

VOL. 129

July, 2025

KHORLO

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Darjeeling

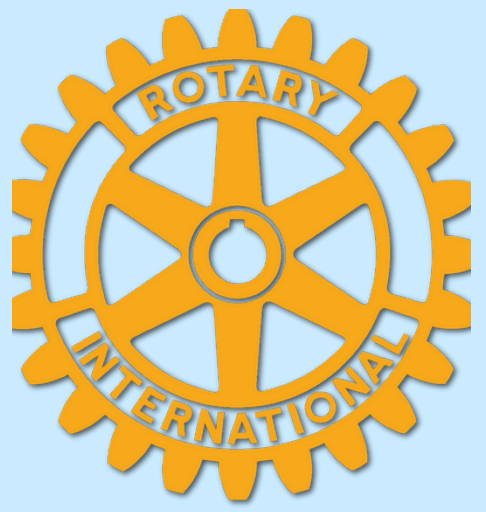


@rotaryclubofdarjeeling



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Rtn. Vivek Chettri

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

VP: Rtn. Shoyeta Chatterjee

PE: Rtn. Dhiresh Thapa

IPP: Rtn. Samir Singhal

Secretary: Rtn. Shiromani Syangden

Joint Secretary: Rtn. Amit Jain

Exe. Secretary: Rtn. Navin Thapa

Treasurer: Rtn. Sandeep Thirani

Joint Treasurer: Rtn. Rahul Jha

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Dir. Community Ser: Rtn. Tashi Pencho

Dir. Vocational Ser: Rtn. Rupesh Pradhan

Dir. New Generation: Rtn. Jit Pradhan

Dir. International Ser : Rtn. Pintoo Agarwal

Club's learning Facilitator: Rtn. Sunirmal Chakravarti

Foundation Chair: Rtn. Deepak Kr. Sharma

Membership: Rtn. Jorden Norbu

Administration: Rtn. Cheten Norbu Bhutia

Public Image: Rtn. Sankalp Lama

Sgt at Arms: Rtn. Dawa T Bhutia and Rtn. Bikash Singh



Thursday



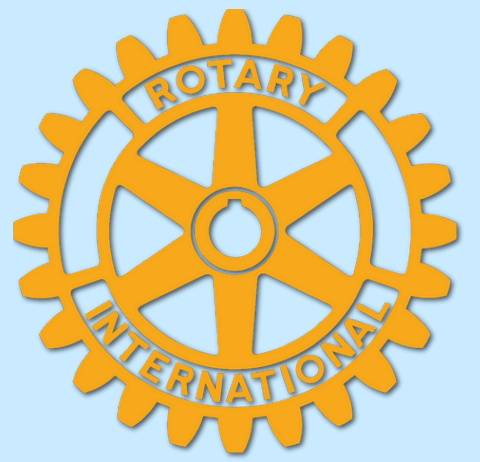
**We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.**



5:30p.m.



Khorlo



Khorlo- the wheel of life



I don't quite know how the RCD bulletin got its name, but for me, it resonates deeply with my buddhist upbringing. While I was growing up, I often saw my grandmother spinning her handheld khorlo with her prayer chants. As she grew more senile, the spins went faster and faster, as if she was in a hurry to do her bit and pray for all of us till her wheel of life stopped spinning. The core value of Rotary, which says “service over self”, is perhaps synonymous with what a khorlo does. It makes us aware of how transient we are, and our greatest contribution in life would be to help and serve those who are less fortunate than us.

We look forward to every new year with renewed hope and energy. The past few years in RCD have been impactful. The leaders at the helm were discerning personalities, guided by stalwarts and gentlemen of distinction. Rtn Vivek’s opening speech has already set the tone for the year ahead. This is a year where we go back to our roots, strengthen them and nurture them so that we branch out and expand our reach to the ones who need us the most.

The last decade has shown a phenomenal shift, be it in terms of technology or our way of life. And this is where the strength of Rotary lies, embracing the change but fortifying its values. RCD today is a juxtaposition of men and women, who value their voices yet are fuelled by a common desire to serve and contribute to the society that birthed them, housed them and built them, albeit with some fun along the way.

As I take on the mantle of the ‘editor’ from Rtn Rahul, I am filled with trepidation and self-doubt. Can I fill the shoes of my illustrious predecessors like Rtn Chuck, Rtn Robin and Rtn Rahul, who have penned their words and thoughts with such lucidity and clarity? Am I good enough to take this forward?

