

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 04 | JULY 25, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



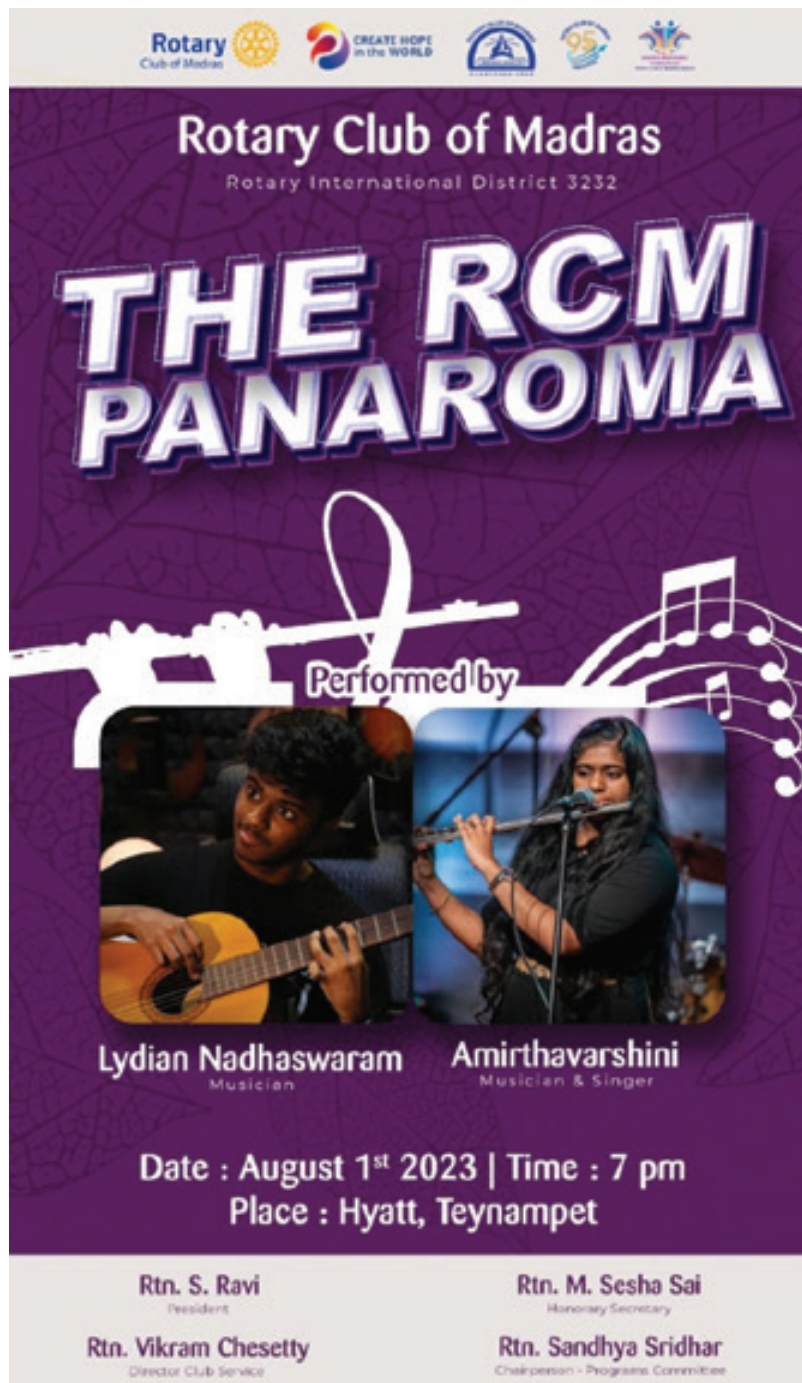
Dear RCMers,

Presenting to you the 4th edition of The Lighthouse.
Health services committee dominate this weeks activities.

The speaker for the weekly meeting Mr. Annamalai held the audience spellbound with his vision for Tamilnadu.

Thanks and regards

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



Rotary Club of Madras
Rotary International District 3232

THE RCM PANAROMA

Performed by

Lydian Nadhaswaram
Musician

Amirthavarshini
Musician & Singer

Date : August 1st 2023 | Time : 7 pm
Place : Hyatt, Teynampet

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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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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Meeting of Minutes 25th July 23

Sgt-at-arms Rtn. PP Mohan Raman collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who called the 4th weekly meeting of RCM to order, followed by a silent invocation.

The minutes of the Charter Night meeting were duly confirmed.

