

# THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS  
ISSUE 14 | OCTOBER 03, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

We step into October which is the Rotary Community Economic Development month. RCM has been a forerunner in several long standing community service projects. We look forward to an exuberant October.

Yours in Rotary,

**Rtn. Sunita Suresh**

## SEP Firesides



This photo was inadvertently left out in the last issue

**Fireside No 7:**

**Hosted by Rtn. Rani Muralidharan and KG Muralidharan**  
on Friday, September 1st  
Rotarians: 11 | Spouses: 7 | Total: 18

### CORRECTION NOTE

**Fireside No 9:**

Thursday 21st sept

**Hosted jointly by Rtn. PP M Balasubramaniam  
and Rtn. Sanjay Gulvady**

## THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

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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 14th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras - Oct. 3, 2023

Sergeant at arms PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who formally called the 14th weekly meeting of RCM to order, followed by a silent Invocation.

### **Call to Order and Invocation:**

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the 14th weekly meeting to order. A silent invocation was observed.

### **President Ravi Sundaresan's**

#### **Opening Remarks:**

President Ravi Sundaresan welcomed everyone to the 14th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras. He requested confirmation of the 13th combined community services meeting held on 29-09-2023 the previous week.

### **President Ravi then welcomed the guests:**

Mr. Vijay Padmanabhan

2 Probus club members

Mr. Balakrishnan

He asked Rtn. Abhay Mehta to make announcements regarding a domestic trip to Trivandrum.

### **Announcement by Rtn. Abay Mehta:**

Rtn. Abay Mehta shared details of the recent trip to Thiruvananthapuram. He described the various experiences and highlights of the trip, including a visit to ISRO, the Padmanabha temple, and interactions with Princess Ashwathi. He also praised the hospitality and arrangements made by Balu and Sanjay, as well as the culinary experiences enjoyed during the trip.

Rtn. Abhay Mehta thanked President Ravi for his leadership.

### **President Ravi's Acknowledgment:**

President Ravi thanked Abay for his update and welcomed additional guests.

### **Announcements and Invitations:**

N. Balakrishnan from RCM Industrial city and Probus club members Tearalal Zirwani and Mr. Sappani Pillai were welcomed.

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan announced a mega Job Fair in association with Ability Foundation on 9th October. He invited all members to participate and join the WhatsApp group for volunteering.

Rtn. Ashish Gupta invited members to join a trip to the Rotary Club of Mumbai on 17th October to strengthen ties between the prestigious clubs. He encouraged members to attend and participate in the lunch meeting at the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai.

Rtn. Linesh Sanatkumar announced a pranayama session for wellness and holistic living on 7th



October at Sithara hall, Hotel Maris. The session will be conducted by Rotarian Fazana Siraj.

The induction of new members was announced.

### **Introduction of New Members:**

PP Rtn. S.N. Srikanth introduced Mr. Justice M. Jayachandran, highlighting his distinguished legal career and contributions to human rights and environmental issues.

Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan introduced Mr. Vikram Raman, a brilliant young lawyer and a third-generation Rotarian.

### **Induction Ceremony:**

President Ravi formally inducted Mr. Justice Jayachandran and Mr. Vikram Raman into the Rotary Club of Madras. Members were encouraged to welcome the new members.

### **Secretary's Announcements:**

Rtn. Sesha Sai made announcements regarding birthdays and anniversaries of club members. He also mentioned the upcoming debate in the next meeting.

Rtn. Sesha Sai also introduced the Chief Guest, Dr. Preethi Agalyam, a Professor of Chemical Engineering from IIT Madras.

### **Guest Speaker Address:**

Dr. Preethi Agalyam addressed the gathering.

President Ravi announced the recognition of Rotarian Justice M. Jayachandran as a member of the Environment Committee. He invited Justice M. Jayachandran, Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti, and Rtn. Gautam to come forward for acknowledgment.

Vote of Thanks by Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan

The meeting concluded with President Ravi thanking all attendees. ■

## From the 14th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Oct. 3, 2023











# GOING GLOBAL



It was indeed a proud moment as an Indian!

IIT is opening its first ever overseas campus and that too led by a lady. Prof Preethi is the first ever female Director of an IIT. The campus opens its door later this month in Zanzibar, Tanzania.

