



Francesco Arezzo
RI President (2025 - 26)

UNITE FOR GOOD

SYMPHONY

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

TUNE 07 | JANUARY 2026

New Year, New Beginnings



SYMPHONY

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

ISSUE - 7

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

Conceptualization & Complementary Design by

praanha.com

Pictures Courtesy

Ashokan

Printed by

rathnaoffset.com

Feedback & Subscriptions

rid3233gml@gmail.com

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Letters to the Editor



Rtn. Meenakshi Perikaruppan
RC Madras T-Nagar

As usual .. very well compiled. Your play of words , the pun intended and the subtle way putting facts across with wit and grace is outstanding



Rtn. Bhanu Ahuja
RC Madras Connemara

Congratulations to the Symphony editorial team on completing six melodious months of GML magic! You've truly mastered the art of being Newsically brilliant — capturing everything from the tiniest service gesture to the biggest district showstoppers with the precision of a seasoned orchestra. Not a beat missed, not a note out of tune! Each edition has kept us informed, entertained, and occasionally wondering how you manage to fit an entire month of Rotary energy into just a few pages. Your dedication, creativity, and timely delivery deserve a warm round of applause. Wishing the team many more harmonious and high-impact editions ahead. Keep the music playing!



Rtn. Rajaram
RC Madras DownTown

The GML coming out these days with you as an editor is like a whiff of fresh air - classy and stylish in all aspects, be in its content or in the layout . Keep it up. It makes a good reading.



Rtn. Gopu Sambandam
Phenoix Arizona, RC Thriuvanmiyur

It is not Symphony 6 It is Sashi 6 to be precise.. You are becoming the Sashi Tharoor of Rotary..This is my first observation for now.. Congratulations again Sashi for your Successful Journey through the Terrains of Communication in Rotary.. Keep it Up.. Awaiting yet another great one in the first week of 2026..



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by Rtn. Dr. Ranjitham T.P



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Letters to the Editor



Rtn. Preetha Mahesh
RC Chennai Sneham

"Dear Sashi, you're doing an amazing job with Symphony, our Rotary magazine! The way you've infused it with vibrant colors, informative messages, and inspiring articles is truly impressive - it's spreading good vibes all around! Your efforts to encourage club members to share their project reports for publication in Symphony are really paying off - keep up the fantastic work! You're making a difference!"



Rtn. Habeeb Rahuman
RC Madras Central Aadithya

My warm greetings to you & your team on wonderful & exclusive information shared with us in printing format, which is really experienced as touch & feel by reading & seeing photos.. indirectly helping to increase of reading habit.



Rtn. Syed Ashraff SN
RC Madras Central Aaditya

That's a fantastic, high-energy write-up for SYMPHONY 6! Rtn. Sashikumar VS clearly knows how to build hype. ?An Ode to the Editor! ?With prose so crisp and clever, you've made SYMPHONY 6 not just a newsletter, but a genuine electronic health hazard—it's so loaded, my phone is now requesting a 4-course meal and a foot massage just to process the sheer volume of "Rotary heroics"! ?You've taken "district gossip" and elevated it to the level of Unmissable, Unputdownable literature. Future editors will be forced to submit their work using a trebuchet, as standard format won't be able to handle the gravitational pull of the hype you've created. ?Thank you for making District 3233's news feel like the season finale of a prestige drama. ?Keep 'em flipping, flaunting, and forwarding!



Rtn. Sujatha Sathish
RC Madras North

My heartfelt appreciation for the consistently high quality and inspiring content of Symphony. Each edition is a delightful blend of service stories, leadership insights, and impactful initiatives from Rotary clubs across the District 3233. The clarity of presentation, thoughtful selection of topics, and engaging narratives make the magazine a must-read for every Rotarian. It beautifully captures the spirit of "Service Above Self" and reinforces our pride in being part of this global movement. Congratulations to the editorial team for their dedication, creativity, and commitment to excellence. Your efforts play a vital role in connecting Rotarians, sharing best practices, and inspiring greater participation in service. Wishing Symphony continued success and many more impactful editions ahead.



Dr. Ramkumar
RC Madras Down Town

Absolutely brilliant effort U have the knack of doing it in style Appreciated



G. Natarajan
RC Madras Vadapalani

Dear Rtn. Sashikumar, As I went through the 6th edition of Symphony, I was reminded of Kannadasan's famous words - மாதங்கனில் அவன் மாதகுடி - as this issue stood out as one of the best. While DG Devendran's message on TRF donation by Dist 3233 gladdened the heart, DGND Ambalavanan's Rotary contributions make me doff my hat. Becoming an Arch Klumph Society member is no mean achievement. The 6th edition of Symphony captures the contributions of the members beautifully. In Mark Twain's words - It's amazing what you can accomplish, if you do not care who gets the credit. Rotary is proof of that. Cheers to the entire team and especially to you for bringing it out in such an eloquent manner. I for one would certainly stand in the queue to get your autograph!!

...continued in page 29

From the Editor's Desk | 2026: Same Body, New Calendar



2025 has officially left the building. 2026 has entered with full confidence, zero shame, and the audacity to expect “**new year, new me**” from all of us.

Now, the real difference between a District Governor and a Bulletin Editor?

The Governor worries about membership targets, Foundation targets, citations, spreadsheets, you, me and what not..?

The Editor? *Yellam mela irukkiravar paathuppar.*

My only target is your mood. If you're smiling, chuckling, or reading this instead of forwarding a “Good Morning with rose” message, Symphony has already won.

And honestly, judging by the feedback, appreciation, and sudden hugs at Rotary meetings, I feel like that over-pampered child who now expects applause just for existing. Your letters have ruined me. In a good way.

Since it's New Year, I'm legally obligated to give at least one *gyaan*. Here it is, freshly brewed:

Years will change automatically. You won't.

