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GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

District Governor's Message

October was truly a month of togetherness, filled with celebration, bonding, and joy.

Golu Celebration

For the first time, the ladies of RI District 3234 organized a spectacular Golu Competition with 35 participants showcasing their creativity through videos. Every Golu was unique and inspiring, making it a tough task for the judges to select the top nine. They personally visited the finalists' homes to understand their themes before choosing the best five. Even the Annettes had their own Golu contest with special prizes—an endearing addition! The grand culmination took place on October 4th at MGR Janaki College with a vibrant Navratra Cultural Festival. The divine décor featured Lord Venkateswara, Goddess Durga, and Lord Shiva. Club First Ladies presented delightful cultural performances, including a Navratra quiz, dances, and a Prasadam Competition featuring traditional sweets and savouries. The festivities concluded with a delicious Elai Sappadu feast. Heartfelt congratulations to Presidents Sripriya, Madhu, Michelle, Aruna Rajeswari, Jagjit, and all who made this event memorable.

Diwali Royale

On October 5th, Diwali Royale lit up Gopinath Garden with grandeur and gaiety. The venue came alive with music, dance, exotic food stalls, and



festive décor. Guests enjoyed authentic Chandni Chowk chaats, Ganga Aarti by Pandits from Varanasi, and the lively Dandiya and Garba sessions. The Vegas Casino zone drew huge excitement with Blackjack, Roulette, and other games, while the Central Bar kept spirits high. A Fusion Guitar Jugalbandi from Goa entertained the crowd, and the raffle draw—featuring an iPhone as the top prize—added extra thrill. The lavish dinner spread of 75 dishes and 12 sweets was a feast to remember. The evening concluded with every Rotarian receiving a Diwali sweet box sponsored by First Lady Usha Saraogi, spreading festive cheer and warm wishes. Indeed, October was a month to cherish—where families came together, friendships blossomed, and Rotary spirit shone bright!

October 11 – Secretaries Meet

First Quarterly Secretary Gathering – “Peace for All” was hosted by Gladiators and Supernovas at Hotel Park Elanza on Saturday, 11th October 2025. It was an evening filled with fellowship, laughter, and inspiration as District Officials, Regional Secretaries, and the Royal Darbar Secretaries came together for the First Quarterly Secretary Gathering themed “Peace for All.”

Secretaries were in full flow with fun games, camaraderie, and delicious food, making it a truly memorable fellowship — a perfect blend of purpose and joy as the First Secretaries Meet came to an end.

October 24 – World Polio Day

An outstanding World Polio Day was conducted on October 24 at eight Metro stations. With the inaugural at Alandur Metro Station, there was a

gathering of 200 Rotarians, Rotaractors, Press and Media, and the Guest of Honour was the General Manager of Chennai Metro Rail Limited. 500 Polio T-Shirts were distributed to all. Multiple Placards with slogans were highlighted. A beautiful backstage with End Polio was organized. A music band was drawing the attention of all passersby. All the eight stations had multiple clubs gathering. After inaugurating at Alandur station I visited other stations to meet the Rotarians gathered there, many commuters enquired about the Rotary campaign and were impressed. The program which started at 8 am concluded by 12.30 pm. There was good Press and publicity coverage. It was reported through the news channel as well.

October 26 – One Walk One Hope – A Walkathon

One Walk One Hope was a Walkathon organized by CAN Stop and Rotary District 3234 for Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention. Chief Guest Honourable Minister Ma. Subramaniam inaugurated the Walkathon. There were a large gathering of 2000 participants. I had the pleasure of being along with Past District Governors, DGE Suresh Jain, all Rotarians took part in the event. Rotaractors were also in full strength. MC Britto and the DJ kept the members engaged through Zumba dance. The walkathon was flagged off by the Honourable Minister Ma. Subramaniam and was widely covered by Press & Media.

We are all excited about the upcoming programs in November & December. A lot of project launches are planned in these months. Also, the Governor's Official Visit will commence from the 2nd of November, 2025.



