

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Rotary Club of Madras THE MAGIC OF SERVICE BOND BUILD BRING CHEER

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WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS | ISSUE 08 | August 25, 2024



**RCM-CANSTOP
Vaccine Distribution**



Dear RCMers,

Featured in this issue are the Selaiyur-Sembakkam project site, vaccine distribution, the rich haul of awards bagged by RCM for 2023-24, the Art for Peace Event and the stimulating panel discussion at the weekly meeting .

Happy reading !



Rtn.Shivkumar Eashwaran
Editor

Rtn.A.R.Raghunandan
Chairperson

Mr.Madhu Mathen
Co-Chairperson





Rotary Club of Madras

9th Weekly Meeting

Tuesday, 27th August 2024
Meeting Starts at 1.30 pm
at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

UNLOCK THE FUTURE OF INVESTING

Dive deeper with alternative data,
where market intel uncovers hidden truths
behind the headlines.




Join **Karthik and Mrinalini**,
Founders of Thurro, and discover how alternative data is
revolutionizing the investment landscape!

Please note that spouses are cordially invited for this meeting

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Rtn. Rajesh Mani

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Rtn. Shanno Ravi

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Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan

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Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 8th Weekly Meeting Held on 20.08.24
 at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order and Invocation:

The meeting commenced at 01:20 PM. Sergeant at Arms, Rtn. Srinivasan M., collared the President.

President Rtn. Chella Krishna called the 8th weekly meeting of the year to order. A silent invocation was observed.

Confirmation of Minutes:

The minutes of the 7th Weekly Meeting were confirmed and adopted.

Welcome Address:

The President welcomed visiting Rotarians Rtn. Mohit Bhaatia from the Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance, Rtn. Dr.D.Lakshmi Priya from the Rotary Club of Chennai Premier, Rtn.Raghuram Avula from the Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance, and Rtn.Kumar Rajendran from Chennai Legends.

Probians Dr. Bhavani A. and Suresh Mallya, spouses and guests were also warmly welcomed.

Fellowship Announcement:

Rtn. Suman Voora announced that the first full club fellowship would be held on 25th August at the Radio Room from 12:00 to 4:00 PM, hosted by past tablers. The event will have a Hawaiian theme, and members were encouraged to attend in good strength.

Independence Day Celebrations Recap:

The President provided a recap of the Independence Day celebrations at various venues, including Rotary Nagar, Gummidipoondi Boys Town, and the Selaiyur facility.

Art for Peace Event Recap:

Rtn. Sabina Narayan provided an update on the "Art for Peace" event held on 14th August. The event, curated by Rtn.Ashish Gupta, involved members and their families creating a vibrant canvas to promote peace ahead of the International Day of Peace on 21st September. The event emphasized creativity and earth-conscious practices.

HPV Vaccination Program Update:

The President announced a generous donation of Rs.15 lakhs by Rtn.Ravi Bhatkal for the HPV vaccination program, which has been running successfully across schools.

Rtn. Sangeetha Viswanathan informed the members about an upcoming awareness event on 23rd August at PSBB Nungambakkam, organized by Dr.Rama Narasimhan.

Holistic Living Event:

The President acknowledged the efforts of Rtn. Abhay Mehta in organizing an event with Mr. Swaminathan, a centenarian and expert on the Ramayana, which was attended by over 40 Rotarians.

Awards and Recognitions:

The club received several awards at the recent district awards night, including:

- World's number three club in TRF contribution
- World's number one club in CSR projects contribution
- Best performing club in RI District 3232
- 100% Inter-district relationship building
- 100% PHF club
- 100% of all members' contribution club
- 100% foundation club
- Every Rotarian Every Year club
- Outstanding President and Outstanding Secretary

Special recognition was given to Rtn.M.K. Jain for his significant contributions exceeding 500,000 USD. The award was handed over by PDG Benjamin Cherian. Special recognition was also given to Rtn. M. Balasubramanian for his 50 years of service.

Centenary Committee Announcement:

Centenary Year President-Nominee Rtn.Dr.Anuradha Ganesan announced the formation of the Centenary Committee, consisting of three groups:

- Mentor Group: PDG Rtn. R. Benjamin Cherian, PDG Rtn. J.B. Kamdar, Rtn. A.V.M. Balasubramanian
- Special Invitees: Immediate Past President Rtn. S. Ravi, President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna, President-Elect Rtn. Nikhil Raj, President Nominee 98th year Rtn. S. Balakrishna (Bobby), President Nominee 99th year Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan
- Centenary Committee: The Centenary Committee will consist of 16 members. Three slots have been reserved for emerging talents within RCM
 - Secretary: Rtn. Shanno Ravi
 - Convener: Rtn. R. Ravi Shankar

The remaining 10 slots have been allocated to members who will manage specific aspects of the celebration, including fundraising, events, project planning, international coordination, district coordination, programs, media, public relations, and treasury.

The selected members are:

- Rtn. PP. Gopinath N.K.
- Rtn. PP. George B. Cherian
- Rtn. PP. KK.Raman
- Rtn. IPP Ravi Sundaresan
- Rtn. G. Chella Krishna – President
- Rtn. Rajesh Somasundaram
- Rtn. Krishnamurthy Vijayan
- Rtn. Vikram Chesetty
- Rtn. Visvanathan A.M.
- Rtn. Sabina Narayan

These committee members will review the 150 responses received from the questionnaire, understand the members' aspirations, and plan their activities accordingly, forming sub-committees as needed.