The President welcomed visiting Rotarians, spouses, guests, RCMers and Probus Club members.

Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Director, Youth services showcased the mega projects inaugurated on 22nd July '23 where there was an Installation of 25 Interact Clubs at Bharathi Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore

Rtn. Bharat Pujara, Health Services Director presented the health services initiative.

2 medical camps, one at Lady Sivasami Iyer higher secondary school and at Thiruvallur along with 5 Rotary clubs. 106 patients were screened. The next camp is on 27th August at Sundaram Medical Foundation and Rotary Nagar.

Rtn. Deepak Chander, Youth Services Rotaract Chair, announced that he attended the Rotary Meeting of Sonyang Myeon, South Korea.

He presented the flag and the memento of a set of pencils made of 100% recycled material.



Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai announced the next meeting for August 1st, Lyndian Nadhaswaram and sister Amritha Varshini will be performing.

The President welcomed the speaker Mr Annamalai on behalf of the entire Club.

Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar warmly introduced Mr K Annamalai, former IPS officer and State President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, to all the Rotarians, spouses, and guests. Mr Annamalai's journey began from an agricultural family in Karur, and he pursued Mechanical Engineering at PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, followed by a master's



in business administration from IIM Lucknow.

Mr. Annamalai's dedication and excellence in his civil services exams led to his selection as an officer in the Indian Police Service, under the Karnataka cadre. His insightful experiences in khaki have been compiled in the book 'Stepping Beyond Khaki - Revelations of a Real-Life Singham', published by Bloomsbury.

As the chief servant of 'We the Leaders' foundation, Mr Annamalai actively contributes to skilling individuals in organic farming and alternate models of development. Additionally, he co-founded CoRe Talent and Leadership Development, aiming to nurture a new generation of leaders, including those resigning from the IPS, who are committed to public service.

In 2021, Mr Annamalai ventured into politics and achieved the significant milestone of becoming the youngest state president of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Mr Annamalai addressed the audience on the topic "My vision for Tamil Nadu".

Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan moderated the Q and A session. Rtn. Krishna Hande gave the vote of thanks. He also mentioned that his father Mr. H.V. Hande, former Minister for Health, Tamilnadu, sent his best wishes to Mr. Annamalai.

The meeting was adjourned. ■

A MAN WITH A VISION; AND THE INTELLECT TO BACK IT

Shri K. Annamalai, 'President - Tamil Nadu' of the Bharathiya Janata Party; had the audience 'spell bound' as he eloquently laid out his Vision for Tamil Nadu; that too based on facts, figures, and depth of analysis that left us in awe.



His small-town roots and his agricultural background appear to have given him a 'grounded' personality even as he scaled the heights of education in India. An engineer from PSG Coimbatore and a management graduate from IIM, Lucknow; the pull of public service appears to have drawn him to the IPS. And after years of distinguished service, he enters the world of Politics when he joined the BJP in 2021; quickly rising to lead the party in the state of Tamil Nadu.

His sense of humour came through when he admitted that it was extremely difficult for a 'politician' to address a gathering without 'trading' punches at his opposition at every opportunity. But he did this so well during his address.

Reeling statistics to support his case, he established the current position of our state, and therefore the need for an aspirational vision .

- TN has the highest debt amongst all states in the country
- TN which was the 'leading state' in the country with 11% of India's gross irrigated land has declined to 3.4% currently
- TN has a poor rating of students' ability to read in their mother tongue, (quoting the ASER report), indicative of their poor competitiveness amongst other states; and



- TN ranks poorly in the Innovative Index as well, measured by the number of start-ups we nurture in our state.

On this base, he set out to explain his vision for the state.

Stating that TN sitting on its past glory will not make us successful; he raised a 'clarion call' for our state not to sit in our own 'Ivory Tower'; but to recognize the passion and drive with which many other states in our country are driving growth and improvement; and it is essential for us to plan for

long term 'betterment' of our people even if it does not conform to the 'short term' objectives of politics.

While any state improving is obviously good for the nation; from the point of view of the state of TN alone, we must compare, learn, and improve. He used the improvements in the state of Uttar Pradesh as an effective example; showing us the comparative where UP has a younger population

than TN; is creating better Infrastructure than TN, improving its 'Gross Enrolment Ratio' at



an enviable rate; and most importantly is HUNGRY to succeed.

