

VOL. 135

January, 2026

KHORLO

Bulletin of Rotary Club of Darjeeling



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Rtn. Vivek Chettri

THE PRESIDENT AND HIS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025-2026

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Thursday



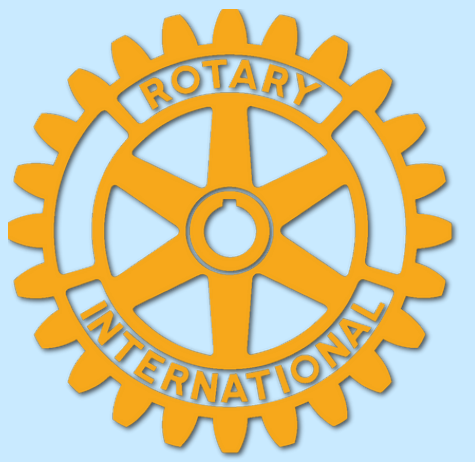
**We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.**



5:30p.m.



Khorlo



Food for thought ??



President Vivek gave a short speech in the district conference on- ‘why I am a rotarian’? While he did pay homage to the legacy of Rotary, he also raised a question on the District’s role in the natural calamity that claimed lives and livelihood in our hills and some parts of the foothills in last october.. While we pledge to help and aid the vision of the organisation on a larger scale, is it too much to ask when the calamities befall closer home?

I am sure the question didn’t sit easy and there could have been an uneasy shuffling in seats, the air could have gone a tad heavy and furtive glances could have been exchanged . I wish I was there to witness it all. But the speech hit me home. Vivek and I share a common birthplace. Where nature is bountiful, the air is crisp and fresh, sky azure but time , almost stands still. Legacies, while growing up, were not determined by education or jobs but more by clans and land. Questions were not raised even when ‘pakhureys’ toiled but the land owners' granaries ran full.

Perhaps , we were fortunate to have educated parents who send us to ‘English’ schools before we got caught in the snare of clans and lands. But most importantly, we learned to question , what didn’t sit right. Most of us grew up in an era, where children asking questions were frowned upon. As we grew up, we had to fit into the moulds set by society and gulp down questions that didn’t digest. In our efforts to fit in, we chipped here, shaved there and gradually turned into prototypes.

Perhaps , in the millions of dollars pledged by obscenely wealthy Rotarians, our contribution might seem insignificant. In a melee of booming voices, our voice might drown. But we have been steady and steadfast in our contributions and our work. We have touched lives where no one cared to look, we have invested time, effort and money not just in and around us but also risen to every Rotary call, that comes from the District or elsewhere.

So isn’t it only natural that when need arises closer home, we expect the larger fraternity to take heed too?

Do we begin to ponder..??

In Rotary,

Prativa
Editor



Thursday



We meet on:
Hotel Seven Seventeen.



5:30p.m.

Rtn. Kalpana Diwakar Thapa



Fate was not kind to Rtn. Kalpana. It played a rather nasty game with her and turned her life topsy-turvy in a span of few hours. Her world capsized between a phone call and the time she awaited for her husband to call her again. What had been a pleasant journey till then suddenly became a difficult ride for her. Her husband, late Rtn Diwakar was a man who lit up every space he entered into. He was full of life and was usually ‘the life’ of most rotary parties and events. A committed rotarian ,he served RCD in different capacities since his joining in 2004 to 2022, when the club lost an integral member. His contribution to the Rotary Club of Darjeeling has been substantial and unforgettable. An alumunus of St. Augustine’s School, Kalimpong, he held a Phd in Entomology and was an educator by profession. He pushed his wife to open a nursery school, which she reluctantly did ,at the time , but later went on to be her place of solace .

Rtn Kalpana says that she was lost in the dark after his demise. When she was trying to grapple with reality and life through meditation and counselling, Rotary came to her rescue once again. She says that she had reservations about late Rtn. Diwakar joining rotary back in 2004. She felt that with his work and hectic schedule, he would not be able to give the commitment required. However , as he delved deeper into Rotary, she too saw the work the club did, serving the society relentlessly. She became a part of the Annes, with whom she forged lasting and deep friendships.

She is thankful to the rotarians, who stood by her in her most trying days. So when Rtn. Mamta invited her for a meeting, she immediately said yes, without giving it much thought. She joined RCD in 2024. She was consoled by the fact that she felt deeply attached to the club that her husband so cherished and having female members now made her even more comfortable. She enjoys the meetings , the projects done by RCD and likes being amongst familiar faces but misses her husband- late Rtn Diwakar terribly. She feels deeply grateful to Rotary and DG Sukhvinder for recognizing and felicitating her husband posthumously in 2025.

She too believes in the selfless service the club renders to the society at large and feels grateful to be a part of RCD.

Rtn Diwakar, perhaps made her a rotarian , long before he was gone.

Rtn. Diwakar- you live on , in the hearts of your friends, your fellow rotarians, in the annals of RCD and now through your better half- Rtn. Kalpana Diwakar Thapa.

JANUARY SNAPSHOTS





THE MONTH THAT WAS -JANUARY

- **District Conference** : A team of twenty three delegates, including Annes and Rotrylets represented the Rotary Club of Darjeeling in the District conference at Shillong. The club's presence was felt in the conference, where President Vivek gave an impactful speech. The contingent looked dapper in a muffler with the RCD insignia. Some members from the contingent went to Manas Wild life Sanctuary and made it a trip to remember. The next District Conference will be held at Bolpur, West Bengal. Rtn. Indramani has been nominated as the chair for the same.
- **Global Grant**- Work is well under way at Toryok School. , a part of the Global Grant Project. The work is expected to be completed by the second week of february.
- **Mountain Tracker** - The mountain tracker project ihas been completed. It has come out beautifully and has sparked a keen interest in the locals and tourists alike.
- **Others:**
 - Rtn. Samir has been appointed as the chair along with Rtn. Shoy as the co-chair for the Inter city meet this year.
 - The club is contemplating on establishing a scholarship from the interest of the funds provided by french lady, Madame Levoja. The discussion is still in the nascent stage.
- **RWM**
 - The club held all its regular meetings this month on designated days, barring one , as most members were travelling back from the conference or were out of station.e designated days. The regular functioning of the club was discussed, matters that required attention were attended to and the minutes of the meetings were recorded, read out in the proceeding meetings and house acknowledgement taken.
 - The club handed over digital portraits in the form of birthday cards to Rtns. Rupesh and Dhruba.

JFEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Rtn. Amar Singh Rai- 3rd feb
Rtn Gopal Kemani- 15th Feb
Rtn. Jorden Norbhu- 17th Feb
Rtn. Kabya Lma - 22nd Feb

ANNIVERSARIES

Rtn. Amit Jain - 1st feb
Rtn. Samir Singhal - 3rd feb
Rtn.. Jit Pradhan - 6th feb
Rtn. Rahul Jha -- 7th feb
Rtn. Bikash Singh - 7th feb
Rtn Shiromani Syangden- 9th feb
Rtn Prativa Yolmo - 12th feb
Rtn Shoyeta Chatterjee - 16th feb

January birthday cards