District:

4th Nov	Conference Curtain Raiser 7pm @ Hotel Connemara and Quarterly Awards Nite
9th Nov	Diabetes Walkathon-Besant Nagar
9th to 12th Nov	Diabetes Camps
11th Nov	Mega health camp at Kelambakkam
12th Nov	World Diabetes Day
21st Nov	Green Rotarians Seminar
23rd Nov	2nd Presidents Meet- MCC Club
14th Dec	Happy Street at OMR
20th Dec	Christmas& New year celebrations
21st Dec	World saree day - All ladies Participation

Rotary Designated Months

July	Maternal and Child Health Month	January	Vocational Service Month
August	Membership and New Club Development Month	February	Peace building and Conflict Prevention Month
September	Basic Education and Literacy Month	March	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month
October	Community Economic and Development Month	April	Environmental Month
November	Rotary Foundation Month	May	Youth Service Month
December	Disease Prevention and Treatment Month	June	Rotary Fellowships Month

Rotary Golu Competition 2025

- Rtn. Madhupriya, President - RC Meenambakkam

The Navaratri Golu celebrations this year was truly exceptional, marking a beautiful journey from a modest beginning to a vibrant and memorable event.

What started as a simple celebration, flourished into a grand festival. Thanks to the innovative vision and leadership of our Chairperson, Rtn. Sripriya of RC Melody Club, and the dedicated support of Rtn. Madhupriya from RC Meenambakkam along with the Core team and District Support. Right from the Venue fixing to planning and execution, it was made possible only due to the complete support of the Co- Presidents . This event could be made possible only due to the support of our DG, Rtn. AKS Vinod Saraogi and Rtn.Viswa Narayanan COO of Thangamayil Jewellery.

The Day of the event on 4 th October Marked with the grand traditional welcome of our DG and First Lady along with other dignitaries to the venue which was beautifully decorated with the idols and themes of various Gods and Goddesses. The theme was well curated and executed by Our Golu decoration team headed by the Chairman and Rtn. Michelle of RC Classic. Each area of work was well decentralised and coordinated to achieve this. We also had the

cookery Competition which was judged by Smt. Mallika Badrinath, a food expert.

The Golu at the homes were visited and judged by eminent Judges from around 35 entries. This success was made possible with the generous sponsorships and support from Thangamayil Jewelry, Go Colors, Mandralaya, Park Elanza, Karthik Tiffin Center, Dr. MGR Janaki College and many more, whose contributions elevated the festivities to a new level.

We extend our sincere thanks to RI Rotary District 3234 for their steadfast support, and a special note of gratitude to our District Governor, Vinod Sarogi, once again for his unwavering encouragement and guidance throughout the planning and execution of this event. The enthusiastic teamwork and seamless coordination among all Presidents for the year 2025–26 played a key role in making this celebration truly special.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed their time, creativity, and energy to make this Navaratri Golu unique and memorable.

A thanks Giving Lunch was also initiated to thank all the Sponsors and Supporting clubs.



District Diwali Celebrations

- Rtn. Gaurav Jain, Chair – Diwali Celebrations

Diwali Royale – A Night to Remember

Rotary International District 3234 celebrated this Diwali in true royale style with an evening that beautifully blended devotion, glamour, and joy — Diwali Royale!

Spearheaded by the Rotary Club of Madras Magnum, under the dynamic leadership of Diwali Chairman Rtn. Gaurav Jain, the event brought together over 1200 Rotarians and guests from across the district for a spectacular celebration of lights, laughter, and fellowship.

The presence of District Governor AKS Rtn. Vinod Saraogi and First Lady Rtn. Usha Saraogi added grace and warmth to the evening. The event was ably supported by District Club Service Chair Rtn. Sanjay Dhurka, whose guidance helped make the celebration truly grand.

Just moments before the festivities began, a sudden spell of rain threatened to dampen the evening — but neither the spirit of the organizers nor the enthusiasm of the guests wavered. With umbrellas in hand and hearts full of excitement, everyone embraced the drizzle — and soon the skies cleared, making way for a night of unforgettable celebration.

The celebration was powered by Title Sponsor Bally's Entertainment from Sri Lanka, adding a touch of international flair to the evening.

The night began on a spiritual note with the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti, performed by a team of priests specially flown in from Varanasi. The sound of conch shells, the rhythmic ringing of bells, and the sacred chants created an atmosphere of divine serenity. As the priests performed the ritual with large brass lamps under the golden glow of countless diyas, the venue transformed into a living vision of the ghats of Varanasi. The fragrance of incense filled the air, and as guests joined in with folded hands, the moment radiated peace, devotion, and unity — a truly divine start to Diwali Royale, masterfully curated by the Rotary Club of Madras Magnum.

