

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 25

December 21
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

A NIGHT FIT FOR A GOVERNOR

Dear RCMers

From the Editor's Desk, allow me to raise a thunderous, standing-ovation thank-you to every Rotarian and spouse who lit up our felicitation evening honouring our District Governor Nominee-Designate, Ravi. You didn't just attend; you elevated the moment.

What a show of strength and spirit on 15 Dec 25: 110+ Rotarians, 25 spouses, 135+ from our own club, and a grand gathering that soared past 350 guests, with friends joining in from other clubs and districts. That kind of turnout doesn't merely "support" a leader but crowns the occasion with pride.

The evening itself was sheer class. It was an elegant celebration crafted with finesse by the organizing committee under the able leadership of Rtn Vikram Chesetty, set against the iconic grandeur of the Taj Coromandel Ballroom. Pristine, poised, and perfectly worthy of both the moment and our club's legacy.

And to Ravi—what a wave of admiration swept the room. Every felicitation echoed the same truth: the District is already leaning forward, eager for your year as Governor, and for the milestone magic of our Centennial celebrations. With Rtn Dr Anuradha Ganesan as President, this is a partnership that promises momentum, meaning, and distinction. Congratulations DGND Ravi, from the Editor Team, and with warm pride echoed by our President and the Board—we're celebrating you and backing you all the way to the big year ahead.

So let this be more than applause, it must be a pledge. From the President and Board to every member of our Club, let's stand shoulder-to-shoulder in wholehearted support as DGND Ravi steps toward his term as Governor in the not-too-distant future.

In Rotary fellowship
Rtn Manasa T Pillai





BIRTHDAYS



Rtn Gautam B V	15 th December
Rtn Rajesh Shankar	18 th December
Rtn Subramaniam S	19 th December
Rtn Dhananjaya Das K	21 st December
Shenba A, Spouse of Rtn Arvind Kumar Sankar	15 th December
Moloy Chaudhuri, Spouse of Rtn Rita Chaudhuri	15 th December
Naga Prasanna, Spouse of Rtn Govind Vasnadu	16 th December
Meera, Spouse of Rtn P S Jagdish	17 th December
Supriya, Spouse of Rtn Vikram Chesetty	18 th December
Mahalakshmi Rangabashyam, Spouse of Rtn Bharath Shetty	18 th December
Deepthi Prasanna, Spouse of Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan	19 th December

ANNIVERSARY



Rtn. Mehul Uday Nanavati & Anisha	21 st December
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Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rtn Chella Krishna G

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Mentor: Rtn Sessa Sai

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Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan

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YATRTECHS

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 24th Weekly Meeting held on 16th December 2025

1.30 pm @ Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

President Nikhil Raj called the 24th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order at 1:30 pm. This was followed by the Rotary Song.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the 22nd Weekly Meeting was confirmed.

Welcome Address

The President extended a warm welcome to all members and guests present, including Mr. Durairaj and Mr. Uma Shankar from the Probus Club, incoming member Mr. Salman Parpia, Mr. Narayan Iyer and Ms. Manisha Iyer, His Excellency Dr Ganesananthan Geathiswaran, Deputy High Commissioner, Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission and Guest Speaker Mr. Stephen Monteiro

Updates by the President

The biomethanation (biogas) plant was inaugurated and the event was covered by the media. The plant converts food waste into cooking gas. The government has expressed interest in replicating this model in schools. Appreciation was extended to the Environment Committee for their foresight in promoting this project.

Rtn DGND S. Ravi and his wife Aruna were felicitated by the Club at Taj Coromandel. Rtn DGND S. Ravi will serve as District Governor in 2028–29, which also coincides with the Club's

Centenary Year.

Members were updated on arrangements concerning the arrival of the mortal remains of Rtn Dr. Sangeetha Viswanathan.

The President mentioned the crowd funding initiative undertaken to extend support to those affected in Sri Lanka following the recent flood disaster and invited His Excellency Dr Ganesananthan Geathiswaran, Deputy High Commissioner, Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission to speak a few words.

