

# The Lighthouse

Rotary  
Club of Madras

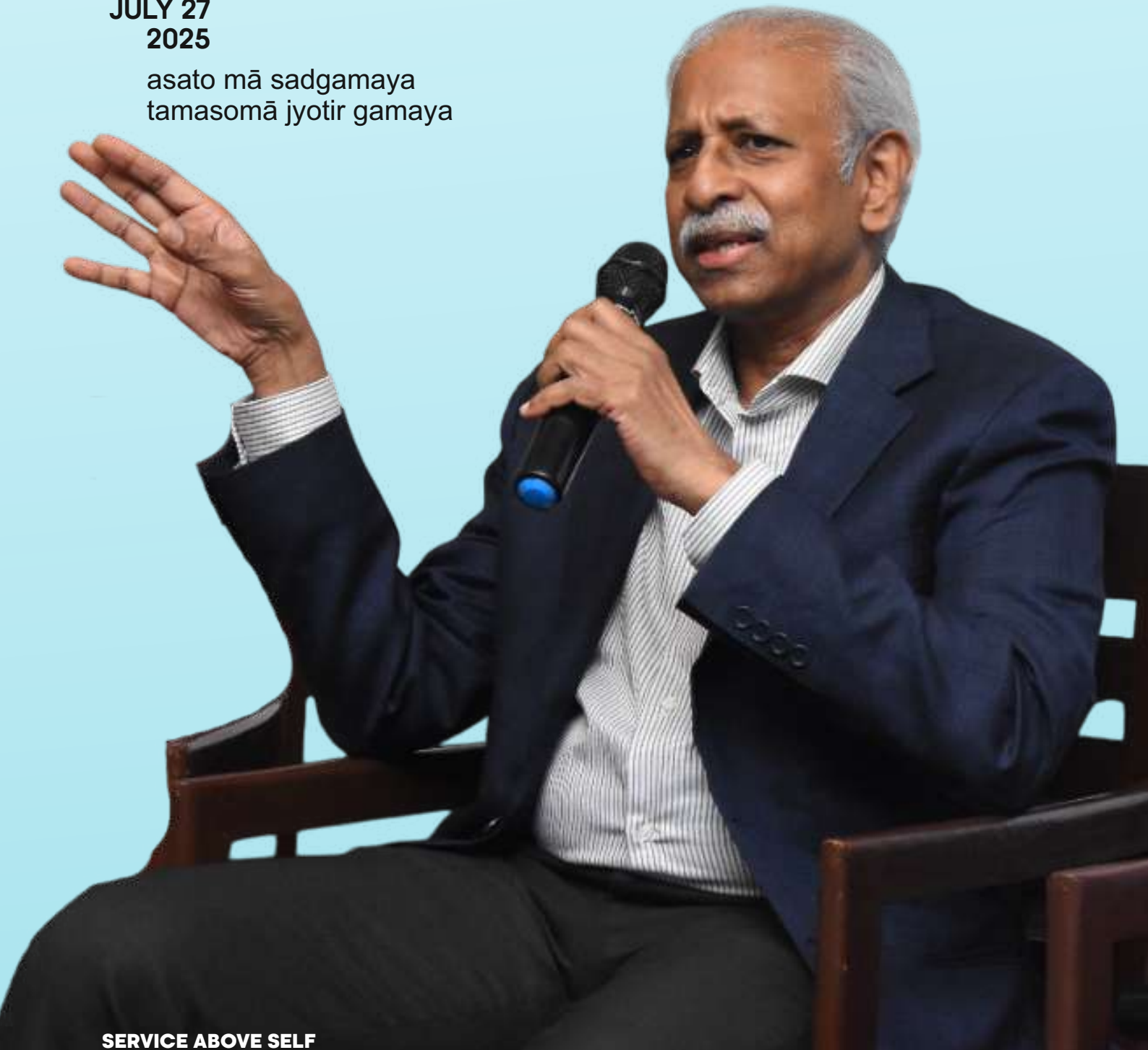


WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 04

JULY 27  
2025

asato mā sadgamaya  
tamasomā jyotir gamaya



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

## BIRTHDAYS 🎂



Rtn Nidhi Kapoor Thadani	21st July
Rtn Kapil Chitale	23rd July
Rtn Anuradha Jhaver	26th July
Rtn Antony Lobo	28th July
Rtn Alankrit V Arora	28th July
Rozeena, Spouse of Rtn Mahmud Jamal N.	22nd July
Suganthi, Spouse of PP Rtn Vijay Krishna	22nd July
Suniti Seth, Spouse of Rtn Tarun Seth	25th July
Sandhya, Spouse of Rtn Govind Parikh	25th July
Simran Sehgal, Spouse of Rtn Madhav Sehgal	27th July
Malathi Devi, Spouse of Rtn Pratap Kumar .M	27th July



## Rotary Club of Madras

### 5<sup>th</sup> Weekly Meeting



## OFF COURT VOLLEYS WITH SOMDEV & PRAJNESH

Tuesday, 29th July 2025 | 1.30 pm  
Lunch : 12:30 - 1:30 pm at Hyatt Regency, Chennai.

### Spouses are invited for this meeting

**Rtn. Nikhil Raj**  
President

**Rtn. Prasanna Rajagopalan**  
Honorary Secretary

**Rtn. Rajesh Mani**  
Director - Club Service

**Rtn. Mohit Bajaj**  
Chairperson - Programs Committee



## 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 Sessa Sai

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mr Madhu Mathen

Rtn Akur Raman Raghunandan

Rtn Dr Rama Narasimhan

### EDITED & PUBLISHED BY

Rtn Manasa T Pillai, Asst. Secretary

Rotary Club of Madras

### RAYALA TOWERS

1st Mezzanine Flr., 158, Anna Salai,  
Chennai 600 002 Phone: +91 44 2859 1020

### CONTACT THE EDITOR AT:

[lighthouse@rotarymadras.in](mailto:lighthouse@rotarymadras.in)

Bulletin Design:

YATRATECHS

Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to: [lighthouse@rotarymadras.in](mailto:lighthouse@rotarymadras.in)  
Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

# Rotary Club of Madras (RCM)

## Minutes of the 4th Weekly Meeting, held on Tuesday, 22 July 2025

1.30 pm, Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai

---

The 4<sup>th</sup> weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras for the year 2025–26 was called to order by President Rtn Nikhil Raj. The session began with the traditional playing of the Rotary song. The minutes from the previous weekly meeting was requested and duly confirmed.

