

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 23 | DECEMBER 15, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

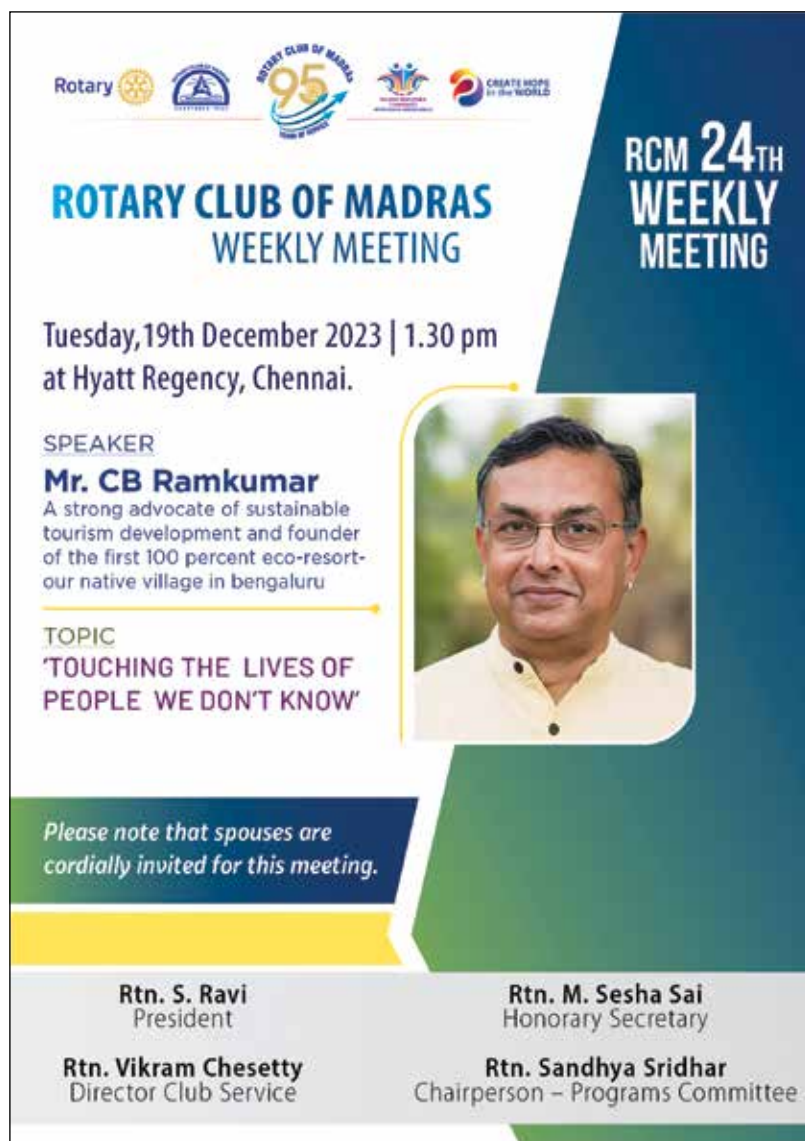
Presenting to you a coverage of our illustrious visitor, Mr. Narayanamurthy who has made India a name to reckon with in the world of IT.

Also featured is the RCM visit to the awe inspiring Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

India Shining and how !

Warm regards

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



Rotary Club of Madras
WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 24TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 19th December 2023 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER
Mr. CB Ramkumar
A strong advocate of sustainable tourism development and founder of the first 100 percent eco-resort-our native village in bengaluru

TOPIC
'TOUCHING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WE DON'T KNOW'

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

BOARD 2023-24

PRESIDENT
Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan

HONORARY SECRETARY
Rtn. M. Sessa Sai

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar

PRESIDENT - ELECT
Rtn. G Chella Krishna

PRESIDENT - NOMINEE
Rtn. Nikhil Raj

DIRECTOR - Community SERVICE 1
Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan

DIRECTOR - CLUB SERVICE
Rtn. Vikram Chesetty

Director - Vocational Service
Rtn. Vijay Balaji

DIRECTOR - YOUTH SERVICE
Rtn. Balaji Chinni

TREASURER - CLUB FUNDS
Rtn. Prabha Srinivasan

ASST. SECY./ BULLETIN EDITOR
Rtn. Sunita Suresh

Director - CSR
Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan

DIRECTOR - ROTARY FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
Rtn. Sabina Narayan

