

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



ISSUE 30
JANUARY 25
2026

OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS 🎂	
Rtn Sanjay Rao Chaganti	19 th January
PP Rtn Dr Shivkumar B	23 rd January
Rtn Rajesh Mani	25 th January
Rtn Sankari Subbiah	25 th January
PP Rtn Mohan P N	26 th January
Rtn Dr Kunal Patel	26 th January
Padmavathy, Spouse of PP Rtn Gunashekar S	20 th January
Rucha, Spouse of Rtn Ashish Gupta	22 nd January
Usha, Spouse of Rtn Krishnamurthy Vijayan	22 nd January
Prerna, Spouse of Rtn Sumit Kumar Kalra	22 nd January
Vijayalakshmi, Spouse of Rtn Balaji Chinni	22 nd January
ANNIVERSARY 🎉	
Rtn Rajesh Somasundaram & Midhuna	20 th January
Rtn Sankara Narayanan A & Chandrika	22 nd January
Rtn Vineet Prakash Munjal & Shalini Munjal	23 rd January
Rtn Pranay H Gambhir & Dr Khushali	24 th January
Rtn P S Jagdish & Meera	26 th January
Rtn Himanshu Budhia & Stuti	26 th January
Rtn Shivkumar Vellur & Jayanthi	26 th January



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YATRTECHS

ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
invites you with your spouse and children
to the 29th weekly meeting and
REPUBLIC DAY
CELEBRATIONS AT SELAIYUR
THE FUTURE IS HERE!

TOPIC: EMPOWERMENT

Monday, 26 January 2026

SPEAKER:
Ms. SETHULAKSHMI
PROGRAM LEAD: YRG Foundation

GUEST OF HONOR:
Rtn. PP MOHAN RAMAN

will share their views on the future of empowerment

10.30-10.50 : Tour of centre and fellowship
10.50 : Flag UNFURLING | 11.00-12.30 Meeting
12:30 : Lunch (Ellai Sappad by Kamalambal Caterers)

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Chairperson
Selaiyur Committee

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Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

**Minutes of the 28th Weekly Meeting being held on Tuesday, 20th January 2026
at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai**

Call to Order

President Nikhil Raj, called the 28th Weekly Meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras to order at 1:30 pm and welcomed all Rotarians, guests, and visiting members.

Rotary Four-Way Test

The meeting commenced with the Four-Way Test, presented by Rtn Amandeep Singh Kandhari.

Rtn Amandeep shared his personal journey of service beginning during the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the support to Omandur Hospital with ventilators and oxygen concentrators, continuous Food Seva, feeding approximately 250 people every night for over six years, annual Blanket

Distribution during winter and Chappal Seva during summer months, distributing footwear to the homeless across Chennai.

The President appreciated and applauded Rtn Amandeep's sustained commitment to service.

Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the 27th Weekly Meeting was placed before the house and confirmed.

Welcoming Guests

The President formally welcomed members of the Probus Club Mr Ravi and Mr Ranga Ramanujam, Rtn Kumar Rajendran (from the District District), Ms Durga, PRID Prabhakar, Guest Speaker Mr Jaffer Ismail and Moderator Rtn Suresh Amirapu, guests of the speaker, Mr

Sri Vilas, Mr Mani Ramachandran, and Ms Malvika. He also welcomed Mr John Armstrong (grandson of the Founder President of the Rotary Club of Madras) and his wife Penny.

Club Updates and Announcements

The President briefed the members on recent developments.

He congratulated Rtn PDG S Krishnaswamy on completing 60 years of service.

Completion of the Balakka School Project, with appreciation to Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan, Rtn Suresh Amirapu, sponsors Rtn Govind Vasanadu and Rtn Vardhman Jain, and the contractor.

Perambur School Project progressing well.

Sabha Lunch fellowship initiative coordinated by Rtn Nimish C. Tolia.

Upcoming Holistic Wellness Yoga Session on 31 January.

Securing 30 lakhs sponsorship for the Golf Event from MIOT, through the efforts of Rtn Krishnamurthy Vijayan and team. Rtn Sriya Chari has been doing an excellent job for the Golf Tournament.

Successful Pongal Full Club Fellowship, a marquee event of our Club, hosted by PP Rtn Ranjit Pratap.

Donation of Rs.12.35 lakhs from Aspire Systems (through Rtn Gautam Reddy) towards the Vandalur Zoo Water Conservation Project.

