

Xmas & New Year Photos



JANUARY- ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH

Rotary Information

About Rotary

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In 166 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 30,000 Rotary clubs

Rotary In Depth

In nearly 100 years, Rotary has grown from a small club of four members to a worldwide network of men and women who share a common vision for a better world. The world's first service organization, Rotary has a long history of helping those in need and uniting people of different cultures and beliefs. Through the work of individual Rotary clubs, and through the programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, Rotary is making the world a better place.

Rotary Membership

Members of a Rotary club are part of a diverse group of professional leaders working to address various community and international service needs and to promote peace and understanding throughout the world. If you would like to be considered for membership by a local Rotary club, complete a Prospective Member Contact Form. RI will forward your information to clubs in your area.

Our Rotary District: 3211

Area: Revenue Districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kottayam in Kerala Zone 6

Total Clubs: 126 **Members:** 4571

Administrative Set Up

Rotary International: Governed by the Board of Directors consisting of R. I. President, R. I. President Elect and 17 Directors representing 530 Districts grouped into 17 Zones selected by ballot by mail and elected at the next International Convention. The RI President holds office for one year and the Directors for two years from July 1

Rotary District: Headed by District Governor nominated by the Clubs in the District by ballot and elected at the District Conference. He represents the RI President & holds office for one year from July 1.

Rotary Club: President and Board of Directors elected by Club members to hold office for one year from July 1

Our Club: Rotary Club of Trivandrum North

When Rtn. Park Natesan of Ceylon was the District Governor, Rotary Club of Trivandrum through GSR Rtn C. Narayanan Nair convened an initial meeting on 15-01-1972 to form a new Rotary club- Rotary Club of Trivandrum North for which Rtns K.C Ramavarma and K Neelambaran were elected as charter president and secretary. The club was chartered on 23-05-1972 with charter No. 15955 and the Charter was presented by the Governor Rtn Park Natesan in a glittering ceremony at Kanakakunnu Palace in presence of the chief guest Sri Baby John minister in Kerala Government. PDG Peer Mohamed and PDG Dr M R R Menon are members of our club.

The Club has undertaken a number of excellent community service projects like borewells, toilet blocks, maintenance of children's park, adoption of school etc.

Alumni Recognized for Expanding Mental Health Services and Supporting Rotary's Work



Dr. Geetha Jayaram (far left) with Rotary members and staff at the Maanasi Clinic in Mugalur, Karnataka, India. Jayaram founded the clinic, which provides a range of mental health services.

Dr. Geetha Jayaram has dedicated her life to helping people in her native India and the United States overcome the torment of severe depression, bipolar disorder, panic attacks, and other mental illnesses.

Jayaram is a psychiatrist and associate professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. Her work expanding access to mental health services is much needed. Depression affects at least 350 million people and is the leading cause of disability worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.



"In India, there is no mental health care available to people in rural areas," says Jayaram. "In southern India, for young women in particular, suicide is a huge issue."

In 1997, a year after joining the Rotary Club of Columbia, Maryland, USA, Jayaram founded the Maanasi Clinic in Mugalur, Karnataka, India, "as a way of giving back to the country of my origin," she says. The clinic, whose name means "sound mind," provides mental health services to indigent women in the region. Over the years, she has been deeply involved in the clinic's development, supplying it with medications, training health care staff and caseworkers, and raising funds. The clinic has also become a gateway to primary care, affording patients access to comprehensive health services.

In 2004-05 Jayaram taught psychiatry at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore and at the clinic through a Rotary Grant for University Teachers.

The Rotary Foundation Trustees have chosen to recognize Jayaram with the 2014-15 Rotary Foundation Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award. She will be honored at the Rotary International Convention in São Paulo, Brazil, on 8 June.

The clinic, which operates in partnership with St. John's Medical College, has received funding from the Columbia club and Rotary grants. It has become sustainable through the efforts of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Midtown, which provides administration and oversight. Jayaram's husband, Past District Governor Jayaram Kumar, has helped the clinic acquire a jeep and two mopeds to transport health care practitioners and caseworkers to patients.

Geetha Jayaram believes the clinic can be replicated in other countries to serve people with mental illness. She has helped produce teaching videos about the clinic for the World Health Organization's website and Medibiz TV, a health care channel that broadcasts in 130 countries.

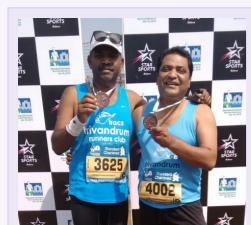
Jayaram's connection with Rotary began when she joined Rotaract at age 19. Her father, a philanthropist and Rotary member, and her mother both set an example of serving others and instilled in Jayaram the belief that, as she puts it, "We have much to give and learn from giving."

Rtn. Varghese Oommen in Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon on Jan 18, 2015



Congratulations!

Our Rtn. Varghese Oommen participated in Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon held on Jan 18, 2015 and finished the distance within 5 hrs. He received a Finisher's medal as well. We are really proud to have a veteran Marathon Runner as a member in our club. Wish him and his family all the very best!



President-elect Urges Rotary Members to 'Be a Gift to the World'



RI President-elect K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran announces his presidential theme for 2015-16, Be a Gift to the World, at the opening session of the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA.

Using their talents, expertise, and leadership, Rotary members worldwide are asked to be gifts to the world this upcoming 2015-16 Rotary year.

Rotary International President-elect K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran called Sunday's address to incoming district governors the "most significant moment of my life."

