

The Lighthouse

WEEKLY

CLUB OF MADRAS

Rotary
Club of Madras



ISSUE 21
November 23
2025



BIRTHDAYS

	
Rtn Shivaraman T	18 th November
Rtn Anil Mulchandani	22 nd November
Rtn Jagdish P S	22 nd November
Rtn Arjun Ananth	23 rd November
PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar	23 rd November
Rtn Jayshree Raveendran	24 th November
Rushalini Rajkumar, Spouse of Rtn Karthik Mathivanan	21 st November
Ritwik Bhattacharjee, Spouse of Rtn Maya Thiagarajan	24 th November
Ar Smita, Spouse of Rtn Rakesh Jaiswal	24 th November

ANNIVERSARY

	
Rtn Sapru Mathew K & Susan	17 th November
PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar & Dr K Sridhar	18 th November
Rtn Vijay Shankar Balaji & Lavanya	18 th November
Rtn Roshan Cyrus Poncha & Cyrus Poncha	19 th November
Rtn Ranjeeth D Rathod & Mamta Ranjeeth Rathod	21 st November
Rtn Abdul Kareem Sait & Raheela Kareem	21 st November
Rtn Sunil Sudhakar Shanker & Rashmi	21 st November
Rtn Anil Saraogi & Manisha Saraogi	22 nd November
Rtn Vasudevan R & Vidya	22 nd November
Rtn Dr Prashant Kekre & Dr Sushama Kekre	23 rd November



Rotary Club of Madras

21st Weekly Meeting

TO THE POINT



UNLOCK THE POWER OF CREDIT CARDS





Speaker:
Rohan Varshnei
Co-Founder, Points Code

Tuesday, 25th 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

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!



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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

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 20th Weekly Meeting held on 18 November 2025

at 1.30 pm at Hotel Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

The President called the 20th weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Madras to order. The Rotary song was played.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 19th weekly meeting was confirmed.

Welcome & Introduction of Guests

The President warmly welcomed all Rotarians, spouses, Probus Club members Mr Annadurai and Mr Manavalan, and guests including Guest Speaker Mr W V Raman, Mrs Lalitha, Mr Manu Wassan, Mr Deepak, Mr Sivan Kannan and Mr Salman.

President's Announcements

Ms Erica from the Jain Family Foundation visited Chennai last week. Her site visits included Rajan Eye Care Center and Ramakrishna Math Schools, where RCM has been involved in building toilets, construction of a staircase, renovation of the kitchen and support for teachers' salary through Rtn. Vardhman Jain. She was impressed with RCM's impact, raising hope for further support next year.

New Learning and Industrial Visit: A visit to the Royal Enfield Factory was organized by the

Vocational Services team.

Second RYLA Event – A group of 40 students from Vidya Mandir School travelled to Kuala Lumpur for the second RYLA event, accompanied by Rtn Sesha Sai and Rtn Himanshu Budhia.

Site Visit Schedule: President reminded members that site visits to Birakuppam and Parathur have been announced and interested members were requested to coordinate with the President.

Full Club Fellowship Announcement

Rtn Pranay H Gambhir announced details of the upcoming Full Club Fellowship and thanked members for the overwhelming response so far. He urged those who have not

confirmed their attendance yet, to convey their RSVP. The President extended his appreciation to the EO team of RCM for organizing this event.

Briefing on Royal Enfield Factory Visit

Rtn Dr B Ramachandran briefed members on the visit to the Royal Enfield Factory in the SIPCOT complex. Around 27-28 members participated.

The visit started with breakfast at the factory canteen and continued with a guided tour of the assembly lines which produce one bike every 40 seconds. The RCM members had a fascinating view of the entire process including the making of the engine and robotic painting units.

The Management's passion was evident and

members got an insight into the company's turnaround and current global footprint. He appreciated the New Learnings Committee and President Nikhil Raj for organizing the visit.

The President thanked Vocational Services Director Rtn Sharon Krishna Rau and New Learnings and Industrial Visits Chairperson Rtn Vivek Parachur for organizing the visit and added that the Royal Enfield plant compared favourably with the Mercedes-Benz factory at Stuttgart, which RCM members had recently visited.

Secretary's Announcements

Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan announced Members' Birthdays, Spouses' Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week. He acknowledged PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar's

Sunshine contribution of Rs. 5,000 for birthday and Rs. 5,000 for wedding anniversary. The next weekly Meeting will be on 25 November 2025.

Former Indian Cricketer Mr. W.V. Raman in conversation with Rtn Rinku Mecheri

Rtn Rinku Mecheri gave a detailed account of Mr W V Raman's glittering career as an Indian cricketer and coach. The freewheeling conversation that followed provided insights into the growth of women's cricket in India and lessons on leadership. This was followed by an interactive Q&A session. The President thanked Mr W V Raman and Rtn Rinku Mecheri for an insightful session.

