



Francesco Arezzo  
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam  
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das  
President, Rotary Club of Shillong



Rotary Day Celebration by Rotary Club of Shillong on 20th Feb 2026 at Club premises.



## Peace is built quietly; Rtn. KP 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 selfworth, 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.



President Elect, Rtn. Osmand Nongbri with other PEs from Shillong at PELS. Congratulations PE!!

## RC Gangtok makes a bio-toilet at 13,000ft!

Members of the Rotary Club of Gangtok, RID 3240, have pulled off an environment friendly coup in establishing a bio-toilet block at probably the highest altitude in the world. After a lot of planning and challenges in execution that dragged on over two years, a glistening new bio-toilet facility, with separate washrooms for men and women, has come up at Kupup town in East Sikkim, which is located about 65km from Gangtok. The altitude — a formidable 13,000ft! In September, in this beautiful and scenic town, one of the highest in the region and which boasts of breathtaking vistas of the renowned Elephant Lake, named for its elephant-like shape, Brigadier Jha from the Indian Army inaugurated the bio-toilet. Kupup, a difficult hilly terrain which has substantial army presence, also holds historical significance as a prominent trade point along the ancient Silk Route between India and Tibet. It is also home to the Baba Harbhajan Singh Shrine, where both soldiers and locals offer prayers. Explaining the genesis of this project, PDG Dr Yogesh Verma, a member of this club, said that this is a very fragile region environmentally and it is very difficult to have sanitary pipelines and other facilities required for conventional toilets. With its natural beauty and the shimmering waters of the Elephant Lake, it gets a large influx of tourists and “the Indian Army personnel we consulted while doing community assessment made a strong case for putting up a bio-toilet there.” The land for the toilet was provided by the Army, and the work was also done with support from the Army. The existing toilet was in a pathetic condition, had only two urinals and was being maintained very poorly. The new bio-toilet provided by the Rotarians at a cost of Rs 20 lakh has two sides, segregated for men and women and each side has three commodes, with urinals also provided in the men’s toilet. “The plumbers found it difficult to work in the challenging weather conditions and punishing temperatures of minus 5–10 degree Celsius.”

Applications for Rotary’s one year postgraduate diploma program at SIU will be open from 1 February – 15 May 2026. Visit [rotary.org/peace-fellowships](https://rotary.org/peace-fellowships) to learn more about Rotary Peace Fellowship programs and how to apply.

(Source: Rotary News)

“Let me share a thought from one of the greatest treasures of Tamil Literature - the Thirukkural. It says, Naraamalar -flowers without fragrance. The meaning is simple yet profound, even the most beautiful flower loses its essence without its scent. Similarly, no matter how much we achieve in “Rotary-if our work is not known, if our light does not reach others - it is like a flower without fragrance” By M Muruganandan.

“ We give to TRF to fulfil our promise of eradicating polio. The journey has been long and challenging, but today we are closer than ever to a polio-free world. This is the time to redouble our efforts. Because the End Polio Now campaign is not just about raising money; but it is about children receiving drops of vaccine across the world..... and ensuring that future generations of children will be free from polio forever” By Bharat Pandya.

“For generations, nature has nourished us with air, water, food energy and beauty. But our impact on earth has reached a point where gratitude must run into responsibility.... to value, protect and safeguard the fragile ecosystem” By C Basker, Past RI Director.

Contributed by **Rtn. S.L. Singhania**



Save the Date:  
Vocational Award

Prog  
2025-26

Date : 2nd March,  
2026

Venue : Shillong Club  
Residential

Time : 6:30 pm

## GREETINGS

*Rtn.(Dr.) A.K. Das and Anne Ajopa celebrate their anniversary on 27th February . Rtn. Abhishek Singhania & Anne Aditi celebrate their anniversary on 28th February. Rtn. Osmand E.J. Nongbri celebrates his birthday on 1st March.*

*Members of RC Shillong wish you all many happy returns of the day !!*