

Brief bio-data of Rtn James Kalassery (Cochin Sunrise)

Born in Dec 1950, Rtn James started his career in Bank of Baroda, soon after his graduation in Mathematics. He has worked in various branches and departments of the bank in various capacities, before he resigned from the Bank's service while he was the Joint Manager of their Kottayam branch. Rtn James also holds a MBA in eCommerce.

Rtn James turned into publishing and started Hello Cochin, a compact reference guide for the city of Cochin. Currently, he is the Chief Executive Officer of Hello Cochin and Hello Maldives. His job makes him a very frequent traveller abroad.

Rtn James came into the Rotary family in 1973 as the Charter President of Rotaract Club of Cochin East, which celebrated its 45th year in 2018. This club is one of the oldest surviving Rotaract clubs in the world. One of the club projects of his time - the House Keeping Contest - was widely acclaimed by Rotary International in its publication "75 years of Rotary". He held various positions in Rotaract including District Secretary in 1973 and became the District Rotaract Representative (DRR) of the then RI District 320 in 1977-78.

Rtn James joined the Rotary Club of Cochin Midtown in 1989. There he held various posts and became its Secretary in 1991-92 and President in 1992-93. At club level, he was the Chairman of Office 93, a new-generation exhibition of office-automation products, Music Hangama, an early edition of his club's famous Sruthilayam, his club's Silver Jubilee Celebrations, COTS (Club Officers' Training Seminar) and a multitude of projects. He has also held various district level positions, under various Governors, starting with the District Directory Publisher of PDG BR Ajit in 1992-93.

Rtn James was the first District Rotaract Chair of District 3201 in 2008-09 and was instrumental in doubling the number of Rotaract clubs in the district from 22 to 44, together with the then DRR Rtr R Kishore.

Rtn James was the Co-Chairman of Punarnavam 09, District Assembly for 2009-10. Rtn James was Chairman of Technology Committee of the Rotary Institute 2009 at Cochin, and was in charge of the Institute's website. He was also Head of the Technology Committee of the Leadership Summit with RIPE Kalyan Banerjee, held in November 2009.

During 2010-11, Rtn James was District WebMaster as well as Chairman of Polaris, District Leadership Seminar. During the last year, 2011-12, Rtn James was the District Director, Communications, District WebMaster, District Chairman - Membership Development, GSE CoOrdinator for Cochin Region, GSE Team Leader to D1810 Germany, and Chairman of Sparsh, District PolioPlus Orientation Seminar. Two major Membership Development Seminars, Pragati 2011 - the Multi District Seminar, and Vridhi 2011 - the District Seminar were conducted in August 2011. Rtn James is the recipient of the Best District Director Award for 2011-12. Rtn James is also the recipient of "Vocational Service Award" by Rotary Club of Coimbatore Spectrum in 2011-12.

Rtn James has been serving as the District WebMaster for the last 9 consecutive years with all Governors, from 2004-2013, in Districts 3200 and 3201. Rtn James was also the Webmaster for PRIP Kalyan Banerjee in 2011-13. Rtn James had been a faculty for many RYLAs, COTS, PETS, DOTS and District Assemblies.

Rtn James also was District Director, New Generations and four Regional editions of TOWER (Training of Web and E-Reporting) were done in 2012-13 along with four Regional editions of iPOWER (New Generations Workshops).

Rtn James is an Advanced Class Radio Amateur since 1978, with the callsign VU2ARL. He is the Founder Secretary of Ernakulam Amateur Radio Society (1977) and Kerala Amateur Radio League (1980). He has held various positions in ham radio organisations and was the Honorary General Secretary of the Federation of Amateur Radio Societies of India in 1982-84. He has participated in many emergency and rally communication networks, including the Himalayan Rally in 1982, MRF2000 in 1980, Coffee500 in 1981 and many editions of Popular Rally. He was a regular columnist for the American ham radio magazine, "73 AMATEUR RADIO", for many years. In 2010, he has also served on the Board of Directors of International Fellowship of Rotarians Of Amateur Radio (ROAR), as the Editor of their magazine "Communicator".

Rtn James' other hobbies are Rallying, Reading and Photography. An avid photographer since his early days, he has been photographing many destinations for his publications. He has participated in motor rallies, including the Popular Rally. He is the founder Secretary of Motor Sports Club of Cochin in 1984 and has organised a Night Rally in 1984. Rtn James is a member of ROTI (Rotarians on the Internet) since 2001, and was selected as Volunteer of the Month twice, in August 2004 and November 2004 by ROTI members worldwide for his work on the district website. He served on the Director Board of Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI) Fellowship in 2005-07 and 2017-19. Rtn James was a two term Chairman (2013-17) of ICUFR (International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians), a Rotary Global Fellowship.

Rtn James is married to Rtn Elizabeth, retired Senior Manager of State Bank of Travancore. The couple has three children - two daughters, Kitty (married and settled in Houston, USA) and Cuckoo (married and settled in London, UK) and a son, Joseph (currently employed in Newcastle, Australia), two grandsons, Caleb and Jonathan and a grand-daughter Selah.

Rtn James and Rtn Elizabeth are Major Donors of the TRF and members of RC Cochin Sunrise, since 2013. All his family members - daughters, sons-in-law, son and grandchildren - are Paul Harris Fellows.
