

LIGHTHOUSE

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Dear RCMers.

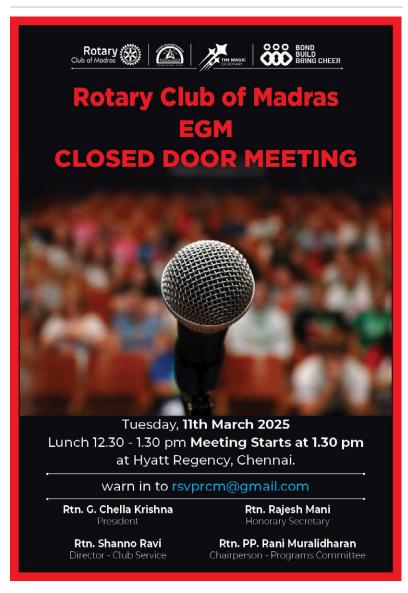
The election of Rtn.AKS.PP.Dr.Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan as DGND, a historic milestone for the Club and District, is our cover story this week.



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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: CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

Visit RCM's official website www.rotarymadras.in

CONTACT RCM SECRETARY AT:

office@rotarymadras.in



Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 34th Weekly Meeting held on 26.02.2025 to felicitate Rtn. AKS. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan

at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order:

The meeting commenced at 07.00 PM. Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, who then called the 34th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Invocation:

First Lady Mrs. Swetha Krishna rendered the invocation song.

Welcome Address:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests:

- District Governor Rtn. N.S. Saravanan
- District Governor Nominee Rtn. Suresh Jain
- District Governor Elect Rtn. Vinod Saraogi
- Past R.I. Directors Rtn. P.T. Prabhakar and Rtn. A.S. Venkatesh
- Past District Governors (PDGs)
- Assistant Governors
- District Secretary Rtn. Vidya Raghu
- Visiting Rotarians from other clubs





• RCM Members and Spouses

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna then warmly welcomed Rotarian AKS Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan and acknowledged the special occasion of felicitating her as the first woman Governor from the Rotary Club of Madras and the first from District 3234.

He highlighted the club's history, mentioning that RCM is nearing its 5000th meeting and has produced 19 District Governors. He praised Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan's leadership, community contributions and advocacy for women in Rotary.

Acknowledgment of Past District Governors:

A historical list of Past District Governors from RCM was read out, recognising their contributions and leadership.

Introduction of DGND. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan:

Rtn. PDG J.B. Kamdar introduced Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, emphasizing her qualities of integrity, fairness, leadership and dedication. He highlighted her ability to balance firmness with approachability and commended her commitment to Rotary.

A video presentation showcasing Rtn. AKS. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan's achievements was played.

Felicitations by Rtn. PDG. S. Krishnaswami:

Rtn. PDG. Krishnaswami commended Dr. Rangarajan's contributions to healthcare, cancer support and community development. He highlighted her work with CanStop, her awards and her leadership in various social welfare initiatives.



Felicitation by Former International Inner Wheel President Rtn. Kamala Ramakrishnan:

Rtn. Kamala Ramakrishnan expressed her joy in commemorating this historic milestone as the district appointed its first female governor. She acknowledged Dr. Rangarajan's resilience and dedication, emphasizing that her leadership will serve as an inspiration for many women Rotarians to follow in her footsteps.

Felicitation by District Advisor PDG. Sv. Rm. Ramanathan:

He stated that Rotary is the only organization that does not discriminate and unites everyone with a shared service mindset. He highlighted that Dr. Vijaya will be the first female governor of the Rotary Club of Madras, a milestone that should make everyone proud. He also made a humble request to foster friendships with smaller clubs and collaborate with them on impactful projects.

Felicitation by President P. Muthu, RCM East:

President Rtn. Muthu conveyed his congratulations to Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan on behalf of all co-presidents. He highlighted her 24 years of dedicated service in Rotary, her pioneering initiatives like CanStop and her outstanding leadership qualities. He lauded her achievements in both the medical field and community service, expressing confidence in her visionary leadership for the Rotary Year 27-28.

