

THE

LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 27 | January 05, 2025





Dear RCMers,

It is indeed a happy coincidence that just ahead of the Vocational Service Month, RCM in partnership with RI District 3234, inaugurated the Rotary Skill Development Centre. Our cover story this week.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan
Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

Rotary Club of Madras THE MAGIC OF ROTARY BOND BUILD BRING CHEER

Rtn. AKS. PP. Ranjit Pratap
&
Ann. Uma
Invite you with your family
for the

Pongal Vizha

Sunday,
12th January, 2025
11 am onwards
at Villa Enchantress,
14 Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram,
Chennai-600085.

Dress: Traditional South Indian - with a sustainable twist

Rtn. G. Chella Krishna President	Rtn. Rajesh Mani Honorary Secretary
Rtn. Shanno Ravi Director Club Service	Rtn. Suman Voora Chairperson Full Club Fellowship

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Dear Members,

At the outset, let me wish you an enjoyable and fulfilling year ahead. January brings with it the promise of new beginnings, and for us at Rotary, it is the month to focus on Vocational Service.

This theme aligns perfectly with Rotary International's emphasis on empowering individuals through professional development and ethical practices.

Our Vocational Services Team at RCM under the strong and able leadership of Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti has been working tirelessly over the last six months to strengthen and refine our offerings, ensuring they are impactful and relevant to today's community needs.

Key highlights of our Vocational Services efforts include:

- * Professionalizing our programs: Introducing a fee structure for participants, which adds value and fosters commitment.
- * Strategic collaborations: Partnering with organizations like the NIIT Foundation and the Apparel Councils to deliver industry-relevant training and certifications.
- * Recalibrating our offerings: Phasing out courses that no longer serve the community effectively and focusing on new, impactful initiatives that address current vocational needs.

Exciting Initiatives This Month:

This January, we are thrilled to roll out a series of initiatives and events. These include workshops, skill-development programs, and collaborative partnerships, all designed to create lasting value for our beneficiaries.

Let's Join Hands

I encourage all of you to attend and support these initiatives. Let's celebrate the spirit of service through vocation and create meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

Looking forward to your active participation!

Warm regards,
Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
 President
 Rotary Club of Madras



FRI 10	GRADUATION - AUTO RICKSHAW & NURSE AIDES (NGO ANEW)
SAT 11	AI TRAINING - RCMERS
WED 22	'LIVING THE FOUR WAY TEST' - VIDEOS LAUNCHED
SUN 26	TRIBAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED
SUN 26	REPUBLIC DAY WEEKLY MEETING - SELIAYUR





Dear fellow RCMers & spouses,

Happy 2025!

January is buzzing with activities!

Please make the time & effort to participate in as many events as possible!

It is curated for you!

Pongal full club fellowship, is being hosted on **Sunday, 12th January** by **Rtn AKS PP Ranjit Pratap & spouse Uma**

The **environmental committee** is working alongside the hosts to have a fair on sustainability alongside the fun and games in their beautiful home !

This is a FAMILY event.

We have Several **firesides** in cozy settings!, thank you hosts!

Every weekly meeting has an amazing speakers!... **Programs committee** thank you.

It's **vocational services** month and a whole host of programs curated with this theme in mind! Follow the calendar shared by our President, this morning.

The **holistic committee** is having a special session for those interested on “**the seven slices of happiness**”, curated by Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti.

A quick dash to **Pulicat** happens for those keen to see the migrating flamingos on the 5th!

Constant work happens in the **health vertical** through HPVAX camps and diabetes awareness camps!

The lucky Interactors have a **RYLA** planned at Kumbakonam!

The *Golf tournament & fund raiser* brings all January to a grand finale!... come be a cheerleader or come and join us In the non golfer's putting competition .

