

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 10
SEPTEMBER 07
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS



Rtn Harish K Murthi	1 st September
Rtn Kishor Dandeker J	5 th September
Rtn NK Bhatia	7 th September
Rtn Dr Parkavi M	7 th September
Rtn Shanno Ravi	7 th September
Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan	7 th September
Rtn Pratap Kumar M	8 th September
Rtn Dr V Ramasubramanian	8 th September
Sudha, Spouse of Rtn Goenka S B	2 nd September
Mohana, Spouse of Rtn Shyam Sunder	5 th September
Renuka, Spouse of PP Rtn Rajendran Sabanayagam	7 th September

ANNIVERSARY



Rtn Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan & Chetan Anand Koka	1 st September
PP Rtn Gunashekar & Padmavathy	4 th September
Rtn Archana Parikh & Rajesh Devaraj	5 th September
Rtn Dr Gururaj Rao & Shreya Sujeer	5 th September
Rtn Raja V & Revathy	5 th September
Rtn Sanjay Madhavan & Anna	6 th September
Rtn Venkhat Ramani A S & Mallika	7 th September
Rtn Siddharth Hande & Tanuja Ramani	8 th September



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EDITED & PUBLISHED BY

Rtn Manasa T Pillai, Asst. Secretary

Rotary Club of Madras

RAYALA TOWERS

1st Mezzanine Flr., 158, Anna Salai,
Chennai 600 002 Phone: +91 44 2859 1020

CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:

lighthouse@rotarymadras.in

Bulletin Design:

YATRTECHS



Rotary Club of Madras

12TH Weekly Meeting

FOR THE SAKE OF HONOUR

AWARD TO



PADMA BHUSHAN
Shri. S. Nambi Narayanan

MODERATED BY
Mr. Madhu Mathen &
Mr. Sameer Bharat Ram

Tuesday, 9th September 2025 | 1.30 pm
Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 onwards 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. S. Balakrishna Chairman - Awards Committee
Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau Director - Vocational Services	

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 11th Weekly Meeting, held on 2 September 2025

1.30 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

CALL TO ORDER

President Rtn Nikhil Raj called the meeting to order promptly at 1.30 PM.

FOUR-WAY TEST

Rtn Dr Gururaj Rao recited the Four-Way Test and shared insightful reflections on its relevance in both personal and professional life. He urged Rotarians—both seasoned members and newcomers—to embody these principles in their daily actions.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the 10th weekly meeting was formally confirmed.

RECOGNITIONS OF GUESTS

Probus Club Members: Mr. S Ravi and Mr. Ranga Swamy were warmly welcomed.

Visiting Rotarian: Rtn K Sayeeram from Rotary Club of Madras Metro was acknowledged.

PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Inner Wheel Club Milestone:

The Inner Wheel Club celebrated its 60th Anniversary at a vibrant event, having successfully completed 64 programs in the first 62 days of this year.

Dialysis Machine Sponsorship:

Tecnicas Reunidas, a Spanish multinational company, has sponsored the purchase of four dialysis machines. Funds have been received by RCM, and the purchase order has been released. The machines are expected to be delivered within two weeks for commissioning at the hospitals. The President expressed his gratitude to Rtn Antony Lobo for facilitating this sponsorship.

Ambulance Donation:

Mr. Siddharth Sundar Iyer has generously donated funds for the purchase of an ambulance, which will be delivered and presented to Child Trust Hospital in four weeks.

MOU for Skills Centre Equipment:

An MOU was signed between RCM Charitable Trust and Sri Kannikapa rameswari Kalvi Kazhagam (SKPKK) and Mahalakshmi and Muthuramalingam Charitable Trust (MMCT) for a donation of Rs. 40 lakhs to install equipment at the SKP Sunantha Rammohan Skills Centre, Udumalpet. Funds were routed through IDRF USA with support from Rtn Ram Mohan and his nephew Rtn K Sayeeram. Rtn K Sayeeram was invited on stage for the formal exchange of MOUs.

