

THE LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 18 | November 3, 2024



Boosting Health Infrastructure



Dear RCMers,

Donating equipment to bolster the country's public health care facilities is a continuing mission for RCM.

Following the supply of an ambulance to the 'Government R.S.R.M Lying In Hospital' towards the end of the last Rotary year, RCM followed it up with the donation of a "Patient and Blood transportation vehicle" last week.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghuandan
Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

Rotary Club of Madras

19th
Weekly
Meeting

Speaker :
GOWRI KAILASAM
CEO: SLD & LMCI/Manager, Rane Madras Ltd

Topic :
Rethinking Mobility:
Women's Role in the Future of
India's Auto Industry

Tuesday, 5th November 2024 | 1.30 pm
Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting

Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
President

Rtn. Shanno Ravi
Director - Club Service

Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan
Chairperson - Programs Committee

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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- Director - Youth Service**
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- Director - Community Health**
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- Treasurer - RCMCT**
Rtn. A. Gooch Kumar
- Director - Fund Raising & PR**
Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan

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- Chairperson :** Rtn. Akur Raman Raghuandan
- Co-Chairman :** Mr.Madhu Mathen
- Mentors :** Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath
Rtn. PP.Indra Subramanyam

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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:

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Visit RCM's official website
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CONTACT RCM SECRETARY AT:
office@rotarymadras.in

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) Minutes of the 18th Weekly Meeting

held at the BATTERY BAR of the Gymkhana Club on 29th October 2024

Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 06.30 PM

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

President Chella Krishna G. called the 18th 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 17th weekly meeting minutes, which was passed and adopted by the members.

Introduction of Guests and Attendees:

The President welcomed visiting Rotarians, Probians, and other guests, including Mr. Ramalingam of the Probus Club of Chennai and he also welcomed the spouses of Rotarians.

Focus on Community Service Projects:

President Chella Krishna G. highlighted the evening's focus on the club's various service projects, thanking the Board of Directors, committed donors, and TRF (The Rotary Foundation) partners. He underscored the impact of RCM's initiatives, noting both achievements and challenges across projects.

Presentations by the Directors on Community Service Projects:

Homes for the Homeless Project:

Rtn Anuradha Ganesan, Director of Community Services I, presented updates on the "Homes for the Homeless" initiative. This project provides housing for the rural tribal community, aiming to construct 100 homes with a budget of Rs. 4.35 crores through a Global Grant. Key milestones include:

Completion and handover of 29 homes at Bommajikulam, costing Rs. 3.6 lakhs each.

Ongoing construction of 25 homes with enhanced facilities at Amarambedu, including two rooms, concrete roofing, and kitchen facilities, at Rs. 4.35 lakhs per home.

WASH Projects:

At Sri Ramakrishna Math National School, a new toilet complex, noon meal kitchen, and classrooms are under construction to support 500 students.

Government Adi Dravidar Welfare School received infrastructure improvements like new classrooms, toilet blocks, and a septic tank.

Balwadi Project for Early Childhood Development:

Nine Balwadi centers will provide healthcare, early learning, and nutrition for over 3,200 families. Currently,

construction is underway at Kanathur and Padur, with the total project cost at Rs. 63 lakhs.

Environmental Initiatives:

Restoration efforts of Old Perungalathur Lake, covering 64 acres, commenced in October, benefiting over 2 lakh people.

Other lake restorations include the Kadaperi Lake project in West Tambaram.

Monthly recycling efforts, zoo projects, and "Towards Zero Waste" at Rotary Nagar were also discussed, promoting sustainable community practices.

Technical Training and Rural Education Programs:

A vocational center trains differently-abled boys in trades like horticulture and smartphone repair. Currently, 112 boys are trained annually with funding of Rs. 25 lakhs.

The Rotary Club of Madras continues to make a significant impact through various projects. Our vocational training program, in partnership with Worth Trust, supports 112 beneficiaries annually, helping them develop valuable skills recognized by the National Council for Vocational Training. This August, we celebrated the graduation of 29 students, and in September, 36 new students joined the program. The training is supported by a dedicated team of four teaching staff.

In rural education, we operate tuition centers across four villages with a budget of approximately Rs. 3 lakhs, reaching around 150 children. Additionally, the Boys Town project provides 78 boys with boarding and lodging, supported by a budget of Rs. 52 lakhs, of which Wartsila generously contributes Rs. 44 to 46 lakhs annually.