Unless you do something about it.

If you want those extra two inches at the waist gone, January won't burn them for you. Start walking. Join Rotary's walking fellowship. Otherwise, those inches will quietly multiply, like unread WhatsApp messages. First mms, then cms, then suddenly... “*doctor sonna diet follow panren.*”

So friends, in 2026: be good, do good, laugh louder, eat slightly less (optional), and serve generously. And for heaven's sake,
document everything and send it to Symphony.

Varalaaru mukkiyam, amaichare.

History matters. Especially when we're publishing it.

See you next month. Same Editor. Same madness.
New stories.

Rtn. Sashikumar VS

Chairman & Editor - GML Symphony

More than Job Training

RI President's Message

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill — they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

This is what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January — the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counseling and support services alongside vocational training.

That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support.



But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.

Rtn. FRANCESCO AREZZO
President, Rotary International

My Dear Rotarians, We have completed the first six months of this Rotary year — and I say this with quiet pride — in style. The foundation has been laid. The direction is clear. And now, we step confidently into the second leg of our journey.

On the membership front, our growth has been steady and encouraging. But consistency must now become our strength. Every club with fewer than 40 members must rise to become a strong 40-member club, and equally important, no club should slip into negative growth. Growth is not just about numbers; it is about vibrancy, relevance, and sustained fellowship.

I urge all clubs to ensure Rotary dues are paid on time. Timely compliance is not a formality — it is what enables your club to qualify for citations and recognition that reflect your hard work through the year.

Our commitment to Polio must continue with the same resolve that has brought us this far. Through our district initiative, One Drop – ₹100, every club is requested to achieve the target assigned to them. When many drops come together, they create an ocean of impact. Let us finish what Rotary began — a polio-free world.

January brings with it moments of pride and participation. We are honoured to host Rtn. Holger Knaack, Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, for our International Night on 27th January in Chennai. I look forward to welcoming him with a strong district presence.

And as we prepare for our District Conference Indra Vizha, let us come together in great numbers to showcase the strength, unity, and spirit of RID 3233.

We are vibrant. We are aligned. We are on the right path. Let us keep moving forward — together.

Let's Unite for Good.
With rotary regards
Rtn. D Devendran
District Governor

Building Strength, Sustaining Growth

A Message from DG's Desk



Empower enable. elevate.

The Rotary Way-Vocational Service

As we welcome January – Rotary's Month of Vocational Service – we are reminded that our understanding of vocation transcends mere employment. It embodies purpose, self-reliance, and the inherent dignity of every individual. Vocational Service stands as a strong pillar in Rotary's mission, focusing on the development of capable individuals and resilient communities.

This Rotary year, our district has put vision into action with impactful vocational initiatives. We successfully organized four Job Fairs that created meaningful employment pathways for youth and job seekers, providing invaluable platforms for aspiring professionals to interact directly with employers and receive tailored guidance toward sustainable livelihoods.

One of the most inspiring events was the recognition of 100 dedicated teachers at the Ethiraj College Auditorium. As the cornerstone of every profession, these educators shape minds, values, and futures. Honouring them reinforced the vital role they play in our society.

“
True service is not merely about providing opportunities, but about nurturing skills, confidence, and dignity that last a lifetime.
”

- Rtn. S Nevil P Rayan
District Director – Vocational Service

Many Rotary Clubs across the district have actively undertaken Beautification and Tailoring courses, equipping participants – particularly women and youth – with essential, income-generating skills. Last year's graduates were celebrated during a ceremony attended by District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran, whose presence reinforced their confidence and encouraged entrepreneurship opportunities.

This month features an industrial factory visit offering students' firsthand insights into workplace discipline and modern workforce expectations.

Looking ahead, we are thrilled to host a Mega Job Fair in March, in collaboration with Equitas Bank—a flagship initiative reflecting Rotary's commitment to inclusive growth and meaningful employment.

These achievements reflect the visionary leadership of District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran, whose dedication has transformed vocational initiatives into a cohesive, impactful movement.

As we celebrate Vocational Service Month, let us renew our commitment to ethical professions, skill development, and the dignity of labour. Together, let us continue to Empower skills, Enable opportunities, and Elevate society – the Rotary way





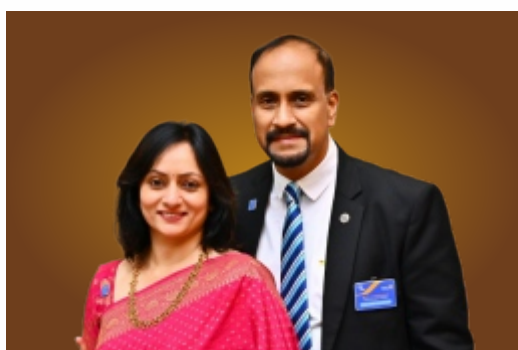
A Moment of Pride, A Journey to the World Stage

by Rtn. B. Alaguselvan, Chief District Co-Ordinator



The Council of Governors Meeting held on 29 December 2025 was marked by warmth, pride, and a quiet sense of history in the making for Rotary International District 3233.

District Governor D. Devendran felicitated District Governor-Elect Shriram Duvvuri and Incoming District First Lady Shalini Duvvuri as they prepare to represent the district at the 2026 Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida. As the most important learning and leadership forum in the Rotary calendar, the Assembly promises an immersive experience of global fellowship, vision, and preparation for the year ahead. The Council of Governors, joined by Past District First Ladies, extended their heartfelt wishes to the couple for a journey filled with insight, inspiration, and meaningful connections.



The occasion became even more special with an announcement that brought immense pride to the district. In a first for RID 3233, Nandakumar, Past District Governor and District Learning Facilitator, has been nominated as a Rotary International Learning Facilitator from Zone 5. He will play a key role in guiding and facilitating the learning of the 2026–27 Class of District Governors at the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando.



