

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 37 | March 16, 2025



**Certificate of Empowerment**





Dear RCMers,

The presentation of certificates to 242 women for successfully completing a wide range of job-oriented courses, is a proud moment for RCM- our cover story this week.



**Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran**  
Editor

**Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan**  
Chairperson

**Mr.Madhu Mathen**  
Co-Chairperson

Rotary Club of Madras

37<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting

Presenting

**Educator Extraordinaire Award**

to

**Dr. Gita Sankaran**

Founder Chairperson  
WeCAN India,  
Enabling & Empowering individuals with Autism & their families

**Tuesday, 18th March 2025 | 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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### 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 36th Weekly Meeting held on 11-03-2025**  
 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 36th 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 for the 35th weekly meeting minutes, which were passed and adopted by the members.

**Attendance:**

- No visiting Rotarians were present.
- No spouses, Probus Club members or guests were in attendance.

**Announcements:**

President Chella Krishna G. expressed gratitude for various contributions and project installations:

- A mammogram machine worth 1.2 crore was

installed at Tiruvannamalai with support from Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan, Rtn. PP. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan and SBI Mutual Funds.

- A ₹30 lakh ultrasound machine was donated to RSRM Hospital, facilitated by Rtn. V.S. Narasimhan and Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan.
- SBI Mutual Funds committed an additional 94 lakhs for a laparoscopic machine at RSRM Hospital.
- The contributions of Rtn. Visvanathan A.M, Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan and Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan were specially acknowledged.
- Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan pledged ₹6 lakhs from his CSR Fund towards Rotary initiatives.

The weekly meeting concluded and the EGM commenced.

| <b>Birthdays</b>   |  | 17th Mar to 23rd Mar 2025 |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| Rtn. Masud G.S.K.  |  | 17/3                      |
| Rtn. Vardhaman Jain  |  | 17/3                      |
| Rtn. Sai Srujan T.V.                                       |  | 19/3                      |
| Rtn. Raghunath Narayanan                                   |  | 20/3                      |
| Rtn. Vasudevan. R  |  | 21/3                      |
| Rtn. Ashish Gupta  |  | 23/3                      |
| <b>Spouses' Birthdays</b>                                  |  |                           |
| Ann. Jyothsna, Spouse of Rtn. Srinivas Garapati            |  | 17/3                      |
| Ann. Kalpana Achanta, Spouse of Rtn. Ishwar Achanta        |  | 22/3                      |
| Ann. Shantha Raghunath, Spouse of Rtn. Raghunath Narayanan |  | 22/3                      |
| Ann. Sushma V. Spouse of Rtn. Vummidi Shailesh Raj         |  | 23/3                      |
| <b>Wedding Anniversary</b>                                 |  |                           |
| Rtn. Nataraj Ramaiah & Sashi                               |  | 20/3                      |
| Rtn. PP. Rajendran Sabanayagam & Renuka                    |  | 23/3                      |



| <b>Sunshine</b>       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Rtn. Manasa T. Pillai | Rs.5000/- |
| Rtn. Sanjay Gulvady   | Rs.4000/- |
| Rtn. Himanshu Bhudia  | Rs.3000/- |









# If It is Not Fair, it isn't Cricket

Uma Eye Champions cruised to victory with a dominant run in the tournament, extending their unbeaten streak with yet another commanding victory. Uma Eye Champions beats Thalaivars' total of 72 in just 7.4 overs. Despite a cautious start, Thalaivars struggled to build momentum, managing 72/6 in their allotted 10 overs, with extras contributing 10 crucial runs.

In response, Uma Eye Champions made light work of the chase. Their openers, Idayath and Cri Hari, laid a solid foundation, adding 52 runs in just 29 balls, aided by a staggering 19 extras. With no wickets lost, they sealed the win with ease, finishing at 74/0, thanks to Cri Hari's unbeaten 22.