From spirituality, the evening transitioned to splendour and fun — the Grand Vegas Corner which featured Family table games brought a wave of excitement to guests of all ages. Curated by professionals from Nagpur, the space recreated the thrill of Vegas with a warm, family-friendly twist — laughter, cheers, and friendly competition filled the air as guests tried their luck and skill across various games.

Adding to the vibrance was the charming Chandni Chowk zone, a colourful corner that captured the heart of Indian festivity. Guests enjoyed mehendi, tarot readings, ice golas, and sparkling bangle counters, each stall buzzing with laughter, chatter, and colour.

The evening's rhythm was set by a fusion sitarist from Goa, whose soulful performance blended classical grace with contemporary beats, perfectly complementing the mood of celebration.

A lavish spread featuring over 70 varieties of food delighted every palate — from traditional Indian favourites to gourmet global dishes. The ever-popular Chai Gully and nostalgic Ice Gola stations were constant crowd-pullers, ensuring guests could indulge at every turn.

The fellowship area, managed flawlessly by the Rotary Club of Madras Central, kept the spirits high all evening.

Dressed in their most elegant festive attire, guests lit up the venue with colour, charm, and joy — embodying the true essence of Diwali.



Over 100 exciting gifts were given away through raffles and casino wins — including a bumper prize of an iPhone, adding a thrill of surprise to the night.

The evening stood as a shining example of how “Teamwork makes the dream work.” The unwavering dedication and creativity of the Rotary Club of Madras Magnum team turned a vision into a

resplendent reality — one that will be remembered for years to come.

We are ever grateful to our sponsors for supporting us and making this event a grand success.

A night of devotion, delight, and dazzling fellowship — Diwali Royale truly lit up District 3234!



First Secretary's Meet - "Peace for All" - October 11th, 2025

- Rtn. Raghuram Avula, Regional Secretary

The much-awaited First Secretary's Meet of Rotary District 3234, themed "Peace for All," was held on 11th October 2025 at Hotel Park Elanza, Nungambakkam. The event was beautifully hosted by the Secretaries & Regional Secretaries of Gladiators and Supernovas, who extended their warm hospitality and seamless coordination to make the evening a grand success.

Chief Guest AKS. Rtn. Vinod Saraogi, District Governor, inspired everyone with his motivating address, highlighting Rotary's impactful activities over the past three months and sharing insights on upcoming district projects. He was felicitated by Rtn. Ravi and Rtn. Jayaraman, Secretaries.

District Secretary Rtn. Saptagiri presented updates on forthcoming events, followed by Rtn. Palani, District Polio Chairman, who briefed about the World Polio Day activities in October. The evening carried a spirit of unity with a Peace Theme Group Song by co-secretaries and Rotaractors, a Peace Fashion Ramp Walk featuring secretaries, RSS, and district officials, and fun-filled interactive sessions hosted by Rtn. Sarathkumar, Secretary of RC Chennai Gems.

The theme came alive with the white and blue colour attires and peace doves adorning the halls.

District Secretary Rtn. Kumaravel appreciated the excellent coordination and teamwork behind the successful meet. Rtn. Ganesh, Secretary of RC Mithra, delivered the Vote of Thanks, while Rtn. Matheena, Secretary of RC Ashok Nagar, emceed the event with great energy.

The evening concluded with a delightful fellowship dinner and distribution of Peace Theme Return Gifts, leaving every participant inspired to Unite for Good and spread Peace for All. Overall it ushered in a great sense of Camaraderie amongst us all and fostered the spirit of Rotary through delightful fellowship and Bonding.

Distinguished District Officials Present:

AKS. Rtn. Vinod Saraogi - District Governor, Rtn. Mohan Raghavan - Deputy Governor, Rtn. Kumaravel - District Secretary, Rtn. Saptagiri - District Secretary, Rtn. Ravi Shankar - AG Admin and Regional Secretary's from other regions.



Rotary World Polio Day 24th October, 2025 - Citywide Awareness Campaign

- Rtn. Palani G, Chair – Polio

Rotary Club District 3234 commemorated World Polio Day 2025 with an inspiring citywide campaign reaffirming Rotary's global commitment to eradicate polio. The event highlighted the power of collective action, bringing together Rotarians, dignitaries, health officials, and the public in a shared mission to sustain a polio-free world.

