

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS  
ISSUE 11 | SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

Greetings!

This issue of Lighthouse features two inspiring initiatives of the Child Safety and Mental Well-being committee. Mohit Bajaj son of late Rtn. Ashok Bajaj has shared a touching tribute to his father late Rtn. Ashok Bajaj.

There is also a delightful collage of globe trotting RCMers being our good will ambassadors and sharing our 'timeless legacy'

Yours in Rotary,

**Rtn. Sunita Suresh**



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

### ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS WEEKLY MEETING

Thursday, 21st September 2023  
at 1.30 pm at Hyatt Regency,  
Chennai.

**SPEAKER**  
**Dr. Kriti Bharti**  
will be in conversation with our  
**Rtns Bhaswar and Fharzana**  
on the topic of **Peace and  
conflict resolution.**



*Please note that spouses are  
cordially invited for this meeting.*

**Rtn. S. Ravi**  
President

**Rtn. Vikram Chesetty**  
Director Club Service

**Rtn. M. Sessa Sai**  
Honorary Secretary

**Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar**  
Chairperson – Programs Committee

RCM 12<sup>TH</sup>  
WEEKLY  
MEETING

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

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Rtn Rani Muralidharan  
Rtn Sumit Kalra  
Rtn Rajesh Mani

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to:  
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Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

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## Minutes of the 11th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras - Sep. 12, 2023

### Location: Madras Management Association (MMA) Chennai

Sergeant at arms Rtn. Rajendran R collared Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan who formally called the 11th Weekly Meeting of RCM to order followed by Silent Invocation.

**Present:** President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, Honorary Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai, Rtn. Rajendran, Mr. Sudhir Sukumaran (General Manager, Emirates Southern India), Mr. Vardhaman Jain, Vijay Narayanan, Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan (Community Services Director), Rtn. Sabina (International Services Director), Rtn. Shankar Narayanan, Rtn. Vikram, Rtn. Shaji, Dr. Sudhakar (Guest Speaker), and other members of the Rotary Club of Madras.

**Meeting Commencement :** President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the 11th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested a moment of Silent Invocation.

He welcomed all attendees and confirmed the minutes of the previous 10th weekly meeting held at Hyatt.

#### **Special Guests:**

- a. Mr. Sudhir Sukumaran, General Manager, Emirates Southern India
- b. Mr. Vardhaman Jain
- c. Vijay Narayanan

**Community Services Announcements by :** Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan: Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan made announcements regarding community service activities:

Wash Project on September 16th at Government High School, ECR, involving the construction of toilets, hand wash areas, and smart classes.

Relief support for Suleri Kattukuppam, a fishing hamlet affected by Tsunami, involving rice distribution for 210 families.

Site visits to existing projects on September 15th.

**International Services Announcements by Rtn. Sabina:** Rtn. Sabina presented announcements related to International Services:

Rtn. Shanker C. Mangadu, PHF, presented a \$1,000 cheque for the PHF in honor of his



daughter Kalpana Shanker's birthday celebration. Rtn. Sabina graciously acknowledged this generous gesture.

Shared details of eco-friendly canvas bags.

Announced the celebration of International Day of Peace on September 21st, featuring a conversation about peace, stress busters, creativity, and more.

Dr. Kriti Barathi will be the guest on September 21st.

**Announcements by Rtn. Vikram :** Rtn. Vikram announced upcoming meetings with other Rotary Clubs, including Rotary Club of Kolkata and Rotary Club of Bombay.

**Announcements by Rtn. Sesha Sai:** Rtn. Sesha Sai made announcements regarding birthdays, anniversaries, and the Employability job opportunities fair on October 9th.

**International Announcements by Rtn. Ramji N.:** Rtn. Ramji N. shared his experience visiting the Rotary Club of Shillong in Meghalaya and extended an invitation to visit the club.

**Guest Speaker - Dr. Sudhakar :** Dr. Sudhakar, a rocket scientist at ISRO, addressed the club and shared insights into aerospace engineering and ISRO's work.

Honorary Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai delivered the vote of thanks to all the attendees and the guest speaker, Dr. Sudhakar.

The meeting was adjourned with appreciation for everyone's participation and contributions. ■

## From the 11th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Sep. 12, 2023





# INDIA IN SPACE WITH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Rtn. Sumit Kalra opened the proceedings by an energetic introduction of the Speaker as the “Rocket Scientist Extraordinaire.”

