

The Lighthouse

ISSUE 01
JULY 06
2025



Rotary
Club of Madras
RI District 3234



OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAY 	DATE
Rtn. Aswath Kumar Reddy E.	30 th June
Rtn. Gowri R. Shankar	1 st July
Rtn. Ashok Banerjee	2 nd July
Rtn. Ramji N.	4 th July
Rtn. Govind Parikh	5 th July
Rtn. Sunil U Lulla	5 th July
Rtn. Jayanthi, Spouse of PP Rtn. Gopinath N.K.	1 st July
Ann. Aruna Sree, Spouse of PP Rtn.S.Ravi	1 st July
Ann. Swetha, Spouse of IPP Rtn. Chella Krishna G	2 nd July
Ann. Deepa, Spouse of Sathiaran Ram	4 th July
ANNIVERSARY 	
Rtn. Narasimhan V.S. & Mridula	30 th June
Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan & Deepthi	30 th June
Rtn. Dr Prof Gauthamadas Udipi & Rajashree	1 st July
PP Rtn. Mohan Raman P.V. & Padma Raman	1 st July
Rtn. Rajit Mhetras & Sheetal	3 rd July
PP Rtn. Ranjit Pratap & Uma Ranjith	4 th July
Rtn. Sivasubramaniam V.M. & Suseela	4 th July
Rtn. Dr. Krishna Hande & Dr. Indira Hande	5 th July



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Honorary Secretary

Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

Immediate Past President

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President - Elect

Rtn Balakrishna S

President - Nominee

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Director – Vocational Services

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Rtn Suman Voora

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Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran

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Director – Fund Raising & PR

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CHARIS MEDIA WORKS



You are cordially invited to the
Installation of

Rtn. Nikhil Raj
as the
**97th President of
Rotary Club of Madras
(RI Dist 3234)**

Along with his team of office bearers
for the Rotary Year 2025-2026

Tuesday | **8** | July 2025
7.00 pm

The Ballroom, Hyatt Regency, Chennai

Chief Guest: Rtn Vinod Saraogi
District Governor 3234 (2025-26)

Guest of Honour: Rtn NS Saravanan
Past District Governor - 3234

Dress Code: Formal
6:15 to 6:45 - Fellowship | Meeting Starts at 7 pm

Rtn. G. Chella Krishna
President

Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Shanno Ravi
Director - Club Service

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!

Dear Readers of the **RCM Clan**
WELCOME TO THE VERY FIRST EDITION OF THE LIGHTHOUSE –
your trusted beacon in the high seas of Rotary brilliance and bustle!

When we dreamed up this newsletter, we envisioned a vibrant space that reflected the spirit of our club – a cocktail of cheer, camaraderie, caffeine-fueled deadlines, and glorious typo-hunting marathons. And now, *voilà!* Here it is.

As your Editor-in-Chief, I must confess, things escalated quickly. What started as a sweet editorial gig has now evolved into an all-you-can-eat buffet of responsibilities. I now moonlight as the *Unofficial Rotary Historian* – covering previous minutes (which felt like unearthing ancient scrolls), reliving the whirlwind that was Thanksgiving Night, and attempting to summarize an award ceremony that had more applause breaks than the Oscars. And you know what? I'm loving every bit of it.

In this inaugural issue, you'll find carefully curated sections designed to tickle your intellect, stir your spirit, and maybe even make you laugh:

- **Fresh Fuel (Green Rotarians):** Meet our bright-eyed newbies – bursting with ideas, optimism, and an uncanny ability to survive committee WhatsApp groups. (Alternate weeks)
- **Founding Force (Senior Rotarians):** A deep dive with our seasoned legends. Spoiler alert: Their stories are more gripping than Netflix dramas. (Alternate weeks)
- **RCM Grid:** Your go-to for what's coming, what's passed, and what you definitely forgot to RSVP to.
- **Rotary Radar:** A panoramic sweep of the Rotary galaxy. From Chennai to Croatia – if it's Rotary, we've got our radar locked.
- **Selfie of the Week:** Because nothing says “professional service organization” like a good selfie. Strike a pose, Rotarians!
- Oh, and before I forget — drumroll, please — we're hosting a *monthly chart party* (charts provided, confetti optional). We'll be sharing statistical snapshots of our club life (yes, spreadsheets can sparkle). Expect charts that reveal everything from our total number of members to our average age (spoiler alert: we're aging like Rotary rockstars!). This glorious data, personally handed over by **President Nikhil Raj** — and not pulled out of a magician's hat — will make an appearance once or twice a month. So, whether you're a number nerd or just curious if we're aging like fine wine, *watch this space*.

Every edition is stitched together with laughter, last-minute edits, and a suspicious amount of coffee-fueled brainstorming. Behind the scenes, we have a mighty (read: mildly sleep-deprived) designer crew that turns chaos into copy with the finesse of a magician pulling rabbits from a spreadsheet. If you spot a typo, just know that it was placed there deliberately — to test your attention to detail, of course. Suggestions, shoutouts, or spontaneous poetry? We welcome all of them – just don't send them five minutes before the publishing deadline. Until then, keep sailing with us, keep smiling, and most importantly – keep Rotaring!

And, whether you're here for the gossip, the gratitude, or just because someone added you to the mailing list without asking – welcome aboard.

Here's to many more editions, deadline-induced adrenaline rushes, and the joy of chronicling this amazing journey with all of you.