Introduction of New Members:

Rtn. Ravi Bhatkal introduced Dr. Gururaj Rao.

Rtn. Prashanth Karche introduced Mr. Chetan Acharya.

Rtn. R. Rajendran introduced Dr. Karthik Mathivanan.

Formal Induction of New Members:

Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan and Rtn. PP George B.

Cherian joined President Chella Krishna to formally induct Rtn. Dr. Guru Raj Rao, Rtn. Chetan Acharya, and Rtn. Dr. Karthik Mathivanan into the Rotary Club of Madras. They emphasized the importance of Rotary's ideals and the role of new members as representatives of their vocations.

All members rose to welcome the new Rotarians, and their spouses joined for a group photograph.

Secretary's Announcements:

Rtn. Rajesh Mani announced that:

- Rtn. PP S.N. Srikanth has been invited to address the Rotaract Club of London, UK, and the Rotaract Club of Accra, Ghana, on transformative approaches to water sanitation and hygiene. The event will be held virtually on August 22, 2024, at 11:30 PM IST.
- The Holistic Living team has organized a well-rounded event at St. Thomas Mount on August 23, 2024, combining fitness, historical exploration, and socializing.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Birthdays and anniversaries for the week were announced. Contributions towards club projects were made by several members and their families in celebration of these occasions.

Upcoming Meetings:

The next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2024, at Hyatt Regency. Mr. Karthikeyan Ranganathan, founder of Thurro, will speak on the rise of alternative data in investing.

Panel Discussion:

A panel discussion was held featuring top entrepreneurs Rtn. Hemu Ramaiah, Rtn.Rahul Saraogi and Rtn.Navneet Agarwal, who are also members of RCM. It was expertly moderated by Rtn.Vivek A. Parachur. The discussion was highly engaging, with valuable insights shared by the panelists.

Adjournment:

President Rtn. Chella Krishna adjourned the meeting, thanking all attendees for their participation.







They were all our own. The Four who were the panelists of the “Trailblazer Entrepreneurs of RCM” at the 8th weekly meeting were all a part of the RCM family. Each one of them, an accomplished business owner in his/her own right, having succeeded in the rough and tumble of commerce overcoming obstacles, the unknown, the uncertainties and the ups and downs of time.

They were smart, articulate, crisp and concise with their answers. It was very apparent why they were successful. Each of them possessed unique qualities that set them apart. It was a packed afternoon, wherein the RCMers came in large numbers in support of their family.

The discussion was well anchored by Rtn.Vivek Parachur, asking relevant questions to which he got sensible answers. Vivek runs a hi-tech Nutraceutical company on his own and has a very good idea on how businesses are run. He is no stranger to the goings on in the world of business. His curation was pointed, specific and exact. Well done Rtn.Parachur!

Rtn.Hemu Ramaiah is someone who I met when she was 16 years old, when she was fresh out of

school. Little did I imagine then, that decades later, I would be listening to one of the most successful businesswomen in retail, in the country, being interviewed. It was a pleasure to listen to her. She was frank, forthright and precise. Her passion for the path she had chosen to excel at, was very evident. Having grown up in a family with an army background, she felt the absence of books in her early life and fulfilled her dreams. She said that successful entrepreneurs find a vacuum and fill it to their desire. And that is how she met with success with Landmark.

“Entrepreneurship is gender agnostic”, was one remark she made during the course of the conversation. Well said Hemu! You are the prime example of a woman succeeding in business! Her strength apparently was her timing. She began when she was 30 and exited at 50. She created “Landmark” in no less than 18 venues and in all major cities in India, which will stand the test of time as a success story in retail. She is truly a rockstar!

We all know who Rtn.Rahul Saraogi is! With his pedigree and

antecedents, he needs no introduction. He is a third generation entrepreneur and an extremely good one at that. He was articulate and clear and knew what he was talking about. He was of the opinion that entrepreneurship was the least appreciated amongst all professions. Engineers are lauded as thought leaders and builders, doctors are termed as demi-gods saving lives and some others as visionaries. An entrepreneur often goes unrecognized, and is at best noticed, when he fails in his endeavor.

Rahul says that the business may fail, but the entrepreneur doesn't!. A true businessman is tough. He is “Teflon coated”. According to Rahul, entrepreneurship is a state of mind. An entrepreneur, on a daily basis, has to have his nose to the grind, constantly step outside his zone of comfort and live in a state of uncertainty. Life is never easy for an entrepreneur.

Rtn.Navneet Agarwal completed the quartet. He comes across as a true professional, having passed out of IIT Mumbai and Booth School of Business. He came back from the US to take care of the family

business, which according to him, is a both a boon and a bane. When you inherit a legacy, you have a platform to work with and a support structure. At the same time, you need to contend with what should be and what someone wants it to be.

What he obviously meant was the tremendous adjustment in terms of accommodating old school of thought with one's own propensity to put into effect the process of new learnings from Business School. It needed adjustment, patience and understanding-which probably is Navneet's forte and has stood him in good stead to make him what he is.

