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# Care, Commitment, Continuity: Reviving VHS Senior Wing



# **Editor's Note**

# 

# Dear RCMers,

As RCM nears its centenary, we proudly renew our commitment to service by upgrading the VHS Senior Citizens Centre—first established in 2003 for our 75th Charter Day—ensuring it continues to offer dignity, care, and comfort to our elders for years to come.



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan Chairperson Mr.Madhu Mathen Co-Chairperson



 $46^{th}$  Weekly Meeting



Topic: \*Decoding **OPERATION SINDOOR** and The Way Forward.

Speaker: Major General **Rajiv Narayanan** (Retd.), AVSM, VSM Professor of Practice at IIT Madras Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies.

Tuesday, 27th May 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

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> **Director - Community Health** Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan

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### THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

Editor : Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran Chairperson : Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan Co-Chairman : Mr.Madhu Mathen Mentors : Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath Rtn. PP.Indra Subramanyam COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Bulletin Design: CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

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# Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) The Club Assembly held on 17-05-2025

at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

# Call to Order:

Past President Rtn. N.K. Gopinath called the meeting to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

# **Confirmation of Minutes:**

The Past President sought confirmation for the 44th weekly meeting minutes, which were passed and adopted by the members.

### Welcome Address:

PP. Rtn. N.K. Gopinath delivered a nostalgic and inspiring address, reflecting on his tenure. He shared the significance of wearing the Presidential jewel, which symbolizes the legacy and leadership of 20 past presidents before him. He acknowledged the RCM as a beacon of service, excellence and commended its continued growth over the decades. He concluded his address by extending his best wishes to President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj, Secretary-Elect Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan and the incoming board for the successful Rotary year 2025–26.

# Announcements:

**Vocational Service Workshop:** Rtn. Deepak Chander announced that a Beginner AI Workshop will be conducted by Mrs. Sandhya Jaichandren, spouse of Green Rotarian Justice Dr. M. Jaichandren. The session is scheduled for Tuesday, 27th May 2025, from 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM, following the regular weekly meeting. The workshop is open to all, including senior citizens and parents interested in learning to use voice assistants and basic AI tools.

Secretary's Announcements: Rtn. Rajesh Mani announced the birthdays and anniversaries for the week. He also informed that the weekly meeting will be held on 27th May 2025 at the Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

**Incoming President's Address:** President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj welcomed members to the Club Assembly for the Rotary year 2025–26. He emphasized the importance of continuity and legacy within the RCM and shared his vision for the upcoming year. He noted that the detailed plans have been prepared by the directors and will be implemented from day one. He urged all members to participate actively, stating, "Together we can do so much."

# Presentations by Directors:

The meeting proceeded with a presentation of plans for the year 2025–26 by the incoming board members.

# 1. Club Services – Rtn. Rajesh Mani

Vision: Sustain momentum and deepen member



engagement. With 90+ Rotarians already on committees, the focus is on inclusivity and participation.

# **Key Initiatives:**

- **TARIA:** Continued leadership by Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan, supported by Rtn. Rajasekar Gorantla & Rtn. Mahul H. Shah focus on digitization.
- **Constitution & Bylaws:** Rtn. Rajasekar Gorantla (Chair), mentored by Rtn. Jacob Kurian.
- Official Events: Led by Rtn. Siddharth Ganeriwala with Team Aura overseeing Installation, Charter Night and DG visit.
- Full-Club Fellowships: 12 themed events led by Rtn. V. Sakthivel Raja
- Firesides: Chaired by Rtn. E. Aswath Kumar Reddy, co-chaired by Rtn. Balaji Chinni.
- **Domestic Trips:** Lucknow (Nov) led by Rtn. Sarada Sriram; Goa (Feb) led by Rtn. Ashish Gupta.
- **Membership & Classification:** Led by Rtn. Vikram Chesetty, mentored by Rtn. M. Balasubramanian.
- Member Engagement: Headed by Rtn. M. Sesha Sai.
- Rotary Information: Under Rtn. PP. S.N. Srikanth and Rtn. M. Srinivasan
- **Programs:** Curated by Rtn. Mohit Bajaj and Rtn. Himanshu Budhia.
- Holistic & Wellness: Rtn. Abhay Mehta will organize arts, dance, turtle walks and more.

