

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 13 | September 29, 2024





Dear RCMers,

In RCM, Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation Rtn.Mark Maloney, would have found a club that is truly up to the "Mark".

Read the report in this issue.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghuandan
Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

Induction of New Members



Rtn. Siddharth Chandrasekhar

"I'm a curator with a deep passion for all things design. My career has been a series of exciting adventures, as I never confined myself to just one field.

I began with graphic design, helping to build notable brands like Reynolds and Quickys Coffee. I then transitioned into film publicity, promoting nearly 200 films, including blockbusters like *Chandramukhi*, *Boys*, and *Ghajini*. Eventually, I directed my own feature film titled *Bale Pandiya*.

After that, I ventured into interior design and founded *Pencil and Monk*. With a team of over 50, we've executed numerous projects across the city, including Sheraton Grande, Sage and Lavender, and the Library at the U.S. Consulate.

Driven by a passion for upskilling and unlocking others' potential, I also founded *AanaAavana*, an initiative that offers resources and opportunities to foster growth. I'm equally passionate about art and books. My tastes range from sushi to biryani, and I enjoy both Beethoven and Carnatic music."

— **Rtn. Siddharth Chandrasekhar**



Rtn. Divya Poduval Menon

is a Mechanical Engineer from BITS, with a Master's in Industrial and Systems Engineering from San Jose State University. She brings over two decades of experience in communications and engineering, both in the US and Chennai.

Currently, Divya serves as Director at MGP Associates and Thought Pencil Communications, where she leads initiatives centered on sustainability and eco-friendly projects, particularly in land development. Her passion for Rotary runs deep, having been raised in a family of committed Rotarians—her parents, Rtn. Govind Poduval and Rtn. IPP Girija Poduval, have been active members for nearly 30 years.

Divya is married to Ajay Menon, an advertising veteran with his own firm in Chennai. Together, they make a dynamic pair, sharing a love for travel, exploration, creativity, and sustainable living.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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International Day of Peace

On this International Day of Peace, we in RC Madras had the good fortune of having PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee as our Chief Guest, this September 21, 2024.

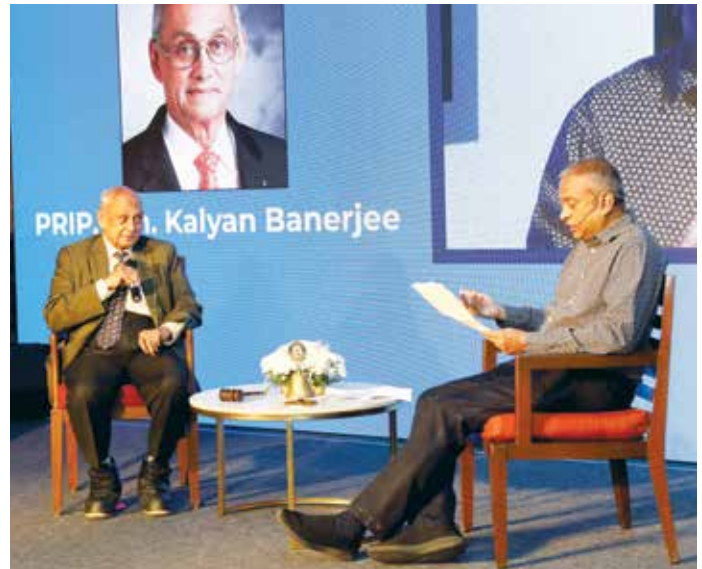
In a compelling conversation with Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan, he shared insights into Rotary's enduring commitment to peace, a core goal since its founding by Paul Harris in 1905. The discussion traversed various aspects of how Rotary has been involved in furthering peace worldwide since its inception, beginning with the Rotary Club of Hamilton, Ontario, which proposed a resolution in 1914 urging the International Association of Rotary Clubs to promote global peace.

PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee spoke with clarity on Rotary's multifaceted approach to creating an atmosphere that fosters peace, emphasizing its focus on education, health, guidance toward gainful employment, economic independence, and environmental issues. He highlighted the establishment of various Peace Centres across nearly every continent and the funding provided to students pursuing courses in peacebuilding. This aligns with Rotary's constitutional objective, adopted in 1921, of advancing international peace and goodwill through a fellowship of business and professional leaders.

