



EDITORIALLY YOURS



We had a colourful vocational service excellence awards nite at the family dinner meeting held on 19th March 2025. Due to back to back bereavements, the function got postponed twice and finally happened on 19th in a befitting way. As we know, vocational service stands as one of the foundational pillars of Rotary, urging Rotarians to utilize their professional expertise for the greater good. It emphasizes ethical conduct, recognizes the dignity of all occupations, and fosters a spirit of integrity and service in both professional and personal spheres. In line with this, Rotary dedicates the month of January to Vocational Service, during which clubs worldwide honor professionals who have made significant contributions to society. A recurring debate within Rotary Clubs has been the selection criteria for vocational excellence awards. Should we exclusively recognize celebrated figures—those who have achieved widespread fame and acclaim in their respective fields? Or should we shift our focus to the unsung heroes—the individuals in the lower strata of the professional hierarchy whose contributions, though often overlooked, are indispensable to society? While acknowledging the contributions of these high-profile individuals is certainly valuable, we must ask ourselves: Does this approach fully embrace the spirit of “recognizing the worthiness of all useful occupations” as articulated in Rotary’s principles? It is undeniable that celebrities, industry leaders, and renowned professionals have made remarkable contributions. Their excellence inspires many, setting benchmarks of achievement. However, it is equally important to recognize the silent workforce that upholds the fabric of our society—the traffic police officer who stands tirelessly under the sun, the nurse who provides compassionate care to the sick, the schoolteacher who shapes young minds, or the sanitation worker who ensures public hygiene. These individuals may not receive widespread recognition, but their dedication profoundly impacts our daily lives. By honoring professionals from all walks of life, Rotary not only upholds the true spirit of vocational service but also reinforces the principle that every profession, when performed with dedication and integrity, holds immense value. Recognizing individuals from grassroots levels sends a strong message—that service is not measured by status or fame but by the impact created in the lives of others. Perhaps the ideal approach is a balanced one. While acknowledging exemplary figures in various fields, Rotary must also shine a light on those who work behind the scenes, often without expectation of recognition. Celebrating these unsung heroes aligns with the very essence of Rotary: Service Above Self.

As we reflect on Vocational Service, let us remember that true excellence is not just about reaching great heights but about lifting others along the way. Through thoughtful recognition, let us inspire a society where every profession is valued, and every act of service is honoured.

Jai Rotary!

Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai

RI President Stephanie calls on King Charles III



King Charles III has maintained a longstanding and meaningful relationship with Rotary International, demonstrating shared commitments to global health initiatives and environmental sustainability. His involvement spans over three decades, characterized by honorary memberships, active participation in humanitarian efforts, and recognition for his dedication to causes aligned with Rotary’s mission. King Charles III’s formal association with Rotary began nearly three decades ago when he became an honorary member of Rotary Club Banchory Ternan, RID 1010, Scotland, in 1992. This membership established an official connection between the British Royal Family and Rotary that continues to the present day. The royal family’s relationship with Rotary extends beyond Charles, as several other royal family members have held honorary memberships in various Rotary clubs. One of the most significant aspects of King Charles’s connection with Rotary has been his advocacy for polio eradication. As a committed advocate of global polio eradication efforts, Charles has participated in several key initiatives aligned with Rotary’s mission to eliminate this disease worldwide. Active Participation in Vaccination Campaigns In 2003, Charles demonstrated his hands-on commitment by participating in a Polio National Immunization Day (NID) program in a village near Delhi, India. This direct involvement in vaccination efforts showcased his personal dedication to Rotary’s signature global health initiative. During another visit to India in 2013, he visibly supported the cause by sporting the “End Polio Now” scarf, publicly

acknowledging Rotary’s tremendous efforts in eradicating polio in the country. President Stephanie had the opportunity to meet their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla at the Commonwealth Day Reception at Marlborough House, London recently. They spoke about the Rotary’s missions in Basic Education and Literacy and preserving Environment, particularly with projects involving safeguarding and restoration of mangrove forests.



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

Honouring Excellence: My Reflections on the Vocational Excellence Awards Ceremony

Rtn. Prof. S. Gopinathan Nair



Every profession holds the power to shape a better society. It is through their dedication, ethics, and service that professionals contribute to the greater good. Recognizing such contributions is at the heart of Rotary's Vocational Service, a core avenue through which Rotarians uphold high ethical standards and acknowledge the worthiness of all occupations.

