THE CONTRACTOR OF SECOND

Commencement of Lake Restoration Project at Old Perungalathur Lake



Editor's Note

Dear RCMers,

Environmentally, lake restoration enhances biodiversity, improves water quality, and stabilizes ecosystems. Besides , there are positive economic, social and health impacts too.

RCM's Old Perungalathur lake restoration project is indeed a laudable initiative. Read the report in this issue.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran Editor

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



Rtn. Shanno Ravi

Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan

THE LIGHTHOUSE BOARD 2024-25

President

Rtn. G. Chella Krishna Honorary Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani Immediate Past President

> Rtn. S. Ravi President - Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj

President - Nominee Rtn. S. Balakrishna

Director - Community Development Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan Director - Club Service

Rtn. Shanno Ravi

Director - Vocational Service Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti

Director - Youth Service Rtn. Balaji Chinni

Treasurer - Club Funds & RCM BTS Rtn. Asha Mathen

Asst. Secy./ Bulletin Editor Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran

Director - CSR Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan

Director -Rotary Foundation & International Service Rtn. Sabina Narayan

Director - Community Health Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan

> Treasurer - RCMCT Rtn. A. Gooch Kumar

Director - Fund Raising & PR Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan

THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

Editor : Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran Chairperson : Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan Co-Chairman : Mr.Madhu Mathen Mentors : Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath Rtn. PP.Indra Subramanyam COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rtn.E.Aswath Kumar Reddy, Rtn.Himanshu Budhia Rtn.Vummidi Shailesh Raj, Rtn. Bhaswar Mukherjee Rtn.Indrani Krishnaier, Rtn.Shri Shakthi Girish Rtn.Reji Joseph, Rtn.Maya Thiagarajan Rtn.Fharzana Siraj, Rtn.Dr.M.Parkavi, Mr. Vikrm.S.Eashwaran, Rtn.Govind Parikh Rtn.Rakesh Jaiswal, Rtn.Dr.Rama Narasimhan

EDITED & PUBLISHED BY

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, Asst. Secretary Rotary Club of Madras, RAYALA TOWERS, 2nd Mezzanine Flr., 158, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002 Phone: +91 44 2859 1020 **CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:** editor@rcmlighthouse.com

Bulletin Design: CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

Visit RCM's official website www.rotarymadras.in

CONTACT RCM SECRETARY AT: office@rotarymadras.in

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to: <u>editor@rcmlighthouse.com</u> Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!



Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) Minutes of the 16th Weekly Meeting

held on 8-10-2024 at 1.30 pm at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order and Invocation

The meeting commenced at 01.30 PM

Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared the President.

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna called the 16th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 15th weekly meeting were confirmed without objections.

Welcome Address

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna extended a warm welcome to all members, including the guest of honour, Justice K. Kannan, visiting Rotarians, and special guests.

Special Announcements and Updates

Lake Project Update by Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan:

A new lake restoration project at Perungalathur Lake was inaugurated earlier in the morning.

The project will benefit around 200,000 people, providing access to clean drinking water.

This is the 8th lake restoration project undertaken by the club, with over 800,000 people benefitting from previous projects.

The project was made possible through a donation of ₹60 lakhs by Rtn. PP. Ranjit Pratap.

Lighthouse Newsletter Announcement by Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran:

Efforts are being made to enhance reader engagement of the "Lighthouse" newsletter.

Awards were announced for the best contributions to the newsletter's caption contest, during the first quarter of the Rotary Year 2024-25.

Winners included Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain, Rtn. Asha Mathen, and Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia.

MOU with Suryoday Bank:

The Rotary Club of Madras renewed and exchanged MOU with Suryoday Bank for continued CSR support.

The bank has been supporting the running expenses of the club's dental van for Corporation school children.

Deepavali Full Club Fellowship Announcement Rtn. Shanno Ravi:

The Deepavali fellowship will be hosted by Green Rtn. Arunachalam Palaniappan and his wife, Ann. Shruthi Palaniappan, on October 19th.

Members were encouraged to attend the event dressed in traditional South Indian attire.



Rotaract Club of Chennai Update by Rotaractor Vijay

The Rotaract Club's annual fundraising event, "Glitzz," is scheduled for October 13th.

Funds raised will support the provision of sports equipment to underprivileged students.

Secretary's Announcements:

Rtn. Rajesh Mani announced Birthdays and Anniversaries for the week.