Recognising this significant global responsibility, the Council of Governors and Past District First Ladies felicitated PDG Dr. Nandakumar and Sumedha, wishing them success as they contribute to shaping leadership journeys from across the Rotary world.

It was an evening that beautifully reflected what Rotary stands for — continuity of leadership, commitment to learning, and a district stepping confidently onto the global stage.



When Energy Met Fellowship

A Night of Alignment and Rotary Bonding

by Rtn. Sudha Senthil Kumar, President RC Chennai Rising Stars

The Joint Speaker Meeting on “Transform Your Energy, Transform Your Life – Orientation on Pranic Healing” unfolded as an evening where purpose, presence, and positivity aligned beautifully. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Chennai Rising Stars as the lead club, the meeting brought together 15 clubs in a powerful demonstration of Rotary unity.

With all 15 Club Presidents present, alongside members, First Ladies, and senior Rotarians, the programme was further enriched by the gracious presence of District Governor Rtn. D. Devendran and DGND Rtn. Ambalavanan.

The evening opened on a serene note with a soulful invocation by President Sangeetha (RC Chennai Aram). This was followed by a symbolic collaring ceremony led by President Rtn. Sudha Senthil Kumar, where Presidents collared one another, reflecting fellowship and shared leadership.

The Four-Way Test, delivered with clarity by President Vijaya Lakshmi (RC Madras Mount), and the Thought of the Day by President Dr. Ashok (RC Royapettah) set a reflective tone. After a warm welcome by President Sudha, DG Rtn. D. Devendran shared motivating words and was felicitated by Rtn. Lakshmi and Rtn. Annamalai of RCC Rising Stars.





The highlight followed with the introduction of the speaker, District First Lady Ann. Archana Devendran, by President Kavitha (RC Chennai Silk City). Her Pranik Healing session held the audience in rapt attention, complemented by an engaging Q&A.

DGND Rtn. Ambalavanan, introduced by President Rtn. PD Sriram (RC Madras Downtown), added depth with his inspiring address. A heartfelt felicitation ceremony and a crisp vote of thanks by President Rtn. CA Gokulraj (RC Chennai Neithal) brought the evening to a graceful close.

It was Rotary at its best — reflective, energising, and united in purpose.





From First Steps to Firm Footprints

by Rtn. M. Senthil Kumar, District Director - Youth Service

VALARPIRAI 2.0, one of the most inspiring and impactful initiatives of Rotary District 3233, was held on 07 December 2025 at Guru Nanak College, Velachery. The event began at 8:00 AM with a delicious breakfast, setting a warm and energetic tone for the day. The program commenced with an impressive welcome address by Chairman Rtn. M. Senthil Kumar, who highlighted the purpose and spirit of Valarpirai. His words paved the way for a meaningful and engaging session ahead.



This was followed by an insightful address by DLF Rtn. PDG. Dr. Nandakumar, who spoke about Valarpirai as a truly inspirational project that shapes the mindset and commitment of Green Rotarians. The momentum continued with a powerful and motivating speech by our District Governor, whose message deeply resonated with the audience.





One of the key highlights of the event was the panel discussion by Past District Governors along with Green Rotarians, which turned out to be an enriching brainstorming session. The District Governor also felicitated the Highest Membership Growth Clubs and the Highest Foundation Giving Clubs, acknowledging their outstanding contributions to Rotary.



The Chief Guest's speech was extraordinary and held the entire audience – around 490 members – attentively engaged until 1:45 PM. The hall was vibrant with learning, reflection, and inspiration throughout.

With 700+ registrations, VALARPIRAI 2.0 emerged as a truly grand and memorable event, leaving every participant energized and motivated for greater Rotary service.



RID 3233 Mid-Year Presidents' Meet

A Perfect Blend of Leadership, Fellowship & Fun

by Rtn. Kavitha S, President, RC Chennai Silkcity



The Rotary District Mid-Year Presidents' Meet, held from 19th to 21st December at Meridian Hilltop, was a truly memorable and enriching experience, bringing together 48 Rotary Presidents along with the District Governor (DG), First Lady (FL), and DG Nominee Designate (DGND).

This beautifully curated three-day meet was the result of the tireless efforts of a dedicated Core Committee comprising Rtns. Mohanbabu, Kannan, Arul, Madhan, Sindhu, Veena, Radha, Kavitha, Prakash, Manohar, Venkatesan, Victor Martin, and Venkatraman, who worked seamlessly to ensure every detail was taken care of – right from planning to execution.



The event commenced with a warm welcome gathering, followed by the lighting of the traditional lamp by Rtn. Archana, Lady Rtn. Geetha Ma'am, and the Lady Presidents symbolizing unity, leadership, and the Rotary spirit. Meridian Hilltop extended a gracious welcome with thoughtful gifts, while Rtn. Karthikeyan added a traditional touch by gifting Arusuvai Masalas, much appreciated by all.



The 19th December evening was filled with colour, culture, and cheer. The energetic Karagattam and Tharai Attam performances set the tone for an unforgettable cultural night, with the Presidents joining in and dancing with great enthusiasm. The ever-buzzing Fellowship Corner, managed spiritedly by Rtn. Victor Martin, became a favourite spot for conversations and laughter. The day wrapped up on a joyful high with a traditional **Nila Soru Virundhu**, lovingly served by Rtn. Kavitha, affectionately crowned *Thai Kezhavi*. Her warm hospitality and playful spirit added just the right touch of fun, comfort, and togetherness to a truly memorable close.



On 21st December, after the formal closure of the meeting, feedback was collected from all the participants. The heartfelt appreciation and positive responses deeply touched the organizing team and reinforced the success of the meet. Post breakfast, the Presidents proceeded to Salem, where the Salem Young Rotary Club hosted the group with lively music, followed by a sumptuous lunch and an engaging meeting. A meaningful flag exchange with four Rotary Clubs further strengthened inter-club camaraderie.