The conversation also delved into PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee's personal experiences in the two polio-endemic countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan. He recounted his meetings with the respective presidents, where he emphasized the critical need to immunize the children of their nations. His reflections underscored the essence of Rotary's mission to create an atmosphere that begets peace in communities at large.

Prior to this enlightening dialogue, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna addressed the origins of the International Day of Peace (IDOP), celebrating its 25th anniversary and noting Rotary's role as one of the founders of the United Nations. This historical context reinforces Rotary's longstanding dedication to peace, acknowledged by figures such as U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, who noted that Rotary meetings foster mutual appreciation among nations.

In a significant moment during Rotary's history, the 1940 RI Convention in Havana saw Rotarians adopt a resolution advocating for human rights, asserting that the organization would not operate in places where such rights were violated. This commitment to peace and human dignity was further exemplified by the nearly



50 Rotarians who participated in the UN charter conference in 1945, with five serving as presidents of the UN General Assembly.

Through these efforts and shared experiences, Rotary continues to strive successfully to create a more peaceful world, reflecting its foundational ideals and ongoing dedication to fostering goodwill and understanding among nations.

The International Day of Peace, observed annually on September 21, promotes global peace and non-violence. Established by the United Nations in 1981, it serves as a reminder of our shared responsibility in fostering



harmony amidst conflict and inequality. This day encourages individuals, communities, and nations to engage in activities that promote peace, emphasizing diplomacy and understanding as essential tools.

Philosophical teachings highlight the importance of non-violence, moral righteousness, and the interconnectedness of all beings. These principles encourage compassion and a sense of duty towards societal well-being, reinforcing that peace is not merely the absence of conflict but a presence of justice and empathy. The idea that the world is one family further underscores our collective responsibility to address shared challenges like war and climate change.

Cultivating inner peace is also vital. Practices such as meditation foster clarity and compassion, enabling individuals to respond to external conflicts wisely. The International Day of Peace calls us to embody these teachings through acts of kindness and social justice, promoting a culture of peace that transcends borders.

Across various philosophies, the pursuit of peace reflects a universal aspiration characterized by compassion, justice, and communal harmony. While interpretations may vary, the commitment to fostering a peaceful and just global community is a shared goal, reminding us that through understanding and respect, we can create a world where peace flourishes.

Rotary also discusses the concepts of Negative Peace and Positive Peace, as articulated by sociologist Johan Galtung, emphasizing the importance of both in fostering a harmonious society. Negative Peace refers to the absence of violence, while Positive Peace focuses on creating socioeconomic conditions that promote cooperation and well-being.



The International Institute for Peace (IEP) and Rotary aims to cultivate Positive Peace by encouraging Rotarians to engage in projects that enhance the economic and social conditions of their communities. The Eight Pillars of Positive Peace serve as a framework for understanding and fostering peacefulness within societies.

These pillars include low levels of corruption, acceptance of the rights of others, free flow of information, sound business environments, high levels of human capital, equitable distribution of resources, good relations with neighbours, and well-functioning government.

Finally, a holistic approach fosters resilience and long-term stability within communities.

- Rtn. PP. N.K.Gopinath





Rotary Nostalgia

RCM's First Rotary Scholar in 1950

In 1950, Gwendolyn Matthews was the first female Rotary Scholar, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Madras, India. Gwen Sieck became a charter member of the Rotary Breakfast Club of Rolla on January 10, 1991. She was active in the club until medical complications developed in 2005. While waiting for surgery on October 10, 2005, Gwen wrote a cheque for \$1,000 to be used for a Rotary International project.

That project was finalized on September 17, 2011. Using a matching grant program, a clean-water well was dug near the village of Gorou Beri, Libore District, Niger, Africa, in June. The well was hand-dug by local laborers, and all parts were manufactured in Niamey, Niger. The well would serve 40 to 50 families (200-300 individuals).

On September 17, 2011, photographs were taken of the well dedication. There were pictures of the chief, mayor, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and

Interactors. Also included were photos of the sign by the well stating: "Gift of Gwen Sieck, Breakfast Club Rolla and Gladstone Club, Sikeston Club Missouri, USA," and the Rotary wheel. The beneficiaries were told that Districts 6060 and 6080 and their clubs contributed to the funding and stressed Gwen Sieck's generous donation.