Address by His Excellency Dr Ganesananthan Geathiswaran

His Excellency Dr Ganesananthan Geathiswaran thanked the Rotary Club of Madras for its gesture of solidarity towards Sri Lanka following the devastating cyclone. He shared that over 600 lives were lost, with more than 100 people missing, and that several

regions, including mountainous areas, were severely affected, making it more devastating than the 2004 tsunami. He expressed gratitude to the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu for their timely and extensive support.

Club Announcements and Recognitions

Rtn V S Narasimhan was commended for mobilizing significant funding for the Club's projects, including Rs.75 lakhs in the current year from Redington (Rs. 25 lakhs for the Lake Project and Rs.50 lakhs for the HPV Vaccine Project) and Rs.25 lakhs from Delphi TVS for the Lake Project. He has mobilized Rs.4.5 crores in total over the past few years.

Rtn P S Jagdish contributed USD 15,000 to the Golf Committee for various CSR projects.

Rtn Vijay Balaji committed Rs.25 lakhs for various school projects.

Rtn AVM Balasubramanian committed Rs.5 lakhs towards the Centenary Project.

Brahmaputra Cruise

Rtn Ashish Gupta announced the second edition of the RCM Brahmaputra Cruise, scheduled from 6–10 March 2026. The private charter cruise will be conducted upstream,

with limited cabins available. Members were requested to register at the earliest. A short film was shown.

Project Site Visits

Rtn Suresh Amirapu announced upcoming site visits to Boys Town, the new WASH project site at Thanipoondi (130 toilets across four village) and the Home for the Homeless project site at Irumbedu. Members, especially Green Rotarians, were encouraged to participate.

Secretary's Announcements

Asst. Secretary Rtn Manasa T Pillai announced Birthday and Wedding Anniversary wishes to members and spouses for the week. The next meeting on 23 December 2025 will be the Annual General Body Meeting.

Rotaract Presentation

A presentation was made by the Rotaract Club of Vepery showcasing an art initiative (drawing Vinayaka on the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi) involving Interactors. Prizes were distributed to the winning children.

Presentation of Club Publication

The President presented the Club's publication "Timeless Legacy" to the dignitaries. The meeting was adjourned.

Christmas Fellowship

Rtn Sanjay Madhavan reminded members about the Christmas Fellowship hosted by the Madras Club members of RCM, scheduled for Wednesday, 17 December 2025, from 7:00 pm onwards, with the theme "Berry, Pine and Christmas Shine." Dress code norms were reiterated.

Guest Speaker Session

Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan introduced the speaker Mr. Stephen Monteiro, Assistant Professor at the University of Concordia, highlighting his scholarly work on digital media and technology's impact on human behaviour. Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan and Mr. Monteiro engaged members in a thought-provoking discussion on human-technology relationships, digital dependency, and evolving social behaviour.

Adjournment

Hooked, Scored, Sold: The Psychology of Our Silicon Sidekicks

In a riveting discourse at the 24th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras, Stephen Monteiro, guided by the insightful moderation of Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan, peeled back the digital veil to reveal the profound psychological and sociological architecture of our modern silicon companions. This was not merely a talk on technology; it was a masterful dissection of the "companion" relationship we have forged with our devices—a bond that has transcended utility to become something deeply emotional and potentially perilous.

The narrative delved into the "scorification" of the human experience, where every facet of life is now gamified and graded. From Microsoft Word providing a "writing score" to apps that quantify beauty, Monteiro warned that we are subconsciously adapting our behavior to please the machine. Perhaps most chilling was his description of the "sleep score" as an unseen sentinel; even when we are unconscious, the device remains active, monitoring our most private hours and presenting us with a morning report on our own identity.

Monteiro illuminated how the very design of the mobile phone has shifted from a tool of communication to an engine of intimacy. He recalled how, in 2018, the marketing of "selfie phones" in India fundamentally altered the user's relationship with the device, replacing human-to-human interaction with a solitary mirror-gaze. Features like facial recognition further cement this illusion of being "known" by the machine, creating a sense that the object recognizes us as unique individuals, even though it is merely matching infrared maps to stored data.

