

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS  
ISSUE 13 | SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

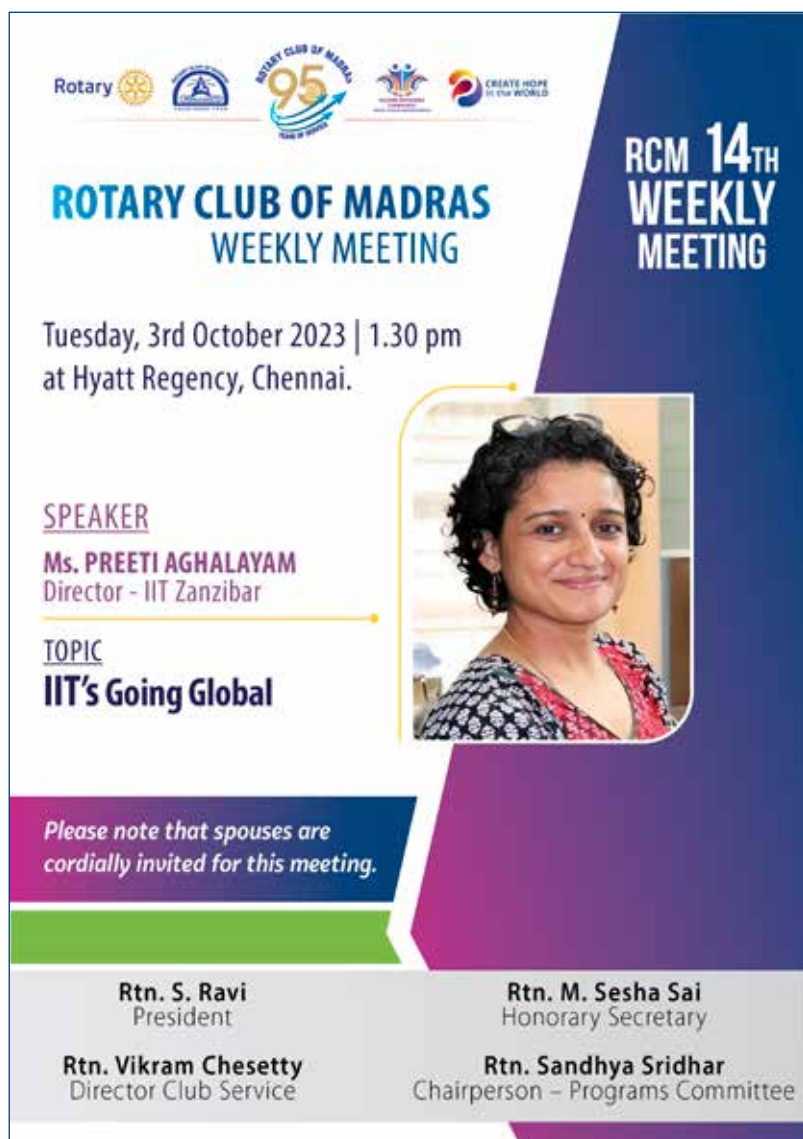
Greetings!

The 13th edition of our weekly bulletin, Lighthouse features the momentous occasion of RCM visit to the celebration of the 105th Foundation Day of Rotary Club of Calcutta, the oldest Rotary Club in India.

Community services present their stellar programs and Eco RCMers present their World Peace Day celebrations and their enduring pledge to make this world a better place for future generations.

Yours in Rotary,

**Rtn. Sunita Suresh**



Rotary Club of Madras 95th Anniversary Logo

**RCM 14<sup>TH</sup> WEEKLY MEETING**

Tuesday, 3rd October 2023 | 1.30 pm  
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

**SPEAKER**  
**Ms. PREETI AGHALAYAM**  
Director - IIT Zanzibar

**TOPIC**  
**IIT's Going Global**

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

**Rtn. S. Ravi**  
President

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

**Rtn. Vikram Chesetty**  
Director Club Service

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

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

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Rtn. M. Sessa Sai

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Rtn. Vikram Chesetty

**Director - Vocational Service**  
Rtn. Vijay Balaji

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Rtn. Balaji Chinni

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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 13th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras - Sep. 29, 2023

### CLOSED DOOR MEETING

President Ravi Sundaresan called the 13th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested everyone to stand for a silent invocation.

President Ravi welcomed all attendees to the combined community service meeting and provided updates on various avenue service projects for the first quarter of the RCM rotary year 2023-24. He emphasized that the meeting was closed to guests.

