

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 15 | OCTOBER 10, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

Greetings!

We are delighted to present to you this edition of Lighthouse. An engaging discussion on taxation and its ramifications has been captured in our Rendezvous section. Members who missed the meeting may note the key take aways.

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



Walking the Talk!

On 9th October 2023, Rtn. Gautam Reddy dropped off 2kgs of plastic waste at Ann's Wasted Facility. An estimated 380 million tons of plastic is produced every year, with up to 50% of that for single-use purposes. Reduce your use of disposable shopping bags by using a reusable bag or container.

Environment Action Committee

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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 15th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras – Oct. 10, 2023

Meeting Commenced:

Sergeant at Arms Rtn. Parkavi .M Dr. collared Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who formally called the 15th Weekly Meeting of RCM to order followed by Silent Invocation.

President Rtn. Ravi welcomed all attendees and mentioned that the focus of this meeting would be on various financial matters, including tax and audit.

Confirmation of 14th Meeting Minutes:

President Rtn. Ravi requested confirmation of the minutes of the 14th meeting.

Welcome to Club Presidents:

President Rtn. Ravi welcomed Rtn. Shivakumar from the Rotary Club of Marina.

Announcements by Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan:

Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan announced three significant water, sanitation, and hygiene projects under the Integrated Village Development Initiative, benefiting tribal children in three schools.

AVIT College and other organisations would support these projects.

Groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for October 12th, followed by lunch at AVIT College.

Announcements by Rtn. Bharat Pujara :

Rtn. Bharat Pujara announced an eye camp and the distribution of smart vision glasses.

Invited Rotarian's and Past Presidents to attend the event on the 12th.

Announcements by Rtn. Reji Joseph :

Rtn. Reji Joseph discussed the successful job fair organised in association with the Ability Foundation.

Highlighted the participation of various clubs and thanked the organisers and supporters.

Announcements by Rtn. Vikram Chesetty:

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty invited members to a full club fellowship event on the 14th.

Mentioned the upcoming festive season celebrations starting with Navratri.



Provided details about the event's schedule and activities.

Announcements by PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V:

PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V. discussed the upcoming 24th Polio celebrations on October 24th 2023

Explained various events and activities planned for the day.

Announcements by Rtn. Sesha Sai :

Rtn. Sesha Sai discussed plastic recycling efforts by the environmental team.

Informed about upcoming birthdays and anniversaries within the club.

Invited members to attend an event honouring the club's participation in a street scrap project.

Introduction of Tax Panel :

President Rtn. Ravi introduced the tax panel consisting of Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota and Rtn. Chella Krishna G.

Rtn. Krishmurthy Vijayan moderated the debate on "Pound of Flesh, Tax Assessment, and Enforcement."

Vote of Thanks :

A vote of thanks was given by Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy to conclude the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned :

The meeting adjourned after the vote of thanks. ■

From the 15th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Oct. 10, 2023





POUND OF FLESH



The Long-Awaited Debate between a TAXMAN and a TAX AUDITOR was eagerly awaited by our RCM members, which was led and monitored by a TAXPAYER.

With our very own Rtn.rajib Hota, The Taxman who has been many years top tax collection machinery, ex iit commissioner, protector of the poor and surge of the invaders, hails from odissa and joined the indian revenue in 1985, worked in several important assignments in tax administration, and commisionser of income tax from calacutta in 2018, asst deputy and asst director in the investigation wing which plan executes raids.

Rtn.Chella Krishnan tax auditor, the defender to the honest tax payer and the advisor to the dishonest one. he has been in practise for about 25 years, partnered with SRSV and also member in no. of audit committes and boards.

And the central neutral one to moderate this intersting debate was rtn.krish vijayan who has been finance professional since 1986, began his carrer at uti and went on to become th youngest ceo in the mutual fund industry at age 37, also an advisor to social finance to various listed and unlisted companies. he is also the industrial advisory council midc, government of meghalaya

“The Indian minds are more fertile than the Indian soils” – tax expert Kanu Doshi is income tax fair and if so, how much of it is fair?

With no doubt most of us would have only thought and wish it would be ZERO, but income tax when it was introduced in England in 1790, since then it is a fairly honorees tax and from an auditor perspective it makes a lot of sense when the tax is right, we have various countries that are differing tax rates out of which India seems to be slightly on the higher side.

As TAXPAYERS we would always have some of these points:

- Is it too high?
- What do we get in return for paying for this?
- Do we really have to go through this tough process?