The dialogue took a somber turn regarding the economic exploitation and privacy erosion inherent in data extraction. Monteiro explained how corporations harvest our behavioral patterns to train AI and manipulate our spending, often charging us more based on our digital profile. The impact on the youngest generation was a point of particular concern, as infants building their identities through screens may develop lifelong dependencies and find it increasingly difficult to navigate real-world emotional interactions.



To navigate this "digital tapestry," Monteiro offered a philosophy of intentionality over avoidance. He suggested the use of "light devices" with limited features and urged the audience to un-tether their devices from one another to prevent corporations from "hoovering up" holistic data. By treating media;

books, maps, and cameras as discrete objects rather than a single, all-consuming entity, we might reclaim the focus that the algorithmic sirens seek to steal. It was a clarion call to move from being "hooked" to being "enriched," ensuring technology serves the human spirit rather than enslaving it.



The Digital Echo: An Analogy for Understanding

To understand Monteiro's insights, imagine a mirror that doesn't just show your reflection but also whispers a grade on your appearance, counts your breaths, and quietly takes notes for a salesman standing behind you. While the mirror is undeniably useful, it eventually stops

being a piece of glass and starts being a demanding roommate who knows your secrets better than your best friend. Finding balance is not about throwing the mirror away, but about remembering how to look at the world without needing to see yourself in it.



Small Cities, Big Need — 5 Dialysis Machines for Mannargudi



At Government General Hospital, Mannargudi for the inauguration of 5 dialysis machines supplied through a CSR grant from Five Star Business Finance who was connected to us through Rtn Hari Venkatesh. A big thanks to PP DGND Ravi S, IPDG Saravanan and PDG Sridhar for giving us the connection with the hospital. The need is great in the smaller cities and their connection helped us serve the communities.



A Grazing-Table Gala That Turned Brunch Into 8 PM



Midhuna and Rajesh,

Whatta a gala fireside — take a bow!

The energy, the vibes, the festive spirit, the décor, the perfect weather, and of course their gorgeous home... everything came together beautifully. The attention to detail was unreal — from the warm hosting to the enthusiastic bartenders shaking up exciting cocktails. And the undisputed superstar of the afternoon: that stunning grazing table! Hand-picked cheeses all the way from the US and Thailand — no one wanted to move away from it.

The food was novel and absolutely delicious too, especially the egg paratha and the potlam biryani. Above all, the two simply exceptional hosts. Some homes and firesides just make you feel like staying on forever, and theirs was truly one of them. In fact, the brunch going on till 8 pm is testament to a rocking fireside!



-Rtn Geetha Nagu and Rajshree (spouse of Rtn Linesh)

Selaiyur and the Surge of Hope

The morning of 18 December 2026 at the Selaiyur campus wasn't just a project visit, it was a powerful pulse of purpose. With potential donor members and RCMers coming together under one roof, the campus practically crackled with an energy that was impossible to ignore.

What stood out most was the team's spirit: positivity with backbone, hope with direction, and inclusivity that felt real. This kind of atmosphere doesn't need a microphone to be heard because it shows up in every smile, every conversation, every moment of shared intent.

We didn't simply "attend" and leave. We were left uplifted, impressed, and frankly recharged, carrying with us the quiet certainty that when good people gather for the right reasons, something remarkable always follows.



-Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau
Director, Vocational Service



In its continuous quest to deliver on its many programs, RCM works in close partnership with organizations that bring strong skill sets and implementation expertise—helping us deliver meaningful outcomes to a wide range of beneficiaries. One such valued partnership is with Exnora, a leading Chennai-based NGO whose work spans a wide gamut of initiatives focused on preserving nature and preventing environmental degradation.

RCM collaborates with Exnora on high-impact projects such as lake restoration and Balwadi development. Exnora recently marked its 35th Anniversary at a joyful function held on 5 Dec

2026, inviting collaborators, its own functionaries, service partners, and various government agencies they work with, where RCM was an important invitee.

