

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Southerner,

If there is one thing that's absolutely clear, it is that the next decades belong to India. In terms of purchasing power parity, India is now among the four largest economies in the world alongside USA, Japan and China. According to a 2020 report, India's privately held

wealth was the 6th largest in the world, standing tall at 8.2 trillion dollars. By 2028, the average Indian is estimated to hold twice as much private wealth as citizens of the UK or even Germany.

India's influence across the world is also rising exponentially. At a 2015 UN General assembly meeting, the French ambassador famously said "My country supports yoga because India is the spiritual mother of all mankind". In the acclaimed operation Raahat of the Yemen evacuation, India was the only country whose military was allowed to operate, successfully evacuating over 1000 foreign nationals from 41 countries. And we can find many more such instances, the most recent of which is India's essential role in reaching a common dialogue and negotiating the G20 declaration at the recently concluded prestigious summit.

So, all signs point to an increased sphere of influence for India and as Indians and Rotarians, we can truly capitalize on the opportunities that lie ahead. According to Ridham Desai, a highly regarded senior analyst at Morgan Stanley, India is uniquely placed to excel globally due to its potential to be a centre for both, production and consumption. Our population, when viewed as our greatest asset, can be at the forefront of driving growth and lifestyle changes worldwide. When combined with our ancient philosophies and disciplines, India can spearhead a new global movement that showcases a purpose-driven and fulfilling life, amongst all walks of society.

....Continued on 3rd page

FLUORESCENT MICROSCOPE PROJECT AT VHS HOSPITAL



On Nov 21st, Rotary District Governor Dr Nandakumar inaugurated the use of the fluorescent microscope at the VHS hospital - the donation of which was an outcome of excellent collaboration between two Rotary clubs - Rotary Club of Madras South and Rotary Club of Campbell Town, Australia as well as leveraging Rotary International's Global Grant Program to enable Advanced Technology for identifying Fungi and reducing turnaround time in the process of identification. Rtn Babu Kanagasabai of RC Campbell Town, who has roots in India, coordinated with Rtn R Srikanth who spearheaded the initiative for our club.

After due diligence, RCMS identified Voluntary Health Services (VHS), a non-profit hospital doing great service and well managed. The Pathology lab chief, Dr Priya had requested for a Fluorescent Microscope, an equipment that helps to improve the test result for COVID and fungus by identifying the same within 15 minutes of receiving the sample in the laboratory (normally this takes 24-36 hours), so that the treatment can be started sooner.

The inaugural evening was graced by many dignitaries, including top



....Continued on Back page

SOUTHERNERS KEPT ENTHRALLED DURING RETRO NIGHT



Saturday, 19th November saw the Southerners' family enthralled by an event, unlike anything I have experienced before. Entering the ballroom at Radisson Blu felt like a portal to the past, with retro props from yesteryear films gracing each corner. Add to the equation, the enterprising, fun-loving Southerners, who donned hats, vests, shades and other accessories reminiscent of the '60s and '70s. The retro dances and songs by our members, Annes and Annettes enthralled the crowd and mesmerised guests who were fascinated by the radiant Southerner spirit. The music bellowed late into the night as the Southerners took to the dance floor,

busting moves and shaking a leg to commemorate an event that will be remembered as one of the most memorable family participation nights. Hats off to President Jawahar and the organising team and all our fun-loving Southerners for putting on such a great show!

Rtn Sarvesh Shyam



DRY RATIONS DONATED

When the Vysarpadi area was flooded on November 1st after torrential rains in Chennai, Southerners came forward to help those in need. Mr Sharath who oversees our Vysarpadi project (Vyasai Thozhargal), contacted President Nichani for immediate support. Our club members came forward spontaneously and we donated Rs 35000 towards dry rations which were distributed to the poor and needy located in this area.



EYE CAMPS IN SCHOOLS

Eye Camps were conducted in the following schools in October as part of our club's Community Service (Health) initiative. Doctors from Udhi Eye Hospital were present thanks to the support provided by Rtn Dr Sherren and Ann Anbarasi along with the required equipment.