They also expressed their gratitude and thanks to Gwen for helping build the well. She made a difference for many people in Niger, and they are all grateful to her. Gwen wished to show her appreciation to the Rotary Club of Madras for sponsoring her to be the first female Rotary Scholar back in 1950. In the fall of 2010, she sent \$2,000 to the club to express her gratitude.

After much correspondence, Gwen learned that the money had been earmarked for a special project. A drinking water facility funded by her was to be installed at the New Residential Complex for Boys, which was

under construction. The complex would house sixty boys and also provide vocational training for 200 boys. The building was expected to be completed by February 2012, and at that time, the drinking water facility would be installed. Additionally, a suitable plaque would be installed at the facilities indicating the name of the donor.

The New Residential Complex for Boys by the Rotary Club of Madras, outside Chennai, was dedicated on Sunday, March 11, 2012, along with the drinking water facility.

This Centre for Rural Education, Advancement, Transformation, and Empowerment (CREATE) would house and educate hundreds of rural boys every year, ensuring a livelihood through the vocational training programs.

Courtesy: *A Timeless Legacy*

Sourced by:

Rtn. PP. N. K. Gopinath



On Sunday, September 15, a Workshop on how to deal with Autistic Adolescents, was held in Amritsar, under the Auspices of the Rotary Club of Amritsar Central, along with the Rotary Clubs of Colombo Reconnections, Brisbane and Madras.

This was the 8th such Workshop held in various cities of India which includes two that were held in our city Chennai.



Charity with Clarity

He manages various philanthropic initiatives of Azim Premji, which are implemented through two not-for-profit organizations – Azim Premji Foundation (APF) and Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI).

Mr. Lakshminarayana KR, popularly called Lan, is the CEO (Chief Endowment Officer) for the \$24 billion Endowment Fund set up by Azim Premji.

Lan started his career with Wipro and spent 17 years in various roles, including that of the Chief Strategy Officer, CFO of IT business, and Corporate Treasurer & Head of Investor Relations.

He was responsible for many key milestones, including the investment of over \$1.2 billion in strategic M&A deals, incubating new business units, establishment of structured Treasury processes, and the Investor Relations (IR) function.

Lan was ranked the No. 1 IR representative among tech companies in Asia in surveys conducted by Institutional Investors between 2003 and 2005.

Lan is also a certified Six Sigma Black Belt. A qualified management accountant and a graduate in management from IIM, Lan has interests in the areas of teaching, quizzing, and financial research.

With all his qualifications, experience, and achievements, the switch from the profit-driven corporate sector to the philanthropic APF and APPI was counterintuitive. But I suppose the arena was natural for him, as evidenced by his opening line for the afternoon when he said, “I am lucky to speak about the foundation: merely as a spokesperson, and the real credit of hard work is due to the



thousands of ground workers,” as when he expressed his respect for RCM!

He was proud to state that 97% of the earnings of Mr. Azim Premji have been given to philanthropy.

The foundation boasts 2,600 full-time employees working in remote places. They run two social orientation universities from which 25,000 students graduate each year, and they have two more Universities in the pipeline, in Ranchi and NE India.

The employees work in-depth and are present in almost every state in India, covering 70% of the country.

The core selection process involves two key prerequisites: education and experience.

Education is not limited to university qualifications but extends to education in social services. The foundation has about 10-15 major domains of work, such as education support, health, livelihood, small farmers, adolescents, survivors of domestic violence (DV), and disabili-

ty, to name a few. The number of domains is plentiful with multiple layers and complexities.

The operations are multimodal. The foundation partners and supplements other not-for-profit centers and organizations for better outreach.

Experience that key players and participants, aka employees, bring is vital for scaling philanthropy. In India, there were 3 million NGOs as of 2017, as per the SC affidavit, which translates to about one NGO for every 400 citizens. 70% of these NGOs have fewer than five employees and are unable to scale up.

This is in comparison to APF and APPI, which were originally set up in 2001 with the key intent to do good. This is separate from the CSR of Wipro.

What was the secret to their success? Six principles helped scale philanthropic endeavors: Strategy, Structure, Staffing, Selection, Staying power and Sensibilities.

Strategy is the starting point for an NFP. One must be clear on what core needs are to be solved—having one that is not too wide and difficult to solve, nor too narrow that it leaves no impact. Their vision to facilitate a just and humane sustainable framework is merely paraphrasing the Indian constitution. To actually implement social change, it requires a starting point and execution. They began their first work in the field of education.