Rtn. Shanno Ravi
Director Club Service

RCM Calendar for January 2025 - VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
					FIRESIDE	HPVAX drive
PULICAT LAKE HOLISTIC COMMITTEE 5	6	Week - 26 MANOJ KUMAR Naandi Foundation Topic: Thinking out of box in social development. 7	8	9	10	11
					FIRESIDE	AI hands on workshop (vocational services)
FULL CLUB FELLOWSHIP PONGAL Rtn AKS PP Ranjit Pratap & Ann Uma 12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		PONGAL HOLIDAY				FIRESIDE
SEVEN SLICES OF HAPPINESS Rtn. SANJAY CHAGANTI 19	Week - 27 MR RAJDEEP SARDESAI Consulting editor and anchor of India Today Television. 20	21	LIVING THE FOUR WAY TEST VIDEO LAUNCHED 22	23	24	25
					INTERACT RYLA	Week - 28 Mr. ARVIND P DATAR senior Advocate & Author
INTERACT RYLA Week - 29 CELEBRATING REPUBLIC DAY AT SELIYUR 26	27	28	29	30	31	
					GOLF Tournament & fellowship	

Note : DIABETES AWARENESS CAMPS - 8 PLANNED

First Half Highlights

As Rotary Year 2024-25 reaches the half way mark, this is the second and concluding part of a report on the progress so far.



Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan
Director - Community Services I

Over the past six months, our committees have been abuzz with meaningful actions. Here's a summary of our achievements.



Environment : Chairperson
Rtn. B.V. Gautam

Led by Rtn. Himanshu Budhia, our monthly recycling initiatives have

successfully collected large quantities of plastics and e-waste. Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra drove the planting of over 200 saplings at Boys Town and Bommaji kulam, promoting sustainability. Thanks to partnerships with ICE, Chairperson Rtn. B.V.Gautam has exciting plans for a Pongal sustainability celebration.

Rtn. Suresh Amirapu is actively engaging youth through sustainability classes as part of the Green Schools program. Additionally, Rtn. Siddharth Hande is studying how Rotary Nagar can be transformed into a model zero-waste community.



WASH : Chairperson
Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar

The WASH Committee has made significant progress in enhancing infrastructure and sanitation. Melakottaiyur School now features new classrooms, handwash stations, a septic tank and a fresh coat of paint. The new noon meal kitchen at Sri Ramakrishna Math National School is providing nutritious meals to over 500 students and a new toilet block is under construction. Construction of the Padur and Kanathur Balwadi Project is also underway.



Homes for the Homeless : Chairperson -
Rtn. N. Prakash

The Homes for the Homeless project, is progressing rapidly. Construction is in full swing at Irumbedu, where the bhoomi pooja for 25 homes was completed in October. Plans for more houses in Irumbedu are also moving forward. We are turning dreams into reality. In Bommaji kulam, the first 29 homes have been handed over to beneficiaries, and plans are in place to build three more homes along with an Anganwadi.



Lake Restoration : Chairperson -
Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra

Despite weather challenges, the Lake Restoration projects are steadily progressing. At Old Perungalathur Lake, cleaning and de-weeding efforts are underway,

although rainfall has caused some delays. The team remains focused on clearing debris and vegetation. The Kadaperi Lake project, with a budget of 60 lakhs, is set to begin once sewage flow into the lake is controlled and a groundbreaking ceremony takes place, with strong support from CSR funding. We are committed to restoring these vital water bodies and bringing life back to our lakes.

**Waterbody Management :
Chairperson -
Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra**

The rejuvenation of Boys Town Pond and YWCA Pond is complete, and we are gearing up for their grand inaugurations. The Boys Town Pond had a green makeover with tree planting. These projects are bringing new life and beauty to our communities.



**Rural Education :
Chairperson -
Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal (Photo)**

Our Village Tuition program is thriving, offering additional academic support to 98 students in Amarambedu, Siruvada, Kannankottai, and Panjalai. The classes are held every evening from Monday to Saturday, helping to nurture young minds.

