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NEXT MEETING

Will intimate later



BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN

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THE COCHIN ROTARIAN

ROTARY CLUB OF COCHIN HOSTS DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SHRI. T.P. SREENIVASAN ON "A TOPSY-TURVY WORLD"



The Rotary Club of Cochin was privileged to host an illuminating session featuring Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan, a distinguished diplomat with over 37 years of service in the Indian Foreign Service. Shri T. P. Sreenivasan's illustrious career includes roles such as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, Ambassador to Austria, Slovenia, and Fiji, High Commissioner to Kenya, and Governor for India at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He has represented India at numerous Commonwealth and Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) conferences and presided over several UN committees. Following his retirement, he has remained active, contributing to higher education in Kerala and authoring over 11 books. His latest publication was launched in Dubai on his 80th birthday.

The "Topsy-Turvy" World: Insights from Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan

Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan began his thought-provoking address by acknowledging the complexities of today's world, labelling it as "topsy-turvy." He delved into a range of global challenges, underscoring the uncertainty and instability that mark the current geopolitical landscape.

From Bipolar to Unipolar and Beyond

Reflecting on his tenure during and after the Cold War, Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan highlighted the evolution of global power dynamics. The collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the dissolution of the Soviet Union marked the end of a bipolar world, leading to the emergence

of a unipolar era dominated by the United States. India, under leaders like Narasimha Rao, aligned its policies accordingly, strengthening ties with the U.S. and Israel. However, the dream of a multipolar world, championed by leaders like Dr. Manmohan Singh, remains unfulfilled. Instead, the global stage has devolved into fragmented and uncertain alliances.

Global Crises and the Role of the United Nations

Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan provided a critical analysis of the United Nations' diminished effectiveness, attributing its paralysis to the outdated veto system granted to the five permanent members of the Security Council. He pointed out that the UN's inability to address pressing issues such as terrorism, economic collapses, pandemics, and the Russia-Ukraine war reflects the systemic flaws in its structure.

- **Terrorism:** The diplomat lamented the global community's failure to combat terrorism effectively. Highlighting the resurgence of the Taliban and the persistence of terrorist threats, he emphasized the inadequacy of international cooperation.
- **Economic Instability:** Recalling the 2007-08 global financial cri-

sis, Shri T. P. Sreenivasan noted how India's black money economy shielded it from the worst effects, while Western nations continue to struggle with its aftermath.

- **Pandemic Response:** The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed global governance failures, with the Security Council unable to act due to geopolitical rivalries, particularly involving China.
- **Russia-Ukraine Conflict:** Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan called the Russia-Ukraine war a stark example of the breakdown of international norms, with a permanent member of the Security Council waging war against another UN member.

Emerging Challenges: Artificial Intelligence and Technology

He also highlighted the transformative yet potentially destructive impact of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing. He warned that unregulated advancements could lead to catastrophic outcomes, echoing fears that future autocrats might misuse these technologies to devastating effect.

India's Geopolitical Challenges

Turning to India, Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan expressed concern over strained relationships with

neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Maldives, despite India's historical support and investments in their development. He also highlighted the challenges posed by the United States' accusations against India in connection with the Khalistan issue and the growing unpredictability of global alliances.

Hope Amid Uncertainty

While Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan painted a grave picture of the global scenario, he remained optimistic about humanity's resilience and ability to overcome crises. He emphasized the need for visionary leadership and collaboration to navigate this turbulent phase and establish a new world order. For India, he stressed the importance of maintaining strategic diplomacy while aspiring to play a key role in global governance.

Shri. T.P. Sreenivasan's address was an eye-opener, offering deep insights into the complexities of the modern world. His vast experience, coupled with his eloquence, left the Rotary audience with much to ponder about the state of global affairs and India's role in shaping the future. The Rotary Club of Cochin is grateful for his time and insights, which provided a valuable perspective on navigating a "topsy-turvy" world.

TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

December is a time for generosity and reflection when we think not only about our loved ones but about how we can make a difference in the world.

This year, consider giving a gift with an enduring impact, one that extends beyond these holidays, last-

ing for generations. Gifts to The Rotary Foundation Endowment are extraordinary gifts that create extraordinary change.

By supporting Rotary's Endowment, you help ensure that RI will have the resources it needs to develop and implement sustainable proj-

ects today and in the years to come. Members who include the Endowment in estate plans or make an outright gift support that mission.

Imagine your gift helping to fund the drop of vaccine that prevents the last case of polio, eradicating this devastating disease once and

for all. Picture it supporting other health initiatives in 2034, 2044, and beyond.

If you make an outright gift today, you will have the opportunity to witness your support in action, working through clean water projects, literacy initiatives, and economic development efforts. These Rotary Foundation-funded projects touch lives across the globe, bringing hope to individuals you may never meet, but who will know you through your generosity.