**Dr. Sudhakar, Deputy Director, ISRO** started off with some facts:

1. The Earth’s atmosphere extends to about 100km from the earth’s surface
2. Rockets Were Inspired by Fireworks:
  - First Century AD, Chinese used simple form of gunpowder to create explosions during festivals (sounds familiar?)
  - In 1232 AD, the Chinese repelled the Mon gol invaders by a barrage of “Arrows of flying fire”
  - The Germans used rockets against the British starting from the 16th century upto WW2
3. The sun is 109 times larger than the moon although they look about the same size from earth.
4. The Space Era Dawned on Oct 4, 1957 when the Russians launched Sputnik 1 putting the first human in space. Hence, Space Week is celebrated in the first week of October.

He then went on to articulate that when one thinks about how humans have interacted with space, **two broad categories stand out – Space Applications and Space Explorations.**

## A. Space Applications:

Dr. Sudhakar made a compelling argument on how India has done exceeding well in the area of Space Applications. We have utilized space applications in numerous areas including:

- Agriculture
- Governance
- Communications
- Disaster Management
- Weather Forecast
- Resource Monitoring
- Navigation
- Health Care



His statement “If satellites were down for one hour, we would not have mobile phones, internet, banking services etc.” led to a collective gasp in the audience.

## B. Space Explorations:

This is a nascent area for India. Yet, India is globally recognized as a powerhouse in harnessing the benefits of space. We have placed 43 foreign satellites into orbit.

India’s indigenous space program has been amazingly cost effective as shown in the table below:

### Lowest cost Moon Mission

Country	India	Russia	China	US
Mission	Chandrayaan 3	Luna 25	Chang’e 3	Apollo 10
Mission Cost (inflation djusted)	\$77 Million	\$200 Million	\$300 Million	\$2.9 Billion

## Where Are Going?

- Moon Missions – Chandrayaan 3 (to explore the surface). Completed in 2023
- Sun Mission – Aditya L1: To study the Sun’s infrared rays)
- Gaganyaan – Human Space Mission

In his Vote of Thanks, Hony Secretary Sesha Sai, in his inimitable style, spoke about India’s magnificent progress in food self-sufficiency and vaccine supply to the world. He linked it to the achievements we have made in Space Explorations due to committed and skilled professionals like Dr. Sudhakar and appreciated his contribution.

**- Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti ■**



## TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS AT BOYS TOWN SOCIETY

Under our environmental drive, the Rotary Club of Madras has embarked on a mission to plant 270 saplings, a symbolic representation of a tree for each member of our Rotarian group. In our methodical approach towards this initiative, we sought the guidance of a retired officer from the Indian Forest Service (IFS), namely PP.Rtn. Irulandi. This seasoned expert was profoundly touched upon discovering our affiliation with the Boys Town Society.

With immense ardor, he joined forces with the forest department to generously donate 250 saplings, encompassing a diverse array of 10 unique species. Going above and beyond, he graced the Independence Day festivities with his presence, personally imparting instructions to the dedicated personnel of the Boys Town Society. Subsequently, he imparted his wealth of knowledge and insights to the enthusiastic pupils of Sri Sankara Vidyashram, thereby magnifying the influence of our undertaking. ■



## BIRTHDAYS

Sept 18th - Rtn. Ashok Thakkar  
 Sept 18th - Rtn. Chandrasekhar R. Dr.  
 Sept 19th - Rtn. Ravi Prakash Singhee  
 Sept 21st - Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish  
 Sept 21st - Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran  
 Sept 23rd - Rtn. Srinivas Garapati

Sept 20th - Ann. Meghana  
 (Spouse of Rtn. Kishore Dandekar J)  
 Sept 21st - Ann. K.T. Pillai (Spouse of Manasa T Pillai)  
 Sept 24th - Ann. Mallika  
 (Spouse of Rtn. A.S. Venkhat Ramani)

**A note from Rotarian Samuel Hancock from the Rotary Club of Washington DC**  
29th August 2023, 2:33 P.M

*A note from Rotarian Samuel Hancock from the Rotary Club of Washington DC who met with Rtn. Dr.Sangeetha Viswanathan at the luncheon event of her charity Bloom to Life in Washington.*