The International Children's Trust (ICT) sponsors 25 students, with plans to expand sponsorship to over 30 students next year. We're also finalizing a six-month contract with Sudar to offer evening tuition classes. By adopting CWC guidelines, we aim to grow our Boys Town project's capacity to serve up to 150 boys.

This Diwali, we're bringing extra joy to Boys Town! Thanks to Shanno Ravi's kind donation of Rs. 20,000, the boys will enjoy a Tamil blockbuster movie, complete with popcorn. President Chella's sponsorship of Rs. 25,000 will provide each boy with a new t-shirt, while the Boys Town Committee is also gifting crackers and new clothes for all staff.

Highlights of Youth Service Achievements:

Interact Clubs: There are 28 clubs divided across zones. July's Zoom coordinator meetings and the successful

UNIFI installation program at Rani Seethai Hall were the key highlights.

Streetscape also received positive attention, showing how Rotary youth involvement is making a tangible difference in the community.

Rotaract Club Projects: Signature projects like the fundraising cultural events and Kids Payanam for orphaned children showcase the creativity and commitment of the youth team. The sports goods distribution and library setup funded by donations from our Rotary members underscore the broad impact of these efforts.

Vocational Service Presentation by Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti :

Key Vocational Service Initiatives:

Skill Development Training: Training in computer skills, tailoring, embroidery, and more was successfully imparted.

Education Support and Scholarships: Supporting 12 children with scholarships and partnering with Tata Edge to improve school infrastructure and teaching quality has made a difference in educational access.

Corporate Partnership: Collaboration with Reddington to establish a STEM laboratory for broader STEM education access.

These efforts, the commitment to ongoing support, and exploring best practices with organizations like Vidhya Vidhai reflect RCM's dedication to community service and development.

Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan summarized our Club's Health Initiatives

Opening Remarks:

He emphasized the importance of funding and resources for the success of the Club's health projects.

Cancer Initiatives:

The Club has expanded its cancer prevention efforts to include children, focusing on vaccinations alongside women's breast cancer detection. We have secured two mammogram donations, with one machine ready and another in progress. Additionally, the Club has introduced a cervical cancer vaccination and awareness campaign, aiming to scale this program to reach a million children over time. Rtn.A.M.Visvanathan urged members to support and provide feedback on the vision.

Project Closures:

He highlighted the completion of significant projects, including donations of ambulances and a dialysis unit, with plans to wrap up all outstanding grants.

Child Health Partnerships:

The Club has coordinated with Apollo Hospitals and

Reddington, completing 25 surgeries and planning to extend services to Mumbai.

Sanitation and Health Infrastructure:

Rtn.Visvanathan outlined the progress on "his and her" sanitation facilities, with four centers being set up and shared updates on the Senior Citizens Home, for which funding is underway.

Targeted Health Camps:

The Club has revamped its medical camp strategy by setting up continuous health monitoring in villages. Child Trust Hospital will handle primary care and coordinate with nearby tertiary facilities.

Collaborative Projects:

He mentioned partnerships with other clubs for initiatives like diabetes awareness and wheelchair donations, increasing outreach and impact.

Dialysis and Mental Health Support:

Dialysis services remain a priority, with plans for additional machines at ACS Hospital, while a new mental health initiative is underway to support children with special needs, with a focus on training school administrators and teachers.

In closing, Rtn.Visvanathan encouraged feedback and support, stressing the value of sustained collaboration and visionary goals for long-term impact.

Fundraising and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives :

Rtn.Prasanna Rajagopalan and Rtn.Ganesh Ananthakrishnan highlighted their efforts and progress in fundraising, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and future events for the Rotary Club of Madras.

Key Points from Rtn.Prasanna's and Rtn.Ganesh's Speeches:

1. Fundraising vs. CSR : They outlined the distinction between fundraising (focusing on marquee events that raise funds for charitable causes) and CSR initiatives (partnering with corporate donors and leveraging technology to streamline donations).

2. Technological Initiatives: They discussed crowd-sourced funding trials via Razorpay, aiming to refine the process and improve accessibility.

3. CSR Efforts and Collaborations: Recognition of Rotarians and corporate partners who supported CSR initiatives.

Acknowledgment of key Rotarians, like Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan and Rtn.V.S. Narasimhan , who connected the club with corporations such as Reddington, Lucas TVS, and IDFC.

Highlighted projects facing execution challenges,

such as State Highway Department permissions, with Rotarians like Rtn.R.Ravishankar and PP. Rtn.Vivek Harinarain helping to navigate these issues.