With a blinking cursor, a full Google Drive, and a very full to-do list

Rtn Manasa T Pillai
Editor-in-Chief, The Lighthouse

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 1st Weekly Meeting, held on Tuesday, 1 July 2025
@ 130 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

President Rtn Nikhil Raj called the **1st** meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras 2025-26 to order and welcomed Rotarians and guests. The Rotary song was played.

Confirmation of Minutes

The President sought confirmation for the **50th** weekly meeting minutes, which was passed by the members.

Welcome and Acknowledgements

President Nikhil extended a warm welcome to fellow Rotarians, Spouses and Guest, Mr Srip-rakash, Visiting Rotarians, Members of the Pro-bus Club, Mr Venkateshwara Rao and Mr T K Pu-rushothaman. Special recognition was given to Mrs & Mr M B Subbiah, grandparents of the guest speaker Mr Karthik Vellayan Subbiah, his mother Mrs Kanika, and his aunt Mrs Sivagami.

Assumption of Office

Rtn Nikhil Raj formally assumed office as the 97th President of the Rotary Club of Madras.

Acknowledgement of Predecessor

President Nikhil Raj extended heartfelt congratulations to Immediate Past President (IPP) Rtn Chella Krishna and his team for their commendable and impactful service under the theme *Build, Bond, and Cheer*.

Membership Update

The Club concluded the previous Rotary year with 299 members. The new year commenced with 294 members. The following members were recorded as having resigned:

- Rtn. Hemant Srivatsa
- Rtn. Lakshman Ramanathan
- Rtn. Sanjay Vasanadu
- Rtn. VK Chandrakumar

Member Obituary

The Club paid its respects and recorded with sorrow the passing of Rtn. Shibu Isaac.

Honorary Memberships

The following individuals were inducted as Honorary Members for the Rotary year:

- Mr. N. Kumar
- Ms. Mallika Srinivasan
- Mr. Viswanathan Anand

Rotary Theme for the Year

President Nikhil Raj informed members that, as per Rotary International (RI) guidelines, there would be no specific theme or logo adopted at the Club level this year. The Club will align with RI's global motto: *"Service Above Self."*

Focus Areas

A strong emphasis was laid on education and youth-centric initiatives, signaling a strategic direction for the Club's activities during the year.

Call to Action

The President encouraged all members to actively engage with the Club's mission by joining committees and contributing to the planning and execution of impactful service projects.

Financial Overview

Presented by: Rtn Krishnamurthy Vijayan

- The opening balance for the year stood at ₹8.23 crores.
- An additional ₹5.41 crores was raised for specific, committed projects.
- ₹2.44 crores remained available in uncommitted grants.
- The total funds available for the year were approximately ₹16 crores.

Caption Contest Recognition

Facilitated by: Rtn Shivkumar Easwaran

Recognition and awards were presented to the following Rotarians for their contributions:

- Rtn Hemant P Chordia
- Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti
- Rtn Rajib Kumar Hota
- PP Rtn Vivek Harinarain
- Rtn N K Bhatia

- Rtn Asha Mathen (received on her behalf by Rtn Madhu Mathen)

Project Announcements & Cheque Disbursals

Facilitated by: CSR Director and Board Members

- ₹7.2 lakhs – Subject Enrichment Program at Sri Ramakrishna Math Vivekananda Centenary Girls High School
 - Supported by Rtn Vardhman Jain
 - Cheque handed over by Rtn Shivkumar Vellur to Mr Debi Shroy and Mr Dinakaran
- ₹2.5 lakhs – Scholarships for 8 tribal students
 - Supported by Rtn Vardhman Jain
 - Cheque handed to Mr Balaji of Aid India
- ₹4.43 lakhs – Mental Health Program at Sri Ramakrishna Mission Sarada Vidyalyaya School
 - Supported by Rtn Vardhman Jain
 - Cheque handed over by Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan to Mrs Sudha Srinivasan
- ₹1.5 lakhs – Care expenses at BSVN Centre for Special Children
 - Funds disbursed directly; beneficiary unable to attend the meeting
- ₹97.2 lakhs – Construction of 26 homes at Irumbedu under the Homes for the Homeless project
 - Cheque handed over by Rtn Suresh Amirapu to Mr Balaji of Aid India
- Global Grant Project** – Provision of 10 Dialysis Machines
 - Cheque presented to Mr Rahul Raj of Fresenius Medical Care and Mr Balagopal, Divisional Manager, Sheth Impex Vivo Solutions
 - Presentation facilitated by Rtn A M Visvanathan
 - IPP Rtn Chella Krishna acknowledged and appreciated Fresenius Medical Care for their ongoing support.
- ₹2 crores – Hyperbaric Oxygen Chamber at Omandurar Hospital
 - Funded by Timken

- Initiated during the term of PP Rtn S Ravi; project implementation currently in progress

Honorary Secretary's Announcements

Delivered by: Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

- Doctors' Day wishes were extended to all medical professionals in the Club.
- Announcement of the next meeting: *Installation Ceremony* on 8th July 2025 @ 7:00 PM (Evening Function).
- Weekly birthdays, spouse birthdays, and anniversary wishes were announced.

Sunshine Contributions

- Rtn V S Narasimhan – ₹5,000
- Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan – ₹2,500
- Rtn PP Mohan Raman P.V. – ₹1,000
- Mrs Indrani Krishnaier – ₹2,000

Main Program

Guest Speaker: Mr. Karthik Vellayan Subbiah **in Conversation With** Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti.