In its 76th year of unwavering service to the community, the Rotary Club of Alleppey, the second oldest club in District 3211, continues its rich legacy of fostering excellence. Over the years, under the leadership of 75 past presidents and the present dynamic President, Rtn. John Kurian, the club has remained steadfast in its mission to serve society. True to its tradition, this year too, the club successfully organized the Rotary Vocational Excellence Awards to honour outstanding professionals across various fields.

The prestigious function was held on Wednesday, 19th March 2025, at 7:30 PM at the Club Hall, under the able leadership of Rtn. Jose Abraham, Chairman of the Vocational Excellence Award Committee. The evening commenced with a ceremonial parade led by Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Jijo Chacko. Following the lighting of the lamp by distinguished guests and awardees, President Rtn. John Kurian called the meeting to order. Rtn. John Mathew invoked divine blessings, while Rtn. PAG K. Cherian extended a warm welcome to all attendees.

In his presidential address, Rtn. John Kurian expressed gratitude to his team for their unwavering support in taking the club to greater heights. The esteemed Chief Guest, Sri. Vinod Kumar, DIG Prisons, was introduced by Rtn. Jose Abraham, setting the stage for the most awaited segment—the presentation of Rotary Vocational Excellence Awards. The following distinguished personalities were honoured for their exemplary contributions to their respective fields:

• **Dr. Venugopal (Medical)** • **Sri. Punnapra Appachan (Cinema)** • **Sri. H. Shajahan (Media)**

• **Smt. Parvathi M. (Teaching)** • **Sri. John Thomas (Sports & Games)** Each awardee expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the Rotary Club of Alleppey for bestowing upon them this prestigious recognition. Adding to the pride of the evening, Anikha V. Nair, daughter of Rtn. Vinod Kumar, was specially honoured for her outstanding performance as a team member in the State Senior Badminton Tournament.

The Chief Guest, Sri. Vinod Kumar DIG, delivered an inspiring keynote address, leaving the audience with valuable insights. Felicitations were offered by AG Rtn. Antony Malayil and GGR Rtn. John Mathew. Rtn. TS Sujith, Secretary, expressed vote of thanks, and the meeting was adjourned by President Rtn. John Kurian, followed by fellowship, dinner, and entertainment. A special mention must be made of the meticulous planning and flawless execution of the event, which lasted exactly an hour—keeping it engaging and time-efficient. The ambiance, camaraderie, and delightful dinner made the evening truly memorable.

Kudos to President Rtn. John Kurian, Vocational Excellence Award Committee Chairman Rtn. Jose Abraham, and the entire organizing team for orchestrating such a remarkable event. I would be remiss if I did not extend my gratitude for the privilege of serving as Master of Ceremonies alongside Vijayalakshmi Teacher.

Thank you all!

GLIMPSES OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD FUNCTION



Minutes of the Vocational Service Award nite and Family dinner meeting held on 19th March 2025.

The club celebrated the Vocational excellence award nite on 19th March 2025 along with the family dinner meeting for the month. Sri. Vinod kumar MK, DIG Prisons, was the chief guest. The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm with a Ceremonial Parade led by Acting Sergeant at Arms, Rtn Jijo Chacko. Followed to the lighting of the ceremonial Lamp by all the dignitaries, the President Rtn John Kurian called the meeting to the order. Rtn. John Mathew invoked the blessing of God Almighty. Rtn. K. Cherian welcomed the gathering. The president Rtn. John Kurian in his presidential address informed that our club elected five awardees from different fields for the vocational excellence award . Dr. Venugopal in public health , Mr.PunnappaAppachan in Film field ,Mr. shajahan .H. in Media , Mrs. Parvati M. in Education and Mr. John Thomas in Sports. He congratulated all the awardees. Rtn. Jose Arathumpally introduced the chief guest of the meeting Sri. Vinod kumar MK , DIG Prisons. Thereafter the chief guest and president distributed the awards and shawls to the awardees one by one. The chief guest in his speech mentioned that he has a long association with Rotary and recalled that he served as the Secretary of RC Alleppey Coir City. After his joining the services of Kerala Police and subsequent transfer, he was unable to continue his association with Rotary. The president honoured the chief guest with Ponnadaand and a memento, then the club honoured our annet Kumari Anakha, State Shuttle Badminton team member, D/o. of Rtn. Vinodkumar. AG Rtn. Antony Malayil and GGR Rtn. John Mathew felicitated. The secretary Rtn. Sujith TS thanked the chief guest, MC's Rtn.Vijayalashmi Nair and Rtn. Gopinathan Nair and the host team Rtn Jose Abraham, Rtn K Cherian, Rtn Tomy Pulickattil, RtnRoy Palathra, Rtn Aju Jacob Mathew and Rtn John Mathew, Then the meeting was adjourned by the president at 9.00 pm for dinner and fellowship.

