

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 02 | JULY 11, 2023

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

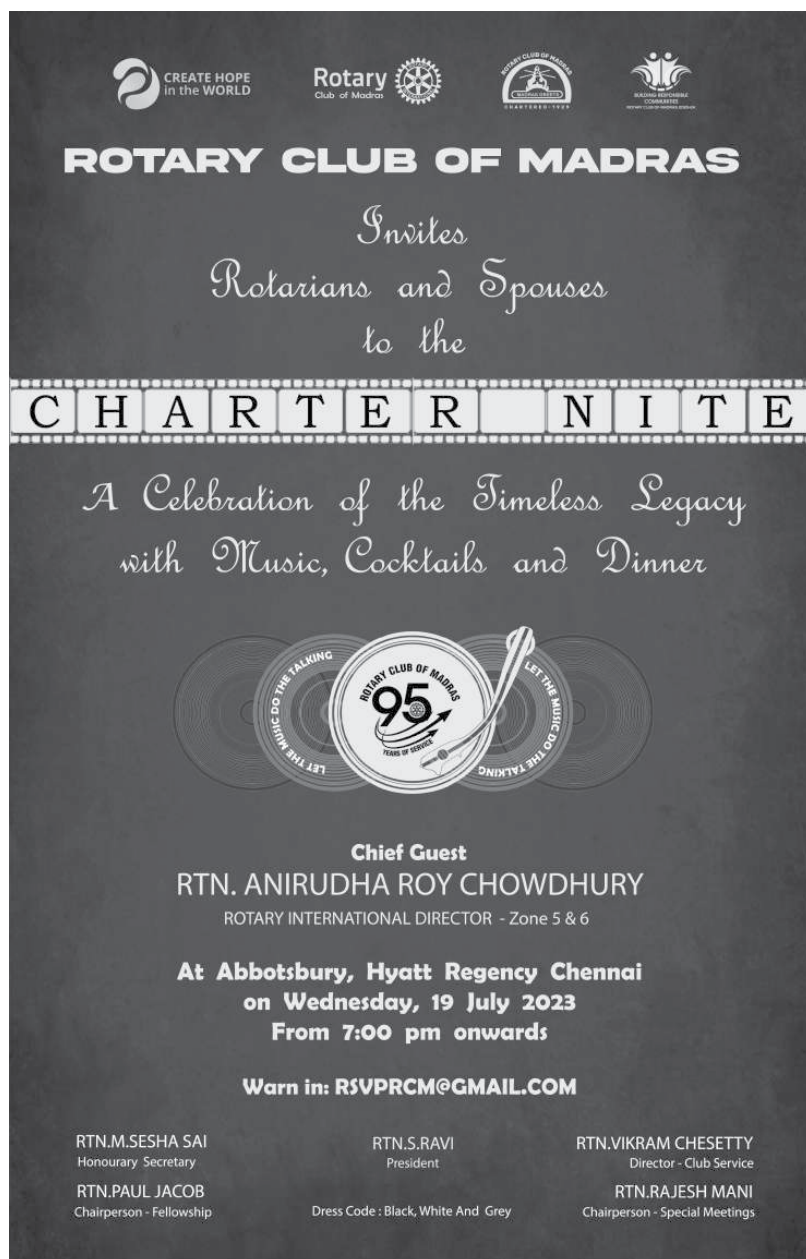
The Lighthouse committee thanks you all for the wonderful words of appreciation for the first edition received via email, WhatsApp and in person. Rtn. PP Srikanth, in his article, invites us to recollect the timeless relevance of reading the Lighthouse in print.

We are happy to present a glimpse into the 3 mega projects that were launched by the community services committee. A rendezvous with Mr. Bhaskar Bhat as our first meeting was a stupendous success and a befitting start to this Rotary year.

The ever popular 'Naari' series by Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Vishwanathan finds a place of pride. Also enjoy a celebratory photo feature from the installation.

Thank you!