**Technical Training Center
(TTC) : Chairperson -
Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal**

The TTC is training 37 students in high-demand skills, including machining, horticulture, smartphone repair and turning. Four

dedicated instructors guide the program.

**Boys Town : Chairperson -
Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal**

Boys Town has seen exciting developments. Dinesh, Mukesh, and Benjamin recently took their first flight to Malaysia to attend a Rotaract event, a transformative experience facilitated by Rtn. M. Sesha Sai. Our 78 boys are in excellent health, receiving daily nutrition, attending school regularly and achieving positive exam results.

They participate in various activities, including sports, yoga, music and counselling. The boys enjoyed a special movie outing for Diwali and will attend Chennai Food Bank's "Apna Bana Lo" event at VGP Theme Park in January. These experiences foster confident young individuals.

Thank you, Rotarians, for making this all possible.

- Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan



Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti
Director - Vocational Services

The past six months in Vocational Services have been an immensely rewarding journey. President Chella's note elsewhere in this issue has more details on our achievements. I will focus on two themes:

- This year, we have worked to professionalize our offerings,

building on RCM's legacy to align projects more closely with real-world needs.

- Building bridges with empowered chairpersons and their team members has been fun and personally fulfilling.

The impact? More impactful programs that directly link beneficiaries to livelihoods.

Indeed, 'picture baki hai.' We are just getting warmed up.

- Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti



Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan
Director – Community Service 2

The first half of our Rotary year has gone by in a whirl of activity. The meticulous planning by all chairpersons and their teams ensured a smooth and efficient start. And as we dived deeper into the area of health, more opportunities to serve came to our attention.

The vaccination project especially showed us the real extent of work required as we dived into the murky waters of cervical cancer. Having completed our 'target' in 6 months, we aim to multiply our efforts and the results of this program. And you are all aware of the audacious targets the club and the future presidents are aiming for.

It's been a hugely satisfying 6 months and we look forward to the next 6 with passion and eagerness to serve.

Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan



Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan
Chairperson – Cancer Awareness & Prevention Committee

As 2024 draws to an end, Team Health would like to take you on a quick recap of our journey so far in this Rotary year of Building, Bonding and Bringing cheer under the stewardship of President. G. Chella Krishna.

The HPVAX Program: In July, the HPVAX program was launched at Shrine

Vailankanni Senior Secondary School in T Nagar. The inauguration was attended by District Governor Rtn. N.S. Saravanan, along with other senior district and club representatives. Dr. Jayashree Natarajan from Cancer Institute, Adyar (CI). The project's primary medical partner led an awareness session, then a vaccination event took place at Cancer Institute the following week.

Since its launch, the program has conducted 12 awareness events across nine schools in Chennai, participating in the citywide cancer awareness event All aBout Cancer (ABC) by CANSTOP. This outreach has benefited over 3,500 students, teachers and parents, leading to the vaccination of more than 800 young girls, protecting them against cervical cancer.

Redington-Apollo Save a Little Heart, Project: Building on the successful leadership of Rtn. IPP. Jayshree Sridhar, RCM embarked on a joint endeavour with Redington to help fund lifesaving heart surgeries for 50 underprivileged children at the tertiary paediatric cardiac care department in Apollo Children's Hospital, Chennai. We are happy to report that we have completed this project successfully within two months and have now begun the groundwork for a similar initiative with Kokilaben Hospital in Mumbai.

Sensory Integration Room at the Institute of Child Health: In a first-of-its-kind initiative for the club, RCM has helped the Institute of Child Health commission a Sensory Integration Room for autistic children and others with learning difficulties. This room contains specialized equipment that allows the children to experience and get accustomed to various sensory

stimuli, which will help them with day-to-day interactions and improve their learning ability.

Diabetes Awareness Program: In November, RCM, in partnership with the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) and the Rotary Club of Del Mar Solana Beach, launched a Diabetes Awareness Program. This initiative educates students on the risks and consequences of diabetes and promotes healthy lifestyle choices. Three awareness events have been conducted. Reaching around 500 students in government schools across Chennai and nearby districts.

