



District Grand Lodge of India S.C.
&
Grand Chapter of U.S.R.A.F.I.C.



NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

BROTHERLY LOVE, RELIEF, AND TRUTH IN TODAY'S WORLD

Amid the clamour of modern life, where distractions abound and divisions so easily multiply, the ancient virtues of *Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth* shine like steady beacons. These are not relics preserved in ritual for ceremony's sake. They are living principles—timeless, luminous, and efficient—that guide us as Masons and as men. These virtues are practical, enduring guides that remain as relevant in today's world as they were centuries ago.

Brotherly Love: In a world often divided by politics, culture, and technology, the Masonic call to *Brotherly Love* reminds us that genuine fraternity transcends these barriers. *Brotherly Love* is more than fellowship; it is the quiet recognition of the sacred bond we share as children of the same Creator. It teaches us that beyond titles, beyond wealth, beyond the shifting labels of our time, there beats in every heart the same divine spark.

In our polarised age, *Brotherly Love* is a gentle yet radical act. It asks us to listen with patience, to speak with kindness, and to act with charity even when differences loom large. Such love is not weakness—it is strength born of humility and grace.

Relief: The second jewel of our Craft, *Relief*, flows from compassion. Too often, charity is imagined as a coin dropped into a box. Yet true Relief is broader, deeper, and more personal. It is the giving of time, the sharing of wisdom, the offering of presence to one who feels forgotten.

The principle of Relief speaks to charity, but it extends beyond financial assistance. Today, relief can mean offering mentorship, volunteering time, or encouraging those in need of moral support. In an age where loneliness and isolation are increasingly common, even simple acts of presence and care can be powerful forms of relief. As Masons, we are called to be mindful of the needs around us and to respond generously in whatever ways we are able.

Our age, for all its technological marvels, suffers greatly from loneliness. To provide relief today may mean sitting quietly with a Brother burdened by sorrow, mentoring a youth in need of guidance, or lending one's voice to the voiceless. Every such act whispers dignity into a weary soul and assures them that they are not alone in their struggle.

Truth: Perhaps the most challenging and yet most necessary virtue for our times is Truth. *It* stands as a pillar of light in a world often shadowed by confusion and falsehood. Information floods our lives, yet clarity seems ever scarcer. The digital age has flooded society with information, but also with misinformation and division. To seek truth is not only to be honest in our dealings, but also to cultivate discernment, humility, and integrity. A Mason who embodies truth strives to live authentically, aligning actions with values and serving as a trustworthy example in both public and private life.

To the Mason, Truth is not merely factual accuracy; it is integrity of heart and harmony between word and deed. To live in Truth is to strive for authenticity—to let one's life be a mirror of one's values. It is courage in the face of dishonesty, humility in the pursuit of wisdom, and constancy when compromise would be easier. For us, Truth is not a weapon to wield, but a lamp to illuminate the path.

A Harmony of Virtues and A Living Call: Alone, each of these virtues is noble. Together, they form a symphony. *Brotherly Love* without Truth may descend into indulgence. Truth without Love can harden into cruelty. Relief without either may lose its higher meaning. Yet, when joined in balance, they compose a way of life that is compassionate, honest, and just.

The world will not remember us merely for the words we speak within our ritual, but for the lives we live beyond its walls. When a Mason extends *Brotherly Love*, he softens the harshness of the age. When he offers Relief, he becomes a balm to the weary. When he upholds Truth, he stands as a beacon in the storm.

Let us therefore embrace these virtues not as lofty ideals set upon a pedestal, but as living practices, renewed each day. Let us measure our actions by them, test our intentions against them, and strive—however imperfectly—to embody them.

For in doing so, we not only honour our Craft, we kindle a light in the world: a light of Love, of Compassion, and of Truth everlasting.

Living the Principles Today: When practised together, these three principles form a powerful compass for navigating modern life. Brotherly Love softens our interactions, Relief expands our generosity, and Truth grounds our integrity. In our families, workplaces, and communities, living by these values can create ripples of positive change—reminding the world that Masonry is not just an ancient institution, but a living force for good.

