



CHENNAI SPEAKERS FORUM

Area: O2

Division: O

District: 82B

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting No.: 394 Date: 14th June 2020 Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Venue: Online Zoom Meeting

Website: www.chennaispeakersforum.com

Word of the day: Bountiful

Theme of the day: Accountability breeds response-ability



10:00am: SAA called for meeting

SAA **Toastmaster Krishnan** explained the mission of Toastmasters and stated the code of conduct for the meeting.



10:01am: Presiding Officer's Address

Toastmaster Vigneshwaran, the Presiding Officer, opened the 394th meeting with a "kutty" story of two friends to bring out the hypocrisy of the world wherein people are ready to call themselves a "victim" when cheated but at the same time do not hesitate to call themselves as "smart" when they cheat somebody else.



10:04am: TMOD introduction

TMOD **Toastmaster Karthik** started by saying that responsibility moulds us as a better person and elaborated on the same. He introduced the TOD and WOD and encouraged its usage through the course of the meeting. He also announced the changes in agenda and the various segments of a toastmaster meeting.



10:08am: General Evaluator intro

General Evaluator **Toastmaster Krishnan** explained the importance of evaluation and introduced the TAG team.

TIMER
AH COUNTER
GRAMMARIAN

Toastmaster Krishnamoorthy
Toastmaster Saikumar
Toastmaster Hariharaa Sudan



10:13am: Prepared Speeches

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
1	Toastmaster Naresh Ranka	Path: Dynamic Leadership (Level - 1) Project#1: Ice Breaker	Am I worth the wait??	Toastmaster Prashanth V

Toastmaster Naresh Ranka started by saying that he is the only male child in his family, having been born on the same day as Ratan Tata. He explained how he was very embarrassed, as a kid, to say that he had 6 sisters which he is very proud of now. He spoke about his very caring mother and his strict father who was engrossed in their business but made various sacrifices to ensure a good life for his family. He spoke about his first public speaking experience in school and then his college life. He spoke about his foray into business and the consequent lessons he learnt from business losses. He further said how after having entered his family business, he increased the size of the business six-fold. He finally concluded by saying that he has started a trust to help the poor and needy along with a quote by Mahatma Gandhi that the simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
2	Toastmaster Abhilash Chandran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 1) Project #2: Evaluation and Feedback—Second Speech	Fight for Flight	Toastmaster Srikar Pedapudi

Toastmaster Abhilash Chandran described his first on-site travel experience which occurred around 10 years back. He explained his initial thoughts after having boarded his flight, which included a desire to make a Facebook post with a V sign to show to people that he had travelled on-site and a recollection of the wait and the fight that he had to undergo to gain that opportunity. He took us back in time to his conversations with his new boss in 2008 when he had joined a new organization and how the possibilities of on-site travel influenced his carrier choices ultimately leading to his first on-site travel. Further, he went on to describe his experience at Paris. He explained how towards the fag end of his visit, flights to Europe were stopped due to volcanic ash and the resulting difficulties that ensued. He concluded by saying that after he returned to India, he posted another picture on Facebook with a V sign.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
3	Toastmaster Vandana S	Path: Strategic Relationships (Level - 1) Project #3: Research & Presenting	Intelligence, which one?	Toastmaster Vigneshwaran, Toastmaster Abhishek and Toastmaster Selvan

Toastmaster Vandana began her speech by describing a humanoid robot that was acting as a helping hand to frontline workers. She explained the meaning of artificial intelligence being machines mimicking humans. She explained the complexity of artificial intelligence and its various issues with the example of Chitti robot of Endhiran movie including a robot's information processing capabilities, its ability to understand emotions, its ability to replace some jobs and the rise of digital dictatorship. She stated that robots taking over the world by influencing decision making is a real danger for which there is a long way

to go. She concluded the speech by stating that it is a tough call to choose a particular form of intelligence and that we need to strengthen some of the basic principles that our society is based on, especially humanitarianism.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
4	Toastmaster Vigneshwaran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 2) Project #1: Understanding Your Communication Style	Follow Your Style	Toastmaster Abhisek Rungta

Toastmaster Vigneshwaran started the speech by joking that he felt pity cause the audience would have to listen to his lecture on communication skills. He explained that the research manual had four communication styles listed which he had abbreviated as "SADI", S – Supportive, A – Analytical, D – Direct and I – Initiative. He explained the basics of each communication style and demonstrated each communication style through examples of the various styles adopted by CSF's VP-M at the time of renewal of membership. He concluded the speech by stating that whatever maybe the communication style, the goal is to communicate effectively in a manner that the person at the other end interprets it correctly and that one should stick to their own communication style and personality without aiming to change it for others.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
5	Toastmaster Vivekanandhan	Manual: Special Occasion Project #3: The Roast	An Oxford, Standford and Harvard from SRM....	Toastmaster Priyan

Toastmaster Vivekanandhan started the speech by referring to the previous meeting during which Toastmaster Siddharth has posed a question to Hon'ble Mr. Nambi Narayanan on the liquid propulsion and solid propulsion system. He compared the same to a heated argument with his wife on the consistency of coconut chutney. He went on to highly appreciate Toastmaster Siddharth, some examples being that his speeches are always ahead of time and by calling him the "commando" of language. He concluded the speech by saying that Toastmaster Siddharth has innate talent of spontaneity and sparkling energy.

