



Rotary 



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Official Bulletin of Rotary Club of Alleppey (Chartered on 25th July 1949)



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From Editors desk

COVID-19 PANDEMIC THREAT LOOMING LARGE

Today the 22nd March, I am locked down in my home for the day as part of Janata Curfew exhorted by the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Kerala to contain the community transmission of dreaded Covid-19 virus. While at home I was watching the updates on Covid 19 cases and the situation becomes more and more critical. The Kasaragod district has completely been quarantined. Today 15 new cases have been reported taking the toll to 64 in Kerala. News flash in TV scrolls that 75 cities in India will be locked down until further orders. The list includes 7 cities in Kerala. As of now Alappuzha is excluded. We are happy to learn that so far India is top in the list of countries successful in containing Covid 19. I wish we continue to sustain the lead and wipe out the virus sooner or later from the face of earth. Happy that our Club, though a bit late, has also started supporting the community in fighting the Covid 19. Our President and Secretary handed over containers of sanitisers to the Dr Anitha Kumari, DMO, Alleppey for distribution in the hand wash booths set up in town. Another project was setting up of a hand wash booth opposite to KSRTC bus station. Thanks to Rtn Mathew Mappilassery. I am sure the Governments with the active support of the people and voluntary organisations like Rotary will overcome Covid 19. But it will take long years to recover from the damage created in social and economic fields. Already reports are in about the disposal of single use masks and gloves which are often found dumped in public places. There are many agencies for free distribution of masks, gloves, sanitisers and so on. But there are no one to recover the used ones. Many are still unaware that the masks are only for one time use that too for a maximum of 6 hours. Organisations like Rotary should come forward to take up training people in the proper use and disposal of the masks and gloves. Also we should promote setting up of collection bins of used masks and gloves. Many banks and offices have decided to rotate their staff and work with skeleton staff. People have to resort more on online transactions. Yes this is absolutely a war like situation. I have faint memories of India-China war in 1962 and the wars fought with Pakistan in 1965, 1971 and 1999. In all these wars we are able to locate the enemy and directions from which the attack will take place. But this time it is totally different as this is a 'bio-war' and all of us are soldiers. Let us all continue to show solidarity with the health workers and medical team who are leading the fight in containing the Covid-19.

Contd.....P2



We meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm at Revi Karunakaran Rotary Hall, Alleppey

22nd MARCH-WORLD WATER DAY

Incidentally today, 22nd March is the World Water Day. It will not be possible for the mankind to survive without water. We know this precious liquid is only available in our planet earth. Scientists are frantically exploring the presence of water in other planets like Moon and Mars so that transplanting human habitat in those planets. We have been hearing that if at all there will be another world war, it would be for water. That shows the importance of water.

When we consider water, we have to think of;

- a) water harvesting
- b) water extraction or sourcing and
- c) water conservation and water shed management.

Water harvesting water can be rain water harvesting projects which is practiced in houses. I think the new construction of houses permission is accorded by local bodies with a rider that rain water harvesting project shall be implemented. Rotary can promote this model. Water extraction is the process of taking water from any source, either temporarily or permanently, for flood control or to obtain water for, for example, irrigation. The extracted water could also be used as drinking water after suitable treatment. Rotary can support projects like digging bore well, erection of sumps etc. Water conservation and water shed management is most important aspect particularly in the state of Kerala where we have no well defined plan for preserving the ground water and also conserving the large quantity of rain water every year. My interest is in the area of water conservation and water shed management using natural fibre materials. In fact there are ever so many methods of water conservation. One of the traditional methods is constructing check dams. Coir Board, Ministry of MSME, Govt of India, with which I am associated is making concerted efforts to popularise the use of Coir Geotextiles for all sorts of soil and water conservation works in place of civil masonry works and synthetic materials. There are large number of small water ponds in the Ambalapuzha and Cherthala taluks of Alappuzha District. People use to de-silt and compact the slopes annually in olden days. These ponds cater to the water requirements of the house through out the year and never get dried up. But in the modern living system, people started ignoring these ponds and have been abandoned. Over a period of time the ponds get filled up completely and the water started flowing away. We have to renovate such ponds and recharge them so that the water table in our land area goes up. Let it be our world water day thought and rightly the DGE Dr Thomas Vavanikunnel has chosen H2O Water as the District Project theme during 2020-21. Let us preserve the precious liquid for our future generations.