- EDUCATE, EDUCATE, EDUCATE, he said, underlining it's importance
- Ensure money goes into creating Infrastructure and asset building, not into 'freebies'
- Focus on Innovation and attracting high end manufacturing to our state
- Focus on the right parameters that will truly indicate the growth of our state

He concluded stating once again stating that many states are hungry; and this gives us a good comparison to ensure we strive to regain our past glory.

Truly an inspiring speech; and as stated by many, we hope we are seeing the birth of a leader of national stature from our state of Tamil Nadu. He was apparently referred to as SINGAM in his days in the IPS; and he lived up to that name in his address today.

Kudos to the team to have invited such an inspiring speaker to our meeting.

**Ann. Poornima
Vishwanathan ■**



The combined Interact Installation of 24 Interact Clubs of RCM, "Unify", was an astounding success, marking a significant milestone. It was held at Barathiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore on Saturday 22nd July between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. The meticulous planning and seamless execution by the 10 Rotaract Clubs headed by Rotaract Club of Chennai ensured a smooth and efficient Installation Ceremony.

The Chief Guest of the Ceremony was our District Governor AKS Rtn. Ravi Raman and Guest of Honor was District Governor Nominee Rtn. Vinod Saraogi. Several of our Rotarians, Past Presidents and Rotaractors graced the occasion.

The event started with Tamizh Thai Vazhthu followed by a welcome dance performance by Shrine Velankanni School. The welcome speech was delivered by Director, Youth Service Rtn.

Balaji Chinni. Our President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan addressed the Interactors with his motivational speech, also listing out to them his plan of action for the year and how Interactors can play a big role in executing RCM projects.

Inspirational speeches were delivered, emphasizing the club's mission to make a positive impact on the community, by Chairman - IPP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar, Rtn. Shivakumar Vellur, Rtn. Suresh Amirapu and Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy.

The special Project for Interactors, "Streetscape - By the Little Lords", an initiative by RCM Youth Service to give a facelift to the streets in which the Interact Schools are located, was launched. A video of the concept of the project was played and Interactors appreciated and quickly welcomed the idea. This project will be executed by

Interactors under the guidance of Rotaractors headed by Chairman Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy

A few Past Presidents - Mentor Rtn. Venkhat Ramani, Rtn. Indra Subramanyam, Rtn. Arul Mozhi Varman, Rtn. Gopal Ratnam and Rtn. Gopinath addressed the gathering with inspiring and motivating speeches encouraging Interactors to uphold the spirit of service and community engagement. They even suggested a few projects, like an eye camp and the Agniveer to join the army or navy for the Interactors.

A quick speech by our District Governor and District Governor Nominee encouraging Interactors to be the change-makers our world needs and asking them to keep shining bright was for sure impactful.

A well-defined installation process was followed to induct Presidents and their Board officials from 24 Interact clubs. The newly installed members enthusiastically embraced their roles and responsibilities, eager to contribute their time and efforts to various service projects and initiatives. From organizing fundraisers for charitable causes to volunteering at local events, the newly inducted Presidents had a big list of projects for the Rotary Year.

The success of the combined installation was evident through the overwhelming support from the school management and faculty coordinators.

The entire Installation Ceremony was driven and executed by Rotaractors from RCM's 10 Rotaract Clubs. The success of the ceremony is undeniably owed to the invaluable contributions and hard work of our dedicated Rotaractors led by Rtr. Sashi and Rtr. Sujana of the Rotaract Club of Chennai. The RCM Youth Service Team extends our heartfelt gratitude to all Rotaractors for their unwavering support and dedication in making the ceremony an incredible success - your selfless service truly made a difference and inspired the young Interactors.

The ceremony was concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by our Honorary Secretary Rtn. M. Sessa Sai.

Thank you! Team Youth Service, RCM.

Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy

Youth Service Chairman - Special Project ■



Save a Little Heart

Global Grant Project

It was the month of January, the beginning of a new year (2023) when the seeds were sown for what later became a bountiful forest - RCM's "Save a Little Heart" initiative. The project was inspired by IPP Rtn. Jayshree Sridhar and PP Rtn. Gopinath who together flicked a snowflake which snowballed into a global grant project.

An initial appeal was made to RCMers to partially support 50 children's heart surgeries and interventions at Apollo Children's Hospital where treatment was being provided free of cost to children belonging to the lower socioeconomic strata. The appeal was met with an overwhelming deluge of responses with so many members putting their hands up to help. We managed to collect more funds than initially sought and just when we thought that things couldn't get any better, we had this fantastic opportunity to apply for a Global Grant with the help of an international partner. This is where Rtn. Gopinath's wide network and reach came to our rescue. With his help, we soon had Rtn. Ravi Booplapur, from Gold Coast, Lake Success (RI Dist 7255) lend a helping hand as our international



partner and our Global Grant application was soon underway. Thanks to the Global Grant we now have funds for 140 children's heart procedures, nearly 3 times what we set out to achieve.