Past President Arch C. Klumph, who first proposed an endowment more than 100 years ago, would be amazed not only at the opportunities Rotary has to help today but also at the future possibilities Rotary's Endowment provides.

However, our Endowment is only strong when we all support it. Be-



cause it is essential to our success, we have set an ambitious goal: to build our Endowment to \$2.025 billion in net assets and commitments by 30 June 2025. This goal is not just a number; it is a reaffirmation

of our belief in Rotary's enduring ability to do good in the world. A fully funded \$2 billion endowment will provide more than \$100 million year after year for Rotary Foundation activities.

I have asked district governors and club presidents to lead by example before the year's end, but each of us has an opportunity to secure Rotary's legacy of service. Please join Gay and me in planning your estate or outright gift today.

Remember, this is no ordinary gift. Your generosity will provide a legacy for future generations to find solutions in the areas we care about, while creating a ripple of positive change that extends far beyond our lifetimes. What better gift could there be?

Mark Daniel Maloney
Trustee Chair 2024-25

ROTARY MULTI-DISTRICT PRESIDENTIAL CONCLAVE: A SHOWCASE OF LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

The Rotary Multi-District Presidential Conclave, held on December 8, 2024, at the Grand Hyatt, Kochi, was a distinguished gather-

ing that brought together Rotary leaders, dignitaries, and members to celebrate fellowship, inspiration, and service. The event, meticulous-

ly organized, was a testament to Rotary's mission and values.

The program began with club-wise photographs featuring Rotary International President Stephanie Urchik and her Aide, Past District Governor (PDG) Tom Gump. The formal proceedings commenced with the Rotary prayer, followed by an impressive performance of Rotary songs by the Choir from the Rotary Club of Kottayam East. A traditional welcome dance added a cultural dimension to the opening ceremonies.

The atmosphere of respect and unity was emphasized with the playing of the National Anthems of India, the USA, and Rotary International. This was followed by the meeting's formal call to order by six



esteemed District Governors:

- DG V. Sivakumar (2981)
- DG Adv. N. Sundaravadivelu (3201)
- DG Dr. Suresh Babu (3203)
- DG Santosh Sreedhar (3204)
- DG Sudhi Jabbar (3211)
- DG Meerankhan Saleem (3212)



Conclave Chairman PDG John Daniel delivered a concise and warm welcome address, setting a professional and engaging tone for the event. The ceremonial adorning of stoles and the traditional lighting of the lamp signified enlightenment and the commencement of the proceedings.

Rotary International Director and Conclave Conveyor, Rtn. Anirudha Roy Chowdhury, shared key insights from the recently concluded Rotary Institute, offering valuable context for the event. This was followed by a formal introduction of RI President Stephanie Urchik by her Aide, PDG Tom Gump.

President Stephanie delivered a compelling address, emphasizing Rotary's mission and its global impact. Her reflections on being in India, and particularly in Kochi, resonated with the audience, leaving them inspired and motivated.

A highlight of the evening was a panel discussion moderated by the Conclave Coordinator, PDG Sunil K. Zachariah. The panel, comprising RI President Steph-

anie, RID Anirudha, Conclave Chairman PDG John Daniel, Conclave Secretary PDG Jose Chacko, and the six District Governors, delved into key themes of leadership and service, showcasing Rotary's collaborative approach to addressing global challenges.

The formal proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks by Conclave Secretary PDG Jose Chacko, after which attendees engaged in fellowship and dinner, fostering stronger connections among Rotary members.

The Rotary Club of Cochin played a pivotal role in organizing this landmark event, with key contributions from the following members:

- PP Rtn. Susheel Aswani – Registration Committee
- President Rtn. Rajesh Nair – Reception Committee
- PP Rtn. Algiers Khalid – Venue and Events
- PP Rtn. Shweta S. Vasudevan – Coordination with Sergeant at Arms and service as Sergeant at Arms

The Rotary Multi-District Presidential Conclave was a significant milestone, reflecting Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self" and fostering collaboration to achieve greater impact in the future.

By PP Rtn. Shweta S. Vasudevan



Rtn. PP Joseph Malieckal / Rtne. Rema	26 Dec
Rtn. Philip Mathew / Rtne. Aniamma	27 Dec
Rtn. Ninan Philip / Rtne. Elvy	28 Dec
Rtn. Sebastian Joseph Zacharias / Rtne. Aditi	29 Dec
Rtn. Francis John / Rtne. Leena	01 Jan



Rtn. Prathik Nayar	22 Dec
Rtn. PP V.M. Liaquat Ali	25 Dec
Rtn. Arundhaty Nayar	26 Dec
Rtn. PP K.P. Satish	28 Dec