Vote of Thanks

Secretary Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan acknowledged the role of Rtn Dhananjaya Das in facilitating the Speaker's session. He thanked Mr W V Raman, Rtn Rinku Mecheri, the Rotary Office team, Hyatt Regency team, and the Club Services Team of Rtn Rajesh Mani, Rtn Mohit Bajaj and Rtn Himanshu Budhia. The Timeless Legacy book was presented to the Guest Speaker.

Adjournment

The President adjourned the meeting.

COACHING GRIT CULTIVATING GLORY



The conversation between Rtn Rinku and speaker WV Raman, the former head coach of the Indian women's cricket team, provides an insightful look into the transformation of the

team's culture and mindset under his guidance, following his formal introduction. Rtn Rinku was tasked with taking the program forward after the welcome.

Introduction and Initial Query

Rtn Rinku began by providing a detailed introduction of Mr Raman, noting his status as a former Indian cricketer who played for India and spent years playing for Tamil Nadu in domestic cricket. Coincidentally, he also spent 17 years in the corporate field, working with brands such as TVS, MRF, and TI cycles before dedicating himself to coaching next-generation cricketers. She highlighted his extensive coaching career, including elite Ranji Trophy teams, IPL teams (Kolkata Knight

Riders, Kings XI Punjab), India A and India under 19. His final coaching assignment was as Head Coach of the Indian National Women's team, during which they secured wins in all ODI series and reached the T 20 World Cup final in Australia in February/March 2020. Raman holds the highest record among coaches in white-ball cricket for leading state sides to five national titles and was part of the KKR team that won the IPL title in 2014.

Rinku also mentioned his respected role as a commentator, columnist, and analyst, and the success of his first book, *The Winning Sixer*, which focused on leadership lessons gleaned from decision-making examples in sport.

Rinku then posed her first question, noting that India was celebrating the Women's World Cup win and asked Raman, as someone instrumental in shaping the team's culture, about the emotions the victory invoked in him.



Raman's Perspective on Victory and Culture Change

Mr Raman thanked the Rotary Club for the invitation, joking that he usually avoids situations that might cause trouble, but the risk of speaking to a gathering of accomplished achievers and successful leaders motivated him to accept.

Raman stated that the victory did not surprise him, as he believed the team was always capable of winning the World Cup, emphasizing it was a question of 'when,' not 'if'. He was delighted for the long-time players, such as Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana, and Jemimah Rodrigues, as well as the young players, believing the win would catapult them to an unimaginable orbit after enduring solid work, trials, and tribulations.

He provided background on the team environment when he took charge in meeting them in Hamilton, New Zealand. He was reminded of his South Africa tour (1991-92) and observed that the girls were very meek and very timid. He attributed this meekness to the aftermath of being repeatedly suppressed, which causes a loss of talent and confidence. Raman concluded that his effort needed to be all-round to enable them to perform, not just focused on cricket.

Rinku followed up by asking which characteristics he identified that needed work and how he changed their mental mindset to make them tougher. Raman detailed the cultural shift he enforced:

When they narrowly lost a T 20 game in New Zealand, he found girls crying because they were blaming one another. Raman immediately implemented two firm rules:

- Nobody talks about a game immediately after it is over.
- Nobody individually gets blamed.

He redefined responsibility, stating: "When we win we win. That is, you girls win. When we lose, I lose".

The girls were not only timid but also very scared of being blamed for losses and treated losing as a "matter of life and death". Raman aimed to remove these "myths" from the system. By the time he left, he considered it an achievement that people accused him of making the girls "rogues," because he believed "it's the rogues who will go and fight on the field and win," unlike "good morning good evening, ma'am's girls".

Fostering Independence and Toughness

Raman explained his strategy for getting the players out of the shell they were "shoved into". He advised them to stop admiring the Australian, Kiwi, and English players, and instead aim to make those teams admire India and take them seriously. He told them that they needed the courage to "even have a go at me" to succeed on the field.

He mandated that they collectively and individually choose to become champions by "doing things differently". This included tough physical training camps every three months, designed to be so difficult that the players would curse him. For one week, they played aggressive cricket, with batters playing four innings per day against U-19 boys from the Karnataka Academy to gain experience against fast bowling.

Crucially, Raman refused to set fixed fitness parameters for selection. Instead, he required

each player to challenge themselves by improving their own numbers by 20% every three months. His objective was to ensure that they had to improve, preventing demoralization among those who hadn't done fitness work before. This emphasis on independence led to friction with selectors who expected the girls to greet them formally ("Good morning, ma'am, good evening ma'am"). Raman supported the girls, telling them that they were playing because they were good enough, not because of the selectors.