Structure: Post-strategy, they put the structure in place to deliver the defined executables. The foundation has a unique three-delivery-engine mechanism. Their 2,600 employees, spread over 400-odd locations across 60 districts in each

state in India, live and work in villages as full-time employees. This is the same model for healthcare and livelihood areas as well.

Staff: Lan credits the people who come to the social sector for not having a goal alignment issue. They gravitate to this area due to their own core beliefs and values. Yet, it is important to get the right kind of people. They should be willing to work in difficult rural remote places because that's where the work is needed.

Staff should be good at communication within the sector—understanding its limitations and strengths—and with the outside world to liaise with and garner funds. Sector people tend to work well at the grassroots level but lack the vision of a structure. On the flip side, corporate workers have a strong structure but lack an understanding of ground realities and needs. Hence, a mix of both, as well as recruiting domain experts internally and externally, has contributed to their success.

Selection: Indian society is large and diverse. Lan narrates a story akin to Hindi movies, but unlike a movie, the story of runaway kids is not wonderful. Statistically, 1 in 5 children run away every 2 minutes in India. The

reasons for running away may vary from serious to trivial. But once the child reaches a train junction, they are frightened, hungry, sleepy and lost. The first person to meet the child determines their fate. An altruistic person ensures a 60% chance that the child is reunited with their family or sent to a good home. A wrong encounter, however, could lead the child into begging, drugs or the underworld.

Based on research and analysis, 45 railway junctions in India account for 40% of the traffic of such runaway children. The foundation has thus decided that in the next few years, every unaccompanied child will be met by the staff of the foundation.

Staying power: Social problems are large, complex, and time-consuming. Lan states that control over circumstances at a personal level is about 60%, and at a social level, it is only 20%. This means causation cannot be easily established due to numerous variables and players in social interventions. The foundation does not believe in "solve and move on" because there are many issues they cannot move on from, unless they empower the society to run the change.

Sensibility: Lan believes that

there is a philanthropist inside everyone. Social problems in a community are human problems.

So what core sensibilities are prerequisites?

1. Warmth and trust take time, effort, and making the first step.

2. Treat the receiver with dignity and respect, not condescension.

3. Respect what the other side brings to the table.

His entire talk was **structured** with a **strategy** to engage the audience, and he clearly **selected** examples and narratives to align with the **sensibilities** of every person. His segues ensured **sustained** interest, and everyone **stayed** until the very end, even asking questions!

One question was about funding, to which he replied: the Endowment is \$24 billion and 66% owned by Wipro in market assets across different classes, with an objective to generate returns. Then they target returns to earn and pass on to the foundation. As the spends are known for the upcoming three years, they target expenses for liquidity.

The second question was about criteria for partnerships. Lan answered that there is a clear system in place. The applicant/NGO answers three questions on their website. If it doesn't align with their domain, it is discarded. Otherwise, their team picks up the application and co-creates a plan. Funding is flexible, and multi-year grants are also assigned.

I am sure most of us left that afternoon with a renewed sense of purpose to spend, save, and serve! It almost felt as if the powerhouse of knowledge, experience, and goodness of Lan had spilled over. And although he tried to simplify what he did, it was a powerhouse and rousing talk!

-Rtn.Dr.Rama Narasimhan





Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 14th Weekly Meeting held on 25-09-2024
 at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order and Invocation

The meeting commenced at 5:00 PM with Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev, officially collaring President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna.

President G. Chella Krishna then called the 14th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Welcome Address by President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna

President. Rtn. G. Chella Krishna extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests: Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, Rtn. Mark Maloney, and his spouse, Rtn. Gay Maloney. He also welcomed Rotary Foundation Trustee, Rtn. Bharat Pandya, PDG Sridhar, other Past Governors, Past Presidents, members of the Rotary Club of Madras, along with their spouses, friends, and invited guests.

The President highlighted the club's significant contributions to Rotary, particularly in spearheading the Polio Plus campaign in India, and noted the club's cumulative contributions to the Rotary Foundation, which exceeded USD 5.5 million. He also recognized the generosity of several members, including Arch Klumph Society (AKS) members and major donors, while emphasizing that the entire club is a Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) club.

