

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 32 | FEBRUARY 23, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,
Presenting to you the gala event - Samarpan and the highlights of the week that was. *Enjoy!*

Yours in Rotary,
Rtn. Sunita Suresh

BIRTHDAYS

- Feb. 20th - **Rtn. Ashok Doshi**
Feb. 22nd - **Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay**
Feb. 23rd - **Rtn. Rahul Saraogi**
- Feb. 19th - **Ann. Sangeeta Dugar**, Spouse of **Rtn. Vijay Dugar**
Feb. 19th - **Ann. Sherral**, Spouse of **Rtn. Reji Joseph** Feb. 20th -
Ann. Niyati Abhay Mehta, Spouse of **Rtn. Abhay Mehta S.**
Feb. 20th - **Ann. Reena G.R.**, Spouse of **Rtn. Rajasekar Gorantla**

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 19th - **Rtn. Ravee Malhotra & Meenakshi**
Feb. 20th - **Rtn. Raghu Kailas & Shvetha Jaishankar**
Feb. 20th - **Rtn. Rajasekar Gorantla & Reena G.R.**
Feb. 20th - **Rtn. Karthik Srinivasan & Hema**
Feb. 23th - **Rtn. Ravi Katari & Tehzeeb**
Feb. 24th - **Rtn. Mukund Subramanian & Gayathri**
Feb. 24th - **Rtn. Vijay Kumar Kadel & Pratiba Kadel**
Feb. 24th - **Rtn. Manish Mardia & Payal**



Join us this month by participating in the e-waste collection drive. This initiative not only addresses the mounting issue of electronic waste but also promotes responsible disposal and recycling. We accept a wide range of electronic items, like old computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, printers, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, and other peripherals. Additionally, household appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, and microwaves are accepted. The goal is to divert these items from landfills, ensuring they are recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner to reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

#ewastecollectiondrive | #cleanerplanet | #Reduceewaste

Drop off point: **Wasted 360 Solutions**, T.Nagar, Chennai: 600017

Google Map Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zDrpausVvV9fCcz97>

Do fill the google form once you send for our team to quantify and know you participated: <https://forms.gle/WB4LfjhdSLYpi59A>

Thank you so much!

Environment Committee
Rtn. Gautam Reddy | Rtn. Dr. Vani Vijay

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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

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- DIRECTOR - YOUTH SERVICE**
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Rtn. Sunita Suresh
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Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan
- DIRECTOR - ROTARY FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**
Rtn. Sabina Narayan
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- TREASURER - RCMCT**
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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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The inaugural event of the RCM's Samarpan celebration on February 23rd, honouring Rotary Internationals "Day of world peace and understanding" with an "International Nite", highlighting the spirit of unity and peace. The event commenced with vim and vigor, fostering a spirit of global camaraderie.

Privileged as we were to have visiting Rotarians from our extended global and domestic clubs present, our club embraced the opportunity to weave peace and understanding into the warp of textile and weft of music, using these mediums as powerful & creative tools in building peace and understanding.

Both music and textile transcend barriers, embody the values of connecting people with harmony and foster shared empathy. It was our aim to showcase this symbolically through RCM's Peace Walk.

This intergenerational coming together, of Rotarians, interactors and Rotaractors as one group, proudly donning their national attire provided a vibrant tapestry of diverse cultures weaving peace metaphorically. It also showcased the collaborative spirit of RCM with the teams from International Service, Youth Service, Club Service and Assistant Secretary working together to create this magical spectacle.

The International and Domestic Rotary Clubs who participated were RC Seremban- Malaysia, RC Kandy- Sri Lanka, RC Peponi- Nairobi, RC KL Di Raja – Malaysia, RC Nairobi, Kenya RC Canon City, USA, RC Bombay, RC Bangalore, RC Trivandrum & RC Madurai Star.

This parade of cultures was not just heart-

International Nite MC Treasurer
Rtn Prabha Srinivasan with
International Service Director
Rtn Sabina Narayan - Adding Colour

warming but it also underscored the organization's commitment to building bridges towards better international understanding.

This was underscored by Rtn Prabha Srinivasan's interesting Q&A session with the visiting Rotarians. The engaging discourse provided an invaluable glimpse into the workings and initiatives of fellow Rotary clubs from around the world, with profound insights into various humanitarian projects, reiterating the values of unity and shared learning.

