

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras



WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 03

JULY 20
2025



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

BIRTHDAYS



Rtn. Kamala Ramakrishnan	15th July
Rtn. Akur Raman Raghunandan	18th July
Rtn. Niloufer Seth	20th July
Rtn. Nidhi Kapoor Thadani	21st July
Janaki, Spouse of Rtn. Mohan P.N.	16th July
Priya Reddy, Spouse of Rtn. Manu Reddy	18th July
Rathna Mahesh, Spouse of Rtn. Vijay Narayanan	18th July
Revathy, Spouse of Rtn. Raja V.	19th July
Dr.Jayashree Potty, Spouse of Rtn. M. Balakrishna Rao	21st July

ANNIVERSARY



Rtn. Jagdish A. Bhatia & Anita J Bhatia	15th July
Rtn. Ravishankar P & Sandhya Ravishankar	15th July
Rtn. Sanjay Rao Chaganti & Lata Murugan	16th July



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YATRATECHS

Rotary Club of Madras

4th Weekly Meeting



TOPIC:

Restoring Sight Beyond Borders

FEATURING

PP RTN DR ARULMOZHI VARMAN

IN CONVERSATION WITH

RTN DR R CHANDRASEKAR

Tuesday, 22nd July 2025 | 1.30 pm

Lunch : 12.30-1.30 pm at Hyatt Regency, Chennai

Spouses and Annettes are invited for this meeting

Rtn. Nikhil Raj
President

Rtn. Rajesh Mani
Director - Club Service

Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan
Honorary Secretary

Rtn. Mohit Bajaj
Chairperson - Programs Committee

Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

Minutes of the Illustrious 97th Charter Nite

held on 19 July 2025 @ 7.00 pm @ Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

I. Commencement of Proceedings

The evening's distinguished proceedings commenced with a profoundly symbolic gesture as the esteemed Sergeant Rtn Dhananjaya Das ceremoniously collared President Nikhil Raj, marking the official commencement of the grand assembly. Following this venerable tradition, the President, with an air of dignified authority, promptly called the meeting to order, setting the stage for the unfolding of a memorable Charter Nite. The atmosphere was then imbued with solemnity and camaraderie as the 4-way test was delivered by Rtn Rachna Muralidharan.

II. Welcome and Announcements

With a heartfelt address, President Nikhil Raj extended a gracious welcome to the assembled gathering, eloquently expounding upon the profound significance of the 97th Charter Nite. This initial address underscored the rich legacy and the enduring spirit of the club. Subsequently, Honorary Secretary Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan delivered pertinent announcements, providing crucial updates to the esteemed membership.

III. Tribute to Youth Services

The MC, Rtn Dr Geetha Iyer set the stage for one of the night's most anticipated moments, the celebration of the Club's Youth Services legacy. PP Rtn NK Gopinath was invited to share his journey of Youth Services, as he recounted formative efforts that laid a strong foundation for the Club's youth-centric initiatives. He eloquently chronicled the Rotary Club of Madras' rich legacy in Youth Service, highlighting its pioneering efforts in establishing Interact and Rotaract clubs, and its deep-rooted commitment to empowering the next generation. His speech stood as both a testament and tribute to the Club's unwavering focus on youth, blending history with heartfelt pride.

The President and the District Governor, Rtn Vinod Saraogi, then joined the MC on stage as the names of past Youth Services Directors were read out.

Each name evoked applause, appreciation, and pride. In a grand ceremonial gesture, the President and DG personally honoured each of the Past Directors for their exemplary service to Interact, Rotaract, and beyond.

This was followed by PDG Rtn JB Kamdar's reflective account of the growth and institutionalization of Youth Services in the Club. According to him, Rotary's Youth Service has undergone a significant transformation from 1999 to 2025, evolving from informal club-sponsored activities under "New Generations" to a full-fledged Avenue of Service with Rotaractors recognized as equal partners and co-creators of change. This shift includes Rotaract becoming a membership type of Rotary International in 2019, granting youth greater access to leadership and global initiatives, and integrating their voices into Rotary's projects and priorities.

Following him, Rtn Sessa Sai brought focus to the future, speaking about RYLA and Guinness World Record on Drug Awareness.

IV. Recognition of Service Milestones

The celebration continued with recognition of Stalwart members who completed 25 years and 40 years of uninterrupted service. As the names were read aloud, the hall resounded with admiration. The President and DG presented commemorative plaques, honouring these Rotarians not merely for longevity—but for lives devoted to purposeful service.

V. Centenary Logo Release

The Centenary Logo presentation was a pivotal moment, weaving together the rich tapestry of the club's history with the vibrant promise of its future. PP Rtn George Cherian, Chairperson, Public Image of Centenary Committee set the tone with his stirring remarks, eloquently honoring the past, celebrating the present achievements, and igniting palpable excitement for the club's upcoming 100th year. Following this powerful introduction, Rtn Sid Chandrasekar took to the stage as the accompanying audio-visual presentation illuminated the hall, expertly detailing the concept and vision behind the Centenary Logo.