Asan Memorial HS School



St Antony's Anglo-Indian School



Sacred Heart School

RYLA - A FUN LEARNING EVENT

24th November was a memorable day and saw the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) conducted by RCMS take place at Farm Guru. Two batches of enterprising young children - high school students of 11th and 12th grade from Asan Memorial and middle school students of 5th and 6th grade from Pananthepe school attended the event. On a gorgeous, rainy afternoon amidst the stunning backdrop of green plantations and farm animals, it was great to see the children liberated and laugh heartily while taking in the fresh air. Rtn Sai, who owns Farm Guru, conducted the proceedings with great humour and spirit, energising the children while educating them on matters of the mind, heart and farm. Our Southerners too added great value with Rtns. Mukund, Rajan Babu, Prakash, Sarvesh, President Jawahar and RYLA chair Asha Marina speaking to the children. Among the other highlights of the event were the children learning to plough the soil, cut weeds and a fresh, healthy, hearty organic lunch which saw everybody smack their lips and go back for more! Our heartfelt thanks to Rtn Sai and President Jawahar for organising a wonderful RYLA that proved to be such a fun learning event for the children.



Rtn Sarvesh Shyam



SINGER MAGDOOM IN ACTION

On 16th November PP Rtn Magdoom sang in FMLR Live orchestra programme organised at Freemasons Hall, Egmore. 11 Rotarians, all of them members of FMLR, sang songs of playback singer S Janaki. According to Magdoom "it was a fantastic experience and the fellowship between the Rotarians and several practice sessions added to the fun."

RTN BICHA HONOURED

Rtn Imbichammad (third from left in the pic) was one of the three persons from Tamil Nadu honoured by the Consul General of Japan at a special function held at his residence on Wednesday, 30th November 2022. They were commended in recognition of their service to deepening the mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and India. The Consul General presented a certificate and a memento to Rtn Bicha who is the current president of the Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce. The family of Bicha and PP Rtn R.V.Rajan representing the Southerners were present on the occasion. The Southerners congratulate Rtn Bicha and wishes him many more laurels.



....Continued from President's Message

But the road ahead, while promising, is not without its fair share of challenges. Alongside growth lie the age-old evils of disparity and inequality. This is where I believe Rotary and Rotarians can come in to make a big difference. The onus is on us to fill the gaps, stepping up and uplifting those who may be left behind in the wake of development.

To quote the father of our nation, the great Mahatma Gandhi:

"Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the beauty and the test of our civilization."

Let us strive in our endeavour, to leave no Indian behind as our country defines a new era and charts a path of progress and prosperity. Let us provide a solid hand, and be the arm of support that uplifts our fellow countrymen, women, and children in need. Only together, will we truly be able to realise this great dream.

Yours in Rotary
Jawahar Nichani

WEEKLY MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER



Date : 8th November, 2022
Speaker : Dr S Murugusundaram
Topic : The skin never lets you down



Date : 29th November, 2022
Speaker : Rtms Jawahar Nichani, A N Sujeesh, V Mukund, Bina Boaz, Anuradha Uberoi
Topic : Combating the drug menace

VIZHITHIRU '22

On 21st November, the members of Rotaract club of CEG organised an event Vizhithiru '22 with the tagline 'Kanavu Meippada' for school students. Vizhithiru, an annual project of the club, shows the future path for school students. It also features an Expo which focuses on making the school students aware of various career opportunities consisting of motivational and career guidance sessions. President Jawahar inaugurated the session by lighting the traditional lamp and motivating the students during his address.



MEGA FIRESIDE HOSTED

Around 45 Southerners were kept enthralled by PP Rtn Prakash and Ann Jaishree during a mega fireside hosted by them at the Madras Boat Club on 26th November. According to President Nichani, apart from a game of Tambola, Rtms Nagoji, Bowmick, Asha and spouse Kumar kept the audience entertained with their singing.



The Southerner wishes its readers

*A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year*

....Continued from Cover Page

doctors and scientists from VHS Hospital - Dr Yuvraj Gupta, (Director), Dr Suresh Seshadri (CEO) and Dr K Priya (Head of the Department of Clinical Research). Rtn Babu Kanagasabai of RC Campbell Town addressed the audience through a video message from Australia. President Jawahar Nichani and Rtn R Srikant, Chairman, Global Grants were also present along with a few other rotarians from RCMS. The chief guest, DG (Dist. 3232) Dr Nandakumar, cut the ribbon and unveiled a plaque to inaugurate the project and commission the instrument. It is important to note that currently, Sankara Nethralaya is the only other hospital in Chennai equipped with this instrument, making this a project of vital importance and high impact. A truly proud moment for the Southerner family.

With Best Compliments From

THULP FICTION

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

The Southerner is published by Rotary Club of Madras South for private circulation and is Printed by Multicraft (2431 0419)