

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 29 | JANUARY 30, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



The Rotary Club of Madras
conferred
"FOR THE SAKE OF HONOUR AWARD"
on
Ms. Suchitra Ella
Co-Founder of Bharat Biotech India Ltd.

Dear RCMers,

Greetings!


Presenting to you the 29 and 30th weekly bulletin.

We had the fantastic opportunity to meet Suchitra Ella and listen to her inspiring story.

Enjoy!

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Sunita Suresh




ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 30TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 6th February 2024 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER
Dr. Prithvi Mohandas,
MD MIOT Hospitals

TOPIC
Indian Healthcare:
Government vs Corporate



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 |

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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:
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 29th Weekly Meeting and Award Function held on January 30, 2024, at Hyatt Regency at 01:30 PM

Call to Order and Invocation:

- Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the 29th weekly meeting to order.
- The meeting commenced at 01:30 PM, and Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Parkavi collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who formally called the meeting to order, followed by Invocation.

President Ravi Sundaresan:

- President Ravi Sundaresan thanked Rtn. Parkavi for collaring him and called the 29th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order.
- Invocation song and dance were performed by Sri Sankara Vidyashram students.

Welcome and Roll Call:

- Welcome extended to Chief Guest Mrs. Suchitra Ella, co-founder of Bharat Biotech.
- Greetings to visiting Rotarians - Chitra, Suryanarayanan, Ramalingam, Sridhar, Siddarth, Dr. Anuradha, Dr. Gururaj.

Confirmation of Previous Meeting:

- Confirmation of the 28th weekly meeting held on January 23.

Announcements:

- Approval received from Greater Chennai Corporation for Rotary Nagar building renovation and construction projects.
- Recognition and applause for the efforts of Advisor Rtn. Ravishankar in obtaining approvals.
- Secretary Rtn. Sunitha made regular announcements for the current week, including birthdays, anniversaries, and the next meeting on February 6th at Hyatt Regency.

Vocational Services Director Rtn. Vijay Balaji:

- Introduced the "For the Sake of Honour" Award.
- Acknowledged a Sunshine donation of Rs. 2000 from Rtn. Ravishankar.



President Ravi Sundaresan:

- Acknowledged and expressed gratitude for the details provided by Rtn. Vijay Balaji.
- Highlighted the significance of conferring the "For the Sake of Honour" Rotary Award on Mrs. Suchitra Ella.
- Congratulated Mrs. Suchitra Ella for her outstanding contributions and leadership.

Reading of the Citation by President-Elect

Rtn. Chella Krishna:

- Detailed the achievements and contributions of Mrs. Suchitra Ella in the field of biotechnology.
- Recognized her role in Bharat Biotech's development of Covaxin and IncoVac, contributing to global vaccine research.
- Commended her leadership, entrepreneurship, and commitment to diversity and equality in the workplace.

Acceptance Speech by Chief Guest

Mrs. Suchitra Ella:

- Addressed the Rotarians and expressed gratitude for the honour.

Vote of Thanks by PP Mr. Venkatramani:

- Extended thanks to all participants, especially the Chief Guest.
- National Anthem played.

Meeting Adjournment:

- President Ravi Sundaresan adjourned the meeting. ■

From the 29th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras January 30, 2024







The Rotary Club of Madras conferred
"FOR THE SAKE OF HONOUR AWARD"
on **Ms. Suchitra Ella,**
Co-Founder of Bharat Biotech India Ltd.

The Rotary Club of Madras conferred "For the Sake of Honour Award" on Ms. Suchitra Ella, Co-Founder of Bharat Biotech India Ltd.

Accepting the Award, Ms. Suchitra Ella said that it was like homecoming, considering her childhood spent in Tamil Nadu, her husband hailing from Tamil Nadu, and her Mother continuing to reside in this state. Crediting her parents for the Award, she recognized their crucial role in her receiving this Award. She also remarked that it was coincidental that she was born in the same year when this Award was constituted in 1963. And that the list of illustrious past recipients of this prestigious Award humbled her.

She remarked that when her childhood friend informed her of RCM's intent to bestow this Award on her, she agreed without any hesitation, because the Award was from Rotary. The immense good work being done by the Rotary movement around the globe and in India, and also that her husband – Mr. Krishna Ella – had been funded by Rotary's International Scholarship in 1985-86 to his PhD in the USA, were enough reasons to convince her.