The program featured a captivating dialogue covering three major segments:

- **The Outer Journey:** Life before his spiritual retreat
- **The Inner Journey:** His seven-month experience at the Isha Ashram
- **The Bridge:** His path forward—integrating spirituality with his corporate career at BCG. Mr. Karthik deeply shared personal insights into his decision to take a gap year, his time in spiritual practice, and the life lessons drawn from that transformative period.

Honouring the Speaker

President Nikhil Raj presented Mr Karthik Vellayan Subbiah with a token of appreciation and a copy of Timeless Legacy.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Nikhil Raj formally adjourned the meeting.

When Legacy Meets Mindfulness



KARTHIK VELLAYAN'S JOURNEY BEYOND THE ORDINARY

Some speakers come armed with credentials. Others come armed with insight. And rarely someone walks in with both—and something more: quiet conviction. That someone was **Karthik Vellayan**.

At just 22, Karthik made a decision most would label “unconventional.” Instead of diving headlong into a lucrative post-college career, he chose to spend seven months immersed in **Sadhanapada**, a yoga and volunteering program at the Isha Foundation. The decision wasn’t a dramatic rebellion—but a mindful return to a seed quietly sown during his childhood.

“Our parents practiced yoga for years. We watched with skepticism at first,” he shared, with disarming honesty. But as we matured, the question shifted from *‘What are they doing?’* to *‘Why are they doing it?’*

What followed was not a spiritual “escape,” but a thoughtful recalibration. With a schedule that began at 4:30 a.m. and spanned yoga, volunteering, and self-reflection, Karthik discovered what he called “the double helix”—a metaphor for inner and outer growth moving in harmony.



The Science of Self: Growth That Compounds

Karthik’s definition of success isn’t static. It compounds—just like his favorite concept: exponential self-growth.

“If the business you manage is growing exponentially, what gives you the right to lead it unless you are also exponentially compounding yourself?” he posed—a question that left the audience in thoughtful silence.

That phrase—*“exponentially compounding myself”*—summed up his ethos. Spirituality, to him, wasn’t separate from ambition. It was the engine behind it.

And yet, the audience was reassured that he wasn’t advocating asceticism. There were no commandments, no prescriptions. *“Spirituality,”* he said, *“isn’t about abstaining from a drink or a party. It’s about making conscious choices, even in those moments.”*

Sadhanapada: A Daily Design for Mindfulness

The program’s structure was deceptively simple:

Wake at 4:30 a.m.

Yoga from 5:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Brunch, then **volunteer work** until 5 p.m.

Evening yoga, dinner, and early rest.

Repeat. For seven months. No breaks. No week-ends.



Final Illumination: A CALL TO SEEK

Yet within that rhythm lay remarkable variety: cutting vegetables, managing farmer outreach, teaching second graders math, coaching frisbee. Karthik smiled, *"Yes, ultimate frisbee in an ashram. Who would've thought?"*

He didn't romanticize the experience. By month six, he admitted, the monotony crept in. But the trade-off? Mental clarity. Lightness. Discipline. Energy.

"You begin to realize—it's not about where you are. It's about what you prioritize within you."

Return to the World: Carrying the Ashram Within

Today, Karthik shadows his father in the business world. But this isn't a fall from grace—it's a conscious reintegration.

His biggest takeaway? Daily yoga—not as a "to-do," but as a default.

One to two hours a day. Aspirations of **three**, just like his parents.

"The transition is tough," he admitted, "but the

blueprint is clear. It's about saying no. About designing your day with intention."

And intention, it seems, is Karthik's greatest asset. His presence radiated quiet strength, the kind born from balance—not between success and sacrifice, but between the inner and the outer. He didn't shun modern life. He redefined how to live it.

Final Illumination: A Call to Seek

Karthik reminded us that spirituality doesn't always wear robes or reside on mountaintops. It can be found in boardrooms, classrooms, and yes—even frisbee fields. The ashram, for him, was never a place to run away from life, but a place to learn how to live it better.

As he closed, one sentiment lingered:

"I didn't go to become a monk. I went to remember what matters."

In a world obsessed with speed, Karthik Vellayan dared to pause. And in doing so, he lit the path for others.

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)
Minutes of the 50th Weekly Meeting, held on Friday, 27 June 2025
@ 7 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

President Rtn Chella Krishna G called the 50th meeting to order and welcomed all Rotarians, guests, donors, and dignitaries. A silent invocation was observed.

Confirmation of Minutes

The President & Honorary Secretary confirmed the minutes of the 49th weekly meeting.

Welcome Address by the President: President Chella Krishna extended a warm welcome to all members, guests, donors, and dignitaries present. He expressed heartfelt gratitude for their presence and support throughout the year. He thanked the Rotary team for their relentless efforts throughout the year and acknowledged the incredible community spirit of RCM.

Upcoming Final events before the end of his term

28 June: Inauguration of a restored lake project initiated by PP Rtn P N Mohan.

30 June: Inauguration of Guild of Service Counselling and Special Needs Room, Vocational Training Certificate Distribution

Presidential Reflections

President Chella Krishna highlighted RCM's enduring legacy of over 96 years, serving the city of Chennai and beyond. From the monumental Polio Plus movement, which evolved into a global initiative, to their pivotal role as a nodal agency during COVID-19 for relief and vaccination, the RCM consistently stood at the forefront of service. The President emphasized that the "magic" of RCM lay in its members and its unique selection process, which made participants uniquely placed to deliver "outsized results". The organization's work every year was between 20 and 25 crores, which in turn gave thousands of lives relief.

