

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerners,

It is almost a year since I was installed as president of RCMS and I have thoroughly enjoyed my term. The love and affection received from you will be cherished for a very long time. The cooperation I have received from the various directors, chairmen and from every member of our club is simply unbelievable.

There are many stalwarts in our Club and living up to their expectations is not easy, but doable. The respect they have earned for our Club in the district is very inspiring. My earnest hope was to keep that reputation unslurred.

Many of our members have put in extra efforts and are often not in the limelight. Be it arranging speakers for every meeting, arranging the various meetings on Zoom or at a hotel, reporting, tallying our accounts and issuing payments, bringing out our bulletins, family participation events, our charity projects both ongoing and some taken up at very short notice -- all these were diligently done by them.

I still can't forget the evening in Chandigarh where the team of Saravanan, Srikanth and Renjit made me accept to take over as president for the ensuing year owing to the situation that had arisen. I was very reluctant in taking the reins, particularly when I had no experience as the secretary of the club, which actually teaches you the nuances of club administration and my pre-occupation with business. They had offered their support to me in the running of the club then and that Bala later accepted to be the secretary was another blessing. They were all true to their words and I am indebted to them. I was overjoyed when Renjit and Jawahar later accepted to take on presidentship of our Club. Mukund was a pillar of support and stood in for me many a time when I could not preside over the meeting. Renjit has gone out of his way in helping the club and me by helping out with every meeting and also forming a team with Magdoom and R.V. Rajan to work on improving attendance and membership.

Due to their efforts we were able to bring in young, dynamic and very promising youngsters into our fold and be assured that they will be playing very important roles in our club activities in the days to come.

The District too has been very kind to us and both Governor Rtn Muthupalaniappan and our Club AG Rtn Ajay Kumar Guptha were very practical in their expectations from us and the cooperation from Dist Sec Rtn Ramesh needs special mention.

Our projects were limited due to the pandemic but we were able to provide substantial relief to those affected by it. Many thanks to the large hearted donors and also to the very many southerners who chipped in at very short notice for a worthy cause and a special thanks to Rtn Prakash for involving himself in fund raising.

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

### ROTARY THEME FOR JUNE IS FELLOWSHIP



The final month of every Rotary year is Rotary Fellowship month and it is a fitting finale because "fellowship" is such an important part of Rotary. The word "fellowship" is right there at the top of the current core values of Rotary. It's the reason why we have Rotary "clubs", so we can do our good in the

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## UPDATE – CARING FOR LITTLE HEARTS PROJECT

It was a joy to connect with a few parents of the beneficiaries whose surgeries were held three years ago in February 2018. On hearing from a stranger all were puzzled initially but later when I used those buzz words “Soorya Hospital” and “Rotary” all of them could immediately connect to the surgeries that their kids underwent and were happy to let me know that their kids were doing very well. Deepasri's father, Harikrishnan from Cuddalore, said that the child is very naughty and Deepasri herself spoke to me saying that she could not join the school because of “LOCKDOWN”. Really satisfied to see the children doing well because of this project and I thank Dr. Prashant Shah of Soorya Hospital, Ford and other sponsors, Members of RC Pasadena and many Southerners for their unstinted support.



*(Photos show Deepasri at 6 months during surgery in 2018 and now at 4 years)*

### Rtn K Saravanan

*(Both Rtn K Saravanan and Rtn R Srikanth, who have been spearheading this project since inception, have shown commitment and dedication in following up on the beneficiaries over the years. The Southerner has been reporting regularly on the status of the project for the benefit of its readers – Editor)*



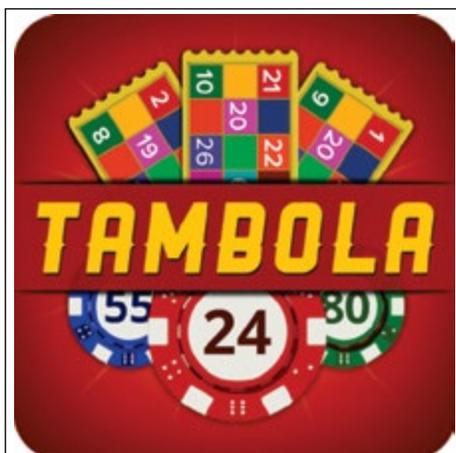
*Sulochana from Thiruvannamalai – 12 years during surgery and now (15 years)*



*Agaravan from Thiruvarur – 13 years during surgery and now (16 years)*



## VIRTUAL TAMBOLA –SEASON 2



Tombola is a popular version of Bingo and Housie which is played widely across India and worldwide. The caller reads out the numbers that are randomly drawn to the audience. The players cross the number off their ticket if they have it, after each number is called out. It is an entertaining and a lottery type of a game.