Republic Day Meeting Announcement

Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau announced that the next meeting would be held on 26 Jan 26 at

the Selaiyur Campus, coinciding with Republic Day celebrations.

Book Unveiling and Conversation

Annual Rotary Golf Tournament on 30 Jan 2026.
Putting Competition for non-golfers.

Full Club Fellowship on 29 Jan 2026 at Pullman, featuring live music by Mark and Marcia.

Birthday & Anniversary Announcements

Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan announced birthdays and wedding anniversaries of members and spouses for the week. He acknowledged a sunshine contribution of Rs.2500 from Rtn Rajesh Mani.

Introduction of Special Guest – Mr John Armstrong

PP Rtn N K Gopinath delivered a detailed address on the heritage and legacy of the Rotary Club of Madras and introduced Mr John Armstrong, grandson of Charter President Sir Godfrey G Armstrong. PP Rtn N K Gopinath recalled how the trio of James Wheeler Davidson, F E James and Godfrey G Armstrong were instrumental in setting up the Rotary Club of Madras in 1929.

Mr John Armstrong addressed the gathering and shared insights and photos from the life and times of Sir Godfrey G Armstrong. He acknowledged his gratitude for the warm welcome. He conveyed greetings of Rotary Club of Chiswick and Brentford and exchanged flags with the President of the Rotary Club of Madras.

Induction of New Member

Rtn Raghu Kailas introduced new member Mr Suraj Saravanan Raman.

Mr Suraj Saravanan Raman was formally

inducted as a member of the Rotary Club of Madras and welcomed by the President and members.

Guest Speaker Session

Rtn Suresh Amirapu introduced Mr Jafar Ismail, marine engineer, entrepreneur, author, and mountaineer.

In a session moderated by Rtn Suresh Amirapu, Mr Jafar shared his experiences of high-altitude mountaineering, including successful summit of

Mount Everest in May 2024, ascents of Mount Kilimanjaro, Mount Aconcagua, Mount Elbrus, and other global peaks and insights from his book “Embracing the Everest and Conquering Self”. This was followed by an interactive session with the audience. A copy of “Timeless Legacy” was presented to the guest speaker.

Felicitation

A commemorative plaque was presented to Mr John Armstrong and Mrs Penny Armstrong, marking their visit to the Rotary Club of Madras.

Vote of Thanks

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn Suresh Amirapu.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

When the Mountains Speak, a Man Answers: Jafar Ismail in Conversation with Suresh Amirapu

Some speakers walk in with a résumé. Jafar Ismail walked in with a horizon.

Moderated with poise and razor-sharp curiosity by Suresh Amirapu, this was not a talk that merely described summits, it moved the room, step by step, into the thin air where achievement stops being a headline and becomes an inner reckoning. We met a man who has reinvented himself more than once: a marine engineer, an alumnus of DMET (Directorate of Marine Engineering Training), Kolkata campus, who sailed the seas before pivoting into information technology, and later into entrepreneurship in the United States, all

before the mountains claimed him as their devoted respondent.

And claim him they did.

Suresh opened by sketching the staggering exclusivity of Everest not as trivia, but as context for awe pointing out how rare it is to stand on that roof of the world, and how extraordinary it becomes when done at 58, as Jafar did. But the evening did not stay trapped in statistics. It quickly rose into something richer: the emotional geometry of mountains—why they call, what they demand, and what they change inside you.

“The mountains are calling...”—and the call is not always literal

With the elegant entry point of John Muir’s famous line—“the mountains are calling, and I must go”—Suresh asked the question everyone secretly wanted to know: What is that mystical pull? Jafar’s response was beautifully two-layered: mountains are both metaphor and muscle. A mountain can be any daunting pursuit—degrees, marathons, ambitions,

reinventions. But then he shifted to the physical truth: once you’ve climbed, once you’ve endured the hard hours and returned, the memory transforms. It “ages like wine,” he said—difficulty fades, meaning deepens, and the call returns... not as a temptation, but as a quiet insistence.



It wasn't bravado. It was honesty, almost tender. Not "addiction" in the dark sense, he clarified, but something like it in a brighter

sense: a longing to re-enter an experience that reveals who you are when comfort is stripped away.

