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ROTARY CLUB OF DINDIGUL ^{QUEENCITY}

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PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH
FEBRUARY

Queens Herald



Rtn. FRANCESCO AREZZO
RI President 2025-2026



Rtn. J. KARTHIK
District Governor 2025-2026

Rtn. RAJATHI KAMALAKANNAN
President

Rtn. AMSAVALLI PANDIAN
Secretary

Rtn. AARTHY MUKESH
Editor

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EVERY DROP FUELS ROTARY'S MISSION

Editor's Note

Dearest Rotarians,

Different people desire different things as our mind is attached to different things. Desire is addictive craving for pleasure, material goods, and existence, which can never be fully satisfied. Desire is compared to drinking saltwater—the more you drink, the thirstier you become, driving more, craving more and consequently more suffering.

Contemplation of sense objects leads to attachment, which creates desire, which, when unfulfilled, triggers anger, delusion, and destruction. While there's nothing wrong with wanting more, unchecked desires can overwhelm us, leaving us feeling restless and dissatisfied. Lust, anger, and greed are deemed the three gates of self-destruction that must be abandoned. Uncontrolled desires are the root cause of misery, acting like an unquenchable fire that leads to anger and downfall.

True peace comes from becoming "desire less" by renouncing selfish cravings, acting without attachment, gita tells us not to eliminate all our desires — after all, desires are natural and a part of being human. Instead, it teaches us to accept desires without letting them control us. Much like the ocean remains full and undisturbed by the rivers that enter it, we too can remain content and peaceful, no matter what comes our way.

Real peace comes from being satisfied in the self, not by trying to satisfy every flickering desire. A wise person remains unmoved by the incessant flow of desires. One should work, but abandon the desire for personal ownership or selfish fruits of labor. Rather than total repression, we should purify desires by shifting them from selfish, worldly pleasure (materialistic lust) to spiritual purpose.

The goal is to move from being a slave to sensory desires to being a master of one's own mind, acting out of a sense of duty rather than a hunger for personal gratification.

**"it is hard to fight desire but to control it is
a sign of a reasonable man"**



Aarthy Mukesh,

Editor,

Rotary Club of Queencity Dindigul.

RI Presidential Address

2025-26

January 2026

At last month's International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our presidential message for the 2026-27 Rotary year: Create Lasting Impact.

This February, as we observe Peace building and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel Yinka's call to action into real change.

Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace. Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand.

Fear isn't defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centers and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict.

In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root.

In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honoree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project confronted farmers' declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilizers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture program that revitalized the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model.

Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programs. His advocacy led to Chad’s first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families.

From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organization, apply a peacebuilding lens to community assessments, and prioritize impact over ceremony.

In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can Create Lasting Impact — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.



Rtn. Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-2026

New Member Reflexions

As a new member, the Pongal celebration felt less like an event and more like a family gathering. Being surrounded by nature, laughter, dance, and supportive people made me feel truly welcomed. After feeling alone for a long time, finding the Queen City family—with no judgement and only caring, guiding hands—filled my heart with warmth, strength, and a sense of belonging.



Rtn. Devi kamatchi,
Entrepreneur, Annam chekku.

Presidential Address

ரோட்டரி நண்பர்களுக்கு வணக்கம்

புது வருடத்தின் தொடக்கமான ஜனவரி மாதம், எங்கள் கிளப்பிற்கு மிகுந்த பயனும் மகிழ்ச்சியும் நிறைந்த ஒரு சிறப்பான மாதமாக அமைந்தது.

புது வருடம் தொடக்கத்தில் **Dream Conference**-ல் குவின்சிட்டி உறுப்பினர்கள் மிகுந்த உற்சாகத்துடன் கலந்து கொண்டோம்.

எங்கள் கிளப்பின் **Signature Projects Club Foot, Blossom**, பகிர் உடை சுவர், **Cervical Cancer Vaccine Camp** ஆகியவை அனைத்தும் சிறப்பாகவும் வெற்றிகரமாகவும் நடத்தப்பட்டன.

