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From Editor's Desk . . .

Dear (s)

15th August is the most important day for the Nationand in 2014 – it did dawn specially. On the 68th Independence Day, PM Shri Narendra Modi delivered in style his first Independence Day speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The Prime Minister spoke of building a brave, new India — a country in which every citizen has a bank account, women are safe, parliamentarians adopt villages, cleanliness is a priority, and much more. In Triplicane, at SYMA medical Centre, National flag was hoisted by Shri M. Murali of Sri Krishna Sweets followed by eye camp (more of that in our next issue).

The unprecedented floods in Jammu and Kashmir, has taken heavy toll on the lives of people and has left lakhs of people stranded away from homes. The PM quickly declared national emergency. Thousands of armed forces have been deployed and hundreds of sorties have been made in rescuing people and in providing food and other essentials. The rescue operation is being hailed as a great effort as we have great concern for our brethren in the valley. It is unethical and uncouth to look for opportunity in tragedy. Still, this perhaps has given the opportunity of the people in the valley who has had distrust, some used to pelting stones, and aiming rifles to understand and appreciate the concerted efforts of armed forces of the Nation in providing succour. The media rightly is singing paeans to the role of the Indian Army. Sadly, there is disturbing news that some uncouth are burgling away whatever possible from houses deserted by the fleeing residents.

The month of August saw Madras day celebrations – Chennai aka Madras was founded on Aug 22, 1639 when a small piece of land was handed over by local Nayak rulers to British East India Co. It was not mere Brown sahib event, but recalling the relics of the glorious past. Next year, SYMA should play a bigger part as our own Triplicane has so many heritage buildings and links to the history.

The abysmal England tour (Test matches) is over – and soon Indian fans would be watching Champions League T20 – it is sad that India (or is it BCCI !) is not sending Team (Men & women) for the forthcoming Asiad at Incheon. The Tennis Federation is also sending only a second string team as top (!) players have opted out of playing for the Nation and are to play in ATP ranking tournaments taking care of their position.

Before signing off, personal apologies for the gap in Bliss – Sept issue coming after June (July and Aug no issues) – due to some exigencies in personal front. Sorry and hoping to write you every month. **With Regards – S. Sampathkumar.**



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கல்விப் பணியில் சைமா

SYMA is wedded to the cause of social service – Educational Assistance has been our preferred field for long. Every children have the right to be educated. Only education will uplift them to higher echelons. Decades back, the system of Uniform was introduced to ensure that children do not suffer from any complex and that all those attending a school will look similar without disparity. Even in this rich metropolis, sadly there are many children who could ill-afford to have proper uniforms. We strongly believe that we can make some difference to the way these unfortunate children attend their school. For over two decades now, we have been providing new uniforms to poor students.

This year also we distributed applications, scrutinized and finalized at one stroke, the recipients based on economic criteria. The students came to the venue, had their applications completed and walked out with cards with which they can collect the uniforms without hassle. Every year in our Function, we distribute uniforms, honour the school toppers of various schools in Triplicane, extend financial assistance to some students and honour a good social worker with 'SYMA Sewa Award'. That in essence is our Educational Aid programme. 12th July 2014 was the day and we held our Educational Aid Programme at 6 pm at Barathiyar Illam.

A great visionary, Barathiyar sung about freedom and education and the memorial of the revolutionary was the right platform for continuing his ideals. The programme started with prayer. Our Secretary, S Sampathkumar compered the programme, welcomed the Guests and introduced those on stage. President TA Sampathkumar in his Presidential address spoke about our various activities, tracing the origin, and dwelt at length on our vision and ideals. Every year we have eminent people who have excelled in life – ensuring that students feel encouraged by great role-models.

This year the Chief Guest was Thiru V. Balakrishnan, IPS officer who is reputed for the good work done during his postings in Madurai, Theni, Thirunelveli, Tirpurur. He had his PG in Agriculture, worked in Bank, had a stint in news bureau before taking the coveted post. He is a trained in commando operations, stood first in US Training in post-blast investigations and his thesis won the award. His good word helping transgenders, keeping suggestion boxes in front of educational institutions, strict action against eve-teasing and smoking, rash driving, action against land grabbers- all earned him good name. His role in rescuing hundreds of people at the time of flash floods in Noyyal river is indeed laudable. It was indeed a great honour to have him on the podium.

Chennai has the reputation of preferred choice for medical tourism – providing best medical treatment for people from far and across the country and globally too. Hospitals are in the business of saving lives. Hospitals need to focus on patients and cannot afford to spend more time on supply chain management. Moving away from the conventional paper based manual management, there are innovative companies which provide e-support. The guest of the day was Mr Gopinath Goswami, CEO of Online Surgical.com who was earlier President of Lions Club. He spoke at length on the need for developing language skills and the art of communication citing personal examples.

Our tuition centre SYMA Growth has been providing systematic support throughout the academic year to select students and our students have excelled this year too. We are fortunate to have dedicated teachers striving to provide quality education. We honoured all teachers of SYMA Growth on stage. Silver medal as a token our affection and remembrance was given to each one of them.

