

P2	Union Budget 2025-26- My Impressions -Rtn R Krishnan	P3	A Gesture of Kindness: Supporting Bilal's Mobility	P3	Princy Sebastian felicitated at the District Conference for her IFRM initiative	P4	Rotarian in the Spotlight: Rtn George Thomas
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EDITORIALLY YOURS



I am delighted to hear about the tremendous success of Valiaya Perunal, the Rotary District Conference held on the 8th and 9th at Gokulam Park Convention Centre. From all accounts, it was a truly remarkable event, with eloquent speakers, a fantastic venue, and excellent food—making it an unforgettable experience for all attendees.

It is heartening to know that the conference was so well-attended, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment of the Rotary community. While I regret not being able to attend the event due to my long holidays in Australia, I have no doubt that the event was a resounding success, thanks to the dedication and efforts of the organizing team under the able leadership of DG Sudhi Jabbar and Conference Chair Krishna Kumar. Congrats team Valiya Perunal.

The month of February is designated in Rotary as World Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution month. As Rotarians, we believe that peace is not just the absence of conflict but the presence of understanding, cooperation, and goodwill. It reminds us of our responsibility to foster harmony in our communities and across the world.

This year, February brings a glimmer of hope on the global stage. The recent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in Gaza marks a crucial step towards stability in a region long affected by strife. Meanwhile, the intensity of the Russia-Ukraine war has decreased, bringing some respite to millions affected by the prolonged conflict.

Rotary, true to its mission, has played a vital role in alleviating suffering, particularly in Ukraine. Through our vast network, we have provided humanitarian aid, medical assistance, and rebuilding support to those displaced by war. These efforts reflect Rotary's unwavering commitment to peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

However, peace is not just a distant global aspiration—it begins with us. As members of the Rotary Club of Alleppey, let us renew our dedication to fostering understanding, dialogue, and reconciliation in our own communities. By embracing diverse perspectives, promoting education, and supporting humanitarian initiatives, we contribute to a more peaceful and united world.

Let this month be a reminder that every act of kindness, every effort toward conflict resolution—big or small—creates ripples of change. Together, as Rotarians, we can continue to be ambassadors of peace and understanding, making a lasting impact both locally and globally.

Jai Rotary!

Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai

Rotary District 3211 Launches HPV Vaccination Project at Valiya Perunnal Conference

Hon. Governor of Goa, Adv. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai, Commends Rotary's Humanitarian Efforts

The District Conference of Rotary District 3211, held on the 8th and 9th of February 2025, truly lived up to its name—Valiya Perunnal—a grand celebration of service, fellowship, and impactful initiatives. One of the most remarkable moments of the event was the inauguration of the HPV vaccination project for young girls by Hon. Governor of Goa, Adv. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai. In his address, the Governor applauded Rotary's commitment to humanitarian causes, especially in areas like disease prevention. Despite heightened security measures, the presence of sniffer dogs, and a long wait before his arrival, the Governor's speech and interaction with Rotarians were warmly received.

A Grand Opening to a Memorable Conference
The conference commenced at 10 AM with a ceremonial parade, followed by District Governor Rtn. Sudhi Jabbar calling the meeting to order. RI President's Representative, PDG Prakash Chandran Arackal, formally inaugurated the event, lauding District 3211's leadership and appreciating the impactful projects Uyare (women empowerment) and Udayakiran (home-building initiative). A highlight of the session was an inspiring speech by Sri. Raju Narayanaswamy IAS, who captivated the audience with his talk on The Magic of Rotary, delivered in eloquent Malayalam.

