

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 01 | JULY 7, 2024





Dear RCMers,

It gives us great pleasure to present to you the first issue of The Lighthouse for Rotary Year 2024-25.

With a refreshed masthead, several contemporary design elements and a host of new features, it is our endeavour to serve you new wine in a new bottle.

We hope that you will savour this stimulating brew and that its heady flavor, embodying the irrepressible spirit of the Rotary Club of Madras, will create a BOND with the publication, BUILD reader engagement and BRING CHEER all around.

**Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran**  
Editor

**Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan**  
Chairperson

**Mr.Madhu Mathen**  
Co-Chairperson

**ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS**  
2nd Weekly Meeting  
Tuesday, 9th July 2024 | 1.30 pm  
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

**SPEAKER**  
**MM Murugappan**  
Murugappa Group

**TOPIC**  
**Learnings from a Century of Service**

Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting.

**Rtn. G. Chella Krishna**  
President

**Rtn. Rajesh Mani**  
Honorary Secretary

**Rtn. Shanno Ravi**  
Director  
Club Service

**Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan**  
Chairperson  
Programs Committee

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

## BOARD 2024-25

- President**  
Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
- Honorary Secretary**  
Rtn. Rajesh Mani
- Immediate Past President**  
Rtn. S. Ravi
- President - Elect**  
Rtn. Nikhil Raj
- President - Nominee**  
Rtn. S. Balakrishna
- Director - Community Development**  
Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan
- Director - Club Service**  
Rtn. Shanno Ravi
- Director - Vocational Service**  
Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti
- Director - Youth Service**  
Rtn. Balaji Chinni
- Treasurer - Club Funds & RCM BTS**  
Rtn. Asha Mathen
- Asst. Secy./ Bulletin Editor**  
Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran
- Director - CSR**  
Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan
- Director - Rotary Foundation & International Service**  
Rtn. Sabina Narayan
- Director - Community Health**  
Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan
- Treasurer - RCMCT**  
Rtn. A. Gooch Kumar
- Director - Fund Raising & PR**  
Rtn. Rahul Saraogi

### THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

- Editor :** Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
- Chairperson :** Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan
- Co-Chairman :** Mr.Madhu Mathen
- Mentors :** Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath  
Rtn:PP.IndraSubramanyam

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Rtn.E.As swath Kumar Reddy, Rtn.Himanshu Budhia
- Rtn.Vummididi Shailesh Raj, Rt.Bhashwar Mukherjee
- Rtn.Indrani Krishnaier, Rtn.Shri Shakthi Girish
- Rtn.Reji Joseph, Rtn.Maya Thiagarajan
- Rtn.Fharzana Siraj, Rtn.Dr.M.Parkavi,
- Mr.Vikrm.S.Eashwaran, Rtn.Govind Parikh
- Rtn.Rakesh Jaiswal, Rtn.Dr.Rama Narasimhan

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Rotary Club of Madras  
**Minutes of the 96th Installation Meeting held at 7.00 PM**  
 at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai on 02-07-2024

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all attendees. Members and guests at the bar were requested to take their seats as the meeting was about to begin.

**2. Dignitaries on Stage:**

Secretary Rtn. Sessa Sai  
 President Rtn. S. Ravi  
 Incoming President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna  
 Incoming Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani  
 Spouse R.Aruna Sree  
 Spouse Swetha  
 District Governor of 3234 Rtn. Saravanan and spouse Bharathi,  
 Innerwheel President Mrs. Shamantha Reddy

**3. Opening Prayer:**

The meeting began with a prayer to Lord Vinayaka.

**4. Master of Ceremonies:**

Rtn.Rani Muralidharan and Rtn.Jacob Kurien were invited to conduct the ceremony.

**5. Welcome Address:**

Rtn.Rani Muralidharan welcomed everyone on behalf of the President of RCM to the installation meeting of the 96th President, Rtn.G.Chella Krishna.

**6. Presentation of Bouquets:**

Bouquets were presented to the dignitaries and guests as a token of gratitude and affection:

Rtn. Sabina to DG N.S.Saravanan  
 President Nominee Rtn. Nikhil Raj to DG's wife Bharathi  
 Rtn. Asha Mathen to PDG J Sridhar  
 Rtn. Anuradha to PDG's wife  
 Rtn. A.M.Visvanathan to Aruna (President Ravi's wife)  
 Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan to Swetha (President Elect's wife)  
 Rtn. Rajesh Mani to Innerwheel President Shamantha  
 Rtn. PP.Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan presented a bouquet to Rtn.PDG Gangadharan (father of President Elect Chella Krishna)

**7. Collaring of the President:**

Rtn. PP.Mohan Raman was invited to collar President S.Ravi.

**8. Calling the Meeting to Order:**

President Ravi called the 96th installation meeting to order.

**9. Proposing Toasts:**

President S.Ravi proposed a toast to the President of India.

PDG Rtn. Benjamin Cherian proposed a toast to the RI President Stephanie Urchick. DG N.S.Saravanan responded to the toasts.

**10. Report by Secretary Rtn.M.Sessa Sai:**

Secretary Rtn.M. Sessa Sai started with a prayer heard from Dushyanth Sridhar, linking Rotarians to the five elements of nature.

He commended President Rtn. S.Ravi's meticulous and innovative leadership, highlighting the successful CSR strategy.

Recognition of contributions by various members and committees, including a significant increase in club attendance and new member inductions.

Mention of key projects and achievements across community services, vocational services, youth services, and international services.

The report also acknowledged financial achievements and donations amounting to 18.62 crores, all sourced from within the RCM community.