Mentioning that Mr. Krishna Ella and she returned to India in 1996, to pursue their ambition of doing

pioneering work in the areas of Life Sciences, Health Sciences and Bio-Technology. She gave insights into the challenges both of them faced as first-generation entrepreneurs. Their desire to position India as innovators and developers, instead of continuing to be mere manufacturers of FDA approved drugs for international pharma companies. They wanted to be in India and help provide affordable medicine for India's huge population.

Being conferred the Padma Bhushan Award was a proud moment for her as a proud daughter of India, and renewed her commitment to use all her academic spirit and scientific spirit and ensure India's triumph in developing indigenous technology. Remarking that the strength of her Organization not only helped overcome all initial troubles and develop their own Patents and Intellectual Property, but also avoid legal troubles in international courts at US and UK

When Covid struck the world, her husband and she decided that the onus was on them to take innovation and intellectual property for developing a vaccine as per world standards that would be internationally accepted. It was a proud moment for them when the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India visited their factory in Hyderabad, spent 50 minutes mostly listening to them, asking pertinent questions on their confidence level in developing a Covid Vaccine that would help vaccinate over a billion Indians, not once but many times over, and also supply the vaccine to other countries. It was a great moment for them, when their vaccine was immediately approved by the Govt of India for "Emergency Use Authorization."

Proudly recalling the gesture of 4 scientists in her organisation who volunteered to drive all the way from Hyderabad to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, and bring back their live strains, she said that many such extraordinary contributions by many in their team, helped them develop their Vaccine, and make India only the 5th country world-wide to develop own vaccine for Covid. Around Rs.700 crores of their own funds was invested in developing this vaccine, and it was noteworthy that not a single animal life was lost during the trials on them.

She concluded by emphasizing that India must recognize the capabilities of its 500 million women population, provide them with equal opportunities and benefit from their contribution to develop into a top 3 nations in our world.

- Rtn Ravi Shankar ■



ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS CONFERS

FOR THE SAKE OF HONOUR AWARD

2023-24

ON

SUCHITRA K. ELLA

CO-FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR
BHARAT BIOTECH INTERNATIONAL LIMITED

The world is a changed place post the pandemic of Covid-19. It transformed the way people looked at life and living; it taught us to cherish the good and the precious, embracing positivity in seeking solutions. Covid-19 also brought out heroes of many hues, some who walked among us, others who worked behind the scenes tirelessly and endlessly to offer the world some succour. Suchitra K. Ella is one such.

A Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Economics & Philosophy, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Patent Law, Suchitra is credited by her husband Dr. Krishna Ella, for their return to India to lay the foundation for Bharat Biotech International Ltd. The company is now iconic for the development of COVAXIN, India's first indigenous vaccine against Covid-19, and iNCOVACC, the world's first intranasal vaccine for Covid-19. It is a matter of pride to every Indian that the company has delivered six billion vaccines to over 123 developing countries, and has played a crucial role in bringing recognition to India as a nation that can lead in vaccine research and development.

As first-generation entrepreneur, Suchitra Ella has in the last 25 years, helmed Bharat Biotech deftly and successfully, putting in place a culture of innovation, accountability, and excellence. Under her leadership, Bharat Biotech has filed 433 patents, holds 145 granted patents, and developed 19 vaccines for worldwide use, among which are the ones for Chikungunya and the Zika.

Suchitra Ella has also co-founded 12 companies with Dr. Krishna Ella, including Ella Foundation. She holds distinguished positions of leadership in prominent industrial, social and educational organisations, in different regions and states.

A path-breaking entrepreneur and achiever par excellence, Suchitra Ella understands the value of diversity and equality in the workplace. Therefore, it is no surprise that she works through the Indian Women's Network (IWN) to empower women and help them achieve their goals through programmes like mentoring, workshops and more. An inspiration, she is a shining example of women in leadership, and is recognised as a role model and beacon of hope for women who seek to create history. Her stupendous work has been well-recognised and she has received many awards including the Padma Bhushan in 2022.

It is with pride that **Rotary Club of Madras** commemorates the achievements of a woman of substance, an achiever who leads by example, by conferring on Suchitra Ella the **For the Sake of Honour Award, 2023-24.**

Rotary Club of Madras is sure this recognition is but one in her many-feathered cap—each being an acknowledgment of her enterprise and unflagging spirit.

