

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Namasthe Southerners.

The covid virus seems to be playing hide and seek putting both our lives and livelihood under a huge threat. Economic activity was just about returning to normalcy with vaccination providing the much needed confidence and protection against the virus, when the virus decided to strike us again with renewed vigour.

Almost all spheres of economic activity have been laid low by the pandemic and the several measures the different Governments had put in to combat this unknown enemy. As to when we will be able to overcome this pandemic is a question ringing in everyone's mind. The uncertainty it has brought about in every sphere of our lives be it work, travel, health or even our children's education is unfathomable.

March seems to be a month which has not augured well for RCMS. Last March, we lost one of our stalwarts, PDG Rtn Ramakrishna Raja and this March we lost yet another Past President, Rtn Chandrasekaran.

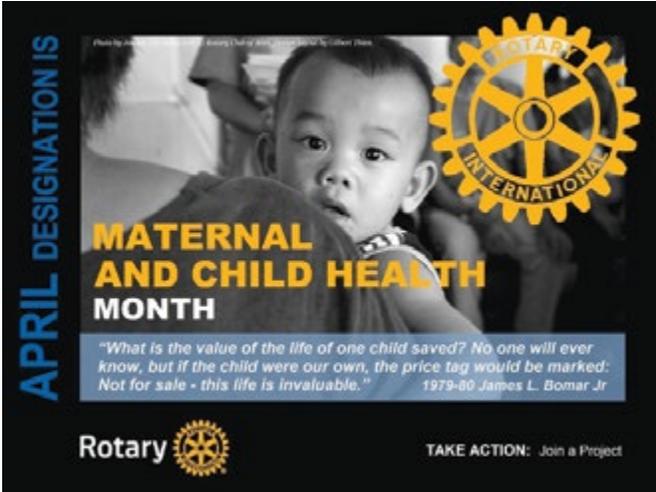
He battled valiantly for over an year after a severe stroke had laid him low. Our prayers are with Ann.Padmini and his family and may his soul rest in peace.

Despite the odds, we have been trying our best to hold physical meetings, whenever possible. There is reluctance from some speakers in coming over for physical meetings and it is only understandable. Our outstation trip too has been suspended due to the uncertainties involved with travel. However a short trip to Pondicherry and back has been planned for April.

It is indeed very intriguing that the virus and its spread took a holiday during electioneering. The impact of this callousness on the part of the authorities will have a telling effect in April. Let us hope that impact will be minimal and that the Government is not forced to enforce another lockdown, which may sound the death knell on the livelihoods of many. Life or livelihood-- well the choice is a difficult one for many.

Yours in Rotary,
A.N.Sujeesh

ROTARY THEME FOR APRIL IS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system. The objectives of the Maternal, Infant, and Child Health topic area address a wide range of conditions, health behaviours, and health system indicators that affect the health, wellness, and quality of life of women, children, and families.

Infant and child health are similarly influenced by sociodemographic and behavioural factors, such as education, family income, and breastfeeding, but are also linked to the physical and mental health of parents and caregivers.

Conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play affect a wide range of health risks and outcomes. Environmental and social factors such as access to health care and early intervention services,

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RWH SYSTEM PRESENTED TO GOVT. GIRLS HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, AMBATTUR

On 11th March, our club handed over the completed rainwater harvesting facilities to Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Hr. Sec. School, Ambattur, containing 11 recharge wells. This is our global grant project and the function held at the school was attended by our Club President Rtn Sujeesh, Rtn Paddy Sharma of RC of Lake Spivey Clayton County, USA, our international partner club in this project, Rtn. Sharma, Ann Sukanya Sriram who was the guest of honour, Rtn Sriram, Rtn. Renjith, Rtn Magdoom, Rtn Jayaraman, Rtn MC Srikanth and Rtn. Sumeer Sapru President of RC of Nolambur. One of the students made a presentation on the importance and usefulness of RWH. Chief guest Rtn. Paddy Sharma spoke well in Tamil and inspired the girl students and the teachers. The teachers of the school assured that they along with students will maintain the RWH facilities provided to them.



CAREER GUIDANCE PROGRAMME ORGANISED AT CORPORATION GIRLS SCHOOL, SAIDAPET



Our club organised a career guidance programme for 10th standard students of Corporation Girls School, Saidapet on 9th March. Prof. Vipinendran of Centre for Alumni Affairs, Anna University addressed the students on the various opportunities available to pursue one's career. The students found the programme useful and were all praise for the opportunity to clear their doubts. Kudos to Rtn Suresh Arunachalam for organising this event. His father who was present also addressed the students.

POWER LADIES OF RCMS WIN SECOND RUNNER UP PRIZE AT 'ALL WOMEN'S CAR RALLY'

Lady members from our Club, Rtn Shyamala Jayaprakash, Rtn Janaki Raman, Ann Chitra Elumperiyar and their friend Sowmya participated in the 'All Women's Car Rally' organised by the Rotary District 3232 Partners Committee. They won the 'second runner up' position in the rally, out of the more than 50 teams that participated. Well done 'power ladies'!