Unforgettable Moments & Inspirational Speakers

The conference was enriched with thought-provoking discussions and inspiring personalities:

Rev. Fr. Davis Chiramel, founder of the Kidney Federation, delivered a powerful message on selflessness. "As a priest, I preach about Jesus sacrificing himself for others, but I must practice it too," he shared, recalling his decision to donate a kidney to a patient in need. His act of generosity inspired many, including industrialist Kochouseph Chittilappally, to become donors. A panel discussion on 'All About Cancer' featured renowned oncologist Dr. V.P. Gangadharan, who shared invaluable insights on early detection and prevention. The session Magic of Resilience featured Shri. Chirag Chouhan, a survivor of the Mumbai serial train blasts, who shared his story of endurance and hope. A special panel discussion with the cast of the Malayalam movie 'Rekhachithram', moderated by PAG Albert Alex, was an engaging session. Actors Anaswara



STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
RI President



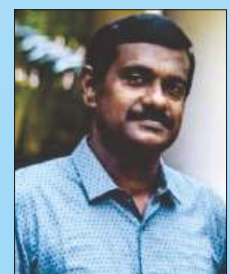
Rtn. AKSM SUDHI JABBAR
Dist. Governor



Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL
Asst. Governor



Rtn. JOHN KURIAN
President



Rtn. SUJITH T.S
Secretary

Rajan, Bhama, and the film's director and producer shared their experiences. The sight of the lead actress arriving under Black Cat security added a touch of cinematic drama to the event. The audience was enthralled by renowned television anchor Srikantan Nair, whose captivating speech was one of the highlights of the second day. Ms. Prachi Tehlan, former captain of the Indian Netball team, shared her inspiring journey from sports to professional success.

A Celebration of Talent and Culture

The conference wasn't just about discussions—it was also a feast of art and culture. The dance performance by Smt. Asha Sharath and her team was nothing short of breathtaking, adding a touch of elegance and energy to the evening. A special moment on the 9th of February was the recognition of young Rotarian Princy, a dedicated and dynamic presence at the conference. District Governor Sudhi Jabbar announced the launch of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians (IFRM) – "Vocal Vibes 3211". The charter was presented to Dr. Sumithran (Chairman) by RIPR Dr. Prakash Arackal which was received by Princy from DG Dinesh Mehta (Dist. 3142, Pune) at Lonavala. Vocal Vibes 3211's medley tribute to the late Sri. Jayachandran was a touching moment. Princy also served as the lady sergeant-at-arms, a role she executed with dedication and pride.

Exceptional Hospitality & Fellowship

The conference was meticulously planned, with impeccable hospitality and delicious catering by Ruchi Caterers, leaving attendees thoroughly impressed. District Governor Sudhi Jabbar and Conference Chairman Krishnakumar deserve immense credit for orchestrating such a well-organized and memorable event.

RC Alleppey's Strong Representation

RC Alleppey was proudly represented by: President Rtn. John Kurian, AG Antony Malayil, TS Sujith, Prof. Gopinathan Nair, Vijayalakshmi Nair, Princy Sebastian, K. Cherian, Sethu Revi, Muhammed Shafeek, George Malayil and Rosie John

The Valiya Perunnal Conference 2025 was a testament to Rotary's spirit of service, leadership, and fellowship, setting a high benchmark for future events.

The Union Budget (2025-26) aims to enhance disposable income, boost voluntary tax compliance, and promote ease of doing business - says CA R Krishnan



The Union Budget 2025-26, presented against the backdrop of economic recovery and fiscal consolidation, aims to enhance disposable income, boost voluntary tax compliance, and promote ease of doing business. This article provides my opinion on the key direct tax proposals introduced in the budget and their implications, along with major highlights from other key sectors.

Personal Income Tax Reforms: Relief for the Middle Class

1. New Tax Slab Structure: Beneficial Move

- The reduction in tax rates across various income groups is a welcome change. This will increase disposable income, thereby spurring consumption and economic growth. However, the middle-class taxpayers would have expected more relief in terms of deductions and exemptions.

2. Increase in Tax Deduction Limits: A Positive Step

- The tax deduction limit for senior citizens on interest income has been increased from 50,000 to 1 lakh.
- The TDS exemption on rental income has been increased from 2.40 lakh p.a to 50,000 p.m.
- Taxpayers can now claim deduction on two self-occupied properties without conditions, as opposed to only one previously.

