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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday

30th October 2024

at 7.00 PM at Balbhavan

Award Ceremony
**Shiksha Rotary
Scholarship 2024-25**



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

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HOW AI WILL TRANSFORM OUR LIVES AND JOBS: INSIGHTS FROM RTN. NAVNIT NAKRA



The Rotary Club of Cochin welcomed one of its distinguished former members, Rtn. Navnit Nakra, Chief Revenue Officer at Pine Labs, to share his views on the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it is set to revolutionize our lives and the global job market. With an extensive background that spans technology, finance, and business leadership—including his roles at OnePlus and Apple—Rtn. Navnit provided an engaging and eye-opening talk on the many ways AI is impacting industries and personal lives.

Having served as a Rotarian from 2007 to 2010 during his time in Kerala, Rtn. Navnit, now a member of the Rotary Club of Delhi Premier, began his speech with a heartfelt reflection on the deep friendships and valuable leader-

ship lessons he gained during his years in Cochin. He reflected on how much the world has changed since then, especially in the realm of technology. Back in the early 2000s, the world witnessed the birth of the iPhone and a new generation of technology entrepreneurs. Rtn. Navnit's career, which spans leading roles in finance and technology, provided him with a unique perspective on the intersection of AI, business, and society.

Understanding AI: From Assistance to Automation

In his speech, Rtn. Navnit explained AI in simple terms, emphasizing that it is essentially a branch of computer science designed to create systems

capable of performing tasks that mimic human intelligence. One of the core branches of AI is machine learning, which allows computers to analyze vast datasets and make decisions based on patterns, such as predicting stock market trends or improving customer service. He also discussed the concept of *deep learning*, which enables AI systems to handle even more complex tasks by learning from vast amounts of data and collaborating with other systems.

Rtn. Navnit highlighted how AI has evolved from simple automation—such as categorizing data—to more advanced applications like deep learning and *generative AI*, which can create text, video, and even music based on a few user inputs. He pointed out that AI, through tools like ChatGPT, has made it easier to perform tasks that would typically take hours or even days for humans. Generative AI is already transforming sectors like entertainment, healthcare, and personal productivity by producing creative content and assisting with decision-making.

AI's Influence Across Industries

Rtn. Navnit emphasized that AI is becoming an integral part of several key industries, including healthcare, finance, and entertainment. In healthcare, for instance, AI systems

are already improving diagnostics and treatment plans through data analysis. Meanwhile, in finance, AI is revolutionizing how institutions manage risk, make investments, and detect fraud.

He pointed out the rise of AI-powered personal assistants, such as Siri and Alexa, which have become commonplace in households around the world. These technologies not only help with daily tasks but also interact with users in increasingly sophisticated ways, often anticipating needs based on patterns in behaviour. AI-driven entertainment platforms, like Netflix and YouTube, now provide personalized recommendations based on viewers' preferences, demonstrating AI's influence on our leisure activities as well.

In the world of transportation, Rtn. Navnit mentioned Google Maps as a perfect example of how AI optimizes routes and adapts to real-time traffic conditions, saving time and fuel. Moreover, AI-powered devices, like Apple Watch and other smart health gadgets, are offering advanced health monitoring solutions, making AI a critical player in preventive healthcare.

The Future of AI and Jobs

Addressing a concern shared by many, Rtn. Navnit acknowledged that AI will inevitably lead to job displacement, particularly for roles that involve repetitive, low-skill

tasks. However, he also stressed that AI will create new opportunities in specialized fields. AI scientists, data analysts, and those with skills in AI-related fields will be in high demand. He encouraged young professionals to focus on developing multi-disciplinary skills and the ability to ask *why*—skills that AI cannot replicate.

Rtn. Navnit also touched on the ethical dilemmas surrounding AI, especially regarding privacy, accountability, and bias. As AI systems rely on vast datasets to make decisions, there is always the risk that biased or inaccurate information could lead to unintended consequences. This makes it crucial for companies and governments to establish clear guidelines and frameworks for responsible AI development.