# Minutes

- **DEI:** Chaired by Hon. Secretary Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan.
- IC against Sexual Harassment: Led by Rtn. Shanno Ravi.
- Community Service I Rtn. Capt. Suresh Amirapu: Theme: Long-term, legacy-driven impact through a rebranded vertical.

# **Key Projects:**

- Home for the Homeless: Led by Rtn. N. Prakash, mentored by Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan.
- Lake Restoration: Chaired by Rtn. PP. P.N. Mohan
- Water Bodies: Led by Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra.
- WASH Projects: Ongoing under Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar.
- Boys Town: Chaired by Rtn. Rajesh Vummidi and Mentored by Rtn. N.K. Bhatia.

# 3. Community Service II – Health Care – Rtn. Arjun Ananth

**Guiding Principles**: Sustainability, Measurable Impact, Legacy.

# **Focus Areas:**

- **Cancer Care:** Mammography machines, "Caring for the Breadwinner," HPV vaccines, hospice support.
- Nephrology: Dialysis machine donations.
- **Pediatric Cardiology:** Infant surgeries with Kokilaben Hospital.
- Mental Health: Outreach via SCARF (Schizophrenia Research Foundation) and Sneka to 20,000+ people.

**Core Team:** Rtns. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan, Bharath Shetty, Dr. Rama Narasimhan, Dr. Anisha Ashok, Nimish C. Tolia, Bharat M. Pujara, Hiren Bhasker Shah, Vijay Kumar Kadel, Linesh Sanatkumar and Ashish Ahuja.

 Vocational Service – Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau Theme: Legacy through cause champions and expert educators.

# **Major Projects:**

- Selaiyur Center of Excellence: Strengthening vocational training, medical outreach.
- Rotary Nagar: New learning center, LKG–12th tuition, STEM sessions by Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar.
- Four-Way Test Values Program: Weekly student engagement; Rtn. V.P. Raman Award to scale.
- Scholarships: Continued Boys Town support; new outreach via "cause champions."

- Digital Learning: Digitalizing underserved schools.
- Vocational Awards: Led by Rtn. S. Balakrishna.

# 5. Youth Services – Led by Director Rtn. Suman Voora and mentored by Rtn. M. Sesha Sai.

**Overview:** Support for 27 Interact and 11 Rotaract Clubs; plans to add 2 Interact & 1 Rotaract.

# **Key Initiatives:**

- Unified Interact Installation
- Outstation RYLA
- Special Events: Vidyamandir @60, New College @50
- International student trip (tentative: Malaysia)
- Hosting District Rotaract Learning Center in Chennai

# 6. International Service – Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran

Goal: Strengthen global Rotary ties through service and cultural exchange.

# **Key Focus Areas:**

- Global Grants & Youth Exchange
- International Days: Peace Day celebrations
- Projects:
- Incubators to Nairobi
- Eye surgeries in Ghana/Kenya
- WASH project in Uthiru/Kenya

**Team Lead:** Rtn. Kamala Ramakrishnan (Chair), Rtn. Shaktivel Raja V.Sp. (Co-chair), Mentored by Rtn. PP Gunashekar .S

# 7. Editorial & Publications – Rtn. Manasa T. Pillai

Theme: "Keep It Simple & Smart" (KISS)

# **Highlights:**

- Introduced editorial team and superhero-themed visuals
- Print & digital editions
- Call for member contributions
- Light-hearted close: "We'll light up your house, not burn it down."

# 8. Fundraising – Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar Major Events & Targets:

- Golf Fundraiser: ₹65–75 lakhs via sponsorships; ₹1 crore through CSR (Chair: Rtn. Sriya Chari)
- Art Auction: ₹30–35 lakhs (Chair: Rtn. Nimish C. Tolia)
- Special Initiatives: Chair: Rtn. Suman Voora,

# Minutes



inspired by 20 lakhs collected through JAYA.

- RCMPL (RCM Premier League): New, scalable initiative.
- 9. CSR Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan Focus Areas:
  - Children's Welfare: Boys Town, Save the Little Hearts (100+ surgeries)
  - Health: Dialysis, cancer detection/prevention
  - Community: WASH, housing

Target: ₹25 crores (₹7–8 crores already in progress)

# Treasurer's Budget Presentation by Rtn. Asha Mathen:

Rtn. Asha Mathen provided an overview of the budget for the year 2024–2025 and also proposed the budget for 2025–2026, which is ₹1.87 crores. She shared detailed information regarding the membership subscription, including the changes during the year.

