

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 17 | OCTOBER 31, 2023


BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

We step into November and RCM is abuzz with activities. Presenting to you a report by Rtn. Maya Thiagarajan on one of the most appreciated meetings with Bharat Bala.

Yours in Rotary,
Rtn. Sunita Suresh




ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 7th November 2023 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER
Mr. S. Rangarajan
Founder Chairman
& Managing Director of
Data Patterns (India) Ltd.

TOPIC
'A 30 Year Startup'
My Journey in the
Defence Sector



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

Rtn. S. Ravi
President

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty
Director Club Service

Rtn. M. Sesa Sai
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar
Chairperson – Programs 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 17th Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras

held at the Hyatt Regency on 31.10.23 at 1.30 PM

Meeting commenced: Past President Rtn. George B. Cherian collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan who formally called the 17th weekly meeting of RCM to order followed by silent Invocation.

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan commenced the meeting and led the silent invocation.

Welcome Address.

- a. President Ravi Sundaresan welcomed the attendees and requested confirmation of the 16th minutes of meeting.
Various visiting Rotarians and club members were welcomed.

Announcements:

- a. Rtn. Ashish Gupta reported on the successful visit of Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) to Rotary Club of Mumbai (RCB), emphasising the historical bond and the upcoming International Fellowship meeting on February 23, 2024.
- b. Rtn. Sanjay Rao shared his experiences from the Africa trip and interactions with various Rotary members.
- c. Rtn. Mohan Raman acknowledged the club's contributions to the World Polio Celebration, highlighting the impact of their initiatives.
- d. IPP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar recounted the recent Madurai trip, including project visits and inaugurations.

Smart Vision Device Announcement:

- a. Inner Wheel member Anitha shared the gratitude of 27 beneficiaries who received smart vision glasses.

Secretary's Announcements for the Next Week:

- a. Secretary provided details about the upcoming meeting and speaker, along with acknowledgments for contributions and initiatives.



- b. Secretary spoke about the Kumbakonam RYLA and acknowledged the guidance of Rtn. Balaji Chinni for his support. He mentioned that 120 plus children will be taken to Kumbakonam for the interdistrict RYLA.

Form 10B Filing Acknowledgment:

- a. The secretary acknowledged the timely filing of Form 10B for both the Rotary Club of Madras Boy's Town Society and Rotary Club of Madras Charitable Trust.

Welcome of the Guest Speaker - Bharat Bala Ganapathy:

- a. Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan introduced Bharatbala, highlighting his achievements as a storyteller, artist, and visionary filmmaker.

Guest Speaker's Address:

- a. Bharat Bala shared his experiences and insights with the Rotary community.

Presentation and Vote of Thanks:

- a. Vote of Thanks was given by Rtn. Rani Muralidharan.
- b. President presented the Timeless legacy book and memento to the Guest Speaker.
- c. The president adjourned the 17th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras. ■

From the 17th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Oct. 31, 2023





AN AFTERNOON OF **CREATIVE** **EXPRESSION**

“In 1996, my father sat me down and gave me a challenge,” said Bharath Bala, the speaker for the week. The challenge was for Bharath Bala to channel all his creativity and expertise as an advertiser and filmmaker to “create an idea for India... an idea that will help youngsters feel a certain fervour and pride for the country.”

Bharath Bala was so inspired by his father’s words that he quit his career in advertising and began working on projects that document and celebrate the idea of India. His former career in advertising helped him as he embarked on this journey. From “thinking differently” to “learning how to say the most important things in 30 seconds,” advertising had given him skills that helped him tremendously as a filmmaker.

One of his first projects involved documenting the Gandhian idea of “ahimsa” around the world. For this project, he had the privilege of filming Nobel peace prize winners, including Arafat, Mandela, and Shimon Peres. Bharath Bala quoted Shimon Peres who said, “Gandhi does not belong to the past, Gandhi belongs to the present and is still relevant.” Bharath Bala often returned to the idea of Gandhi in his talk – Gandhi as a freedom fighter, a peacemaker, a person who could fire up our imaginations about the idea of India.

Bharath Bala’s boldest new project is “Virtual Bharath,” a project that aims to create 1000 short films about the diversity and beauty of India. In these films, he uses the Indian flag as a symbol of the nation, and he pairs powerful music with moving visuals of everyday people. We Rotarians had the privilege of watching a number of his short videos – from Lata Mangeshkar’s rendition of “Vande Maataram” to short films that document interesting religious traditions among different communities. The highlight of these short films was the cinematography. By



While the films we viewed alluded to social issues such as economic struggles or inter-caste strife, they focused predominantly on the idea of faith and the fascinating religious practices of different communities.

including fabulous close-ups of people’s eyes and faces, Bharath Bala created a deep connection between the audience and the ordinary people whose stories are explored in these short films. While the films we viewed alluded to social issues such as economic struggles or inter-caste strife, they focused predominantly on the idea of faith and the fascinating religious practices of different communities.

