

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 38 | March 23, 2025



Bat, Bowl, Bond, Build, Bring Cheer.



Dear RCMers,

The recently concluded RCMLP2 is a great example of harnessing the power of cricket to Bold, Build and Bring Cheer! Our cover story this week.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

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Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Rotary Club of Madras

38th Weekly Meeting

Topic : **Redington Rising:**
A story of Vision, Grit and Growth.

Speaker : **VS Hariharan,**
Managing Director & Group CEO,
REDINGTON LIMITED

Tuesday, 25th 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



Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 37th Weekly Meeting held on 18-03-2025
 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 37th 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 36th weekly meeting minutes, which were passed and adopted by the members.

Guest Welcome:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna welcomed the Guest of Honor, Dr. Gita Sankaran, and expressed gratitude for her award acceptance. He acknowledged the presence of guests and welcomed the probian members.

RCMPL Overview:

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran provided an overview of the recently concluded Rotary Club of Madras Premier League (RCMPL):

- The event completed its second year.
- Eight teams participated, with many returning from last year.
- The tournament had 32 matches across 6 days spanning 3 weeks.
- An IPL-style eliminator and live telecast with commentary were introduced.
- Acknowledgments were given to the owners, co-owners, sponsors and Rotarians for their contribution.
- President Chella Krishna G. congratulated Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran for his dedication and efforts in ensuring the successful execution of the event.

Recognition of Golf Committee Members:

The Golf Committee members were recognized for their contributions to sponsorship and CSR fundraising. President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna presented tokens of appreciation to committee members, including Rtn. M. Balasubramanian, Rtn. Nimish C. Tolia, Rtn. K. Dhanajaya Das, Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan and other members of the Golf Committee.

Qatar Airways Ticket Auction:

Rtn. Asha Mathen announced that the Golf Committee had secured two complimentary business-class return tickets from Qatar Airways to any destination worldwide. These tickets will be auctioned via a WhatsApp group to raise funds for the Home for the Homeless Project, with each ticket expected to fund at least one home for the homeless. Members were encouraged to join the group and participate actively in the bidding.



Announcements:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna announced that Rtn. PP. Ranjit Pratap, an Arch Klumph Society (AKS) member, has generously pledged a contribution of \$23,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

Next Meeting: 25th March 2025, Speaker: Mr. Hariharan, CEO of Redington. He will discuss Redington's journey from zero to ₹100,000 crores in 25 years and Rtn. V.S. Narasimhan will give a 10-minute prelude on the impact of the club's CSR efforts.

Asst. Secretary Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran announced Birthdays & Anniversaries for the week.

Main Program: Educator Extraordinaire Award

The Rotary Club of Madras conferred the Educator Extraordinaire Award upon Dr. Gita Sankaran for her exceptional contributions to autism education and intervention.

The award was presented by President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna in the presence of Asst. Secretary Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, Chairperson Nikhil Raj, Vocational Services Director Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti, Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar, Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath and Rtn. PP. A.S. Venkhat Ramani.

Chief Guest Mrs. Gita Sankaran addressed the Rotarians, followed by an interactive Q&A session.

At the end of the session, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna presented a memento and a copy of A Timeless Legacy book to the Chief Guest as a token of appreciation.

Closing Remarks:

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan.

Adjournment:

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







Different but Not Less

When she started, there were no schools for autistic children. She faced self-doubt, exhaustion and the overwhelming demands of her work. There were days she felt drained, but the good moments, the small victories and the fun, made it all worthwhile. She wouldn't trade this journey for anything.

In the beginning, she often felt that kids' mothers knew more than she did. But as she deepened her understanding of the science behind autism, she realized that a combination of a good heart and sound knowledge is truly empowering.

Dr. Gita believes that the greatest struggle is faced by families—especially parents, and in particular, mothers. Most programs focus on the child but offer little support for the family. Recognizing this gap, she expanded her work to develop family-centered programs, particularly for mothers, equipping them with the tools they need to support their children as they grow.

As WeCAN expanded, she often wondered if she had "caught a tiger by the tail." With age, she knew she needed a succession plan. Thankfully, providence intervened and a young person with the same passion joined her, ensuring the future of the organization. With that assurance, she now dedicates more time to counselling individuals and families.

Looking back, she reflects, "It's been one hell of a ride—hard but mostly fun." She takes great pride in her team, emphasizing that at the end of the day, they all leave with a smile.

However, it's not all smiles. She cautions that burnout is real in her field. Interestingly, she notes that Wednesdays tend to be the toughest, often the day when children have meltdowns, testing the patience and resilience of therapists.