CAREER AS A FLIGHT PILOT, RAYYAN SAYS IT ALL

Rayyan was all of 18 years when he decided to train as a flight pilot and make a career for himself. A student of Don Bosco School in Egmore, he says flying was out of chance, but he took it like duck to water. His interest in flying took him to Florida, USA for learning the art of flying and getting his commercial pilot license. Rayyan returned to India after about 10 months of training and flying close to 300 hours. Today he is one of the youngest flight pilots in the country. The pandemic has delayed his flying career with an Indian flight carrier and he is on a waitlist.

Rayyan was the speaker at the weekly meeting of our Annettes' Club on 14th March. He bust many myths about flying, how young one could be, is the height of a person or wearing a spectacle come in the way of one's desire to be a flight pilot and also clarified how to choose a flying school, the exams to qualify and the ratings. We wish Rayyan all the very best.

Rtn Magdoom Mohamed

BEER PE BAATCHEET - SEASON 6

Owning a villa by the seashore is the ultimate power statement for the movers and shakers of Chennai. Our President in one among them with his villa designed by our own Rtn Mukund. Pres. Sujeesh was gracious to open the doors of his spacious bungalow for the Southerners for their yearly sojourn, aka, Beer pe Baatcheet. On Saturday, 6th March 2021 about 12 Rotarians were present for a fun filled evening. This was the 6th season of BpB.



After being cooped-up at home and work places for months, devoid of fun and fellowship, the yearning to let loose and gupshup was visible even before the word go...

The open terrace and the pleasant weather led the spirit soar high. The delicious snacks and sumptuous dinner were other highlights of the evening. The singing and banter died down as the night progressed and the curtains came down on yet another BpB.

Rtn Renjit Joseph

UPDATE – CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS PROJECT

A total of eight surgeries were performed in the month of March 2021. All the kids that went through the surgery have recovered and are now healthy and back to their homes. However, one kid (4 years), who went through a complicated surgery, could not recover leading to fatality. This is the first fatality since the launch of the project.

Mega Varshini is a 9 year old from Dindigul district. Her father is a daily wage earner.

Sivakarthiskeyan is a 3 year old boy from Chengalpattu and his father is working in a small time private job.

Rtn R Srikanth



WEEKLY MEETINGS IN MARCH



Date : 2nd March, 2021
 Speaker : Mr Pradeep Chakravarthy
 Topic : What Chennai was like, a thousand years ago



Date : 9th March, 2021
 Speaker : Rtn V Shankar
 Topic : Joe Biden's America: What does it mean for us?



Date : 23rd March, 2021
 Speaker : Ms. Pratima Joshi
 Topic : Housing and sanitation for the urban poor.



Date: 30th March, 2021
 Moderator: PDG Rtn Natarajan Nagoji
 Speakers: PDG Rtn ISAK Nazar, PDG Rtn Chandramohan, Rtn N Venkateshwaran, Rtn Shyamala Jayaprakash, Rtn R Srikanth, Rtn A Sridharan
 Topic: Condolence meeting in memory of PP Rtn R Chandrasekaran

SO LONG MATE.....



In 1990 when a just married me was thinking whether to join Round Table or Lions, Late NRN Iyer, a close friend of our family decided I should Join Rotary. As many in our Club would know, Late NRN Iyer never took 'No' for an answer. Later after joining Rotary I came to know that the same fate befell **Rtn Chandrasekaran** who joined our Club around that time. His father in law Late Rtn Subramaniam decided Chandru should join his Club. As green Rotarians, in an otherwise ageing club, we were drawn close to each other.

Chandru was a simple man who had great pride in his humble beginnings. He would often boast that he studied in a Tamil medium Corporation school. And the twinkle in eyes would say the rest...you might be from St Xaviers - Kolkata (nee Calcutta), but see where I am. He was running a prosperous cutting tool factory in Hosur. Later on he shifted to prawn feeding and prawn culture. He became such an expert that till last year February, when he fell ill, he was in great demand as a consultant. Firms around the world into prawn breeding kept him as a retainer consultant. He was busy travelling...often to Bangkok. We had a very informal and close relationship. I would tell him to think twice before taking his wife to Bangkok as the Govt there were planning to levy corkage. And he would say, "Poda"!

He had simple habits but was very much into classical music and spiritualism. He was an active member of our club...was a tremendous support to all the presidents.... would attend all the projects... sometimes he and the president... the two of them would be the only attendees from our club... had a soft corner for youth service.. never missed any event at Saidapet Girls School or Guindy Engineering College. Was a great mentor to all our newly inducted members. He would attend all our meetings without fail... come early to spend time with the green Rotarians... who felt so comfortable in his presence. He was a lovable man... simple, straightforward... with no malice towards anybody. He would often come to my Rotary office when I was the Governor... just to give moral support. 'Onakaga edhuvana da'... he would say. Those words still ring in my ears. His swaying in a half pant singing our Golden Jubilee song... his singing in all our Choir songs (not a great shake as a dancer or a singer)... but a great sport. I will miss him every time I come to the Club.

So long mate... you were a great friend... have lovely memories of yours... keep that bounce in your steps till we meet on the other side.

Rtn Natarajan Nagoji

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educational, employment, and economic opportunities, social support, and availability of resources to meet daily needs influence maternal health behaviour and health status.

Through it's 'Caring For Little Hearts' project RCMS has made a significant contribution in not only saving the lives of underprivileged children with congenital heart disease but also in improving the quality of their lives.

(Source : RI Website)

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