

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 26 | JANUARY 2, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



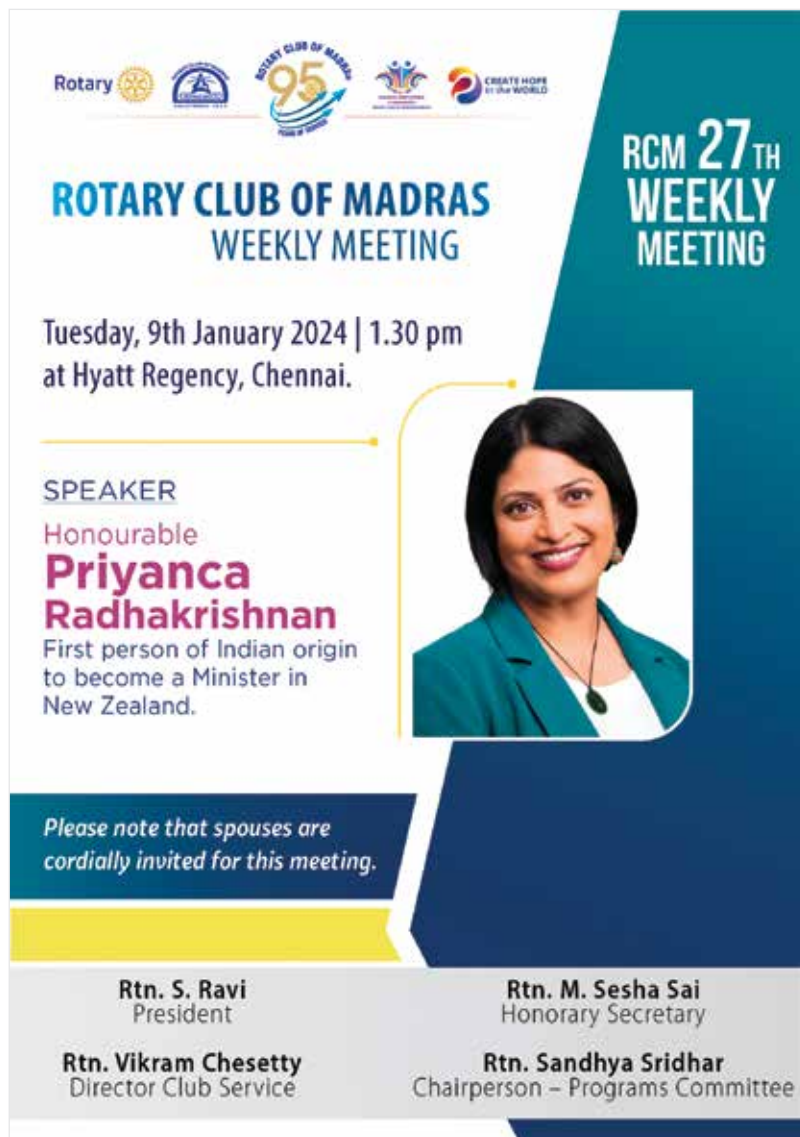
The First Rotary Club in India, the Rotary Club of Calcutta, celebrated their 105th Charter day on January 1st 2024.

Dear RCMers,

Presenting to you the 26th edition of Lighthouse.
As we reach the half way mark of this Rotary year,
we are waiting in anticipation for the grandiose
sports events that are planned.

Warmly

Yours in Rotary,
Rtn. Sunita Suresh



ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 27TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 9th January 2024 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER
Honourable
Priyanca Radhakrishnan
First person of Indian origin
to become a Minister in
New Zealand.

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

Rtn. S. Ravi
President

Rtn. M. Sesa Sai
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty
Director Club Service

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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CHARIS MEDIA WORKS

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Minutes of the 26th Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras held at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai, on January 2, 2024

The meeting commenced at 01:30 PM with President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan collared by Sergeant at Arms PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V. A silent invocation marked the beginning.

President Ravi welcomed everyone, extending New Year wishes and officially opening the meeting. Probus Club member Dr. S. Ramaiah and Rtn. Sakthivel Raja were warmly welcomed as well.



Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on December 26, 2023, was requested by President Ravi, followed by announcements. Club Service Director Vikram Chesetty shared updates on the Amritsar Khartarpur Sahib trip and upcoming events.

1. Rtn. Suresh Kumar invited members to celebrate his 60th Birthday on January 13th, and Pongal fellowship at PP Rtn. Ranjith's house on the 14th was announced.
2. Honorary Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai informed about birthdays, anniversaries, and the generous donation of a dialysis machine to the Pune center.
3. International Director Rtn. Sabina Narayan expressed gratitude for flood relief donations, the success of the Baku trip, and announced another dialysis machine donation at Hindu Mission Hospital.
4. President-elect Chella Krishna acknowledged Rtn. Sabina Narayanan's significant contribution of Rs. 8.30 lakhs to the Rotary Foundation.
5. Chief guest Mr. Mathew, Principal Commissioner of Income Tax in Indian Revenue Service, addressed the Rotarians,

followed by a Q&A session facilitated by Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra.

