

EDITORIALLY YOURS



PELS2025 was successfully conducted in Kochi from April 25 to 27, marking a significant milestone in Rotary’s evolving approach to leadership development. As Rotarians, we take pride in belonging to a professional organization that places a strong emphasis on continuous learning and capacity building. From the newest club members to the highest echelons of Rotary International, everyone is encouraged—and expected—to undergo structured learning to effectively carry out their roles. This year, Rotary International introduced a noteworthy shift in terminology, changing Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS) to Presidents Elect Learning Seminar (PELS). But this is more than a mere change in nomenclature—it reflects a deeper transformation in Rotary’s philosophy of leadership development. Here’s why this change matters:

- 1. From Training to Learning** “Training” suggests a one-way flow of information, where participants are passive recipients. In contrast, “learning” promotes an interactive, participatory experience. PELS encourages Presidents and Secretaries Elect to engage, contribute, and take ownership of their preparation.
- 2. Modern Learning Methods** Today’s adult learners thrive in environments where they can interact, share experiences, and apply concepts to real-life situations. PELS embraces this approach, moving away from lectures to dynamic sessions that foster collaboration and dialogue.
- 3. Building Leaders, Not Just Managers** The role of a Club President now requires vision, empathy, and strategic thinking. PELS is designed not just to equip leaders with administrative tools, but to inspire them to become transformative figures within their clubs and communities.
- 4. Empowerment Through Inclusion** “Learning” fosters a sense of empowerment. It acknowledges that participants bring valuable insights and experiences to the table, creating a richer, more inclusive environment. In essence, the transition to PELS reflects Rotary’s commitment to developing confident, innovative, and collaborative leaders who are ready to guide their clubs with purpose and passion. Feedback from our club’s participants confirms that the inaugural PELS2025 was a resounding success. Our incoming President, Rtn Lakshmi, shares her reflections in this issue—and it’s clear that both she and Secretary Elect Rtn Nagaraj are now better equipped to steer our legendary club in the right direction. Jai Rotary!

— Rtn PAG MPHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai

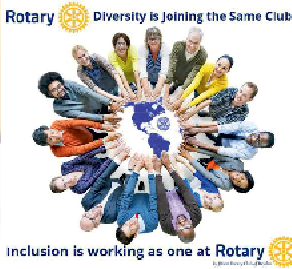
Benefits of age diversity in Rotary Clubs



Age diversity can be a plus at your job — and in your club. Older and younger people may solve problems differently, strengthening the performance of groups that include an age spectrum. And knowing people of a different age than yourself can help shift stereotypes. Here are tips for bridging the generational divide, adapted from Greater Goodmagazine:

- Find someone older or younger than you to collaborate with. People often default to

- working with others their own age.
- Recognize your differences, then find a common passion or project. Service through Rotary is a great place to start!
 - Share power among members of all ages in your club.
 - Defy age expectations, stay current, and be relevant to people of any age. So-called “perennials” find ways to stay young at heart.



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RI President



Rtn. AKSM SUDHI JABBAR
Dist. Governor



Rtn. ANTONY MALAYIL
Asst. Governor



Rtn. JOHN KURIAN
President



Rtn. SUJITH T.S
Secretary

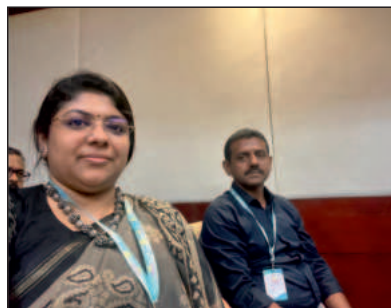
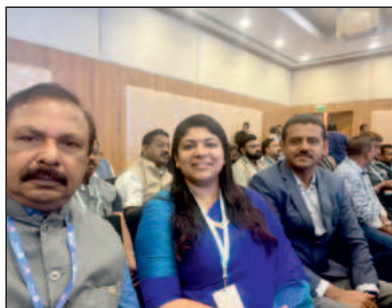


Minutes of the regular meeting held on 23rd April 2025

The meeting was called to order by the president Rtn. John Kurian at 7:30 pm. Rtn. Subramaniya Iyer invoked the blessings of God almighty. The president Rtn. John Kurian, in his speech, paid tribute to late Pope Francis and expressed protest against the terrorist attack on tourists in Kashmir. Thereafter one minute silent prayer was observed in memory of the departed souls. President extended birthday wishes to Rtn. George Thomas and a birthday cake was cut by George Thomas on the occasion. AG Rtn. Antoney Malayil remarked on the missing photos in the bulletin and emphasized the importance of ensuring that all necessary details are included in future editions. Rtn Cherian also spoke. Then the Joint Secretary Rtn. Sethu Ravi thanked all members who participated in the meeting and offered special thanks to the host of the meeting Rtn. Subramaniya Iyer. Then the meeting was adjourned by the president at 8.00 pm for dinner and fellowship.