With her simple yet insightful narrative, she offered a rare glimpse into her journey and the daily realities of working with autistic children. The floor was then opened to questions.

Q&A Session:

"WeCAN—what can you?" How do you integrate children with autism into society?

She says, unfortunately, 85% of children on the spectrum are not "placeable" in traditional employment. Many unsaid social expectations make it difficult for

Dr. Gita Sankaran is a pioneer and a beacon of hope who founded WeCAN India, the first ABA centre in Chennai for children affected by autism spectrum disorder.

She began her career as a Chartered Accountant and was a successful financial analyst before leaving it all behind to make a difference in the lives of neurodivergent children. Today, she is a Board-Certified Behaviour Analyst, a co-author of books on the subject and the host of a podcast dedicated to autism awareness. She has dedicated herself to transforming the lives of autistic children and bridging gaps in society for them.

Her mission is to turn theory into practice and hope into action. Her passion, perseverance and vision have illuminated the lives of many families and she truly embodies the spirit of the Rotary movement. In recognition of her unwavering dedication, RCM honoured her with the "Educator Extraordinaire Award."

Dr. Gita disarmingly admits that she never expected to enter this field. She didn't experience an epiphany or a moment of clarity. She confesses that she was never particularly fond of children. However, when her friend's daughter was diagnosed with autism, her curiosity led her to research the subject extensively. Years of study and self-education followed and now, 25 years later, she looks back at a journey she never could have predicted.



them to work with others. Only about 10% are employable and they are the most high-functioning individuals on the spectrum.

What adult literacy programs are available for autistic children?

Dr. Gita Sankaran replied, that legally a person is considered a child only until they turn 18. From then on, they enter adulthood. Every effort should therefore focus on making them functional adults in society.

This principle applies to neurotypical children as well.

The focus should not be just on traditional education but also on self-help skills, home skills, activities of daily living (ADLs) and instrumental daily living skills (IDLs), personal hygiene and sexual safety.

Autistic individuals often struggle to express their emotions due to a gap in their "feel-understand-talk" loop. When situations become too complex, frustration can lead to aggressive behaviour. The key is to identify problematic behaviour patterns early and address them before they become bigger challenges in adulthood.

Are there any cures for autism?

Dr. Gita acknowledges that many so-called "cures" exist but emphasizes that they should always be tested against a simple bottom line: Does this help the child?

She finds the link between mental health and lunar phases intriguing but remains sceptical about dietary cures, suggesting that they may simply provide comfort to parents, making them feel as though they are doing something.

Some new developments, like Elon Musk's Neuralink, are worth monitoring. However, she also highlights Sangeetha Chakrapani's community housing initiative for autistic adults and their parents as a crucial step toward life placement and sustainable living solutions. One of the biggest concerns remains: What happens to autistic individuals when their parents pass away?

How can employers be sensitized to hiring autistic individuals?

Communication is not just about words. It includes

body language, eye contact, expressions and even vocal intonation.

She shares a personal experience from Japan, where she struggled to communicate her dietary restrictions. After trying 16 restaurants, she felt utterly frustrated by the communication barrier. This experience helped her understand what autistic individuals must feel daily when their needs are not understood.

Being able to talk is not the same as being able to communicate.

Every individual on the spectrum is unique. Some can thrive in corporate settings, while others may excel in repetitive tasks that do not require social interaction or complex decision-making. Employers can make small adjustments to accommodate autistic employees by reducing social interfaces and identifying potential stressors.

At the same time, autistic individuals must also adapt to the work environment to some extent. It takes effort from both sides; it takes two to tango.

How can neurotypical children interact with neurodivergent kids?