Rtn. Asha Mathen also added that if there was any increase in RI,District dues and Rotary News that will reflect in the final subscription payable.

### **Conclusion:**

• The proposed budget is well laid out and fully funded.

Mail your captions to editor@rcmlighthouse.com on or before 27th May.

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.

# Closing Remarks by President Rtn. Nikhil Raj

President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj highlighted the Club's service projects and the focus on large-scale initiatives in the upcoming year. He encouraged continued support for the dialysis programs run in partnership with clubs from other regions. He emphasized collaboration with smaller clubs by helping fund their participation in major projects. He acknowledged CSR support and stressed the importance of working together. He concluded by quoting, "Alone we can do so little, but together we can change the world."

# Announcement of Sergeants for the Year

- Chief Sergeant: Rtn. K. Dhananjaya Das
- Sergeants:
  - Rtn. M. Srinivasan
  - Rtn. PP Rani Muralidharan
  - Rtn. PP Jayshree Sridhar

### Vote of Thanks:

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan.

### **Adjournment:**

The Past President, Rtn. Gopinath N.K. and President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj adjourned the meeting.



Issue 47





Issue 46: Best Captions

- "RCMers playing an environmentally friendly sport. No fish were harmed, but few egos might've been....." - *Rtn. N.K Bhatia*
- 2. RCM's Obi Wan Kenobi and Yoda testing their Lightsabers. *Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti*
- 3. Mangalyaan the RCM martians. - Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan
- "Schools to Smiles" by day, "Scales to Sales" by night! - Rtn. Asha Mathen

Gallery - Club Assembly



The Lighthouse | 25 May 2025

he Rotary Club of Madras held its meeting on May 13, 2025, marking the beginning of the upcoming change of ASSION, PROGRES guard. Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath stood in for current President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna. Gopinath reflected on his presidency 21 years ago, expressing joy and nostalgia as he wore the presidential collar again. He highlighted the club's exponential growth and stature, calling RCM a beacon of light among Rotary clubs in India, known for impactful projects and service. He extended his best wishes to the new board.

President-Elect Nikhil Raj addressed the club assembly for the 2025-26 year, pledging to continue the legacy of past presidents with strong action and urging members to contribute their time, skills, networks and funds. He emphasized that true success is measured by service to others and invited directors to present their plans.

Rtn. Rajesh Mani, now Director of Club Services, outlined activities to sustain the club's momentum with a large committee involving 33% of members. Plans include inviting engaging speakers, organizing fellowships member and ensuring involvement through firesides and domestic trips. Other continuing teams include the Constitution & **Bylaws** Committee (Rtns. Jacob Kurien and Rajasekar Gorantla), Full Club Fellowships (led by Rtn. Sakthivel Raja. V. Sp) and Firesides (chaired by Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy). The Programs Committee will be chaired by Rtn. Mohit Bajaj, the DEI Committee will be led by Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan and Rtn. Shanno Ravi will oversee the Sexual Harassment and Child Protection Committee.

Community Services, led by Rtn. Suresh Amirapu with mentor Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan covers projects like "Home for the Homeless" in Irumbedu (aiming for 75 homes), lake restoration, WASH programs, Boys Town and rural education. Healthcare projects, under Director Rtn. Arjun Ananth will continue cancer care initiatives and introduce new programs for children's health, mental health and medical infrastructure. He emphasized measurable impact and funding needs with databacked plans. Vocational Services, under Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau will focus on skill-building, empowerment and

education. Her "Cause Champion + Expertise Educator" strategy will drive initiatives at Rotary Nagar and Boys Town, including digital learning and scholarships.

Youth Services, led by Rtn. Suman Voora with mentor Rtn.M. Sesha Sai oversees 17 schools and 11 Rotaract clubs, with plans to expand more. Key projects include joint installations, RYLA trips, the 4-Way Test competition and partnerships with Vidya Mandir and New College. International Services, led by Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran aims to strengthen global connections through youth exchange programs, international aid and a new RCM International Day honoring Consul Generals. The Lighthouse Committee, led by Rtn. Manasa T. Pillai will enhance RCM's print and digital publications and invite member contributions. Fundraising efforts led by Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar will continue successful initiatives like the golf tournament and art auction while exploring new avenues like expanding the RCMPL.

