

THE LIGHTHOUSE

BOND | BUILD | BRING CHEER

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 07 | August 18, 2024





Dear RCMers,

It is said that the destiny of a nation is shaped in her classrooms.

This week, The Lighthouse turns the spotlight on Boys Town, RCM's iconic institution.

Happy reading !



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghuandan
Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson

Cover Pic :
Independence Day Celebration at Boys Town

THE LIGHTHOUSE

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EDITED & PUBLISHED BY

Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran, Asst. Secretary
Rotary Club of Madras,
RAYALA TOWERS,
2nd Mezzanine Flr., 158, Anna Salai,
Chennai 600 002 Phone: +91 44 2859 1020

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:
editor@rcmlighthouse.com

Bulletin Design:

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www.rotarymadras.in

CONTACT RCM SECRETARY AT:
office@rotarymadras.in

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 7th Weekly Meeting Held on 15.08.24
 at Boys Town Society (BTS), Gummidipoondi

Call to Order and Invocation:

The meeting commenced at 11:00 AM.

Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Jayanth Hemdev, collared the President.

President Rtn. Chella Krishna called the 7th weekly meeting to order.

A silent invocation was observed.

Welcome and Opening Remarks:

The President extended a warm welcome to all members, guests, and the Boys Town representatives.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the 6th weekly meeting were requested and confirmed.

Rtn. PDG. Benjamin Cherian:

Rtn. PDG. Benjamin Cherian began by expressing his pride in the Rotary Club of Madras for the development of Boys Town, a project he helped establish 38 years ago.

He served as the first chairman of Boys Town for 8 years and acknowledged the contributions of subsequent chairmen and presidents in making Boys Town one of Rotary's iconic projects.

He expressed gratitude towards President Rtn. Chella Krishna for his kind words and recognized the efforts of various chairmen who followed him, including Rtn. Thomas Philip, Rtn. PP. V. Ganesan, the late Rtn. PP. Christopher S. Devapragasam, Rtn. PP. V.K. Chandrakumar, Rtn. N.R.Gupta, Rtn.PP. S. Ravi, Rtn. N.K. Bhatia, and Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal.

Special recognition was given to Rtn. V.K. Chandrakumar for his unparalleled dedication to Boys Town. Benjamin highlighted Chandrakumar's efforts in ensuring the welfare of the boys, particularly during times when funding was scarce. He commended Rtn. PP. V.K. Chandrakumar for securing sponsorships and maintaining high standards of care and education for the boys.

He humorously mentioned his commitment to bringing Rtn. PP. V.K. Chandrakumar back to enjoy the fruits of his labor, symbolized by the mango tree they had planted.

He urged the Rotary Club to develop a vision plan for the 100th year of Boys Town, suggesting that they leverage support from Wartsila and others to connect with larger sponsors..

His vision includes seeing Boys Town thrive with continued developments and wishing the boys a bright future.

This speech by Rtn. PDG. Benjamin Cherian adds to the rich history and future aspirations for Boys Town, reflecting the deep commitment and ongoing legacy within the Rotary Club of Madras.

Boys Town Updates:

Rtn. PP V.K. Chandrakumar provided an update on Boys Town activities during his period.

He emphasized that "work was the only reward" for him and shared the personal significance of his relationship with Rtn. Chella Krishna.

Due to his age and health concerns, V.K. Chandrakumar mentioned that he has resigned from the club but would try and attend four or five Rotary Club meetings and select functions during the year and would remain committed to supporting the club.

Special Acknowledgment:

Mr. Dennis Joseph Mathews from Wärtsilä addressed the attendees, highlighting the significant work Rotary has been doing.

He praised the dedication of Rotarians who manage to contribute to society despite their busy schedules.

Mr. Dennis Joseph Mathews emphasized the importance of making full use of opportunities provided by Rotary Boys Town and encouraged the students to work hard and maximize their potential.

Performances:

Boys Town students performed a yoga demonstration, showcasing their dedication and discipline.

A musical performance was presented by Rhapsody, followed by a cultural performance from students of Amarambedu Village.

The event also included performances by Boys Town students and other participating groups.