4. Event Planning : The Club has planned five major fundraising events, including a golf tournament, the RCMPL (Rotary Cricket Premier League), a theatre event, and an art auction. Each event has been assigned a committee lead and has substantial fundraising targets.

5.CSR and TRF Contributions: Rtn.Prasanna Rajagopalan and Rtn.Ganesh Ananthakrishnan reported substantial CSR pledges, amounting to ₹7.67 crores, from both internal members and corporate partners, with notable contributions from Access Health, Century Flour Mills, and Reddington.

TRF (The Rotary Foundation) contributions were also emphasized, bringing in pledges from various Rotarians, with an estimated total of ₹13.22 crores for CSR and TRF combined .

6. Q3 Push for CSR: The presentation ended with a call to action for members to secure corporate contributions in the third quarter, stressing that the window for donations is closing.

The presentation emphasized teamwork, strategic partnerships, and significant progress in both fundraising and CSR efforts, demonstrating the club's ongoing dedication to its charitable projects.

Summary of Rtn Asha Mathen and Rtn Gooch's presentations:

Rtn Asha Mathen:

Rtn. Asha Mathen started by expressing gratitude to her support team, including chartered accountants Rtn. Gooch and Rtn.Chella, in managing the club's funds. She highlighted a few areas of extra spending, particularly on new materials due to a district change, but reassured members that finances were largely under control. Despite some unresolved GST demands, the club has secured recoveries and expects a favorable outcome in ongoing litigation. She mentioned reinstating fixed deposits for statutory requirements and direct payments to vendors, which strengthens financial controls.

Rtn. Asha Mathen also shared efforts to maintain self-sufficiency for the Boys Town Society, supported by a recent follow-up that secured funds from the International Children's Trust UK. She encouraged members to contribute to the Irular home and other projects through the JAYA fundraising theatre event, noting that a donor pass at ₹25,000 could support various causes. Emphasizing fundraising, she set a high goal of raising ₹1 crore through ticket sales for the upcoming JAYA theatre event.

Rtn Gooch Kumar:

Gooch commended Asha's approach and provided an overview of the club's financials and compliance status. He pointed out the club's impressive growth in funding community projects, noting that their target has expanded from ₹6 crore to ₹24 crore in recent years. He confirmed that the club is compliant with TDS, FCRA, and other requirements, though some minor issues are being addressed, particularly regarding GST notices, which he expects to resolve without significant liabilities.

He explained the club's cash flow, with both corpus and non-corpus funds available for current and future projects. Gooch praised the team for transitioning from a cash deficit in July to a stable surplus, ensuring timely vendor payments and continuity of projects. He highlighted that, given the club's growth, they might soon need a professional setup for administrative support to sustain operations at the current pace.

Both Rtn. Asha Mathen and Rtn. Gooch Kumar underscored the importance of effective financial management, member support and long-term planning, to ensure the Rotary Club's ongoing success and impact in the community.

Presentation by Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran

Presentation on RCM IPL-Type Tournament: Rtn Shivkumar shared his vision of organizing an IPL-type cricket tournament for RCM, initially launched last year. The purpose of this tournament is to foster fellowship and raise funds for the club.

Last year's tournament had eight teams, raised a significant amount of funds, and engaged over 400 Rotarians from the district.

This year, Rtn Shivkumar aims to make the event bigger and better, incorporating feedback and improvements from the previous year.

Most team owners from last year will return, including Rotarians Shivkumar, S. Balakrishna (Bobby), PP.Dr. Arulmozhi Varman, Bharat Shivkumar, Rajesh Somasundar, and Ashok Thakkar (team reconstituted). New team owners joining this year are Rotarians IPP. Sundaresan Ravi and Rahul Saraogi.

The executive committee, comprising Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran as Chairman, Rtn. S. Balakrishna (Bobby) as Co-Chairman, Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan as Secretary, and Rtn. Vummidi Shailesh Raj as Treasurer, is considering increasing the number of teams.

The fellowship kick-off event is scheduled for November 10 at the Madras Cricket Club, with the main tournament to be held in February.

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran highlighted the need for greater participation from Rotarians and their spouses to enhance fellowship, drawing inspiration from the Paul Harris Cricket Tournament by Rotary Club East.

He encouraged all members to participate in making this year's tournament a success and thanked the President for the opportunity.