The CSR team, led by Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan shared upcoming initiatives with support from President Nominee Rtn. S.Balakrishna and President Nominee-Elect Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan. Financial updates were provided by Treasurer Rtn.A. Gooch Kumar and Club Funds Treasurer Rtn. Asha Mathen, who advised members to expect a rise in subscription dues. Suggestions from members included leveraging CSR by sharing printed reports (PP & PDG Benjamin Cherian. R), creating a long-term business plan (PP KK Raman), preserving centennial funds (PP N.K Gopinath), building a corpus for a landmark centenary project (Rtn. Himanshu Budhia), promoting club activities via video and social media (PP Rani Muralidharan), and refurbishing older projects like public toilets (PP Shanker C Mangadu).

Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti requested updates on centenary plans. DGNE Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan encouraged closer cooperation with the district and wished PE Nikhil Raj success. In his closing remarks, PE. Nikhil promised collaboration with other clubs, increased CSR involvement and support for smaller clubs. Chief Sergeants for the next year were announced and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan.

The Club Assembly was a tremendous success, with roles clearly assigned and responsibilities thoughtfully undertaken. The year 2024-2025 was marked by impactful achievements and there is every confidence that the upcoming year will continue in the same spirit of excellence. I extend my heartfelt best wishes to President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj and the incoming board for a successful and inspiring tenure. All of us at RCM look forward to their leadership, vision and dedicated service in the year ahead.

# - Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan

DURPOSE

# COMFORT LIVING FOR SENIORS



The Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) took a significant step toward improving the lives of senior citizens with the groundbreaking ceremony for a new development at the VHS Senior Citizen Centre. Held on May 3, 2025, the event marked a meaningful milestone in RCM's ongoing mission to serve the vulnerable, particularly the elderly. The program commenced at 10:30 AM with a traditional Bhoomi Pooja.

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna and other distinguished Rotarians, including the Director of Community Service Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan and Chairperson Rtn. PP. S. Kapil Chitale graced the event. This development



# News Roundup















project focuses on enhancing infrastructure and living conditions for the residents of VHS Senior Citizen Home, with a vision of providing a dignified, safe and comfortable environment.

The scope of work includes constructing a new dining and communal area, implementing rain protection in common spaces and carrying out essential structural repairs such as fixing cracks, floors and tiles. Additional efforts include painting key surfaces, deep cleaning of sanitary and installing safety features like grab bars to enhance accessibility and overall living conditions for senior residents.

This initiative is part of RCM's commitment to sustainable service and community welfare. By improving the facilities at VHS, the RCM aims to ensure that senior citizens continue to live with dignity, care and the respect they deserve.

Birthdays26th May to 31st May 2025	
Rtn. PP. George B. Cherian	29/5
Rtn. Balaji Chinni	31/5
Rtn. Manish Mardia	31/5
Spouses' Birthdays	
Ann. Vasughi, Spouse of Rtn. R. Kadiresan Adityan	26/5
Ann. Harsha Sajnani Ganeriwala, Spouse of Rtn. Siddharth Ganeriwala	26/5
Ann. Dr. Gunjan Jain, Spouse of Rtn. Dr. Nitesh Jain	28/5
Ann. Sreejata, Spouse of Rtn. Ashok Banerjee	29/5
Ann. Pinky, Spouse of Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia	29/5
Ann. Meenakshi Raman, Spouse of Rtn. PP. K.K. Raman	31/5
Wedding Anniversary	
Rtn. R. Rajenderan & Priya Rajenderan	26/5
Rtn. M. Srinivasan & Bhuvana	26/5
Rtn. PP. Shanker C. Mangadu & Bhagyalakshmi	27/5
Rtn. Divya Poduval & Ajay Menon	28/5
Rtn. V. Sridhar & Priya	29/5
Rtn. Avali Srinivasan & S.Lalitha	29/5
Rtn. PP. Raja.K.N & Vasanthi	31/5