Confirmation of the 12th weekly meeting held on September 21, 2023, was requested, and it was confirmed.

Rtn. Prasanna announced the association with the Ability Foundation for the "Employability" project, a job fair for people with disabilities. He highlighted the significant response and the participation of 50 companies and 800 job seekers. He invited Rotarians to participate and assist as volunteers.

Immediate Past President Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar handed over the plaque of the Rotary Club of Washington.

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty shared his experiences of RCM's visit to the Rotary Club of Kolkata and the warm reception received. He mentioned the successful interaction and discussions, emphasizing the importance of building friendships with other Rotary clubs.

Rtn. Sesha Sai shared birthdays and anniversaries of club members and spouses. He also announced the upcoming meeting on October 3rd, featuring Mrs. Preeti Aghalayam, Director at IIT Zanzibar, discussing "IIT Going Global."

Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan presented updates on community service projects. She highlighted the progress of housing projects for the homeless, rural sanitation initiatives, and water body restoration efforts. She also discussed projects related to education and environmental conservation.

Rtn. Bharat Pujara provided an overview of health-related initiatives, including medical camps, eye surgeries, dental care, and child welfare projects. He also outlined upcoming projects such as the donation of medical equipment and the support of polio camps.

Rtn. Vijay Balaji presented the Vocational Services report, highlighting various projects and activities under vocational services. These included initiatives in Rotary Nagar, Selaiyur, Sembakkam, and more. The report covered educational programs, scholarships, awards, and upcoming plans. The enrolment in educational activities in Rotary Nagar increased significantly.

Rtn. Guna presented the International Service and TRF report, discussing the upcoming international trip to Japan, TRF contributions, and initiatives to strengthen international relations with overseas Rotary clubs.



Several greetings and celebrations with international clubs were mentioned.

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty provided a report on Club Services, emphasizing the enhancement of member experiences and highlighting various meetings held during the quarter.

Rtn. Balaji Chinni discussed Youth Services, including online Rotaract meetings, club installations, motivational speeches, and cultural events for Interact and Rotaract clubs.

Rtn. Ganesh talked about CSR and fundraising activities, emphasizing the need to raise 10 crores for projects. He mentioned the contributions from various sources and partners.

Rtn. Chella Krishna presented financials and CSR grants, detailing the funding for several projects, including "Home for Homeless," "WASH and Digital Literacy," and "Medical Infra Equipment."

Rtn. Nikhil presented an update on Global Grants, including ongoing and completed projects, both locally and internationally.

President Ravi expressed his appreciation for the extensive work carried out by the club in various service avenues during the first quarter of the year.

The meeting proceeded with discussions and questions related to the presentations.

President Ravi concluded the meeting, thanking everyone for their contributions and participation.

The floor was opened for a Q&A session, where members had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification on various aspects of the presentations. Directors and presenters responded to the queries.

Rtn. Sesha Sai delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all the presenters, directors, and members for their participation and contributions to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. ■

## From the 13th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Sep. 29, 2023











# REACHING OUT WITH JOY

Friendships need to be nurtured—one of President Ravi's focus during his year is to build deep and meaningful bonds with Rotary Clubs across the district, country and world.

Our short trip to Kolkata to visit the oldest Rotary Club in India the venerable Rotary Club of Calcutta on its 105th Foundation Day on 26th September 2023, was filled with learning and fellowship. We were warmly received by RCC Rotarians Sriranjini Joshi, PP Heena Gorsia and Ravindra Khandelwal at the airport and whisked away to a special Darshan of Goddess Durga at the revered Kalighat Temple, accompanied by RID Anirudha Roychowdhury, Sriranjini Joshi and Ravindra.

This was followed by a welcome lunch at the Calcutta Club, hosted by RCC President Rtn Kanak Dutt, Secretary Rtn Dr Sharvani Gooptu and other Rotarians joined us. We were made to feel at home and soon found out that as Rotary Clubs of similar vintage we have much in common—a diverse age profile with great pride in our institutions and similar challenges with member engagement and cost escalation.

President Ravi's agenda had just three parts, introduce RCM to our hosts, learn about the oldest club and invite RCC to attend our International Nite on 23rd February 2024. For this he led a team with PP Rtn Arulmozhi Varman, Secretary Rtn M. Sessa Sai, Treasurer Rtn Prabha Srinivasan, Community Service Director Rtn



Anuradha Ganesan, Club Service Director Rtn Vikram Chesetty, Club Mentor Rtn Ravihankar, Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran, Rtn Vijay Kadel and spouse Pratibha.