Felicitation by President Vijayalakshmi Rajesh, RC Madras Gold Coast:

Representing the women presidents of RI District 3234, President Rtn. Vijayalakshmi Rajesh commended Dr. Vijaya Bharathi's election as a major milestone. She emphasized the pride and inspiration that her achievement brings to women in Rotary.

Felicitation by President Rtn. Sriram, RC Chennai Mambalam:

President Sriram praised Dr. Vijaya Bharathi for her contributions to healthcare, philanthropy and community service. He highlighted her work in oral and maxillofacial surgery, her impact through CanStop and her numerous accolades, including the Women's Achievement Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award in Cancer Care. He reaffirmed the district's support for her leadership.

Felicitation by Assistant Governor Rtn. Col Bhupinder Singh:

AG Rtn. Col. Bhupinder Singh acknowledged Dr. Vijaya Bharathi's dedication to service and leadership. He applauded her meticulous planning and execution of PETS in Colombo, showcasing her ability to transform vision into reality.

Felicitation by Rtn. PDG J. Sridhar:

PDG J. Sridhar expressed his admiration for Dr. Vijaya Bharathi's leadership qualities. He highlighted her clarity in goal-setting, unwavering commitment and compassionate leadership style. He emphasized that her tenure as District Governor will bring significant benefits to Rotary District 3234.

Felicitation by Rtn. PRID. P.T. Prabhakar:

He extended his congratulations to Dr. Vijaya Bharathi on being elected as the DGND. He highlighted Dr. Vijaya Bharathi's dedication to Rotary service, her contributions through Sundaram Medical Foundation and CanStop and her active participation in seven Rotary International Conventions. He lauded her affiliation with the esteemed TVS family and the Rotary Club of Madras, which played a pivotal role in the global polio eradication initiative. He wished her a successful tenure as District Governor.

Felicitation by Rtn. DGE. Vinod Saraogi:

He praised Dr. Vijaya Bharathi's leadership as President, highlighting her theme of "Health, Hope and Happiness" and her impactful projects, including dialysis units, mammogram units and WASH initiatives. He commended her work as a PETS Chairman and Membership Chair and emphasized her corporate leadership at Sundaram Medical Foundation. He expressed confidence in her ability to take District 3234 to greater heights in collaboration with fellow leaders.

Felicitation by Rtn. DGN. Suresh Jain:

Rtn. DGN. Suresh Jain shared his experiences working with Dr. Vijaya Bharathi, appreciating her honesty, integrity and commitment. He acknowledged her substantial contributions to The Rotary Foundation and commended her ability to lead with compassion. He expressed his commitment to working as a team with Dr. Vijaya Bharathi and Rtn. Vinod Saraogi to achieve new milestones for the district.

Guest of Honor Address by District Governor Rtn. N.S. Sarayanan:

Congratulated Dr. Vijaya Bharathi on her achievement and reflected humorously on the rigorous journey of becoming a District Governor. He acknowledged the dedication required to lead Rotary at the district level and commended the leadership team for their collaborative spirit.

Felicitations by Rtn. PRID. A.S. Venkatesh:

He was not in favor of compartmentalizing Vijaya's achievement as that of a "Lady Governor." He emphasized that leadership positions in Rotary are earned based on merit and abilities, not because of gender considerations.



Rtn Venkatesh reflected on the reputation of the Rotary Club of Madras beyond its own membership. While acknowledging the club's history and traditions, he quoted RI CEO John Hewko: "We own the traditions; traditions don't own us."

The Need for Change in Rotary:

- He highlighted that Rotary has struggled with stagnation, noting that membership numbers have remained constant over the last 25 years.
- He compared the need for change in Rotary to an ECG reading—stagnation can lead to decline, much like a flat ECG line signifies death.
- He urged the leadership to focus on evolving Rotary's structure, ensuring it remains relevant to potential new members.
- He pointed out that new club formats such as e-clubs, passport clubs, satellite clubs, vocationbased clubs and cost-based clubs have emerged in response to modern needs.