DIRECTOR - COMMUNITY SERVICE 2
Rtn. Bharat M Pujara

TREASURER - RCMCT
Rtn. E.M.C. Palaniappan

DIRECTOR - FUND RAISING & PR
Rtn. Rahul Saraogi

LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

EDITOR: Rtn. Sunita Suresh
Rtn. Shakti Girish
Rtn. Sharon Krishna
Rtn. Rani Muralidharan
Rtn. Sumit Kalra
Rtn. Rajesh Mani

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to:
rcmlighthouse2023@gmail.com
Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

EDITED & PUBLISHED BY

Rtn. Sunita Suresh, Asst. Secretary
Rotary Club of Madras,
RAYALA TOWERS,
2nd Mezzanine Flr., 158, Anna Salai,
Chennai 600 002 Phone: +91 44 2859 1020

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:

rcmlighthouse2023@gmail.com

Bulletin Design:

CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

Visit RCM's official website
www.rotarymadras.in

CONTACT RCM SECRETARY AT:
office@rotarymadras.in

Minutes of the 23rd Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras

held at the Hyatt Regency on 15.12.23 | 07 at 4.00 pm

AGENDA:

Call to Order and Invocation.

Tamizhthai Vazhthu.

Introduction of New Members

Presidential Address

Chief Guest Address - Mr. Narayana Murthy

Keynote Address - Honorable IT Minister, Thiru.

Palanivel Thiagarajan

Awards Presentation

Announcements and Acknowledgments

Q & A Session

Vote of Thanks

Adjournment

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

Call to Order and Invocation:

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the 23rd weekly meeting to order.

Silent Invocation was observed.

Tamizhthai Vazhthu.

Meeting commenced at 4:45 PM.

Sergeant at arms Rtn. Jayant Hemdev collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who formally called the 23rd weekly meeting to order followed by a silent Invocation.

Confirmation of the 22nd Weekly Meeting:

President Ravi Sundaresan requested confirmation of the 22nd weekly meeting held on 5th December.

Welcome and Introductions:

Welcomed attendees to the lifetime achievement award function.

Chief guests: Mr. Narayana Murthy (Founder of Infosys Ltd) and Honourable IT Minister PTR Pazhanivel Thyagarajan.

Introduction of new club members: Rtn. Rahul Sarogi introduced Mr. Vardhaman Jain, and Rtn. Linesh Sanath Kumar introduced Mr. Rajesh Vummidi.

Membership Induction:

Rtn. Vardhaman Jain and Rtn. Rajesh Vummidi were inducted into the Rotary Club of Madras. President Ravi emphasized the responsibilities and ideals of being a Rotarian.

Chief Guest Address:

Mr. Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys Ltd, was warmly welcomed.

Rtn. Shivkumar Easwaran shared insights into the association with Mr. Murthy.

Presidential Address:

President Ravi Sundaresan expressed gratitude and introduced Mr. Narayana Murthy.

Presented the Rotary Club of Madras Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Narayana Murthy.



Citation for Lifetime Achievement Award:

Rtn. Chella Krishna read the citation detailing Mr. Narayana Murthy's achievements and contributions.

Honouring Program Chair and Club Services Committee Chairman:

Rtn. Sandya Sridhar and Rtn. Paul Jacob was honoured for their roles.

Honouring Chief Guest and Lifetime Achievement Awardee:

President Ravi honoured Mr. Narayana Murthy with a ponnaadai and a bouquet.

Keynote Address by IT Minister:

Honourable IT Minister Thiru. Palanivel Thiagarajan delivered the keynote address.

Announcements and Contributions:

Rtn. Rahul Sarogi announced generous contributions from Rtn. Vijay Balaji for his contribution of U.S \$ 18000 and Rtn. Ranjit Pendurthi U S \$ 30,000 to the Rotary Foundation.

Award Presentation by IT Minister:

Honourable IT Minister Shri.PTR Palanivel Thiagarajan presented the lifetime achievement award to Mr. Narayana Murthy.

Q & A Session:

The floor was opened for questions to both Mr. Narayana Murthy and the IT Minister.

Secretary Announcement by Rtn. Chella Krishna:

On behalf of the Secretary Rtn. Chella Krishna announced that the next weekly meeting is on 19th December 2023.

