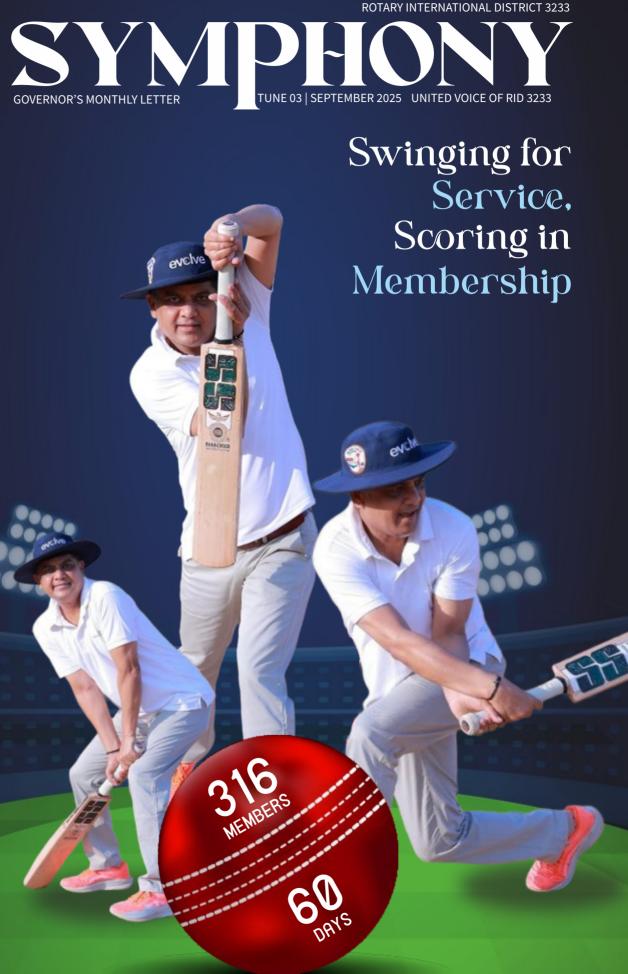




Francesco Arezzo RI President (2025 - 26)

UNITE FOR GOOD



SYMPHONY

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER
ISSUE - 3

Editor

Rtn. Sashikumar V S

Co-Editor

Ann V. Rajalakshmi

Mentor

PDG Dr. N. Nandakumar

Advisors

Rtn. Gnanavelan G Rtn. Ashok Rtn. Manickavel

Additional Chair

Rtn. Dr. Arul Ananda Kumar S Rtn. Nagalakshmi Copparam Rtn. Dr. Ranjitham T P Rtn. Dr. Saritha Damodaran

Published & Owned By

Rotary International District 3233

Conceptualised & Designed by

praanha.com

Pictures Courtesy

Ashokan

Printed by

rathnaoffset.com

Feedback & Subscriptions

rid3233gml@gmail.com

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From the Editor's Desk

They say the third time's the charm—but at this point, we're less "charm factory" and more "Rotary's answer to Netflix." Yes, welcome to yet another binge-worthy issue of Symphony, where the rhythm of service is so good, even Siri would stop mid-sentence to applaud.

This month, the spotlight is blazing. Our clubs and district avenue chairmen have rolled out projects so dazzling, Elon Musk himself might pause and ask, "Can I subscribe?" From grassroots initiatives that rewrite local realities to feats of service that could make Marvel rethink their hero lineup—RID 3233 has been unstoppable.

Of course, we had our share of highlights. The Heritage Hunt Car Rally, for one, was a glorious cocktail of controlled chaos, blind optimism, and people proving that Google Maps isn't always a friend. And then came the RI President's visit—the kind of event that could've powered the Chennai grid if we'd hooked up a few cables. The energy? Off the charts. The applause? Earthquake scale.

For those who like a splash of history with their service, our serialized Rotary fiction is back—this time through the witty musings of a fictional club secretary from the 1930s. Spoiler: the drama is real, the letters are heartfelt, and Rotary still knows how to steal the show across generations.

So, buckle up. This issue is not just a read—it's a ride. A ride of laughter, inspiration, and a symphony that insists on playing louder, prouder, and yes—slightly more dramatic—with every passing month.

Warmly,

Rtn. Sashikumar VS

Chairman & Editor - GML Symphony

Letters to the Editor

Congratulations Sashi! For the wonderful symphony tune 2. The words, went into mind like music. Well laid out, good color sense makes it a vibrant reader. Loved the trivia. The wheel begins to turn is a treasure of information. One can appreciate his Rotary career only if he knows Rotary history well. A good beginning.



Rtn. Dr. Dhanasekar 99 – President, RC Madras Cosmos

Dear Sashi, went through the issue, and browsed through the content of some...very interesting and well covered... liked the layout and captions too. Kept me engaged. Appreciate your efforts and innovative steps taken. Thanks a lot...



Rtn. SridharPresident, RC Chennai Aura

Very impressive. And carefully selected wordings ... Entire activity captured graciously .. Lovely to have a classy editorial message 🐉 🐉



Rtn. Priya RC Annanagar Aadhitya

Rocking! Interesting capture and liked it. As mentioned hot and hot with humour.



Rtn. Kavitha 99 — President, RC Chennai Silkcity

As usual wonderful Job Rtn. Sashikumar! Beautifully designed and most attractive wordings. Catchy titles pushed us to read the article. Your language is superb. Bless you to improve day by day. It's a tough competition to Rotary Magazine. Kudos to you.



Rtn. Amizhdhu
Cluster Co-ordinator, RC Chennai Aristo

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RI President's Message

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts.

hen I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.

Rtn. FRANCESCO AREZZO

A Month of Vibrancy, Fellowship & Impact

y Dear Rotarians, August, the month of Membership, has been nothing short of remarkable for our District. I am delighted to share that we added 316 new members, with a net growth of 262, and every scheduled club installation was completed by 28th August. We are truly moving in the right direction—towards club vibrancy, where no club has fewer than 40 members, and every club is becoming stronger. Five new clubs are under formation, alongside 20+ new Interact clubs and 10+ new Rotaract clubs. Let us continue to aim high—clubs with 40+ members should grow by 20%, and 50+ member clubs by 10%.

The spirit of club service shone brightly this month. The Rotary Car Rally – Heritage Hunt brought together over 100 cars and 500 Rotarians for a day of fellowship and fun. We also conducted the District Club Vibrancy Workshop, equipping our leaders with tools for stronger clubs. Hosting the LEAD25 Rotary India Leadership Conclave was a matter of pride for us, and the Hi Tea with RI President Francesco Arezzo was truly a feather in our cap. I am equally thrilled to see so many vibrant fellowships happening across clubs—these bonds keep our Rotary family strong.

In the area of Environment, our Say No to Plastic Bag Awareness Walk created an inspiring impact in the community. In healthcare, we signed a landmark MOU with Apollo Hospitals, bringing meaningful benefits to our Rotarians and their families.

On the Rotary Foundation front, over 40 Rotarians committed contributions, and projects worth ₹16+ crores were initiated during the LEAD25 conclave. These steps strengthen our impact and legacy.

