

# The Lighthouse

Rotary  
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 08

August 24  
2025

## ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS BOYS TOWN



Milind Gotpagar - Wartsila

SERVICE ABOVE SELF



## BIRTHDAYS

Rtn Alok Bhargava	20 <sup>th</sup> August
Rtn Rakesh Jaiswal	21 <sup>st</sup> August
Rtn Sesha Sai M	22 <sup>nd</sup> August
Vignesh Mohan, Spouse of Rtn Rachna Muralidharan	20 <sup>th</sup> August
Chetan Anand Koka, Spouse of Rtn Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan	20 <sup>th</sup> August
Archana Mani, Spouse of Rtn Rajesh Mani	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Nikita Bajaj, Spouse of Rtn Mohit Bajaj	24 <sup>th</sup> August

## ANNIVERSARY

Rtn. Dr. Geetha Iyer & Mr.L.Neelankandan	19 <sup>th</sup> August
Rtn Manasa T Pillai & K T Pillai	20 <sup>th</sup> August
Rtn Ravi S & R Aruna Sree	22 <sup>nd</sup> August
Rtn Siddharth Chandrasekhar & Divya	22 <sup>nd</sup> August
Rtn Abdul Azeez H E & Sameena	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
Rtn Dr. Chandrasekhar R. & Dr. Priya	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
Rtn Nikhil Raj & Laura	23 <sup>rd</sup> August
Rtn Biswajit Babu P B & Shalini	24 <sup>th</sup> August
Rtn. Raghunath Narayanan & Shantha Raghunath	25 <sup>th</sup> August



## RCM BOARD 2025-26

### PRESIDENT

Rtn Nikhil Raj

### HONORARY SECRETARY

Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

### IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rtn Chella Krishna G

### PRESIDENT - ELECT

Rtn Balakrishna S

### PRESIDENT - NOMINEE

Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan

### DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY SERVICES - DEVELOPMENT

Rtn Suresh Amirapu

### DIRECTOR – CLUB SERVICES

Rtn Rajesh Mani

### DIRECTOR – VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau

### DIRECTOR – YOUTH SERVICE

Rtn Suman Voora

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Rtn Asha Mathen

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Rtn Krishnamurthy Vijayan

### DIRECTOR – ROTARY FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran

### DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY HEALTH

Rtn Arjun Ananth

### TREASURER – RCMCT

Rtn A Gooch Kumar

### DIRECTOR – FUND RAISING & PR

Rtn Sandhya Sridhar

### THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

Editor: Rtn Manasa T Pillai

Chairperson: Rtn Vivek Parachur

Co-Chairperson: Rtn Rajesh Mani

Mentor: Rtn Sesha Sai

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Madhu Mathen

Rtn Akur Raman Raghunandan

Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan

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Rtn Manasa T Pillai, Asst. Secretary

Rotary Club of Madras

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Bulletin Design:

**YATRATECHS**

## Rotary Club of Madras

### 10<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting



Topic:

**"Affordable  
Clean Water  
with Advanced  
Materials"**

Speaker:

**Padmashri. Prof. Shri. T. Pradeep**

Distinguished Professor at the IIT Madras

**Tuesday, 26th August 2025 | 1.30 pm**

**Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 pm at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.**

### Spouses are invited for this meeting

**Rtn. Nikhil Raj**

President

**Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan**

Honorary Secretary

**Rtn. Rajesh Mani**

Director - Club Service

**Rtn. Mohit Bajaj**

Chairperson - Programs Committee

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to: [lighthouse@rotarymadras.in](mailto:lighthouse@rotarymadras.in)  
Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!



# STREETSCAPE

20 AUGUST 2025

Community outreach has always been a proud hallmark of Rotary Club of Madras. Adding to this legacy, Zone 3's Shrine Vailankanni Senior Secondary School undertook a remarkable Streetscape Project that reached not one, but two institutions simultaneously in Zone 1 namely the Chintadripet Boys M H S School and the Chintadripet Kalyanam Girls M H S School. Students poured their creativity into sketching and painting traditional

Warli art, transforming plain walls into vibrant expressions of culture and community pride. More than just an art initiative, it was a day of shared joy.