Presentation by Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi

Updates from the RCM District Interface Committee : Rtn. IPP.S. Ravi provided updates on RCM's engagement within the district, emphasizing the importance of strengthening bonds with other clubs and showcasing RCM's 96-year legacy.

The district currently comprises 81 clubs, with a total membership of approximately 3412 Rotarians. Since July, 36 RCM members have taken up roles within the district.

To foster relationships, 25 club presidents and 78 district officials have attended RCM meetings, allowing them to experience RCM's structure and impact.

Joint projects are underway in three main areas:

Bio-toilets for Chennai traffic police: In collaboration with 28 clubs, RCM is installing 100 bio-toilets at strategic traffic locations. The first phase (28 toilets) will be completed by November 15.

Eco-pressing iron project: RCM is partnering with 24 clubs to replace coal-based irons with LPG-powered irons for approximately 5,000 "Istri Vyaparis" (press operators), reducing annual coal usage by 700 tons and improving the working conditions and productivity of press operators.

WASH project in schools: RCM is implementing WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) programs in five schools, with Sarada Vidyalaya nearing completion and set for inauguration next month.

RCM is also supporting other clubs in CSR and global grant applications.

RCM is a co-host for the district conference on March 1-2, with a launch event scheduled for November 6. A total of 1,260 registrations have already been completed, indicating strong support for the conference.

IPP.S. Ravi expressed gratitude to the President and Board for their backing.

Club Service Update

Committees: Rtn.Shanno Ravi outlined the 13 verticals under club services, emphasizing the Taria committee responsible for technology, attendance, Rotary India, and archives.

Attendance System: The new face-recognition

attendance system was introduced, making it easier for members to track attendance.

Rotary India App: Members were encouraged to utilize the updated app for information on projects, events and club activities, with a QR code available for downloading.

Digital Archiving: Plans for digital archiving and creating a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) manual for future Boards were discussed.

Constitution and Bylaws :Led by Rtn Rajasekar Gorantla, the team provides timely guidance on constitutional queries.

Official Events :Rtn Siddharth Ganeriwala was commended for his excellent organization of the installation of President G.Chella Krishna. Rtn.PP. Paul K. Jacob received praise for his meticulous execution of the International Peace Evening.

Club Fellowships : Rtn. Suman Voora announced upcoming fellowships, including a cricket fellowship on November 10 at the Madras Cricket Club.

Fireside Meetings : Rtn. Kamala Ramakrishnan reported on the success of six fireside meetings with good attendance and participation.

Domestic Tours : Two tours were planned: a bonding event in Mumbai, organized by Rtn.Hemu Ramaiah and spouse, and a sold-out Brahmaputra River Cruise, curated by Rtn. Ashish Gupta and spouse.

Membership Development :Led by Rtn. Vikram Chesetty, the membership currently stands at 289. Efforts are being made to improve the representation of women members and maintain quality in new inductions.

Member Engagement :Rtn.PP. George Cherian shared efforts to increase member engagement, with an average attendance of 110 at meetings. Upcoming events include a quiz competition and a badminton event.

Child Protection and Harassment Policies :Rtn. Dr.Sharon Krishna Rau spoke about the establishment of committees to address sexual harassment and child protection, emphasizing RCM's zero tolerance policy.

Suggestions :Rtn.PDG.Benjamin Cherian congratulated the directors for their efforts and suggested engaging social work students for project assessments.

Rtn. N.K Gopinath raised a query about funding models and corporate CSR contributions.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with thanks to all members for their contributions and efforts.

The meeting was adjourned.



Life-Saving Transportation for Government R.S.R.M Hospital



The Government R.S.R.M Lying-in Hospital is a Tertiary Hospital located in the heart of North Chennai catering to patients from a large geographical area.

Established 146 years ago, their quality of work and their dedication attracts extremely serious cases from the city and even the state of Tamil Nadu to this medical centre.

In spite of these impressive credentials, it is unfortunate that they lacked basic infrastructure to support their dedicated operations.

RCM stepped in last year to solve some of their basic infrastructure needs. We supplied an Ambulance to the hospital towards the end of the last Rotary year, followed by a “Patient and Blood transportation vehicle” last week.





At a recent event celebrating these donations, senior government officials lauded RCM's commitment and called for even greater collaboration on health projects in the area. Dr. Thiru Kalanidhi Veerasamy, North Chennai Lok Sabha MP, Thiru I-Dreams R. Murthy, MLA, and Dr. Shanthi K. Elango, Superintendent of R.S.R.M Hospital, were among the distinguished attendees who addressed the gathering. Their support underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in strengthening healthcare delivery.