The evening program started with a tour of RCC's Rotary Sadhan clubhouse, located in central Kolkata. We saw computer, music, reading and scouts classes being conducted in spacious AC halls. Their museum section housing archives and memorabilia from inception in 1929 was fascinating. The historical significance of the building was omnipresent, as we walked the corridors and told that Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore were early speakers.

An informal pre-meeting was organised with President, Board Members, club seniors and RID Anirudha Roychowdhury present.

The 105th Foundation Day meeting was a formal affair, with President Rtn Kanak Dutt and Secretary Rtn Dr Sharvani Gooptu kicking off proceedings and warmly welcoming RCM for visiting on this special occasion. President Ravi and his team were called on stage, individually introduced to the gathering to applause and presented beautiful Shantiniketan Shawls. Before this Rtn Prabha Srinivasan introduced President Ravi and gave a brief summary of RCM and his year so far. ■







## ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA

### 105th Foundation Day


# WELCOME




**Shekhar Mehta**  
President 2021-23  
Rotary International



**Anirudha Roychoudhury**  
Director 2023-25  
Rotary International



**Hiralal Yadav**  
District Governor  
RID 3291



**Ravi Sundaresan**  
Club President  
Rotary Club of Madras

This is their 105th Inaugural day in September 26, when our President is one of the Guest of Honour. As you all may know a few of our Rotarians are attending the event too along with our President Ravi.

President S. Ravi addressed the gathering, sharing his vision for much closer ties between the oldest and third oldest clubs and extended a formal invitation to RCC members to visit Chennai and be part of RCM's International Nite. President then requested each member on his RCM delegation to handover a gift to dignitaries present.

During his address RID Anirudha Roychoudhury's gracious first hand account of his visit to our recent Charter Night celebration was the best testimonial for RCM.

DG Dist 3292 Rtn Hiralal Yadav called on RCM and RCC to jointly take up a large new mangrove restoration project as both Bengal and Tamilnadu have these ecosystems that need protection.

Chief Guest United States Council General Melinda Pavek praised Rotarians for their selfless service and urged for closer civil society partnerships with United State's own efforts to alleviate hardships across the world.

The real bonding happened after the formal meeting was closed, some of us discovered relatives, old family connections, as many Rotarians shared their ties to Chennai. Several of the hosts were making plans to visit us, many selfies, Rotary banter and a sumptuous dinner later, we were dropped back with a quiet sense of satisfaction that this trip would built lasting bonds.

**Vikram Chesetty**

Director - Club Service ■



26th September 1919 - RJ Coombs obtained permission to open a Rotary Club in Calcutta and the Club was born at Peliti's Restaurant in Old Court House Street, Calcutta. 1st January 1920 - Club Charter received.

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

September 21st is celebrated as International Day of Peace. The United Nations aim in assigning this date to peace, is to promote peaceful, just and inclusive societies that protect the human rights of women, children and the marginalised, which involves strengthening the ideals of peace, fostering compassion and empathy to resolve all conflict.

The goal simply states – Actions for Peace. So it simply is a call to action, recognizing the importance of the individual and our collective responsibility as a humanity to do so. Peace, as they say is not the absence of conflict but the ability to respond / cope with it and who better than our youth to plant these seeds.

So RCM in association with the District 3232, collaborated with the dynamic theatre group Crea Shakthi to set up the “Perform for Peace” festival. Our inhouse vibrant Youth services team led by dynamic Director Balaji, and his very capable Zonal Chairs, Rtn’s – PP Jayshree, Ashwath and Suresh Amirapu went all out to support this concept.

This unique online theatre and speech festival curated by Crea Play offered children a platform to engage in conversations around the topic of Peace. In the Non Competitive segment – students were based on the topic of World peace and told to provide a 3 minute TED talk on what peace means to them. All the participants of this segment will receive TED approved certificates for their performance.

The Competitive segment was open to schools and had 2 broad events – Group Drama for 8 minutes and Solo Performance for 5 minutes. These two events were open for two age groups – The Junior (Class 6-8) and Senior (9 & above) – from over 57 entries and 175 participants.