Prepared Speech	Speaker	Path and Project	Speech title	Evaluator
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6	Toastmaster Siddharth	Manual: High Performance Leadership (1st Speech)	Gaining Goodwill Out Of A Pandemic	Toastmaster Selvan
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Toastmaster Siddharth started the speech by saying that there is a wide belief that journalists are good at two things, the first being the ability to make a mountain out of a mole hill and the opposite of making an extremely important issue sound non-important. He went on to describe a situation at a sister organization wherein a decision had to be made as a part of CSR, on the form of use of crores of money amidst the Corona pandemic and he was consulted in the decision making process. He explained how after much deliberation, it was decided to provide infrastructure such as ambulances, portable ICUs and PPE to the State Govt and how he is ensuring the execution of the project through interaction with Govt. officials including media coverage as part of his High Performance Leadership Project. He concluded by stating his desire to create an impact on the world outside of Toastmasters and with a question – “What if your leadership can impact the larger good and not a narrow population?”



11:02am: Table topics Session

Table Topics Master Toastmaster Thiagarajan (Visiting Toastmaster) called members and guests for impromptu speaking.

Sr no.	Name	Topic
1.	Toastmaster Selvan	How will you sell ice-cream in the land of Eskimos?
2.	Toastmaster Siddharth MP	Crime is the result of society
3.	Toastmaster Vigneshwaran	Time is the subtle villain of youth
4.	Toastmaster Preethi	Marriage is the union of two forgivers



11:26am: Evaluation Session

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Naresh Ranka	Path: Dynamic Leadership (Level - 1) Project#1: Ice Breaker	Toastmaster Prashanth V

Appreciation from Evaluator: Great structure of speech; Humor was good

Feedback from Evaluator: To focus on facial expressions and voice modulation.

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Abhilash Chandran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 1) Project #2: Evaluation and Feedback—Second Speech	Toastmaster Srikar Pedapudi

Appreciation from Evaluator: Very well-organised speech and very well narrated.

Feedback from Evaluator: Could have given an insight into what was running in his mind during the situations described.

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Vandana S	Path: Strategic Relationships (Level - 1) Project #3: Research & Presenting	Toastmaster Vigneshwaran, Toastmaster Abhishek and Toastmaster Selvan

1. Toastmaster Vigneshwaran:

Appreciation from Evaluator: Well-researched

Feedback from Evaluator: Could have used visual aids/ humour/ personal anecdotes.

2. Toastmaster Abhishek:

Appreciation from Evaluator: Made a complex speech into a simple one; Use of humor made a dry topic into an interesting one.

Feedback from Evaluator: Could have referred to more data.

3. Toastmaster Selvan:

Appreciation from Evaluator: Clear narration

Feedback from Evaluator: Could have said her personal views on the topic

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Vigneshwaran	Path: Motivational Strategies (Level - 2) Project #1: Understanding Your Communication Style	Toastmaster Abhishek Rungta

Appreciation from Evaluator: Use of “SADI” abbreviation was very interesting

Feedback from Evaluator: To work on role-play and voice modulation

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Vivekanandhan	Manual: Special Occasion Project #3: The Roast	Toastmaster Priyan

Appreciation from Evaluator: Body language was good; Bountiful jokes and analogies

Speaker	Path and Project	Evaluator
Toastmaster Siddharth MP	Manual: High Performance Leadership (1st Speech)	Toastmaster Selvan

Appreciation from Evaluator: Clearly explained the conception, plan and execution of the project

Feedback from Evaluator: Would have liked to know the difficulties in executing the project including convincing his boss etc.



11:53a.m – Call for vote

Members and guests were asked to vote for Best Speaker, Best TT Speaker, Best Evaluator, Best Role Player, and Best TAG Role Player.



11:55p.m – Best Performers

Presiding officer announces best performers of the meeting

Best Role Player	Toastmaster Karthik
Best Evaluator	Toastmaster Selvan
Best Table Topics Speaker	Toastmaster Selvan
Best Speaker	Toastmaster Sidharth M.P

The Presiding Officer of CSF received feedback from guests and thanked all the participants for attending the meeting. The Presiding Officer later released the club’s newsletter – Connect, Skill up & Flourish (CSF) and also mentioned the initiative to create a new WhatsApp group for networking and job opportunities. He also acknowledged Toastmaster Naresh Ranka for kickstarting his journey with the ice-breaker speech and opened the floor for a networking session.



For any suggestions/feedback, please contact:

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