A special mention to Cluster 3 Presidents and AGs, who hosted the first-ever Presidents' Meet, aptly named Retro Star, in a retro theme. It was a wonderful celebration of leadership and creativity.

Finally, my heartfelt congratulations to Rtn. AKS M. Ambalavanan on being unanimously elected as DGND—a proud moment for our district.

Friends, August has set the tone for an incredible year. Let us keep this energy alive, continue adding vibrancy to our clubs, and together, unite for good.

Yours in Rotary, **Rtn. D DEVENDRAN** District Governor





Hi-tea with the Highest Office

hen Rotary International President Rtn. Francesco Arezzo and First Lady Anna Maria touched down in Chennai on August 22nd, they may have expected warm hospitality — but not the sight of exuberant Rotaractors wearing his own face as masks at the airport. Add to that digital welcome boards lighting up across terminals and city roads, and you can imagine his surprise. "I thought I was seeing double — many, many times over," he quipped with a smile.

The Presidential Hi Tea, hosted by RID 3233 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Chennai, on August 24th evening, was originally planned as an elegant afternoon affair between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. But Rotary, as we know, often treats schedules as guidelines. By the time President Arezzo and his distinguished entourage — RI Director Rtn. AKS M. Muruganandam, RI Director Christine Buering, PRID A.S. Venkatesh, and PRID C. Bhaskar — arrived, the clock was edging towards 7:45 p.m.

The delay was not without reason. A certain history-making event — LEAD25, organised by RI Director Muruganandam — had just concluded with a staggering 14,000 Rotarians and Rotaractors from India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. Naturally, our RI President was glowing with pride, calling it a "shining example of Rotary's spirit and scale."





Back at Hyatt, the anticipation only grew stronger with every passing minute. Instead of restlessness, the 250 Rotarians present were treated to an impromptu curtain-raiser: AKS Donors and Past District Governors sharing reflections on "GIVING²." What could have been a lull became an inspiring masterclass on the joy of contributing to The Rotary Foundation.

When President Arezzo finally walked in, the wait felt worth every second. Together with RID Rtn. M. Muruganandam, he honoured Rotarians who had pledged support through Major Donor commitments, Endowment Funds, CSR projects, and Arch Klumph Society membership. Each recognition was not just applause-worthy but a reminder that generosity is Rotary's truest currency.

The seamless orchestration of the evening owed much to District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran and DLF PDG Dr. N. Nandakumar, whose quiet leadership ensured everything flowed with grace. On the ground, District Membership Chair Rtn. AKS M. Ambalavanan, District Executive Secretary Rtn. V. Balamurugan, District Secretary and Rtn. Dr. G. Saravanan, and District Chief Coordinator Rtn. B. Alaguselvan left no detail unattended.

And just when the evening seemed perfectly complete, DGE Rtn. Shriram Duvvuri stepped in with a heartfelt vote of thanks — the perfect icing on the cake. His words captured the pride of the moment and the promise of the future, rounding off an evening steeped in Rotary warmth, laughter, and the joy of a district that knows how to welcome the world.



















Come September:

It is focus on Basic Education & Literacy

PDG A Subramaniam

embership Development (August) followed by Basic Education & Literacy. Is that by chance? I don't think so.

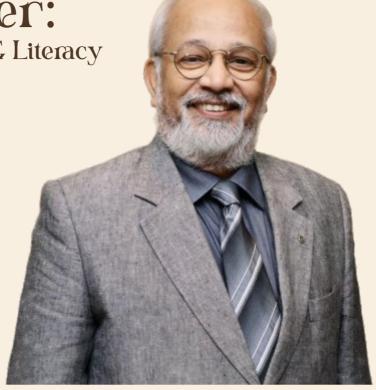
This focus area opens the possibility for Rotary Clubs to plan and execute a number of projects and programs that address this important focus area. Literacy is needed to navigate life. Basic education is the platform to grow. The demographic dividend of an educated society is huge. We know it.

To a new Member of a Rotary Club, this focus area is an opportunity to participate in or lead a meaningful activity. It is a key to unlock potential. An opportunity to change the lives of young children and listen to the click of the key as it unlocks the Member's own potential as a change maker.

Rotary asks us to "...support access to quality education and literacy". The keyword is 'support'. As busy professionals and businesspeople, we must use available infrastructure and policies to work with the experts to convert our ideas and resources, into action. This synergy is a must for results. In our own backyard, several wonderful projects have been undertaken. Templates are available for the asking.

What does the high-flying Eagle see?

- ▲ Energise Interactors and Rotaractors to create an Adult Literacy program. A few hours a week.
- ▲ Create / Rebuild / Enhance infrastructure in primary schools and make going to school a delight. Our own District Governor has given a clarion call to each Club to convert at least one school and make Basic education a pleasure.



▲ Ensure health & hygiene. Usable toilet facilities for children, especially the girl students, women teachers & staff, with a viable plan for maintenance. The maintenance plan is the key.

What we can do is limited only by our imagination. Even a small skill development project will create an Impact. This Rotary year, our DG has pointed to that direction, and if we all pull in that direction, we can create a huge Impact and priceless Public Image for Rotary. We have to Reach out and include the schools and the management to succeed. It is a great opportunity for members to Engage in a life-changing experience. Clubs need to Adapt to the new tools for efficient delivery. Simply stated, the Rotary Action Plan.

The smile on the faces of children who, for the first time, sit on a desk and chair under a ceiling fan is priceless. It is such moments that make a Rotarian out of a member. Experience it!



Cluster Workshop:

Building Vibrancy, One Plan at a Time

t was an August charged with purpose for RID 3233, as Rotary leaders gathered at the District Vibrant Club Workshop – an annual exercise in learning, planning, and energizing clubs to achieve more.

Spread across four sessions (August 8–14), the workshops brought together Presidents, Secretaries, Service Directors, Membership, TRF, and Public Image Chairs, alongside Assistant Governors and Club Learning Facilitators. Each cluster – five in total – saw enthusiastic participation, with nearly 250 leaders walking away with not just worksheets, but concrete action plans tailored to their club's strengths and challenges.

Moderated by Membership Chair Rtn. AKS M. Ambalavanan, the sessions emphasized August's theme – Membership. The conversation was not just about adding numbers but about creating experiences worth staying for. Clubs were guided through my.rotary.org registration (with a bold target of near 100% registration by September), setting ambitious yet realistic membership growth goals, and using the Goal Centre effectively.

Rtn. Krishnachander's lively session on Club Health Check and Experience Concierge drew special appreciation for its interactive style, while DG Rtn. D. Devendran lent his wisdom throughout, especially when speaking about the role of hobbies and fellowship in strengthening bonds.

Support came from every corner – PDG & DLF Dr. N. Nandakumar and DRFC Rtn. Neelakantan steered the Foundation-focused segments, while District Secretary Rtn. V. Balamurugan clarified reporting processes through the Rotary India app.

By the end, what could have been a routine workshop turned into a hands-on lab for vibrancy. Leaders left with clarity, confidence, and a shared resolve: to make their clubs not just functional, but truly irresistible spaces of service, fellowship, and growth.