மேலும், கிளப் உறுப்பினர்களின் நட்பு வட்டத்தை இன்னும் உறுதிப்படுத்தும் வகையில் நடைபெற்ற பொங்கல் கொண்டாட்டம் மற்றும் **Friends Get-Together** நிகழ்ச்சிகள் உற்சாகம் நிறைந்ததாக அமைந்து, அனைவருக்கும் இனிய நினைவுகளையும் மகிழ்ச்சியான அனுபவங்களையும் வழங்கின.

இனி வரும் மாதங்களிலும் இதைவிட மேலும் சிறப்பாக, சமூகத்திற்கு பயன் அளிக்கும் பல புதிய திட்டங்களை மேற்கொள்ள திட்டமிட்டுள்ளோம்.



நன்றியுடன்,
Rtn. Rajathi KamalaKannan,
President, 2025-26
RC of Dindigul Queency.

Spectacular Moments in the month of December

"January is not just a new month;
it's a fresh mindset."

Article By
Rtn.Dr.Shakthi Sri



Blossom Kids – Pongal and Republic Day

Queencity visited the Blossom Kids on all Tuesdays, with special care and attention given to every child. Queens focused on creating awareness about climate change and its impact on health, especially among children on Pongal celebration at the centre. Necessary precautions were taken to address climate-related health issues. Flag was hoisted on Republic day and the kids were addressed on the importance of Republic day and why it is being celebrated. Queens are thankful to Rtn.Lalitha for sponsoring solar lights at the centre.



Club Foot – All Thursdays

Every Thursday, the Club Foot camp at Dindigul Government Hospital continued its regular services during the month. A total of five new children were enrolled at different periods of the month. Detailed counselling was provided to parents and guardians regarding the nature of club foot, the importance of early intervention, and the treatment protocol. Treatment for the newly

enrolled newborns was initiated within three days of birth, ensuring timely and effective corrective care.



Jan- 6th – Club Meet

Discussions were held regarding the Pongal celebrations, the Governor's official visit, and various upcoming programmes scheduled for the current month. In addition, preliminary planning was carried out for new initiatives proposed for the next five months. As part of the Pongal celebrations, the Queens collected their sarees that were purchased for the occasion.



Trivia

Rotary members in Tamil Nadu, India, use a global grant to equip a new hospital with oxygen supplies, intensive care unit beds, and dialysis beds during a surge of COVID-19 cases in 2019.

9th Jan - பகிர் உடை சுவர்

Old clothes were collected from the members and were thoroughly checked for quality and usability. All the clothes were properly washed, neatly ironed, carefully packed, and systematically organised size-wise in the பகிர் உடை சுவர் cupboard kept in the RKG Hall, ensuring easy access for the needy to receive them with dignity.



12th Jan – Pongal Celebration

Rotary Club members celebrated Pongal at Rtn. Shanthi's Farm, organised by Rtn.Vanitha and Rtn. Rethinamala, in a serene, nature-filled setting. The event honoured farmers and their way of life through traditional games such as பல்லங்குழி, உரி அடித்தல், and a joyful bullock cart ride. Queens, elegantly dressed in Sungudi sarees, added cultural charm to the celebration. The festivities concluded with lively flower keeping, சும்மி, கோலாட்டம், traditional snacks and lunch reflecting togetherness, tradition, and joy.



20th Jan - Interact Installation

The Installation of the Interact Club was held at SBC Academy. Rtn.Nalena formally collared the President, presented the Charter to the Secretary, and honoured the Treasurer. The programme highlighted with the Student President taking the pledge, marking the beginning of an active Interact tenure. The Chief Guest, Dr.K.Ganesh, Psychiatrist, addressed the students on handling peer pressure, highlighting the importance of accepting positive peer influence while effectively avoiding negative peer pressure.



The Queens shared printed copies of the article on the SBC Interact students' project with Club Foot children, published in Rotaract News, which served as a source of motivation for the students.



