

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 33 | MARCH 5, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,


Presenting to you a detailed Community Services report of great glory.

Snapshots of the week gone by are included.

As RCM marches towards other significant projects in March, we leave you with a hint of things to come.

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
WEEKLY MEETING

RCM 36TH WEEKLY MEETING

Tuesday, 12th March 2024 | 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

SPEAKER
Mr. Ishmeet Singh Chandiok
Founder - Harley's Corner,
The Dog Chef | Canine Nutritionist,
Hospitality Specialist | Foodie,
Lover of all things that
make one laugh

TOPIC
**Delivering Doggie Dabbas
the World Over**

*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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Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan

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Rtn. Sumit Kalra
Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Rtn. Ravindran Ramachandran

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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www.rotarymadras.in

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Minutes of the 35th Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras

held on 05-03-2024 at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai, on February 13, 2024

Call to Order and Invocation:

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the 35th weekly meeting to order.

Silent Invocation was observed.

The meeting commenced at 01:30 PM.

Sergeant at arms Rtn. Mohan Raman collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan who formally called the meeting to order followed by invocation.

President Ravi Sundaresan's Remarks:

President Ravi Sundaresan welcomed everyone and called for confirmation of the minutes of the 34th weekly meeting.

Welcomed Mr. Subbaiah Veerapa Mudaliar from Rotary Club of South Mauritius and any other guests.

Secretary made announcements regarding birthdays, anniversaries, and sunshine reports.

Announcements:

Rtn. Sesha Sai shared highlights from the recent RYLA camp.

Rtn. Sesha Sai introduced Dr. Rama Narasimhan and Rtn. Shivakumar introduced Mr. Bikram Shivkumar as new members.

Rtn. Sanjay announced the inclusion of new members into various committees.



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/zDrpausVv9fCcZ97>

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!

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

Rtn. Sesha Sai announced an upcoming international rotary conference in Singapore.

Induction of New Members:

New members, Dr. Rama Narasimhan and Mr. Bikram Shivkumar, were formally inducted into the club.

Committee Announcements:

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty facilitated discussions on various topics including the club's website and membership.

Vocational Service Proceedings:

Rtn. Vijay Balaji handed over the proceedings to Rtn. Nelofer for the V.P. Raman 4 Way Test event. Winners of the 4 Way Test event were announced and awards were distributed.

Vote of Thanks:

Vote of Thanks was given by Rtn. Sesha Sai.

Closing:

President adjourned the meeting.

BIRTHDAYS

- March. 1st - Rtn. Rajiv Khanna
- March. 1st - Rtn. Srilatha. S
- March. 2nd - PDG Rtn. Krishnaswami S
- March. 2nd - Rtn. Ravishankar R
- March. 5th - Rtn. Krishna Kishore
- March. 9th - Rtn. Himanshu Budhia
- March. 10th - Rtn. Rajan. K Dr.
- March. 10th - Rtn. Rinku Mecheri
- March. 6th - Ann. K. Sridhar, Spouse of Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar
- March. 8th - Ann. Rashmi, Spouse of Rtn. Sunil Sudhakar Shankar
- March. 9th - Ann. Komal Singh, Spouse of Rtn. Harbinder Singh Rattha
- March. 9th - Ann. Rajshri, Spouse of Rtn. Linesh Sanatkumar

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- March. 3rd - Rtn. Shivaraman T & Anupama
- March. 7th - Rtn. Madhav Sehgal & Simran
- March. 8th - Rtn. Manu Reddy & Priya Reddy
- March. 9th - Rtn. Bhaswar Mukherjee & Dr. Saswati

RCM PROJECT INAUGURATION

The Rotary Club of Madras, celebrating its 95th year of service, marked the occasion on Friday, February 23rd, by inaugurating three impactful projects: Water and Sanitation, Homes for the Homeless, and the Medical Centre.

The successful execution of the event was the culmination of months of meticulous planning and coordination.