Navneet seems to possess a great sense of humor and an affable persona, which seems to have aided him to navigate the process of separation of family and business, which took 5 years. He seems to have put in to good effect, the learnings from Booth School of Business by adapting to emerging businesses and developing automation. Today, his business manufactures 20,000 SKUs in ductile and cast iron!

According to him "Risk Appetite" for an entrepreneur ebbs and wanes. It is like the high and low tide. If one meets with success, the optimism is high and more chances are taken. On the other hand, setbacks bring in

caution and a tendency to pull back. One needs to have a balanced approach and work with available resources.

There were many more pearls of wisdom from all four. It is impossible to capture all of them, in the limited space available. All I can say is that the ones who were lucky enough to be in the audience were given a treat in nuances of entrepreneurship and business.

Many thanks to Rtn.PP.Rani Muralidharan, Rtn.Shanno Ravi and the Programs Committee team!

-Rtn.A.R.Raghuandan

Induction of New Members



Mr. Chetan Acharya

Chetan is the managing partner at Nippon Enterprises South, a distribution company with a national footprint and a team of 150 employees across India. His business spans multiple industries, including musical instruments, medical x-ray equipment, and photo printers. Chetan is passionate about gaming, movies, weightlifting, swimming, and building PCs and servers. He is also committed to causes such as children's education, public sanitation, disease prevention, and animal welfare.



Dr. Karthik Mathivanan

Dr. Karthik is an internationally renowned liver transplant surgeon with experience in over 2,000 complex and high-risk transplant surgeries. He has also performed over 1,000 successful kidney transplants. He is currently the Director of Liver and Multi-Organ Transplant at MIOT Hospitals and has previously served in prominent roles at MGM Healthcare, Chettinad Hospitals, and Apollo Hospitals. Dr. Karthik's wife, Rushalini, is a journalist and photographer actively involved in human rights, particularly focusing on the LGBT community. They have an 8-year-old son named Abhinav.



Dr. Gururaj Rao

Dr. Rao is a graduate of AB Shetty Memorial Institute of Dental Sciences, Mangalore, with an MDS in Prosthodontics from Saveetha Dental College, Chennai. He and his spouse, Dr. Shreya Sujeer, run their private practice at Dr. Rao Dental Clinic in Egmore, established in 1951. They have a 11-year-old daughter, Saisha. Dr. Rao is actively involved in the Indian Prosthodontics Society both nationally and at the state level.



On the occasion of RCM emerging with a huge haul of awards for RY 2023-24, Rtn.A.R.Ragunandan, Chairperson of The Lighthouse Committee spoke with Rtn.IPP.S.Ravi.

1. These awards, what do they mean to you?

These awards have multiple meanings to me . The most important is that these Awards recognise our Club's achievements and accomplishments . Also, it means that in the view of District Governor and his Team, our Club has done exceedingly well and achieved an honour beyond their expectations.

2. Which is the most coveted of them all and which do you cherish the most?

The Best Performing and Club Excellence Award is my most coveted Award amongst all that we

received . This is because the Award recognises our Rotary Club as the World's No: 1 Club in CSR Projects Contribution and World No:3 in TRF Contribution . It also is a recognition that our Club is one where goals are consistently achieved across all priority areas . It is a recognition that our Club is a very active Club with a good standing , having paid RI dues regularly and having impacted a large number of beneficiaries in the seven areas of Focus , for Building Responsible Communities .

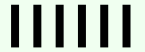
3. I am certain that these awards were not on your radar when you put in all the effort towards your

goals, but can you let people know your state of mind in doing all that hard work?

Thank you for this question, Firstly, nothing comes without our efforts . Even if it does , you won't value it and neither does it stay for long . This is the mantra that my Mother has taught me and it has stayed with me throughout my life . Naturally, it happened in my real life, as well as during my Rotary year too. So, I always tell myself this mantra , while striving to achieve my Club's goals or business goals . Definitely, these awards were not in my radar or bucket list . However I am glad about whatever happened. My Board Members , Chairpersons and all RCM Members, along with me,had put in wholehearted efforts for impacting the Community by creating Hope in The World.

There is a saying in Hindi : "Mehnat ka phal meeta hota hai".





The following special awards have been given to our club last, Sunday, 4th August 2024 at Hotel Green Park by our RID. Anirudha and IPDG. Ravi Raman.