Vote of Thanks:

Rtn. Vijay Balaji extended gratitude to all contributors, guests, and members for their generosity and support.

National Anthem:

The meeting concluded with the National Anthem.

Adjournment:

President Ravi Sundaresan adjourned the meeting.

From the 23rd Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras Dec. 15, 2023





LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

PRESENTED TO **SRI N.R. NARAYANA MURTHY**, FOUNDER INFOSYS



The Rotary Club of Madras presented the Life time Achievement Award to Sri N.R. Narayana Murthy, Founder Infosys at Chennai on 15.12.2023. The award was presented to him by Sri Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, IT and Digital services Minister of Tamil Nadu. Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran (Hony.Consul general of Armenia) and the host for the evening also spoke on the occasion on the vast contribution made by Mr. Narayana Murthy to Armenia on the technology front.

Mr.Narayana Murthy was presented a citation which extolled his virtues of transparency and indomitable courage to face hardship. Mr. Murthy in his acceptance speech spoke about the wonderful contributions of the NGO's like Rotary which has provided solutions to the bottom of the Pyramid.

Sri Palanivel Thiaga Rajan while making his comments referred to the last mile connectivity to beneficiaries provided by Rotary which even Governments strive hard to do. He also made points on the contributions of Mr. Narayana

Murthy to ambitions of smaller IT companies in Tamil Nadu and to prove that without pedigree and lineage one can still build a company of scale with sheer hard work, grit and aspiration. On the subject of the use of AI in Tamil Nadu, Sri Palanivel Thiaga Rajan spoke on the ability for computers to adapt to human beings of having arrived. He elaborated that Voiced based AI systems and its interface with Government would potentially be the way forward including scheme enrolments. He went on to speak on the use and value of data available at the Government to enable transformation and discussed the role on Technology in Healthcare in Tamil Nadu and the importance of better data.

An exceptional question and answer session followed which members participated with great vigor. Mr. Narayana Murthy spoke about leadership said that true leadership is imagining a plausible impossibility, creation of an aspirational vision, exhorting the followers to move towards that vision, leading by example with hard work and discipline and finally the ability to share the glory and outcome with those followers. He reiterated that action speak louder than words and explained that always walked into the office at 6:20 am and left at around 8:30 Pm and hence did not have to ask any of his colleagues to come on time as everyone wants to imitate the leader.

To another question on the projecting of one's social image and place for introverts in society, Mr. Murthy went on to state that action speak louder than words. He drew attention to the Indian farmer who works hard quietly in his fields and does so without drawing attention to his work. To a question on making the burgeoning youth population employable, Mr. Murthy went on to state that



manufacturing is a much better way to employ a majority than services. Services in his mind were more relevant when the disposable income was available in the country and manufacturing was a way to provide simpler and easy to excel jobs to people in large numbers. He praised Tamil Nadu's auto sectors' role on this. On the question of the need for hard work and work- life balance, he said that 800 Million people in India need rations and therefore the need for hard work is first and the concept of "Work Life Balance" is a western concept in countries with per capita incomes of over 70000 USD. With a low per capita income of around 2300 USD, India needs to work much harder.

He relayed the example of Germany where after the Second World War, German workers were asked to work 2 extra hours a day to compensate for the war losses, they readily obliged. He felt that if India were to move out of its current per capita income quandary, it would have no option but to work harder.

President Ravi Sundaresan presided over the function with assistance from President Elect (Awards committee Chair) Rtn. Chella Krishna. Rtn. Vijay Balaji proposed a vote of thanks which covered all matters.

- Rtn. Chella Krishna & Rtn. Vijay Balaji ■



Dear Rotarians,

Our Past President, Rtn.Ranjit Pratap and his spouse Uma were honoured last night at the Rotary Institute in Bengaluru, where there was an event to honour the ARCH KLUMPF SOCIETY members.

Here are a few pics of the event along with RI President Gordon McInally and the RRF Trustees are in the photos.