Uma Eye Champions wrapped up their second win of the weekend, extending their unbeaten streak with a composed five-run victory over South Super Stars. Batting first, they raced to 95/2 in 10 overs, thanks to a strong start in the powerplay (26 runs in 2 overs). Vijay (16) and Manikandan (10) provided steady contributions, while extras added 7 runs. South Super Stars fought hard, matching the early momentum with 50 runs in 5.1 overs. However, wickets at crucial moments stalled their chase and despite V. Jai Shankar's 16 runs, they fell short at 90/6 in 10 overs. Uma Eye Champions' flawless run continues, making them the clear team to beat this season.

## Fun Tags for Teams

|                               |                        |   |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| <b>Reliance Knight Riders</b> | The A-Team             | A squad known for their strategic prowess and all-round brilliance. |
| <b>Uma Eye Champions</b>      | The Dream Team         | A team that works together in perfect harmony.                      |
| <b>Chennai Gurus</b>          | Righteous Rival        | Fierce competitors, always pushing the limits of the game.          |
| <b>Thalaivars</b>             | To Be Thick as Thieves | A tightly-knit unit, always playing for each other.                 |
| <b>India Winners</b>          | The Unbreakables       | Gritty, relentless and never out of the fight.                      |
| <b>Shivsu Warriors</b>        | Mr. Cool Captain       | Calm under pressure, victory or defeat, they stand tall.            |
| <b>Go Colors Super Kings</b>  | Team-Oriented          | Masters of teamwork and support.                                    |
| <b>South Super Stars</b>      | The Positive Force     | A team that never backs down, very optimistic.                      |



Uma Eye Champions' unbeaten run finally came to an end but in the most entertaining way possible! In their third match of the weekend, they decided to shake things up, deliberately planning to fail and having some fun with their winning streak. Reliance Knight Riders set a solid target, reaching 100/4 in 10 overs, with Anand Karthik chipping in 15. Uma Eye Champions, despite a strong start (50 in 6 overs), never really pushed for the win. With 12 extras helping their cause, they still fell short, finishing at 86/8 in 10 overs. A rare loss, but one that came with plenty of laughs. Even champions need a break from winning!


Over two action-packed days, 12 exciting matches were played, filled with sportsmanship and pure competitive spirit. Teams cheered each other on, offered support and showcased peak fitness, proving they had the stamina to go the distance. Even before the games began, some teams hit the nets for extra practice, fine-tuning their skills. The atmosphere was electric, laughter echoed, and sweat poured.




- Match 1** : Uma Eye Champions dominated Thalaivars, winning by 10 wickets.
- Match 2** : Go Colors Super Kings secured a 6-wicket victory over South Super Stars.
- Match 3** : Chennai Gurus triumphed over Reliance Knight Riders by 16 runs.
- Match 4** : Shivsu Warriors won against South Super Stars, winning by 9 wickets.
- Match 5** : India Winners edged past Go Colors Super Kings in a nail-biter, winning by just 1 run.
- Match 6** : Reliance Knight Riders put in a strong performance, defeating Shivsu Warriors by 29 runs.









*We cordially invite you for the Valedictory of RCMPL Season II*

**Chief Guest**  
**Rtn. D. Suresh Jain**  
 District Governor Nominee - RID 3234

**Guests of Honour**  
**Rtn. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan**  
 District Governor Nominee Designate - RID 3234

**Rtn. S. Balakrishna**  
 Chairman - Tamil Nadu Premier League (TNPL)

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**From 3:00 PM onwards** | **SRMC Cricket Ground** | **16th March, 2025 Sunday**

**Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran**  
 Chairman - RCMPL

**Rtn. G. Chella Krishna**  
President 2024-25
**Rtn. Rajesh Mani**  
Hon. Secretary 2024-25

- Match 7** : Uma Eye Champions continued their win, beating South Super Stars by 5 runs.
- Match 8** : Chennai Gurus secured a 15-run victory over Shivsu Warriors.
- Match 9** : Reliance Knight Riders ended Uma Eye Champions' unbeaten run, winning by 14 runs.
- Match 10** : Chennai Gurus cruised to an 8-wicket win over India Winners.
- Match 11** : Thalaivars delivered a dominant Uperformance, defeating Go Colors Super Kings by 39 runs.
- Match 12** : Shivsu Warriors wrapped up the tournament with a close 6-run win over India Winners.