Heritage Hunt 2025

- A Moving Canvas of Peace and Heritage

By Ann Lalitha Sriram, Event Chair

n the bright morning of August 10, 2025, Chennai woke up to a sight it had never quite seen before. From Guru Nanak College, Velachery, 105 cars stood poised like pieces of a living art installation – each one decked out in vibrant decorations inspired by the theme World Peace.

This was Heritage Hunt 2025, a unique Rotary car rally that turned the city's streets into a moving canvas of colour, creativity, and camaraderie.

The Flag-Off: A Spirited Start

The day began with an energy that only Rotary can summon. Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes gathered in high spirits, their cars gleaming and their smiles brighter still. The invocation set a graceful tone, followed by a warm welcome that underlined the sense of togetherness.

District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran addressed the gathering with words of encouragement and pride before our celebrity Chief Guest, the charismatic Actor Ganesh Venkatraman, took the stage. His words resonated with the crowd – a perfect blend of motivation and goodwill — before he stepped forward to officially flag off the rally.

And just like that, the streets of Chennai came alive with a cavalcade of cars carrying not just people, but a message — that peace is worth driving for.























On the Road for Peace

The rally was more than a race for clues; it was a moving celebration. Teams, dressed in creative costumes, navigated their way across the city's heritage spots, cracking puzzles and embracing challenges. Along the route, locals paused to wave, smile, and admire the convoy, and the message of World Peace found its way into countless hearts.

From start to finish, there was laughter, friendly rivalry, and an unspoken pride at being part of something bigger than oneself.

The People Behind the Success

While the cars drew the applause, it was the people behind the scenes who made Heritage Hunt 2025 possible. Our District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran and District First Lady Archana brought not just leadership, but genuine enthusiasm. PDG Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar and Mentor Rtn. Dr. Sumedha Nandakumar were steady pillars from the event's conception to its conclusion. The beautiful venue was made possible thanks to Rtn. Balbir and Ann Gurmeet, with gratitude also to General Secretary Shri Mandip and CEO Madam Christina for their steadfast support.

Our Chief Coordinator Rtn. Meenambigai Alaguselvan was the calm in the storm — efficient, meticulous, and unfailingly composed. Venue arrangements were finessed to perfection by Rtn. Srikumar's team, while Rtn. Sashi Kumar's creativity and Rtn. Venkatesh's star touch added sparkle to every detail. Meticulous coordination with MMSC was handled masterfully by Ann Charu, ensuring everything fell into place like clockwork. Rtn. Siva Shankari outdid herself, filling our participant kit bags with an impressive array of goodies. Our registration team made history with 105 cars — the biggest turnout ever!

A special thank you goes to Rtn. Ampa, who generously offered the beautiful Atrium at Skyone Ampa Mall for our pre-event briefing. It set the perfect tone for what was to follow.



Fuelling the Spirit

No rally is complete without its pit stops, and ours were a festival in themselves. From hot, aromatic filter coffee to refreshing buttermilk and tender coconut water, participants were treated to a continuous stream of flavours.

Lunch was equally memorable – a flavourpacked spread that refuelled both body and spirit, shared among friends and fellow Rotarians.

A Celebration to Remember

When the rally cars rolled back to the finish line, the celebrations began in earnest. The valedictory event was marked by the soulful Tamil Thai Vazthu and an elegant invocation dance.

The FMLR singers and Annette dancers lit up the stage with grace, while the thundering beats of the drums added an infectious energy. There were heartfelt speeches from our DG Rtn. D. Devendran and DFL Archana, words of gratitude, and moments of laughter.

Prizes were handed out for category winners – from the Best Decorated Car to the Senior Trailblazer – as well as the coveted cash prizes. Each award was made possible thanks to our generous Anns, whose sponsorships added a personal touch to the celebrations.

















More Than Just a Rally

By the end of the day, Heritage Hunt 2025 had become much more than a car rally. It was a living poem – each stanza written in the laughter of friends, the cheer of the crowd, and the determined hum of engines united for a cause.

It was about heritage – the places we discovered.

It was about peace – the message we carried.

And most of all, it was about people – the incredible community that made it all possible.

As Event Chair, I stand humbled by the spirit of everyone involved – from our leaders and coordinators to the last volunteer who stayed till the final chair was folded. You turned an idea into an experience, and an experience into a memorythat will live on for years to come.

Heritage Hunt 2025 was not just a drive. It was a journey – one that we took together, for peace, for fellowship, and for the joy of being part of the Rotary family.





















When Service Meets Care

Rotary and Apollo chart a two-year journey of wellness and service

t was an evening that blended Rotary's spirit of service with the reassuring promise of healthcare. On 12th August 2025, at Chennai, an important milestone was marked when Rotary International District 3233 and Apollo Hospitals came together in partnership.

A small gathering, but one that carried a large promise. At the table sat District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran of Rotary International District 3233, ready to put pen to paper on an agreement that could reshape healthcare access for Rotarians and beyond.

Beside him was Rtn. Shriram Duvvuri, District Governor Elect, and Mr. Premjan, Deputy General Manager of Healthcare Services at Apollo. Their signatures sealed more than just an MoU; they sealed a partnership between Rotary and one of India's most trusted names in healthcare.

The agreement ensures tangible benefits for Rotarians and their families – 20% discounts on hospitalizations and healthcare services and 30% off master health checkups.

But the vision stretches further. Apollo will now stand alongside Rotary in community service: health camps in underserved areas, expert doctors addressing Rotary clubs on crucial medical topics, and hands-on CPR training sessions for members.

"This MoU is not just about discounts; it's about building healthier communities together," DG D. Devendran remarked after signing. His words reflected the spirit of Rotary itself – service that starts within and extends outward.

The partnership is valid for two years, with a view to extend. In many ways, though, its impact will outlast paperwork. It signals a future where the Rotary wheel and the Apollo torch move in tandem – Rotary's commitment to service amplified by Apollo's commitment to care.

For District 3233, this is more than an agreement. It's a promise: that health and service will walk hand in hand, reaching not just Rotarians but the larger community we serve.



Bagging the Habit, Not the Planet

Rotarians Walk the Talk for a Plastic-Free Future

he morning sun at Elliot's Beach had barely risen when a different kind of wave began to form – not of water, but of people. On 9th August 2025, over 300 participants gathered under the banner of Rotary International District 3233 to take a stand for the planet.

The Plastic Bag Free Awareness Walk, led by District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran, brought together an inspiring coalition – Rotarians, over 100 spirited school students, NGO partners from ExNoRa International Foundation and National Green Corps, and officials from the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board. Their mission was simple but urgent: say no to single-use plastic bags, and yes to a cleaner, greener future.

Placards bobbed in the morning air, cloth bags changed hands, and a powerful mass pledge rang out. In a first-of-its-kind move, an online e-pledge was launched, inviting citizens across Tamil Nadu to commit to the cause from anywhere. Schoolchildren attended engaging awareness sessions that planted seeds of environmental responsibility.