A dream planted in childhood and fulfilled decades later

Then came the moment that made the room lean in. Jafar traced his Everest dream back to 1973, when as a young child he witnessed his school commemorating the anniversary of Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay's historic ascent. In that childhood imagination, something quietly clicked into place: "One day, I will follow their path." Life, of course, didn't take the straight road. Years passed. Careers shifted. Responsibilities arrived. But

the dream—patient, persistent—kept pulling.

Suresh threaded in Rumi's line—"What you seek is seeking you"—and Jafar responded in a way that felt like a personal philosophy: the dream doesn't merely wait for you; it recruits you. And when you align your life with it, the universe begins to conspire—not magically, but through a chain of choices, discipline, and timing.

The anatomy of a summit: five essentials, and one humbling truth

If the first half of the conversation was lyrical, the next half was breathtakingly practical because Suresh didn't let the story float. He anchored it.

Jafar laid out the five essentials for high-altitude climbing with calm authority:

1. Health and fitness—not to survive, but to choose whether you "enjoy the climb or suffer it."
2. Acclimatization—a biological lottery, partly genetic, that decides how your body behaves when oxygen thins.
3. A reputable expedition operator/team—because on a mountain, "the only certainty is uncertainty."
4. Your Sherpa/guide relationship—not

necessarily friendship, but deep trust, because your life depends on their judgment.

5. Equipment and the knowledge to use it—great gear means nothing if you can't handle it under stress.

And then he added the final truth—quietly, without theatrics: God's will. Because mountains are indifferent to human confidence. Weather flips. Conditions collapse. The mountain doesn't negotiate. Perhaps the most striking insight came when he described the inner conflict climbers face: one instinct says "push beyond your limits," another says, "know when to turn back." That decision, he emphasized, is profoundly personal and sometimes the difference between a triumphant return and a point of no return.

Rotation, rehearsals, and the discipline of survival

When Suresh asked about "rotation," Jafar turned a technical term into a philosophy of preparation. Rotation is essentially practice climbing, moving from base camp to higher camps (Camp 1, Camp 2, sometimes towards Camp 3), spending time there, and returning, training the body and mind for what's coming,

while confronting hazards early, under controlled intent. He spoke of the famous Khumbu crossings, ladders over crevasses, clipped into ropes, not as adventure aesthetics but as learned competence: you train so that, when fear arrives, your body still knows what to do.



The dangers you plan for and the ones you don't

Suresh steered into the darker realism: falls, crevasses, avalanches. Jafar answered without dramatization, explaining how safety systems work and why discipline—keeping at least one safety attachment secured is not optional. But the moment that truly landed was when he described the danger he didn't anticipate; snow blindness at the summit, sudden loss of vision beyond a few feet, the world reduced to blur, the descent turning from

difficult to terrifying. What saved him was not luck alone, but contingency thinking—a mindset sharpened in earlier lives at sea and in corporate leadership. He paused, assessed, and then took charge: one guide in front at arm's length, another behind watching foot placement, a slow, deliberate descent until vision gradually returned hours later. It was a masterclass in calm leadership under crisis—no heroics, just clarity.



The Death Zone: where the mountain starts erasing you

Suresh then introduced the chilling phrase every Everest story circles - the Death Zone. Jafar explained it simply and starkly: above 8,000 meters, the body cannot regenerate; you are, in technical terms, deteriorating. Stay too long and the outcome becomes inevitable. He described how non-essential

functions shut down—loss of appetite, loss of thirst, dehydration continuing unnoticed. Even worse is cognitive decline—tiny tasks become impossible, decision-making collapses, and in that mental fog, fatal mistakes are born. It was sobering, but essential—because this talk didn't romanticize risk; it respected it.

The "ordinary man" and the extraordinary discipline

Suresh pivoted beautifully into the human backstory: Jafar as a "fauji kid," raised in a military environment, shaped by adaptation, movement, and resilience. Jafar acknowledged the trade-off: broad exposure, strong coping skills, but fewer lifelong childhood friendships because postings change everything. He called his upbringing

ordinary middle-class, grounded. The dream was the extraordinary part. And that contrast is exactly why his book title and tagline resonate: the extraordinary adventure is not reserved for extraordinary people; it is often built by ordinary people who refuse to negotiate with their own doubts.



