

**HEARTY WELCOME TO Rtn Dr MAHESH KOTBAGI AND Rtn Dr AMITA TO RC ALLEPPEY**

CHIEF GUEST



Dr. Mahesh Kotbagi, RC Pune Sports Ctiy, RID 3131, is a professional hospital adminitrator and chairman of the Kotbagi Hospital in

Pune, Maharashtra. He is a fourth-generation medical practitioner; his grandfather was the physician of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. Kotbagi is a post-graduate with a gold medal for his thesis on gynaecology from the Universtiy of Pune. In 1991, he established a 10-bed hospital which soon grew into a multi-specialty hospital. He also established a low-cost dialysis centre and has a presence in healthcare, hospitality,

petroleum and construction industries. Kotbagi served as DG (2005–06), international training leader (2014), chairman – South Asia Literacy Summit (2014), ARFC (2017–18) and GETS chairman (2020). He served as RI director for 2021–23 for zones 4 and 7. He has been honoured with Service Above Self Award by RI and the Citation of Meritorious Service Award by TRF. He has volunteered at the Rotary medical mission to Lesotho, Africa. The Chinmayi Charitable Trust run by Kotbagi supports low-cost healthcare and education for rural children. He has led more than 100 service projects in literacy, polio surgery, rubella vaccination, cow banks for rural women and welfare of special children. Dr. Kotbagi and his wife Dr Amita are third-level major donors and benefactors.

EDITORIALLY YOURS



President Kurian imbibed by the sessions he attended at PETS, has decided to invite guest speakers at least one each every month besides the usual family dinner meeting chief guest. When he asked me to arrange a speaker

for 17th July meeting, I obliged and requested my good old friend Dr C Unnikrishnan Nair former General Manager, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai. Unni, with whom I have four decades of acquaintance starting from my Jaycees days, obliged and gave an authentic lecture on the contemporary topic “Impact of Vizhinjam Port in Kerala’s Economy”. Thanks to efforts put in by the President, the Revikarunakaran Rotary Hall was almost full, for that matter the subject was also interesting to all. The Rotarians listened to the speaker patiently and the QA

session that followed was lengthy with a dozen of rotarians shooting questions. A detailed coverage of the session is given elsewhere. Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of our club is hardly a few days away. The Platinum Jubilee committee and the host team under the leadership of Rtn Raju Chandy are burning midnight oil to make elaborate arrangements to make the event a memorable one. I take this opportunity to wish the team all the very best. Rotary attaches a lot of importance to physical fitness. The month of December is observed as Disease Prevention and Treatment month and clubs take up different activities in the maintenance of health. We have a large chunk of senior citizens in our club and I thought it will be only appropriate to challenge our members on their fitness. This column is dedicated to publish the challenges taken up by the members in maintaining their fitness. The challenge is open to all of you!!! Let us start this week with our senior most member Rtn PHF Abdul Rahim Sir. I wish all members will cooperate by sharing their experiences. Jai Rotary  
Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK  
RI President



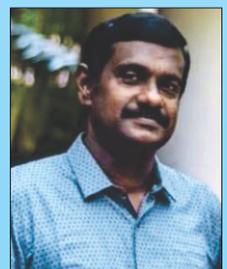
Rtn. AKSM SUDHI JABBAR  
Dist. Governor



Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL  
Asst. Governor



Rtn. JOHN KURIAN  
President



Rtn. SUJITH T.S  
Secretary



### Minutes of the regular meeting held on 17th July 2024

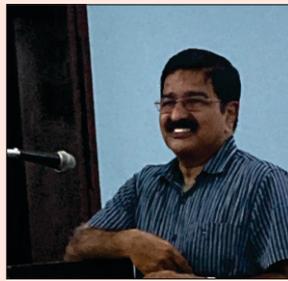
The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. John Kurian at 7.30 pm. Rtn. Jijo Chacko invoked the blessing of the Almighty.

