

THE

LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 48 | June 01, 2025

**Prevent.
Protect.
Prevail.**



Dear RCMers,

This week's cover story talks about how we are taking our mission beyond metros, by partnering with the Inner Wheel Club of Sivakasi Gold to extend vital cervical cancer protection to women in Sivakasi. This impactful outreach in a smaller town reaffirms our commitment to equitable healthcare access, preventive care, and community upliftment—wherever the need is greatest.



Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn. A.R. Raghunandan
Chairperson

Mr. Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

Rotary Club of Madras

47th Weekly Meeting

Smt. Aruna Sairam

"In tune with time: A life in music"

Moderated by **Swetha Krishna**

Tuesday, 3rd June 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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Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
The 46th Weekly Meeting, held on 27-5-2025
 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna called the meeting to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The President sought confirmation for the 45th weekly meeting minutes, which were passed and adopted by the members.

Welcome Address:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna extended a warm welcome to the Chief Guest, Major General (Retd.) Rajiv Narayanan. He also welcomed the visiting Rotarians, Probud Club Members, spouses and other guests present. Rtn. PP N.K. Gopinath received special mention for chairing the previous meeting.

Announcements:

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan announced the two Balwadis, located at Kanathur and Padur (in partnership with Exnora), will be inaugurated on June, 11th at 11:00 AM.

Upcoming Project Handovers & Timelines:

- Ramakrishna School Toilet Block & Staircase Project – Targeted for Mid-June.
- Third Balwadi at Thalambur Karanai – Scheduled for End of June.
- Counseling Rooms and Toilets at Guild of Services, Balavihar – Completion expected by the End of June.
- Three Homes in Bommajikulam – Handover planned for End of June.
- Old Perungalathur Lake Restoration – To proceed, weather permitting.
- Bhoomi Pooja for New Toilet Blocks at Boys Town Campus and inauguration of Boys Town Lake – Dates to be confirmed.

Club Roster: Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan announced that the updated club roster has been circulated and is now open for final review and confirmation.

Acknowledgements:

President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna acknowledged the commendable contributions of several Rotarians. He congratulated Rtn. Dr. N.V. Arulmozhi Varman, who is currently in Ghana, for performing 50 cataract surgeries on the first day of his mission. He extended his thanks to Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan, Rtn. Rachna Muralidharan and Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal for facilitating the Rotary Nagar students' enriching visit to Guindy National Park. He also appreciated the efforts of Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath and Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain for their successful engagement



with Madras Port Trust, which led to a significant donation. Additionally, Rtn. Dr. V. Ramasubramanian was honored for receiving the prestigious "For the Sake of Honour" Award.

Induction of New Member:

Rtn. Dr. Ranjeeth D. Rathod inducted Aparajitha Vishwanath as the new member. Rtn. PP. Indra Subramanyam graciously facilitated the induction ceremony.

Secretary's Announcements:

- Rtn. Rajesh Mani announced birthdays and anniversaries for the week.
- Sunshine contributions were announced.
- The upcoming meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3rd, in the afternoon at the Hyatt Regency, featuring renowned vocalist Aruna Sairam, who will speak on her musical journey.

Guest Speaker Introduction:

Major General Rajiv Narayanan delivered a comprehensive talk on Operation Sindoor, sharing strategic insights and recounting events from Pahalgam, captivating the audience with first-hand experiences and defense perspectives.

Token of Appreciation:

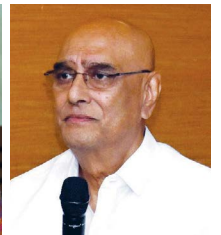
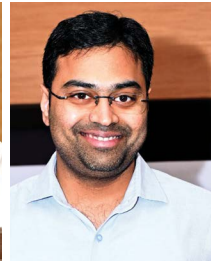
The President presented a memento to Major General Rajiv Narayanan as a token of gratitude.

Vote of Thanks:

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Rtn. PP. Dr. B. Biswakumar Prof. Capt.