Challenges Faced by Rotary International:

He shared concerning statistics, noting that Australia loses one Rotary district every two years, while Great Britain had negative growth for 15 years and is now at 0%, which is seen as an achievement. He urged the leaders of the Rotary Club of Madras to work together for positive and inclusive change. Calling upon Rtn. Vijaya and incoming leaders, he emphasized the need to embrace change, prioritize inclusivity and adopt modern leadership approaches.

Address by Rtn. DGND. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan:

Rtn. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan expressed her appreciation for the overwhelming support and presence of well-wishers and distinguished guests, including Past District Governors (PDGs), District Governor N.S. Saravanan, Past R.I. Director A.S. Venkatesh and others present.

Key points from her address:

- She emphasized the importance of working as a team for a shared vision.
- Stressed the need for innovative, meaningful projects with measurable impact.
- Highlighted how smaller clubs coming together can create a bigger difference.
- Reflection on the PETS program and the inspiration it provided.
- Emphasis on meaningful projects that create a lasting impact on communities.
- Importance of executing projects with a heartfelt commitment.
- Insights from a recent visit to Assam, stressing

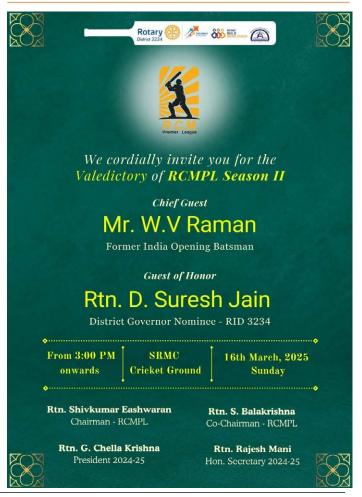
- the need to assess and meet community needs without disrupting their way of life.
- Advocacy for innovative ideas and strategic collaborations.
- The significance of preventive healthcare and literacy programs.
- Commitment to environmental sustainability, including lake restoration and water conservation efforts.
- The importance of building a strong foundation for the newly formed District 3234.
- Reference to RCM's legacy and the importance of continuity in leadership.
- Encouragement for PDGs to provide guidance and mentorship for ongoing and future projects.
- Acknowledgment of the contribution of Radhakrishna for the voiceover and other supporting members.

Closing Remarks:

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by PDG. Benjamin Cherian.

Adjournment:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna adjourned the meeting with the National Anthem.







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Birthdays

Wedding Anniversary

Rtn. Girdhar Hemdev & Asha



10th Mar to 16th Mar 2025



•	
Rtn. Dr. K. Rajan	10/3
Rtn. Rinku Mecheri	10/3
Rtn. Rajesh Somasundaram	11/3
Rtn. Suresh Amirapu	12/3
Rtn. PP. Vijay Krishna	13/3
Rtn. Manasa T. Pillai	14/3
Rtn. PP. Ravi Katari	16/3
Spouses' Birthdays	
Ann. K. Shamantha, Spouse of Rtn. B.V. Gautam	12/3
Ann. Jai Subramaniam, Spouse of U Rtn. Hemu Ramaiah	13/3
Ann. Anuradha, Spouse of Rtn. Punkaj Sachdev	13/3



11/3



Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 35th Weekly Meeting held on 04-03-2025

at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order:

The meeting commenced at 01.30 PM. Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, who then called the 35th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The President sought confirmation of the 34 th weekly meeting minutes, which were passed and adopted by the members, by way of acclamation.

Welcome Address:

President Chella Krishna G. welcomed all members and attendees, acknowledging the presence of visiting Rotarians and Probians. A special welcome was extended to the guest speaker, Ms. Sharanya Subramaniam.

