



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong



Four Rotaractors from Mumbai including a DRR, who were on a visit to Shillong were felicitated by RC Shillong on 20th March 2026.

Creating schooling opportunity for street children *Rasheeda Bhagat*

Children living on the streets is not a novel phenomenon in several Indian cities and Bhubaneswar is no exception. Here a large number of children live in street situations across railway station areas, footpaths and near temples and market places. "A common job of these children is ragpicking, in which boys and girls as young as six years old sift through garbage in order to collect recyclable material. If they live with their parents on the streets, at least some food is assured. If not, their next meal is not guaranteed. When personal health and hygiene cannot be assured, education is a remote dream. These children are at high risk of getting addicted to substance abuse and serious illness," says S Harichandan, past president of the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar, RID 3262.

With any form of structured or regular education remaining a pipedream for such children, they are exposed and vulnerable to various forms of exploitation and abuse. As they live in small groups, it is difficult to start a formal education programme for them, leaving them exposed to total absence of any kind of education, he says.

To make at least a dent in this huge problem and make a difference to some of these unfortunate children, the Ruchika Social Service Organisation (RSSO) was founded in 2010 by a visionary educationist, late Inderjit Khurana, who was affectionately referred to as Mama by students, and the Ruchika School was set up for such underprivileged children. After her passing, the work was continued by Dr Benudhar Senapati as the CEO of RSSO, who conceptualised the idea of School on Wheels. With the India Tourism Development Corporation providing three battery-operated electric rickshaws, known as Totos in Odisha, in 2021 Dr Senapati approached Harichandan, who was then RC Bhubaneswar president, seeking Rotary's help to take this project forward.

The club president discussed the project with members, got a very positive response and confirmed the partnership. "After a lot of brainstorming between Ruchika representatives and us, we set up an operational budget, and discussed the financial implications of the services that can be provided to these street children. Our past president and director of community services, the late Dr S K Ray, played an instrumental role. The club decided to spend ₹1.5 lakh and an MoU was signed between Ruchika and Rotary in August 2021, and the Inner Wheel members also came on board," he says.

The first Rotary School on Wheels under the chairmanship of Ray came into existence and the Inner Wheel Club of Bhubaneswar joined hands as partners to provide food ration throughout the year. The project was inaugurated on Teachers' Day in 2021 by the then RID 3262 DG Santanu Kumar Pani. (Source: Rotary News)



President, Rtn. Chandana Das; Secretary Rtn (Dr.) Ashim Kumar Das and Rtn. Shyam Singhania at Composite Regional Centre for Skill Development, rehabilitation & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan). RC Shillong had contributed sewing machines to the centre for the benefit of the needy.

Peace is built quietly

(Rtn K P Nagesh, RI Director 2025-27)

The recently concluded International Assembly is a powerful reminder of what Rotary truly represents. When Rotarians from every corner of the world come together, the conversations may differ, the contexts may vary, but the purpose is unmistakably shared. Across continents and cultures, Rotary continues to be a force that builds stability, trust and hope — often quietly, and almost always without fanfare.

February, as peace building and conflict resolution month, invites us to reflect on a truth we do not speak about often enough: peace is rarely created in one defining moment. It is built patiently, through everyday actions that reduce inequality, restore dignity and create opportunity. When a community gains access to healthcare, when education replaces exclusion, when livelihoods bring self-worth, and when young people are given direction instead of despair, peace takes root. Rotary's grassroots projects — small or large, yet deep in intent — have been doing exactly this for decades.

From an international perspective, what stands out is how consistently Rotarians “punch above their weight.” Our clubs may not always command headlines, but their impact is tangible and enduring. These local efforts, repeated thousands of times across communities, quietly strengthen the social fabric — first at the grassroots, then across regions and nations. It is a contribution to peace that deserves greater recognition, even as it remains rooted in humility.

The International Assembly also offered a glimpse into the direction Rotary is shaping for the future. The Presidential message for 2026–27 speaks of creating lasting impact — a message that resonates strongly with what we are already doing today. Preparing our clubs for the future does not require dramatic change; it requires focus. Focus on meaningful service, on continuity rather than one-off efforts, on projects that are measurable, scalable and rooted in real community needs. What we begin now, we will carry forward with greater strength in the years ahead.

Peace is also inseparable from health, and Rotary's fight against polio remains one of the world's most powerful examples of collective action for peace and humanity. As we edge closer to eradication, our responsibility does not diminish; it intensifies. Every contribution to PolioPlus is amplified through the extraordinary 2-for-1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, turning generosity into exponential impact. Supporting this cause is not just about ending a disease; it is about keeping a promise the world made together.

As we move through the remaining months of this Rotary year, the way forward is clear. To sustain and multiply our impact, we must grow our membership with care, engage our communities with sincerity, and invite stakeholders to be partners in our journey. Growth is not about numbers alone; it is about how people feel when they walk into a Rotary meeting, and whether they see purpose, warmth and relevance in what we do.

Rotary's story is one of quiet leadership and enduring service. If we continue to validate our work through results, tell our story with authenticity, and stay committed to high-impact service, we will not only strengthen Rotary; we will help build more peaceful, resilient communities.

And that, surely, is Rotary at its very best.

GREETINGS

Rtn. Akash Chirania celebrates his birthday on 28th March, Rtn. Ajay Gupta celebrates his birthday on 30th March
Members of Rotary Club of Shillong wish you both many happy returns of the day !!