Rtn. Sunita Suresh



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD Rotary Club of Madras

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

Invites Rotarians and Spouses to the

CHARTER NITE

A Celebration of the Timeless Legacy with Music, Cocktails and Dinner

Chief Guest
RTN. ANIRUDHA ROY CHOWDHURY
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR - Zone 5 & 6

At Abbotsbury, Hyatt Regency Chennai
on Wednesday, 19 July 2023
From 7:00 pm onwards

Warn in: RSVPRCM@GMAIL.COM

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Honourary Secretary

RTN.S.RAVI
President

RTN.VIKRAM CHESETTY
Director - Club Service

RTN.PAUL JACOB
Chairperson - Fellowship

Dress Code : Black, White And Grey

RTN.RAJESH MANI
Chairperson - Special Meetings

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

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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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Why I like The Lighthouse in Print

- Rtn PP S.N.Srikanth

Article written by Rtn. PP Srikanth for our
bulletin dated May 23, 2017 reproduced here



The Lighthouse, the weekly bulletin of our club is something many of us eagerly look forward to. It keeps us informed of the happenings at the club, district and international levels of the wonderful world of Rotary. It entertains us with an occasional funny story. It inspires us to do more for the underprivileged and abide by the 4-way test. And it helps bind us together as one large family under the umbrella of Rotary. Our editors over the years have done us proud and Rtn Mohan Raman has upheld this tradition splendidly.

It's not only our members and their spouses that the bulletin is intended to inform, entertain, inspire and help bond together. It's their families too – children in nuclear families, grandchildren, parents and others in joint families. How well the bulletin achieves its objectives would depend a lot on whether it is only in digital form or is also in print. A digital bulletin is readily available for reading to those it is mailed to, namely our members and their spouses. The recipients do not usually forward the bulletin to others in their family. As a result, the others do not get to know about the good work that our club and Rotary as a whole does. They don't quite become part of the Rotary family.

A great opportunity to reach out and touch someone, to bring the whole family into the Rotary fold is lost.

A bulletin in print, on the other hand tends to lie around the home for all to see. Your daughter may decide it's worth an occasional read, your son may pick it up and glance through it. They will do so on their own terms, when they have the time and will focus on what really interests them. They will begin to understand what Rotary is all about.

One day they will be ready to join Rotary. The bulletin is also intended to reach out to the community that we serve.

There was a time when I used to see Rotary bulletins in doctors' waiting rooms and at the reception in members' offices. I don't see much of that any more. I am not surprised that despite the exponential growth in the numbers of Rotary clubs and Rotarians, the community seems to know even less about us and our work than it used to.

I hope we will have The Lighthouse back in print form sometime soon, as we used to have earlier. The extra expenditure would be well worth it. The electronic bulletin could, of course continue too. ■

BIRTHDAYS

- 18th July – Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan
- 20th July – Rtn. Niloufer Seth
- 21st July – Rtn. Ranjit Bakshi
- 23rd July – Rtn. PP S Kapil Chitale
- 18th July – Ann.Priya (Rtn Manu Reddy)
- 19th July – Ann.Revathy (Rtn V Raja)
- 21st July – Ann.Dr Jayashree Potty (Rtn M Balakrishna Rao)
- 22nd July – Ann.Rozeena (Rtn Mahmud Jamal)
- 22nd July – Ann.Suganthi (Rtn PP Vijay Krishna)
- 24th July – Ann.Midhuna (Rtn Rajesh Somasundaram)

SUNSHINE

Rtn. PP Dr Biswakumar
Rs 10,000

Rtn. Prabha Srinivasan
Rs 5,000

Responsible Business, Ethics with Economics

The first weekly meeting of the new Rotary year was held in the beautiful Shamiana banquet hall of the Madras Club. With over a hundred Rotarians in attendance, the Rotary year is off to a good start.

The speaker for the day was Bhaskar Bhat former Managing Director of Titan Industries.

Mr. Bhat a graduate of IIT Madras and IIM Ahmedabad is no stranger to Chennai. He spoke fluent Tamil and said that he is a son in law of Tamil Nadu as his wife is from here. Mr. Bhat has had an illustrious career. From humble beginnings as a watch movement sales executive at Godrej & Boyce, he grew to head India's leading watch and jewellery company Titan Industries. Mr. Bhat played a transformational role at Titan building the mass consumer market for watches, introducing the company into the jewellery business, eyewear business and precision engineering among others.

