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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 23 | December 8, 2024

# RCM Royal Quiz



# **Editor's Note**

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## Dear RCMers,

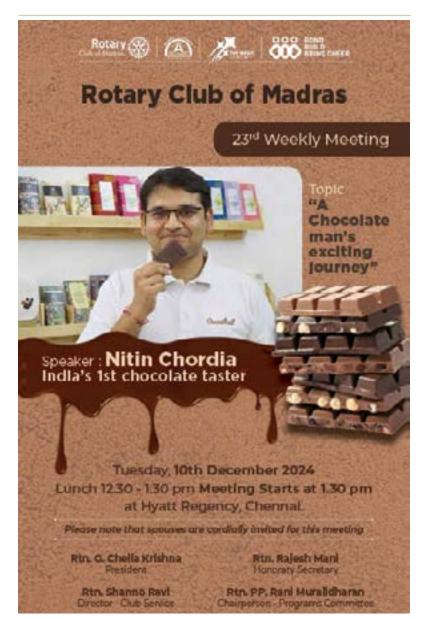
No, the world has not yet eradicated polio, but it is very close. The global incidence of polio has decreased by 99% since 1988.

This week, The Lighthouse commemorates the tenth anniversary of the RCM Polio Flame.



Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan Chairperson Mr.Madhu Mathen Co-Chairperson



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# Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) Minutes of the 22nd Weekly Meeting held on 3rd December

at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

## Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 07.00 PM.

Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, who then called the 22nd weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

# **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The President sought confirmation for the 21st weekly meeting minutes, which was passed and adopted by the members.

# Welcome and Announcements

#### **Visiting Rotarians and Guests**

Visiting Rotarian Gerd Droesse of the Rotary Club of Bad Reichenhall Berchtesgaden of Germany was warmly welcomed.

Other guests, including members of the Probus Club, were acknowledged.

# Announcements by Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau

**Tailoring Initiative:** Display and sale of thamboolam and wine bags, made by women from the Tailoring Institute in Selaiyur. Members were encouraged to place orders.

Quiz Program at Amir Mahal: A well-attended event with over 130 participants. The Membership Engagement Committee and Green Rotarians were acknowledged for organizing it.

#### Secretary's Announcements by Rtn Rajesh Mani:

Upcoming birthdays, anniversaries, and sunshine contributions acknowledged:

- 1. Rtn. M. Balasubramanian Rs. 5000/-
- 2. Rtn. Hiren Bhasker Shah Rs.11000/-

Promoting Semester at Sea 2025, an initiative for youth aged 18-22. Interviews are to be conducted on December 8th.

#### Details of upcoming events:

- 1. Weekly Meeting: December 10th 2024, featuring chocolatier Mr. Nitin Chordia.
- 2. Christmas Fellowship: December 13th 2024, at Madras Club.

#### Main Event:

# Guest Speaker - Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar

**Introduction:** By Ann. Madura, Spouse of our Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan.



## Highlights:

- 1. Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar's journey as a legendary actress, producer and entrepreneur.
- 2. Her contributions to Indian cinema include acting in over 350 films, 6,000 hours of television, and producing the award-winning movie Meendum Oru Kaathal Kathai.

#### Speech by Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar:

- Reflected on her career, values and challenges in the entertainment industry.
- Shared anecdotes, including her commitment to work and her ability to create impactful narratives.

#### **Interactive Session:**

Facilitated by Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish, the session featured engaging discussions about Ms. Radikaa's career and contributions to the media.

#### **Recognition and Felicitations**

#### **Memento Presentation:**

Rtn. PP. Jayshree Sridhar presented a memento to Ms. Radikaa Sarathkumar, acknowledging her inspirational journey.

Appreciation was extended to Rtn Shri Shakthi Girish for conducting the session and engaging the audience.

#### Vote of Thanks and Adjournment

The President thanked all participants and adjourned the meeting, marking another successful gathering of the Rotary Club of Madras.