District Level Events: RCM was the main sponsor in two health-related District events to mark World Heart Day and World Diabetes Day. Several members of the club also played an active role in organizing and running the events, which were aimed at raising awareness about the rising problem of diabetes and heart disease in the youth of our country. Eminent speakers were invited to deliver talks on heart disease and diabetes and ways to prevent these life-limiting conditions. There was an emphasis on a holistic approach and healthy lifestyle to overcome this modern-day epidemic.

Medical Infrastructure/ Equipment Donations: Keeping true to Rotary tradition this year, the team

Birthdays (6th Jan to 12th Jan 2025)	
Rtn. PP. Nandita Krishnan	6/1
Rtn. Mahul H. Shah	7/1
Rtn. PP. Satyan C. Bhatt	9/1
Rtn. Vipin Sachdev	10/1
Rtn. Sanjay Tulsyan	12/1
Rtn. Arunachalam Palaniappan	12/1
Spouses' Birthdays	
Ann. Priya, Spouse of Rtn V. Sridhar	6/1
Ann. Rajashree, Spouse of Rtn. PP. Dr. Gauthamadas Udipi	7/1
Ann. Sashi, Spouse of Rtn. Nataraj Ramaiah	7/1
Ann. Pavithra, Spouse of Rtn. Krishna Kishore	7/1
Ann. Jaya, Spouse of Rtn. Gowri R Shanker	8/1
Ann. Girish Ramdas, Spouse of Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish	8/1



successfully completed the handover of several tranches of medical equipment to our longstanding medical partners Childs Trust and RSRM Hospitals, which had originally been initiated in the previous Rotary year by Rtn. IPP. Ravi Sundaresan. This included operating theatre equipment, video EEG, ECG machines, and an emergency transport vehicle for blood products and patients.

Also, an urgent need for an arterial blood gas machine in the children's ICU at the Institute of Child Health was addressed through special funds, given the lifesaving nature of the equipment. Additionally, five defibrillators have been ordered for various emergency care areas in the hospital, along with a milk pasteurizer for the breast milk bank. These items will be delivered shortly.

Other Activities

- A large-scale blood donation camp was held at Loyola College, resulting in an impressive collection of 428 units of blood.
- An influenza vaccine donation drive was carried out in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at the Rajiv

Gandhi Hospital in collaboration with CANSTOP.

- A special camp was carried out for around 70 members of the Narikuravar community to mark Tribal Week in November. The Voluntary Health Service, Adyar, was our medical partner for this event. A children's health camp was also carried out in Perambur along with Nalandaway, an NGO working with underprivileged children. CHILDS Trust Hospital, Yash Dental, and VHS were our medical partners who helped run this camp.
- Our longstanding projects, including His and Hers camps, the GCC Dental Van Project, and Dialysis and Mammogram installations, continue to perform as usual and provide regular reporting to the club on their activities.

As we look ahead, we aim to complete the installation of two mammogram units at Tiruvannamalai and Villupuram. Also, a Global Grant Application is being drawn up to support the renovation of the Senior Citizens Centre at VHS. Two additional urban sanitation projects are also on the anvil.



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 07th Jan.

Issue 27



Issue 26 : Best Captions

1. The matador is ready. Bring on the bull!
- *Rtn. PP. Dr. Gauthamadas Udipi*
2. Yeh Dosti hum nahi todenge... todenge dum
Magar, tera saath na chhodenge
- *Rtn. Ashish Ahuja*
3. Arre woh lal kapde waali Memsaab...
- *Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota*
4. Who goes there and not join us in the fun...
- *Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay*
5. "Living their best life: the dynamic duo of dance floors and dad jokes!" - *Rtn. N.K. Bhatia*

Good Habits of Investing

SIP



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Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) is a mode of investing in mutual funds where investors can invest a fixed amount (as little as Rs. 500/-) at regular intervals (for e.g. weekly, monthly, quarterly etc.).