Next Weekly Meeting: The 17th weekly meeting will be held on October 15th with speakers Dr. Jayashree Gopal and Mrs. Deepa Satyaram discussing "Human Health and Buildings."

Introduction of Guest Speaker by Rtn. Alok Bhargava:

Rtn. Alok Bhargava introduced the guest speaker, Justice K. Kannan, highlighting his accomplishments and contributions in the field of law, including his work in mediation and promoting transparency in the judiciary.

Guest Speaker's Address : Justice K. Kannan

Justice K. Kannan delivered an insightful speech on "The Untold Story of Manipur", with many references to his experiences, particularly his involvement with the People's Union for Civil Liberties and his advocacy for transparency in the judiciary.

Presentation of Memento

A memento was presented to Justice K. Kannan by President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna on behalf of the Rotary Club of Madras .

Vote of Thanks and Adjournment of Meeting:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna thanked the guest of honour, Rtn. Alok Bhargava, and the Club Service team .

The meeting was officially adjourned.

Gallery - 15th Weekly Meeting



The Lighthouse | 13 October 2024

Gallery - 15th Weekly Meeting



||||||



Rajiv Menon- The Storyteller

K (Kandukondain Kandukondain), a Tamil movie, was a classic! It was almost perfect. I say 'almost`, that is something you'll understand. It was in the class of another movie of late 60s, - *Thillana Mohanambal*, another almost perfect film.

4K had everything in it. It had a story, characters, songs, melody, beauty, trust, betrayal, love, romance, poetry, color, human element, and so on. It was a 'thali' of all ingredients. It was the perfect meal for the Indian audience.

And it was directed by none other than Rajiv Menon- The Master Storyteller. We at RCM were honored by his presence at our meeting last Saturday, quizzed by the charming Chair of the Programs Committee, Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan.

Rajiv Menon, it seems, is a 360 degrees person. He is an all-rounder. Along with his spouse Latha Menon, he initially made his mark as a cinematographer, starting with making commercial ads for a number of large corporates and MNC's including the likes of Coke etc, prior to foraying into music, acting, direction and storytelling.

He spoke extensively on a number of subjects, and it would be impossible to fit in all within a couple of pages in this article.

I will be doing him a disfavor by trying to capture a larger than life character in a few paragraphs. He was a wealth of information. He spoke on everything from the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* to Aristotle's Greek Tragedies to Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare!

This was in the context of the origin of storytelling from Neanderthal times, from Ice/Stone age, when stories were narrated, by the fireside. More recently, our grandmothers are the latest entrepreneurs of storytelling passed on through generations.

Lately, of course, it has become an art, a profession, and a popular one at that, and highly remunerative. It requires a wide expanse of mind, a vivid imagination, and a complete understanding of the psyche of the target audience.

If you do not possess these qualities, you cannot become a successful storyteller and a filmmaker. He cited the example of the competition within filmmaking, with OTT being the newest `Villain` in the scene.

Rajiv says that OTT in the Film industry is a game changer of our times. He narrated how an analysis of the viewership of "House of Cards" (An American Political Drama) and "Downton Abbey" (A story of British Royalty) brought about the creation of the major hit of recent times, "*The Crown*".

It just goes to prove how evolved storytelling and filmmaking have become, with OTT becoming a part of the mix. As laypeople, we go to movies or watch a series, and for a few hours, we lose ourselves in the make-believe world of celluloid. You can imagine what it takes to create an ambience to keep millions glued to the screen.

Rajiv Menon is one of those who make that happen. He has to look out for every aspect, from the eyebrows of the heroine, to the sky. He cannot afford to miss out on anything. The viewer is supreme. Their needs are to be catered to.

'Films need to be visually appealing,' Rajiv says. The colors on the screen need to be compatible to the context. One cannot have greenery in a riotous scene or darkness in a romantic shot. The visual energy must reach the viewer.

He has another unique approach. His stories and movies have no "Villains". He says that, mostly, situations in life and stories are the real villains. In a way, I quite agree. We go through a number of happenings in

Spotlight

life, both under our control and out of it, to warrant such a thought. You don't need a third party to play mischief. We are the architects of our own destiny and shall survive or perish by our own thoughts and actions. So, he lets the handling of the situation of his characters, dictate the course of his stories.