Interact Club Presentation:

Ms. Rithika, Secretary of the Interact Club from Sri Sankara Vidyashramam, Thiruvanmiyur, shared the experiences of their school as an active Interact Club member.

Chief Guest's Address:

Mr. Millind Gotpagar from Wärtsilä was invited to address the Rotarians and the children.

He spoke about the partnership between Rotary and Wärtsilä, highlighting the impact of collaborative efforts between the community and organizations like Rotary.

Experience Sharing:

Mr. Dinesh from Boys Town shared his personal experience and the impact of Rotary Boys Town on his life and growth.

Celebration:

The birthday of President Rtn. Chella Krishna was celebrated during the meeting, with attendees extending their wishes.

Vote of Thanks:

Secretary Rajesh Mani delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all participants, contributors, and guests for their involvement and support.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by President Rtn. Chella Krishna.

Independence Day Celebrations at Boys Town 15th August 2024

There is a tradition to celebrate all the important days, events and festivals with great enthusiasm at Boys Town. There is something deeply stirring about our Independence Day and that emotive energy was palpable at our Boys Town this August 15th.

Our boys clothed in green T-shirts, paired with navy blue shorts and sneakers wore happy smiles as they greeted our chief guests Mr. Dennis Joseph Mathews, Country Agreement Manager and Mr. Milind Gotpagar, Head Administration & CSR Management of our chief sponsor, Wartsila India Pvt Ltd and a large contingent of our RCM family.

A grand march-past led everyone to the flag post, where the children of the four villages under the Rural Education Initiative, and the Interactors from Shankara Vidyashraman awaited them attentively. The village education initiative headed by RCM and sponsored by Wartsila has thus far impacted the villages of Siruvada, Amarambedu, Panjalai &

Kanankottai. There are more than 125 children (girls and boys) who are getting the benefit every year under this initiative

The ceremony continued with the boys marching by offering a respectful and military like salute to the flag, prior to singing the Tamizh Thai Vaazhthu, invoking divine grace. President Chella Krishna and the chief guests hoisted the flag, while the children's rendition of the



flag song, recital of the Pledge and National Anthem filled all our hearts with gratitude and pride.

One of the highlights of the Independence Day celebration was the planting of a tree in honour of Rtn PP V.K. Chandrakumar (VKCK) for his tireless dedication towards uplifting and educating the children of Boys Town. He himself was present at this occasion.

Moving into the main hall we were greeted by artistically



rendered logos of RCM and Wartsila in coloured stone. The mood like the weather was ripe with excitement and children waited expectantly; delighted to have an opportunity to showcase their talents and learnings. The 7th RCM meeting was called to order by President Chella followed by a welcome speech by the community service director Dr. Anuradha Ganesan. During the meeting, we were treated to a cultural show encompassing the performing arts from music, dance and yoga, by all the students showcasing the spirit of India and setting the perfect tone of respectful gratitude for our culture and heritage. Our boys receive regular training in music & Yoga and they did their teachers proud, performing with much enthusiasm. The Interactors from Shankara Vidyashraman thanked RCM for the opportunity given to them to visit Boys town.



Message from **Dennis Joseph Mathews**

Happy 78th Independence Day of India to all!

Education is truly a great enabler for true independence. The Rotary Club is excellently supporting the boys here in Boys Town, Gummdipoondi, by providing them with good boarding and lodging facilities and, at the same time, supporting the kids in their education.

Though they come from broken families, all these children here have enormous potential that can be unleashed. Being in Boys Town, these kids now have an opportunity to improve their situation. While children need to work hard and play hard to improve their physical and mental abilities, the teachers and caretakers of Boys Town play a crucial role by acting as parents for these children and guiding them at every step.

We at Wartsila are very proud to be associated with the Rotary Club for this project by sponsoring and supporting these children in Boys Town.

Dennis Joseph Mathews
Country Agreements Manager
Wartsila India



Mr. Dennis Joseph Mathews and Mr. Milind Gotpagar, chief guests of the day, shared their perspectives on the significance of Independence Day. They highlighted RCM's exceptional work in maintaining facilities like Boys Town, providing children with dignified lives, independence and equal opportunities for their future. They also advised boys to take the maximum benefit of the opportunity provided by RCM.