Kudos to Ranjit for his generosity. ■

BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 13th - Rtn. Jacob Kurian
- Dec. 14th - Rtn. Ramakanth Akula
- Dec. 15th - Rtn. Gautam B.V.
- Dec. 16th - Rtn. Govind Vasanadu

- Dec. 11th - Ann. Shvetha Jaishankar,
Spouse of Rtn. Raghu Kailas
- Dec. 15th - Ann. Shenba Spouse of
Rtn. Arvind Kumar Sankar
- Dec. 15th - Ann. Moloy Chaudhuri,
Spouse of Rtn. Rita Chaudhuri
- Dec. 17th - Ann. Meera, Spouse of Rtn. Jagadish P.S.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 11th - Rtn. Prashanth S. Kharche & Mansi Kharche
- Dec. 11th - Rtn. Rajiv Khanna & Dolly Khanna
- Dec. 12th - Rtn. Gopinath N.K. PP & Rtn. Jayanthi PP
- Dec. 12th - Rtn. Gowri R. Shanker & Jaya
- Dec. 12th - Rtn. Gautham B.V. & K. Shamantha
- Dec. 12th - Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan & Usha
- Dec. 13th - Rtn. Suresh Kumar S. & Nanda
- Dec. 13th - Rtn. Nitesh Jain Dr. & Dr. Gunjan Jain



**Donate
Your Clothes**

Be a cause of
someone's
happiness.
Donate your old
clothes to
NEEDY PEOPLE.

CLOTHES DONATION DRIVE

Join our CLOTHES DONATION drive this month! Let's come together, declutter with purpose, and make a positive impact on the lives of others. We are happy to take gently used clothing, including jackets, sweaters, shirts, pants, shoes, socks, undergarments (in a separate cover), and blankets. Consider all age groups and seasons, providing a variety for those in need. Clean out your closets to make a difference!

#cleanerplanet #clothesdonation
#reducepollution #greenplanet
#makeadifference



A medical camp at Hande Hospital during 73rd year of RCM. (From the archives)



Esteemed Rotarians,

On December 13th 2023, President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan and DGE N.S. Saravanan distributed Flood Relief kits in Saidapet. The gesture was highly praised by the affected individuals. Gratitude to Rtn. Jagdish and Ann.Meera for the identification of affected people and overwhelming hospitality. Rtn. Hemant Chordia, Rtn. Kareem Seth, and members of the Innerwheel Club of Madras were also in attendance.

Dear Rotarians,
During the second day of distributing flood relief kits after distributing Flood Relief kits in Saidapet, the Rotary Club of Madras distributed 220 kits to the Golf Caddies at TNGF.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all participating Rotarians for their contributions and active involvement in this meaningful initiative. Below are some photos from the distribution.





Rotary Club of Madras in collaboration with Sundaram Medical Foundation organized a Medical camp at His/Her place, T.Nagar



On December 4th, 2023, the Chennai district encountered the Michaung cyclone. As a result, the Rotary Club of Madras, in collaboration with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, swiftly arranged a Two days Free Medical camp at His/Her place, T.Nagar on December 7th & 8th, 2023 from 2.45 pm to 6.00 pm.

At the camp, we've done the health Checkups which include CBG, HB, BP & General Screening.

The total no of 236 beneficiaries got benefited by this Free medical camp.

We handed out the medicines worth Rs.6700/-, which was Sponsored by PP.Rtn.Dr.Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, to people in need.

Rtn.Sesha Sai & Rtn.Nimish C.Tolia & K K Raman visited the camp.

We extend our gratitude to all the Rotarians who took time to visit and provide encouragement at the medical camp.

Medical Team:

Dr.Swaran & Dr.Abana from General Medicine Department

Dr.Jibin & Dr.Saayusha from Family Medicine Department.

Mrs.Selvakumari & Mrs.Arputam from Nursing Department

Mrs.Selvam - Volunteer Work

Mr.Karthikeyan, Ms.Maya & Ms.Deepika from Social work Department ■





Dr. SVS RAO visits Rotary Club of Madras

Dr. SVS Rao, a Rotarian volunteer member of the TRF Cadre of Technical Advisers from Rotary International visited Chennai on December 4th and 5th to conduct Interim Monitor Valuation of the Nadi RCM Tolia Dialysis Centre. Due to the cyclone on Monday, December 4th, we could not meet or visit the site.

On Tuesday Dec 5, President Nominee, Rtn. Nikhil Raj picked him up from his hotel and took him to the RCM office. Here they went through the complete set of documents and answered his various queries. Rotarian Nimish spoke to him over the phone and answered his queries about the number of dialysis done etc.