As we continue our Masonic journey, may we each ask ourselves: How can I practice Brotherly Love, offer Relief, and uphold Truth—today, this week, and always?

A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GRAND MASTER – D.G.L.I.

Dear Brethren,

As you are aware, our Freemasons' Hall in Bombay suffered a devastating fire on 15th February 2025, which destroyed the entire rear one-third portion of the building. The estimated cost of repairs is expected to be around ₹8 crores. The hall is jointly owned by us along with the English Constitution, and to raise funds for the restoration, various alternatives are being explored. We are happy to announce the launch of a crowdfunding digital activation called OcTie.

1. What is OcTie?

A digital campaign led by Freemasons of the Scottish Constitution to raise funds

2. Objectives of the Fundraising

The initiative has a threefold objective:

Assistance: Support those affected by the fire, including firemen.

Prevention: Promote fire safety awareness and training for members of the public.

Restoration: Contribute towards the repair and restoration of Freemasons' Hall.

3. Who Can Participate?

All Masons and well-wishers of Freemasons' Hall.

Supporters aligned with the cause of fire prevention and safety.

4. How Can You Participate?

Take a pledge, set a target, and help raise funds.

Contribute through the crowdfunding platform – Milaap, where a dedicated campaign has been created.

5. How to Know More?

Write to: scottishfreemasonryinindia@gmail.com

Contact: District Grand Treasurer, Bro. P. Venkatraman at 9821027556

Remember: Every effort counts, and many drops together make an ocean.

We thank you in advance for your support.



THE MASONIC RING – A Circle of Brotherhood

Scripted by: Bro. Noshir G. Paghdiwalla



The Masonic Ring is not merely an ornament of metal and stone; it is a symbol of one's commitment as a Mason to the Craft and an outward token of the sacred obligations we have taken upon ourselves. Circular in form, the ring reminds us of eternity – a bond without beginning or end – just as the tenets of Freemasonry are timeless, binding brethren across ages and continents.

Traditionally worn on the third finger of the working hand, the ring bears the Square and Compasses, sometimes enclosing the letter “G” – each emblem silently proclaiming one’s pledge to live by the principles of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth. When worn, it serves as a constant personal reminder that one’s conduct, both within the Lodge and in the world outside, must reflect the highest standards of integrity and honour.

The ring also carries a deeper social meaning. Among Masons, it is a subtle recognition, a silent handshake in plain sight. To the world, it is a quiet declaration that its bearer belongs to a centuries-old fraternity that builds not with stone and mortar, but with virtue and character.

Customs vary within our fraternity: some Lodges encourage brethren to wear the ring only after becoming a Master Mason, while others view it as a personal choice at any stage of one’s Masonic journey. Yet the essence remains unchanged – the ring is not a badge of pride, but a reminder of humility, fidelity, and the unbroken chain of brotherhood. Just as the circle has no end, the Masonic ring signifies that the lessons of the Craft are enduring – binding every Mason to live faithfully, act justly, and walk uprightly in all his dealings.

But then, how does one wear a Masonic ring? This is a question often asked of us. Is there a correct and a wrong way to wear one’s Masonic ring? People often ask if the compass should point in or point out. They are just referring to whether or not, when you look at your Masonic ring, one sees it right side up or upside down. The idea is that if one sees it upside down, it may be for other people to look at. So, should one wear it like this, or should one wear it like that, where one can see the symbols myself?

In some jurisdictions, there is a practice that if one is a master mason but has not served in the chair of the master of the Lodge; one would be required and expected to wear the ring in a fashion so that when one holds one’s hand up, one will see the square and compass facing just as one might when one has knelt at the altar. But, when one is elected and elevated to being the master of the Lodge and is positioned in the east, as one looks out to the Lodge and the brethren, one might see the compass and square in this configuration.