Adjournment:

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



Measured Moves, Massive Impact

When the dragon huffed and puffed at the Line of Actual Control, India didn't blink. It recalibrated, redeployed and rewrote the rules. No headline-making airstrikes. No chest-thumping press briefings. Just a cold strategy and something the armed forces like to call Operation Sindoor, India's quiet shift from restraint to readiness. Operation Sindoor, as explained by Major General Rajiv Narayanan (Retd), isn't about immediate fireworks. It's about changing the long game. Because in geopolitics, the biggest statements are often made without saying a word.

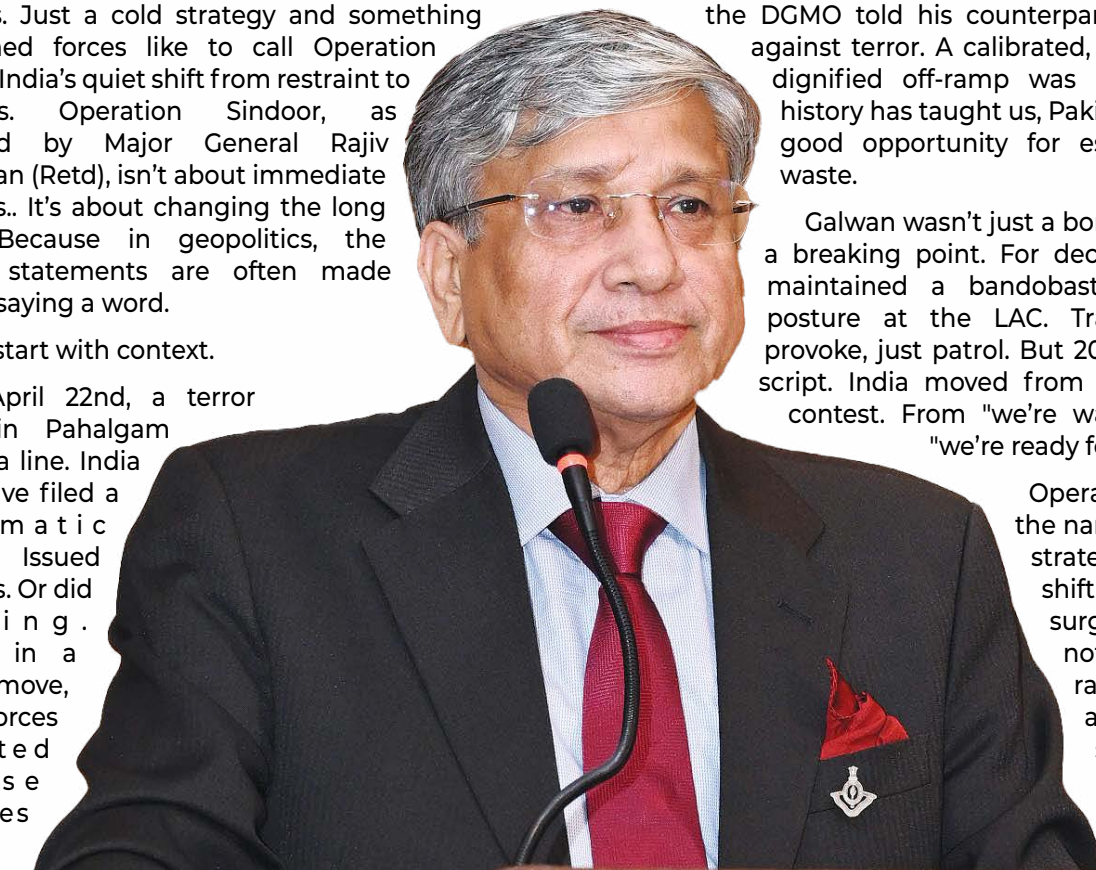
Let's start with context.

On April 22nd, a terror attack in Pahalgam crossed a line. India could have filed a diplomatic protest. Issued warnings. Or did nothing. Instead, in a bold move, Indian forces executed precise airstrikes

on May 6–7, targeting nine terror places: five in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), four deep within Pakistan, and then, in a move that would make Sun Tzu proud, India picked up the phone. It wasn't a war against Pakistan, the DGMO told his counterpart. It was a war against terror. A calibrated, limited strike. A dignified off-ramp was offered. But as history has taught us, Pakistan never lets a good opportunity for escalation go to waste.