He is a quintessential leader and is a believer in the power of his team and management. He encouraged and developed talent from within Titan and many of his proteges went on to surprise positively by building and growing successful businesses within Titan. Mr. Bhat retired from Titan in 2019 after serving as its Managing Director for 17 years.

He is a Director of Tata Sons and is on the board of several Tata group companies including Titan, Trent, CaratLane, Rallis and Tata Vistara. He is also an independent director on the boards of Bosch India and Kansai Nerolac Paints.

Mr. Bhat spoke to our club about importance of business ethics in the contemporary context and how the Tatas have fostered a culture of ethics in their 935,000 people strong group. Mr. Bhat's proposition is that good ethics is good business and good economics.

Some of the key takeaways from his talk were:

- Integrity is purposeful and strategic and strong ethics makes for good business.
- He proposed that a company is a citizen of society, and it is hard for a company to behave differently



from how society behaves.

Therefore, ethical transgressions by employees are inevitable and to be expected. What matters is how a company/group deals with these and how consistently serious one is about ethics.

- In order to be able to reinforce, correct and punish ethical transgressions it is important to have a Framework and Policies. The Tata Code of Conduct is now 25 years old.
- He spoke about the soft side of individual ethics and mentioned that the pyramid is inverted, and it always flows from the top. In that context the grapevine of top-level behavior is more powerful than any newsletter or ethics manual.
- He also said that when dealing with ethical transgressions of front line or lower-level employees, it is important to be conscious and caring. The words he used were Just, Fair and Kind

Overall, it was an enlightening afternoon and it was refreshing to learn first-hand from a practitioner who is part of what is considered what of India's most ethical business houses.

- Rtn. Rahul Saraogi ■

From the Meeting held on 11th July' 23



Minutes of the Meeting 11th July 2023

Sgt-at-arms Rtn. PP Mohan Raman collared President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan, who called the 2nd weekly meeting of RCM to order, followed by a silent invocation.

The minutes of the installation meeting were duly confirmed.

The President welcomed visiting Rotarians, spouses, guests, RCMers and special welcome to Mr. Vinay Kamath, Sr Associate Editor, The Hindu Business Line, who has authored the best-selling book on Titan.

Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan showcased the mega projects inaugurated on 9th July '23

Rural Sanitation – JJ Nagar, Palavakkam Panchayat, Uthukkottai, Thiruvallur District

Homes for the Homeless - Thathiyarkandigai Village

Water Body Management – Poovalambedu Lake

The President appreciated the great work done by Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty, Director, Club Service, welcomed everyone to the Madras Club meeting. He said that the board insists on members engaging themselves in meetings/projects and conveyed that as per bylaws, 50% attendance is essential for all regular members. The installation meeting had a great gathering of over 325 and he also thanked the President for hosting the fellowship. He invited everyone to the 95th Charter Nite on the 19th July '23 evening, which will be a fun-filled evening with live music to celebrate the Charter Nite 'Let the music do the talking'. More live music with less talk

Rtn. Sabina Narayan, Director TRF & International Service thanked the generous donors to TRF and invited them to handover the cheques to President

- Rtn. EMC Palaniappan & Ann. Parvathi - \$ 30,000
- Mr & Mrs Subbiah, parents of Ann Parvati - \$ 30,000
- First lady Aruna on behalf of Santhosh & Shalini, Children of Pres Ravi Sundaresan - \$ 10,000
- Rtn. PP Dr Arulmozhi Varman - \$ 5000

Rtn. Bharat M Pujara, Director Community Service 2, informed members about the inauguration of three cataract surgeries on the 13th July at Taramani. RCM is donating 5 lacs for cataract surgeries for the under-privileged

RCM with Uma Eye Clinic & RC Mylapore Uptown will conduct eye camps on 13th & 14th at Lady Sivaswami school. Requested members to attend the above medical camps

Rtn. PP Dr Arulmozhi Varman said that on June 23, 106 cataract surgeries were done as requested by IPP Jayshree Sridhar and this year, they planned to do 150 camps, achieving 1000 eye surgeries. Also, Pres Ravi

Sundaresan & Rtn. Bharat had visited Uma Eye Clinic and was amazed to see that regular patients as well as free surgery patients were treated equally.

Secretary Rtn. Sesha Sai greeted members who celebrated their birthdays/wedding anniversaries that week and was pleased to inform them that tree saplings were planted in their names and will be carried out for all this year at RCMB.