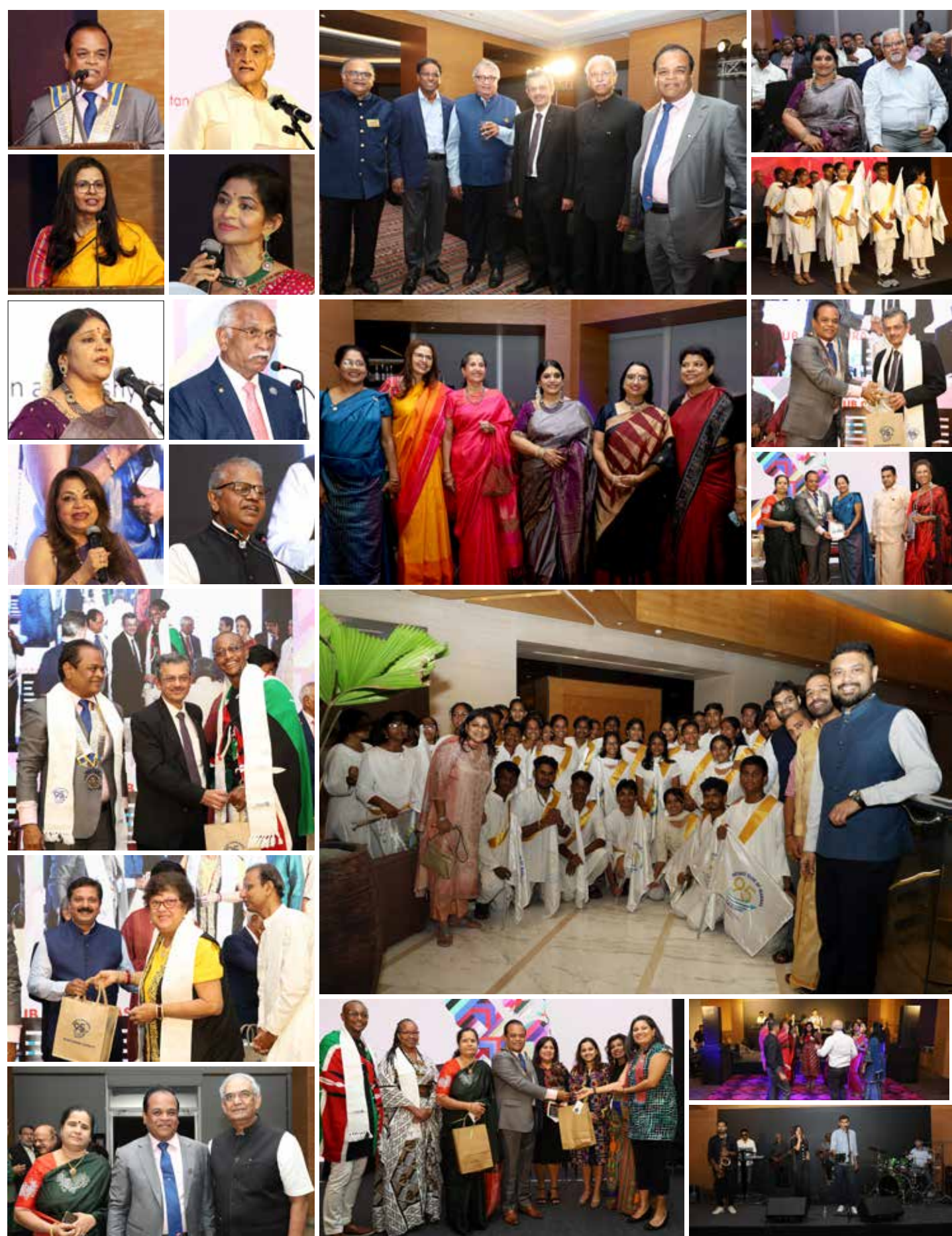
The event featured a noteworthy introduction by our own PDG Rtn. J.B. Kamdar of our Guest of Honour PRID, Rtn. Dr Bharat Pandya, Trustee The Rotary Foundation. A distinguished speaker Dr. Pandya illuminated the significance of the Rotary Foundation, emphasizing the Foundation's pivotal role in accomplishing widespread humanitarian aid, showcasing the profound impact Rotary has in promoting the greater good, and rallying members and guests alike to contribute to this noble cause.

The night concluded with a vibrant live band performance, providing guests with an opportunity to unwind and socialize, further solidifying the bonds of fellowship the Rotary Club of Madras is well known for.

The music added an exuberant finale to an evening filled with camaraderie, cultural appreciation, and a shared dedication to building a more compassionate, peaceful and inclusive world. ■

From the 32nd Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras February 23, 2024





From the 33rd Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras February 24, 2024







Celebrating RCM's 95th PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD

Over the last two days, most of you have seen the diverse range of projects implemented by RCM and listened to what RCM is capable of achieving **Setting records and pushing boundaries** to consistently reach **new heights of excellence and impact**, has been the **hallmark of leaders at RCM**.