### Welcome Address

President Nikhil Raj extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Special recognition was given to guest speakers, Rtn Dr Arulmozhi Varman NV and Rtn Dr Chandrasekhar R as well as to Probus members namely Mohanam and VC Kannan. It was noted that no visiting Rotarians or external guests were in attendance.

### President's Announcements

President Nikhil Raj proudly announced the successful conclusion of the Charter Night on 19 July 2025, which featured the launch of the Centenary Logo and the Centenary Canvas, the latter of which was signed by PDGs and Presidents. He also reported that the Holistic Committee had a successful film screening of "Cauvery-River of Life" on Sunday, 20 July 2025 and is considering extending the screening to Interact and Rotaract clubs. Additionally, one Rotaract installation was completed over the weekend, with more scheduled for the coming week.

### Special Recognition and Secretary's Announcements

PP Rtn Indra Subramanyam, whose plaque had been previously missed, was invited to the stage to receive her well-deserved recognition. Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan, the Secretary, then announced the Birthdays, Anniversaries, and spouse Anniversaries for the week. The next meeting was announced, scheduled for 29 July 2025, and would feature renowned tennis players Mr Somdev Varman and Mr Prajnesh, would speak on the topic of "Sports and Youth development". The Community Service Development team would also be distributing Environmental Awards at that meeting.

### Member Announcements

**Germany Trip:** Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran provided a captivating overview of a proposed Rotary family trip to Germany, which includes visits to Stuttgart, the Black Forest, and the Mercedes-Benz Museum. He enthusiastically encouraged members and their families to seize the remaining available slots.

**Youth Services Update:** Rtn Suman Voora shared a commendable update on Youth Services, highlighting the successful joint installation for 22 out of 27 Interact clubs on 18 July 2025. A short video produced by retired contractor Syed showcasing the event was also screened. An Interact orientation for JPR School is scheduled for 23 July 2025.

