



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong



Celebration of International Women`s Day in the club, commemorated on 13th March 2026



Rotary Club of Shillong UNITE FOR GOOD
ROTARY CLUB OF SHILLONG
Proudly Honours

Mrs. Urmila Kapur
A true trailblazer of industry. In 1966, alongside her husband, she founded the region's first bonded warehouse, becoming the first woman entrepreneur in the liquor business from Northeast India. Her courage to break gender barriers and her enduring business acumen continue to inspire generations of aspiring professionals and entrepreneurs.

Rtn. Chandana Das President 2025-26
Rtn. Ashim Kr Das Secretary 2025-26
Dated: 13 March, 2026

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Mrs. Rashi Vaswani
A visionary entrepreneur. Pioneered Shillong's culinary landscape by introducing its first authentic coffee café culture, gourmet breads, and bespoke cakes. Beyond her professional success, she is a dedicated community pillar - an active Inner Wheel Club member and a former contributor to TALENTS and LIONS. Her committed service to the Sindh Community remains an inspiration to all.

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Mrs. Binu Hazarika
A distinguished advocate and prolific literary voice. Mrs. Hazarika masterfully balances the rigors of the law with the evocative soul of a storyteller. Through her insightful columns and dedicated social activism, she remains a steadfast champion for the marginalized. A multifaceted author who has published books in Assamese culture & literature. We honor her multifaceted contributions to justice, literature, and the tireless service of humanity.

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Dr. Pynsklin Syiemiong
For her extraordinary dual contribution as a scholar and a cultural ambassador. An esteemed Assistant Professor of English, she enriches minds with intellectual rigor, while her south voice most joyfully showcased in the spotted anthem "Hoi Hoi (Choi Choi)" from the movie Rock On 2 has brought the vibrant rhythms of the Khasi hills to the global stage. We salute her for harmonizing academic excellence with the power of music to unite and inspire.

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Delina Khongdup
A distinguished advocate and tireless social activist. Through her long-term tenure with the National Commission for Women, she championed justice and gender equality at the highest levels. We salute her unwavering dedication to empowering tribal communities and her transformative leadership within civil society, fostering a more equitable and inclusive India.

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Five eminent women personalities of the city, namely, Mrs. Urmila Kapur, Ms. Rashi Vaswani, Mrs. Binu Hazarika, Dr. Pynsklin Syiemiong and Ms. Delina Khongdup, were felicitated for their contributions in different fields for the benefit of the society at large. Besides them, lady members of the Rotary Club of Shillong were also acknowledged for the societal contributions.

At 99, active in Rotary

At 99, when most people step away from public life, Dr T S Chhabra still comes to his Rotary meetings in Coonoor, Nilgiris. The veteran dentist, Army officer and Rotarian, represents a generation for whom service was not a slogan, but a way of life. With 57 years in Rotary and nearly a century of lived experience behind him, he is one of the oldest and most respected members of the Rotary Club of Nilgiris, RID 3203. Born in undivided India, Chhabra's formative years were shaped by India's Freedom movement. Between 1944 and 1947, while studying dentistry in Lahore, he was swept up by the patriotic fervour of young Indians demanding independence. "We were fired and inspired," he recalls. He participated actively in protests and demonstrations against the British rule. The Partition of 1947 uprooted his family. Like millions of others, they migrated to independent India as refugees. He resumed his education at Bombay's J J Hospital and completed his dental studies in 1948. A few months later, in January 1949, the Indian Army invited qualified dentists to join as commissioned officers. Chhabra applied immediately. He was one of the first dentists to be commissioned into the Indian Army's Dental Corps after Independence, a distinction he wears lightly, but proudly. For two decades, he served in uniform, learning lessons that stayed with him long after retirement. His postings included two stints at the Military Hospital in Wellington, Nilgiris, first as a Major and later as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1966-67, he was deputed to the Gaza Strip on a United Nations assignment during a period of conflict, "an experience that broadened my worldview and deepened my commitment to humanitarian service. The Army taught me discipline, loyalty and camaraderie. We came from all over the country, without divisions of caste or religion. We were one extended family," he recalls. After taking premature retirement in 1969, Chhabra chose to settle in Coonoor. Impressed by the fellowship and service ethos of the Rotary Club of Nilgiris, he accepted membership in September 1969. "I found that Rotary rests on two strong pillars — service and fellowship. That is what drew me in," he recalls. More than five decades later, those pillars continue to support him. Today, he describes Rotary as his "extended family," a source of emotional and physical strength, especially in his sunset years. He attends meetings regularly, often accompanied by his daughter Sunaina, who joined Rotary after her mother's passing. Service, for the Chhabra family, has always been a shared legacy. His wife Aruna was a founder secretary of Inner Wheel in the early 1970s.

(Source: Rotary News)

Service transcends barriers

The spirit of service transcends caste, religion, discrimination, time and boundaries as it is a noble and sacred act, said RI director M Muruganandam, speaking at the charter presentation of a new club — RC Salem Divine Hearts — exclusively made up of disabled members. He noted that by joining Rotary, the charter members "have demonstrated to the world that we too can render impactful service to society." Muruganandam praised the efforts of AG K Vasumathi, and Kamaraj Pillai, president of the sponsoring club, RC Salem Gymkhana, its secretary Suresh Babu and members, for coming together to form a first-of-its-kind club in RI District 2982. In his address, DG P Sivasundaram said the charter installation event of the club reflected the theme 'Ability beyond Disability' and the new club is a towering example of Rotary's DEI principles. P Manikandan was installed as charter president, Zakir Hussan as secretary and C Vijayakumar as treasurer. The new club has 16 charter members. The event was attended by DGND S Suresh Kumar, PDGs R Govindarajan, Dharmesh Patel, DRFC M Srinivasan, District membership chair Rajesh, service projects chair Gowri Shankar, and Genesis Foundation chairman Karlin Ebe, a Rotarian. *(Source: Rotary News)*



A dance record at a Vellore school, Tamil Nadu

RI District 3231 entered into the Oscars Book of Records for organising 1,105 children to perform Bharatanatyam non-stop for 15 minutes. The event was conducted at the VVNM Senior Secondary School, Vellore, to promote the UNDP's Sustainable Development Goal-3. This goal "ensures healthy lives and promotes well-being" in the world, and is aligned with RI's seven areas of focus. Addressing the gathering, DG V Suresh said "this record symbolises the power of Rotary's commitment to youth development and cultural preservation." The dance performance was witnessed by Oscars Book of Records coordinator R Bhuvaneshwari, past governors and office bearers of RID 3231.