The entire talk was interesting and provocative. Many Rotarians expressed feelings of patriotism at the end of the talk, and everyone seemed to be thinking about the power of creativity and creative expression. A big thank you to Sanjay Madhavan for inviting Bharath Bala to share his creativity with our Rotary club!

- Rtn. Maya Thiagarajan

WARMTH ACROSS THE SEAS

I had a wonderful first-hand taste of the warm Rotary international fellowship in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. A few weeks ago, I mentioned to Gopi and Guna that I was going there. Gopi immediately connected me to a Rotarian there. Guna sent me a list of clubs meeting there. Amazing!

It was an honour to talk about RCM and exchange our flag and Timeless Legacy with five clubs. They were very impressed to hear the breath and scope of our projects and membership.

I left Addis prouder to be an RCMer and energised by the global Rotary Fellowship.

- Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti



BIRTHDAYS

- Nov. 3rd - Rtn. Manu Reddy
- Nov. 3rd - Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan
- Nov. 4th - Rtn. Harbinder Singh Ratta
- Nov. 4th - Rtn. Jayant Hemdev
- Nov. 4th - Rtn. Nikhil Raj
- Nov. 5th - Rtn. Sunil Sudhakar Shankar

- Nov. 2nd - Ann. Nagu Chidambaram Spouse of Rtn. Geetha Nagappan
- Nov. 2nd - Ann. Rohini Spouse of Rtn. Vivek Pai
- Nov. 3rd - Ann. Raheela Kareem Spouse of Abdul Kareem Sait
- Nov. 3rd - Ann. Sruti Spouse of Himanshu Budhia
- Nov. 4th - Ann. Jayanthi Spouse of Shivakumar Vellure

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Nov. 1st - Rtn. Suman Voora & Shalini
- Nov. 2nd - Rtn. Deepak Chander & Divya Chetti
- Nov. 3rd - Rtn. Parkavi M. Dr. & Rtn. Kathirganapathiappan

It was wonderful to have you yesterday. The session was very insightful and very glad that you were our guest speaker. Thank you Rtn Sanjay and I hope to see you soon in December



SUNSHINE

Rtn. Deepak Chander	- Rs.2000/- (31-10-2023)
Rtn. Nikhil Raj	- Rs.2000/-
Rtn. Jayant Hemdev	- Rs.2000/-
Rtn. Rtn. Sandya Sridhar	- Rs.5001/- (19-10-2023)
Rtn. Pranay H. Gambhir	- Rs.2000/-
Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan	- Rs.5000/-