Rtn.M. Sessa Sai concluded with a reflection on civilization and the importance of helping others, quoting Margaret Mead and Helen Keller.

**11. Recognition of Contributions:**

Acknowledgment of various members' efforts and contributions to the club's success.

Special recognition of individuals like Rtn.Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Rtn.Vikram Chesetty and others who played pivotal roles in the club's achievements.

**12. Awards and Honours:**

**Best Rotarian Award** to Rtn.Vikram Chesetty and Rtn.Rajesh Somasundaram.

**Special Recognition of the Core Committee :**

Rtn.PP.A.S.Venkhat Ramani -Mentor,  
 Rtn.R.Ravishankar – Advisor and Rtn.Sabina Narayan - Team Member.

**Special Honour for Proud Entrants of AKS**



**Society** – Rtn.Mahinder Jain and Rtn.Rahul Saraogi.

### 13. President Ravi's Address

“Vanakkam and Good Evening. As I stand before you today for my last farewell speech, I am filled with a mix of excitement and happiness. Reflecting on this past year, I feel immensely grateful for the opportunity to serve and lead this incredible organization.

In the beginning, during my installation, I quoted Vera Johnson's profound words: 'We are here not for our own glory, but to lead and serve everyone else.' This philosophy has guided us throughout the year in creating hope and building responsible communities.

This journey has been a wonderful learning experience for me, and I have learned five important lessons that I want to share with you.

#### First Lesson: Connecting with People

I've had the privilege to connect and forge friendships with numerous Rotarians, not only within our club and district but also across domestic and global clubs. Each person I've worked with this year has enriched my life immeasurably. Rotary is about connecting people, and I have enjoyed both the connections and the learning.

#### Second Lesson: Giving Back to Society

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Our vision aimed to lead the way to a kinder, healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable world, aligned with the five avenues of service and seven areas of focus, always adhering to the four-way test. Thanks to the generous contributions from Rotarians, corporates, sponsors, individual donors, and the TRF donors, we were able to complete 69 projects, impacting 425,000 people at a cost of 18.62 crores.

#### Third Lesson: The True Power of Gratitude

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to six key entities:

1. The Almighty and my parents, whose grace has been my guiding light.
2. My wife Aruna and my daughter Shalini and son Santosh Kumar for their unwavering support.
3. My mentor Rtn.PP.A.S. Venkhat Ramani, advisor Rt.R. Ravi Shankar, and core team

member Rtn.Sabina Narayan for their invaluable guidance.

4. My secretary, who has been providing immense support to accomplish RCM roles.
5. My board members and chairpersons, whose efforts made our vision achievable.
6. District officials, past presidents of other clubs, and my fellow Rotarians for their support and generosity.

#### Fourth Lesson: Planning for the Future

The future looks bright for RCM. We have established a line of leadership up to our hundredth year, ensuring continuity and progress. Rtn.Chella Krishnan will take over as President, with Rtn.Nikhil Raj as President-Elect, Rtn.Bobby Balakrishnan as President-Nominee, and Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan and Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan as future Presidents. This remarkable planning sets the stage for continued success.

#### Fifth Lesson: Fulfilling Bank of Memories

I want to share two stories that illustrate the fulfilment of our journey. The first is about Roger Bannister, who broke the four-minute mile record in 1954. His achievement opened the floodgates, inspiring thousands to break the record subsequently. Similarly, RCM is an institution that breaks barriers and creates records. The second story is about making the most of the time we have. God gives us 86,400 seconds each day to utilize fully. This year, we maximized our time and resources, completing significant projects and making substantial contributions to the endowment fund, annual fund, grant funds, and the polio fund.

This year, every Rotarian in our club contributed \$25 to the foundation, making us a 100% PHF club. Our total contribution to the Rotary Foundation this year reached an astounding 13.65 million US dollars, placing us as the number one club in South Asia and the third largest contributor in the world.

It is my distinct honor to pass the baton of leadership to Rtn. Chella Krishnan. Chella, my warmest best wishes are with you, and you will always have my unwavering support. Good luck, and may God bless you abundantly.

**14. Installation of President G. Chella Krishna, Collaring of President G. Chella Krishna by IPP. Rtn. S. Ravi.**



**15. Handing over the Club Charter by Rtn. M. Sesha Sai to incoming secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani**

**16. Rtn M.Srinivasan: Introduction of President G. Chella Krishna**

Welcomed attendees and introduced the incoming President G. Chella Krishnan.

Highlighted Chella Krishna's background, including his family's legacy in Rotary and his professional achievements.

Mentioned Chella Krishna's contributions to various projects and his recognition as a significant donor and award recipient.

**17. President G. Chella Krishna's Address:**

Expressed gratitude for the introduction and thanked various members and his family.

Acknowledged the work of the outgoing President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan and Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai.

Shared his honor in leading the RCM in its 96th year and revealed the theme and logo for the year: "Bond, Build, Bring Cheer."

Discussed the importance of collaboration among Rotarians to achieve significant outcomes.

**Theme and Logo for the Year**

**Theme:** Bond, Build, Bring Cheer.

**Logo:** Image of individuals holding hands, symbolizing collaboration and unity.

**Plans for the Year Ahead**

**Homes for Homeless Project:** Expansion across two to three locations.

**Community Services:** Projects include Balwadi projects, lake restorations, and the Ramakrishna North Madras primary school restoration.

**Health Initiatives:** Comprehensive cancer program with awareness, screening, and vaccination efforts.

**Support for the Elderly:** Improving safety features of VHS and continuing equipment donations.

**Partnerships:** Strengthening ties with Child Trust, Cancer Institute, VHS, and Hindu Mission.

**Vocational and International Services:**

Vocational Services: Focus on women empowerment and digital learning.

