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NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
20th November 2024
at 7.00 PM
at Rotary Cochin
Balbhavan



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

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THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

SHIKSHA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2024



Shiksha scholarships for the year 2024 was conferred on six bright young girls during the annual awards function held at Balbhavan on Wednesday, the 30th October. As in 2023, girls outperformed boys in all departments to claim all six scholarships on offer for 2024 as well. Shiksha scholarships for 2024 were sponsored by five Rotarians from our own club – Rotary Club of Cochin. All five sponsors committed to funding lines of Rs. 4.5 lacs each to cover the tuition fees and course materials for the scholar's graduate education post class 12.

Shiksha scholarships are conceived for students primarily from Ernakulam district passing out of class 12 with their academic performance and family economic criteria as the guiding principles leading to their selection for pursuing job-oriented programs. The underlying principle of the scholarship is to provide 80% financial assistance to scholars for them to meaningfully complete their courses with the balance 20% as participation from their

side. Shiksha programme envisages to handhold the scholars throughout their academic journey and work with them closely to empower them to compete and get suitable jobs post studies.

Aneena Josy pursuing BSC Nursing at Trivandrum Medical College, Devikrishna doing her graduate BSC Lab Technician program at KVM institute of Paramedical sciences in Ernakulam and Prapanchini Ananthan doing her B Tech Engineering at Sri Chitra Thirunal College of Engineering in Trivandrum were inducted as Shiksha scholars 2024. Sponsors Rtn. PP M.A. John and Rtn. Suja John, Rtn. PP Liaquat Ali and Rtn. Jasmine and Rtn. PP K.P. Satish and Rtn. Meena Satish handed over their scholarship certificates and plaques in the presence of President Rtn. Rajesh Nair and PDG Venugopal C. Govind. Aneena's scholarship provides for her course financing and supports her hostel expenses as well in recognition of her admission under highest level of merit category

with substantial tuition waiver conditions. Prapanchini also comes in the reckoning for partial funding of her hostel fees in recognition of her admissions under preferential merit category and consequent concessions on her tuition fees whereas Devikrishna's entitlement under Shiksha provides for her tuition and course materials.

Two scholars Akhila V. and Anjana Anilkumar were inducted based on their focus and determination to make it count even though their post class-12 studies didn't conform to the typical definition of Job-oriented courses in the conventional sense. Akhila pursuing her 4-year degree programme BSC Computer Sciences made the cut through her total clarity of equipping herself with additional qualifications on the side of her main BSC computer science course with certificate programmes in Data Analytics, Artificial Intelligence and so on and be ready in all respects to walk into the job of her dreams. Her Shiksha scholarship provides not only for her main BSC program but also for fees and expenses for the additional side courses that she plans to embark on. Anjana Anilkumar on the other hand had little problem



in convincing the Shiksha team of her genuine desire to pursue graduate studies in BSC Psychology and follow it up with post-graduation in clinical Psychology. She persuaded her college Head of Department to interact and convince the Shiksha team that with post-graduation in clinical psychology, a good job was a near certainty. Consequently, Anjana's scholarship provides for her graduate and post-graduate studies. Niya Laiju is pursuing her dream BSC Nursing degree programme at the prestigious Lissie College of Nursing in Ernakulam. Sponsors Rtn. PP Lava and Rtne. Dharini and Rtn. Ninan Philip and Rtne. Elvy Ninan presented the certificates and plaques while inducting all three of them into the Shiksha Scholar fold.

Shiksha message – 2024, an annual feature of Shiksha Awards function was delivered by PDG Venugopal C. Govind. In a stirring and soul-searching speech, he exhorted the newly inducted Shiksha scholars that nothing was impossible with dedication and hard-work. He cited the example of the great Abdul Kalam who braved many adversities to get to the top position as President of India and advised the scholars to benchmark themselves with his life and single-minded purpose. Curtains came down on the function with a fitting note by Rtn. PP Susheel Aswani acknowledging with gratitude the roles and hard-work of many committed individuals who made Shiksha 2024 possible.

By Rtn. Antony Varghese



The Kochi Biennale Foundation has appointed our member Rtn. Thomas Varghese as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

There are as many reasons to join Rotary as there are members. Most join for experiences — new friendships, expanding professional circles, or putting Service Above Self into action to create impact.

Rotary delivers on all of these, often simultaneously. Through our Rotary Foundation, Rotary also has a knack for offering unexpected experiences and new opportunities that open doors and change lives.

I learned this firsthand at age 30 when I served as president of the Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama. That year, my wife and I sought out the chance to try something new: attending the 1985 Rotary International Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. There, we witnessed the dawn of PolioPlus and met members from different backgrounds, realizing we were part of a global family.

Later that year, I learned that a Rotary Group Study Exchange team from Nigeria was scheduled to visit Alabama, but Decatur was not on the agenda. After making a few calls, we soon welcomed the Nigerian team into our home. It was an incredible and unexpected experience.