The overall intent was to promote original thought and voices amongst the future towards fostering a peaceful tomorrow. We had 265 participants in total with 32 schools participating in this event from 7 cities, with almost 50% of the participating schools being from RCM Interact Schools. Given that its exam time this is a staggering response, all thanks to Crea and our Youth Services Team. The Jury included our talented RC-Mers, noted actors Rtn PP Mohan Raman, Ann Mr. Radhakrishnan Iyer & Rtn Ms. Shaan Katari Libby

There are 3 prize winners – 1st, 2nd & 3rd in the 4 event categories respectively and the Prize money of Rs 50,000/- was generously sponsored by Crea-Play. ■

Serial No	Event	Name	Position	School	Synopsis
1	Group Drama Senior	NA	3rd Place	DAV Boys Mogappair Chennai	A conflict in submitting homework! But what's homework when you have AI writing it for you! A professor finds his students' work has been completed by AI - disrupting learning and hence the peace of the institution
2		NA	2nd Place	D.A.V. School, Pallikaranai	Set in a village in tanjavur and focused on the rights of every citizen to protest peacefully
3		NA	1st Place	Swamy's School Pushpanjali Campus	A relevant play on the recent trend of layoffs in companies disrupting livelihood
4	Group Drama Junior	NA	3rd Place	DAV SM FOMRA SCHOOL, KELAMBAKKAM	A Play focused on the so called traditional role of women in a family asking pertinent questions of how much we value the ambitions of our women
4		NA	3rd Place	Government High School, Edapalayam	A mime performance on how violence disrupts works of art that was supposed to bring together but even from violence how we as a race have the resilience to rebuild together.
5		NA	2nd Place	DAV SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL, Boys Mgp	After All children are children, a simple playground incident escalates with the parents shouting at each other disrupting peace - a telling lesson in listening to one another and practising empathy
6		NA	1st Place	DAV Boys Senior Secondary School Gopalapuram	A play focused on sharing resources - especially precious water
7	Solo Junior	Vinayan V	3rd Place	Lalaji Memorial Omega International school	Plastic waste is as much a social conflict as much an environment. A Plastic demon comes alive and is confused by the adulation humans have for him
8		K. Karnikha	2nd Place	DAV. SR. SECONDARY SCHOOL GIRLS MOGAPPAIR	A tongue in cheek look at influencer culture! Are we influenced by the right kind of people? Will scrolling truly give us peace!
9		P Darshana	1st Place	Swamy's School Brindavan Campus	A powerful hard hitting monologue on gender equality with a sensitive portrayal of a woman affected by domestic violence



## ROTO SYNERGY

### "ROTO SYNERGY ROTARACT ORIENTATION CEREMONY OF ROTARACT CLUB OF JEPPIAAR UNIVERSITY 2023-24"

The event commenced with the rendition of "Tamizha Thai Vazthu." Rtr. Pushkala extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

President Rtr. Dharmesh and Secretary Rtr. Naveen Kumar graciously escorted the distinguished guests to the stage.

Chief Sergeant at Arms Rtr. Venkatswamy presented the collar to President Rtr. Dharmesh, followed by the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

Rtr. Dharmesh officially inaugurated the event.

Rtr. Dharmesh extended his greetings to the dignitaries and Rotaractors, while also welcoming everyone to the orientation ceremony. Dr. Shaleesha

A. Stanley, the Pro Chancellor of Jeppiaar University, felicitated the Chief Guest, Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Youth Service Director of Rotary Club of Madras. Other notable guests included Rtr. PP. Dinesh Kumar, Associate District Rotaract

Representative, Rtr. PP. Uyirottam Sathya, Proprietor of Chennai Event Hunter, and Rtr. PP. Iraianbu, the Master of Ceremonies.

The first session, an ice-breaking session, was hosted by Rtr. PP. Iraianbu, featuring fun games and activities.



The second session, focusing on Rotary and Rotaract, was conducted by Rtr. PP. Dinesh Kumar, who delivered a captivating presentation connecting the dots of Rotaract.

Chief Guest Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Youth Service Director of Rotary Club of Madras, addressed the audience and shared motivational insights from his life's journey.

The following session was led by Rtr. PP. Uyirottam Sathya, who shared his inspiring life story of

overcoming challenges to become a successful entrepreneur, leaving the audience deeply moved and motivated.

Mr. Samuel Das, the Faculty Coordinator, expressed his gratitude to all the guests and speakers.

Rtr. Naveen Kumar delivered the vote of thanks, expressing appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the event.

The ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

President Rtr. Dharmesh of the Rotaract Club of Jeppiaar University adjourned the Roto Synergy Rotaract Orientation Ceremony.

## BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 2nd - Rtn. Reji Joseph
- Oct. 7th - Rtn. Siddharth Ganeriwala
- Oct. 7th - Rtn. Sudha S Ramachandran

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Oct. 8th - Rtn. Anil Mulchandani & Devdatta

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

## Women's Medical Camp at RCM Selaiyur on 28th September

Report by Ms Vimalaswari, Teacher, Digital Literacy Center. Selaiyur

**Summary:** The medical camp was a success, with a total of 81 individuals being tested. All attendees received BP and Sugar tests, and approximately 15 of them opted for an ECG as well. Additionally, attendees will also receive a Privilege card from our medical partner, Kauvery Hospitals.

**Timings:** The camp ran from 9 am to 2:30 pm.

### Highlights:

- The event was graced by the presence of our President and the Rotarian team.
- The President delivered a highly informative speech which was appreciated by all.
- Our camp was attended by students, some of their family members, and Worth Trust staff members.
- As a gesture of appreciation, we provided sweets and snacks for all attendees.

The doctors and medical team were very much appreciative of our hospitality. They enjoyed the lunch which had been specially arranged for them.

Footnote: The medical camp team would like to place on record our profound thanks to the staff and teachers at Selaiyur and our fellow Rotarians from Community Services 1 for helping us make this camp a great success.

- Rtn. Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan ■







## RCM ORGANIZED A FREE MEDICAL CAMP AT HIS/HER PLACE, T. NAGAR ON SEPTEMBER 28

The Rotary Club of Madras, in association with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, organised a free medical camp on September 28, 2023, from 2.45 p.m. to 6 p.m. at His/Her place, T. Nagar.

Checkup: CBG, HB, BP & General screening were done.

No. Of Beneficiaries – 115

We distributed medicine worth Rs. 3300/- to needy people.

PP.Rtn. Dr.Vijayabharathi Rangarajan ,Rtn. Ravishankar, Rtn. Bharat Pujara, Rtn. Sessa Sai, Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti and Rtn. Nikhil Raj visited the camp.

Thank you to all the Rotarians for dropping by to encourage the medical camp.

Medical Team:

**Dr. Abanah** (General Medicine)

**Dr. Samyuktha** (Family Medicine)

**Ms.Sridevi & Ms.Shantha** Kumari (Nurse)

**Mr. Karthikeyan** (Social Worker)

**Ms.Neeraja** (Social Work Trainee)


**SOME KEY FACTS:**

Plastic takes more than 450 years to decompose

Less than 10% of the plastic used around the world is recycled

12 million tons of plastic are poured into the ocean every year

WE NEED TO REDUCE


# PLASTIC POLLUTION




Plastic pollution leads to serious environmental, economic, and social consequences for society









**Rotary Club of Madras**

in association with

**Sundaram Medical Foundation**

conducting

**FREE MEDICAL CAMP**

**Check-Up: CBG, HB,BP, General**

**28.09.2023**  
**3.00PM TO 6.00PM**

**Rotary Club of Madras -**  
**His/Her place, Thyagaraya Rd,**  
**T.Nagar, Ch-17.**

**Contact us 9941007688**

Join our Plastic Collection Drive this month to combat plastic pollution. Gather plastic items, like bottles and bags, and drop them at designated points. We're dedicated to recycling and responsible disposal to protect our planet. Your participation safeguards marine life and promotes sustainability. Let's unite against plastic pollution for a cleaner, greener world.

**#PlasticCollectionDrive #CleanerPlanet**

**#ReducePlasticWaste Drop off point :** <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zDrpausVvV9fCcZ97> Do fill the google form once you send for our team to quantify and know you participated. <https://forms.gle/WB4LfjhdSLYpi59A>

Thank you so much ! Environment Committee



## SEP Firesides

### Fireside No 7:

**Hosted by Rtn. Rani Muralidharan  
and KG Muralidharan** on

Friday, September 1st

Rotarians: 11 | Spouses: 7 | Total: 18

### Fireside No 8:

**Hosted by Rtn. Shivaraman T and  
Anupama** on Saturday, September 16th

Rotarians: 11 | Spouses: 9 | Total: 20

### Fireside No 9:

**Hosted by Rtn. Balasubramaniam M**

on Thursday, September 21st

Rotarians: 18 | Spouses: 12 | Total: 30

Total firesides in September : 3

Attendees: Rotarians: 40

Spouses: 28

Total: 68 (excluding hosts)



Fireside meeting hosted by Rtn. Shivaraman T and Anupama

Fireside hosted by Rtn. Balasubramaniam M