Next weekly meeting is the 95th Charter nite celebration of RCM at Hyatt on 19th July '23 evening.

The President welcomed the speaker Mr Bhaskar Bhat former MD of Titan and thanked Rtn. Yadav Murthi for facilitating this meeting.

Rtn Rahul Saraogi introduced Mr Bhaskar Bhat by reading out his profile/accomplishments. Currently is the Director of Tata Sons Ltd. Prior, he was the Managing Director of Titan since 2002 and a founding member of the company, leading it to become the largest watch manufacturer in India and the 5th largest in the world.

Speaker Mr Bhaskar Bhat spoke on 'Responsible Business Ethics & Economics'. Mr Bhaskar Bhat said that Rotary & Tata are similar in many ways by doing service to the community. A visual presentation was made on TATA & principles. His take away was that integrity and ethics are purposeful strategies, because they feed into the biggest asset inside an institution, which is called 'TRUST'. Leadership with trust is the byline. An interesting Q&A followed his talk.

President presented a memento of our club's 90-year history book 'A Timeless Legacy' to speaker Mr Bhaskar on behalf of RCM.

Secy Rtn. Sesha Sai thanked speaker Mr Bhaskar Bhat and his eye-opening messages on how any organization has to be built on.

The meeting was then adjourned. ■

A NOTE FROM THE PROGRAMMES COMMITTEE

All speakers who address our club are eminent people in their fields and will be sharing their valuable time with us. We request that our members treat our eminent guests with kindness and dignity, and with open-mindedness – the takeaway for all who address/participate in our meetings is that the Rotary Club of Madras is a forum that encourages debate and discussion, friendship and fellowship being paramount.

Sincerely
The Programmes Committee

A Journey towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future

On July 9th several Rotarians showed up in large numbers for the “Ground breaking ceremony of the 3 mega projects of RCM”.

1. Rural Sanitation

2. Homes for the Homeless

3. Water Body Management

For all the Rotarians who came there The day began bright and early, with three locations to travel to before finally ending up at our fourth location, Boys Town, where we are developing a magnificent one-acre lake.

The logistics were definitely challenging, but seeing the real impact we can make on the lives of the needy and deserving people living on the fringes of society is truly satisfying. The three remarkable initiatives are dedicated to uplifting marginalized communities and promoting sustainable development.

Awareness programs for all the 3 projects will be conducted through an organization called Nalamdana.

The members of Rotary club of Madras, Members of the district and community leaders then gathered at the Boys Town campus and the “Ground breaking ceremony of 3 mega projects” was successfully done in the presence of Hon. MLA, Gumidipoondi constituency Mr T.J.Govindraj, Asst. Collector Thiruvalluvar District Ms Catherine Saranya and Dist Governor Elect Rtn. N.S.Saravanan.

With the Rotary Club of Madras at the forefront of change, these projects are not just about infrastructure; they're about ‘Building Responsible Communities’ to create hope in the world.

The team of “Community Services 1” thanks the Rotarians who attended the 3 Mega Projects Inauguration function on July 9th.

