

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 20
NOVEMBER 16
2025



Rotary
Club of Madras



**ROTARY
CLUB OF MADRAS**
DISTRICT 3234

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS

Rtn Rajesh Yummidi	10 th November
PP Rtn Dr Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan	11 th November
Rtn Murali V	15 th November
Rtn Roopa Shetty	15 th November
Vasanthi, Spouse of PP Rtn K N Raja	10 th November
Rajeev Mecheri, Spouse of Rtn Rinku Mecheri	12 th November
Saraswathi, Spouse of Rtn Udayanarayanan G M	13 th November
Sushma, Spouse of Rtn Nimish C Tolia	14 th November

ANNIVERSARY

Rtn Limesh Sanatkumar & Rajshri	12 th November
PP Rtn Mohan P N & Janaki (Rita)	13 th November
Rtn Maithili Shaan Katari Libby & Dr James F Libby	14 th November
PP Rtn Paul K Jacob & Tanuja Paul	15 th November
Rtn Pratap Kumar M & Malathi Devi	15 th November
Rtn Sandhya Sridhar & K Sridhar	15 th November
Rtn Dr Anisha Ashok & Dr Jayanth	16 th November
Rtn Sapru Mathew K & Susan	17 th November






Rotary Club of Madras

20th Weekly Meeting

TOPIC:
“CHOOSE TO BECOME A CHAMPION”

Speaker: **W V Raman**
 Former Indian cricketer &
 Former coach of the India women's
 National cricket team.

Moderated by **Rtn. Rinku Mecheri**

Tuesday, 18th November 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

RCM BOARD 2025-26**PRESIDENT**

Rtn Nikhil Raj

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Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rtn Chella Krishna G

PRESIDENT - ELECT

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PRESIDENT - NOMINEE

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Rtn Suresh Amirapu

DIRECTOR – CLUB SERVICES

Rtn Rajesh Mani

DIRECTOR – VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau

DIRECTOR – YOUTH SERVICE

Rtn Suman Voora

TREASURER – CLUB FUNDS & RCM BTS

Rtn Asha Mathen

ASST SEC/BULLETIN EDITOR

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DIRECTOR – ROTARY FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran

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Rtn Arjun Ananth

TREASURER – RCMCT

Rtn A Gooch Kumar

DIRECTOR – FUND RAISING & PR

Rtn Sandhya Sridhar

THE LIGHTHOUSE COMMITTEE

Editor: Rtn Manasa T Pillai

Chairperson: Rtn Vivek Parachur

Co-Chairperson: Rtn Rajesh Mani

Mentor: Rtn Sesha Sai

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Madhu Mathen

Rtn Akur Raman Raghunandan

Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan

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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 19th Weekly Meeting held on 11-11-2025

1.30 PM at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

The 19th weekly meeting was called to order by the President at 1:30 PM.

Four-Way Test

Rtn. Dr. Archith K Sridhar led the Four-Way Test and shared his reflections on integrity, fairness, goodwill and service.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the 18th weekly meeting were confirmed.

Welcome Address

The President welcomed members and guests including Mr. N. Sivakumar and Mr. Nelson Philip from the Probus Club, Mr. S. Kannan, Dr. Manu Vasan, Mr. Amitabh, Mr. S. Deepak and Ms. Shambhavi Ravishankar. He also welcomed the guest speaker Mr. Mathew

Cyriac, District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi and Erica Yaeger of the Jain Family Foundation. The President announced that the nomination papers of Rtn. S. Ravi for the post of District Governor for the year 28-29 had been filed.

Updates and Reports

Combined Community Services – Rtn. Sripakash Shastry

The first combined services meeting was held on 4th November with presentations by Rtn. Suresh Amirapu (Community Service-Development), Rtn. Arjun Ananth (Community Service- Health) and Rtn. Dr. Sharon Krishna Rau (Vocational Services).

The ongoing projects are worth over Rs.16 crores and include 18 homes being built for the homeless at Perathur, 135 toilets being constructed in Gumidipoondi and donations being made for patient transport vehicles, HPV vaccination and infrastructure initiatives. Vocational Services are on in full swing at Rotary Nagar and Selaiyur.