In the presidential address, the President informed that our next regular meeting scheduled on 24th is postponed to 25th July 2024, Thursday, as our Charter Day and Platinum Jubilee year celebrations. He further informed that a host team consisting of 18 members has been constituted under the leadership of Rtn Raju Chandy and they are toiling hard to make the function a great success. Thereafter President informed that we have a guest speaker, Mr. Dr. C. Unnikrishnan Nair, Former General Manager, JNPT, Mumbai and thanked Rtn. Kumaraswamy Pillai for arranging

our guest speaker. Rtn. M Kumaraswamy Pillai introduced the guest. The president then invited the guest to deliver the lecture on the topic "Impact of Vizhinjam Port in Kerala's Economy".

The speech by Mr. Dr. C. Unnikrishnan Nair was very informative and valuable. There was a good interaction and the rotarians Kumaraswamy Pillai, Sivakumar, Lakshmi Gopakumar, Jacob Neroth, Mohemmed Shafeeq, George Thomas and Antony Malayil participated. After this Secretary Rtn. Sujith TS thanked all the members with a special thanks to the host of the day, Rtn. JijoChacko. The meeting was then adjourned by the president at 9 pm.

## VIZHINJAM SEA PORT NEEDS FREIGHT PARITY WITH COLOMBO PORT



Rtn Dr C Unnikrishnan Nair speaking at the Seminar on "Impact of Vizhinjam in Kerala's Economy"

Rtn Dr C Unnikrishnan Nair, Former General Manager, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai delivered a lecture on the "Impact of Vizhinjam Port on Kerala's Economy" at the regular meeting held on 17.07.24 at 7.30 pm. Dr Unnikrishnan said that in order to exploit the huge potential that Vizhinjam Port offers, the terminal operators should strive hard to get a parity in the freight rates with Colombo transshipment Port. This can ensure that our exporters will have the advantage of competitive freight rates with their counterparts using other transshipment ports like Colombo.

He said that the Government of Kerala has funded the Vizhinjam International Seaport, a viability gap fund, to the tune of over 5500 crores, highest by a State Govt for a port project and Central government has invested over 800 crores. The Adani group has invested 2500 crores in the first phase and promised to invest

10,000 crores in the phase due for completion in 2028. It is incumbent upon Kerala to take advantage by availing better freight, by creating port based activities and promoting industries that take advantage of the proximity of a port. Such initiatives can create significant employment opportunities and economic activities in addition to income to government through various tax avenues. The State Govt has to create infrastructural facilities like rail/road connectivity for our cargo to reach the port seamlessly. New logistics parks and warehouses can promote supply chain efficiency which opens up new export markets. Cold storages for sea food and centers for value added agriproducts can come up. Business model to take advantage of Vizhinjam can include setting up of Special Economic Zones and Free Trade Warehousing Zones. Vizhinjam should be a one-stop shop for the entire range of maritime services.

Vizhinjam has factored Cruise ships as a major business prospect. Vizhinjam layout has included cruise terminals. Major cruise lines like Cunard Lines, Royal Caribbean Lines, Aida Cruises and Costa Cruises can be facilitated at Vizhinjam Port when it becomes fully operational. Proper networking and arrangement can provide excellent on-shore experience for these tourists which translates in to good impact in our tourism ecosystem.

At the QA session that followed, there was an array of questions

from the participants which were well answered by Dr Unnikrishnan. One question raised by Rtn Mohd. Shafeeq stood out. Shafeeq said that in Muthalappozhy, there have been many accidental deaths of fishermen venturing into sea for fishing. He said that as a consequence of the sea port development, there has been a significant change in the behaviour of the sea

leading to many casualties. Replying to this, Dr Unnikrishnan said that there can be changes in coastal wave pattern following new off-shore constructions, which are usually studied and appropriate structures

to mitigate impacts are created. Narrating anecdotes, he added that Kerala coasts are rich with traditional knowledge on behaviour of sea and some of these can get distorted with manmade changes to the geography.