President Ravi Sundaresan played a pivotal role in conceptualising and securing the necessary funding to support the project, ably assisted by Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Director of CSR, Rtn Rahul Saraogi, Director Fundraising and Public Relations, and Rtn Sabina Narayan, Director of Rotary Foundation and International Services.

Several levels of discussions took place with President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, Advisor Rtn. Ravishankar, International committee team along with community services team. From overseeing civil and construction work to ensuring the completion of painting and installing name boards and plaques, every detail was carefully attended to. There were also stage and food arrangements to be arranged. Chairperson Vishvanathan's role is truly commendable. His foresight, hard work, and diligent planning contributed to much of the project's success. Addressing inherent challenges such as coordination with the beneficiaries, raising awareness, and cleaning the area added complexity to the planning process. A number of Rotractors also volunteered for the program. Overall, the successful execution of the event was

due to collaborative efforts of all involved.

The event drew a distinguished gathering, with guests hailing from both international and national Rotary clubs, accompanied by a host of district officials and fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Madras. Ensuring the smooth arrival of all attendees at the remote project sites required meticulous preparation and coordination. Rtn. Shivkumar Vellur helped to organise the transportation logistics, ensuring that guests arrived promptly and comfortably at their destinations. Meanwhile, Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti led the efforts to transport our guests using five vans, one of which accommodated several Presidents from our district.



The first stop on our journey was JJ Nagar, Palavakkam Panchayat, Thiruvallur where the sanitation and water body management project had been successfully implemented.

- Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan ■

RURAL SANITATION PROJECT AND WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Chief Guest : **Rtn. AS Venkatesh**, Past RI Director
Guests of Honour : **Rtn. N.S. Saravanan**, District Governor Elect
Rtn. Vinod Sarogi, District Governor, (2025-2026), RID - 3234

The Guests were welcomed with a traditional Arathi, Melam & Naadaswaram as they gathered for the inauguration of 205 toilets, constructed on both sides of the road leading to the restored pond.

Chief Guest Rtn. AS Venkatesh, along with Guests of Honour Rtn. Vinod Sarogi, Rtn. Saravanan, Rtn. Vidya Raghu, joined President Ravi Sundaresan in cutting ribbons and officially opening several toilets, followed by the inauguration of the Pond. The local community, brimming with enthusiasm, expressed heartfelt gratitude to President Ravi and fellow Rotarians for the positive impact on their lives. Following this, the guests assembled in the Shamiana. Director of Community Services.1, Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, welcomed chief guest Rtn. Venkatesh and others.

Rtn. Venkatesh served as the youngest District Governor of RI Dist 3230 and his commitment to service are evident through his extensive involvement in training, philanthropy, and representation at international conventions. Rtn. Bobby Balakrishna, Chairperson of Rural Sanitation, highlighted project achievements and the anticipated improvements for JJ Nagar residents. His efforts to bring this project to fruition are immense. President Ravi, in his speech in Tamil, urged the community to use and maintain the newly established facilities.



President Ravi honored guests with shawls and presented gift bags as tokens of appreciation. Testimonials from two beneficiaries underscored the tangible enhancements to their lives, while the Panchayat head commended RCM for its services. Chief Guest A.S.Venkatesh appreciated RCM and mentioned the symbolic significance of aligning the inauguration date with the 118th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Chicago's founding. Concluding the event, Rtn. Sumit Kalra, the chairman of Waterbody Management, thanked the guests and organisers.

From JJ Nagar, all the guests departed to the next inaugural site of Rotary Nagar- Thathiyar Kandigai

- Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan ■

Bringing Light to the Homeless

Rotary Club of Madras Homes for the Homeless Project

Rotary Nagar- Thathiyar Kandigai

Chief Guest : **PRID. Rtn. Dr. Bharat Pandya,**
Trustee & Vice Chairman, The Rotary Foundation

Guests of Honour : **Rtn. AS Venkatesh, Rtn. Ravi Raman:** District Governor, RID 3232,
PDG Rtn. J.B. Kamdar, PDG. Rtn. J.Sridhar,
DG Elect **Rtn Saravanan, DGN Vinod Saraogi,** Assistant Governor
Rtn Vidya Raghu, Rotarians, and many guests from the district,
other parts of India and abroad.