Lucknow Trip

Rtn. Sathyan C. Bhatt gave a briefing on the successful four-day fellowship trip to Lucknow with 40 participants, marked by excellent planning and coordination by Rtn. Sharda Sriram and team. The trip featured cultural tours, music, food, and great camaraderie.

Full Club Fellowship

On behalf of the EO members at RCM, Rtn. Pranay H. Gambhir invited members to the All-White Outfit Brunch Party at The Flying Elephant, Park Hyatt on 23rd November (Sunday). Members were encouraged to RSVP.

Medical Camp

Rtn. Dr. Anisha Ashok informed members that a Two-day Free Health Camp for women of Rotary Nagar was conducted at Laser and Laparoscopic Hospital. Complimentary health services were offered and physical examinations were performed. For many of the women, this was their first ever health

check up and several required further medical assistance, while some were referred for surgery. Dr. Anisha Ashok expressed her gratitude to the Club for organizing transport between Rotary Nagar and the hospital, which enabled 50 women to be screened. Follow up support and care is in progress.

HPV Awareness

President Nikhil Raj informed members that Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan had conducted HPV awareness programmes in Theni institutions and also brought back the flag from the Rotary Club of Theni.

Presentation on the Jain Family Foundation

President Nikhil Raj recalled the contributions of the Jain Family over the years, initially through CSR support for the Golf Tournament via Access Healthcare Services Pvt. Ltd. Contributions have grown from Rs. 45 lakhs in 2023–24 to approximately Rs.10 crores in total. This year, Anurag Jain (through the Jain Family Foundation) contributed USD 250,000 (~Rs.2.1 crores) to the Rotary Foundation. Additionally, Rtn. Vardhaman Jain has

committed Rs.2.7 crores. The funds support healthcare, education, and infrastructure projects of RCM. President Nikhil Raj expressed his gratitude to the Jain Family for their tremendous support for Rotary projects. President invited Ms. Erica Yaeger, Director of the Jain Foundation, who is in Chennai to visit some of the RCM projects, to address the gathering.

Remarks by Ms. Erica Yaeger

Ms. Yaeger said that she was representing Anurag and Gunjan Jain and the newly established foundation Aatmic Philanthropy, which supports causes and values that are dear to their hearts. Because of their fondness for Rotary, their very first contribution was

allocated to the Rotary Foundation, with most of the funds directed to RCM projects.

She praised RCM's impact and transparency and emphasized the Jain Family Foundation's continued commitment to Rotary-led initiatives.

Address by District Governor Rtn. Vinod Saraogi

Rtn. Vinod Saraogi commended RCM as a model Rotary Club for its scale of projects and CSR initiatives, strong youth leadership and continuity and efficient stewardship of donations and grants. He congratulated the club on nearing 300 members and the upcoming centenary celebrations.

Secretary's Announcements

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan announced birthdays, spouse birthdays and wedding anniversaries for the week. Sunshine contributions of Rtn. Roopa Shetty (Rs. 5,000) and Rtn. Sandhya Sridhar (Rs.2000) were

acknowledged.

The next meeting will be on 18th November 2025 featuring guest speaker cricketer W.V. Raman on "Journey to Women's Cricket."

GUEST SPEAKER: MR. MATHEW CYRIAC , EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN FLORINTREE ADVISORS PRIVATE LTD AND CO-FOUNDER OF DEEP TECH FUND YALI CAPITAL

Rtn. Himanshu Budhia introduced Mr. Mathew Cyriac.

Mr. Mathew Cyriac spoke on the topic "Private Equity with Purpose" sharing insights on

combining profitability with ethical leadership and social impact. He emphasized India's growth potential in deep tech, semiconductors and inclusive employment.

Vote of Thanks

The President thanked Mr. Cyriac for his inspiring session and acknowledged the cooperation of members and guests.

Both Mr. Mathew Cyriac and Ms. Erica Yeager were presented with RCM Timeless Legacy.

Adjournment

The President thanked all attendees, including AKS Rtn. Vinod Saraogi and Ms. Erica Yeager for their presence and participation.