Congenital heart defects or CHD (i.e., birth defects of the heart) are the most common major birth defects seen in newborns world-over with 1 out of 120 babies born having a heart defect. Of these, 25% are life threatening or critical and need to be treated urgently.

CHD has become a major cause of infant mortality in India as other preventable and treatable causes like malnutrition and infection have significantly declined especially in the southern states of India including Tamilnadu. Treatment of CHD therefore has become a healthcare priority in order to reduce the infant mortality ratio (IMR) in our nation. Also, children with heart disease may sometimes be detected only in later life but might still be suitable for treatment. Therefore, our project wanted to provide support to both newborns and children with heart defects, both congenital and rheumatic.

With nearly 270,000 babies being born with CHD every year in India, the scale of the problem is indeed mind boggling. Although the government and public sector hospitals are making attempts to tackle the issue there is a paucity of expertise and resources which results in the untimely demise of several children for want of treatment purely due to lack of access to quality healthcare.

So far, we have completed treatment for 65 children



in Phase 1 of the project and enrolment has begun for the second phase.

Age range of patients treated so far was 9 days to 16 years; with 3 babies less than a month of age and 6 babies more than 1 month but less than a year. We also happily treated more girls than boys. 5 of the procedures were critical procedures without which the children would not have survived more than 48 to 72 hours. Our patients came from several locations in Tamilnadu and Andhra as listed in the table.

75% of procedures were done via keyhole techniques resulting in scarless treatment for the children. The common keyhole treatments included closing holes in the heart (device closures), opening valves (balloon procedures) and stenting vessels open. The remaining children had complex heart disease requiring open heart surgery. Thankfully all our patients did well following the procedures and were discharged home successfully. They are currently under follow up in Chennai or at their local centers.

We are now entering phase 2 of the project and have enrolled 3 patients so far. We hope to complete the project during this Rotary year under the stewardship of President Ravi Sundaresan.

- Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan ■



Children's Eye Camp

Children's Eye Camp at Lady Sivasamy Aiyar Girls Higher Secondary School

- A collaboration between Rotary Club of Madras, Rotary Club of Madras Mylapore Uptown and Uma Eye Clinic.

On Friday 14th July, RCM along with the Rotary Club of Madras Mylapore Uptown conducted an Eye Screening Camp at Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School in Mylapore.

The camp was conducted by Uma Eye Clinic under the leadership of PP Rtn. Dr. Arulmozhi Varman, 754 Students were screened and 182 needed treatment for refractive errors. They were referred to Uma Eye Clinic for further treatment, which would be done free of charge.



AN EYE OPENING EXPERIENCE

On 20th July, Thursday, a Mega eye camp was conducted at Aayalur Village, Thiruvallur. This was done under the leadership of PP Rtn. Dr. Arulmozhi Varman with Uma Eye Clinic.

RCM was joined by four more Rotary Clubs in this endeavour; Rotary Club of Thiruvannmiyur, Rotary Club of Anna Nagar Adithya, Rotary Club of Chennai Coastal and Rotary Club of Chennai Neithal.

106 new patients were screened by the team, 20 free eye glasses were distributed. 22 patients were identified with cataract and they will undergo free surgery at Uma Eye Clinic in the coming week. ■



RIPE Stephanie Urchick

ROTARIANS ARE 'CHANGE CHAMPIONS'

V Muthukumaran

START NEW CLUBS

New cause-based clubs would enable Rotary to grow quicker, said PDG Gump. Adding to that, Urchick said, “such clubs will retain new members longer, and attract youngsters of diverse professions. Rotarians must be change champions and catalysts to take Rotary forward.”

Explaining the five facets of Rotary’s Change Model, Urchick said, “assess (the members and their problems), design (the club’s vision of success), build (a communication strategy), implement reforms (nurture members who are resistant to change and respond to them thoughtfully), and finally, sustain growth (by putting structures in place, and investing in technology). As long as Rotary’s core ideology of service, fellowship, and the Four-Way Test are retained, “we can be flexible to meet the needs of the youngsters,” said Tom Gump.