North Chennai is an underserved segment of the city with a large segment of population from the less affluent sections of society, and this makes our project more meaningful.

We hope to continue supporting this geographical area and such dedicated institutions in the true spirit of service.

**- Rtn.A.M.Visvanathan
Director Community Service 2**

Rotary Club of Madras

in association with

accesshealthcare™

presents its fundraiser

Lillete Dubey's JAYA

A Rock Musical of the Mahabharata

(a re-telling of the Mahabharata in the form of a magnum opus English rock musical)

After a stellar run in NCPA Mumbai and Siri Fort Delhi, JAYA comes to Chennai

Front rows reserved exclusively for Rotarians, with donor passes of Rs. 25,000/- (Admit 2)

Pick up a pass! Support our projects!

Sunday, 15th Dec '24, 2 shows (4:30 pm & 7:30)

Contact: Rtn. Asha Mathen: 98402 98983
to block your donor passes.



Dear Rotarians,

Hope you and your families had a happy Deepavali !

Thanks to your support, these families in Irumbedu, Thathaiyarkandigai and Bommajikulam are celebrating a wonderful Deepavali in their new homes !



Ammu and Surya's hut in Kovalam Kuppamedu before October 2023



Ammu and Surya celebrating this Deepavali in front of their new home.

Goodwill Ambassador Online

RCMers who travel are encouraged to interact with Rotary Clubs overseas and many who do so, are our goodwill ambassadors.

RCM's resident life coach Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti had the honour of addressing the Rotary Club of Ethiopia (Dist9212) in a captivating online session on 'Cultivating Mental Flourishing in the Workplace.'

This event coincided with World Mental Health Day and was hosted by District 9212, aptly named "Chapter-in-formation," which spans four countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan.

Like many of our International Rotary collaborations, this connection was wonderfully facilitated by our esteemed Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath. The event was brilliantly orchestrated by Rtn. Ms. Yeddah B Machage,

the Head of the Rotary Action Group's Mental Health initiative for the district. It attracted an impressive online turnout from Rotary clubs across Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Sudan, Kenya and several other African nations.

The meeting's structure introduced us to a refreshing method - every participant unmuted themselves to recite the Rotary toast and the Four-Way test aloud.

Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti, our standout guest speaker, took the virtual stage with his engaging and relatable presentation style, imparting invaluable insights into the significance of mental well-being in the workplace.

With his dynamic delivery, Sanjay demystified the often-unspoken struggles in articulating mental

health concerns and offered practical, anecdotal advice on achieving life balance. His message resonated deeply with attendees, making it memorable and impactful.

A spirited Q&A session followed, where the chat box overflowed with praise and appreciation for Sanjay's illuminating talk.

As the meeting wrapped up with heartfelt thanks, the organizers expressed their gratitude to our dedicated RCMers - Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti, Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath and Rtn. Suresh Amirapu for attending enthusiastically, even at the late hour of Indian time. It was an inspiring gathering that left everyone enriched and eager for more cross-border collaboration.

Rtn. Suresh Amirapu,
Chairman International Services



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 5th Nov.

Issue 18



Issue 17 : Best Captions

1. For mesmerizing performance its always 'Wah Taj...oops sorry... its WAH RCM WAH' - **Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain**
2. President Chella says "Navigating life one sip at a time, because every journey needs a little pause and perspective." - **Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia**
3. Shanno: "Hey, what did you add to their coffee? They are talking nonsense!" - **Rtn. Deepak Chander**
4. "Dry day? No worries! Forget drinking glasses, mindfully grab a teacup!" - **Rtn. Asha Mathen**
5. "Tea time tales and timeless smiles- when chai brings out the charm!" - **Rtn. N. K Bhatia**
6. "Chai pe charcha!" - **Rtn. PP. S. Gunashekar**

HPVax

From Awareness to Vaccination

RCM recently conducted two awareness events on the 10th and 24th of October at RKM Sarada Vidyalaya Higher Secondary School as part of a series of planned awareness activities at the Sarada Vidyalaya group of schools, which was first initiated on the 31st of August.

A total of 450 to 500 parents and teachers attended these two events, which were hosted in the school auditorium. We started the events after a small Invocation prayer and an introduction by Mrs. Shanthi, the headmistress of the school.