The Road Ahead

As his talk came to a close, Rtn. Navnit left the audience with a powerful message: AI is here to stay, and it will continue to shape our lives in ways we are only beginning to understand. He emphasized the importance of embracing this technological shift while being mindful of its ethical implications. Rtn. Navnit believes that AI will not only enhance productivity and economic output but also improve the quality of life by providing more personalized, efficient services across industries.

ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN EYE CAMP AT BALBHAVAN

The greatest gift of God to human beings is EYESIGHT!

What you see, you never forget. 95% of what you learn is through sight.

Giridhar Eye Institute (GEI) has

been doing yeoman service to the community by providing a free Eye Camp at Rotary Balbhavan every 1st and 3rd Friday from 9.30 am to 12.30 pm for the past decade.

As for me, something that

touched my heart was the squint rectification surgery done for the Balbhavan night caretaker, Anish. He is a logistics graduate but could not secure any job due to his squint disability. We offered him a post as

a night caretaker at Balbhavan.

At one of the camps at Balbhavan, he was examined, and it was confirmed that his squint could be rectified by surgery. He was referred to Dr. Neena, at GEI. Rtn. Dr. Giridhar also examined him and offered to do the surgery at GEI almost free of cost, though the estimated cost was Rs. 50,000/-.

Now, Anish is free of the squint and is more confident. The joy of his mother in Malappuram, seeing her son after the surgery, is beyond words.

The second case is of a vendor who sells tender coconuts on the road in front of Balbhavan. His vision was so bad that it hindered his work. A few weeks ago, he came to the camp at Balbhavan and his cataract surgery was done free of cost at GEI. Two days ago, he was back at work selling coconuts, with his sight improved, and he was very

thankful to Rotary.

Every time I see them, I am grateful to GEI for their bi-monthly camp at Balbhavan. Our club, with the expertise of GEI, has provided service to many Corporation sweepers, garbage collectors, school children, and homeless people with the help of Murugan of Theruvoram.

Sometimes we take things for granted. With no effort from any of us Rotarians, the Eye camp at Balbhavan continues every alternate Friday, rain or shine.

Last month, more than 52 people were examined and treated.

All this goes on without any fanfare and publicity.

Thank you, Manoj, the programme coordinator of SSM Eye Research Foundation.

If you wish to celebrate a special day in your life by helping someone to see better, thus live better, there's nothing like giving a donation to

SSM. Because you cheer up and lend a new purpose and new hope, not just to one person but to his entire world.

SSM thrives on donations from people who care. Your donations will go towards SSM community projects or individual patient rehabilitation. Your donation of Rs. 1500/- funds One cataract surgery. The Choice is yours, The opportunity is Now.

Together, GEI expertise and our generosity can indeed create miracles for many whom we may or may not ever see but one thing is a guarantee... they will see again.

Rotary Club of Cochin is greatly indebted to Rtn. Dr. Giridhar, Rtn. Dr. Kanchana, and the doctors and staff of GEI for their expertise and service.

Our *Salaams* to each one of you. God Bless you all.

By Rtn. Shantha Mathew

ROTARY COMMITS FUNDS TO POLIO OUTBREAK RESPONSE IN GAZA

The recent detection of variant poliovirus type-2 isolates in environmental samples and the confirmation of a 10-month-old child who has contracted polio in Gaza is a stark reminder that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat everywhere.

The ongoing crisis in Gaza has contributed to reduced routine immunization rates and an increased risk of vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio. The crisis also poses a significant challenge to fully implementing disease surveillance and vaccination campaigns.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers there to be a high risk for the spread of this polio strain within Gaza and internationally, particularly given the current

situation's impact on public health services.

A humanitarian pause allowed a two-round polio vaccination campaign to begin in Gaza. The first round was successfully implemented from 1-12 September 2024 and vaccinated 559,161 children, or an estimated 95% of eligible children at the governorate level, according to independently conducted post-campaign monitoring.