The unveiling culminated in a truly proud moment as the esteemed dignitaries were invited to the stage for the official release of the logo. This significant event, occurring during President Nikhil Raj's 97th year, brought together the following dignitaries together with the Chief Guest. They were Past District Governors PDG

J.B. Kamdar, PDG Benjamin Cherian, and PDG Krishnaswami, alongside President Elect Rtn Balakrishna S. and President Nominee Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan. Their collective presence underscored the profound significance of this milestone for the club.

VI. Chief Guest's Address

District Governor and Chief Guest Rtn Vinod Saraogi then delivered his keynote address. With clarity and conviction, he commended Rotary Club of Madras for its unwavering excellence. He praised the Club's emphasis on all aspects be it youth leadership, deep-rooted projects, and its evolving vision in the digital era. His address was both a benediction and a battle cry—urging members to dream boldly and act purposefully as the Club edges closer to its centenary.

VII. Concluding Formalities

As the formal agenda ended, President Nikhil Raj offered concluding remarks, succinctly encapsulating the spirit of the occasion. A heartfelt Vote of Thanks was then eloquently delivered by Rtn Arun Palaniappan expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the success of the evening followed by National Anthem. Finally, the President formally declared the meeting to a close, bringing the official proceedings to a dignified conclusion.

VIII. Fellowship and Dinner

The remainder of the evening transitioned into a period of convivial fellowship and a delightful dinner, fostering camaraderie and shared enjoyment amongst all present.

CHARTER NITE

"He didn't just honour Youth Service Directors—it felt like he had entrusted them with the future, and in doing so, shaped it."

Last night's Charter Nite of Rotary Club of Madras didn't just honour its past—it celebrated its promise to the future. With a heart attuned to the aspirations of the next generation, President Rtn Nikhil Raj created an evening that shone a spotlight not only on the legacy of Rotary but also on the vibrant energy of its torchbearers.

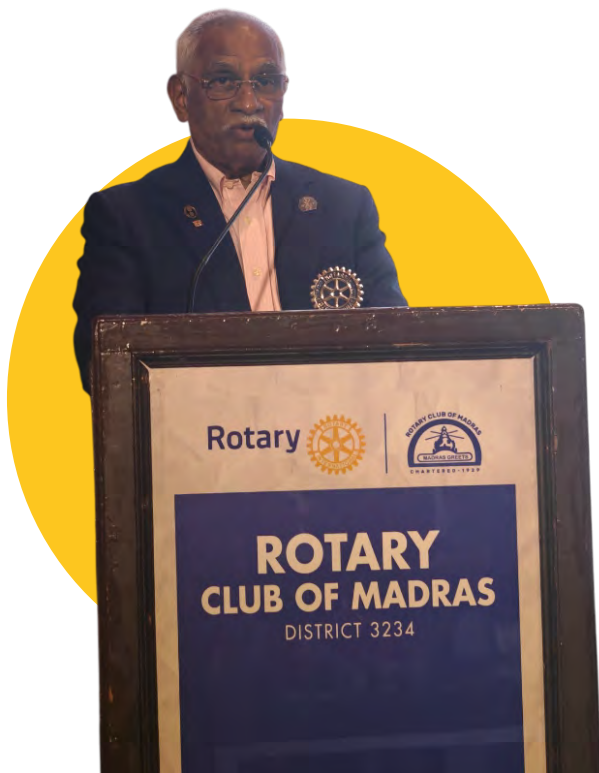
In a move both visionary and heartfelt, President Nikhil Raj chose this prestigious occasion to honour the Past Youth Service

Directors of RCM—leaders who worked tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to shape the dreams, discipline, and direction of Interactors and Rotaractors under their wing. Each of them has been a sculptor, chiseling character, competence, and compassion into the youth that they mentored. Their efforts translated into Interact Clubs that continue to thrive with innovation, Rotaract events that continue to inspire, and youth-driven projects that echo the very motto of Rotary—Service Above Self.

Fueling the Flame: The Unstoppable Rise of Youth in Rotary

In Rotary, Youth Service has transformed remarkably from 1999–2000 to 2025. Then known as "New Generations," it was not formally recognized as an Avenue of Service. Programs like Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, and Youth Exchange existed but were viewed as

club-sponsored activities. Rotaractors were enthusiastic contributors, not equals. RYLA focused on traditional leadership and Youth Exchange faced logistical hurdles due to limited digital communication.



By 2025, Youth Service has become a full-fledged Avenue of Service, equal to Club, Vocational, Community, and International Service. A pivotal moment came with the 2019 Council on Legislation (COL), which made Rotaract a membership type of Rotary International. Rotaractors now hold leadership roles, access global grants, and function independently shifting the relationship from sponsorship to partnership. Modern RYLA programs are immersive and integrate leadership, innovation, sustainability, wellness, and technology. Youth Exchange includes virtual exchanges and improved safeguarding. Rotary now champions diversity, equity, and inclusion, welcoming youth from all backgrounds. Importantly, Rotary listens to youth voices, allowing them to shape projects and priorities. From being a support system in 1999 to becoming co-creators in 2025, the youth are now central to Rotary's mission. Empowering them is key to securing Rotary's future.