**Club Fellowship:** Rtn Rajesh Mani announced the first full club fellowship of the year, to be held on Sunday, 10 August 2025, at Secret Story on Kader Nawaz Khan Road. The theme, "Back to School," encourages members to attend in school attire or dressed as teachers.

**Art Auction Report:** Rtn Nimish C Tolia delivered a comprehensive financial report on the art auction held on 15 June 2025. The auction successfully raised Rs.1.93 crores from paintings and an additional Rs.7.5 lakhs from donated works by Seema Kohli. A donation of Rs.7.5 lakhs was also received from Subhash Goel for a dialysis machine. The total funds collected amounted to Rs.34.35 lakhs, with the cheques being presented to the President, a moment facilitated by former Fundraising Director Rtn Prasanna Rajagopalan.



## Guest Talk - Ghana Eye Camp Initiative

Rtn Dr Chandrasekhar R introduced PP Rtn Dr Arulmozhi Varman NV, the medical director of Uma Eye Clinic, to speak about the Ghana medical service trip that had been mentioned in previous meetings. Dr Arulmozhi Varman captivated the audience with a presentation on the surgical eye camp conducted in Accra, Ghana, in June 2025. He detailed the project's history, tracing its origins to 2004–2005 during the tenure of PP Rtn NK Gopinath. His presentation elaborated on the meticulous planning, challenges faced, surgeries performed, and the profound impact of the medical camp. In a gesture of deep appreciation, the President presented Dr. Arul with a plaque and a "Timeless Legacy" memento. The meeting was brought to a formal close with a heartfelt Vote of Thanks delivered by Rtn Ashish Gupta, post which President Nikhil Raj officially adjourned the proceedings.

## BEYOND BORDERS, BEYOND BLINDNESS

Dr. ARULMOZHI VARMAN'S GHANA MISSION

### "DOCTOR, I CAN SEE YOUR FACE"

The patient—blind in one eye, cataract-afflicted in the other—danced his way out of the hospital, refusing even the protective bandage offered to him. He had waited too long to see his grandchildren, and the world !

That moment, and hundreds like it, defined the extraordinary mission of Rtn. PP. Dr. N.V. Arulmozhi Varman and his surgical team in Ghana - Dr. Panneerselvam from Arasan Eye Hospital Erode, Dr. Ravikumar from MN Eye Hospitals Chennai, Dr. Suraj and four nurses.

In just five days, the team conducted 366 cataract surgeries in severely under-equipped hospitals in the remote regions of Aflao and Ketu South. But behind the numbers lies a tale of grit, improvisation and Rotary-style service without borders.

### A Mission Reignited After Two Decades

This wasn't Dr. Arul's first trip to Ghana. Nearly 20 years ago, he had led similar eye camps in partnership with the Rotary Club of Accra West (RCAW). That early effort had brought sight to hundreds and skills to a few local ophthalmologists who trained under Indian surgeons. But returning after all these years, Dr. Arul was disheartened to find no real systemic progress. The hospitals had no eye surgeons, no dedicated eye departments, and donated equipment lay idle. "When RCAC called again this year, I didn't hesitate," he said during his conversation with Rtn. Dr. R. Chandrasekhar at the July 22 Weekly Meeting.



**"It was a chance to restart something that should never have stopped." — Dr. Arul**

### Before the Scalpel, the Scramble

Planning a surgical eye camp is challenging even in India. Doing it on another continent, with skeletal infrastructure and bureaucracy that could test the Buddha, was something else entirely. First came the visa chaos. Nurses' Covid vaccination certificates were tied to defunct mobile numbers, and the team received their visas barely hours before departure. The main shipment of surgical equipment—painstakingly packed as cargo and the Indian authorities due to procedural red tape.



As their departure date neared, the team unpacked the cargo shipment, redistributed essentials into personal baggage, and carried with them what mattered: intraocular lenses, surgical tools, sterilization supplies, and even microscope parts. Each team member lugged 32 kg—the airline limit—with personal belongings relegated to hand luggage.