"All of you have been given so many gifts. And you have now been given this great gift: one year to take all your talents, all your gifts, everything that you are and can become -- and Be a Gift to the World," said Ravindran, revealing his presidential theme at the annual five-day training meeting in San Diego, California, USA. "You have one year to take that potential and turn it into reality. One year to lead the clubs in your district and transform the lives of others. The time is so short, yet there is so much to be done."

Highlighting Rotary's biggest challenge, the eradication of polio, Ravindran said, "A future without polio is a gift that we have promised to the children of the world. And indeed it is a gift that we will give."

Ravindran, a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo, Sri Lanka, used Rotary's successes in the fight to eradicate the disease as an illustration of the impact Rotary members can have in the world. When Rotary set a goal of eradicating polio 25 years ago, it was endemic in 125 countries, and more than 1,000 children were becoming paralyzed each day. Today, polio remains endemic in just three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. And in all of 2014, only 333 cases were reported. "We will battle on. We will prevail," he said.

Ravindran discussed some of Rotary's other challenges, including membership. "We have to find a way to bring back the fundamentals that built our organization: the emphasis on high ethical standards in all aspects of our lives, and the classification system that encourages a diversity of expertise in each club," he said. "Too often these ideas are viewed as little more than inconvenient obstacles to increasing our membership. But they have been essential to Rotary's success, and we ignore them at our own peril."

Ravindran told attendees that the focus on branding is essential to helping Rotary grow. "We need to reposition our image, which we recognize has faded in many parts of the world," he said.

Rotary also needs to continue to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation, attract new members, and encourage greater participation from current members, he added.

"There are no easy answers to any of these questions. And yet the answers must somehow be found. We are the ones who must find them," said Ravindran.

The president-elect closed his speech emphasizing that now is the time to make real change.

"You have one year to build monuments that will endure forever, not carved in granite or marble, but in the lives and hearts of generations. This is our time. It will not come again. Let us grasp it," he said.



Secretary's Diary



- 1st January - Kiran, Annet of Rtn. G. M. Pillai
- 7th January - Radha, Ann of Rtn. G. M. Pillai
- 13th January - David Manuel, Annet of Rtn. P. M. Jose
- 13th January - Rtn. Dr. Sandeep Krishna
- 15th January - Rtn. Dr. Ramadas Pillai
- 15th January - Roopak, Annet of Rtn. K. P. Thomas
- 19th January - Preethi, Annet of Rtn. Jacob K George
- 22nd January - Shon, Annet of Rtn. M. P. Mathew
- 24th January - Joshua Varghese Oommen, Annet of Rtn. Varghese Oommen
- 30th January - Saraswathi, Ann of Rtn. Dr. K. Balakrishnan Nair
- 30th January - Rtn. Sudeesh Shankar
- 31st January - Rtn. K. N. Gopakumara Kaimal
- 31st January - Roshan, Annet of Rtn. K. I. Koshy



- 2nd January - Rtn. K. P. Thomas and Lizy
- 17th January - Rtn. P. M. Jose and Mary

PDG Rtn. D M Swaminathan is a Minister in new Sri Lankan Cabinet



Rtn D M Swaminathan is the son of M. Swaminathan and Lalithambikai, daughter of S. Pararajasingam and grand daughter of P. Arunachalam. He was educated at Royal College, Colombo. After school he joined Ceylon Law College, qualifying as an advocate of the Supreme Court.

After qualifying Swaminathan started practising law in Colombo, taking over the chambers of proctor Ratnakaram which were re-named D. M. Swaminathan Associates in 1971.

Swaminathan was appointed Governor of Western Province in June 1994 after the controversial dismissal of Suppiah Sharvananda by President D. B. Wijetunga. He was appointed chairman of the National Savings Bank in March 2002, serving until 2004.

Swaminathan was appointed as one of the United National Party's (UNP) MPs in the Parliament of Sri Lanka, following the Sri Lankan 2010 parliamentary election. In October 2010 he was appointed to the Parliamentary Council which was established by the controversial 18th Amendment to make non-binding recommendations the president on the membership of various national commissions. After the 2015 Sri Lankan presidential election, he was appointed as **Minister of Resettlement, Reconstruction and Hindu Religious Affairs** by newly elected President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena.

Swaminathan has been a member of the Rotary Club of Colombo since 1971. He is a trustee of the Sri Ponnambala Vaneswara Temple at Sea Street in Kochchikade, Colombo which was founded by his great-great-grand father A. Ponnambalam. He is one of the UNP's vice-chairmen. He was also treasurer of the UNP.

- Indebted to PDG Joe Villavarayar, Dt. 3212 for the information

Our Charter Member Scientist Dr. Vasant R. Gawarikar Passes away

One of our charter members, Scientist Dr. Vasanth R Gawarikar, Former Director, VSSC, Thiruvananthapuram, who designed Flag of our Rotary club, passed away on Friday 2nd January, 2015 following a brief illness in a hospital in Pune. He was 81 and is survived by wife Sudha, and three daughters.

Mr. Gowarikar, a protégé of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, was part of the illustrious band of scientists who initiated India's satellite research programme and included luminaries such as A. P. J. Kalam, E. V. Chitnis, Pramod Kale and U. R. Rao among others. He pioneered solid propellant development and later served as Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) between 1979 and 1985.

Dr. Gowarikar also served as scientific advisor to late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao between 1991 and 1993, was appointed as Vice-Chancellor, Pune University and was chairman of the Marathi Vidnyan Parishad between 1994 and 2000.

Dr. Gowarikar, who was earlier honoured with the Padma Shri, was later awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2008.