Raman clarified that his goal was not "empowerment" but making them understand that they needed to be geared up in every way, from their walk and talk to their eating habits, to be champions. He wanted them to come out of the "wells" of fixed ideas, unlike his generation of cricketers.



Differences in Coaching Men's and Women's Teams

When Rinku asked about the main differences in coaching men's versus women's teams, Raman noted that coaching men is easier because there is less interference from former cricketers, and men are generally more experienced, having played about seven years of representative cricket in their formative years. Girls, conversely, were often "thrown into the deep end" without competitive experience.

The biggest difference was communication. If he told the men's side they were "rubbish," each guy assumed he meant someone else; if

he said it to the women's team, every girl took it personally, sometimes leading to tears. However, he found women "easily coachable" because they did not have too many things already put into them, making them easier to mold.

In the dressing room, Raman prioritized making them take ownership of their actions while stressing that cricket is "just a game after all". He highlighted their responsibility to inspire future generations and warned that success would bring both accountability and inevitable criticism.



Resilience and Future of Women's Cricket

Raman spoke about resilience, stating that 75% of the World Cup squad are stories of "steel and grit," enduring great hardships. He cited the long hours of travel for girls like Harmanpreet Kaur (to Moga), Deepti Sharma (to Lucknow/6 hours further), and Shafali Verma (to Rohtak), describing it as "absolutely incredible" that they prevail over such challenges.

He noted that the turning point for women's

cricket began with the World Cup in England, but the critical phase was around when the ICC decided to invest a lot of money. Raman maintained that if the ICC is to realize its dream of having more countries in its fold, it must happen through women's cricket. For the future road map, he suggested establishing a lot more centres within kilometres of each other to shorten travel time and ensure training accessibility.



Personal Values and Rapid Fire

Raman's constant personal value is the importance of being equipped before venturing into anything. He took a writing course before authoring his book and earned a Level coaching course from Cricket Australia. He admitted that he is not an ardent fan of cricket and hardly watches unless he is involved, though he finds the "variables" of the game passionate.

On influential players, Raman acknowledged Mithali Raj's legacy as an example of dedication but argued that Jhulan Goswami doesn't receive the credit she deserves, having played almost as many matches as a fast bowler in a batsman-oriented country.

His advice for aspiring young girls was: "just go for it. Simple. Don't even think about it. Just look ahead and keep marching forward".

The rapid fire round provided these insights:

- Player who surprised him most: Shafali Verma.
- All-time favorite cricketing moment: When Sunil Gavaskar had good things to say about him.
- Indian women's team in one word: Fantastic.
- Jemimah Rodrigues: Champagne bubbly, provides champagne moments.
- Harmanpreet Kaur: Typical Moga girl, a firebrand.

Raman concluded the conversation with an anecdote about Smriti Mandhana, who told him that playing on the "dicey wickets" in her hometown of Sangli made representative cricket pitches seem easy. Raman was "absolutely stunned" by her thought process.

Rtn Rinku was later acknowledged for "excellently moderating this lovely session".

Martinis, Memories & Madras Magic

What a truly delightful evening it was at The Madras Club Ballroom, courtesy of our lovely hosts, Raghu n Shvetha. Chennai surprised us with one of those rare pleasant outdoor evenings and the club's sprawling verandas provided the perfect backdrop.

Raghu n Shvetha were the most gracious hosts, making sure no glasses, plates or conversations were empty. Raghu was also an expert resident mixologist and may well have been responsible for making everybody martini addicts with his epic concoctions.



Madras Club kitchen never disappointed and last night was no exception. The menu was thoughtfully curated, though judging by the Dosa counter queues, Dosa will remain Chennai's eternal scene stealer.

As relatively new members of the RCM family, Firesides have become wonderful opportunities to meet old friends, make new ones, and get to know everyone just a little bit better. And as Firesides go, Raghu n Shvetha's may have been one of the finest!



-Preetha, spouse of Rtn Balraj Vasudevan

A Ride Through Innovation



The Rotary Club of Madras recently organized a memorable visit on 15 Nov 25 to the iconic Royal Enfield (RE) factory in Chennai as part of its New Learnings Committee initiative, offering members a unique glimpse into Indian engineering excellence and industrial heritage.