The inauguration of Rotary Nagar-Thathiyar Kandigai was a splendid affair, with a traditional welcome of music and drum beats orchestrated by the local community. Amidst the vibrant hues of rangoli, the fragrance of flowers, and the auspicious presence of mango leaf torans and plantain trees, the atmosphere brimmed with joy and anticipation. At Thathiyar Kandigai, Gummudipoondi, Chief Guest: PRID. Rtn. Dr. Bharat Pandya, accompanied by District Governor Rtn. Ravi Raman inaugurated the event. As guests embarked on a tour of the newly constructed houses, the remarkable transformation of a rural slum into a thriving community became palpable.

Here 38 homes along with a community center, were handed over providing much-needed shelter and dignity to the homeless. The heartfelt gratitude expressed and the remarkable transformation observed, from once dilapidated



shelters to newly constructed homes, made the tremendous efforts put in by our clubs' team of Rotarians truly worthwhile. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, in her welcome address, spoke of Rtn Dr. Pandya's remarkable journey, which includes serving as District Governor in 2006-07, where his leadership propelled the district 3140 to unprecedented heights, contributing over \$2 million to The Rotary Foundation.

Under his guidance, his District achieved the remarkable feat of becoming the number one contributor to TRF worldwide. Rtn. Dr. Anuradha shed light on the plight of India's 1.7 million homeless population, expressing confidence in RCM's ability to make a meaningful impact. Chairperson Rtn. Visvanathan, explained the project in detail





Name Company Name	Rotary ID	No of Homes Alloted	Main Road	Inside
Mahinder Jain Access Healthcare Services Pvt Ltd	6255322	8	3	5
Dr. Anuradha Ganesan	8613801	2	1	1
Sundaresan Ravi	8128240	1	1	
Chella Krishna G	5826904	1	1	
M Balasubramanian	225022	1	1	
A Gooch Kumar	9473157	1	1	
Goolestan Investments Pvt Ltd	5826904	2	1	1
HT Parekh Foundation		8	3	5
DSM Soft Pvt Ltd	6784027	1	1	
Ramco Industries Ltd		2	1	1
Sesha Sai	6815148	3	1	2
Rahul Saraogi	10147294	3		
Vinod Saraogi		3		
Usha Saraogi		1		
Redington		1		

Total to be allotted	37 houses and 1 Anganvadi
Total available on Main Road	19 houses and 1 Anganvadi





and thanked all the vendors of the project, including Balaji Sampath from AID India. President Ravi extended special thanks to Rtn. Mahinder Jain for his generous contribution of over two crore rupees towards the project. President Ravi also recognised the dedication of Rtn. Visvanathan, Chairperson of Homes for Homeless, and thanked all donors, vendors involved in the project. Chief Guest Dr. Bharat Pandya emphasised the crucial importance of preserving dignity for families in need.

He commended the Rotary Club of Madras for its laudable services and innovative initiatives, including the incorporation of solar energy. Dr. Pandya also offered his heartfelt applause to President Ravi for his ambitious goal of inaugurating 95 houses, a goal that has already seen the inauguration of 38 homes within the month of February alone. Guest of Honour, past RI director Rtn. Venketesh eloquently addressed the audience in Tamil, captivating the attention of the village beneficiaries with his insightful remarks. He highlighted the diligent efforts of the Rotary Club of Madras in securing numerous donors and collaborating with the right vendors to initiate the project.

Rtn. Venketesh emphasised the significance of maintaining the facilities provided to the community and encouraged them to leverage these resources for their continued development and progress. RCM's Honorary Secretary, Rtn. Sessa Sai, added a touch of humor to the proceedings with his Telugu-speaking skills, acknowledging the dedication of the project team and thanking everyone who supported this mega event. The entire event was expertly hosted by Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Vishwanathan, who skillfully managed the stage and ensured the smooth flow of proceedings throughout. Her adeptness as a compère kept the audience engaged and informed at every step. The Homes for the Homeless Project stands as an example of Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

- Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan ■





BOYS TOWN ROTARY MEDICAL CENTRE



RCM concluded its remarkable day of inaugurations with a visit to the Boys Town Rotary Medical Centre where a partnership with Cancer Institute (WIA) ensures crucial care for individuals battling cancer.

