

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025
ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 09
August 31
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS



Rtn Iqbal Sait	26 th August
Dr Rtn Prashant Kekre	26 th August
Rtn Sunil Ravindranath	26 th August
Rtn Hemant P. Chordia	27 th August
Rtn Nimish C. Tolia	27 th August
Rtn Sanjay V. Parikh	27 th August
Rtn Sumit Kumar Kalra	29 th August
Rtn Usha Umapathi	29 th August
Rtn Harish K. Murthi	1 st September
Mahvash Sait, Spouse of Rtn Iqbal Sait	26 th August
Padma Raman, Spouse of Rtn PP Mohan Raman P.V.	26 th August
Ranjitha, Spouse of Rtn Subramaniam S.	26 th August
Rukmani, Spouse of Rtn Suresh Amirapu	27 th August
Archana Kalyansundar, Spouse of Rtn Anil Srinivasan	31 st August
Valsa, Spouse of PDG Benjamin Cherian	31 st August

ANNIVERSARY



Rtn Raghunath Narayanan & Shantha Raghunath	25 th August
Rtn Nalini Radhakrishnan & S Radhakrishnan Iyer	27 th August
Rtn Maya Thiagarajan & Ritwik Bhattacharjee	27 th August
Rtn Ranjit Pendurthi & Sitamahalakshmi	29 th August
Rtn Anjali Ponni Rajkumar & Avinash Hemdev	29 th August
Rtn Ramaswamy G Capt & Kaushalya	30 th August
Rtn MohanKumar Subramanyam & Meena	30 th August
Rtn Sangeetha Viswanathan & Chetan Anand Koka	1 st September



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Rtn Nikhil Raj

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Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

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YATRATECHS

Rotary Club of Madras

11TH Weekly Meeting

TOPIC

GREENS ON THE SCENE

Moderated By
Rtn. Vikram Chesetty

OUR GUEST ROTARIANS

A LAWYER A DOCTOR AN ACTOR

Tuesday, 2nd September 2025 | 1.30 pm
Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 pm at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

Spouses are invited for this meeting

Rtn. Nikhil Raj
President

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Director - Club Service

Rtn. Mohit Bajaj
Chairperson - Programs Committee

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to: lighthouse@rotarymadras.in
Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 10th Weekly Meeting, held on Saturday, 26 August 2025

1.30 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Opening

President Rtn Nikhil Raj called the 10th Weekly Meeting to order. Proceedings commenced with the Rotary Song, setting the tone for the afternoon.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 8th and 9th Weekly Meetings was confirmed and duly approved.

GUESTS & VISITING ROTARIANS

The Club warmly welcomed a distinguished gathering of guests:

- Probus Club members Mr Nelson Phillip and Mr Sakthivel Raja.

- Mr Sarath Kumar R M from Rotary Avinashi.
- Rtn Suraj from Rotary Club of Bhagmati, Kathmandu.
- Mr Siddharth Sundar, accompanied by his mother Mrs Vanaja, and his in-laws Mrs & Mr Murali (Mr Murali – former RCM member and MD, Sri Krishna Sweets).
- Mrs Kalyani, Mr Naresh Kataria, and Mr Chinmay.

The Club was especially honored to host the Chief Guest, Padma Shri Professor T. Pradeep, Distinguished Professor at IIT Madras.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

President Rtn Nikhil Raj reflected on the Independence Day celebrations across multiple initiatives:

Rotary Nagar: With Mr Gokul, Senior Scientist, ISRO, as Chief Guest. Plans were announced to introduce space science classes for children.

Boys Town: Mr Milind Gotpagar of Wärtsilä India graced the occasion and extended three more years of committed support.

Infrastructure Milestones: Bhoomi Puja

performed for the new toilet block and dormitory.

Ten renovated rooms were inaugurated, each supported by contributions from individual members.

RO Plant recommissioned.

Selaiyur: Enthusiastic celebrations were led by women and teachers. Five vacant classrooms are set to be operational by year-end.

PROJECTS UPDATE

- Housing projects at Irumbedu, Beerakupam, and Perathur are progressing steadily.
- Technicas Reunidas (Spain) has funded four dialysis machines – orders have been placed.

- Sundaram Fasteners Ltd. has committed Rs.46 lakhs for constructing 130 toilets at Bodur & NM Kandige village, near Gummidipoondi.

LEAD 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

- Attendance exceeded 10,000 Rotarians.
- Launch of the Pink Auto Scheme – 5 autos supported (3 by RCM, 2 by Rtn Sharon Krishna Rau and Rtn Sabina Narayan).
- RCM stall showcased the Autism project (with RC Colombo Reconnections, Brisbane & RC Delhi Southeast).