Here are some key benefits of investing via the SIP route in mutual funds:

01

Disciplined Investing:

- SIP allows investors to invest a fixed amount at regular intervals, helping them to build a disciplined investment habit.
- This helps investors to avoid the temptation of timing the market and stay invested for a longer period.

02

Rupee-Cost Averaging:

- SIP helps investors to buy more units when the prices are low and fewer units when the prices are high.
- This helps to reduce the average cost of acquisition over a longer period of time.

03

Long-Term Wealth Creation:

- By investing in mutual funds via the SIP route, investors may benefit from the power of compounding and create long-term wealth.

04

Flexibility:

- SIPs allow investors to start investing with small amounts of money.
- SIPs offer the convenience of automatic investing, reducing the need for active monitoring.
- SIPs can be easily modified or paused as per an investor's changing financial circumstances.

Overall, investing via the SIP route in mutual funds may help investors to build a disciplined investment habit benefit from rupee-cost averaging, create long-term wealth, enjoy flexibility, and benefit from diversification.

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Singapenne *Rises*

Rtn.PP.Dr.Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan elected DGND



When I interviewed Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan for the 20th October Lighthouse issue, I coined the term "Singapenne," which means "Lioness," as the headline.

Little did I realise it was a prelude to what was to follow. Just two months after, she simply breezed in to be elected as the District Governor ND for 2027-28.

Many congratulations, Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan! You have not only lived up to your name, but you have also made us all extraordinarily proud to be RCMers.

This will happen 21 years after J.B. Kamdar's tenure as DG. RCM is back on the map again as it should be. It was long overdue. And Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan has contributed in no small measure to restoring the pride and sanctity of our wonderful club.

She is also the second woman DG, following in the footsteps of PDG Rekha Shetty, who held the office in 1999-2000. (May her soul rest in peace)! To me, an anomaly has been set right, and how much better it is, when we have one of our own to correct it.

I am certain that Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan will do the RCM proud during her tenure, and we must ensure total support of our resources to make that a launching pad for RCM's Centennial to follow in 2029.





We have two glorious years to prepare for, and it is time to get going. Our historian Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath has already posted in the group the narrative on Women Governors in Rotary locally and Rtn. PP. S.N. Srikanth has penned a riveting input on the history of women becoming a part of the Rotary movement. Reading through, this is much more than a 'breaking through the glass ceiling' moment for us.

I spoke to her briefly on being elected and she wanted to say this to us. This is her personal message, word for word.

"Acceptance for Governorship

Dear RCMers,

It is with immense gratitude and pride that I represent RCM and take up the position of District Governor for the year 2027-'28.

This is not just about me, but all of us at RCM, for it is our collective strength that has given us 96 amazing years of unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. It is with this shared vision, that I stand before you with immense gratitude, humility, and a deep sense of responsibility.

I recognize that leadership is not about titles or accolades but about service, which has always been my focus in joining Rotary. I, therefore pledge to lead with integrity, to listen with empathy, and to act with purpose, being mindful of our Four-way test - will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Thank you for your trust in nominating me, for I accept this role with a heart full of hope and determination to deliver to the best of my ability.

Warm regards
Yours in Rotary

PP Rtn. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan"

All the very best to you, Vijaya. You can count on every RCMer behind you to support you throughout your stewardship.

- Rtn. A.R.Raghuandan
Chairperson, Lighthouse Committee

The Story of Rotary's Glass Door

(For the second time in our district's history, a woman will take up the mantle of District Governor. Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan being elected as DG for 2027-28 is a historic milestone for RCM.)

This is a true story worth repeating—a story about how Rotary initially opposed, tooth and nail, the admission of women as members and how that position eventually changed.

The first Rotary Club to propose admission of women was the Rotary Club of Ahmedabad. Far-sighted indeed.