The program began with a Welcome Address by Rtn. G Palani, Polio Chair. The formal proceedings continued with the Introduction of District Governor Rtn. Vinod Sarogi, who emphasized Rotary's tireless role in the fight against polio. His address shed light on the tremendous progress made through consistent immunization drives and public awareness efforts.

Rtn IPDG Rtn N S Saravanan spoke about this year Polio awareness campaign was unique by spreading the message in FM Radio 91.1 and polio sticker on Autos which was first of its kind

Thiru S Ashok Kumar, Chief General Manager, Track and Elevated Construction, CMRL appreciated Rotary in eradicating polio in India. Further he was quite happy that CMRL was associated in this campaign.

The gathering also reflected on Rotary's legacy — a journey of over three decades in collaboration with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and governments worldwide — which has successfully reduced polio cases by more than 99.9 percent.

Following the official function, Rotarians undertook a special metro outreach initiative, visiting 7 Chennai Metro stations to spread the message of "End Polio Now."

Also singers performed with music in 4 CMRL stations which attracted commuters. Volunteers interacted with commuters, distributed awareness materials, and displayed banners highlighting the importance of continued vaccination. The enthusiastic response from metro passengers underscored the community's support for this noble cause.

The event not only celebrated the progress made but also reinforced the commitment of Rotary Club District 3234 to ensure that every child is protected from this preventable disease. Through initiatives like this, Rotary continues to inspire hope, strengthen public health, and move closer to the ultimate goal — a world completely free of polio.





Club Projects



Rotary Club of Chennai Dynamic (RCCD) successfully organized a Blood Donation Camp on 07/10/2025 (Tuesday) in association with SRM Valliammai Engineering College (VEC). The camp received an excellent response, with **93 units of blood collected**, reflecting the strong spirit of service and humanity among the student donors. RCCD members actively supported the event, and **Health Mix packets were sponsored** on behalf of RCCD as a gesture of appreciation to all donors. We extend our gratitude to the SRM VEC NSS team and medical staff for their collaboration and support in making this noble initiative a great success. Together, we continue to serve to change lives!

Rotary Club of Chennai Upscale celebrated the Diwali festival with the children and elders of Padma Adarsh Destitute Home on 11th October 2025. New festive dresses and crackers were distributed to 50 children and 21 elderly residents of the home one day prior to the function, so that they can be dressed up for the occasion. It was a bright and colorful evening as we had lighted up the entire place sparkling with lights & decorations. A delicious dinner was arranged for everyone. This project is very close to the heart of Rotary Club of Chennai Upscale, and most of our members joined the celebration along with their families. The children from the home delighted everyone with their dance performances, and our Annettes also performed for them, adding to the festive cheer. The evening concluded with music, dance, and bursting of crackers. Truly a joyful celebration. A project worth Rs. 1.25 lakhs, but happiness worth millions — a completely fulfilling evening for RCCU.



On 17-10-2025, Rotary Club of Madras Coromandel's environmental education team headed by Ms. Vedapriya conducted an awareness session and practical demonstrations on happy green Diwali in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Fire & Safety Rescue Department at Chennai Primary School, Kanagi Nagar and Chennai Primary School, Okkiam Thoraipakkam.

Children learned about: **Firecracker Safety** - How to handle fire and firecrackers responsibly. **Environmental Impact, Impact on Animals, Effect on Nature, Pollution and Waste, Air Pollution Damages Leaves, Acidic Particles Burn Plant Tissues, Stress on Flowering and Fruit-bearing Plants, Trees Under Stress, Soil Pollution, and Water Contamination.** 130 people got benefited because of this awareness program.

Rotary Club of Gummidipoondi Industrial City provided 40 Sewing Machines towards Women Empowerment on 31/10/2025 for Vocational Skills Training-EDP under CSR Initiatives by M/s. KTV Health Food Private Limited, Gummidipoondi along with Course Completion Certificate were issued by our Chief Guest, Rtn.M.A.Prem Kumar, Chairperson of Vocational Skills-EDP. Heartfelt gratitude to Rtn.Mohammed Kamal, President, RC of MadrasSilverBeachaswellasRtn.P.Ravikumar,Rtn.Venkateshkumar, Rtn.Kumar, Rtn.Paul Arokyam, Rtn.Gavaskar, Rtn.Surendaran, Rtn. Lakshmipathy, Rtn.Beulah & Rtn.B.Balasubramanian, President, Rotary Club of Gummidipoondi Industrial City.

