

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerners,

This too shall pass.

It is more than a year that we have been under the grip of this Covid pandemic which appeared to show a lull before hitting us back much stronger than envisaged. The second wave hitting us soon after the elections has kept the medical fraternity on their toes

and left the government machinery baffled.

As with any calamity of this nature, the government needs the support of NGOs and institutions like the Rotary to help the ones suffering the most, to see light at the end of the tunnel.

We have taken the responsibility to help mitigate the suffering of the hapless in some small measure as is possible, given the circumstances. We have formed a committee to oversee relief work and are raising funds for the same. The response has been very encouraging and we are confident that we will be making a difference in the lives of a few families. My heartfelt thanks to all those who supported the cause.

Our concerns on the health of our near and dear ones remain, despite the roll out of the vaccine, schools and colleges continue to remain shut adding further stress to the already stressed minds. The feel-good factor is missing and our inability to meet every once a while has only further aggravated this feeling of helplessness.

Well, let us count our blessings and continue to do what best we can for our society at large and hope that good deeds and good thoughts reap rich dividends in the shortest possible time frame.

I request every Southerner to check on each other by calling one another over the telephone, once in a while and reassuring each other that "This Too Shall Pass."

Yours in Rotary,  
**A.N.Sujeesh**

### ROTARY THEME FOR MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE



Rotary has a long history of working with youth, from providing scholarships, encouraging youth leadership and student exchange programs, to sponsoring youth-based service clubs. Youth Service is one of Rotary's five official Avenues of Service.

Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education and learn the value of service.

Interact and Rotaract clubs bring together young people to develop their leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self.

Rotary clubs sponsor, mentor and guide Interactors and Rotaractors as they carry out projects and develop leadership skills.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

RYLA events are organised locally by Rotary clubs and districts

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## CovAid

### RCMS GETS INTO ACTION FOR COVID RELIEF – AGAIN



The generosity of Southerners was evident once again when within a few days of our president, Rtn Sujeesh, posting an appeal on our WhatsApp group requesting for support for victims affected by the second wave of Covid, which has been more brutal than the first wave by all accounts, around Rs 58 lakh was raised in response and more funds are likely to be forthcoming.

While during the first wave last year our club embarked on a project (Project Revive) to provide relief to the tune of Rs 1.25 Cr. to those who had lost their livelihood and small businesses struggling to survive, this time we have decided to support the needs of St Thomas Hospital in Chennai which has been serving the cause of the poor

and needy for almost 50 years. We will be supporting them to enhance their bed availability from the existing 126 beds to 146 beds. Orders have already been placed for equipment like Ventilators, Patient Monitors, ICU cots, etc. to the value of Rs 35 lakh.

In addition, we are also in the process of obtaining an ABG analysis machine worth Rs 5.65 lakh for the Kilpauk Medical College and Hospital, a government run hospital in Chennai.

The task force formed to work on the relief measures is also working on other needs like providing food to poor Covid affected patients and their families, assistance to breadwinners affected by Covid for medicines, hospitalisation, etc. Watch this space for more news on our Covid relief measures in the months to come.

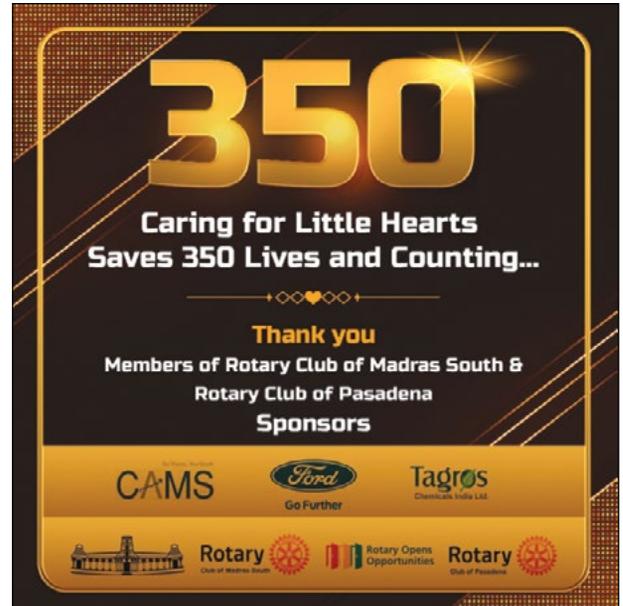


### RTN RAJANBABU'S LARGE-HEARTED GESTURE

**Rtn Rajanbabu and Ann Hema** met with Tamil Nadu CM, Shri M K Stalin on 15th May and handed over a cheque for ₹25 Lakh for Covid relief on behalf of their company, KRG Technologies. Rtn Rajanbabu, a young and dynamic member of our club since 2017, has generously contributed towards various projects of our club including the current year's Covid relief project featured in this issue. He was secretary of our club during the RY 2019-20. May his tribe grow!