In 1977, the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, admitted women as members in violation of RI legislation. As a result, the club's membership in RI was promptly terminated. In 1983, the California Superior Court ruled in Favor of RI, but in 1986, the California Court of Appeals reversed the lower court's decision.

Rotary's lawyer is said to have argued that "Rotary is not a motel. We cannot admit anyone and everyone."

When the California Superior Court refused to hear the case, the Duarte club appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a unanimous 7-0 decision, ruled that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Following this, Rotary issued a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women.

In 1989, Rotary's Council on Legislation voted to admit women into Rotary Clubs worldwide.

Our district has had only one female governor, Rtn. Rekha Shetty, until now. The election of Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan corrects this lapse.

- Rtn.PP.S.N.Srikanth

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Bonding In Mumbai

Domestic Outstation Fellowship

Everyone knows Mumbai, but to savour and experience it through a trip curated by Rtn. Hemu Ramaiah and Ann. Jai Subramaniam made it awe-inspiringly grand and impressive.

Day 1

For many of us, it started with a meeting at the Chennai airport, where we were all excited and had a quick breakfast at ID restaurant. We were a cocoon of Rotarians, oblivious to the riot we were making and looking forward to this trip.

Upon landing in Mumbai, we wasted no time and headed straight to the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC), a stunning venue that has become a source of pride for every Indian, dedicated to celebrating and showcasing the arts. During a walk of over an hour, we were treated to an exhibition of award-winning photographers capturing wildlife. Each photo had a story to tell, one more captivating than the other.

Lunch was at Indian Accent BKC, a restaurant with significant acclaim for its unconventional and innovative approach to contemporary Indian food. Forty-two of us were seated, and before you knew it, we were treated to gastronomical delights in the smallest portions. By the end of the afternoon, none of us could

move. We rolled into our vehicles and headed to Trident BKC, a beautiful property with excellent facilities and comfort.

By 6:45 pm, refreshed and ready, we were all set for a theatrical experience at the Grand Theatre at NMACC to watch the show- Life of Pi, a beautifully orchestrated show of amazing acting, puppetry, sight, and sounds.

In between all this, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan and Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan managed RCM work, trapezing through Mumbai traffic. Rotary work never stops.

Post the show, we dined at O Pedro for Mexican delights. Food, drinks, and loads of selfies, videos and photos taken. As the night grew longer, the list of participants doing the Colaba heritage walk kept dropping. No surprises there!

Day 2

The following morning, the smart ones stayed back at the hotel, relaxing and enjoying the holiday.



We enthusiastic tourists sped away to the Gateway of India and did the Colaba heritage walk with a guide who truly knew the history of what made Bombay the rich financial capital it is today. Those who didn't make it missed the rich heritage we know like no one else.

Bombay Canteen, you bowled us over. Our lunch venue for the day truly showcased the diverse cuisine of India in simple yet outstanding creativity and taste. It was an utterly fulfilling gastronomical delight.

Some of us had to engage in an attire change for the evening ahead, while the rest of the smart ones came all dapper.

The Cherry on the Cake

An event came to fruition at the 11th hour, thanks to President Chella, who worked on it for several months. Who can refuse Chella when he asks? A meeting with the legend, Mr. Anand Mahindra, Chairman of the Mahindra Group, turned into an unforgettable evening of inspiration, wisdom and candid discussions that left everyone in awe of his vision and leadership.

The Mahindra Foundation, in an iconic building near the Gateway of India. How better can it get? Well, it did. We were all impressably dressed for this meeting of a lifetime and so well received by his staff. It was certainly a moment of pride for Chella's parents (PDG Gangadharan & spouse), who made it just for this meeting.

For the next two hours, we were ensconced in the legend's company. President Chella led the evening with a brief introduction and went on to have a fireside chat with Mr. Anand Mahindra. It was lovely to listen firsthand to his experiences and decisions that have placed him where he is today. He turned the table on us (a very different experience) and wanted to hear some of our members' life experiences. We captured countless photos, enjoyed a lavish high tea spread from ARAKU Coffee House (where Mr. Mahindra serves as a lifetime director), and engaged in enriching conversations. As we left the venue, we found ourselves pinching each other to confirm it wasn't a dream. Thank you, Chella, for making this incredible experience a reality!