As per the experience of the TAXMAN, the net tax that we pay is much less compared to any global standards. WHY DO WE PAY TAX? First, we sit peacefully wherever we are and settle in with our daily lives undisturbed, also the deductions and take aways which we have in our country are phenomenal. During the discussion, Rajiv adds that colonoscopy has more or less disappeared, and we have less scrutiny and 99 percent of our returns come by voluntary compliance and the tax

growth rates are the highest.

TAXAUDITOR wishes that an ideal dream - It would be nice to have a Singapore style of tax and a Scandinavian type of welfare state. That is a dream of any tax-paying citizen.

Most of the Gulf countries don't impose any tax as they have enough oil and other resources. Rajiv also mentions that we need revenue to manage our system and this we are talking about a very large population.

Coming on agricultural income, whether it is taxable or not, we should not forget that we are primarily an agriculture-based economy and “agriculture has not been taxed is not true”, wherein some agricultural operations is still taxed, such as rubber, coffee, tea and various direct agricultural operations do get taxed.

Adding more to the post land forms, the kind of holdings which one should have been be less than a hector, people having more than this which we see mainly in places like Haryana, western U.P, Punjab, and some parts of Andhra are 90% illegal holdings, on compliance India is one of the least compliance rates, so investment in the agricultural land and assuming it not taxable needs some expert advice and one has to completely understand the roots of it.

SPECIAL 26 – REAL SEARCH OPERATIONS

Further during the discussion, we understood that the search by the TAXMAN is not sudden. It was planned much earlier, and complete data is collected before the search is done. There are various processes, and all evidence is checked more than once and after a satisfactory record is collected the search takes place. During a search and seizure operation it is always better for one to comply and pay the tax rather than fighting, as the penalties will be higher if one does not, voluntarily. Let's remember here that every country wants its fair share of TAX.

MACKENNA'S GOLD

Being the second largest imported commodity, Gold in the form of physical, digital, or paper gold is considered a Capital Asset. Here one should not forget how much you should hold and what the tax and impact is if a search operation happens while you hold more than necessary, so know the limitations and how the records of the purchase or ancestor gold should be maintained to avoid penalties.

TAXMAN and TAXAUDITOR ARE 2 SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

- Rtn. Sanjay Vasanadu ■



Rotary club of Madras Mylapore Uptown

Rotary club of Madras Mylapore Uptown was chartered in the year 1988 and Rtn K. Vikash baburao is its 36th president. Rotary club of Madras is the sponsor club of Rotary club of Madras Mylapore and Rtn N C Raghavachari was its charter president. Rotary club of Madras Mylapore and rotary club of Madras Uptown merged together to become Rotary club of Madras Mylapore Uptown. We have 24 members at present and we meet every fortnight at Gandhinagar club.

Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City

Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City (RI Code No.: 50167) was chartered in 1997 with 27 charter members. The club was sponsored by Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Madras. The club has produced two District Governors so far, Rtn.W.Anand for 2009-10 and Rtn.J.Sridhar for 2021-22.

The current President of the club is Rtn.N.Balakrishnan, who is its 27th President. The club has 52 members in its rolls, which includes 4 lady members.

Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City meets regularly at Hotel Radha Regent. The thrust is on Family Fellowships this year. Once a month, the family members celebrate a Sunday, named as Funday Sunday, in a location in and around Chennai.

The Club runs a regular yearly Blood donation camp in Gummidipoondi industrial estate, in which about 500 units are collected. The club has started Rotachess tournament last year, which will be an annual event. This year, the club is also conducting a Ortho Medical camp benefitting about 500 people belonging to the fishermen community. An annual sports event for the differently abled children is also conducted.

Rotary Club of Chennai Metrozone

Rotary Club of Chennai Metrozone was founded on July 17th, 2019. Our parent club is Rotary club of Madras Pallava. Our club stands tall with a diverse and exceptional group of members hailing from esteemed fields such as Medicine, Manufacturing, Information Technology, Import/Export, Banking, and more. We take pride in our inclusivity, with an impressive representation of 40% women members, ensuring a balanced and empowered community. Our total membership stands at 27 today. We meet at our community clubhouse twice a month for a family meet and speaker meet. We have also adopted a Government Higher Secondary School at Redhills where we fulfill a lot of their long term needs through series of projects. We have also proudly sponsored two Interact clubs - a community-based club and a school-based club, nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. ■



MIND YOUR BREATH

Any good practice can always be made better and perhaps that is the reason why, despite Pranayama being a popular daily routine, there was a robust turnout of 25 Rotarians and a few spouses on a rainy Saturday afternoon last week at Maris hotel.