Post-Rotary Conference Recognition:

President Chella Krishna G. acknowledged and expressed gratitude to key contributors of the recently concluded Sanghamitra District Conference:

- IPP Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan chaired the district conference, overseeing registrations of over 3,000 participants.
- Past President Rtn. K.K. Raman organized and coordinated speakers for the sessions.
- Rtn. Jayant Hemdev served as the emcee.
- Rtn. Ravishankar efficiently managed the conference finances.
- Rtn. Vikram Chesetty led the entertainment programs.
- Rtn. Govind Parikh coordinated the speakers.
- Rtn. Visvanathan A.M. and Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan supported the creation of presentations and visual materials.
- Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani and Treasurer Rtn. Asha Mathen were acknowledged for their assistance with registration and logistics.

Rtn. Chella Krishna G made a special announcement recognizing Rtn. Mohan Kumar Subramanyam for his generous contribution of ₹5 lakhs towards the Lake

He expressed gratitude to Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan for facilitating the donation.

Project Updates:

HPV Vaccination Program – Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Vishwanathan:

Provided an update on the ongoing HPV Vaccination Drive. A total of 1,162 vaccinations have been administered, surpassing the initial goal of 1,000. The club is actively working on expanding awareness and participation. Advocacy efforts are in progress to encourage government involvement in making this a larger public health initiative.

Announcement by District Governor Rtn. N.S Saravanan:

DG Rtn. N.S. Saravanan commended the team from RCM for their key role in the successful execution of the Sanghamitra District Conference, acknowledging their outstanding efforts and impact.

He highlighted the high level of participation and the positive feedback received.

Recognized the efforts of all Rotarians from RCM involved and emphasized the importance of such large-scale events in strengthening the Rotary movement.

Announcement by Rtn. Jacob Kurien:

Acknowledged the success of the recent golf tournament, highlighting the excellent participation and financial success. He extended his gratitude to all involved, particularly the Rotary admin staff, for their dedication and efficiency. As a token of appreciation, each staff member was presented with a leather duffle bag.

The recognized staff:

Mr. N.J. Varadarajan (Manager)

Mr. S. Venkatesh (Admin)

Ms. Manju Sree Om Prakash (Accounts)

Ms. K.C. Swetha and Mr. P. Joseph

(Reporting & Compliance)

A special mention was given to Mr. S. Venkatesh for his over 40 years of service to the club.

Announcements:

Rtn. Rajesh Mani announced upcoming birthdays and anniversaries.

He reminded members about the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on March 11 and urged everyone to attend.

Rtn. PP. Indra Subramanyam shared a flag exchange with the Rotary Club of Kandy, she said she also met Malaysian delegates and attendees from Colombo and Africa at the District Conference. She thanked Rtn. Sabina Narayan and Rtn. Suresh Amirapu for their support.

Guest Speaker Session:

The Rotary Club welcomed Ms. Sharanya Subramaniam, Founder of Sharanya Spots Talent, as the keynote speaker.

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan praised Ms. Subramaniam for her pioneering work in the male-dominated casting industry.

Ms. Subramaniam shared insights into the evolving field of casting, including:

- The integration of technology in casting processes.
- The rise of virtual auditions.
- The increasing demand for diverse talent.

The session provided valuable takeaways for actors and professionals navigating the dynamic industry.

Presentation of Memento:

Past President P.V. Mohan Raman presented a memento to Ms. Sharanya Subramaniam as a token of appreciation.

Vote of Thanks:

The vote of thanks was delivered by Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan.

Meeting Adjourned:

The President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna adjourned the meeting.





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t our recent Rotary meeting, we had the pleasure of hosting Sharanya, a seasoned casting director and the creative force behind Sharanya Spots Talent. Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan delivered a warm and engaging introduction about how she spotted and encouraged him, setting the stage for an insightful and entertaining talk that left us all with a newfound appreciation for the art of casting.

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan conducted the session in an engaging Q&A format. Sharanya explained the nuanced role of a casting director and she described how her job involves breaking people down into their core characteristics and aligning them with the visions of the director. This process requires deep collaboration with filmmakers to understand the details of each character—whether primary, secondary, tertiary or even extras. She emphasized that her work is about bringing life to the script by finding the right faces and personalities to tell the story authentically.