Rajiv's take on today's films is that they are the reflection of the times we live in. The success of the film depends on how close it is to reality. There was a startling statement that he made, regarding today's younger generation and their preferences. He says that the old genre of movies, where boy meets girl, falls in love, fights for her, overcomes obstacles and marries her, is an old adage. Today, marrying the girl or boy in the final scene is not a must. He relates it to the younger generation preferring to stay single, as marriage is not such a large component of life. It just shows the changes that affect the times we live in and the social

changes that have come about. Truly a mind-blowing analytic mined out of viewer preferences!

I can go on and on but, I'll wind up here. It was a fascinating dialogue, and many thanks to Rajiv Menon's walking mate, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan and the Programs committee, for bringing in a remarkable storyteller!

- Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan



Birthdays (14th Oct to 2	s (14th Oct to 20th Oct 2024)	
Rtn. Vijay Balaji	14/10	
Rtn. PDG. R. Benjamin Cherian	15/10	
Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby	17/10	
Rtn. Dr. Yashwanth Kumar Venkataraman	17/10	
Rtn. H. E. Abdul Azeez	18/10	
Rtn. N. Mahmud Jamal	18/10	
Rtn. V.P. Raman	18/10	
Spouses' Birthdays		
Ann. Janak, Spouse of Rtn. PDG. S. Krishnaswami	16/10	
Ann. Uma Ranjit, Spouse of Rtn. PP. Ranjit Pratap	16/10	
Ann. Susan, Spouse of Rtn. K. Sapru Mathew	16/10	
Ann. Bhagyalakshmi, Spouse of Rtn. PP. C. Shanker Mangadu	16/10	
Ann. Dr. F. James Libby. Spouse of Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby	19/10	
Ann. Mamta Ranjeeth Rathod, Spouse of Rtn. D. Ranjeeth Rathod	20/10	
Wedding Anniversary		
Rtn. Vipin Sachdev & Somna Sachdev	14/10	
Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay & Sanjay Balram	16/10	
Rtn. Jacob Kurian & Achu Kurian	17/10	

News Round Up

Fizz Culturals 2024: A Tapestry of Art and Inclusion

izz Culturals 2024, led by Rtr. PP. Arshad Ahmed from the Rotaract Club of Madras as the Fizz Chairman and Rtr. Mohammed Ghouse from the Rotaract Club of New College as the Secretary, emerged as an extraordinary celebration of creativity, diversity and inclusion. Brilliantly organized by the Rotaract Club of Madras alongside 14 collaborative clubs, this year's event transformed into a vibrant melting pot of cultural expressions, captivating participants from across the region. Attendees were treated to a dazzling showcase of music, dance, theater and visual arts, all harmonizing beautifully in a testament to talent and tradition.

What truly distinguished Fizz Culturals 2024 was its unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive environment, with a special emphasis on autism awareness. At the heart of this year's celebration lies a noble cause, the ongoing establishment of a vibrant play area designed specifically for children with autism, at Manasa School for Special Children in Maduravoyal.





Fizz Culturals 2024 transcends mere performances; it is about breaking barriers, igniting conversations and cultivating a community that cherishes acceptance and unity. The collaborative efforts of 14 participating clubs have been instrumental in realizing this vision, demonstrating the power of teamwork in fostering environments that celebrate joy and connection for all.

The event began with an inauguration ceremony highlighted by the presence of Chief Guest Rtn. AKS. Vinod Saraogi, District Governor Elect RID 3234, alongside esteemed Guests of Honour, viz, Rtn. Suresh Jain, District Governor Nominee, Rtn. S. Ravi, Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Madras, Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, President of the Rotary Club of Madras and Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, Mentor of the Rotaract Club of Madras.

.....

The valedictory ceremony was marked by the presence of Chief Guest Rtn. Dr. M. Parkavi from the Rotary Club of Madras, with esteemed Guests of Honour, Rtn. Dr. Latha Rajendran, Secretary at Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women and Learning Facilitator at the Rotary Club of Chennai Legends and Rtr. PP. Rishab, District Rotaract Secretary RID 3234 .A special thanks to Rtn. G. Ravindran for his presence during the event.

Gallery - 16th Weekly Meeting



Mediating in the Midst of Manipur Mayhem

Justice Kannan Krishnamoorthy(Retd.) is a former Judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) at the Principal Bench at New Delhi, India. He is also the Founder-Director of Madhyastham, a mediation center based in Chennai.

