



Rotary CROSSROADS

by Rotary Club of Singapore



29 October 2025 | Volume 62 | ISSUE NO. 16

100 DAYS OF GRACEFUL LEADERSHIP

Founded on 6 June 1930 | Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future
Lifetime Achievement Award Winner for 'Best Bulletin in District 3310'



TABLE OF CONTENTS

03

100 Days of Graceful Leadership

08

4TH VSC Meeting

10

**Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA)
Certificate Presentation**

12

**Fellowship Durian Party – An
Evening of Fun, Family & Flavour!**

100 DAYS OF GRACEFUL LEADERSHIP

PP Mansoor & PP Mohandas

A day after President Sonali's 100th day in office as President of our Club, Past President Mansoor Hassanbhai and Past President Mohandas Paliath met up for an afternoon tea on 9th October to celebrate this special milestone and to gather her thoughts and views of her journey so far. It has been a tradition in our club for a Past President to talk to the President and provide some feedback on the Club's progress.

The conversation was candid, warm and deeply inspiring. As Past Presidents, we were moved by the humility, compassion, and unwavering dedication President Sonali has brought to her role. Her leadership is not just steering the club forward but also redefining what it means to serve with a heart.

President Sonali exemplifies the Rotary motto Service Above Self, and her approach has energized a new generation of members. These emerging leaders are carrying forward the legacy built by our illustrious Past Presidents, while forging new paths of impact and inclusion.

Below are the questions we posed to President Sonali during our conversation and her replies to them.

We are truly blessed – and the journey ahead for our Club looks brighter than ever.



PP Mansoor Hassanbhai and PP Mohandas Paliath with President Sonali Sinha

1. You moved to Singapore from Mumbai. What made you decide to join RC Singapore?

Rotary had been a significant part of my life in Mumbai, so even before moving to Singapore in October 2019, I knew I wanted to continue my Rotary journey here. I was keen to stay engaged in community work and connect meaningfully with my new environment. The Rotary Club of Singapore — with its rich history, diversity, and impact — was a natural choice. When I visited the club for the first time in November 2019, PP Mohandas welcomed me warmly and introduced me to several members, and I immediately felt at home.

2. What were the best moments during the past five years in the club?

Some of my proudest and most fulfilling moments have come from serving on the Board year after year, taking on different roles, and working closely with wonderful individuals who share my passion for Rotary and service. The camaraderie, commitment, and shared purpose have made every experience deeply meaningful.

A few highlights stand out:

- Launching the Cricket for Migrant Workers programme, which gave hundreds of workers joy, dignity, and belonging. Presenting this project at DISCON 2023 and receiving appreciation from the then RI President Jennifer Jones was the icing on the cake.
- Ensuring continuity of Food From The Heart, supporting almost 100 elderly beneficiaries month after month for several years. This project began in 2021–22 under CSC Chair Peter Brock, and I continued it for two consecutive years as CSC Chair — never missing a month and later ensuring it carried on.
- Reintroducing festive celebrations for the elderly after COVID in 2022–23 — Deepavali, Chinese New Year, and Hari Raya — and ensuring they continue as annual highlights of service and fellowship.
- Driving the ISCOS project, supporting ex-offenders with employability programmes and their families with mentoring and personal development. I'm proud to have been part of this initiative for several years.

These projects are especially meaningful because they blend service, fellowship, and sustainability — creating impact over time rather than as one-off efforts.

3. What was your first reaction when you were approached to take the Presidency of the oldest Rotary Club in Singapore?

I felt honoured, humbled and excited. Being entrusted with the leadership of a club with such a long legacy — and being only the second woman to do so — is a huge responsibility. But I also saw it as an opportunity to bring fresh energy and perspective while honouring the traditions that have made this club strong for almost a century.

4. When did you commence preparing yourself for the role, and what advice would you give to future aspiring Rotarians in our club to take up the role of President?

I began preparing about 18 months before taking office. The first priority was to secure a strong Board — not just capable individuals but people who could work together as a team. Having served in different roles, I knew the challenges of each portfolio and used that insight to bring the right people in. Once the team was identified, I invested time in bringing them together as a team even before the Rotary year began — through informal gatherings, one-on-one conversations, and opportunities to shadow incumbent chairs. We had the first ever Board Retreat on 3rd May 2025 to come together as a team and plan for RY2025–26.

I also spoke to over 50 members individually to hear about their Rotary experiences and aspirations. That gave me a strong sense of what makes members feel welcome and engaged. Equally important were the conversations I had with Past Presidents. Their wisdom helped me understand the legacy of the club and the essence of what makes it thrive.

To anyone aspiring to take on this role, my advice would be to start early, plan thoughtfully, and embrace the journey with humility. Build a strong team and trust them — you don't have to do everything yourself. Learn from those who came before you, but also bring your authentic self to the role. And above all, focus on continuity and impact, because sustaining relationships and long-term projects is just as important as starting new ones.