Before the group departed, the team leader recommended me to lead the six-member team from Alabama that would visit Nigeria the following year, which I did. There, I met people whose lives had been impacted by polio, including several family members of our hosts. I learned that polio reaches its victims across borders, economies, and religions.

That Foundation program — Group Study Exchange — opened my eyes to what Rotary is and what

it can do. Taking part in the exchange set me on a path for new friendships and opportunities to serve on multiple continents.

Just as The Rotary Foundation has enriched my Rotary life, it can do the same for you. This month, during Rotary Foundation Month, I invite you to explore new Foundation experiences.

Look for ways you and your club can support Foundation-led efforts like polio eradication, disaster response, or the Rotary Peace Centers. Get involved in global grant or district grant projects. And if you have never had the experience of giving to our Foundation, I invite you to

join other Rotary members as a Foundation donor. Your support will mean the world to both Rotary members who want to help and to the individuals and communities who need it.

The Rotary Foundation is not a place or a building. It is an experience, one that lives in our hearts and hands as we do good in the world. The Rotary Foundation is all of us.

Mark Daniel Maloney
Trustee Chair 2024-25



PUBLIC IMAGE SEMINAR

IMPRESSION

17th November 2024

Venue - Hotel Airlink Castle,
Athani, Angamaly @ 3.30PM

 Rtn Stephanie Urchick R I President 2024-25	 Rtn N Sundaravadivelu District Governor 2024-25	 PDG Rtn Jose Chacko Dist. Training Facilitator 2024-25
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 Rtn MD Nalju Antony Chairman	 Rtn MPH Aji Jose Secretary	 Rtn Jom Jose Kayala Treasurer

BEACH CLEANUP DRIVE AT PUTHUVYPE: A JOINT EFFORT WITH BAKER HUGHES

In an inspiring demonstration of community service and environmental responsibility, the Rotary Club of Cochin, with the support of Baker Hughes, organized a highly successful beach cleanup drive at Puthuvype. This initiative, held in a bustling 200-meter stretch of the beach nestled among oil docking areas, brought together locals, Rotarians, Inner Wheel members, and enthusiastic volunteers to restore the beach to its natural beauty.



Puthuvype Beach, typically a lively spot bustling with people engaged in yoga, local children playing in the sand, and visitors from outside the town, became a gathering place for an important cause on an early morning. By 7:00 am, Rotary Club of Cochin and Baker Hughes were ready to bring positive change to this beloved area. The event began with a vibrant team from Baker Hughes—30 members strong—arriving with supplies, pickers, bags, and caps, displaying their eagerness to contribute.

Leading the Charge

The cleanup project was efficiently led by Rtn. Gautam Sreedharan, supported by fellow Rotarians Srikanth, Abishek Balan, and Shantha, and joined by Inner Wheel partners from Cochin. Inner Wheel club of Cochin President, Renu Chakola, led the charge with additional support from Elvy, Fiona, Sreedevi and others who contributed tirelessly to the effort.

Community Collaboration

The local council extended its full support, represented by the ward member Adv. Ligesha Xavier. He arrived early and worked alongside the team, joined by 10-12 members of the Haritha Karma Sena—a dedicated group focused on waste management. Together, they provided essential guidance in waste segregation to ensure proper disposal. The Haritha Karma Sena members were recognized and supported through Diwali gifts, a gesture of appreciation for their hard work and dedication.

For nearly two hours, the Baker Hughes team, Rotary members, and Inner Wheel volunteers worked vigorously, managing to clear all 200 meters of the beach. The group collected over 35 bags of waste, totalling

more than 100 kilograms. The waste, carefully segregated, was transported to a local disposal center, with arrangements made to ensure safe and responsible handling by third-party disposal services.

After a morning of hard work, all participants gathered at Hotel La Maritime for a well-deserved breakfast, sponsored by Baker Hughes. The Rotary and Inner Wheel members mingled with Baker Hughes volunteers, sharing stories and reflections on the rewarding experience. The event concluded with a sense of camaraderie and collective pride in achieving such a tangible impact.

The Path Forward

This cleanup is envisioned as the first of many, with plans to return to Puthuvype Beach every six months to maintain its cleanliness. Adv. Ligesha Xavier expressed his gratitude and has invited the Rotary Club of Cochin to be more actively involved in ongoing beach and community cleanup efforts. Baker Hughes, too, left with a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction from the smooth, successful operation.

A special thanks goes to Rtn. Gautam for his dedication and leadership in coordinating this project, alongside all the volunteers, council representatives, and the enthusiastic team from Baker Hughes. This beach cleanup symbolizes the Rotary spirit of “Service Above Self” and highlights the incredible impact we can achieve through community partnerships.

Let’s continue to inspire change and protect our environment, one step at a time!

By Rtn. Gautham Sreedharan



Rtn. PP Joseph Malieckal

16 Nov



Rtn. PP M.K. Parameswaran / Rtne Latha

14 Nov

Rtn. PP Joseph Zacharias / Rtne Cynthia

15 Nov