In sports, the achievements of greats like Bob Beamon, Gary Sobers, and Mark Spitz, stood unchallenged for decades, but the records of these sportsmen were eventually surpassed by individuals like Mike Powell, Brian Lara, and Michael Phelps, **who dared to dream bigger and reach farther**.

It is this **spirit of determination and drive** that defines RCM's 95th President and his Board **Inspired by the legacy of those who led in the past 94 years**, this Board is committed to

reaching new heights in service. This 95th Year at RCM has been extraordinary, and quite literally speaking, the man responsible for this is Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, the 95th President of Rotary Club of Madras

I seek your indulgence in sharing a detailed background of President Ravi. Born in 1967 into a family rooted in **farming and handloom weaving**, Ravi faced adversity early in life with the loss of his father. However, he was fortunate to **inherit the resilience and determination** of his strong-willed mother. From a young age, Ravi **displayed traits** that would **shape his future as a leader in service**. His **unwavering faith in God**, **willingness to work tirelessly**, and an **indomitable spirit of never giving up**, have been the cornerstones of his character.

Graduating in **Mechanical Engineering**, Ravi



started as a Marketing Executive at **AMUL**, then joined MNC - **TETRA PAK**, where he honed his managerial skills **until 1999**. However, **driven by a desire to create his own path**, Ravi ventured into entrepreneurship, establishing **RELIANCE KRAFT PAPER INDUSTRIES**. His expertise in the kraft paper marketing sector earned him **prestigious memberships** in industry associations.

Family is central to Ravi's life. Wife Arunasree, a commerce graduate, is always by his side and his biggest supporter. Daughter - Shalini an Architect trained in Milan, Italy and Son - Santhosh Kumar, pursuing Post Graduation in UK, are his best friends.

Introduced to **RCM in 2010** by senior Rotarian Markand Desai, Ravi's journey in Rotary has been one of **continuous dedication and service**. His active involvement in various projects of **Community Service** and **Vocational Service** has been instrumental in making **14 villages open defecation-free**, establishing a technical training centre for differently-abled students, renovating schools, initiating sustainable **WASH projects** and supporting women empowerment.

Ravi's **commitment to service** has been **recognised** with **numerous accolades** and **11 awards**, including recognition as the "**Most Valuable Rotarian**," "**Best Rotarian**" (twice), and many more from both RCM and the District.

His philanthropic spirit is evidenced by his contributions as a **Major Donor** and by his wife **being a Paul Harris Fellow** herself.

A notable feature of Ravi's Presidentship is his constant focus on **RI's 5 Avenues of Service** and **7 Areas of Focus** under his guidance, RCM has **added 14 new members** this year, implemented projects through **CSR and Global Grant**, and conducted **impact assessment** for several projects.

This year **member engagement has flourished** at RCM, with **weekly meeting attendance** increasing from **60 to 110**, strengthening of relationships **with leading outstation clubs**, and executing **joint projects for 5.1 million rupees with 25 clubs** within District 3232

His stupendous achievement has been in collecting **9,15,000 US Dollars**, in just 7 months with a resolute aim to **exceed 1 million USD** by this Rotary year end. President **Ravi's legacy is defined by action** seen in **Implementation of diverse projects**, including **housing, sanitation, and vital healthcare infrastructure**.

President Ravi's **passion and vision to scale new heights** is made possible by a **dedicated team** that executes with **unwavering commitment and enthusiasm**.

Now, let us see the **remarkable achievements** of his Board Members: **Honorary Secretary**, Rtn. Sesha Sai has demonstrated **exceptional**



leadership. Has made **timely payment of District and RI dues** for our 277 members and done **prompt submission of reports.** He is diligently working on RCM's aspiration to achieve a **20% women membership** which **underscores our dedication to diversity and inclusivity.** Through **32 weekly meetings and 8 board meetings,** Rtn. Sesha Sai has ensured the **seamless functioning** of our club's **administrative processes.**

Our Immediate Past President, Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar has made **invaluable contributions to healthcare initiatives.** Under her leadership, RCM inaugurated the **Mammogram Project in Devakottai,** providing **free mammography services across four districts.** Her efforts on **free cataract surgeries and arranging life-saving medical equipment,** have ably supported President Ravi's commitment to addressing critical healthcare needs.

President-elect Rtn. Chella Krishna has played a pivotal role in **streamlining fund mapping and supporting our CSR committee.** His dedication helped ensure our club meets the **CSR Donors compliance and audit requirements, Chairing the Finance Committee** he vetted all our projects estimates, thereby enhancing our **reputation as a premier trustworthy organisation.** His role is **selecting and coordinating RCM's Awards** this Rotary Year is noteworthy.