Treasurer's Update – Rtn Gooch Kumar

Rtn Gooch Kumar announced a positive development on a long-standing tax implication issue related to Income Tax.

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Rtn S Nagarajan, RCM received a favourable order from the Income Tax Department:

It was confirmed that surcharge is not applicable on profits generated through fundraiser events.

Instead of being taxed at the maximum rate of 30%, RCM will now be taxed only at the slab rate, based on a 1982 circular successfully brought to the Department's attention by Rtn S Nagarajan.

Impact: This results in an annual saving of approximately Rs.2.47 lakhs for the Club.

Rtn Gooch Kumar conveyed the Club's deep appreciation and gratitude for Rtn S Nagarajan's exceptional efforts.

CLUB SERVICES – HOLISTIC ACTIVITIES

Rtn Rachna Muralidharan expressed heartfelt thanks to Rtn Shankar for hosting a Fun Shooting Session at his residence on 31st August 2025. The event included archery, pistol shooting, and rifle shooting, with expert volunteers guiding participants throughout the activities.

PAST PRESIDENT'S RECOGNITION

As per RCM tradition, IPP Rtn Chella Krishna G was formally honoured with the Past President's badge, which was pinned by PP Rtn Ranjit Pratap.

HON SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS – RTN PRASANNA RAJAGOPALAN

Birthdays and anniversaries of members and their spouses falling between 1st and 7th September 2025 were announced.

Sunshine Contribution: Rtn N.K. Bhatia was acknowledged for contributing Rs.15,000 to Boys Town Society as part of the Sunshine initiative.

Special Event – Next Week (09.09.2025): The Club will present the 'For the Sake of Honour Award' to Padma Bhushan Nambi Narayanan. An interactive chat with the awardee is scheduled, and members were strongly encouraged to attend in large numbers.

CLOSING

President Rtn Nikhil Raj thanked the Program Committee, members, and guests for their active participation and contributions. The meeting was adjourned.

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were inducted into the Rotary Club of Madras:

Rtn Amandeep Singh Kandhari – introduced by Rtn Vipin Sachdev

Rtn Dr Archith K. Sridhar – introduced by Rtn R Chandrasekhar

Both new Rotarians were formally admitted and adorned with the Rotary Pin by PP Rtn N K Gopinath and PP Rtn Indra Subramanyam.

MY JOB TALKS

Rtn Vikram Chesetty curated and moderated 'Greens on the Scene', a dynamic and refreshing interactive session featuring three Green Rotarians:

Rtn Aparajitha Vishwanath

Rtn Dr Geetha Iyer

Rtn Roshan Cyrus Poncha

The session was introduced by Rtn Jayant Hemdev and received enthusiastic engagement from the members.

GREENS ON THE SCENE: THE AFTERNOON THAT SPARKLED WITH WIT, WISDOM, AND WARMTH

In a vibrant afternoon gathering at Hyatt Regency, the Rotary Club of Madras hosted its 11th Weekly Meeting, themed "Greens on the Scene." The stage was set for a uniquely dynamic panel moderated by the ever-charming Rtn. Vikram Chesetty, who led the audience through a journey of laughter, inspiration, and the occasional jaw-dropping revelation.

The spotlight shone brightly on three incredible Rotarians—a lawyer, a doctor, and an actor each sharing their tales of triumph, talent, and a dash of eccentricity.

Roshan: The Performer Who Chose Numbers... and Theatre!

The afternoon began with Roshan, who revealed that she wears many hats: chartered accountant by day, theatre star by night. Raised in Bandra and now settled in Chennai, she humorously recounted how she once aspired to be a doctor (inspired by her early battle with diabetes) and then considered law, only to finally land in the world of accountancy, courtesy of her father's subtle nudging.

But Roshan's real magic unfolded when she discovered her love for the performing arts. A performer with Madras Players, Mellow Circle, and other theatre troupes, she captivated the audience with her journey of balancing CA exams with choir practice and concerts. Her witty remark about Parsis being "a small but impactful community" had everyone chuckling, especially when she confessed that Chennai's Parsi count was smaller than the RCM family!