Then spoke our other guest of the day, whose speech was heard with rapt attention. He is an entrepreneur, social worker who has risen from very low echelon. He is a Chemical Engineer from prestigious BITS Pilani, MBA from IIM Ahmedabad, joined Polaris but to chose his own Company in a field too well known to him. Amongst the various accolades, CNN IBN honoured him as 'Young Indian Leader' – others so recognized being Anil Ambhani, Rahul Dravid, Mahendra Dhoni and Shahrukh Khan. He is Pepsi MTV youth icon. He is one of the top 3 Young entrepreneurs selected by World Bank to address on Youth and Unemployment 2012 in Washington DC. He now heads a 8 crore + company.

He is Mr Sarathbabu Elumalai, who was born and brought up in a poor family in Madipakkam. His mother was a worker in Anganwadi who ran a roadside idly shop. From his young days, he experienced the difficulties of poverty and rose struggling at various phases. Popularly referred as 'Food King', he runs a food catering service which services many IT firms in many cities. To him, a lot of people who work in the food business come from the weaker sections of the society and his mother is the most successful entrepreneur who brought up her children in the face of adversity. Now he perseveres to provide food

Q : The modern city of Chennai India is administered by the Corporation of Chennai headed by a Mayor. The Mayor is the first citizen of the city. Do you know, who was the first Mayor of Chennai ?
Ans : in Page No.4

and uplift people with a great vision of seeing a hunger free India. Towards that aim, he is willing to work in a larger platform with likeminded organizations.

Despite all his achievements, this man who drove a BMW was most humble. His language, style and more importantly, the truth behind whatever was being said moved the audience – the students, the parents and significantly the organizers too. It was an object lesson of a man rising from abject poverty to great position in life, striving to make the society a better place, the ideals for which SYMA too is striving. His experiences of going to school, having to live without food some days, difficulty in paying school fees (the support of locals in paying that), having had to share small space with family members, reading in oil light (no electricity at home) made audience cry at heart. Determination, will to succeed and sheer work were to take him to great heights – the man remembers his past, narrated his tribulations – not for sympathy, but to showcase that determined iron-willed people can succeed. He left an indelible impression in our hearts. The man who now gets paid many thousands for his speeches in various Organisations and Universities, expressed his willingness to motivate more school children – without any fees and in fact offered to help any underprivileged children. It is SYMA's fortune to be associated with such great people and we felt immensely satisfied in having him on the podium distributing the Certificates.

SYMA as a socially responsible organization has been respecting and appreciating other organizations and individuals rendering service to the society. This year SYMA Sewa Award was conferred on Dr A.V. Srinivasan. One may not know what axon cable is Brain, spine, nerves and more Neurology is a medical specialty dealing with disorders of the nervous system. A nerve is an enclosed, cable-like bundle of axons – and in that complex environ, some small trouble can cause great discomfort and ailment to humans.

Dr AV Srinivasan is a famous Neurologist. Besides his great achievements in the field of medicine, he symbolizes service. He has been a member of SYMA from its earlier days and have actively participated in many camps and has been treating many poor patients free or at very nominal fees. SYMA felt happy in conferring SYMA Seva Award 2014 on him. He is a good writer too – has written many books on health and hygiene. He concluded his speech with a new 'Aathichudi' which culminated with advice 'Aushatham thavir' – keep medicines away by leading healthy life. Great words indeed.

Triplicane has many educational institutions; some of them are century old. The toppers of various schools in Triplicane [in X Std and +2] were honoured on stage. This has been providing great encouragement and happiness to achievers. This award has been instituted by Mr TA Ramachandran in memory of his mother Mrs Rajalakshmi Padmanabhan. The achievers of SYMA Growth were honoured too. The Growth Topper every year receives 'D Krishnan Memorial award'

instituted by Ms. Bharathi Baskar. The topper in Maths receives the award instituted by Sri R. Kannan.

Chief Guest of the day Mr V Balakrishnan IAS spoke on the need for a disciplined life citing his own example of a kid from a village rising to a coveted post with sheer determination and hard work. He waxed eloquence quoting Tamil proverbs laced with practical ideas. A Police man with tough image spoke with kind heart egging the students to think of studies alone and to live honestly in the challenging World. Sure, many of the students present would aspire to become a strict Police Officer on seeing and hearing him.

Financial support to select students was given. Uniforms were distributed to select schools on stage. This year the distribution of uniforms on stage was symbolic and uniforms were distributed at NKT Boys High school on different dates avoiding congestion, ensuring that the recipients got them without any hassle.

Committee Member Vittal Narayanan proposed vote of thanks and meeting ended with National Anthem. The function went off very well, largely due to the meticulous planning in distribution of uniforms by our Vice President R Seshadry @ Durai ably assisted by D Veeraraghavan, S. Venkatesh and enthusiastic band of volunteers.