Reliance Knight Riders are currently leading the tournament. Each match was a battle of skill and strategy, but beyond the scores, it was the camaraderie, passion and spirit of competition that made this a weekend to remember!



## MATCH SCHEDULE

DAY 5 - 15TH MARCH, 2025      VENUE: SRMC GROUND

Reliance Knight Riders

VS

Thalaivars

South Super Stars

VS

Chennai Gurus

Shivsu Warriors

VS

Go Colors Super Kings

Uma Eye Champions

VS

India Winners

Chennai Gurus


VS

Go Colors Super Kings

Thalaivars

VS

India Winners



## MATCH SCHEDULE

### FIXTURES

DAY 6 - 16TH MARCH 2025

7:30 AM

**Qualifier - 1**  
 Team 1 vs Team 2

9:30 AM

**Eliminator**  
 Team 3 vs Team 4

12 Noon

**Qualifier - 2**  
 Loser Q1 vs Winner Eliminator

3:00 pm

**FINALS**  
 Q1 vs Q2

WWW.RCMPREMIERLEAGUE.COM



# Empowering Educators, Empowering Young Minds:



Date : **24th February 2025**

Venue : **Jayagovind Harigopal Agarwal Agarsen College, Madhavaram**

In a bid to educate and empower the young minds of tomorrow, a cervical cancer vaccination awareness program was conducted at Jayagovind Harigopal Agarwal Agarsen College, Madhavaram. The event, held on 24th February 2025, brought together college staff, girl students, and parents to discuss the importance of cervical cancer vaccination.

The program was made possible by the support of Rtn. Aditya Agarwal, who facilitated the connection with the college management. The session was led by Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan, who emphasized the urgency of getting vaccinated against cervical cancer and the importance of regular Pap smear tests.

Over 80 participants engaged actively, seeking answers to their queries. The audience was engaged and inquisitive, seeking clarification on vaccination side effects and effectiveness. Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan patiently addressed all queries, providing valuable insights and reassurance.

A key highlight of the event was the announcement of an upcoming mega vaccination camp, exclusively for college-going girls, scheduled for 28th February and 1st March 2025.

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Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan, who emphasized the urgency of getting vaccinated against cervical cancer and the importance of regular Pap smear tests.

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Date : **25th February 2025**

Venue : **Smt. Narbada Devi J. Agarwal Vivekananda Vidyalaya Sr. Sec School, Vyasarpadi**

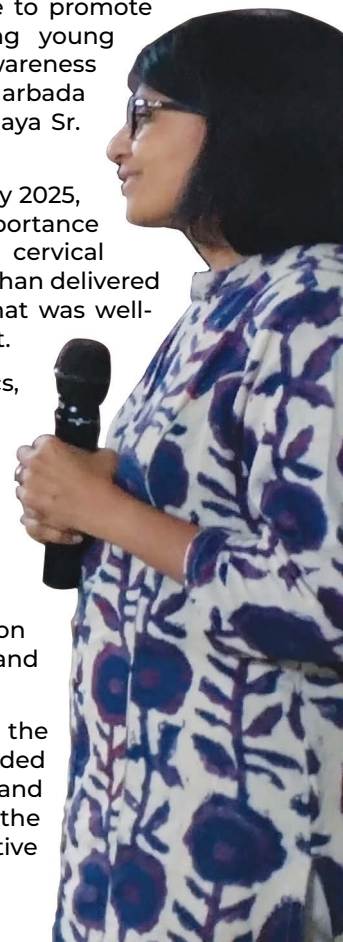
As part of our ongoing initiative to promote cervical cancer vaccination among young girls, our team conducted an awareness program for the school staff at Smt. Narbada Devi J. Agarwal Vivekananda Vidyalaya Sr. Sec. School, Vyasarpadi.