PDG Benjamin Cherian formally introduced VKCK and suggested that RCM should have a bigger vision for Boys town as we are approaching the centenary celebrations of RCM.

PP V. K. Chandrakumar (VKCK) shared his experience about his tenure as chairperson of Boys Town for eight years in the past.

President Chella Krishna's birthday happens to be on 15th August. Everyone including children and interactors wished Chella a happy birthday and one of the interactors played a birthday song on Violin.

The Meeting was concluded with the formal vote of thanks by RCM Secretary Rtn. Rajesh Mani.

This celebration of our Nation with our children at Boys Town always feels meaningful. It inevitably evokes the spirit of patriotism, ably demonstrating that love and loyalty to the nation lies in respecting all and serving as responsible human beings who contribute to the betterment of our country. It is no wonder then, that we remain indebted to Wartsila for their part in building responsible communities that create hope in this world.

Rtn. N.K.Bhatia and the Boys Town Society Team







BIRTHDAYS 19th August To 25th August 2024

20th August	Rtn. Alok Bhargava
21st August	Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal
22nd August	Rtn. M. Sesha Sai

SPOUSE BIRTHDAYS

20th August	Ann. Chetan Anand Koka, Spouse of Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan
24th August	Ann. Archana Mani, Spouse of Rtn. Rajesh Mani
24th August	Ann. Nikita Bajaj, Spouse of Mohit Bajaj

ANNIVERSARY

20th August	Rtn. Manasa T. Pillai & K.T. Pillai
22nd August	Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi & R. Aruna Sree
23rd August	Rtn. H. E. Abdul Azeez & Sameena
23rd August	Rtn. Dr. R. Chandrasekhar & Dr. Priya
23rd August	Rtn. Nikhil Raj & Laura
24th August	Rtn. P. B. Biswajit Babu & Shalini
25th August	Rtn. Raghunath Narayanan & Shantha Raghunath



Ramayana in the Board Room



“I have no intention of dying before my death”—the first statement had us hooked!

The morning sunlight in a glass-enclosed, spacious room at the Sage and Lavender restaurant was an amazing setting on a Sunday morning. The Holistic Living Team, led by Rtn. Abhay Mehta, curated a wonderful morning starting with good coffee and an opportunity to chat and connect on the 11th of August, 2024.

Then, Rtn. N. Prakash took over the memorable discussion with centenarian Mr. Swaminathan, who turned 100 a month ago. Over the next hour, Mr. Swaminathan and Prakash held us spellbound in a fascinating discussion about life lessons from the Ramayana that are indeed relevant today. Mr. Swaminathan is a treasure trove,





and as President Chella Krishna aptly stated in his closing remarks, “Very few individuals are institutions—we are amidst one of them.”

Here are some statements from this conversation that resonated most with this writer:

1. I have no intention of dying before my death.
2. Take the second step only after analysing the impact of the first step.

3. It is important for a leader to have good advisors.
4. “I am not competent to answer; I will study and get back to you.” (This was Mr. Swaminathan’s response when asked a question on a subject he had not adequately studied. How rare is this kind of response!)

The discussion was followed by a wonderful lunch and an appropriate

memento for all participants. Rtn. PP P. N. Mohan was the catalyst for this event, as Mr. Swaminathan is his father-in-law (Rita’s dad). Special thanks to both of them and to Prakash for empathetic and skilful moderation.

What a nourishing morning! Thank you, Abhay, Shanno, and the Holistic Living Team!

- Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti



Born On July 19th, 1924, Mr Swaminathan completed his education from Presidency College Chennai, and his post graduation from the University of Allahabad. He was an avid cricketer, who loved his batting, and has had the good fortune of playing with many top cricketers of his time.

He started his life like any young man, beginning his career in the corporate world. Soon after retirement, he took up to studying the Valmiki Ramayana. He quickly mastered and understood the deep meaning of the Valmiki Ramayana. He has memorised 22,000 Shlokas, and is able to recite it without any reference. He has written and translated it six times Into English.