# Gallery – 22nd Weekly Meeting



The Lighthouse | 8 December 2024

# Gallery – 22nd Weekly Meeting

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The Enigmatic Actor

She comes across as a savvy person. She's smart, voluble and speaks her mind without mincing words. She hasn't just survived but has aced her presence in one of the toughest environments, the movie industry. For 45-odd years, she has held sway over the big and small screen and had an outstanding run as an actor, producer, entrepreneur and homemaker.

She plays all roles to perfection. She has acted in over 350 movies in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Hindi and even a French film.

She is the Enigmatic Radikaa Sarathkumar.

She was discovered by Director Bharathiraja when she was barely 17 during her visit to Chennai from U K., where she was schooling. The movie 'Kizhake Pogum Rail' was an instant hit and was critically acclaimed. There was no stopping her after that. She has been paired with every major hero in the Tamil, Telugu, & South Indian film industry.

She also had major successes and setbacks, but as things have panned out, the setbacks have not been a deterrent at all. She marched on and took her entertainment company public. She forayed into the small screen and has produced, directed and acted in over 6,000 hours of Television. That, by any standards, is a phenomenal record.

There were plenty of sniggers when she started on the small screen, but she made it work through sheer hard work, perseverance and combativeness, making it a resounding success. She





will leave her stamp on the small screen as much as the large one once she decides to hang up her boots. Forty-six years and counting in any field is no joke.

Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish, who interviewed her, is no less a personality. Both are good friends, which helped create an atmosphere of comfort, resulting in an easygoing conversation filled with friendly banter.

There were a few expletives, too! Peppered with anecdotes from the industry, Radikaa Sarathkumar made the audience gasp with a few choice words. She was open, candid and frank. She wasn't pulling any punches. She called it as she saw it. That is her strength. She also mentioned that having a sense of humor was the major trait that helped her navigate the perils of the industry. She emphasized the importance of categorizing her work from family life.

Specifically, after the director called 'Cut' at the end of the day, she would forget the day's work. That seemed to be the secret to her sanity.

She loves portraying strong

women, which suits her personality. She just has to be herself.

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She considers Sripriya (a fellow actor of her era), Kamal Haasan and her husband Ramanathan Sarathkumar, as her most close confidantes. To sum up, she had a fantastic run, a legendary career, a wonderful family life and a family she is proud of.

Radikaa is someone to be liked, admired and appreciated.

Thank you, Radikaa Sarathkumar, for the entertainment and Good times.

# - Rtn. A.R. Raghunandan

# How Our Living Spaces Affect Our Health

n the spirit of expanding our minds and exposing us to newer frontiers in the world around us, the Programs Committee on Nov 26, 2024, invited two stellar and unique speakers for a conversation!

Ms. Deepa Sathiaram, recognized among India's Top 15 Nature's Keepers, has been at the forefront of India's green building movement. She is a leading International expert in green building, HVAC and building systems design. She was joined by Rtn. Dr. V. Ramasubramaniana a fellow Rotarian and a well-regarded specialist in Infectious Diseases, adult Vaccinations and travel medicine.

Ms. Sathiaram began with a brief introduction to genetics and human health, explaining epigenetics: the study of changes in gene expression without altering the DNA sequence. In other words, while the inherent quality of the individual is key, a large component of our health, wellness, or illness depends on the environment we live in, which impacts our gene expression.

She used simple examples to explain how our genetic makeup, what we are born with, can still be altered by environmental and lifestyle factors, which can mitigate or precipitate illness.

Ms. Sathiaram focused on environmental factors like light, thermal environment and air quality that have proven impacts on life:

- 1. **Air Quality:** Both indoor and outdoor air quality matter; even top-grade office spaces can contain an average of 128 materials that emit gaseous toxins, with a cumulative effect over time.
- 2. **Lighting:** Studies show that 28% of women aged 25-35 in BPOs experience fertility issues, as



lighting impacts hormonal balance, stress, sleep and fertility.

3. **Thermal Shocks:** Constantly moving between controlled indoor environments and extreme outdoor conditions, like in Chennai, shocks the body, impacting overall health.

Dr. V. Ramasubramanian shared how airborne illnesses were well-defined until Legionnaires' pneumonia was exposed to indoor air contamination as a cause of infection spread. He shared an anecdote about a fellow doctor falling ill monthly, at a time when the concept of "sick buildings" was unknown.