Trivia

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2009: Rotary-USAID Partnership
Our unique public-private partnership with the U. S. Agency for International Development (USAID) begins in 2009. It combines our members' business skills and community leadership with USAID's technical expertise and government relationships to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene.

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2013: New grant model focuses on impact
The Foundation rolls out a simplified grant model that includes district and global grants. The matching grant, ambassadorial scholar, and Group Study Exchange programs are discontinued.

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Trivia

23rd Jan Food Donation

At the Urban Old Age Home, rice bags were donated as a regular monthly contribution. In addition, semolina and a few other essential varieties of grains, soaps and toiletries were provided as per the requirements for the month, supporting the nutritional and personal needs of the residents.



24th Jan Food Festival

A Food Festival was conducted by the Queens at Our Lady of Lourdes Girls' School. Traditionally, the teachers organise the food festival every year by collecting funds. This year, Queencity, along with the RC of Dindigul West, Dindigul, sponsored the event. The Queens were delighted to serve the students a variety of dishes, making the occasion joyful and memorable for the children.



27th Jan Club Assembly Meet

The Queens held a Club Assembly Meeting at RKG Rotary Hall. President Elect Rtn.Parkavee, Secretary Elect Rtn.Padma, and Incoming AG Rtn.Kavitha Senthilkumar briefed the members on the plans for the upcoming year. They sought the members' support for the year ahead and invited suggestions from the Queens for the formation of the Board for the forthcoming year.



27th Jan Club anniversary

The Queens celebrated the 27th Club Anniversary at RKG Hall, marking the occasion by honouring the Past Presidents. Our Past Presidents, Rtn.Sharmila Dinesh and Rtn.Geetha Sivaraman



shared their reflections and experiences.

The Chief Guest, PDG Rtn. Dhamodharan, spoke about the கைபிடி அரிசி திட்டம், a pioneering initiative of Queencity first introduced in India, which later inspired many across the country. He expressed pride that from 2008 till date, Queencity has secured a permanent place in Rotary News. Rtn. V. T. Nagarajan appreciated Queencity as an all-women club, highlighting the unity and determination with which projects were executed. Both guests offered valuable suggestions for future projects and focus areas.



29th Jan & 29th Jan HPV vaccinations

Queencity, Dindigul, in association with the Rotary Club of Delhi South, Inner Wheel Club of Sivakasi–Gold, and the Indian Medical Association, Sivakasi, conducted an Intra-District Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp at Narmadha Hospital, Sivakasi. The programme was graced by Chief Guest Dr. Pathasarathy of Narmadha Hospital, along with the Presidents and members of the Inner Wheel Club and RC of Dindigul Queencity. Students from MEPCO College, Sri Kaleeswari College, SNR College, and nearby schools participated actively. A total of 2,000 children were vaccinated, marking a significant milestone in preventive healthcare.





Queens Across Rotary

Rotary Dream Conference

The Rotary District 3000 Dream Conference 2026 was held from January 2–4, 2026, at the Chennai Trade Centre, Chennai, focusing on leadership, fellowship, and service.



Hosted by Rotary clubs in the Karur region, the event featured prominent speakers, cultural programs, and celebrated the district's membership achievements. Queens participated in this event which brought together members from various clubs under District 3000 and they also gave their distinguished performance. Queen Rtn.Sharmila Balaguru, hosted the interview session of Ms.Namitha Marimuthu, Transgender Model, along with Rtn.Kumarppan and also organised with Rtn.MeenaSubbiah, RC of Karur Angels, 2 days Program for Ann and Annets. While Queen Rtn.Kavitha Senthilkumar, spoke about creating effective Service Projects. The proud moment for the Queens were when Rtn.Parkavee Santhosh and Rtn.Kavitha Senthilkumar, were honored by Distinguished Rotarians while launching the focus project of vaccinating women with HPV Vaccine.