Mr L Swaminathan, a centenarian with a wealth of experience, has dedicated his life to educating young minds about the profound lessons embedded in the Ramayana. Through his books, aptly titled ‘Revelations,’ Swaminathan imparts timeless wisdom on leadership in both business and personal life. Drawing from the epic’s rich tapestry of characters and stories, he emphasizes the importance of integrity, duty, and resilience. Swaminathan believes that the Ramayana’s teachings can guide students towards becoming visionary leaders who balance ambition with compassion, making ethical decisions that benefit society at large. His century-long journey stands as a testament to the enduring power of ancient

wisdom in shaping modern living.

All his works are dedicated to his daughter Rita (spouse of our Rotarian PN Mohan) and for the benefit of the next generation. When one speaks to him, one realises that understanding the Ramayana and the morals and values of life, requires that life be seen from a larger canvas, rather than from a narrow vision.

It was truly inspiring to note his love for the subject and the passion with which he shared his wisdom and knowledge.

Thank you, Rita and Mohan for facilitating this.

- Rtn.Abhay S.Mehta

Rtn.PP.A.S.Venkhat Ramani shares his fascinating and inspiring perspective, while responding to the four questions posed by The Lighthouse.

1. Is the Four-Way Test an impossible and impractical quest?

In any human quest to do good, there are always obstacles and challenges. I feel we need an ideal to aim for, to motivate us and keep us focused on the goal. It might seem too difficult or even impractical in some cases, but it is necessary to have a goal to pursue and keep us on the right track. In many ways, the ideal may seem like a mirage at times, but the pursuit of the ideal is what makes the human species so special.

2. Is it just an idealistic notion?

As I mentioned, truth, teamwork, service, sacrifice, and other such qualities are rare in today's world and may seem idealistic. Sometimes dealing with ambitious, selfish individuals with underlying agendas can be extremely frustrating and difficult to deal with for individuals really looking to serve the greater good. However, it must be seen as a journey to learn and grow, and notice a burden to become vexed about. When serving the greater good, idealism is a key ingredient,

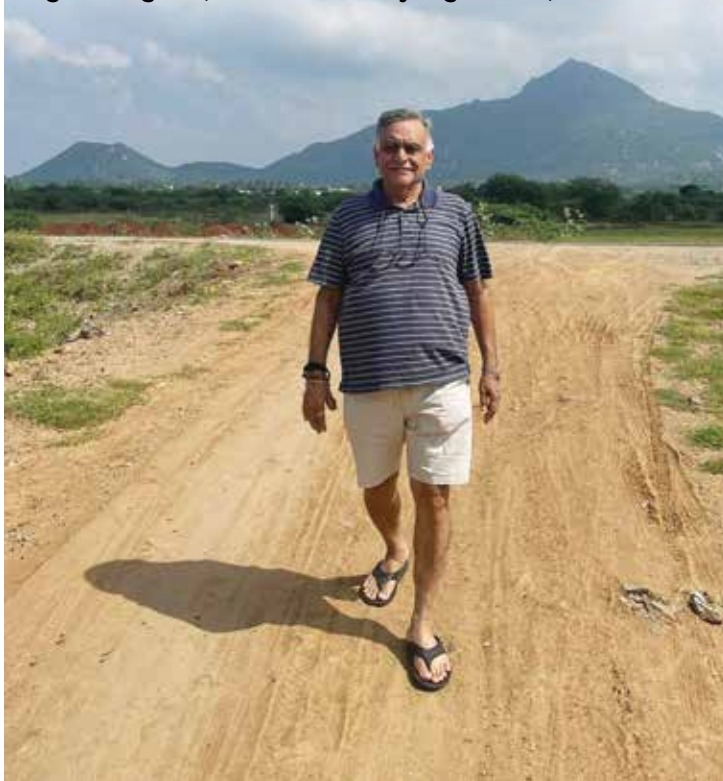
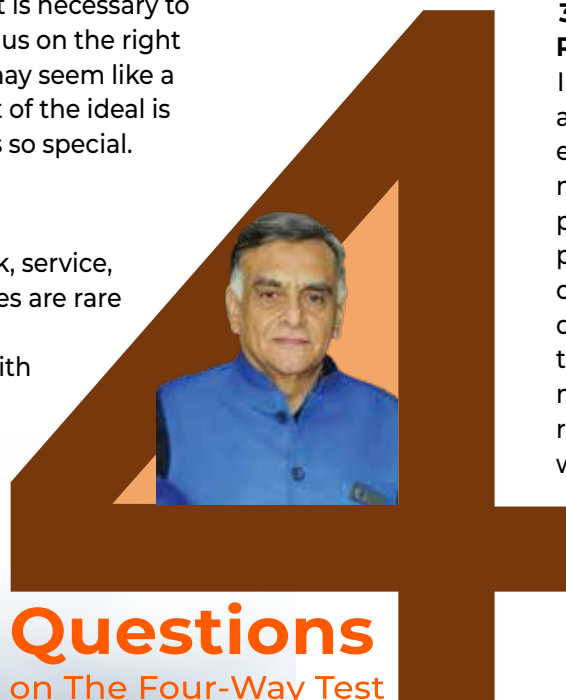
and in service, giving up is never an option. Many may feel that sometimes we, ourselves and most others, may not be at a level to sacrifice everything to uphold the Four-Way Tenets, but that is why these tenets are there—to keep us on the right track.

