

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 27 | JANUARY 9, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



PONGAL VAZHTHUKKAL



Dear RCMers,

Greetings!

Lighthouse features our guest speaker Priyanca a Chennai girl with decades old Rotary connections who is now a Minister in New Zealand.

January promises to be an invigorating month and we look forward to your holiday pictures

Please do email them to rcmlighthouse2023@gmail.com.

Yours in Rotary,
Rtn. Sunita Suresh



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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

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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 27th Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras
held at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai, on January 9, 2024

Opening:

The meeting commenced at 01:30 PM with Sergeant at Arms Rtn. Mohan Raman collaring President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who formally called the 27th weekly meeting to order. A silent invocation was observed.

President's Welcome:

President Ravi welcomed attendees, including an honorable Minister from New Zealand, delegates from Rotary Club of Rapid City, sister clubs, and other distinguished guests. New Year wishes were extended to all.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

President Ravi requested confirmation of the minutes of the 26th weekly meeting held on January 2, 2024.

Guest Introductions:

Visiting guests, Probud club members, and Rotaractor Ms. Srinidhi from M.O.P. Vaishnav College were welcomed.

Club Announcements:

- A dialysis machine was donated to Symbiosis University, supported by the club and District 3232.
- Rtn. Sesha Sai announced a medical camp and combined community services meet for the following week.
- Rtn. Hemant Chordia sponsored sports through the golf committee, thanking him for his generosity.
- Rtn. Sabina Narayan announced the celebration of Rotary International Day of World Peace and Understanding on February 23rd and 24th.
- President-elect nominee Nikhil Raj shared updates on flood relief efforts and announced a golf tournament on Jan 27th.

Delegate Introductions:

Rotarian Deepak Chander introduced international delegates from Rotary Club of Rapid City, District 5610, and other affiliated clubs.

**Delegate Addresses:**

Rotarians from abroad expressed gratitude for the warm welcome, sharing insights into their respective clubs and partnerships.

Rotaractor Srinidhi's Project:

Rotaractor Srinidhi presented a project involving the sale of planners to fund tuition centers in Thiruvallur districts.

Regular Announcements:

Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai made announcements regarding birthdays, anniversaries, and donations.

Acknowledgments:

PP S N Srikanth thanked Dr. Ashok for organizing the visit and appreciated his continuous support for charitable causes.

Chief Guest Address:

Mrs. Priyanka Radhakrishnan, the first person of Indian origin to become a minister in New Zealand, addressed the gathering. A Q&A session followed.

Closing:

Rtn. Raghu Kailas delivered the vote of thanks, and President Ravi Sundaresan declared the 27th weekly meeting adjourned. ■

Next week there is no meeting
Lighthouse holiday

From the 27th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras January 09, 2024





First person of Indian Origin to become a Minister in New Zealand

HONOURABLE PRIYANCA RADHAKRISHNAN



An elegant lady looking far younger than her 45 years took center stage to share her journey to being the first MP of Indian origin in New Zealand politics.

When introducing her, Rtn. PP. Kapil Chitale mentioned her RCM connections through her grandfather, Dr C.R.R Pillai, who was a PP and PDG from our club.

Born in Chennai and educated in Singapore, Priyanka Radhakrishnan wanted to find her place in a world where she would have to grow and thrive on her own merits and abilities. New Zealand was her choice as she knew no one there and her achievements would depend solely on her efforts.

Priyanka Radhakrishnan started her talk by acknowledging the yeoman service RCM has done in the field with special mention of Polio eradication and measles immunization drives. Her special bond with her grandfather led to many conversations about giving back to society and the importance of making a difference in the community.

On her visits back to Chennai as a child and as a young adult, this bond led to her imbibing the value system we are all familiar with – honesty, integrity and hard work, to stand up for what is right even if its unpopular, to champion those who cannot stand for themselves. This value system led her to her career choice of public service.

The move to New Zealand was rife with challenges, starting with the weather, the different culture and the initial loneliness all migrants face.

After her graduation, she joined an NGO that supports women of Asian and African origin who faced domestic violence. She worked on both sides of the aisle – with women to get to a safe place as well as to lobby the government for policy change.

Her boss at that time encouraged her to join the Labor Party as well as work on the campaign. The party shared her values of social justice and actually did make a difference.

