

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

Yet another month has blown past us and time is flying like the wind with so many activities. We had a wonderful fellowship during Alertathon with Rotractors also participating. We also had a spate of fellowship events like the movie

fellowship, Beer pe baatchet and firesides.

It was very unfortunate that we had to postpone our RYLA event and the inauguration of the Fluorescent Microscope at VHS with incessant rains lashing in Chennai.

I would like to profusely thank all the Southerners for their support for our fundraising project "Freedom through education".

We had eye camps in four schools and it was a joy to meet the wonderful schoolchildren. The eye camps went off well and I thank Rtn Dr Sherren and Ann Anbarasi for their awesome support.

After visiting various schools and interacting with children, I have spoken to and advised them on the need to nurture a very important attribute towards their classmates. I have said those who do not have any sense of competence will always talk about competition. I spoke to the children and informed them not to worry about being better than others, but to do their best. I also added that if they want to be a step ahead of their friends or classmates, that means they are happy to see them not doing or not performing as well as them. So, they all agreed that they will help each other and see all perform well. This will improve the performance of the whole classroom as such and foster a spirit of brotherhood. It will eradicate competition and jealousy. In today's world, there are no failures but only experiences. These children are the future of our country and must be nurtured well.

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CELEBRATING THE GIRL CHILD



Girls are leaders. Girls are change-makers. Girls are driving growth around the world. They are a fundamental source of transformational change.

Girls play multiple roles in the household, society, and the economy.

They go to school, help with housework, work in offices and factories, care for elder and younger family members and prepare themselves to take on the responsibilities of adulthood.

Research has found that every additional year of school increases a girl's eventual wages by an average of 12% – earnings she invests back into her family. Empowered, educated girls have healthier, better-educated children and higher wages –helping to break the cycle of poverty. Empowered girls strengthen economies.

On 14th October, RCMS organised a service activity to celebrate the girl child at Jaigopal Garodia Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School (adopted by our club for various projects). Our green Rotarian, Kalpana Kumar, gave an impactful motivational talk to the girls in this school covering a range of issues on personal hygiene and mental health. She also stressed the importance of keeping calm and composed and sharing their issues with parents and teachers. A day well spent for the girls who attended and a satisfying project to promote the well-being of the girl child for our club.

ALERTATHON '22



This year the annual ALERTATHON 22 event organized by ALERT, the NGO founded by our Ann Kala Balasundaram was held on 9th October.

The event was co-sponsored by RCMS along with RC Chennai Towers. The event which began at MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women consisted of Cycling, Running and Walking with 21 Rotarians and 13 Rotaractors from our club participating. All the participants got to run with a chip-timed event and an opportunity to create awareness for emergency response. The event concluded with medals and certificates for the participants and a sumptuous breakfast.



EYE CAMP

Our club organized an eye camp at Mary Clubwala School in Egmore on 17th October. Around 250 students were examined for eye issues by the Optometrists from Udhi Eye Hospital thanks to the support of Rtn Dr Sherren and Ann Anbarasi. President Jawahar Nichani was present during the camp.

....Continued from President's Message

We need to strengthen their minds and give them the right direction to improve their thought process. I do not believe in giving awards but in motivating and fostering in them, a sense of belonging and brotherhood.

When your focus shifts from competition to contribution, life becomes a celebration.

"Education begins the moment we see children as innately wise and capable beings. Only then can we play along in their world"

I will conclude with this poem from the famous British romantic poet, William Wordsworth.

My heart leaps up when I behold

A rainbow in the sky;

So was it when my life began;

So is it now I am a man;

So be it when I shall grow old,

Or let me die!

The Child is father of the Man;

And I could wish my days to be

Bound each to each by natural piety.

Yours in Rotary

Jawahar Nichani

RTN MUKUND'S 'UUNCHAI' MOMENT!

PP Rtn V Mukund, a nature lover with an adventurous streak in him is also an avid trekker. He has done the Annapurna Base Camp trek out of Pokhara, Nepal and a few treks in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. In October this year, he decided to do the Everest Base Camp trek "as the air is clear and the sightings are the best" according to him.

Prior to the trek, he walked, jogged, and did weight training and breathing exercises for 3 months. While the normal route

is Kathmandu-Lukla by flight and then trek up, Mukund had to drive from Kathmandu for two days and trek the village trail for 2 more days to reach the start of the trek since the airports were closed due to bad weather. He says that "in the mountains, a 5 km trek can take up to 6 hours and the night temperatures drop below zero". He further says that the "beautiful snow-clad peaks of famous mountains accompany you throughout before you reach the Everest Base Camp".