Director of Environment Protection, Rtn. R. Balasubramanian, summed it up best: "Supporting the environment is Rotary's 7th Area of Focus. Through this initiative, we are encouraging lasting behavioural change toward a greener, plastic-free future."

From the first step to the final handshake, the walk was more than an event – it was a commitment in motion. That morning, RID 3233 proved that when we Unite for Good, even the tide can turn.





















Yaadhum Aagi Nindraai

- Celebrating 100 Mothers-to-Be

hen I was appointed Chairman of the District Maternity and Childbirth Team 2025–26, I knew I wanted to create a project that would touch hearts and last the entire Rotary year. That dream became Yaadhum Aagi Nindraai – "You Are My Everything" – a celebration of 100 underprivileged expectant mothers, blending tradition, care, and compassion.

With the blessings of District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran and the dynamic support of Councillor Nagavalli Prabhakaran, I set out with my spirited team – Rtn. Chandha Ganesh, Rtn. Sara Venkatesh, Rtn. Mohini Sriram, Rtn. Sandhya Sailesh, Rtn. Anandhi Mohan, Rtn. Sai Sree, and the ever-enthusiastic Utsavites. Together, we turned a mammoth task into a heartwarming success.

On inauguration day, Chief Guest DG Rtn. D. Devendran, First Lady Archana, Guest of Honour Councillor Nagavalli Prabhakaran, and Special Guest Poet & Lyricist Snehan graced the occasion. The highlight? A traditional Valaikappu where Rotarians happily competed for the privilege to anoint mothersto-be with sandalwood, turmeric, kumkum, and glass bangles.

Medical guidance came from Gynaecologist Rtn. Dr. Sujatha Gajendran, Paediatrician Rtn. Dr. Raja Durka Sundaram, and Ophthalmologist Rtn. Dr. Vasantha Gowri. Generous sponsors – especially club Presidents and Secretaries – ensured each mother received a Care Kit filled with baby essentials, health food, and a saree.

As I looked at the smiling faces of these young women and my fellow Rotarians, I realised no feedback form could capture this – the joy in that hall said it all.



Rtn. Mallikeswari SrinivasChairman – District Maternity and
Childbirth Team















Hands that Serve. Hearts that Care

On August 5, 2025, the TBM School campus came alive with warmth and compassion as the visually challenged community gathered for a special outreach. District First Lady Archana Devendran, joined by partners' committee members and club first ladies, led the effort with quiet grace.

What could have been just another act of service became a day of dignity and celebration. Essential groceries were thoughtfully packed and distributed, while a freshly prepared lunch brought both nourishment and joy. Beyond the material support, it was the spirit of Rotary family unity that touched the hearts of those present.

The sight of spouses and leaders working hand-inhand carried a deeper message – service is strongest when empathy leads the way. The event not only met immediate needs but also reaffirmed Rotary's enduring commitment to inclusivity and care.







First Ladies' Festive Bond





The spirit of tradition met the warmth of fellowship when the First Ladies of RID 3233 gathered for a graceful Varalakshmi Vratham celebration. The venue was the home of Ann. Kavitha Natarajan of RC Chennai Aristo, who opened her doors and heart to host the occasion.

District First Lady Ann. Archana Devendran joined hands in this festive gathering, where devotion blended seamlessly with camaraderie. The air was filled with the fragrance of flowers and the gentle hum of prayers, as the First Ladies came together not only to honour Goddess Lakshmi but also to celebrate the bonds of Rotary sisterhood.

It wasn't just a ritual—it was a reminder of shared values, cultural pride, and the strength of community. The celebration concluded, in true Indian tradition, with a sumptuous lunch—leaving both hearts and palates satisfied, and the fellowship stronger than ever.



Installation of President Rtn. Akash Jain

Rotary Club of Chennai Akshaya



Installation of President

Rtn. Sangeetha N

Rotary club of Chennai Metropolis



Installation of President Rtn. Mary Amutha Raj

Rotary club of Madras North



Installation of President

Rtn. Bharath Shetty

Rotary Club of Chennai Amethyst



Installation of President

Rtn. Muthuraman A L

Rotary Club of Chennai Kings



Installation of President

Rtn. Suresh Babu R

Rotary Club of Chennai Chola



Installation of President **Rtn. S Muralidharan**

Rotary Club of Chennai Crown



Installation of President Rtn. Sundar E

Rotary club of Chennai Octave



Installation of President

Rtn. Apoorva J Modi

Rotary Club of Chennai Capital



Installation of President

Rtn. Sridhar Varadaraj C

Rotary Club of Chennai Aura



Installation of President

Rtn. Senthil Kumar Balraj

Rotary Club of Chennai Velachery



Installation of President

Rtn. Loganathan N

Rotary Club of Chennai Gateway



Installation of President

Rtn. R. Madhan Mohan

Rotary Club of Chennai Sunrise



Installation of President

Rtn. T. Karthikeyan

Rotary Club of Madras Esplanade



Installation of President

Rtn. SangeethaPradeep

Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance



Installation of President

Rtn. D. Arul

Rotary Club of Chennai Banyan Tree

Community Service Health: Expanding the Circle of Care



Rtn. Dr. S. Ramesh BabuDistrict Director, Community Services Health

August was a month of meaningful impact as the District Community Service Health Team continued its mission to catalyze wellness across RID 3233. Our focus spanned disease prevention, maternal and child health, menstrual hygiene, blood and organ donation, and cancer awareness.

A highlight has been our multi-specialty medical camps, bringing essential healthcare directly to communities. Six major camps were facilitated this quarter with the active participation of Clubs, benefiting over 900 people. From supporting CMRL staff to reaching urban neighborhoods like Kannagi Nagar, every camp strengthened Rotary's role as a health enabler.

Our commitment is clear: to support every Club in identifying local needs while we coordinate expert medical and paramedical personnel. With over 15 projects already in motion, the call is simple—together, let us widen our reach and ensure healthier, stronger communities across the district.

Shaping Tomorrow's Leaders:

Interact Installations Across RID 3233

Rtn. S Annamalay, District Chairman - Interact

ugust was a month of youthful energy as the spirit of Interact came alive across schools in RID 3233. The Rotary Club of Madras West proudly installed six Interact Clubs, with District Interact Chairman Rtn. Annamalay Sethuraman gracing the 6th Charter Installation at Model Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tondiarpet. President Rtn. R. Baskar and alumnus Rtn. Manickavel joined hands to make the day memorable.

At Corporation Higher Secondary School, Thandurai, newly elected leaders – President Hayath F, Secretary Nandhini, and Treasurer Siva Prakash – took charge, guided by words of encouragement from Rtn. Annamalay. Students also received yoga training, financial literacy in account operations, and stationery support from the club.

The installation at KRMM School, sponsored by RC Chennai Towers, carried forward a legacy of 16 years of Interact service. Nearly 60 students engaged in an inspiring session where a delightful surprise emerged – most students were learning German as an additional language!

RCC Rising Stars saw the birth of Interact Club at Sri Venugopal Vidyalaya, RA Puram. With 143 students in attendance, the program highlighted Rotary's values of service and leadership.