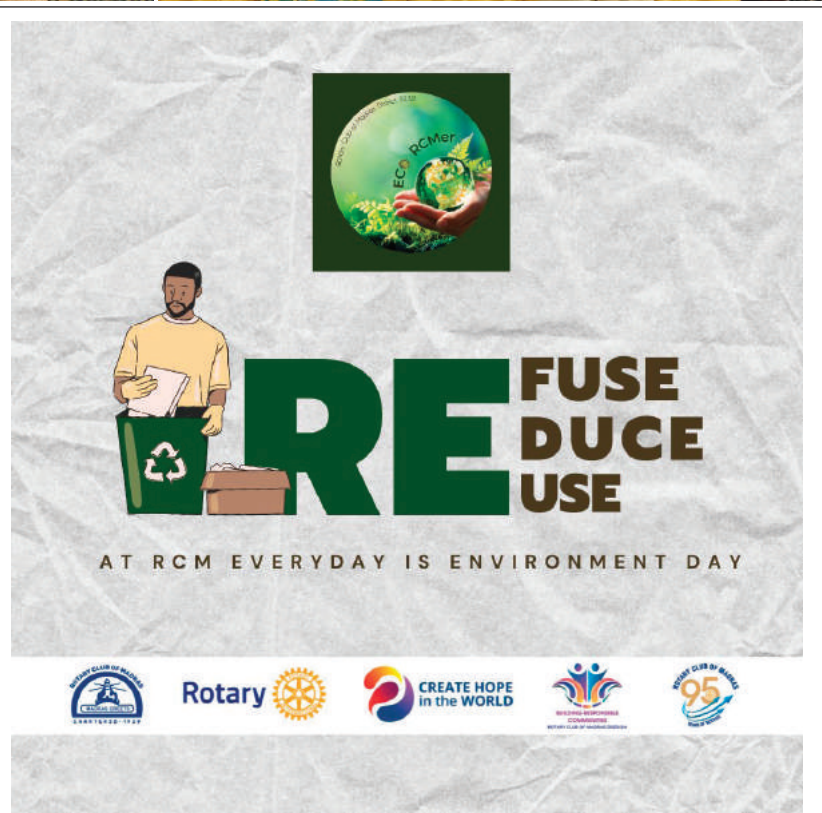
Thank you, Sangeetha, for the wonderful hospitality, very warm greetings, the gift book and Rotary Club banner, and the delicious luncheon meal. Could not have been a better introduction to you, your organization, and renewed contact with your Rotary Club of Madras as you are involved in meaningful and important community development and humanitarian projects like all others in your Club. Please give my sincere best wishes to Gopi, Jayshree, officers, Board of Directors, and all members of your wonderful Rotary Club of Madras from Sam, Rotary Club of Washington, DC; RID 7620. ■



**Rtn. Ramji with RC Shillong President, Dr Kamaljeet Singh and Rtn. Sarad Bawri will exchange flags and 'Timeless Legacy' book during their rotary meeting.**



IPP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar addressed the Rotary Club of Washington. She spoke about the legacy of the Rotary Club of Madras and its special projects. There was great appreciation for the grand scale of the projects presented and RC Washington has shown interest in participating in future projects. IPP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar extended her thanks to PP Rtn. N K Gopinath for the introduction.■





## "CHILD SAFETY & MENTAL WELL BEING" FILM SCREENING UPDATE:

332 Boys & Girls students from 4th std to 12th std and 15 teachers were present for the "Maya Changu" film screening at Sir & Lady M. Venkatasubba Rao Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Tambaram, Chennai.

Rotary club of Madras Mylapore Uptown; President Rtn. K. Vikash baburao, Director community Services Rtn. Rangarajan Sriraman, Director POSH, Rtn. Chandran Raghuraman were present.

The program was very well received by the students and staff from the school.

Supported by the Rotary Club of Madras, Rotary Club of Madras Mylapore Uptown and Nalamdana. ■





## "CHILD SAFETY & MENTAL WELL BEING" FILM SCREENING UPDATE:

On 11th September 2023, 261 Boys & Girls Students from 6th to 9th std and 5 teachers were present for the "Maya Changu" film screening at Kesari Hr. Sec. School, T. Nagar, Teynampet, Chennai.

Tmt. Parvathi - Inspector, CAWC, Thousand lights & Tmt. Subaja - SSI, Tmt. Kavitha - WHC, Tmt. Puspha - WHC, from W24 All Women Police Station, Teynampet were also present and gave an important speech & interacted with the students.

Supported by Rotary Club of Madras, Rotary Club of Madras Mylapore Uptown, CAWC and Nalamdana ■



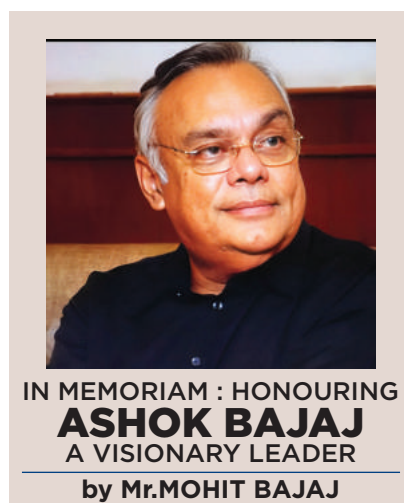
In the realm of Surgical Instrument manufacture, there are those who excel, and then there are those whose contributions become the bedrock of an entire industry. Ashok Bajaj, a stalwart with an astounding 50-year legacy, firmly belongs to the latter category. His journey was not just a career; it was a saga of innovation, mentorship, and a profound commitment to community.