President Ravi Sundaresan joined them later on for some further discussions. They were unable

to visit the Dialysis Centre at Madhavaram due to flooding at the centre and inaccessible roads. Around 2 pm, Dr SVS Rao was dropped back at his hotel.

Around 3 pm, PDG J B Kamdar, PDG Sridhar and Dr. Sriram met him at the hotel and provided him with further details regarding the project. Dr Rao has requested some photos of the Centre with patients, doctors etc. He would also request to do a video walk-through of the Centre. The photos and video of the Centre were provided for him.

Dr Rao attended our weekly meeting. It was an evening meeting hosted by Rtn. AVM Balu to celebrate his 50 years in RCM. Dr Rao was honoured by our club with a shawl, and he praised the Dialysis centre in his address to the club. ■



RCM NEW LEARNING & INDUSTRIAL VISITS

VISIT TO HAL BANGALORE / MEETING WITH RCB / VISIT TO BYG BREWSKI BREWERY

December 9th & 10th 2023

Under the New Learning & Industrial visit committee under Chairman Rtn Rajesh Somasundaram, we had our second Industrial visit but with a twist. It was an outstation trip to Bangalore to visit the haloed HAL Tejas & Helicopter manufacturing division on December 9th 2023 followed by an enjoyable get together with Rotary Club of Bangalore that night and a visit to the Byg Brewski brewery for a brewery tour the next day. An action packed two days of learning, fun & fellowship!

We had an enthusiastic group of 55+ Rotarians & family who participated.

We were a jolly group of 32 Rotarians on the Vandhe Bharat train that morning from Chennai and pretty much we had taken over the E2 Executive coach & there was so much banter that the few “outside” passengers at the end of the journey must have been either tired with our Rotary conversations or they would have alighted at Bangalore feeling they are also a part of Rotary Club of Madras!

When we reached Bangalore station it was an easy transfer to the Bus waiting for us and off we were on the road to HAL!

Getting this big a group of people in to HAL is not an easy task! It's a high security zone. Even Rotarians from



RCB have not visited HAL. This was made possible by Rtn Vipin Sachdev given his close association with the top management at HAL and HAL's boss in New Delhi! Imagine we had a pilot vehicle escorting us inside and we had all our vehicles come right inside the campus!



HAL rolled out the red carpet for our team! Can you believe that waiting to receive us were the senior management team of CEOs / GMs of the various divisions. The CMD of HAL, text messaged Rtn Vipin informing him that while he was unable to be there with us, his team were all there to take care of us. And boy did they take care of us – we were mesmerized by their warmth & hospitality right from the gateman to the senior officers.

Our first stop was the Auditorium where we were given an indepth informative and mesmerizing video presentation of the history of HAL, the evolution and the arsenal of Combat & Commercial aircrafts & helicopters being produced by HAL today. We were truly blown away by the superior technological prowess of HAL and its team. A data point: the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is the lightest military aircraft in the world in the supersonic category and the only one that can take off and land in the heights of Siachen. That's even better than world class my friends! Puts HAL and India at the highest point on the pedestal.

Our Rotarians had so many awesome questions including the most important question asked by our President "Kithna Dethi hay?" (for those who don't understand hindi – President asked

the HAL team what was the mileage of the Tejas LCA aircraft). On behalf of RCM and the visiting Rotarians, our President thanked HAL for their hospitality.

Next was lunch – catered by Radisson, a full sit down 4 course meal followed by a short stop at their Museum that provided a beautiful visual story in photographs and artefacts of the history and evolution of HAL. For many of us it was a revelation that HAL was the brainchild of Shri. Walchand Hirachand (the founder of Premier Padmini car company) and was supported by the Maharaja of Mysore.

After this was the visual treat that everybody who had come on the trip was waiting for – to go see the assembly plant of the Tejas LCA & Helicopter divisions. We visited both the plants and the HAL team took us Rotarians through the step by step process on the materials used, how the fuselages are built, then assembled, electronics put in, how indepth and rigorous quality checks are done for months, post which the aerial vehicles are tested in flight and then certified for delivery. Such attention to detail!

The HAL team was so experienced and knowledgeable but at the same time very humble and simple.