RC Chennai Alandur also successfully installed its Interact Club at Annai Sathya Matriculation School, further strengthening Rotary's youth movement.













Rotary Club of Madras Esplanade

Holistic Inter-District Medical Camp

On 2nd August, RC Madras Esplanade and RC Madras Next Gen, in collaboration with RID 3233 & 3234, hosted a remarkable multispecialty medical camp at the Special Forces Police Battalion, Avadi.

Unlike routine check-ups, this holistic initiative offered dental procedures, orthopaedic consultations, physiotherapy, mammography, cardiology tests, cancer and gynaecological screenings, with free medicines and supplements.

Over 700 beneficiaries received care valued at ₹7 lakhs, making it a "first-time experience" for many. The camp exemplified Rotary's spirit of service, inter-club synergy, and commitment to accessible healthcare.















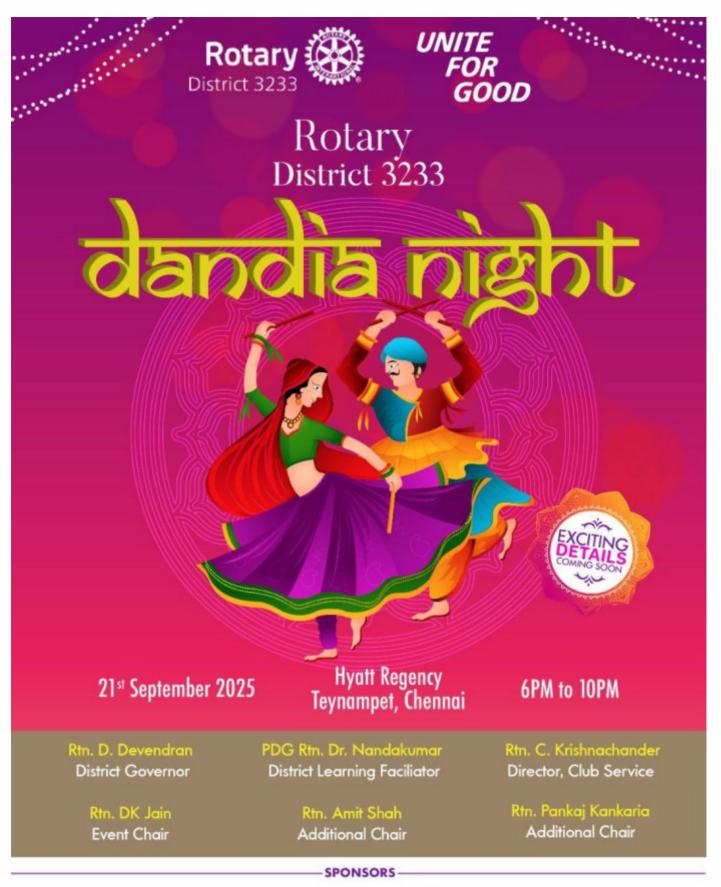
Rotary Club of Chennai IT City

RCC IT City had a vibrant August, marked by initiatives across education, health, and youth development. On 2 August, a 65-inch smartboard was installed at Gopalapuram Boys' Higher Secondary School, inaugurated by Mr. Subramanium, President of the Gopalapuram Educational Society. Equipped with interactive educational software, it aims to transform classroom learning for students.

On 3 August, the club hosted a Learning Seminar in line with DG Rtn. D. Devendran's belief that "a well-informed Rotarian is a lifelong Rotarian." Sessions led by District leaders covered membership commitment, the role of club services, enhancing public image, The Rotary Foundation, and CSR. The seminar proved especially enriching for Green Rotarians, who gained fresh insights into Rotary's mission.

On 19 August, RCC IT City installed its 2nd Interact Club at NKT Girls' School. Chief Guest Rtn. M. Senthil Kumar inspired students to aspire for independence, while motivating sessions by Club President Rtn. Rewins Raj, Co-Chair Rtn. Priya Sridhar, and United First Lady Ann. Ramadhaa left lasting impressions.

Earlier, on 6 July, the club launched Project Aarogya with YR Gaitonde Foundation, ensuring monthly nutritional support for children and widows living with HIV, reaffirming Rotary's commitment to sustainable health and dignity.











LEAD CLUBS

RC Chennai Velachery

Skill Development Centre Inauguration

RC Chennai Velachery inaugurated its Skill Development Centre with Spoken English classes for underprivileged girl students. A collaboration with the Southern Academic Association and Sri Rajeshwari Radhakrishnan Trust, the first batch will benefit 25 students. District Governor Rtn Devendran lauded the initiative and assured employment opportunities for the students in his firm. Assistant Governor Anand and Regional Secretary Pradeep graced the event. The programme, led by Director (Vocational Services) Rtn Yesudasan, will run every Sunday for three months, with plans to expand further. Special mention to Rtn Balasubramani, Mr. Radhakrishnan, and the faculty members Ms. Divya, Mr. Ganapathy, and Mr. Hariharan.









Rotary Club of Madras North

Empowering Through Reskilling

On 15th August 2025, RC Madras North conducted a Vocational Service project at Vaanam Vasappadum, Thoraipakkam, OMR, in partnership with the Sangam for differently abled individuals of Kannagi Nagar. The initiative focused on reskilling in tailoring and promoting home-based income opportunities. A tailoring machine was donated, and participants received an immediate livelihood boost with an order for 2,000 stitched bags for Aviva Authentic Foods. A special workshop for women encouraged entrepreneurship through home-based reselling.

Rotary Club of Chennai Crown

The Rotary Club of Chennai Crown hosted a seminar on Traditional Siddha, Ayurveda, and Yoga at Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore. Chief Guest Dr. Dhanalakshmi, Club Literacy Chairman, delivered an insightful talk on traditional health. Guest of Honour Mr. Muthukumaraswamy graced the event. Over 1,200 students attended, with 75 vocational awards presented. The program was ably organized by Director (Health) Dr. Selvasoorya and Vocational Service Chair K. Deenadhayalan.



RC Chennai Silk City

A Decade of Youth Leadership

On 6th August 2025, RC Chennai Silk City installed the Interact Club at Guntur Subbiah Pillai Girls Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar. District Youth Service Director Rtn. M. Senthil Kumar graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, joined by school representatives and club leaders, including President Rtn. S. Kavitha and Secretary Rtn. Annapoorni Venugopalan. The new Interact team, led by President P. Keerthika Sri, Secretary S. Sana Bathul and Treasurer S. Teenijha, took charge from the outgoing board. Sixty students proudly received their Interact badges, reaffirming the school's vibrant Rotary journey.





Rotary Club of Chennai KK Nagar

Nalamudan-2: Health Camp for Sanitation Workers

On 9 August 2025, Rotary Club of Chennai KK Nagar, along with Lions Club of Chennai Supreme and guided by PDG Rtn. AP Kanna, conducted "Nalamudan-2" at Urbaser Sumeet's Valasaravakkam depot. Supported by Apollo Hospitals Care Team, Site Care, and specialist partners, 157 sanitation workers benefitted from services including bone health checks, dental care, eye testing with free spectacles, mammograms, and general assessments. Inaugurated by film director Prabhu Solomon and choreographer Kala Master, the camp highlighted women's health and cancer prevention. Special thanks were extended to Rtn. Dr. Jambu and the team of Rotarians for their dedicated support.