One of the most fascinating takeaways from her talk was her perspective on age and talent. Sharanya shared that the 45-65 age group is particularly interesting to her because they often bring a sense of freedom and authenticity to their roles. "They don't care as much about how they're perceived," she said, "and that makes them incredibly compelling on screen." However, she was quick to add that her team is always on the lookout for fresh faces of all ages. Whether young or old, new talent brings a unique energy to the screen, and she encouraged everyone to consider stepping into the world of acting.

For those hesitant to take the leap, Sharanya had reassuring words: "Acting brings out the child in you and it's perfectly safe." She highlighted the workshops her team conducts, which provide a supportive environment for aspiring actors to explore their potential. She also spoke about the dynamic interplay between generations

on set, noting how younger actors often learn invaluable lessons from their older counterparts.

Sharanya also clarified the difference between a casting director and a casting agent. While a casting agent sources talent and maintains databases, a casting director works closely with the film's director to understand the script and the vision for each character. This collaborative process ensures that every role, no matter how small, contributes meaningfully to the story.

Her work has given Sharanya a unique perspective on human nature. She joked that her role has almost turned her into a psychiatrist, as she often finds herself understanding people's personalities, fears and aspirations. This deep connection with talent is what makes her so effective at her job.

Sharanya also emphasized the importance of professionalism in the industry. Her team ensures that every detail is taken care of, from start to finish, so that actors show up on time and ready to perform. This meticulous approach is a testament to her dedication to both the craft and the people she works with.

In closing, Sharanya left us with an inspiring message: acting is not just about performing—it's about discovering new facets of yourself and connecting with others in meaningful ways. Her passion for spotting talent and nurturing it was evident throughout her talk, and it's clear that she plays a vital role in bringing stories to life on screen.

If you've ever dreamed of stepping in front of the camera, Sharanya's door is always open. Your big moment on the silver screen could be just around the corner!

For more information, visit www.sharanyaspotstalent. com or contact 9884666073.

- Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby





(These testimonial<mark>s ca</mark>pture the experiences of students who participated in the filmmaking workshop facilitated by Rtn. PP. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal, Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti and Rtn. PP. PV. Mohan Raman.)

t is an absolute pleasure to share my experience of attending a remarkable filmmaking workshop—an experience that truly transformed my perspective on the art of storytelling. When I first signed up, I was driven by a passion for storytelling but lacked the technical knowledge and hands-on experience to bring my ideas to life. I knew what I wanted to create, but I wasn't sure how to translate my vision onto the screen. Yet, what I gained from this workshop went far beyond technical skills—I discovered a newfound creativity and a deep appreciation for the art of filmmaking.

Under the expert guidance of Ravishankar Sir, I learned everything I needed to know about filmmaking, from scriptwriting and cinematography to lighting, sound design and editing. Mohan Raman Sir also shared his invaluable insights, guiding us through the intricate details of the craft while encouraging us to experiment and push our creative boundaries.

One of the most valuable lessons I took away from this experience was collaboration. power of Filmmaking is not a solo endeavour it is a symphony of talents coming together to create something extraordinary. Whether working with a team to perfect a shot, piecing together a story in the editing room, or fine-tuning the sound during dubbing, I witnessed firsthand how every role contributes to crafting a compelling film.

I am deeply grateful to the Rotary Club of Madras for organizing this enriching workshop. It was an experience that left all of us with a sense of accomplishment that words can hardly capture. And it all began with the knowledge and encouragement I received during this transformative journey.

Itr. Jahnavi Ch.

Club Secretary, Chandrodaya Interact Club Heartfulness International School (Omega Branch) am excited to share a little bit about my journey in creating this short film. It all began with a simple yet powerful idea: to highlight the importance of not wasting food and helping those in need. Many people around us faced different struggles, even in fulfilling their most basic needs. I wanted to bring this reality to light and make people reflect on it.