Expressed deep gratitude to donors, volunteers, corporate partners, and fellow Rotarians. Concluded by outlining the evening's format—segments to honor donors, corporates, and members.

Secretary Rtn Rajesh Mani's Announcements

The next meeting (first of the new Rotary Year) will be held on Tuesday, 1 July 2025, chaired by **incoming President Rtn Nikhil Raj**. The guest speaker will be **Mr Karthik Vellayan Subbiah**. Rtn Rajesh Mani will take over as **Club Service Director** in the new year.

Commencement of Thanksgiving Awards

The evening was hosted by Master of Ceremonies Rtn Shanno Ravi, Rtn Sabina Narayan and Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan.

Address by District Governor Saravanan N S

District Governor delivered an inspiring speech. He praised RCM as a model and inspiration for clubs across the district and beyond. Applauded large-scale participation of RCM members in service activities, even on workdays. Shared personal admiration for President Chella Krishna whom he affectionately nicknamed "Smarty" and "James Bond". Recounted the emotional pride Chella's father expressed in his leadership. Expressed deep appreciation for both President and First Lady.

Presentation of Mementos

PP Rtn Rajendra Sabanayagam presented a memento of appreciation to District Governor on behalf of RCM. Assistant Governor Rtn Bupinder joined them on stage.

Special Acknowledgements by the President

President Chella Krishna extended heartfelt thanks to the following:

His sister, Madhura, for supporting him professionally during his demanding Rotary term. His wife, Swetha, for her steadfast support and counsel during challenging personal and professional moments. He concluded with a note of deep personal gratitude and humility.

Adjournment

The President Rtn Chella Krishna adjourned the meeting formally marking the conclusion of his term's final regular weekly meeting.

A NIGHT OF GRATITUDE: CELEBRATING THE HEART OF ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

In an evening steeped in warmth, reverence, and reflection, the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) brought together hearts and hands in a grand Thanksgiving celebration—an ode to the selfless spirit that fuels its legacy. This wasn't just an event; it was a glowing tribute to the countless acts of service, the quiet sacrifices, and the steadfast dedication that have powered RCM's impactful initiatives year after year.

The evening commenced with warmth and gratitude, as President Chella Krishna highlighted RCM's enduring legacy of over 96 years, serving the city of Chennai and beyond. From the monumental Polio Plus movement, which evolved into a global initiative, to their pivotal role as a nodal agency during COVID-19 for relief and vaccination, RCM consistently stood at the forefront of service. The President emphasized that the “magic” of RCM lay in its members and its unique selection process, which made participants uniquely placed to deliver “outsized results”. The organization's work every year was between 20 and 25 crores, which in turn gave thousands of lives relief.

The ceremony honored those who sparked change with the **Catalyst Awards**. Aid India was recognized for its partnership in the “Hope for the Homeless” project, which built close to 50 dignified homes for tribal people, transforming lives that once knew only plastic sheets as shelter. Fresenius was also lauded for its pivotal role in strengthening the medical infrastructure for diabetes care.



A significant portion of the evening was dedicated to acknowledging the **esteemed corporate donors** whose big-heartedness fueled RCM's impactful projects. Redington Foundation received a big round of applause for its substantial contribution of 1.5 crores for various projects. Wartsila India was thanked for its long-term partnership, having supported Boys Town for over seven years with 78 lakhs this year. Coromandel International supported Home for Homeless projects and medical initiatives. Apexon supported RCM in golf and as a CSR donor. Data Patterns India supported Melakottaiyur School in the last two Rotary years. Multivista Global Pvt Ltd supported a Home for Homeless project. Infosys Foundation supported the HP Vaccine Program with Rs. 54 lakh grant. Kaleesuwari Refineries Pvt Ltd supported lake restoration projects. SBI Mutual



Funds Management contributed Rs. 1.98 crores for two medical initiatives. Aptus Value Housing Finance Ltd supported Balwadi projects. Delphi TVS supported the Old Perungalathur Lake with a sum of Rs. 25 lakhs. TVS Motors supported various projects with Rs. 20 lakhs. Avalon Technology and Services supported Kadaperi Lake with Rs. 15 lakhs. Vasantha Subramaniam Hospital Pvt Ltd supported RCM with Rs. 10 lakhs. United Industries Plastic Pvt Ltd contributed Rs. 8.5 lakhs for various projects. NichePharm Life Sciences Pvt Ltd, a Himachal-based company, contributed thanks to the efforts of Rtn N K Bhatia. Goolestan Investments Pvt Ltd being a regular contributor, made a huge contribution of Rs. 42 lakhs. IG3 INFRA Group Ltd was also acknowledged.

Contributions came in from across industries, each leaving an indelible mark.



CSR contributions from **non-Rotarians** added a new wave of goodwill.

🌟 *Viva Carbon Private Ltd, Suryoday Small Finance Bank, and Beardsell Ltd* appreciated for joining hands in service beyond self.