In 1997, Ashok Bajaj achieved a milestone that reverberated through the narratives of Indian healthcare. He pioneered the establishment of the first indigenous Foley Catheter Plant in India, forever altering the landscape of medical manufacturing. This feat not only showcased his visionary spirit but also ignited a beacon of self-reliance that continues to shine brightly.

In every factory under his stewardship, Ashok Bajaj was a visionary of innovative manufacturing techniques. His penchant for pushing boundaries and embracing cutting-edge methodologies elevated the standards of quality and efficiency, setting benchmarks for others to follow. His legacy lives on in the meticulous craftsmanship of every instrument bearing his imprint "SISCO".

He was not content with merely contributing to his field; he sought to shape its very foundations. As a distinguished member of the Bureau of Indian Standard, he lent his expertise to the formulation of guidelines that continue to govern the industry, ensuring safety and precision for generations to come.

Beyond the confines of his professional realm, Ashok Bajaj was an ardent advocate for sports. His tenure as the General Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Badminton Association (TNBA) and Treasurer in the Badminton Association of India (BAI) spanning many fruitful years until 2016, is a testament to his dedication. Under his guidance, these organizations thrived, becoming bastions of excellence in the world of Indian sports. Representing India in the Beijing and London Olympics, he did our country proud. He was also the manager for the Indian Badminton team for the Common Wealth



games bringing Badminton into the limelight, as a sport to reckon with. He dedicated himself in building world class infrastructure at SiriFort Sports Complex making the sport accessible to youngsters from all facets of life.

In the corridors of Ashok Bajaj's factories, one could find not just workers, but disciples in the making. Many who once sought his mentorship have now blossomed into successful entrepreneurs in their own right. His influence went far beyond the assembly line; it permeated the very essence of their professional journeys.

Ashok Bajaj recognized that the true wealth of a community lay in its children. He was not content with providing jobs; he extended a helping hand towards shaping futures. By sponsoring the education of many children of his workers, he sowed the seeds of a brighter tomorrow, one classroom at a time.

Ashok Bajaj's philanthropic spirit was woven into the very fabric of his being. In his formative years, he demonstrated a profound commitment to giving back through organizations like Roundtable and later, as a member of the Rotary Club of Madras, he continued to channel his resources and energy towards meaningful initiatives that uplifted communities and touched lives.

His commitment to his community was nothing short of extraordinary. His selfless devotion was marked through his service in Punjab Association and the Arya Samaj.

In the spirit of fostering peace and harmony, Ashok Bajaj undertook a remarkable endeavour. He constructed the Vinayaka Temple and Anjaneya Temple, not just as structures of brick and mortar, but as beacons of hope and spiritual sanctuaries for the community.

An avid golfer, a fantastic badminton player, however, it was off the field where Ashok's true fighting spirit shone the brightest. When confronted with the formidable adversary of stage IV lymphoma, he faced it head-on with remarkable resilience. Instead of succumbing to despair, he chose to live life to the fullest, embracing each day with unwavering determination.

He had a remarkable gift - he had the innate ability to light up every room he walked into. His presence was like a burst of sunshine with positivity, and an infectious energy that lifted the spirits of those around him.

As a husband, he offered his wife unwavering support and a love that knew no bounds. Through every challenge and triumph, he stood by her side, a source of comfort and strength. In his role as a father, he loved each of his three children, nurturing them to become independent, confident, and deeply empathetic individuals. He instilled in them the values of self-reliance and compassion, shaping them into remarkable human beings. His dynamic personality, his incredible sense of humour and his ability to tell you the truth with such dignified wisdom lives on in all his children.

As we bid farewell to a Titan in the realm of Surgical Instrument manufacture, let us remember him not only for his professional achievements, but for the profound impact he had on lives and communities. His legacy is etched not only in the hearts of his wife and three children, six grandchildren but in the hearts and minds of all those fortunate enough to have been touched by his wisdom, generosity, and vision.

Dad you were my proposer for rotary and got me into this wonderful organization. I know I have big shoes to fill but it is an honour to be called Ashok Bajaj's son. ■