

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello Southerner,  
An entire quarter completed this Rotary year, and what a few months it has been!

We began this September with the Interact clubs installation in both the Asan schools. In the first week, we also celebrated Onam at Rtn Sujeesh's place, where a whopping 75 people had Sadhya in typical Kerala style. The food, music, dance, and pookalam...were all on another level and we had a blast! We also helped Vijay and Soni celebrate their silver wedding anniversary that day which turned out to be the very first time that they have actually exchanged garlands!

Five Southerners participated in a walkathon for Suicide Awareness on 10th September organized by Sneha Suicide Prevention Centre. We had a soft launch of District 3234 on the 11th at the Crowne Plaza along with Pre Pets 1 for the current Presidents Elect including our own Narayanan.

Former Director of IIT, M.S. Ananth, was our external speaker this month. We realized that not only was he a brilliant engineer and administrator but knew how to get around government bureaucracy. Our member speakers this month were Shyamala, Kalpana, Jothi, Maria (Renjit's

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### PCKG SCHOOL PROJECT - DELIVERING RESULTS



PCKG (Pathippaga Chemmal K Ganapathi) Government Higher Secondary School is a 70-year-old institution located on Arcot Road, Kodambakkam. Our association with this school started in 2020 when PP MC Srikanth and PP Magdoom identified this school for the rainwater harvesting project. Later in 2021, PP Magdoom was instrumental in providing them with a computer lab with the CSR funds from Mitsubishi and computers from Ford.

During early 2022, Rtn V Shankar proposed to take up a few government schools and work on their overall improvement. We roped in Kalanjiyam Trust as our associate and started the implementation in July 2022. Kalanjiyam has been working with government schools for over 2 decades.

The project aims to enable the students of this school to develop their full potential through improved knowledge and skills so that they can become successful members of their communities. The project aims to implement interventions that can help the students to improve academic performance, life skills and social skills, and improve chances of future employment / economic well-being.

Under this project, seven resource persons are permanently placed in the school. This includes a counselor, teachers in English speaking, Computer Science and remedial teachers in various subjects. Every quarter "the Star of the quarter" award is presented to the best performing students as an added motivation.

Government schools follow an all-pass rule till the 9th std. This has resulted in poor reading, writing and arithmetic skills among the students. Finally, they fail to pass the 10th std exam and end up as dropouts. By this project, we wish to ensure a 100% pass in the 10th / 12th std.

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## SOUTHERNERS SOAK IN THE ONAM SPIRIT

Our club members have been celebrating Onam, the harvest and cultural festival of Kerala, every year with great enthusiasm. This year was no different. On 3rd September around 75 Southerners invaded the beach house of Rtn Sujeesh and Ann Sunitha at Nemmeli on ECR to participate in the special family participation event organised by our club. PP Rtn Shyamala, echoed the feeling of every Southerner who was present there with the following message (excerpt) which she shared soon after the event.

“Thank you, President Bina, my dancing beauties, and Mallu boys in black -- you made the event memorable. The pookalam competition participants, the nightingale of our club Raji Varma, the singers Raman and others, the audio expert Devan, the awesome hosts Su and Su, and the silver couple Soni and Vijay. Each and everyone who was there added to the celebration. Secretary Narayanan was everywhere helping out. A special mention of thanks to my canteen caterers, the food (Sadhya) was awesome.”

Take a look at some of the pictures, capturing the gala celebration.



*The silver couple, Vijay and Geetu with their children*



*Bahubali – Green Rotarian Parasuraman*



*Rotarians dancing to Malayalam numbers*



*One of the lovely pookalams by the Anns*



## INTERACT AND ROTARACT CLUBS INSTALLED

September was another busy month for our Youth Service Directors, Rtns Ajit Gautham (Interact) and Sibi Rajan (Rotaract). The following clubs and their office bearers were installed.



Interact Club of AKG Public School on 2nd September



Interact Club of Asan Sr Secondary School on 4th September



Rotaract Club of CEG on 23rd September



Rotaract Club of AC Tech on 27th September

## BLOOD DONATION CAMP HELD

A blood donation camp was arranged by RCMS in association with VHS Blood Bank on 24th September at Boaz Public School. Rotarians, school staff and parents participated by donating blood. Pic shows Rtn R Srikanth donating his blood.



## WALKATHON – FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

SNEHA, the NGO working to prevent suicides, organised a 3 km 'Walkathon' at the Besant Nagar beach on 10th September. President Bina and a few Rotarians from RCMS joined the walk.



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With a budget allocation of Rs 36 lakh spread over two years, the project is fully funded by Acsys Investments, headed by Rtn V Shankar.

During a recent interaction with the teachers, we came to know that some students are unable to attend school for want of uniforms. The government provides uniforms only

up to the 8th standard. Rtn Somdev Goyal has donated the funds required for providing uniforms for the needy students.

We hope our efforts will help the students of this school to lead a fruitful life and help them grow.

**Rtn Renjit Joseph**



## SPEAKER MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER



Date : 12th September, 2023

Speaker : Dr M S Ananth

Topic : Changing role of IITs



Date : 26th September, 2023

Speaker : Rotarians Shyamala, Renjit, Kalpana Kumar, Jothilakshmi and Annette Maria Joseph

Topic : What's the status of women today? What can the Women's Reservation Bill accomplish?



## VISITORS FROM UGANDA

Rtn. Sifi and her son from Uganda, who were on a visit to Chennai, attended our weekly meeting on 26th September. Interestingly the topic of our meeting was 'Women's Reservation Bill' and Rtn. Sifi opined that the challenge is similar in her own country too. Rotary has taken a leap with framing DEI policies in the year 2021 and it continues to guide the Rotary movement. Rotary is truly modern and forward-looking.

**Magdoom Mohamed**

## FIRESIDE HOSTED

Rtn Arangarajan and Ann Uma hosted a memorable fireside at the Gandhinagar Club on 24th September. According to Ann Chitra Elumperiyar, Rtn R V Rajan entertained the cosy gathering with nostalgic memories of his childhood and adolescence.



## FAMILY MOVIE OUTING

The family movie outing is a much-awaited event for our members. On 17th September, around 52 Southerners headed to the EA Mall to witness the Hindi blockbuster 'Jawaan'. While opinions differed on the 'watchability' of the movie, the usual fun and fellowship were enjoyed by each one present without exception.



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daughter), and Renjit who shared their thoughts on the Women's Reservation Bill.

On 17th September, 52 of the RCMS family watched Jawaan together, which was a typical masala movie where you suspend reality for a couple of hours and have fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the beach walk/breakfast organized by Sathya and a musical curated by Madhu to mark Dev Anand's 100th year.

Yours in Rotary

**Bina Boaz**

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Editor Rtn. PP R Seshadri | rtnsesh@gmail.com

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