Justice Kannan Krishnamoorthy pursued Economics at Loyola College, Chennai, and then studied Law at the Government Law College at Pondicherry. Having enrolled in 1977, he went on to build a formidable practice in civil law. In 2008, Mr. Kannan was designated as a Senior Counsel and later elevated to the Madras High Court as a Judge in July of the same year. He was subsequently transferred to the Punjab and Haryana High Court, where he served for a decade.

To quote a scholar, who was asked to introduce Justice Kannan, his justice "has been justice of law, justice of fairness, justice of pragmatism, justice with intellectual depth and above all, justice from his Lordship's heart."

Justice Kannan is a member of the `Independent People's Tribunal on Manipur', constituted by the People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL A set of Jury Members of the Tribunal including Justice Kannan visited Manipur . The team travelled to various districts affected by the violence, including Bishnupur, Churachandpur, Imphal, Kangpokpi, Kakching, Senapati and other places, to record personal testimonies of survivors/victims of the different communities and the various service organizations which are organising and providing relief to affected people.

The Independent People's Tribunal on Manipur will place their findings in the form of a `Report to the Nation' within the next few months. This Report will also contain the recommendations with a view to ensure accountability, justice and redressal for the people of Manipur.

Justice Kannan gave a passionate rendition of the hidden horrors of the Manipur communal riots in 2023, and their judicial background.

Manipur is a hilly area, with 72% of the region being mountainous and the rest covered by plains. Of the total population, about 41 to 43% are tribal. The tribal population is clearly the predominant community. Tribes are not uneducated, they are happy with their own clans, and there is little for the courts to intervene in their affairs.

Justice Kannan explained that reservation is employed to empower a smaller section of people who are a minority in a given region. If the castes which hold majority are given reservation, then the concept does not make sense. There would be no democratic value in that reservation. This is the core of the Meitei - Kuki conflict.

The riots in Manipur were an aftermath of a High Court judgment. This occurred during the hearing of a petition filed by members of the Meitei Tribe Union. It was this order given by the Manipur High Court Acting Chief Justice asking the Manipur government to "consider inclusion of the Meitei community in

the

Scheduled Tribe (ST) list" that has been assessed to be the trigger for the explosion of ethi n С

According to Justice Kannan, if this situation continues unsupervised, then we will have another Syria here in India. The children have not been in school for the past 15 months. This will create a generation of students who will be uneducated like in Syria, where no one has been to school for 25 years.

The Lighthouse | 13 October 2024

Spotlight

violence that had ensued between the tribal and the non-tribal communities. The said judgment had also asked the State Government to send a recommendation to the Centre within four weeks, on the demand for ST status to the community.

A protest march against the said judgment taken out by the tribal community in Churachandpur district of Manipur, was reportedly attacked by some from the Meitei community and widespread violence across the north eastern state was the result.

Subsequently, a Bench of CJI Chandrachud and Justices PS Narasimha and JB Pardiwala had taken a grim view of the aforementioned judgment, terming the same to be "factually incorrect" as well as against the principles laid down by the Supreme Court Constitution bench judgments on the classification of communities as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes.

The violence intensified after a video of two Kuki women being paraded naked by Meitei men shortly after their village was razed, went viral on the internet.

During his visit to Manipur, Justice Kannan witnessed the economic blockades imposed, whereby the Kukis have to take a detour of about 750 kms to travel within Manipur to avoid straying into Meitei-dominated areas. They are all suffering and this has caused a communal divide among people, who were previously amicable and lived in harmony.

According to Justice Kannan, if this situation continues unsupervised, then we will have another Syria here in India. The children have not been in school for the past 15 months. This will create a generation of students who will be uneducated like in Syria, where no one has been to school for 25 years.

"Tread carefully; as much as the path is made of roses, it has its fair share of thorns as well."

- Rtn.Shaan Katari Libby

(With thanks to my Law Juniors Ismath and Krithika for their help with this article.)

Padma Vibhushan Mr. Ratan N. Tata

28.12.1937-09.10.2024

The Rotary Club of Madras is deeply saddened by the passing of Mr.Ratan Tata.

An unrelenting commitment to excellence, integrity and innovation in business coupled with unwavering dedication to philanthropy, were the hallmarks of his life.

We at RCM have been touched by his kindness in the form of a generous donation from the Tata Foundation for our school project at Perumbakkam, for the 2015 Chennai Flood victims.