**International Services:** Planning global projects, especially involving Africa, and events for world peace.

**Youth Services:**

Enhancing and expanding youth development programs.

Encouraging school-going interactors and college-based interact clubs to participate in larger projects.

**Special Announcements:**

**Charter Night:** Scheduled for July 19th to announce PHF major donor contributions and possibly AKS contributions.

**Significant Donation:** Rtn.Mahinder Jain of Access Healthcare committed a further sum of three crores, making the total giving close to 5.3 crores this year.

**18. Introduction of the Board**

Introduction of the board members through a video presentation.

**19. Secretary's Remarks:** Focus on continuity, bonding, building projects, and bringing cheer.

**20. Introduction of Guests and Key Attendees:**

**Key Attendees:**

District Governor N.S.Saravanan

PDG Rotarian J. Sridhar

Inner Wheel President Shamantha Reddy

Other Rotarians and guests

**21. Speech by PDG Rotarian J. Sridhar**

PDG Sridhar expressed gratitude for the introduction by Rotarian Jacob Kurian.

He acknowledged District Governor Rtn.N.S. Saravanan, President Rtn. Chella Krishna, Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani, and the vibrant board of RCM for the year 24-25.

Highlighted President Chella Krishna's balanced personality and leadership qualities.

Mentioned the rare combination of President Chella Krishna and Secretary Rajesh Mani, predicting a great year ahead.

Commended the support of a close relative on the board, Rtn.Ganesh Ananthakrishnan.

Congratulated President Chella Krishna and the new board, expressing confidence in their success.

**22. Introduction of District Governor**

**N.S.Saravanan Introduced by: Rtn. Fharzana Siraj**

District Governor Saravanan was introduced as the Managing Director of Yennes Infotec Private Limited.



Highlighted his extensive Rotary journey since 2000 and leadership roles.

Mentioned his personal life, including his wife Bharati and two daughters, Shobita and Anisha.

Recognized his significant contributions to the Rotary Foundation and various projects.

**23. Speech by District Governor N.S.Saravanan**

DG N.S.Saravanan praised the achievements of outgoing President Ravi Sundaresan.

Appreciated the unique style of Rotary Club of Madras meetings.

Encouraged continued commitment to Rotary projects and community service.

**Announced various district-level roles taken by members of the Rotary Club of Madras, including:**

Rtn. PP Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan as PETS Chair and District Membership Chair.

Rtn. PP.George Cherian as District Resource Network Coordinator.

Rtn.Dr. Anuradha Ganesan as part of the District Health Team.

Rtn.Immediate Past President Ravi Sundaresan handling CSR for the district and chairing the district conference.

**24. Release of the New Roster**

The brand new roster was released by District Governor N.S.Saravanan and PDG Rotarian J.Sridhar.

Senior members PDG Rotarian Benjamin Cherian, PDG Rotarian JB Kamdar, PDG Rotarian Krishnaswamy, and senior Rotarian M.Balasubramanian received the copies.

**25 Inner Wheel Club of Madras**

**Introduced by: Rotarian Rani Muralidharan**

**26. Speaker:** Inner Wheel President Shamantha Reddy President Samantha Reddy congratulated President Rtn. Chella Krishna and Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani. Highlighted the longstanding collaboration between Inner Wheel and Rotary Club of Madras.

Announced a contribution of Rs. 15,000 to Boys Town Society, reflecting their commitment to community service.

**27. Announcements and Closing Remarks**

**28. Announcements:**

Upcoming projects and events.

Next meeting is on 09-07-2024.

**29 Closing Remarks:**

Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani thanked all attendees and participants. Meeting adjourned. ■

**BIRTHDAYS**

July 1-14

- 1st July - Rtn. Gowri R. Shankar
- 2nd July - Rtn. Ashok Banerjee
- 4th July - Rtn. Ramji N
- 5th July - Rtn. Govind Parikh
- 5th July - Rtn. Suniel Lulla
- 7th July - Rtn. Mahinder Jain
- 8th July - Rtn. Anand Vurgese
- 10th July - Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota
- 10th July - Rtn. M M Philip
- 11th July - Rtn. Suresh. P
- 11th July - PP Rtn. Biswakumar Dr. Capt.
- 14th July - Rtn. Dr.Chandrasekar T.S.
- 14th July - Rtn. Shankar Menon P
  
- 1st July - Rtn. Jayanthy, Spouse of PP Rtn. Gopinath N.K.
- 1st July - Ann. Aruna Sree, Spouse of IPP. Rtn.S.Ravi
- 4th July - Ann. Deepa, Spouse of Sathiamram Ram
- 8th July - Ann. Parul Bhatt, Spouse of PP Satyan C. Bhatt
- 10th July - Ann. Anita, Spouse of Rtn. Jagdish A. Bhatt
- 10th July - Ann. Dr. Anila Mathan, Spouse of Rtn. Anand Vurgese
- 11th July - Ann. Shameem, Spouse of Rtn. Fazal Mohamed M
- 11th July - Ann. Ruchita Saraogi, Spouse of Rtn. Rahul Saraogi
- 11th July - Ann. Hema, Spouse of Rtn. Karthik Srinivasan
- 12th July - Ann. Mridula, Spouse of Rtn. Narasimhan V.S.

