



CHARTER NO. 4377  
23RD AUGUST 1937  
R.I. DISTRICT 3201

**OFFICE**  
ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN  
BALBHAVAN  
PANAMPILLY NAGAR, KOCHI- 682 036  
PHONE: 0484 7963023  
email: rotarycochin2013@gmail.com  
website: www.rotarycochin.com

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## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
at 7.00 PM  
at Rotary Balbhavan

*Speaker:*  
**Rtn. Dr. Mathew Abraham**

*Topic:*  
**Aging gracefully**

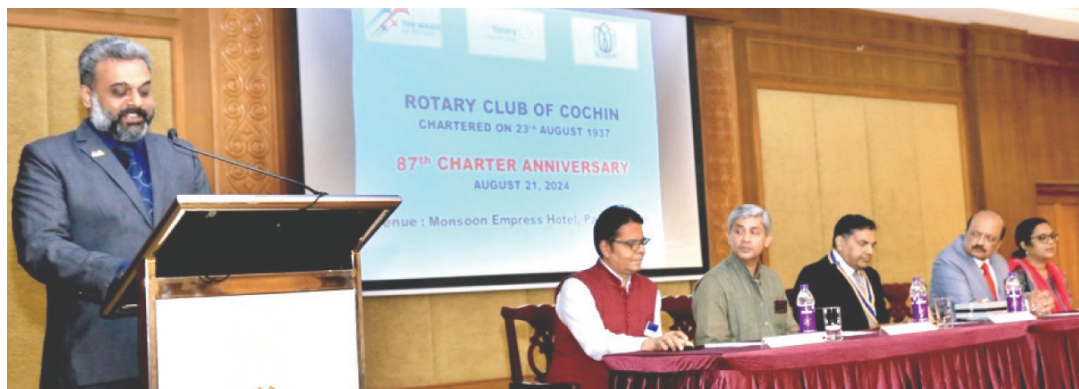


BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

# THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

Volume 89, Issue 09, 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

## ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN: A GLORIOUS LEGACY SPANNING 87 YEARS



As we commemorate the Rotary Club of Cochin's charter anniversary, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the rich history and remarkable contributions of this esteemed institution. Established on September 26, 1936, the Rotary Club of Cochin has been a beacon of service, leadership, and community development for over eight decades.

The inaugural meeting of the Rotary Club of Cochin was held at the Malabar Hotel on Willingdon Island, with 16 visionary individuals present. Despite the absence of Sir Shanmugham Chetty, the Diwan of Cochin, due to state business, the meeting was presided over by Mr. Robert Bristow. At that time, Mr. H.R. Mills, then Principal of Maharaja's College, served as Secretary and announced that 20 members had expressed their intention to join.

On August 23, 1937, the club was officially chartered by Rotary International as the 4377<sup>th</sup> club, under the name Rotary Club of Cochin State and

British Cochin. The club's initial territory encompassed the entirety of Cochin State and the municipality of British Cochin. The charter was ceremoniously presented on December 23, 1937, by Rotary Governor Sir Pheroze Zethna. The founding membership comprised 22 individuals, including ten non-Indians, representing a true cross-section of the business and professional community at that time.

Today, the Rotary Club of Cochin has grown to a robust 114 members, including six second or third-generation Rotarians and eight esteemed lady members. Over the years, the club has produced six District Governors—V.N. Sundareshan, S.S. Koder, Joseph Chakola, Venugopal C. Govind, A.K. Azad, and L. Vishnu Das—each of whom has significantly contributed to the club's legacy.

The club has also proudly sponsored eight sister clubs: Alwaye, Trivandrum, Alleppey, Muvattupuzha, Paravur, Cochin West, Cochin East, and the

Rotary Club of Kalamassery. Additionally, five GSE (Group Study Exchange) team members have hailed from our club, including Venugopal C. Govind, M. Jairam, L. Vishnu Das, David Mookan, and Dr. Sujit Vasudevan.

Among the many service projects undertaken by the Rotary Club of Cochin, the Rotary Balbhavan and Vocational Training Centre stand as crowning achievements. Conceived during the presidency of Rtn. Jairam, this project was meticulously planned by PP L. Vishnu Das and approved by DG S.R. Govindarajan. The project received significant financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency, thanks to the tireless efforts of PDG Venugopal C. Govind. Funds for the club's share were raised through the AGINEX exhibition, one of the largest projects of its kind, held at Marine Drive, Ernakulam in 1979. The foundation stone for Balbhavan was laid by DG G. Varadaraj in 1980-81, and the construction was



overseen by a dedicated committee. The Balbhavan was inaugurated on May 27, 1986, by Hon. Union Minister P. Chidambaram during the presidency of PP V.N. Venugopal.

The club's golden jubilee year in 1986, under the presidency of Joseph P. Kurien and the governorship of Rtn. A.K. Azad, was a milestone in its history. The club inaugurated the first Rotary Village Corps in Asia, a global service project initiated by then-RI President M.A.T. Caparas. The Rotary Village Corps and a full-fledged hospital in Panangad, Cochin, were inaugurated by President Caparas, marking the first time an RI President visited a Rotary club in India.

The Rotary Club of Cochin has also been honoured to host many distinguished speakers, including K.P.S. Menon, V.K. Krishna Menon, C.P. Rama Krishna Iyer, C. Rajagopalachari, Mother Teresa, and P. Ramachandran, former Governor of Kerala. The legacy of the Rotary Club of Cochin is a testament to the enduring spirit of service, fellowship, and leadership that defines Rotary International.

As we celebrate this charter anniversary, let us honour the past while looking forward to the future, continuing the tradition of service that has made the Rotary Club of Cochin a pillar of the community for 87 years.