3. Extension of Time for Filing Updated Returns: Encouraging Voluntary Compliance

- Extending the time limit for filing updated returns to four years (from the previous two) provides flexibility and encourages taxpayers to voluntarily rectify past errors, reducing litigation.

Corporate Taxation and Start-ups: Strong Support for Business Growth

1. Extension of Start-up Tax Incentives: Encouraging Innovation

- The incorporation deadline for start-ups to avail of tax exemptions under Section 80-IAC has been extended by five years.
- Start-ups can now claim tax exemptions on profits for seven out of ten years.

Rationalization of TDS/TCS Provisions: Simplification for Businesses

1. Easing TDS Burdens: Simplifying Compliance

- The threshold for various TDS provisions has been increased to minimize compliance costs and administrative burdens on businesses.

Charitable Institutions and Compliance Burden Reduction: Encouraging Social Impact

1. Extended Registration Period: Reducing Administrative Hassles

- The registration period for charitable institutions has been extended from five years to ten years, significantly reducing administrative hassles.

2. Simplification of Procedures: Streamlining Processes

- By reducing administrative complexities, this budget makes it easier for tax-exempt institutions to operate efficiently.

3. New Income Tax Bill

- The FM is stated to table a new bill in the Parliament shortly replacing the present Income Tax Act. As per announcement, this will be half the size of the present Act and more simplified.

Key Highlights from Other Sectors: A Balanced Growth Approach

Agriculture and Rural Development: Empowering Farmers

- Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana: This initiative will provide much-needed financial support and modernization to the agricultural sector.

- National Mission on High Yielding Seeds: A positive step to enhance agricultural productivity and ensure food security.

- Enhanced Credit through Kisan Credit Cards: Increasing credit limits from 3 lakh to 5 lakh will provide financial stability to farmers.

Infrastructure and Urban Development: Driving Economic Growth

- Urban Challenge Fund: The 1 lakh crore allocation will transform urban landscapes, fostering economic expansion.

- Jal Jeevan Mission: Extended funding with an outlay of 2.87 lakh crore will ensure water accessibility, improving the quality of life in rural areas.

- Maritime Development Fund: The 25,000 crore allocation will enhance logistics and trade capabilities.

MSME

- The MSME sector, often considered the backbone of the economy, sees a significant overhaul with revised classification criteria and new credit schemes, including a 5 lakh credit card facility for micro enterprises.

Final Thoughts: A Progressive Budget with Room for Enhancement

The budget successfully introduces measures that promote economic growth, improve tax compliance, and support various industries. While there are areas that could have been further refined, the overall direction is positive and lays the groundwork for sustainable development. The success of this budget will depend on effective execution and ensuring that the intended benefits reach the right stakeholders.



Minutes of the regular meeting held on 5th February 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. John Kurian at 7:30 PM. Rtn. Rosie John invoked the blessings of the God Almighty. In his speech, President Rtn. John Kurian provided an update on the projects conducted in the previous week. The first project was the donation of 10 chairs to the Cyber Cell, Alleppey, on February 1, 2025. The chairs were sponsored by Rtn. Tomy Pulikattil. The second project, Ashwamedham – TB Eradication Programme, organized by the Rotary Club of Alleppey in association with W & C Hospital, was inaugurated by the District Collector, Alex Varghese on February 3, 2025, at W & C Hospital. The president also informed the members about the upcoming District Conference, which will be held on February 8 and 9, 2025, in Ernakulam. He also requested all Rotarians who have not yet paid their Platinum Jubilee contribution to do so at the earliest. During the meeting, the club also conducted a special project where Rtn. Raju Chandy sponsored a wheelchair for a physically challenged person. Following this, Secretary Rtn. Sujith T. S. expressed gratitude to the guest Rotarian Alan Brooks and all the members for their participation. He also extended special thanks to the host of the meeting, Rtn. Rosie John. The meeting was adjourned by the president at 8:00 PM for dinner and fellowship.