During the visit, Rotary members were welcomed to the Royal Enfield manufacturing facility at Vallam Vadagal, where classic motorcycles like the Bullet 350 have been handcrafted for many decades. After a sumptuous breakfast at the factory's canteen, plant head Mr. Prabhu presented a detailed overview of Royal Enfield's history and the plant's mega operations where a motorcycle is created every 40 seconds! He also proudly mentioned how the plant had manufactured more than a million vehicles in the last financial year and is poised to overtake that number in the coming financial year.

After this, our members had the chance to tour various sections of the factory, including engine assembly, paint shop (featuring the intricate pinstriping of fuel tanks), and final vehicle assembly.

The New Learnings Committee initiative seeks to facilitate exposure to breakthrough innovations and world-class operations. This Royal Enfield factory tour proved to be both informative and inspiring, demonstrating the brand's dedication to quality craftsmanship and cutting-edge automation, such as robotic painting systems and precision engine testing. Members felt like kids in a candy store and witnessed the journey of each motorcycle, from individual components to a finished product ready for road test, gaining fresh perspective into manufacturing best practices and the engineering prowess behind one of India's most celebrated motorcycling brands. The tour was so exhilarating that one of our RE-enthusiast members committed to purchase a new bike that was manufactured from this plant!



The visit also fostered a spirit of camaraderie and shared learning among Rotarians, reinforcing their commitment to educational outreach and community engagement.

This unique collaboration between the Rotary Club of Madras and Royal Enfield stands as a model for how industry and civic organizations can work together to nurture curiosity, skill development, and a deeper appreciation for India's manufacturing legacy.

**-Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau
Director, Vocational Services**



The Interact Club of Harvest International School
Harvest International School
Club ID: 227583

Date: 11 November 2025

To:
Rtn. Seshasai
Chairman – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
Rotary Club of Madras
Rotary International District 3234
Chennai, India

Subject: Appreciation for Choosing Harvest International School as a Visiting School

Dear Rtn. Seshasai,

Warm greetings from Harvest International School, Klang.

On behalf of our Principal, **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Cheng Chuen Sheila**, the management, and the Interact Club, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the **Rotary Club of Madras** for choosing us as one of the visiting schools during the **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** programme in Malaysia.

We are honoured and delighted to welcome your delegation of young leaders and look forward to hosting the **Dialogue Session and Educational Visit on 19th November 2025**, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

It will be our pleasure to share insights into the Malaysian education system and to provide your participants with an enriching cultural exchange experience. We are confident that this visit will be mutually inspiring and meaningful for both our students and yours.

Please feel free to reach out should you require any logistical arrangements or further assistance prior to your visit.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity to be part of your esteemed programme. We look forward to meeting you and your participants soon.

Students from classes 9, 11 and 12 participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program in Malaysia. From November 15th to 20th, the students were engaged in conferences, networking meetings and tours of the sights of Malaysia. We were accompanied by 2 of our beloved teachers- Aishwarya Miss and Vaishnavi Miss, trip coordinator Mr. Dharani Priyan and His Excellency Sesha Sai.

Days 1 and 2 included visits to the Putrajaya Mosque, the Murugan temple at Batu Caves, Chin Swee temple and the Genting Highlands indoor Amusement Park. Day 3 marked the beginning of the formal events, the first one of which was the 5th Global Youth Workers Conference. The students also attended a panel at the Royal Commonwealth Society, with distinguished panellists, including Mr. Dharani Priyan and our very own Aravind Nair.

Day 4 began with a visit to the Parliament of Malaysia, where the students met the Deputy Minister of Entrepreneurship YB Shri Dato Ramanan Ramakrishnan, and other members of the Parliament. In the evening, a fellowship and dialogue session with the Rotary Club of Klang took place, allowing students to interact with fellow Rotarians. This was truly a joyous occasion as Vidya Mandir's Interact Club has completed 60 years of service.

Day 5- the final day of the program- included a cultural exchange with the Interact Club of Harvest International School, where their students and ours gave exquisite music and dance performances. The rest of the day involved a visit to the National Science Centre of Malaysia and the Petronas Towers.

This marked the end of the RYLA program, with the students heading back home exhausted but fulfilled. The program was a great success as students gained knowledge about Malaysia's culture and the role of the youth in our future.

-Anjana Venkatesh
Vidya Dhwani
Vidya Mandir Sr Sec School

Sunshine Collection

S.No.	Name	Amount
1.	PP Rtn Jayshree Sridhar	Rs.10,000/-
2.	Rtn Vijay Shankar Balaji	Rs. 2,000/-
	Total	Rs.12,000/-

UPDATES

Work progressing well for 15 homes at Beerakuppam. Our appreciation to Vara Future LLP for their support.



Work progressing well for 18 homes at Perathur. The rain has slowed down the pace of work a bit. Our appreciation to Vara Future LLP for their support.





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

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Dubai office:

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