During the event, we distributed information sheets and consent forms in Tamil for all the attendees to take away and read before giving consent for vaccination. At the end of the session, we had a productive Q&A with the gathering.



A final list of children willing is being drawn by the school. The free vaccination will be carried out at the Cancer Institute, Adyar. An initial group of 117 girls from these events has already undergone vaccination on the 26th of October and we aim to complete the vaccinations from this school during November as we move on to the next group of schools as part of our campaign.

So far, our awareness events have reached around 2,900 individuals. We have vaccinated 313 girls, of which 14 have received their second doses.

All of this has been possible only because of the support and generosity of our members and Team CPAC is very grateful for this.

- Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan



World Heart Day Celebration

The Rotary Club of Madras was the lead sponsor of Rotary District 3234's World Heart Day celebration, held on 26th October at Dr.MGR - Janaki College of Arts and Science. Several members of our club attended the event.

The event took place in a packed auditorium with several dignitaries from the Rotary world, including District Governor Rtn. N.S. Saravanan, DG Elect Rtn. Vinod Saraogi, DG Nominee Rtn. Suresh Jain and President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna.

The World Heart Day celebration was co-ordinated by Rtn. Dr. Ravi Varma, Chair of District Community Services Health and executed by a team of committed Rotarians from several clubs. The event included a Health Walk, a Yoga Demonstration, talks by eminent cardiologists and a CPR demonstration session.

Importantly, the event also marked the district-wide launch of RCM's flagship project, "HPVAX." A short awareness movie was played to highlight the importance of HPV vaccination in cervical cancer prevention.



Following that, DG Rtn. N.S. Saravanan and President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna officially launched the HPVAX Program of District 3234. This was followed by an address by our President, who spoke about RCM's experience and strategies to scale up the program to create a wider impact in society.

The District Governor also launched the "Healthy Rotary Club" Challenge which aims to encourage Clubs to focus on their members' health and fitness, and challenges clubs within the district to compete and excel in this area.

RCM's involvement and contribution were appreciated and applauded, with promises made for more collaborative efforts in the coming months to exponentially amplify the impact of our District's several meaningful projects.

Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan

Hope for Homeless Project



On October 25, 2024, the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) held a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of 25 homes for the Irular community in Irumbedu Village, Chengalpattu.

These families previously lived near the Kovalam garbage dump, sunnambu Kalvai and Thiruporur Hill in unsanitary and challenging conditions. Among the beneficiaries is a family with a transgender member, highlighting the inclusive spirit of the project.

The Irular communities found across Tamil Nadu have long endured social and economic disadvantages, often residing in temporary shelters with little security. With AID India as the project’s execution partner, RCM is committed to building sustainable housing to ensure these families can live with dignity and stability.

At 8.45 a.m., jubilant residents welcomed the Rotarians on-site with Aarthi, garlands and a thundu headband as a symbol of respect. Ac-

companied by traditional music, the dignitaries were led to the Bhoomi Pooja. The placement of bricks symbolized the first step towards building the homes.

Rotarians in Attendance:

- Rtn. G. Chella Krishna** - President
- Rtn. S. Ravi** – Immediate Past President (IPP)
- Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan** - Director of Community Services 1
- Rtn. Mahinder Jain**
- Rtn. PDG. R. Benjamin Cherian**
- Rtn. Nikhil Raj**
- Rtn. N. Prakash** - Chairperson - Homes for the Homeless

Rtn. Divya Poudval and Rtn Siddharth Hande - Green Rotarians
Ann Vasugi Kathiresan

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan opened the speeches with an overview of Rotary’s initiatives and expressed gratitude for Rtn. Mahinder Jain’s generosity. She praised AID India for its commitment to quality work.

Dr. Anuradha urged residents to prioritize their children’s education. She provided details of the houses, each covering 340 sq ft, with two rooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a thinnai. Each home will be equipped with lights, fans and full electrical and plumbing infrastructure. She assured the community that RCM would remain involved, monitoring the homes and addressing future needs.

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna followed with words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of privacy and comfort these homes would provide. He expressed appreciation for the effort of Rtn. Mahinder Jain and acknowledged the dedication of Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, IPP S.Ravi, Rtn. N. Prakash and other Rotarians, for their consistent efforts in overcoming government challenges.

He also recognized Rtn. PDG Ganapathi and Rtn. R. Ravishankar for their support and guidance for this project.

Balaji Sampath, Director of AID India, shared a heartening milestone, announcing that the first girl from the community had enrolled in college. He thanked Rotary for its ongoing support and contributions to various community service initiatives.