Key Projects Highlighted

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna outlined several key projects of the Rotary Club of Madras, including:

- Polio Plus Campaign: Initiated with a grant of USD 2.5 million.
- Corrective Polio Rehabilitation Center and Child Trust Hospital: Both benefiting from Rotary

- grants.
- Homes for the Homeless: Projects for tribal communities and other rural areas.
- WASH Projects: Focusing on sanitation in rural villages.
- Urban Sanitation Projects: Rehabilitation efforts after the 2015 Chennai floods.
- Environmental Projects: Lake restoration projects improving water access for residents.

Launch of New Projects by Rtn. Mark Maloney

Rtn. Rajesh Mani introduced Rtn. Mark Maloney, emphasizing his distinguished Rotary career and contributions. Together with President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, Rtn. Maloney launched six major projects with a combined outlay of USD 1.54 million:

1. Homes for the Homeless (Rotary Eureka Nagar): Phase 2 of 35 homes was launched. Beneficiaries were invited on stage to share their experiences.
2. Balwadi Centers: Construction of nine centers focusing on child and maternal care. Phase 1 of three centers was inaugurated.
3. Water Body Restoration: Two completed projects at Boys Town and YWCA were inaugurated, and a new project at Old Perungalathur Lake was launched.
4. Cervical Cancer Awareness and Vaccination Program: Aimed at increasing vaccination rates and awareness among girls. This initiative was launched by Rtn. Mark Maloney, Rtn. Gay Maloney, and Dr. Jayashree from the Cancer Institute.
5. Mammogram Installation at Cancer Institute, Thiruvannamalai: Focused on breast cancer detec-

tion and prevention, providing critical healthcare to women in rural India.

6. Mobile Blood Donation Van: Donated to a 100-year-old government hospital for blood donation drives.

Video Presentation

A video showcasing the achievements and ongoing projects of the Rotary Club of Madras was presented by the tech team, tracing the 96-year history of the club.

Speech by Rtn. Bharat Pandya

Rtn. Bharat Pandya praised the Rotary Club of Madras for its exceptional work, recalling his visit seven months ago. He emphasized the transformative power of the Rotary Foundation and acknowledged President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna's leadership in driving impactful projects. He also congratulated the club for already achieving a fundraising total of USD 1.17 million this year and expressed confidence in reaching the 1.5 crore target

Speech by Rtn. Gay Maloney

Rtn. Gay Maloney shared her experiences visiting India since 1998, when she and her husband, Mark, first participated in Rotary's polio vaccination efforts. She spoke about how Rotary enabled her to fulfill her dream of seeing the world and expressed gratitude for being part of such a meaningful organization.

Speech by Rtn. Mark Maloney

Rtn. Mark Maloney humorously remarked that speaking after his wife put him at a disadvantage. He reflected on the shared history between the Rotary Club of Madras and his own Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama, both of which are celebrating their 96th year. He empha-



sized how Rotary connects the world and highlighted the importance of the six projects launched that day. He also shared insights into a cervical cancer eradication project in Alabama, which has expanded across multiple states in the U.S.

Banner Exchange and Conclusion

Rtn. Mark and Gay Maloney exchanged club banners with President G. Chella Krishna, representing the Rotary Clubs of Decatur and Decatur Daybreak. Following this, President Chella offered a vote of thanks, and a memento was presented to both Rtn. Mark and Rtn. Gay Maloney.

The meeting concluded with a round of photographs, capturing the joyous moments shared by members, guests, and beneficiaries, as they celebrated Rotary's global impact and the impressive work of the Rotary Club of Madras.



Fireside hosted by Rtn.Dr.Sharon Krishna Rau and G. Lakshminarayanan



Fireside hosted by Rtn.P.S.Jagdish and Meera



Issue 13

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 1st October.



Issue 12 : Best Captions

1. Banana leaf vibes: where food meets smiles and tradition serves happiness! – *Rtn. N. K. Bhatia*
2. At last we get to sample our wares!! – *Rtn. PP. Dr. Gauthamadas Udipi*
3. "Thank you cameraman! Can we now continue our saapad please" – *Rtn. Vijay Dugar*
4. Great Onam spread from Balaji's Catering Unit for Maha-bellies! – *Rtn. Asha Mathen*
5. Finger-lickin' Saapaadu crimes: Caught red-handed in a leaf-laden feast! – *Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia*





Mark Maloney Visit RCM makes its mark

RCM was honoured by the visit of a VIP in the world of Rotary – Rtn. Mark Maloney, Past RI President and Chair of the Trustees of the Rotary foundation (TRF). Mark was accompanied by his wife Rtn. Gay Maloney.

