

Rotary  
RID 3240



# HARMONY

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



Francesco Arezzo  
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam  
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das  
President, Rotary Club of Shillong

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER / ROTARY CLUB OF SHILLONG

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The originally named "Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts & Culture" is now known as "Lariti International Centre for Performing Arts & Culture". The venue for our District 3240 Conference, January 2026.



Rotary Conference is not for entertainment only;  
It is an investment in our leadership.  
Empty chairs don't reflect busyness-  
they reflect lost learning.

Shopping & sightseeing can wait, Inspiration can not.  
Those who believe "there's nothing new" forget that Rotary  
evolves every day.

Enjoy Dist conference by staying in the hall.

*Sukhminder Dhanj*



## PRATIDHWANI EVENT SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 9<sup>th</sup> 2026**

12:00 noon onwards  
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
2:00 pm  
MARCH PAST  
3:00 pm  
INAUGURAL SESSION  
4:15 to 4:30 pm  
HIGH TEA  
4:30 pm  
1ST PLENARY SESSION  
7:00 pm  
CULTURAL PROGRAM, FELLOWSHIP AND DINNER



## PRATIDHWANI EVENT SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> 2026**

10:00 am  
2ND PLENARY SESSION  
1:00 to 2:00 pm  
LUNCH  
2:00 pm  
3RD PLENARY SESSION AND BUSINESS SESSION  
4:00 pm to 4:30  
HIGH TEA  
4:30 pm to 7:00pm  
4TH PLENARY SESSION  
7:00 pm onwards  
CULTURAL PROGRAM, FELLOWSHIP AND DINNER



## PRATIDHWANI EVENT SCHEDULE

**JANUARY 11<sup>th</sup> 2026**

10:00 am  
5TH PLENARY SESSION  
12:00 noon  
VALEDICTORY SESSION  
1:00 PM  
LUNCH



## PRATIDHWANI 2026 ANAND RANGANATHAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
VENUE: LARITI, SHILLONG

9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Anand Ranganathan, renowned scientist, author, and public thinker, brings a sharp blend of science, society, and unapologetic truth to the Pratidhwani 2026 stage.



"Clear blue sky, Single digit AQI, Chill of the morning, Warmth of the sun, Mesmerizing venue, Great vibes, Kindred spirits, An Elite Roster of Orators, A Coalition of Service Leaders, Gourmet Hospitality, Fellowship, All of these and much more..."

Message from District Secretary General,  
Rtn. Amit Sharma for the District  
Conference, 9th to 11th January 2026 held at  
Lariti Centre for Performing Arts,  
Mawkasiang, Meghalaya

A powerful convergence of ideas, insight, and innovation awaits at Pratidhwani 2026 at LARITI, Shillong from 9th-11th January 2026. Our esteemed keynote speaker takes the stage to deliver a thought-provoking session blending science, society, and truth. A symphony of nature and knowledge (Source: Rtn. Pradeep Pillai).



## Japan, India: A study in contrast

**A**fter our trip to Japan, many people were curious to know what struck my wife and me the most about Japan. My wife is way too diplomatic to answer such direct questions. But I have no such inhibitions and quickly replied, “Speed breakers. There are none in Japan whereas here, even in a small community like where I live, there are 8 in the perimeter road of 800 metres.” My response was prompted by a bump on my head because of an unmarked speed breaker. So I said what was uppermost in my mind.

The thing is it's not as if the place where we live is full of jungles. Not by any reckoning. It might have been, when journalists were in the majority. It is, after all, a complex built by media persons. But not any longer. We now have some highly educated non-media people living in our housing complex. But despite that we need a speed breaker every 100 metres. Likewise with dog excreta. True, that in that respect, Japan isn't unique. Europe and most other countries are the same. But in India it's the “love my dog, and love its poop as well” attitude. So if you are driving in our housing colony you have to deal with the speed breakers. And if you are walking, you have to deal with the dog poop. It's best to stay at home.

One other major difference is walking. The Japanese walk three or four km a day and not because someone has asked them to walk 10,000 steps a day. It's because there's very little parking space and they have an absolutely marvellous subway system. In India, however, we take the car or motorbike to go a couple of hundred yards. I asked a neighbour's son about this one day. He said walking was boring. “Boring? What about that earphone you wear all the time?” I asked. “Uncle,” he said, “now you are being boring”. There wouldn't be a single Japanese person who would say that to a senior citizen — and believe me I am very senior, nearly 75 years old.

We saw something else in Japan that you don't get to see in India — the tendency to defer to others, what in old Lucknow was called the “pehle aap” Tehzeeb (politeness), or way, even if it meant huge inconvenience for you. The Japanese take politeness to an extreme unheard of anywhere else. This is in sharp contrast to India. I recall once how on a train in our lovely and polite country two young louts had placed their suitcases about six feet in either direction above their own seats. This deprived at least 15 passengers of space on the overhead racks. I was one of them. But when I protested, they asked me if my father had bought the train. In Hindi, of course, in which it sounds much better. It was only my wife's intervention that prevented fisticuffs.

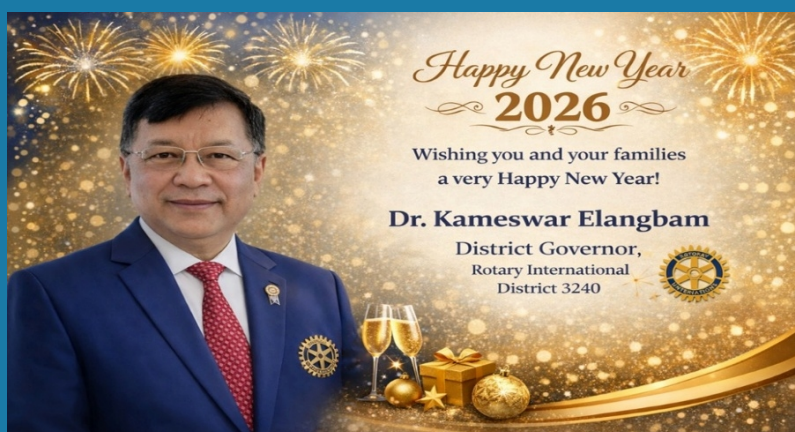
Anything else, asked my interlocutor. “Well,” I said, “dustbins. There are hardly any in Japan. India and Japan are identical in that respect.” The reasons are different, of course. There, people don't litter at all. Never. If they have something to throw, they put it into their pockets and take it to their home dustbin. Here we simply steal the dustbins which is why no dustbins are seen here. Hence India-Japan bhai, bhai. (*Source: TCA Srinivasa Raghavan*)

### 55 Interact clubs installed

Marking World Interact Day on Nov 5, RC Chandausi Lakshya, RID 3100, installed 55 new Interact clubs, “one of the district's largest single-day youth expansions,” said club president Rtn. Ankit Varshney.

### Dialysis unit donated

Under a CSR initiative in association with Aptus Value Housing Finance India, RC Anna Nagar Madras, RID 3234, dedicated a Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) dialysis unit to the Stanley Government Medical College and Hospital, Chennai. Valued at ₹20 lakh, the unit will provide renal support to critically ill ICU patients and is estimated to benefit over 1,000 patients annually.



### GREETINGS

*Rtn. David Umdor celebrates his birthday on 10th January. Members of the Rotary Club of Shillong wish him many happy returns of the day.*