- Deputy CM Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin visited the stalls.
- The Centenary Logo was unveiled through a presentation by Rtn Dr Anuradha Ganesan and President Nikhil Raj.
- Photo opportunities with the RI President were facilitated by PDG Sridhar and PP Rtn Ravi.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

- A highlight of the afternoon was the announcement by Mr Siddharth Sundar Iyer (Mumbai), pledging support for an Advanced Life Support Ambulance for Kanchi Kamakoti Childs Trust Hospital (KKCTH).

- He was joined on stage by his mother.
- Dr B Ramachandran, Head of Pediatric ICU at KKCTH, explained the ambulance's potential impact: it will support ~5 critically ill children every week across South India

MEMBER SPEECHES

- Rtn Govind Parikh: Narrated the inspiring background behind Siddharth's donation, originating from discussions during a trip to Ahmedabad.
- Rtn Dr B Ramachandran: Emphasized KKCTH's four-decade legacy, 200-bed capacity, and the critical importance of the mobile ICU initiative.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CONTRIBUTIONS

- Hon Sec Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan announced member birthdays, spouse birthdays, and anniversaries for the week.
- Sunshine Contributions: President Nikhil Raj and spouse Laura contributed Rs.4,000.

FORTHCOMING MEETING

Date: 2 September 2025

Program: "Lawyer, Doctor & Actor" – an interactive session by RCM members. (Spouses invited.)

CHIEF GUEST INTRODUCTION & ADDRESS

- Introduction by PP Rtn KK Raman: Highlighted Professor Pradeep's pioneering achievements in nanotechnology for clean water, his 500+ patents, and prestigious awards, including the Padmashri (2020). He also recognized Professor's role as Founder of the International Centre for Clean Water, IIT Madras, supported by Mr. Deepak Parekh.
- Prof. T. Pradeep's Address: Delivered a thought-provoking lecture on affordable clean water using advanced materials, seamlessly linking technology, education, and social progress.

CLOSING

The **Vote of Thanks** was proposed by Rtn Himanshu Budhia. President Nikhil Raj then adjourned the meeting.

WATER: THE PALE BLUE LEGACY AND THE PROMISE OF ADVANCED MATERIALS



When Voyager turned its camera back in 1990 at Carl Sagan's insistence, it captured the "Pale Blue Dot", a faint pixel suspended in the cosmic dark. That dot was Earth, blue because of water, fragile because of water, and ultimately habitable only because of water. In that singular image lies both our inheritance and our warning: without water, there is no life, no civilization, no future. India, blessed with abundant rivers and aquifers, paradoxically faces an existential water crisis.

Every river is touched by contamination, every aquifer carries whispers of pollutants. The Bhavani in Tamil Nadu, the Adyar in Chennai, the arsenic-laden wells of Bengal—all speak of a civilization that reveres water but wounds it daily. Yet, as history reminds us, human ingenuity has always risen to answer its gravest challenges.

FROM JULES VERNE TO NANOMATERIALS

In 1865, Jules Verne dreamt of rockets forged in aluminum—the "advanced material" of his era. Today, our laboratories echo that same spirit, only at scales Verne could not have imagined the nanoscale. Nanomaterials, engineered with atomic precision, are not figments of science fiction but frontline soldiers in humanity's battle for clean water. For decades, arsenic has quietly poisoned over 120 million people. Villages in Nadia, West Bengal, once trapped by this invisible toxin, now draw safe water from simple hand-pump filters.



BEYOND PURIFICATION: TOWARDS WATER POSITIVITY



Traditional resins and filters, though effective, often return contaminants to the environment, creating “negative water” outputs. But India’s scientists, led by institutions such as IIT Madras, have flipped the equation—developing “water positive” materials that yield a thousand litres of clean water for every litre consumed in their manufacture. This is not incremental progress; it is a paradigm shift.

From arsenic in Bengal to uranium in Punjab, from fluoride in Rajasthan to salinity in coastal Tamil Nadu, nanotechnology now underpins community purification plants across the nation. Over 1,700 such systems today serve millions, monitored in real time with IoT devices and sensors. Villagers who once feared every sip now raise glasses of Amrit – the nectar reclaimed from poisoned wells.

WATER, DATA, AND DEMOCRACY

Clean water is not just a scientific triumph but a democratic imperative. As one professor asked: What kind of democracy are we if we cannot guarantee safe water to every child? Access to uncontaminated water is the foundation of equal opportunity—the difference between malnourishment and vitality, between exclusion and empowerment.

