

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 26
December 28
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS 

Rtn Asha Mathen	23 rd December
Rtn Ravindran G	24 th December
Rtn Karthik Srinivasan	25 th December
Rtn Bikram Shivkumar	26 th December
Rtn Avali Srinivasan	29 th December
Dr K Sridhar, Spouse of Rtn Jayshree Sridhar	27 th December
Priya Menon, Spouse of Rtn Shankar Menon P	28 th December
Dr Saswati, Spouse of Rtn Bhaswar Mukherjee	29 th December
Karina, Spouse of PP Rtn George B Cherian	29 th December

ANNIVERSARY 

Rtn Dr Kunal Patel & Erika Patel	23 rd December
Rtn Jayant Hemdev & Dimple	25 th December
Rtn Fharzana Siraj & Siraj	25 th December
Rtn Ashish Gupta & Rucha	26 th December
Rtn Vivek Harinarain & Sangeeta	28 th December
Rtn Suresh Amirapu & Rukmini	28 th December
Rtn Tareen A.K. & Sanober	29 th December
Rtn Ravi Prakash Singhee & Manisha Singhee	29 th December
Rtn Nimish C Tolia & Sushma	29 th December

**ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS**

**NEXT
MEETING
on
6 Jan 2026**

**RCM BOARD 2025-26****PRESIDENT**

Rtn Nikhil Raj

HONORARY SECRETARY

Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Rtn Chella Krishna G

PRESIDENT - ELECT

Rtn Balakrishna S

PRESIDENT - NOMINEE

Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan

DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY SERVICES - DEVELOPMENT

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

Rtn Manasa T Pillai

DIRECTOR – CSR

Rtn Krishnamurthy Vijayan

DIRECTOR – ROTARY FOUNDATION & INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran

DIRECTOR – COMMUNITY HEALTH

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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Rtn Manasa T Pillai, Asst. Secretary

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Bulletin Design:**YATRATECHS**

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Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the 25th Weekly Meeting held on 23rd December 2025

01.30 PM at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

Call to Order

President Nikhil Raj called the 25th weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order at 1:30 pm and requested all members to take their seats and complete the attendance formalities.

Rotary Song

The meeting commenced with the Rotary Song.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 24th weekly meeting was confirmed.

President's Address

President Rtn. Nikhil Raj welcomed all members and provided a brief recap of the previous week's activities: The inauguration of five dialysis machines at the Government Hospital, Mannargudi, was successfully completed. The project was supported through the CSR initiative of Five Star Business

Finance, facilitated by Rtn Hari Venkatesh. The beneficiary hospital was identified with support from Past President & DGND S Ravi, Rtn PDG N.S. Saravanan and Rtn PDG J Sridhar. President highlighted the growing demand for dialysis facilities and reiterated the club's commitment to healthcare initiatives.

Fundraising and CSR Contributions

The President announced the following contributions received: Rs.15 lakhs from Avalon Technologies, routed through the club's golf initiative under Rtn Sriya Chari. Rs. 5.5 lakhs from Rtn Vivek Sriram, son of Mr J Sriram, towards CSR initiatives in education and healthcare. Continued support from Mr Vignesh, son of Rtn Gowri R Shankar, who has consistently contributed approximately Rs.2 lakhs each annually over the past four years towards the golf program.

Address by DGND S Ravi

District Governor Nominee Designate PP Rtn S Ravi addressed the gathering. He expressed deep gratitude to the Rotary Club of Madras for the trust and mandate given to him exactly a year ago and reflected on his Rotary journey that began at this very club. He acknowledged the club's role in shaping his values and commitment to service. He shared that being elected unopposed as District Governor Nominee Designate of RI District 3234 during the centennial year of the Rotary Club of Madras (2028–29) was a collective honour belonging to every member of the club. He said that he never stopped learning because this Rotary Club never stopped teaching him. He said that serving Rotary, especially during the Centennial Year is particularly meaningful and reminds us that

we are not just part of Rotary, but we are part of history. Rtn Ravi emphasized the responsibility that comes with this milestone and reaffirmed his commitment to carry forward the club's rich legacy. He sought the members' support, encouragement, guidance and blessings in carrying out his duties.