To top it off, she treated the audience to a spontaneous musical moment, proving that her talents extend well beyond the balance sheet.



Aparajita: The Courtroom Virtuoso

Next up was Aparajita, whose legal career is as compelling as any courtroom drama. With humility, she dismissed the idea of being “the best lawyer” and instead spoke about constant growth and learning. Inspired by mentors like Mr. P.S. Rahman and Mr. Vijay Narayan, she emphasized calmness and composure amidst the chaos of legal battles.

Her anecdote about a high-stakes case left the audience awestruck. As a young lawyer, she argued before a now Supreme Court judge, facing skepticism from a senior opponent who doubted her abilities. Not only did she hold her ground, but she also earned the judge’s praise, a defining moment in her career and a powerful statement about women breaking barriers in law.

When asked what she’d be if not a lawyer, Aparajita playfully mused about dabbling in fitness, art curation, or even retail before concluding, “Law allows me to be all of this and more.”



Dr. Geeta: Painting Vision Back to Life

If Roshan brought music and Aparajita brought fire, Dr. Geeta brought pure magic. An ophthalmic surgeon of global renown, Geeta described the eye as her canvas, where each delicate stroke restores the priceless gift of sight.

Her story of an acid attack survivor flown in from Kashmir was profoundly moving. Through pioneering surgery, Geeta restored vision to one of the young woman’s eyes, enabling her to rebuild her life and even become an Instagram influencer.

And then came the jaw-dropper: Geeta explained her tooth-based corneal transplant—yes, a tooth, used to anchor an artificial cornea! As co-founder of CODE Eye Care, she proudly highlighted their mission of Compassion, Optimism, Dignity, and Empathy, cementing her status as a true visionary in every sense of the word.

Buzzer Round Madness

Vikram then amped up the energy with a buzzer round.

- Aparajita confessed she couldn’t imagine life without law.
- Geeta firmly declared she wouldn’t trade her work for all the riches in the world.
- Roshan had the audience in splits, claiming her selfish virtues included “no sharing bathrooms, chocolates, or the AC thermostat!”



The crosstalk segment brought out both wit and wisdom. Aparajita addressed the delicate balance between morality and professional duty, while Geeta humorously admitted that, as a dry-eye specialist, she can’t help but notice which Rotarians blink less during meetings! Roshan closed with a delightful insight into what makes Parsis tick: hard work, integrity, and just the right dash of eccentricity.

Two Truths and a Lie: The Grand Finale

The fun finale had the trio sharing outrageous truths and one sneaky lie:

- Geeta revealed her dislike for mushrooms and her professional love for saris (despite daily wear).
- Roshan narrated a story involving Amitabh Bachchan’s wedding and a near-encounter with Michael Jackson’s autograph.
- Aparajita hilariously confessed to being hopeless with sleep deprivation while professing an oddly meticulous relationship with blue Lay’s chips!

Audience members gleefully tried to spot the lies, proving that Rotarians are as competitive with games as they are with service projects.



An Afternoon to Remember

As the session wrapped up, Vikram left everyone with a profound message: "If you cannot collaborate, you cannot succeed."

The meeting was more than just an exchange of stories; it was a celebration of talent, resilience, and the Rotary spirit. From theatre stages to operating rooms and courtrooms, these three remarkable Rotarians reminded everyone that service above self comes in many forms and sometimes, with a sprinkle of humor and a standing ovation.

The afternoon ended with hearts filled, minds inspired, and spirits lifted; a perfect reflection of **Rotary Club of Madras**, where passion meets purpose.



ROTARY RADAR



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the organization's leader after the resignation of RI President-elect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1984 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi 10 years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

Babalola received a university degree in engineering in 1988. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC and carrying out projects on four continents. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola's professional affiliations include the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, and the Association of Change Management Professionals. He is a member of Jericho Businessmen Club, an organization in his birth city of Ibadan that provides input to governments on economic and social policy.