Some memories may fade, but this day of togetherness will remain unforgettable for every student who was part of it. As RCM celebrates its 97th year, this project stands as a shining reminder that the spirit of community lives on through the hands of its children.

-Rtn Manasa T Pillai  
Interact Chairperson  
ZONE 1





# SELAIYUR

20 AUGUST 2025



20 August 2025, a bright, windy morning marked the 79th Independence Day at our Selaiyur Vocational Skilling Centre, where ladies in a “VIBGYOR of colours” filled the courtyard with cheer. President Nikhil Raj hoisted the Tricolour, showered with petals, before Chairman Rajib Hota welcomed all. Participants echoed that the centre was “a place to learn, make friends, and build confidence.” Ms. Nandhini

Priya Kumari, Director of Swabodhini School, praised the women’s kindness towards children on the spectrum. Ms. Vimalleshwari, faculty since 2012 and site manager from 2022, and her dedicated staff curated inspiring performances proving Rotary’s passion and purpose. Thank you to PP Rtn Indra Subramanyam, PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar and Rtn Archana Sanjay for making the event special with their presence.



**-Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau**  
Director  
Vocational Services



**PP Rtn Srikanth S N**  
Founding Force

# 10 Reasons to Join A Rotary Club

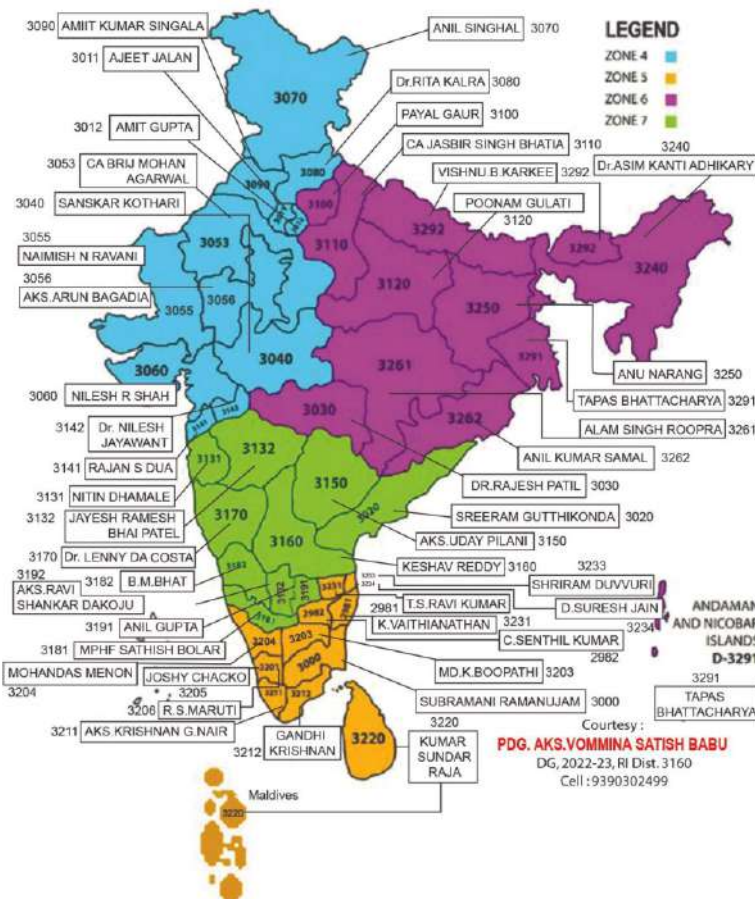


The Opportunity to Serve  
Leadership Development  
Citizenship in the World  
Business Development  
Continuing Education  
Personal Growth  
Entertainment  
Community  
Friendship  
Fun

## ROTARY RADAR



**Governors 2026 - 2027**



1. Behind every great leader is an unspoken influence. Can you share a lesser-known individual—perhaps not even a Rotarian—who significantly shaped your approach to leadership or service? What specific trait or moment of theirs still echoes in your decisions?