Chief Guest : **Rtn.N.S. Saravanan**, DGE, RI Dist. 3234, Chennai Mitra
 Guests of Honour : **Rtn. Vinod Sarogi**, District Governor, (2025-2026), RID - 3234
Dr. Kalpana Balakrishnan, Director, Cancer Institute.

Guests gathered at the Medical Centre and lit the traditional lamp to symbolise the new partnership. Chief Guest Rtn. N.S. Saravanan inaugurated the center. With his upcoming role as District Governor for 2024/25, anticipation is high for his leadership under the theme "The Magic of Rotary." The afternoon culminated with a delightful lunch. As the event drew to a close, guests departed to attend the evening Samarpan program.

Our thanks to the Donors of the Homes for Homeless project for their generosity.

From the 35th Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras March 5, 2024





The Rotary Club of Madras presents
‘SMART VISION GLASSES’
 supported under the CSR Initiative of
REDINGTON FOUNDATION

Smart Vision Glasses, a collaboration between SHG Technologies and Vision-Aid, stands as a lifeline for the visually impaired, creating a profound connection to the world. This AI-powered wearable transcends being merely a device; it is a beacon of hope. Its reading function, embracing various Indian languages, brings the joy of reading both printed and handwritten text. The built-in AI and navigation features provide a sensory experience, offering insights into their surroundings, obstacles, locations, and even facial expressions during conversations.



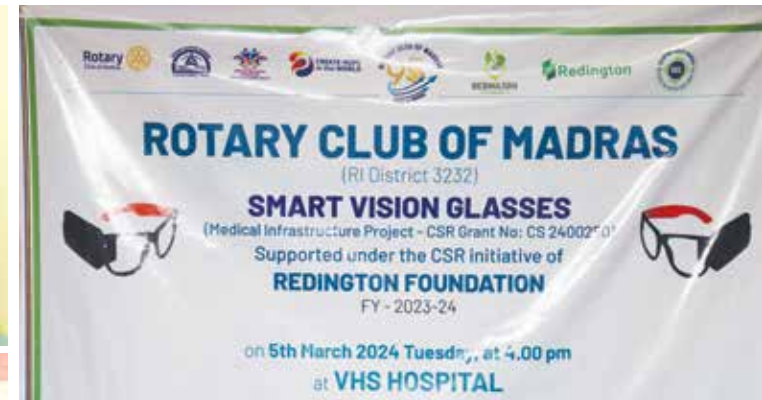
In a heartening collaboration with Redington Foundation, 17 glasses reached those in need at VHS Hospital, Taramani. Gratitude extends to Rtn. Narsi, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, CSR director, Rtn. Bharath Pujara, Rtn. Dr. Sangeeta Viswanathan, and Rtn. Supriya, whose collective efforts made this noble endeavour possible. Beneficiaries, expressing immense gratitude, shared how glasses have become indispensable. President Ravi and Rtn. Narsi, with heartfelt appreciation, acknowledged Redington for their unwavering support. Chief Guest Mr. Shriram from Redington spoke about the impact and was glad to partner with the Rotary club of Madras.

Special thanks are extended to the compassionate management of VHS for their generosity, significantly impacting lives. The Honorary Secretary of VHS Dr. Suresh in discussing the RCM and VHS partnership, and Dr. ParthSarathy, elaborating on the smart vision glasses' functionalities, reflected the empathy and commitment driving this transformative initiative. A warm vote of thanks by Honorary Secretary Rtn. M Sessa Sai concluded the event, leaving smiles on the recipients' faces.