We took a lot of pictures (we could not take our mobile phones inside) and HAL had got their photographer to take pictures. So everyone was striking a pose including with the Tejas LCA flown by our PM recently! But President Ravi was unparalleled as he was donning the role of "Maverick in the movie Top Gun" in the Tejas LCA & "John Rambo in the movie Rambo" in the Light Combat Helicopter.

Overall a fantastic and fascinating visit that filled all of us with immense pride in our country and being an Indian! Jai Hind!

IN THE LAP OF LUXURY @ LEELA PALACE

We left HAL at 3.45 pm to go to our hotel – the Leela Palace – where our Rotarian and Hotelier par excellence Rtn Madhav Seghal – had organized a fantastic reception committee to welcome us.

We felt like we were the victorious Indium cricket team coming in to the hotel – we were garlanded, had tilak applied on our forehead and then given cold towels and chilled Champagne to greet us. Next was a super Kathakali performance by a duo in the main lobby post which we had a group photo with Madhav and then were ushered in to our comfortable rooms where a



beautifully made White Chocolate bar with our RCM 95TH year logo greeted us from the mantle. Oh! To be in the lap of luxury – pure bliss!

MEETING WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF BANGALORE – MEET & GREET AT LEELA PALACE

That evening Club Services Director Rtn Vikram Chesetty had organized a nice outdoor patio area in the hotel for Fellowship & Dinner. We had a meet & greet with Members from the Rotary Club of Bangalore. Around 10 members from RCB including their President Rtn. Nalini Nanjundayya, Community Services Director Rtn. Ashok Kalyan Shetty, Past Presidents – Rtn. Mohan Gurjar & Rtn. Girish Ramanathan, Rotarians – Rtn. Kavitha





Muthappa, Rtn. Raksha Jhaveri, Rtn. Usha Pavate to name a few. RCB has 340 members and similar to RCM they also have embarked on large Community services projects.

Both the Presidents spoke and exchanged flags. And moving forward it was decided to explore projects that RCM and RCB can work on together as a team.

Post dinner, When we came back to our room each of us had the group picture @ Leela Palace lobby, beautifully framed, as a giveaway gift from Rtn Madhav and the Leela Palace staff. Touched!

A “CHILLED” OUT SUNDAY MORNING

Everyone got up to a relaxed Sunday morning! A few like Rtn Hemanth, was out & about for an early morning walk followed by a quick visit to “Rameshwaram Café” for a healthy intake of ghee based morning breakfast platter! The rest opted for the sumptuous breakfast spread at the hotel.

BREWERY TOUR @ BYG BREWSKI

Post a late breakfast, around a dozen of us including Senior Rotarians – PP Rtn. Shankar Mangadu & Rtn. Sivasubramaniam, were on our way for the Brewery tour @ one of Asia’s largest Breweries, Byg Brewski Hennur. the master blaster, Rtn, Shivkumar Easwaran, hosted for Beer & Lunch will was preceded by a tour of the brewery at Byg Brewski – our second “industrial visit” in 2 days. Mr. Ravi (from Shiv’s team) gave us an informative tour of the brewery and the brewing process. We got see and feel the raw materials that go in to making a beer, and at what stage beer changes its parameters from being similar to Horlicks to becoming beer!



Post the tour, we got to taste some of the brews and also whet our appetite with some lip smacking starters. We were happy campers!

This was the last stop in our trip and from here we headed out to the airport / station to make our way back to Namma Chennai.

Overall a fantastic trip with memories to Cherish!

A big shout out to the Vocational Services team and Chairman Rtn Rajesh Somasundaram for putting together this outstanding Industrial visit, to Rtn Vipin for organizing the visit to HAL, to Rtn. Madhav Seghal for our luxurious home for the weekend, to Rtn Shiv for lunch and brewery tour at Byg Brewski, to Rtn Rajesh Mani for helping organizing and coordinating our Bus pick up and travel at Bangalore and a Big Thank you to the energetic group of 55+ Rotarians for their enthusiasm that made this visit a Grand Success.

- Rtn. Vijay Balaji. ■



GO COLORS!

Leggings | Joggers | Ethnic | Palazzos | Jeggings | Pants | Denim | Culottes & more

Present across **150+ cities** with over **650+ exclusive brand stores** in all leading malls, high street & airports.
Shop Online at www.gocolors.com