Heartfelt appreciation to those who contributed to **The Rotary Foundation (TRF)**:

♥ PDG Rtn. JB Kamdar ♥ PP Rtn. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan ♥ Rtn. Rahul Saraogi ♥ contributed over USD 1000,000/-. Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan ♥ Rtn. Sabina Narayan ♥ Rtn. P.S. Jagdish ♥ Rtn. Ganesh Ananthakrishnan ♥ Rtn. Asha Mathen ♥ PP Rtn. S. Ravi, and ♥ Rtn. V.Sp. Sakthivel Raja — each a beacon of hope through their generosity.

The celebration extended to **event sponsors** who “lit the stage for Jaya, powered every swing at the golf tournament, and cheered on at awards for sportspersons”. Doodle Blue Innovations supported sports initiatives for



the last four years, with some of their beneficiaries becoming world champions. Chakait Shipping Services supported the golf tournament. AVM Productions supported many events and golf. Global Link WW India Pvt Ltd, a regular supporter of RCM golf events, contributed 10 lakhs. Miot Hospitals had been sponsoring golf as a lead sponsor for the last four years. Tube Investments of India and Omega Healthcare were regular sponsors for golf events. The Brigade Group supported both Jaya and Golf.



Finally, the evening shone a spotlight on the **RCM members themselves**, acknowledging their invaluable contributions, whether they contributed through their company CSR or opened doors with their invaluable connections. Rtn Mahinder Jain and Rtn Vardhaman Jain received special mention as Access Healthcare, in conjunction with Mr. Jain, had contributed more than 3.25 crores over a couple of phone calls. Other Rotarians like Rohit Toshniwal, Ravi Bhatkal, Mehul Uday Nanavati, Vijay Balaji and G Ravindran were also acknowledged.

Rotarians who championed CSR through their enterprises also comprised the following:

✳️ *PP Rtn. Ranjit Pratap (Rialto)* ✳️ *Rtn. Ranjeeth Rathod (DRA)* ✳️ *Rtn. Sanjay Tulsyan (Bhoruka)* ✳️ *IPP Rtn Chella Krishna (Banyan)* ✳️ *Rtn. Harbinder Singh (Estra)* ✳️ *Rtn. Govind Vasnadu (Lotus)* ✳️ *Rtn. Vijay Narayanan (Narayana Theertham)* ✳️ *Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan (Infonovum)* ✳️ *Rtn. Manu Reddy (Chaitanya)* — all stood tall as examples of how purpose meets enterprise.

As the evening drew to a close, it was clear that the Thanksgiving Celebration was more than just an event; it was a testament to the collective heart of Rotary Club of Madras. Every thank you echoed profound difference when a “whole village shows up to make magic happen”. It was a night to remember countless lives touched, communities strengthened, and unwavering spirit of service that defined RCM. The gratitude, like a warm embrace, was shared to the very last bit, promising a future filled with continued impact and shared triumphs.

AWARDS AS ON 27 JUNE 2025

1. Pratap Hansraj Trophy – Instituted by Rtn. Pratap Hansraj for Best Avenue of Service of Rotary Club of Madras.
 - a. Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti – Director (Vocational Service)
 - b. Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan – Director (CSR)
2. M. C. Cunnan Trophy – Instituted by M. Prabhat Kumar in memory of his father (Late) M.C. Kunnan for Best Chairman of Rotary Club of Madras 1997-98.
 - a. Rtn Kamala Ramakrishnan (Fireside Committee)
 - b. PP Rtn Rani Muralidharan (Programs Committee)
 - c. Rtn Rajib Kumar Hota (Selaiyur Committee)
 - d. Rtn Jacob Kurian (Golf Committee)
 - e. Rtn Vikram Chesetty (Membership and Classification Committee)
3. Jayapratap Trophy – Instituted by Boys Club of RCM (Friends of Jaya Pratap) in memory of their lovable friend in Rotary (Late) G. M. Jayapratap for Outstanding Contribution by Young Rotarian of RCM (Green Rotarian also), 2001-02.
 - a. Rtn Arunachalam Palaniappan
 - b. Rtn Aswath Kumar Reddy E
 - c. Rtn Mehul Uday Nanavati
 - d. Rtn Bikram Shivkumar
4. R. P. Sarathy Trophy – Instituted by M. Saravanan (A.V.M) in memory of his dear friend (Late) R.P. Sarathy for Outstanding contribution among Rotarians in 2001-02.
Rtn Shanno Ravi
5. A.V. Meyyappa Chettiar Trophy – Instituted by M. Saravanan and M. Balasubramanian (A.V.M) in memory of their father in 2001-02 Late A.V. Meyyappa Chettiar for Best Rotarian.
Rtn Visvanathan A M
6. Markand Desai Trophy – Instituted by Rtn. Markand Desai, for the Best Rotarian Couple.
Rtn Asha Mathen and Ann Madhu Mathen
7. Ken Hobbs Trophy – Instituted by Rtn. Krish Chitale and Rtn. PDG. J. B. Kambar, for the Best Rotarian in his/her contribution toward community service.
Rtn Dr Anuradha Ganesan
8. Hall of Fame Project Award instituted by PP Rtn Jayashree Sridhar.
Hope for Homeless Project
9. Service Above Self Award Instituted by Rtn PDG S Krishnaswamy.
The Boys Town Committee



PP Rtn N K Gopinath
Founding Force

1. Think about one seemingly small, unconventional, or even rebellious act you undertook in your younger days – something that might not have seemed important at the time, but unexpectedly created a lasting, positive ripple effect in your life or in the lives of others. What was that act, and what did it teach you about the unpredictable nature of impact?

