

VOL. 130

August, 2025

KHORLO

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Darjeeling

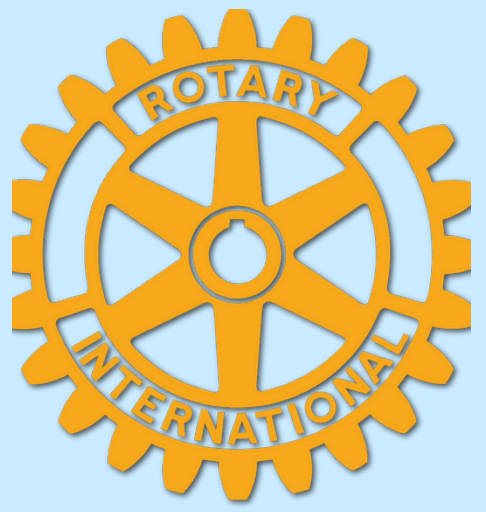


@rotaryclubofdarjeeling



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Rtn. Vivek Chettri

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

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Public Image: Rtn. Sankalp Lama

Sgt at Arms: Rtn. Dawa T Bhutia and Rtn. Bikash Singh



Thursday



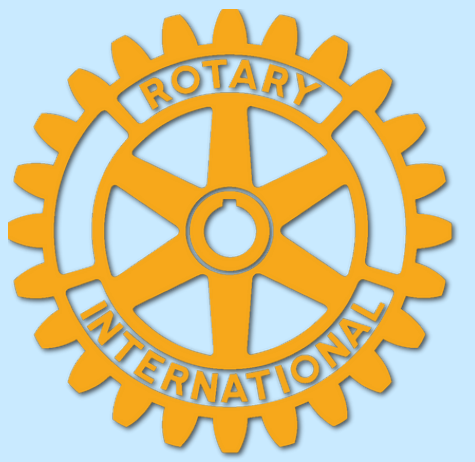
**We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.**



5:30p.m.



Khorlo



RYLA RECKONING

Recently, I was told that I do not know the English language. I tried to laugh it off. I even did at the moment, but when I got back home, the sentence came back to haunt me. Was she right? Did I actually not know the language, or was it just my inability to communicate in the desired mode that had earned me this comment. I, for the life of me, couldn’t fathom how everyone was a “bro”- mother, father, sister, aunt, friend and of course the brother himself. So when I politely pointed out that the “bro” was not actually a “bro” but a ‘sis” to this Gen Z, I was ticked off for not understanding this simple word in english. So when did the world get “bro- fied”?

Amidst all this uncertainty of gender, vocabulary and language , I was caught amidst 103 such “bros” in the International RYLA hosted by the Rotary Club of Darjeeling. Careful planning, thought and some serious brainstorming , I observed, had gone into the conception and execution of the event. The only downer was that the majority of the event holders were like me, who did not know that “bro” covered the entire spectrum of relations, now.

As I watched the RYLA unfold, I found myself caught between understanding and uncertainty. The little bits of information and knowledge that were drilled into us, while in junior school and had found a permanent place of residence in our heads, seemed no longer relevant. As I sat and witnessed the Quiz unfold, I was quite startled to see that simple questions also bore no answers. I heard a young boy comment- “ who takes 80 days to go around the world? That’s skibiddi !” - to which his friend retorted- “who cares’? And just as I was mentally ticking off their impudence and ignorance, I stopped. Seriously, in today’s day and time, even the very thought of going around the world in 80days sounds at best- absurd. Can I really blame them?

It is then I realised that the listless expressions they seem to carry around with them behind the veil of ‘who cares” lie very sharp minds, that have somehow learnt to filter things that do not seem relevant. For how else would you explain that this very generation, who might call - Nagaland a country, (yes, I have heard that!) can write detailed codes in their computers without missing an asterisk. As RYLA came to an end and when I was nearly convinced that emotional bridges were no longer built, I witnessed something - friendships, bonds and connections that had been fostered in this short span of two and half days, not just with their peers but also with us- the fossilised Rotarians. I saw the pain of departing from newly found friends, warm hugs and seeing off each other with promises to keep in touch.

Well..... AI, robots, technology- the world has changed a lot but again.. nothing has.

Human emotions and bonds still connect the world. Behind those facades of “who cares’ - they do care. So what if you are a “bro”, you are still ‘lit” and “valid”.

In Rotary,
Prativa
Editor



Thursday



We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.



5:30p.m.

RYLA AMBASSADOR- EVERESTER PRATIMA RAI



Scaling heights and hearts.

The RYLA ambassador this year was a young twenty two year old , political science student of St. Joseph's college, who has made the hills proud by scaling and summiting Mt. Everest as an NCC cadet in a ten member contingent.

Pratima was a picture of composure and humility, someone who perhaps had matured way beyond her years, in that life-defining moment yet child like and honest , when she shared her story of courage, fortitude and success with the Rylarians, straight from her heart, in a tete-a-tete with Rtn. Sunirmal Chakravarthi.

She gave us an insight on her astounding climb-

“My remarkable journey began with a highly competitive selection process. From 17 lakh NCC cadets across India, only 250 were shortlisted for Delhi, where the focus was not just on physical fitness, but also on mental resilience, intellect, and discipline. After rigorous tests, only 36 cadets were selected, and further training in the harsh conditions of Siachen Glacier narrowed it down to just ten cadets—five boys and five girls—chosen to represent NCC and India for the Mount Everest Expedition.

Being among the shortlisted cadets was a life-changing moment, filled with honor and responsibility. It was not just about climbing a peak, but about carrying the pride of the NCC and the spirit of our nation. The training was relentless—physical workouts, technical mountaineering, survival skills, and mental conditioning in extreme cold and unforgiving terrain. The journey taught me discipline, leadership it. My journey to the Mount Everest was a life time experience .”