DGE Rtn. N S Saravanan

AG. Rtn. Vidya

Rtn. S. Yadavmurthy

And from RCM

President Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan

Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan

Rtn. Bobby Balakrishna

PP Rtn. Dr Arulmozhi Varman

Rtn. Hiren Shah

Rtn. Shivkumar Eshwaran

PP Rtn. P.V.Mohan Raman

PP. Rtn K K Raman

Rtn. Ravishankar.R

Rtn. Sabina Narayan

PP.Rtn. Venkhat Ramani

Rtn. Prakash Natarajan

Rtn. A.M. Vishwanathan

PP.Rtn. George Cherian

Rtn. Himanshu Budhia

Rtn. Sumit Kalra

Rtn. Rohit Toshniwal

Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal

Rtn. N.K.Bhatia

Rtn. Ravindran.G

Rtn. Seshasai .M

Rtn. Srilatha. S

Rtn. Subramaniam. S

Rtn. Vijay Balaji

Rtn. Gautham Reddy

Rtn. Bharat Pujara

Rtn. Sanjay Chaganti

Rtn. Niloufer Seth

Rtn. Maya Thiagarajan



OUR 3 MEGA PROJECTS

RURAL SANITATION

Under Chairman Rtn.Balakrishna

Health and hygiene are paramount to any community's well-being. To combat open defecation and improve overall sanitation conditions, the Rotary Club is constructing 205 toilet blocks in JJ Nagar, Palavakkam Panchayat, Uthukkottai, Thiruvallur District with an allocated budget of INR 62.5 Lakhs, through Global Grant. This project aims to create an open defecation-free environment that fosters better health practices and a cleaner community. This Rural Sanitation Project of RCM will be executed by Swastik Infrastructure & Adhilakshmi cement works and a small ceremony was held at the site where our special Invitee PP.Rtn. Dr Arulmozhi Varman stressed to the community the importance of following good hygiene practices.



HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS

Under Chairman - Rtn A.M. Vishwanathan

Our second project revolves around affordable housing for the Irular and Narikurava communities. Recognizing the importance of safe shelter, the Rotary Club, in collaboration with Ahaguru, is building homes for the homeless in Thathiyarkandigai. Ahaguru have been working extensively with marginalized communities and have expertise in building these low-cost housing.

The Bhumi Puja for the 1st phase of 15 houses was conducted in the presence of the beneficiaries of this amazing initiative. Special Invitee PP.Rtn.George Cheriaan addressed the gathering and spoke about RCM's plans for this particular village. These houses, spanning 271 square feet, will provide a secure living space for those in need. With a budget of Rs 3 Lakhs, per house and 45 lakhs for 15 houses in the first phase, this initiative seeks to ensure a chance of a better life for the most marginalised. The grand plan is to do 44 houses and an anganwadi at a budget of 1.35 crores.





In addition to building houses, kitchen gardens, education initiatives through the Anganwadi and several awareness programmes on health and hygiene have been planned. The water bodies in this village are also a part of the restoration efforts. Through all these activities, RCM hopes that this type of multifaceted approach will lead to the creation of a model village.



WATER BODY MANAGEMENT

Under Chairman - Rtn. Sumit Kalra

Water is a precious resource, and its conservation and management are imperative. We are undertaking the restoration/rejuvenation of Ponds & lake in the Poovalambedu lake Cascade system and augmentation of Water in Boys Town campus by creating a 1-acre pond. Budgeted at a total of INR 41,64,550 in phase 1 and with a total budget of 86 Lakhs this project will be executed in collaboration with Dhan Foundation, known for their expertise in environmental conservation. Here again a simple ceremony was conducted in the presence of our special Invitee Rtn. N.K.Bhatia.





ONE ENGINE, TWO PILOT AND A 2:1 DONATION MATCH

Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels are raising awareness for polio eradication by piloting a single engine aircraft all the way around the globe! Peter and John have been friends for years through their shared passion for aviation and are also cousins through marriage!

Though both Peter and John both have very many hours of flight experience, this will be their first trip around the entire globe.

Amazingly, only 700 pilots have ever flown around the world and fewer than 300 of those people are alive today.

This trip puts John and Peter in unique and incredible company. When the idea of this daunting endeavour first came up, Peter light-heartedly says that he thought, "Oh! One of the things I hadn't done yet was fly around the world!".

Both Peter and John are pilots, Rotarians, and members of the Fellowship of Flying Rotarians. Polio eradication has been a primary focus of Rotary for over 35 years and continues to be a major initiative. While the end of polio may be near, no child anywhere is safe until every child has been vaccinated.

The pilots are covering the entire cost of the flight as well as taking time away from their careers and lives to help end polio.

Thanks to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation whatever the amount they collect will be a 2:1 match by the foundation

Peter and John took off from Cedar Rapids, Iowa May 5, 2023 in a Cessna T210M (single engine) airplane. They will fly close to 41,000 kilometres from May 5th to July 30th. Along the way, they will encourage support of ending polio forever throughout the world.



After visiting Pakistan and Afghanistan their stops in India have been Belgaum Nagpur Goa and Chennai.

In the 2 days they spent in Chennai, they were hosted by PDG Sridhar and PDG Nandakumar. They visited Blood and bone marrow Banks and Ambattur Rotary Club hospital. Apart from raising money for their project they have also enjoyed the fellowship of our district.