Ms. Sathiaram explained that only in the past 25 years has this concept been explored and investigated based on reports from patients.It became clear, poor filtration and poor ventilation of the building was the reasons. Indoor air in a building is re-

circulated, causing easy spread of infection to far corners of the building.

The initial solution was to pump in outdoor air. However, Asia has a particular challenge with

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outdoor airnot being fresh or clean. The outdoor air may be free of contaminants but high in particulate matter, bringing the focus on air conditioning, ventilation and air quality in the past 10 years. Materials used in the building are chemicals that emit gases, toxins, and even carcinogens throughout the life of the building.

Dr. V. Ramasubramanian agreed that maintaining safe distances between individuals may not be effective in closed spaces due to the circulating indoor air. He mentioned ubiquitous dust mites as triggers for episodic allergies and asked how to quantify these contaminants.

Ms. Sathiaram explained that air samples are captured in a vacuum bottle for testing to identify the type and source of contaminant. They can test for about 32 different contaminants.The contaminants are minute and therefore hard to spot and can latch onto many surfaces.

In her experience of testing more than 300 buildings, formaldehyde is the most common carcinogenic toxin tested and is used extensively in many building components. She advised against the use and prolonged storage of packaging materials, polythene wraps, and sheets.

She also warned us against using aerosols and room fresheners. Ridding ourselves of them is difficult; it takes time, is a continuous process, and requires the evacuation of personnel as well. Paints are a combination of 29 chemicals and a huge source of emissions. Low-VOC paints are a better option.

Traditional buildings have lower emissions and also have surfaces that capture and accumulate toxins. Limestone-based paints absorb emissions and heat as well.

Dr. V. Ramasubramanian asked about modifying old houses for building health. Ms. Deepa answered that it requires adding purifiers, UV lamps in the air conditioners, activated carbon filters in the aircons, and air purification systems with ionizers and magnetic bipolar ionizers to break the chemicals and allow the non-harmful chemicals to dissipate easily. Older buildings are usually safer and ventilation is probably all that needs to be optimized.

Dr. V. Ramasubramanianinquired about the importance of lighting, sound and humidity, which are now understood to impact mental health and fertility. Ms. Deepa explained how an artificial, wrong color of light and prolonged out-of-rhythm light exposure causes disruption of the internal circadian rhythm, the master controller of the human hormone balance.

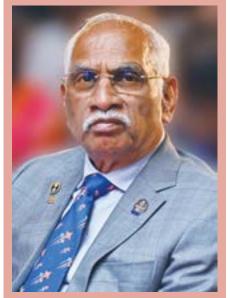
'Sunlight is the best light, so we need to choose bulbs closest to the natural light at 5000-6500 Kelvin color temperature in the daytime and to 2000-3000 yellow light at night to help the melatonin secretion for sleep.Night work also disturbs sleep cycles and fertility cycles as well. So, the timing of exposure is critical.'

Dr. V. Ramasubramanian shared how continuous white lights in ICU patients lead to confusion and sometimes even violent behaviors in patients, called ICU psychosis.

Ms. Deepa agreed that confined, cramped living spaces with no windows or connections to the exterior environment affect mental health poorly, as evidenced during the COVID.

When asked about the regulatory authorities and rules, Ms. Deepa stated that there is a list but it is not complete. She is working with the National Building Code of India to add red list hazardous chemicals, it is a long process: 10 years for the code to be added and the enforcement is not a closed loop. So, she hopes to educate the industry instead.

# **Rtn. PDG. J.B. Kamdar** Sets Milestone by Contributing \$1 Million



Rtn. PDG. J.B. Kamdar achieved a significant milestone, by becoming the first Rotarian in Zone 5 of Rotary International to contribute in excess of US\$.1 Million to The Rotary Foundation. This remarkable act of generosity has earned him a coveted place in the prestigious Arch Klumph Society's Foundation Circle.

This historic achievement is a moment of great pride for Zone 5 and Rotary in general and for the Rotary Club of Madras in particular. It signifies not only Kamdar's commitment to Rotary's mission but also his dedication to transforming lives through service and philanthropy.