We express our gratitude and thanks to all those who have been supporting us. We owe our success in Social activities to the active participation, blessings, advices and donations of so many good willed, like minded persons. The list of large hearted, good minded people is long. The help is not measured by the amount of contributions alone but by the spontaneity, willingness and the kind heartedness. We would like to place on record, our special thanks to : all our donors, patrons and well-wishers. We place on record our special thanks to the management of NKT Educational Trust and the Head Master of NKT Boys High School Mr S. Venkatadri for the support in running our tuition centre SYMA Growth. Special thanks are due to all our dedicated teachers. We thank all our donors and members with special reference to employees of Royal Sundaram / Citi Bank; Sri J Venkatesan; TS Lakshmanan, Sri Balasubramaniam of Mangal Tirth Estates; Mr CR Sridhar; Kumaran Dresses; PRO of Barathiyar Illam, Swaraj Graphics. We also thank Councillor of Ward 116 Mr B Srinivasan @ MGR Vasan for all the support rendered from time to time.

Generally, most of our collections come at the time of Educational Aid programme. We request our volunteers to put in extra efforts for collecting more funds. Together we will strive to make the Society a better place to live in.

மருத்துவ பணியில் சைமா

As we enter our 25th year in Medical service, we plan to celebrate it big and in useful way to the Society by conducting more camps and reaching more people. Our Medical centre (popularly Rs.2 hospital) is of use to so many persons. We remain ever thankful to Dr.K. Sridhar and Kanchi Sankara Foundation who initiated us into this service and supported us all along providing financial support and guiding us in all endeavours. SYMA has been in Press many a times and on 12th Sept. 2014 – The Hindu (Tamil) carried out a detailed article in its 2nd page hailing our efforts and commitment. Our special thanks to the Management of The Hindu, Mr K Sribarath and Sri SR Ragnathan for the same. The article has reached people far and wide – as we received letters appreciating the good work as also financial assistance (more of this later)

On 6th April 2014, SYMA in association with Sakthi Multi speciality organized a medical camp at Bharathiyar illam. Patients were checked for diabetes by taking blood sample and ECG was also done. 49 male patients and 42 women were screened in the camp. Medicines were given free. We thank the Doctors, Management and staff of Sakthi Multi Speciality, Triplicane for the camp.

On 27.7.14, SYMA in association with Kanchi Kamakoti Sankara Medical Trust, Ashirwad Development Foundation and SRM Institute for Medical Science (SIMS) conducted a mega camp at SHG Terapanth Bhavan concentrating on general health, diabetes check, blood pressure, bone strength and heart. There were specialist Doctors, especially for Heart care and special consultation for women. A total of 166 patients were screened. Special thanks to Dr Sridhar for the coordination and support for the camp. Thanks to all our volunteers and M.A. Sadagopan for the conduct of the camp.

வாழ்த்துக்கள்

நமது சங்க செயற்குழு உறுப்பினர்கள் பூர்வீகி ஷோபனா நரசிம்மன் -ஸ்ரீ ஆர்.வி. நரசிம்மன் அவர்களது மகன் சிரஞ். அஸ்வின் குமார் செள-உத்ரா திருமணம் 11.7.2014 அன்று விமரிசையாக நடைபெற்றது. மணமக்களை **BLISS** வாழ்த்துகிறது.

நமது சங்க உறுப்பினர் திரு. என். நரசிம்மன் அவர்களது மகன் திரு. என்.ஸ்ரீராம்-சௌ.என்.அனுஷா அவர்களின் திருமணம் 24.05.2014 அன்று விமரிசையாக நடைபெற்றது. மணமக்களை **BLISS** வாழ்த்துகிறது.

நமது சங்க உறுப்பினர் திரு. எம்.ஏ. நாராயணன் அவர்களின் புதல்வி செல்வி. எம்.ஏ. ருக்மணி அவர்களின் பரதநாட்டிய அரங்கேற்றம் 10.8.2014 அன்று சிறப்பாக நடைபெற்றது. நாட்டியத்தில் மேலும் வளர **BLISS** வாழ்த்துகிறது.

நன்றி...நன்றி...

We have been supported by many good hearted people and this year too, donations have been flowing. We record our gratitude and special thanks to Mrs CS Nagalakshmi for donation of Rs.2 lakhs (in memory of late Sri SV Ramachandran) towards Education. The donor's name is featured in the banner of SYMA Growth for the year.

At SYMA Growth for the facility of students, we have installed Inverter as power back-up. We received two new batteries and one Inverter from Lucas TVS. We thank the donor and Mr AV Kasturi Rangan and AS Sridhar for arranging this. They have been supporting SYMA on many other occasions too.

Ans to Q.Pg 2 : Chennai Municipal Corporation has a history of 3 centuries- the Office of Mayor was formed in 1933. Under the Governorship of Yale was the institution of a Mayor and Corporation for the City of Madras. In Sept. 1688, the Corporation of Chennai was inaugurated - Nathaniel Higginson, an English politician and a scion of the Higginson family of Salem, Massachusetts was the first Mayor of Madras. The post of mayor was abolished in 1798 and was revived only in 1933. Rajah Sir Muttaiya Annamalai Muthiah Chettiar, a banker, educationist, philanthropist became the first Mayor in 1933.

அணுக வேண்டிய முகவரி : **சைமா BLISS**
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To _____

