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## Felicitation of IPP Rtn Amit Saraf and his spouse Ann Anjana



Immediate Past President Rtn Amit Saraf was given a befitting Felicitation by the Rotary Club of Shillong for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the club and Rotary in general. President of the club, Rtn. Chandana Das spoke high of spoke high apprised the house that she will try to keep up the bench mark set by Rtn. Amit Saraf. Every single member of the club while acknowledging the work done by IPP Rtn. Amit Saraf applauded him for his uniqueness and always smiling attitude which became the crowd puller to the club meetings and programmes. Special mention was made of the guest lectures organised during his tenure which were unique in the their own way. Rtn. Shyam Singhania presented a memento on behalf of the club and President Rtn. Chandana Das felicitated Ann Anajana and thanked her for all the support she provided to IPP when he had to devote extra time and energy to execute club activities.

## PolioPlus and Rotary

**Polio eradication is Rotary's top philanthropic priority.** In 1985, Rotary International promised the children of the world that they would eradicate Polio from the planet. In 1988, when Rotary began working with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, there were more than 350,000 polio cases in over 125 countries. Since then, more than 3 billion children have been immunized against polio, and the incidence of polio has decreased 99.9%. Rotary International is the spearheading member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative and is the largest private sector donor. It has contributed millions to the polio eradication activities in 122 countries. In addition, tens of thousands of Rotarians have partnered with their national ministries of health, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and with health providers at the grassroots level in thousands of communities.



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## PolioPlus and Rotary

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Rotary International has been a key partner in the global effort to eradicate polio, launching its PolioPlus program in 1985 and later becoming a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in 1988. Through these initiatives, Rotary has contributed over \$2.4 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect billions of children from this paralyzing disease.

The roots of Rotary's polio eradication efforts started on 29 September 1979, when volunteers administered drops of oral polio vaccine to children at a health center in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, Philippines. The event in metropolitan Manila was arranged and attended by Rotarians and delegates from the Philippine Ministry of Health.

When James L. Bomar Jr., then RI president, put the first drops of vaccine into a child's mouth, he ceremonially launched the Philippine poliomyelitis immunization effort. Rotary's first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant project was underway.

Bomar and Enrique M. Garcia, the country's minister of health, had earlier signed an agreement committing Rotary International and the government of the Philippines to a joint multiyear effort to immunize about 6 million children against polio, at a cost of about \$760,000.

In a 1993 interview, Bomar reminisced about the trip. He recalled how the brother of one of the children he had immunized tugged on his pant leg to get his attention and said, "Thank you, thank you, Rotary."

The project's success led Rotary to make polio eradication a top priority. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and was a founding member of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Through decades of commitment and work by Rotary and our partners, more than 2.5 billion children have received the oral polio vaccine.

## Double-Decker Root Bridge of Meghalaya: A case of Umshiang Bridge

Umshiang Double-Decker Root Bridge is a living root bridge in Meghalaya, India. There is also a waterfall nearby. Due to tourism, the health of the root bridge has degraded (*The Indian Express*, 24 November 2019). Meghalaya



presented the root bridge at its 70th Republic Day ceremony. A replica of the bridge has been made in Nongriat in Cherrapunji to present the indigenous peoples' craft of building bridges from the secondary roots of trees. These living bridges are grown from a special type of rubber tree. It is a unique and impressive structure crafted from the aerial roots of the Indian rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*). As the roots grow, the strength of the bridge increases. The root bridges are honoured as the Tajmahal of Meghalaya. They take around 25 years to grow and operate, but can carry the weight of 50 people and go on functioning for 500 years (*The Independent*, 22 October 2011). However, the beyond capacity flow of visitors to have a glimpse and experience of this unique and traditional bridge, has been posing great threat to the very resilience and sustenance of the "Biological Bridge".

## Goal of Rotary International

The self-declared mission of Rotary, as stated on its website, is to "provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders".

Rotary International is a non-political and non-religious organization.

## Greetings!!

**Rtn. Deeya Rathore and Mr Amar Rathore** celebrated their anniversary on 22nd July. Rotary Club of Shillong extends its warmest greetings to you both.

**Rtn. Ashok Goenka** celebrates his birthday on 29th July. The club wishes you many many happy returns of the day.