As I embark on this journey, I may try and err, fall and rise, but I will attempt to carry the message of the Rotary Club of Darjeeling through this bulletin in the days to come.

In Rotary,
Prativa
Editor



Thursday



We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.



5:30p.m.

The Road Ahead

Add a heading

Rtn. Shoyeta Chatterjee
Asst. Governor, Zone VIII
District 3240



My very first edition and I have featured Rtn Shoy. Why, many may ask? Because she is my friend? Not at all.

Rtn Shoyeta’s journey and growth in Rotary has been at a breakneck speed. She joined the Rotary Club of Darjeeling in March, 2021. Just a few months later, she had to take on the role of the Asst. Secretary because of certain challenges that cropped up then. She had little or no time to enjoy her first year as the role demanded her time and commitment, while she was still navigating her way through the functioning of the club. However, she performed her role with elan and soon made a mark as an invested Rotarian. In 2023-2024, she was already leading the club as the President, just two years after her induction,

Her commitment to Rotary is second to none. She has been appointed as the Asst. Governor for the year 2024-2025 and is already working on the upliftment and involvement of the clubs under her aegis.

In her words:

“I am truly invested in Rotary because this organization has provided me with a challenge every year. Be it learning about Rotary in 2021-22, planning and completing my year as President in 23-24 to now working for Global Grant and learning the ropes of Assistant Governor. Maybe I would get bored if Rotary stops challenging me but this organization has gifted me with people whose friendships go beyond meetings and projects. So one way or the other Rotary is an integral part of my life now. “

We are confident that she will continue to impress and inspire, and leave a mark in the district as a capable leader.

WHY ROTARY?

In the 69th Installation Night of the Rotary Club of Darjeeling, we inducted two new members into the RCD fold. Rtn. Kabya Lama and Rtn Vikram Rai. While they could have chosen any other club to join as they are both accomplished in their individual line of work, why did they choose to be with Rotary? Here is what they had to say:

Rtn. VIKRAM RAI



I am Vikram Rai, currently serving as an Assitant Professor for last 21 years in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling. I’m also the founder of the VikRun Foundation, through which I’ve tried to promote running culture, community service, and local entrepreneurship across the Darjeeling Hills.

Rotary has always been part of my life. My father, Shri Amar Singh Rai, is a Rotarian, and I was an active Rotaractor during my younger days. Those experiences left a lasting impact on me. Now, as I stand in a phase of life where I’ve gained some experience and perspective, I feel it’s time to give back meaningfully to the community that has shaped who I am.

Joining the Rotary Club of Darjeeling feels like coming full circle—an opportunity to reconnect with the values I grew up with and contribute with sincerity, purpose, and heart.

Rtn. KABYA LAMA



Born and raised in Kurseong, I recently got married and settled in Darjeeling. Stepping into this new chapter of my life as a Rotary member fills me with both excitement and gratitude. While embracing the responsibility of giving back to the community, I also look forward to fun-filled memories and knowing each one of you better.

Relocating to a new town comes with its fair share of challenges; it is almost a fresh start -finding comfort in the new surroundings, settling into the new routine, but most importantly, finding your people. When I shifted to Darjeeling, it was important that I find a community I could connect with. Quite unexpectedly, I found that connection over a dinner table.

One evening, my husband Pratik and I had gone out for dinner. In classic Darjeeling fashion, we inevitably ran into familiar faces. That evening, it happened to be Rtn Vivek, Rtn Shoy, and Rtn Naveen who generously invited us to join their table. Our conversation quickly turned into an engaging discussion about Rotary and what it is all about. That was my first informal introduction to the Rotary Club of Darjeeling, which eventually led me to be part of the club itself.

I began my career as a photojournalist in The Hindu, and even though life has taken me in different directions, the idea of capturing stories in the form of photographs has been my greatest passion. Over time, my professional life has taken a significant turn, which I've happily embraced. Now that I'm back to my roots, I have channelised my passion and I've pushed myself beyond limits to grow as an entrepreneur. I now work in garden landscaping and run my own plant based nursery in Kurseong. Recently, I've ventured into the hospitality industry as a full-time hotelier and with every step, I continue growing as a person and as an entrepreneur.

