind, I ask myself.

Yes, there is a need to declutter. And while writing this piece, a thought has entered my mind. I have decluttered in the physical sense without much pain. Can I declutter mentally as well? It is badly required!

Wg Cdr DP Sabharwal, Veteran







## LIFE AS AN EXPAT

A fun-filled event was held on 24th October @ RHL. The evening started with a trivia quiz by Rtn Madhuchanda for the panellists. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by PP Rtn. Susheela Venkataraman. In our increasingly flat world, people move across countries to study, live and work. The purpose of the evening was to gain an appreciation of what it takes to live and work overseas, and develop cross-cultural sensitivity and friendship. In this panel discussion, we had VERONICA THANOVAT (VT),

from Argentina, TSUTOMU KOIDE (TK), from Japan, YIN SHAN CHUNG (YS), from Taiwan & PREMA VISWANATHAN (PV)\*, who has returned to India after spending many years as an expat in Singapore. The panellists come from varied backgrounds, and have lived in India for different lengths of time, the shortest, 3 weeks and the longest, 10 years. Therefore, the discussion was very lively and interesting. Some of their thoughts and views in response to the queries put by Susheela and expressed

by the panellists are brought to you. The questions pertained to living in a country other than their home country, what struck them as significant (other than traffic / weather) in Bangalore, in what way they found India different from other countries where they lived as expats, their professional and personal challenges as expats, philosophy, food and spare time interests.

TK: "I have been in Bangalore for about ten years. Ours is a small company with about 45-50 people. Our Company is into laser spot welding. You don't see our products. But we do touch you through the many applications of our technology. And now, the electric vehicles (both two and four wheelers) being manufactured in India, use our technology.

PV: "I came back from Singapore, after spending about two decades there, to spend quality time with my mother, who was getting older and weaker. For retirees, staying on in Singapore is not the best option. The cost of living is prohibitive and very expensive. My family is here, the weather is good, with a cosmopolitan experience here and Bangalore has a culturally vibrant atmosphere that allows people of all kinds to enjoy different forms of art. Of course, I am saddened by the urban jungle that Bangalore has morphed into, from the garden city, with so many lakes, that were in abundance in the 70's.

VT: "I moved to Bangalore as my husband moved here. I have been in India and have recently moved to Bangalore. What I like about Bangalore is the people - I find them so warm and they are so curious, asking us where we are from and what we are doing and inviting us to their homes. In Europe, it is so much more organised and formal. I also find that most people speak English and it is so easy to communicate. The infrastructure is also good, considering the number of people. I also find that people speak so many languages. In Argentina, the primary language is Spanish, spoken by almost the entire population.

TK: I find the Indian people are religious. They go to the temple and shrines to pray. It is a way of life. In Japan, our belief systems are different.

YS: I find that the people in India are so colourful. In

Taiwan, no one likes to wear green and red. They will say that you look like a Christmas tree. Women in India wear a variety of colours, including traditional colours, trendy combinations and colours that represent occasions. And no one will say that you look like a Christmas tree if one is wearing green and red.

PV: I moved to Singapore from Delhi in 1995. One could wonder around in Singapore without worrying about any violence or any fear if anyone will way lay you. They are a zero tolerance society. You get a sense of comfort, having come from Delhi, where you are used to getting cat calls which are gender targeted. In Singapore, I didn't feel conscious about being a woman. Singapore is known for its high standards of public cleanliness, which is a result of the government's efforts, the community's participation and strict rules and regulations. The fine for littering in Singapore depends on the number of times the offense has occurred and is hefty, starting with S\$2000 for a first time offender. The rule of law prevails. Singapore is a small city, so there's no need to own a car of your own. Public transportation is efficient and clean, which makes getting around a breeze. Singapore's transportation network offers access to every corner of the island, by bus, MRT & the LRT, or taxi. Private transport system is disincentivised, making prices of cars prohibitively expensive. This deters people from using their own cars. The Indian population in Singapore is around 8% and Tamil is one of the four national languages. It made it easier for me to settle in.

VT: It was a challenge to move to India. The country is so diverse. People speak so many different languages and its diversity is reflected in its religions and customs. I work in the area of DEI and this move has given me a different perspective.

YS: Taiwanese food is seldom very spicy, while Indian food is spicy. While I knew that Indian food would be spicy, I had no idea what "really spicy" actually meant until I moved to Bangalore a couple of weeks ago.