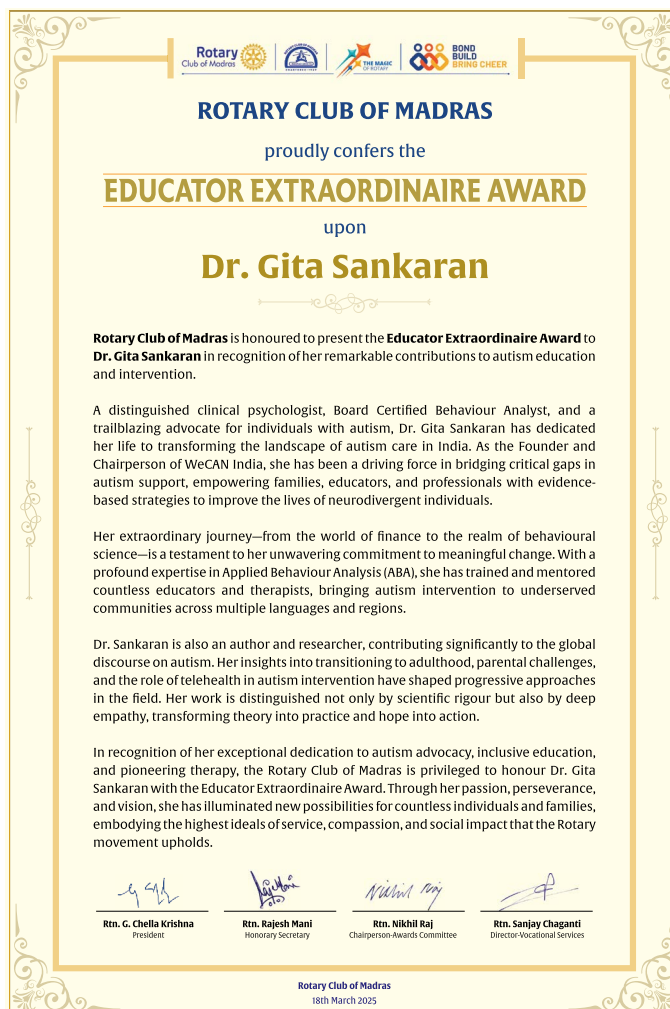
Dr. Gita acknowledges that bullying is a harsh reality for autistic children. She and her organization constantly grapple with the question: Who should be our target audience? Should the focus be on autistic children or on neurotypical peers who need to be educated about inclusion?

Humans instinctively shy away from anything different. The key is to treat autistic individuals as you would treat anyone else.

However, if an autistic person appears uncomfortable, the best approach is to remain patient and avoid overreacting. Autistic individuals do not harbor malice—they may have emotional outbursts, but they bounce back quickly.

"Autism is not a tragedy. Ignorance is the tragedy."

- Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan





Life Begins After 40

Chennai Gurus are the champions of RCMPL 2! I remember during the auction when Rtn. Sai Shivkumar, the captain of the team, confidently stated that they would definitely win this season. He proved his words right by scoring 120 runs in the finals, setting a difficult target for Uma Eye Champions. However, it just wasn't their day. Playing three matches under the scorching sun must have drained them, even though they put up a commendable performance.

Their downfall was triggered when their marquee player, Mohana Krishnan, got out on the very first ball. After that, the wickets kept falling, either through run-outs or catches. That's how cricket goes; unpredictable and intriguing. Interestingly, when we interviewed team owners and captains before the tournament, almost everyone believed that Uma Eye Champions had the highest chance of winning. But who would have thought that their fiercest rivals, Chennai Gurus, would change the course of the game entirely?

The Chennai Gurus captain even spilled the bean behind their success. He mentioned that they ensured every player padded up so that no one knew who would bat next. This strategy kept everyone prepared and alert throughout the game. Their incredible team spirit was another key factor. Even if a player didn't get a chance to bat or bowl, he still felt part of the victory, whether it was through a catch or a run-out. From their very first match, they made it clear that every contribution mattered.

Let's rewind to the auction, where the chairman of RCMPL 2, Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran conducted an IPL-style event, allowing captains to select five platinum players each. With each team playing seven matches, the tournament ensured fair play and gave players ample opportunity to showcase their skills. The match weekends were filled with intense games and enthusiastic participation. Players from different Rotary clubs came together, making this tournament a memorable experience.

One of the best highlights was seeing different teams eat together, share laughter and tease each other about the matches. On the field, they were fierce competitors, but off the field, they were like best friends. This Rotary camaraderie exemplified true sportsmanship. They taught each other techniques, discussed strategies and constantly aimed to improve.

If you watched the matches live, either in person or on screen, you couldn't help but become a fan. Each player gave his best and every team played exceptionally well. The most remarkable thing? These players are all above 40, yet their energy levels could put even 18-year-olds to shame! Despite their expanding waistlines, they still hit sixes and fielded like Ravindra Jadeja. Their passion for the game was truly inspiring.

Now, back to the matches.

- Qualifier 1: The first match of the finals was between Uma Eye Champions and Chennai Gurus. The winner would qualify directly



for the finals. As you now know, Chennai Gurus won this nail-biting match by just 5 runs.

- Eliminator: The second match was between Reliance Knight Riders and Thalaivars. The losing team would be eliminated. RKR secured a convincing 38-run victory, placing Thalaivars in fourth place. Interestingly, Thalaivars had previously defeated RKR by a huge margin on Saturday, but in cricket, every day is a new challenge.
- Qualifier 2: The third match was between Reliance Knight Riders and Uma Eye Champions. This match was played in peak afternoon heat. RKR had already played a match earlier, while Uma Eye Champions were playing their second match of the day. Uma Eye Champions won by 6 wickets, securing their place in the finals.