NOTICE

- Snack Charges for Exempt Category Members and Guests
- Members under the Exempt category, who are availing the reduced subscription rate, are kindly requested to pay the prescribed snack charges at the counter whenever they attend regular lunch or dinner meetings.
- Members bringing guests to our meetings are also requested to pay the applicable guest charges.
- We appreciate your kind understanding and cooperation in maintaining uniformity and fairness in our club procedures.



The Rotary Club of Madras exemplifies a rare and powerful unity: despite individual differences, once a matter is settled—whether by consensus or by the ballot—every member rallies behind the decision. This habit of closing ranks after debate has been central to RCM's survival and success. It is why the club, now approaching a century, has not only endured but led from the front as a bright beacon of service.

This singular trait reminds us that RCM is not anyone's fiefdom. Hegemonic tendencies have no place in an organization built on service, fellowship and democratic process. Before aspiring to office, every Rotarian would do well to study our history in A Timeless Legacy and to know the rules laid down by Rotary International. Awareness of our past and our bylaws cultivates humility, responsibility and respect for collective decisions.

This photograph above of the person chosen by the club standing side by side with the challenger captures this ethos perfectly — a picture of unity, sportsmanship and shared commitment. It is an image of what RCM is and should always be.

Let us remember: the organization that is RCM is greater than any individual and greater than the sum of its members. We are passengers on this vehicle called Rotary: we board, we serve, and we one day step down. The vehicle endures and continues its journey — thanks to the spirit of unity that defines our club.

-PP Rtn N K Gopinath

Integrating Profit with Purpose: The Investment Journey of Mathew Cyriac

Mathew (S.), a distinguished alumnus of IIM Bangalore, shared profound insights into his career, which he dedicated to integrating **profit with purpose**. His professional life, which he divides into three distinct phases—growing up in Kerala, studying at

Guindy, and his current career in finance and investment is driven by humility, ethical leadership, and a relentless focus on nurturing talent to achieve both business success and lasting societal impact.



From Engineering to Finance: The Power of Mentorship

Mathew's journey into finance was sparked unexpectedly at IIM Bangalore. Though he initially intended to specialize in marketing, an exceptional accounting professor, Professor Sundararajan, converted him to finance during the very first term.

However, the most pivotal influence in his life and career was Professor George Varughese, a former top-tier US investment banker who quit his lucrative career at 40 to teach at IIM. George introduced Mathew to the world of Private Equity (PE), offering him his first job setting up the Indian office for Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ). Mathew admits he had "no idea about private equity" at the time.

This initial PE experience (1996 to 2000) was challenging. The global firm sought \$50 million buyouts, but most Indian businesses were family-owned and unavailable for sale.

Despite the firm only completing one unsuccessful deal in Chennai, Mathew notes that these four years were invaluable, allowing him to meet numerous families and entrepreneurs and learn extensively about business.

George continued to shape Mathew's trajectory. After a period of disillusionment during the internet boom and a short-lived, unsuccessful entrepreneurial venture (which Mathew promptly shut down, returning the unspent capital), George facilitated Mathew's move to Los Angeles to work at DLJ/Credit Suisse, specializing in junk bond financing used by gaming and lodging sectors. Later, George's connection paved the way for Mathew to join Blackstone in 2006. Mathew helped build the India office, becoming co-head, enduring several years where equity was an underperforming business.

The Value-Added Investment Philosophy

In 2016, Mathew left Blackstone to pursue his interest in helping smaller companies scale up. After an attempt to raise a large fund failed, he decided to focus on doing smaller deals (typically Rs. 50 to Rs. 100 crore) using his own capital and network.

This independent approach evolved into a specific, highly differentiated investment philosophy: they deliberately go where other people can't. This usually means looking for deals with "messiness" because they aim to buy cheap and avoid writing expensive checks.

Mathew stresses that their primary differentiator is not capital, but the value they bring to the table. This includes fixing management issues, setting performance management standards, building operating rhythms, assisting with marketing strategy, connecting businesses to new clients, and crucial fundraising and capitalization.

Most importantly, Mathew emphasized that

trust is essential for synergy and efficiency. He notes that while others might pursue deals where the seller is heartbroken (resulting in immediate tears), a lack of trust results in protracted difficulty. For Mathew, trust ensures alignment and capability optimization, allowing the investment team to operate as a partner with a seat at the table, rather than an external party.

