



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong

RI President on Rotaractors during his visit to India

How can we attract younger members to Rotary? Take the example of Europe; very often we remain isolated in Rotary. We create Rotaract clubs and then abandon them. We don't want to mix with them, because they are too young. But we have to work together with them. Why don't they become Rotarians? Because they don't believe in Rotary. They don't believe in us, because we don't work together and we don't know each other. We can have more Rotaractors become Rotarians if we admire and understand each other, and work together. We must ensure that they work with us in every project and should be involved much more than is happening today. And the same is true of Interactors.

For instance, I'm told I will be meeting 2,000 Rotaractors tomorrow; imagine this many Rotaractors in one room! We don't even have this many Rotaractors all over Europe and here you have them in one room. That's an incredible number! But at the same time, you have to involve them and make them feel a part of Rotary. To elevate Rotaract is not enough, we have to engage them and work together.

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RI President's most favourite city in the world: He says, Naples; it is such a wonderful city... it's a big city, not so rich, a bit abandoned but its beauty is the ancient vibe it has... the atmosphere. Also, the people are very friendly and likeable. The food here is so good; the pizza was born here and the music in Naples is outstanding. The beauty of Italy is that even in a city no one knows, you can find a beautiful church! The beauty is spread all over the country... it is not concentrated, like for example, in France, it is concentrated in Paris.



The quantum of service by Rotary in India highest in the world: RI President

Coming to Rotary in India and the kind of community service projects that Rotarians do here, Arezzo says, "The good thing, the very good thing, is what we saw earlier today... the number of projects that were launched is unbelievable and in so many different fields. We saw 100 pink autos for women... through this you are giving 100 women the opportunity to earn and maintain their livelihood. It was an excellent project and so moving. In the House of Friendship there were so many projects on health, water, sanitation. The quantum of service that Rotarians in India do is probably the highest in the world. It is amazing."

The other thing is the money the Rotarians in India give to The Rotary Foundation; it is huge. "Yesterday we had 29 new AKS members; that is amazing and probably possible in the US. But this is impossible in other parts of the world. In Europe it is absolutely impossible. So that is great. It is a vibrant Rotary in India with a lot of good projects, a lot of enthusiasm and passion among the Rotarians."

What about the negative aspects the last few RI Presidents have been talking about? "What is bad in India? In some places Rotarians are fighting each other. When we are in a Board meeting, we receive a lot of complaints about elections. In Evanston, if 10 complaints come, eight are from India. This is a problem. The level of internal fighting in Rotary in India is something that we have to find a way to reduce. It is a pity, because the Rotarians here are so active, enthusiastic and passionate."

Asked for a possible solution, Arezzo shrugs and says, "I don't know. It is not easy to find a solution. It is a cultural problem and we have to work on the Rotarians to convince them that there is room for everybody. If you don't become a club president or governor this year, you can wait. It is not such a big problem. But it is not easy to find a solution. The only way is to talk to the Rotarians and convince them!" (Source Rotary News: Rasheeda Bhagat)

Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Shillong completes three months course on Tailoring & Sewing:

Trainees benefited from the Training Course organised by Gurdwara, Sri Guru Singh Sabha Shillong utilising the sewing machines donated by Rotary Club of Shillong and Inner Wheel Club of Shillong. The trainees on completing the course have become trained to take up independent work for earning their livelihood. This tailoring & sewing course of three months duration started in July 2025 completed in September 2025. The number of participants who were enrolled and successfully completed the course were 20 in numbers.

Rotary Club of Shillong expresses its gratitude to Sri Guru Singh Sabha Shillong for this commendable service to the needy.



Only when we are no longer afraid, do we begin to live: Dorothy Thompson

GREETINGS

Rtn. (Dr.) Debashish Das and Anne (Dr.) Charis celebrated their anniversary on 9th October.

Rtn. Sunil Arora celebrates his birthday on 15th October.

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