Thank you, Chella, for pulling this off.

From there, we rode through Mumbai traffic to Bastian for dinner. They had an entire floor for us and a curated menu on specially printed menu cards. It was an evening of camaraderie, bonding at its best, and a celebration of the meeting.



Day 3

Some of us went to the Shri Siddhivinayak temple, some went shopping, and the rest lazed around, while a few headed back to Chennai.

A fairly large number of us were all set and dressed for the day ahead, fascinator hats, dresses, pearl chains and the men in suits and hats. We were headed for a day at the Mahalakshmi racecourse to watch the horse races. This whole event was curated and hosted by Rtn. PP. Rajendran Sabanayagam and Ann. Renuka.

We enjoyed ourselves with the best seats in the gallery, with many first-time betters winning and a few not-so-lucky! . Raj never bets - a point to note.. He owns the horses! From delicious sandwiches to pani puris, we enjoyed it all.

VIP treatment all the way. As the evening faded, some of us left for the airport while the rest of them celebrated their wins at the famed Gallop restaurant.

We truly experienced Mumbai uniquely and unforgettably. A heartfelt thank you to Rtn. Hemu Ramaiah and Ann. Jai Subramaniam for ensuring every detail was meticulously planned and executed. A special thanks to Rtn. Asha Mathen and Manjushri for patiently managing all the financial transactions with such care and efficiency.

Today, a month later, we remember the trip fondly and are ready for an encore.

- Rtn. Shanno Ravi



Rtn. PP. Satyan C. Bhatt Receives Prestigious National Leadership Award

Rtn. PP. Satyan C. Bhatt, a distinguished communication expert and Managing Director of Prism PR, was honoured with the National Leadership Award at the 46th All India PR Conference in Raipur.

With over four decades of experience in media and public relations, Rtn. PP. Satyan C. Bhatt has established himself as a leading figure in the industry. His company, Prism PR, has worked with numerous multinational corporations and Indian businesses, including Coca-Cola, Caterpillar Inc., and TVS.

Satyan Bhatt's success is attributed not only to his expertise but also to the support of his wife, Parul Bhatt, a microbiologist and passionate chef. Parul has received two national awards for her culinary skills and has played a vital role in the growth and success of Prism PR.

This prestigious award recognizes Satyan Bhatt's outstanding contributions to the field of public relations and his leadership in shaping the industry.



Rotary Skill Development Centre Opened in MGR Janaki College for Women

Chennai, Dec 29: Rotary International District 3234, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Madras, Access Healthcare, and the Women Empowerment, Economic Development, and Vocational Services Team, inaugurated the Rotary Skill Development Centre at Dr. MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women. The initiative aims to provide free training in tailoring to women and empower them to secure employment or start their own ventures.

The inauguration ceremony was presided over by Thiru. Dha. Velu, MLA of Mylapore, and Rtn. N.S. Saravanan, District Governor of RID 3234. AKS Rtn. Mahinder Jain, Chairman of Access Healthcare, attended as the Guest of Honour. The event also featured the distribution of 200 power sewing machines, valued at Rs. 20 lakhs, to women who had completed training at Rotary's existing centres in Selaiyur, Sembakkam and Mylapore.

The new centre will offer a comprehensive 120-hour tailoring course over three months in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Government's Skill Development Department. Women from all backgrounds are invited to participate, with opportunities to secure jobs or start their own tailoring units through the provision of free power sewing machines. Rtn. Dr. Kumar Rajendran, Chairman of Dr. MGR Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women and District Rotaract Chair, has extended the necessary infrastructure support for the initiative.

Through its four centres, Rotary International District 3234 aims to train approximately 1,500 women annually.



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