Galwan wasn't just a border clash, it was a breaking point. For decades, India had maintained a bandobast (containment) posture at the LAC. Translation: don't provoke, just patrol. But 2020 rewrote that script. India moved from containment to contest. From "we're watching you" to "we're ready for you."

Operation Sindoor is the name given to that strategic doctrine shift. It's not a surgical strike, it's not a one-night raid. It's smarter and far more significant. It's India saying:



The current conflict, in fact, has proved something else too,
 India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision is a reality. Yes,
 Israeli drones like Harop and Skysearcher are in the mix.
 But nearly 80% of India's drone fleet and loitering munitions
 are homegrown, built by Indian startups.

"We don't start fights. But we're done being polite." In the modern battlefield, the enemy isn't always visible. Sometimes, it's a drone buzzing at 18,000 feet. Sometimes it's a cyber-intrusion cloaked in code. India knows this. And so, under the Sindoor umbrella, it has poured investment into anti-drone jammers, electromagnetic warfare, AI-based surveillance grids and swarm drone systems.

Major General Narayanan put it bluntly:

"The Operation Sindoor has witnessed the arrival of a new power in Asia and it's not China."

That's not bravado. It's a strategic reality the West is still processing. Unlike post-war superpowers like the US or beneficiaries of Western-led peace dividends like Europe, Japan or even China, India's rise hasn't come with external support. It has fought its way through wars, sanctions, embargoes and technology denials. No Marshall Plans. No NATO umbrella. Just a relentless grind. India today is a geopolitical anomaly: a democracy rising on its own terms. Multilingual, multi-faith, multi-cultural and still largely self-made. It doesn't check the boxes Washington and Brussels are used to seeing. It fumbles, falters, argues but it rises. That, Narayanan says, is the source of India's strategic autonomy. No aid dependency. No begging bowls. If the West threatens to hold back funds or tech, India could not care less.

The current conflict, in fact, has proved something else too, India's Atmanirbhar Bharat vision is a reality. Yes, Israeli drones like Harop and Skysearcher are in the mix. But nearly 80% of India's drone fleet and loitering munitions are homegrown, built by Indian startups. The anti-drone arsenal both kinetic and non-kinetic, has been developed by DRDO in partnership with private players. The AI-powered command and control grid, designed to present information to Army, Navy and Air Force formats, is reportedly something even the US hasn't achieved yet. That's what's causing quiet ripples in global defence circles.

It's a clear message to China: keep your salami slicing. We've brought a meat cleaver. India's defence infrastructure boom in Ladakh, helipads, heated shelters, roads, isn't just for logistics. It's to ensure that if push

comes to shove, our response will be faster than their provocation. Let's talk about motives. China's PLA didn't just show up in Ladakh because they missed the view. Xi Jinping is facing a storm: a tanking economy, an angry youth job market, an over-leveraged housing crisis and whispers of internal dissent. The formula? Distract the masses. Enter India. But unlike the 1960s, India in 2025 isn't a hesitant republic. It's a nuclear-armed, tech-savvy, geopolitically aware democracy that knows when to roar and when to rally global allies.

India's answer? Strategic pushback. Not just militarily, but economically via PLI schemes, rare-earth mineral diplomacy and decoupling from Chinese tech and trade traps. Ah yes, the ever-present noisy neighbor. While China juggles multiple fronts, Pakistan has been busy... imploding. With its economy on crutches and democracy in intensive care, the only thing Imran Khan is leading these days is a sympathy campaign from jail. India's stance is mature: surveillance and zero tolerance. The days of "talks and terror" are long gone. The Balakot doctrine still holds: you strike, we strike harder.

