

The Lighthouse

Rotary
Club of Madras





WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS

ISSUE 47

May 24
2026



BIRTHDAYS 	
Rtn P Ravishankar	18 th May
Rtn Kadiresan Adityan R	21 st May
Rtn Mohit Bajaj	21 st May
Rtn Tarun Seth	23 rd May
Rtn Sonika Jain	23 rd May
Geetha Ravishankar, Spouse of Rtn Ravishankar R	18 th May
Smitha, Spouse of Rtn D Harikrishna	19 th May
Sameena, Spouse of Rtn Abdul Azeez H E	21 st May
Paramesh Krishnaier, Spouse of Rtn Indrani Krishnaier	23 rd May
Madhu Agarwal, Spouse of Rtn Aditya Agarwal	24 th May
Madura, Spouse of Rtn Ganesh Ananthakrishnan	24 th May
Divya Siddharth, Spouse of Rtn Siddharth Chandrasekhar	24 th May
Tanuja Paul, Spouse of Rtn Paul K Jacob	24 th May
Janaki Kannan, Spouse of Rtn Sivan Kannan	24 th May
ANNIVERSARY 	
PP Rtn Rani Muralidharan & K G Muralidharan	18 th May
Rtn Sesa Sai M & Kamala	19 th May
Rtn Chetan Acharya & Priyanka Acharya	20 th May
Rtn Vijay Dugar & Sangeeta Dugar	21 st May
Rtn Mahmud Jamal N & Rozeena	24 th May
Rtn Dr M Jaichandren & Sandhya Jaichandren	24 th May



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Rtn Shivkumar Eashwaran
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Rtn Arjun Ananth
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Rtn A Gooch Kumar
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Rtn Sandhya Sridhar

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YATRATECHS

Rotary Club of Madras
45th Weekly Meeting

The Changing Landscape of Sport in India
by **Suhail Chandhok**
Sports Broadcaster, CEO of U Mumba

Moderated by **Rtn. Sanjay Madhavan**

Tuesday, **26th May 2026** | 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

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

Four Machines. Countless Lifelines

The handover of four dialysis machines to the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, Tiruchirapalli marks yet another meaningful step in Rotary's mission to bring critical healthcare closer to those who need it most.

This impactful CSR project of SBIMF will greatly strengthen the hospital's dialysis services and provide much-needed support to patients who depend on regular treatment for survival and dignity.



A heartfelt thank you to SBIMF for their generous support, and to every Rotarian, hospital team member, and well-wisher who helped turn this project from intent into impact.

Sometimes, service does not arrive with noise.

It arrives as a machine that quietly saves lives, one patient at a time.





Dignity Built, One Door at a Time



The Toilets in Villages Project was inaugurated on 20 May 2026 at Thanipoondi Village in Tiruvallur District marking another meaningful milestone in our commitment to community welfare through the WASH programme — Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

With the generous CSR support of Sundram Fasteners Limited, 100 toilets have been constructed across various villages, bringing not just sanitation facilities, but also dignity, safety and healthier living conditions to many families.



The appreciation from the villagers was heartfelt, especially from the women folk, for whom this project means privacy, security and a daily life lived with greater comfort and confidence.

A big thank you to Sundram Fasteners

Limited for their invaluable support. Our sincere thanks also to all the Rotarians who helped with the project, and to our Boys Town staff Arumugam and contractor Hari, who coordinated and executed the work on the ground with dedication.



A special mention to PP Ravi S, who brought this project to RCM and helped set in motion an initiative that will touch lives every single day.

Some projects build structures; this one built dignity.

More Than a Dining Hall — A Room Full of Belonging



Some projects are not just built with bricks, cement, and cheque books. They are built with memory, gratitude, and the quiet understanding that dignity must never retire.