**"We carried all our essential equipment with us, including 20 sets of surgical instruments and sterilization supplies", recounted Dr.Arul.**

### **Makeshift Hospitals and Miracle Work**

Landing in Accra, they were greeted by the indefatigable Rtn. Moses, a local Rotary stalwart and logistical saviour. But the challenges had only begun. The first hospital had no ophthalmic department. No Operation Theatre. Not even stools for the doctors to sit on. The operating table turned out to be—wait for it—a massage table! There were no working autoclaves, no basic sterilization. The team cleaned storerooms, disinfected surfaces, scrubbed walls and ceilings, and set up shop.

Dr. Arul recalled such extremely challenging

moments with characteristic understatement. Microscopes were borrowed from a doctor in another town. Anaesthetics had to be rushed in from Rotarians running pharmaceutical businesses 4.5 hours away. On Day 2, the electrical wire of the autoclave caught fire during sterilization. By Day 3, with a barely functioning autoclave, they hit their stride.

And still, 366 surgeries were performed with precision and post-op care—each case documented, reviewed, and restored to sight.



### **The Human Side of Healing**

A glaucoma-afflicted woman followed the team across cities, desperate for help. She was nearly blind and had been turned away elsewhere. They took her in—and her surgery succeeded.

Another man, newly sighted, refused a bandage.

**"I want to see my grandchildren tonight."**

He walked the beach all night, seeing the world again.

These weren't just surgeries. They were second chances.

### **Lessons from Ghana—and from India**

As Dr.Arulmozhi Varman explained, India once faced the same struggle with blindness. But thanks to the visionary launch of the National Programme for Control of Blindness in the 1970s—backed by both government and global expertise—we now perform over 80 lakh cataract surgeries annually. Ghana, said Dr. Arul, needs similar institutional will.

"The people are disciplined. The country is

stable. But the system needs to wake up," he emphasized. "Blindness is not just a health issue. It burdens entire families and communities."

His call was clear: move beyond ad hoc camps. Collaborate with governments. Institutionalize training. Build infrastructure. Empower local teams. "India has the model. Rotary has the network. Let's replicate it."

## A Rotary Dream, Reignited

Dr. Arul's 45-minute talk was interspersed with spontaneous bursts of applause from an appreciative audience - not just for the surgeries completed, but for the clarity of vision ahead.

Rotary's motto, Service Above Self, had crossed borders and restored vision - literally and metaphorically.

In his closing words, he urged RCMers to dream bigger: "What if our Club adopted an entire district in Ghana? What if we made it cataract-free, permanently?"

From Chennai to Ghana, from darkness to light - Dr. Arulmozhi Varman is proof that when purpose meets planning, even the hardest journeys can change lives.