*Club culture is extremely
important in engaging new members.
It should not be a revolving door*

Fight or flight? Those club members or newly inducted Rotarians “who feel dissatisfied with their clubs have a choice either to form a like-minded group to put up a brave fight to change the organisation for the better or take off from there to somewhere else,” said RIPN Stephanie Urchick.

During an online presentation at the weekly meeting of RC Madras, RID 3232, in May with her aide PDG Tom Gump, RID 5950, UK, on the topic ‘Transforming club culture,’ she said people leave the club, not Rotary, “as they don’t feel happy with the product or service they get there. So, they just take off. Hence, club culture is extremely important in engaging new members. It should not be a revolving door.” In fact, the club culture is the force behind Rotary’s global projects and outreach, she said. If a club is doing great projects, its members are contributing to the Foundation, and receiving global grants, “then it is running smoothly with its members united in strength.”

But it is important for clubs to do an in-depth assessment of their members; ascertain their interests and what they want to do primarily in Rotary. “The survey must find out why they are dissatisfied in the first place, to know if there is a problem that needs to be fixed,” said Urchick. Embracing change and diversity is one sure way to attract youth looking for a different set of experience, she added.

RC Madras immediate past president Jayshree Sridhar said that as the third oldest club in the country, after RCs Calcutta and Bombay in that order, her club would be entering its 95th anniversary next year. The legacy club inaugurated on May 10, 1929, and chartered in July that year, “has pioneered the Red Measles Programme in 1979 and the Polio Eradication Initiative in 1985.” Around 140 Rotarians from across the world attended the online meet. ■

STREETSCAPE

BY THE LITTLE LORDS

Guided by the theme, “Service above self”, the Club has consistently been at the forefront of bringing a change in society and touching lives. Guided by and following the footsteps of our mentors, Fellow Rotarians, and the stalwarts of service, we strive to contribute our share of fairness to society. This initiative is the brainchild of our fellow Rotarian Balaji Chinni. The youth service team along with our mentors have all contributed to bringing shape to this innovative submission...



“STREETSCAPE - BY THE LITTLE LORDS”
An initiative by RCM Youth Service to give a facelift to the streets in which the Interact Schools are located was launched on 22nd July at the combined installation ceremony “Unify”. Capturing this essence, we have taken up the initiative of involving school children from the 27 Interact Clubs to indulge in social activities like neighbourhood clean-ups, environmental awareness activities, moral policing, and traffic control. Rotaractos from the 10 Rotract clubs would extend their support and guidance to this project **“STREETSCAPE - BY THE LITTLE LORDS”**

“STREETSCAPE - BY THE LITTLE LORDS” comprises 4 aspects that address various civic issues and our responsibility to make a difference. Our aim of creating a cleaner, greener, aesthetic environment and safe roads is an accumulation of what our mentors have seeded in us. Apart from looking forward to providing the



“Little Lords” with gloves, fangs, separate bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, primer, paints, brushes, and saplings to engage in creating a better living environment, the core value of inculcating a disciplined civic sense amongst children assures our responsibility in creating a better tomorrow. We strongly believe that every good deed is contagious and initiatives like this would soon be adopted by various other schools, clubs, and Districts benchmarking us for our high levels of commitment. This initiative is destined to transform the streetscapes across the length and breadth of the entire city, and stand testimony to the Rotarians mission of creating

“A Better Place...A Better World”.

ROTARY ANTIQUE CAR RESTORATION



Rtn. Doug Brown on his visit to the Rotary antique/classic car repair/restoration programme at Rancho Cielo, California USA that RCM has supported through a Global Grant and more especially, our own Rtn. Ranjit Pratap, who actually funded it through our club.

RCM's support is creating a gainful vocation to the young adults of the Rancho Cielo area of California, which is near Monterey. The people in front of the plaque are Doug Brown, Katya Cengel (writer for the USA Rotarian Magazine), DG Debbie Hale, Rtn Mark Grandcolas, Rtn Rick Masten. The students in the program are very enthusiastic.

Courtesy:

Rtn. Doug Brown on email to PP Rtn. Gopinath.



Rotary Nagar

A Timeless Legacy

Rotary Nagar is a complex of 8 slums adopted by the then President Rtn. WP Blakesley and named thus in 1943-44. It is the oldest running project of Rotary Club of Madras (Please read “A Timeless Legacy to know more). It is my privilege indeed to have been invited to Chair this project for 2023-24. (

A centre in the heart of the city tucked into a large slum area – Rotary Nagar has been silently doing good work for school children and women from under privileged background.