- Rtn. Bharath Pujara



K.S.SANJIVI AUDITORIUM





CSR GRANT OF RS 1.5 CRORES FROM REDINGTON

“THE LION ROARS! - Thanks to the super efforts of Rtn V.S. Narasimhan (NARSI), The Rotary Club of Madras has received RS.1.5 Crores from Redington Limited as CSR GRANT for the current Rotary year. RCM Team led by President Ravi Sundaresan met the Redington Team and an excellent presentation was made by Rtn Ganesh. The Redington team then visited a few RCM projects. Out of Rs 1.5 Crores, Rs 1.2 Crores has already been received by RCM; The CSR grant is for several hospital projects, Home for Homeless, Tree plantations, Smart Vision Glasses etc. Rtn. Narasimhan is confident of receiving CSR grant of Rs 1.3 to 1.5 Crores from Redington for the next Rotary year also. He is also confident that this will be a Long Term relationship between REDINGTON AND RCM.”

The Rotary Club of Madras celebrates a moment of pride as smart vision glasses were distributed to the needy at VHS Hospital on 5th March 2024, with generous sponsorship from Redington Foundation. Kudos to Rtn. Narsi, Rtn. Bharath Pujara, Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, and Rtn. Dr. Sangeeta Viswanathan and Dr. Supriya for coordinating this impactful event. Special appreciation to all present Rotarians.



REDINGTON APPROVAL		
PROJECT	TYPE OF SUPPORT	OUTLAY (in INR)
HINDU MISSION HEALTH SERVICES, NANGANALLUR	5 NOS OF DIALYSIS MACHINES	36,50,000
HINDU MISSION HOSPITAL, TAM-BARAM	CRRT(Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy) for Dialysis Department	18,92,800
KANCHI KAMAKOTI CHILD'S TRUST HOSPITAL-NUNGAMBAKKAM	TWO ELECTROSURGICAL GENERATORS	17,10,000
GOVT. RSRM HOSPITAL, ROYAPURAM	PATIENT AMBULANCE	26,96,366
CHILD'S TRUST/HINDU MISSION/VHS HOSPITALS	DENTAL PRODUCTS	15,00,000
VHS HOSPITAL	SMART VISION GLASSES	5,35,500
HOME FOR HOMELESS	SOLAR PANELS	27,67,616
HOME FOR HOMELESS & BOYS TOWN SOCIETY	TREE PLANTATION	6,62,263
TOTAL APPROVAL RECEIVED FROM REDINGTON		1,54,14,545

The Rotary Club of Madras organized a complimentary Medical Camp in association with the Sundaram Medical Foundation

The Rotary Club of Madras, in association with the Sundaram Medical Foundation, organized a Free Medical Camp on February 29th, 2024 from 3.00 PM to 6.00PM at His/Her Place, T.Nagar, Chennai.

- Checkup: CBG, BP & General Screening were done
- A total 115 beneficiaries access the Medical service.
- We provided medicines valued at Rs.4800/- to individuals in need.

PP.Rtn.Dr.Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, Rtn.Bharath Pujara, Rtn.Jagdish Bhatia, Rtn.Suman Voora, Rtn.Sharon Krishna Rau, Rtn Sabina Narayan, Rtn.GD.Hemdev, Rtn. P S Jagdish, prospective Ashish Ahuja, Rtn.Ravi Ravindran and Rtn.Nidhi Thadani, visited the camp.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the Rotarians & others for their visit and support in uplifting the medical camp.

MEDICAL TEAM:

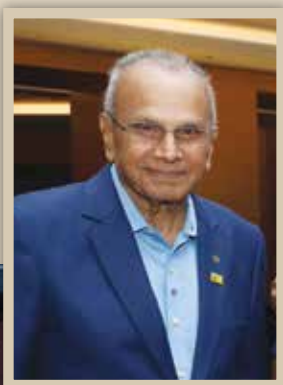
Dr.Sayoojya (Family Medicine)

Dr.Kishore (General Medicine)

Ms.Uma Maheshwari & Ms.Indumathi
(Nursing Department)

Ms.Maya & Mr.Karthikeyan
(Social Worker)