## ENHANCING SANITATION FACILITIES IN SCHOOLS

In our continued commitment to enhancing community health and hygiene, the Rotary Club of Cochin is proud to announce our recent contributions to improving sanitation facilities in two prominent educational institutions: GHSS Paliyam School and DD Sabha School.

### GHSS Paliyam School Initiative

Recognizing the need for sustainable waste management solutions in schools, we sponsored the installation of a state-of-the-art portable





incinerator at GHSS Paliyam School. The incinerator, valued at ₹30,000, was generously funded by SFS Homes, with the kind support of Rtn PP Lava and Rtn. Dharini. This initiative is a significant step towards promoting hygienic practices among the students and ensuring a cleaner, safer school environment.

The inauguration of the incinerator was marked by a formal event, attended by distinguished guests, including:

- Sunita Ma'am – Principal of GHSS Paliyam School
- Ajay – Headmaster of GHSS Paliyam School
- Anilkumar – President of the Panchayat
- Srijit – Vice President of the Panchayat
- Rtn Sanjeev Samuel – Assistant Governor (AG)

Their presence and words of encouragement underscored the importance of such initiatives in shaping a better future for the younger generation.

### DD Sabha School Initiative

Our commitment to school sanitation extends beyond initial contributions. In 2018, we had provided two incinerators to DD Sabha School. Over time, one of these essential devices required replacement. Un-



derstanding the critical need for continuous access to effective waste management, we facilitated the replacement of the faulty incinerator with a new one, valued at ₹27,000. This effort was also generously spon-

sored by SFS Homes.

The replacement was officially acknowledged in a gathering that included key members of the school community:

- Secretary of DD Sabha Management
- Mini Ma'am – Headmistress of DD Sabha School
- Dr. Divya – President of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Their appreciation highlighted the vital role such contributions play in maintaining a healthy and conducive learning environment for the students.

These initiatives are part of our broader mission to support educational institutions in our community. By ensuring that schools have access to modern sanitation facilities, we aim to foster a culture of hygiene and health among students. We extend our deepest gratitude to SFS Homes, particularly Lava Sir and Dharini Madam, for their unwavering support in these endeavours.



## CHILD SAFETY IN VEHICLES

In India, where the roads are bustling with a mix of vehicles, pedestrians, and varied driving practices, ensuring the safety of children while traveling is more critical than ever. Every day, countless families navigate these roads, often unaware of the specific risks that children face. Child safety in vehicles is not merely about adherence to rules—it's about



adopting comprehensive safety practices that protect our youngest passengers.

### The Reality of Child Safety on Indian Roads

India has one of the highest rates of road accidents globally, and children are among the most vulnerable.

Despite this, awareness about child safety in vehicles remains low. Many parents are either unaware of the proper safety protocols or do not prioritize them, often leading to tragic consequences.

The use of child safety seats is still uncommon in India, largely due to a lack of awareness, cultural attitudes, and the absence of strict enforcement. However, these seats are essential in reducing the risk of injury during an accident. Studies have shown that child safety seats can decrease the risk of fatal injuries by up to 71% for infants and 54% for toddlers. In a country where road accidents are frequent, this can mean the difference between life and death.



### Child Safety Seats: A Necessity, Not a Luxury

In India, it's not unusual to see children sitting on an adult's lap in the front seat or standing between the seats, unrestrained. These practices are extremely dangerous, as they expose children to severe injury in the event of a sudden stop or collision.

Child safety seats, though not commonly used, are crucial. These seats are designed to absorb impact and protect the child's head, neck, and spine. In India, where traffic can be chaotic, the use of these seats should be seen as a necessity. Parents need to be educated on the importance of choosing the right seat based on their child's age, height, and weight and ensuring it is correctly installed.

### The Role of Legislation and Enforcement

While the Motor Vehicles Act, 2019 mandates the use of seat belts and child restraints, enforcement is still weak. Public awareness campaigns and stricter enforcement of these laws are essential. Traffic authorities need to be vigilant in ensuring that children are properly restrained in vehicles. Additionally, there should be clear guidelines and incentives for parents to purchase and use child safety seats.

### Challenges Unique to India

India presents unique challenges when it comes to child safety in vehicles. Many families use two-wheelers, which pose a significant risk to children. It is not uncommon to see entire families, including small children,

riding on a single two-wheeler, often without helmets. This practice is extremely dangerous, and awareness needs to be raised about the importance of helmets for all passengers, including children.

For those traveling by car, the lack of space in smaller vehicles often leads to improper seating arrangements. Additionally, many Indian cars are not equipped with ISOFIX anchors, making the installation of child safety seats more challenging. This is where the automotive industry needs to step in and ensure that vehicles are equipped with the necessary safety features to accommodate child safety seats.

### The Way Forward: Education and Community Action

Education is key to changing attitudes toward child safety in vehicles. Parents need to be informed about the dangers of not using child restraints and the proper methods for installing and using them. Schools, paediatricians, and community organizations can take the lead in spreading this message.

### Conclusion

Child safety in vehicles in India is a pressing concern that requires immediate attention. While the challenges are significant, they are not insurmountable. Through a combination of education, community action, and stricter enforcement of laws, we can create a safer environment for our children on the roads.

By Rtn Prathik Nayar



Rtn. Vijay Narayan Govind	29 Aug
Rtn. John Mathew Anthraper	02 Sep
Rtn. M. Thomas Jacob	04 Sep



Rtn. D.r S.R. Mohan / Rtne. Sreelekha	29 Aug
Rtn. K.S. Nair / Rtne. Sreedevi	31 Aug
Rtn. Varghese Nettikadan / Rtne. Neethu	31 Aug
Rtn. CA Mohan / Rtne. Sindhu	31 Aug
Rtn. Dr. Rafiq Mohammed / Rtne. Aameena	01 Sep