- Mr Madhu Mathen  
Committee Member  
The Lighthouse

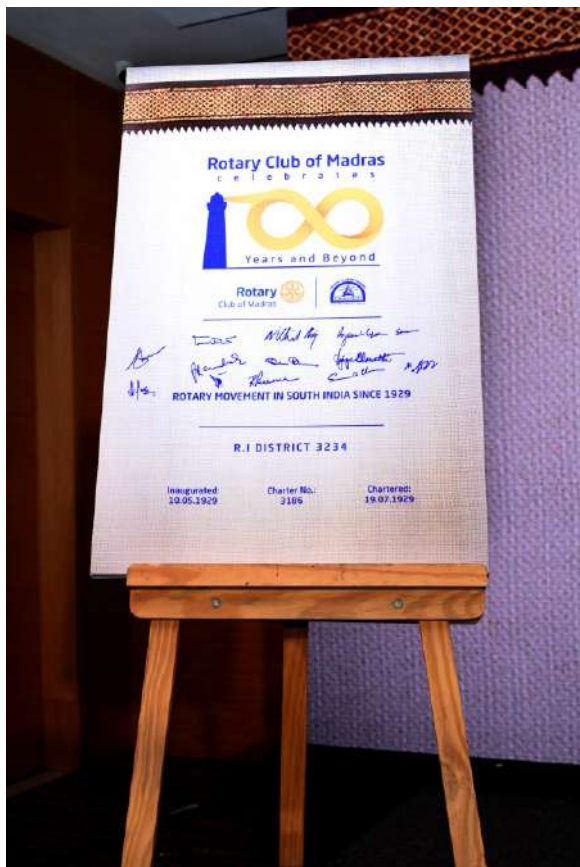
## THE BIRTH OF A LEGACY: THE UNTOLD SAGA BEHIND THE CENTENARY LOGO

**"A logo is not just a symbol—it is the soul of a celebration, the echo of a century."**

In a tale destined for Rotary folklore, the Centenary Logo of the Rotary Club of Madras wasn't just conceived—it was forged in fire, sculpted by vision, and imbued with 100 years of legacy. It didn't emerge from design software—it rose, phoenix-like, from the artistic inferno of one singularly gifted Rotarian: Rtn Sid Chandrasekar. Yes, behind the majestic insignia that now adorns our forthcoming centenary celebrations stood a man with not just design prowess, but devotion in his fingertips. Sid was not briefed—he was

summoned. The club didn't assign a task; it sparked a creative pilgrimage. What followed was an odyssey of meaning, symbolism, and sublime artistry.

Each detail of the logo pulses with intention. The circularity captures the continuum of service. The luminous gradient reflects the dawning future. The stylized "100" interlocks like the gears of time itself—synchronized, unstoppable, resolute. It is not a design—it is a testament.







**"This was no graphic design. This was calligraphy of commitment. Artistry in the name of Rotary."**

He wondered in sacred solitude, channeling not only aesthetic genius but historical reverence. Every element was debated, refined, reborn. Fonts were sculpted, curves caressed, colours chosen not for contrast—but for conversation with legacy. The final flourish? A logo that commands attention and commands respect. And now—the canvas that first held this masterstroke has taken on a mythic life of its own. Signed by our Past District Governors and future Presidents, it stands as

more than memorabilia. It is now a relic, a scroll of signatures, a ceremonial baton passed through time. So the next time your eyes meet that golden emblem, know this: you are not merely seeing a design. You are standing before a vision crystallized, a movement symbolized, a century glorified—by the brilliance of one Rotarian's devotion. The Centenary Logo is not just ours. It is Rotary's eternal signature.

## HONOURING PAST YOUTH SERVICE DIRECTORS

PP Rtn Shanker C Mangadu..... (1986–88)  
 Rtn Pratap Kumar M.... (1996–97, 1999–2000, 2002–04)  
 PDG JB Kamdar  
 Rtn Archana Shri Sanjay... (2001–02)  
 Rtn Bharat B Mohindra... (2004–05)  
 PP Rtn George B Cherian... (2005–07)  
 PP Rtn AS Venkhat Ramani  
 Rtn Sathiam Ram... (2013–15)  
 Rtn Sessa Sai M... (2015–19)  
 Rtn Balaji Chinni... (2019–21, 2023–25)  
 Rtn Dr Parkavi Mahalingam... (2021–23)  
 Rtn Indra Subramanyam.... (2002–03)

## HONOURING LONG-SERVICE MEMBERS

Recognised for **25 years of Rotary service** (joined in 2000)

Rtn Abdul Azeez HE  
 Rtn Anand Rengaswamy  
 PP Rtn Dr Arulmozhi Varman N.V.  
 Rtn Shanno Ravi  
 Rtn Jacob Kurian  
 Rtn SriLatha  
 Rtn R Vasudevan













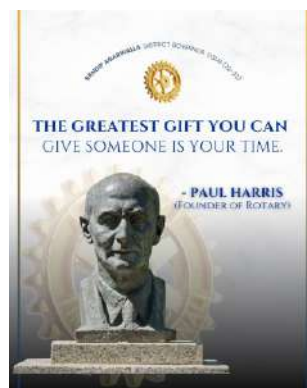


A month or so after I joined the Rotary Club of Madras, I got a call from Rtn George Cherian. Now usually when someone calls you so early in your Rotary career, it's either to put you on a committee or... yes, to design our centenary logo! Excited (and slightly nervous), I began doodling. As one does, I started with the good old "100" — you know, big bold numbers, maybe some circles, maybe some flair. But nothing quite clicked. Then, somewhere in that creative chaos, I stumbled upon the original "Madras Greets" logo — the OG emblem of the Rotary Club of Madras, crafted almost a century ago. There was something majestic about that logo — a temple-like structure standing tall. Curious, I dug deeper (okay, I Googled a bit and asked around) and discovered that it wasn't a temple at all. It was the lighthouse on top of the Madras High Court building. And that's when the penny dropped.