Why write the book? Because stories deserve to outlive us

The conversation turned to his book, *Embracing the Everest and Conquering Self*, which Suresh praised as remarkably strong for a first-time author. Jafar's reason for writing was strikingly moving: the summit experience is rare, sensory, almost impossible to convey unless you try and he wanted the story to live on "even after I'm gone," echoing Maya Angelou's belief that an untold story is a kind of inner agony. It wasn't just a book launch. It was a decision to turn a private conquest into shared fuel.



Love in the thin air—and courage in the waiting

When asked about family, Jafar's voice carried gratitude: his wife, family, and friends were his inner strength because when you're in a life-threatening place, the thought of being wanted back becomes a powerful engine. And then came a lighter, deeply human moment: the question about serenading his wife. He clarified it wasn't at the

summit, but at Camp Four, when the next 24 hours could end in success, retreat, or death. In that anxious edge, he recorded himself singing an old Bollywood classic from *Sangam*—a message of love, just in case fate wrote a harsher ending. If the room needed proof that bravery and tenderness can coexist, it got it right there.

"What next?"—because the horizon doesn't end at Everest

Suresh closed with a perfect final provocation, framed through Allama Iqbal: beyond the stars, there are more worlds to conquer. Jafar's answer was electric: after Everest, he joined his 27-year-old son and climbed Mount Chimborazo, noting its unique distinction as the point "closest to the sun" (by distance from Earth's center), and then

revealed the larger arc—his pursuit of the Seven Summits, with three remaining. And when asked about age limits, he rejected the idea of a single cut-off. Fitness is personal, the mountain is humbling, and while age matters on the slopes, he has no intention of stopping anytime soon.

The real takeaway: conquering self is not motivational wallpaper, it's a method

From the floor, when someone asked what makes a person "risk life and limb," Jafar delivered the line that should be framed, not merely quoted: conquering self is conquering the doubt that holds you back from your dream. Prepare, work, add a dash of luck, and suddenly the "impossible" becomes "done."

Another question drew out his most powerful mental habit: at base camp, alone with uncertainty, he refused to think too far ahead.

He made a simple daily prayer—"today should not be the day that I die"—and that daily, humble focus carried him through weeks of risk.

Finally, he mapped his progression: Everest wasn't the first. The serious journey began in 2012 with Kilimanjaro, where he discovered both love for ascent and strong acclimatization, then a steady year-by-year discipline until, twelve years later, he stood atop Everest.

If this session had a single theme, it was this: Mountains don't reward ego. They reward preparation, humility, and the courage to return to the hard place again and again, until the dream finally recognizes you.

Suresh Amirapu's moderation ensured that the conversation never drifted into clichés; it remained both cinematic and precise full of

awe, but grounded in reality. And Jafar Ismail, with a life that has sailed seas, crossed industries, and climbed into the world's harshest heights, reminded us that the most dangerous zone is not above 8,000 meters it is the place inside us where we let doubt become destiny.

Today, that doubt had no chance.

When Legacy Walked In: Rtn John Armstrong's Spellbinding Address



Past President Rtn N.K. Gopinath rose with the kind of pride only a legacy-rich club can wear. He reminded the gathering that clubs of our 1929 vintage rarely enjoy living links to their charter story. Yet here we were still connected to descendants of our earliest members, one in Australia (the grandson of charter member G. Dilga, one of the two Swiss charter members) and most remarkably our Special Guest, Rtn John Armstrong, here with his wife Penny.

With unmistakable warmth, he invited the room to absorb the sheer weight of the moment: "John Armstrong is the grandson of our Charter President—Godfrey George Armstrong (later Sir Godfrey G. Armstrong)—the very man who founded this club" and, in doing so, sparked the beginning of Rotary in Madras and across South India.

Gopinath then painted the origin scene with crisp clarity—how the Rotary flame in Madras was lit by a powerhouse trio: James Wheeler Davidson (from Calgary, Canada), Sir Frederick E. James (F.E. James), and Armstrong, the then Chairman of the Madras

Port Trust, a combination that made history feel inevitable. He spoke of the club's charter strength, 30 charter members (predominantly British, with two Swiss and one American) and the astonishing truth that none of them could have imagined this institution (Rotary Club of Madras) marching steadily toward its centenary.

And then, with the room fully spellbound and the past standing vividly in the present, he offered the simplest, grandest conclusion of all. "It was a privilege and honour to welcome John and Penny into a legacy that has since paved the way for countless clubs and a timeless Rotary story", before inviting Rtn John Armstrong to take the floor.