**ANNIVERSARY**

- 1st July - Dr. Prof. Rtn. Gauthamadas Udipi & Rajashree
- 1st July - PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V. & Padma Raman
- 3rd July - Rtn. Rajit Mhetras & Sheetal
- 4th July - Rtn. Ranjit Pratap & Uma Ranjith
- 3rd July - Rtn. Sivasubramaniam V.M. & Suseela
- 5th July - Rtn. Dr. Krishna Hande & Dr. Indira Hande
- 5th July - Rtn. Ravi Moorthy & Narayani
- 9th July - Rtn. Subbiah Viswanathan & Jayamangalam
- 11th July - Rtn. Prabha Srinivasan & PP Satish Sridharan
- 12th July - Rtn. Shree Shakthi Girish & Girish Ramdas





# Gallery-Installation of the 96<sup>th</sup> President





















## President's Message

Dear Rotarians,

I am happy to write to you via the medium of The Lighthouse, the venerable magazine of the Rotary Club of Madras. The Rotary Club of Madras has a lot to convey on a weekly basis – events, fund raisers, projects, district news, international Rotary happenings and the regular meeting minutes. As President of Rotary Club of Madras I request you all to spend a few minutes every week on The Lighthouse to stay connected with the club's happenings. The physical copy has been lauded for its reach across the family as well as its placement in several offices for visibility and for these reasons, we would like to continue with the same.

The theme of the year is “Bond. Build. Bring Cheer”. The theme implies the coming together of Rotarians in the spirit of fellowship and developing a common platform between themselves to do good and bring cheer to communities. The theme serves to refocus on the community of Rotarians doing good and achieving results. I hope that you reflect on this theme and enjoy your Rotary experience. The involvement of the entire family, with spouses in particular, will be an important thrust area. Do good while having a good time, will be the essence. Making new Rotary friends will be a superb by-product.

The plans for the year in COMMUNITY Services involve elaborate work on the “Homes for Homeless projects”, a new Balwadi initiative, a large School Renovation Project at Ramakrishna Mission (North Madras), Lake Projects and the running of Boys Town and other regular projects. I am sure the team will make an outsized impact to the lives of communities, given their superb preparedness.

The projects on the HEALTH initiative front involve a comprehensive plan of awareness on Cervical Cancer in schools (Plan-10,000 kids), vaccination of young children (500 Kids approx. and more based on funds availability) and screening of women in camps. It also has several nuanced outreach programs and Health equipment purchase ideas. A senior home at Voluntary Health Services (VHS) is getting a new lease of life with provision of safety features and water proofing. The tempo in the health services team is an amazing one and I would urge some of you to attend a committee meeting to get a flavor of it and then sign up for the hard work ahead. Spouses are welcome.



Our VOCATIONAL team is raring to go with Rotary Nagar, skilling programs, industrial visits etc, to promote both employability for the deserving and learning for our Rotarians. This team has childlike enthusiasm with a sage like thought process. Join the team in case you want to help in teaching people to gain a livelihood.

The international services team will be working on an overseas trip to Turkey and they have burned the midnight oil in their preparation. I am sure that it would be a gratifying trip. They have also laid out plans to touch on themes of international peace and understanding when they draw up the other itineraries.

North Madras will be a thrust area in many of things we will try to do. Impact and measurability will be the key in Health projects and we will have an insight-impact connect in all our actions. The very young and the senior citizens will remain a supplementary theme all through the year. All of this needs money and our Fund raising and CSR teams are on overdrive. They have patiently chalked out plans to convince Corporate donors and reach out to our Rotarians for donations to projects as well as contributions to TRF.

My Board and I look forward to serving this year out with the best of intentions and efforts. We will try to leave no stone unturned in keeping the flag of RCM flying high. As we march to the centenary, we look forward to your continued support and I am sure that your Rotary experience will help you Bond, Build and Bring Cheer. The RI theme for the year is the Magic of Rotary and I look forward to co-creating Magic with all of you !

**Rtn.G.Chella Krishna**  
President





**Rtn. Rajesh Mani**  
Honorary Secretary



**Rtn. G. Chella Krishna**  
President



**Rtn. S. Ravi**  
Immediate Past President



**Rtn. Nikhil Raj**  
President - Elect



**Rtn. S. Balakrishna**  
President - Nominee



**Rtn. Shanno Ravi**  
Director - Club Service



**Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran**  
Asst. Secy./ Bulletin Editor



**Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti**  
Director - Vocational Service



**Rtn. Balaji Chinni**  
Director - Youth Service



**Rtn. Asha Mathen**  
Treasurer - Club Funds & RCM BTS



**Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan**  
Director - Community Development



**Rtn. A. Gooch Kumar**  
Treasurer - RCMCT



**Rtn. Rahul Saraogi**  
Director - Fund Raising & PR



**Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan**  
Director - Community Health



**Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan**  
Director - CSR



**Rtn. Sabina Narayan**  
Director - Rotary Foundation & International Service

# A SPARKLING *Finale*

## USHERS IN A RADIANT BEGINNING

It was a happy, balmy evening.

Ah well, it's always balmy in Chennai... and it's always happy at RCM evenings.

The air was filled with emotion - excitement for some, expectation for some, curiosity, admiration, pride, happiness - it was all there, hanging in the air.

Rtn. Sundaresan Ravi, the juggernaut President of Rotary Club of Madras 2023-24, bids adieu to the year and welcomes his successor Rtn. Chella Krishna to take the baton of RCM and run with it for 2024-25.

Rotary Installation meetings are always like this - unforgettable evenings with a charged atmosphere.

What a well-attended occasion it was.

300+ attendees, from RCMers and their spouses to visiting dignitaries.

(Whew - thank you, Hyatt Regency for having a venue, ambience and kitchen worthy of hosting such a grand affair!)

RCM ladies were swathed in shades of sunshine yellow. The gentlemen gave their understated dark suits a touch of fire with their yellow neckties. So many elegant women and men, exuding joy. How lovely it was to see how glad they were to be a part of the celebrations.