This seemingly innocuous and ridiculous little bickering thing is constantly witnessed on social media, and may have some validity depending on how one interprets things. But actually, it’s also just a preference. I like the practicality of people going, “Oh man, let me see what’s on your ring,” and you holding your ring out so they can look at it without it being upside down.

To conclude, how one wears the ring should best be left to the wisdom of the wearer and think aloud: -

Let us raise our glasses to that circle eternal – the Masonic Ring.
It binds not the finger, but the heart;
It adorns not the hand, but the life;
It proclaims not wealth, but fidelity.

May every Brother who wears it remember his vows at the Altar.
May he walk uprightly before God and Man.
And may the circle of our Brotherhood remain unbroken, now, henceforth, and forevermore.
To the Masonic Ring – and the Brotherhood it signifies!
May every Brother who wears it remember his vows at the Altar,

LODGE MADRAS NO. 1342, CHENNAI



Group photograph on the occasion of Lodge Madras No. 1342 S.C. at its regular meeting on 15th July 2025 when 2 new candidates were initiated and another Bro. re-admitted as a re-joining member.

THANKSGIVING JASHAN IN THE PIOUS LAND OF THE HOLY FIRE
PERFORMED BY LODGE LIGHT OF IRAN NO. 1498, UDVADA : 26.07.2025



The tiny but serene coastal Town of Udvada in the state of Gujarat is the spiritual and cultural heart of the Zoroastrian (Parsi) community in India, as it houses the oldest continuously burning consecrated fire of the Zoroastrian faith — the “*Iranshah Atash Behram*”. Having been enthroned in the 8th century CE by Parsi priests who fled Persia to escape Islamic persecution, the sacred fire is tended daily by high-ranking priests and is revered as a living spiritual presence. Visiting Udvada is considered a meritorious act, and the ritual purity and solemnity maintained in the Atash Behram are unparalleled.

At Udvada, there exists conspicuously a Masonic Lodge nomenclated as “Lodge Light of Iran” No. 1498 S.C. The Lodge offers the dual advantage to its members not only to attend the Masonic meetings, but also offers them an opportunity to invoke divine blessings for continued prosperity, peace, and to express gratitude to Lord Ahuramazda by paying homage to the Holy Fire at the Temple.

Lodge Light of Iran, which was once housed in an accommodating bungalow with Boarding and Lodging facilities, fell into an inactive stage for a couple of years due to it being forced to vacate the rented premises, but with

divine blessings, it has now, with great efforts, been housed in an alternate make-shift Temple where meetings are now held regularly, whereas overnight accommodation to the Brethren is available in adjoining premises belonging to our late Bro. Noshir Randeria.

As a mark of gratitude to Lord Almighty for his blessings for the revival of the Lodge, the Brethren organised a ‘Thanksgiving Jashan’ on Saturday, 26th July 2025, before its regular meeting. A Zoroastrian Thanksgiving Jashan is a solemn and joyous religious ceremony performed to give thanks to Ahura Mazda (God) for blessings received.

The term "Jashan" (from Avestan *yasna*, meaning "worship" or "sacrifice") denotes a ritual of offering prayers and sacred things in thanksgiving. The Jashan is performed by two or more priests in front of the Laity in a cleaned and sanctified portion of the premises with the sacred offerings of **Flowers** (depicting Fragrance and beauty of divine creation), **Fruits and Nuts** (Prosperity and nourishment), **Milk and Water (Purity, life and abundance)**, **Roti (Darun)** (Sustenance and offering), **Afarganyu** (Fire vessel – central to Zoroastrian worship) and **Divo (oil lamp)** (Light, symbolizing divine presence).

We implore that the GAO TU direct the rays of Heaven to bestow its choicest blessings on Lodge Light of Iran and its members to continue its cherished existence and keep Masonic ideals alive.