Our President Nominee, Rtn. Nikhil Raj, has **demonstrated exemplary leadership** by following up on **global and district grants, PHF schemes, and CSR engagements.** His smooth organising of an **online meeting with Rotary International President Nominee Rtn. Mario,** exemplify his commitment to advancing our **club's international interactions.**

Under Director Rtn. Vikram Chesetty, Club Service activities have flourished at RCM. Through **32 enriching weekly meetings and 8 vibrant full club fellowships,** our club has fostered strong bonds among **1000 Rotarians, spouses, and guests.** His Team facilitated **20 firesides,** engaging over **600 members** in personal interactions. Provided thrilling **outstation visit** experiences to

over **150 RCMers.** Inducted **13** new members, **emphasising on excellence.** Implemented **biometric attendance and standardised member databases** and formed a **Member Engagement Committee** that is performing wonderfully this year.

RCM's **active participation at District events,** including **SANGAMAM 24,** where RCM was a **silver sponsor** with contributions of **2.2 million rupees,** and RCM's Past President Dr. Vijaya Bharati chairing the recent **PETS 2024** at Colombo all showcase RCM's **commitment to collaborative initiatives with District.**

Under Rtn. Balaji Chinni's leadership in Youth Service, RCM has seen Installation of **28 Interact Clubs and 11 Rotaract Clubs,** including formation of **1 new Interact and Rotaract Club this year,** providing opportunities for youth engagement. The completion of our signature project, **STREET SCAPES,** has beautified streets near **18 participating schools,** enhancing our community's aesthetic appeal.

As Director of Fundraising & Public Relations, Rtn. Rahul Saraogi, guided by Rtn. Abdul Kareem Sait, organised the **highly successful RCM Merchants & Bankers Golf Tournament.** He has coordinated collection of **38 million rupees** so far this year, for diverse club projects. He also has led by example, becoming an **Arch Klumph Member** this year.

Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Director of CSR, has tirelessly worked to **secure partnerships with new Donors** comprising top corporations like **HT Parekh Foundation and Redington,** resulting in RCM receiving generous CSR contributions for **44 million**

rupees until now this year. Additionally, we commend his **engaging role as an anchor** for our Green Rotarians' introduction program, **My Job Talks**.

The **dedicated efforts** of Rtn. Sabina Narayan has led to **remarkable strides** during her tenure as Director of Rotary Foundation & International Service. Along with **Chairperson Rtn PP Gunashekar, International Relations at RCM have flourished** this year, **revitalised ties with JWD and Sister Clubs**. RCM members have visited several international and domestic clubs as our **Goodwill Ambassadors**. The **redesigned eco-friendly RCM flag is her brain-child**. Along with President Ravi, she **spearheaded fundraising efforts for The Rotary Foundation**, achieving a **record-breaking \$9,15,000 in just 7 months**. International travel experiences, including a trip to **Japan**, and an upcoming trip to **Baku** in April, provided valuable insights into traditions and cultures of other nations.

Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan, as Director of Community Service 1, has **spearheaded transformative initiatives** in line with our vision of **Integrated Village Development**. Through **"Home for the Homeless"** initiative, **42 families in Thathiyar Kandigai village** have already been given houses. Along with Rotary Club of Madurai Star, RCM provided **4 tailored houses for visually impaired individuals** in Sakkimangalam village, **Madurai**. The implementation of **WASH projects in 6 schools** across Tamil Nadu helped provide **safe and hygienic learning environments**, benefiting over 1600 students and teachers. Under **Rural Sanitation**, the **205 toilets and awareness programs in JJ Nagar** have **enhanced hygiene practices**, benefitting **900 individuals**.

RCM's **Boys Town** offers a **nurturing environment, specialized tutoring, extracurricular activities**, all enabling **107 boys, aged 11 to 16, have hope, opportunity, and a brighter future**. RCM's efforts to **restore water bodies** reflect our commitment to **environmental sustainability**. Under the **steadfast guidance** of Director Bharat Pujara, our Community Service 2 initiatives have **touched several lives, fostering health, hope, and well-being**. A **donation of 0.5 million rupees facilitated 100 cataract surgeries**

at VHS Hospital.

Our project "Save a Little Heart" supported **140 children**. In partnership with **Inner Wheel Club**, RCM provided **27 smart vision glasses to visually impaired individuals**. Through **13 medical camps**, RCM reached out to **1,345 individuals**. Along with Vision Foundation, RCM conducted **46 eyes screening camps, distributed 325 glasses, and performed 306 cataract surgeries**. Our **dental camps**, conducted in partnership with **GCC and Suryoday**, benefitted **41,918 children**.