Answer: Reflecting on my younger days, I recognize a seemingly small yet rebellious act that has significantly shaped my journey. Growing up in a background that juxtaposed liberal ideas with conservative values, I often found myself at odds with expectations. My impulsive nature sometimes worried those around me. When I joined the Rotary Club of Madras in March 1992, I quickly embraced leadership roles, serving as Assistant Secretary and then Secretary in my early years. Despite being surrounded by seasoned professionals, I spoke up for what I believed was right, which often led to challenging discussions. This taught me a fundamental lesson: in Rotary, no one person holds all the power; we each play a vital role in the collective mission. The unpredictable nature of impact became clear: even small acts of conviction can foster growth and learning in ourselves and others.

2. If you were writing a candid, no-holds-barred letter to the RCM of 2050, what's the one indispensable piece of wisdom, the most critical warning, or the most audacious vision you'd impart to ensure our club's enduring relevance and impact?

Answer: If I were to write a candid letter to the Rotary Club of Madras in 2050, the key message I would impart is that the organization must prioritize its relevance and vibrancy in an ever-changing world. While the essence of our service must remain steadfast, it's crucial to adapt and resonate with the societal issues we aim to address. My vision for the club is to be a beacon of sensitivity and engagement, embodying the spirit of service while honoring the time-tested traditions that have guided us through generations. An enduring legacy depends on our



ability to balance innovation with the wisdom of our past.

3. Rotary prides itself on service, but sustained impact often requires navigating difficult currents. Reflect on a time when RCM faced a significant internal or external hurdle – a crisis of confidence, a dissenting opinion, or a major setback. What was the real story behind that challenge, what uncomfortable truths did you have to confront, and what leadership lesson did you personally carry forward from that experience?

Answer: Over my three decades with the Rotary Club of Madras, I have witnessed how discussions and disagreements, though challenging, are integral to our democratic and apolitical nature. I cannot recall a single event that fundamentally altered our commitment to "Service Above Self." The real story lies in our ability to navigate hurdles through consensus and collaboration, which has contributed to our longevity. This experience has instilled in me a profound leadership lesson: true growth comes from engaging with diverse perspectives and embracing collective wisdom. The Rotary Club has given me far more than I have contributed; it has taught me the importance of humility, collaboration, and the value of operating among equals.



Dear Rtn. Shivkumar, Mr. Madhu,
and Rtn. Raghunandan,

I would like to take a moment to commend you for your outstanding efforts in bringing out the weekly issues of our bulletin, Lighthouse. Your commitment to delivering such rich and relevant content has not gone unnoticed.

The issues have been a treasure trove of information, covering not only the many happenings within our club but also significant events at the District and International levels in Rotary. The inclusion of historical insights from our 96-plus years of the Rotary Club of Madras adds a unique touch that enriches our community's understanding and appreciation of our legacy.

Furthermore, the engaging interviews with our members and the introduction of the photo caption contest have made each issue not just informative, but also enjoyable for all readers. Your creativity and dedication shine through in every publication. Here I would like to make special mention of two Rotarians, that I recall who with their writing prowess, wrote a synopsis on the many talks delivered, as factually as can be. They are Rtn. Dr. Rama Narasimhan and Rtn. Shaan Libby Katari. If I have missed anyone here, it is definitely not deliberate, but only due to my failing memory.

Lastly, the prompt delivery of the bulletin every Sunday has truly been the icing on the cake. It shows your commitment to keeping us all informed and connected.

Thank you for your exemplary work and dedication. We are fortunate to have you as part of our Rotary family.

Best,
N.K.Gopinath

Dear Chella,

What a year! Over many decades of corporate life and given the industry I worked longest in, have had the opportunity of interacting with many leaders not only from India but across the globe. Also as an employee have been at the receiving end of many leadership decisions. Rarely have I seen impact created like you have, in such a short tenure.

Working with you has been an absolute pleasure and the ability you possess of getting work done is exemplary without recourse to any angst! To lead a diverse organisation like ours, which is full of members with exceptional abilities is not everyone's cup of tea. Your gracious humility, devoid of ego but with a firm resolve is an example of inspired leadership. And added to that is your sartorial elegance, charming social and partying skills that makes you live upto your name - "chella" - a darling!

As you hand over the baton and look back with pride (I know you will not fall into the other leadership trap, .. my year .. I did .. when I was this happened), you will ride into the sunset with graciousness. And maybe come back in future years for larger roles; you have a legacy at home to live upto!

For the moment take a bow!

Rtn Prakash N

Chella Krishna

Leading with Grace, Delivering with Grit

This Rotary year is one for the books — thanks to the remarkable leadership of our President, Rtn. Chella Krishna.

A first-rank holder, gold medalist, and Chartered Accountant, he brought the same rigour and excellence to Rotary that once defined his academic and professional path.

But beyond the accolades lies a leader who gives his all — quietly, consistently, and wholeheartedly. Very few know the depth of his contribution. He stood firmly behind every Director and Chair, offering unwavering support, guiding them to excel, and shining a torchlight on each one so they could be seen and celebrated.

Chella's strategic mind and calm presence helped us achieve big milestones with remarkable ease — impactful projects, stellar fundraising, strong TRF contributions, and, importantly, a renewed relationship with the Rotary District, thanks to the solid foundation he thoughtfully laid.

And then there's the Chella we all cherish — the one with endless curiosity and varied interests: from investment banking to cinema, classical music to kuthu dance, from acts of charity to moments of grandeur. A fun-loving spirit combined with a strategic mind.