After her masters, she was encouraged by her mentor from University to run for office, so she could be seated at the table where the change could be crafted. So, with the guidance of her mentor, she also met the future PM, who is also a good friend.

The challenges she faced on her journey she felt more

internal – fear of failure than the fear of success, the frequent self-assessment of the job being done. The self-doubt and impostor syndrome is another challenge she constantly works on.

Her main focus is to eradicate the scourge of domestic violence – where women and children are not killed and have a chance to live a decent life without fear. To have a more equitable society is her goal.

FEEL THE FEAR BUT DO IT ANYWAY. There is no other way. That's the motto that gets her moving.

After her election in 2017, the challenges became external as well.

As a young woman of color, she already had 3 strikes, but that strengthened her resolve to reach her goal on the campaign trail.

When she became an MP in 2020 New Zealand closed its borders due to COVID-19 and her family could not be with her during her investiture. It was another difficult situation she had to cope with.

Pay parity, Domestic violence and disability rights have been her areas of interest and its her research and policy initiatives that are driving change in the country. Supporting the NGO sectors working in these areas is the cornerstone of her work.

She created a new ministry to provide a forum for ethnic minorities and this is the first time they have had a voice heard by the highest levels of government. Through this ministry, she proved with statistics that pay parity and discrimination in hiring is not just anecdotal but factual and that study is driving change.

At 5% of the population, the Indian diaspora in NZ is a huge contributor to its economy. Her wish is to grow the trade agricultural education and security collaboration between the 2 nations.

As she rightly said, quoting “The most important thing in the world is ...people!” A Māori saying that colours the life of Priyanka Radhakrishnan.

- Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna ■

MEDICAL CAMP



The Rotary Club of Madras, in collaboration with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, conducted a free medical camp on December 28th, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at His/Her place T. Nagar.

During the camp, various checkups, including CBG, HB, BP, and general screenings, were conducted.

A total of 95 beneficiaries were attended to, and we provided medication worth Rs. 2900 to those in need.

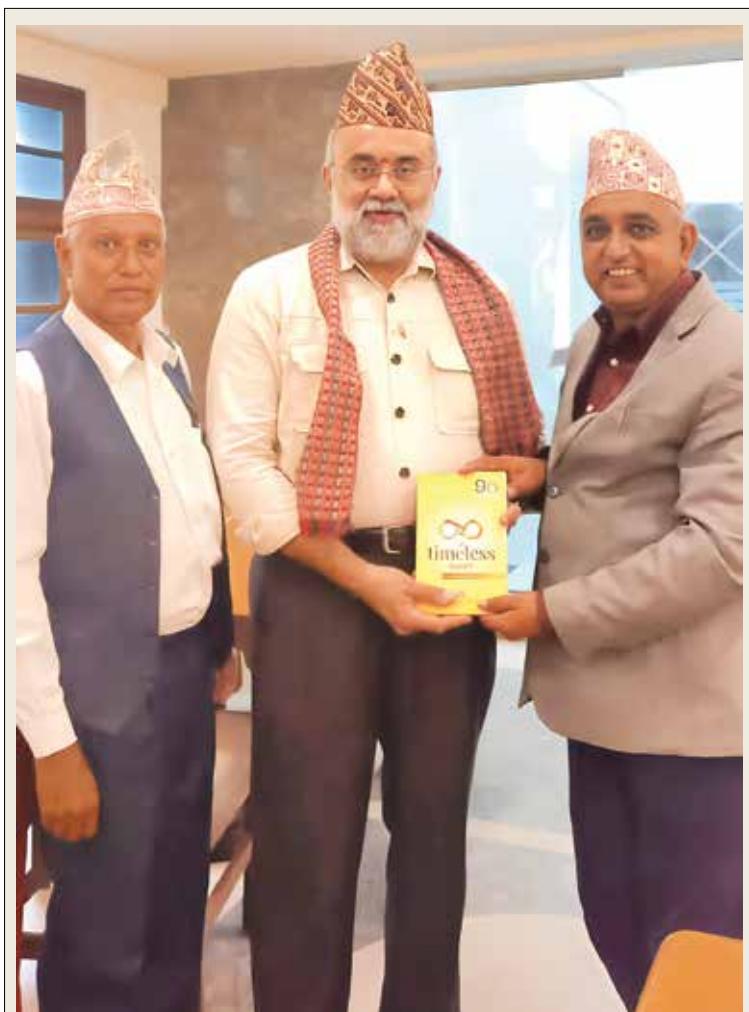
We were honored to have President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, Rtn. Bharat Pujara, Rtn Nimish C Tolia and Mr. Ravindran visit the camp and show their support.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Rotarians who took the time to visit and encourage the medical camp.