On behalf of the Club, I express my deepest condolences to his loved ones.

Rtn.G.Chella Krishna President Rotary Club of Madras

Commencement of Lake Restoration Project at Old Perungalathur Lake

n Tuesday, October 8, the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) inaugurated the restoration project for the 64-acre Old Perungalathur Lake. Once a vital source for the community, Old Perungalathur Lake is currently plagued by pollution, encroachment and unsustainable activities that have deteriorated its water quality, leaving it disused.

The Bhoomi Pooja was conducted with President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna flagging off the JCB, in the presence of local community and government officials, to begin the restoration works.

The event was attended by MLA S. R. Raja, Tambaram Mayor Tmt. K. Vasanthakumari, and Deputy Mayor Thiru. G. Kamaraj, Thiru. Kamaraj D, MC - Zonal Chairman, Thiru. Sekar S, MC - Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Thiru. P. Pugazhenthi, MC - Tambaram Corporation, Tmt. S. Kamala , MC - Ward 57; Tmt. S. Madhumitha, MC - Ward 57; Tmt. S. Madhumitha, MC - Ward 58; and Thiru. Thangadurai, ME - Zone 4. Rtn. Deepak Chander also attended the event.

Tambaram Mayor Tmt. K.Vasanthakumari, and Deputy Mayor Thiru. G. Kamaraj thanked RCM for its efforts and mentioned about the Pudhuthangal Lake that was restored by RCM in the near vicinity.

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, in his speech, remarked that the lake restoration benefits several lakhs of people and is one of the main reasons RCM takes up lake restoration projects. He commended Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan for his involvement in several lake restoration projects.

Mr. Senthur Pari, Project Partner and President of ExNoRa welcomed



News Roundup





the gathering, which was followed by Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan who spoke about the project.

Rtn. IPP. Ravi Sundaresan called on the residents to protect Old Perungalathur Lake after its restoration and highlighted how it was now their responsibility to care for the delicate water body. On behalf of RCM, he thanked Rtn. PP. Ranjit Pratap for his generous donation toward the lake restoration project and Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan for his coordination efforts throughout the project's journey.

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Director of Community Services 1, highlighted some of RCM's large-scale projects, such as the Polio Program, Homes for Homeless Project, WASH Project, Balwadis and the Mammogram Project, and emphasized RCM's sprit of service. She urged the community to protect the lake once it is restored, by keeping it clean and preventing sewage from entering the lake.

Tambaram MLA Thiru. S. R. Raja thanked RCM for taking up the project and specifically thanked Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan for dedicating many hours to the project. He assured RCM of his support for this lake and any future projects.

Mr. Senthur Pari praised RCM for its ongoing commitment to restoring multiple water bodies and expressed hope for more such collaborations and transformations.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Mr. V. Subramani, the Treasurer of ExNoRa.

-Rtn.Dr.Anuradha Ganesan

Director of Community Services 1

— Rotary Nostalgia— The Matter of Attendance

A ttendance was a matter of importance to Rotary for quite a few decades. The rule was that Rotarians had to have a minimum attendance of at least 60 per cent, which had to comprise home club meetings as a majority, with allowance to make up the deficit by attending some meetings at other clubs. The attendance norms still exist on paper, but their monitoring has been diluted worldwide to a great extent.

Until a few years ago, it was necessary for Rotarians who were visiting other clubs to collect an attendance card signed by the host club's President and Secretary and submit it at their home clubs for attendance credit to be given. Attendance cards still exist but few bother with collecting them. What does remain is the attendance book, which each Rotarian is expected to sign on arrival at his/ her club's meeting.

At the Rotary Club of Madras the attendance book is still kept open for members to sign on arrival, and guests are issued their cards after their presence at the meeting has been recognised by the Secretary and they have been welcomed. But there was a time when attendance was almost like it was at school. And that was the way till the 1970s.

Adhering to Attendance

As early as in the 1940s, AA Hayles, a charter member and then Editor of 'The Madras Mail,' had proudly noted how just a glance at the newsletter would account for the entire membership. Bulletins invariably started off with

attendance details and the classification of the splits was revealing - Present, Apologies (those who had warned in of their absence), and lastly Absents and Silents (those who just did not make it). A statistical perusal reveals that the last category was invariably the highest. But the Club was strict. If a member did not make it to three meetings in a row, he was politely asked to leave. And there was no quarter given.

