

# Renowned physicians, surgeons honoured

## Special Correspondent

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The Hindu Former judge of Madras High Court S. Jagadeesan (third from right), with Dr. B.C. Roy Memorial Award recipients neurologist Prithika Chary, ophthalmologist Aravind Venkatraman, Star Health and Allied Insurance Medical Director S. Prakash and sports medicine specialist Kannan Pugazhendi at a function in Chennai on Thursday. Indian Science Monitor editor T.K.V. Rajan (left), is in the picture. Photo: K.V. Srinivasan

On the birth anniversary of B.C. Roy, eminent physician and former Chief Minister of West Bengal, observed throughout the country as Doctor's Day, Chennai honoured some of its renowned physicians and surgeons, and sought inspiration from them for the younger crop of professionals.

At Kilpauk Medical College, Principal Secretary, Health, V.K.Subburaj felicitated seniors (over 70 years) with decades of experience in the profession and for serving as role models with their dedication and pioneering work.

The awardees included C.V.Bhirmanandam, former Vice Chancellor, Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University, and cardiologist; Bennet, a nephrologist, who has also served as Director of Medical Education; Mathangi Ramakrishnan, senior plastic surgeon; M.G.Muthukumarasamy, surgeon and former Vice-Chancellor, Annamalai University.

Mr. Subburaj also awarded B.Palaniappan, senior gynaecologist; Panchanadham Madanagopalan, former director of Pathology, Madras Medical College; A.Rajasekharan, urologist and former president, National Board of Examinations and nephrologist; T.P.Saraswathi, gynaecologist and former director, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; A Sundaram, senior diabetologist; S.Thanikachalam, senior cardiologist and former Vice-Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra University. The doctors were awarded with a citation and memento, V. Kanagasabai, Dean, KMC, said.

### **Plea to doctors**

At a function organised by *Indian Science Monitor* magazine, former judge of Madras High Court S. Jagadeesan said the State government must prioritise and take care of the essential needs of its citizens. Presenting the B.C. Roy Memorial Awards to doctors, he said

“When the government contributes so much for free supplies, it should also take care of the essentials by prioritising and improving the infrastructure in hospitals, schools and colleges.”

Mr.Jagadeesan urged private hospitals to bring down the charges, especially room rents, which put them beyond the reach of those who did not benefit from government insurance schemes. The awardees, neurologist Prithika Chary, sports medicine specialist Kannan Pugazhendi and ophthalmologist Aravind Venkatraman emphasised the need for people to learn to de-stress, set apart some time exclusively for exercise and avoid smoking, drinking and junk food. Star Health and Allied Insurance Medical Director S. Prakash, who also received the award, said the idea of public private partnership under which the insurance scheme operates, was to upgrade private hospitals and provide healthcare to people in the smaller towns. Meanwhile, the overburdened government hospitals, which is lacking in infrastructure, would be upgraded.

*Indian Science Monitor* editor T.K.V. Rajan said the awards were being presented to doctors for the third consecutive year.

*The article has been corrected for a factual error.*