

Rotary
District 3233



Francesco Arezzo
RI President (2025 - 26)

UNITE FOR GOOD

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3233

SYMPHONY

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

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UNITED VOICE OF RID 3233



SYMPHONY

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

ISSUE - 2

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From the Editor's Desk

The Mic is On, The Laughs Continue

They said chairing the GML would be tough. They were right. But they didn't warn me it would be addictive too!

The response to our previous Symphony issue has been nothing short of delightful—thank you to all the readers who wrote in with cheers, comments, and the occasional “why didn't my photo come?” Special thanks to DG Devendran for the trust, our wise District Counsellor PDG Nazar for the spark, and DLF & Mentor PDG Dr. Nandakumar for keeping me from turning every page into a stand-up act.

In this August issue, we've tried to cover the pulse of RID 3233—district events, club initiatives, and a few surprises tucked in like coriander in your masala dosa. From veteran clubs to very new clubs, we've got it all.

And here's a little nudge: we want more. More stories, more voices, more action from your clubs. Send in your projects, your moments, even your drama (Rotary-appropriate, of course).

Because Symphony is not just a newsletter—it's your newsletter.

Now flip through, enjoy the ride, and if you like what you read... Tell others.

If not...

Still tell others—we thrive on gossip and grammar.

Warmly,

Rtn. Sashikumar VS

Chairman & Editor – GML Symphony



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RI President's Message

“ This month and every month

August is Membership Month, but our commitment to growth and connection is year-round. When we focus on growing Rotary, we grow our ability to serve, to lead, and to bring lasting change.

Membership growth isn't just about numbers. It's about opening doors. It's about inviting more people who are ready to give their time, talents, and hearts to a cause greater than themselves. When we welcome new members, we bring in fresh ideas and new energy. We expand our impact, strengthen our clubs, and ensure that Rotary continues to evolve with the world around us.

Remember, there is now great flexibility in fashioning nontraditional club models. I'm inspired when I see these innovative clubs thrive by offering new and prospective members more ways to connect and serve.

In Korea, the growth of satellite clubs has created opportunities for nearly 1,000 new members to find their place in Rotary. In Romania, the close collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors has built a pipeline of future leaders. In India, some Rotarians gather around a shared interest — whether it's professional development or a passion for service — and those connections deepen their commitment and their joy in being part of Rotary. And we've seen cause-based clubs thrive in regions as diverse as Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.

There's a common thread: Where clubs are growing,

membership is a priority and there is a willingness to try something new. Rotary is not limited to one structure or tradition. We are a global network of people of action, and that means there is room for many kinds of clubs, many ways to serve, and many paths into our organization.

This spirit of innovation is also guiding our efforts to reach new communities. In places where there has never been a Rotary club — or where a club once existed and faded — Rotarians are finding ways to grow Rotary. They are identifying areas of potential and building clubs that reflect the character and needs of their communities.

Every member plays a part in this journey. Whether you introduce a friend to your club, support a new meeting format, reconnect with program alumni, or simply share your Rotary story, you are helping our organization grow stronger and more vibrant.

No one owns a Rotary club. It is a gift we pass on to the next generation. When we nurture that gift, when we invite others to share in it, we ensure that Rotary continues to be a force for good.

Let's prioritize membership growth — not just in August but every month of the year. Together, through friendship, creativity, and shared purpose, we will grow Rotary and Unite for Good.

FRANCESCO AREZZO

President, Rotary International



Let's keep
the spirit
soaring



Passing the Baton, Fuelling the Flame

IPDG Rtn. Mahaveer Bothra

They say the first year is the hardest. But in Rotary, it's also the most magical.

As the charter Governor of RID 3233, I had the privilege of watching a new district find its voice – and what a voice it was! From Kalankarai Vilakku, where we honoured our past, to Valarpirai, where we welcomed our future, and Golden Sparrow that turned the spotlight on the power of women, every moment was a celebration of Rotary's soul.

But what truly set us apart was our people. Clubs grew. Members showed up. And together, we placed RID 3233 among the top in the Rotary world for membership growth. That's not just success – it's a movement. And now, it's time to pass the baton – with pride and complete faith.

To District Governor D. Devendran, a man of integrity, insight, and quiet resolve: I wish you and your team a journey of even greater triumphs. May you lead not from the front alone, but from the heart, where Rotary truly lives.

Our foundation is strong. Our dreams are taller. And the flame we've lit – it's yours to carry forward.

Let's keep the spirit soaring. Let's continue to unite for good.

Embracing Our Strengths to Unite for Good

Dear Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes of RID 3233, Warm greetings to all of you! As I begin this UNITED Rotary year as District First Lady, I do so with a heartfelt of gratitude, inspiration, and purpose. This journey with Rotary has not only been transformational – it has been enlightening.