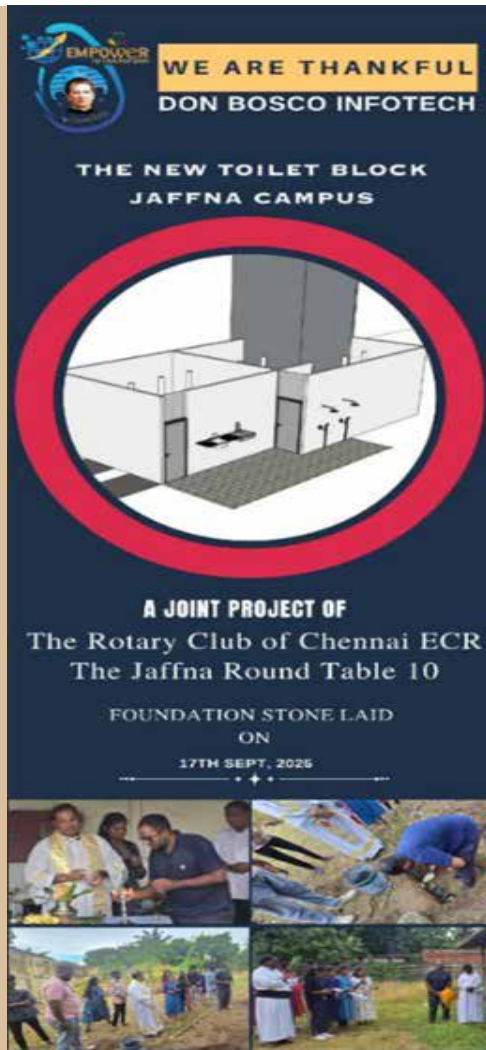


Project Report: Cycle Distribution – Gift of Mobility, Organized by: Rotary Club of Chennai Nandavanam, District 3234 Date: 17th October 2025 Venue: Government Higher Secondary School, Placepalayam, Thiruvallur.

The Cycle Distribution Project – Gift of Mobility was successfully conducted by the Rotary Club of Chennai Nandavanam, District 3234, under the theme "Helping Hand – Unite for Good." The initiative was a collaborative effort with multiple Rotary Clubs from the district, aiming to support education and community development through enhanced mobility for students. 100 Bicycles were distributed to students from economically weaker backgrounds. Distinguished Guests present were Chief Guest: Rtn. AKS. Vinod Saraogi, District Governor, Guest of Honour: Rtn. N. S. Saravanan, IPDG, who graced the occasion.



The Rotary Club of Global Nexus celebrated a proud and momentous occasion on 12th October with the installation of its newly formed Annettes Club. Annette Adhvaitha Gowtham was installed as the Charter President, leading her team of enthusiastic annettes who were officially sworn in during the ceremony. The club comprises several dynamic verticals including Club Service, Community Service, Book Club, Public Image and Bulletin, and Environmental & Go Green initiatives. The event was graced by Rtn. Ajitha Balan, Chairperson, District Annettes Council, who was the Chief Guest, accompanied by the District Annette Representative. True to the spirit of leadership, the Annettes spearheaded the entire event — from the invocation and Rotary song to the recitation of the Four-Way Test, anchoring the program, performing a delightful dance, and managing every segment seamlessly. The team also presented their Projects and Way Forward. Being a global club, the Global Nexus Annettes proudly includes members from different countries, reflecting Rotary's spirit of international unity and friendship.



Rotary Club of Chennai ECR has extended its service beyond borders with a ₹ 5 lakh contribution towards building a new toilet block at Don Bosco Infotech, Jaffna (Patrician Institute Campus). Spearheaded by International Services Director Rtn. Rafiq Sait, this joint project with Jaffna Round Table 10 supports AI & IT training students, ensuring hygiene, dignity, and equal access for all. The project launched, **progressing well** and is **expected to be completed by end of 2025**. A true reflection of Rotary's mission to **Empower through Service**.