A DAUGHTER LODGE'S DEVOTION

LODGE MADRAS HOSTS THE DISTRICT

Lodge Madras No. 1342 S.C., with filial devotion and fraternal warmth, proudly hosted the Half-yearly Convocation of the Grand Chapter U.S.A.F.I.C. as well as the Half-Yearly Communication of the District Grand Lodge of India at Chennai on Friday, 12th September 2025. It is said that when the stream honours the river,

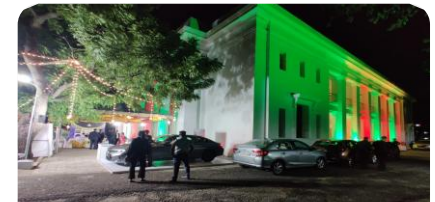
it finds its source anew; and when the branch bends in reverence to the trunk, the tree stands taller. So too was it when our District's distinguished Daughter, Lodge Madras No. 1342 S.C., gathered her strength and splendour to host the august Communication of the District Grand Lodge of India under the Scottish Constitution.

Warm welcome at the Airport

Chennai, a City Steeped in Grace, anciently known as Madras, has long been a meeting place of the sea and the land, of cultures and aspirations - and lately on 12th September 2025 - of Brethren in fraternal concord. Against the backdrop of its golden sands and ceaseless surf, the city welcomed dignitaries, officers, and Brethren alike, garlanded not with mere flowers but with the fragrance of unity and brotherly love.



Like a dutiful Daughter seeking to honour her venerable Mother, Lodge Madras opened its portals with warmth and magnificence. Every detail of the preparations bore witness to an earnest labour of love: the halls adorned with emblematic harmony, the arrangements echoing discipline and devotion, and the Brethren themselves standing as living pillars of hospitality. No visiting Brother hailing from Pan-India departed untouched by the gentle hand of welcome extended, nor unrefreshed by the spirit of concord which pervaded the atmosphere. Truly, the Lodge became a living temple, whose stones of fraternity were cemented by the mortar of goodwill.



Reception area and the Main Freemasons' hall

Both the Convocation and the Communication of the District were conducted with dignity, their proceedings lending solemnity to the occasion. Words of wisdom, counsel, and inspiration resounded like clear notes from a well-tuned organ, reminding all present that our Craft is not built upon brick and stone alone, but upon ideals eternal and divine. The presence of Brethren from all over the country reflected the universality of Masonry, where rank and station dissolve, and only the square and compass prevail. Each moment bore testimony to the truth that in Lodge and in District alike, harmony is strength and unity is power.

By hosting the august body of the Scottish District, Lodge Madras reaffirmed not merely her loyalty to the Constitution, but also her boundless affection for the Mother who has nurtured her through decades of light and labour. This bond of Daughter to Parent, of the particular to the universal, was renewed in splendour and sealed in solemnity.

And as the sun dipped into the horizon of the Bay of Bengal, its rays seemed to anoint the gathering with a benediction: that Masonry, ever ancient yet ever new, shall flourish in this land as long as men of goodwill gather in her sacred name.

Thus did the Brethren of Lodge Madras distinguish themselves as worthy hosts—upholding the dignity of the Craft while embracing the joy of service. What they organised was not merely a meeting of men, but a festival of the spirit; not merely a hosting of proceedings, but a consecration of affection. It is but fitting that we place on record our deep appreciation for the zealous labours of those Brethren who, with diligence, foresight, and devotion to duty, have been the chief architects of this successful event.



Group photograph at Freemasons' Hall, Egmore, Chennai.

Their untiring efforts in planning, organising, and executing every detail with precision have ensured the smooth and dignified manner in which our proceedings have been conducted. Truly, they have exemplified the finest traditions of our Craft — harmony, brotherly love, and the noble spirit of service. The District is especially thankful to Bro. Mohan George — the driving force behind the event, Bro. Shrikumar — the Chairman of the Organising Committee, Bro. Bharat Epur & Bro. Venkatesh Kannan — Advisors, Bro. Jagdish Sharma, Bro. Venkatesh, Bro. Vijayanand, Bro. Aroonkumar and all others whose names may have been inadvertently overlooked.



