



Rotary 



e-royalweeks

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



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ROYAL Petals 

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 *From Editors desk*

Operation "ROME to HOME"

I faintly remember on some of the early days of March Rtn Shyam Kurup had posted an appeal in our WhatsApp group enquiring whether any of us have any contact in Italy. I didn't respond since I don't have any in Italy. Obviously others might have been also skipped since none of us has any contact there in Italy. Later only I happened to watch a video circulated in which a few Indian students stranded in airport in Italy screaming for help. I recollected that the post of Shyam was an effort to bring back the stranded students. Yes by that time he has already commissioned "OPERATION ROME TO HOME". I am happy to reproduce a report on the whole series of incidents by Ms. Sruthi Venugopal of edex live.

A group of Indian students were stuck in Italy. After four days of staying at the airport, they put out. Video in anguish. Their video went viral and eventually reached a WhatsApp group to which belonged Shyam Kurup, an NDRF volunteer from the year 2015. Sitting at home, Shyam's team helped in mobilising the students to a safer space and finally evacuated them within seven days! On March 10, Shyam received a message in his group about the stranded Indian students in Italy. Things were not as dire as it is right now, but the case in Italy was a different story. Italy was under lockdown, and people were rushing to get back to their natives at the earliest so that they don't fall prey to the Coronavirus. "The students made a video about how they had booked tickets but were stopped from travelling as they did not have the necessary certificates to prove that they were COVID-19 negative. The test results would reach late, but, as they were in the airport, there were chances of them getting infected. Also, once they got out from their respective homes or hostels in Italy, they were not allowed to enter again. Obviously, out of fear of the virus," explains Shyam.

Shyam, with the help of a few friends, formed a WhatsApp group. They added every Indian student in Italy. Also, they came to know that there was a pregnant woman amongst them who was also stranded with the panicked crowd. "We added a few people in the media into the WhatsApp group. When they came to know about the condition of the kids, they set to action. The students were interviewed online, and the government came to know about the kids as well. Meanwhile, our main aim was to evacuate the pregnant woman at the earliest. So, I wrote a Facebook post sharing the details and the condition of the woman. Kannada actor Jaggesh shared my post on Twitter and tagged the Karnataka Health Ministry. I got in touch with Minister of Health and Family Welfare excluding



Medical Education of Karnataka B Sriramalu through WhatsApp who promised to evacuate the woman at the earliest but couldn't promise on the rest of the students," shares the 39-year-old. But all the 13 students' lives were important, and something



Secretary
Rtn. PHF John Kurian



Asst. Governor
Rtn. PHF V. Deepak



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Rtn. PHF M. Kumaraswamy Pillai



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had to be done. Shyam, on the same night that he receiving the video from the students, on March 10, mailed it to V Muraleedharan, Union Minister of State for External Affairs through his friend Bindu Satyajith. The minister forwarded the same to the Centre and the very next day, the medical team from India reached Rome,"Shyam informs. Though Shyam played a vital role in this mass evacuation, he did not sit back and relax. Even though the students returned back to their homes, safe, Kerala reported the first Corona positive patient in India. Immediately, Shyam decided to get on the field. "With a few young volunteers, we set up a help desk in Alappuzha, which is first of its kind in Kerala. Almost 5000 people are home-quarantined in Alappuzha. We sought help from a Bangalore-based company Billionlives and introduced the software Coronacare at the desk. The software which has a pre-recorded voice, calls all the individuals who are under home quarantine. The individual has to follow the voice instruction and select the number according to their symptoms if any. The results are noted by our healthcare workers," he informs adding, "With the help of our flood volunteers group in WhatsApp, we are also renovating the old ventilators and ambulances so that they can be used as isolation wards if need be. It is important to be prepared as there are chances of community spread. In that front, I would definitely say that Alappuzha is prepared to face the challenge."

Being the Vice President of Aries Group of Companies,

Shyam has been a frontline worker since the outbreak of Corona in Kerala. And how does he manage? "I stay at a hotel arranged for frontline workers by the Alappuzha district administration. I go once in a while to my home. Also, when on the field it is necessary to take precautionary measures like wearing masks, using hand sanitisers and so on," he signs off.

