

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

We had an exciting month during March with many lovely events. We had a wonderful evening as the DG, Dr Nandakumar, visited our club for the governor's official visit. The Secretary's presentation was exhaustive and took Rtn Ajit about three weeks to consolidate the data. I profusely thank Rtn Ajit for the awesome report. We had a great evening with good interaction with the governor.

We had four more schools inaugurated under the 'Freedom through education' project. On March 9th we had the inauguration of Padma Subramanian Bala Bhavan School and Saraswathy Vidyalaya School by DG Dr Nandakumar.

On March 21st morning during the governor's visit, we had the inauguration function for the schools listed below:

- Sir M Venkatasubba Rao Matriculation Higher Secondary School
- Sir & Lady Venkatasubba Rao Matriculation Higher Secondary School.

We had our second year of the PDG Ramakrishna Raja memorial award which was given to India Sudar. I thank Rtn Mukund and Rtn Renjt for organising this wonderful event.

I am looking for some more fellowships for the next two months before I finish my term as president. I thank everyone for their great camaraderie and support throughout the year.

Yours in Rotary
Jawahar Nichani

2ND RAMAKRISHNA RAJA MEMORIAL AWARD PRESENTED



INDIA SUDAR Educational & Charitable Trust, a registered NGO founded in 2004, received the 2nd Ramakrishna Raja Memorial Award for Excellence at a glittering function in Hotel Savera on 28th March, 2023. The award was instituted last year in memory of PDG Rtn Ramakrishna Raja, a veteran Charter member of RCMS, who passed away in 2020.

The award recognised India Sudar's achievements over the years in eradicating illiteracy and enabling young individuals to achieve a better future through education. The entire family of PDG Raja was present during the event. While Rtn Sarvesh Shyam wrote and recited a touching poem dedicated to Rtn Raja, PP Rtn V Mukund anchored the programme. Among the speakers who recalled their association with Raja were PRID Rtn R T Prabakar, PDG Rtn N Nagoji, Dr Biswakumar, renowned Neurologist and Past Grandmaster, Grand Lodge of India, and Ranganath Raja son of Ramakrishna Raja.

Mr V Udhaya Kumar, Founder & President of India Sudar, accepted the award on behalf of the NGO and delivered the keynote address. In a PowerPoint presentation, he took the audience through the impressive journey of India Sudar since it was founded. Our club also donated ₹ 25,000/- to the NGO in addition to the Award memento and citation.

DG NANDAKUMAR VISITS RCMS

The DG's visit to a Rotary club can be considered one of the important meetings of the year for both him as well as the club president.

The purpose of his visit? Providing support and attention to clubs. Learning about their goals and listening to clubs about how to make the district administer better. Educating clubs on Rotary issues and promoting the goals of the RI President, mainly RTF and membership. The DG has his team of district officials to help with documentation, etc.

Secretary Ajit Gautam had already uploaded the necessary documents so the meeting with the RCMS board members on March 21 was attended by District Secretary, Rtn Shriram Duvvuri, who spent some relaxed time getting to know our members. Due to online documentation, this year the DG, Rtn Nandakumar, attends only the visit to the club which includes Rotarians and Anns.

Secretary Ajit, in his report, gave a synopsis of the year so far. The highlights being:

- * 'Freedom through education' project in which schools with special children are being helped by way of infrastructure as well as special educators and an aided school which has a specially curated holistic curriculum designed to help children stay in school. A government school was also brought under the same umbrella.
- * 'Caring for Little Hearts' project - addition of PHC hospital under the renowned and charitable Dr. Srimathi.
- * Some projects with the district and other clubs.
- * The wonderful , fun family participation we have had so far.

Continuing with his new style (of addressing clubs), DG Nandakumar had our members in a circle for an interactive discussion on how to make Rotary better, improve membership, and give way for youth for the future of Rotary.

The evening ended with fellowship and dinner.