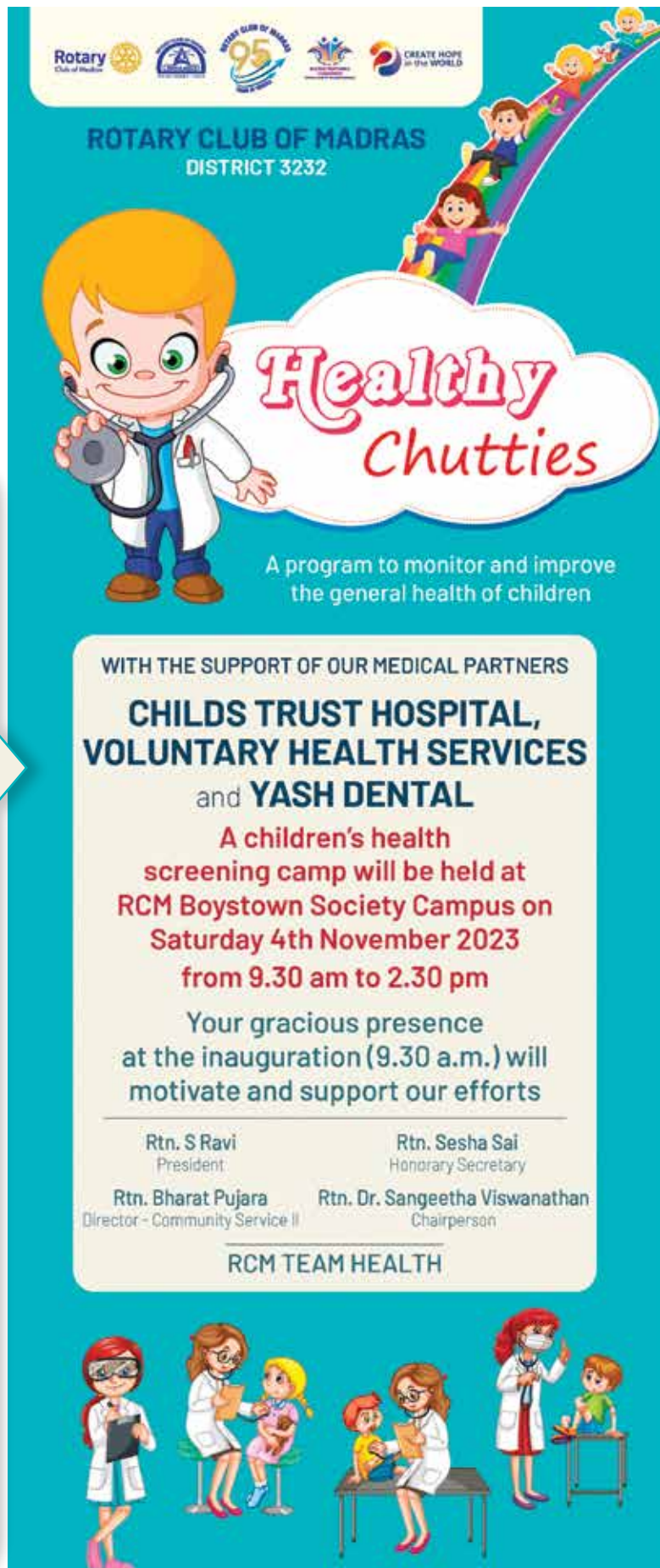
HEALTHY CHUTTIES

**A PROGRAM TO
MONITOR AND IMPROVE
THE GENERAL HEALTH
OF CHILDREN**

A children's health screening camp was held at RCM Boystown Society Campus on Saturday 4th November 2023 from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm with the support of our medical partners -

**Childs Trust Hospital,
Voluntary Health Services
and Yash Dental.**

The program was spearheaded by
**Rtn. Bharath Pujara and
Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha
Viswanathan.**



Rotary Club of Madras District 3232

Healthy Chutties

A program to monitor and improve the general health of children

WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR MEDICAL PARTNERS

**CHILDS TRUST HOSPITAL,
VOLUNTARY HEALTH SERVICES
and YASH DENTAL**

**A children's health
screening camp will be held at
RCM Boystown Society Campus on
Saturday 4th November 2023
from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm**

Your gracious presence
at the inauguration (9.30 a.m.) will
motivate and support our efforts

Rtn. S Ravi
President

Rtn. Sresha Sai
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Bharath Pujara
Director - Community Service II

Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan
Chairperson

RCM TEAM HEALTH

MEDICAL CAMP REPORT



The Rotary Club of Madras, in association with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, organised a free medical camp on October 26, 2023 from 2.45 p.m. to 6p.m. at His/Her place, T. Nagar.

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

No. of Beneficiaries – 83

Rotary Club of Madras distributed medicine worth Rs. 2100/- to needy people.

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, PP.Rtn.Dr. Vijayabharathi Rangarajan and Rtn. Jagdish Bhatia visited the camp.

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

Medical Team:

Dr. Uma Maheswari (General Medicine)

Dr. Jibin (Family Medicine)

Ms.Sridevi & Ms.Swetha (Nurse)

Mr. Karthikeyan (Social Worker)

Ms.Selvam (Volunteer)



SMART VISION GLASSES

The Rotary Club of Madras, in association with the Inner Wheel club of Madras executed a fantastic project for the visual impaired by providing them with SMART VISION GLASSES.

In my 35 years of service with the visual impaired, I have done many projects such as:

1. **Basic walking stick which made Visual Impaired independent**
2. **Mobile track to record their lessons**
3. **Scanners to read their textbooks**
4. **Computer courses to learn Google**

Help them type on a word document etc. Then came the ANDROID PHONE, which helped them climb the ladder of success. They were able to learn G Pay, phone pay, check bank accounts, WhatsApp and even book an Uber.

As soon as President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan suggested and the list of beneficiaries was sorted, INNER WHEEL Club of Madras pitched in to support the project. This SMART VISION GLASSES changed the whole perception of life and has given them a reality check.

The SMART VISION GLASSES have many features:

1. **It can scan the page and can speak with voice over.**
2. **It can detect moving forms ahead of you and obstacles too.**
3. **It has a face recognition mode and informs them about different colours too.**

This is a remarkable and definitely a life changer for a visually impaired person and is indeed a noble and life-fending project.

- Ann. Anita Srinath, Inner Wheel club of Madras



SBI FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED AND ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS HANDED OVER THE DIGITAL MAMMOGRAM FACILITY AT DEVAKOTTAI

DEVAKOTTAI MAMMOGRAM

On Saturday, 28th October, the Rotary Club of Madras inaugurated a Digital Mammogram machine at Devakottai near Karaikkudi. The project is valued at 80 lakhs.