- PDG JB Kamdar

Illuminating Paths with Purpose, Empowering Youth with Vision

Since the early 1960s, the Rotary Club of Madras has championed the cause of youth, recognizing early on that the torch of tomorrow must be kindled today. In 1961, the Youth Service Award was instituted, honouring young achievers like Anand Amritraj. The Interact movement found a swift and enthusiastic sponsor in RCM, which eventually nurtured 27 Interact clubs—once a world record—each engaging in meaningful service, from adult literacy in villages to organizing health and blood donation camps. In 1968, RCM again broke new ground, sponsoring the world's first community-based Rotaract club. Over the decades, 11 Rotaract clubs, college and community alike have served with distinction, responding to crises, uplifting the underserved, and exemplifying leadership. The Club's commitment extended to organizing RYLA camps, offering financial aid through its Loans and Scholarship Committee, and building camaraderie through family engagement and Annette initiatives. Moments of inspiration included dream flights for underprivileged children graced by dignitaries like Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Actor Kamal Haasan and educational trips to Malaysia and local landmarks. Through decades of thoughtful action, the Rotary Club of Madras has crafted a lasting legacy empowering youth through opportunity, instilling service as a virtue, and illuminating paths with purpose and compassion.



- PP Rtn NK Gopinath

Part Mentor, Part Cheerleader, Full-Time Emotional Wreck



President Nikhil Raj's Charter Nite tribute was not simply ceremonial—it was deeply symbolic. It reflected a year-long commitment to placing youth at the heart of the club's vision. Under his presidency, youth service will not just be a checklist item—it will be a movement. Whether it involves amplifying student voices, mentoring young leaders, or offering them platforms to innovate and serve, President Nikhil Raj believes that investing in youth isn't just a gesture—it is a responsibility.

Because when you bet on the young, you're not just planning for the future. You're building it.

"The Youth We Raise" For Charter Nite, RCM 2025

*We do not build with brick or stone,
But hearts we've touched, and minds we've grown.
In every spark of youthful grace,
We see tomorrow take its place.
A guiding hand, a listening ear,
A steady voice that draws them near.
Through dreams they chase and truths they learn,
They light the torches in their turn.
So, here's to those who shaped the flame,
Who stood for more than pride or name—
And to a Prez who dared to see
That youth's not just the key—but legacy.*

