



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



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Peace through education

Francesco Arezzo, President, Rotary International

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve. Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalised youth. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace. This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organisations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks or mentoring students, your actions matter. Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood programme we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century. Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege. Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality. Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.



Construction on progress of the Outdoor Gymnasium Sponsored by Rotary Club Shillong at Saitsohpen.

Food wastage in the world

- There is enough food produced in the world to feed everyone.
- One third of all food produced — around 1.3 billion tonnes — is lost or wasted, costing the global economy close to \$940 billion a year.
- Up to 10 per cent of global greenhouse gases comes from food that is produced, but not eaten.
- If food waste was a country, it would be the third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the US and China.
- Eliminating global food waste would save 4.4 million tonnes of CO2 a year, the equivalent of taking one in four cars off the road.
- 1 in 9 people do not have enough food to eat, that means 793 million undernourished people.
- A quarter of the food currently lost or wasted could feed 870 million hungry people.
- Almost half of all fruit and vegetables produced are wasted (that's 3.7 trillion apples).
- Throwing away one burger wastes the same amount of water as a 90-minute shower!



"Rotary members at the Health Camp at Mawkarshiang".

Let's say YES to 1:2:3

Rtn. M Muruganandam, RI Director, 2025-27

Friends, Rotary is, at its heart, a family of members. This is where everything begins. When our membership is strong, our projects, contributions and service to communities becomes stronger and more impactful. I often picture Rotary as a magnificent chariot, the wheels of which are our members. Strong wheels make the chariot run smoothly; but if the wheels are weak, the journey slows down. That is why membership must always remain our first priority. In the third month of this Rotary year, let's embrace a simple but powerful idea: Say YES to 1:2:3. For every 1 Rotarian, let's engage 2 Rotaractors and 3 Interactors with our clubs. When we inspire young people today, they will see Rotary as their natural next step tomorrow. This is how we ensure sustainability, create continuity, and keep our movement full of energy and life. Let's step back and look at the bigger picture. India today is the second largest Rotary country in the world. That is something to be proud of! But we can't stop here; we have to move forward. If each of our 4,800+ clubs simply brings in one new member every alternate month, that is six members in a year. Multiply that, and together we will welcome 28,800 new Rotarians this year alone. This way, our four zones will cross a historic milestone — 2 lakh members by 2025-26 and, and 2.25 lakh by 2026-27. Such a powerful message to the Rotary world on the strength and unity of India's Rotarians!

This RAG analysis will tell us where we stand today and help leaders to plan for the future. • Red zone: clubs with fewer than 25 members • Amber zone: clubs with 25-50 members • Green zone: clubs with 50+ members • Super Green: clubs with 75+ members I urge every club president, district governor, regional and zonal leader to pledge to hand over the leadership baton to your successor after scaling at least one zone. When you show positive growth and better numbers, that is a clear, measurable and lasting legacy you can be proud of. Also, while focusing on recruiting new members, we must also work equally hard on retaining existing members. Every club and district is responsible for making Rotary meaningful to its members. When people feel connected, when they see their contributions creating real change, they stay. When our youth experience the joy of service through Rotaract and Interact, they see Rotary as their future. And when our clubs remain strong and vibrant, our impact on society multiplies many times over. So friends, let's join hands and hearts to make this happen. Let's keep the Rotary wheel strong, steady and turning true. Say YES to 1:2:3. Say YES to growth. Say YES to Rotary.



Health Camp organised by Rotary Club of Shillong in collaboration with NEIGHRIMS, Shillong on 24th September 2025 at Umroh Community Hall, Mawkarshiang.



GREETINGS

Rtn. Rohit Bajoria celebrates his birthday on 27th September

Rtn. Shyam Singhania celebrates his birthday on 28th September

Rotary Club of Shillong wishes you both many happy returns of the day.

Team Harmony greets members of Rotary Club Shillong and their family on this festive occasion.

May the divine blessings and good wishes be forever with you all