When I first entered Rotary, I was simply curious. But soon found myself learning, growing, and being moved by the dedication of Rotarians, the quiet strength of Anns/Partners, and the vibrant energy of our young Annettes. Rotary opened my mind and heart to what it truly means to serve society selflessly. It inspired me to contribute, to connect, and to become a better version of myself through leadership and service.

This year, under the powerful theme “UNITE FOR GOOD,” – not just in action, but in spirit and values. Unity is our greatest strength, and through it, we can achieve extraordinary things.

I believe deeply that every individual has unique talents. Whether you're a Rotarian, an Ann/partner, or an Annette – you carry within you something valuable, something powerful. This year, I encourage each of you to recognize those strengths, bring them out, and use them to lead and serve.

Be the leader you're meant to be—because leadership isn't just a position; it's the courage to make a difference.

Let us also:

- ➔ Learn from one another and share knowledge across generations.
- ➔ Encourage 100% member participation in every club
- ➔ Build leadership platforms within the Annette Council to help young minds grow
- ➔ Appreciate the often-unseen contributions of our Anns/ partners



➔ Support each other as one Rotary family, united by service.

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
– Helen Keller

Let this be a year of learning, leading, and uplifting – where we not only serve communities but also nurture the best in each other. Together, let us truly Unite for Good and create a Rotary year we can all be proud of.

You have my wholehearted blessings and unwavering support always.

Warm regards,
Ann. Archana Devendran
District First Lady, RID 3233

The Foundation is Laid Let's Build the Legacy

Dear Rotarians of RID 3233,

What a powerful beginning! July has gone by in a blur of inspiration, action, and collaboration. The energy displayed across our clubs and leadership teams has been nothing short of phenomenal – a clear sign that the foundation is solid, and the spirit is strong.

We began the Rotary year with Healers' Harmony, celebrating Doctor's Day in true Rotary fashion – by honouring service above self. The presence of luminaries like Prof. Dr. Mayilvaganan Natarajan and the felicitation of eight outstanding doctors showed how Rotary continues to recognize and uplift the pillars of our society. Club Installations throughout July brought new leadership to the forefront, energizing clubs with fresh vision and vibrant enthusiasm. I was deeply moved to see Assistant Governors, Co-Presidents, Co-Secretaries, and District Officers attending these events, standing shoulder to shoulder with incoming teams.

The District Business Meet on July 21st was a milestone moment – a congregation of minds united in purpose. Together, we shared ideas, aligned our goals, and mapped the road ahead.

And now, August is here – Membership Month. Let us shift gears and give our full focus to strengthening Rotary. No club in RID 3233 should have fewer than 40 members. Let's act swiftly – bring in like-minded people who share our passion for service. Also, ensure that 100% of your club members are registered on My Rotary – a simple step that strengthens our identity and opens the world of Rotary tools and resources.

Remember, a vibrant club is not built by chance – it is built by choice. The choice to engage, grow, include, and lead



with purpose.

With one month behind us and eleven exciting ones ahead, let's not just meet goals – let's make history.

Together, let's build the legacy. Let's Unite for Good.

Yours in Rotary,
Rtn. D. Devendran
District Governor
Rotary International District 3233



Don't wait for opportunities, create them.
- Paul P. Harris



Together, We Grow Stronger

PDG ISAK Nazar
District Counsellor

I start this write-up with a beaming sensation that District 3233, with IPDG Mahaveer Bothra at the helm, stood Number One in the world among 450+ Rotary Districts. This is no mean achievement – and all of us in Rotary in general, and RID 3233 in particular, feel greatly elated at this rare feat. With this strong foundation, DG Devendran is all set to break this very record, keeping RID 3233 firmly on top of the Rotary world once again.

In this Rotary month of Membership and New Club Development, it's the perfect moment to remind ourselves: Rotary is not just an organisation – it is a gift we pass on. And the most meaningful way to honour this gift is by sharing it.

Membership is the lifeblood of Rotary, and growing it is everyone's responsibility. Not just the club president's, not just the committee's – it is yours and mine. Every Rotarian is an ambassador. When we invite a friend, a colleague, or a family member to join Rotary, we are not just filling a seat, we are opening a door: a door to leadership, service, learning, and purpose.

Think about it: in a world searching for direction, Rotary gives people a compass. It nurtures values, builds character, and connects us to something larger than ourselves. Every new member we bring in becomes a catalyst – for their own growth, for their community's progress, and for Rotary's global mission.

Let us take pride in offering Rotary to others. Let us take joy in seeing them thrive. This August, let's commit to growing not just in numbers – but in strength, diversity, and impact.

Because when we grow together, we serve better. And when we serve better, we build a world that's brighter for all.

So, pick up the phone, start the conversation, and open that door. Someone you know is waiting to become a Rotarian. Let's go find them – together.