A **digital mammogram donation at Devakottai** has empowered women across **four districts** with access to crucial diagnostic services. Our efforts in dialysis, conducting **1,200 cycles monthly** and **donating a dialysis machine to the Rotary Yoda Dialysis Centre, Pune**, have provided vital support to **140 patients**. Jointly with the Raj Charitable Foundation RCM donated an **Inhaled Nitric Oxide Delivery System, valued at 1.7 million rupees**, to the **Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital**.

Rtn. Vijay Balaji has proven to be a **dynamic leader**. In his tenure as Director, our Vocational Service initiatives have empowered **individuals with opportunities for growth and development**: The **Digital Learning Program**, a **collaborative effort between RCM and District 3232**, has reached over **20,000 underprivileged high school students**, equipping them with essential **digital learning tools and content**.

Recognizing excellence, we **bestowed awards upon distinguished individuals** such as Mrs. **Omana Thomas, Sri N.R. Narayana Murthy**, and Mrs. **Suchitra Ella**, acknowledging their outstanding contributions.

Industrial visits to reputed institutions like **Saint Gobain in Sriperumbudur, HAL Tejas & Helicopter Manufacturing division in Bengaluru**, coupled with a **brewery tour at Byg Brewski**, provided learning and fellowship opportunities.

Our **"EmployABILITY"** Career Fair, organised with the **Ability Foundation**, facilitated job interviews for over **600 differently-abled candidates**, as **Flood Relief Activities**. RCM provided **relief kits and grocery kits**

at Chindadripet, Rotary Nagar, Selaiyur and Sembakkam.

Our Treasurer BTS and Club Funds, Rtn. Prabha undertook extensive efforts at the beginning of this year to **sensitise and obtain approvals for cost of member engagement initiatives**. She also **admirably handled the Entertainment activities** at the recently concluded District Conference **SANGAMAM 2024**. Both our treasurers – Prabha Srinivasan and Palaniappan – through their tireless efforts have ensured smooth financial operations and integrity of our club, and deserve a big Thank You!

Our Assistant Secretary Rtn. Sunita Suresh, has published **31** timely issues of our informative weekly bulletin – **Light House**, Each issue has been **well-received for its wide content** having **snippets from Rotary International and District coverage of Fireside events, showcasing service projects, and celebrating achievements of RCMers**, thereby fostering a sense of pride and recognition for our club worldwide.

I sincerely **apologise for taking so much of your time**, but **reflecting on accomplishments of this Board fills me, and I am sure all of you too, with immense pride**. From **fostering community development to nurturing educational initiatives, from advancing healthcare to promoting vocational opportunities**, each endeavour has been **guided by RCMs unwavering commitment to service above self**.

This year, our **theme of CREATING HOPE IN THE WORLD** has **resonated significantly in the extraordinary efforts of this Board** and I am sure this will **inspire those to follow at RCM to serve even better, by building responsible communities, embodying the spirit of Rotary in all that we do**.

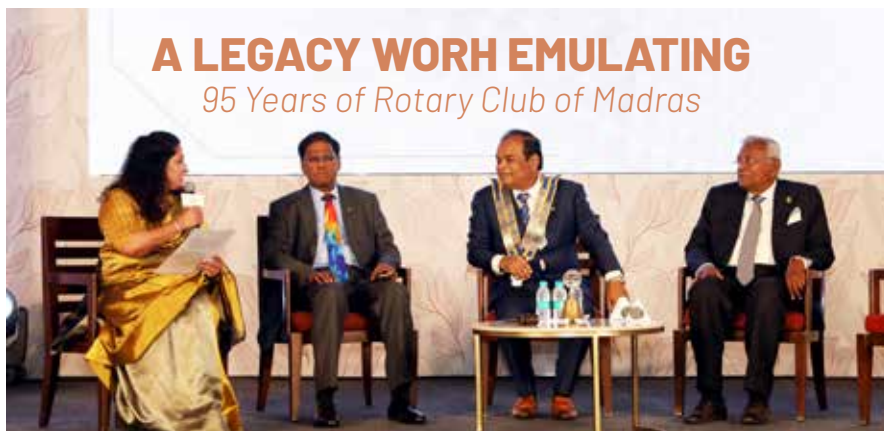
Thank you everyone!
Rtn. Ravishankar



95th YEAR - The Journey, MCs : Programs Chair Rtn Sandhya Sridhar & Member Engagement Chair Rtn Sanjay Chaganti with Membership Chair & Session Moderator Rtn Shanno Ravi with President S. Ravi - All Smiles

A LEGACY WORTH EMULATING

95 Years of Rotary Club of Madras



The session on “a legacy worth emulating” led the series for the evening of 95 years of Rotary Club of Madras. The intangible facets of RCM were well covered and couldn’t get better given the collective experience of the individuals in the session being over 98 years in Rotary. The panel consisted of PDG Benjamin Cherian (38 years in rotary), PDG J Sridhar (23 years in Rotary), along with President S Ravi. The precursor to this session was a well compiled video on the legacy projects of RCM. This provided the premise for the moderated session led by Rtn. Shanno Ravi.