He made his team look good, found time for everyone, and made service joyful.

This was not just a year of leadership —
it was a legacy in motion.

Rtn Rani Muralidharan

ROTARY RADAR



From revolutionising pearl cultivation to exemplifying the power of service—Toyohiko Mikimoto of the Mikimoto Pearl Co. brought the same precision, elegance, and commitment to Rotary that he brought to business.

As a proud member of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan, Mikimoto proved that success and service can go hand in hand. His journey reminds us that when industry pioneers embrace humanitarian values, their impact becomes truly timeless.

#HallOfFameRotarians
#RotaryClubOfTokyo
#ToyohikoMikimoto #RotaryLegacy
#BusinessAndService
#RotaryInternational
#SandipAgarwalla
#RotaryD3141

RCM Wins Big!



The Rotary Club of Madras clinched the *Champion of Champions Award* for 2024–2025! Under the dynamic leadership of *President Rtn. Chella*, this honour celebrates our unmatched impact, unity, and service. Here's to the unstoppable RCM spirit—raising the bar for Rotary excellence everywhere!


selfie
FOR THE WEEK



CHENNAI'S GREEN TRIUMPH OLD PERUNGALATHUR LAKE REBORN IN A SPLENDID CEREMONY!

In a monumental stride towards environmental rejuvenation, the Old Perungalathur Lake in Tambaram has been gloriously restored and reopened for public enjoyment. This incredible transformation is a testament to the power of community spirit and dedicated effort, culminating in a memorable handing-over ceremony on Saturday morning, June 28, 2025.

Once polluted expanse, this sprawling 64-acre lake in Old Perungalathur was a shadow of its former self. However, thanks to the unwavering commitment of our Rotary Club of Madras and other benevolent voluntary organizations, its fortunes have been dramatically reversed. Over a tireless 120-day period, and with a significant investment of Rs. 55 lakhs, these environmental champions meticulously cleared the lake of invasive weeds and accumulated waste, breathing new life into its waters.

But their efforts didn't stop there. Following the thorough desilting of the lake, its banks were robustly strengthened, creating a more resilient and beautiful shoreline. As a final, flourishing touch, 450 saplings were lovingly planted, promising a future of lush greenery and enhanced biodiversity.

The grand-handing-over ceremony, a moment of immense pride for the community, began



with a heartfelt small prayer ceremony, setting a reverent tone for the occasion. Tree planting was enthusiastically carried out around the lake, symbolizing growth and renewal. A magnificent plaque was then unveiled, commemorating the monumental achievement. This was followed by a celebratory meeting attended by distinguished guests, including local MLA S.R. Raja, the esteemed Tambaram Mayor, and other influential civic leaders. Their presence underscored the collaborative spirit driving this vital project.

Representing the tireless dedication were our members, Director Dr Anuradha Ganesan, Chairperson P N Mohan, accompanied by his wife Rita; President Chella Krishna, joined by his son Adil; and fellow Rotarians Sumit Kalra and Sanjay Chaganti. Their hands-on involvement and unwavering support were crucial to the project's success. Special commendation to PP Rtn Ranjith Pratap's Rialto for being a major donor for this project. The endeavor also saw valuable participation from Delphi-TVS, represented by their dedicated team, further exemplifying corporate social responsibility.

The Old Perungalathur Lake now stands as a shining example of what can be accomplished when passion meets purpose, offering a serene sanctuary for both nature and the community. This magnificent achievement truly makes Chennai proud and sets a new benchmark for environmental restoration.



EMPOWERING FUTURES: ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS UNVEILS NEW WING AT GOS BALA VIHAR!

In a heartwarming display of unwavering commitment to community welfare, the Rotary Club of Madras has achieved yet another significant milestone: the grand handing over of the newly constructed first-floor extension facility at GOS Bala Vihar in Kilpauk, Chennai. This vital addition, realized under the impactful SMILE Grant - WASH Project, promises to significantly uplift the lives of countless children with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

GOS Bala Vihar stands as a beacon of hope, a special education center that provides crucial care, therapy, and counselling to its young beneficiaries. The newly completed first-floor extension will amplify its capacity, directly supporting and enhancing these invaluable counselling services, ensuring that even more children receive the comprehensive support they so rightly deserve.

This momentous occasion, celebrated on Monday, 30 June 2025, @ 9 AM marks the culmination of tireless dedication and meticulous planning. The



success of this project is a shining testament to the collaborative spirit and profound compassion that define the Rotary Club of Madras.

A special note of commendation must be extended to Rtn Dr Anuradha Ganesan, Director of Community Services 1 whose sincerity, vision and unwavering leadership have been instrumental. Dr Anuradha, alongside her brilliant team, poured their hearts into this endeavor, ensuring every detail was meticulously handled and that the facility meets the highest standards. Their diligent efforts were honoured by the presence of Chief Guest Shri K.S. Sripathi, along with President Chella Krishna, Incoming President Rtn Nikhil Raj, PP Rtn Shankar Mangadu, Rotarians Shanno, Rakesh Jaiswal, Visvanathan, Balaji Chinni, Philip and Rtn Dr Narasimhan.