IPP S.Ravi addressed the residents, affirming that these homes would serve as a foundation for future achievements. He expressed gratitude for Rtn. Mahinder Jain’s substantial contributions, and encouraged the families to make the most of this opportunity for growth and stability.

Rtn. N. Prakash, Chair of Homes for the Homeless, spoke on the transformative potential of this project, expressing hope that the new homes would significantly enhance the residents’ quality of life.

Rotarians interacted with the beneficiaries with heartfelt exchanges, as several residents shared personal stories and expressed their gratitude to the Rotarians.

Following the ceremony, Rotarians enjoyed a hot breakfast in the model house built earlier and food packets were distributed to the beneficiaries. The event concluded with Rotarians departing, ea-



gerly anticipating the day—just four months from now—when these houses will be completed and as symbols of hope and new beginnings for 25 families in Irumbedu Village.

Rtn.Dr.Anuradha Ganesan
Director Community Service I

Birthdays (4th Nov. to 10th Nov 2024)	
Rtn. Harbinder Singh Rattha	4/11
Rtn. Jayant Hemdev	4/11
Rtn. Nikhil Raj	4/11
Rtn. Sunil Sudhakar Shanker	5/11
Rtn. Vikram Jalan	6/11
Rtn. Nalini Radhakrishnan	7/11
Rtn. Raja V	8/11
Rtn. Nalli Kuppaswami Chetti	9/11
Rtn. Rajesh Vummidi	10/11
Spouses’ Birthdays	
Ann. Jayanthi, Spouse of Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur	4/11
Ann. Nita, Spouse of Rtn. Hiren Bhasker Shah	6/11
Ann. Kiran Jhaver, Spouse of Rtn. R.K. Jhaver	6/11
Ann. Dr. V. Nilaya Reddy, Spouse of Rtn. Dr. Yashwanth Kumar Venkataraman	6/11
Ann. Lalitha, Spouse of Rtn. Rajesh Shankar	8/11
Ann. Vasanthi, Spouse of Rtn. PP. K.N. Raja	10/11
Wedding Anniversary	
Rtn. D. Harikrishna & Smitha	8/11

I Scream, You Scream, We Scream, Ice Cream!

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) organized an industrial visit in batches, for Interactors from twelve schools, to Kwality Milk Foods Ltd in Kanchipuram on October 25, 2024. The visit aimed to provide the students with an immersive learning experience, exposing them to the processes and operations involved in dairy product manufacturing.

Participating Schools

1. AgurchandManmull Jain School (AMJ School)
2. Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar
3. Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Sr. Secondary School, Thiruvamniyur
4. Vidya Mandir, Mylapore
5. L.M. Dadha School
6. Kerala Vidyalayam, Hr. Secondary School
7. CSI Ewart Matriculation Girls School
8. Vidya Mandir, Estancia
9. Sherwood Hall Senior Secondary School
10. The Chintadripet Higher Secondary School
11. Omega International School
12. Boys Town School

Rotary Coordinators

The event was organized and coordinated by:

- **Rtn. Balaji Chinni,**
Youth Service Director
- **Rtn. E. Aswath Kumar Reddy-**
Chairman- New Learnings Visit
- **Rtn. Deepak Chander**
Co- Chair- New Learnings Visit
- **Rtn. Vinay Mohan**
Interact Zone 1 Chairperson
- **Rtn Shivkumar Vellur**
Interact Zone 2 Chairperson
- **Rtn.PP. Jayshree Sridhar**
Interact Zone 3 Chairperson



Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar

“It was a delightful way to appreciate the outcome of the production process. Overall, it was an enriching experience that deepened students’ understanding of the industrial processes.”

Vidya Mandir @ Estancia

“The tour highlighted the factory's commitment to hygiene standards, modern processing machinery and rigorous quality control to ensure product safety and freshness.”

Chintadripet Boys Higher Secondary School

“On behalf of the students, faculty coordinators and the CHSS school management; we extend our sincere thanks to Rtn. IPP. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn Balaji Chinni sir and all the other Rotarians who contributed to making this trip a success.”

Agurchand Manmull Jain School

“The visit to the factory was very informative and educational. On behalf of our school Management, we thank all our Rotarians, especially Rtn.PP. Jayshree Sridhar and Mr. Balaji Chinni for providing this wonderful opportunity.”