RCM’s intangible legacy is its people, and this was elucidated clearly by PDG Benjy (as he is fondly known to all of us) in his opening remarks. He said while the projects were the pride of RCM, the work done by RCMers in the past of transforming communities, being pioneers of largest projects, our club being the recipient of the largest grants, educating 1000s of students, changing lives for the future, forever were what made RCM where it is today. It was beautiful to hear that Rotary from its processes, creates over 35000 leaders every year, and the Rotary mandate of a new president every year, ensures more leaders. He believed that following the bylaws, maintaining punctuality, great bonhomie, quorum and conduct, being generous with time, effort and funding were key to the legacy of RCM.

PDG J Shridhar added to PDG Benjy’s comments and highlighted that the first RI Director from India was from RCM and was given the posted under special circumstances despite the candidate not being a District Governor. A true feather in our caps. He said like in the past, it was always of utmost importance to bring grace to the chair (the office bearer be it president or anyone) and urged all of us that this was something that we had to build on ensuring that the grace is never taken away from the chair. PDG Sridhar said there were two ways to look at RCM, its internal working and how RCM showcases itself externally. He believed that ethics and principles were fundamental to the club’s legacy. Externally, RCM has been the leader in taking up largest impactful projects and lead from the front. Be it the red measles vaccine, polio vaccine, the end polio flame and even RCM’s recent involvement building the cold chain during the COVID pandemic, RCM is the forerunner and his was worth other clubs emulating.

President S Ravi said he was humbled to have inherited such a legacy, and believed the continuous bedrock of fellowship, community engagement, the impact on the community including the philanthropy were all intangibles which were praiseworthy and have RCM in its pride of place today.

In conclusion, PDG Benjamin Cherian told the new leaders and leaders to be, that it was vital for the club to have a vision plan with the centennial year ahead and to plan for the decade, keeping in mind what the lesser privileged of the city need. He reiterated the vast base of land



RCM holds in Gummidipoodi and Seleiyur have and that these were legacies to build on. He said this called for a committee to be constituted to execute this vision.

Rotary’s bedrock is fellowship yes, but service is the spice that sets apart Rotary from any other organization. This service spices comes from giving time, effort, and funds.

Thank you,

Rtn. Shanno Ann Ravi

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS PROJECTS



President Nominee Rtn.Nikhil Raj had a panel discussion with President Rtn.Ravi Sundaresan, DGE Rtn Saravanan and PP Rtn. N K Gopinath on the various projects done by RCM over the years.

Questions were posed to DGE Saravanan on the various Diseases Prevention and Treatment projects and Maternal & Child Health projects done by the Rotary Club of Madras. He divided his answer into 3 categories. 1. Immediate response projects due to the need of the hour. 2. Support for medical treatment. 3. Health camps and spoke about the various projects done by RCM under those heads.

PP Rtn NK Gopinath was asked about the Basic Education & Literacy projects and Community Economic Development projects of RCM. He covered projects like Boys Town, Rotary Nagar, Sembakkam, Selaiyur, TTC, Tsunami project, Perumbakkam, Homes for the Homeless and our Lake cleaning projects.

President Ravi was asked to highlight about the Water Sanitation and Hygiene projects executed by our club.

He spoke about the toilets constructed in numerous villages like Ambarapedu, Kannankottai etc and schools like Arani , Sri Sarawathi Vidyalaya which have benefitted over 12,000 residents and 30,000 students

He also spoke about the Public Convenience project (His and Her Place) and the plans to add 2 more similar projects.

The session ended with some quick fire questions to the panelist which were deftly answered!





President Elect Rtn Chella Krishna had a panel discussion with President Rtn S Ravi, District Governor Rtn Ravi Raman and DG Nominee Rtn Vinod Sarogi on the concept of the Gift of Giving. Prior to panel beginning its deliberations, Rtn Chella read out the contributions made by individuals and corporates which were cumulatively exceeding 1 Million USD till date and this was met with acclaim.

The panel began with Rtn Chella asking DG Ravi Raman about what motivates him to give and continue giving. The DG replied that he started slowly and it was only around 2015 onwards that he on the persuasion of a fellow member of his club Bala had involved himself in a watershed project in Krishnagiri which resulted in vast impact. He then made huge efforts as District Chairman International service resulting in his visiting over 60 countries and close to 90+ global grants. His motivations he mentioned have come from teaming up with partners around the world to do projects and in visiting beneficiary sites and seeing the benefits of the work that is being done.