# Rotary Postalgia Did You Know?

# Rajaji Wants More Freedom for Legislators

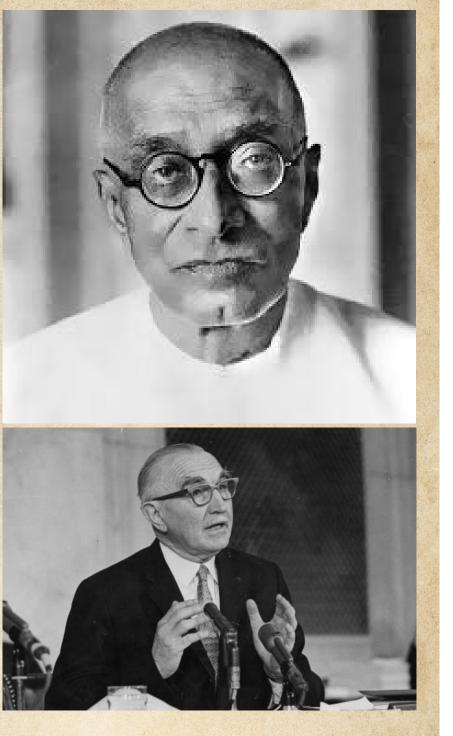
Sixty-seven years ago, our club hosted a thought-provoking discussion on how our Parliament should function. The following is a report on that meeting, which was featured in The Rotary International.

Addressing a meeting of the Madras Rotary Club on December 17, at which the U.S. Senator, Mr. Wayne Morse, was the guest speaker, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari referred to the difference between the American System of Parliamentary Government and that of India and Britain. In America, differences of opinion House of expressed in the Representatives do not cause any instability in the government. Here in India, they had to stand by the pledge they had given to the Party to which they belonged and on the strength of which the party held office.

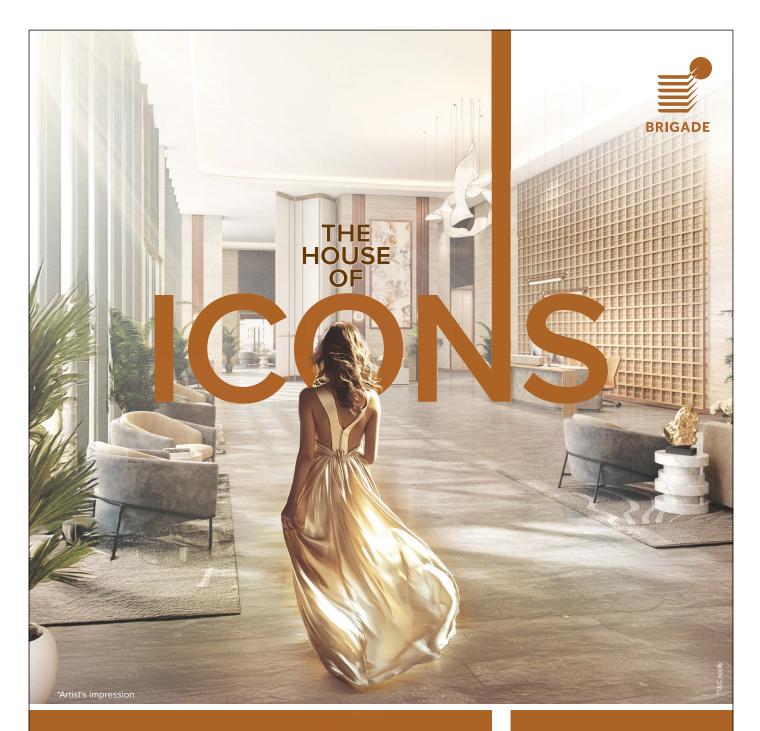
Mr. Rajagopalachari expressed his personal view that the Congress party would continue to govern India until the next elections and would likely remain in office beyond that period. Practically, it was irremovable. That being the case, there should be less disciplinary entanglement in the parliamentary work of members representing the Congress, who should be free to exercise their independent judgment and give their votes.

"Let more ventilation be allowed in the Parliamentary Hall and good breeze allowed to blow in," Mr. Rajagopalachari stated that if the proposal could not be accepted as a constitutional amendment, it could instead be adopted as a convention.

- Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath







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