If you want to ensure a perfect evening, you must hand it over to the perfect host or hostess.

On July 2, we had the perfect and inimitable Rtn. Jacob "Jakes" Kurien and the perfect and poised Rtn. PP Rani Muralidharan!

Acting as MCs to this momentous evening, they were brilliant in keeping us engaged and on track with the agenda points.

As with every Installation evening, there are protocols to be followed in the order of events that unfold. Who comes in when and for what purposes. Speeches to be heard. Objects to be presented or exchanged. Information to be imparted. A correct beginning and a fitting end to go as planned.

Our July 2 Installation evening did all that, but

delightfully, with dollops of fun and interesting moments thrown in!

From Jakes' signature wry humour to start off the evening, to Rtn. Sessa Sai's delightful style of informal speaking combined with deep insight;

From recognising superlative work by Rotarians in the year gone by, to thanking pillars of support that helped them get there;

From Vikram Chesetty's hilarious yet heartfelt introduction of Pres. S. Ravi to Rtn. Vijay Balaji's assertion that Sundaresan Ravi eats, breathes and sleeps Rotary;

From Rtn. Srimi's warm and smiling introduction of incoming President Chella Krishna to Chella's confident and dignified talk;

From unforgettable and touching words by guests of honour PDG J. Shridhar and Gov. Saravanan to applauding the award-winners for the evening;

From meeting the new team of 2024-25 to welcoming the Inner Wheel President Samantha Reddy and our own RCM's next President-Elect and -Nominee;

What a fabulous evening it was. Every moment worth remembering.

### RCM IS A FORCE OF NATURE AND OUR VARIOUS TEAMS WITHIN ARE - HER FIVE ELEMENTS!

Rtn. Sessa Sai gave his Secretary's report likening each working team of the year to the five elements of nature. Naturally, he assigned the element FIRE to President Ravi (smile here)! How fitting!

We were enthralled to not only listen to the flow of his talk as he called out different teams as Earth, Water and so on; but in the process, also look at the stats on what a fantastic year it was!

The funds raised and spent on such wonderful community service projects!

The incredible fellowships and get-togethers we've had!

The phenomenal weekly meeting speakers and afternoons!

The cozy Firesides that helped us bond with each other!



The diligent and award-worthy Lighthouse editions that arrived into our inboxes week after week!

The expert team that helped manage the number and accounts for all this!

There is one simple word to describe it all - WOW!

Awards and trophies that given out were worthy and to be lauded.

Recognition accorded to Rtn. Rajesh Somu and Rtn. Vikram Chesetty - well deserved!

Gratitude to our generous donors who believe in the work of RCM - Rtn. Mahinder Jain and Rtn. Rahul Saraogi - deep and true!

The promise by incoming President Chella Krishna, of a wonderful year ahead in all avenues - fiery and inspiring!

### **OUTGOING PRESIDENT SUNDARESAN "THE ROCK" RAVI!**

It may be tough to relay the exact speech of Pres. S. Ravi as he spoke of the year gone by and his views of the next year. But it will be IMPOSSIBLE to recapture his deep emotion underlining each word.

President Ravi spoke of his commitment, promises to self and mission for his year at RCM.

He themed his talk around Lessons Learned...

CONNECTIONS - GIVING BACK - GRATITUDE - PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE - BANK OF MEMORIES

He spoke of bonding, friendships and connections made during his incredible tenure.

He told us about his vision and goals for his year.

He showed us how to be both proud of ourselves and our work; and humble and thankful at same time.

He spoke of his pride and gratitude for his team, our RCM as a whole and the support from the District and beyond.

He recognised the silent and unwavering support of his wife Aruna Sree and children, without whom he wouldn't have had the internal peace and confidence to conduct his Rotary work.

He gave thanks to his mentors and core members for their support and guidance.

He elaborated on how every action is truly successful only if it can also be sustainable and long-lasting, by listing out the advantages of planning for the future and not just for his own year.

He spoke with pride and humility of the amazing

achievements of his year - the incredible projects that were executed, the record-breaking funds that were raised, the vast populace RCM's work benefitted and the heartfelt hope that the coming years will break all these records and achievements with more of their own!

### **INCOMING PRESIDENT CHELLA "MR. COOL" KRISHNA!**

A beautiful thing to see at our RCM Installation evening: father-son Rotarian duos gracing the event.

Rtn. Vinod Saraogi had his arm around RCMer son Rtn. Rahul Saraogi.

Rtn. Vardhman Jain looked on with pride and love at his father Mahinder Jain.

And how wonderful that PDG Gangadharan was there with his wife to see their son Chella Krishna being ushered in as the next President of RCM!

Definitely an evening for smiles and joy!

Rtn. Chella kept his talk in his signature style - easy, smooth, precise, short.

He walked us through the meaning behind his year's logo and theme: BOND, BUILD, BRING CHEER.

He introduced us to his superb team of board members and advisors.

He spoke about his plans for the year for RCM as a club.

And he did it all through simple, quick words... and a delightfully cool video where each member spoke about the year ahead and what the theme Bond, Build, Bring Cheer meant to them!

Let us bid a fond adieu to outgoing President Ravi. From here on, we will be glad to see him sitting at our side instead of on the dais and at the mike podium. But never fear - he's truly as married to Rotary in his ideals as he is to the lovely Aruna Sree in life; so he will never truly hang up his boots (smile here).

Let us welcome the incoming President Chella Krishna and his fantastic team. The days are charged with expectation and excitement. Mr. Cool and his board promises us another wonderful and unforgettable Rotary year!