Rtn. Sujith TS
Secretary

VOCATIONAL SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARDS PRESENTED



Dr K Venugopal - Public Health



Shri H Shajahan - Media



Smt Parvathi M- Education



Shri Punnappa Appachan- Film field



Shri John Thomas- Sports



Anikha V. Nair, daughter of Rtn. Vinod Kumar, was specially honoured for her outstanding performance as a team member in the State Senior Badminton Tournament.



Rtn John Mathew

When the erudite Editor of Royalweeks, Rtn Kumaraswamy Pillai, invited me to share my fitness challenge, I paused to reflect—am I truly doing justice to my physical well-being? While I strive to maintain an active lifestyle, juggling multiple responsibilities can sometimes be a challenge. Interestingly, a few years ago, in his Teletalk column, the Editor himself referred to me as a multi-tasker, and I suppose that still holds true.

Even after my retirement as the Chief Finance Officer of Karan Group of Companies, my professional commitments remain extensive. I continue as a Consultant in the Finance Wing of the same group, serve as a Consultant at J. Krishnan & Co., and lead the Alleppey Centre of Computer Age Management Services (CAMS). Additionally, I manage Goodscor Mats & Matting Co., an export firm specializing in coir and coir products.

Beyond Rotary, I am actively involved with:

1. Travancore-Cochin Coir Yarn Merchants Association
2. Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, Alleppey Branch
3. St. George Marthoma Church, Alleppey (as a Trustee)

Despite my packed schedule, I make a conscious effort to incorporate fitness into my daily routine. My day begins at 6 AM, followed by gardening and watering my plants—an activity that not only relaxes me but also keeps me moving. After catching up on the day's news, I set off for work.

In the evening, I prioritize my fitness with a brisk walk at 6 PM, often along the beachside or around the newly constructed Nalpalam. I ensure that I walk for at least an hour, burning approximately 150 kilocalories. Though this is a modest start, I am keen on expanding my fitness regimen in the near future.

Staying fit is a journey, and I look forward to taking my commitment to the next level !!



Rtn. Jose Abraham

It is my privilege to feature an exemplary Rotarian this week—one who brings passion, dedication, and a touch of excellence to everything he does. Rtn. Jose Abraham, a committed and dynamic leader, was recognized as the overall best President of the District during the Rotary year 2022-23—a testament to his exceptional service and leadership. His generosity and commitment to Rotary's causes are truly remarkable. During the Houseboat Rally organized by District 3211 on World Water Day (March 22, 2021), Jose not only sponsored his own houseboat but also hosted the entire District team, including the District Governor and officials, ensuring a memorable and impactful event. Furthering his support for Rotary's global mission, he once again sponsored his houseboat during the End Polio Week Celebrations organized by Zone 21, prominently displaying a massive "End Polio Now" banner, spreading awareness for this noble cause. Beyond his contributions to Rotary, Jose is a true humanitarian with a heart for service. During the devastating 2018 Kerala floods, when Kuttanad and large parts of Alappuzha were submerged, countless families were displaced. Rising to the occasion, Jose transformed his houseboat into a safe haven, providing shelter and food to 15 families for nearly 10 days, ensuring their safety and dignity in a time of crisis. As Chairman of the Vocational Service Avenue, Jose led from the front, organizing the Vocational Service Excellence Award Nite and family dinner meeting with outstanding success, exemplifying his leadership and meticulous planning. A true team player, a dedicated humanitarian, and a pillar of strength in the community, Rtn. Jose Abraham embodies the very spirit of Rotary. Royalweeks proudly places him in the spotlight this week.

NEXT MEETING

@7.30 pm on 26.03.2025 Host: Rtn Dr Abraham Thayyil



7. Rtn. Lakshmi Gopakumar, **20.** Selvi D/o Arjun Reddiar
20. Rtn. S. Sivakumar **22.** Rtn. Joseph Francis, **23.** Rtn. George Thomas
24. Rtn. Yamuna Arun, **25.** Thahassum D/o NAM Kunju
27. Rtn. Siby George, **29.** Rtn. Varghese Kurisinkal

APRIL



10. Rtn. Jose Abraham & Suni, **16.** Rtn. Subramania Iyer & Meera
19. Rtn. Sivakumar & Princy **22.** Rtn. JVenugopala Panicker & Sunitha,
25. Rtn. Dr. Sethu Ravi & Sri. Jayakumar
24. Rtn. T. Sivakumar & Sreedevi, **28.** Rtn. Vinod Balaji & Mini

TEAM 2024 — 2025

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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.Cheriau
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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
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