The grand finale was the most anticipated match of the season, where the best of the best faced off. The tournament had come full circle,

as it began and ended with the same two teams battling it out.

Chennai Gurus started steadily, scoring 23 runs in the first two overs without losing a wicket. Their momentum continued as they reached 50 runs in just 4.4 overs. By the 9th over, they had crossed 101 runs, showcasing their dominance. A final push saw them close their innings at 119/5 in 10 overs. Karthi K.N. contributed a solid 19 runs, while Selva added 3.

Uma Eye Champions' chase got off to a shaky start, losing two wickets in the first two overs while scoring 25 runs. Despite some resistance, they reached 51 runs in 5.2 overs, but their innings never quite took off. By the end of 10 overs, they finished at 80/8. Manikandan (4) and Dhanasekar Ganesan (7) held the fort, but Chennai Gurus had already sealed their victory.

This season was graced by several dignitaries, including DGND Rtn. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, Chief Guest DGN Suresh Jain, RCMPL

Chairman Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, RCMPL Co-Chairman Rtn. S. Balakrishna, President-Elect Nikhil Raj, along with several RCM members including Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Rtn. Raghunandan, Rtn. B.V. Gautam and Rtn. Vijay Kumar Kadel. They thoroughly enjoyed the match, reacting passionately to every nail-biting moment. Their cheers and shouts proved that they had a fantastic time indeed.

The LED displays, live coverage and commentary enhanced the excitement, making it feel like a true IPL experience. This tournament was not just about winning or losing, it was about passion, fellowship and the love for cricket. Congratulations to Chennai Gurus for their well-deserved victory and hats off to all the teams for making RCMPL 2 a spectacular event!



Exclusive Interview with RCMPL 2 Champions

Chennai Guru Captain Rtn. Sai Shivkumar

This is an exclusive interview with Chennai Guru, winning Captain Rtn. Sai Shivkumar before the finals.

1. How was this RCMPL season?

I believe the RCMPL season is an excellent platform for young Rotarians who have recently joined and seasoned cricketers within the Rotary Cricket circuit. The format, which ensures every team plays seven matches, was a well-thought-out decision. It provided ample opportunities for players to showcase their skills.

As you know, T10 is an intense format where just one over can change the course of a match. The tournament was well-organized and the iconic ground added to its appeal, making it even more special.

Additionally, the auction process was conducted efficiently, making team selections more engaging. Overall, the tournament continues to celebrate cricket, thanks to the Rotary Club of Madras for its vision and execution. We are truly grateful and look forward to seeing it grow bigger and better each year.

2. Following the auction, was there a specific player you hoped to get, and did they perform well?

Yes, I had a clear strategy regarding the players I wanted to pick. This was my first experience with an auction, but I approached it with a defined plan. In a short format like this, you don't just need a three-dimensional player; you need a four-dimensional one, someone who can bat, bowl, field and keep wickets.

I had my eyes on two such



players: Murali P and Naresh. Both of them played crucial roles in our success at Chennai Gurus, making significant contributions in all aspects of the game. I am extremely satisfied that my strategy paid off. My team owners gave me a free

hand in picking players and it turned out to be a great decision. Regardless of the final result, we have thoroughly enjoyed this journey.

3. Do you follow any specific routine or process before every match?

To be honest, I don't believe in over-strategizing before a game. While basic preparations are necessary, I focus more on fostering a team environment where players enjoy and celebrate each other's success.

One of the key things I try to instill as a leader is the importance of team spirit. The moment players start

When asked about being called a "cool captain" like Dhoni, he smiled and said, "Maybe it's my nature and some meticulous planning. We ensure fair play, rotate players and balance responsibilities. My role as IFCR's past chairman probably helps too."

taking joy in each other's success, it naturally leads to better results. That is what I emphasize the most.

From a match perspective, we usually go with the flow. One fun practice we have is making all 10 players pad up, so no one knows who will go in next. It keeps everyone engaged and mentally prepared. Ultimately, our biggest mantra for success has been that every player feels valued, even someone who takes a single catch but doesn't get to bat or bowl should feel like they made a match-winning contribution.

4. Who do you think will win RCMPL Season 2?

Since I'm part of the finals, I don't want to give a biased answer. However, I can confidently say that this tournament has been organized exceptionally well. Many players have had a fantastic time over the past few weekends and the structure, which resembles the IPL, has only made it more exciting.