Jai Rotary

Rtn PHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai

Renovation and Protection of Pond using Coir Geotextiles



My daughter Meryl is working as a House Surgeon in a Medical College. She is now in Emergency Medicine and having a duty time from 8 to 8. Pretty good crowd is there in casualty ward. Bengali workers, local crowd of senior citizens, men, women and children from all sections of the society. Nightingales are there, ready in the forefront, as soldiers of service, giving care and relief. Complaints of body pain, chest pain, cuts and bruises, minor and major accidents, cough and cold, anything for that reason, Emergency medicine is the first place of consultation. All need urgent attention. Is there anybody in the crowd of patients having infected with Covid 19 virus? Special care is to be taken. The entire team will have to be vigilant. This is the check point. No time to waste. Any mistake leads to a lot of avoidable complications. The team of medical staff had undergone many internal workshops to make them skillful to identify and proceed in a problem situation. Rest in between, for her is difficult. Canteen will be closed by the time they are free to have their food. Special skill is required to find time for food. Night shift comes in between. The change of shift, leaves them with no sleep at all. Any parent will be disturbed and concerned. I was asking her. Dear, are you not afraid? She answers ' Don't worry Dad, We will take care'. I wanted to ask her again. Whom will you take care? Yourselves or others? But she had disconnected the phone. No time to waste on telephones. I am only citing an example of a small section of our own brothers, sisters, sons and daughters who devote their might to give relentless service to the society, in this time of medical emergency. Like the soldiers of an army in a war situation, there is a group of medical people who are totally inevitable. We have seen a picture in social media, of a health personal taking rest on a hospital bed in China, after discharging the last patient from the special hospital for Corona treatment, as a contented person, after attaining his goal. It was the residents of Spain and Italy who first have shown their gratitude to health personnel on the corona virus frontline, by applauding from their windows on 15th March. Nationwide events were coordinated in the locked-down countries through social media to express their love and respect. Our Prime Minister rightfully recognized the services of our army of health personal. He has given an appeal to citizens all over our country, to come out to their windows and doors for 5 minutes at 5 PM on 22nd March and show your gratitude to them, by applauding and clanging our utensils. Let us all give support and moral courage to our health personal. Let us co operate with the authorities to comply with their vital instructions, to help save the community. It is time for us to stand united. United, to keep us and our fellow beings safe and healthy.

Jai Rotary

Rtn. K. Cherian.

HAND WASH STATION SPONSORED BY ROTARY CLUB OF ALLEPPEY

RC Alleppey launched a Hand Wash Station opposite to the KSRTC Bus Station, as part of the Break the Chain campaign. The space and water supply for the project sponsored by Rtn Mathew Mappilassery. Congrats Rtn Mathappan



THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

Is it the truth ?
Is it fair to all concerned ?

Will it build goodwill and better friendship ?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned ?

2019-2020

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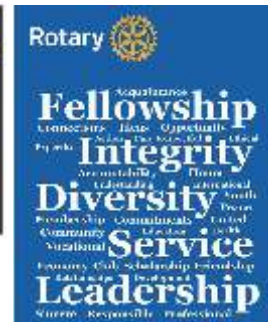
HAPPY BIRTHDAY dear Rotarians ANNES & ANNETS March

- 22** Shyam Kurup
- 23** Moh.Sali
- 24** Seema Unnikrishnan
- 24** Aswathy, d/o Venugopala Panicker
- 25** Sujith T.S
- 25** Greshma, d/o Moncy Varghese
- 30** Deepa Biju Sathyan



AGE Rtn M Kumaraswamy Pillai adorned with AG(2029-21) Name Plate and manuel

Rtn Dr. Tina Antony, PETS-2020 Chair adorned the AG's Name Plate and handed over the Manuel to AGE Rtn Kumaraswamy Pillai. The Pre-PETS scheduled to be held on 15th March 2020 had to be cancelled due to the Covid 19 Pandemic and the DGE authorised the PETS Chair to do the honours.



Engagements

Next meeting scheduled to be held on 25.03.2020 stands cancelled in view of Covid-19 Pandemic



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Designed, conceived, compiled and edited by Rtn. M. Kumaraswamy Pillai. Contributions, Suggestions can be sent to the editor: mkpillai53@gmail.com

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