Raising a Toast to the organisers



Bro. Mohan George, the driving force and his better half



Sense of achievement writ on the organisers' faces

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Let it be remembered that such undertakings are not accomplished by chance, but by the steady hand of Brethren who, without thought of personal gain, place the welfare of the Lodge and the honour of the Institution above all.

We, from the Scottish District on behalf of all our members, therefore extend to them our thanks and fraternal commendation, with the assurance that their names shall be remembered with esteem whenever the annals of this occasion are recalled.

Let it be remembered that such undertakings are not accomplished by chance, but by the steady hand of Brethren who, without thought of personal gain, place the welfare of the Lodge and the honour of the Institution above all. We therefore extend to them our grateful thanks and fraternal commendation, with the assurance that their names shall be remembered with esteem whenever the annals of this occasion are recalled.

For in the ledger of Masonry, the worth of a Lodge is not measured in numbers or years, but in the sincerity with which it honours its obligations. By this measure, Lodge Madras shone resplendent—an ornament to her District, a jewel to her Constitution, and a true Daughter of our eternal Brotherhood.



Outside Mangala Potteries, Pondicherry



Touring Brethren and ladies at Mahabalipuram

A day after the event, some of the brethren proceeded on a group tour of Mahabalipuram, Pondicherry and Auroville along with their spouses for a brief holiday of three days Touring before returning to their hometowns. While there, a few chose to attend a meditation session at the famous venue, while others undertook other sightseeing sojourns before returning home via different modes of transport as per their convenience. All in all, it was a pleasant experience for all.

A CENTURY OF LIGHT

The march of time, in its stately course, has few moments more radiant than when it pauses to salute a century of faithful labour. Such a moment was witnessed when Lodge Madras No. 1342 S.C., our District's cherished Daughter constituent, celebrated her Centenary—a hundred years of Light, Labour, and Loyalty to the Craft.

The Centenary celebrations and Rededication ceremony of Lodge Madras No. 1342 S.C. on Saturday, 13th September 2025, was more than a celebration of years; it was a reaffirmation of purpose, a renewal of vows, and a demonstration of the unbroken chain of Masonic light. The Daughter shone resplendent before her Parent District, not in pride but in humility, not in splendour alone but in service.



Cheerful Brethren of Lodge Madras

After a hundred years, the solemnity is doubled. A Lodge that has withstood the test of time is not only a monument to its founders but also a living testament to continuity, resilience, and harmony. The Ceremony reminds every Mason present that he, too, is a custodian of that legacy, bearing forward the torch that faithful hands have carried across generations.

Brethren assembled in good numbers from various corners of the District to pay homage to the rich legacy of the Lodge, which has, through the decades, been a beacon of Masonic learning, harmony, and brotherly love. Representatives of the Heads of Sister Constitutions lent glamour to the occasion by their presence, and the air was filled not only with festivity but also with reverence, as hearts and minds turned in gratitude for the labours of those who laid the foundations and those who, through steady devotion, built upon them.

The Rededication Ceremony, conducted with dignity and splendour by the District Grand Lodge of India, stood as the crowning jewel of the celebration. The Rededication at the Centenary of a Lodge is more than a ceremony: it is a moment of collective awakening, binding past, present, and future with the mortar of brotherly love, and sealing in every heart the eternal vow that Masonry shall endure.



Lodge Cataract honours Lodge Madras

The profound silence that envelops the Brethren during such a service, broken only by the dignified cadence of ritual, impresses upon the mind the grandeur of our heritage and the sacredness of our trust. It is an experience that stirs pride, humility, and resolve in equal measure—pride in what has been accomplished, humility before the Great Architect of the Universe, and resolve to labour with renewed zeal for the future. With solemn ritual and stately symbolism, the Lodge was not merely honoured for her past but re-consecrated for the future. Each act, each word, carried the weight of tradition and the promise of renewal. The ceremonial splendour, the inspiring orations, and the heartfelt participation of the Brethren combined to create a scene of unforgettable grandeur. The Lodge, in that moment, seemed to breathe anew—its foundation stones once again anointed by the timeless principles of our Order.