The vision now stretches beyond purification to planetary cartography. Through initiatives like “People’s Water Data,” students and citizens collect and map water quality across thousands of homes and geographies. Imagine a Google Earth where



rainfall, humidity, arsenic levels, and even diabetes incidence overlap on a single map—a living atlas of how water shapes human destiny. This is the frontier where science meets society.

THE FUTURE: WATER AS ENERGY, ENERGY AS WATER

Jules Verne’s prophecy that “water will be the fuel of tomorrow” finds resonance again. Splitting H_2O with sunlight yields hydrogen—the clean energy carrier of the future. Laboratories already demonstrate CO_2 -to-methanol conversion, and prototypes of atmospheric water generators hint at a world where even air can quench thirst. These are not distant dreams; they are technologies approaching viability within the decade.



THE INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL IMPERATIVE

The challenge of water is not technological alone. Punjab’s farmers still burn arsenic-laden hay, and Tamil Nadu still clings to flood irrigation. Science can offer tools, but only education, governance, and collective will can seed lasting change. As one speaker reminded us: Our greatest limitation is not knowledge or policy but will.

CONCLUSION

The story of water is the story of humanity itself, of fragility and resilience, of crisis and creativity. From pale blue pixels to nanomaterial purifiers, from poisoned wells to data-driven maps, we are writing a new chapter in the covenant between civilization and its most vital element. Clean water for all is not a slogan but an achievable reality if we choose to wield science with imagination, policy with integrity, and technology with compassion. In the shimmer of every drop lies both a warning and a promise. And it is up to us, here and now, to decide which legacy will endure.



LEAD '25: A CONCLAVE OF TITANS, TRANSFORMING VISION INTO ACTION

The inaugural Lead '25 Conclave in India, which brought together Rotarians and Clubs from Zones 4, 5, 6, and 7, was a remarkable success. Held at the Chennai Trade Centre's new facility, the event attracted a record attendance of approximately 12,000 Rotarians and Rotaractors. Rotary India Leadership Conclave, held on 23 Aug and 24 Aug 2025 was an unforgettable celebration of ideas, action, and fellowship that brought together visionaries, global icons, and emerging leaders, leaving every participant inspired and energized.



12,000 VOICES, ONE VISION: ROTARY INDIA'S GRANDEST CONCLAVE YET

The opening ceremony featured distinguished guests, including Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and the State's Education Minister, Thiru Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi. Our own RI President, Francesco Arezzo, presided over the event. This grand

conclave was unprecedented in scale, resembling an RI Convention. It included a plenary session in the main conference hall and breakout sessions in smaller venues. every participant inspired and energized.

FROM POLIO PLEDGES TO PINK AUTOS: THE POWER OF ROTARY UNLEASHED AT LEAD '25

The event began with a historic moment – the End Polio Image Formation by 3,500 Rotaractors at 7:30 am, a powerful symbol of Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio. This was followed by an engaging interaction with RI President Rtn Francesco Arezzo, where Rotaractors and Rotarians explored thought-

provoking ideas on service, innovation, and leadership. RI President Francesco Arezzo was delighted and astonished by the impactful projects executed by Rotary International District 3234, praising the district's commitment to meaningful service.

The stellar speaker lineup inspired and enthralled the audience. Dr V Narayanan, Chairman of ISRO, shared insights on India's space ambitions and innovation. Padma Bhushan Kamal Haasan spoke passionately about art, social responsibility, and nation-building. C Sivasankaran, Founder of Aircel, inspired everyone with his entrepreneurial journey and vision for the future.



A key highlight of LEAD'25 was the donation of 100 "Pink Autos" to underprivileged women, empowering them with sustainable livelihood opportunities and reinforcing Rotary's commitment to women's welfare.



CHENNAI TRADE CENTRE TURNS GLOBAL STAGE: ROTARY'S LEAD '25 SHINES

The House of Friendship (HOF) was a well-organized area that replicated the One Rotary Centre in Chicago, home to the Rotary International Headquarters. Our club shared a booth with the Rotary clubs of Colombo Reconnecting, Brisbane, and Delhi Southeast to showcase our initiatives in the field of autism over the past two years. The interest our booth

generated was both overwhelming and thought-provoking. The rising incidence of autism and the number of children on the autistic spectrum is alarming, as evidenced by the many Rotarians eager to contribute and parents seeking guidance on how to move forward.