The return journey turned into an adventure in itself. With time running short to catch the train, excitement was in the air – and soon, almost three-fourths of the train compartment was filled with Rotarians! What followed was pure joy – photos, jokes, games, laughter, and endless conversations, making everyone feel like they had gone back to their school days.

As the train finally reached Chennai Central, Rotarians bid farewell to one another with warm hugs, smiles, and hearts full of memories. This Mid-Year Presidents' Meet was not just a meeting – it was a celebration of togetherness, friendship, leadership, and joy, a memory that will be cherished forever.

A Grand Celebration of Tamil Heritage

Rotary District 3233 Pongal Vizha

by Rtn. Elango, Event Chair



Rotary District 3233 celebrated Pongal Vizha with great enthusiasm and cultural fervour at St. Thomas College on 28th December. The event was a vibrant tribute to Tamil traditions, unity, and heritage.

The programme commenced on an auspicious note with a colourful procession by Annets and Lady Rotarians, carrying the traditional Mulai Pari, accompanied by soulful Tamil folk music, setting the perfect cultural tone for the celebration.

The stage programme started with the welcome speech by the Pongal Vizha Chairman Rtn. Elango and DG addressed the event.

The Namakkal Team enthralled the audience with a series of captivating traditional Tamil folk dances, including Puli Attam, Kali Attam, Poigal Kuthirai, Mayilattam, and other age-old art forms, showcasing the richness and diversity of Tamil culture. Adding to the energy, the dance performance by the Unite Presidents and Secretaries symbolised harmony, fellowship, and togetherness within the Rotary family.





Earlier in the entrance, olden games like Pallanguli, Dhaayam, Paanai Udaithal, Goli, and Pambaram attracted the Rotarians, and everyone tried and enjoyed the games.

The highlight of the event was the inspiring address by the Chief Guest, Dr. Sivaraman, who eloquently spoke about the deep-rooted significance of Tamil culture, its agricultural heritage, and the importance of preserving these traditions for future generations.

The celebrations concluded on a delightful note with a sumptuous traditional lunch served on Thalaivazhai Ilai (banana leaves), offering both vegetarian and non-vegetarian delicacies, leaving everyone with fond memories of a truly authentic Pongal experience.

The Pongal Vizha stood as a memorable occasion, beautifully blending tradition, fellowship, and Rotary spirit.



When the Spotlight Spoke Back

On 21 December, the district gathered for *Star Talkies 2026–27*, a pre-PELS 2 programme that redefined leadership orientation by blending learning, fellowship, and creativity. Designed for the 74 Presidents Elect, the event created a space where preparation for responsibility met the joy of shared experiences, making leadership feel both meaningful and memorable.

The programme was led by DGE Shriram Duvvuri, District Learning Facilitator PDG R Srinivasan, and PELS Chair Rtn K Venkatesan, with strong support from Zone Coordinators and Assistant Governors. Their collective efforts ensured a smooth, well-paced day that encouraged interaction and connection. The morning began on an auspicious note with the lighting of the kuthuvilakku by the District First Ladies, followed by thoughtful addresses from DGE Shriram Duvvuri and Chief Guest AKS Dr A K Natesan, Past District Governor RID 2982. DG Nominee Rtn Ganapathy Suresh introduced the Chief Guest with warmth, setting the tone for the sessions that followed.

As the day progressed, the atmosphere shifted from formal to festive. Zone-wise performances brought the stage alive with colour, coordination, and creativity. Each presentation reflected not just talent, but teamwork and trust, revealing how quickly bonds had formed among the incoming leaders. The participation of spouses added a gentle, joyful layer to the programme, reinforcing the idea that Rotary leadership is supported by shared journeys and quiet partnerships.

Throughout the event, District Mentor Rtn Ramesh and District Secretaries Rtn Alaguselvan and Rtn Natrajan ensured seamless coordination, allowing the programme to flow effortlessly. *Star Talkies 2026–27* stood as more than an orientation. It marked the confident beginning of a Rotary year shaped by harmony, collaboration, and leaders ready to serve with enthusiasm and heart.

by Team Symphony





Planting Leadership, One Mind at a Time

by Team Symphony

Rotary Club of Chennai Meraki

RYLA was conducted at Ayanavaram Government Higher Secondary School, bringing together around 60 students from Class 9. The children were divided into six teams and guided through a day of learning and expression. The Interact Club installation was carried out by Annamalai, marking an important milestone. Creative sessions on the theme of peace included drawing, skits, and dance, allowing students to express ideas with confidence.

Rtn Ajay led energetic team building games that encouraged cooperation and leadership. The valedictory was conducted by Bobby. All participants received certificates and stationery pouches, while the best three teams were awarded prizes. The RYLA King and Queen were honoured with watches, making the day memorable for all.

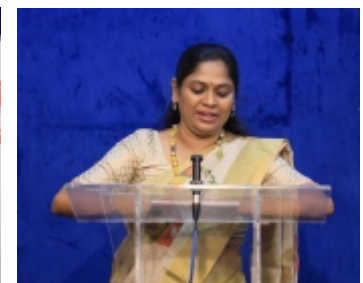


Rotary Club of Chennai Utsav



RYLA was conducted at the KRM Public School, our Interact School, under the inspiring theme Achchamillai Achchamillai Achcham Enba Dillaiyae. The programme was inaugurated by D. Devendran, with President Rtn Dr Veena Vilashini warmly welcoming the gathering. Secretary Rtn Valli Amalan coordinated seamlessly with the school.