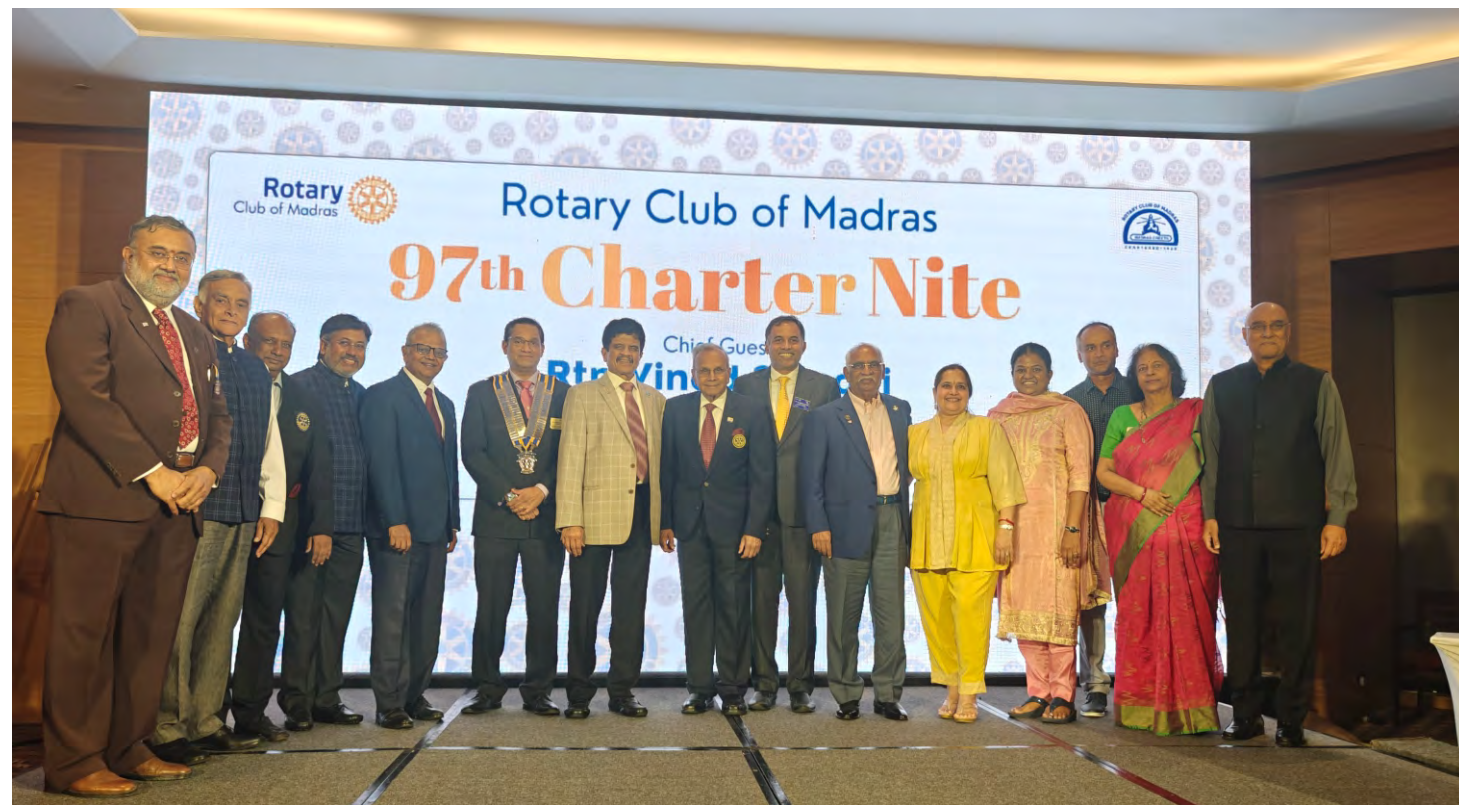
It's said that youth is not just a phase of life, it's a spark. And as the Youth Service Director, I was fortunate enough to fan that spark into a flame. When I look back at the journey, I don't see just events and projects—I see lives touched, dreams born, and hope reignited. I see shy students who once sat silently in the back rows, now holding mics, leading teams, and setting the stage on fire. I see friendships that crossed borders, laughter that filled classrooms, and most of all—I see change. One of the proudest moments etched in my heart is our entry into the Guinness World Records for the largest drug awareness lesson. It wasn't about numbers—it was about awareness. About telling our young ones that their lives are precious, their choices matter, and we're standing right beside them, come what may. That moment—when thousands sat united under one roof for one cause—wasn't just a record. It was a revolution. And then came RYLA in Malaysia. A trip that started as a dream on paper turned into a story that many of our students will carry for a lifetime. Some of those students had never even stepped out of their hometowns—and there they were, representing us internationally, breaking barriers, building bridges, and discovering the leader within. We ensured that financial constraint should not hold back passion—and that, to me, is what service is all about. And then came RYLA in Malaysia. A trip that started as a dream on paper turned into a story that many of our students will carry for a lifetime. Some of those students had never even stepped out of their hometowns—and there they were, representing us internationally, breaking barriers, building bridges, and discovering the leader within. We ensured that financial constraint should not hold back passion—and that, to me, is what service is all about. Youth Services was never just a title. It was a calling. A privilege. A heartbeat. And as I stand here today, being honoured for this role, I carry every hug, every tear, every thank-you note, and every proud smile in my heart. To every student who showed up, to every parent who trusted us, to every Rotarian who stood by me, this honour is yours as much as mine. Let us never stop believing in the power of our youth. For within them lies not just the future—but the fierce, unstoppable force that can change the world.

- Rtn Sessa Sai



Charter Nite Gallery





DISTRICT TEAM

PDG. J B Kamdar - District Chief Advisor

Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan

DGN, Counsellor – Comm. Ser. Health, Chair Cancer Care

PDG Benjamin R. Cherian - District Parliamentarians,
Counsellor Comm. Ser. Develp

Krishna Chella – District Treasurer, Conference Team

Vivek Harinarain – Addl. Chair Government Interface

Satyan Bhatt - Chairperson

Happy Street, Doctors Day, Advisor Public Image

AVM Balasubramaniam

Advisor International Service, PELS,

George B. Cherian- SELS Chair, Chairman Membership

Siddharth Ganeriwala – Club Service Team

Suresh Kumar – Club Service Team, Conference Team

Indra Subramanyam

Advisor Women Health, Addl Chair - Congenital Heart

Dr. Anuradha Ganesan – Happy School, Addl. Chair
Happy Schools Rani Muralidharan – Asso. Chair Happy
Schools

Paul K Jacob – Chair Alumni, Asso. Chair Happy Schools

Ravi Sundaresan - PELS Chair, Chair Environment

Sesha Sai M – Chairperson Rotaract, Mentor Disaster
Management

Krishnamurthy Vijayan – Member CSR

Gunasekar S – Addl. Chair International Service

Parul Bhatt – International Service Team, Partners
Committee

Rajesh Somasundaram – Addl. Chair TRF

Nimesh Tolia – Addl. Chair Directed Gift

Ganesh Ananthakrishnan – Addl, Chair Endowment,
Conference Team

Krishnamurthy Vijayan – Committee Member CSR

Mohan Raman P V – Chair Polio Fund Development,
Conference Team, Addl. Chair Dist. Learning Assembly