Think about it: a lighthouse, the tallest structure back then, shining its light out to sea — just like our founding Rotarians, who were lighting the way for the Rotary movement in South India. Visionaries, right? I mean, they didn't just form a club; they ignited a whole movement. That's when the design clicked into place. I merged the lighthouse with the infinity symbol — to represent the momentum that started 100 years

ago and continues to grow. We added the phrase "Years and Beyond" to reflect our timeless legacy (and to subtly show that we're not going anywhere anytime soon). Being part of this centenary celebration and contributing to its identity has been a humbling (and honestly, very cool) experience. I'm just grateful I got the call and not the committee job!

**- Rtn Sid Chandrasekar**



**ROTARY  
RADAR**

"The greatest gift you can give someone is your time." – Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary

Long before the world spoke of impact and volunteerism, Paul Harris gave us a global platform to serve. Born in 1868 and raised by his grandparents, he understood early the value of presence and mentorship. In 1905, he founded what would become Rotary International—not just to build business connections, but to create a network of service, friendship, and time well given. More than a century later, his vision still inspires over 1.4 million Rotarians across the globe.

#PaulHarris #FounderOfRotary #RotaryLegacy  
#ServiceAboveSelf #RotaryHistory  
#SandipAgarwalla #PeopleOfAction  
#TimelsAGift





Dr. M. Natarajan (MN) was a distinguished leader of the Rotary Club of Madras, the third oldest Rotary Club in India and the oldest in South India. He served as Hon. Secretary in 1976-77, President in 1983-84, and became the club's 14th District Governor in 1989-90. In 1973, Dr. Natarajan initiated the Operation Leprosy Project (OPEL), aiming to detect and treat leprosy among school children at a time when fear and stigma surrounded the disease. He inspired Rotarian doctors to combat both leprosy and the myths associated with it, confidently stating that with proper

implementation, leprosy could soon be a memory. OPEL collaborated with organizations like the German Leprosy Relief Association and the Belgian Leprosy Mission in this vital work.

In recognition of his contributions, Dr. Natarajan received the Keyman Award from Rotary International in 1985-86, a prestigious honor awarded to only three Rotarians that year.

An anecdote from 1983-84 highlights his commitment: when Health Minister Dr. H. V.

Hande was delayed for a meeting, Dr. Natarajan ensured the meeting proceeded on time, demonstrating his dedication to punctuality and respect for Rotary's traditions.

Fondly known as MN, he was approachable and knowledgeable, serving as a guiding light within the Rotary community. A respected dermatologist, he continued to see patients until his passing. I am grateful to have known him and benefited from his wise counsel.

**N.K. Gopinath**  
Past President  
Rotary Club of Madras

Dr. MN and my father were born a few days apart and both celebrate their 100th birth centenary in August. I think my dad was a few days older and MN always jokingly referred to him as Somu anna.

**- Rtn Rajesh Somasundaram**

1. Think about one seemingly small, unconventional, or even rebellious act you undertook in your younger days – something that might not have seemed important at the time, but unexpectedly created a lasting, positive ripple effect in your life or in the lives of others. What was that act, and what did it teach you about the unpredictable nature of impact?



**PP Rtn Gunashekar Sadasivam**  
Founding Force

### **Trekking the Ghats: Lessons Beyond the Trail**

During my college days in Bombay, I joined an adventure club that trekked through Raigad, Sinhagad, Jivdhan, and Matheran during the monsoons. These weren't just treks, they were journeys into the legacy of Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj.

### **Teamwork Over Glory**

Trekking taught me that success lies in unity—valuing each other's strengths and supporting weaknesses.

### **Shivaji's Strategic Brilliance**

From forts like Jivdhan, where he built granaries inspired by ants, I saw how observation and foresight shaped the Maratha Empire.



## A Legacy of Tolerance

Shivaji Maharaj ruled with compassion, religious tolerance, and a commitment to justice—values that still resonate today. What began as an adventure became a lifelong lesson in leadership, empathy, and resilience.