The program, held on 25 February 2025, aimed to educate teachers on the importance of vaccinating young girls against cervical cancer. Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan delivered a clear and concise presentation that was well-received by the school management.

The session covered crucial topics, including:

- The significance of vaccinating girls at a young age
- The benefits and effects of the vaccination
- The necessary documentation process, including Patient Information forms, Consent forms from parents and AADHAR copies of the children

Nearly 30 teachers attended the orientation program, which provided them with the knowledge and confidence to support and promote the cervical cancer vaccination initiative among their students.







## Get To Know the Leading Team **Reliance Knight Riders**

*(This is an exclusive interview with pro player Arunodaya Reddy from Reliance Knight Riders ahead of the semi-finals.)*

**1. Your team, Reliance Knight Riders, is currently leading. How does that make you feel?**

I'm happy, but more than that, we're enjoying the bonding with the teams. It's great to be on top, but the tournament isn't over yet. Let's see how things go.

**2. What is your preparation process before each match?**

We follow the usual routine—warm-ups, pep talks and planning for the day. We clearly define our goals, like deciding the batting order from 1 to 5 and assigning bowling responsibilities, such as who will open and who will bowl the crucial fifth over.

**3. Since team members come from different places and time is limited, do you get to practice together?**

We practice occasionally, but we make sure to stay in touch with our skills. Each of us practices individually whenever possible. Personally, I hit the nets to prepare for the weekend matches. So, while we don't practice regularly as a team, we make it work.

**4. How confident are you about winning RCMPL 2?**

We're confident. Based on how we're playing right now, if we continue this way, we have a great chance of winning. But in cricket, anything can happen, whoever performs better on the day will decide the outcome. We're looking forward to the semi-finals. Let's wait and see!



**Rtn. Anand Vurgese with the winner's trophy for the BN Swamy Inter Club Table Tennis Tournament**





# 242 Women Empowered

## Women's Day & Certificate Distribution at RCM Selaiyur

The RCM Selaiyur campus was abuzz with energy and excitement on March 8, 2025, as we celebrated International Women's Day, coupled with a grand certificate distribution ceremony. The short event was a beautiful blend of achievement, gratitude and celebration of womanhood.

This was a proud moment for RCM as 242 women were awarded certificates for successfully completing a wide range of skill development programs, such as MS Office, Tally, Spoken English, Tailoring and Aari Embroidery. These women are now equipped with tools to chart their paths toward financial independence and personal growth.

A special highlight was our collaboration with NIIT Foundation,



Delhi, through which 26 women earned NIIT-RCM certificates in MS Office and 15 women in Tally Prime, adding a prestigious credential to their achievements.

The event was honoured by our strategic partner, Ms. T. Kavitha, Joint Director of the Apparel Skill India Council. In her motivational address, she praised the resilience and determination of every woman present, offering words of encouragement that left a lasting impact on the audience.

One of the most touching moments of the event was hearing testimonials from the women themselves and stories of how RCM's training programs





have opened new opportunities, boosted confidence and brought renewed hope into their lives.

As a gesture of appreciation, the President honoured our dedicated teachers and support staff for their unwavering commitment to nurturing and empowering these women. The day ended on a high note with group photos and a shared sense of accomplishment, a celebration of dreams realized and new journeys beginning. The event was also attended by Rtn. PP. Shanker C. Mangadu, Rtn. President G. Chella Krishna and Vocational Services Director Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti.

Here's to more such milestones and the women who inspire us all!

**- Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota**  
Chairperson, Selaiyur



**Rtn. PP. Indra Subramanyam exchanging flags with President Deshamanya Avanti Karunaratna (RC Kandy) and President Suganthi (RC Klang, Malaysia), strengthening Rotary bonds and international fellowship.**





# Rotary Sustainability Fair

The Sustainability Fair is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras, designed as an awareness-driven campaign that aligns with ICE's mission of fostering environmental consciousness. This fair serves as a platform to educate and engage Rotarians, college students and school students on the importance of sustainable living and climate action.