Rotary Club of Madras Mount

Empowering Through Skills

On 15th August, the Rotary Club of Madras Mount celebrated the Graduation Day of its Vocational Training Centre at Adhanur Village, a tradition upheld for the past four years. Established on premises donated by Charter President Rtn. Marimuthu and developed further in 2021–22, the centre continues to empower underprivileged women through courses in Tailoring and Computer Science. Nearly 60 beneficiaries graduate every six months, creating sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families. This year's ceremony, graced by Chief Guest Rtn. Nevil Rayan, marked yet another milestone in service and empowerment.







Rotary International District 3233

District Governor

Rtn. D. Devendran

and District Community Service Health Team

cordially invite you to



A MEGA BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Wednesday October 8, 2025

Goal: Collect 5,000 units of blood Impact: Help save 15,000 lives



Support the initiative with a

SPONSORSHIP OF ₹5,000/- PER CLUB

Inviting uniformed services to participate in HONOR OF INDIAN AIR FORCE DAY

LEAD CLUB - Rotary Club of Chennai Akshaya

Collaborating with Blood Banks + Madras Voluntary Blood Bureau Rotaractors of RID 3233 and Various City Colleges, I T Companies, Industries etc.,

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT

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Rtn Dr Suresh Member 9361697476 Rtn Ganesh Member 9840699348 a **praanha.com** design

PDG Rtn. ISAK Nazar Dist. Counsellor **PDG Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar**Dist. Learning Facilitator

Rtn. Dr. S. Ramesh Babu Director - CSH **Rtn. V. Balamurugan** Dist. Executive Secretary

Rtn. Dr. G. Saravanan Dist. Secretary

Rotary Club of Chennai Akshaya

Diabetes Screening Camp

RCC Akshaya organised a Diabetes Screening Camp in association with Madhav Diabetes Centre, led by Rtn Dr M. C. Deepak, Rtn PP Vrinda Deepak and their dedicated volunteers.

The camp benefitted 172 individuals, marking an important step in early detection and health awareness. Chief Guest Dr Rajeev K. Srivastava, Chief Environment Specialist, CMRL, and his team extended their support, while Rtn Dr S. Ramesh Babu provided valuable guidance. With Director (Community Services – Health) Rtn Ganesan M spearheading the effort and President Rtn Akash and Secretary Rtn Sagarika offering strong leadership, the initiative was a resounding success.





Rotary Club of Chennai Chola







RC Chennai Chola celebrated the 79th Independence Day with a green initiative at Rtn Ananthan's farm in Thiruttani. Members unfurled the national flag and planted saplings symbolising growth, sustainability, and responsibility towards future generations. District Membership Chairman Rtn Ambalavanan graced the occasion as Chief Guest, inspiring members with his words on unity, service, and environmental stewardship.

On 26th July, an Annadhanam was organised at the residence of President Rtn Suresh Babu, benefitting over 150 individuals with wholesome meals. The project was inaugurated by Rtn. S.M. Balaji, District Director of Community Service Development, whose presence enriched the initiative. Members enthusiastically participated, with Rtn Dr Jayaraman, President of RC Chennai Medical Fraternity, also joining.

Furthering their commitment to the environment, members participated in the "Say No to Plastic" campaign on 9th August at Besant Nagar Beach, creating awareness among the public on reducing plastic usage and protecting marine life.

On the same day, the club proudly hosted the installation of the Rotaract Club of Sahas for 2025–26 at Hello City TV, Arumbakkam. The ceremony, attended by DRCC Rtn Dr C.M. Kishore and President Rtn Suresh Babu, motivated Rotaractors to embrace impactful service initiatives in the year ahead.

Rotary Club of Chennai Maithri

Multi-Speciality Medical Camp at Tondiarpet

On 9 August 2025, Rotary Club of Chennai Maithri, together with the District Community Service team, organised a large-scale medical camp at Tondiarpet, inaugurated by Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, MP (North Chennai). The event was attended by MLAs Thiru D. Sekar, Thiru J.J. Ebenezer, Thiru I Dreams R. Murthy, and Thiru Netaji U. Ganesan, MC. Doctors from leading hospitals, including Apollo, VS, Spot, Rajan Eye Care, and Dr. Gupta's Dental Specialities, provided ECG, Echo, general screening, paediatric care, breast cancer and pap smear tests, orthopaedic, eye, and dental check-ups. The camp also featured alternative medicine, naturopathy, and therapeutic yoga consultations.













Rotary Club of Rising Stars

RCC Rising Stars began August with a unique health camp at PS Matriculation North School, Mylapore, screening 400 children for hearing, dental, and speech & language issues. DG Rtn. Devendran, the Chief Guest, delighted the children with his interaction, while AG Imthiyaas and Secretary Raghav kept the event lively. The initiative, led by doctors Rtn. Selvakumar and Rtn. Sharadha, also included an awareness session for parents on early detection and care by senior audiologists and dental experts. The camp received wide coverage in Polimer News.

The club also celebrated the installation of a new Interact Club at Sri Venugopal Vidhyalaya, RA Puram, with District Youth Service Director Rtn. Senthilkumar and District Interact Chair Rtn. Annamalay as guests of honour.

On Independence Day, President Rtn. Sudha Senthil Kumar hoisted the national flag at Dr. Subbarayan Nagar Nala Sangam and spoke on Rotary's role in service and polio eradication. The day also saw a blood donation camp at Velankanni Matriculation School, KK Nagar, benefitting Adyar Cancer Hospital.

Rotary Club of Madras West

Pledging Life, Spreading Health

On 3rd August, RC Madras West organised a Health Awareness and Organ Donation Pledge Camp at Kannagi Nagar, Thoraipakkam, benefitting 137 residents. Supported by Chettinad Hospitals and NGO Aram Sei, the camp offered consultations in cardiology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, dentistry, pulmonology and general surgery, with free medicines distributed. Dr. Siva Muthukumar, Chairman, Cardiac Care, RID 3233, administered the organ donation pledge and highlighted Tamil Nadu's achievements in this field. President Rtn. Bhaskar inaugurated the camp, coordinated by Rtn. K.A. Mahesh Kumar, Director - CSDH, with guidance from Rtn. Dr. Ramesh Babu.









Rotary Club of Madras Porur

Breastfeeding Awareness

On 8 August, the Rotary Club of Madras Porur organised a Breastfeeding Awareness Programme at Chinna Porur Government Hospital with the theme "A Bond that Builds a Lifetime." The initiative aimed to highlight the importance of breastfeeding in ensuring the health of both mother and child. Chief Guest Rtn. Dr. Ramesh Babu, Director – Community Service Health, and Guest of Honour Dr. Karpagam, Zonal Medical Officer, shared valuable insights. Special Guest Rtn. Mallikeswari Srinivas emphasised maternal health, reaffirming Rotary's role in nurturing a healthier next generation.