Dignitaries at the ground-breaking event, encouraged great work that is in progress with the presence of Father Ashok Amaldoss Director of Don Bosco Infotech, Jaffna.

The Rotary Club of Madras Chenna Patna, in association with the Fellowship of Table Tennis Loving Rotarians (FTTLR), hosted the grand Curtain Raiser of RTTL Season 5 on 27th October 2025 at the Alumni Club, Chennai. The evening served as a vibrant prelude to a month-long celebration of camaraderie, competition, and Rotary spirit through the sport of table tennis. President Rtn. Antony Kumar, welcomed the gathering and traced the remarkable journey of RTTL from a small internal fellowship activity to one of the most anticipated sports events in the district. The evening was graced by District Governor Rtn. Vinodh Sarogi as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Anirudh Rajkumar, Life Line Chief, as the Guest of Honour. In his address, DG Vinodh commended the club for its creativity in building stronger Rotary bonds through sports, calling RTTL a model fellowship initiative. Dr. Anirudh, known for his energetic presence, appreciated the unique blend of wellness, teamwork, and Rotary values that RTTL embodies. Rtn. Kumar, Chairman – FTTLR, also graced the occasion and applauded the organizing team for keeping alive



the passion for table tennis across Rotary circles. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the RTTL Season 5 Trophy, which drew enthusiastic cheers from the crowd. The twelve participating teams were then introduced, each brimming with excitement and team spirit. These teams will engage in practice sessions over the next few weeks before clashing in the grand finale on December 7th, 2025.

"Navratri is not just a festival - it is a reminder that light always triumphs over darkness. It is a time to honour and connect with the divine feminine energy within us and around us." In the true spirit of Navratri, the Anns of Rotary Club of Ambattur organized a delightful celebration of dance, music and devotion – Dandiya Darbar '25 at Le Royal Meridian on the 27th of September.

This flagship annual celebration put together by the Anns with the support of the Rotarians and Annettes, is one of the most eagerly awaited events in the RCA calendar. This year's festivities once again highlighted the Shakthi and spirit of the Anns along with Rotary's commitment to fellowship, service and community bonding through culture and celebration. The Madras Hall at Le Royal Meridian continued to reverberate with rhythm and energy as the Rotarians, Anns, Annettes and guests danced to a delightful mix of traditional and cinematic music. The dynamic DJ, the engaging anchor and a professional dance troupe led the audience to the dance floor and ensured that everyone - from the young to the young-at-heart –



joined in enthusiastically. Heartfelt appreciation goes to all the Sponsors for their valuable support and generous contribution. Hats off to President Rtn. T Parasuram and First Lady Ann Jayashree Parasuram for spearheading such a memorable event. Special thanks to all the Anns for their tireless dedication in planning and executing yet another successful Dandiya Nite.

Poland Meets Chennai: A Symphony of Hearts and Harmony

Rtn Sudha Sathiyamoorthy, Secretary – RC Chennai ECR

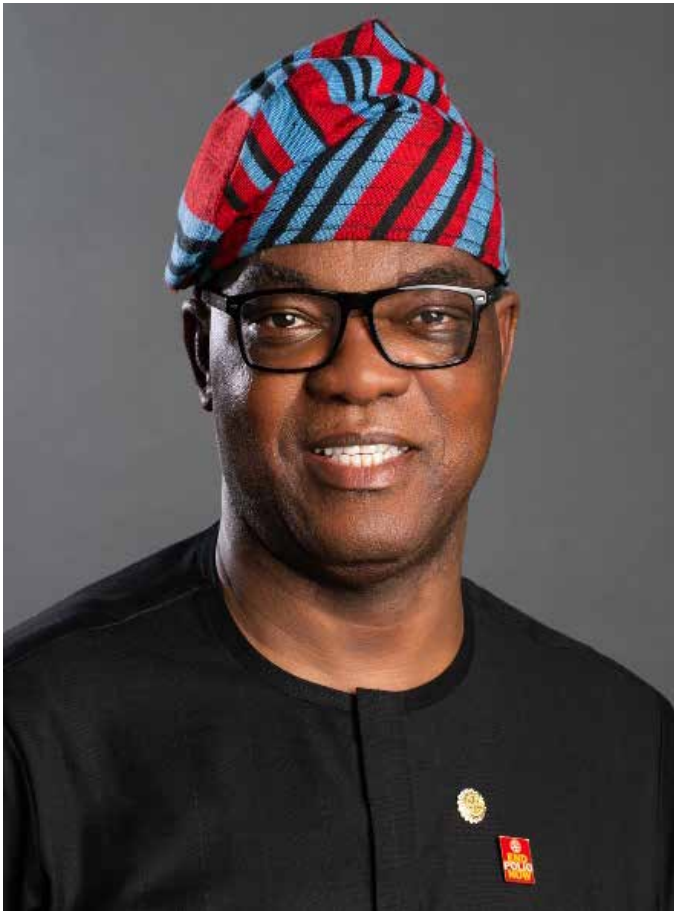
Rotary Club of Chennai ECR hosted an unforgettable International Youth Cultural Exchange with the Concerto Glacensis Choir from Poland, blending music, dance, heartfelt friendship and spirit of global unity. The evening was a symphony of cultures, stories, laughter, rhythm uniting hearts beyond borders.