Shyam and his friends also managed to book the tickets for all the stranded students. Though the pregnant lady was evacuated within a day or two from March 10, the students' struggle was far from over. "Since their COVID-19 negative certificate had to come, we had to wait till then. Meanwhile, they did not have food. So we tried to arrange food with the help of a few good samaritans in Italy. Finally, we managed to arrange a flight to Ethiopia. From Ethiopia, all the students flew to India without much hassle. The students finally reached on March 18. It was one hell of a ride to us because everything had to happen legally and meantime, the students should also not contract the virus," he recollects and adds, "None of them tested positive but to ensure safety, all of them are home quarantined for 14 days." Shyam informs us that things were possible due to the strong support from the Karnataka government. "Happiness is seeing our kids reaching India, their homeland" says Shyam with a smile. He added that "we did our best and government did the rest".

Jai Rotary!

Rtn PHF M Kumaraswamy Pillai

President's Column

Congratulations Editor Rtn. Kumaraswamy Pillai. No words to express gratitude to our Royalweeks editor Rtn. Kumaraswamy Pillai for his commitment and enthusiasm. Be it flood or Covid, rain or shine he is so keen to bring out the issue of Royalweeks at its best and make it outstandingly superb. He has requested me to share the experiences of the present 'Locked down' days. The days make me think about the Noha's arch and I was imagining as the old Noha sitting in his boat for months together with his family members and the pets around. May be Noha had enough of the supplies for the lean days. I had to run around in the mornings for replenishing the stock of vegetables and provisions. The problem sitting idle at home is the request from the better half for helping in cutting vegetables and cleaning fans and such other house hold activities, which I rarely participated earlier. To keep me engaged, I downloaded a few books. (Necessity is the mother of inventions). The good old days of youth, when I was devoting a majority of time for reading books, came to my mind. (Those days, parents were telling me to devote more time for studies). When I started reading one by one, right from Khasakkinte Ithihasam, The Alchemist, Ente Kadha and few more, there was no spare time in the locked down days. I have already finished few books and is now on Oru Desathinte Kadha by SK Pottakkad. The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho gave the enjoyment of a trip through the deserts of Egypt. Santiago the main character, who was a shepherd boy, starts his journey from his native place, Andalusia in search of a hidden treasure. He got a vision through a dream, the meaning of which was revealed to him by an old lady and he started his journey to the land of Pyramids, where the treasure was supposed to be hidden. He lost his entire savings on the start of the journey itself to a thief, which did not resist his ambition to start his dream journey to Egypt. Going through the numerous hurdles, the boy ultimately reaches the land of Pyramids. But to his surprise he gets the secret of the location of the treasure and he came to know that the treasure is hidden in the old church at his native place of Andalusia. He finally starts his return journey and finds his treasure at the same place where he started the journey. The rich experience of the different kinds of people he met, the dangers which he had to encounter, the romance with Fathima, the girl whom he met in the Oasis, learning the languages spoken by them, were all in fact treasures to him. The message of the story is "Nothing is impossible, as long as you wish it with all your heart". Paulo Coelho gives you the inspiration to follow your own dreams by seeing the world through your own eyes and not someone else's. Let the days of Lockdown give us varied experiences and let us come out with more energy and vigor.

Wishing all my fellow Rotarians a Happy Easter,

The regular meeting of the club was conducted as a virtual meeting under TeamLink platform. The meeting started at 7.30 PM with invocation by Rtn. R. Krishnan. President informed about that it may not be possible to conduct family dinner meetings at least for another two months. Regular meetings will be online only, till the situation changes. More members are to be motivated to join the online platform. On request of the president, Rtn. M. Kumaraswamy read out a communication from DG regarding a Global Grant project of installing few ventilators at District Hospitals, which the District is taking up. Clubs are requested to contribute USD5000/- to become a partner of the project. Members reviewed the current situation of Covid 19 spread. Rtns. Tomi Eapen, R. Krishnan, T. S. Ajithkumar, R. Unnikrishnan, Subramania Iyer, Kumaraswamy Pillai, Ambu Vaidhyan, Mohammed Shafeek, S. Murugan and Antony Malayil attended the meeting. The meeting ended at 8.15 PM.