Every Piece Matters: Our Collective Strength

PDG Dr. N. Nandakumar
District Learning Facilitator

As we begin this new United Rotary year in District 3233 together, I want to share a simple but powerful message: Every Piece Matters. Every person, every idea, every contribution matters. Each of us is an important piece of the puzzle that is Rotary. And when we come together, bringing our unique strengths, passions, and perspectives, we Unite For Good, which also happens to be the Rotary International theme.

This year, I want to put a special focus on you, our members. What you hope to get out of Rotary matters. Your experience, your voice, and your energy all help shape the kind of Rotary we want to be. Whether you've been here for decades or just a few months, you belong here, and your contribution makes a difference.

We are grateful to be working alongside an incredible district leadership team and are inspired by club presidents who are already stepping up with heart and vision. Together, we should prioritize member engagement not only to attract new members but also to create a Rotary experience that's meaningful, fun, and impactful.

Let's make this a year where everyone feels seen, valued, and energized. Because every piece of the puzzle matters, and when we put them together, we build something truly powerful.

Good luck for the year ahead for all of us!



An Invitation to Impact: Growing Our Rotary Family

Dear Fellow Rotarians, “What is Rotary?” is a frequent question asked by prospective members, and we should all be ready to answer in a single sentence. Our 5 Core Values and Vision statement help in that. My answer would be – Fellow of Ethical Leaders who serve the World Together for Goodwill and Peace.

“Who are our Customers in Rotary?” is the next question I ask during the various Learning Sessions. Our Club members are the Customers, and the product that we provide is the Club Experience. Rotary is a membership organisation and it is essential that we give them the great Rotary Experience – the experience that gives immeasurable value to Rotary membership; experiencing the Rotary Moment to transcend them from being a Rotary member to a passionate Rotarian. The result shows up in all the subscriptions received from our members within the first week of July.

There’s one barrier to membership that only you can remove, one thing that every prospective member needs to become a Rotarian: an invitation to join a Rotary club. Nowadays, providing a unique experience is a Gift that they all remember and cherish. An invitation to experience Rotary is a gift. And an invitation to Rotary is something that only you can give. It’s saying to someone, “I think you have the skills, the talent, and the character to make our community better, and I want you to join me in doing that.” I can’t make your club or your community stronger. Only you can do that – by inviting the ‘qualified’ people, who are individuals who are ready to give their time, talent and treasure to Impactful Service, to create lasting changes in the community and thereby increase their self-valuation.

I urge each one of you to refer 2 such potential candidates, to invite them to join Rotary. Let us Unite for Good. Best Wishes and God Bless.



Rtn. Ambalavanan M
District Chair - Membership



Empowering Young Leaders:

Interact Club Installations in July

In July, two vibrant Interact Clubs were installed in RID 3233, marking another milestone in our journey to nurture youth leadership.

At Jaigopal Garodia Govt. Girls Hr. Sec. School, sponsored by RC Chennai Capital, the installation was led by President Rtn. Apoorva Modi and Youth Service Chair Rtn. Pranav Lilani. The school, serving over 3,000 students, has been holistically adopted by the club, with consistent support through health camps, motivational talks, infrastructure development, and smartboard donations.

At Chennai Girls Hr. Sec. School, sponsored by RC North East, a ceremonial band led the dignitaries to the auditorium. President Rtn. S. Narayan, Secretary Rtn. Subhasri Natarajan, and Youth Service Chair Rtn. Seshu Jaganathan presided over the event, recognizing state rank holders and donating software and water filtration systems, continuing a 28-year tradition of Interact excellence.



Rtn. S Annamalay
District Chair, Interact



Know Rotary

The **Thanjavur Interact Club** started in January 1963 and was the first Interact Club outside the United States. It was formed just two months after the world's first Interact Club in Melbourne, Florida. This marked the beginning of Rotary's work with young people in Asia and helped Interact Clubs grow quickly across the region.

The Curtain Rises: A Governor's Grand Ascension in RID 3233

The hall buzzed with anticipation as four hundred Rotarians filled every seat, their conversations creating a symphony of expectation. Then, without warning, the lights dimmed. A hush fell over the crowd as the massive screen illuminated with what could only be described as pure Kollywood magic – a cinematic montage of someone preparing, dressing, gearing up for something momentous. The music swelled, hearts raced, and then... boom. Darkness.

In that pregnant pause between spectacle and reality, the doors at the far end of the hall burst open. District Governor-elect D Devendran, resplendent in formal attire, stepped into the light alongside First Lady Ann Archana. The crowd erupted. This wasn't just an entrance – it was a statement, a promise of the theatrical year ahead.

The creative genius behind this showstopper was Rtn. Anees Begum and her team, who had orchestrated every beat of this grand entrance with the precision of a Broadway production. As the newly minted leaders walked toward the stage, a troupe of dancers flanked them, their movements synchronized to thundering music that sent goosebumps racing up spines throughout the auditorium. But the pièce de résistance came when both the DG and First Lady, with theatrical flair that would make any action hero proud, spun the guns around their fingers and fired shots into the air – a symbolic salvo marking the dawn of a great Rotary year.