**Answer:** I would say my mother. Many years ago she started a charitable organization called Surakshini to help fund the education of poor school children. She had some very interesting principles that she stood firm by. The first was that academic merit would not be a criterion for selection, though the child would have to get pass marks. Her reasoning: everyone deserves the basics in life, not just the academically bright. The second principle was that once a child in (say) the 3rd standard came into the organization's fold, they would be supported all the way through till they graduated from school. The third was that her organization would have zero administrative expenses. Everything would be borne by the family.



That way its credibility would be beyond question.

Later in life I found these principles to be rock solid in guiding my own service efforts. Establish need, make the effort sustainable, be transparent. I couldn't have had a better mentor!

**2.** We often focus on visible achievements. But is there a silent initiative, a behind-the-scenes effort you led or supported in RCM that you feel deserves recognition today? What made it meaningful, even if it wasn't publicly celebrated?

**Answer:** Let me illustrate with an example from my own Rotary journey. During my year as President of RCM I launched two flagship projects. One was the End Polio Flame, which was a tremendous success, traveling through 35 countries and helping collect \$17 million (including the Gates' match) for the Rotary Foundation. Huge publicity came in its wake. Yet I remained uneasy. Going forward, would I really be able to drive the polio eradication effort in my own way, given that numerous

governments and international agencies were involved?

My other flagship project was to end open defecation. My research led me to use state of the art approaches that relied on behaviour change and minimised the role of financial support and education. Counter intuitive, but based on solid evidence. Our first village, Amarambedu became open defecation free in just 3 months.

I was invited to present my findings at RI's São Paulo Convention and to join WASH-RAG, Rotary's powerful WASH action group. IIM Ahmedabad did a case study on the project.

After that the publicity tapered off but not my efforts to get WASHRAG and the Rotary Foundation to accept my radical ideas. After 10 years of hard work my ideas have now been accepted by both. I was also elected Chair Elect of WASHRAG, the first Asian to hold this post. You will see the results in the next few years.

I persevered with what I passionately believed in, with little publicity for a long time but am

immensely satisfied with the outcome.

**3.** Rotary's values were to be taught to a child through a single story from your life, what story would you choose—and what core value does it embody?

**Answer:** Children are far more perceptive than we imagine. Not everything needs to be conveyed through a story. I would state my message undiluted: do what you are passionate about, be clear about what you wish to achieve, do your homework, be totally transparent, persevere, do not bother about your efforts being "celebrated" - and success will follow!





# CREATING HOMES OF PRIDE

## APARTMENTS, VILLAS & PLOTS ACROSS CHENNAI



### DRA INARA

Navalur

Luxury 3,4&5 BHK Villas  
1558 Sq.ft - 3697 Sq.ft



### DRA AVALON

Parandur

Premium Villa Plots  
590 Sq.ft - 2400 Sq.ft



### DRA ASTRA

Madhavaram

Lifestyle 2&3 BHK Homes  
1360 Sq.ft - 1695 Sq.ft



### DRA CLOVER

East Tambaram

2&3 BHK Green Homes  
1097 Sq.ft - 1362 Sq.ft



### DRA INFINIQUE

Valasaravakkam

Lifestyle 3&4 BHK Villaments  
1837 Sq.ft - 2143 Sq.ft



### DRA URBANIA

Avadi

Kids Centric 2&3 BHK Homes  
915 Sq.ft - 1349 Sq.ft



### DRA TRINITY

Thoraipakkam

3 BHK Boutique Residences  
1238 Sq.ft - 1434 Sq.ft



### DRA SKYLANTIS

Sholinganallur

Lifestyle 2&3 BHK Homes  
1198 Sq.ft - 1391 Sq.ft

Corporate Office: DRA HOMES, New Door No's 109, 111 & 113, VP Raman Road,  
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