It was definitely worth the trip because we had the opportunity of a Masterclass: a one-hour session that gave us a combination of, the scientific facts on the power of breath, the different types of prana and their function and importantly the dos and don'ts of the practice. The bonus was, of course, an actual guided practice session which helped correct and improve our own personal practice.

The delightful surprise was the discovery that our Masterclass teacher was our very own green Rotarian Fharzana Siraj, a Phd scholar in Yoga, an exponent of Iyengar yoga and ranks one among top 16 yoginis of India by hellomyoga.

A few key learnings:

Make sure you do a few asanas or stretches BEFORE pranayama. Inhale is pushing the stomach OUT (doing this in reverse is a common mistake). Exhale is pushing the stomach IN. Erect spine and closed eyes are a must during the practice.

Rtn Vishy says this session was “energising and left me wanting more”. Ann Anita Bhatia could sit erect in a chair and do both the stretches and the breathing session comfortably, which she says was a flexible approach and appreciated.



The hot idlis, sundal and steaming coffee courtesy the constant graciousness of Rtn Anand Rangaswami was much appreciated. Our thanks to the Holistic Committee for so thoughtfully curating these sessions, which definitely deepen our experience of wellness.

- Rtn. Rita ■

MEDICAL CAMP

at Sri Sivaswami Kalalaya Higher Secondary School

On 12th October 2023, a Medical Camp was held at Sri Sivaswami Kalalaya Higher Secondary School, Mylapore. The Medical Camp was organized by the Rotary club of Madras.

Total No of Students screened: 417

Total No of Students Referred for detailed Refraction: 101. ■◆



BIRTHDAYS

- Oct. 17th - Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby
- Oct. 17th - Rtn. Yashwanthkumar Venkataraman Dr.
- Oct. 18th - Rtn. Abdul Azeez H.E
- Oct. 18th - Rtn. Mahmud Jamal.N
- Oct. 21st - Rtn. Nataraj Ramaiah
- Oct. 21st - Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur
- Oct. 22nd - Rtn. Ravee Malhotra
- Oct. 22nd - Rtn. Sharon Krishna Rau Dr.

- Oct. 16th - Ann. Janaki, Spouse of PDG Krishnaswami S
- Oct. 16th - Ann. Uma Ranjit, Spouse of Ranjit Pratap
- Oct. 16th - Ann. Susan, Spouse of Sapru Mathew
- Oct. 16th - Ann. Bhagyalakshmi, Spouse of Shanker C. Mangadu PP
- Oct. 19th - Ann. James F.Libby Dr. Spouse of Shaan Katari Libby
- Oct. 20th - Ann. Mamta Ranjeeth Rathod, Spouse of Ranjeeth Rathod
- Oct. 22nd - Ann. Suseela, Spouse of Sivasubramaniam V.M

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Oct. 16th - Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay & Sanjay Balram
- Oct. 17th - Rtn. Jacob Kurian & Achu Kurian
- Oct. 21st - Rtn. Kadiresan Adityan R & Vasughi
- Oct. 22nd - Rtn. Ramjei Narasimhan & Sharada
- Oct. 22nd - Rtn. Shano Ravi & Dr.Ravi Ramalingam
- Oct. 22nd - Rtn. Lakshman Ramanathan & Pratyusha

SUNSHINE

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Rtn. Subramanian N. | - | Rs. 2000/- |
| Rtn. Aditya Agarwal | - | Rs. 2000/- |
| Rtn. Vipin Sachdev | - | Rs. 3000/- |
| Rtn. Vijay Balaji | - | Rs. 500/- |



ROTARACT CLUB OF ISSM BUSINESS SCHOOL'S 4TH INSTALLATION CEREMONY – ACCESSION

Rotaract Club of ISSM Business School's 4th Installation Ceremony – ACCESSION was conducted on 05-October-2023. ISSM Business School is a 16-year Young Business School & has been ranked as the No.1 B-School in Chennai by The Times of India (For the Year 2022 & 2023).

The Event started with a gracious Tamil Thai Vazhthu and the Session & RAC of ISSM-B-SCHOOL's New President Rtr. Keerthivasan 2023-24 was Collared by IPP Rtr. Sarath. Rtr. Sneha Exchanged the Charter with the Incoming Secretary Rtr. Neshitha along with the Sergeant At Arms band, was exchanged from Rtr. Srinivasan to Rtr. Gowtham and the Entire 39 Board Members took oath proudly.