The energy was infectious. A fusion welcome dance followed, setting a tone that promised this wouldn't be your typical installation ceremony. This was entertainment, inspiration, and tradition rolled into one unforgettable morning program.

Event Chairman Past President Rtn. C Velmurugan took the podium, his voice carrying both pride and gratitude. "It is a great honour to be the event chairman," he declared, his words echoing through the hall. "How wonderful it is to see another governor emerge from our club, following in the footsteps of the iconic Governor ISAK Nazar." The reference to the legendary past governor drew appreciative murmurs from the crowd – a reminder that greatness often breeds greatness.



Immediate Past District Governor Rtn. Mahaveer Bothra stepped forward to deliver opening remarks that carried the weight of transition. His words painted the challenges and opportunities of a newly chartered district, emphasizing the critical importance of strengthening membership in these formative years. "I am grateful to the council of governors for the opportunity to serve as charter governor," he said, his voice carrying both accomplishment and hope. "I wish Devendran a magnificent year ahead as my successor."



The event took on a reflective tone as a comprehensive "year so far" video rolled across the screen. From the early core committee meeting "Kottu Murase" to the comprehensive all-services seminar "Ainthinai", the montage captured months of dedication, growth, and service. It was a visual testament to the foundation upon which the new governor would build.



Then came a moment that perfectly embodied the personal nature of Rotary leadership. District Chief Mentor Rtn. D Vijayakumar approached the podium – not just as a senior Rotarian, but as a brother introducing his sibling to greatness. The introduction was both professional and deeply personal, highlighting not just Devendran's qualifications but the character that had shaped him into leadership.



The collar ceremony itself was a study in tradition meeting innovation. As the governor's collar settled around Devendran's shoulders, the symbolic weight of leadership transferred from past to present. His acceptance speech revealed a leader with clear vision and ambitious goals. "My focus," he declared, "is making every club a vibrant club, and in turn, making our district vibrant." He outlined innovative initiatives, including a cluster system designed to achieve these higher objectives – a blueprint for transformation that energized the audience.

Family members surrounded the new governor for felicitation, followed by garlanding from his home club, Anna Nagar Aadhitya. These moments, captured in countless photographs, reminded everyone that behind every great leader stands a community of support.

The evening expanded beyond individual celebration to encompass the broader Rotary family. District Annettes Council Representative 2025-26 Ant Saindhavi Balaji was installed in the presence of DAC Chairman Rtn. Sukil Tarnas, while Rtn. Venugopal presented NextGen Connect, highlighting Rotary's commitment to engaging younger generations.

The excitement peaked with the introduction of Indravizha, the district conference. District Conference Chairman Rtn. Kathir Ganapathiappan's dedication had already yielded impressive results – over 700 registrations, a testament to effective leadership and community engagement.





A significant milestone came with the launch of “Symphony” – the governor’s monthly newsletter subtitled “United Voice of RID 3233.” Chairman and Editor Rtn. VS Sashikumar and his team presented this communication tool to Chief Guest Mr. R Srinivasa Naik, Principal Commissioner of GST & Central Excise, symbolizing the district’s commitment to transparent, consistent communication.



Recognition followed for Arch Klumph Society members – Rtn A. P. Kanna, PDG S. Muthu Palaniappan, Rtn Veeramani, Rtn Ram N Ramamurthy, Rtn M. Ambalavanan, and Rtn Narender Srisimal – honouring their exceptional contributions to The Rotary Foundation.



The evening’s scope expanded internationally with the introduction of LEAD25, a regional Rotary Convention set for Chennai. PDG ISAK Nazar painted an exciting picture of over 10,000 Rotarians from India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal converging at Chennai Trade Centre on August 23-24. This brainchild of RI Directors AKS Muruganandam M and Nagesh promised to bring Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo to deliver the presidential address – a coup for the district and the city.



Chief Guest Mr. Srinivasa Naik, introduced by Rtn. Prashanth, delivered remarks that transcended typical ceremonial speeches. His engaging style brought focus to societal values and Rotary’s unique role in creating positive change, reminding everyone why service above self remains relevant in today’s world.



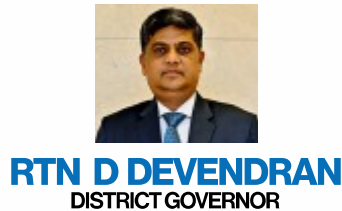
As District Executive Secretary Rtn. Balamurugan delivered the vote of thanks, the morning felt complete yet anticipatory. The installation had been more than a ceremony; it was a launchpad for twelve months of service, growth, and community impact. As the formal program concluded by 1:30 PM and guests moved toward the lunch reception, conversations buzzed with excitement about the year ahead.



The curtain had risen on a new act in RID 3233’s story, with District Governor D Devendran at centre stage, ready to transform vision into reality.