"I trekked when I wanted, stopped when I wanted, literally did what I wanted. Definitely, you have to be fit but more than that you need to have the will" concludes this athletic Southerner!



BEER PE BAATCHEET - A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

This year's edition of our club's "Beer pe baatcheet" was held at Rtn. Sujeesh's sprawling beach house off the East Coast road. This magnificent villa was the perfect foil for Rotarians to roll back the years and indulge themselves in a comforting evening for the soul. From yesteryear's jokes to deep discussions on philosophy, issues of current relevance and solutions for the future, all topics were covered by many learned and articulate Southerners.

With the laughter echoing amidst the karaoke singing, dancing and endless reminiscing, the spirit of Madras South was on display for all Southerners, green and seasoned. A night to remember, a tradition to honour and a memory to cherish forever. Here is to many more such wonderful nights to come. Many thanks to Rtn. Sujeesh and Rtn. Bala for being such wonderful hosts and arranging for great food, free-flowing drinks and a merry evening.

Rtn Sarvesh Shyam



MOVIE FELLOWSHIP

The movie 'Ponniyin Selvan' that I have been waiting for since last year turned out to be a wonderful opportunity for a fun fellowship with fellow club members. Each of us had our own expectations and the movie did justice to most of them. Sharing popcorn with Sheela Mukund, chitchatting with Janaki, Akshaya, Magdoom, Rajeena, Balaji, ... and then topping it with yummy dosa shared with Prakash and Jayashree rounded off a very satisfying evening. Thanks, Jawahar for making it happen.

Rtn Bina Boaz

FIRESIDE HOSTED BY RTN BINA BOAZ

The Fireside at Rtn Bina Boaz's home on 30th October was a noisy, fun affair. It started off (on Bina's request) with Rtn Mukund Vedapudi talking about his recent trek to the Everest Base Camp. It was a Q/A session with everyone wanting him to talk about 'the journey and not the destination'.

This was followed by a round of Dumb Charades conducted by our charming hostess Bina. It was truly an icebreaker with all Rotarians participating enthusiastically. The evening ended with several lovely rounds of Antakshari. The melodious voices of our singing stars Bowmick, Rooma, Shankar, Asha, Neeta, Sowmya, Mukund, Devan, Bina, and yours truly were a treat to the ears.

Our President Jawahar Nichani looked snazzy and natty in his black and yellow party wear. Food and juice flowed and the banter was loud and easy.

Many thanks to our gracious hostess Bina and her mother for their warmth and hospitality. It was a pleasant evening and the lovely memories will linger in our hearts for a long time to come.

Ann Sheela Mukund



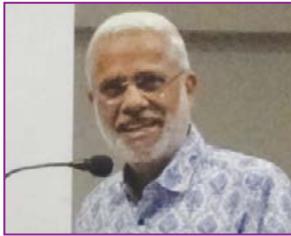
WEEKLY MEETINGS IN OCTOBER



Date : 4th October, 2022
 Speaker : Ann Kala Balasundaram
 Topic : 60 minutes with the CM



Date : 11th October, 2022
 Speaker : Dr Kavary Nambisan
 Topic : My twin careers – the relationship between medicine and literature in today's world



Date : 18th October, 2022
 Speaker : Sridhar Ramanathan
 Topic : Confusion to clarity and how to bust mental blocks

RCMS WINS SIX DISTRICT AWARDS FOR THE RY 2021-22



We received six awards for our service activities during the last RY, the 'Year of Changemakers'. The awards were based on the performance of the clubs as presented in the monthly reports submitted to the District with inputs from District officials. To start with, the clubs in District 3232 are categorised into three groups based on their membership. The groups are clubs with 40 members, between 41 and 69 members and 69 and above. Our District had about 140 active clubs as of 30th June 2022. The awards we received are:

1. Best President Award- 20 Presidents were selected for the Best President Award.
2. Best Secretary Award - 20 Secretaries were selected for the Best Secretary Award.
3. First Place – For Outstanding performance in the avenue of Water Resources Development. This is towards the rainwater harvesting project established in 62 government and corporation schools in and around Chennai.
4. Significant Project – For Outstanding performance in the avenue of Promoting Digital Literacy– Donation of Computers.
5. Global Grant – Impactful Community Project – Our Little Hearts project won this award.
6. Second Place – Basic Education, Digital Literacy & School Infrastructure – The various school and literacy-related activities and the computer centres we put up in Vyasarpadi and PCKG government school won us this award.



Rtn Renjit Joseph

With Best Compliments From

A WELL WISHER

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