He promised to lead the District with humility, clarity, empathy, purpose and courage and uphold the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". He concluded by quoting Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others," and expressed his aspiration to see the club's flag fly high at the district, zonal, national, South Asian and global level.

Secretary's Announcements

Hon Sec Prasanna Rajagopalan announced the Birthdays, Spouses' Birthdays and Wedding Anniversaries for the week. He thanked Rtn Asha Mathen for sunshine of Rs.5000 towards the HP VAX Program. Rtn. Avali Srinivasan for sunshine of Rs.2000.00

The Secretary also informed members that this was the last weekly meeting of the calendar year 2025 and that the next weekly meeting would be held on 6 January 2026, with speaker details to be shared shortly.

AGM Updates

Hon Secretary Prasanna Rajagopalan confirmed that quorum has been established for the AGMs of the following:

- a. Rotary Club of Madras
- b. Rotary Club of Madras Charitable Trust
- c. Rotary Club of Madras Boys Town Society.

The AGMs were then conducted. (Minutes of the AGMs will be sent separately via email).

Closing Remarks

The President thanked all members and guests for their participation and adjourned the weekly meeting.

SKY TO SOIL

“When young minds witness greatness, dreams quietly begin to take shape.”

With the loving support of the Rotary Nagar team and the Boys Town Society team, and under the gentle guidance of Rtn Anjali Ponni, PP Rtn Rani Muralidharn and Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau, Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) was truly blessed to take two groups of young learners on an extraordinary journey of inspiration, discovery, and joy.



On 24 Dec 2025, the children stood spellbound at Srihari Kota, witnessing history unfold as the Bluebird Block-2 Mission (LVM3-M6) thundered into the sky from the launch site of the Indian Space Research Organization at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC SHAR).

“The sky is not the limit when curiosity has wings.”

As the mighty LVM3 lifted off carrying ISRO’s heaviest-ever commercial payload for AST Space Mobile, the sky came alive with fire, sound, and wonder. For many children, this was their first-ever rocket launch, a magical moment that sparked awe, pride, and a deep belief in the power of science and human potential.

A heartfelt note of appreciation to Mr. Gokul from ISRO, whose patient and passionate explanation helped the children understand not just what they were seeing, but why it mattered how this mission would one day enable direct 4G/5G connectivity across the world.



"Education touches the mind, but experience touches the soul."

From this breathtaking journey from the sky, the children were gently guided to the soil. At the farm, learning took a joyful, earthy form. The children experienced the soul of agriculture, understood the importance of food security, and discovered the delicate balance

between human survival and the environment.

They joyfully became one-day farmers plugging fields, transplanting saplings, threshing, pounding, winnowing grain, and laughing freely under the pump set waterfall. Knowledge flowed effortlessly, carried by smiles, muddy feet, and shared happiness.



"Rockets teach us to dream big; soil teaches us to stay rooted."

This beautiful integration of space science and agriculture, of rockets and roots, made the day truly unforgettable. These young minds will cherish these memories for a lifetime, carrying gratitude in their hearts for the Rotary Club of Madras, which gifted them an experience that touched both the skies above and the soil beneath their feet.

A truly inspiring and unforgettable Christmas experience where happiness overflowed, dreams took flight, and values grew strong.

With heartfelt gratitude to:

Rotarians:

Rtn Capt Amirapu, Rtn Vummudi Rajesh, Rtn N. K. Bhatia, and Rtn Rakesh Jaiswal

Rotary Nagar Staff:

Headed by Poornima, along with committed staff and volunteer students Manju, Pooja, and Hema

Boys Town Society:

Arumugam and Mahesh



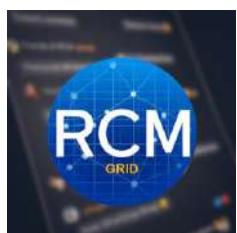
-Rtn Sesha Sai
Mentor, Youth services
District Rotaract Committee Chairman

Breaking Ground for Dignity: Bhoomi Pooja for Our New WASH Project

With prayers, purpose, and a whole lot of resolve, we marked the Bhoomi Pooja for our new WASH Project—building much-needed toilets at Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School, Perambur. This is more than construction work; it's a step towards dignity, health, and a safer, more supportive learning environment for every girl on campus.