2. If you were writing a candid, no-holds-barred letter to the RCM of 2050, what's the one indispensable piece of wisdom, the most critical warning, or the most audacious vision you'd impart to ensure our club's enduring relevance and impact?

*I would say, "Look Beyond What You See and Look Beyond Yourself"!!*

3. Rotary prides itself on service, but sustained impact often requires navigating difficult currents. Reflect on a time when RCM faced a significant internal or external hurdle – a crisis of confidence, a dissenting opinion, or a major setback. What was the real story behind that challenge, what uncomfortable truths did you have to confront, and what leadership lesson did you personally carry forward from that experience?

*An eminent philosopher once said, "Along the way I met the enemy. He was within". This line unwittingly reflects some of RCM's internal struggles when it comes to nominating our committed Past Presidents to being District Governors. Many a time, RCM Members have worked at cross purposes and thrown justice to the winds. Yes, democracy requires consensus and that the general body's mandate be carried out. However, at such times, I am of the view that statesmanship shall prevail, and the Four Way Test be followed to the T. To the outside world, RCM is seen as vulnerable and as a disjointed group of self-serving Rotary Members.*

## HPVax

Kicking off the new Rotary year 2025–26 on a meaningful note, an awareness session for parents was held on 2 July 2025 at Sri Ramakrishna Math Vivekananda Centenary Girls Higher Secondary School, Mint. The session shed light on the importance of cervical cancer prevention and how timely HPV vaccination can protect young girls from a disease that is both preventable and life-altering. The response was heartening, with over 100 parents attending, listening intently, asking thoughtful questions, and showing deep concern for their daughters' health and future. Earlier, on 29 May 2025, a similar awareness session was conducted exclusively for the teachers of the school at Vivekananda House, Kamaraj Salai, Marina Beach Road.

The setting was inspiring, and the session turned into a space of open dialogue, where teachers shared their thoughts and took active interest in the initiative — a truly encouraging sign of community partnership. The Rotary Club of Madras is committed to reaching more families and has now set its sights on sensitizing parents across the RK Math Group of Schools in Chennai. We believe real change begins with informed conversations — and every school we reach is a step closer to protecting our daughters. A heartfelt thanks to the dedicated volunteers from Ventura Technologies Network Pvt Ltd and to the enthusiastic student volunteers for their invaluable support in coordinating the vaccination camp on 5 July 2025.





# PRIVILEGED TO SERVE, HONoured TO BE REMEMBERED



I was truly privileged to be honoured on 20 July 2025, didn't realize that I was first on the list. My Rotary journey began with service. I did my first job, serving as Chairman Interact for two years, followed by two years as Youth Services Director. I then took over as District Chairman Interact during the tenure of Rtn M. Balaji as DG. Under my stewardship, our 5 RCM Interact Clubs grew to 13. Two dormant Rotaract Clubs were revived, and we raised the count from 3 to 5.

My guide throughout was Capt. Ramamurthy—an exceptionally active Rotarian, known fondly as the father of Rotary Nagar. His portrait adorned the walls of Rotary Nagar for over a decade.

*"From five Interact Clubs to thirteen - every number tells a story of growth."*

My entry into Rotary commenced in the year 1984, thanks to the insistence of PP MCT Muthiah, the first PHF of RCM. I was soon picked by PP Rtn Dr Biswa to chair the Handicapped Persons Committee. We not only provided cycle wheelchairs to the deserving but also focused on caliper fitments for the disabled.

Rotarians Meena Dadha and Mahendra Dadha, RCM's husband-and-wife team, were already producing plastic, weightless calipers. In my second year as Chairperson, we organized the fitment of 116 calipers, with funding support from several Fellow Rotarians.

*"116 calipers, dozens of smiles—measured not in units, but in dignity restored."*

My Rotary life has been enriched by mentors like PP Rtn Krish Chitale, PDG M.V. Arunachalam, and PDG Rathnam. I take pride in leading initiatives such as the 13 temple lake renovations, various venue chairpersonships, and Special Projects. Always striving for

innovation in service, I was closely associated with the 3D project at Ashok Nagar—guided by PP Balaji and PP Benji, who were also the masterminds behind the Selaiyur Complex. I served as Hon. Secretary to PP Rtn Benji.