The event aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative, which advocates for sustainable lifestyle choices and climate-conscious behaviours at both individual and community levels. By integrating interactive exhibits, discussions and hands-on activities, the fair promotes practical solutions that empower people to reduce their environmental impact in everyday life.

For Rotarians, the fair provides insights into sustainability-driven projects that can be integrated into community service initiatives, complementing LIFE's focus on behavioural change for climate action. For students, it fosters an early understanding of eco-friendly habits, green technologies and the role of individuals in mitigating climate change.

By encouraging simple yet impactful lifestyle changes, such as reducing waste, adopting renewable energy, practicing sustainable mobility and making mindful consumption choices, the Sustainability Fair 2025 serves as a platform to inspire real-world action towards India's climate goals.

This fair is not just an event but an extension of ICE's larger narrative, one that bridges awareness with action, ensuring sustainability is actively



practiced across different age groups and sectors. Through its alignment with the LIFE initiative, the fair aims to inspire individuals to become "Pro Planet People", contributing to a greener, climate-resilient future.

- Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran



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](mailto:editor@rcmlighthouse.com) on or before 18th March.

Issue 37



Issue 36 : Best Captions

1. "Now this is the ultimate HIGH 5." – Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain
2. "Five shades of fabulous sailing the Brahmaputra—sunglasses on, worries gone!" – Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia
3. "Brahmaputra bliss for these brilliant, boat-iful RCM women!" – Rtn. Roshan Poncha
4. "RCM Spice Girls plotting their next great escape—armed with wisdom, style, fashion, fun and unstoppable charm." – Rtn. N.K. Bhatia
5. "We are the dancing queens, young and only sweet 17." – Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan
6. Swim ever , Sink never . With you all the way , VBR ! - Rtn. Asha Mathen



# Clean up The Past, Build the Future



## ***A Vocational Services Learning Initiative:***

A few of us from the Rotary Club of Madras had the privilege of experiencing the extraordinary journey of The Plastic Odyssey. This pioneering vessel has been sailing since setting sail from France two years ago. With a diverse crew of 20, comprising 10 seamen and 10 experts in raising awareness against plastic, they've travelled via North Africa, crossed the Atlantic, stopped in Brazil and traversed the Pacific, making a stop in Chennai before heading to South Africa on their way back to France.

Their mission is ambitious: to reduce plastic waste by recycling ocean plastic and, more crucially inspiring individuals & entrepreneurs to adopt sustainable practices and avoid single-use plastic. Onboard, the vessel is cleverly designed, featuring prototype recycling machines, a display area showcasing innovative recycled plastic furniture, and even a full plastic-free kitchen. During our visit, our host, Thibault, enthusiastically shared their vision and we were impressed by their dedication. Kudos to Rtn. Siddharth Hande, thank you for arranging this enlightening experience working with the New Learning Vocational Training Team.

***- Rtn. Roshan Poncha***





# Sanghamitra 2025

The grand inauguration of Sanghamitra 2025, a district conference of considerable repute within Rotary circles, presented itself as a carefully constructed tableau, a performative enactment of the organization's core tenets. This annual gathering, anticipated with a palpable fervor, promised a confluence of bonding, intellectual discourse and aesthetic entertainment, and, indeed, the 2025 conference did not disappoint.

The Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) played a major role in the success of the conference. District Governor Rtn. N.S. Saravanan remarked in RCM weekly meeting that only RCM could orchestrate such an event with such finesse and excellence. The inauguration opened with a Bharatanatyam performance by Rotaractors from MGR Janaki College, an audio-visual presentation followed, chronicling Rotary's enduring legacy, its values and its vision for the future.

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan delivered the welcome address, warmly greeting all attendees. PDG J. Sridhar then introduced the esteemed District Governor, Rtn. N.S. Saravanan ("Namma Sara"). In his inaugural address, DG Saravanan emphasized the importance of "legacy-building."

