

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 15

OCTOBER 12
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS 🎂	
Rtn Siddharth Ganeriwala	7 th October
Dr Rtn Sudha S Ramachandran	7 th October
Rtn Aditya Agarwal	11 th October
Rtn Sandhya Sridhar	11 th October
Marlene J Kamdar, Spouse of PDG Kamdar J B	9 th October
Sandhya Ravishankar, Spouse of Rtn P Ravishankar	10 th October
Deepam R, Spouse of Rtn Ravindran G	10 th October
Rashmi, Spouse of Rtn Bharat B Mohindra	12 th October
Umagowri, Spouse of Rtn Subramanian. N	13 th October
ANNIVERSARY 🎉	
Rtn Anil Mulchandani & Devdatta	8 th October
Rtn PDG Benjamin Cherian R & Valsa	10 th October



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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:

YATRATECHS

NIKHIL RAJ
PRESIDENT
OF
ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
INVITES YOU WITH YOUR SPOUSE
TO A MEETING WITH
MR. CHETAN BHAGAT
AUTHOR
IN CONVERSATION WITH
DR. NAVIN JAYAKUMAR
AT
THE SHAMIANA
MADRAS CLUB
ON 12TH OCTOBER 2025

PROGRAM
4.45 - 5.30 PM - HIGH TEA
5.30 - 7.30 PM - FORMAL MEETING

DRESS CODE
Sleeved shirts, bush shirts, Chinese collared shirts,
bandhies, Nehru jackets, long trousers,
jeans-not faded or torn, socks and shoes
other than sports shoes.

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 15th Weekly Meeting held on 7 Oct 2025

1.30 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

President Rtn. Nikhil Raj called the 15th weekly meeting to order.

Rotary Song

The gathering commenced with the Rotary song, celebrating unity, service and the club's commitment to social causes.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 14th weekly meeting were confirmed and recorded.

Welcome Address

President Nikhil extended a warm welcome to all Rotarians, Interactors, and Rotaractors and special guests for the day's VP Raman Memorial Award and Youth Services Awards. He also welcomed visiting Rotarian Rtn. Durgesh Purohit, President of Rotary Club of Jaipur. A formal flag exchange took place between Rotary Club of Madras and Rotary Club of Jaipur.

President recapped the successful Diwali Full Club Fellowship held on Sunday with over 160 members attending and thanked Rtn. Arunachalam Palaniappan and his spouse Shruti for hosting this event.

Acknowledgement of Donations

Several generous contributions were acknowledged by the President

Donor	Amount	Purpose
Rtn. Rakesh Jaiswal (Aumund Foundation)	Rs.7 Lakhs	Boys' Town project
Rtn. Hari Venkatesh (5-Star Business Finance)	Rs.37 Lakhs	5 Dialysis Machines for Govt. Hospital, Manarkudi
Rtn. Adityan Kadiresan	Rs.5.5 Lakhs	Biogas Project
Rtn. Navneet Agarwal	Rs.10 Lakhs	Zoo Enclosure (Langur enclosure)
Rtn. Geeta Nagu	Rs.3 Lakhs	Tree Plantation at Loyola College
Rtn. Roshan Poncha	Rs.2 Lakhs	Diabetes Awareness and Treatment
Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan	Rs.22 Lakhs (\$25,000)	Multiple projects

Rtn. DGN. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan has initiated discussions with Sundaram Finance for a Rs.40 lakh Lake Rejuvenation Project.

Rtn. DGN. Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan has also confirmed that she will be continuing with the upkeep and maintenance of the "His and Her Place" in Pondy Bazaar.

HPV Vaccination Project Update

President Nikhil Raj provided an update of the HPVax program. Originally initiated by Rtn. IPP Chella Krishna G. during Rotary Year 24-25, it covered 2800 girls in the first year. This year, the aim is to reach a target of 10,000 and eventually reach the target of one million by the centenary year. Rtn. Dr. Anuradha Ganesan, Rtn. A.M. Visvanathan and Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan had a

meeting with the Association President of Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India Jyoti Mahipal, and a Letter of Intent was signed for a collaboration with Inner Wheel Club. Inner Wheel Club will promote awareness while RCM will handle the vaccination. The vaccination cost per child is Rs.2,500 which will be shared by Inner Wheel (Rs.1,000) and RCM (Rs.1,500).

Contributions received for HPVax Program

Rs.1 Lakh from the Association President of Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India Jyoti Mahipal .

Rs. 50,000 from the eight Districts of the South Zone.