“LITTLE DROPS : AN OCEAN OF LOVE”

“WHERE COMPASSION FINDS A HOME”

It has been a tradition of our District that whenever we visit a daughter Lodge in upcountry places, we make it a point to demand the host fraternity to organise a “Charity Drive”, for we believe in the Masonic tenet of ‘touching Lives with tenderness’ where humanity shines brightest.

During our visit to Chennai, we had the good fortune to visit a humanitarian organisation aptly named “little Drops” which could be termed as a Sanctuary of Love and Light that heals destitute Hearts.

There are places on this earth that quietly shine as beacons of compassion, where service is not a duty but a calling. *Little Drops* is one such sanctuary — a haven where the terminally ill are embraced with dignity, comfort, and unconditional love.



The interiors of "Little Drops"



Recognition of the management of "Little Drops"

Our recent charity drive at this blessed institution was more than an act of giving; it was an experience of the heart. Where volunteers, friends, and well-wishers came together, each carrying a humble offering — some with essentials, some with funds, and others simply with the warmth of their presence. Together, these “little drops” merged into a river of kindness, flowing gently into the lives of those who need it most.

As we walked through the wards and met the residents, we witnessed not despair, but a quiet strength, a peace that blossoms when one is surrounded by care and compassion. Simple gestures — a smile shared, a hand held, a prayer whispered — became treasures beyond measure. The eyes of the residents lit up not only with gratitude but also with the recognition that they are not forgotten, that their journey is accompanied by love.

The management of *Little Drops*, with deep humility, reminded us that it is through such acts of collective goodwill that their mission continues to flourish. And as we departed, our hearts were full, carrying with us the profound realisation that in serving others, we too are healed, uplifted, and made whole.

Truly, the day at *Little Drops* was a testimony to the eternal truth — that humanity finds its highest expression not in grand gestures, but in the little drops of kindness that together form an ocean of love.

A MAGICAL NIGHT WITH THE BEATLES ***All You Need is Love – and a Little Help from Our Friends***

Our Sister Constitution, The District Grand Lodge of Bombay E.C., recently proved that music, fellowship, and purpose make a powerful harmony when it hosted a spectacular Beatles Night in aid of the restoration of our beloved Masonic Hall in Mumbai, tragically ravaged by fire.

The inside view of the hall of the NCPA, Mumbai

The spectacular and acoustically and proficiently designed hall of the NCPA at Mumbai came alive on Friday, 26th September 2025, with the unmistakable strains of timeless harmonies, as brethren and guests gathered for an unforgettable evening dedicated to the music of *The Beatles*. What unfolded was not merely an event, but a joyous celebration of fellowship, nostalgia, and the unifying power of song.



An exhilarating 'tribute to the Beatles' underway

From the very first chords of “*Come Together*”, the atmosphere was electric. The stage glowed under soft lights as the performers—channeling the then-admired Fab Four’s infectious energy—whisked the audience away on a journey through the swinging sixties. The audience found themselves clapping, tapping, and often singing along to vocal melodies that have defined generations.

The Beatles’ timeless songs proved the perfect vehicle for the evening’s cause. Their music, steeped in messages of love, peace, and unity, mirrored the very spirit of Masonry

—brotherhood, relief, and truth. And on this special night, that spirit was channelled into a higher calling: raising funds to breathe life back into a hall that has for generations been the beating heart of Mumbai’s Freemasonry. The organisers deserve hearty congratulations for curating such a polished and spirited programme. Every rendition was reminiscent of the sixties’ pop culture, and the smooth flow of the evening created a true feast for the senses. The dinner that followed at Radio Club in Mumbai kept spirits high, while the music lingered in

the air long after the last notes had faded, leaving a palpable sense that it was more than just a night of music—it was an affirmation of the joy of the Masonic fraternity being together, of sharing in culture and tradition, but above all, contributing to an essential cause dear to our heart.

Invaluable contributions flowed in steadily, spurred by the knowledge that every note sung and every cheer raised was helping to rebuild a heritage site so deeply woven into our collective history.