TK: My hobby is riding a bicycle even though it is not very safe to ride a bicycle in India. I volunteer to teach Japanese. Many Indian students have shown interest to



learn Japanese to further their skills.

VT: I have an 11 year old daughter and we try to socialise and go to club for exercise, play sport and enjoy being part of the Indian society. I love learning from the Indian people.

YS: My colleagues speak Mandarin. Should I not learn to at least speak Hindi?

In summing up the discussion, Susheela said that while there are many challenges that people face when they move across countries, cultures and societies, they learn immensely and gain a different set of perspectives. In the end, the panellists felt that the effort and struggles of settling into India /another country are worth it as they are enriched by the experience.



\*The panellists:

Prema Viswanathan:

Journalist, market intelligence, author, the arts

Veronica Thanovat:

Global expert in talent management, an executive coach, senior mentor, and

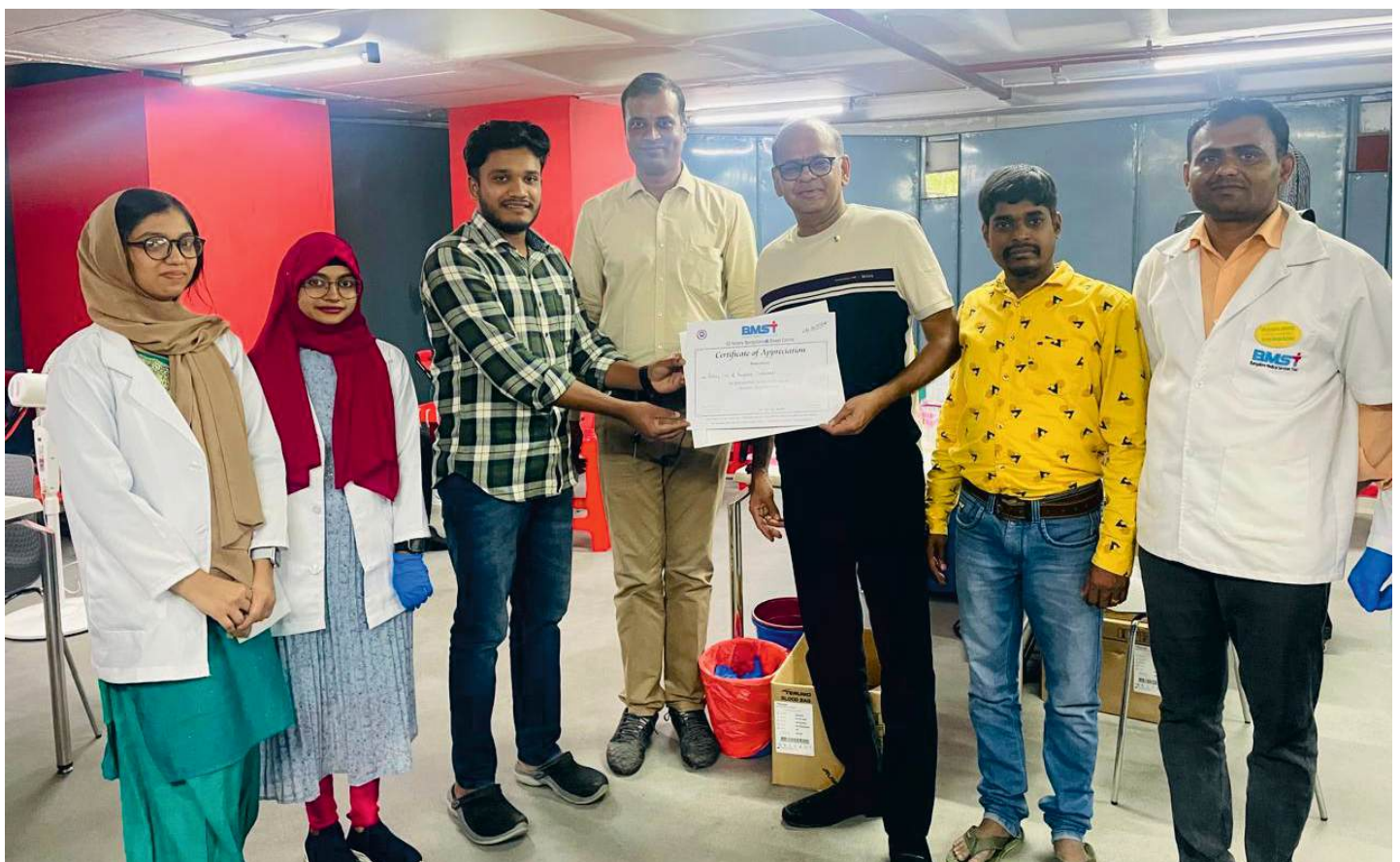
corporate trainer, DEI

Tsutomu Koide:

Advisor, Ex-Managing Director, Amada Weld Tech India

Yin Shan Chung (Indulekha):

International trade, project management



Quick update on the blood camp. Two small camps were conducted on 26th and 30th of September with TTK Blood Centre @ PwC and UB City. A total of 103 units have been collected.