Members were encouraged to make up attendance by going for meetings at other Rotary Clubs, but given that there were no others in the city till the Rotary Club of Madras South began the trend, it meant only those who travelled frequently could do so. That many did, is clear from the column 'Our Members At Other Clubs' which gave out details of which Rotarian attended a meeting at which other club on what date, these being backed up by attendance proof from those clubs, of course. Despite all of this, some did manage to become 100 per centers.

The 'Rotarian' magazine of September 1959 writes of Prof. S. K. Ekambaram, of a Club in Mysore, who thought nothing of jumping on to the Bangalore Express from Madras, breaking the journey at Katpadi, driving from there to Vellore, returning to Katpadi and boarding the Bangalore Mail in order to eventually reach Bangalore and then from there to Mysore! The Club newsletter stopped publishing attendance statistics in 1984.

Despite the best efforts to make programmes interesting, abstention

was high. Attendance, therefore, remained important enough for it to be a subject of a talk as well. The venerable S. S. T. Chari, one of the early Indian directors of Best & Co. spoke on 'Some Thoughts on Rotary Attendance' on April 5, 1960. This was the time when the Club realized that many of its members were not attending at least 60 per cent of the duration of a meeting they had come for. The Lighthouse frequently exhorted members to attend the meetings regularly and, more importantly, to stay on till the end. One of these appeared in the issue of April 12, 1960 and had been taken from a Rotary International missive.

It is worth quoting the following: " 'Ducks' are Rotarians sufficiently concerned about their attendance record to put in an appearance at meetings, but after endowing their fellow Rotarians with their presence for a while, they duck out.

Some hang their heads like whipped stepchildren and slither out of the door. Others glance ostentatiously at their watches and huff and puff out of the door. Still others pick out some totally disinterested person and advise him, "Must leave early, business calls." Most of this is unadulterated porcine detergent – hogwash to you!

We all have business problems, and we all have contingencies to meet, but if we are really interested in Rotary, we can spare the time for the weekly meeting!"

Sage words, which still make relevant reading. Attendance

would remain a vexatious issue. In a creative twist, Rtn. P. N. Ethiraj suggested on December 12, 1960 that each Rotarian apply the four-way test to attendance:

- 1. Is my absence due to a true reason?
- 2. Is it fair to all fellow Rotarians who come to enjoy fellowship?
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- 4. Is it beneficial to all concerned?

The Club went to the extent of publishing member-wise statistics in one of its Lighthouse issues and agonized over what could be done with Rtn. K. Easwaran of the renowned Easun Group, for his attendance percentage was never above single digits. Eventually, the axe, by way of Section 2 of Article IV of the Club, fell on him, as it did on many others over the years. "Chronic and incorrigible absentees are being removed from the rolls one by one," gloated the newsletter of January 31, 1961.

> Courtesy: **Rtn. V. Sriram,** Renowned Historian.

Sourced by : Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath

Add Vibrancy to Your Festivities!

Introducing Taamboolam Gift Bags, lovingly crafted by our talented tailoring students at Sembakkam.

More than 500 bags already ordered on Saturday's meeting! So grab them quickly.

- Set of 10 bags for Rs. 1000
- Glittering jewel tones to brighten up your gifting
- Bulk orders welcome for all festive occasions!



RCM Selayur & Sembakkam Thamboolam Gift Bags

Order now and support our students' skills and add colour and meaning to your gifts!



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 15th October.





Issue 14 : Best Captions

- 'Now you too can become RCM secretary' says Rajesh Mani ... - Rtn. Vijay Dugar
- 2. "I have got your back buddy, not to worry" Rtn. Fharzana Siraj
- "Stalwart in Hotel management discussing on a hotel in an Ashok Leyland Bus with Al concepts."
 – Rtn. PP. Shanker C. Mangadu
- 4. "Straight out of a Raymond's Ad." Rtn. Asha Mathen
- 5. "Hey Prakash, the dress code was 'informal'... not in formal." - Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain
- 6. "Bro, trust me, this time, it is really the secret to success!" – Rtn. N.K. Bhatia



GO COLORS!

Leggings | Joggers | Ethnic | Palazzos | Jeggings | Pants | Denim | Culottes & more

Present across **150+ cities** with over **650+ exclusive brand stores** in all leading malls, high street & airports. **Shop Online** at www.gocolors.com