The next question was to DGN Vinod on his motivations for giving. DGN Vinod reiterated the need for visiting projects. He also talked about the Global grants which he was involved in and some excellent partners with who he had worked. He also mentioned that he get a “Feeling inside” which prompts him to give when he visits these projects.

The final question was to President Ravi was to understand the secret sauce to raise funds. He mentioned that a good cause, measurability, achievability and finally accountability, compliance and statutory in dealing with compliance.

All in all in it was a panel which touched on the motivations for giving and some imperatives on the persons accepting the grant. A useful session which helped everyone learn.

RCM BOYS TOWN VISIT TO CHENNAI PORT – CITPL CONTAINER TERMINAL



As part of the outreach programs for the Boys Town boys, a visit was arranged to Chennai International Terminal Private Limited (CITPL), a privately licensed container terminal in Chennai Port on 17th Feb 2024.

The visiting boys, accompanied by 2 staff and Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal and NK Bhatia, were visibly excited and arrived at the terminal by 10:15 hrs. Rtn. Suresh Amirapu, who is an Advisor to CITPL, welcomed the visitors, and gave an introductory talk on how a port functions, what services it provides. The visitors were given a Safety Briefing and then a guided tour of the port facility.

They get to see the huge cranes and other equipment used to load and unload containers from ocean-going vessels, transport them and stack them in the yard and deliver them to the importers.

It was an unusual experience, thrilling in its own way and also giving them a rare insight into an industry of which not much is known to the general public.

After reassembling in the conference room with snacks and refreshments, the Head of Human Resources of CITPL gave the boys a rundown of the various functions performed by the different departments in the Port terminal and the employment opportunities available.

Next followed a brief talk by Capt. KG Ramakrishnan, a former ship's captain and representative of the Company of Master Mariners of India. He gave a gripping account of life at sea, the adventures and rewards the sea life provides, and employment opportunities.

Throwing the floor open for Q&A, with boys incentivized to ask interesting questions, saw them shed their inhibitions and ask numerous questions about life and employment in the Port terminal and on ships.

Rtn NK Bhatia proposed a vote of thanks. After a hearty rendering of the National Anthem, the groups posed for photographs. CITPL thoughtfully arranged for some safety helmets and high visibility jackets which the boys wore and took photos for some fond memories of their visit.



Overall, the objective of the visit was to introduce the boys to a facility which they had not seen before, learn about the port and shipping industries and even give a glimpse of the employment opportunities therein. The speakers were inspiring, and the boys were clearly left with the conviction that if they were prepared to work hard and learn new skills, they have a good chance of success as anyone else.

- **Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal**, Chairman, RCM Boys Town
& **Rtn. Suresh Amirapu**, Member. ■

Rotaract Club of Jeppiaar University's Inspiring Outreach: EMPOWERING STUDENTS AT ADVENT CHRISTIAN GOVT SCHOOL

On the vibrant morning of February 13, 2024, the Rotaract Club of Jeppiaar University embarked on a meaningful journey to the Advent Christian Government Affiliated School, infusing hope and inspiration into the hearts of young minds. This visit marked the culmination of our Club Project, Insprovatation Phase 3, aimed at nurturing the potential of budding talents within the school community.

Led by esteemed speakers Dr. Kandavel and Faculty coordinator Mr. Samuel Das, alongside the dynamic presence of Rtr. PRES. Dharmesh and his dedicated board members, our team embarked on a mission to ignite the spirit of ambition and resilience among the students. With stirring speeches and insightful anecdotes, the speakers left an indelible mark on the impressionable minds, instilling a sense of purpose and determination.

However, our engagement didn't end with words; it transcended into action. Recognizing the pressing need for technological advancement, the school management voiced their plea for computer repairs. In a swift response, the Rotaract Club of Jeppiaar University mobilized resources and expertise to fix the computers, rejuvenating the educational infrastructure and opening doors to digital literacy.

Moreover, understanding the significance of access to basic educational resources, our club extended a helping hand by donating 100 sets of stationery to the diligent students of the school. This gesture aimed not only to alleviate immediate needs but also to reinforce the value of education as a transformative force.



As the echoes of laughter and gratitude resonated through the school corridors, it became evident that our efforts had sown seeds of hope and empowerment. The

collaboration between Rotaract Club of Jeppiaar University and Advent Christian Govt School stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives in fostering holistic growth and development.

In the spirit of service above self, we remain committed to nurturing dreams, inspiring change, and building a brighter future, one project at a time.