# Rotary School Channapatna: A Metamorphosis in the Making

**REPORT CARD**

Name:  
**ROTARY SCHOOL  
CHANAPATNA**

**INFORMATION**

Founded: 1991      School strength - 180 students

Teaching Staff : 18

HOLISTIC LEARNING	
Sports	A <sup>+</sup>
Extra-curricular	A <sup>+</sup>
Social Service Initiatives	A <sup>+</sup>
SCHOLASTIC PROGRESS	
SSLC Performance	A
Teacher - student Ratio	A <sup>+</sup>
Innovative Teaching Methods	A
Teacher Training	B
Fee Structure & Scholarship	A
Infrastructure	B

**Teachers Remarks:** Work on your Bs and As to reach the 🌟 ! We know you can do it!

Remember those days when we used to wait to get our report cards? We had the eager toppers, the regular coasters, and the notorious back-benchers. Regardless of whether we looked forward to the day of reckoning, or whether we dreaded it, we got to know exactly where our strengths lie and what were the areas we needed to change for the better.

The same holds true for our RSC.

Our deep attachment with RSC stems from the following facts:

1. Our Association with the Rotary School, Channapatna (RSC) dates back to 2013 , which makes it more than a decade now.
2. This had become a flagship project of RCBC, for many years.
3. Education is a major focus area of R.I.

4. RCBC involvement in had helped the school's strength go up from a meagre 70 students to nearly 320 until COVID
5. We have spent to-date an amount of INR 2.5 Crore in developing the School infrastructure such as Computer, Science Labs, the Library, Additional Classrooms and recently renovated the whole school at a considerable cost.
6. The School has an Excellent Team of Teachers, Headmaster and Principal, being the core competence of any school.
7. This school believes in Holistic Development of the student by laying equal emphasis on academics, sports, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
8. The school has consistently been achieving a rate of 90 - 100% pass percentage in the 10th std SSLC board results which is Excellent by any Standards.
9. It is also most pertinent to note that the Bal Bhavan Trust which owns the school is represented by 3 trustees from RCBC and 2 from Channapatna thereby giving RCBC the major stake in running the School
10. Most importantly, a number of Rotarians of RCBC have devoted their time, effort and money in developing the school to its present stature.

Having said this we would like to Just give you a peek into the activities of RSC during this academic year 2024-25 so far.



Primary Students Entertaining Sr. Citizens in an Old Age Home - A Service Project.





High School students and Teachers in a “International Democracy Day” Human Chain Org. by Govt of Karnataka.



Guides of Grade 6 & 7 partaking in a District Level Singing Competition



Free Health Check Up for our Teachers on Teachers Day





Students Honouring Teachers on TEACHERS DAY with Gifts & Donations worth Rs 20,000/- towards Scholarship for Students who cannot pay their Fees - A Wonderful Gesture.



Pratibha Karanji - A Cultural & Literary Competition by the Educn. Dept. Kumudavalli of Std VII Receieving her Prize for Reciting Bhagwad Gita Slokas.



Pillars of Rotary School Channapatna - The Full Team of Teachers on their Day



## Plans for the Future

So as you can see we have a wonderful school to work with. The new school committee comprising of Rtns PP Bharath Bail, Venkat, Srinivasan, Rohit Karanth and yours truly have been making an earnest attempt at streamlining the schools functioning and putting in place systems to regulate the schools functioning. We are happy to inform that this is paying off as the schools administration has shown considerable progress especially in:

- Fee collection
- Reducing the overall deficit from

Rupees 10 lakhs to 5 lakhs

We have also been approaching a number of corporates for CSR funding and are happy to inform that we have collected Rs. 13.5 lakhs from 3 corporates. We would be approaching other corporates also for further funding under CSR. We have Big Plans of building Infrastructure for which we would also request our dear members to help in our Fund Raising efforts by liberally contributing when the time comes.