Speakers Mrs Pramila and Rtn Balaji SMB captivated the students, while Payal Joshi led an engaging business presentation activity. The valediction and awards were presented by Mr Alavandar, with Ilakkiya Bala receiving the trophy as School Pupil Leader. The day inspired confidence, leadership, and fearless thinking among students.





A Day When Every Child Took the Stage Rota Talent Contest

by Team Symphony

By the time the doors of Kamaraj Hall opened on November 22, the energy was unmistakable. Laughter echoed, costumes shimmered, and anticipation danced in the air. For the Rotary Club of Madras T. Nagar, this was not just another event—it was the 33rd chapter of a tradition close to its heart: the Rota Talent Contest.

Led with passion by Rtn. Meenakshi Perikaruppan, Club Director – Youth Service, and organised in partnership with the Neeta Memorial Charitable Trust, the one-day carnival brought together 1,500 children and nearly 400 caretakers from underprivileged and differently abled homes. What followed was a celebration of courage and creativity. Children sang, danced, and performed with a confidence that filled the hall, reminding everyone that talent knows no labels.

From breakfast to lunch, snacks to smiles, every detail was thoughtfully planned. Beyond the stage, joy continued at jumping castles, mehendi and tattoo corners, with popcorn, candy, and take-home gifts ensuring no child left empty-handed.

The event was inaugurated by District Governor Rtn. Dr. Devendran and District First Lady Rtn. Archana, along with Dr. Rema Chandramohan, Deputy CEO of the Centre of Excellence for Autism, who released balloons to mark a day of boundless possibility.

A special moment came when the Samagratha Foundation received the Rota Voices of Victory Award with a ₹15,000 cash prize, celebrating voices that rise above barriers. Actor Arun Vijay presented prizes, while the Inner Wheel Club of Chennai Presidency added colour through art competitions.

As medals were awarded and applause soared, one truth stood tall: inclusion is not an idea—it is an action. And at RCMT, it always begins with a child's smile.





Twenty-Five Times Over:

A Promise Kept, A Future Protected

by Team Symphony

For Rtn. Dr. Saritha, District Chairman – Cancer Care, service has never been a one-time act. It has been a sustained commitment. On 22 November 2025, that commitment reached a meaningful milestone with her 25th cancer awareness initiative — an HPV Vaccination Drive that focused on prevention, protection, and promise.

Held at Billroth Hospital, Chennai, the drive ensured that 71 girl children from underprivileged and destitute homes received their first dose of the HPV vaccine. For many, this was their first access to a life-saving preventive intervention — a shield against cancers caused by the Human Papilloma Virus.

The programme was organised by Rtn. Dr. Saritha under the Community Service Health – Cancer Care vertical of Rotary International District 3233, with strong support from Rotary Cancer Trust and Billroth Hospitals. Eleven Rotary clubs were represented by their Presidents, reflecting a collective district effort toward cancer prevention.

MD of Billroth Hospital, ensuring safe and professional execution.

HPV vaccination, recommended in two doses for children aged 9–14 and three doses for those above 14, plays a critical role in preventing multiple cancers. By initiating this protection early, Rotary once again chose foresight over firefighting.

As Dr. Saritha's 25th cancer awareness programme, this initiative stood as a quiet yet powerful reminder that consistent service saves lives — not just once, but again and again



The event was inaugurated by Rtn. Dr. S. Ramesh Babu, District Director – Community Service Health, along with Additional Director Rtn. Dr. Vetrivel, in the presence of Rotary Cancer Trust Trustees Rtn. Sankar Duraisamy and Rtn. Bhavesh.

Medical support was graciously extended by Dr. Rajesh Jeganathan,



Clubs in Action - Project Spotlight

Rotary Club of Chennai Castle and Radiance

The Rotary Clubs of Rotary Club of Chennai Castle and Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance came together for a memorable Joint Speaker Meeting, marked by unity, inspiration, and shared purpose. The event was graced by the presence of District Governor D. Devendran, whose encouragement added strength and warmth to the gathering.

The highlight of the evening was the powerful motivational session by Dr. Dhamu, whose insightful and transformative address reignited passion and positivity among Rotarians. The hall resonated with energy as Rotarians, Anns, and Annettes actively participated, creating an atmosphere of enthusiasm and fellowship.

The event was seamlessly carried forward by Ant. Surekha, whose grace and lively presence added charm to the proceedings. With co-presidents standing shoulder to shoulder, the joint meet truly reflected the spirit of Rotary. Together, the clubs celebrated leadership, connection, and collective growth.



Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance



The Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance marked Children's Day with joy and generosity across three schools. At Model Higher Secondary Government School, children were treated to a cheerful celebration filled with smiles and warmth.

The festivities continued at LBEER School, where the spirit of Children's Day was shared with enthusiasm and care. Extending support further, the club sponsored ₹7,500 by cheque for Children's Day celebrations at Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Government Girls Higher Secondary School. Through these thoughtful initiatives, the club reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing happiness, encouragement, and memorable moments for young minds.



Rotary Club of Chennai Celebrities

The **Rotary Club of Chennai Celebrities** successfully completed two impactful and forward looking initiatives that reflected creativity, innovation, and teamwork. A Creative Clay Modelling Workshop was organised at **SBOA Global School** for Classes 1 to 5, with nearly 300 students participating enthusiastically. Conducted in association with Lil' Sculpt Academy, the workshop encouraged imagination and hands-on learning. District Governor **D. Devendran** attended the programme, delivered an inspiring address, and presented certificates to all children.



The club also completed CODEZAP 25, a unique 24-hour AI-powered coding challenge. This first-of-its-kind initiative was made possible through the collective efforts of dedicated members, generous donors, and strong district support. The event showcased Rotary's commitment to youth empowerment, innovation, and future-ready skills, setting a strong foundation for many more milestone projects ahead.