Special Guest Rtn John Armstrong, grandson of our Charter President, Sir Godfrey G. Armstrong delivered a stirring address that felt like history stepping off the page and into the room. Introduced to the club through a chance Facebook recognition, his presence (along with his wife, Penny) was a powerful reminder that Rotary's finest stories don't live in archives alone but they live in people.

He began with warm gratitude for the club's hospitality, recalling the camaraderie of the previous evening, and brought greetings from the Rotary Club of Chiswick and Brentford, presenting the President with their banner, along with a flag and club leaflets, simple gestures that carried the unmistakable spirit of global Rotary fellowship.

Then came the heart of his speech: a vivid, beautifully narrated family chronicle. He spoke of his grandfather's early work on the Madras and South Maratha Railway, and his wartime service in France as a dispatch rider in Marseille, later returning to "traffic" duties again, this time in Calais with a dash of dry humour that had the room smiling. He also shared a personal side of the story: a 1919 marriage, family connections, and the unexpected ways faith and circumstance can shape destiny.

Tracing the timeline back to Madras, he recalled his grandfather's leadership roles culminating in his appointment as Chairman

of the Madras Port Trust and, in 1929, becoming the founding president of our Rotary Club. He spoke of a long tenure of service, eventual postings beyond Madras, and a return to the UK, where Sir Godfrey later passed away in 1963, aged 82.

But what truly made the room pause was the honesty woven into the legacy: a wartime account where Sir Godfrey refused the British Navy's request to use Madras Port because they wouldn't pay port dues earning him both criticism and consequence and proving that integrity often comes with a price tag.

He ended on a note that was quietly moving: not with grandeur, but with intimacy, remembering his grandfather in Surrey, happiest in his garden, and sharing one final legacy linked to Madras: a dredger commissioned in 1947, serving till 1982, named the Sir Godfrey Armstrong, a working tribute that quite literally carried his name through the waters for decades.

A Landmark Welcome: RCM's 300th Member Joins the Family



It was more than just another induction. It was a milestone moment for the Rotary Club of Madras, as we proudly welcomed our 300th member, Mr Suraj Saravanan Raman, into the RCM fold. Adding a special glow to the occasion is the fact that Suraj is a third-generation RCM member, carrying forward a true Rotary legacy. His father, Mr T K Raman being one of the longest-serving Rotarians of our Club, and his grandfather Mr K R Kothandaraman also having been part of the

RCM journey.

Beyond legacy, Suraj brings vibrant energy and leadership. Known to many from the tennis courts where he represents the Madras Gymkhana Club and plays with signature flair, he is equally formidable in his professional world, serving in the top leadership of HDFC Credit Cards, with a distinguished 22-year journey at HDFC Bank, leading partnerships, alliances, and platforms including HDFC SmartBuy.

Suraj's enthusiasm isn't just a trait. It is his operating system. Whether stepping up to lead major initiatives like the Gymkhana Club's court renovation effort or bringing proactive, can-do spirit into every space he enters, he embodies the kind of civic-minded leadership that aligns beautifully with Rotary's ideals. With Suraj's induction, we didn't just add a name to our roster but strengthened RCM's future with a

member who reflects both heritage and horsepower.

On this special day, as we celebrated a proud number and a proud moment, RCM reaffirmed what it has always stood for: leaders of vocation, leaders of service, and leaders of heart welcoming yet another ambassador of Rotary ideals into our community.

ROTARY RADAR



Rotary International president-elect emphasizes effective action and 'embracing the world with open arms'

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola called on members to Create Lasting Impact by making their clubs more welcoming, carrying out impactful projects, and allowing their Rotary experiences to transform them personally. "Rotary has changed us. It has shaped who we are and made us better people," Babalola said at Rotary's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 12 January. "We often talk about changing the world. We talk about ending polio, about building peace. We do not think enough about how Rotary transforms us." Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, described how joining a

Rotaract club as a teenager enlarged his perspective beyond the limited, privileged outlook he'd once had. That change in awareness came from observing the lasting impact his club had in the community, particularly from teaching people to read and write. "As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves. We must focus not only on outcomes, but on impact."

Change and impact are not the same, he added: "Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures."