Successful Turnarounds: Fixing the Broken

Mathew detailed several key successes demonstrating his active investment approach:

1. Gokaldas Exports (Go Colors): Mathew acquired this "broken company" from Blackstone, a deal he was initially involved in. It was a severe turnaround case: 30,000 employees, massive debt, and ten years of consistent losses, with revenue stagnating at Rs. 900 crore. Mathew secured an exceptional classmate from IIM, Sivaramakrishnan Ganapathi, as CEO, giving him virtually all authority outside of his own salary. This approach transformed the business quickly; it is now consistently profitable, with revenue around Rs. 5,000 crore, and the stock price has surged from Rs. 40 to over Rs.850.

2. MTAR: This Hyderabad-based defense/aerospace/nuclear firm was burdened by losses and a highly complex family structure, including nine family members on the board. By bringing in an

external CEO and revamping the team, the company was turned around from loss-making to profitable, leading to one of the first successful IPOs during the COVID era. Its market capitalization today is estimated at Rs. 7,000–RS. 8,000 crore.

3. Data Patterns (Chennai): Mathew invested in this 40-year-old defense company when the promoter, Mr Ranga, was struggling with legal action from an investor. Mathew executed the deal entirely over Zoom. By buying out the contentious fund and facilitating a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), they provided access to vital capital. This capital access was critical, as government defense business is highly capital-intensive with long receivable cycles (sometimes up to 300 days). The access to public markets gave the company the confidence to build cutting-edge 'Make in India' products for the military, allowing it to grow from a small entity to a future 8,000 crore revenue powerhouse.





Looking Ahead: Deep Tech and AI

Regarding the highly valued sectors where "the herd moves," Mathew explained how he maintains his focus while engaging with new technology:

1. YALI Capital (Deep Tech): Mathew co-founded YALI Capital, a \$100 million fund (Rs. 850 crores), dedicated to deep tech—long-term investments built on **true science and intellectual property**, such as robotics, genetics, and semiconductor design. This fund is a partnership with "Ghani" Ganapathy Subramaniam (a chip design pioneer) and Lip-Bu Tan (who recently became the CEO of Intel but remains actively engaged with YALI). Mathew sees this as a crucial area, distinguishing it from Indian consumer tech, which relies more on business model innovation than fundamental engineering innovation.

2. AI Integration: Mathew's firm is actively integrating AI into its operations. They hired a dedicated Head of Tech and Innovation and have seen material improvements in portfolio companies, such as reducing the manpower required for writing software code. They are hosting an internal AI summit to further explore productivity and cost applications and are exploring building an AI services business for external customers.

Mathew concluded that their exit strategy is typically centered on IPOs (they have had five to date) or strategic acquisitions, as their active investment style makes selling to other passive PE firms less common.

The talk was recognized for showing that while private equity is often associated with numbers, Mathew's work demonstrates that there is a "little bit of heart and soul" in the industry.

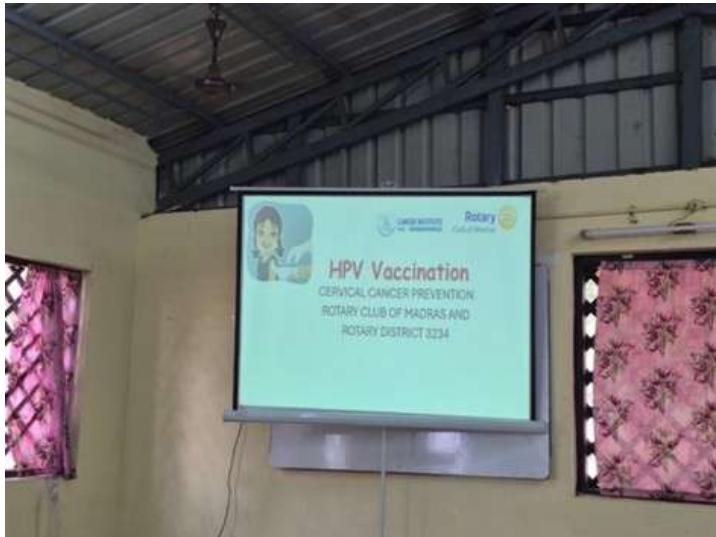
A weekend in Theni with the Rajshree Sugars family