The best teams, the ones that have consistently performed well, have reached the top four. The two finalists have worked extremely hard, one team has won six out of seven league matches, while the other has won five out of seven. They have displayed exceptional performances against strong opponents like the Thalaivars.

At this stage, it all comes down to moments—just one over, five minutes of brilliance can change the outcome of the match. Whoever rises to the occasion in those crucial moments will emerge victorious.

While it's unfortunate that Thalaivars couldn't qualify, the final is set to be a contest between two well-deserving teams. In the end, may the best team win

RCMPL Co-Chairman and Owner of Thalaivars

S. Balakrishna

1. How is the experience of being the owner of this team Thalaivars?

It's been a great journey. I was the owner last year as well, but we had a different team then. This year, we selected our team through an auction, carefully putting together what we believed was a strong team. Unfortunately, we lost in the eliminator, but that's part of the game. It has still been a valuable experience.



2. It was a tough road to get this far. What were your initial thoughts on this match and what do you think went wrong?

I don't think anything went wrong. We set a target of 85, which we believed was a chaseable score. Throughout the tournament, teams have been scoring between 85 to 100 runs, so it was within reach.

However, it's rare to see all players underperform at the same time and today just wasn't our day. That's cricket—sometimes things don't go as planned.

3. This season has been exceptionally organised. As a Co-Chairman how did you manage?

It has indeed been a fantastic season. We organized a well-structured tournament where marquee players had the opportunity to select their teams through an auction.

Every team had a fair chance to pick the players they wanted, so there were no complaints about team selection.

4. Who do you think will win RCMPL 2?

All the remaining teams have a good chance of winning. The top four teams proved their strength throughout the tournament.

It all comes down to performance on the day. Yesterday, we won against Reliance Knight Riders by a huge margin and today, we lost by a big margin. That's how the game works—momentum shifts and it all depends on how you perform in that crucial one-hour window.

5. Can we expect you to continue as a team owner next year?

Absolutely. I am very passionate about the game and I will continue as an owner. However, next year might bring new rules and changes, depending on the tournament structure and decisions made by the organizers. But my involvement in the game will remain.

Go Colors Super Kings Captain - Shyam Sunder

Reflecting on his captaincy, he shared that it was a tough yet enjoyable experience. While the first three matches had a full squad, availability became a challenge on a working Saturday, forcing the team to manage with fewer players. Despite this, he enjoyed mingling with new teammates and leading the side.

When asked about the key assets in his team, he highlighted Praveen



Sidh for his consistent all-round performance and Rajesh Kumar for his reliability with the bat and sharp fielding across four matches.

Speaking about the season overall, he felt it was a big improvement from the first. With more players turning up for matches, the competition was stronger and more engaging compared to the previous season.

Shivsu Warriors Captain

Jagan





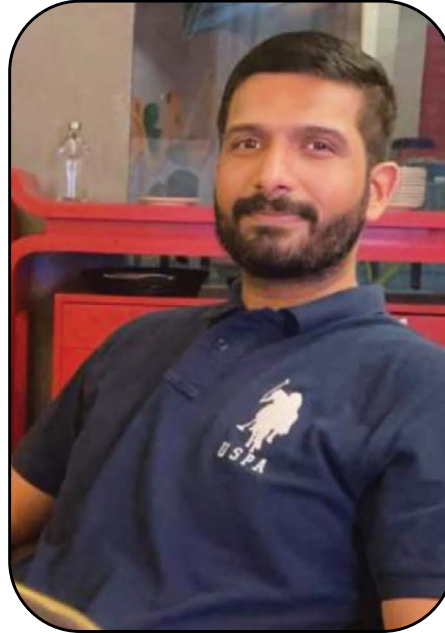
Talking about his captaincy, he shared that leading Shivsu Warriors has been an exciting challenge. With 18 players in the team but only 11 getting to bat and bowl, keeping everyone involved was tough. However, the team spirit remained strong and despite a slow start, they finished well.

When asked about being called a "cool captain" like Dhoni, he smiled and said, "Maybe it's my nature and some meticulous planning. We ensure fair play, rotate players and balance responsibilities. My role as IFCR's past chairman probably helps too."

On the team's key assets, he acknowledged all 18 players, highlighting Shivkumar Eshwaran, the tournament chairman and Mahendran, their top pick at 5.1 lakhs, as crucial contributors.

**Go Colors
Super Kings Captain**

Shyam Sunder



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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 25th March.