5. What was your vision when you stepped into office and your top 3–5 priorities for your first 100 days?

My vision, as I shared at the Installation, was simple — to lead with heart and purpose. That meant two promises: **Member Care and Creating Impact**. For 'Member Care', I wanted our meetings and fellowships to go beyond attendance and truly become spaces of belonging — where new members feel welcomed, long-serving members feel valued, and everyone feels connected. For 'Creating Impact', I wanted us to look at our projects with fresh eyes — to ask whether we're solving real problems and creating something that lasts. Our major project — a community-based dialysis centre reflects that intent — addressing an urgent need with long-term sustainability.

I framed this vision for the Board through the 4 Cs — Curiosity, to stay open and ask deeper questions; Care, for one another and for those we serve; Collaboration, across committees and with partners; and Creating Impact, by ensuring every initiative has lasting meaning.

In the first 100 days, my priorities were to build a cohesive and motivated Board, make meetings more engaging, sustain long-term projects while laying the groundwork for new ones, and strengthen member connection and pride. Leading with heart and purpose has been my guiding principle — because when we combine care, collaboration, and curiosity, creating impact becomes not just what we do, but who we are as Rotarians.

6. Did you achieve them?

Yes, we've made excellent progress and built strong momentum. The Board has come together as a cohesive, motivated team, and members have responded with great enthusiasm to the changes we've introduced. Attendance has reached record levels — in July, we averaged 74 members per meeting, and for the first quarter, the average attendance of 64 is the highest in recent memory. This clearly shows that our member engagement initiatives are working and that members are enjoying the warmth, energy, and sense of connection in our meetings.

I'm especially proud of how well our newer members have integrated into club life. Of the 36 members inducted over the past three years, 34 attended at least one meeting in the first quarter — a wonderful reflection of their growing involvement and sense of belonging.

The Installation Dinner was another milestone moment — with 450 attendees and over 170 overseas Rotarians joining us, it was a first in RCS history. The event set a vibrant, celebratory tone for the year and reminded us of the deep goodwill our club enjoys across the Rotary world.

Our service projects are thriving, and fundraising for our major initiative — the community-based dialysis centre — is nearly complete, pending Global Grant approval. Having this secured early gives us the opportunity to focus on launching both the centre and our wider kidney care outreach programme during this Rotary year.

Seeing the way our club has come together fills me with both gratitude and confidence for what lies ahead. We're building wonderful momentum — stronger engagement, deeper connections, and a renewed sense of pride in who we are as Rotarians. When we lead with heart and purpose, engagement grows, impact endures, and the best is yet to come.

7. Have you introduced any new initiatives or practices to make the club more vibrant and engaging?

Yes, this year I wanted to make the club more vibrant, connected, and outward-looking — both within our meetings and beyond. A key initiative was strengthening our **Speaker Programme**. I encouraged our Speaker Committee Chair, Suzanne, to build a strong team of 10–15 members, and created a clear SOP with topic themes, process guidelines, and preparation steps. This structure has helped us deliver a consistently high-quality and diverse line-up of speakers, keeping sessions fresh, relevant, and engaging.

We also launched the **Know Your Partner Club** initiative to deepen ties with our sister and friendship clubs worldwide. Through monthly Zoom sessions, we connect with one partner club at a time to learn about their history, projects, and people — fostering collaboration and shared purpose across borders.

In addition, we've increased engagement with other Rotary clubs in Singapore and overseas, inviting them to join our meetings, projects, and fellowship events. These connections have strengthened relationships and created a greater sense of unity within the Rotary community.

I'm grateful for how warmly our members have embraced these initiatives. Their enthusiasm and openness have made the club more dynamic, connected, and future-ready.

8. What has been your most rewarding part of the role so far?

The most rewarding part has been the tremendous support from our members — showing up in large numbers, engaging wholeheartedly, and bringing great energy to every initiative. I would be truly delighted if members feel a proud sense of belonging and our beneficiaries find joy through our initiatives. Those moments of joy, dignity, and connection are what make this role so meaningful.

9. Every President leaves a legacy of their year in office which members will long remember. What do you hope yours will be?

I hope to be remembered for strengthening inclusivity and engagement within the club, so that every member feels a proud sense of belonging. And in terms of social impact, I would like our dialysis project and focus on kidney care — through awareness, early screening, and treatment — to stand as a lasting contribution that supports beneficiaries for years to come.



My heartfelt thanks to our Board, Past Presidents, and Members — your commitment, spirit, and fellowship are what make RCS truly special.

4TH VSC MEETING

By Rtn Deepa Navaneeth

9 October 2025

The VSC meeting, chaired by Director Grace Roache and hosted by Rtn. Deepa Navaneeth, was held at the Water Place Function Hall. Members enjoyed dinner and fellowship before diving into updates on ongoing and upcoming projects.