This contribution bv individuals like Kamdar and his wife Marlene J. Kamdar plays a great role in advancing Rotary's global humanitarian efforts. The Arch Klumph Society honours Rotarians who contribute significantly to TRF, supporting initiatives that address critical issues such as disease prevention, community education and services.

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The greatest challenge is to have an actual composition of the materials to make an informed decision.

She was asked about the UV exposure to indoor sunlight. She reassured that the sunlight is weakened by the loss of UV and the strength of the light itself is weaker by 1/10 but carries the benefit of natural light.

Rtn. PP. K.K. Raman, who has great experience with Blue Star and DLF, shared that post-COVID, DLF decided to use HEPA, UV, and Carbon filters in addition to UV lighting in the air filters. This caused a huge rise in cost by 400 crore rupees. Today, out of 800 million sq. feet of office spaces in India, roughly 300 million sq. feet are HEPA filter covered, not due to regulatory authorities but due to client choice. Many companies want to invest in a standardized safe building.

Ms. Deepa urged us to be mindful of the materials used at home, paying attention to their chemical composition. She suggested adding certain plants that can purify the air and investing in zero-chemical paints. Perhaps using light fixtures closer to natural light would also help. Using natural light and connecting with the outside helps in hospital recovery rooms. Glass panes with a coating that blocks heat and UV but allows the necessary 250 lux of light can reduce the need for stringent sunblock use.

Certain indoor plants help absorb CO2 in spaces. Limestone usage in rooms was helpful. Ms.Deepas's recent experiment showed it reduces emissions by half. However, it proves to be inconvenient and sometimes messy, and hence, we need a balance between old and new.

Dr. Ramasubramanian advised discarding any cotton pillow older than six months. He recommended using a Tyvek cover or investing in foam pillows to avoid dust mites. Aerating and sunning mattresses are insufficient; they need to be discarded in a timely fashion.

Rotarian Dr. Anuradha Ganesan asked if architects are willing to rethink building construction with these parameters. Ms. Deepa, ruefully stated, the building construction is planned based on housing almost one person per 30 sq feet. One needs to rethink the metric provided to the architects as light and air, rather than the number of people per sq foot.

She cited Chettinad housing style and plaster as unmatched and eco-friendly. Our ancient architecture was a wealth of knowledge and technique. On that whimsical note, the informative and interactive session, where engineering wed medicine, concluded with many more questions lingering in our minds.

- Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

hope you are enjoying the Rotary year 2024-25 so far and are finding it fulfilling. The past few months have seen a flurry of activities in community services, health and vocational services. Our youth services engine is an ever-overflowing cup of mirth and energy.

Some very special activities in the past few months include the Launch of the homes project at Irumbedu, the equipment handover at RSRM hospital, an expansion of our vaccination program and the very special skilling efforts at Selaiyur. Our Mammogram initiatives are taking a step forward with the Cancer Institute and the club is firmly on its way to launching two Mammograms at Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai, courtesy of donors from our club and other institutions.

The member engagement and fellowship are at an all-time high with a very special event at Amir Mahal. Our fundraising engines are at full speed, with the committees of Golf, 'Jaya" and other events working overtime. CSR is continuing to surprise positively and our Club's processes and systems are moving to overdrive with the hiring of professional CSR personnel to guide our execution and grant paperwork.

Our connection with the district continues to impress, with Rotarians taking an active part in the events of District 3234 in its charter year. All in all, we are surely living up to the year's theme so far.



# News Roundup

Birthdays (9th Dec. to 15th Dec	(9th Dec. to 15th Dec 2024)	
Rtn. Jacob Kurian	13/12	
Rtn. Ramakanth Akula	14/12	
Rtn. B.V. Gautam	15/12	
Spouses' Birthdays		
Ann. Shvetha Jaishankar, Spouse of Rtn. Raghu Kailas	11/12	
Ann. A. Shenba, Spouse of Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar	15/12	
Ann. Moloy Chaudhuri, Spouse of Rtn. Rita Chaudhuri	15/12	
Wedding Anniversary		
Rtn. Dr. V. Ramasubramanian & Dr. Aruna	10/12	
Rtn. Prashanth S. Kharche & Mansi Kharche	11/12	
Rtn. Rajiv Khanna & Dolly Khanna	11/12	
Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath & Rtn. PP. Jayanthy	12/12	
Rtn. Gowri R. Shanker & Jaya	12/12	
Rtn. B.V. Gautam & K. Shamantha	12/12	
Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan & Usha	12/12	
Rtn. S. Suresh Kumar & Nanda	13/12	
Rtn. Dr. Nitesh Jain & Dr. Gunjan Jain	13/12	
Rtn. Navneet Agarwal & Radhika Agarwal	13/12	