### Import, Process and Re-export

Replying to another question, Dr Unnikrishnan elaborated that besides the traditional imports and exports, Vizhinjam offers great scope for import of raw materials, processing the same in the duty-free SEZ created and re-export. He stated that the value-add concept is already familiar to Kerala and cited the example of cashew industry where a major quantity of raw nuts is imported from African countries, processed in the factories in Kerala and Tamil Nadu and re-exported to various countries. He exhorted the Rotarians in the export business to consider the business option. To sum up, Dr Unnikrishnan said that there should be concerted efforts by the State Government in coordination with the Union Government and business fraternity to take advantage of the newly created mega terminal and ensure a high degree of value-add to our economic horizon, by creating port based activities and by promoting industries that take advantage of the proximity of a port. In that event, Vizhinjam will become a boon to the Kerala's economy.



# MY FITNESS CHALLENGE



## Rtn CA Abdul Rahim

I am a nonagenarian and don't practice heavy exercises. Left to me I don't appreciate people going for morning walk for half-an-hour to one hour wearing exclusive dress and footwears. The same set of people travel in four wheelers or two wheelers during the rest of the day. I used to attend my office regularly until a year back. I walk up to office every day in the morning and return home also by walk in the evening covering 4-5 KM. By this not only keep up my health but save a lot of fuel otherwise I would have burned for my travel by car and reduce carbon emission to that extent. Since I had undergone a medical procedure last year I completely stopped walking to office but attend to office work if any, sitting home. But I walk at least for half an hour every day morning in my own compound. I believe that diet control also contribute significantly in your fitness. I am very frugal in eating. I attend all marriages, rotary dinner meetings whenever possible, but take a very little quantity of food. I have no inhibition in asking my relatives and close friends for food when I travel to their places. They for that matter know certainly that I will eat only less and serve me accordingly. I strictly follow timings of taking food and skip such occasions where the lunch or dinner will be delayed inordinately.

(Next week: Rtn Dr Abraham Thayyil)

Dear Rtn Kumaraswamy Pillai,

Congratulations on the curation of Royalweeks this time with a difference! I appreciate how you've infused a casual tone into the captions, making them engaging without losing their essence. You've done a comprehensive job covering all the club activities.

I would suggest considering a "Know Your Rotarian" feature, especially for the new Rtn's, which could provide insights into the evolving member profile of a club, rich with 75 years of history. Additionally, including reminiscences from senior members could add a delightful touch, sharing anecdotes from the past in a lighter vein.

Look forward to further editions.

Best regards

Rtn PDG Major Donor Suresh Mathew



# FEEDBACK



Rtn Shyam Kurup was honoured in kannadiga style by Karnataka film chamber of commerce at the Kerala film Chamber. Royalweeks wishes Shyam all the very best.



Rtn Tomy Pulikkattil and Ann Tina Tomy on an holiday to USA visited the Rib Fest by Rotary , Whitby Ontario.





**Rotary**  
**ROTARY CLUB OF ALLEPEY**  
Club No. 15903 - RI Dist. 3211  
Chartered on 25th July 1949

## Invitation

President and members of Rotary Club of Alleppey have pleasure to invite you to the **Platinum Jubilee Celebrations** and **75th Charter Anniversary** of the club on **Thursday 25th July 2024 at 7:00 pm** at **Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alappuzha**

*Chief Guest*  
**Rtn. Major Donor Dr Mahesh Kolbaqi**  
Past RI Director  
Guest of Honor: **Rtn AKSM Sudhi Jabbar**  
District Governor, Dist. 3211  
Esteemed Presence : **Rtn. AKSM Betty Karan**

Rotary Service Projects on the Occasion:  
♦ **ROTARY VILLA PROJECT AT MUHAMMA PHASE I** Handing over of three fully completed independent villas to three landless beneficiaries.  
♦ **ROTARY DISTRICT FOCUS PROJECT:** Handing over 'ENTE KANMANIKKU FIRST GIFT' cheque to **Mr Praveen Mohan, President Cable TV Operators Association.**  
♦ **Planting 75 Jack fruit tree saplings** by the members as part of 75 years of immaculate service of Rotary Club of Alleppey.

