

Doctors monitor ZP school students' health

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: A team of 20 doctors from private hospitals in the city have begun a health screening programme in 3,171 Zilla Parishad schools from Shirwal and Umbraj in Satara, Kokrud in Sangli and Pali in Ratnagiri districts.

The camp is being conducted by city-based Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) and Finolex Industries Ltd along with Bicycle Angels, a not-for-profit organization, as part of its Cyclothon 2015 initiative. The camp will conclude on December 12, a statement from Mukul Madhav Foundation said.

Cyclothon 2015, a Pune to Ratnagiri cycling expedition, was flagged off on Tuesday to help the poor. Two professional cyclists, Rakesh Bakshi, founder of Bicycle Angels, and a filmmaker and author along with Ram Dhillon, ENT surgeon from the UK, besides the MMF's team have embarked upon this journey.

During the five-day event Bicycle Angel will donate cycles to needy individuals through their route. Bakshi said when livelihood depends upon someone, one truly val-

ues the humble bicycle. "So far, we have donated six bicycles to the needy which included a bangle vendor, daily-wage workers, a fishmonger, and ma- sons."

The doctors including a paediatric team from KEM Hospital, the audiology, speech and dental team from Bharati Hospital, and an ophthalmology team from H V Desai Eye Hospital, will screen the children. Besides, every new student who undertook the tests in the medical camp is being added in the list for their future health status, the statement added.

The foundation provided hygiene hampers comprising a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, biscuits and juice, to all the 3,171 students in the three districts.

Ritu Chhabria, managing trustee of MMF, said, "During Cyclothon, we realized the need for chairs for children affected with cerebral palsy. Many remain out of school because of physical disabilities. These children require special chairs to sit in the classroom. Satara Zilla Parishad had requested MMF for assistance. By January 2016, with support from Finolex Industries, MMF will fulfill this request."