*"Innovation in service is not a choice—it is our Rotary compass."*

Some of the landmark initiatives included three urban public toilets, the overseas Ghana Health Project (2005–07), and the Sulerikatukuppam Tsunami Project—spearheaded by PP Rtn NK Gopinath. In 2007, as IPP, I had the honour of

travelling to Ghana, where I was felicitated by RC Accra West and the Ministry of Health, Ghana. The plaque they presented still graces my office. That year, I became known as "Ghana Shanker."

*"They called me Ghana Shanker. I simply answered to service."*

A heartfelt thank-you to my Fellow Rotarians—and to Rtn Dr Ramasubramaniam for giving me a second lease of life, enabling me to live the Rotary motto: "Service Above

Self." I was also an active participant in five RI overseas conventions, attended multiple overseas Rotary meetings, and brought global donors to RCM.

A pivotal moment in RCM's journey came with the rise of PDG JB Kamdar. I was next in line after serving as Assistant Secretary and Hon. Secretary and was named President-Elect for 1998. However, due to medical reasons, I

stepped down mid-year in a board meeting and recommended Director Youth Services PDG JB Kamdar. That moment marked a turning point for RCM to step into the global arena.

*"Sometimes stepping aside is the greatest step forward for the greater good."*

I returned as PE in 2004–05, persuaded by none other than our beloved PP Rtn PCM Somasundaram, father of Rajesh, my friend, philosopher, and guide.

— PP Rtn Shanker C Mangadu

## RCM GERMANY TRAVEL ITINERARY



**Rotary Club of Madras**

### RCM INTERNATIONAL FAMILY TRAVEL GERMANY

**Day 1** **Arrival in Stuttgart – 10 Sep 2025**

- Arrive at Stuttgart by afternoon. Enjoy a welcome lunch, transfer to hotel, and settle in. Overnight in Stuttgart.

**Day 2** **Black Forest Excursion – 11 Sep 2025**

- Full-day guided excursion to the Black Forest. Highlights include the Tree Top Walk and a traditional Cuckoo Clock demonstration. Return to Stuttgart.

**Day 3** **Mercedes-Benz Factory & Berlin Transfer – 12 Sep 2025**

- Visit the Mercedes-Benz Factory.
- Afternoon flight to Berlin. Check-in and overnight stay in Berlin.



**Rotary Club of Madras**

**Day 4** **Berlin City Tour – 13 Sep 2025**

- Explore Berlin's iconic landmarks: Berlin Wall, Brandenburg Gate, Reichstag, and Berlin Cathedral. Includes museum visits and memorials.

**Day 5** **Sachsenhausen & Cultural Sights – 14 Sep 2025**

- A guided tour of the Sachsenhausen Memorial. Later, explore the Spy Museum and enjoy a river cruise.

**Day 6** **Historic Potsdam – 15 Sep 2025**

- Day trip to Potsdam featuring a guided city tour and visit to Sanssouci Palace & Gardens. Return to Berlin by evening.

**Day 7** **Departure – 16 Sep 2025**

- Early morning checkout and airport transfer for flight back to Chennai.





The installation of Rtr. Kalashri as the 10th President of the Rotaract Club of SDNB Vaishnav College was a simple yet heartwarming ceremony filled with love and enthusiasm. A special moment was the collaring, done by the charter president, Ms. Victoria Precilla, symbolizing the continuity of leadership and legacy. Our Rotaract Chair, Rtn. Arun Palaniappan, shared his valuable insights and extended his wholehearted support wherever needed.

Rtr. Kalashri aspires to lead the club with passion and purpose, with a bold vision of making SDNB Vaishnav College the largest all-women Rotaract Club in India. We look forward to a vibrant year ahead!

**- Rtn Suman Voora  
Youth Services Director**





# GO COLORS!

Leggings | Joggers | Ethnic | Palazzos | Jeggings | Pants | Denim | Culottes & more

Present across 150+ cities with over 650+ exclusive brand stores in all leading malls, high street & airports.  
Shop Online at [www.gocolors.com](http://www.gocolors.com)