Sherwood Hall Senior Secondary School

“The visit not only enabled us to witness the manufacturing process of milk, curd, cheese, butter, paneer and ice cream but also taught us the basics of running an industry and how large-scale industries help to meet the needs of the people.”



Conclusion

The industrial visit to Kwalty Milk Foods Ltd was a highly educational and enriching experience for all the students and faculty members. It provided deep insights into the complexities of dairy production, including processes such as pasteurization, homogenization, cold storage, and packaging. Students gained valuable exposure to real-world industrial practices and saw first-hand how industries balance innovation, quality control, and hygiene.

Rotary Nostalgia

World Polio Day - History

World Polio Day was established by Rotary International to commemorate the work of Jonas Salk, who developed the first successful polio vaccine in 1955. His vaccine dramatically reduced polio cases, but the fight for total eradication continues.

Here are some key milestones related to World Polio Day:

1955: Introduction of the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) by Jonas Salk.

1961: The Oral polio vaccine (OPV) developed by Albert Sabin, which is widely used for immunization programs.

1985: Rotary International launches the PolioPlus program, a global initiative to eradicate polio.

1988: The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched by Rotary International and World Health Organization (WHO).

1994: America was declared polio-free.

2000: The Western Pacific, including China and Australia, became polio-free.

2014: India and Bangladesh were declared polio-free by the WHO. The Polio cases have decreased by over 99%, since 1988.

2020: The World Health Organization certifies the African region as free from wild polio.

These milestones reflect the enormous progress toward a polio-free world, largely due to international cooperation and mass immunization campaigns.

What is Polio Disease?

Polio or poliomyelitis, is a highly contagious 'enteroviruses' caused by the poliovirus. It mainly affects children under the age of five, attacking the nervous system and leading to paralysis.

In some cases, polio can cause

permanent disability or death.

Common symptoms of polio include:

- **Fever**
- **Fatigue**
- **Headache**
- **Vomiting**
- **Stiffness in the neck**
- **Pain in the limbs**

While there is no cure for polio, it can be effectively prevented with the polio vaccine. Vaccination campaigns have significantly reduced the incidence of polio worldwide, highlighting the importance of immunization in protecting vulnerable populations.

Polio Eradication Initiatives

Polio eradication initiatives are the key to fighting against global polio. The largest public health campaign to combat polio, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), was launched in 1988. This initiative brings together organizations like the World Health Organization, Rotary International and UNICEF to work toward a polio-free world.

Similarly, the Indian government has launched many initiatives to eradicate this disease, including:

- **Pulse Polio Immunization Program:** This initiative involved mass vaccination campaigns where children under the age of five receive the oral polio vaccine.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** The government conducted extensive awareness programs to educate parents about the importance of vaccinating their children against polio and addressing all misconceptions.
- **House-to-House Surveys:** Health workers performed house-to-house visits to identify unvaccinated children, ensuring that every child is vaccinated, especially in remote areas.

- **Collaboration with NGOs:** The Indian government partners with non-governmental organizations like Rotary and GPEI to enhance outreach and mobilize communities for vaccination drives.

Thanks to these comprehensive efforts, India was declared polio-free in 2014, demonstrating the effectiveness of targeted public health initiatives in combating this disease.

Current Status of Polio

The current status of polio shows that great progress has been made in reducing cases worldwide. However, some areas still have active polio infections, highlighting the need to continue vaccinating and staying alert.

Polio Cases in the World

Although most regions are now polio-free, the disease persists in certain areas particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The environmental monitoring data shows concerning trends in Pakistan, where 32 positive samples of wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) reported in 2024, a sharp increase from 12 samples in all of 2023. Similarly, Afghanistan has detected 22 positive samples this year, reflecting a rise compared to previous years.

World Polio Day 2024 Significance

The World Polio Day 2024 encourages governments and other stakeholders to remain proactive in their efforts, ensuring that the disease does not make its comeback. This day is significant in reminding the world of the importance of vaccination and the need for continued vigilance to achieve a polio-free world.

Sourced by
- **Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath**

Rotary
District 3234



RCM



PREMIER LEAGUE

REGISTRATION OPENS ON 5th NOVEMBER 2024

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 05
AT 08:00 PM

The first 250 registrations will enter
the auction format.

Registrations beyond 250 will be
placed on a reserve list.

To register, www.rcmpremierleague.com

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran
Chairman - RCML

Rtn. S. Balakrishna
Co-Chairman - RCML

Rtn. A R Raghunandan
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