The regular meeting of the Club for the week started at 7.30PM. Rtn. R. Krishnan invoked the blessings of God Almighty. President said that DG had contacted over phone and informed about the Global Grant Project of supply of Ventilators to District hospitals. He has appealed to the Club to collect USD5000/- and become a partner of the project. President also informed that the final due date for remittance of international dues is on 30th April and many of the members are yet to pay the second half subscriptions. Prasannan will be asked to contact the members after April 14th and every effort will be made to remit the dues before final due date. In the present situation, it may not be possible to conduct any family dinner meetings in the current year. Twenty two members are yet to join as hosts for the family meetings. Rtn. Tomi Eapen suggested that the members who had not yet hosted dinner meetings may be asked to make an equivalent amount as their TRF contribution, so that we can also become a part of the Global Grant project. Members will also be getting individual recognition of TRF contribution. Other members who are ready to contribute, may also be approached. President informed that the suggestion of Rtn. Tomi Eapen will be a good initiative. The meeting then discussed about the social and economic problems we are facing in the present situation of Covid 19 spread. Following members attended. Rtns. Tomi Eapen, R. Krishnan, Raju Chandu, T. Sivakumar, Kumaraswamy Pillai, Subramaia Iyer, NAM Kunju, V. Deepak, T.S. Ajithkumar, Rtn Ambu Vaidyan, RN Ajithkumar, R. Unnikrishnan and A. Balakrishnan. Rtn. Ambu Vaidyan, Joint Secretary, proposed vote of Thanks.

MY LOCKDOWN EXPERIENCE-Kannan

Hello rotarians , I would frankly say that this period of lockdown has really changed me in to a better human being . It has made me realise what life is, how precious it is and what a wonderful gift of God and how one should give all importance to life. I had enough time to look in to my past, to learn my mistakes and ways to correct it, plan for the future, to plan different strategies and ideas to develop and improve my business, to spare some of my time to spend with the family and to take care of the old ones in and around us. This period has made me realise that I have still more to achieve and also to learn more , to observe things happening in and around me. I have become more hygienic and understood the importance of being hygienic. It gave me the opportunity to understand my better half more and was able to note her daily routine and how she manages the home front looking after the needs of each person which made me realise that she has to be adored more and respected too.



Was able to learn a bit of cooking and also came to know the price of groceries and provisions . The lockdown period made me to take initiative to study new things and also about technology where I was lagging behind and I am still consider myself as an LKG student striving hard and utilising this time to study more about it. Felt happy to video chat in rotary meeting and also with other company officials. It also made me realise how important health is and to take care of it more with regular exercise and diet. I was able to finish lot of pending work and update myself working from home and being online. I had time to talk to a few of my old friends rebuilding our friendship and the happiness experienced made me feel how important relationship and how it should be maintained.

Finally even though covid 19 has given many hardships and hit the economy and I too have a substantial loss in this period but what I have to say is that I feel more confident and believe in myself which in turn has given me tremendous energy and boost to move forward and to bounce back more strongly to achieve more and greater heights. Praying for the crisis to pass away and to meet u all soon

Rtn A Balakrishnan(Kannan)

2019-2020

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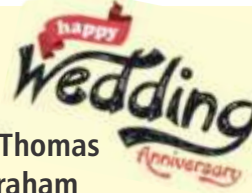
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Dear ROTARIANS
ANNES & ANNETS



- APRIL**
- 02. Rtn. George Thomas
 - 10. Rtn. Jose Abraham
 - 14. Rtn. Mohammed Sali
 - 16. Rtn. Subramanya Iyer
 - 19. Rtn. Varghese K.A.
 - 22. Rtn. Venugopala Panicker K.N.
 - 27. Rtn. Sivakumar
 - 28. Rtn. Vinod K. Balaji

- 14. Rtn. Roy Raj
- 22. Rtn. Joseph Francis
- 23. Rtn. George Thomas
- 27. Rtn. Siby George
- 29. Rtn. Varghese K.A.