Issue 38



Issue 37 : Best Captions

1. Krishna with his Gopis – *Rtn. Sabina Narayan*
2. I'm Chella... Chella Krishna! – *Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota*
3. "Looks like that the President discovered the secret to leadership-always stay grounded when surrounded by unstoppable ladies' power." – *Rtn. N.K. Bhatia*
4. Behind president Chella's successful year is not just one lady but over 25 ladies! – *Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay*

Karangal'25

A Cultural Event and Music Concert for a Cause

Introduction:

Karangal'25 was a grand cultural event and music concert organized with a dual purpose:

1. Providing precaution kits to farmers, including face masks, hand gloves and leather boots, along with an awareness session on the safe use of insecticides and fertilizers.
2. Supplying incinerators to orphanages housing mentally and physically disabled individuals.

Event Overview:

The Rotaract Club of SDNB Vaishnav College successfully organized "Karangal'25" on March 16, 2025, at SDNB Vaishnav College for Women. The event was co-hosted by the Rotaract Clubs of Loyola College, Anna Adarsh College for Women, Madras Millennia and D.R.B.C.C.C. Hindu College.

Inauguration Ceremony:

The event commenced with an inauguration ceremony led by the Chief Guest, Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Youth Service Director. The Guest of Honour for the event was Rtr. PP. PHF Vignesh Chandran, ADRR 2024-25.



Event Details:

- Online Events: Reels Making, Song Recreation and Meme Creation Competitions were conducted.
- On-stage Events: Adaptune, Choreo and Copycat

Competitions took place, showcasing the talent and creativity of participants.

- Total Participation: The event witnessed an overwhelming response, with 650 participants in attendance.

Valedictory Ceremony:

The valedictory ceremony was presided over by the Faculty Coordinator, Dr. A. Parvin. The event concluded with a memorable group photo featuring participants, organizers, the President, Secretaries and chief guests, followed by a DJ session to celebrate the success of the event.



Fighting Diabetes Early

The 9th Diabetes Awareness Program, held on February 1st, 2025, was a resounding success. Organized by the Rotary Club of Madras and Rotary Club of Del Mar Solana Beach, in association with the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW) – Tamil Nadu, the event took place at Shri Krishnaswamy Higher Secondary School, Anna Nagar, Chennai.

The program began with the national anthem and was attended by 390 enthusiastic students from grades 6 to 10. The event aimed to educate students about the risks and consequences of diabetes and to promote healthy lifestyle choices to prevent the disease.

Headmistress Mrs. Amudha delivered the welcome address and facilitated the proceedings. Rtn. Ravishankar P addressed the gathering, outlining the project's objectives and emphasizing the importance of physical activities, a balanced diet and acquiring knowledge about diabetes from a young age.

Mr. Vasudevan, a seasoned expert with over 30 years of experience, led an informative session on diabetes prevention, highlighting the importance of a balanced diet, BMI calculation and prevention strategies.

The program concluded with a question-and-answer session, where students demonstrated their understanding of diabetes awareness and prevention. A school teacher delivered the vote of thanks.

As a token of appreciation for their participation, each student received a healthy snack of almonds. They eagerly shared their newfound knowledge and expressed enthusiasm about passing on what they had learned to their family members



Birthdays		24th Mar to 30th Mar 2025
Rtn. K. Jayaramakrishnan		24/3
Rtn. Dr. H. Krishna Hande		24/3
Rtn. V.M. Sivasubramaniam		27/3
Rtn. Ravi Moorthy		28/3
Rtn. Thomas Philip		28/3
Rtn. Vinay Mohan		28/3
Rtn. P.C. Shyam Sunder		29/3
Spouses' Birthdays		
Ann. Y. Shahaja, Spouse of Rtn. E. Aswath Kumar Reddy		27/3
Ann. Laura, Spouse of Rtn. Nikhil Raj		29/3
Ann. Sarita Jain, Spouse of Rtn. Mahinder Jain		30/3
Wedding Anniversary		
Rtn. Dr. P.V. Srinath Yeswanth & Anitha		28/3

HPV Vaccination Campaign

In a concerted effort to protect young women from the devastating effects of cervical cancer, the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) joined forces with the Adyar Cancer Institute to launch a pioneering HPV Vaccination Campaign. This ambitious initiative, held on February 28th and March 1st, 2025, aimed to provide free vaccinations to 500 college girls.

To generate buzz and encourage participation, posters and videos were circulated across colleges through social media platforms and other channels. The response was overwhelming, with 183 registrations pouring in. Although the campaign ultimately vaccinated 95 girls, it marked a significant step forward in the fight against cervical cancer.

The campaign's impact extends beyond the numbers. Many participants expressed enthusiasm for future vaccination sessions, paving the way for RCM to explore possibilities for expanding and enhancing the program.