Now here's a curveball: the return of Donald Trump. For India, Trump 2.0 is both an opportunity and a risk. He could cut the red tape on Indo-US defence tech transfer and he could also wake up and abandon NATO, the Indo-Pacific, or diplomacy in general. India must hedge smartly. Be friends with Washington, but always keep Paris, Abu Dhabi and Moscow on speed dial. Major General Narayanan *summarized it best: India is not preparing for war. It's preparing to avoid one by being ready for all of them.* That's the crux of Operation Sindoor. Its doctrine is dressed in Himalayan camouflage. It's deterrence by dominance not dominance by destruction.

So while the West frets over Taiwan, Gaza, Ukraine and the Red Sea, India is quietly securing its peaks and plotting its rise. Not with pomp, but with purpose. You may not find Operation Sindoor trending on Twitter. There are no cinematic drone shots or "My name is Lakhan" style music in the background. But in the rules of serious nations, the real moves are made in silence.

India just made one.

And the world should be paying attention.



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AN ICE NARRATIVE

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A Marketplace for the Planet: Sustainability Fair 2025 at Ampa Skyone Mall

On **June 7-8**, Ampa Skyone Mall in Chennai will transform into a vibrant hub for climate-conscious living. This **Sustainability Fair 2025** is an initiative of the **Rotary Club of Madras**, curated and executed by the **Institute for Climate and Environment (ICE)**, and powered by **B&G Group**.

The fair brings together entrepreneurs, students, and families to experience sustainable choices in action — from clean energy and water conservation to waste and ethical fashion.

Highlights include:

- **Children's Art & Slogan Competition** on climate action
- **Workshops** on waste management and water practices
- **Stalls by sustainable brands** like NUCO, Guna Solar, TVS Green, Minus Thirty, Vayujal, Handanyarns, and more

The event echoes ICE's key focus areas: **Energy, Water, Waste, and Sustainable Agriculture.**

Expect live demos, green innovations, and conscious choices — all at your local mall.

Because climate action starts right where we are.

Contact: communications@icenetwork.in



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 3rd June.

Issue 48



Issue 47 : Best Captions

1. Rtn. Karthik captured the wild in Kenya, but Rtn Gopi's eye on the real prize—spotting any 'Roartarians' in the background. - **Rtn. N.K. Bhatia**
2. Photographer watching one with photographic memory. - **Rtn. S. Abhay Mehta**
3. Karthik :- Here I am trying to teach him how to take good photos and Gopi is busy telling me the history of our club and the projects! - **Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay**



United for Health

The Rotary Club of Madras and Inner Wheel Club of Sivakasi Gold joined forces to organize a cervical cancer vaccination camp at Narmatha Hospital, Sivakasi, on May 25, 2025. This collaborative initiative aimed to provide essential healthcare services to women in the community, emphasizing the importance of preventive care in the fight against cervical cancer.

The club sponsored 100 doses of the HPV vaccine, worth Rs. 1,26,000, which were made available to beneficiaries through Narmatha Hospital during the camp. The vaccination process was conducted by a team of experienced healthcare professionals at Narmatha Hospital, ensuring the highest standards of safety and care for all beneficiaries. By providing access to cervical cancer vaccination, the camp sought to empower young girls and women with knowledge and protection against





this prevalent health issue. Notably, the camp specifically benefitted the vulnerable and needy population of young girls and women, who often lack access to such critical healthcare services, particularly in rural areas.

The success of this camp underscores the commitment of both the Rotary Club of Madras and the Inner Wheel Club of Sivakasi Gold to public health initiatives. Through their joint efforts, the clubs demonstrated the impact that can be achieved when organizations come together with a shared goal of serving the community. This event not only provided immediate health benefits but also raised awareness about the importance of cervical cancer prevention.

This event marks a significant step in the clubs' ongoing efforts to support women's health and well-being, and they look forward to continuing their impactful work in the community.

Sunshine

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Rtn. Avali Srinivasan | ₹5,000/- |
| Rtn. PP. K.N. Raja | ₹ 3,000/- |
| Rtn. PP Shanker C. Mangadu | ₹1,963/- |
| Rtn. R. Rajenderan | ₹1,000/- |

Rtn. Aparajita Vishwanath



My name is Aparajita Vishwanath and I'm truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Rotary Club of Madras. I was born and raised in Madras and completed my schooling at Chettinad Vidyashram. I pursued my law degree at the School of Excellence and went on to earn my Master's from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. I am married to Abishek Jenasen and together we run our own law firm. We have a daughter named Tamara and a beloved dog named Milo. I look forward to engaging with fellow members in meaningful ways and building lifelong connections through our shared commitment to service.