Our first phase of development is to completely renovate the Kindergarten & Play section which is badly run down & has a drab look due to which we are not able to attract New admissions in this section, which is the main feeder for all other classes.

We propose to completely redo this section for which we have received a quotation of Rs 57.00 lakhs. We are in the process of starting work in the first week of November 2024. The Comm. is indeed very grateful to the President Rtn Raju Rane & the GB, for having agreed to sanction Rs.10 Lakhs out of the Club funds for this project. A special word of thanks to Rtn Sameena Bhatia for her contribution of Rs.1 Lakh.

We also wish to thank the General Body for having agreed to allow us to continue with the Rotary School Channapatna Project, which we are sure will once again become one of RCBCs Flagship Project and Fly High once again.

- Rtn D Venkatesh,

Chmn. - Rotary School Comm.









# Thondanoor Eco-Park Project



## PROJECT UPDATE REPORT

Date : 18-10-2024



The eco park project is located in the village Thondanoor in Mandya District. The place lies in Cauvery basin and has high religious and historical significance. TreeTies and Yathiraj mutt has developed the current project as pilot for developing a larger area that will increase the biodiversity and restore the degraded ecosystem of the village along with providing the livelihood to the village community by providing them with natural raw material for the growth of the cottage industry like, Dhoop, organic dyes, etc.

The pilot project was started in August 2024 and is near completion. Below is the area wise update on the project:

### Location 1 : Hilltop Temple Area

- The Hilltop tree plantation is completed. The Tree garden is developed keeping in mind both the ecology i.e. including the native trees and aesthetics of the place by including flowering trees. Over all approximately over 100 trees are planted in near the temple area.
- There is a need to give some protection towards the slope facing the large lake, hence a bio-wall is being built along the slope on the hill top.

### Location 2 : Statue area

- This area is low lying area and connected to a small backwater pool or the seepage area of the large Thondanoor Kere lake. This area sees the most diverse plantation of Trees but mostly herbs and shrubs. The area is divided in biodiverse areas like, butterfly

garden that has species that attract butterflies, Aromatic garden, Herbal Garden and Religious garden

- The plantation of religious and aromatic garden is completed and rest is under progress

### Location 3 : Avenue road

- The tree plantation on the avenue road is under progress. The task is difficult given the terrain of the site. Currently pit digging is under progress
- The bio wall is completed along side the lower slope of the avenue road to restrict cattles etc from entering the site
- Stone pitching work alongside the site boundary is completed to prevent soil erosion for the area

### Location 4 : Water Garden

- The small pond facing the statue is being cleaned and the plan is to plant lotus and water lilies in the areas near the shore to improve the water quality and aesthetics of the place.
- The saplings are ordered and we are waiting for the same to complete the same.

### Irrigation

- Irrigation drip pipeline is completed for the hilltop and the statues area, the avenue road area is under progress

**Expenses :** So far amount of 15.37 lakhs have been expensed and further estimated 5 lakh is needed to finish the work.

Labour	3,54,700.00
Services (JCB, tractor)	2,06,400.00
Labour Welfare	27,016.00
Miscellaneous (Stone, Soil etc)	1,66,235.00
Saplings	2,43,099.00
Travel and accommodation	90,320.00
Project Design	1,50,000.00
Irrigation	3,00,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,37,770.00</b>

Estimated Hand over Date: We expect the remaining works to be completed by end of this month and we handover the project to the Mutt representatives for the maintenance of the same.

## Wedding Anniversaries



- Thimaiah B G (PHF) & Sudha Thimaiah : 01-Nov
- Balan Velan (PHF) & Meera Velan : 02-Nov
- Sridhar N. S. (PHF) & Indu : 15-Nov
- Shabbir Choilawala (PHF) & Nazneen Khan : 26-Nov
- Girish Hebbani & Dr Aparna Hebbani : 29-Nov
- Samir Gupta (PHF) & Ira Gupta : 30-Nov

## Rotarians' Birthdays



- Balan Velan (PHF) : 02-Nov
- Swarup Sridhar (PHF) : 06-Nov
- Susheela Venkataraman (PHF) : 15-Nov
- Sriraman Bhashyam (PHF) : 21-Nov

## Spouses' Birthdays



- Harpreet Kaur : 04-Nov
- Divya M Shenoy : 04-Nov
- Preethika Shindhe : 18-Nov
- Sudha Thimaiah : 22-Nov

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