The Senior Citizens Home at VHS, built over 20 years ago by the Rotary Club of Madras, has now received a beautiful and meaningful upgrade with the inauguration of its new dining hall and recreation space. What was once simply a functional area has now become a warm, welcoming space where residents can relax, dine, converse, laugh, and feel the comfort of community.

This transformation was made possible through the thoughtful efforts of IPP Rtn Chella Krishna, PP Rtn Kapil Chitale, Late Rtn Dr Sangeetha Viswanathan, and Rtn Visvanathan A M, along with generous donors who came forward to support the cause. Their contribution has not merely renovated a room; it has renewed a promise.

For the senior residents, this is more than a dining hall. It is a place to share meals, stories, silence, memories, and companionship. It is a gentle reminder that they are seen, valued, and cherished.

RCM built the home 20+ years ago. Today, with this upgrade, it has added warmth to its walls, life to its corners, and love to its legacy.



When MCC Became the Most Delicious Pitch in Town



The fireside hosted by Rtn Nimish C Tolia and Sushma at the iconic Madras Cricket Club on Friday, 15 May 2026, could easily be called the 'jumbo fireside' of the year!

With over 70 Rotarians and Anns in attendance, from seasoned old-timers to enthusiastic green members, the evening had the perfect mix of warmth, laughter, and nonstop chatter.



A giant screen had been thoughtfully put up for the CSK vs LSG IPL match, but truth be told, the real entertainment was happening off-screen!

Animated conversations, chilled cocktails at two bar counters, and irresistible snacks ensured that very few people remembered to check the score.



And then came the food. The menu was so elaborate that it deserved its own introduction, while the dessert counter was nothing short of dangerous. From the lip-smacking chikku ice cream to tiramisu, Minus 30 ice cream, and paan treats, we were gloriously spoilt for choice. Calories, quite unanimously, were declared irrelevant for the evening.

Cheers to our warm hosts and the fireside committee for a spectacular evening.

All in all, it was an easy-going, laughter-filled, cheerful evening that proved, once again, that good company, great food, and happy conversations are still the best way to beat the Chennai heat!



-Perna Kalra (Spouse of Rtn Sumit Kumar Kalra)

When Rotary's Future Met Rotary Nagar's Young Stars

Rotary Nagar had a very special visitor on 19 May 2026 and the children made sure that the welcome was not just warm, but wonderfully memorable.

The visit of RIDN (Zone 5& 6) Basudev Golyan to Rotary Nagar, along with DG Vinod Saraogi, DGE Suresh Jain, DGN Dr. Vijaya Bharathi Rangarajan, DGND Ravi S, and DGND 3233 Ambalavanan, turned into a beautiful celebration of talent, confidence, and the quiet magic that Rotary continues to create.



The children put up a charming little show, showcasing their singing, storytelling, and yoga skills with innocence, enthusiasm, and a confidence that filled the room with pride. It was not a grand stage, but it carried something far more powerful; joy, dignity, and the promise of young lives being nurtured with care.

A heartfelt thank you to Chairperson of Rotary Nagar, PP Rtn Rani Muralidharan for organizing such a meaningful event with warmth and grace, and to all the Rotarians who came by to encourage the children.

Some visits are official. Some are memorable. This one was both with a little music, a little movement, a few stories, and many smiling faces reminding us why Rotary's work matters.





No Vacation from Compassion

A meaningful Saturday morning was spent serving breakfast to the needy at Kilpauk Medical College Hospital, by the Interact clubs of Omega. The project not only filled many empty stomachs but also filled our hearts with gratitude and joy.

What made this initiative even more special was the enthusiastic participation of our young Interactors, who came together during their summer holidays to serve society with compassion and commitment. Their dedication reminds us that service above self has no vacation.