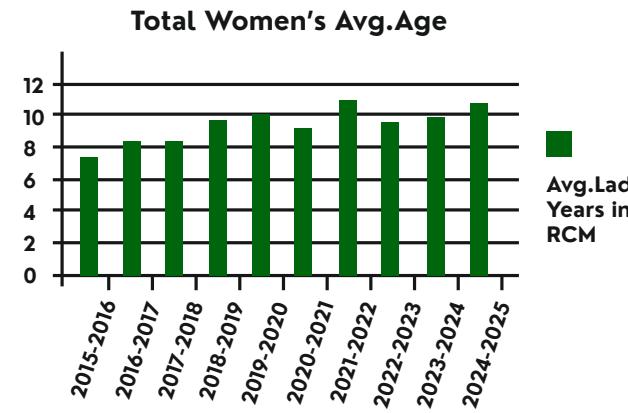


We're grateful that this meaningful initiative is made possible through a CSR grant from Century Four Mills Pvt Ltd, and we extend our warm thanks to Rtn G. Ravindran for his steadfast support in making this happen.



Despite chilly Delhi conditions, Vaishnavi Girish, daughter of Rtn Shakthi Girish, returned from the National Shooting Championships with three medals for Tamil Nadu in team and individual events. Supported by the Rotary Club of Madras, her achievement shines amid nearly 10,000 competing shooters, making the Rotary family immensely proud.

Years	Avg. Ladies Years in RCM
2015-2016	7.36
2016-2017	8.36
2017-2018	8.35
2018-2019	9.55
2019-2020	9.87
2020-2021	9.37
2021-2022	10.8
2022-2023	9.51
2023-2024	9.81
2024-2025	10.75



Rooted and Rising: A Decade of Women's Tenure in RCM

Over the past ten years, the women of Rotary Club of Madras have done more than participate, they've persevered, grown roots, and left unmistakable imprints on the club's evolving story. The data on average years of women's membership reveals not just time, but trust, loyalty, and legacy.

A Journey of Steady Growth

In 2015–16, the average years of membership for women in RCM stood at 7.36. These were the foundational years, evidence of a cohort finding its footing and beginning to take space, with steady commitment to the Rotary Cause.

The numbers gradually rose year after year—8.36 in 2016–17, then 9.55 by 2018–19 and reaching 9.87 in 2019–20. With each increase, we see a growing sense of permanence. Women weren't just joining, they were staying.

Not Just Members—Mainstays

By 2021–22, the average crossed into double digits—10.8 years marking a milestone in club history. They weren't new members testing the waters. They were veterans, mentors, and changemakers who had stood the test of time and transition.

Even in years where slight dips occurred like 9.37 in 2020–21 and 9.51 in 2022–23, the trend remained firm: women were consistently choosing to remain part of Rotary's pulse.

As of 2024–25, the average stands strong at 10.75 years, nearly doubling what it was a decade ago. This number reflects more than retention, it reflects resilience, deepened engagement, and a culture of belonging.

What This Means for Us

This decade-long trend isn't just a feel-good statistic. It is a call to recognize, empower, and celebrate the women who have shaped the Rotary journey from within.

They are the memory keepers, the bridge-builders, and the quiet forces behind so many milestones. Their sustained presence calls for continued leadership opportunities, inclusive programming, and a space where legacy continues to blossom.

Because when women stay, they lead.

And when they lead, we all rise.

She Stayed

*She joined not just to see, but serve,
With hands of grace and silent nerve.
A seat she took, not just to learn,
But light a path and take her turn.
Year by year, she chose to stay,
Through seasons bright or skies of grey.
From seven years to ten and more,
She held her ground, she shaped the core.
In meeting halls and service calls,
She echoed through those quiet walls.
Not fleeting spark nor passing guest—
She stayed, she stood, she gave her best.
Through numbers rise and numbers fall,
Her presence, steady, says it all.
She's not a footnote in the scroll,
She is the pulse, the beating soul.
So count her years with reverence deep,
For everyone, a vow to keep.
In Rotary's rhythm, loud and clear—
She stayed. And that's why we're here.*



MEHTA
JEWELLERY

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

WEAR
YOUR
SAVINGS

WITH

MEHTA'S

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