- Rtn. Balaji Chinni ■



RCMPL Inaugural & GROUP MATCHES

And Finally, there it was!

Sunday the 25th February 730 AM, the Inaugural of RCM Premier league: Commenced with aplomb, declared open by President Ravi in the presence of the team captains, Marquee players, Teams and the organizing committee. It was done with precision and efficiency at the Sri Ramachandra Medical college grounds, Porur where all subsequent matches are scheduled to be held between 8-10th of March.

The occasion was graced by the DGE. Saravanan and DGN Vinod Saraogi who were all praise for the manner in which the tournament was conceptualized and organized at the District level, encouraging Fellowship and Camaraderie amongst all Clubs.

The setting was perfect with lush green outfield, well-manicured grounds, Arab tents provided for teams to occupy and every possible facility provided to the players and the umpires. There were stumps that lit up on contact, Pad sleeves of different hues and attractive bat covers which added colors to the day. And lastly and not the least, there was live You Tube coverage with background commentary and a 20 'x 8 'LED screen projecting live coverage of the matches with background music & Live scores. This would have done any IPL match organizer proud!

The committee and the Captains of all teams signed the Fair play board towards their adherence to gentlemanly conduct and sporting approach. In support of that all 5 matches held were played in good

spirit and Fellowship keeping the Rotary tradition intact.

Continuing on the players comfort, the food provided by the SRMC kitchen was sumptuous and tasty supplemented by juices and Glucose water to keep everyone well hydrated. Special mention must be made of the SRMC support staff at the ground headed by Mr.Nandagopal who spared no effort in support.

The 5 matches were a lot of fun with young and old participating with full vigor and enthusiasm. There were some outstanding shots, lovely catches taken and wonderful bowling efforts from the Rotarians. There were low and High scoring matches and a last ball thriller which added to the excitement. In all it was a heady cocktail, good enough to be served in our fellowships.

Happy to say that more than anything RCM received the maximum exposure and accolades all the way. There



were banners, posters, Bat and jersey logos with RCM depicted which gave this event a RCM flavor all the way!

Having started this tournament as a one off, the organizing group is of the opinion that this can be made into an annual event and a Fund Raiser for RCM. Thanks to Rtn. B V Gautam -Title Sponsor & Shivkumar Eashwaran- Gold Sponsor and the owners & Co-owners this year was made possible. We'd like to take this one step further by requesting sponsors both corporate and individual (Amongst RCM ers & Friends of) to voluntarily contribute. An appeal for this is already made out in the Whatsapp group. Rotarians! Please step forward as is your wont!

Special thanks to Rtn.Santosh of OM EVENTS, the event manager who put it all together, Sriman, the Rotractor who took on Multiple roles and 20 odd volunteers from ISSM (Thanks to Rtn. Dr.Parkavi) who helped us to make this happen.

Credit must be given to Rtn.Shivkumar Easwaran for his passion for cricket for chairing this initiative and Rtn.Bobby

Balakrishna for the meticulous planning & arrangements. The organizing committee leant their shoulders to the Chair and Co-chair to ensure this was a smooth affair.

WE request to you to be present in large numbers with Family & Friends on the 8-10 March (match days) and create a carnival of sorts and celebrate.

- Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan





Throwback to Punjabi music (blared through headphones), as we toured Himachal Pradesh

Life must be full of love, and be loud, spicy, and rich in experiences...

Throwback to a road trip when we had our driver join us, for purely navigation purposes.

Not for driving (heaven forbid!).

Throwback to shameless thievery (a.k.a "inheriting" your dad's formal wear).

Throwback to the "youngster" embracing selfie stick on a trip.

From
The Member Engagement Committee

THE GREENEST RCMer

**P Ravishankar
joined on 05.12.'23**



Join us this month by participating in the e-waste collection drive. This initiative not only addresses the mounting issue of electronic waste but also promotes responsible disposal and recycling. We accept a wide range of electronic items, like old computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, printers, monitors, keyboards, mice, cables, and other peripherals. Additionally, household appliances like refrigerators, washing machines, and microwaves are accepted. The goal is to divert these items from landfills, ensuring they are recycled or disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner to reduce the environmental impact of electronic waste.

#ewasteclectiondrive
#cleanerplanet
#Reduceewaste

Drop off point:

Wasted 360 Solutions,
T.Nagar,Chennai:600017

Google Map Link:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/zDrpausVvV9fCcz97>

Do fill the google form once you send for our team to quantify and know you participated:

<https://forms.gle/WB4LfjahdsLYpi59A>

Thank you so much!

Environment Committee
Rtn. Gautam Reddy
Rtn. Dr. Vani Vijay