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. A trustee of ShelterBox UK, he is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional

Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership for the organization. As the spokesperson for the global network, the president visits clubs around the world to promote Rotary's values and represent the organization at major events. Rotary chooses its president from members who have demonstrated extensive leadership experience within Rotary, including service as a club president, district governor, and member of the Board.

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International president | Rotary International

READY FOR A NEW SKILL? AIM FOR YOUR BEST SHOT. FIRE AWAY FOR A FUN MORNING!

Rtn A. Shankar managed to achieve a tough task on 31 August 25 - make people turn up at his home at 10 am on a Sunday; and that too, bright-eyed, bushy-tailed and all fired up with enthusiasm!

Because he had something unique and fun in store for all his guests: a heady game each, of darts, air pistol, air rifle and archery! In the heart of the city! At his private range! (With a rousing game of croquet set up for anyone who wanted to warm up!)

The Holistic Committee and the Fellowship team put an outstanding event together on Sunday morning, where nearly 30 Rotarians and spouses got together, and involved all of us in something new to learn and fun to try. They divided all of us into teams for that extra boost of both camaraderie and heady competition as all of us tried our hand at these various target sports! Prizes were given away to the best team and individual champions of each event - because that adds to the fun, doesn't it!



It was such a lovely morning catching up with each other, with much playful heckling and cheering, admiring hidden talents in our midst and really getting into the spirit of sport.

If it was a 'Sunday To Remember' that they wanted, the organizing team and the host

definitely hit a BULLS-EYE!

(PS: If anyone else wants to catch a glimpse of all that we can do at Rtn Shankar's range - feel free to give him or President Nikhil or Rtn Sanjay Madhavan a buzz!)



- Rtn Shri Shakthi Girish

MUKKANI: A FLAVOUR TO REMEMBER THE FIRESIDE

On 30 August 2025, Erika Patel and Kunal Patel transformed Westminster on TTK Road into a sanctuary of laughter, warmth, and connection. The fiery evening had the perfect recipe — good company, gourmet delights, and groovy tunes. Dakshin served up a feast fit for royalty: endless starters, a bar flowing with spirits, and a main course that wrapped around the soul with gongura mamasam, kara kolumbu, and curd rice that soothed every palate.



The night's culinary mystery? Mukkani ice cream. Multiple spoonfuls later, no one guessed its secret until the chef revealed its divine trio — mango, jackfruit, and banana — the crown jewels of Tamil Nadu. Troydon Netto, South India's only one-man looping maestro, kept spirits soaring

with tunes spanning decades, as conversations and melodies intertwined. The night closed with a secretive after-party, leaving hearts fuller and bonds stronger and of course a fireside to remember forever.



**-Rushalini Rajkumar, Spouse
of Rtn Dr Karthik Mathivannan**

BERTRAM HALL ROARS BACK TO LIFE FROM SILENCE TO SPLENDOUR: THE TRIUMPHANT RETURN OF INSTALLATION



After five years of relentless effort, goodwill, and the collective spirit of our members, history echoed once again within the hallowed walls of the iconic Bertram Hall. The 49th Installation Ceremony of the Rotaract Club of Loyola College was nothing short of a triumphant revival. Rtr Roofush Kumar A ascended as the 49th President and Rtr Verna Viren Vikram as the 49th Hon. Secretary, flanked by an enthusiastic Board of Officials for 2025–26. Graced by Chief Guest Rtn Suman Voora and Guest of Honour Rtn Sessa Sai, the evening symbolized not just leadership, but a glorious resurgence

AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE DIALYSIS MACHINES AT UNITED WELFARE TRUST NAMAKKAL VIA A GLOBAL GRANT WITH THE SUPPORT OF ATYANT CAPITAL OF RTN RAHUL SARAOGI.







Heartfelt Thanks

Siddharth Sundar Iyer

SI Investment & Broking Pvt. Ltd.

 for generously donating an Ambulance

 to Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital



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