As Chetan and I jumped into our car before the break of dawn on Saturday morning (8th of November) to drive to Theni, I looked forward to some time away from the city and all its bustle. Seven hours later we arrived at the lovely guest house compound of Rajshree Sugars with multiple quaint cottages set in a beautiful lush green plot of land. We were warmly welcomed by PDG Krishnaswamy and

all the staff at Rajshree along with the Principal of Sri Valli Varadaraj Matriculation School, Mr. Rajendra Prasad. After a quick cup of hot beverages and an opportunity to freshen up we enjoyed a sumptuous lunch, and this turned out to be an opportunity to meet several fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Theni Central Gems and exchange thoughts with them.

The Human Papilloma Virus Vaccination awareness program was scheduled post lunch, and we hurried along to the school hall where around 150 parents, teachers and children had assembled. During the session the importance of vaccinating all eligible young girls to prevent cervical cancer was highlighted along with the importance of screening for cervical cancer regularly in women aged 30 to 60 years. Following the session there was a vigorous Q&A session and

all the audience's questions were addressed. During the meeting there was also the opportunity to meet Rotarians from Rotary Club of Theni Stars, an all-women's club who have already carried out HPV vaccination for around 700 girls in the local community. Also present were members from the Inner Wheel Club of Theni who were there to take me to another event in the evening to address their club on the topic of 'Cancer prevention and Early detection in women'.



This session with the Inner Wheel was attended by several grassroots level women's organisations, and it gave us great joy to see the level of engagement and social activism in the group. Following this meeting we returned to the guest house and enjoyed our

dinner in the wonderful company of PDG Krish and Rajshree Sugars President Mr. Satyamoorthi both of whom regaled us with engaging conversation about business and politics.



The following day was one of rest and recuperation following the previous day's long drive. After a most wonderful breakfast of Poori Masala, idli, et al we started our day with a trip around the company's lands visiting the various facilities and also visited Rtn Ranjith Pratap's farm before finally stopping for lunch at the lovely cottage at Mayiladumparai. Another wonderful meal and we headed back to our base for a rest. Chetan and I decided to visit Vaigai Dam and enjoyed the birdlife there. That evening PDG Krish had to leave for Chennai after dinner to attend a

wedding the following day and we said our goodbyes to him.

Freshly after a restful sleep we set off to Chennai on Monday morning after breakfast reaching home by early evening. Our trip to Theni was most wonderful achieving several goals; a break from the city, an opportunity to spread HPV awareness, a chance to connect with Rotary Clubs of District 3000, an opportunity to be pampered by the warmth and hospitality of Marisamy, Gopuram, Selvam, Tamil and many others at Rajshree Sugars who took such great care of us.



We look forward to stopping by again soon and convey our deep gratitude on behalf of the Rotary Club of Madras to Mrs Rajshree and her team and of course to PDG Krish for

making this happen. Hoping that the awareness sessions lead to vaccination efforts protecting our future generation of women.



- Rtn. Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan

Starstruck Black and Gold: A Fellowship Evening



PDG Kamdar hosted a warm and vibrant fellowship evening on 1 Nov 25, celebrating friendship, culture, music, and dance. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Past District Governor JB Kamdar and Marlene Kamdar for bringing everyone together in style at Park Hyatt.



The highlight was the captivating performance by the world-renowned Buda Watta Dance Troupe from Sri Lanka, who mesmerized the audience with their energetic and graceful moves. The evening was complemented by a sumptuous and exquisite menu featuring a diverse array of international cuisine, fostering connections and conversations among guests.

The event was a perfect blend of culture, cuisine, and camaraderie, showcasing the warmth and hospitality of the Rotary community. It was a truly unforgettable evening celebrating fellowship, friendship and fun in Rotary style!