Crowdfunding among Rotarians was announced at Rs.25,000 for 10 children and eight pledges (Rs.2 Lakhs total) were received during the meeting.

Plaque Presentation

Rs.1 Lakh from the Association President of Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India Jyoti Mahipal .

Rs. 50,000 from the eight Districts of the South Zone.

Crowdfunding among Rotarians was announced at Rs.25,000 for 10 children and eight pledges (Rs.2 Lakhs total) were received during the meeting.

Secretary's Announcements

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan announced upcoming birthdays and anniversaries for the week and acknowledged the Sunshine Contribution of Rs.2500/- from Rtn.Dr. Sudha S. Ramachandran.

The Next Meeting will be on Sunday, 12 Oct 2025 at Madras Club, featuring Author Chetan Bhagat, in conversation with Dr. Naveen Jayakumar.

VP Raman Memorial Award – Film Competition

Rtn. Sharon Krishna Rau and Rtn. Roshan Poncha anchored the VP Raman Memorial Awards ceremony . They explained that a workshop was conducted for over 90 students from 12 schools and they were invited to make short films with the theme “Living the 4-Way Test”. Eleven films were submitted and judged by a panel consisting of Director Mr. Manjunath,Rtn. PPMohan Raman P.V. and Rtn. PP. Jayashree Sridhar.

In her capacity as Director Vocational Services , Rtn.Dr.Sharon Krishna Rau thanked the Chairperson of the Living the Four Way Test Committee Rtn.Roshan Poncha , Rtn.Rakesh Jaiswal, Rtn.Sabina Narayan, Rtn.Maithili Shaan Katari Libby, Rtn.Maya Thiagarajan, Rtn.Chetan Acharya and Rtn.Sesha Sai for their respective efforts for the successful conduct of the competition.

Winners



Address by Rtn. PP Mohan Raman P.V.

Rtn. PP Mohan Raman P.V. reflected on his late father Rtn.VP Raman's dedication to the 4-Way Test. He thanked the Rotary Club of Madras for permitting him to present the “Living the 4-Way Test” competition, which is now in its fifteenth

year, having progressed from essay and speech competitions to shorts films. He commended the way in which some of the films deftly wove the story around the theme of the 4-way test.

Youth Services Awards (Announced by Rtn. Balaji Chinni):

Best Interact Club 2024-25 (Rtn. M.S. Guhan Memorial Trophy):

Chandrodaya Interact Club, Lalaji Memorial Omega International School

Best Supporting Interact Club 2024-25 (U.R. Rao Trophy): Interact Club, MCTM

Chidambaram Chettiar International School

Best Rotaract Club 2024-25 (Kamdar Trophy):

Rotaract Club of New College Special Recognition: Dr. Sulaiman (Faculty Coordinator)

Milestone: Celebrating 50 years of Rotaract at New College

Acknowledgements :

Secretary Prasanna Rajagopalan thanked Rtn. Sharon Krishna Rau and Rtn. Roshan Poncha for executing the 4-Way Test competition and Rtn. Balaji Chinni for the Youth Services Awards

coordination. He also thanked the Rotary Office Staff, the Hyatt Regency Team and all members and guests for their enthusiastic participation.

Adjournment: President Nikhil Raj adjourned the meeting.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ROTARY! — A CELEBRATION OF VALUES, VISION & VIBRANCE

It was an afternoon steeped in inspiration and applause as the Rotary Club of Madras gathered at the Hyatt to celebrate excellence, creativity, and the indomitable spirit of service. The event — a dazzling medley of the Rtn V.P. Raman Memorial Award and the Youth Services Honors radiated the essence of Rotary's timeless credo: Service Above Self. The session opened with the magnetic duo, Rtn Roshan Poncha, Chairperson of the 4-Way Test Committee, and Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau, Director of Vocational Services, who took the audience through the cinematic journey of Living the Four-Way Test through Film. Their narration was more than a summary. It was a

story of mentorship, passion, and purpose. With 90 students from 12 schools, guided by acclaimed filmmaker Manjunath and encouraged by stalwarts PP Rtn Mohan Raman and PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar, this initiative transformed young minds into torchbearers of truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all. As the short trailer rolled, the hall echoed with pride, for these films were not just student projects, but soulful testaments to values lived, not merely spoken. The winner among "Chain or Wings," "Avalin Kural," and "The Game of Truth" received applause, cheques, and trophies, marking a defining moment in the club's vocational legacy.