**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Welcomes You!!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TAIWAN - 2026

10 - 16 June 2026
4N Taipei - Hotel Hyatt Place
2N Pattaya & Bangkok - Hotel Long Beach Garden

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Installation of President
Rtn. V. R. Lakshmi Priya
Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani



Installation of President
Rtn. Kannan Paramasivam
Rotary club of Adyar



Installation of President
Rtn. Sriram P D
Rotary club of Madras DownTown



Installation of President
Rtn. Arulkanth
Rotary Club of United Chennai



Installation of President
Rtn. Rewins Raj
Rotary Club of Chennai IT City



Installation of President
Rtn. A Saravanan
Rotary Club of Chennai KK Nagar



Installation of President
Rtn. Sudha Senthil Kumar
Rotary Club of Chennai Rising Stars



Installation of President
Rtn. Dr. S. Jayaraman
Rotary club of Medical Fraternity



Installation of President
Rtn. I Syed Sajjan
Rotary Club of Aarch City - Madras



Installation of President
Rtn. Radha Krish
Rotary Club of Guindy



Installation of President
Rtn. Sandeep Bagri
Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Aadithya



Installation of President
Rtn. Kannan Krishnaswamy
Rotary Club of East RA Puram

Clubs in Action - Project Spotlight

Rotary Club of East RA Puram

The Anns of ERA Club supported young Dhakshin, an orphan raised by his grandparents, by contributing ₹35,500 towards his private school education. Their timely help ensured he could continue his studies with dignity. This act of kindness is not just aid—it's an investment in a child's potential and future.

Also, marking its Silver Jubilee, the ERA Club continued its tradition of Annadhanam by serving nutritious meals to over 350 cancer patients and attendants at The Cancer Institute, Adyar, on 9th July 2025. Led by club leaders and supported by Rtn. Chinna Sevugan, the act reflected Rotary's spirit of compassion and service.





**District Governor D Devendran,
District First Lady Ann Archana
and Partners Committee**
presents
**Heritage
Hunt**
ROTARY CAR RALLY

REGISTER NOW
REGISTRATION COST
₹3,500 PER CAR
MAX OF 4 PER CAR
Cash prizes and lots of surprises await!

**Sunday, 8.15 am
10th August 2025
at GURU NANAK COLLEGE
VELACHERY**

Organised by Madras Motors Sports Club for RID 3233 Members, Anns & Annettes

Rotary Club of Guindy



On 7 July 2025, Rotary Club of Guindy's Project 777 served 700+ villagers in KK Pudur. The initiative included tree planting, awareness talks, health camps with free medicines, hygiene kits, nutrition packs, stationery kits for students, and a new computer skills centre – covering all seven Rotary focus areas meaningfully and impactfully.

On 10 July 2025, the Rotary Club of Guindy installed the Interact Club at ELM Fabricius Higher Secondary School, a 175-year-old institution known for discipline and values. The event saw active participation from students and Rotary leaders, marking a new journey of leadership, service, and connection with the Rotary world.

Clubs in Action - Project Spotlight

Rotary Club of KK Nagar

On 1 July 2025, Rotary Club of KK Nagar launched the Rotary year with “NALAMUDAN,” a medical camp for over 400 sanitation workers of Greater Chennai Corporation. Held in Nungambakkam, the event offered dental, eye, skin, X-ray, and lung screenings, aiming to cover 12,000 workers in six months with compassionate, inclusive healthcare.



Rotary Club of Chennai Rainbow



On 8 July 2025, under Project #5 "VIRUNDHOMBAL," RCCR members visited Saastha Old Age Home, Kundrathur, and served a special lunch to 50 residents. Essential items and basic necessities were also distributed. The heartfelt experience reflected Rotary's commitment to sharing care, dignity, and joy with the elderly.

Rotary Club of Chennai Rising Stars

As part of Maternal & Child Care Month, Rotary Club of Chennai Rising Stars conducted a thoughtful session on managing high-risk pregnancies at the Government Primary Health Centre, Parivakkam. Led by President Sudha Senthilkumar and club member Dr. Usha Rajesh, the session offered vital guidance to expectant mothers, addressing their concerns and promoting safe motherhood.



The club also distributed baby towels to all attendees, adding warmth to an already impactful initiative.

Clubs in Action - Project Spotlight

Rotary Club of Chennai Gemini

On 5 July 2025, Rotary Club of Chennai Gemini and the District Community Service Health Team of RID 3233 organised a free multi-speciality medical camp at Annai Anjugam Hall, Kodambakkam. Inaugurated by Thiru J. Karunanidhi, MLA (T. Nagar) and Councillor Mrs. Karthika Baskar, the camp saw participation from leading hospitals. Shri Ramachandra Medical College and Apollo Hospital conducted ECG, Echo, and general screenings. VS Hospitals provided breast cancer screening through mammography, while Rajan Eyecare and Dr. Gupta's Dental Specialities offered eye and dental check-ups. Parvathy Hospital led ortho screenings, supported by Physkraft for physiotherapy guidance. The camp served numerous patients with comprehensive care.



Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani

The Club began the year with the Annette Club Installation on 13 July, followed by the Interact Installation at PSBB KK Nagar on 16 July. It sponsored Silver at the district event Healer's Harmony. Rtn. Jayachandra Babu donated medicines worth ₹3,500 to Egmore Children's Hospital. Rtn. Natarajan supported Brindavanam Old Age Home with food and groceries. At Natchathira Old Age Home, 38 residents benefitted from the Anbum Aravanippum project worth ₹34,500. Members also fed parrots with peanuts and millets. Over 50 saplings were gifted with club stickers for public awareness, and their Installation was featured in Kodambakkam Times.



Clubs in Action - Project Spotlight

Rotary Club of Chennai Medical Fraternity

For the second year in a row, Rotary Club of Chennai Medical Fraternity honoured medical professionals through its prestigious “Kaakum Karangal” (Saving Hands) awards. Twenty-three doctors across specialities were recognised for their dedicated service. The event, a notable Public Image initiative, received wide media coverage and was graced by SIMS Hospital Chairman Dr. Ravi Pachamoothoo. A proud moment under the leadership of President Dr. S. Jayaraman and Secretary Dr. Sujatha Gajendran.

Rotary Club of Chennai Medical Fraternity marked a proud milestone with its maiden fundraising event for the special project on “Drug Abuse Awareness and Prevention.” Graced by DG Rtn. D Devendran and Chennai Mayor Smt. Priya Rajan, the evening featured an engaging drama by Crazy Madhu Balaji and team. Led by President Dr. S. Jayaraman, Secretary Dr. Sujatha Gajendran and Chairman of Project Dr. Shantha Narayanan, the well-organized event blended purpose with entertainment, drawing heartfelt appreciation.



Rotary Club of Chennai Metropolis

Rotary Club of Chennai Metropolis partnered with Gurukulam, an integrated centre for children with special needs, as the Golden Sponsor for Akshayam, a heartfelt musical fundraiser. Through collective effort, members raised ₹58,000 to support vocational training, reaffirming that compassion and unity can truly transform lives.

Healers Honoured, Humanity Celebrated:

RID 3233's Year begins with Heart

The applause was thunderous, but Dr. Karthik Balaji, the youngest honouree of the day, stood quietly, overwhelmed. For a moment, the morning at Ambassador Pallava, Chennai, felt sacred – not just an event, but a celebration of lives dedicated to healing.

Thus began the Rotary year 2025–26 for Rotary International District 3233. Healers Harmony, the first project of the year, was an ode to the silent warriors in white coats.

District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran, PDG Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar, and Rtn. Dr. S. Ramesh Babu led the charge, supported by distinguished guests Dr. Mayilvahanan Natarajan and MLA Dr. Ezhilan Naganathan.

Awards carried deep meaning: For the Sake of Honour went to Prof. Mohamed Rela and Dr. Ravi Kannan. Life Achievement recognized Rtn. Dr. Mohan Rajan, Rtn. Dr. R. Sriram, and Dr. T. S. Selvavinayagam. Rtn. Dr. R. Prem Sekar and Rtn. Dr. Vasumathy Vedantham received the Distinguished Medical Service award. A young torchbearer, Dr. Karthik Balaji, was named Young Achiever.

Adding to the momentum were the launches of the Dhanvantri health website, Rotarian Health Card, and weekly medical camps by the CSH team of RID 3233.

In honouring healers, RID 3233 began its year not with a project – but with purpose.



Dignity, Delivered:

A New Chapter in Cleanliness and Hope

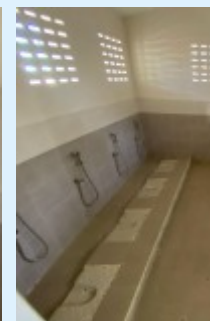
For Kavya, a Class 9 student at Jaigopal Garodia Government Girls Higher Secondary School in Nanganallur, today wasn't just another day of school – it was the first time she walked into a clean, modern toilet block and felt seen, safe, and respected.

This moment was made possible by “Happiness through Cleanliness”, a USD 36,000 Global Grant Project (GG 2351109), proudly inaugurated on the very first day of the Rotary year 2025-26. Under the dynamic leadership of District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran (Chief Guest) and PDG Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar (Guest of Honour), this initiative marks a significant step forward in educational infrastructure.

Five state-of-the-art toilet blocks now stand on the school campus – silent symbols of dignity, hygiene, and hope – directly benefiting hundreds of girl students like Kavya.