-Rtn Divya Poduval Menon

RCM Trip to Lucknow - Past Forward

If you happen to encounter an RCM-er greeting you with her right hand raised gracefully to the forehead, accompanied by a gentle bow of the head, don't be startled. It is most likely one of the Lucknow travellers offering you an "Aadab" — that quintessential Lakhnawi greeting, celebrated for its elegance, courtesy, and timeless refinement. A Rotary trip to Lucknow with acclaimed

historian, writer, and heritage activist V Sriram and his wife Rtn Sarada Sriram as tour guides was, by itself, an irresistible proposition. Adding to the rising excitement, on the very eve of the journey, Lucknow was officially declared by UNESCO as a Creative City of Gastronomy — a global nod to the city's centuries-old Awadhi culinary legacy.



So, it was no surprise that, the moment the group stepped off the plane, they made a collective beeline towards the nearest kebab counter at the airport — only to retreat, crestfallen, when they discovered it served only frozen fare. But the disappointment was short-lived. Awaiting them at Taj Mahal Lucknow was a lavish high tea spread featuring an array of melt-in-the-mouth kebabs and classic Lucknowi delicacies, restoring spirits instantly and setting the perfect tone for the culinary adventure ahead.

Sriram brought to life each of the historical

sites, with his crisp commentary. Under a clear moon sky, as we surveyed the remains of Kaiserbagh, the historical palace complex in Lucknow, built by the last Nawab, Wajid Ali Shah, we were transported across centuries to the happenings of 1857. When the British annexed Oudh in 1856 under the pretext of "misgovernment," Nawab Wajid Ali Shah sought a peaceful settlement, hoping that reason and negotiation might preserve his throne. Gentle and artistic by nature, he was exiled to Calcutta, where he lived out his days in cultured melancholy.

In stark contrast, his wife, Begum Hazrat Mahal, refused to accept the loss of her homeland. When the uprising of 1857 swept through northern India, she emerged as the spirited leader of Oudh's resistance, proclaiming her young son Birjis Qadr as ruler and rallying soldiers, nobles, and common citizens alike from the palaces of Kaiserbagh. Her brief reign symbolized Lucknow's last stand for honour and independence before she was forced into exile in Nepal — a queen who fought for her people when her king could not.



Another haunting reminder of the Revolt of 1857 was the Lucknow Residency, its roofless halls and shattered walls still bearing the scars of cannon fire. Preserved today as a war memorial, its ruins whisper the story of a city that witnessed courage, tragedy, and the turning tide of an empire.

The trip was also an immense educational experience. We learned that an Imambara is a shrine built by Shia Muslims, primarily for the ritualized mourning for the martyrdom of the Prophet's grandson Imam Hussain. The Bara Imambara, commissioned in 1784 by Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula, is one of Lucknow's grandest and most iconic monuments — a blend of architectural brilliance and historical depth.

In true Lakhnavi style, we were treated to Nawabi standards of cuisine and entertainment throughout the trip. The Qawwali evening at Sanatkada, Lucknow's House of Craft, was mesmerising. Devotion, poetry and rhythm merged seamlessly beneath the open sky, the singers' voices rising in unison to invoke love, both human and divine. The call and response between lead and chorus, the steady pulse of the tabla and dholak and the spellbinding poetry that transcended faith and language created an ethereal atmosphere. This was followed by a dinner that showcased

the best of Awadhi cuisine – galouti kebabs, kormas, dum pukht biryani and delicate breads like sheermal and roomali.

Club Services Director, Rtn Rajesh Mani was the epitome of hospitality – his hotel room was transformed into a fully stocked watering hole in the evening for the weary RCMers to unwind. The meticulous planning by Rajesh, Sriram and Sarada exemplified the Lakhnavi Tehzeeb, a refinement of manner that transforms hospitality into an art.



The live music and dinner at Skybar — Lucknow's famed rooftop restaurant perched high above the city — was truly unforgettable. With panoramic views of the shimmering skyline, gentle evening breezes, and the twinkling lights of Lucknow stretching endlessly below, the setting itself felt almost cinematic. The mood was so electric that the hotel's resident band happily ceded the stage to two

of RCM's very own in-house DJs — Rtn Paul Jacob and Rtn Prashanth Kharche. They took charge of the console with effortless flair, spinning everything from foot-tapping pop and retro favourites to soulful love ballads and high-energy dance tracks. Their pulsating playlist kept the RCM-ers on their feet well into the wee hours.