On the second day, we had the opportunity to formally unveil our Centennial Logo to a larger audience. Both, President Rtn Nikhil Raj, and our incoming Centennial President Rtn Dr. Anuradha Ganesan took the microphone to share our plans for the year beginning 1 July 2028. A special Centennial brochure was released and presented to the RI President and other dignitaries in attendance. "Honoured to participate in the LEAD-25 International Conclave organized by @Rotary in Chennai. Proud to have launched welfare projects worth Rs..250 crores, including pink autos for women. I wish the conclave great success and express my hope that Rotary International's remarkable service will continue for years to come."

- Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin, the Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

DGN RTN.AKS Dr.Vijaya Bharathi angarajan, Commits another \$150,000 to Rotary Foundation in the Presence of RI President Francesco, RID MMM, DG Vinod Saraogi and PDG Sridhar.



2025 Rotary International Convention highlights



PDG Nancy Barbee took our Rotary Flame to the Calgary Convention a few months ago, driving all the way from the East of America.

A report that appeared in the RI polio plus magazine recently featured this photograph, not to miss our club's Madras Greets logo on the Torch.

ROTARY RADAR

FAQ – ROTARY & PEACE

- WHY DOES ROTARY FOCUS ON PEACE?**

Peace is one of Rotary's 7 Areas of Focus. True peace is not just the absence of war but the presence of justice, equity, opportunity, and dignity for all.
- WHAT IS POSITIVE PEACE?**

POSITIVE Peace means addressing root causes of conflict: It includes access to food, water, education, healthcare, and inclusive communities.
- HOW DOES THE ENVIRONMENT CONNECT TO PEACE?**

Climate stress + resource conflicts (water, land, migration). Protecting ecosystems reduces conflict and promotes cooperation.
- WHAT IS ROTARY DOING FOR PEACE?**

Peace Fellowships & Centers worldwide. Community peace-building projects (dialogues, youth clubs, pledge walls). Partnering with schools, NGOs and governments for conflict resolution.

HOW CAN VISITORS PROMOTE PEACE?

Take the Peace Pledge at our booth.
Support youth peace clubs.
Plant a Peace Tree / Peace Pole





Rtn Bikram Shivkumar

FRESH FUEL



Q1. Describe a moment within RCM where you felt completely out of your comfort zone. What did that discomfort teach you—and how did it help you grow as a person or professional?

A1. Mr. S.N. Srikanth's talk on what it takes to bring about behavioral change brought about an awkward realization of inadvertently self-created barriers at work and at a personal level. Subsequently, I think a lot more about how to reduce entry barriers for change.

Q2. If you could introduce a new tradition, ritual, or quirky custom to the RCM culture, what would it be—and why do you think it would resonate with current and future members?

A2. Given the number of sports fanatics in RCM, an annual get-together around some sporting event may be a good idea.

Q3. Every Rotarian brings a unique spark. What hidden talent or passion of yours do you hope to contribute to RCM that people might not expect from you at first glance?

A3. No idea. Suspect this is so well hidden, even I am not aware of it as yet.



To: 2024-25 club presidents

Cc: 2024-25 club secretaries

Dear 2024-25 Club President,

Congratulations! Your club has earned the Club Excellence Award, the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve, for 2024-25. This past year, your club demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.

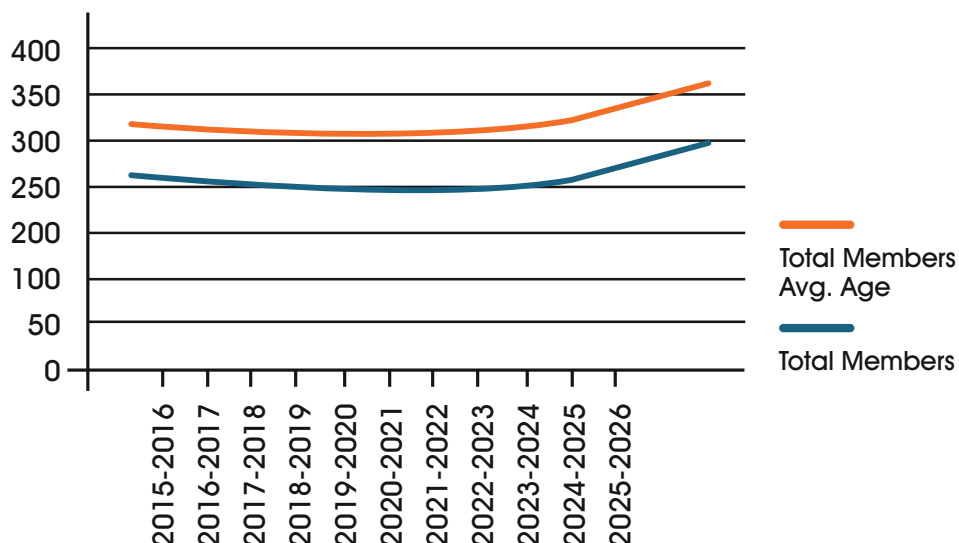
Please find your Club Excellence Award certificate [in this folder](#). They are named by district number, then club name. I encourage you to display it proudly to celebrate your club's achievement.