The members of Madras Cricket Club (MCC) honoured Rtn. Shankar Mangadu as a MCCian on Tuesday, 5th March 2024

GRAND MCCian



CITATION

Dear Mr. M C Shanker

IT IS A MOMENT TO CHERISH INDEED, A MOMENT THAT WILL REMAIN EVERGREEN IN OUR MINDS AND THOUGHTS... ONE THAT ENCAPSULATES OVER 50 YEARS OF YOUR BELONGING TRULY BELONGING... IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD... TO A SPECIAL FRATERNITY OF SPORTSMEN, A SPECIAL BREED OF HUMANS, THOSE WHO HAVE BUILT OUR BELOVED MADRAS CRICKET CLUB BRICK BY BRICK AND THEN STAYED ON TO STAND ROCK SOLID AS UNSHAKEABLE PILLARS ON WHICH MANY OF US LEAN ON FROM TIME TO TIME AND WILL KEEP DOING SO... FOREVER.

BLESSED ARE WE TO HONOUR YOU ON THIS DAY, OUR CLUB DAY CELEBRATIONS AND LOOK UP TO YOU FOR GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT FOR MANY MORE YEARS TO COME WITH THE DEEPEST SENSE OF GRATITUDE AND PROFOUND RESPECT.

MEMBERS OF MADRAS CRICKET CLUB

TUESDAY, THE 5th DAY OF MARCH 2024, CHENNAI



EXPLORING CHENNAI'S CHARMS: *a journey with visiting Rotarian's*

Chennai, the vibrant city of Tamil Nadu, is renowned for its rich, cultural heritage and warm hospitality. Recently, the Rotary club of Madras had the privilege of hosting a dynamic group of visiting Rotarians who came to attend our club's prestigious Samarpan event.

Months of meticulous planning and collaboration by the international relations team, led by our esteemed chairperson Rtn PP Gunashekar, resulted in a curated itinerary aimed at providing our guests with an unforgettable experience, brimming with discovery and the joy of togetherness.

On the 20th and 21st of February, Rtn PP Gunashekar, accompanied by his gracious wife, Paddhu, and RCM Manager, Mr. Varadarajan, personally ensured the warm reception of our guests at the airport.

With traditional Indian hospitality, they were then transported to the homes of their generous hosts. Our dear Rotarians, including Indira Subramaniam, Kamla Ramakrishnan, Lala Mathai, Anand Vurgese, Sandhya Sridhar, Rohit Toshniwal, Rajit Mhetras, Vipin Sachdev, PP Gunashekar and Sabina Narayan graciously opened their hearts and homes to welcome our guests.



A special mention goes to Rotarians PP Gunashekar, Fharzana Siraj, Raghu Kailas, Vijay Narayanan, Rakesh Jaiswal, and Sabina Narayan, whose cars ensured seamless transportation arrangements throughout the visit. The coordination of the larger vans was expertly managed by Rtn Shivakumar Vellur in close collaboration with Rtn PP Gunashekar.

Aiding us in all this with the monetary angle was our financial whiz Rtn. PE Chella Krishna. Each day was meticulously planned, with different Rotarians, such as V Raja, PP Gunashekar, Avali Srinivas, Suresh Amirapu, Rakesh Jaiswal, Sabina Narayan, Sumit, Kalra, Navin Bhatia and Sanjay



Chaganti accompanying the guests as per the days itinerary.

Our guests were treated to an array of captivating experiences, from visits to iconic landmarks, such as Marina Beach, Santhome Basilica and Kapaleeshwar Temple, to enriching excursions to the museum guided by the knowledgeable Pradeep Chakravarty.

They also had the opportunity to explore Mahabalipuram, enjoy flavourful fare at the Four points Sheraton, organised by Rtn Ravi Shankar, indulge in shopping delights at Amethyst, Nallis and Sundari silks, and witnessed the inauguration of various Rotary projects.

The hospitality extended beyond sightseeing with Rtn. Ravishankar, organising a delicious welcome lunch at Maris Hotel and welcome dinner at the Presidency Club, hosted by the IRC team, Manu Reddy hosting a delightful dinner at the prestigious, Madras Club, and IPP.