Special Awards	
1	World #3 club in TRF contribution
2	World #1 club in CSR projects contribution
3	Best performing & club excellence award in RID3232
4	Inter district relationship building
5	100% Paul Harris Fellow Club a) 100% All members Contribution Club b) 100% Foundation Giving Club c) Every Rotarian Every Year Club
6	Outstanding President Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi
7	Best Secretary Rtn. M. Sesha Sai

CSR Awards	
1	CSR Award For Classroom & Skill (CS 2400390) – Rtn. Ravi Bhatkal
2	CSR Award For Water Body Restoration (CS 2300132)– - Rtn. B. V. Gautam
3	CSR Award For Pond Water Restoration YWCA (CS 2400388) – - Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra
4	CSR Award For Med Infra /Amber/AI Glass (Cs 2400250) – Rtn. Dr. Supriya Dabir Gautam
5	CSR Award For Home For Homeless A H 2 (CS 2400237) – Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan
6	CSR Award For Medical Infra A H 4 Dialysis's (CS 2400406) – Rtn. PP. Dr. N.V. Arulmozhi Varman
7	CSR Award For Bio Toilet (CS 2400380) – Rtn. PP. P.V. Mohan Raman / Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi
8	CSR Award For Medical Infra AH 3 (CS 2400337) – Rtn. Bharat M. Pujara
9	CSR Award For Urban Sanitation And Skill Dev (CS 2400350) – Rtn. Roopa Shetty / Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan
10	CSR Award For Access Health Phase 2 (CS 2400355)
11	CSR Award For Access Health Phase 1 (CS 2400245)
12	CSR Award for WASH and Digital Literacy (CS2400249) Rtn.Vijay Balaji and Rtn.Arvind Kumar Sankar

Global Grant	
1	Recognition For Touching Little Hearts (GG - 2462251) – Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan
2	Recognition For Latithambigai Dialysis Center (GG-2352399) – Rtn. IPP. Jayshree Sridhar
3	Recognition For Touching Tiny Hearts Uganda (GG-2464269) – Rtn. Nikhil Raj
4	Recognition For Toilets in 3 Villages (GG-2341786) - Rtn. S. Balakrishna



This translates to " You get good results for your efforts ". Our Club has been recognized for the efforts that RCMers have put in during the Rotary Year 2023 - 24 . We would not have valued these efforts during the course of implementing the projects , but now, after seeing all these awards, we certainly value what we have got .

4. I am sure your family played a major role in your work during your year as The President, in more ways than one. What were their areas of contribution?

Interesting question . Everything accomplished in my life since I met my wife , has been a Team Effort , for which she asked no credit , but actually deserves it the most . She is not just a pillar of strength , but also my Lighthouse in safely and successfully undertaking as well as completing my voyage.She gives my "life trip" a purpose.

5. What were the key factors that contributed to this?

Mainly, collective leadership , efforts of our Board , good support and encouragement from all Chairpersons and RCM Members . Their collective passion and hard work are the keys that enabled us to achieve Club excellence.

6. I know that you had a fantastic team backing you last year, but would you like to particularly name anyone for this accomplishment?

It is not fair for me to state that there was a single individual who contributed to the phenomenal performance of our Club during Rotary Year 2023-24 . Hence , I would like to express special gratitude to all my Board Members , our club PDGs, Past Presidents, Senior RCMers and our Committee



Avenues Of Service

1 Avenues Of Service For Rtn. PP. George B. Cherian (2023-2024)

Excellent Performance Award

- 1 Rtn. PP. P.V. Mohan Raman-Excellent Performance as Chairperson - Polio
- 2 Rtn. PP. George B. Cherian -Excellent Performance as Chairperson - AG Training Seminar
- 3 Rtn. PP. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan - Excellent Performance as Chairperson -District Assembly

TRF Contribution

- 1 Rtn. AKS. PDG. J.B. Kamdar RCM TRF Contribution 40652 USD
- 2 Rtn. Ranjeeth D. Rathod RCM TRF contribution USD 18000
- 3 Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan RCM TRF Contribution 56579 USD
- 4 Rtn. Archana Shri Sanjay RCM TRF Contribution 8820 USD
- 5 Rtn. Bharat Pujara RCM TRF Contribution 9905 USD
- 6 Rtn. PP Ranjit Pratap RCM TRF Contribution 50000 USD
- 7 Rtn. AKS. Rahul Saraogi RCM TRF Contribution 150602 USD
- 8 Rtn. Sabina Narayan RCM TRF Contribution 341121 USD
- 9 Rtn. G. Ravindran RCM TRF Contribution 33000 USD
- 10 Rtn. G. Chella Krishna RCM TRF Contribution 9905 USD
- 11 Rtn. H.E. Abdul Azeez RCM TRF Contribution 20025 USD
- 12 Rtn. S. Suresh Kumar RCM TRF Contribution 10760 USD
- 13 Rtn. Mehul Uday Nanavathi RCM TRF Contribution 24096 USD
- 14 Rtn. Mahinder Jain RCM TRF Contribution 276749 USD
- 15 Rtn. E.M.C. Palaniappan RCM TRF Contribution 61012 USD
- 16 Rtn. Ranjit Pendurthi RCM TRF Contribution 30000 USD
- 17 Rtn. P.S. Jagdish RCM TRF Contribution 14025 USD

Recognised for Continuing to Serve Rotary International and the community at large with Distinction

- 1 Rtn. S.B. Goenka (224912) - 43 Years
- 2 Rtn. M. Balasubramanian (225022)-43 Years
- 3 Rtn. N. Mahmud Jamal (224932)-40 Years
- 4 Rtn. PP. Dr. A. Verghese Chummar (224992) - 43 Years
- 5 Rtn. Ravee Malhotra (225142) - 39 Years

AKS Members Award

- 1 Rtn. Mahinder Jain
- 2 Rtn. Rahul Saraogi

Chairs, who went above and beyond to ensure the success of our initiatives. I am also grateful for the Mentorship and wisdom of our Core Team Members consisting ast President Rtn.Venkhatramani , Rtn. Ravishankar and Rtn. Sabina, who have provided their invaluable insights and encouragement throughout the year . Lastly , I would also like to thank my family , who sacrificed precious time and energy to support me in this role. Their love and encouragement meant the world to me.