Rtn. Sujith T S
Secretary

Princy Sebastian felicitated at the District Conference for IFRM initiative



The International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians (IFRM) began in 1972 to "promote and encourage the use and appreciation of music in Rotary Clubs by Rotarians in our society and, thereby, to encourage world

IFRM Mission

- To promote Rotary fellowship by encouraging clubs to sing
- To organize musical activities for performance at all levels of Rotary functions
- To support community musical organization and school musical programs

IFRM Activities

Officers and members of the Fellowship take a leading role in extending the cultural and educational use of music in Rotary through group singing, musical entertainment, and the fostering of music projects around the world.

IFRM arranges and publishes the annual RI Presidential Theme Songs, furnishes musical leadership and performances at events at all Rotary functions.

Princy received the IFRM Charter for our District 3211 from DG Dinesh Mehta of district 3142 at a function held in Lonawala, Pune. DG Sudhi Jabbar appreciated IFRM Chairman IPDG Dr G Sumithran and team with special mention of Princy for her efforts and she was adorned with a ponnada at the District Conference.



Anika became State Senior Shuttle Champion



Annet Anika, daughter of Rtn. S. Vinod Kumar, was a member of the Alleppey District team that won the state championship held at Kannur. Royalweeks extends heartfelt congratulations to Anika on this achievement!

A Gesture of Kindness: Supporting Bilal's Mobility



The Rotary Club of Alleppey continues to uphold the spirit of service and compassion through meaningful contributions to the community. In a heartwarming gesture, President Rtn. John Kurian and Rtn. Raju Chandy have extended their support to young Bilal Jalal, Mukkavalakkal, Palace Ward, Alappuzha, who has been dependent on a wheelchair for a long time.

Rtn. Raju Chandy generously sponsored a wheelchair through the club, ensuring that Bilal gains better mobility and comfort in his daily life. This act of kindness reflects the true essence of Rotary's mission—serving humanity and making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Royalweeks extends sincere appreciation to Rtn. John Kurian and Rtn. Raju Chandy for their commitment to service and for being an inspiration to us all.



Amritha TS., daughter of B/o TS. Ajithkumar and TS Sujith passed CA with flying colours. She received her membership certificate at convocation ceremony held at Chennai last week. Royalweeks extends hearty congratulations to CA Amritha.

RC ALLEPPEY @VALIYA PERUNAL



Rotarian in the spotlight



Rtn. George Thomas (GT)

We are delighted to announce Rtn. George Thomas, fondly known as GT, as our Rotarian in the Spotlight this week. GT has always been at the forefront, offering unwavering support to every project initiated by our club's ruling Presidents over the years. Whether through active participation or financial contributions, he has consistently demonstrated his commitment to Rotary's ideals of service above self. His generosity is well known—GT never hesitates to contribute whenever financial collections are announced. A testament to his giving spirit, he recently contributed 50,000 towards our prestigious Platinum Jubilee Rotary Villa Project. Additionally, during the visit of the HOPE Village Project team, GT extended his support with a thoughtful contribution, further cementing his role as a pillar of our Rotary family. Royalweeks wishes GT all the very best in his Rotary journey.

NEXT MEETING

@7.30 pm on 12.02.2025. Host: Rtn H Nagaraj



6 Rtn. K. N. Venugopala Panicker
8 Rtn. S. Murugan
15 Rtn. George Thayyil **24** Rtn. John V. George
24 Rtn. Gopinathan Nair

FEBRUARY



9 Ambu Varghese Vaidhyar and Ann
19 Rtn. Jacob Neroth and Rosamma
21 Rtn. Antony Malayil and Anu

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.Chorian
CLUB TRAINER - Rtn R.Krishnan | **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** - Rtn George Thomas
JL. SECRETARY - Rtn Dr.Sethu Ravi | **SERGEANT AT ARMS** - Rtn Princy Sebastain

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

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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

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