Gratitude to Rotary International Director Rtn. Rafiq Sait for curating this beautiful confluence, and to our vibrant Rotaractors of Kings cornerstone international college, Coasters, and Anns for their warmth and energy. A magical night where every note and every step spoke the same language of friendship proving that Rotary connects the world through harmony, service and spirit.

Echoes from Poland, Warmth from Chennai



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International president



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27.

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1984 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi 10 years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-

20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

Babalola received a university degree in engineering in 1988. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, and the Association of Change Management Professionals. He is a member of Jericho Businessmen Club, an organization in his birth city of Ibadan that provides input to governments on economic and social policy.

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. A trustee of ShelterBox UK, he is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership for the organization. As the spokesperson for the global network, the president visits clubs around the world to promote Rotary's values and represent the organization at major events. Rotary chooses its president from members who have demonstrated extensive leadership experience within Rotary, including service as a club president, district governor, and member of the Board.

RI Board elects 2026-30 Rotary Foundation Trustees

The Rotary International Bylaws provide that Rotary Foundation trustees are nominated by the president-elect and elected by the RI Board in the year before the trustees are to take office. At its October meeting, the Board elected the following members to serve as Rotary Foundation Trustees beginning 1 July 2026 to serve terms of four years each:

- Francesco Arezzo – the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy
- Cynthia Covington – the Rotary Club of South Jacksonville, Florida, United States
- Francis Tusubira – the Rotary Club of Kampala-North, Uganda
- Ananthanarayanan Venkatesh – the Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam, India



Rtn. A.S. Venkatesh

Past RI Director, Rotarian, and Rotary Foundation Trustee-elect, India

Rtn. A.S. Venkatesh ("Venky") is an engineering graduate from IIT Madras and holds a master's degree in business administration from IIM Ahmedabad. At the age of 23, he entered the civil construction business and today heads an organization employing more than 1,400 people.

A member of the Rotary Club of Chennai Mambalam, Venky served as its President in 2001–02 and as District Governor of RI District 3230 in 2007–08. He was Rotary Coordinator for Zone 5 (South India, Sri Lanka, and Maldives) from 2010–2013, and has served as a trainer at the International Assembly for district governors-elect and coordinators. He was Rotary International Director (2021–2023), Treasurer of Rotary International (2022–2023), and Moderator of the International Assembly in 2025—the first Indian ever to be invited to that role.

A Level III Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, Venky and all his family members are Paul Harris Fellows. Beyond Rotary, he is a keen bridge player, an avid traveller, and enjoys time with his wife Vinita (an IIM Ahmedabad alumna), and their two daughters.

Rotary  **4 Way Test**
of the things we think, say, or do:
Is it the **TRUTH**?
Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Rotary
District 3234

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Home Nursing Training

Dear Presidents, Secretaries and Rotarians,

You are invited to join the Mega project of providing Home Nursing training to 50 - 75 girls in this Rotary Year. Kindly Register your club at the earliest with an affordable club contribution. The Single women will be able to earn on their own and uplift their livelihood. The elderly people will be benefitted from these well-trained women.