These individuals, along with many others, contributed significantly to our club achievements in getting these awards.

I'm honored to have had the privilege of working alongside such a talented and dedicated team.

7. What was your inspiration to get to do the things you did during your presidency ?

During my presidency, my inspirations were Vision for RCM's Future, Members' Needs, Legacy of Past Presidents, Collaborative Spirit, Innovation and Progress, Mentorship and Guidance, Personal Values, Team's Passion and Energy, RCM's Mission and Values and Desire to Make a Difference.

These inspirations really guided my decisions, actions and leadership style during my presidency, enabling me to drive positive change and progress.

8. What was one single act that gave you the maximum satisfaction?

A wonderful question! One single act that gave me maximum satisfaction during my Rotary year as President was implementing community service projects in seven areas of focus, particularly the "Home for Homeless" project for the Irrula community, and contributing significantly to The Rotary Foundation (TRF).

9. What are your future plans in Rotary ?

I plan to take on various roles within my club, such as Centennial Committee Chair, District Interface Chair, etc.I aspire to serve as PETS Chair, District Conference Chair, District Governor, or in other district-level roles to support and empower clubs in our district. I aim to attend and participate in Rotary International conferences, conventions, and assemblies to connect with global leaders and stay updated on Rotary's initiatives. By pursuing these plans, I hope to deepen my engagement, expand my contributions and make a lasting difference through Rotary.

Join the ECO Committee's Green Initiative!

Are you ready to make a difference?

If you have fertile land with access to power and water and are willing to set up a drip irrigation system with a timer, the ECO Committee of the Rotary Club of Madras has an exciting opportunity for you. Our committee is dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability and supporting reforestation efforts. We will take care of arranging and planting tree saplings on your land, making it easier for you to contribute to a greener future.

Benefits of Joining the Initiative:

- **Environmental Conservation:** Contribute to a greener planet and combat climate change.
- **Enhanced Land Productivity:** Increase the productivity of your land with well-maintained plantations.
- **Efficient Irrigation:** Utilize a drip irrigation system to ensure optimal water usage and healthy growth of saplings.
- **Water Conservation:** Conserve water resources with our efficient irrigation methods.
- **Healthier Ecosystem:** Improve air quality and create a thriving ecosystem
- **Proud Ownership:** You will be the proud owner of a mini forest that contributes to the greening of the city.

How It Works:

1. **Assessment:** We evaluate your land for suitability.
2. **Setup:** You install a drip irrigation system with a timer.



3. **Planting:** We arrange and plant tree saplings on your land.
4. **Maintenance:** Benefit from a well-maintained and efficiently irrigated plantation.

Why Participate?

- Chennai's green cover is the lowest among metros, with a significant reduction in green cover over the last 20 years.
- Participants will earn points towards being nominated as an Eco RCMer.
- The trees planted will be enumerated and monitored through an app to ensure the initiative remains measurable for impact.

Ownership: The ownership of the trees remains with you, the landowner, even though RCM is providing the saplings.

- Your collaboration with the ECO Committee of the Rotary Club of

Madras will play a significant role in combating climate change, improving air quality, and creating a healthier ecosystem. Together, we can make a positive impact on the environment and contribute to a sustainable future.

Join Us!

Help create a lasting legacy for generations to come. For more information and to participate, please contact us at your earliest convenience.

Contact:

Rtn. R. Kadiresan Adityan or
Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra.

By joining this initiative, you are not just enhancing your land but also contributing to a larger cause that benefits the entire community and the planet. Let's work together for a greener tomorrow.

- Rtn. Sumit Kalra.

Rotary Nostalgia

Unique Intra Country Collaboration - Unique as Unique can be.

Perhaps the strangest case to come before the International Service Committee was the case of A. Arul Prakasam in 1971.

Prakasam, a resident of Rameshwaram, a coastal town in Tamil Nadu, India, found a plastic bottle on the beach. It contained a message that read: "May the voyages organised by T.F.C. be always as happy as this one, and good luck to the finder of this message." A reward was offered to the finder if he or she published the message in a local newspaper. The newspaper was requested to inform T.F.C. Tours, 402 New Plaza Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa, on publication of the message.

The author of the message was a Mrs. Isobel Clarke, a passenger on board the S.S. Boissevain that had sailed from South Africa. The ship was on its last voyage and, as was customary on such an occasion, the oldest lady passenger on board was asked to throw a bottle containing a message into the sea. On June 8, 1968, ten days into the voyage, Isobel Clarke flung the bottle overboard. The bottle bobbed along until it was found by Prakasam on May 20, 1969.

Prakasam promptly sent the message to The Hindu for publication. The paper, however, declined to go along with the terms of the message. Undaunted, Prakasam wrote directly to T.F.C. Tours introducing himself as the finder of the bottle. Mr. J.C. Foggit, Chairman, T.F.C. Tours, informed Isobel Clarke who was delighted with the turn of events. On June 24, 1969, Foggit

replied to Prakasam and enclosed the reward of 300 rand in his letter.