Rotary Club of Madras Temple City

On 28 July 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras Temple City organised a cancer awareness session at GIGHS, led by Dr. Saritha of Rotary Cancer Trust. Addressing 40 parents, 35 children, and teachers, she highlighted the importance of early detection and lifestyle changes in combating cancers such as breast and cervical cancer. Practical demonstrations on breast self-examination, guidance on healthy living, and awareness on HPV vaccination were well received. The session concluded with gratitude and a call to extend this initiative across more Interact schools.



Rotary Club of Madras Vadapalani

August was a vibrant month for RCM Vadapalani. The second club meeting on 3 August featured actor Mr. Imman Annachi and his daughter Ms. Jeba.

Two Interact Clubs were installed at MGR Nagar and Kanniappa Nagar Schools, with District Youth Service Director Rtn. Senthil Kumar as Chief Guest.

Members joined the district Heritage Hunt, hosted a blood donation camp at PSBB School, and celebrated Independence Day with Diana School, providing stationery kits.

Under Anbum Aravanaippum, members donated a wet grinder, sponsored lunch, and contributed 300 water bottles.

The month also saw participation in LEAD'25 and Vinayagar Chaturthi celebrations.













Rotary Club of Guindy

Circle of Success - A Musical Tribute to Greatness

The Circle of Success function resonated with elegance as RCG honoured the legendary Carnatic vocalist, Padma Bhushan Dr. Smt. Sudha Ragunathan. The evening unfolded like a raga in perfect harmony – from Ann Janaki's poised compering to Kritika M's soulful invocation and Annette Jithesh Mothish leading the Four-Way Test. Chief Guest Shri N. Gopalaswami, Former Chief Election Commissioner, spoke with depth on truth and integrity, striking a chord with all present. Ann Uthara Srikanth introduced the awardee, followed by Ann Meenakshi Sriram's moving citation. A beautifully crafted AV by Rtn Rafeek and team, voiced by Rtn Jemima, created the perfect prelude to the crescendo – Dr. Sudha's gracious acceptance and her stirring rendition of Kurai Onrum Illai. The evening concluded with inductions, recognitions, and wide media coverage, leaving hearts inspired and uplifted.





My Rotary Moment

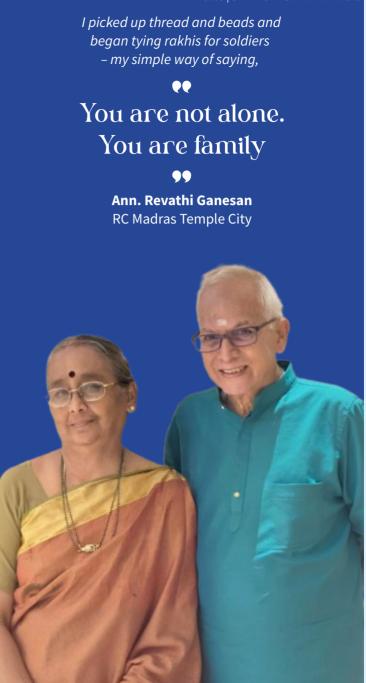
- Threads of Gratitude

In 1998, when the Coimbatore blasts shook our nation, I was overwhelmed by the bravery of the armed forces who rushed in to protect us. Gratitude filled my heart, but words felt too small. That year, I picked up thread and beads and began tying rakhis for soldiers – my simple way of saying, "You are not alone. You are family."

What began with 250 rakhis has, over the years, grown into a movement. Today, with the help of friends, neighbours, schoolchildren, and even a special child whose little hands patiently string beads, more than 5,000 handmade rakhi kits find their way to the farthest borders of India. Each rakhi carries not just thread, but love, respect, and the promise of a grateful nation.

This Raksha Bandhan, I had the privilege of standing with my Rotary family from the Rotary Club of Madras Temple City at the Pallavaram Army Camp and the Tambaram IAF Camp. As we tied rakhis on the wrists of 200+ jawans, I saw their faces soften into smiles – men who live in barracks, far from home, suddenly had sisters beside them. Some said, "Thank you, sister," while others just held my hand silently, and that silence spokelouder than words.

For me, this is not just a festival. It is my prayer, my promise, and my Rotary moment – that as long as I can, I will continue to send threads of love across miles, to the men who guard our tomorrow.



































RID 3233 | SYMPHONY SEPTEMBER 2025

















Rotary in Tamilnadu

- A FICTIONAL CHRONICLE OF REAL LEGACY

Part 2 - The Silent Architect

Madras, 1936. The First Indian Rotary Governor Steps Forward

Told through the letters of a fictional club secretary, Thomas Edward, writing to his sister in England.

August 5, 1936 Madras Presidency, India

Dear Elsie,

You once asked if India ever changes a man. I thought of your question today, as I watched Sir Frederick James – calm, silver-haired, spectacles low on his nose – rise to address a room full of colonial men with business on their minds and power in their pockets.

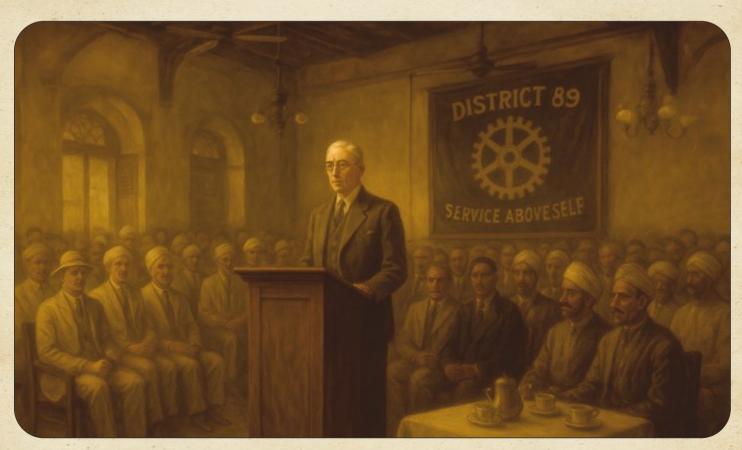
But Sir Frederick was not there for commerce today. He was there to lead – quietly, firmly, permanently.

He has just been appointed Rotary's first District Governor in India, overseeing a vast and improbable terrain: Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, and all of undivided India. They're calling it District 89. A web of clubs stretching from Lahore to Colombo, Calcutta to Karachi – bound not by law, but by fellowship.

And it is Frederick James – our own "Silent Architect" – who now carries this new edifice on his shoulders. It's easy to underestimate him.

He speaks little, rarely lifts his voice, and keeps most of his thoughts behind a wall of English reserve. But in Rotary, silence is not stillness – it is structure. And Frederick has been laying foundations since 1924, when he helped revive the Calcutta club.

I've seen him build a network not through charisma, but through letters, meetings, handshakes, and miles upon miles of railway travel.



He once said to me, "Rotary must grow not like a flame, Thomas. But like a banyan tree – steady, spreading, shading."

And so it has.

This morning, at the old hall near Mount Road, sixty-three members signed in for the first-ever District Conference of RID 89 in India.

It was modest in scale – but immense in meaning.
The Rotary wheel stood at the centre. Behind it, a banner that read: District 89: Service Above Self.