PP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar welcoming the guests into her home. All meals were structured so as to allow for intimate interactions with a smaller group of our members. President Ravi warmly welcomed and engaged all the visitors describing RCM's legacy and spirit of service.

Rtn Shanno embodied the RCM spirit of service and compassion with her extraordinary efforts to ensure Rotary Ann Betty from Peponi received the expert care from the top ENT Doctors. In essence, our guests embarked on a journey that not only showcased the cultural richness of Chennai, but also exemplified the spirit of camaraderie, thoughtful compassion and hospitality that defines the Rotary club of Madras.

As we bid adieu to our cherished visitors, we reflect happily on the bonds forged, and the memories created, knowing that they carry with them a piece of RCM and Chennai in their hearts forever.

- Rtn. Sabina Narayan ■



THE ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA) 2024

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2024

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards took place on the 28th and 29th of February with students from the interact clubs of various schools attending the event. The event started with a factory visit to century flour mills where students were given the opportunity to witness the making of maida and atta first hand.

This was followed by a visit to the pupil school's art fest which showcased the extraordinary artistic skills of the students from classes 1 to 12. These skills ranged from making paintings, carpentry, weaving to photography and pottery. All the pieces in display showed the amount of dedication and hard work put into the making. Little Varsha who was no more than 10 years old gave an insight into her life which was filled with hardships that no normal kid would go through.

It reflected the central theme of RYLA 'hope'. She told us how it is necessary to remain hopeful even during the most difficult times of our lives, asking us to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel. After this all the students and teachers headed towards the happy village where four key Rotarians gave moving speeches addressing the theme. The keynote speaker Mr. Mohan Raman spoke about his life experiences and linked it to how being hopeful changed everything. After this came the enthralling DJ session where all the interacters danced their hearts out.

It was filled with upbeat music and joyous smiles. The next day started with all the interacters calming their minds after some energetic dancing in the previous day by working in teams to paint the letters hope RYLA. Then Mrs. Sarada Ramani normalized the concept of menstruation by talking about how it is a natural phenomenon that no girl should be ashamed of. Her speech radiated with confidence as she spoke about maturing bodies of both men and women.

The meditation session took place after this which was conducted by the brahma kumarigal where the interacters were educated about the soul, body and the eternal being. This was followed by Mr. Britto Manohar's interactive discussion, whose lively presence left everybody present in the room with a smile and a happy heart.

He reminded everybody to always be open to new learnings and never be arrogant. Ms. Akshaya an inspiring plus size model spoke after him and filled us all with love for ourselves and destroyed the feeling of insecurity in us. Keshika Manohar a child entrepreneur shared with us her amazing feats motivating us all to follow her example. She showed us how passion for the work we do alone can help us reach greater places.

Dr.S.Jothibasu had everybody in tears with his motive to focus on the water present in a half empty glass. The way he fought his life battles



encouraged the people present to have resilience towards any hurdle that life throws at us. The knowledge filled two-day camp ended with a talent show with interactors showcasing their talents. Every person presents in the camp had made new friends and gained the confidence to speak in front of a crowd of people. This camp taught each and every interactor the importance of team work and networking and instilled leadership skills in all of us. Most importantly it taught us to live life with hope that better days are always coming.

The PSBB Millennium School, Gerguambakkam -
Report by - Anandhita.R 9A

Attended by - Nittin.PKS 9F
Nitheesh.M 9F
Anandhita.R 9A

- Rtn. Balaji Chinni

HOPE

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2024 *(Feedback)*

It's just a reality beyond expectations and a new atmosphere with different flavours. At the beginning of the camp I planned to spend time only with my school friends that to my close friend. But as time passed I felt like oh I have many more new people in my life. Not only I get to know more about my school friends but also about students from different kind schools, some of them even become more closer to me. Beside interaction with interactors, the programmes and sessions that were arranged was amazing.