However, the story didn't end there. Prakasam wrote to Isobel Clarke to thank her for the money and concluded his letter with: "Now I am entirely depending upon God first and you next, in view of my parents' and my family's inability. If it is not possible for you to help me at present, please hand over this letter and recommend your philanthropic neighbours to help."

With the reward money, the sum collected for Prakasam in Johannesburg amounted to Rs. 2,090. Members of the Rotary Club of Madras also made contributions. Prakasam was admitted to a good school in Madras and his education was monitored and funded by the Rotary Charitable Trust. Prakasam proved to be a good student who went on to complete his B.A. and B.Ed degrees and joined the Vellaiyan Chettiar High School, Tiruvotriyur, as junior teacher. It was a happy ending to a story of cooperation between clubs in different countries.

It turned out that Prakasam, an eighth standard student, belonged to a poor family of fisherfolk and wanted financial help to study further. T.F.C. Tours publicised Prakasam's story in its newsletter and invited readers to each contribute 50 cents towards an education fund for Prakasam. To their amazement, 60 rand poured

in. In those days, one rand was equal to Rs. 10.50. The chairman of T.F.C. added 100 rand to this amount and contacted the Rotary Club of Johannesburg to take the matter further.

On March 2, 1970, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg wrote to the President of the Rotary Club of Madras requesting help in verifying Prakasam's story. Rtns. A.K. Sivaramakrishnan, S. Subramaniam, and S.M. Diaz enlisted the help of the Rotary clubs of Nagercoil and Madurai and followed every lead. As DIG of Police, Tamil Nadu, Diaz used his manpower to track down the boy and discovered that Prakasam's story was true.

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It was a happy ending to a story of cooperation between clubs in different countries.

Recently, that is about 6 years ago, we touched base with Prakasam and had invited him over to our meeting and had recognized and honoured him too.

He is now a retired teacher, but still does his bit for the School.

Courtesy: "A Timeless Legacy"
Sourced by Rtn.PP.N.K.Gopinath



RCM-CANSTOP Vaccine Distribution

The Rotary Club of Madras and CANSTOP jointly organised distribution of essential vaccines to prevent respiratory illnesses in bone marrow transplantation patients (mainly children) at Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital on the 19th of August.

The event was attended by President Chella Krishna, Rtn.PP.Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, Rtn. Bharat Pujara and Rtn.Dr.Sangeetha Viswanathan. Vaccines worth Rs 50000 were distributed in this first phase and a further similar event is planned in order to reach out to more children in need.

The head of the BMT unit Dr. Aruna, explained the process of BMT, the difficulties encountered by patients in need of BMT and the forbidding cost in the private sector.

We had an opportunity to meet the lovely children who were recovering post BMT, many of whom had blood or immunity disorders. We learnt that once BMT was successfully carried out, these children would now go on to lead normal lives.

We learnt that BMT requires only a blood donation after the donor is primed with preparatory injections and of course the need for more donors to step forward to register and donate.

We had an opportunity to meet the lovely children who were recovering post BMT, many of whom had blood or immunity disorders. We learnt that once BMT was successfully carried out, these children would now go on to lead normal lives.

It was awe-inspiring to hear the passion in Dr.Aruna's voice as she laid out plans for improvement and expansion at the Government hospital and we promised to help in any way we could, to further this cause.

- Rtn.Dr.Sangeetha Viswanathan



An Empowering Independence Day - Selaiyur

Nothing can get better than starting a Monday morning with a visit to the Selaiyur-Sembakkam RCM Project to interact with 100 plus enthusiastic Women and Special Children, who are all motivated and charged up to empower themselves.

The Multi-faceted Beacon

The Selaiyur Sembakkam RCM Project stands as a beacon of hope and empowerment, showcasing the remarkable progress that can be achieved through dedication and community effort.

RCM's Selaiyur offers multiple skill training, both directly and through partner NGOs - in Computer Applications including Tally, English communication, Tailoring, Special Education, and Documentation of E-books and Braille.

Re-Energised Campus

The transformation of the infrastructure to support such initiatives is fantastic, reflecting the team's commitment to creating a space conducive to learning and growth. They have made the place clean and green, and work is in progress for setting up more classrooms to offer additional courses and utilise space effectively.





Celebrating the Journey

The team of staff and students presented a beautiful show and the past participants shared their success stories about securing gainful employment and skill sets, that they were proud to showcase to their family and friends .

This is a true testament to the project's impact, inspiring confidence in the future endeavors planned for the year, namely skill development and employability.

I am excited to be a part of the project this year and looking forward to the plans for this year which will continue to touch more lives and be a source of inspiration for many more women and children.

A special thanks to Rtn.Sanjay Chaganti Rtn.Rajib Hota, Rtn.Sharon Rao for giving me this opportunity.

**- Ann.Deepthi Prasanna
(spouse of Rtn.Prasanna
Rajagopalan)**

Art for Peace Event

Highly acclaimed German visual artist of the 20th century, Gerhard Richter, said, "Art is the highest form of hope, and hope is the door to peace."