In his welcome address, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, highlighted the honour to RCM accorded by the visit of the Maloneys, along with the presence of Rtn. Bharat Pandya, Trustee Rotary Foundation and PDG Sridhar.

President Chella highlighted the commitment of RCM towards TRF culminating in a cumulative donation pool of over USD 5.5 million. He thanked the generosity of the RCMers who followed the principles of “give till it hurts”. Recognizing the big ticket AKS donors of the club, Chella went on appreciate the innumerable Major donors while highlighting that the entire club was a PHF Club.

He then outlined the largest projects of RCM which was an early initiator, participant and driver of the Rotary Polio Plus programme, including the Polio flame. Child Trust Hospital for Children was a continuing beneficiary of RCM largesse, apart from several WASH projects, Behavioral Changes initiatives, several vaccination programs, of which the latest was the HPVax for Cervical cancer and restoring seven lakes benefiting over 7,00,000 residents with potable water.

RCM has responded to natural disasters, quickly and substantially, as illustrated by the rebuilding of homes devastated by the Tsunami in Sulerikadu village, while victims of the disastrous floods of 2015 had

their homes rebuilt at Perumbakkam Village- both projects with an outlay of USD 1 million each.

RCM gives primary importance to youth and has 28 Interact Clubs in schools and 10 Rotaract clubs in Colleges under its umbrella, who participate enthusiastically in several RCM projects, the latest being the International day of Peace Essay Contest which saw over 500 participants. Ongoing Rotary establishments include Boys Town – a 34 acre campus hostel housing 120+ boys, a Technology training center for the differentially abled run in collaboration with Worth Trust, Rotary Nagar, an 80 year collaboration of RCM and tailoring units at Sembakkam and Selaiyur.

A short video highlighting 96 years of RCM was screened, tracing its history and key accomplishments.

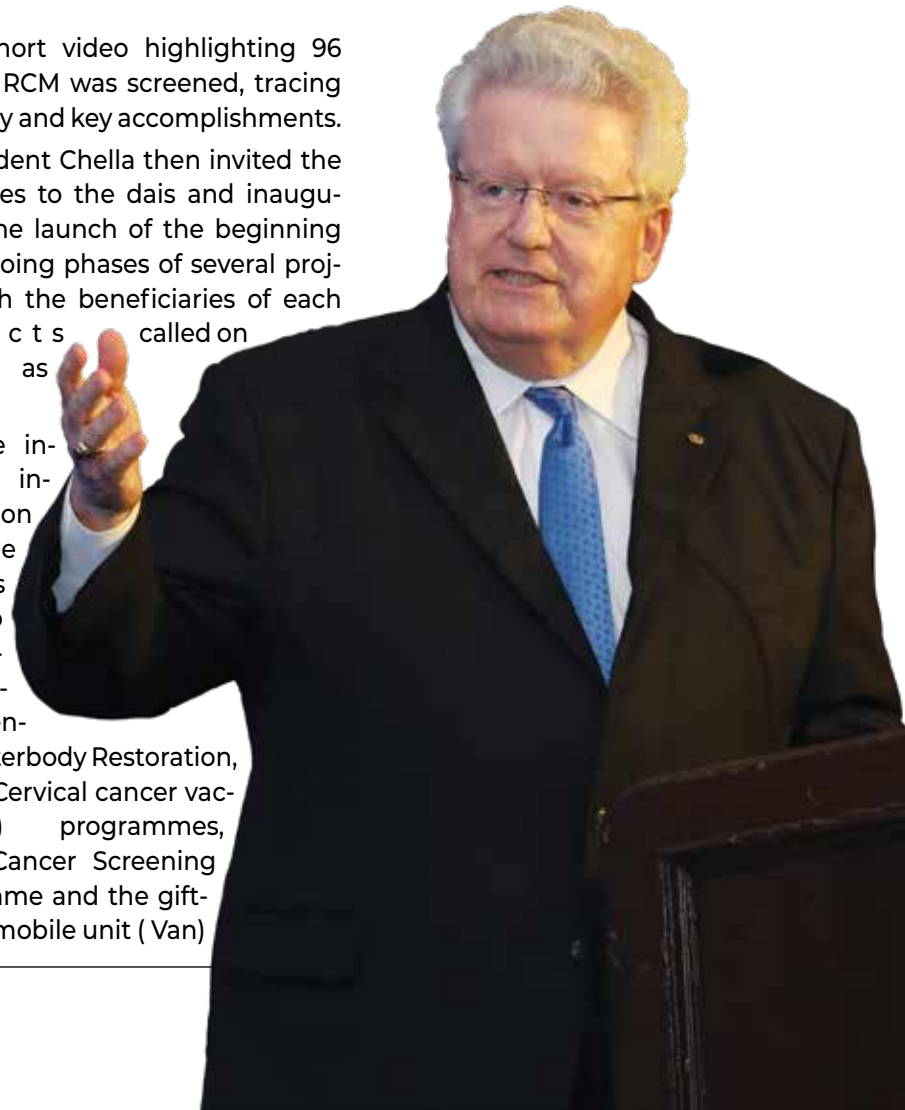
President Chella then invited the dignitaries to the dais and inaugurated the launch of the beginning and ongoing phases of several projects with the beneficiaries of each projects called on stage as well.