Cheers  
- Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish





Rotary is at its best when we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is The Magic of Rotary itself.

With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective.

Rotary's Action Plan can help. The Action Plan comes with tools you can use to collect feedback, assess your club's strengths and weaknesses, and address challenges.

The world is changing, and our clubs can't afford to stand still. But the changes we make need to be consistent and strategic — building on one another toward a greater vision. The Action Plan can help you work toward that vision and create effective change within your club. Following the Action Plan and addressing suggestions from the community will go a long way to fostering the sense of belonging we want all Rotary members to feel in their clubs.

That's why expanding our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is so important. Committing ourselves to each other's well-being is the first step to expanding our reach, allowing us to spread Positive Peace in these troubled times.

Peacebuilding is one of our top priorities, and one of the most effective ways we can build peace is with our Rotary Peace Fellowships, through which peace and development professionals learn how to prevent and end conflict.

We offer the fellowships through our Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities around the globe, where more than 1,800 Rotary Peace Fellows have graduated. And thanks to a \$15.5 million gift from the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation, we can continue supporting peacebuilders in more regions with the next peace center at Bahçeşehir University in Istanbul.

Opening another peace center is a monumental achievement, and it is my great honor to invite you to celebrate at next year's Rotary Presidential Peace Conference at the Istanbul center. The three-day conference 20-22 February will highlight the many ways our family of Rotary advances peacebuilding. Registration for the conference is officially open. I hope to see you there.

The 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference has great potential for our peacebuilding efforts — but only if we have your support.

The truth is, we're not going to bring peace to the world, end polio, or grow membership by waving a wand and saying some funny words. It's up to you. You create the magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member inducted.

I love my Rotary family and I know you do too. That's why I know that together, we can make every club and district simply irresistible. This year, let us change the world by embracing The Magic of Rotary.

**Stephanie A. Urchick**  
President 2024-25



The RCM's Logo for 2024-25 seeks to showcase the theme for the year "Bond- Build- Bring cheer" with the image of individuals holding hands.

The theme refers to coming together of like-minded Rotarians to create outsized outcomes and results. No Rotarian can do much in isolation but together, the benefits are synergistic and create solutions for the underprivileged.

This collaborative effort of the Rotarian is showcased in the Logo and the colors of the RCM Logo are drawn from the RI theme (The Magic of Rotary) colours, symbolising the common thread underlying both themes.

Immediate Past President Rtn.S. Ravi had announced at the Installation meeting that Rotary Club of Madras has become a **“100% PAUL HARRIS FELLOW” Club for the first time.**

At the RI South Asia Office in Delhi, he received the official letter and the Special Banner that RI presents to clubs that have attained this status.

Another milestone achievement for our club.



Ground Breaking ceremony of the

# WASH PROJECT

for new Rotary year 2024-2025

with the construction of new toilet blocks and a noon meal kitchen benefitting five hundred students every year of Ramakrishna Mission School at Basin Bridge Road, Chennai.







RI President Stephanie Urchick encourages Rotarians to live the Four Way Test. This week, Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath weighs in on the Four Way Test by answering four questions posed by The Lighthouse.

**Is the Four Way Test an impossible and impractical quest ?**

The Four Way Test is a set of guiding principles created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in the 1930s to promote ethical behavior in personal and professional relationships.

**Is it just an idealistic notion?**

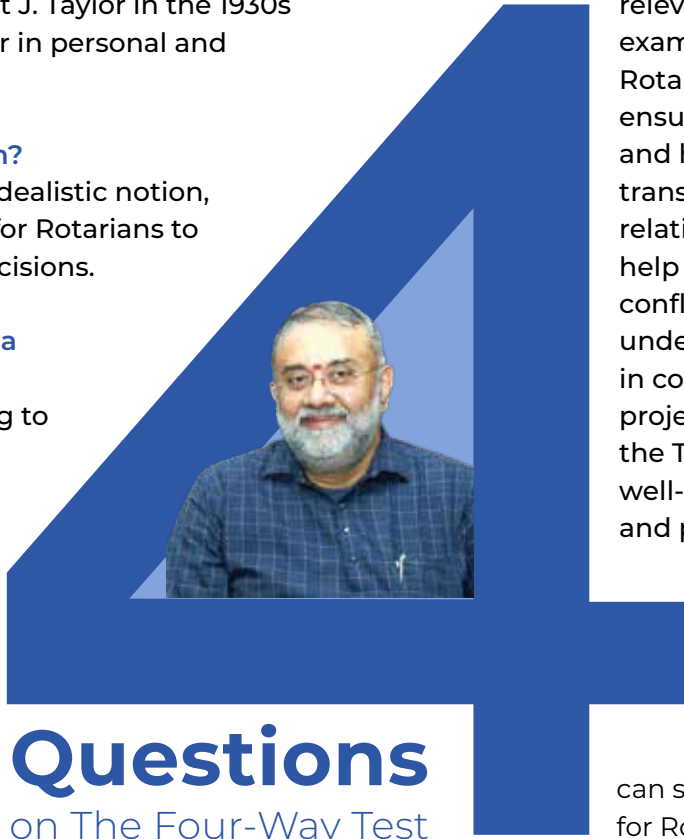
While it may seem like an idealistic notion, it serves as a valuable tool for Rotarians to assess their actions and decisions.

**Can it inspire or transform a Rotarian's perspective ?**

While it may be challenging to always adhere to these principles perfectly, the Four Way Test can indeed inspire and transform a Rotarian's perspective. By consciously applying these questions to their everyday interactions and decision-making processes, Rotarians can strive to act with integrity, fairness, and consideration for others.