சிறப்பு பட்டிமன்றம்

As a part of pongal celebrations, RC of Dindigul Midtown bought together members from various Rotary Clubs in Dindigul to debate on the top பணமா? குணமா? With Rtn.Raja Govindasamy as the moderator. The team from குணமா won the debate and all the participants were much appreciated and honoured. Rtn.Kavitha Senthilkumar putforeth her thoughts in the side of குணமா.



RC Meeting

Rtn.Gajendhiran, Reginal Cordinator, conducted meeting with all Rotary Clubs of Dindigul to finalise the date for Governor's official Visit. The Presidents of various Clubs jointly selected the date and also shared about their projects on 23rd Jan.



Across Queens Family

Athletics

Annet Mohamad Riswan, Son of Rtn.shirin, won gold in 100 mtrs at the Sahodaya CBSE Cluster Games held at Dindigul Stadium. His performance in other events was also much appreciated.



JCI President

Annet Nishanth, son of Rtn.Sharmila Dinesh was elected as a President of JCI Winners, Dindigul Chapter in the presence of Rtn.RajaGovinda Swamy and Honorable District Collector Mr.Saravanan on 27th Jan 2026 at Hotel Vivera grand Dindigul.



National Yoga Competition

Annet Sahana, Daughter of Rtn.Hemalatha represented Tamilnadu and has emerged in 11th place at All India Yoga Competition held at Ranchi, Jharkhand.



Across News

Rotaract News for the month of January showcased an optimistic outcome of the Interactors of SBC Academy which affected overall emotions. Knowledge of good news can spike feelings of joy and happiness but hope as well.

Interacting with kids with clubfoot

V Muthukumar

It was a memorable and emotional visit to the Government Hospital, Dindigul, for all the 30 children from the Interact Club of SBC Academy on Diwali 2025 as "they not only mingled with the clubfoot toddlers and their parents, but also listened to a doctor's briefing on the cause and effects of this muscular deformity. The twisted inward leg syndrome is a both defect that can be detected in the foetal growth in pregnant women," says Aarthi Mickels, executive secretary, RC Dindigul Quaternity, the all-women's club in RSD 3000 which sponsors this Interact club.

Since inception two years ago, the Interact club is being mentored by the school correspondent Aarthi

Senthikumar and the faculty "so that they can reach out to the less privileged in the community, and feel the joy of giving. They got to know the challenges and hardships being faced by the marginalised during their community work," explain Aarthi. She is also the editor of the club's monthly bulletin *Queen's Herald*.

Dindigul Queens had prepared a list of 130 clubfoot toddlers being treated at the GH, categorising them based on age, gender and size, and this data was given to the interactors well in advance. They took the toddlers' list with them, and informed their parents about "their proposal of gifting them Diwali dresses to clubfoot children at the GH." With monetary help from parents, interactors bought new

clothes worth ₹75,000 based on the age-gender-size list "so that the dresses fit nicely on the toddlers whose age varies from just one month to 6-7 years." The new dresses were sorted and nicely packed before they were handed over to 115 clubfoot children in person. "They had a surplus of 25 dresses which were distributed among the toddlers who were present."

During the briefing by the doctor, the Interactors, all students from Class 8-10, were stuned to know that clubfoot sets in unborn babies in mother's womb, and "if not detected at the right stage, this congenital defect will paralyse the legs arresting children's growth." All the students witnessed the treatment being given to toddlers fitted with special shoes, and "their parents were happy that their wards had a chance to learn something useful at very early age in their lives," says Aarthi.

On their part, Dindigul Queens thanked parents for funding their children to buy dresses for toddlers and clubfoot kids. Rotarians sponsored sweets and food items like snacks, worth ₹2,000, that were distributed to all participants. On the way back



Clockwise from above: A teacher is presented a gift box by Rtn Ravathi (centre) who is flanked on both sides by school correspondent Aarthi Senthikumar (left) and club secretary Aarthi Mukesh • An Interactor presents dress material to a toddler's parent • Interactors join hands over clubfoot shoes with Rotary monogram for a photo shoot.