These included inauguration of the Homest to Homeless, Balwadi Centers, Waterbody Restoration, HPVax (Cervical cancer vaccination) programmes, Breast Cancer Screening programme and the gifting of a mobile unit (Van

to a 100-year-old Government hospital for blood donation drives.

Rtn. Sabina Narayan, Director TRF and Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Director CSR of RCM next took the stage and highlighted the generosity of the RCMers, culminating in over USD 5.5M being collected. In the past Rotary year under the leadership of IPP. Rtn S.Ravi, RCM breached the USD1 million per year collection landmark while this Rotary year which is not even half way through, has already seen collections of USD 1.17 Million. All this enabled us to confidently “Do the greater Good”.

Next, key AKS Donors were hon-





A sixer to greet the Rotary Foundation Chair

Sept 25, 2024 saw an important event for the RCMers, when the Rotary foundation Chair Rtn. Mark Maloney and his wife Rtn. Gay Maloney visited us. Rtn. Mark Maloney inaugurated six projects with a combined outlay of USD 1.4 million USD.

Project 1: Homes for the Homeless , which complies with the fifth Avenue of Service.

Project 2: Balwadi Project, for the health and welfare of children under the age of 6 years and their mothers .

Project 3 : Water body restoration, an ongoing project of RCM, with two lakes restored at Boys Town, Gummidipoondi and YWCA and a new one expected to start at Perungalathur, Tambaram.

Project 4 : HPVax . RCM has a two pronged plan : (i) Awareness (ii) Carry out the vaccination of children with consent of the parents at the Cancer Institute.

Project 5 : Mammogram Machine for a hospital at Thiruvannamalai, which covers a large rural population.

Project 6 : A mobile unit to transport blood products and donors to hospitals.

Trustee, Rtn Bharat Pandya addressed the gathering and applauded the donors and reminded that helping others is a way to help ourselves.

Rtn Gay Maloney, dressed in a traditional saree, spoke warmly of her love of coming to India and seeing Rotary in India. She recounted her first visit in 1998, when she came to New Delhi to provide vaccine drops.

Mark then came on to speak and like his wife , he was succinct and humorously affectionate. He jocularly charged Secretary Rajesh Mani to the ultimate sin of asking him to speak after his wife, who is a better speaker!

He said that he and his wife have come half way across the world to visit a club as old as his own and to hear and see the community connections.

The evening was wrapped up with pictures of the RCMers and the happy shiny faces of the beneficiaries, all shining with the hope for a brighter, better and happier future together!

oured in recognition of their generosity and commitment including" Rtn.PDG.J.B. Kamdar, Rtn. PP.Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, Rtn. PP.Ranjit Pratap, Rtn. Mahinder Jain, Rtn. Vardhaman Jain, and Rtn. Rahul Saraogi.

Invited to address the gathering, Rtn. Gay Maloney of RC Decatur Daybreak in Alabama USA, mentioned how impressed she was by what Rotary Club of Madras was doing and recounted some of the activities and programs of her home club.