JOHN OCKENFELS



John has been piloting small aircraft for over 43 years. He maintains antique training airplanes from World War II in his free time and is the proud owner of a WWII war bird aircraft.

He is a member of the Iowa City, Iowa A.M. Rotary Club and also served as District Governor for Rotary District 6000. In 2021, John was one of only three Rotarians worldwide to be awarded the 2020-2021 "International Service Award for a Polio-Free World" by The Rotary Foundation. Like Peter, John is also a member of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.

PETER TEAHEN



Peter is an experienced pilot and has been piloting small aircraft for over 47 years. He is a member of the Cedar Rapids West Rotary Club and of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.

He was awarded the designation of Diplomate from the National Center for Crisis Management and the American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress.

Peter has served in leadership roles on sixty-seven major disasters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, Sri Lanka, Haiti, and the Darfur Region of Sudan. He responded to the September 11th World Trade Center attack, Hurricane Katrina, Indonesian Tsunami in 2004, and the Haiti Earthquake in 2010. He is recognized for his work on aviation disasters and is internationally known for his work in critical incident stress management and the psycho-social impact of disasters.

Peter is the recipient of numerous national awards of distinction that includes the National Public Spirit Award. American Legion Auxiliary. Previous recipients include Ronald Reagan, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Ann Landers, and Dr. Robert Schuller.

To those of us who wish to follow their journey across the world and donate to their cause do visit their website www.flighttoendpolio.com for more details



Rotary Club of Chennai Mitra, celebrated their 10th Club Installation on Friday the 7th July 2023 at Hotel GRT Grand, T Nagar. Chief Guest for the evening was District Governor 3232 - AKS Rtn. S.Ravi Raman. The event was well attended by a host of PDG's, District Officials, Presidents and Secretaries from other clubs in the District with Anns & Annettes from Mitra.

President 2022-23 – Rtn. Saisheshan presented a report on the year gone by – highlighting some of the important new projects initiated by Mitra such as the Corporate tie-up with CSR Funding from M/s GMMCO, where a 28-Seater Bus was donated to the Government Hospital for Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram.

He also explained on the new long term Projects initiated at Jamnamarudhur, Jawadhu Hills in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Akshaya and Alandur, where the cause of the economically and socially backward forest communities are being taken up. Solar Lamps have been distributed to the hamlets where supply of Electricity has been a major challenge. Corporates AT & T are the CSR Partner for this project.

He added that the existing Tally Training programs with SVRCC Pondicherry and with RCME has benefitted more than 250 students who have found employment.

Rtn. Saisheshan exchanged Collar with Rtn. R.Praveen taking over as the new President of the club for the year 2023-24.

Rtn. Praveen thanked Rtn. Sai and announced that RC Mitra moving forward

will donate an EV Cargo Vehicle for Transporting Lenin and Food at the Government Hospital for Thoracic Medicine, Tambaram. He also said that Solar Water Pumps are planned for installation at Jamnamarudhur in Jawadhu Hills in partnering Rotary Clubs Akshaya and Alandur with corporate tie-ups. The District Project Kalvi Shakthi will also be launched there in the Tribal Welfare Schools where smart classroom boards will be installed to more class rooms and Wi-Fi facilities are being studied to support the same.

Rtn.Praveen also informed that Holmium Laser Equipment for Kidney stone treatment, will be donated to the Hindu Mission Hospital in partnership with CSR partners GMMCO, while all existing partnerships and tie ups would continue.

He further added that the Club is today motivated and geared up with the elevation of Mitran Rtn N.S.Saravanan as the incoming Charter District Governor of 3234, the focus would be to present a very happy club and concentrate on increasing the club member strength with more women members and ensure better participation in all events of the club and District. ■



Rtn. PP Dr.B.Biswakumar was the Chief Guest at the installation of Rotary Club of Pondicherry Central. A 35-year-old club with a membership of 65. He was accompanied by **Rtn. Gopalan Kannan**.

They have announced a new school building project for 400 students and it received the first seed funding by **Rtn. PP Dr.B.Biswakumar**.



Rtn Harikrishna had the opportunity to attend a meeting at the Rotary Club of Brisbane, which has been active since 1923 and currently has 35 members.