Rtn. Sethu Ravi
Joint Secretary

RC ALLEPPEY @PELS2025



EMPOWERED LEADERS

We are honoured to share that we got "Graduated" and we humbly seek all your blessings and wisdom as we embark on this new chapter in our Rotary Family. Your encouragement and support will definitely help us to lead with integrity, humility and dedication

Rtn Lakshmi Gopakumar, President Elect
Rtn Nagaraja H, Secretary Elect



MY IMPRESSIONS ON 2025PELS

Rtn Lakshmi Gopakumar, PE

I along with Secretary elect Rtn Nagaraja has got an opportunity to attend the mandatory learning sessions PELS scheduled from 24 th April to 27th April in Hotel Holiday Inn Kochi. The event was well organised with clear agenda that balanced learning, networking, and collaborative discussions. The speakers were all Past District Governors and they have offered valuable insights into leadership and community service. One of the highlights was the interactive breakout sessions that encouraged participation among idea sharing by attendees from diverse backgrounds. It was indeed inspiring to hear success stories from PDGs and Past Presidents and to learn practical strategies for initiating impactful community projects. Overall PELS strengthened my understanding of Rotary's mission, values and principles. In one short it was an incredibly enriching experience.



RDD CHERIAN LEADS THE TALK SHOW

A talk show by AGs from Alappuzha & Pathanamthitta Revenue Districts on "How to deliver a speech by a Club President" was organised at 2025 PELS. Rtn K Cherian moderated the session and gave inputs to the participants

“Honouring Pope Francis and his bond with Rotary.”



Rotary clubs world over join the global community in mourning the recent passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, a spiritual leader whose compassion, humility and unwavering commitment to justice left a lasting impact on people of all faiths. His deep connection with Rotary stands as a powerful reminder of our shared mission to build a more peaceful, equitable world. Pope Francis' association with Rotary stretches back prior to his papacy, when then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio accepted an honorary membership with the Rotary Club of Buenos Aires in 1999, reflecting his enduring belief in service above self. Rotary Jubilee Audience A defining moment in his relationship with Rotary came on 30 April 2016, when nearly 9,000 Rotarians from around the globe gathered in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican for a special Jubilee Audience at the personal invitation of Pope Francis. At the conclusion of the Audience, a delegation of Rotary members - led by then-Rotary International President K.R. (Ravi) Ravindran - had the privilege of meeting with Pope



**Past Rotary International President 2014-15
Gary Huang meets Pope Francis at the Rotary Jubilee.**

Francis. In their meeting, he passionately encouraged Rotary's ongoing work to eradicate polio and praised the organisation's efforts in global vaccination campaigns. Just months earlier, the Pope had personally administered a polio vaccine to a child during his visit to Mexico, underscoring his direct support of the cause. “It is a tremendous honour to be part of this Jubilee Audience,” said Ravindran at the time. “Pope Francis has

inspired men and women throughout the world – regardless of their faith – with his humble acts of kindness. His call to alleviate the root causes of extreme poverty and human suffering transcends religion, age, nationalism and politics. Rotary members from every religion, nation and creed share Pope Francis' spirit of mercy and compassion, which inspires us to act boldly to address the most difficult challenges facing our world today.”

Rotary Recognition

Pope Francis follows a distinguished line of Popes who recognised and supported Rotary's humanitarian mission: Pope Paul VI addressed the 1979 Rotary International Convention in Rome, Pope John Paul II was honoured as a Paul Harris Fellow, and Pope Pius IV addressed Rotarians in Italy in 1970. Pope Francis' legacy builds upon this shared history, reminding us that compassion and service are universal values.