For more details please,contact:

Rtn. Jayashree Kidambi
Chairman - Women Empowerment
Mobile : 9952064131
Email : jkidambi76@gmail.com



**DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITY!**

AKS Rtn. VINOD SARAOGI
DISTRICT GOVERNOR (2025-26)

RTN. USHA SARAOGI
DISTRICT FIRST LADY (2025-26)

Skill Training Program

Dear Presidents, Secretaries and Rotarians,

You are invited to join the Mega project of providing Skill training Program to 50 - 75 girls in this Rotary Year. Kindly Register your club at the earliest with an affordable club contribution. The Single women will be able to earn on their own and uplift their livelihood and have a dignified living.



For more details please,contact:

Rtn. Jayashree Kidambi
Chairman - Women Empowerment
Mobile : 9952064131
Email : jkidambi76@gmail.com



**DON'T MISS THIS GOLDEN
OPPORTUNITY !**

**AKS Rtn. VINOD SARAOGI
DISTRICT GOVERNOR (2025-26)**

**RTN. USHA SARAOGI
DISTRICT FIRST LADY (2025-26)**

"ONE WALK ONE HOPE" – Breast Cancer Awareness Walkathon 2025

Rtn. Suryanarayana Rao, District Director - Community Service Health

Organized by Rotary District 3234 & CAN-STOP

Venue: Island Grounds, Chennai Date: October 26, 2025, Time: 6:00 a.m.

To mark International Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CAN-STOP (Cancer Support Therapy to Overcome Pain), in collaboration with Rotary District 3234, successfully organized its 16th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Walkathon – "ONE WALK ONE HOPE" on Sunday, October 26, 2025, at Island Grounds, Chennai.

The event was flagged off by Mr. Ma. Subramanian, Hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu. Ms. Sanchita Shetty, Indian Actress, graced the occasion as the Special Invitee. The distinguished Guests of Honour included Rtn Vinod Saraogi (District Governor, RID 3234, PDG J. B. Kamdar, PDG J. Sridhar, IPDG N. S. Saravanan, DGE Suresh D. Jain and DGN Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, Founder of CAN-STOP and Trustee & Director, SMF.

The walkathon, centred around the theme "Hope Starts with ME," aimed to raise public awareness about breast cancer prevention, early detection, and the importance of regular self-breast examination. The event drew an impressive crowd of over 4,000 participants, including cancer survivors, men supporting women in their lives, students, rotaractors and members of the general public.

Participants walked together in solidarity, carrying messages of hope, strength, and empowerment. The event not only celebrated survivors but also encouraged proactive health practices and community involvement in the fight against cancer.

Adding to the awareness initiative, several information and screening stalls were set up at the venue to educate participants on breast cancer symptoms, early detection methods, and available medical resources. The event also featured free general medical check-ups, a 'Donate a Mammogram' drive, and entertainment programs, creating an engaging and impactful atmosphere.





Final stage of global polio eradication is hardest, say experts

The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI

Rotary District 3234, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, hosted a webinar titled 'The Last Mile in the War Against Polio' on Thursday, marking the lead-up to World Polio Day on October 24.

The session discussed both the significant progress and the persistent challenges in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio globally.

Vinod Saraogi, District Governor of Rotary District 3234, opened the discussion with a welcome address.

He acknowledged the remarkable strides made, noting that while polio has been eradicated in 99% of the world, the fight was not yet done. "The final mile remains the hardest," he emphasised, calling for a collective commitment to complete the mission.

Michael K. McGovern, past Rotary International director and Chair of Rotary's PolioPlus Committee, delivered the keynote address, offering a comprehensive global perspective on the remaining hurdles.

In his presentation, Mr. McGovern discussed the traces of polio that still ex-

ist today, the challenges of ensuring vaccine access in remote areas and maintaining robust surveillance systems, and strengthening community engagement to reach the final pockets of the disease.

The session also reflected on India's role in the global campaign. India's achievement, culminating in the World Health Organization's 2014 declaration of a polio-free status, illustrated how strategic partnerships, grassroots mobilisation, and government collaboration can overcome daunting public health challenges.

Role of Rotary clubs

During the question-and-answer session, attendees asked about the next steps in polio eradication.

The speakers explained the continued role of rotary clubs in raising awareness and stressed the critical need for sustained vigilance in the two remaining polio-endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The session was moderated by Athira Elssa Johnson, Senior Reporter, *The Hindu*.

To view the webinar, visit: https://www.youtube.com/live/kQrqj_hUM-vU

GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY LETTER

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