3. Can it inspire or transform a Rotarian's perspective?

In this transactional world, many activities revolve around entertainment, business networking, self-marketing and projection, and power play. Some people are purely capitalistic, others jaded, and still others disillusioned by what seems to be the norm. However, the ideal is meant to remind us of why we are really here, and even if once in a while it can spark an individual to do something unselfish and service-oriented, it can inspire or transform their life if they continue traveling on that path.

4. Any practical examples of its relevance in this day and age?

In my experience, I believe that if people follow the first tenet of "Truth," everything else will fall into place automatically. Early in my career, despite the possibility of lying and getting away with it, I stuck to the truth, but was fearing flak and repercussions. However, it was very well received by my client, and our relationship was further strengthened. Truth is the only permanent thing. My conclusion is that ego is more important to tame and overcome, well before the Four-Way Test. Unless people are willing to let go of their ego, following the tenets of the Four-Way Test is impossible, but we are here to try.





1. What is your current state of mind ?
Peaceful
2. What is your idea of perfect happiness ?
Relaxing with close family and friends at a cosy location with good food and drink.
3. What is your greatest fear?
Trapped in a box
4. What is the trait you most deplore in yourself ?
None
5. What is the trait you most deplore in others ?
Being unprofessional.
6. Which living person do you admire most ?
Roger Federer
7. What is your greatest extravagance ?
Holidays with the family
8. What do you consider the most overrated virtue?
Being busy
9. On what occasion do you lie?
To prevent someone from getting hurt
10. Which living person do you most despise ?
None really. Each one to their own.
11. What is the quality you most like in a man ?
Gentlemanly behaviour
12. What is the quality you most like in a woman ?
Pleasant demeanour and a smile
13. Which words or phrase do you most overuse?
How are you?
14. What or who is the greatest love of your life ?
My wife and daughters
15. When and where were you happiest ?
See point 2
16. Where would you most like to live ?
Chennai
17. What is your most treasured possession?
Nothing really. There are a lot of things I have. Nothing defines me. Prefer detachment
18. What is your favourite occupation?
Designing refrigeration systems. Project planning.
19. What is your most marked characteristic?
Professionalism
20. Who is your hero of fiction ?
James Bond
21. Which historical figure do you most identify with ?
Nobody I can think of.
22. Who are your heroes in real life ?
People who do good/work silently
23. What is your greatest regret ?
None
24. How would you like to die ?
Peacefully.
25. Your motto in life?
Do it right and do it on time.

Change in Board of Directors

Dear Rotarians,

We wish to inform you that Rtn. Rahul Saroagi has requested to be relieved of his responsibilities as Director - Fund Raising & PR due to pressing personal commitments. We want to extend our sincere gratitude for the significant efforts and dedication Rahul has contributed to this role. His work has been invaluable, and we completely understand and support his decision.