Jayshree Sridhar – Co Chair New Clubs

Venkhat Ramani A S – Conference Team

Linesh Sanatkumar – Conference Team

Nalini Radhakrishnan – Conference Team

Vikram Chesetty – PELS, Conference Team

Vikram Jalan – Conference Team

Sandhya Sridhar – Conference Team

Sunita Suresh – Addl. Chair GML

Jayant Hemdev – Member PELS

BHOOMI PUJA



President Nikhil Raj conducted the Bhoomi Puja for 15 homes at Beerakuppam village and 18 homes at Perathur village on the morning of 14 July 2025, a total of 33 homes! By December 2025 another group of families will have a permanent home making a difference to lives not only for themselves but for generations to come. Our gratitude to Vara Future LLP and our very own Rotarian Vardhaman Jain, without whose support this would not have been possible. In 3 Presidential Terms, PP Ravi S, IPP Chella Krishna and now President Nikhil Raj, our tally is 169 homes thus far and more to add to this number. This shows the power of RCM to create lasting impact across many avenues of service, which is truly amazing.

– Rtn Prakash N



ROTARY-SBIMF INITIATIVE POWERS MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY AT RSRM



11 July 2025 – The Rotary Club of Madras, in partnership with SBI Mutual Funds, donated an advanced laparoscopy machine to Government RSRM Lying-In Hospital, strengthening the hospital's surgical care capabilities. This initiative marks another important step in supporting public healthcare infrastructure.

Valued at 94 lakhs, the laparoscopy unit will significantly improve the hospital's ability to conduct minimally invasive gynaecological procedures. It ensures better patient outcomes through reduced surgical trauma, quicker recovery, and less post-operative pain. The system also provides surgeons with high-definition visualization, allowing for greater accuracy in diagnosis and treatment. With this upgrade, RSRM Hospital is now equipped to handle advanced procedures such as hysterectomy, ovarian cyst removal, and tubal



surgeries. The handover ceremony was graced by dignitaries, namely Mr. Rajat Grover, Chief Human Resources Officer, SBI Mutual Funds and Mr. S. Benjamin, DVD & Channel Head – Institutional Business from SBIMF. The Guests of Honour were Dr. Kalanidhi Veerasamy, Member of Parliament, North Chennai, Thiru R. D. Sekar, MLA, Perambur, Thiru Idream R. Murthy, MLA, Royapuram and AKS Rtn Vinod Saraogi, District Governor–3234.

Representing Rotary Club of Madras, President Nikhil Raj, and District Governor Nominee Rtn Dr Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan were present at the event. From the medical fraternity, Dr. P. Magesh, Dean FAC Government Stanley Medical College, and Dr. Shanthi K. Elango, Superintendent of Government RSRM Hospital, were present to acknowledge the impact of the donation on public healthcare delivery.

The following Rotarians were present namely PP Rtn Ravi Sundaresan, President Elect Rtn S Balakrishna, President Nominee, Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan, Director - Community Health, Rtn Arjun Ananth, Rtn AM Visvanathan, Rtn Bharath Pujara, Chairperson, Community Health Rtn Ashish Ahuja, Rtn Rajasekaran Rajendran, and Rtn Dr Srinath Yeswanth.

The program began with the Tamizh Thai Vazhthu and the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Dr. Shanthi K. Elango delivered a warm welcome address, explaining basics of laparoscopy, how it works, and its benefits. President Nikhil Raj emphasized the fact that the needs of the society are immense and intense and hospitals need all the help that they can get. Thiru Murthy (MLA) who was incidentally born in the same hospital immensely thanked Rotary Club of Madras for the support.



AKS Rtn Vinod Saraogi delivered a special address, emphasizing the vital role of SBI Mutual Funds in supporting the medical initiative and highlighting RSRM Hospital's efforts as the implementing partner. He spoke about Rotary Club's ongoing contributions to strengthening medical infrastructure over the years.

Mr. Rajat Grover, praised the Rotary team for executing such a major project efficiently and acknowledged the RSRM medical team for their support.

Dr. Kalanidhi Veerasamy, MP, North Chennai, expressed his gratitude to the RCM and SBIMF for donating a much-needed machine to a government facility. He highlighted the importance of this initiative for the residents of North Chennai, especially the economically disadvantaged, noting that even patients from other States would benefit from RSRM due to its impressive zero-mortality rate in 2024.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr Niranjana, Professor of Anaesthesia, followed by National Anthem.