Adding the perfect finishing touch to the mehfil were RCM's own crooners, Rtn Asha Mathen and Sowmya Kumar Arjun, whose melodious voices brought warmth, nostalgia, and a touch of magic to an already sparkling evening. Their songs stitched the night together like a beautiful musical tapestry — one that will be remembered fondly by all who were there.

RCM-ers were also treated to an exclusive audience and lunch with Nawab Masood Abdullah at Sheesh Mahal — the fabled "Palace of Mirrors" and one of Lucknow's most

enchanting remnants of Nawabi splendour. Yet, in delightful contrast to the popular image of velvet-draped leisure and royal indulgence, the Nawab himself emerged as a refreshing embodiment of the modern aristocrat. Masood Abdullah is a university professor, a textile designer with his own label, and even a part-time actor with several Bollywood cameos and television appearances to his credit. Far from the stereotype of languid luxury, he represents a fascinating blend of heritage, intellect, and contemporary creativity.



It wouldn't be surprising if Lucknow's famed chikankari stores noticed an abrupt dip in inventory. The RCM women shopped with unbridled enthusiasm, leaving no rack uninspected and no embroidery unadmired — all under the expert chaperoning of none other than Rtn R Ravishankar. One suspects that his trademark smile and effortless charm were deployed not just to navigate bustling bazaars, but also to coax Indigo's stringent baggage scales into looking the other way.

In the face of a popular demand for a speech in chaste Urdu, President Nikhil Raj remained

unruffled. With no Djinn or Genie in sight to rescue him, he turned to Gemini for divine — or rather, digital — intervention. The result? An AI-inspired oration with such delightfully creative pronunciation, that while Ghalib and Faiz might have stirred uneasily in their graves, the RCM-ers were rolling in laughter.

The trip concluded with a visit to La Martinière — an institution steeped in history, culture, and architectural drama — followed by a final food walk through Hazratganj to quell any lingering kebab cravings. It was the perfect closing chapter to a journey that delighted every sense.

-Madhu Mathen
(Nov 6 - Nov 9)

Rotary Club of Madras Promotes Student Health Through Two-Day Medical Camp

The Rotary Club of Madras organized a two-day medical camp at Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School on 24th and 25th October. The initiative aimed to

provide free health check-ups, eye screenings, and dental consultations to school students, while promoting health awareness among the younger generation.



The camp began at 9:30 a.m. with the gracious presence of President Rtn. Nikhil, Director Rtn. Arjun Ananth, Rtn. Dr. Sangeetha, Dr. Janani Shankar, Medical Director, Child Trust Hospital, Mr. Uma Shankar, Principal, and Ms. Subbulakshmi, Vice Principal of SSK.

Three hospitals extended their medical expertise, namely Child Trust Hospital, VHS Hospital, and Yash Dental Clinic. The doctors

and medical staff from these hospitals conducted general health check-ups, dental screenings, and eye screenings, and provided medical advice to the students. A total of 473 students benefited from the camp and 103 students were referred to VHS Hospital for further evaluation and treatment for eye-related issues.



The medical camp received an enthusiastic response from students and staff, ensuring that many children benefited from timely medical attention and preventive healthcare guidance. The RCM expresses its gratitude to the participating hospitals, doctors, and school management for their cooperation and contribution in making the camp a success.

-Rtn Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan





WE HAVE SPENT 5 GENERATION BUILDING A 5 LETTER WORD **TRUST**

OMR
CHENNAI



BEVERLY RIDGE

ECR
CHENNAI



Beach Boulevard

ECR
CHENNAI



PALM BEACH

PAMMAL
CHENNAI



*Brookside
Residences*

PAMMAL
CHENNAI



CREEK
RESIDENCES

SRIPERUMBUDUR
CHENNAI



Waterfront Villas

L&T BYPASS
COIMBATORE



 ENGLISH
BUNGALOWS

SINGANALLUR
COIMBATORE



Regal
Villas

Corporate office:

Sun Centre, First Floor,
No.2, Tank Bund Road,
Nungambakkam, Chennai – 34

Dubai office:

No 605, Bank street Building
Next Building of Adidas Showroom
BurJuman Dubai.



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