This project is a testament to Rotary's spirit of collaboration. The blocks were donated by: Rotary Club of Aarch City Madras, Rotary Club of Adambakkam, Rotary Club of Chennai Noble Hearts, Rotary Club of Annanagar West, Rotary Club of Chennai Accord, Rotary E Club of Greater Sydney, Rotary Club of Chennai Amethyst, Rotary Club of Madras Downtown, Rotary Club of Chennai Crown, Rotary Club of Madras Esplanade, and supported by the District Designated Fund.

On a day that also witnessed the launch of Healers Harmony, RID 3233 proved one thing loud and clear – when we unite for good, lives transform.



A Plate Full of Warmth and Purpose



Some days stay with you. July 2, 2025, is one such day. As part of the Partners Committee and the GML team, I had the privilege of witnessing Rotary in its most humane form.

The Rotary Club of Chennai Sunrise along with Partners committee, hosted a “Lunch for the Visually Challenged” at TBM Primary School, Kilpauk – and it was anything but ordinary. From young children of single-parent homes to elderly, visually impaired guests, every person seated felt seen, heard, and valued. It wasn’t just food – it was dignity served with compassion. Under the leadership President Rtn Madan Mohan & Secretary Dr. Prakash Joseph & Program Chairman Vidhya Gopal & Rtn Metilda Vijayakumar brought heart to every detail.

What made it even more special was the presence of our District Governor Rtn. Devendran & District First Lady, Ann Archana Devendran, whose grace and genuine warmth lit up the afternoon.

Joined by club First Ladies from across our district, it felt like one big Rotary family – united not by titles, but by purpose. We often talk about changing lives. That day, ours were changed too.

Here’s to more meals, more smiles, and more moments that remind us why we serve.



– Rtn. Nagalakshmi, Regional Secretary, Partners Committee & GML Team



Earth, Peace, and Purpose: A Sanctuary in the making at VHS



On the quiet morning of July 9, 2025, a corner of the sprawling VHS campus in Taramani stirred to life – not with sirens or footfalls, but with solemn chants and shared vision. Beneath the soft morning sun, RID 3233 District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran performed the bhoomi pooja to mark the beginning of an ambitious dream: the VHS Rotary Peace Park.

Spread across one acre of land allotted for five years by VHS, this green haven will be more than a park – it will be a symbol. A joint initiative by the Rotary Club of Madras Mid-Town and Rotary Club of Chennai Utsav, the project beautifully aligns with two Rotary Foundation areas of focus: Peace & Conflict Resolution and the Environment.



DLF Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar and Rtn. Ambalavanan, District Membership Chair, joined fellow Rotarians, doctors from VHS, and Dr. Suresh Seshadri, Honorary Secretary of VHS, for the ceremony.

Phase 1 of this ₹50-lakh project will be designed in close collaboration with IITM Rotary Centre for Social Development. It promises not just trees and trails – but transformation.

As spades touched the earth, so did Rotary's deeper intent: to cultivate peace, foster sustainability, and invite the city into a sanctuary of hope.



District Annettes Council

Highlights of July 2025

The District Annettes Council of Rotary International, District 3233, kickstarted the new term with a series of vibrant and meaningful events in July 2025. The month began with a heartfelt Community Service Visit to Annai Anbalaya Trust, where annettes donated essentials and spent quality time with the residents, reinforcing the values of empathy and service.



This was followed by a delightful Baking Workshop hosted at PG Equipments, where annettes came together to learn, bond, and create sweet treats under the guidance of expert bakers, including Ms. Monisha Sudhakar of Pastry Maniaa.



Rounding off the month was the spirited Beach Workshop – "Together by the Tides" at Edward Elliot's Beach, filled with team games, laughter, and a shared South Indian breakfast.



Each event beautifully blended learning, leadership, and fellowship, setting a strong and joyful foundation for the year ahead. The collective energy, planning, and wholehearted participation of annettes across all three events reflected the true spirit of unity, compassion, and enthusiasm that defines the council.



Rtn. Sukil Tarnas

Chairman – District Annette's Council



Rtn. J. Venugopal

Advisor – District Annette's Council



Annt. Saindhavi

District Annette Representative

A Moment to Celebrate – and Push Forward!

Rtn. L. Neelakantan, DRFC 2024–27



We began the Rotary year with hope, and ended June with history! RID 3233, in its very first year post bifurcation, has crossed the \$1 million mark in TRF contributions, rising from \$600,000 in May to one million by June 29. This extraordinary achievement is a tribute to the passion and belief of every Rotarian, every club, and our inspiring leadership led by DG Mahaveer Bothra.

Special thanks to DLF PDG AKS Muthupalaniappan, District Counsellor PDG ISAK Nazar, and IPDG Mahaveer for their unstinting support.

Let's not stop here; many clubs are yet to contribute. Let July be our springboard to strengthen Annual Fund, PolioPlus, and Endowment giving. Together, let's build a foundation even stronger!

Annettes Premier League

A Signature Project of the Rotary Club of Madras Downtown. We are pleased to announce the return of one of our most anticipated and spirited events, the Annette's Premier Cricket League (APL) – Season 4.