Understanding impact

Rotary members have made an impact by expanding early childhood education in Knysna, South Africa, and increasing access to prenatal care in Nigeria, Babalola said. The Rotary Club of Knysna empowered local women to open and manage early childhood education centers. "The project has reached thousands of children and families, and it will continue to provide education in those communities for generations," Babalola said. "We can recreate this kind of impact in other parts of the world, and in doing so we can earn the trust and recognition of our neighbors in the communities we serve. And when more communities trust Rotary, more people want to

join." Babalola also described the wide-ranging impact of Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria. The initiative to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality rates received a US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant in 2022.

"Before Rotary's intervention, many women avoided prenatal care, which is essential to ensuring a safe birth for both mother and child," he said. "After working with Rotary, systems were put in place to help expecting mothers receive prenatal care. The community was involved. Attendance went up. Mortality went down. That project [will] transform lives across Nigeria for decades."

Extending a welcome

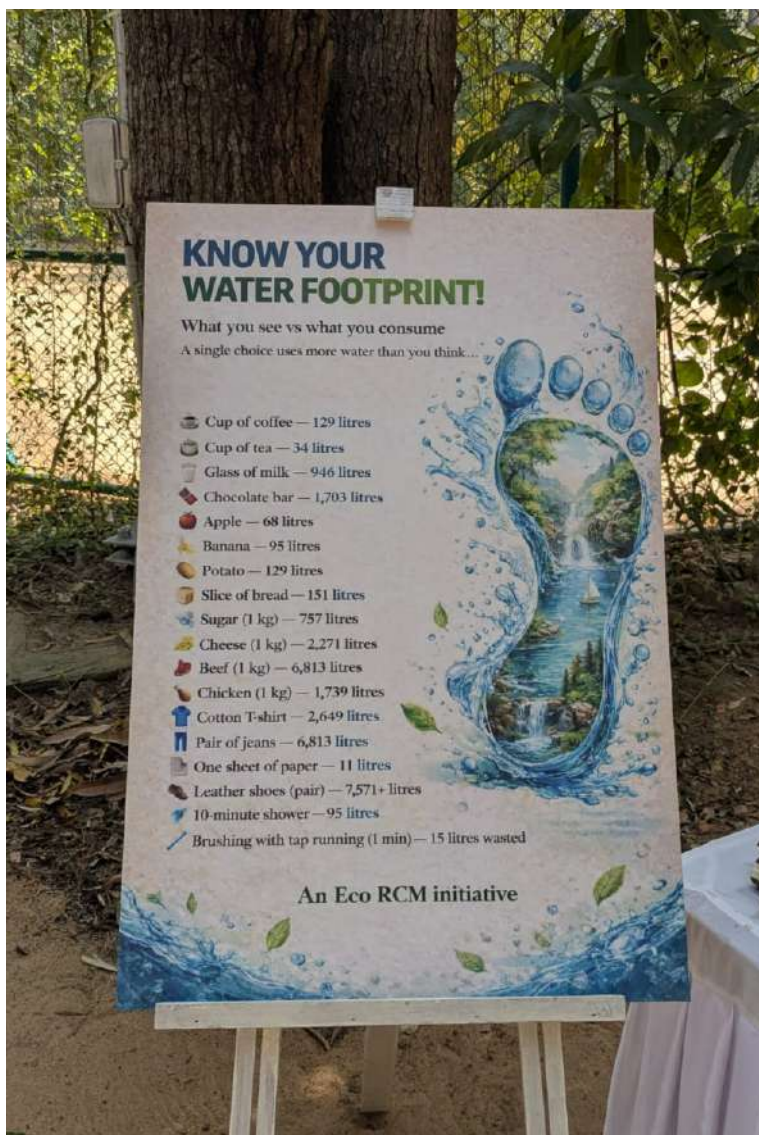
Babalola urged members to take a more open, welcoming attitude toward newcomers to their clubs. He described how, when he was a Rotaract club member eager to join a Rotary club, the president of the Rotary club treated him with scorn. “He said, ‘What audacity! You cannot just join. You need an invitation,’” Babalola recalled. “I could have walked away. Instead, I said, ‘I didn’t know a child needed an invitation to enter his parents’ home.’” While things have changed since that time, Babalola said, they haven’t changed enough. Some clubs close themselves off instead of “embracing the world with open arms,” he said. Young people aren’t necessarily treated with respect, he added, and people with different ideas and backgrounds aren’t always made to feel welcome. He urged members to think about how they could better welcome

others.