The Chief Guest for the Event was Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan– President Rotary Club of Madras,

Presided by Rtn. Dr.Parkavi Mahalingam, Managing Director ISSM Business School, Guest of Honour was Rtn. Balaji Chinni - Youth Service Director 2023-24, Rtn. Deepak Chander, Rotaract Chairman Zone-I, Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkuma - Rotary Club of Madras, Rtn. Himanshu Budhia - Rotary Club of Madras and ISSM's Special Guest Rtn. Shivkumar ashwaran Rotary Club of Madras.

The Installation Ceremony continued with an inspiring speech by all the guests. They spoke about the Rotaract & How it helps Students' careers and especially about the Prominence of Giving Back to the Society.

After felicitation all the Guests, the vote thanks was delivered by Secretary of RAC ISSM Rtr. Neshitha 2023-24 followed by Adjournments by the President and a Group Photo was taken with all the Guests & the Board Members. ■



streetscape

AWARENESS PROGRAM at HSSS, Triplicane

The Hindu Senior Secondary School, Triplicane, hosted an awareness programme on 10th October 2023, in connection with the 'Streetscape' project by the school Interact Club.

As a part of the Streetscape beautification project, selected students of the school had beautified few walls of the school with wonderful paintings and slogans highlighting the need for a clean surrounding, hygiene, safety rules etc.

The President of Rotary Club of Madras (RCM), Rtn. Ravi S, Rtn. M Sesha Sai, the Secretary of RCM, Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Youth Service Director RCM, Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy, Project Chairman, RCM and Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur, Interact Chairman, Zone 2, were the dignitaries who graced the occasion. Residents of Alangatha Street, Triplicane, too participated in this event with great interest and enthusiasm.

The Principal Smt. Alamelu Raghavan and the Vice-Principals, Smt. K. Pankajavalli and Sri. S. Rengarajan honoured the dignitaries for their great 'Streetscape' initiative with mementos.

To begin with, saplings were planted by the dignitaries from RCM. Following this students



of the Interact Club enacted a streetplay titled 'சுற்றும் சுகாதாரும்' in order to create awareness about cleanliness, hygiene and

proper disposal of waste etc. The streetplay also focused on the alternatives to plastics and measures to keep the surrounding green and clean.

The dignitaries and the general public received cloth bags and paper bags handmade by the students to promote alternatives to plastics bags.

The commendable work of the students was well appreciated by all the invitees and the public. They praised the students and spoke highly of the school by informing that this is only school among 27 others to have understood the essence of the project and taken the project to the next level. Involving the residents of the locality in the program they said was the icing on the cake as they are the true contributors for the well being of the locality. ■



Project Report on **EmployABILITY**

The event began with registering all the companies and candidates from 0800hrs at Sree Rama Kalyana Mandapam. We had a total of 57 companies who had put up stalls and approx. 400 candidates were attending the job fair.

This was ably supported by our Rotractors volunteers of 158 students participating from the Rotract club of New College, Tidel Park.

It was encouraging to note that companies with diverse backgrounds such as Hospitality, Banks, Retail, IT and ITES, Manufacturing, NGOs were present with their HR team, and it was very encouraging to note that every company had interpreters to help communicate with the candidates. The first half nearly saw approx. 250 registrants and the second half saw another 200 candidates attend the event.

The inauguration ceremony started with Mr. C.K Ranganathan thanked all the supporters, especially The Rotary Club of Madras for unstinted support of this project. Some of the key sponsors were thanked and honored. Our club president's speech praising the fantastic work done by the Ability Foundation and the sense of inclusivity of persons with disabilities in diverse industries was well received by the guests.

The logistics in the hall were perfect and extremely smooth flow right from registration, waiting areas, water points and company stalls. Our Rotractor volunteers did a fabulous job in assisting and coordinating a smooth flow of candidates to their respective companies for their interviews.

The Rotary Club of Madras is honoured to have associated ourselves with mega job fair EmployABILITY with Ability Foundation and would like to thank the entire team for working with us. A special thanks to our fellow Rtn.Jaishree Ravindran for making this happen.

- Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan

Attendees:

President: Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan
 Secretary: Rtn. S.Sesha Sai
 President-Elect: Rtn. Chella Krishna
 Director Vocational Services: Rtn. Vijay Balaji
 Chairman: Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan
 Co-Chair: Rtn. Reji Joseph
 Rtn. Aswath Reddy
 Rtn. N.K Gopinath
 Rtn. Dr. Srinath Yashwant
 PP Rtn. Kapil Chitale. ■