**Rtn. Raju Chandu**  
Chairman, Platinum Jubilee Committee

**Rtn. John Kurian,**  
President, Rotary Club of Alleppey

**Rtn. T S Sujith**  
Secretary

**Alas, poor scapegoat, thy name is Club Secretary**

If a secretary writes a letter, it is too long If he sends a post card, it is too short If he sends a bulletin, it is too expensive If the attendance is slack, he should have telephoned all members If he does telephone them- he is a pest If he asks for their dues- he is insulting If he does not- he is lazy If a function is a huge success- the committee gets the credit If a function is a failure- the secretary gets the blame If he asks for advise - he is incompetent If he does not - he is trying to run the show

**NEXT MEETING**

24.07.24 at 7.30 pm Charter Day & PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS on 25th July 2024 at 7 pm

Rtn.Raju Chandy, Rtn.Venugopala Panicker, Rtn. Adv Murugan Rtn. R Krishnan, Rtn. R. Sreenivasan, Rtn. Gopinathan Nair Rtn. Vijayalakshmi Nair, Rtn. Antony Malayil, Rtn. Luckose Malayil, Rtn. T. Sivakumar, Rtn. George Thomas, Rtn. Sajan Nair, Rtn. Mathew Joseph, Rtn. Dr. Abraham Thayyil, Rtn. George thayyil, Rtn. Joseph Thayyil, Rtn. Dijo Antony, Rtn. Rajanish Krishnamurthi

HOST TEAM

TEAM 2024 - 2025

- PRESIDENT** - Rtn John Kurian | **VICE PRESIDENT** - Rtn T.S.Ajith
- PRESIDENT ELECT** - Rtn Lakshmi Gopakumar | **SECRETARY** - Rtn T.S.Sujith
- TREASURER**- Rtn R.N.Ajith | **Imm.PP** - Rtn John .V.George
- CLUB ADMINISTRATION DIRECTOR** - Rtn Vijayalakshmi Nair | **ROTARY FOUNDATION** - Rtn T.Sivakumar
- MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR** -Rtn George Jose Malayil | **PUBLIC RELATION DIRECTOR** - Rtn Tomy Pulikkattil
- SERVICE PROJECT DIRECTOR** - Rtn Raju Chandy | **BULLETIN EDITOR** - Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai
- CLUB ADVISOR** - Rtn Mohamed Shafeeq | **GENERAL CO-ORDINATOR**- Rtn K.Cherian
- CLUB TRAINER** - Rtn R.Krishnan | **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** - Rtn George Thomas
- Jr. SECRETARY** - Rtn Dr.Sethu Ravi | **SERGEANT AT ARMS**- Rtn Princy Sebastain

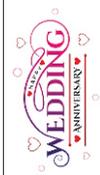
STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

- INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**-Rtn Sajan.B.Nair | **DIST. PROJECT** - Rtn Adv.Venugopala Panicker
- GENERAL CONVENOR** - Rtn Prof. Gopinathan Nair | **CLUB SERVICE** - Rtn Adv. S.Murugan
- COMMUNITY SERVICE**-Rtn Subramania Iyer | **FOCUS PROJECT** - Rtn Adv. V Deepak
- VOCATIONAL SERVICE**- Rtn Jose Arathupally | **FAMILY OF ROTARY** - Rtn Rosie John
- YOUTH SERVICE** - Rtn Ambu Vaidyan | **LITERACY MISSION AND CLUB HISTORIAN**- Rtn Tomi Eapen
- CLUB RECREATION** - Rtn Naga Raj | **CLUB IT OFFICER** - Rtn Lukose Mathew Malayil
- CLUB PROJECTS** - Rtn R.Sreenivasan | **FESTIVAL AND FELLOWSHIP** - Rtn Jijo Chacko



- 4** Rtn. Ajith Kumar. T. S.
- 7** Rtn. Adv. Unnikrishnan. R.
- 24** Rtn. Lukose Mathew Malayil
- 27** Rtn. Dr. Arun Babu

JULY



- 5** Rtn. Cherian. K.& Shylamma
- 11** Rtn. Mohammed Shafeeq & Sebi
- 13** Rtn. Dr. Arun babu & Yamuna



Rtn. Rajanish Krishnamurthi



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