



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong

Rotary Club of Shillong honoured outstanding Teachers with Nation Builder Award

Five distinguished teachers of Shillong based schools were honoured for their contributions to the cause of education, with the Rotary Nation Builder Award-2025 in a glittering function organised in their honour on the eve of Teachers Day on 5th September 2025. The felicitated awardees included Ms. Chanda Bhattacharjee from Laban Girls Higher Secondary School, Ms Jyotirupa Gogoi from Sishu Mandir Secondary School, Ms. Jacinta Nongkynrih from Tender Care School, Ms. Sunita Arora from Step By Step School and Ms Papori Bordoloi from Hill Crest Higher Secondary School.



From classrooms to paddy fields

Who says learning only happens in classrooms? With rolled-up pants and sleeves, and eyes wide with curiosity, a group of government school students in Gendehalli village in Belur district, Karnataka, traded their school desks for a day in the paddy fields, thanks to a unique initiative by the Rotary Club of Coffeeland Chikkamagaluru, RID 3182.

"We designed the programme to introduce children to the joys and challenges of farming, help them appreciate the hard work of farmers and foster a deeper connection with nature and food sources," said Sudha H D, the club's Vocational Services director. She led a team of 36 students and 37 Rotarians and Anns to Aldur Pura, a lush, scenic hamlet, 15km from Chikkamagaluru for this immersive learning programme.



The farmers were happy to teach their enthusiastic guests the art of cultivation. The children and adults stepped barefoot into the slushy fields, thrilled to plant their first rice saplings under the open sky.

"I have watched and enjoyed such scenes only in movies, but when I had this first-hand experience I realised how difficult it is to work in the fields under the scorching sun, with my feet and hands soiled with slush. I truly appreciate our farmers; my friends and I have resolved not to waste food hereafter. We now understand the hard work that goes into the making of each grain of rice," said Vani Gowda, a Class 7 student.

Club secretary M Anand briefed the team about the ancient roots of paddy cultivation in Asia, and its crucial role in India's food

(Continued on back page)



District Awards won by Rotary Club of Shillong for the RY 2024-25

2nd Rank in total TRF contribution in 24-25, Club excellence award, Gift of Life, 1st rank in endowment fund contribution, 5th in polio fund giving, Club bulletin-Harmony, Magicians of Rotary family award to Kovidh Bajoria for authoring 3 books, Dr. Debashish Das for Endowment fund, Rtn Arandati Paul as DEI Chair, Rtn Amit Sharma for Outstanding Zonal Foundation Chair. Acknowledgement to DG 2025-26, Rtn (Dr) K.S. Elangbam with his spouse Dr Berlyda for their services and for pivotal support in Polio and as Polio Plus Fellow, 35th year district pool endowment 24-25 and as Member of Polio Plus society.



From classrooms to paddy field

(Continued from front page)

security. He spoke about the challenges faced by farmers, from climate change to wild animal intrusions. "Our aim was to build respect among the young minds for agriculture as a noble and vital vocation, and understand the value of food that comes to their table," he says.

At noon, the guests were served authentic Malnad cuisine, specially prepared by Sudha and Ann Shreya Nagesh. The meal was served under a canopy of trees in the village. "We enjoyed the food and the ambience. It felt like we had time-travelled to a different era," said Vani.

Club president Nagesh Kenjige and past assistant governor B K Gurumurthy extended full support to the initiative.

Sudha, a government school teacher, has plans to extend the programme further. Over the coming months, she hopes to introduce students to coffee and pepper cultivation, the region's signature crops, and also offer them a behind-the-scenes look at the making of Channapatna toys and the working of a printing press. "Sometimes the best way to learn is not from a textbook, but from the land itself," she smiled.

(Source: Rotary News- By Jaishree)

"Opportunities"

RI ZONE 6 TRF SYMPOSIUM

SILIGURI

LIMITED SEATS

Registration Slabs

Single

₹3,600 - Till 7th Sep

₹4,100 - 8th to 13th Sep

₹4,600 - 14th till Registration Closes

Couple

₹6,600 - Till 7th Sep

₹7,600 - 8th to 13th Sep

₹8,600 - 14th Sep till Registration Closes

Register Through

<https://digital3240.rotaryindia.org/>

Venue Hotel COURTAYARD Marriott

₹6,720 for Single Occupancy

₹7,280 for Double Occupancy

Hotel Rates are per night with Breakfast & Taxes

SEPTEMBER
19

Rotary TRF symposium in September 2025