A few sceptical men grumbled that this was "an Anglo club" or "a passing Western fad." But as Sir Frederick spoke, even they leaned in. He spoke not of power, but of duty. Not of empire, but of human enterprise. And when he concluded with the Four-Way Test – still new, still raw – it felt as if something ancient in this land had answered back.

The wind has turned in Madras, Elsie. The old-world order shuffles its feet, while something gentler, deeper, begins to hum. Rotary in India is becoming Indian.

Yes, most members are still expatriates. Yes, Indians are only now being invited in. But I see the shift. At the tea table today, R.K. Shanmugam Chetty – Dewan of Cochin – was laughing with Raja Sir Muthiah Chettiar. They were talking about starting a club in Cochin. In Tamil, no less.

And guess who promised to sponsor it? Sir Frederick.

He'll never take credit. He'll never write a memoir. But generations of Rotarians will walk a path paved by his footsteps.

He doesn't just build clubs, Elsie. He builds bridges.

Your loving brother, Thomas

To be continued in Part 3: First Indian Hands As India's own sons step into the Rotary circle, a new chapter of ownership and identity begins – with a club waiter watching it unfold from the margins.

a historical fiction by Rtn. Sashi



Congratulations DGND Rtn. AKS M. Ambalavanan

Rotary International District 3233 proudly extends heartfelt congratulations to Rtn. AKS M. Ambalavanan on being named District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND).

The Rotary journey in Tamilnadu began in Madras in 1929, when James Wheeler Davidson founded the first club on our soil. A few years later, in 1936, Sir Frederick James—our "Silent architect"—became the first District Governor, quietly laying the foundations of Rotary's growth across an immense land. Their vision shaped generations of service and fellowship.

Today, as you step into this mantle of leadership, we see in you that same spirit of vision and resolve.

Under your guidance, District 3233 will continue to grow like the banyan tree

—rooted, spreading, and life-giving.

Here's to an inspiring journey ahead.

A Benchmark in Print & Pixel

The launch of RID 3233 District Directory

his year, RID 3233 achieved a milestone that blends tradition with innovation – the timely release of the District Directory, both in print and digital formats. For the first time in history, the process was seamlessly powered by ERP support, thanks to the expertise of Rtn. Sivaraman. This technological backbone not only simplified compilation but also promises to streamline directory management for years ahead.

Under the stewardship of District Directory Chairman Rtn. V.R. Lakshmanan, the directory was not just delivered on time but also set new benchmarks. Hard copies reached Rotarians across the district through prompt courier service, while the digital version, hosted on rid3233.com, made access easier than ever. Adding to the achievement, the committee secured record-breaking ad revenues and ushered in the first-ever full digitalisation of the district's most essential handbook.

RID 3233 now holds a directory that reflects both efficiency and vision.

















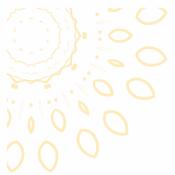


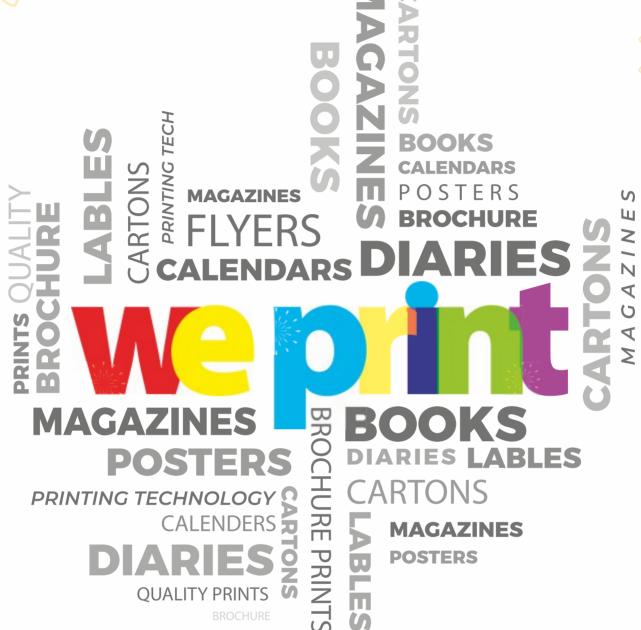














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Retro Nite

y dear United Presidents, Warm greetings to you and your family, The First United Presidents Fun Meet, hosted at the elegant Hotel Ambassador Pallava, was nothing short of spectacular. With the unique Retro Theme, the evening took us down memory lane, celebrating fellowship, fun, and unity intrue Rotary spirit.

At the outset, my heartfelt gratitude to the Cluster 3 Presidents and the Cluster 3 Assistant Governors who meticulously planned and flawlessly executed this remarkable evening. Their creativity and commitment transformed this meet into a memorable celebration of togetherness.

A special word of appreciation goes to the First Ladies, whose enthusiastic participation added charm, grace, and liveliness to the evening. Their involvement truly made the event complete.

The evening was wonderfully steered by our talented Master of Ceremonies, Rtn. Imthiyas, who kept the audience engaged and entertained with his energy and wit.

The Retro theme was beautifully brought alive by the organising team – from the well-decorated hall, vibrant colours, and nostalgic ambience, to the thoughtfully designed retro games and events that revived the golden era in a delightful manner. It was heartening to see everyone wholeheartedly participate in these fun activities, breaking barriers and building bonds.

No Rotary fellowship is complete without food, and last night, we were treated to a sumptuous spread that complemented the spirit of the occasion. The elaborate fellowship throughout the evening provided ample opportunities for conversations, laughter, and bonding.

I also place on record my sincere thanks to the United Presidents, PDGs, CoGs, and District Officers whose gracious presence elevated the evening and added immense value to this initiative. Your participation demonstrated the strength of our unity as one Rotary family.



This retro revival was not just about style and nostalgia; it was a reminder of how Rotary continues to cherish traditions while embracing innovation, creating memories that bind us stronger.

On behalf of the entire District 3233, I extend my deepest appreciation to each and every one who contributed, participated, and made this evening a grand success. Together, you have set a new benchmark for fellowship meets, and I am certain this energy will continue throughout the year.

Let us unite for good.

With gratitude and warm regards, **Rtn. D. DEVENDRAN**District Governor























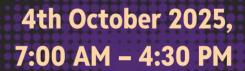






Fuel the Fire. Feel the Glory





44444

at YMCA Grounds, Nandanam, Chennai

Rotary Olympiad 2025 brings together Interact, Rotaract, and students across Chennai for a day packed with volleyball, badminton, and track & field events.

Step into the arena where energy meets excellence!

It's more than just sports — it's teamwork, camaraderie, and the joy of healthy competition.



District Governor



PDG Rtn. Dr. N. Nandakumar Dist. Learning Facilitator



PDG Rtn. ISAK Nazar District Counsellor



44444

PDG Rtn. G Chandramohan Event Advisor



Rtn. Ravi Venkatraman Chairman - Olympiad



Rtn. Sashikumar VS Event Secretary



Rtn. M. Senthil Kumar Associate Chair