2nd Place

THE CHILDREN'S
GARDEN HR
SEC SCHOOL

1st Place

SHRINE VAILANKANNI
SR SEC SCHOOL,
T. NAGAR, CHENNAI

3rd Place

SRI SANKARA
VIDYASHRAMAM
MATRN HR SEC
SCHOOL

THE GAME OF TRUTH — A STUDENT'S VOICE THAT MOVED THE ROOM

Sometimes, the most powerful speeches come not from seasoned speakers, but from young hearts that have lived their story. As the winners of The V.P. Raman Memorial Award were invited to share their thoughts, Sai Deepak of Shrine Vailankanni Sr Sec School walked to the microphone — nervous, humble, and utterly genuine.

He didn't begin with gratitude or glory. He

began with truth.

"There were so many obstacles," he said, his voice steady but charged with emotion. "We had our practical exams, the rain never stopped, and there were times we thought the film would never get finished." His honesty was the soul of the afternoon, a reminder that truth shines brightest when tested by struggle.



The spotlight then shifted seamlessly to the Interact and Rotaract Awards, where youth energy met Rotary excellence. Rtn Balaji Chinni set the stage aflame with his words on the infectious enthusiasm and maturity of our young ambassadors. From community service to environmental drives, these changemakers exemplified Rotary's future — spirited, compassionate, and unstoppable.

The crescendo arrived with applause as the Chandrodheya Interact Club of Omega International School clinched Best Interact Club 2024–25, while MCTM Chidambaram Chettiar International School was lauded as Best Supporting Interact Club. The Kamdar Trophy for Best Rotaract Club went to the Rotaract Club of New College, celebrating an astounding 50 years of youth leadership and service.





As President Rtn Nikhil Raj and senior Rotarians felicitated the winners, the atmosphere brimmed with gratitude, camaraderie, and cinematic sparkle. The Hyatt ballroom stood not merely as a venue, but as a stage for hope where art met altruism, and the Four-Way Test found its living proof.



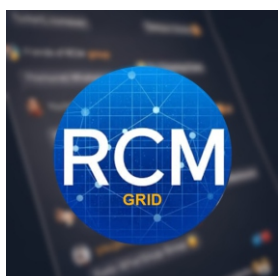
In Rotary, every frame tells a story — and on 7/Oct/2025, those stories lit up the screen, the stage, and every heart in the hall.

ROTARY RADAR

LIST OF 2ND GENERATION ROTARIANS CURRENTLY IN RC MADRAS

1. Abhay Mehta, s/o late Rtn. Surendra Mehta. MEHTA JEWELLERS
2. Alok Bhargava, s/o late Rtn. M. C. Bhargava. CHEMOLEUMS LTD
3. Bharat Shivkumar, s/o Rtn. B. Shivkumar. SHIVAS AUTO COMPONENTS (RAMBAL)
4. George B. Cherian, s/o Rtn. PDG. Benjamin R. Cherian. RAJ IMPEX
5. Gowri R. Shanker, s/o late Rtn. G. Ramaswamy. LEADING AND SENIOR ADVOCATE.
6. B. Kannan, s/o late Rtn. V. Balaraman, SOWGANDHIKA NURSERY
7. Kapil S. Chitale, s/o late Rtn. PPS.L. Chitale, CHITALE & SONS- ARCHITECTS.
8. Shaan Katari Libby, d/o Rtn. Ravi Katari, GARMENTS EXPORTER
9. Mohan Raman, s/o late Rtn. V. P. Raman, former ADDL. SOLICITOR GENERAL.
10. Prashanth Karche, s/o late. S. Karche, KARCHE & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