The meeting concluded with the presentation of a legacy book to the guest speaker and a vote of thanks by President-elect Chella Krishna. ■

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 1st	- Rtn. Arul Mozi Varman N.V. Dr.
Jan. 3rd	- Rtn. Linesh Sanatkumar
Jan. 4th	- Rtn. Fharzana Siraj
Jan. 6th	- PP Rtn. Nandita Krishnan
Jan. 7th	- Rtn. Mahul H. Shah
Jan. 4th	- Ann. Subha, Spouse of Rtn. PP Srikanth S.N.
Jan. 4th	- Ann. Achu Kurian, Spouse of Rtn. Jacob Kurian
Jan. 5th	- Ann. Jayasri Raghunandan, Spouse of Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan
Jan. 6th	- Ann. Priya, Spouse of Rtn. Sridhar V.
Jan. 7th	- Ann. Rajashree, Spouse of PP Rtn. Gauthamadas Udipi Dr. Prof.
Jan. 7th	- Ann. Sashi, Spouse of Rtn. Nataraj Ramaiah

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 4th	- Rtn. Fazal Mohamed. M & Shameem
Jan. 5th	- Rtn. Harish K. Murthi & Asha
Jan. 5th	- Rtn. Sriya Chari & Vivek Chandrasekharan

From the 26th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras January 02, 2024







Interactive session with author **Dr Sibichen Mathew**

An engaging encounter unfolded at The Presidency Club Steam Room when Rtn. Sumit, our esteemed member, serendipitously met our featured speaker for the day, Dr. Sibichen Mathew. Sumit humorously declared he had nothing to hide from the Investigation Director, setting a lighthearted tone for the interactive session.

Dr. Mathew commenced his speech by reflecting on the diverse New Year messages, emphasising their symbolic nature that resonates differently with each individual.

He mentioned the privileges of being a member of the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) and praised the club's commendable efforts in the field of dialysis, a sector facing an 80% deficit in facilities.

Highlighting the value of active Rotary participation, Dr. Mathew urged Rotarians to view

He emphasised the need for accountability within professions, specifically mentioning the role of chartered accountants in preventing financial scams.

every moment spent as an asset, emphasising the unparalleled exposure and experience gained through Rotary projects.

Discussing advice, Dr. Mathew categorised advisors into kings (know-it-alls), heroes (never failed), and obnoxious ones (commenting on any topic). However, he concluded that giving advice is nonsense.

Shifting gears to leadership, Dr. Mathew asserted that leadership is a conversation, drawing inspiration from unexpected sources like attenders, cleaners, and drivers. He introduced his book, "When the Boss is Wrong," exploring negative leadership attributes.

Discussing his book "Making People Pay," he humorously recounted struggles convincing even his wife to pay taxes, delving into the psychology of tax evasion through in-depth interviews with tax evaders.

The conversation extended to scams, with Dr. Mathew expressing concern about the lack of public outrage towards these crimes. He emphasised the need for accountability within professions, specifically mentioning the role of chartered accountants in preventing financial scams. White-collar crimes, he noted, are often perpetrated by well-connected individuals capable of wiping away fortunes in minutes.

In conclusion, Dr. Mathew advised caution for individuals, stating that one wrong decision could lead to significant losses. He emphasised the importance of educating the second layer of organisational personnel to make informed decisions.

THE Q&A SESSION UNVEILED INSIGHTS, INCLUDING

- The positive impact of digitization in reducing corruption
- Good night's sleep symbolising the synchronisation of the meaning of life and happiness
- Satisfaction he derived from leading the All-India Central Processing Centre (CPC) of the income tax department
- The meticulous planning of tax raids and the good results they achieve, showcasing the effectiveness of these operations. ■

- Rtn. Rani Muralidharan



NANKODU

LOYOLA COLLEGE ROTARACT CLUB'S COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nankodu was a community service initiative by the Rotaract Club of Loyola College conceived in response to the aftermath of the Michaung cyclone, recognizing the urgent need for support in New Boopathy Nagar, Chetpet. The project was initiated with a clear purpose: to provide immediate relief and ongoing assistance to the affected community. The Project was proposed and initiated on 6th December 2023. Our club's board officials Rtr. Jayeshwar and Rtr. Yogeshwaran led this initiative as the Project Chairperson and Secretary respectively.

The initial plan involved a swift overnight fundraising effort, engaging board members, friends, and family members which resulted in a successful collection of Rs.8040 in total. The funds raised were then carefully allocated and used to procure essential food provisions during Phase One, reaching over 60 families.

Phase Two of Nankodu was exclusively initiated in response to the community's specific requests for additional daily essentials. As a result, further funds were raised to meet these needs. Care Packages were curated, comprising of basic essentials to meet the community's needs. Ava Care Pvt. Ltd. generously sponsored 500 soaps and shampoos, contributing significantly to the care packages for Phase Two. Over 450 families and individuals benefitted from the Phase Two of Nankodu.

- Rtn. Balaji Chinni ■

WASTE PAPER COLLECTION DRIVE!



Join our waste paper collection drive!
Contribute to sustainability by dropping off old newspapers, magazines, and cardboard at our designated locations.
Together, let's reduce waste and promote a greener future! Drop off point :
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zDrpausVvV9fCcz97>
Please fill this google form for our internal audit.
<https://forms.gle/WB4LfjahdsLYpi59A>
Thank you so much !


Environment Committee.



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