"Together, we can create a healthier, more empowered future for young women everywhere."

This initiative is a testament to RCM's unwavering commitment to public health. After playing a key role in eradicating polio, the club is now actively working to fight cervical cancer. As RCM continues to push boundaries and drive positive change, its HPV Vaccination Campaign is a shining example of the power of collaborative effort and community-driven initiatives.

On February 4, 2025, a landmark HPV Vaccination Camp was held at INS Adyar, exclusively for the benefit of female family members of the Navy personnel and girl children. This initiative aimed to safeguard the health and well-being of young girls, protecting them from the devastating effects of cervical cancer.

The event began with an awareness session by Rtn. Dr. Anbarasi Kumaresan, Senior Consultant Radiation Oncologist. She educated parents and officers on the importance of the HPV vaccine, addressing their concerns and clearing misconceptions.

Following the awareness session, 30 girls received their first dose of the HPV vaccine, with the consent of their parents. This milestone marks a significant step towards empowering young girls with the protection they need to lead healthy lives.

The success of this event is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the organizers, medical professionals and parents. We look forward to continuing this initiative and ensuring more young girls receive the protection they deserve.



Enhancing Healthcare in Chennai: Rotary Club of Madras Unveils New Diagnostic Ultrasound System

On March 6, 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras took a significant step in strengthening the healthcare system in Chennai by launching a Diagnostic Ultrasound System at the R.S.R.M Government Hospital. This initiative made possible through a partnership with the Redington Foundation, aims to provide free diagnostic services to patients, enabling early disease detection and improving treatment outcomes.