Rotary Club of Chennai Chola



The Rotary Club of Chennai Chola continued to blend service with fellowship through thoughtful initiatives. A Community Service Programme at Mitra Rehabilitation Centre included Vastra Dhanam with bedsheet distribution and Annadhanam with nutritious meals, made more special as the Club President celebrated his birthday with the inmates.



The club also hosted a Revive Meeting with the Rotaract Club of Sahas, strengthening bonds through shared ideas. On 2 December 2025, during the Didwah Cyclone, members distributed raincoats to street workers including rickshaw pullers, cobblers, delivery personnel, and vendors. RID 3233 also marked National Naturopathy Day at the Government Yoga and Naturopathy Medical College under the guidance of D. Devendran, reinforcing Rotary's commitment to holistic care.



Rotary Club of Chennai Beehives

The **Rotary Club of Chennai Beehives** strengthened community awareness and cultural pride through two meaningful signature initiatives. Ten Thirukkural display boards were installed along the pedestrian pathway around the **Arthanareeswarar Temple**, featuring selected couplets with meanings in Tamil and English, inspiring ethical living and appreciation of Tamil heritage.

The club also completed the installation of 20 solar street lights at **Sri Arunodayam**, a rehabilitation home for abandoned children with intellectual disabilities. Supported by the Beehives Trust, this project enhanced campus safety while promoting sustainable energy. Together, these initiatives reflect Rotary's commitment to culture, care, and community well being.



Rotary Club of Chennai Octaves



Rtn Deepa Venkat, Youth Services Director, was honoured with the prestigious SIIWA South India Women Achievers Award in the Mompreneur category on 21 December. A mother, singer, dancer, and designer, she exemplifies resilience and purpose. Her son, Vignesh Venkatraman, a talented autistic singer, has performed over 200 times and recently won the Young Adult Award in Voice of District Season 17 conducted by the Rotary Club of Chennai Towers. Deepa also co founded the inclusive band Magical Voices and Vibes, nurturing talent among differently abled adults. Her journey stands as an inspiring testament to inclusive leadership and purposeful impact.

Rotary Club of Chennai Silk City

The Rotary Club of Chennai Silk City gathered with joy and gratitude to celebrate the 93rd birthday of its senior most member, Professor Vijayalakshmi, fondly known as Viji Ma, on 10 December at Hotel Maris. The evening featured a warm cake cutting ceremony followed by high tea, surrounded by the love and admiration of fellow members. In her generous spirit, Viji Ma gifted sarees to members and smiley cushions to the aunties, delighting everyone present. Her radiant smile and blessings made the celebration deeply memorable, reminding all of her inspiring journey and enduring influence within the Rotary family.



Rotary Club of Madras Esplanade

The Rotary Club of Madras Esplanade celebrated its Charter Nite on 14 December 2025 at Leelavati Banquets in an atmosphere filled with warmth, fellowship, and Rotary spirit. Members and their families gathered a day earlier, adding depth to the celebrations through shared time and bonding. A key highlight was the installation of the Annettes Club of Madras Esplanade, with Annette Jheel Paresh Jani assuming office as President. The evening also featured recognition of Past Presidents, lively fellowship activities, and engaging games that brought together Rotarians across generations, making the celebration truly inclusive and memorable.



Rotary Club of Madras Central Adhithya



The Rotary Club of Madras Central Aadithya recently enjoyed a refreshing fellowship trip to Periyakulam, nestled at the foothills of the Kodaikanal Hills. Members stayed at a serene jungle farm guest house near Kumbakkarai Waterfalls, surrounded by nature and calm. A live kitchen operating round the clock added a homely touch, with fresh food prepared in real time. The two-day stay offered members a completely stress-free break filled with laughter, conversations, and bonding. The trip strengthened fellowship, allowing members to reconnect, relax, and return refreshed, carrying back warm memories of nature, togetherness, and Rotary friendship.

Rotary Club of East RA Puram

The **ERA Club** continued its dynamic engagement across service, youth empowerment, and global fellowship. On 10 December 2025, its Rotaract Club at **Chellammal Women's College** observed International Human Rights Day through a human chain on Students' Rights and Responsibilities, involving nearly 500 students. Welfare support followed on 17 December at **Government Higher Secondary School**, with the donation of an audio system and printer worth ₹70,000, alongside academic encouragement by IPP Rtn. Dr. P. R. Srinivasan. International fellowship was strengthened through a flag exchange with Rotary Clubs from Izmir, Turkey. The month concluded with the 9th RMB Chennai Aspire session at Hotel Jaag, T. Nagar, featuring PDG Rtn. J. Sridhar as Chief Guest.



Rotary Club of Chennai Royals

A vibrant morning of movement and fellowship unfolded as the **Rotary Club of Chennai Royals** joined hands with **Rotary Club of Chennai Radiance**, **Rotary Club of Chennai Castle**, **Rotary Club of Chennai East RA Puram**, and **Rotary Club of Guindy** to host an energetic Zumba session promoting holistic fitness. President Rtn Mohanbabu welcomed the gathering, highlighting Rotary's focus on wellness, in the presence of **D. Devendran**.

The session was led by Ms Judeline Ignatius of House of Sweat Gym, whose lively choreography turned exercise into pure joy. Participants experienced not just physical refreshment but mental release through music and movement. Rtn Radha Krish proposed the vote of thanks, after which members bonded over a healthy breakfast, celebrating fitness, friendship, and Rotary spirit.



Rotary Club of Chennai Amethyst



The Rotary Club of Chennai Amethyst held its Annual General Body Meeting on 13 December at Sortd Cafe, bringing members together in a warm and lively atmosphere. The AGM offered an opportunity to reflect on the club's progress and celebrate milestones of the Rotary year. A key highlight was the installation of four new members, taking the club's strength to 38, a remarkable growth from 22 last year. The induction was carried out by A K S Ambalavanan, adding significance to the occasion. The evening concluded with a joyful Secret Santa game, filled with laughter and fellowship, making the AGM both meaningful and memorable.