#### **A bit about Dr. Preethi:**

She grew up in Mysore, got her BTech in chemical engineering where she also met her future husband. Then onwards to post graduate degrees in MIT and Cambridge. Suitably impressed? Then she taught at IIT Mumbai and Madras. She is a great advocate for women in academia.

#### **IIT Madras:**

Dr. Preethi nicely traced the growth of IIT Madras. IIT M founded in 1959 with 40 students. Now 10,000 strong with 650 faculty.

- 30 per cent women,
- 100 international students.
- 50,000 alumni.

IITM was previously strong only in the undergraduate space but now it's a research and entrepreneurship hub. Further, there is increased engagement with the local community in various projects like water and the environment. Online courses for all ages and digital skills are also offered.

#### **IIT Zanzibar**

Subjects in IIT M are not taught in silos anymore but are increasingly interdisciplinary making students 'job ready'. This approach is being adopted in Zanzibar. In alignment with its

globalization focus, the IIT M's data science and AI emphasis will be felt strongly in the overseas campus.

The residential campus will be more than a college, with research and innovation taking centre stage. Extra-curricular clubs and entrepreneurship mentoring will enable West and East African students to become leaders once they graduate.

Diversity on campus with a good gender balance, 50 % Africans and the rest Indians.

Why Zanzibar? IIT M explored options in Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Nepal. Though they are autonomous, the Ministry strongly encouraged them to locate it in a place where there is a strong buy from the local govt. The fully funded 200 acre campus funded by the Govt of Tanzania swung the vote. Oct 24, 2023 on UN Day and Vijayadashmi (auspicious day for learning in Tamil Nadu) the first class will commence graced by the President of Tanzania.

#### **The Admission Process**

Since the programs are interdisciplinary, they have moved away from the JEE for admission. They have devised their own entrance exam - Math, English and Analytical testing - with an interview to cater to the International students. Offering both UG and Masters programs. Clearly a huge step in Indian education reaching the world!

#### ***Ann Lata Murugan***

(Spouse of Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti)

## First of Many



A first for RCM in 95 years!

A new member joined the environment committee on the day of his induction!

Members of the Environment Committee, led by Rtn. Gautam Reddy, Rtn. Shanno Ann Ravi, Rtn. Ravishankar and Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti, Member Engagement Committee are seen with incoming RCMer Justice Jaichandren and Mrs. Sandhya Jaichandren.

**Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti**, Member Engagement Team

## BIRTHDAYS

Oct. 11th - **Rtn. Aditya Agarwal**  
 Oct. 11th - **Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar**  
 Oct. 14th - **Rtn. Vijayshankar Balaji**  
 Oct. 15th - **Rtn. B. Benjamin Cherian R PDG**  
 Oct. 15th - **Rtn. Ganesan V PP**

Oct. 9th - **Ann. Marlene J Kamdar**,  
 Spouse of PDG Kamdar J.B.  
 Oct. 10th - **Ann. Deepam R.**  
 Spouse of Ravindran .G  
 Oct. 12th - **Ann. Rashmi**,  
 Spouse of Bharat B. Mohindra  
 Oct. 13th - **Ann. Uma Gowari**,  
 Spouse of Subramanian. N

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Oct. 10th - **Rtn. Benjamin Cherian PDG & Valsa**  
 Oct. 14th - **Rtn. Vipin Sachdev & Somna**



On behalf of WASHRAG, Rotary International's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Action Group, I have been assigned the task of recruiting volunteers from various parts of the world.

Rtn PP Joselito Tubon of the Rotary Club of Boroko, Papua New Guinea is one of the persons I had reached out to. Joselito surprised me raising a toast to RCM at his club's meeting on Sept 29, 2023. In turn our club raised a toast to the Rotary Club of Boroko at our meeting on Oct 3, 2023

On behalf of President Ravi and RCM I have also conveyed our greetings and best wishes to the Rotary Club of Boroko.

**PP Rtn. S.N. Srikanth**



# RCM GETS WASTE WISE

Please send all your old clothes, E waste, plastic paper, cans, tetrapaks and other such recyclables to  
**WASTED 360**  
30, Mylai Ranganathan Street, Parathasarathipuram,  
TNagar, Chennai.



Rotary



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD



Rotary



**OCTOBER IS  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT MONTH**



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/WB4LfjahdsLYpi59A>  
Thank you so much ! Environment Committee