**Any practical examples of its relevance in this day and age ?**

In this day and age, the Four Way Test remains relevant in various ways. For example, in business dealings, Rotarians can use the Test to ensure transparency, fairness, and honesty in their transactions. In personal relationships, the Test can help individuals navigate conflicts and foster mutual understanding. Additionally, in community service projects, Rotarians can use the Test to prioritize the well-being of all stakeholders and promote positive outcomes for society.



**Questions on The Four-Way Test**

Overall, while the Four Way Test may not be a perfect or easy quest to fulfill, its principles can serve as a moral compass for Rotarians and individuals alike, guiding them towards ethical and responsible behavior in a complex and ever-changing world.

Week : 01



Suggest the most quirky, whacky or creative caption/blurb for this photo (Maximum 20 words). The best entries will be reproduced in the next week's edition of Lighthouse.

Mail your captions to [editor@rcmlighthouse.com](mailto:editor@rcmlighthouse.com)





1. What is your current state of mind?  
**Relaxed and excited at the same time;**
2. What is your idea of perfect happiness?  
**Perfect happiness is when I am able to do something for my family which is of use to them.**
3. What is your greatest fear?  
**My greatest fear is disappointing others**
4. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?  
**My absent mindedness.**
5. What is the trait you most deplore in others?  
**Pushing individual agendas to the detriment of a common goal**
6. Which living person do you admire most  
**My Father and Mr Anand Mahindra**
7. What is your greatest extravagance?  
**Going home at 4 pm from work to be with the family.**
8. What do you consider the most overrated virtue?  
**Being Conservative is overrated**
9. On what occasion do you lie?  
**To not hurt someone.**
10. Which living person do you most despise?  
**I don't despise any living person**
11. What is the quality you most like in a man?  
**Courage**
12. What is the quality you most like in a woman?  
**Multitasking**
13. Which words or phrase do you most overuse?  
**Conceptual, Value addition**
14. What or who is the greatest love of your life?  
**My wife Swetha**
15. When and where were you happiest?  
**Watching the movies of Guy Ritchie, Quentin and Woody Allen.**
16. Where would you most like to live?  
**Japan**
17. What is your most treasured possession?  
**A photograph with my father at a wedding.**
18. What is your favourite occupation?  
**Teaching my kids Maths**
19. What is your most marked characteristic?  
**My equanimity**
20. Who is your hero of fiction?  
**Don Corleone**
21. Which historical figure do you most identify with?  
**Mahatma Gandhi**
22. Who are your heroes in real life?  
**Father and Mother**
23. What is your greatest regret?  
**Not working in a corporate for a few years.**
24. How would you like to die?  
**Peacefully with family.**
25. Your motto in life?  
**Success is opportunity meeting preparation.**



# Cervical Cancer Prevention

**Rtn. President Chella Krishna**

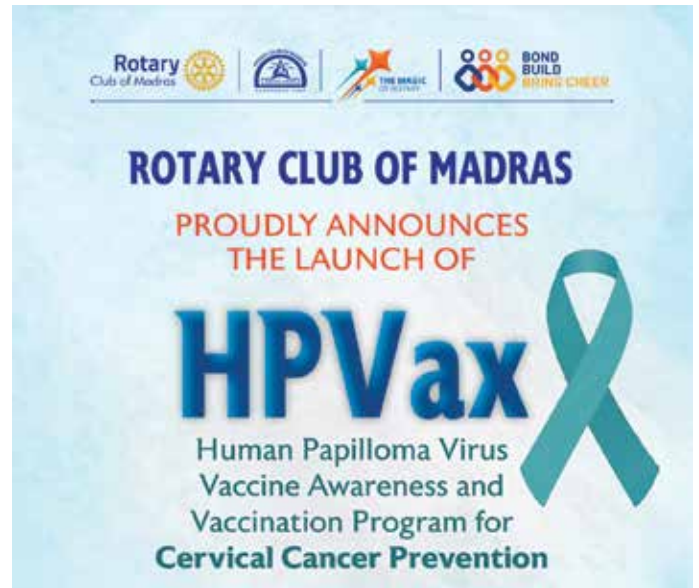
and his team hope to bond, build and bring cheer this magical Rotary year through several high impact projects.

This is the first in a series of projects that we would like to showcase and we hope that it excites and engages you to give your time, energy and effort to making it a grand success.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in India affecting nearly 18 out of 100000 women in our country and causing 75000 preventable deaths every year. India accounts for a quarter of the global burden of cervical cancer with a significantly higher incidence compared with the global average (13 per 100000) due to earlier age of marriage, multiple pregnancies, poor sexual hygiene and limited access to vaccination and screening.

The Operational Guidelines of the National Programme for Prevention and Control of NonCommunicable Diseases (2023-2030) recommend that all women between the ages of 30 and 65 years should be screened for cervical cancer, at least once every 5 years. However, limited capacity and infrastructure to perform screening and inability to effectively follow up women who screen positive remain major hurdles in the early detection and treatment of cervical cancer. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that the annual burden of new cases in India will increase to almost 225,000 by 2025 without widespread screening and prevention efforts.

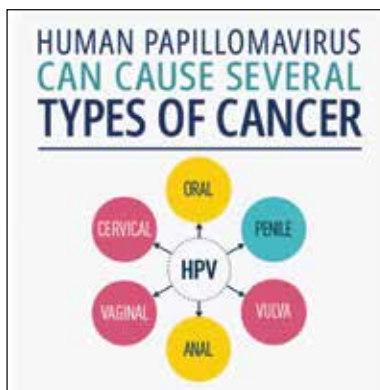
Cervical cancer is caused by a virus called the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) which infects the cells in the cervix through sexual contact and lies dormant for several decades before it initiates cancerous transformation in later life. Fortunately a vaccine is available which can prevent HPV



infection if administered to young girls particularly prior to sexual contact.

