

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 19 | November 10, 2024



RCM Launches Computer Application & TALLY Training Program with NIIT Certification

Dear RCMers,

According to the Economic Survey 2023-24, only 51.25% of graduates in India are considered employable.

In this context, RCM's initiative to launch NIIT- certified job-oriented training programs deserves all praise.

Our cover story this week.....



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Rotary Club of Madras

20th
Weekly
Meeting

Speaker :

MANOJ KUMAR

Founding CEO of Naandi Foundation,
India's largest multi-sector non-profit
that focuses on poverty reduction.



Topic :

Thinking Out of the Box
in **Social Development**

Tuesday, 12th November 2024 | 1.30 pm

Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 pm

at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting

Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
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Rtn. Shanno Ravi
Director - Club Service

Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan
Chairperson - Programs Committee

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 19th Weekly Meeting

held on 05-11-2024 01.30 PM At Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

The meeting commenced at 01.30 PM.

Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared the President Elect.

President Elect Nikhil Raj called the 19th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order and requested all members to rise for a silent invocation.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The President sought confirmation for the 18th weekly meeting minutes, which was passed and adopted by the members.

Acknowledgment of Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Dr. Bhavani and Mr. Kannan were welcomed as Probus members, along with Mrs. Gowri Kailasam, the guest of honor and Mr. Vignesh Mohan.

President Elect's Remarks

President Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj welcomed everyone back after Diwali festivities and acknowledged the extensive work of the Community Services team. Members were encouraged to connect with those who participated in recent community visits to gain insight into Rotary's impact.

Announcements

Rtn. M. Sessa Sai:

- Announced an upcoming trip to Malaysia for 68 students from Interact Clubs, supported by sponsors including Rtn. Manu Reddy, Rtn. IPP. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn. Rahul Saraogi and others.
- Announced the formation of an Annette's Club for Rotarians' children aged 12-18, led by Nikhil Raj.

Rtn. PP. S. Gunashekar recognized for signing a sister club agreement with the Rotary Club of Accra West.

Secretary's Announcements - Rtn Rajesh Mani

Appreciation for the attendance at the Combined Community Service meeting with over 70 Rotarians participating.

Announced birthdays and anniversaries for the



Week

The next meeting scheduled for November 12, features Mr. Manoj Kumar, CEO of the Naandi Foundation, who will discuss the "ArakuNomics vision".

Main Programme

Mrs. Gowri Kailasam, CEO of Rane Madras, Moderator: Mr. Vignesh Mohan

Mr. Vignesh Mohan shared anecdotes about his early career, setting the stage for a discussion on Mrs. Gowri's unique career path. Mrs. Gowri Kailasam elaborated on her journey from Ford Motor Company to Rane Madras, sharing insights into the challenges and adjustments between the cultures of an American OEM and a homegrown Indian automotive company.

Closing Remarks

President Elect Nikhil Raj thanked Mrs. Gowri Kailasam for an enlightening session and Mr. Vignesh Mohan for his moderation. Acknowledgments were also given to Hyatt Regency and Rtn. Shanno Ravi for arranging the event.

Vote of Thanks and adjournment of Meeting:

Vote of Thanks was delivered by Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani. The meeting was then adjourned by the President Elect.





Fireside hosted by
Rtn.Nalini Radhakrishnan and
Radhakrishna S. Iyer



Fireside Hosted by
Rtn Supriya Gautam and
Gautam Venkataramani



Commencement of new Aari Embroidery batch at Sembakkam Tailoring Centre.



Suggest the most quirky, whacky or creative caption/ blurb for this photo (Maximum 15 words). The best entries will be reproduced in the next week's edition of Lighthouse.

Mail your captions to editor@rcmlighthouse.com on or before 12th Nov.

Issue 19



Issue 18 : Best Captions

1. "When we were Presidents, we always served Gulab Jamun! These young Presidents I tell you....."
- Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti
2. "Agreed 2 is company but where is the crowd?"
- Rtn. PP. Vivek Harinarain
3. "Listen, it's my way or....well, my way! Got it!" - Rtn. N.K Bhatia
4. "Past Presidents POW WOW!" - Rtn. Asha Mathen



The Power of Cricket in Rotary: An Interview with Rtn. Sai Shivkumar

Cricket in India is more than a sport—it's a religion that's evolved over the years. Fifty years ago, even inter-school games and TNCA leagues drew large crowds, with Chepauk packed for Ranji matches. Today, T20 and one-day games make it more competitive and exciting. Cricket cuts across all divides, valuing individual skill and fostering friendship, camaraderie and unity, qualities that align with Rotary's spirit of teamwork and fellowship.

The IFCR (International Fellowship of Cricket Loving Rotarians) tournament, an annual international event, promotes fellowship, fair play and friendship, exemplifying the Four-Way Test. Held annually at the district level, including Districts 3233 and 3234. It provides Rotarians with a chance to showcase their talents,

bringing clubs and families together.