CAPTION CONTEST

Suggest the most quirky, whacky or creative caption/blurb for this photo (Maximum 15 words). The best entries will be reproduced in the next week's edition of Lighthouse.

Mail your captions to editor@rcmlighthouse.com on or before 10th Dec.







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#### Issue 22 : Best Captions

- 1. This is how you spin a ball... Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay
- 2. "Erapalli, this is how you bowl off spin"
- Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti
- "Friends, Ramans, And RCMers... lend me your ears."
  Rtn. Suresh Amirapu
- Friends, Chennaites and RCMers. Can I have another mug of beer! – *Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain*
- 5. Silent communications to the Bar counter. This time, I want Patiala peg. - *Rtn. N.K. Bhatia*

# **Tenth Anniversary of Our Rotary Flame Programme**

s we celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Rotary End Polio Flame, we reflect on a remarkable journey that has significantly impacted the global fight against polio. The programme launched on December 13, 2014, by the Rotary Club of Madras. This initiative was born out of a pressing need to rally Rotarians and communities worldwide against the rising cases of wild polio virus, particularly in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.

To specially commemorate Polio-Free India, as the World Health Organization (WHO) declared India polio-free on March 27, 2014. The Flame is a testament to the unwavering spirit and dedication of Rotarians, who have tirelessly worked to eradicate polio. The Flame ignited a movement that transcended borders. It travelled to the three endemic countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria, inspiring countless individuals to join the fight against this debilitating disease.

From vibrant events like car and bicycle rallies to public meetings across cities—from Sydney to Lagos and Manila to Evanston—the Flame sparked a global enthusiasm for polio eradication. In our own District, which was then 3230, initiatives like "My Flame My Inspiration"







# **News Roundup**

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Welcome The Rotary Flame at Lahore RI District 3272 Pakistan



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showcased the local commitment to this cause, with prominent Free about three years ago. events attended by esteemed dignitaries.

The Flame's presence at major Rotary conventions, such as the most significant public awareness programme in Sao Paulo and Atlanta, further amplified its message, that has emanated from any one club in the world. captivating the hearts and minds of Rotarians worldwide. Let's rededicate ourselves to continue to focus on Remarkably, in the year following its launch, the number of what has to be done to rid the world of this dreaded WPVI cases plummeted from 359 to just 74, a testament to the disease. power of collective action and inspiration that the Flame fostered.



Beyond raising over \$17 million for the Rotary Foundation, the Flame has become a symbol of hope, resilience, and the ongoing commitment to a polio-free world. Its journey continues, having travelled to 35 countries as of mid-2018, and it is a source of pride for all involved.

As we commemorate this significant milestone, let us honour the legacy of the Rotary End Polio Flame and the countless Rotarians who have contributed to this vital cause. Together, we can continue our mission to end polio and inspire future generations to carry the torch forward. Even today, our Rotary Torch is sought after, with many Rotary Districts around the world, evincing interest to replicate the event locally in their respective districts.

It is so relevant that this is being remembered and replicated, even after a decade. Unfortunately, this year 2024, there has been a rise in WPV cases in the only two Endemic countries: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Nigeria, thankfully, was declared Polio-

Our Rotary Flame programme was also by far

# - Rtn. PP. N.K Gopinath

# **RCM Royal Quiz**

n Dec 1st, 2024, the member engagement team led by Rtn. George B. Cherian, and ably supported by Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau, Rtn. Shanno Ravi, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna and others organized a wonderful quiz-based evening.