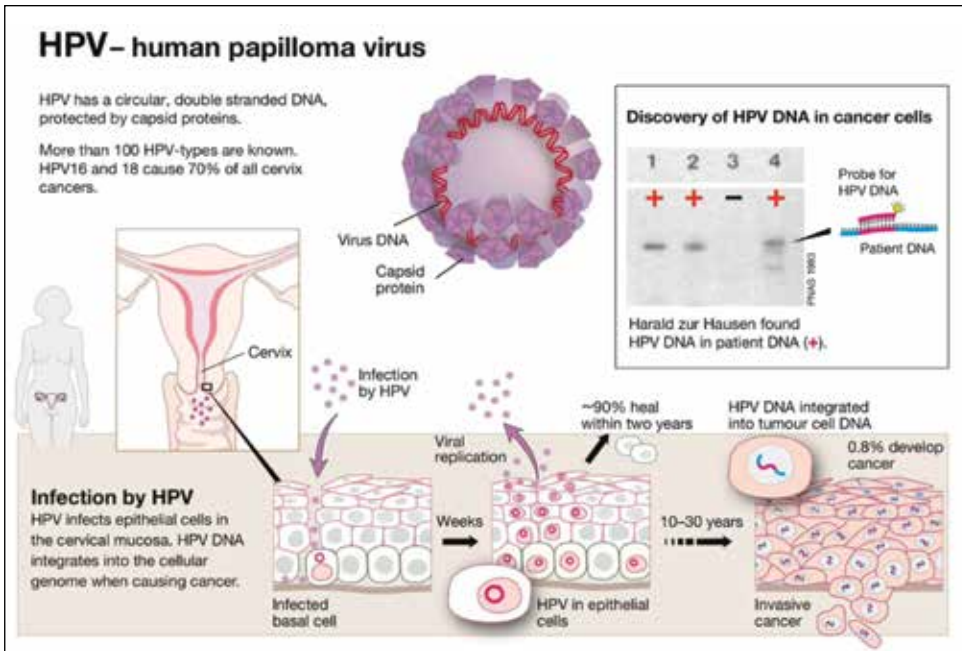
However, despite robust safety data and proven efficacy, HPV vaccination coverage is only 18% for the first dose and 13% for schedule completion worldwide. The HPV vaccine has been licensed in India since 2008 for all girls starting from 9 years of age. However, multiple hurdles including awareness, vaccine hesitancy, vaccine related myths and cost constraints have limited vaccine coverage in the country. The recent availability of an indigenous, affordable, and effective vaccine has however reenergized efforts to vaccinate young girls to prevent cervical cancer.

Rotary Club of Madras hopes to be at the forefront of these efforts and pioneer the movement to eradicate all HPV related cervical cancer through our program HPVAX which will encompass awareness creation and vaccination against HPV.



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- To promote awareness regarding cervical cancer prevention and HPV vaccination amongst the target population of adolescent girls and their families using school based or community based programs.
- To carry out HPV vaccination of school aged girls in order to protect them from HPV infection and help prevent cervical cancer.



**ABOUT THE VACCINE**

The vaccine is most effective when administered to girls between the ages of 9 and 14 years although it can also be administered to older girls. The vaccine schedule in 9 to 14 year olds involves 2 doses at 0 and 6 months while girls over 15 years of age may need an additional dose 1 month after the first dose is given.

**OUR MEDICAL PARTNERS**

Our main partner in this endeavour is Cancer Institute, Adyar which has a long history of tackling the public health dimension of cancer in India. In addition, we aim to use the services of trust hospitals like Voluntary Health Services, Adyar and Sundaram Medical Foundation amongst others to help us execute our awareness and vaccination programs.

**IMPACT ON SOCIETY**

As already outlined, cervical cancer is one of the leading malignancies in women and has a mortality of over 50% as it is often detected only in an advanced stage. A combined strategy of universal HPV vaccination of girls aged 9 years and above (for prevention) along with widespread cervical cancer screening of at-risk women (for early detection) is the only proven way to reduce the incidence and mortality associated with cervical cancer.

We hope that our efforts in raising awareness and improving vaccine coverage will help our nation

move towards a day when we will be able to significantly reduce the incidence and disease burden of cervical cancer and perhaps completely eliminate all HPV related cervical cancer. Let us all join hands to rid our nation of this devastating and disfiguring cancer affecting our daughters, sisters and mothers.

*Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan.  
Chair of Cancer Prevention and Care*

*In his own words.....*

The HPVax program is a fantastic one. My understanding of Cervical cancer incidence and vaccination was pedestrian at best ahead of the brief I received from program Chair Sangeetha and Heath Director Vish. Given that it is the 2nd most common cancer in women and a “Preventable one” it becomes an extremely relevant program for an NGO like ours. Most of us have lost women relatives or friends to some form of cancer or other and we often wonder why there is not a cure discovered for something as brutal as this. If a particular form of cancer which kills 75000 women in India in a year can be prevented in future years it makes it a clear focus. And this number does not consider the many unreported cases in rural and parts of urban India. A nation wide program of scale becomes important. Given that 50% of India is likely to be below the age of 25 very soon, the statistics point towards a Young India. If we can make that Young India healthier we should. We will leave behind a smart public health program like Polio which RCM started several decades ago. In my view the brilliant health team can provide us with a signal moment as in the past. Lets try to support them with our time and resources.

*Rtn. Chella Krishna  
President*





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