One of my main reasons for joining the RCD was the desire to be in a room full of like-minded individuals, where mutual respect transcends age, every voice valued and judgement left at the door.. The idea of fellowship, service and resourceful networking motivated me to join the rotary. It not only gives me a sense of purpose, but being a member here has introduced me to a circle of individuals who are passionate about service and are deeply rooted in community building. More than anything, it gives me a sense of belonging - knowing that I have the support, guidance and friendship of my fellow Rotarians is truly invaluable when you're building a new life in a new place. Lastly, I believe it is the spirit of fellowship that paved my way here, and that same spirit will guide me as I continue on this journey of service and friendship.

GLITZ, GLAMOUR AND GLIMPSES OF THE 69TH INSTALLATION NIGHT





Take a Guess?



- 1 I am often told that I speak the Queen's language better than most natives of the Queen's country. My road trips become the subject of discussion in Rotary meetings and beyond. Who am I?
2. A few members make fun of my dancing skills and accuse me of having two left feet. However, they will be dancing to my tunes this year. Who am I?
3. I have given this flavour of tea a complete twist. The brand that I created has nothing to do with tea. I am a close friend of 'he who cannot dance'. Who am I?
4. I am passionate about my students and teach them values and skills beyond academics through Interact. I am soon going to foray into Adult Literacy program of the club. Who am I?
5. I don many hats yet Rotary is my passion. I have seen the club's journey for thirty five years and counting. My rotary journey has come a full circle, with my son joining the club this year. Who am I?

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

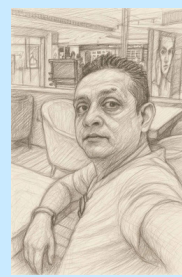
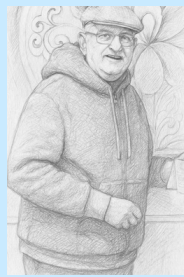
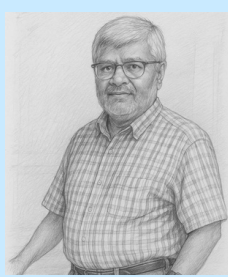
Rtn. Navin - 2nd Aug
Rtn Mukesh - 24th Aug
Rtn. Jit - 29th Aug

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

*Rtn. Ajaz & Anne Farrah -
31st Aug*

THE MONTH THAT WAS - JULY

- July is the month in which the rotary spirit runs high. RYLA- our commitment to youth and excellence calls for all hands on deck. The planning and execution of the event seeks contribution and participation from every member. And all meetings in July had a discussion on RYLA, which will be held from 1st August to 3rd August, 2025.
- July is also a month of new executive committees and boards in not just RCD but in all other clubs as well. Our AG, President, IPP and some members were seen attending installations of Interact clubs of NGHS and Gyanoday Niketan, Rotary club of Kurseong, Kalimpong and Himalayas and the Lions Club of Darjeeling. Besides the congratulatory speeches, our leaders were also seen taking to the dance floor, shaking their legs, some even with two left feet.
- Our government collaboration project was a CPR training for the staff of zoo, in the precinct of PNHZH - the home turf of our secretary Rtn. Shiromani. Rtn. Tashi conducted this life-saving skill session with good attendance on 10th July, 2025.
- The Assembly Meeting - the moodboard where visions and goals of the club are set for the year was held on 19th July, 2025 at RJ Resorts. Much happened, opinions flew across the table, an impressive line-up of projects got finalised and budget set for the upcoming year.
- All the regular weekly meetings (RWM) for the month were conducted on designated days and the regular issues and working of the club were discussed. Dustbin cover project, maintenance of signage at Bokshi Jhora, solution to the dilapidated state of vertical garden at the tower, opening of interact clubs were some of the important matters discussed in the meetings. The minutes of the meeting were recorded, ascertained and circulated to all members through WhatsApp.
- RWMs have become a whole lot entertaining with the introduction of ‘ Rotary Mindspin,’ by Rtn. Vivek, a weekly quiz in the club, where members are required to put on their thinking caps. Unfortunately, there are no trophies to be won.
- Many Rotarians celebrated their birthdays in July. Digital portraits of the members, in the form of birthday greetings were handed over to the birthday boys- Rtn. Tashi, Rtn. Chuck, Rtn. Vijay, Rtn. Deepak, Rtn. Kobit, Rtn. Poonam and Rtn. Shyamal.



JULY IN PICTURES