The "Art for Peace" event held on Wednesday, 14th August, opened many doors, with 40 RCM members attending along with their partners, kids, and grandkids. Not only were doors opened, but windows of the mind were opened too, where we saw great camaraderie and bonhomie spanning different generations.

The Folly, at Amethyst, reverberated with giggles and appreciative laughter. A large canvas was put up by Rtn. Niloufer for members' creative expressions,



and they sure did get creative! What we witnessed at the end was a kaleidoscope of emotions, thoughts, and words in vibrant colors.

The Holistic Living Team and the International Service team came together to bring this grand event to fruition. An idea for a peace event

became an infectious source of joy, spreading warmth and unity like ripples in a tranquil pond, touching hearts and inspiring a community to come together in harmony.

Kalā śānteḥ mārgaḥ bhavati.

Art is the path to peace.

- Rtn. Fharzana Siraj.

Centenary Celebration Announcement

Good afternoon, fellow Rotarians!

Before making the announcement, I want to start by expressing my heartfelt thanks to each one of you for entrusting me with this incredible responsibility of being the President of the Centennial year of the Rotary club of Madras.

This upcoming centenary celebration is a significant milestone and to ensure that our celebrations are as impactful as possible, we intend to leverage the best talents available within our club. The board of 23/24 has mandated the formation of a 16-member Centenary Committee.

The structure will comprise three distinct groups of RCMers, each playing a pivotal role in ensuring the success of this momentous occasion. I am pleased to announce the members.

The first group is the

1. Mentor Group:

Understanding the value of experience and wisdom, we have established a 3-member Mentor Group comprising senior and highly respected RCMers:

- PDG Rtn. Benjamin Cheria
- PDG Rtn. J.B. Kamdar
- Rtn.M.Balasubramanian

This group will be regularly updated on the deliberations and recommendations of the Centenary Committee. Their guidance will be sought and incorporated.

The second group is the

2. Special Invitees Group

Recognizing the importance of continuity and the need for cohesive planning, we have invited five Presidents from the Rotary Years 2023-24 until 2028-29 as Special Invitees. Their involvement is crucial, as many of our projects will kickstart before the centenary year itself.



The Special Invitees include:

- IPP Rtn. Sundaresan Ravi
 - President Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
 - President-Elect Rtn.Nikhil Raj
 - President Nominee 98th year Rtn.Bobby Balakrishna
 - President Nominee 99th year Rtn. Ganesh Anantha Krishnan
- The third group is the

3. Centenary Committee Group:

The Centenary Committee will comprise 16 members, carefully selected for their expertise in various domains. To accommodate new and emerging talents within RCM, we have decided to keep three of these positions vacant for now, reserving them for recent and upcoming members who demonstrate exceptional promise.

I am happy to inform you that Rtn. Shanno Ravi will be serving as the Secretary for the Centenary Year and I have requested Rtn. R. Ravishankar to take on the role of Convenor of the Centenary Committee.

With three slots reserved and three key positions - President, Secretary, Convenor- filled, we had ten slots to allocate to members who will manage specific aspects of the celebration. The following key activities have been identified:

- Fund Raising
- Events and Entertainment

- Project Planning and implementation
- International Coordination
- District Coordination
- Programs
- Media & Public Relations
- Treasurer

The following members have been selected for these roles:

- 1) PP.Rtn.Gopinath N.K.
- 2) PP.Rtn. George B.Cheria
- 3) PP.Rtn.Raman K.K
- 4) Imm.PP.Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan
- 5) President Rtn.G.Chella Krishna
- 6) Rtn.Rajesh Somasundaram
- 7) Rtn.Krishnamurthy Vijayan
- 8) Rtn.Vikram Chesetty
- 9) Rtn.Visvanathan A.M.
- 10) Rtn.Sabina Narayan

These committee members will carefully review the 150 responses we've received from our questionnaire, allowing them to understand the aspirations and expectations of our members. They will then plan their activities accordingly, forming sub-committees where needed. We aim for broad participation, encouraging every RCMer to be part of at least one committee and contribute to this momentous occasion.

This centennial celebration is not just a celebration of our club's rich legacy but also an opportunity to lay the foundation for the next century of service and fellowship. Moreover, it marks a century of Rotary's presence and impact in South India, making it a significant milestone for the entire Rotary district as well.

I look forward to your guidance and wholehearted support in making RCM's centenary a mammoth success. Together, we can make this milestone an unforgettable chapter in our club's history.