Exnora's Founder Mr. M.B. Nirmal and President Mr. S. Senthur Pari warmly welcomed the guests. RCM was represented by our President Rtn Nikhil Raj, Rtn Suresh Amirapu, and PP P.N. Mohan. Both organizations appreciated the good work accomplished together and reaffirmed their intent to expand collaboration in a wider range and deeper scope of activities.

-Rtn Suresh N. Amirapu
Director – Community Service Development



Christmas Was Calm... Until RCM Arrived

What a spellbinding RCM Christmas evening it was—an hour (and more!) where the ordinary politely stepped aside and the extraordinary took centre stage. The air shimmered with cheer, the room hummed with anticipation, and every smile in the audience seemed to say the same thing: this is exactly what Christmas should feel like. It wasn't merely a programme, it was a celebration that sparkled, soared, and stayed with us long after the last note faded.

Heartfelt gratitude to Rtn Shaan Katari Libby, the mastermind who crafted the script with such flair and finesse. What she created was not just a sequence of lines and cues, but a beautifully stitched tapestry of warmth, wit, wonder, and festive magic. The evening flowed with the effortless charm of something born from both creativity and care, each moment landing perfectly, each transition as smooth as starlight.



And then... our fabulous cast and sensational singers take a bow, and then take another, because they didn't just perform; they ignited the night. They brought the stage to life with charisma, confidence, and the kind of energy that makes an audience lean in, laugh out loud, and applaud until their palms surrender. They didn't simply "steal the show", they carried it aloft like a torch, turning every scene into a highlight and every song into a heartbeat. The joy they radiated was contagious; the spirit they created was unforgettable.



As we wrap this glorious celebration in gratitude and glitter, here's wishing each and everyone a Merry Christmas brimming with peace, laughter, love, and luminous moments and a spectacular 2026, filled with bold beginnings, beautiful friendships, meaningful service, and success that shines as brightly as this remarkable evening.

Vinayaka on Paper, Magic in Every Stroke

The Rotaract Club of Vepery conducted a Vinayaka Chaturthi drawing competition for the Interactors of Heartfulness International Omega

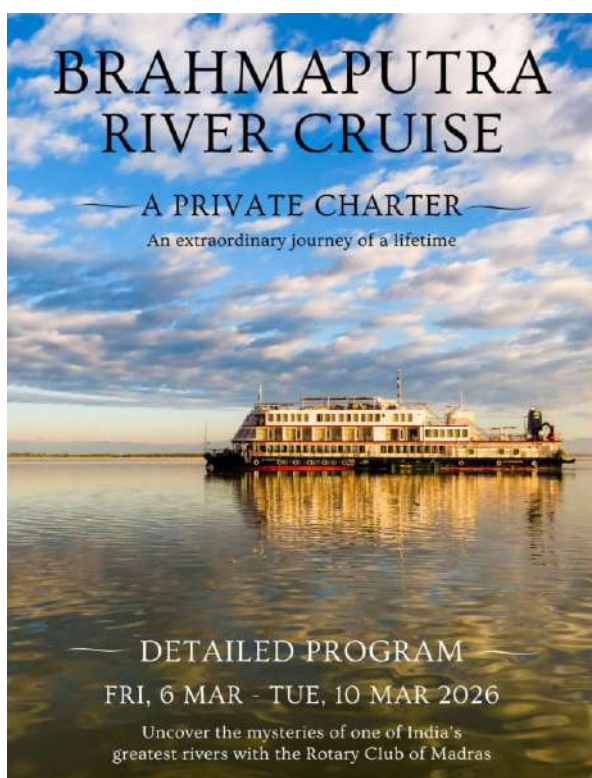
School on the theme "Lord Vinayaka." We thank Rtn Biswajit Balasubramaniam for judging the event.



Congratulations to the winners:

- Siya Das
- T. MahathiPriya
- S. S. Mainika

-Rtn Suman Voora
Director, Youth Services





MEHTA
JEWELLERY

BETA,
THE NEXT TIME
YOU LOOK AT IN
THE MIRROR, REMIND
YOURSELF TO

WEAR
YOUR
SAVINGS

WITH

MEHTA'S
Golden 26



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on wastage



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a month or special gift
worth your first instalment



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