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, a devoted cricket lover and supporter of many initiatives, owns the "Shivsu Warriors," recent winners of IFCR6 under Rtn. Sai Shivkumar of RCM East. This ethos inspired the RCM Premier League, launched last year under Shiv's leadership, achieving great success and raising funds. With RCMPL2 scheduled for February 25, enthusiasm and registrations show how well the event has been taken by the District Rotarians.

As a precursor to RCMPL, we spoke with Shivsu Warriors' captain, Rtn. Sai Shivkumar, to explore the benefits of this cricketing initiative.

1. What was the format and basic structure of the tournament?

IFCR 6 season features 12 teams

divided into two groups, A and B, playing 25-overs matches in the league stage, each team playing five matches. Afterward, six finals occur based on table standings: the Group A and B toppers compete for the Platinum Cup, with each position having its respective final—resulting in six finals in total.

2. What would you estimate is the quality of talent available among Rotarians in our district?

Cricket has united Rotarians across Chennai, thanks to PHCC, IFCR, and RCM organizing year-round tournaments. These events offer ample opportunities to play and improve skills. The quality of cricket has significantly improved over the years, with veteran cricketers and young Rotarians actively participating in the tournaments and enhancing overall game play.



3. How relevant is this tournament in the context of Rotary and its ethos?

Cricket, or any sport for that matter, is a great way to bring all Rotarians together, fostering friendships that last a lifetime. This platform provides incredible opportunities for bonding and working together on Rotary projects. These tournaments allow us to reconnect with our inner child and enjoy spirited fun with friends, filled with friendly banter.

4. Cricket is a sport, while Rotary is about service to society. What is the commonality, and how do they complement each other?

Cricket unites people from diverse backgrounds to work as a team and enjoy the game while pursuing shared goals. Similarly, Rotary brings people together to serve society as a unified team. Both enhance teamwork skills and camaraderie, supporting each other's successes and working toward common goals, whether winning a game or achieving Rotary service projects.

5. How has the tournament helped you become a better Rotarian?

Each of us has responsibilities across personal, professional, and social lives, facing challenges in our own ways. Playing a sport we're passionate about provides a platform to de-stress and rejuvenate. It also helps improve teamwork and contribution skills, valuable in Rotary and life, making us better individuals and Rotarians, enhancing our commitment to selfless service.

6. You must be aware of RC-MPL. Do you plan to be a part of it?

Every cricketer in the Rotary circle in Chennai knows about RC-MPL, the premier T10 tournament of Rotary's Chennai district.

It made a fantastic debut last year, and I've already registered for this season. I'm looking forward to a great tournament!

7. Do you have any suggestions for improving the quality of the tournament?

RCMPL is a premier invitational tournament in Chennai, with quality relying on balanced teams that lead to close, appealing games. Effective player categorization and distribution create memorable seasons.

Shiv, a passionate cricket enthusiast, is an asset as an owner, offering warmth and hospitality through joyful dinners that strengthen team bonds. With a supportive owner and players celebrating each other's success, we have the ideal setup to lift the coveted trophy.

Rtn. A. R.Raghu
Chairperson Lighthouse Committee



Uniting Against Breast Cancer : CanStop Walkathon Experience

Sixteen Interactors, along with one teacher coordinator of Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mat. Hr. Sec School proudly joined forces with the Rotary Club of Madras and Sundaram Medical Foundation at Island Grounds for the CANSTOP- 'One Walk One Hope,' breast cancer awareness walkathon.

This walkathon stressed the need for early detection and a healthy lifestyle in the management and prevention of cancer. The momentous event brought together participants from diverse backgrounds in our quest to make a difference.

This experience left a lasting impression on the school community, reinforcing the

importance of social responsibility and community engagement. The warm-up Zumba session and memorabilia stalls added a festive touch to the walk. Interactors were proud to have been a part of this initiative and thanked the organizers for providing this opportunity.

- Rtn. Balaji Chinni
Director Youth Service



RCM Launches Computer Application & TALLY Training Program with NIIT Certification



Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) proudly celebrated the launch of its revised and revitalized Computer Application and TALLY accounting training program, certified by the renowned NIIT Foundation. This milestone represents a significant step in RCM's ongoing commitment to delivering quality vocational education to the community.

This program aims to equip participants with industry-relevant skills in computer applications and accounting software. It begins with a series of training sessions led by NIIT experts to re-train instructors, ensuring that they are fully aligned with NIIT's high certification standards.

Additionally, participants will undergo final assessments, after which successful students will be awarded certificates directly from the NIIT Foundation.

A remarkable testament to the success and value of this program is the commitment shown by the participants - for the first time, they are covering a substantial portion of the training fees themselves.

Chairperson Rtn. Rajib Kumar Hota and Site Manager & Lead Trainer Vimeleshwari deserve special recognition for their leadership and dedication in leading this initiative.

-Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti
Director Vocational Service

| Birthdays (11th Nov. to 17th Nov 2024) | |
|---|-------|
| Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan | 11/11 |
| Rtn. Murali V. | 15/11 |
| Rtn. Roopa Shetty | 15/11 |
| Rtn. Hemant Srivatsa | 17/11 |
| Spouses' Birthdays | |
| Ann. Rajeev Mecheri, Spouse of Rtn. Rinku Mecheri | 12/11 |
| Ann. Saraswathi, Spouse of Rtn. G.M. Udayanarayan | 13/11 |
| Ann. V.S. Neelima, Spouse of Rtn. V. R. Sanjay Kumar | 13/11 |
| Ann. Sushma, Spouse of Rtn. Nimish C. Tolia | 14/11 |
| Wedding Anniversary | |
| Rtn. Linesh Sanatkumar & Rajshri | 12/11 |
| Rtn. PP. Mohan P.N. & Janaki (Rita) | 13/11 |
| Rtn. Maithili Shaan Katari Libby & Dr. James F. Libby | 14/11 |
| Rtn. PP. Paul K. Jacob & Tanuja Paul | 15/11 |
| Rtn. M. Pratap Kumar & Malathi Devi | 15/11 |
| Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar & K Sridhar | 15/11 |
| Rtn. Dr. Anisha Ashok & Dr. Jayanth | 16/11 |
| Rtn. K. Sapru Mathew & Susan | 17/11 |

Rotary Nostalgia

Celebrating the Legacy of Rtn. Gustav Emile Dilger, Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Madras

Melbourne, Australia – In a heartfelt message from across the globe, David Robilliard, grandson of Rtn. Gustav Emile Dilger, shared a touching tribute to his grandfather, one of the founding members of the Rotary Club of Madras. This letter, addressed to the Club's Executive and members, sheds light on the remarkable life and legacy of Gustav Dilger, whose contributions helped lay the foundations of Rotary in Madras.

Born in Winterthur, Switzerland, on August 2, 1891, Gustav Dilger was the son of Gustav Theophil Dilger, a master bookbinder, and Elisabetha Dilger nee Muller. Gustav received his early education in Winterthur before joining Volkart Brothers, a prominent Swiss shipping company, where he began a career that would take him across continents.

Prior to World War I, Dilger was transferred to the company's branch in Bombay (now Mumbai). With the outbreak of war, he heeded the call of his homeland, enlisting in the British Indian Army's Home Defense Regiment, though he did not see active service.

It was in Bombay that Dilger's life took a momentous turn. Through the Swiss Club of Bombay, he met Australian Army nurse Kathleen Harvey, who was working at the Gerard Freeman Thomas War Hospital, caring for European evacuees. This connection blossomed into a romance, and after a brief return to Australia for discharge from the Australian Army Nursing Service, Kathleen returned

to India, where she and Dilger married in Colombo on March 27, 1920. The couple later welcomed their only daughter, Joan, in November of the same year.

Dilger's career advanced further when he was appointed manager of the Volkart Brothers' office in Madras (Chennai). Alongside his business responsibilities, he served as the local representative for the Swiss Consul in Bombay, becoming an esteemed member of Madras society. The Dilgers were reportedly active members of the Madras Club, a reflection of their deep integration into the local community.

More significantly, Gustav Dilger played a key role in founding the Rotary Club of Madras. A passionate advocate for ethical business practices, Dilger, along with other leaders in the business community, brought Rotary's mission to Madras. His grandson David recalls that Dilger was deeply committed to Rotary's principles, which ultimately led him to help charter the Madras branch.

In the early 1930s, Dilger and his family considered a move to Australia, perhaps influenced by the global Depression and the political climate in Europe. They ultimately chose to settle in Melbourne in 1933, where Gustav Dilger lived until his sudden passing in November 1946. His wife, Kathleen, passed away in 1950.

Their only daughter, Joan, would go on to marry RAAF Pilot Officer Frederick Robilliard in August 1941. David Robilliard, their second son and one of six children, reflects on the enduring legacy of his

grandparents. There are now several grandchildren and great-grandchildren living in Australia.

David Robilliard, who shared this story with the Rotary Club of Madras on behalf of his family, expressed deep gratitude for his grandparents' legacy, both within Rotary and within their family. He credits Gustav and Kathleen for instilling in their descendants a commitment to education and community service, values that remain a cornerstone of the family's identity.

David Robilliard, who shared this story at the invitation of Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath, expressed regret at being unable to attend Charter Night, due to his daughter's graduation from Warwick University in England, he looks forward to visiting Chennai soon with his wife.

"For all of my life, I have only seen Chennai in small black-and-white photographs," he shared, adding that he hopes to finally experience the city his grandfather called home.

The Rotary Club of Madras, founded by leaders like Dilger, continues to thrive, bearing witness to a legacy that spans generations and borders. David Robilliard's tribute to his grandfather serves as a reminder of the enduring impact of Rotary's founding members and their dedication to community service.

**Courtesy: David Robilliard
Melbourne/Australia.**

**Sourced by:
Rtn. PP. N.K. Gopinath**



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