In light of this change, we are pleased to announce that Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan will be stepping in as the new Director - Fund Raising & PR. We have full confidence in Prasanna's ability to excel in this role and look forward to his contributions.

Please join us in extending your best wishes to both Rahul and Prasanna during this transition.

The Board of the Rotary Club of Madras

Site Manager Required

We are looking for a competent and compassionate Manager for our longest serving project - ROTARY NAGAR

Prefer a lady candidate , qualified in social service , experienced in handling ladies as well as children , capable of handling responsibilities independently and having a two wheeler.

Will appreciate sharing either reference of candidates who near about match above requirements or recommending recruitment agencies who can identify such candidates. Please send by WhatsApp to **Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti at 9600044229.**

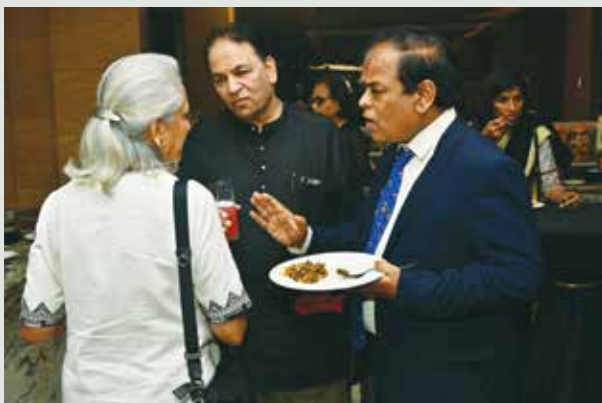
YIR
Rotary Nagar Committee



Issue 7

Suggest the most quirky, whacky or creative caption/blurb for this photo (Maximum 15 words). The best entries will be reproduced in the next week's edition of Lighthouse.

Mail your captions to editor@rcmlighthouse.com on or before 20 August .



Issue 6 : Best Captions

1. Sesha Sai sells Seychelles to the CEOs of RCM!
- **Rtn. Hemant P.Chordia**
2. Truly a 'B2B ' initiative...- **Rtn. Vijay Dugar**
3. "It's a challenging role brother; you need more experience"
- **Rtn. Balaji Chinni**
4. Sai: PATAAL!!!
Turn the other cheek Balaji!!! Aswath is waiting his turn !!
- **Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau**
5. Sai: moonjiya eppidi paal vadiyum mugam maathiri vechirukaan pathiya Ashwath: adaamaamla!
- **Rtn. Deepak Chander**
6. "And this is how you diplomatically chop anybody, brother!"
- **Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti**
7. Brother you don't know a damn about Youth Service
- **Rtn. Aditya Agarwal**
8. "Brother, what does he know about foundations!"
- **Rtn. Prashanth S. Kharche**
9. "That moment when you are not sure if it is a high-five or an advanced lesson in aerodynamics"
- **Rtn. Naveen Kumar Bhatia**
10. Oh god, the free gyan session has begun
- **Ann. Meenakshi Raman**



Aureate

Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Loyola College

On the day of August 8, 2024, the esteemed members of the Rotaract Club of Loyola College came together to commemorate the installation ceremony of the 48th President Rtr. Felix J. and 48th Hon Secretary Rtr. Yogeshwaran S.J., marking the beginning of a new chapter. The ceremony took place at Preview Theatre, Loyola College at 10 AM. Rtr. Mithran and Rtr. Benchristo S.J. led this initiative as the project Chairperson and Secretary, respectively.

Distinguished guests Rtn. Nikhil Raj, Rtn. Balaji Chinni, Rtr.PP.PHF. Sasikumar J. and Rtr.PP. Sathishkumar S., graced the installation ceremony with their presence. Appointment letters with the badges were given to the board members. Letterheads and Banners were also released by the chief guests. The installation ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and national anthem.



Dear Rtn. Shivkumar Eashwaran,

Greetings,

We appreciate your sharing of the recent Lighthouse Bulletin with us. We are deeply thankful for the consistent support and motivation that Rotary provides to the Interactors.

Warm regards,

Sashirekha,

Principal, Sri Sankara Vidyashramam MHSS, Thiruvannamiyur.



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