I don't know which to mention but the sessions which hit me hard was the story of the little girl from The Pupil Saveetha Eco School, it left me with tears and made me think that the problems I have is nothing before her life. And the awareness movie by Nalamdhana team, I literally cried for that movie and I want my school students also should watch it. And the motivational speakers were just out of the world.

So much fun activities, especially the DJ party, I had never danced like that before and due to that party I got many more new friends. Justifying the concept of RYLA, the motivational speakers gave me hope to lead my life in a better way with consistent upgrade. My sincere thanks to RCM and my special thanks for Rtn. Sesha Sai sir and the program managers for their efforts and giving this wonderful opportunity for our school to participate in the RYLA.

Dhishya Nethra. R (Vice president) XI A
L. M. Dadha. Senior. Secondary. School

HOPE RYLA 2024 :

This was my very first RYLA and I really enjoyed it. So, starting with the factory visit to the century flour mills, it was amazing I learnt a lot about the process of making flour. Then moving on to the visit to Pupil eye school was astounding. Then we arrived at the brahmakumari's happy vilage where a lot of speakers inspired us with their words. Their words meant a lot. Then the DJ night which was cool indeed we enjoyed a lot with our friends. Next day the ice breaking session, which upheld the value of team spirit. So it was an amazing experience for me. I would like to thank the entire Rotary Club of Madars for organising RYLA 2024. I would also like to thank my school for supporting us to participate in this successfull event .

Harini,
Secretary XI - C
From LMDSSS

RYLA 2024

It was an awesome and informative camp organized by the Rotary club of Madras headed by Shesha Sai Sir and I had a great experience. Starting from the century flour mill factory, it was a great experience and it was my 1st factory visit. The workers explained very well each and every process of making maida and wheat. The Pupil school is one of the best school I visited. The kids were very talented and the art exhibition was mind blowing. The speech given by Vanshika was very inspiring. After we reached Brahmakumari's Happy Village, All the speakers speech were very enthusiastic and inspiring. The short film was an eye opener with an inspiring message and reality of the society. The speech by Akshaya mam, Britto sir was my favourite. The DJ night was the part which I enjoyed a lot. We danced and had a lot of fun on the DJ night. The way they organised and divided all the members into 4 teams and conducted games and activities developed our friendship with other school children. At last the talent show was very amazing even though it was short. Thankyou for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Sai Smriti. G
XI C (Director of the interact club of
L.M.Dadha.Sr.Sec.School)



First of all I thank my principal and my teacher who took an initiative to take us to this wonderful educative and motivational trip and a heartfelt thanks to sesha sai sir. it was my 1st RYLA trip. on first day we went to century mill factory. and after reaching brahamakumari village we enjoyed a lot. I met new peoples and I got interacted with them iam very happy that I have came from comfort zone and I brought my confidence to participate and give my best in every activities which was organized by RYLA team and the motivational speakers encouraged us a lot.

V.m.Jaishree from
L.m.d school

FEB Firesides

Fireside No 20

Hosted by Rtn. Balasubramanian M

on Friday, February 2nd in Amritsar

Attendees:

Rotarians: 23 | Ann & Annettes : 20 | Total: 43

Fireside No 21

INTERNATIONAL FIRESIDE hosted by

Rtn. Manu Reddy on Thursday, Feb 22nd

Attendees:

Rotarians : 21 | Ann & Annettes : 7

Total: 28 (excl International Rotarians)

Fireside No 22

INTERNATIONAL FIRESIDE

hosted by Rtn. Jayashree Sridhar &

Dr K. Sridhar on Sun, Feb 25th

Attendees:

Rotarians: 8 | Ann & Annettes : 8

Total : 16 (Excl International Rotarians)

Total Firesides in February : 3

Attendees : Rotarians : 52

Ann & Annettes : 35 | Total: 87



Fireside Dinner hosted by Rtn M. Balasubramaniam at Amritsar



Fireside dinner hosted by Rtn Jayashree Sridhar and Dr Sridhar for visiting International Rotarians



Fireside Dinner hosted by Rtn Manu Reddy for visiting International Rotarians



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