Rotary Club of Chennai Korattur

The Mega Star Excellence Awards Function was held on December 21, 2025, at Prasad Digital Film Laboratory, celebrating excellence across various professions. Nearly 1,000 invited artists and professionals attended, with 450 achievers honoured from fields including arts, education, healthcare, media, cinema, music, and social service. The event was graced by Gowthaman as the Chief Guest. Awards were presented by Rotary leaders led by Charter President Shanmuganathan. The function stood as a proud public image milestone, recognising dedication, talent, and meaningful contribution to society.

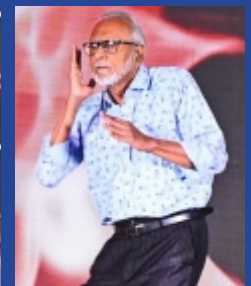


Rotary Club of Chennai Rising Stars

Adding to the celebrations, the club marked its first Charter Nite on 27 November in a lively atmosphere filled with games, fellowship, and laughter. Special appreciation to DG Rtn Devendran, DFL Archana, AG Rtn Imthiyas, and Ann Nagina Imthiyas for actively participating alongside members. The presence of District officials Rtn Alaguselvan, Rtn Manickam Senthil Kumar, and Rtn Dr Ramkumar added warmth and value to the memorable evening.



When the District Found Its Rhythm — Few glimpses from DOD by RC Madras North



Governor's Official Visit



16th October

RC Aura Chennai

President: **Rtn. Sridhar Varadaraj C**

Secretary: **Rtn. Usha Narendran**



25th November

RC Madras Vistara

President: **Rtn. Vijay Anand V**

Secretary: **Rtn. Suresh Kumar R**



13th December

RC Chennai Octave

President: **Rtn. Sundar**

Secretary: **Rtn. Deepa Krishnachander**

Letters to the Editor



Rtn. Nandagopal KS
RC Guindy

Symphony, the Rotary RID 3233 magazine, is much more than a publication—it is a thoughtful bridge between global Rotary vision and local club action. Delivered to every Rotarian's home and workplace, it opens a window to the inspiring service initiatives across our district, many of which may otherwise remain unseen. True to its name, Symphony resembles an Ilaiyaraaja composition—where many distinct notes come together in perfect harmony. Each page reflects the collective spirit of our clubs, inviting readers to pause, reflect, and take pride in Rotary's shared purpose. The dedication and perseverance behind this monthly effort truly deserve appreciation. My sincere compliments and best wishes to Rtn. Sasi for nurturing this beautiful expression of Rotary service.



Rtn Usha Sithapathy
RC Chennai Utsav

வணக்கம்! செய்திகள் வாசிப்பது Rtn Usha Sithapathy, RC Chennai Utsav. இன்றைய முக்கிய செய்திகள். Rotary District 3233-ன் News letter Sympony-யை Editor Rtn Sashi Kumar மிகவும் நேர்ந்தியாக தயார் செய்து இருக்கிறார். Chennai-ன் East, West, North, South என்று உள்ள அந்தவன Club matter-ஐயும் இவ்வாறு News letter தயார் செய்து இருக்கிறார். District-ல் நடக்கும் விழாக்களையும் DG மற்றும் மூத்த Rotarian-களின் Rotary பற்றிய concept-களையும் அவர்களின் முகப்படுத்தலுள் அழகாக பதிவு செய்து இருக்கிறார். இதற்கு நிச்சயம் Rt Sashi kumar and team-க்கு 5 Star கொடுக்கலாம் என்பது என் opinion. நன்றி.



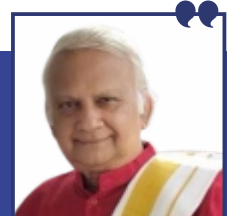
Rtn. AG Satyan
RC Chennai Nolambur

Dear Rtn. Sashikumar, The Symphony Magazine of RID 3233 has been well noticed and has created a strong impact among Rotarians. I am truly impressed by the design, overall quality, and the premium hard-copy print with waterproof covers. The way all the events have been covered is crisp, clear, and well presented. Your efforts and commitment in delivering an international-quality magazine on time are highly appreciated.



Rtn. Sangeetha Pradeep
RC Chennai Radiance

Symphony is a beautifully curated and impactful district newsletter that truly reflects the spirit of Rotary. Each edition thoughtfully showcases club projects, district initiatives, and meaningful moments, highlighting the dedication and service-minded efforts of Rotarians across the district. The content is well-structured, informative, and inspiring, giving equal importance to grassroots projects and large-scale district events. The clarity of write-ups, coupled with engaging visuals, makes Symphony not just a record of activities but a source of motivation and pride for every Rotarian. Kudos to the Sashi and team for consistently bringing out a newsletter that strengthens communication, celebrates service, and keeps the Rotary family connected. Symphony truly lives up to its name by harmoniously bringing together the diverse voices and efforts of our district.



As Sashi weaves the baton
A la magical lantern
Images glow on the wall
Of the monthly GML
Master conductor Sashi VS
Paints on a larger canvass
With colours of rainbow
And a range of knowhow
To portray all stories
Of Rotarians and Rotary
Symphony's each edition
Dazzles like diamond in a crown

Rtn. S N Balasubramanian
RC Chennai Green City



Camera Action





Camera Action



Rotary in Tamilnadu

— A FICTIONAL CHRONICLE OF REAL LEGACY

Part 6: From Madras to Millions

Tamil Nadu, 1983. Rotary Becomes a People's Movement

Told through interwoven letters between a fictional mother-son duo: Janaki, a founding member of the Rotary Club of Erode, and Vikram, her son and a Rotaractor-turned-Rotarian in Madras.