PP Rtn V Mukund



DONATION TO EAST EDEN FOUNDATION

EEF is a registered NGO based in Chennai, involved in rehabilitating, and reuniting mentally challenged men found wandering in the streets of Chennai. RCMS has been supporting EEF by sponsoring a day's meal once a month for the 50 inmates living there. PP Rtn Renjit Joseph, who has been spearheading this project for the last several years handed over a cheque for Rs 1 lakh on behalf of our club to the NGO on 31st March.

STAR OF THE QUARTER AWARD

RCMS with the support of Acsys Investments, is implementing various initiatives at PCKG Government Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam. The purpose of our engagement is to create an enabling school environment and improve academic performance. Through an NGO Kalanjiyam, we have permanently placed four teachers and two sanitary workers at the school. This project was started in July 2022 and the first phase will end in May 2023. To motivate the students, we select a few students, class-wise and give them the 'Star of the Quarter' certificate and a school bag.



FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION – FOUR MORE SCHOOLS INAUGURATED

The following schools were brought under the ambit of our club's FTE project in March. DG Dr Nandakumar launched the projects at PSBB Matriculation HS School and Saraswathy Vidhyalaya School on 9th March and on 21st March the project was inaugurated at Sir M Venkatasubba Rao Matriculation HS School and Sir & Lady Venkatasubba Rao Matriculation HS School as a part of the DG's official visit to the club.



PSBB



Saraswathy Vidhyalaya

CAREER COUNSELLING FOR 9TH-STANDARD STUDENTS AT PCKG GOVERNMENT SCHOOL



We started our intervention program at the PCKG School on 15th July 2022. The NGO, Kalanjiyam, conducts the program. As part of the intervention, we conducted career counselling for the 9th Standard students on 7th March 2023. Over 100 students participated in the day-long counselling. The NGO, India Sudar (which received the R Raja Award for Excellence this year) conducted the programme. This was a trial program to determine how receptive and productive a career counselling session for the 9th-standard students would be. We plan to conduct such programs for 10th to 12th standard students in the coming academic year.

PP Rtn Renjit Joseph

WEEKLY MEETINGS IN MARCH



Date : 7th March, 2023
 Speaker : Mr Jayanand Govindraj
 Topic : Swiss Banks – Facts and Myths



Date : 21st March, 2023
 Official visit of DG Dr N Nandakumar

SOUTHERNERS GROOVE AT BLACK ORCHID

With all the blooming flowers and the sweet ripping of the fruits, with the pleasant breeze of the ocean, we Southerners welcomed spring in style on 4th March with a family participation event held in Black Orchid, Alwarpet. This was a long overdue get-together that our president Jawahar Nichani had promised the young Annettes of the group.

A night that ended with music, dancing, inspiring conversation, and lots of fun, had started off with some amazing food to go with it. The food was not the only fun element of the night, but also the cocktails that our president had organized; they brought the true shine and light to the party, demonstrating our president's hospitality.

The night moved on to the dance floor where each and everyone forgot all their stress, work, and tension and enjoyed the beats of the night.

A perfect way to welcome the spring of 2023.

Annette Akansha Kathare



TWO LADY SOUTHERNERS HONOURED

Geo India Foundation hosted the 'WOW Wonder Women Icon Awards -2023' on March 8th at Hotel Savera. Mr. V. Nandakumar IRS and Swami Prem Anveshi (Founder of Anveshi Foundation) were the Chief Guests. Our President Elect **Rtn Bina Boaz** was one of the recipients of the award. Other awardees included Rtn. Sharada Ramani, Rtn Devi Krishna, actresses Vadivukkarasi and Ineya, and a few others from other fields.

Annette Kavitha Srinivas, the elder daughter of Rtn. PP R.V.Rajan received the Yuva Shakthi Award instituted by Ladies Special, a Tamil magazine, and Rotary Dist 3232 (Team and Arts and Culture) at an online meeting held on 14th March, 2023. The award was in recognition of her being a successful and creative educator with a difference. Incidentally, Kavitha who is the Joint Director of Club Services in the Rotary Club of Chennai Spotlight received the Paul Harris Fellowship sponsored by Rtn. R.V.Rajan at our club meeting held recently. She is a Gold Medalist in Fine Arts from Stella Maris College.



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