Dr. Veeramani gives a talk on clubfoot disorder to interactors, parents and teachers of SBC Academy at the Government Hospital, Dindigul. On the right is RC Dindigul Quaternity president Rajathi Kamalakannan and left is project chair Malliga Chinnaswamy.

home, Interact club president PK Prathiba (Class 9) said, "It felt amazing to bring happiness to these in need, while the joy and gratitude on the faces of these clubfoot children filled us with immense satisfaction."

Clubfoot project
Dindigul Queens have tied up with the GH and Delhi-based Cure India, a pharma firm that makes special shoes for clubfoot, to provide treatment for newborns and toddlers affected by this leg deformity. The project was initiated eight years ago by the then club president Malliga Chinnaswamy who is also the major sponsor of the annual events being done for the special children at the GH. "Every year, we spend ₹2 lakh for children's treatment including the procurement of special shoes, apart from spending around ₹40,000 for gifts and foods distributed to the toddlers," explains Aarthi. From 130 toddlers, the number of clubfoot patients has grown to 175

Our dedication and strong will to carry on with the project despite hurdles have brought smiles on the faces of clubfoot children which can't be quantified or described in words.

Malliga Chinnaswamy
past president, RC Dindigul Quaternity

including newborns, as the hospital is now getting more members of toddlers from Madurai and other areas, thanks to their effective treatment boosting its public image through word of mouth. Cure India has appointed Geetha, a paramedic, at the GH, and she visits primary health centres and government hospitals across Dindigul to identify pregnant women carrying clubfoot babies through scanning. She counsels the expectant mothers, if they carry

a clubfoot baby, and their families, "and makes sure that the newborns are brought to the GH for regular treatment." It takes a maximum of seven years for a complete treatment and cure of clubfoot deformity, and Dindigul Queens liaise between the ortho department of GH and Cure India to fill gaps in the treatment procedure.

Recalling the project's journey so far, Malliga says, "our dedication and strong will to carry on with the project despite hurdles have brought smiles on the faces of clubfoot children which can't be quantified or described in words." But on a serious note, Aarthi says, "being an all-women's club in a small town in southern Tamil Nadu we find it difficult to raise funds for our clubfoot project. Hence, we will be happy if some large-hearted Rotarians help us to sustain our project in the coming years."

The 27-year-old all-women's club has so far sponsored 12 Interact and three Rotaract clubs. ■

Nostalgic moments

Nostalgic moments are those that evoke a sentimental longing for the past, often bringing a mix of positive and bittersweet emotions. Let us go back to refresh, learn, share and take a positive action from the past.



Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENTS
3rd Feb	Club Meet
5th Feb	Shoe Donation at Government Hospital
6th Feb	நிலா முற்றம்
10TH Feb	Donation at old age Home
10th Feb	Interact project
12th Feb	Interact project
17th Feb	Valentine's day Celebration
23rd FEB	எஞ்சிராவி-TPKN
All Tuesdays	Blossom
All Thursdays	Clubfoot

Wishing Beautiful Queen remembering their Anniversary

"Wishing you both a lifetime filled with adventure, laughter, and endless love."

ANNIVERSERIES	
5th Feb	Rtn.Amsavalli Pandiyan
6th Feb	Rtn.Chitra Jeyan
22nd Feb	Rtn.Kavitha SenthilKumar
23rd Feb	Rtn.Manjula Kannan
24th Feb	Rtn.Sharmila Dinesh
24th Feb	Rtn.Prema Murugan

Birthdays & Anniversary

Wishing Beautiful Queens remembering their Birthday

"On your special day, may you feel as awesome and extraordinary as you make everyone else feel every day. Happy birthday, my amazing friend!"

BIRTHDAY	
14th Feb	Rtn.Saranya Saravanan
25th Feb	Rtn.Dr.Bala sundari
26th Feb	Rtn.Janaki Ravi

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