The launch ceremony was attended by distinguished guests,

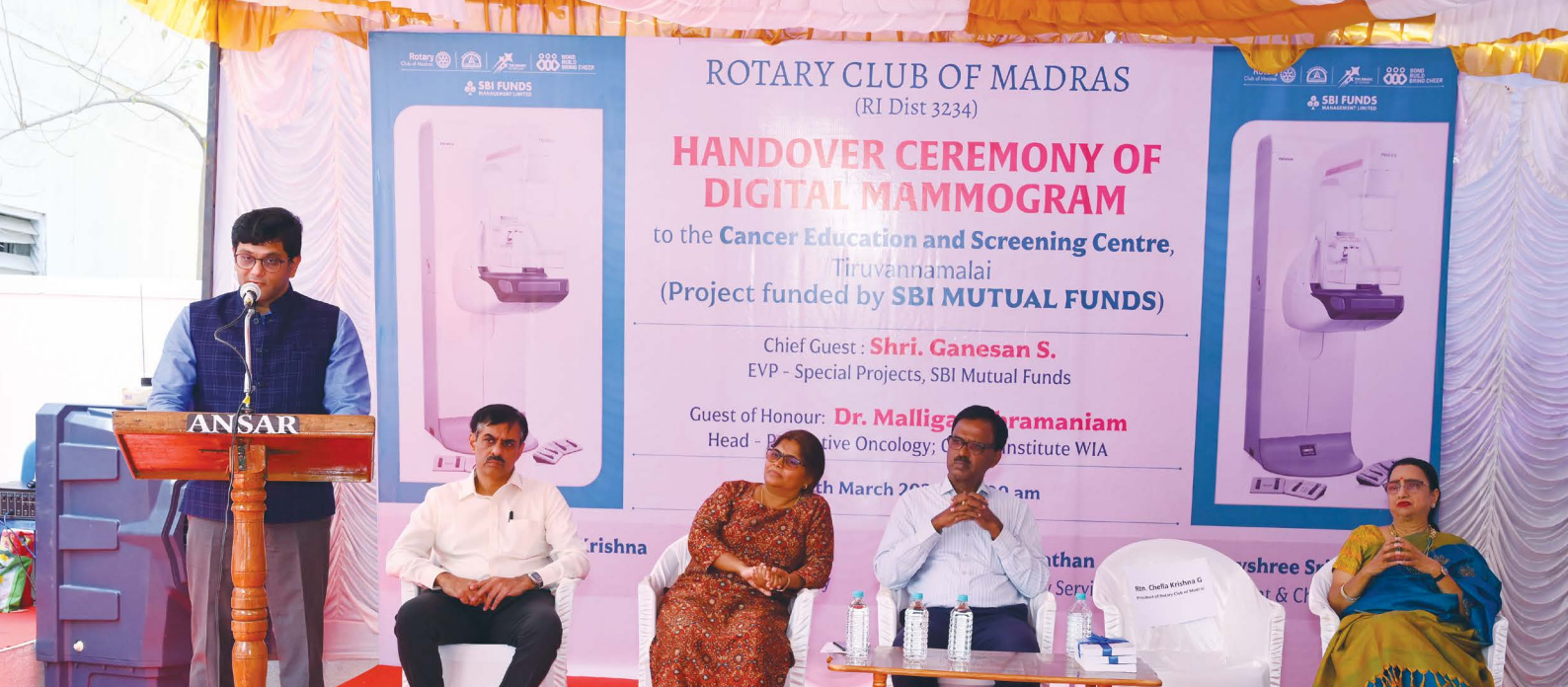


including Rtn. Chella Krishna G, President of Rotary Club of Madras; Mr. Hemant Lohiya, CSR Head of Redington Foundation; Dr. Shanthi K Elango, Superintendent of R.S.R.M Hospital; Thiru. Idream R Murthy, MLA-Royapuram; and Dr. Mahesh, Dean (FAC) of Stanley Medical College. Dedicated Rotarians Rtn. Visvanathan A.M, Director of Community Service 2 Health and Rtn. Nikhil Raj, President-Elect, also participated in the event.

The event began with the lighting of the lamp by the distinguished guests, followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. Shanthi K Elango and Rtn. Chella Krishna G presented the presidential address, emphasizing the importance of Redington's support and its role in servicing society. Mr. Hemant Lohiya delivered a special address, expressing gratitude to the Rotary Club of Madras for implementing the project successfully. Thiru. Idream R Murthy expressed gratitude for the Rotary Club Madras's continued support of the RSRM Hospital and Redington Foundation's donation of the ultrasound system.



The Diagnostic Ultrasound project, valued at Rs. 30,00,000, will provide free services to all patients, helping diagnose diseases at an early stage and reducing the risk of complications. This initiative is a testament to the Rotary Club of Madras's commitment to improving healthcare outcomes and serving the community.



RCM Launches Digital Mammogram Machine in Tiruvannamalai

On March 10, 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras partnered with SBI Mutual Funds and the Cancer Institute (WIA), Tiruvannamalai, to launch a state-of-the-art digital mammogram machine at the old Government Hospital in Tiruvannamalai. This initiative seeks to enhance the healthcare system of the government hospital and promote early detection of breast cancer in women.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including Rtn. Chella Krishna G, President of the Rotary Club of Madras; Mr. Ganesan, Executive Vice President – Special Projects at SBI Mutual Funds; and Dr. Malliga Subramaniam, Head of Preventive Oncology at the Cancer Institute (WIA) and several of our dedicated Rotarians participated including Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Director of CSR; Rtn. Jayashree Sridhar, Past President & Chairperson of Medical Equipment Donation Committee; Rtn. S. Balakrishna, President Nominee, Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan, CSR – Mentor and Ms. Preethi Srinivasan, Founder & Trustee, Soul Free.

The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the



esteemed guests. Dr. Malliga Subramaniam extended a warm welcome, setting the stage for the event. Rtn. PP. Jayashree Sridhar then delivered the inaugural address, highlighting the project's vital role in rural areas and its pioneering collaboration between SBI and the Cancer Institute in Tiruvannamalai. Notably, this pioneering partnership with SBI was initiated in 2022, marking the first-ever mammogram initiative at the Cancer Institute, Devakottai.

Rtn. Chella Krishna G delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the importance of SBI's support and the Cancer Institute's role as an implementing partner. He also presented the "Timeless Legacy" book to the dignitaries.

Mr. Ganesan from SBI delivered a special address, expressing gratitude to the Rotary Club of Madras for implementing the project within the stipulated timeframe. He stressed the crucial



role of the cancer screening team in identifying cases and suggested maintaining the machine in good condition for public service.

Mr. Chandrakumar, Program Manager, Cancer Institute Tiruvannamalai, explained the organization's activities over the past seven years, the challenges they faced, and how the digital mammogram machine has enabled them to screen more cases in less time.

Rtn. Ganesh Ananthkrishnan presented the vote of thanks and expressed gratitude to the

donors, mentors, chairperson, president, and director of community health for their support throughout the project.

Mr. Ganesan from SBI officially unveiled the plaque and inaugurated the mammogram machine. The digital mammogram project, valued at Rs. 1,04,16,000, will provide free services to all women through the Cancer Institute, enabling early detection and treatment of breast cancer. This initiative marks a significant step towards improving healthcare facilities in Tiruvannamalai and promoting women's health.



Fireside Hosted by Rtn Gautam B.V. and K. Shamantha on Sat, Feb 1, 2025



Fireside Hosted by Rtn Mohit Bajaj and Nikita Bajaj on Fri, Feb 28, 2025



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