## UPDATE – CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS PROJECT

A total of five surgeries were performed in the month of April 2021. Due to the second Covid wave, we have had challenges and hence the number of surgeries had to be reduced. All the kids are doing well post the surgery



**Muneera** is a 4 year old from Peramablur . Her father is a daily wage worker

**Vetrivel** is an 8 month old toddler from a village close to Madurai and his father is also a daily wage worker

**Rtn R Srikanth**

## LAPTOPS DONATED



5 laptops were donated to NKT Boys High School, Triplicane on 28th April under the Ford-Rotary Digital Literacy programme. Under this initiative laptops and desktops are being distributed to deserving institutions free of cost. Rtn R Srikanth, who has been spearheading this project over the years, has already announced that a further 500 laptops will be ready for distribution soon.

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for participants aged 14-30. Depending on community needs, RYLA may take the form of a one-day seminar, a three-day retreat, or a week long camp. Typically, events last 2-10 days and include presentations, activities, and workshops covering a variety of topics.

Over the years RCMS has harnessed the talents and the energies of the young, strengthening their potential for leadership through the four Rotaract and four Interact clubs it sponsors in colleges and schools respectively.

For the past 15 years our club has been organising a 2-day RYLA every year for some 60 selected students of the Corporation Girls' High School, Saidapet. The club organises accommodation, food and transport and invites a galaxy of speakers on various topics to motivate the girls. While it's a flagship project of our club, for the girls participating in it, it has been a novel and unforgettable experience and one of the highlights of their school life!

(Source : RI Website)

## WEEKLY eMEETINGS IN APRIL



Date : 6th April, 2021

Speakers : Rtns. Shyamala Jayaprakash, Asha Marina, Anns. Kala Balasundaram, Hema Rajanbabu, Rose Joseph

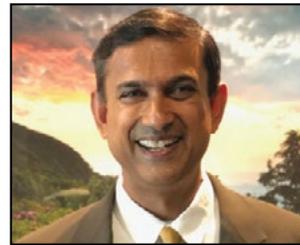
Topic : Women entrepreneurs - Women's Day special



Date : 13th April, 2021

Speaker : Dr P B Sivaraman

Topic : Combating Urological problems



Date : 20th April, 2021

Speaker : Mr. Karthik Hariharan

Topic : Bitcoin - What is it? Where is it going?

## RTN N KRISHNAN - TRIBUTE TO A PERFECT GENTLEMAN

There are very few people in this world who are perfect. Rtn N.Krishnan, charter president of the Rotary Club of Ambattur and father in law of the ever popular V.Sriram was one of them. He passed away on 23rd April in Chennai.

I first came to know Krishnan when I met him at the first ever Round Table India AGM which I attended at Delhi in 1970. I was a rookie Tabler having joined the Bombay West Round Table-6, just a year before. He was active at the national level becoming the president of Round Table India in 1978. From the word go we clicked as friends. He became my mentor in Round Table. He was the man who explained to me the meaning of true fellowship and how around the Round Table (a youth movement) everyone is equal. I learnt the value of true friendship from him.

Later when I started Anugrah Marketing & Advertising, he readily agreed to be one of the founder directors of the company. His sound advice and practical approach to any problem would help me run the company efficiently. Both he and his wife Hema always showered their genuine affection on me and my wife Prabha.

I will always remember Krishnan as a friendly, simple, methodical and meticulous person who left his footprints on the sands of time of every organization he was associated with; be it Round Table, Rotary, or other professional bodies with which he was involved. In the Rotary world among his other achievements he is best known for his total involvement with the `Summer at Sea` project of the Rotary International.

Personally it is an irreparable loss to me. I can imagine the sense of loss that his family must be feeling at the demise of a remarkable person who was a good son, good brother, good husband, good father, good boss, good friend and of course a great human being! A perfect gentleman!

May his soul Rest in Peace!

**Rtn R V Rajan**