The medical team consisted of:
Dr. Sugani (General Medicine),
Dr. Samyuktha (Family Medicine),
Mrs. Selva Kumari (Nurse),
Mrs. Arputham (Nurse),
Mr. Karthikeyan (social worker).





Rtn. Gopal Prasad Panthi, a Past President of the Rotary club of Arghakanchi, Nepal was in Chennai on a brief visit.

They are our only Sister club in Nepal and we have also done a project of providing Computers to schools in their area, which is in West Nepal. Our Past President S.N.Srikanth initiated this during the year that Rtn. Kapil Chitale was our President.

He handed over a Nepalese cap, a scarf and a Lapel Pin to our President Ravi, Past President Srikanth and to me.

It is indeed significant to note that this area, Arghakanchi is a very underdeveloped area of Nepal.



BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 9th - PP Rtn. Satyan C Bhatt
- Jan. 10th - Rtn. Vipin Sachdev
- Jan. 12th - Rtn. Sanjay Tulsyan
- Jan. 13th - PP Rtn. Ranjit Pratap
- Jan. 13th - Rtn. Suresh Kumar S.
- Jan. 14th - Rtn. Vummidi Shailesh Raj

- Jan. 8th - Ann. Jaya,
Spouse of Rtn. Gowri R Shanker
- Jan. 8th - Ann. Girish Ramdas,
Spouse of Rtn. Shri Shakthi Girish

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Jan. 9th - Rtn. Thomas Philip & Thangam

SUN SHINE

- Rtn. Thomas Philip - Rs.5000/-
- Rtn. Rajendra Mudaliar - Rs.70000/-
- Rtn. Vipin Sachdev - Rs.2000/-



Dear Rotarians,

Continuing with the medical camp at SDNB Vaishnav College, Under the Leadership of Rtn. Bharath Pujara, an eye camp was organized by the Rotary Club of Madras and executed by UMA Eye Clinic on Sunday, 7th January 2024.

Key Figures:

Total students screened: 344
Students referred for detailed refraction: 80
Students prescribed glasses: 33
Cataract patients identified for free surgery: 4
all of whom are employees. ■



Introducing dialysis machines in India could significantly benefit the rising number of kidney disease cases. This effort provides crucial medical assistance to individuals dealing with renal issues, improving access to vital treatments.

The Rotary Club of Madras, in partnership with clubs in Pune and other clubs generously donated a dialysis machine to the **Rotary Yoda Dialysis Center**, under the Global Grant.

Past Rotary International Director **Rtn. Mahesh Kotbagi** acknowledged the Rotary Club of Madras during this noteworthy initiative.

Lone warrior **President Rtn. S Ravi** personally represented our club in Pune.

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:

Wasted 360 Solutions, T. Nagar, Chennai: 600017

Google Map Link: <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. ■





THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

RI President-Elect Stephanie Urchick celebrates the magic of Rotary. She says members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary.

Stephanie Urchick, the visionary RI President-elect for 2024-2025, has unveiled the enchanting theme "The Magic of Rotary." Embracing the spirit of community, service, and transformation, Rotary International is set to create a year when the magic of collective action illuminates the world. Join us on this extraordinary journey as we conjure positive change, turning dreams of a better future into reality.

Together, let's make the world sparkle with the transformative power of Rotary.

"We are not going to end polio or bring peace to the world by waving a wand. It's up to you. You create magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member."- RI PE Stephanie Urchick. ■

Rotary



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rtn. AKS. PP. Ranjit Pratap

&

Ann. Uma

*Invite you with your family
for the*

Pongal Vizha

Full Club Fellowship.

on Sunday 14th January 2024

from 10.30 am onwards.

at Villa Enchantress,

14 Ranjit Road, Kotturpuram,

Chennai-600085.

Dress Code:

Traditional South Indian

Rtn. S. Ravi

President

Rtn. M. Sesha Sai

Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty

Director - Club Service

Rtn. PP. Paul Jacob

Chairperson - Fellowship






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