Letter from Janaki to Vikram

February 18, 1983 – Erode

Dear Vikram,

Do you remember that morning in 1972, when you helped me hang a Rotary banner across our street in Erode? It was a blue cloth, fraying at the ends. You asked me what it meant.

I told you it meant **hope**.

Today, eleven years later, I stood before a gathering of 300 Rotarians at our District Assembly in Salem, and I realized—**we were right to hope**.

When I joined Rotary, I was the only woman in the room. They called me “Rotary Amma” behind my back. I didn't mind. I had more important things to do—build classrooms, run blood donation camps, and convince the milk vendor to join our literacy mission. Erode was not Madras. We had no grand clubs or colonial buildings. We had panchayat halls, cycle rickshaws, and an unshakable belief that **service starts where you are**.

Now, our district has over 70 clubs.

And do you know what fills me with the most pride?

Not the awards.

Not the speeches.

It's that *ordinary people have become extraordinary Rotarians*.

Anbudan...Amma



Letter from Vikram to Janaki*March 3, 1983 – Madras*

Dear Amma,

Your letter moved me more than you can imagine.

We had a district-level Polio Eradication Rally here last Sunday—thousands of schoolchildren, nurses, autorickshaw drivers, and yes, even film actors joined us. Rotary in Madras is no longer a city gentleman's club. It's a **movement with many accents**.

You'll be proud to know I've been nominated as Director of Youth Services in our club. It reminded me of your days running the "one-rupee library" in Erode. You gave me my first Rotary lesson without ever using the word "Rotary."

Do you know what I think is the most powerful thing Rotary has done, Amma?

It's not the hospitals or scholarships.

It's this:

It gave ordinary Indians the structure, language, and permission to care.

You once told me, "*The banyan grows best when it touches the earth.*" That's exactly what Rotary has done in Tamil Nadu.

From Madras to Marthandam, from Tanjore to Tiruppur—it has touched the earth.

And now it blooms.

With love...Vikram

Joint postscript (from an imagined later anthology)

Years later, Janaki would be honoured with a Rotary Lifetime Service Award. Vikram would go on to become Club President in Chennai and lead a vocational training initiative in North Arcot.

Their story wasn't special.

Except that it was.

Because it was one of **thousands**.

Because Rotary had become **the people's wheel**.

To be continued in Part 7: *The Vaccine That Shook the Gods*

As Rotary launches a mass immunization campaign in rural Tamil Nadu, it meets unexpected resistance—not from governments, but from gods, fears, and ancient beliefs. Told through a fictional village doctor and a priest who must confront each other.

a historical fiction by Rtn. Sashi



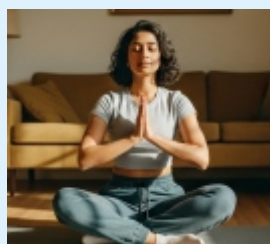
Three Mantras for Free Movement

by **Rtn. Dr. Ranjitham T.P.**, Orthopaedic Surgeon, RC Chennai Crown



As an orthopaedic surgeon, I've seen countless patients struggling with joint pain and mobility issues. But here's a secret I'll let you in on: the key to keeping your bones and joints happy isn't always found in the operating room. It's in three simple mantras that I live by and prescribe to my patients: Move, Eat, and Rest.

Move: The Joint Joy Dance



Imagine your joints as rusty hinges on an old door. What happens when you don't use that door for a while? It gets stiffer, creakier, and harder to open. Your joints are no different!

I often tell my patients, "Your body is designed for motion, not for sitting on the couch watching Netflix marathons!" Regular movement is like WD-40 for your joints. It lubricates them, increases flexibility, and even boosts your mood. It's nature's antidepressant!

But here's the catch – you don't need to run a marathon or become a yoga guru. Just 30 minutes of movement, three times a week, can work wonders. And remember, always wear proper footwear. Your feet are the foundation of your skeleton, so treat them right!

Eat: Fuel Your Inner Bone Builder



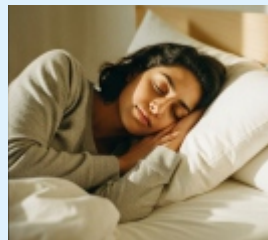
Now, let's talk about your inner bone builder. Yes, you have one! It's constantly at work, remodelling and strengthening your bones. But like any good worker, it needs the right tools.

Think of omega-3 fatty acids as the oil that keeps your joint machinery running smoothly. Vitamins D and K are like the foremen, making sure calcium (the building blocks) gets to

the right place. And vitamin C? It's the architect, designing the collagen blueprint for your cartilage.

I always chuckle when patients ask me about the best "joint supplements." My response? "Head to the produce aisle, not the pharmacy!" Load up on salmon, walnuts, berries, and leafy greens. Your joints will thank you, and so will your taste buds!

Rest: The Midnight Repair Crew



Here's where it gets interesting. While you're snoozing, your body turns into a construction site. It's removing old bone tissue, building new ones, and repairing muscles. It's like a midnight crew working tirelessly to keep your skeletal

system in top shape.

But here's the kicker – this crew needs time to do its job. Skimp on sleep, and you're essentially laying off half your repair team. Aim for 6-8 hours of quality sleep. It's not just beauty rest; it's bone and joint rest too!

Remember, pushing your body too hard is like revving a car engine constantly – eventually, something's going to break down. Listen to your body and give it the rest it deserves.

In my years of practice, I've realized that the body has an incredible capacity to heal itself when given the right conditions. These three mantras – Move, Eat, Rest – are your ticket to free movement and a life unencumbered by joint issues.

So, the next time you're tempted to skip your walk, reach for that bag of chips, or binge-watch until 2 AM, remember: your inner bone builder is watching, and it's counting on you to make the right choices. Here's to happy, healthy joints and a life full of free, painless movement!



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