The Green Rotarians were made captain of the teams. They invited a mix of Rotarians from varying levels of seniority to join their teams. This approach provided a unique opportunity for the Green Rotarians to connect and build relationships with many of their fellow RCM members.

As the date approached, cyclone Fengal seemed to have other plans for Chennai and was doing its best to disrupt all our weekend plans. Luckily, on Sunday morning, there was a break in the weather, and the quiz got the green signal.

The captains went out of their way to rope in their team members. I received calls from at least four captains who considered me quiz-worthy. Perhaps the rest of the captains knew better!

#### Ten teams were formed, each with inventive punfilled names:

The quiz master for the evening was Nawabzada Mohammed Asif Ali, a multi-talented individual who loves to play the piano and is an avid quizzer. He is known in Chennai circles for running some great music and quiz evenings.

He opened his beautiful stately home, Amir Mahal, and gave us a short tour of his property, followed by a sumptuous tea. He also gave us a brief history of the place before starting the quiz.

The quiz began with a warm-up round with no negative marking, giving teams a false sense of confidence that was soon corrected in the later rounds. Each round covered different topics such as culture, music and science, with the final round focused on Rotary and RCM. Negative marking in some rounds caught off-guard many teams, including my own, shifting team rankings unexpectedly.

The music round was great and featured a live • band comprising a talented trio of young musicians who performed the music. Teams answered questions related to the music played, adding a lively twist to the evening.

The initial leading teams were As If We Are Caught and Trivia Titans, followed closely by Chennai Sooper Kwizzers. Halfway through the quiz, the Amirocrats



sailed past the Chennai Sooper Kwizzers. It looked like the top three were settled.

The last round of the quiz was on Rotary & RCM. As If We Are Caught, which was then vying for the top spot, had a dreadful round and dropped to fourth place, moving the Chennai Sooper Kwizzers into the third spot. I expected the President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna would reach out to all members of As If We Are Caught to attend intensive sessions with Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath on Rotary & RCM history.

The most consistent team Trivia Titans, were the deserving winners, and the Amirocrats had a strong second half of the quiz to take second place. Kudos to the top three captains Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar, Rtn. Divya Poduval, and Rtn. Rama Narasimhan, on putting together strong teams.

The evening was most enjoyable, having over a hundred Rotarians, spouses, and annettes taking part lent the evening a wonderful family atmosphere.

The prizes included coupons from Bask, Higginbothams, Coffee Since 1999 and plenty of chocolates.

# Key Takeaways:

- Quizzing is teamwork. There's no need to have just one or two people who are knowledge banks. If everyone has strength in even a couple of topics, it's a strong, winning team.
- The Royal RCM quiz gave our team a great opportunity to bond while putting our heads together. The inclusion of anecdotes added to the flavor of the evening! I was very glad that our whole family got a chance to spend an evening together amidst the Rotary fraternity in a casual and fun environment.
- Great fun and camaraderie in regal settings. Kudos to all, and especially to Nawabzada Asif Ali, who is an engaging

# News Roundup

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Winners - Trivia Titans : Captained by Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar



Runners-up Amirocrats : Captained by Rtn. Divya Poduval



Third Runner-up - Chennai Sooper Kwizzers: Captained by Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan



InQUIZitive Minds Captained by Rtn. V. Sp. Sakthivel Raja



Brainwave Brigade Captained by Rtn. Suman Voora





Best Team Name - As If We Are Caught (ASIF V ARCOT): Captained by Rtn. Vikram Raman



Royal Quizzards: Captained by Rtn. Roshan Poncha



Best Costumes-Rachna's Rowdies: Captained by Rtn. Rachna Muralidharan



Best Coordinated-Merry Quiz-mass: Captained by Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur





quiz master. The music group was awesome. We must try to get them to play for us on another occasion. A Sunday evening well spent.

# Special thanks to the sponsors of the quiz.

- Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
- Rtn. Shanno Ravi
- Rtn. Benjamin R. Cherian
- Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau
- Rtn. Vijay Narayanan
- Rtn. T.V. Sai Srujan
- Rtn. George B. Cherian
- Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish, and Rtn. Dr. Supriya Dabir Gautam for the special vouchers.

- Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan



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