

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



Hello Southerners,

A good day to all of you. April began with the much-awaited GOV on 2nd April. Our DG Ravi Raman along with First Lady Shobana was present to kick off the Club Assembly preceding the main GOV event. All went well with our RCMS team sharing this year's happenings with DG.

Both DG and First Lady were suitably impressed with what we have accomplished.

On the personal front, I visited Bhutan for 6 days and actually climbed up to the Tiger's Nest. Yay!!!

On 12th April, ANEW held a valedictory function for the 12 nursing students that RCMS has sponsored. It was a heartwarming afternoon with many of them sharing stories of their challenging lives and what the nursing course meant to them. Almost all of them had jobs lined up even before the course was over. Very satisfying!

We had an excellent speaker in Vidya Ragu who spoke about the 'Call of the Himalayas'. Very nice of her to come considering that she had to fly out to Europe in a few hours following the talk. An amazingly adventurous and dynamic lady who inspires me all the time.

Under the Kanmani project, we have treated 30 patients in various stages of Retinopathy and prevented blindness in all of them. Isn't that something!!!

VHS has requested a microscope and a biometer, both for the Ophthalmology department. We are working on a global grant. Fingers crossed!

On 27th April Sibi, Rajanbabu and I took part in a function to kickstart the Volleyball Tournament organized by our AC Tech Rotaractors for the Differently Abled adults. We sponsored the prizes which cost us Rs.15000. They came from all over Tamilnadu... a very inspiring bunch of individuals indeed.

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### **MAY IS YOUTH SERVICE MONTH**

**Rotary Youth Service Month** is a special time dedicated to celebrating and promoting the involvement of young people in community



service and leadership development. During this month, Rotary clubs around the world focus on activities and programs that support the development of young individuals up to the age of 30.

Rotary International offers several structured programs for youth service, including Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Youth Exchange. These programs aim to help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education, and learn the value of service.

The month of May is designated as "Youth Service Month" to highlight these efforts and encourage more young people to get involved in service projects and leadership development opportunities.

During Youth Service Month, Rotary clubs may organize various activities such as mentorship programs, skills development workshops, youth leadership camps, and community service projects. These initiatives are designed to empower young people and instill within them the values of leadership, service, and integrity that Rotary upholds.

It's a fantastic opportunity for young individuals to engage with their communities, develop new skills, and make a positive impact on the world.

## DG RAVI RAMAN VISITS RCMS

The customary official visit of the District Governor took place on April 2nd at the MCC hall, which boasts a scenic view of the Chepauk stadium. The meeting commenced on an auspicious note with an invocation song rendered by Ann Raji Verma and was skilfully conducted by Rtn Rajanbabu, the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

The audio-visual presentation by Secretary Rtn Narayanan was noteworthy, effectively encapsulating the year's activities. District Governor Ravi Raman delivered an informal speech in his characteristic style. A pleasant surprise was a concise address by First Lady Ann Shobana, wife of DG Ravi Raman.

The meeting was preceded by the Club assembly at the same location and concluded with a fellowship and dinner.



*Club Assembly in progress*



*First Lady Shobana and DG Ravi Raman*



*MC Rajanbabu in action*



*The audience in rapt attention*



*Our members in full strength*

## DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

I attended the District Training Assembly (DTA) on 27th April in Green Park, where over 1000 people from 70 plus clubs participated. The event began with a native folk dance and addresses from the District Governor and Past District Governors. Then, there were breakout sessions dedicated to each avenue of service. After the breakout sessions, there was a valedictory session followed by another address from PDG Muruganandam, which was the highlight of the event. It seems like a comprehensive and enriching experience for all the attendees, covering various aspects of service and leadership within Rotary.

**Rtn Rajanbabu**





## EMPOWERED HOME NURSES

Twelve students passed out of the Home Nursing course in April 2024, sponsored by our Club at ANEW, the NGO in Anna Nagar. These students get immediately absorbed as home nurses and make gainful livelihoods. Our President Bina Boaz was the guest of honour at the valedictory function of the Home Nursing Course held on 12 April 2024 and distributed the certificates to the students.



## VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP WITH A 'DIFFERENCE'

“Champions of Comrades 24”, a state-level Para sitting Volleyball Championship for 150 differently abled sportsmen, was conducted by the Rotaract Club of A C Tech on 27th April in Chennai. Jointly organized with the Tamilnadu Differently Abled Federation Charitable Trust, the participants came from all over Tamilnadu. The top four teams were honored with medals, certificates, trophies, and cash prizes. RCMS, which contributed to the event was represented by President Bina, Sibi and Rajanbabu.



## FIRESIDE AT THE JENSONS' HOME



Once Rtn Jenson Peters formed the WhatsApp group with all the invitees to the Fireside, he started posting photos of the venue in the group..., the excitement for visiting his home in (far away) Kallikuppam, Ambattur was already built up.

There was the usual banter amongst the 9 families that were there, with each one pulling many others, and playing soft when it looked that they may have landed a tough one. The snacks and the lunch were amazing, and different.

Looks like Jenson's home would be a permanent fixture for future Firesides, especially during the winter months.

Special thanks to Rtn Jenson, Ann Bobbi, their daughter, and their extended family who had come over to help them out. Jenson probably knew that he would need additional hands to help manage the RCMS group. With an ever-smiling face, they all ensured that all of us had a good time.

**Rtn Ajit Gautam**

## SPEAKER MEETINGS IN APRIL



Date : 16th April, 2024  
 Speaker : Ms Vidya Ragu  
 Topic : Call of the Himalayas



Date : 30th April, 2024  
 Speaker : Radhika Sunderraj  
 Topic : Bhutan - a land forgotten by time

### PRESIDENT BINA CONQUERS THE TIGER'S NEST

President Bina, who visited Bhutan recently with a group of friends scaled the formidable Tiger's Nest, located at an altitude of over 10,000 feet. Her friend, Radhika, who was part of the group made an engrossing AV presentation about the trip and their adventures at our club's meeting held on 30th April. Bina has set her sights on more peaks to be conquered in the Rotary world too in the years to come. She will be assuming charge as Regional Secretary in District 3234 during the next Rotary year. All the best, Bina.



### RTN SURESH JAIN ELECTED AS DGND

RI District 3232 has been reorganized from the RY 2024-25 as RID 3233 and 3234 with RCMS coming under the latter. Rtn N Saravanan will take over as DG on 1st July 2024 while Rtn Vinod Sarogi will take charge from 1st July 2025. At the elections held recently, Rtn Suresh Jain of R C Madras Metro and a Rotarian since 1989, has been elected as the District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) for the RY 2026-27 for RID 3234. He will be assuming charge on 1st July 2026.



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That same afternoon the District Training Assembly took place in Green Park Hotel. Eight Southerners attended the training with great enthusiasm including Sibi and Rajanbabu who were with me in the morning at the volleyball tournament.

Jenson and Bobbi hosted a delightful fireside on the 28th, despite the heat threatening to melt our brains. A garden that reflected all the love and care that they had poured into it was the highlight. We also got to see what a creative family they were, collectively. Renjit kept us in stitches, teasing everyone mercilessly.

That same evening, I had a Presidents' Meet to attend where I was MC and was part of a ramp walk.

On 30th April the speaker at Savera was Radhika Sunderraj a friend and fellow traveller to Bhutan. She had a captivated audience of about 25 people as she gave a very well-researched talk along with several anecdotes and pictures that we had taken on our recent trip to Bhutan. A great end to an eventful month.

Until next time, 'Ciao'.

Yours in Rotary,

**Bina Boaz**

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

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