Once the concept was finalized, the real challenge began—crafting a compelling storyline with a well-structured screenplay. From finishing the script to scouting shooting locations, the entire process was a blend of meticulous planning, teamwork and trust. It was an incredible learning experience that taught me the value of collaboration and perseverance.

I am truly grateful to my school for giving me this opportunity. I also extend my sincere appreciation to the RCM for hosting such a meaningful event that not only showcases talent but also promotes valuable life lessons.

Itr. Sabaritharan

Heartfulness International School (Omega Branch)





he sun shines into the large, open hallway at the front of Boys town. In one corner, Muskaan, a second-year student from Krea University, sits with Sachin and Dinesh, and together they engage in an English conversation. The boys introduce themselves and share their hobbies as Muskaan nods encouragingly. "I like cricket," says Sachin with a shy smile. "I like to eat biryani," says Dinesh, laughing.

This is our fifth batch of Krea volunteers at Boys town. We conduct two batches annually, one in February/March and another in September/October. We have 30 to 40 Krea volunteers in each batch and they come by bus to Boys town for six consecutive Sundays to teach the boys at Boys town how to read and speak in English.

The program always begins with a training session, where I have the

joy and privilege of helping these idealistic young college students understand how to teach phonics, reading skills and English conversational skills. They are a very well-organized and efficient group – they have formed their own "curriculum committee" and created a curriculum for the six sessions.

Their curriculum includes vocabulary lists, conversation topics and special activities to encourage



the boys to speak in English. Additionally, we have wonderful collection of easy English readers at Boys town and the Krea volunteers work with the boys to help them develop their English reading skills. Some of the boys need to start with the alphabet and sounds, while others can already read simple sentences paragraphs. Our goal is to ensure that every boy at Boys town is functionally literate in English by the time he gets to tenth standard.

Over the last two years, the Krea students have proved to be reliable, kind and dedicated to our boys. The boys are wonderful – eager to



learn, engage with the Krea students and full of smiles. It is a partnership that works for both sides. Our boys learn to speak and read in English and more importantly, gain confidence and inspiration as they interact with these college students. The Krea students learn a lot from our boys as well – they learn about the boys' backgrounds and dreams, they learn how to teach effectively and they begin to understand the stark effects of economic inequalities.

- Rtn. Maya Thiagarajan



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 11th March.

Issue 36





Issue 35: Best Captions

- "RCM tigers are ready for a 'KILL' at a prospective donor's office" – Rtn.N.K. Bhatia
- "And this (whisper whisper), Mr. President, is how I arm twist to raise funds for RCM"
 - Rtn.Sanjay Rao Chaganti
- 3. With elections round the corner, you'll find the seats filled soon. *Rtn.Rajib Kumar Hota*
- 4. In pursuit of happiness for others.
 - Rtn.Shanno Ravi
- 5. Never take the back benchers lightly!
 - Mr.Madhu Mathen
- 6. "Don't worry Chella, will get you two more CSR donations from Redington"
 - Rtn. R.Ravishankar



Rotary Nostalgia-

Did You Know?





n 1967, a donation of ₹10,000 was made to the Dattatreya Orthopaedic Centre, Madras, for constructing an out-patient block. This was the second instalment of a total ₹20,000 donation made by the club.

During that year, several small projects were also undertaken to provide free aid to fire victims in the city, to put up a bus shelter on Mount Road and to supply hearing aids to the CSI Higher Secondary School for Deaf, Mylapore.

In the same year, a project with a budget of Rs. 75,000 was planned for the construction of a dormitory-style hostel at the CSI School for the Deaf in Santhome, commemorating the Birth Centenary of Paul Harris, the Founder of Rotary.

This project also attracted a donation of Rs. 15,000 from District 795 under the World Community Service (WCS) program, which was used to purchase equipment for the school for the deaf.

In 1969, the club continued its community service initiatives, supporting several social welfare institutions. The largest project that year was the construction of a compound wall for the Mamallapuram Welfare Organization, costing ₹6,000.

- Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath



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