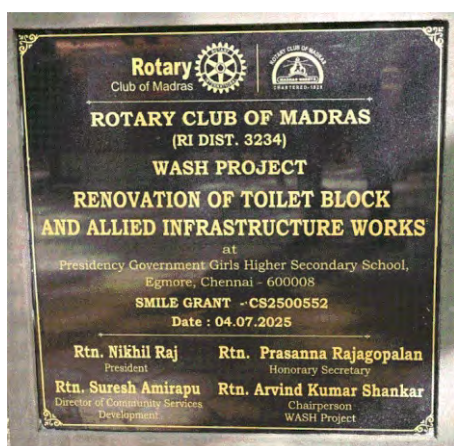
A recent beneficiary, a new mother expressed her heartfelt thanks to the hospital staff for saving her baby, underlining the life-changing impact of the hospital's services. Also, kits for newborn babies were distributed to mothers who recently gave birth at the hospital.

With this new laparoscopic equipment, RSRM Hospital is now even better equipped to provide quality maternal and child healthcare, especially to underserved communities. This project showcases the strong commitment of all stakeholders towards improving public healthcare and ensuring access to modern surgical facilities for all.

Precision Delivered: Where Science Becomes Compassion

**-Rtn Arjun Ananth
Director, Community Health**

Flushing Forward: Inauguration of Renovated Sanitation Facilities



In a seamless transition from one Rotary year to the next was the completion of an important WASH project, Renovation of Toilet Block and Allied infrastructure Works at the Presidency Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Egmore, Chennai of which the inauguration spilled into the new Rotary year. On 4 July 2025, President Nikhil Raj unveiled the plaque installed for the occasion, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the renovated toilet block, with the outer passage levelled, paved, fitted with new manholes installed to ensure safety of the children. In handing over the renovated works to the school, a simple function was held. It was well attended by IPP Chella Krishna, PP Mohan Raman and PP Ravi Sundaresan, outgoing and incoming Community Service Directors, Rtn



Anuradha Ganesan and Rtn Suresh Amirapu, Mentor Rtn AM Visvanathan and several other RCMers. President Nikhil Raj, while addressing the gathering emphasised the role of RCM in delivering impactful projects such as this toilet block renovation. PP Mohan Raman in his address, emphasised the need for personal and public hygiene, regaled the students with inspiring examples of Tamil Cinema icons who practiced personal hygiene habits. The School Principal and staff expressed their gratefulness for the infrastructure provided by RCM. For a 248-year-old school, it was well maintained, with smartly turned-out children and focused teachers, proving to be a worthy recipient of RCM's largesse and attention.

**- Rtn Suresh N Amirapu
Director, Community Services Development**

Planting the Seeds of Service: Welcoming Interact at Primrose School



Friday morning on 11 July commenced with a warm and welcoming introduction of Rtn Sessa Sai, Rtn BV Gautam and Rtn Indrani Krishnaier by the Director, Primrose Schools, Ms Sindura Aravind, a Rotarian at heart.

The proceedings were then handed over to Rtn Sessa Sai.

In a nearly 30-minute interactive and fun-filled introduction of the concept of Interact, combining historical perspective, global impact, nobility of purpose and opportunity to grow and contribute through an organization of international standing and repute, Rotarian Sessa Sai sparked the curiosity of about a hundred eager students gathered in Primrose Schools auditorium. He brought in lively examples from various everyday situations of local and global impact and cleverly showed them how they can make a difference to the

world! Their keenness was evident from their lively and spontaneous participation.

Rtn Gautam, in a compact follow-up address, exhorted the young girls and boys to embrace the spirit of Rotary with conviction and commitment.

Rtn Indrani brought the meeting to a close by emphasizing the importance of building deep, enduring relationships—a “Big R” in her Rotary journey—through the Interact movement, guided by Rotary’s core values. She spoke of the personal growth that comes from engaging in purposeful, open-minded conversations and collective action, where individual ego is set aside for the greater good. She reinforced that “Service Above Self” is not just a motto, but the very essence and spirit of the Rotary movement.

- Rtn Indrani Krishnaier



PRESENTATION OF THE CLUB CHARTER SIGNIFYING CONTINUITY & RENEWED PURPOSE



A Fireside to Remember

An Evening of Connection and Warmth at the Acharya's Home

On Saturday, 12 July 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras was welcomed into the beautiful home of Rtn Chetan and Priyanka Acharya for the year's first Fireside – an evening that set a new benchmark for warmth, elegance, and camaraderie. Though new to the club, the Acharyas hosted with the ease of seasoned Rotarians, opening their hearts and home to create a truly memorable gathering.

Thoughtfully curated name tags made introductions effortless, while two lively icebreaker games added laughter and connection. From guessing fun facts about each other to a creative Bingo game filled with prompts like “Lived in three cities” and “Learnt a classical art form,” every activity sparked conversation and helped members discover shared stories and experiences.

The hosts' two young sons joined in with infectious enthusiasm, adding to the evening's charm. Delicious amuse-bouche and curated beverages flowed freely, while a digital fireplace glowed softly in the background, echoing the evening's warmth.

It wasn't just a Fireside – it was a celebration of the Rotary spirit: thoughtful hosting, genuine friendships, and joyful community. As the evening came to a close, everyone left with full hearts, new bonds, and excitement for the year ahead.