DGND Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan then introduced RIPR Ijeoma Pearl Okoro, who emphasized the importance of making Rotary an irresistible force through transformative projects and meaningful youth engagement.

The conference's programmatic content, including sessions on "Building a World-Class Stock Exchange" and the "Lifetime Achievement Awards," provided a blend of intellectual stimulation and emotional resonance. Rtn. Vinod Saraogi's citation for Rtn. M.K. Jain, narrative of dedication to education and security, shows the conference's commitment to recognizing exemplary service.



The acknowledgment of senior Rotarians and past governors, as well as the introduction of IAS S.

Krishnan by RCM President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, further added gleam to the conference's function as a space for honouring traditions. The recognition of international delegates, facilitated by Rtn. N.K. Gopinath, is a symbolic gesture of global interconnectedness, reinforcing Rotary's transnational reach.

The RCM's role as "ambassadors for international guests," exemplified by the dedicated efforts of Director Rtn. Sabina Narayan, Chairman Rtn. Suresh Amirapu, Rtn. PP. Gunashekar, Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath and Rtn. PP. Indira Subramaniam, demonstrated a commitment to hospitality and cross-cultural exchange.

Sanghamitra 2025, therefore, functioned as more than a mere gathering, it was a carefully curated experience designed to reinforce Rotary's values and mobilize its members towards collective action.



## Rotary Nostalgia

# Did You Know?



**A**mong the many community service activities our club has undertaken over the years, one notable initiative from 1974 was our family planning programme. As part of this, 2,006 men underwent vasectomy at Stanley Hospital in alignment with the Government's scheme.

**1972:** Two Ambulance Vans (Rs.35,600 each) were presented, one to Government Royapettah Hospital through Hon. K. Anbazhagan, Minister of Health and the other to the Defence Service through Major General M.R.R. Rajwade, Goa, TN, M & K Area.

**1973:** Tailoring classes started at Rotary Nagar on 13-11-1973, inaugurated by Rtn. Dist Governor C.V. George.

**1974:** Family planning in North Madras 2,006 people underwent vasectomy operation at Govt Stanley Hospital. The Commissioner of Madras Corporation, Shri T.V. Antony, IAS gave his full cooperation for the success of the Family Planning programs of our club.

**1975-76:** Donations were made to visually impaired individuals through the National Federation of the Blind, including 50 folding sticks. Additionally, a television set was donated to the School for the Deaf in Santhome and another to the Andhra Mahila Sabha Orthopedic Center.

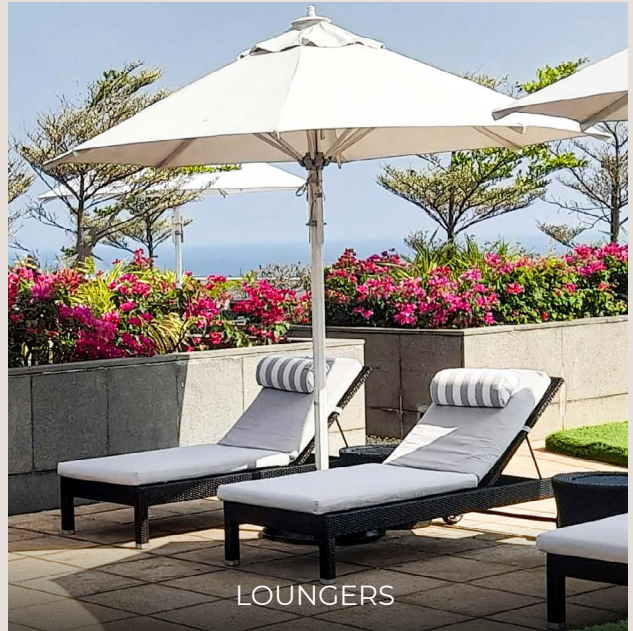
**- Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath**



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