

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Namasthe Southerners.

2021 has started with a bang. Lot of positives and a seemingly favourable union budget has pushed share indices to an all time high. Well, will it sustain the momentum or the high, only time can tell. With

almost an year of inactivity, all of us are looking forward to go ahead and conquer horizons yet uninhabited.

Dreams and planning had kept most of our minds busy during the days of lockdown. Every lazy bone in our body is itching to go out and feel the real world, catch the fresh breeze and indulge in the sweet fragrance of nature.

Domestic air travel is almost back on track and hopefully international air travel too shall soon resume.

Make in India, a dream of our PM has taken a different avatar. Vaccines made in India have reached countries both rich and poor. Whilst some very well-known MNC's have used the pandemic to make money, India as usual has gone about serving humanity that too at a time when they had lost all hope. This diplomacy shown by India will serve all of us well, and the NRIs too can be proud of their motherland.

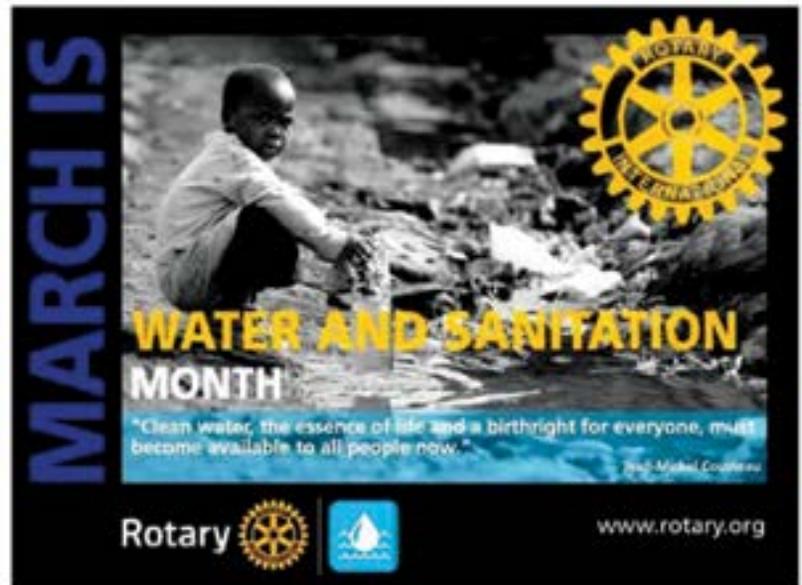
Our meetings are on as usual. With just about four months remaining, we are trying our best under the given circumstances, to make our club lively.

So do join our celebrations. Let us go chitty-chitty bang-bang!

Yours in Rotary,

**A.N.Sujeesh**

### ROTARY THEME FOR MARCH IS WATER AND SANITATION



Clean water is a basic need for human beings. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives. However, thousands of children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water, which is what motivated our club to install rainwater harvesting systems (RWH) in several schools across Chennai jointly with RC Lake Spivey/Clayton County-USA as a Global Grant project of TRF. From the various water projects in which Rotary has participated, we have come to know the obstacles that many people across the globe face when it comes to some of the basic necessities of life. We tend to take for granted the clean and generally safe and plentiful water sources to which we have access.

While very few people die of thirst, millions die from preventable waterborne diseases, providing the impetus for our club to also improve sanitation facilities by building around 250 toilets in several schools and villages in Tamilnadu during the Rotary Years 2016-18 in synch with the "Swach Bharath" mission.

Rotary International, through the combined actions of individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs, seeks to assure that all people have adequate access to clean and safe water. The Rotary theme for March,

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## SOUTHERNERS CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY

“There is only one happiness in life: to love and be loved.” Southerners celebrated Valentine's day Karaoke Family Participation on Feb 13th at the Taj Club House. The venue was completely set based on the theme with the ladies and gentlemen in their perfect theme attire “Black and Red”. There were 50 Southerners who joined the celebrations and it was almost a full house in spite of the ongoing Covid scenario.

The Karaoke sessions started with Southerners, Anns and Annettes participation in full swing, Rotarians Mukund, Magdoom, Asha Marina, Balachander, Bowmick, Suresh, Bina Boaz and many others took their turn to sing and dance.

This year the Valentine's Day was celebrated uniquely and in style and definitely we could feel that “Love was in the air”. It was a long time since we saw everyone in one place. The party was a good getaway from the pandemic as well as a good break from home. With all the constraints of masking up, social distancing, RCMS was still able to pull off a Gala night. The night started with Karaoke singing, our very own Rotarians and Anns joined and sang a medley of peppy numbers which got everyone on their feet and singing along. This was followed by a dance. Annettes Manveena, Akansha, Aniksha, Apeksha, Joe and Vishnu also joined us every bit during this wonderful fellowship and family time. President Sujeesh, Rtn. Bala and Rtn Jawahar had organised the venue and the MC for the celebration and everything seemed perfectly set! It was indeed a great show!