After a successful virtual event last year, our tombola fellowship was held virtually again this year on 23rd May. We had great interaction on Zoom and the numbers were called on WhatsApp. The fellowship was full of mirth and it was heartening to see all the members enjoying the fellowship after a long time. Thanks to technology we are able to have our fellowship events on Zoom and play such games.

The lucky winners walked away with a bounty of cash prizes!

**Rtn Jawahar Nichani**

# CovAid

## ABG ANALYSIS MACHINE DONATED TO KMC HOSPITAL

As part of our efforts to provide Covid relief, we donated an Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) Analysis machine to Government Kilpauk Medical College & Hospital. The machine will help to analyse the oxygen level in blood and is a useful equipment at this time of the pandemic. It would save a number of lives in the intensive and emergency care units in the hospital. We are also supporting the Covid care centre at St. Thomas Hospital, Chennai and have donated a high end ventilator, bed-side patient monitors and patient beds (seen in the picture here).



## N95 MASKS, PPE KITS DONATED

Our Club has embarked on a major project to offer Covid relief support to hospitals in Chennai treating Covid infected patients. As part of the project, N95 masks and PPE kits



were donated last month to several hospitals including Govt Children Hospital, Egmore, Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, and others. In addition, we donated 3 boxes of N95 masks to 5 PHCs in the Thirupporur area where our Community Learning Centre is located at Kattur village. Thanks to Rtn R Srikanth for sponsoring these through his company FORD India.

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world alongside fellow Rotarians and not just by ourselves. For many Rotarians, the highlights of their Rotary experiences usually revolve around doing projects with others. It is probably the reason why so many Rotary Fellowships have developed where Rotarians from around the world can join together doing activities they enjoy. We often hear Rotarians say that they joined Rotary to "make a difference", but they stay in Rotary "because of the fellowship".

Rotary Fellowships provide a chance to make lasting friendships with people outside your club. Members of these groups share an interest, wish to further their vocational development, or want to make new friends, explore opportunities for service, and enhance their experience in Rotary.

Fellowships serve as an incentive for attracting new members to Rotary and retaining our existing members.

Over the years our club has established a strong culture of fellowship with regular family participation events which are not only great fun but also bring together fellow Southerners often leading to a life-long bond of friendship. The annual outstation excursion is an occasion looked forward to by Southerners and involves meticulous planning and execution, mostly spearheaded by incoming president Rtn Renjit Joseph.

*"Fellowship is wonderful; it illuminates life's pathway, spreads good cheer, and is worth high price."*

*-Rotary Founder Paul Harris*

*(Source : RI Website)*

## WEEKLY eMEETINGS IN MAY



Date : 4th May, 2021  
Speaker : Ms Shoba Narayan  
Topic : Food and Faith in India



Date : 18th May, 2021  
Speaker : Rtn S R Madhu  
Topic : Presentation on Kishore Kumar  
(Joint meeting with RC Royapettah)



Date : 25th May, 2021  
Speaker : Mr. P Natarajan  
Topic : The 'Namma Ooru' story



### INSTALLATION RY 2021-22

On 29th June, Rtn Renjit Joseph will be installed virtually as president of RCMS for RY 2021-22

## TWO VETERANS WITH LINKS TO OUR CLUB NO MORE



In the passing away of 85 year old Dr.C.V. Krishnaswami on the night of 21st May, the country lost a highly respected diabetologist, a great physician and a wonderful human being. He was an active member of our club for 25 years. Dr. Krishnaswami was associated with the Voluntary Health Services (VHS) Hospital for more than 50 years. He was instrumental in opening India's first juvenile diabetes registry. Supported by his good friend Rtn R.T Chari, Dr C V K saw his dream project a 'Juvenile Diabetes Research Centre' become a reality at VHS hospital. Chari also helped him establish the 'TAG-VHS Diabetic Research Centre' at the hospital. He and his wife Dr. Prema, herself a renowned Gynaecologist, were a popular couple in the Rotary world. A charming duo, they hosted several family fellowships over the years at their well-appointed bungalow in Neelankarai.

Former Vice-Chancellor of Anna University, Professor M Anandkrishnan, passed away in Chennai on May 29. He was 93. A Padma Shri recipient, Anandkrishnan had also served as the former Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT Kanpur. It was during his stint as the Vice Chancellor of Anna University that he agreed to associate Anna University with the 'Ronex 90' an environment related project that RCMS conducted, when I was the President of the club in 1990-91. Later, with his blessings the club also conducted another mega exhibition 'Autovision' - an expo on automobile, industry, at the University grounds. He was a champion of education and more specifically computer education for the masses. Humility personified, he was a Honorary member of our club for a number of years.

Both these veterans lost their lives due to Covid related issues. May their souls rest in peace.

**Rtn RV Rajan**



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