Once again, congratulations on a successful year as club president!

Sincerely,
Stephanie A. Urchick
2024-25 RI President

THE SHIFTING TIDES OF MEMBERSHIP: A LOOK AT OUR GROWING, MATURING COMMUNITY

YEARS	Total Members	Total Members Avg. Age
2015-2016	260	56.69
2016-2017	255	57.79
2017-2018	254	57.92
2018-2019	248	58.88
2019-2020	250	58.95
2020-2021	254	59.11
2021-2022	255	60.83
2022-2023	264	59.87
2023-2024	269	60.64
2024-2025	282	60.86
2025-2026	296	62.33



We're always keen to understand the currents that shape our community. Our latest dive into membership data reveals some fascinating trends that speak volumes about who we are and where we're headed. Over the past decade, from 2015-2016 to the projected figures for 2025-2026, we've seen a notable evolution in our ranks. While there have been minor fluctuations, the overall trajectory of our total membership is on an exciting upward climb. Starting with 260 members in 2015-2016, we anticipate reaching a robust 296 and more by 2025-2026. This steady growth underscores the enduring appeal and strength of our shared purpose. But beyond just numbers, there's a deeper story unfolding. The average age of our members is steadily, yet significantly, increasing. In 2015-2016, our average age stood at 56.69 years. Fast forward to the projected 2025-2026, and that average is set to reach 62.33 years.

This isn't just a statistic; it reflects beautiful progression. Our community is not only expanding but also maturing, accumulating wisdom, experience, and a rich tapestry of life stories. This trend invites us to consider the evolving needs and interests of our members. As our community gracefully ages, it presents wonderful opportunities to tailor our content, events, and initiatives to resonate with a demographic that is increasingly rich in life experience. Perhaps it's a call to explore more in-depth features, to celebrate the legacies of long-standing members, or to create intergenerational programs that bridge the wisdom of elders with the energy of newer, perhaps slightly younger, participants.

The data from the past decade paints a picture of a vibrant, growing community that is also deepening in its collective wisdom.

A LOOK AT OUR GROWING, MATURING COMMUNITY

Oh, hail the years, in splendor they alight,
From twenty-fifteen's dawn to twenty-six's bright!
Our numbers swell, a triumphant, rising tide,
From two hundred sixty, where our journey did stride,
To nearly three hundred, a glorious, swelling stream,
A testament to our vibrant, living dream!

But mark the ages, a waltz of grace and time,
From fifty-six and change, a youthful, vibrant prime,
To sixty-two's embrace, where wisdom's banners fly,
A crescendo of years, beneath a knowing sky.
Our Club truly shines, a grand and noble sight,
A tapestry of souls, bathed in its golden light!



CREATING HOMES OF PRIDE

APARTMENTS, VILLAS & PLOTS ACROSS CHENNAI



DRA INARA

Navalur

Luxury 3,4&5 BHK Villas
1558 Sq.ft - 3697 Sq.ft



DRA AVALON

Parandur

Premium Villa Plots
590 Sq.ft - 2400 Sq.ft



DRA ASTRA

Madhavaram

Lifestyle 2&3 BHK Homes
1360 Sq.ft - 1695 Sq.ft



DRA CLOVER

East Tambaram

2&3 BHK Green Homes
1097 Sq.ft - 1362 Sq.ft



DRA INFINIQUE

Valasaravakkam

Lifestyle 3&4 BHK Villaments
1837 Sq.ft - 2143 Sq.ft



DRA URBANIA

Avadi

Kids Centric 2&3 BHK Homes
915 Sq.ft - 1349 Sq.ft



DRA TRINITY

Thoraipakkam

3 BHK Boutique Residences
1238 Sq.ft - 1434 Sq.ft



DRA SKYLANTIS

Sholinganallur

Lifestyle 2&3 BHK Homes
1198 Sq.ft - 1391 Sq.ft

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