In his response, address Rtn. Mark Maloney thanked RCM for their welcome and congratulated them on their outcomes and programmes. He highlighted the fact that the extraordinary work of a single club RCM, was more that of several districts that he had visited. He went on to share the TRF viewpoints exemplifying programmes in Sri Lanka and Gautemala, and also elaborated on some the programmes that his home club, the Rotary Club of Decatuer Alabama, carries on in his home state , notably cervical cancer vaccinations with which they hope to cover the 50 states of the USA.

Both the overseas visitors exchanged flags of their respective clubs with President Chella.

Rtn. Bharat Pandya, Trustee Rotary Foundation, thanked Rtn. Gay and Rtn. Mark Maloney for their visit and added his words of appreciation to RCMs impressive track record.

President Chella proposed a vote of thanks and concluded the meeting , followed by a flurry of photos to capture the moment.

- Rtn. Suresh Amirapu

Chairman, International Service and Relations.

-Rtn.Dr.Rama Narasimhan

Embracing the Essence of International Peace Day

This is the fourth in a series of five articles on Peace by Rtn.Fharzana Siraj, to commemorate International Day of Peace (September 21st).



Poster Design by Rtn. Sakthivel Raja

Hands Over the Heart: Embracing Inner Tranquility and Peace

The gesture of placing both hands over the heart is a powerful expression of inner tranquility and peace. This simple act signifies a deep connection with one's inner self, a moment of mindfulness where the chaos of the world is quieted, and a sense of calm is embraced.

This gesture represents more than just physical stillness; it embodies emotional and spiritual serenity. It is a reminder that true peace begins within. By cultivating inner tranquility, we create a ripple effect that extends outward, influencing our relationships and interactions with the world. The gesture also conveys gratitude, compassion, and a profound respect for life, reminding us to approach each day with a peaceful heart.

On International Peace Day, placing our hands over our hearts is a symbolic act of committing to inner peace. As we find calm within ourselves, we contribute to a more peaceful world, where harmony and understanding can flourish. By nurturing inner tranquility, we lay the foundation for a global community grounded in peace and compassion.

Yogic tip:

Corresponding Yoga Mudra:

Anjali Mudra

Coming together for peace with Anjali Mudra- Respect for others.

Although not exactly same as hands over heart



gesture, the Anjali mudra comes very close to it. Anjali Mudra, also known as the "Salutation Seal" or "Prayer Pose," is a hand gesture where the palms are pressed together in front of the heart, with fingers pointing upwards. This mudra symbolizes respect, gratitude, and a harmonious connection between the mind and heart. Anjali Mudra helps in centering the mind, promoting humility, and fostering a deep sense of spiritual connection.

- Rtn.Fharzana Siraj

BIRTHDAYS (30th Sep to 6th Oct 2024)	
Rtn. Vineet Prakash Munjal	30/9
Rtn. Kannan B.	1/10
Rtn. Reji Joseph	2/10
Rtn. Navneet Agarwal	4/10
SPOUSES' BIRTHDAYS	
Ann. Parikshith Jhaver, Spouse of Rtn. Anuradha Jhaver	1/10
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY	
Rtn. M. Balakrishna Rao & Dr. Jayashree Potty	30/9

Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia is at his eloquent best, with succinct replies to the four thought provoking questions posed by The Lighthouse.

1. Is the Four-Way Test an impossible and impractical quest?

The Rotary Four-Way Test sets an aspirational standard for ethical conduct, but whether it's "impossible" or "impractical" depends on perspective.

2. Is it just an idealistic notion?

The Four-Way Test is idealistic but not necessarily impossible. It's a framework for conscious, ethical be-



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Questions on The Four-Way Test

haviour rather than an expectation of perfection. By striving to meet these principles, even if imperfectly, individuals and organizations can foster trust, respect, and long-term positive relationships.

3. Can it inspire or transform a Rotarian's perspective?

By internalizing these principles, a Rotarian's perspective can shift from self-interest and short-term gains to ethical integrity, fairness, relationship-building, and community welfare. This transformation leads to more meaningful contributions to society, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

4. Any practical examples of its relevance in this day and age?

Before the Four-Way Test: A friend confides in you about a personal issue, and you're tempted to share the story with another mutual friend, thinking it might be an interesting conversation. After applying the test: You ask yourself, "Is it the truth?"—you may share the story truthfully, but then consider, "Is it fair to all concerned?" and "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" Sharing the story might hurt the friend who confided in you, damaging trust and the relationship. Outcome: You choose to keep the information confidential, which strengthens the friendship and builds trust over time.



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