- Kavya, Spouse of Rtn Hari Venkatesan

1. Think of a significant lesson you've learned in life that didn't come from a classroom, a mentor, or even a book. It might have come from a surprising person, an unexpected event, or even a moment of quiet reflection. What was that lesson, and how did it fundamentally change your perspective on something important?

Answer: Everyone does something for a reason. I guess we should not judge that person or question why they did it. Just made me a happier person .

2. Forget the typical "why Rotary." What's the story behind your decision to join the Rotary Club of Madras? Was it a lightbulb moment, a nudge from a friend, or a deep-seated desire to make a specific impact?

Answer: I was at that stage in life where I wanted to meet new people, form new relationships and do something for society.

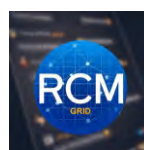
3. Every Rotarian has that "aha!" moment, that one experience that truly shifted their perspective on what Rotary is capable of. Since becoming a part of RCM, what's been that most surprising, challenging, or deeply moving experience that's redefined Rotary for you?

Answer: Being part of the CSR group and meeting CSR heads of corporates didn't seem like any typical corporate employee. Their sincerity in working for a social cause was an eye opener for me .



Rtn Hari Venkatesan

FRESH FUEL



A US\$2 million Rotary Programs of Scale grant to build peace in Colombia was announced at the 2025 Rotary International Convention' in Calgary. The grant will fund a program that fosters people's ability to resolve conflicts peacefully and equips local leaders with tools for economic self-reliance. It's the fifth Programs of Scale grant Rotary has awarded.

"In that one electrifying morning, 22 torches were lit not with fire, but with purpose as a new generation rose to lead, to serve, and to transform."

Friday, July 18, 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras proudly hosted the combined installation of 22 Interact Clubs at the iconic Museum Theatre, Egmore. Titled **UNITE FOR GOOD**, the event stood as a shining testament to youth leadership and the spirit of service.



The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Rtn Vinod Saraogi, District Governor, RI District 3234, alongside Guests of Honour — Rtn Nikhil Raj, President, RCM, Rtn Dr Ravi Varma, Chairman, Youth Services, RI District 3234, and Rtn Suman Voora Director – Youth Services, RCM and Hon. Sec. Rtn Prasanna

Rajagopalan. Organized by the Rotaract Club of New College, the event was flawlessly executed by Chairpersons Rtn Ateeq Rehman, Rtn Aswath Reddy, Rtn Mohit Bajaj, Rtn Manasa T Pillai, Rtn Mehul Nanavati and Rtn. Himanshu Budhia, whose passion and precision brought the celebration to life.



Adding grace and gravitas to the occasion was the presence of senior and esteemed Rotarians: PP Rtn George Cherian, PE Rtn Balakrishna, PP Rtn Shanker C Mangadu, Rtn Abdul Kareem Sait, Rtn Ravishankar, Rtn Srilatha,

Rtn Arun Palaiappan, Rtn Balaji Chinni and Rtn Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan who spoke about the importance of cervical vaccination. Thank you to all who stood as pillars of support and inspiration to the Interact movement.

Among the many memorable moments of the morning, what truly stood out was the unassuming nature and remarkable capability of the students of Gummidipoondi Boys Town Society. They spoke with such clarity, poise, and confidence that they left

the audience deeply impressed. In a world where eloquence is often expected of private school students, these boys proved that true strength emerges from struggle. It wasn't just public speaking — it was survival of the fittest, shaped by resilience, grit, and heart.



History of The Rotary Foundation



In 1917, RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International.

Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to “hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI.”

Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into the Easter Seals.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded the Foundation’s growth, but the need for lasting world peace generated great postwar interest in its development. After Rotary’s founder, Paul P. Harris, died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

That year, the first Foundation program – the forerunner of

Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships – was established. In 1965-66, three new programs were launched: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants. The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants program was launched in 1978, and Rotary Volunteers were created as a part of that program in 1980. PolioPlus was

announced in 1984-85, and the next year brought Rotary Grants for University Teachers. The first peace forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the Foundation’s peace and conflict studies programs.

Throughout the time, support of the Foundation grew tremendously. Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, it has received contributions totaling more than \$1 billion. More than \$70 million was donated in 2003-04 alone. Till date, more than one million individuals have been

recognized as Paul Harris Fellows – people who have given \$1,000 to the Annual Programs Fund or have had that amount contributed in their name.

Such strong support, along with Rotarian involvement worldwide, ensures a secure future for The Rotary Foundation as it continues its vital work for international understanding and world peace.

**Posted by David Kahwa
on Nov 3, 2012**

Glimpses of Gratitude: A Heartfelt Tapestry of Support and Service

These powerful images vividly captured on the night of 27 June 2025 depict immense spirit of collaboration and dedication that permeated Rotary Club of Madras’s Thanksgiving celebration.