**Rotary International President 2015-16
Ravi Ravindran meets with Pope Francis.**



**Rotary International first female
President 2022-23 (and then Rotary International
Vice President 2016-17) Jennifer Jones and
her husband Nick Krayacich meet with Pope Francis.**

MY FITNESS CHALLENGE



Rtn N A M Kunju

Physical fitness was never a part of my agenda during my younger days. My school, Government Mohammedan's School, was just a stone's throw away from my ancestral home, so the daily commute hardly contributed to any physical exercise. However, I was an ardent sports enthusiast and found my passion in Ball Badminton during the 1970s. I even had the honor of representing the State at the junior level. After completing school, I joined S.N. College for my Pre-Degree. The demands of travel to and from college, coupled with changing priorities, gradually distanced me from Ball Badminton, and over time, the game itself faded from popularity. After my college days, I took to gym workouts for a few years but eventually discontinued. By then, I ventured into the coir export business. In those early days, with no internet or websites, communication depended heavily on airmail. A daily trip to the Main Post Office to collect postal articles became a routine — a task that ensured we didn't fall into a sedentary lifestyle. Back then, it was a “one-man show” for many of us new entrants in the business. As the years passed, to keep lifestyle diseases like diabetes at bay, I introduced morning walks into my daily schedule — a habit I started nearly three decades ago and continue to follow whenever I am in Alleppey. A glimpse into my daily routine: I wake up every day at 5:00 am and after freshening up, offer my Fajr prayers at around 5:33 am. Thereafter, I drive to the beach where I enjoy an hour-long brisk walk along the seaside road, soaking in the refreshing sea breeze. Upon completing my walk, I drive back home and start my day with reading newspapers, checking emails, and attending to my routine activities. If there is one piece of advice I can offer, it is this: incorporating simple aerobic activities like walking into your daily routine not only boosts physical health but also keeps you refreshed and energetic throughout the day.



Rtn Dr John V George

In the earlier days when Rotary strictly adhered to its classification principles, few clubs would have dared to list "Officers in the Indian Civil Service" among their classifications—largely out of fear that the category would remain unfilled. However, Rotary Club of Alleppey was fortunate to welcome a distinguished former Civil Service Officer into its fold about fourteen years ago: Rtn Dr John V George, an IPS officer of the Haryana cadre who retired as Director General of Police (DGP). Affectionately known as "John V," he was often seen as a quiet presence at meetings, preferring the back benches and seldom stepping into the limelight. However, true leadership reveals itself in times of crisis. When the club faced an unexpected challenge last year—following the resignation of the then-President and the resulting instability—John V rose to the occasion, embodying the spirit described in the Bhagavad Gita, where it is said that whenever there is chaos, a guiding force emerges. In this moment of need, John V gracefully accepted the call to lead as President. During his brief tenure, he brought to the role a remarkable degree of professionalism and calm stewardship, navigating the club through the turbulence without a hitch. Once his responsibility was fulfilled, John V humbly returned to his quiet seat among the members, though we believe it is only a matter of time before he steps forward once again.

Royalweeks proudly shines this week's spotlight on Rtn Dr John V George IPS (Retd)—a leader of quiet strength and distinguished service.

NEXT MEETING @7.30 pm on 30/04/2025

Host: Club



2 Rtn. Kumaraswamy Pillai **5** Rtn. Roy Raj **6** Rtn. Balakrishnan. A
19 Rtn. Abdul Rahim, **22** Rtn. Vijaya Kumar. A
31 Rtn. Sabil Raj

MAY

1 Rtn. Siby George & Ivy Martin, **2** Rtn. Roy Palathara & Ancy Roy,
10 Rtn. Ajith Kumar. T. S. & Preetha, **11** Rtn. Sajan.B.Nair & Sheela,
12 Rtn. Jijo Chacko & Megha, **16** Rtn. Sreenivasan. R. & Sobha, **17** Rtn. John V. George & Rooby
21 Shyam Kurup & Sneha, **24** Rtn. Kumara swami Pillai & Radhamany
25 Rtn. Tomy Pulikattil & Teena, **26** Rtn. John Kurian & Elsamma
29 Rtn. George Jose Malayil & Amala Raju

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 Pulikattil
SERVICE PROJECT DIRECTOR - Rtn Raju Chandy | **BULLETIN EDITOR** - Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai
CLUB ADVISOR - Rtn Mohamed Shafeeq | **GENERAL CO-ORDINATOR** - Rtn K.Chierian
CLUB TRAINER - Rtn R.Krishnan | **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY** - Rtn George Thomas
Jt. 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

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