Treasurer's Report

Rtn. Thangaraj presented the quarterly financial update, highlighting healthy committee funds supported by member contributions and successful events, including the Brass Lion Distillery visit and Art:Dis fundraising.

Art:Dis Exhibition

Plans are underway for an Art:Dis Exhibition in April 2026, titled *"Journeys & Generations: Crafting a Legacy"*. The show will celebrate 11 years of Rotary's Artisan of the Year Award and 32 years of Art:Dis, showcasing artists with disabilities. The Visual Arts Centre has been identified as the preferred venue, with fundraising efforts to begin within the committee.



Ongoing & New Initiatives

Gladiolus Place Project: Launching in January 2026, this initiative will help young women build digital and MS Office skills, with support from Microsoft's nonprofit program. VSC and CSC will also sponsor Christmas gifts and lunch for the residents.

SPD Partnership: A new collaboration aims to connect employers with SPD services to promote inclusive hiring.

Halogen Foundation: Plans are in motion for a career-sharing talk to inspire youth.

Talent Trust: The next *Learning Series* session on AI will be held in December, following the success of the marketing series attended by 130 participants.



Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (EYA)

The EYA certification ceremony was held on 30 September, with the Gala Night scheduled for 10 November at the Ritz-Carlton, graced by Minister Grace Fu. Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward future VSC projects.

Vocational Visits

Members enjoyed their second vocational visit at the Brass Lion Gin Distillery, where founder Jamie Koh shared her entrepreneurial journey and the craft behind their award-winning gin.

The next visit will be to the Evonik Asia Research Hub on 18 November, focusing on innovations in skincare and pharmaceuticals. Future visits may include NUS's Quantum Computing Lab and CPR training with the Singapore Heart Foundation.



The meeting concluded with plans for the next session on 13 November, and fellowship continued well into the evening.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (EYA) CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION

by PP Stan Low – EYA Co-Chair

The search for this year's Entrepreneur of the Year (EYA) Award candidates began in July 2025, attracting a strong field of innovative business leaders.

In August, a series of on-site interviews were conducted by teams of Rotarians and ASME members to identify and shortlist promising entrepreneurs. These shortlisted candidates then faced a second round of rigorous interviews and presentations – this time before a panel of independent external judges, comprising respected figures from the business and professional community.

Following the evaluations, the Certificate Presentation Ceremony was held on **30 September 2025** at PARKROYAL COLLECTION Marina Bay, where the finalists were officially recognised for their outstanding achievements.



IPP Tom Wolf, VSC Chairperson Grace Roache, and several other Rotarians were present at the event. They took the opportunity to meet the finalists, sharing insights about Rotary's mission and encouraging them to give back to society by joining the Rotary Club of Singapore.

The much-anticipated announcement of the category winners will take place at the Entrepreneur of the Year Award Gala Dinner on 10 November 2025 at The Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore.



FELLOWSHIP DURIAN PARTY – AN EVENING OF FUN, FAMILY & FLAVOUR!

By President Sonali Sinha

10 October 2025

Members and their families gathered on 10 October 2025 at 99 Old Tree Durian for a truly memorable Rotary Fellowship Durian Party. The evening was filled with laughter, good conversation, and plenty of premium **Mao Shan Wang durians** to enjoy.

It was wonderful to see Rotarians and their loved ones relaxing together over Singapore's favourite fruit – sharing stories, smiles, and the unmistakable joy that only durian can bring! The event reflected the very best of Rotary spirit: warm fellowship, family togetherness, and giving back, as surplus proceeds from the evening will go towards a Christmas Party for the girls residing in Gladiolus Place in December 2025.

A big appreciation to Membership Director Jeyanthi for organising the event, and to all who helped make it possible. The Durian Party was a perfect reminder that fellowship – like durian – is best enjoyed together!



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

THE GUIDE TO DAILY LIVING

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

1. Have I spent some time in self-examination?
2. Have I spent quality time with my family?
3. Have I given my best to my work?
4. Have I given some time to someone near and far?

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-26



Sonali Sinha
President



Tom Wolf
Immediate Past
President



Rajkumar PS
President Elect



Vineet Iyengar
Vice President &
Major Project Chair



Suzanne Ng
Vice President & Speaker
Programme Chair



Ong Ting Yong
Hon. Secretary



Pia Bruce
Hon. Treasurer



Jeyanthi RK
Membership
Director



VJ Africa
Public Image & PR
Director



Yogesh Dodani
TRF Director



Varun Gulati
CSC Director



Grace Roache
VSC Director



Navaneeth Rajkumar
ISC Director



Mukund AP
YSC Director



Ng Jun Dong
Sergeant-at-arms



Hitansh Vij
Sergeant-at-arms