“You never know whose Rotary story might begin — or end — based on the way you make them feel at a meeting or service project,” he said. Another way members can focus on personal change, he said, is to aim to do better than their best. He urged district leaders to examine their past successes in raising funds, planning projects, and recruiting members. Then, he said, they should challenge themselves to surpass their past triumphs.

“When we change ourselves, we change our clubs and districts,” he concluded. “When we change our districts, we change the communities we serve. And when we change our communities, we create lasting impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

Guess. Learn. Win. Conserve: The Water Footprint Face-Off!



The Environmental Committee brought a refreshing dose of purpose to the Pongal Vizha celebrations with a lively, hands-on environmental awareness activity hosted at PP Rtn Ranjith Pratap’s beautiful home.

Shining the spotlight on the water footprint of everyday commodities and products, the session was designed to be as engaging as it was eye-opening. With an interactive format that kept everyone on their toes, participants across all age groups jumped in with real enthusiasm guessing, debating, learning, and laughing their way through some surprisingly revealing facts.

Adding an extra sparkle to the friendly face-off, Rtn Indrani emerged as one of the winners (First Prize - Parthiv, Second Prize - Abhinav, Third Prize - Rtn Indrani) proving that sustainability can be both smart and spirited. The entire activity radiated a wonderful blend of competition and camaraderie, where curiosity led the way and learning felt effortless.

Through such meaningful awareness drives, we continue to nudge our community towards more mindful, sustainable choices because small changes in what we consume can create a big ripple in how we conserve.



A Wall That Now Speaks Service (Loudly, Beautifully!)

At the gracious request of our Selaiyur Chairman, Rtn Rajib Kumar Hota, and our ever-supportive Vocational Services Director, Rtn Dr Sharon Krishna Rau, the Youth Services team set out to explore a simple idea with a big impact: painting the Selaiyur compound wall.

True to form, Youth Services didn't just consider it, but charged into action with energy and purpose, led spiritedly by the Rotaract Club of Vepery, joined by three dynamic college-based Rotaract clubs, VIT, Jeppiaar, and WCC all working as one vibrant force.

And the result? A transformation that's impossible to miss. What was once just a boundary is now a canvas of creativity, glowing with colour, teamwork, and the true Rotary spirit of service, a living reminder that when young leaders unite, even a wall can become a statement.

A special note of heartfelt thanks to Rtn Rajib Hota for being part of the Valedictory event and for delivering an address that truly inspired and uplifted our young changemakers.



RCM Premier League Season 3: The Gavel Drops, the Glamour Begins!

RCM Premier League Season 3 thundered into action with a grand curtain-raiser and an electric auction held yesterday at the MCC Club and what a blockbuster start it was! With District Governor Rtn Vinod Saraogi gracing the occasion as Chief Guest, the evening carried that perfect mix of prestige, pride, and pure sporting adrenaline.

In true IPL-style flair, the spotlight shifted to the auction floor, where strategy met swagger and bids flew faster than cover drives. With 10 teams, each owned and co-owned by RCMers, the bidding turned into a high-energy showdown of ambition, banter, and bold calls, as captains and owners battled it out to build their dream squads.





The result? A roaring launch to Season 3 brimming with camaraderie, competitive spirit, and the unmistakable promise that this year's RCM Premier League is going to be bigger, louder, and unforgettable. Game on!



Sunrise Yoga Experience

A soulful morning of movement, mindfulness & connection

Saturday, 31st January
7.30AM - 8.30AM
Dakshin Chitra

Followed by breakfast
Curated & Guided by
Midhuna Rajesh Somasundaram

Presented by
The Holistic Committee of RCM
Rotary Club of Madras

Dakshin Chitra is a culturally iconic space that celebrates South Indian heritage. Surrounded by tradition, art, and nature, it offers a serene and truly exotic setting perfect for a mindful and enriching yoga experience



Rotary CONGRATULATIONS

Yet Another Feather in the Cap

We are happy and proud to share that our Charter President, **RI Drn AKS Er Muruganandam M (MMM)**, has been appointed as **Vice President of Rotary International (2026-27)** by our World Leader, **RI President-Elect Yinka Babalola**, and the Board members.

Hearty congratulations to our distinguished leader, a true legend and trendsetter in every endeavour he leads.

Many More Miles to go...!!

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UPCOMING PROJECTS: KUTHAMBAKKAM, TIRUVOTTIYUR, VALARPURAM

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