My Lockdown experience - Rtn. Tomi Eapen

അഭിവന്ദ്യനായ നമ്മുടെ മുഖ്യ മന്ത്രി എന്നും വൈകുന്നേരമുള്ള തന്റെ പത്രസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ പറഞ്ഞു, ലോക്ക് ഡൗൺ കാലത്തു സമയം ക്രിയാത്മകമായി ചിലവഴിക്കാൻ വഴികൾ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കണമെന്നു. ചിലവ് ഒട്ടുമേ ഇല്ലാത്ത ഒരു ടൈം പാസ് പരിപാടിക്കാണ് ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ രുനിയുന്നത്. ആകെ വേണ്ടത് പത്രവും, ഇത്തിരി പശയും. മൈൻ കോണ്ട് ഈ പശ ഉണ്ടാക്കിയെടുക്കാം.



COVID-19 LOCKDOWN SUGGESTIONS FROM CMS

പത്രത്തിൻറെ ഫുൾ ഷീറ്റ് (4 പേജ്) എടുക്കുക. പത്ര സൈനിൽ തന്നെ രണ്ടായി മടക്കുക. മടക്കിയ സൈഡ് നമ്മൾ ഉണ്ടാക്കുന്ന കുടിന്റെ മുകൾ ഭാഗമായിരിക്കും. ഒരു ഇഞ്ച് സൈഡ് നീളത്തിൽ ഒന്ന് മടക്കി, അവിടെ പശ തേച്ചു നല്ലവണ്ണം, മറ്റേ അറ്റം ഒട്ടിക്കുക. കുടിന്റെ പകുതി പണി കഴിഞ്ഞു. ഇനി അടിഭാഗം രണ്ടു കോളം വീതിയിൽ മടക്കുക. എന്നിട്ടു മടക്കിയ ഭാഗത്തിന്റെ മുകൾ അറ്റവും അടിയറ്റവും ഉള്ളിലോട്ടു മടക്കുക. പിന്നെ കാണുന്ന സൈഡ് അറ്റം രണ്ടും ഉള്ളിലോട്ടു മടക്കി നല്ലവണ്ണം പശ തേച്ചു ഒട്ടിക്കുക. കുടിന്റെ ഈ അടി ഭാഗം ശരി ആയില്ലെങ്കിൽ അടി ഭാഗം തുറന്നു ഉള്ളിൽ ഇടുന്ന സാധനങ്ങൾ താഴെ പോകും. കുടു റെഡി. പ്ലാസ്റ്റിക് കുടിനു പകരം ഈ കുട് കടകളിൽ ചെറിയ വിലക്ക് വിൽക്കാം. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ അവസ്ഥയിൽ കമ്മ്യൂണിറ്റി കിച്ചണിൽ പൊതിച്ചോറ് പാക്ക് ചെയ്യാൻ ഇതു ഉപകരിക്കും. വീട്ടിൽ ഉള്ള എല്ലാവരും സഹകരിച്ചാൽ നല്ല സംരംഭമായി മാറും. അതെ പത്ര കടലാസും കുടും നമ്മോടൊത്തു. (പശ ഉണ്ടാക്കാൻ: മൈൻ കോണ്ട് ഒരു കപ്പ് ഏഴാണ്ട് 3 കപ്പ് വെള്ളം ഒഴിച്ചു, അടുപ്പിൽ വച്ച് കുറുക്കുക. ഒരു സ്പൂൺ വിനാഗിരിയും ഒഴിക്കുക. പശ റെഡി)

Rtn. Tomi Eapen

My lockdown experience - Rtn. R Srinivasan

Previously after engagement for couple of days every one would welcome a hartharal or bandh. That was not the case during lockdown this time. As a professional for me some engagements will be there. Lockdown of this nature has literally paralyzed day today routine agenda. Somehow managed last 18 days. Hope things would improve from 15th.

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