APL is more than just a cricket tournament. It is a celebration of community, fellowship, and shared purpose. This annual event brings together Annettes from across the district in an atmosphere of healthy competition, teamwork, and fun, while reinforcing the core values of Rotary.

Every Annette's participation contributes directly to the impactful service initiatives undertaken by the Rotary Club of Madras Downtown. By playing for a purpose, we aim to channel youthful energy into meaningful action, supporting causes that uplift and empower communities.

We look forward to welcoming you to the field to play with passion and purpose, and to make a difference together.



Rotary Club of Madras Downtown



Part 1:

The Wheel Begins to Turn

Madras, 1929. The Beginning of Rotary in South India
Told through the eyes of a fictional interpreter named **Ravi Subramaniam**, a 25-year-old clerk with a talent for languages.

May 10, 1929 – Parry's Corner, Madras Presidency

The fan creaked. The sweat refused to dry. The air, thick with salt and talk of trade, crackled with something unfamiliar. I was sitting outside the conference room of Parry & Co., translating telegrams for a visiting foreigner—a certain Mr. James Wheeler Davidson. My boss, Mr. C.E. Wood, said he was “a man of global consequence.”

I had no idea what that meant. But I would find out soon enough.

Mr. Davidson was unlike anyone I had seen before. His suit was too heavy for Madras, his eyes too clear, too searching. He spoke softly, but when he did, even the office fans seemed to hush. Alongside him was his wife,

Lillian, and their daughter Marjory—impossibly fair, eyes scanning the city as if trying to understand its rhythm.

They were here for something called **Rotary**.

A club? A movement? I wasn't sure. All I knew was that the city's powerhouses—men from Binny & Co., the Bombay Company, South Indian Exporters—had gathered that day. Not to trade. Not to toast. But to listen to a man who talked of *service* as if it were currency.

“Service above self,” he said. “A fellowship not bound by empire, but by empathy.”

Some blinked. Some scoffed. But he went on.

Rotary, he explained, wasn't just another imperial import. It was a gathering of professionals who pledged to make their communities better—together. A wheel, turning ever outward, connecting cities, countries, and cultures.



Davidson had already planted clubs in Constantinople, Athens, Cairo, and Baghdad. And now, after crossing deserts and oceans, **he stood here—on the scorched earth of Madras—asking thirty businessmen to believe in something invisible.**

I translated his words into Tamil, hesitantly at first, then with growing certainty. When I said *Namakkum mel*, “above self,” something clicked in me. And perhaps in them, too.

By sunset, the first Rotary Club in South India was born. Thirty charter members—all expatriates—stood in a room that smelled of old teak and new ideas. C.G. Armstrong of the Madras Port Trust was named the Charter President. Chance Morton became the first honorary secretary. Fred James from the United Planters' Association—the man who'd become Sir Frederick later—stood tall beside Davidson, smiling faintly.

They didn't know it yet, but that meeting would carry forward a flame first lit in Calcutta, passed through Bombay, and now glowing in the South—in Madras, where tradition met trade, and ideals found eager hearts.

I remember looking at Davidson as he packed his leather case. He caught my gaze and smiled.

“You'll remember this day, Ravi,” he said.

I didn't know how to reply. But I nodded—and I did remember. For decades.

Years later, as an old man sipping filter coffee on my Mylapore verandah, I'd read about Rotary's vaccine drives, their schools, their clinics. I'd see young Indians wearing that small golden pin. And I'd think of that warm, crowded room in 1929.

Where a foreigner planted not the first seed, but a seed that would take deep southern root—and a nation was once again invited to water it.

To be continued in Part 2: *The Silent Architect*
The story of Sir Frederick E. James – India's first Rotary Governor, and the man who bridged colonial rule with universal service.

- Written by Rtn. Sashi

Rotary Trivia

First club in the mainland of Asia:

Calcutta (now Kolkata) was the first city in the Asian mainland to have a Rotary Club, chartered on January 1, 1920.

Mahatma Gandhi addressed

a Rotary Club:

Mahatma Gandhi, even when the Rotary Club of Calcutta only had non-Indian members, addressed the club.

Massive Service Projects:

Over the last decade, The Rotary Foundation India has supported over 3375 service projects with a value exceeding 1.5 billion USD.

First Asian RI President:

Nitish Laharry from the Rotary Club of Calcutta became the first Asian to be elected as the Rotary International President in 1962-63.



**DISTRICT CONFERENCE RID 3233
2026**

**POWER OF MANY..
SPIRIT OF ONE..**

**INDRA VIZHA
UNITED AS ONE!**

**28TH FEB & 1ST MAR
2026**

**VENUE:
CHENNAI TRADE CENTER**



Rtn. D. Devendran
District Governor



Rtn. Kathirvel Ganapathiappan
Chairman Special Projects

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