**Rtn Sibirajan**



## ANNETTE MANAV MUKUND WEDS

Son of Rtn V Mukund and Ann Sheela Mukund, Annette Manav married Sanjana at a modest wedding ceremony with close family on 24th February in Chennai. Manav is an Engineer by qualification and a strength conditioning and fitness trainer by profession as the Director of Sports Dynamix in Chennai. His wife Sanjana is a yoga practitioner and instructor at Atmayogashala, a Yoga Wellness Centre in Chennai. Southerners wish the newly-wed couple lifelong peace and happiness.



## FLAG PRESENTED

Rtn. Paddy Sharma from our global grant partner Club, Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/ Clayton County, USA and her spouse Rtn. Sharma visited our Club on 23rd Feb'21, during our weekly meeting, and was presented a Club flag by President Sujeesh as a mark of friendship. Rtn. Paddy also addressed us briefly and said their club is ready for the next global grant project with our club after the ongoing RWH project which is a joint project with their club in USA.



## HOME NURSES READY TO SERVE

The Home Nursing course organised by our Club at ANEW, the NGO based in Anna Nagar, was completed successfully. The course completion certificate distribution was done on Friday 19th Feb. The students of this course get immediate employment. 15 nurses are ready to serve those ailing at home. Mr. Manikandan of CAMS, who have sponsored the programme as part of their CSR initiative, attended as the chief guest of the function.



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTED

Ms D Vishnupriya (*extreme right in the pic*) was inducted as a new member of our club at the regular weekly meeting held on 2nd February at Hotel Savera. She is employed as Associate Director at Cognizant Technologies. Married to Mr D Sudarshan Reddy, an active social worker, they are blessed with a daughter, Samvritha. Southerners welcome Rtn Vishnupriya to RCMS and wish her a joyous innings as a rotarian.



## WEEKLY MEETINGS IN FEBRUARY



Date : 2nd February, 2021  
 Speaker : Ms Vanitha Shankar  
 Topic : The art of reinventing oneself



Date : 9th February, 2021  
 Speaker : Dr. V G Narayanan  
 (Top left in pic)  
 Topic : Teaching and learning at Harvard Business School  
 (Joint meeting with RC of Adyar, RC of Chennai Galaxy, RC of Annanagar Aditya)



Date : 16th February, 2021  
 Speaker : Ms Sreemathi Ramnath  
 Topic : EQ - a "must" for success and happiness



Date : 23rd February, 2021  
 Speaker : Ms Varshini Ramakrishnan  
 Topic : My journey in art and design



## PROJECT ORANGE TO PREVENT AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS

Disease prevention and treatment is one of the six focus areas of Rotary International, and Eye care has been identified as one of the priority needs.

Rotary District 3232 with the help of co-operating organizations did due study in this space and felt the need for strong advocacy and execution strategy to successfully establish the Vision Centres that would offer treatment for eye ailments. This led to the conceptualization of the initiative **ORANGE - a ray of sight**.

The main objective of this initiative is to ensure Avoidable Blindness Free Society in India. Orange is adopting a three-pronged transformational strategy in the area of – Analytics & Technology, IEC & Advocacy, Logistics & Service Delivery.

In the Rotary year 2020-21, under the leadership of DG Rtn. Muthupalaniappan , Orange is planning to establish 200 Vision Centres catering to 1.2 crores population across Tamilnadu. Rotary's primary responsibilities in this initiative will include fundraising, advocacy and volunteering.

So far 8 such Orange Hybrid Vision Centres have been inaugurated across Chennai in association with clubs in the district.

The picture alongside shows the 5th Centre inaugurated on 18th March at Ambattur, sponsored by RC Thiruvanmiyur.



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Water and Sanitation, asks us to focus on the life changing improvements that we can make through these international projects to provide a more readily available and healthy supply of water to all people.

The problem is not that the world will run out of water (that amount is fixed through evaporation and re-condensation). The problem is the unequal distribution of water and the lack of universal and proper sanitary practices to assure safe water for drinking. While some regions and peoples are certainly at greater risk than others and deserving of greater attention, we have seen recently that no population is free from concern. Water and sanitation issues will certainly continue to be an area of focus for RI and deserving of our attention as Rotarians.

*Clean water and sanitation is a human right. When people, especially children, have access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, they lead healthier and more successful lives.*

(Source : RI Website)