This is perhaps just the beginning of a journey that she has embarked on that will bring accolades not just for herself but also to the nation and to the place she belongs to.

What the Rylarians had to say!

RYLA 2025

We are delighted to share the reflections of two students who had the wonderful opportunity to participate in RYLA 2025. Our students returned with inspiring experience, valuable insights, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Participating in RYLA has been a profoundly enriching experience of our students.

Both Arahamanya and Tshchuang would like to express their heartfelt gratitude and thanks to all the members especially Sir Amar Singh Rai of Rotary Club of Darjeeling for providing this once in a lifetime opportunity for them.- **Glenmore International School, Mirik**

The students of **St. Anthony's School, Kurseong** was all praises for organising such a beautiful programme they said there was never a dull moment. So much activity and such engaging events. They made many friends and exchanged numbers. They said more than 130 students in the RYLA but they functioned with clock precision. They asked the organisers should every year and even larger scale so that it touches more students.

Kudos to the Rotary Club of Darjeeling for a great unforgettable RYLA.

Wilson Academy children have reached Kathmandu. Thanks to one and all who made this event and their stay so amazing. Hats off to the organisers. My children had an experience like no other. Words fail to express my gratitude.

Dr. Graham's Home, Kalimpong-On behalf of the DGH Rylarians, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire organising team and the Rotary Club of Darjeeling for this truly memorable event. It was truly a once in a lifetime experience.

On behalf of RVA Rylarians we're truly grateful to the Rotary team for inviting five of us from Rockvale Academy to be part of the Youth Leadership Program. It was an incredible experience - full of learning, laughter, and inspiration. We met amazing people, heard powerful ideas, and came back with memories (and lessons) we'll carry for a long time.

Thank you for giving young voices like ours a space to grow. We're honoured to have been part of it!~Team **Rockvale Academy, Kalimpong**

Once again on behalf of **Sunrise English Medium School, Siliguri** we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the entire organizing team and the Rotary Club of Darjeeling and especial thank to Sir Dhiraj Thapa, for giving our students the opportunity to participate in RYLA 2025. Always remain grateful to you sir 🙏🙏

I, Ronald Rai President of the Sasonian's Interact Club greatly thank the Rotary club and the organizers to held such an amazing event as RYLA and giving us the opportunity to take part in it and gain so much experience and opportunity to represent our School and are greatly honoured to have participated in it. We all have safely reached our homes and we look forward to participate in more of events from the Rotary.- **St. Augustine's School, Kalimpong**

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Rotary Club of Darjeeling for organising the RYLA camp. Special thanks to Rotary Club of Gangtok, south, Parent Sponsor club of EMRS, Gangyap for always encouraging and giving us opportunities. The camp has given us a lot of lessons to learn. It played a major role in helping us shape our leadership skills. We would also like to thank the Rotarians who had been very spontaneous and active to help us with different sessions and to make the camp a great success, for providing us with comfortable food and accommodation. We cannot forget Sir Jit and sir Cheten for their love and care. They took care of us like our parents. Thank you so much 🙏 we look forward to attending many more programmes like these in the future. - **Interact Club, EMRS, Gangyap**

AUGUST SNAPSHOTS





THE MONTH THAT WAS - AUGUST

- August started with the International RYLA, where 103 students in the age group of 15-18yrs came over from different states and Nepal to participate in this two and a half days event from 1st to 3rd August, 2025. The event not only exercised the physical and mental abilities of the participants but also trained them in teamwork. Going by the feedback and coverage the club received, it was a resounding success.
- The Interact Club of Mount Hermon School was chartered on 7th August, 2025 marking a milestone, as it is one of the oldest educational institutions in Darjeeling. It was founded in 1895 and is known for imparting quality and holistic education for the last 130 years,
- The 79th Independence Day was celebrated with flag hoisting at Rotary Tower by the President and members.
- Rtn. Vikram initiated and conducted plogging in RYLA, with the participants. The concept has caught on extensively in Darjeeling. RCD has joined hands with 'Mero Darjeeling'- a social campaign, initiated by Vikrun Foundation for a cleaner, greener Darjeeling. The members have been participating in plogging regularly, on various days, upholding the club's commitment towards the betterment of the society.
- "Nepali Bhasa Manyata Diwas on 20th august" was celebrated by the club with the President starting the RWM on 21st august in pristine Nepali, paying homage to our 'matri bhasa'.
- The members paid their heartfelt condolences to Rtn. Shiromani, on the untimely demise of his brother and stood beside him in this difficult time.
- Mrs. Shalla Plant was inducted as an honorary member of the club. She addressed the club on 21st August.
- RCD shone bright and luminous in the District Awards- The Rotary Service Awards, 2025. IPP Rtn. Samir Singhal bagged the outstanding zonal president award, Rtn. Chuck, Rtn. Deepak, Rtn. Kalpana and Rtn. Indramani were the other awardees.
- The elusive and the very sought after - global grant, which would bring a huge change in the lives of 500+ children, has finally been approved. ADG Shoy and her team pursued this relentlessly, for a long time, refusing to give up. Their perseverance and hard work finally paid off.
- All the regular weekly meetings (RWM) for the month were conducted on designated days and the regular issues and working of the club were discussed in terms of repairs and maintenance works, dustbin prototypes and all other issues that required attention. The first board meeting was conducted on 16th August, 2025 and was jointly hosted by Rtn. Amar and Rtn. Deepak. The minutes of the RWM were recorded, ascertained and circulated to all the members through WhatsApp.
- The Club handed over digital portraits in the form of birthday greetings to its members celebrating their birthdays in August.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rtn. Shiromani - 5th Sept

Rtn Robin - 18th Sept

August birthday cards