With a lot of impetus from our President and support and guidance from stalwarts of Rotary Nagar, this year the committee is ambitiously embarking on pushing the boundaries and making a mark - worthy of the stature of RCM specially as it marches through the 95th milestone year.

“Chudar” is a not-for-profit organization that has a vision to change the way teaching is undertaken in schools. I am happy to inform you that Chudar is going to play a pivotal role in the tuition centre for our children, by helping to strengthen their foundation in Math, Science and Language. We, on our part, are planning to motivate the children by celebrating their birthdays and recognizing them for their performances.

Women Empowerment activities are also going on in full swing – tailoring, embroidery and Digital literacy are being imparted as skills that can stand in good stead for them. To ensure that the efforts and money spent are put to best use, we plan to bring about earning opportunity for them while they are training with us – just like internship.





We also plan to celebrate festivals and days of national importance with the students & the women at the centre. Some field trips are also in the anvil.

The project coming up this week is a Medical Camp for children – on the 29th from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. We expect about 100 children to show up for the camp. We are also set to celebrate our Independence Day at the centre.

Rotarians, this is your project! We will be very happy and encouraged if each one of you could visit the centre and motivate our women and children. Just let us know your convenient date and time; we will make your visit worth the while. It would also be great if you could celebrate yours and your loved ones' special days, also at Rotary Nagar.

We have many more plans for Rotary Nagar; we need all your encouragement and support to make those ideas and dreams come true!

- PP Rtn Rani Muralidharan
Chairperson
ROTARY NAGAR

Nalamdhana Awareness Program at Pudhuvoyal School



BIRTHDAYS

26th July - Rtn. Anuradha Jhaver
 28th July - Rtn. Antony Lobo
 28th July - Rtn. Alankrit Arora
 29th July - Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan
 29th July - Rtn. A Sankara Narayanan
 29th July - Rtn. Sathiararam Ram
 29th July - Rtn. A Gooch Kumar

25th July - Ann. Suniti (Rtn. Tarun Seth)
 25th July - Ann. Sandhya (Rtn. Govind Parikh)
 27th July - Ann. Simran (Rtn. Madhav Sehgal)
 27th July - Ann. Malathi Devi (Rtn. M Pratap Kumar)
 30th July - Ann. Dimple (Rtn. Jayant Hemdev)
 31st July - Ann. Sangeetha (Rtn Rajendra Mudaliar)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

29th July - Rtn. Ashok Banerjee & Ann. Sreejata

GETTING WASTE WISE

An estimated 380 million tons of plastic is produced every year, with up to 50% of that for single-use purposes. As Roz Savage, ecology campaigner and writer said, "It cannot be right to manufacture billions of objects that are used for a matter of minutes, and then are with us for centuries."



I am only one, but I am one, I cannot do everything but I can do something – even if it's something small- so beginning today, can I be mindful and carry my own shopping bags and water bottle?

Environment Action Committee

#RotaryFacts

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Rotary theme that was recognized as such happened in the 1947-48 Rotary year and was established by then RI President S. Kendrick Guernsey. The theme was "Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve"

DID YOU KNOW?

John Frick a member of the Rotary Club of New York, Made the first ever Rotary pin in October 1909

ROTARACT CLUB OF AVIT

SPONSORED BY ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
RID-3232

Cordially invites you all for the
6th INSTALLATION CEREMONY

ENTHRONA

The Rising of the Throne

The Installation Ceremony of

Rtr.M.K.MANO BALA

as the 6th President

Rtr.B.MANIKANDAN

as the 6th Secretary

along with other board members of Rotary year 2023-24.

Chief Guest

Rtn. RAVI SUNDARESAN

President 23-24
Rotary Club of Madras

Presided By

Rtn.Dr. ANURADHA GANESAN

Honourable Madam Chancellor
AVIT

Guest of Honour

Rtn. BALAJI CHINNI

Youth Service Director
Rotary Club of Madras

Rtn. MANISH MARDIA

Youth Service Zone -02 Chairman
Rotary Club of Madras

Special Invitee

Rtr.PP. ESSAKI SEKAR

District Rotaract Representative 23-24

Dr.S.P.SANGEETHA

FACULTY COORDINATOR

Dr.P.SARAVIND RAI

FACULTY COORDINATOR

Rtr.B.S.KAVIN HARSHITH

PRESIDENT 22-23

Rtr.M.K.MANO BALA

SECRETARY 22-23

Date: 02.08.2023 | Time: 10 AM, Onwards | Venue: Indoor Auditorium, AVIT Campus