The second round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign in Gaza began on 14 October. The campaign started in Central Gaza, vaccinating children under ten years old with nOPV2, where children aged between 2-9 years old were also offered Vitamin A.

Rotary committed US\$500,000

to bolster the initiative, channelling these funds through a dedicated Polio Outbreak Response Fund. This contribution represents Rotary's sustained support to the WHO in combating polio globally.

Rotary will continue to work with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and other agencies as vaccination efforts unfold.

Financial contributions to the PolioPlus fund will help Rotary and its Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners achieve a world in which no child is paralyzed by polio again.

Source : <https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-commits-funds-polio-outbreak-response-gaza>

By Rotary International

MY JOURNEY WITH THE SOLAR BUTTERFLY: FROM KOCHI TO BANGALORE

What began as an ordinary day at SCMS School of Engineering and Technology in Kochi turned into a thrilling adventure when I joined the Solar Butterfly team on their journey from Kochi to Bangalore. Riding in the front seat of a Tesla Model X, towing a massive 3-ton solar-powered trailer, was an unforgettable experience. But what made the trip even more interesting were the small adventures we had along the way.

As soon as we left Kochi, we headed toward Palakkad, where we stopped for the night and charged the Tesla. The plan was to break the journey into manageable legs, from Palakkad to Salem, Salem to Hosur, and finally to Bangalore. With the Tesla's range reduced to just over 200 kilometers due to the weight of the trailer, we had to carefully plan our stops to find fast chargers and ensure we didn't run out of power on the highway.



While the ride itself was smooth, the challenges we faced along the way made the trip memorable. One of the first hurdles was parking. A Tesla Model X towing a 40-foot trailer is not exactly easy to park in crowded Indian cities. Finding suitable parking spaces at hotels or roadside stops was an adventure in itself. More often than not, we had to be creative, using large parking lots or squeezing the trailer into tight spaces, drawing curious onlookers wherever we went.

Navigating two-way traffic on narrow roads also posed a challenge. The Tesla, being a left-hand drive vehicle in a country where right-hand drive is the norm, made overtaking and navigating Indian traffic more complicated. Lukas, our driver, handled it all with incredible skill, but sitting on the right side without a steering wheel often made me feel like I was in control, only to quickly realize I was just a passenger!

Another constant adventure was finding fast chargers along the route. Although the electric vehicle infrastructure in India is improving, it's still tricky to find working fast chargers in remote areas. We relied heavily on navigation apps and maps, searching for elusive fast chargers and hoping they were operational when we arrived. Some charging stations were easy to find, while others required us to venture off our planned

route, adding an element of unpredictability to the journey. Stopping once a day to recharge became part of our routine, but each time we successfully found a charger felt like a small victory.

Despite these challenges, the camaraderie among the Solar Butterfly team—Lukas, Jessica, Tobias, and myself—made the trip an enjoyable and enriching experience. We shared stories, discussed sustainability, and reflected on the impact of the Solar Butterfly project. The journey was as much about learning from each other as it was about spreading the message of renewable energy.

After three days together on the road, our paths diverged in Bangalore. I headed back to Kochi, while the Solar Butterfly team continued on to their next adventure toward Hyderabad. As I said my goodbyes, I felt

a deep sense of gratitude for the experience. I had witnessed firsthand the future of travel, powered by clean energy, and was inspired by the Solar Butterfly's mission to create awareness about sustainability.

The adventure with the Solar Butterfly was not just about the destinations we reached but about the road itself—filled with challenges, unexpected detours, and meaningful connections. It reminded me that, while the road to a sustainable future may not always be easy, it's one worth traveling.

By Rtn. Prathik Nayar



Rtn. Dr. Shiv K. Nair	26 Oct
Rtn. PP Susheel Aswani	27 Oct
Rtn. K.O. Chacko	27 Oct
PDG Venugopal C. Govind	29 Oct



Rtn. Dr. Alex Jacob / Rtne. Rani Alex	25 Oct
Rtn. Issac J. Pottamkulam / Rtne. Tessa	30 Oct