This is the first of its kind Free Digital mammography, which is available in that region. The project was fully funded by State Bank of India Mutual Funds, and the medical partner is Adyar Cancer Institute (WIA).

The Rotary club of Madras, as part of their Women and Health initiative, identified Devakottai as an area where free mammography was not available for 4 districts. Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, and Pudukkottai have a sizeable women's population in rural areas and all of them had to travel to Madurai or Trichy for preventive screening as only those cities offered free Mammograms.





With a significant rise in the number of women needing breast cancer screening, this facility will be crucial in early detection.

Inaugurating the facility, the Chief Guest, Mr. S. Ganesan Chief Operating Officer of SBI FUNDS MANAGEMENT LTD, spoke about the importance of such initiatives in rural areas where a large number of women will benefit.



Dr Kalpana Balakrishnan, Director of Adyar Cancer Institute spoke about the increasing incidence of breast cancer among the female population.

Dr Malliga Subramaniam, Head of Preventive Oncology Adyar Cancer Institute spoke about the Devakottai Vallal Mena center and the help extended by local patrons.



Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, President of the Rotary club of Madras highlighted the importance of spreading the message of cancer prevention in the villages and also said the Rotary Club of Madras is committed to creating more such outreach programs for the benefit of society.

RCM'S EXPANDING REACH: CONTRIBUTING TO MEANINGFUL PROJECTS BEYOND CHENNAI

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, along with Advisor Ravishankar and Past President Jayshree Shridhar, CSI Director Anuradha Ganesan, Krish Vijayan, Shivkumar Easwaran, Sakthivel & Arvind Shankar visited the project site in Madurai. Their destination was the Sakkimangalam village, where 45 families of visually impaired persons reside. Over several years, the Rotary Club of Madurai Star Foundation has been diligently constructing houses for these families. However, there remained four plots with patta, waiting to be transformed into homes.

In a heartwarming gesture, the Rotary Club of Madras stepped forward and contributed thirteen lakhs towards the construction of these last four houses, out of a total value of twenty lakhs and eighty thousand rupees.

Following their visit to the project site, they enjoyed lunch at Pandian hotel and then had a visit to the exquisite Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple.

27-10-2023 Joint Meeting
on visit Rotary Club of Madras
Delegates with
Rotary Club of Madurai





The evening was marked by a wonderful exchange of fellowship and dinner when the Rotary Club of Madras was hosted by RC Madurai their daughter club, and RC Madurai Star. President Ravi spoke about his vision to collaborate with Rotary clubs across the nation and abroad to undertake meaningful projects like this. During the gathering, RCM showcased their community service projects through a presentation led by Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan.



The hospitality and attention to detail provided by the host clubs were laudable. Rtn. M. Sandeep, President of the Rotary Club of Madurai Star, and Rtn. B.R. Baskar, President of RC Madurai, expressed their heartfelt appreciation for RCM's contributions.



Sri. Parasuram, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons, the Chief Guest, commended the clubs for their outstanding work, and PDG Rtn R.V.N. Kannan, the Guest of Honour, was deeply impressed by the scale of RCM's projects. He expressed his happiness at his district collaborating with the Madras club on such a meaningful project.



Rtn Setu Madavan, the dedicated incharge of the Sakkimangalam project, was recognized for his tireless efforts in collecting funds and completing the previous 45 houses. The evening concluded on a high note with a grand dinner.

VISIT TO ROTARY LOW COST SHELTERS AT SAKKIMANGALAM VILLAGE, MADURAI EAST TALUK, MADURAI



Buoyed by the success of the project visit at Madurai, a wonderful joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Madras, Rotary Club of Madurai and Rotary Club of Madurai Star was held along with the inauguration of the WASH Project in two schools at Pudukkottai.

Our President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan is enjoying a swing at a Primary School in Pudukkottai.

OCT Firesides

Fireside No 10

Hosted by Rtn. Manu Reddy & Priya Reddy

on Sunday, October 15th

Attendees:

Rotarians : 21 | Spouses : 13 | Total : 34

Fireside No 11

Hosted by Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran

on Friday, October 20th

Attendees:

Rotarians : 13 | Spouses : 6 | Total : 19

Fireside No 12

Hosted by Rtn. Nikhil Raj & Laura

on Wed, Oct 25

Attendees:

Rotarians : 9 | Spouses : 6 | Total : 15

Total firesides in October : 3

Attendees: Rotarians: 43 | Spouses: 25

Total: 68 (excluding hosts)





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