11. Rajesh Shankar, s/o Rtn. Baba Shankar, CLASIC GROUP OF INSTITUTES
12. Rajesh Somasundaram, s/o late Rtn. P.P.C.M. Somasundaram, PANDIAN HOTELS, MADURAI
13. Dr. V. Ramasubramanian, s/o past Rtn Dr. Venkatasubramanian. RENOWNED GP
14. Ranjit Pratap, s/o late Rtn. M.R. Pratap, RAYALA GROUP OF COMPANIES.
15. V. Sridhar, s/o late Rtn. PP. Emberumanar Chetty, PERUMAL CHETTY & SONS
16. S. Srilatha, d/o late Rtn. Srinivasan, KILBURN POWER GEAR.
17. Sriya Chari, d/o late Rtn. PP. P.S. Govindachari, RAJSRIYA AUTOMOTIVE.
18. S. Subramaniam s/o late Rtn. Srinivasan, KILBURN POWER GEAR
19. Thomas Philip, s/o late Rtn. C. T Philip, C.T. PHILIP ASSOCIATES
20. G. M. Udayanarayan, s/o late Rtn. G.M. Mahadevan, G.M. AUDIO TECHNICS.
21. Vijay Balaji, s/o late Rtn. PDG. M. Balaji, VD SWAMY & CO
22. Vikram Jalan, s/o late Rtn. Shankar Jalan, ORIENT ELECTRIC
23. Anjali Ponni Rajkumar d/o Rtn. K. Rajkumar, PHOTO EMPORIUM.
24. Rtn. Ateeq Ur Rehman, s/o Rtn. Abdul Azeez, AIE CARS PVT. LTD.
25. Rtn. Bikram Shivkumar, Rtn. PP. B. Shivkumar, SHIVAS AUTO COMPONENTS.
26. Rtn. Mohit Bajaj, s/o late Rtn. Ashok Bajaj. SOUTH INDIA SURGICALS.
27. Rtn. Rachna Muralidharan, d/o Rtn. PP. Rani Muralidharan. INDEPENDENT CONNECTIONS PVT LTD.
28. Rtn. P. Ravishankar, s/o late Rtn. PP. H.R. Pandurang. Past President, MADRAS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (MMA)
29. Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan, s/o Rtn. Gopal Madhavan. Consultant, G.M.N. ASSOCIATES.
30. Rtn. Siddharth Hande, s/o Rtn. Dr. Krishna Hande. HANDE HOSPITAL. .
31. Rtn. Vardhaman Jain, s/o Rtn. M.K. Jain. ASIA ENGINEERING CO. PVT. LTD.
32. Rtn. Mahmud Jamal, s/o late Rtn. N.P. Jamal, POPAT JAMAL & SONS.
33. Rtn. Haresh Gokuldas, s/o Kishore Kumar Gokuldas. KG. BUILDERS
34. Rtn. Sriprakash Shastri, s/o H A Easwara ASHWATHNARAYANA & EASWARA
35. Rtn. Bharath Shetty, s/o Rtn. PP. K.V. Shetty. INDIAPISTONS RINGS PVT. LTD.
36. Rtn. Archith Sridhar, s/o Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar. Renowned Journalist .



10 Oct 25, Lehry Valves Teams referred by Rtn Sesha Sai visited our Boys Town Society and donated 2 water tanks & Rs 10000/- cheque in the name of Rotary Club of Madras Boys Town Society towards sponsoring dinner for our boys on account of their 75th Anniversary and Founders Day.





PP Rtn Dr Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan

Founding Force

A Letter to My Rotary Club of 2050

Dear Rotarians of the Future,

If you are reading this, it means Rotary has endured. But, endurance is not the same as relevance. My one indispensable piece of wisdom for you is this : never mistake activity for impact.

Fellowship, meetings, banners, and projects are only the shell; the Soul of Rotary lies in whether you have had the courage to confront the real pain points of humanity. Ask yourselves, with candor and humility - are you solving the problems that matter most, or only those that are convenient ?

The greatest danger is being too comfortable. If it's the same in 2050 , then you have already begun to decline. Stay restless and unsatisfied. Stay willing to disturb the status quo when justice is needed or when humanity demands it.

My most audacious vision for you is: let Rotary in 2050 be remembered not merely as a club network, but each member's conscience , for the betterment of the world .

A movement that harnesses science and AI technology, ethics and compassion above all.

My hope and dream of a Rotary that:

- Helped eradicate not just polio, but every last preventable disease that robs a child of life.
- Gave every child, no matter where they were born, access to education, clean water, and nourishment.
- Forests, oceans, and air has been restored for future generations; leaving it better than before
- Increase of women members in Rotary have helped shape the next generation of strong, passionate and a visionary group of women helping each other

In 2050, when the world asks, "why does Rotary matter?"

Let the answer not be a defensive justification but a bold declaration

"Without Rotary, humanity would have been less just, less compassionate, and less human."

May you keep your vision unimaginably large, your service unshakably humble, and your fellowship stretched far and wide.

May your relevance outlast your years, and your impact outlive your names. With Hope across the sands of Time,

Yours in Rotary



The Spotlight Never Sleeps — And Neither Do We



8 Oct 25, we had the pleasure of inaugurating the mammogram unit supplied to Government Hospital Villupuram. Thanks to Access Healthcare for their support for this project.



We also had the pleasure of visiting Rajshree Ramakrishna Vidyalaya School, Mundiampakkam where we had given computers last year.



The computers are being well used and teachers appreciate our donations. Here again Access Healthcare has supported the initiative.

The girls who are receiving certificates are going for the nationals for a yoga competition.





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