From Rtn Vikram Jalan's instrumental and impactful presence, clearly seen in these visuals, as he coordinated with Hyatt to curate 52 weeks of exceptional menus, to the unwavering and essential support poured forth by the super-responsive Hyatt team, who flawlessly executed Vikram's vision, each photograph perfectly reflects collective commitment and shared purpose of everyone involved.



These precious moments truly highlight profound camaraderie and generous spirit that made the entire event a night etched forever in the hearts of RCMers, for all who participated, including the dedicated RCM staff, Mr Varadarajan, Mr Joseph, Ms Swetha who contributed to its resounding success .

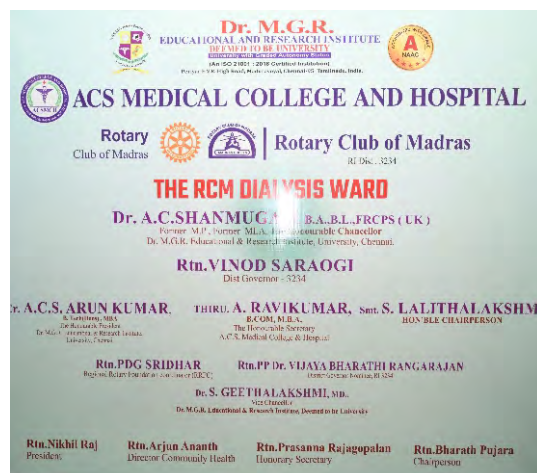


LIFELINES OF HOPE: ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS INAUGURATES DIALYSIS WARD AT ACS MEDICAL COLLEGE

17th July 2025, the Rotary Club of Madras, in collaboration with ACS Medical College and Hospital, proudly inaugurated RCM Dialysis Ward as part of its ongoing commitment to accessible and quality healthcare. This milestone was made possible through the generous support of the Global Grant 2575615 (Dialysis with Dignity) initiative, under which 11 advanced dialysis machines were donated to the hospital.

The RCM dialysis ward inaugural event and Doctors Day celebration were held on the hospital premises and witnessed a distinguished gathering of dignitaries, medical professionals, and Rotary Club members including DG Vinod Saraogi, PDG Sridhar, President Nikhil Raj, PP Rtn Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, IPP Rtn Chella Krishna, PP Rtn Ravi Sundaresan, PP Rtn KK Raman, Rtn Nimish C Tolia, Rtn Arjun Ananth and Rtn Bharath Pujara.

The dialysis ward and machine were inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony by RCM members and the ACS Chairperson. The event began with a Tamizh Thai Vazhthu and warm welcome address by Dr Srinivasa Raj, Dean of ACS Medical College, who expressed deep appreciation for the Rotary Club's philanthropic efforts and emphasized the critical need for improved dialysis facilities to support patients suffering from chronic kidney diseases. The ceremonial inauguration of the dialysis ward was led by Dr. A.C. Shanmugam,



Former MP and Chancellor of Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute. In his address, he applauded the partnership between Rotary and ACS Medical College, highlighting how such collaborations create a real impact on society. He also emphasized that Rotarians are always service-minded individuals dedicated to the community. Additionally, he extended his wishes to all doctors on the occasion of National Doctor's Day and urged them to engage in more research in the medical field.



Dr. Girish, in his address, acknowledged the invaluable contributions of doctors and emphasized the importance of strengthening healthcare services through partnerships like this. Rtn. Vinod Saraogi, District Governor of Rotary District 3234, spoke about Rotary's enduring commitment to public health and expressed pride in supporting ACS Medical College with the donation of dialysis machines under the Global Grant initiative. President Nikhil Raj felicitated Dr A. C. Shanmugam. As part of the program, grocery items were donated to the hospital staff. Gifts were also presented to newborn babies in the hospital, and awards were given to departments, doctors, and students in recognition of their contributions.

RCM's Gift of Life Marks Doctors' Day with Compassion and Care



When one lamp lights another

WHEN ONE LAMP LIGHTS ANOTHER



Rotary
Club of Madras



As a leadership coach, I've had the privilege of working with leaders across sectors and cultures. And I've learned that the best leaders are not the loudest or most certain—they are the ones who lead with self-awareness, humility, and a deep sense of service. Listening to Chella and Nikhil at the Installation brought that lesson home. Chella spoke with rare honesty about starting from fear—of scale, legacy, and the sheer weight of expectations. But what I heard most clearly was his quiet transformation: from uncertainty to resolve, from managing to serving. That takes courage. And character. Nikhil brought a gentle confidence—grounded in experience, shaped by mentors, and powered by a collective vision. He spoke not as a commander, but as a collaborator—someone who sees Rotary as a river we're all called to nourish. In both, I saw the essence of true leadership - it is not about holding the spotlight. It's about passing it on. That evening, I didn't just hear two speeches. I witnessed a relay of values, trust, and purpose. And it made me quietly grateful to be part of our community.

- Rtn Sanjay Chaganti Rao



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