Birthdays

1st to 8th June 2025

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Rtn. Anil Srinivasan | 3/6 |
| Rtn. PP. Rajendran Sabanayagam | 5/6 |
| Rtn. Rajasekar Gorantla | 6/6 |
| Rtn. Harikrishna. D | 7/6 |
| Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar | 7/6 |
| Rtn. Dr.Rama Narasimhan | 7/6 |

Spouses' Birthdays

| | |
|--|-----|
| Ann. Amita Bhatia, Spouse of Rtn. Bhatia N.K. | 5/6 |
| Ann. Bhuvana, Spouse of Rtn. Srinivasan. M | 5/6 |
| Ann. K.G. Muralidharan, Spouse of Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan | 5/6 |

Wedding Anniversary

| | |
|---|-----|
| Rtn. Rajendra Mudaliar & Sangeetha Rajan | 2/6 |
| Rtn. Shankar Menon P. & Priya Menon | 2/6 |
| Rtn. PP. Vijay Krishna & Suganthi | 4/6 |
| Rtn. Vivek Pai. N & Rohini | 5/6 |
| Rtn. Sakthivel Raja V.Sp. & Madhu | 5/6 |
| Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar & Shenba. A | 7/6 |
| Rtn. Nalli Kuppuswami Chetti & Alamelu. K | 8/6 |

Rotary Nostalgia

Did You Know?

A Historic First

In the annals of Rotary history, 1933 stands out as a landmark year for India. It was during this time that Sir Frederick E. James of the Rotary Club of Madras became the first Indian to be nominated to the Board of Rotary International (RI). His nomination and subsequent service as RI Director for 1933–34 marked a milestone, not only for Rotary in India but also for the growing global representation within the organization.

The nomination process itself was a carefully structured and formal affair. According to the Rotary by-laws, the Board of Directors for the year 1933–34 included five representatives from clubs outside the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, Great Britain and Ireland, a forward-looking move that reflected Rotary's expanding international footprint.

The Rotarian magazine, Rotary's official publication, carried this important announcement under the heading "Director Nominees" and noted:

"Rotary's Board of Directors has nominated five men for the 1933–34 board to be voted on at the Boston convention. These five, provided by the by-laws, are from clubs not in the United States of America, Canada, Newfoundland, Great Britain and

Ireland. They are: F. E. James, Madras, India; Fong F. Sec, Shanghai, China; Victor Echeverria, Barranquilla, Colombia; Otto Fischer, Stuttgart, Germany; Maurice Duperrey, Paris, France."

This nomination placed Sir F. E. James among



a distinguished group of Rotarians from across the globe and his inclusion showcased the rising stature of Indian leadership on the international stage. His service as RI Director not only paved the way for future Indian Rotarians to hold high office but also served as a beacon of Rotary's commitment to global fellowship and service.

It is worth pausing to appreciate the legacy of this moment. Nearly a century ago, when international representation in leadership was still rare, Rotary International took a bold and inclusive step. The Rotary Club of Madras, one of the earliest clubs established in India (chartered in

1929), played a central role in this progress. The figure of Sir Frederick E. James cemented its place in the Rotary history of vision, inclusion and service above self.

- Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath



Dear RCM Family,

Sharing a heartfelt mission!

Members of the RCM and Rtn. PP. Dr. N.V. Arulmozhi Varman's Vision Foundation is in Ghana from May 26th to June 2nd, 2025, performing life-changing eye surgeries.

Please wish Dr. Arul and his team of expert doctors and paramedics the very best for this endeavor, which will bring renewed hope and joy to countless individuals.

Generosity has always been a cornerstone of RCM's impactful success and your support has made this noble mission possible.

Thank you, Dr Arul and Vision Foundation!

Rtn. Sabina Narayan

Director- International Service



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