The GOS Bala Vihar extension is not merely a building; it is a promise of enhanced opportunities, dignity, and a brighter future for every child it serves. Chennai truly stands proud of this magnificent achievement!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS: A DECADE OF MEMBERSHIP RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

In the story of any Rotary club, numbers are more than digits on a ledger—they are reflections of energy, connection, and enduring relevance. Over the past ten years, our total membership has woven a quiet but powerful narrative: one of resilience, recovery, and resurgence.

The Years of Decline (2015–2019)

The decade began on a high note with 260 members in 2015–2016. Yet, like many organizations navigating changing times, the club saw a gradual dip over the next few

years—255 in 2016, 254 in 2017, and down to 248 by 2018–2019, the lowest point of the decade.

This decline wasn't unique—it mirrored a global trend of membership fatigue, generational transitions, and shifting professional commitments. But in Rotary, every challenge is an invitation to rebuild.

Turning the Tide (2019–2022)

In 2019–2020, the curve began to bend back. Membership climbed slightly to 250, and then returned to 254 in 2020–2021, marking the beginning of a slow recovery—even amidst global disruptions.

By 2021–2022, the number stabilized at 255, echoing the membership figure from five years prior. It was a sign that the club had not only weathered the storm but had regained its footing.

We Counted More Than Names

We started strong, with hearts aligned,
Two-sixty souls with service mind.
But time, it whispered a quiet change,
And numbers danced in gentle range.

From peaks to dips, we held our thread,
Though some moved on, their spirits led.
Two-fifty, then a few steps back,
Yet never did we lose our track.

Through seasons low and silent days,
We found new light in olden ways.
In every pause, a chance to mend,
In every drop, the will to tend.

But more than stats, these years have shown,
We grew in ways not always known.
Each name, a hand, a mind, a flame—
Together more than just a name.

So let us count with grateful eyes,
Not just the heights that we now rise.
But every member, past and new,
Who made us whole, who made us true

YEARS	TOTAL MEMBERS
2015-2016	260
2016-2017	255
2017-2018	250
2018-2019	248
2019-2020	250
2020-2021	254
2021-2022	255
2022-2023	264
2023-2024	269
2024-2025	282
2025-2026	294

📈 A Resurgence in Full Swing (2022–2025)

What followed was nothing short of remarkable.

- 264 members in 2022–23
- 269 members in 2023–24
- And now, 294 members in 2025–26—the highest in a decade, and a proud milestone in our club's history.

This resurgence is more than a membership tally—it is a testament to intentional outreach, stronger engagement, and a Rotary spirit that continues to attract people from all walks of life.

🌟 What This Means for the Future

Growth is not just about size, it's about capacity. With more members come more minds, more hands, and more impact. The upward trend is not just a success, it's a responsibility. To mentor, to include, to activate.

As we celebrate our highest membership in recent years, let's remember: **every member is a voice, a story, a spark. And together, we are the flame that keeps Rotary burning bright.**

Selaiyur Shines as 46 “Wonder Women” Step into the Spotlight!

In a grand finale to an impactful year, President Chella bowed out in style as Selaiyur Vocational Training Centre transformed into a stage of triumph and transformation! 46 extraordinary women—our very own “Wonder Women”—graduated with pride, armed with NIIT-certified skills in Computer and Spoken English.

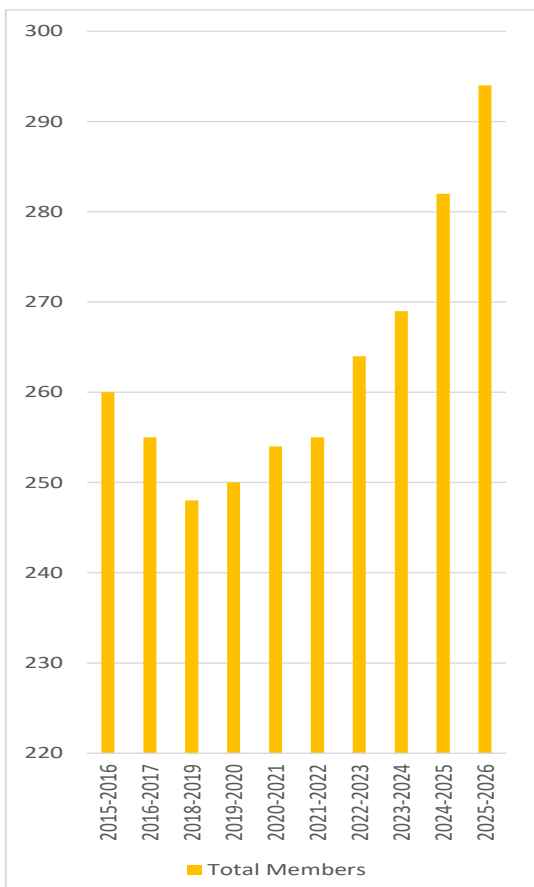


The event sparkled with emotion as graduates took the mic, their heartfelt testimonials echoing tales of newfound careers, self-worth, and soaring confidence, each story a testament to the power of education and opportunity.

A round of roaring applause for the student volunteers from Chennai Volunteers, who not only led the Spoken English sessions with zeal but grew alongside their students in empathy and leadership.

Three cheers to our rock-solid dream team—Chairperson Rajib and Site Manager Vimaleshwari, whose planning turned precision into poetry, and a standing ovation for Director Sanjay Rao Chaganti, whose tireless spirit carried this initiative through every twist and triumph.

This wasn't just a ceremony, it was a celebration of courage, camaraderie, and change. A powerful crescendo to a year defined by bonding, building, and bringing joy.





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