- Rtn.Dr.Anuradha Ganesan



BIRTHDAYS 26th August To 1st September 2024

26th August	Rtn. Iqbal Sait
26th August	Rtn. Dr. Prashant Kekre
26th August	Rtn. Sunil Ravindranath
27th August	Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia
27th August	Rtn. Nimish C. Tolia
27th August	Rtn. Sanjay V. Parikh
29th August	Rtn. Sumit Kumar Kalra
29th August	Rtn. Usha Umapathi
1st September	Rtn. Harish K. Murthi

SPOUSE BIRTHDAYS

26th August	Ann. Mahvash Sait, Spouse of Rtn. Iqbal Sait
26th August	Ann. Padma Raman, Spouse of Rtn. PP. P. V. Mohan Raman
26th August	Ann. Ranjitha, Spouse of Rtn. S. Subramaniam
27th August	Ann. Rukmini, Spouse of Rtn. Suresh Amirapu
31st August	Ann. Archana Kalyansundar, Spouse of Rtn. Anil Srinivasan
31st August	Ann. Valsa, Spouse of Rtn. PDG. R. Benjamin Cherian

ANNIVERSARY

27th August	Rtn. Nalini Radhakrishan, & S. Radhakrishnanlyer
27th August	Rtn. Maya Thiagrajan & Ritwik Bhattacharjee
29th August	Rtn. Ranjit Pendurthi & Sitamahalakshmi
29th August	Rtn. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar & Avinash Hemdev
30th August	Rtn. Capt. G. Ramaswamy & Kaushalya
30th August	Rtn. Mohankumar Subramanyam & Meena
1st September	Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan & Chetan Anand Koka.



On August 7, 2024, the Rotaract Club of New College hosted its 49th installation ceremony named Synchronite at HAAS Auditorium, New College.



Issue 8

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 27 August .



Issue 7 : Best Captions

1. "Believe us, women can do this job efficiently" - *Rtn. Suresh Amirapu*
2. And Usha prevails with ease ! - *Rtn. PP. Ravi Katari*
3. "That's it !..I am the IPP and I am saying it..." - *Rtn. Vijay Dugar*
4. "Usha, food at RCM is zero calories".Suresh adds: "Supari gets rid of all worries!" - *Rtn. Hemant P. Chordia*
5. Ravi to Usha : "Why? You ask why? When one has nice thick hair, it can be silver, salt and pepper, brown or black. When we don't have so much, we need to cover up, correct, Suresh Bhai ? - *Rtn. PP. P. V. Mohan Raman*
6. "Eating less is my source of energy" PP,Ravi's convincing argument. - *Rtn. Naveen Kumar Bhatia.*
7. "I am Usha Umopathy. Not Usha Vance. Don't try to Trump me." - *Rtn.PP. K. K. Raman.*



The Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance - RCCR

The Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance (RCCR) is a vibrant, bold, and energetic club, driven by a young and diverse membership. Despite being a relatively new club, RCCR has made a significant impact in the community, with projects supporting elder care, menstrual health, and environmental sustainability.

The club is committed to education, skill-building, and health initiatives, including the "Golden Breath" Global Grant project, which provides advanced respiratory care for underprivileged children. RCCR also fosters strong family bonds and leadership development, with active participation in district roles and a focus on nurturing the next generation through its Interact Club.

The club strikes a balance between purposeful service and spirited fellowship, embodying the spirit of giving back and growing together.

Rtn. Raghuram Avula,
President and
Rtn. Mohith Bhaatia,
Secretary

Rotary Club of Chennai Premier

On August 20th, I attended an official Rotary Club of Madras meeting at Hyatt Residency, featuring a panel discussion on successful entrepreneurship. The panelists offered invaluable insights into building a successful business and navigating today's dynamic landscape.

As President of the Rotary Club of Chennai Premier, I'm proud to lead our 116-member club of women Rotarians, mostly educators, who are dedicated to community service and educational advancement. Our projects focus on improving educational infrastructure, empowering young girls, and fostering a culture of learning and equality.

Recent initiatives include Ethics and God Session, International Chess Day Competition, Weekly Yoga Sessions, Expression Speaks Program (training students in basic computer skills and English grammar), Healthcare Program 'Maathruthvam' (counselling to mothers managing postpartum challenges), Nutrition Guidance, Posture Management Session, Cyber Security Awareness Program, Empowering Youth, Project 'Rtu' (educating young girls about reproductive health), Know Your Rights Talk (workplace sexual harassment and legal protections)

Rtn. Dr. D. Lakshmi Priya
President,
Rotary Club of Chennai Premier

Transforming Lives: My Mission with Rotary Club of Chennai Legends

Attending the Rotary Club of Madras meeting on 20.08.2024 was an enriching experience, especially the inspiring panel discussion on the challenges of entrepreneurship. I look forward to future collaborations with them.

The Rotary Club of Chennai Legends, within District 3234, exemplifies the spirit of "Service Above Self."

Major Projects and Initiatives: Speaking Hands (teaching Indian Sign Language to individuals in the community), Water Treatment Plants, Blood Donation Camps, Providing Notebooks to School Children, Renovation of Libraries, Providing Books to School Libraries, Menstrual Hygiene Awareness, Thalirgal Project (free surgeries for newborns with birth defects), Project Punch (focuses on enhancing college students' employability by providing English language training).

Rtn. Dr. Kumar Rajendran
President,
RC Chennai Legends 2023-24.
District Rotaract Chair 2024-25



Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi and President Chella Krishna with Rtn. Raghuram Avula, President of Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance and Rtn. Mohith Bhaatia, Secretary of Rotary Club of Chennai Renaissance



Rtn. IPP. S. Ravi and President Chella Krishna with Rtn. Dr. D. Lakshmi Priya, President of Rotary Club of Chennai Premier and Rtn. Dr. Kumar Rajendran, Rotary Club of Chennai Legends.



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