Warmly received and welcomed by the President, Bruce McNaught and PE, Phil Saxby. He exchanged flags and shared some information about our club. Additionally, presented them with the Timeless Legacy. District Governor, Paul Roger was also present at the meeting. Heartfelt thanks to PP Gopi for connecting him with Rtn. Keith at RCB and for opening these doors of connection for so many of us with other Rotarians across the globe. ■



As we enter the new Rotary year, 'Naari' will continue to raise awareness and attempt to explore solutions to issues affecting women. Today's feature deals with the important issue of equal and equitable healthcare access for women and young girls.

Dhanushree and other short stories...

Dhanushree is a 1 year 4-month-old baby girl from Nagapattinam who was recently brought to a medical camp and discovered to have a serious, life threatening heart defect. When I first met her she had very laboured breathing, a low oxygen level (only 70%) and appeared very sick. I was astounded that this child had not been diagnosed earlier as she was clearly unwell and in distress and had apparently been breathless since the age of 2 months. On further thought, I realised that this was not an isolated occurrence, it was just one example of many instances of women and girls facing extensive and extreme discrimination in gaining access to healthcare.

A joint study conducted by AIIMS, Delhi, Harvard University and the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council published in the peer reviewed journal BMJ found severe inequities in healthcare access between men and women. The study examined the records of 2,377,028 outpatients who attended AIIMS, Delhi in the year 2016. It found that 63% of the visits were made by male patients (1,494,444) versus 37% by female patients (882,584), with a ratio of 1.69. This ratio was significantly higher than the overall sex ratio of the population (1.09) indicating a significant number of missing female patients.

The study also noted that a woman's reproductive age was an important factor in determining whether she got access to healthcare or not. Young girls who were less than 18 years of age and elderly women suffered more extreme discrimination whilst women in the reproductive age group had the best access to healthcare. The study found that the cost incurred by travel to

the hospital was a major determinant and the greater the distance from the hospital the lower the probability of the woman getting access to healthcare.

A severe shortage of doctors (one doctor per 11000 population as against the recommended one per 1000), low healthcare spending (1.3% of GDP versus the global average of 6%) along with chronic under investment in healthcare infrastructure and human resources exacerbate the prevailing gender-based inequities and inequalities in healthcare.

In addition, Indian society encourages and conditions women to have a high threshold for pain and suffering. It celebrates their patience and forbearance in prose and poetry. Young girls are taught to be submissive and shy and to martyr their needs at the altar of their families. Cultural norms and restrictions imposed upon women (for example, the need to be accompanied by a male relative while travelling) also make it more difficult for women to access healthcare when they need it.

There is no doubt an urgent need to improve local healthcare infrastructure and prioritise women's health needs in order to stop our daughters and mothers from suffering in silence. We, as Rotarians can play an important role by sensitising society to this extreme gender-based discrimination and lead by example by directly addressing the healthcare needs of women and young girls in our communities through our service projects.

Rtn. Sangeetha Viswanathan. ■



Visitors at the Installation Ceremony





Families
at the
Installation
Ceremony





PROJECT VISION

Project Vision kicked off on 3rd June with President Jayshree Sridhar and President Elect Ravi Sundaresan visiting an Outreach Eye Camp at Otteri.

106 patients were screened, free glasses were distributed and 22 patients were identified for Cataract surgery.

Project Vision is a collaboration between RCM, Uma Eye Clinic and Vision Foundation to reach out to marginalized sections of society and give them access to the highest quality of eye care.

During the month of June, sixteen Outreach Camps were conducted and 106 patients underwent Cataract surgery at Uma Eye Clinic totally free of charge.

Camps have been organized in far-flung areas such as Gummidipoondi, Thiruvallur and Red



Hills. Patients were transported to Uma Eye Clinic, housed fed and underwent State of the art Micro Incision Cataract surgery with 3 D technology.

This state-of-the-art surgery benefits the patients with a convalescence of just a day or two, allowing them quickly return to normal activities.

This year we propose to do 150 Outreach Camps and perform 1000 Cataract Surgeries.

President Ravi Sundaresan with Rtn. Bharat M Pujara, Director Community Service 2 and Rtn. Ravishankar visited Uma Eye Clinic and observed the Surgeries. ■