Rtn. S. Ravi
President

Rtn. M. Sessa Sai
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. PE. Chella Krishna
Awards Committee Chairperson

Rtn. Vijay Balaji
Vocational Services Director

30th January 2024



ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS VISITED THE TAILORING CENTRE AT SEMBAKKAM

On 31st December 2024, at the DTC Selaiyur our Rotarians, DGN Rtn. Vinod Sarogi and PN Rtn. Nikhil Raj visited the Tailoring Centre at Sembakkam.

They interacted with the DTC Students advised a lot of information. Students expressed their Training Feedback. Our Guest visited all areas at our campus.

They also met with Trust team and VMAPL and interacted with students and staff in the visited the Tailoring Centre at Sembakkam.



BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 29th - Rtn. Rajit Mhetras
Jan. 30th - Rtn. Jhaver R.K.
Feb. 2nd - Rtn. Shibu Isaac Capt.
Feb. 3rd - Rtn. Vijay Dugar
- Jan. 31st - Ann. Vinolia Lobo, Spouse of
Rtn. Antony Lobo
Feb. 4th - Ann. Madhu C.Mathen, Spouse of
Rtn.Asha Mathen

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

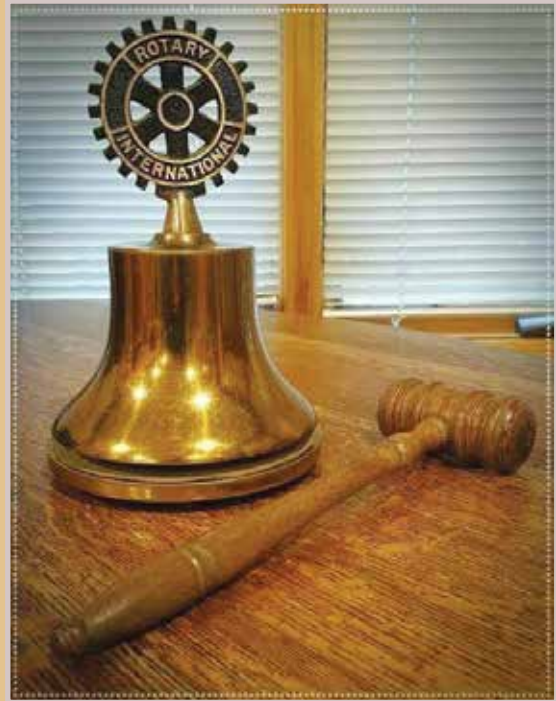
- Jan. 29th - Rtn. Rajesh Shankar & Lalitha
Jan. 29th - Rtn. Ravishankar R
Jan. 30th - Rtn. Mahinder Jain & Sarita Jain
Jan. 30th - Rtn. Visvanathan A.M. & Poornima
Jan. 31st - Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia & Pinky PHF
Feb. 1st - Rtn. Ramji. N & Soundarya
Feb. 2nd - PP Rtn. Kapil Chitale S. & Kashmira
Feb. 2nd - Rtn. Anuradha Jhaver & Praikshith Jhaver
Feb. 3rd - Rtn. Vani Vijay Dr. & Vijay Srinivas

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.



HISTORY OF THE ROTARY BELL:

In 1922, U.S. Rotarians organised an attendance contest; the challenge was that the losing clubs would join in giving the winning club a prize.

The Rotary Club of New York City was declared the winner and to them was awarded as a prize a bell from a popular patrol boat, which was placed on wood that came from HMS "Victory", Admiral Nelson's vessel at the battle of Trafalgar.

Since then, the bell used in Rotary meetings started to represent, as on the ships, order, discipline and the time to guide us through the weekly hour and a half meetings. The bell informs us with its sound the beginning of the Rotary meeting, other club rituals and of course the closure of the regular club meeting.
#Rotary #RotaryBell #

BOYS TOWN REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION









COMMUNITY SERVICE MEET



JAN Firesides

Fireside No 17:

Hosted by Rtn Jayshree Sridhar & Dr K.Sridhar

on Saturday, Jan 6th 2024

Attendees: Rotarians : 33 | Spouses : 23 | Total : 56

Fireside No 18:

Hosted by Rtn Vikram Jalan & Shailja Jalan

on Friday, Jan 12th 2024

Attendees: Rotarians : 17 | Spouses : 11 | Total : 28

Fireside No 19:

Hosted by Rtn Dr Gauthamadas Udipi & Rajashree

on Sunday, Jan 21st 2024

Attendees: Rotarians : 9 | Spouses : 4 | Total : 13

Total firesides in January : 3

Attendees : Rotarians : 59 | Spouses : 38

Total: 97 (excluding hosts)






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