Proud of these youngsters for turning their holidays into an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

-Rtn Suman Voora
Youth Service Director



**Malala Yousafzai
will speak at the
Rotary International
Convention in June**

ROTARY RADAR

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize recipient, will address delegates at the Rotary International Convention 2026 to be held from 13–17 June in Taipei. A fearless advocate for girls' education from the age of 11, Malala inspired millions across the world with her courage and determination. At just 15 years old, she survived a Taliban attack for speaking out in support of education for girls. Today, she continues to champion education, equality, and human rights globally through her work and advocacy. Her journey remains a powerful symbol of resilience, hope, and the transformative power of education.

A Symphony of Scale, Sustainability, and Synergy: Inside the Club Assembly of Rotary Club of Madras

On Saturday, 16 May 2026, the Rotary Club of Madras (RCM) convened for a momentous Club Assembly, serving as a critical bridge between a rich 98-year legacy and an ambitious, forward-looking horizon. Guided by Incoming President, Rtn Balakrishna S and Master of Ceremony by Secretary-elect, Rtn Visvanathan A M, the assembly unveiled a visionary roadmap anchored in three core principles: Scale to leave a lasting mark, Sustainability to build for generations, and Synergy to leverage the club's incredible professional diversity.



An Unprecedented Vision for Community Impact

The sheer ambition of the incoming year was brilliantly encapsulated by the monumental Rs.46 crore Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budget. This funding is destined for transformative community service initiatives, including the construction of 100 homes for the homeless and the launch of an Integrated Village Development program that brings after-school education and adult skilling to locations like Gummidipoondi. Most strikingly, the upcoming team outlined aspirational "dream projects," such as a pilot initiative to successfully clean a 1-kilometer stretch of the Cooum River using advanced water treatment technology, and the establishment of a 1-megawatt solar power plant to make Boys Town completely self-sustaining.



Healing, Empathy, and the Future of Health

In the realm of Health, the focus is strictly on "quality over quantity," shifting from routine medical camps to becoming a true lighthouse for community well-being. The club is championing highly sensitive, impactful projects like Project Paasum, a pediatric palliative care outreach program in partnership with VHS. Addressing modern crises head-on, the health vertical is also launching Unalive, a mental health initiative aimed at smashing the stigma around suicide and equipping Gen-Z and their families with critical awareness.



Empowering Youth and Elevating Vocation

Recognizing that the youth are the architects of tomorrow, the Youth Services team is moving past traditional efforts to introduce cutting-edge platforms. Initiatives will include digital literacy and AI ethics hackathons, a "Rotary-style Shark Tank" for social entrepreneurship, and "Environmental Stewardship 2.0" featuring hydroponics. Meanwhile, Vocational Services is breathing vibrant new life into legacy projects like Rotary Nagar by introducing digital training programs, ensuring these safe spaces continue to profoundly uplift local children and women.



Reimagining Fellowship and Communication

Club Service is poised to make the year unforgettable, reviving beloved fellowship formats and introducing luxury domestic tours, including an immersive Hampi experience and a Ganges cruise. Internal communications are also getting a dynamic facelift. The weekly Lighthouse magazine is evolving beyond a traditional bulletin into an engaging storyteller, experimenting with Instagram-style reels and behind-the-scenes narratives to capture the true heartbeat of the club. Furthermore, a new "Signature Speaker Series" will bring world-class, high-impact voices to the podium, creating a premium platform that blends intellectual enrichment with powerful CSR fundraising.

Financial Prudence: The Brakes That Enable Speed

No ambitious vision can survive without meticulous financial stewardship. The treasury team eloquently described their role not as a hindrance, but as the "brakes" on a vehicle, designed not merely to stop, but to allow the accelerators to go faster and without fear. Despite a 19% hike in RI dues and rising operational costs, the new board has carefully optimized the budget and implemented robust technology dashboards to ensure total transparency and measurable impact for all CSR donors.

Ultimately, the 2026 Club Assembly was not just a presentation of minutes and budgets; it was a rallying cry. As RCM marches toward its centenary, the energy in the room underscores a profound collective promise: to not merely conduct another Rotary year, but to create a vibrant, connected, and historic year that will be cherished for a lifetime.





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