

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My dear friends,

As members of Rotary, we are all united across cultures, languages, and communities. Together, we share a responsibility not only to bring about change but also to ensure that the effects endure. That is why this year, we are called to Create Lasting Impact.

When we work alongside communities, invest in people's skills and leadership abilities, and measure our progress, we ensure that positive changes can continue in our communities and in ourselves long after a single project ends.

When we focus our efforts and work together, we can maximize our impact in the year ahead. Our ability to Create Lasting Impact depends on the strength and diversity of our members. The goal in front of us is clear: Reach 1.25 million Rotarians and retain at least 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030.

But this is not only about numbers. It is about people. Every new member brings new ideas, energy, and opportunities. When we truly welcome others and share our stories, we expand Rotary's reach and deepen valuable connections. Don't be afraid to share how Rotary has changed your life when you connect with prospective members. Everyone loves a good story.

I also encourage you to consider how your club invites, includes, and engages with others.

Examine your last seven years of membership and retention data, find your best year, and aim to do better than your best. Explore the membership resources linked below and think about how you can use them to attract more people to Rotary.

Our promise to the world remains unchanged: We will eradicate polio. Through your dedication and advocacy, Rotary continues to support one of the most ambitious public health efforts in history. Since 2021, we've had a 17% increase in individual contributions to PolioPlus, a clear sign that our members and friends of Rotary remain deeply invested in the fight against polio. Now is the time to remain focused and committed to this endeavor.

Lasting peace is not created in a single moment. It comes over time, through understanding, collaboration, and trust. Each act of service has the potential to contribute to a more peaceful world, but we need to be deliberate and strategic to achieve it.

I encourage you to seek opportunities to collaborate, listen, and lead with empathy. When we work together with purpose and direction, we create stronger communities and enduring peace.

My friends, Rotary has the power to transform lives, including our own. As you plan your projects, welcome new members, and serve your community, I ask you to thoughtfully consider the impact you are making and how it will last.

Together, we can Create Lasting Impact that endures across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Thank you for all that you do, and for all that we will accomplish together.

Yours in Rotary,

Yinka H. Babalola

2026-27 President

Rotary International



IPP'S MESSAGE

As I complete my term as President of Rotary Club of Shillong, I bow my head in gratitude to each one of you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Club who helped me in the Club activities throughout the Rotary Year 2025-26, whether it was honouring young achievers, serving our community or simply showing up in club blazers, you made Rotary visible and valuable in Shillong.



To my Board, Committee Chairs and every Rotarian, thank you for your time, trust and teamwork. Your support made the challenges easier and the successes sweeter.

I am delighted to welcome Rtn Osmand E. J Nongbri and his Team to the new Rotary Year 2026-27. I am confident that under his leadership, RC Shillong will reach new heights of Service Above Self!

I may be handing over the collar, but I will never hand over my commitments to Rotary. I remain Rotarian in Service.

Long live Rotary

Long live Rotary Club of Shillong!

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn Chandana Das,

President 2025-26

OUR CHIEF GUEST

Riewad Vicharwant Warjri (Rudi Warjri)

Riewad Vicharwant Warjri or Rudi as he is popularly known is a retired Ambassador from Indian Foreign Service. Rudi likes to recount his adventures like the violent coup d'état in 1982 in Nairobi. He was a part of the Indian Peace Force in Sri Lanka from 1987-90. During his stint in Sri Lanka, he was targeted by Tamil Tigers and others. Rudi was detained by Khmer Rouge guerrillas while in UN in Cambodia between 1991-93. He was in New York during the 9/11 attack in 2001. Rudi served as an Ambassador in narco terrorist countries like Peru and Colombia. He played an important role in promoting political, economic, technological and cultural interests for India. After his retirement, Rudi served as a Board Member of Tata Group of companies and in other government PSUs. He is currently associated with Governing Bodies of colleges, sports bodies, NGOs etc.



EDITORIAL

As much as it is an exciting assignment to head the Harmony team. To bring out an edition of a newsletter for a Club which has completed 70 years is an honour and yet a challenging task, more so when my predecessors have raised the bar so high.

As we kick-start another term, and the new leadership are at the helm. I can't but reflect at this month's theme - Maternal and child health month. As one of Rotary's seven core Areas of Focus, this month highlights the global commitment of Rotary clubs to improving health outcomes through awareness, funding, healthcare training, reduced mortality rates, and greater access to essential medical services.

India has made significant progress in maternal and child health (MCH), with the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) declining to 97 per 100,000 live births and institutional deliveries rising to nearly 89%.

Despite these strides, challenges like malnutrition, anemia, and rural healthcare disparities persist, which demand continued targeted interventions.

Maternal and child health is vital because it protects the survival and well-being of the most vulnerable populations. Healthy mothers and infants reduce medical costs, break cycles of poverty, and build the foundation for prosperous, resilient communities.

For mothers, access to quality healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth can reduce the risk of death and complications. It can also help to ensure that mothers are healthy enough to care for their children and contribute to their families and communities. For children, access to quality healthcare can help prevent and treat diseases and ensure that they reach their full and stable potential.

Investing in maternal and child health is also good for the economy of any nation. Many research studies have shown that every penny invested in maternal and child health generates a return of up to ten times in economic benefits.

Jashoda Chettri

Editor



WORD OF THE WEEK

Perspicacious — acute mental vision or discernment



HANDY TIP

Use toothpaste to clean up hazy car headlights



BIRTHDAY

PDG Manas Chaudhuri celebrates his Birthday on 15th July.

RCS wishes him many happy returns of the day.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we start the new Rotary Year, I reflect on the decades of community service, leadership and expertise in our Club and hope I can do justice to the responsibility bestowed on me.



However, a club like ours is not all about its President and leadership in Rotary is never a solo performance. It is every hand that packs a relief kit, every voice that welcomes a new member, every Rotarian who believes, even on a cold Shillong evening that showing up at meetings and projects still matters. The Rotary wheel has continued to turn for more than a century because ordinary people chose to do extraordinary things together.

I shall strive to undertake meaningful projects and activities that align with the mandate of Rotary and the vision of its founders. Therefore, I humbly and earnestly request for the support of each and every member of our Club and especially that of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. I look forward to a promising and exciting Rotary Year!

Together we can and we will **Create Lasting Impact.**

Yours in Rotary,

Rtn Osmand Ewen J. Nongbri

President 2026-27

ROTARY NEWS



Malala Yousafzai, the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate and an advocate for girls' education, in her keynote address and a following interview on stage at the Taipei Convention, spoke about her personal connections to Rotary as the daughter of a Rotarian and about the importance of empowering girls. Reflecting on her own journey from an 11-year-old speaking out for education to the present day, Malala emphasised the power of collective action: "Even small acts... are making a huge and significant change." She urged the Rotarians to join her cause, saying "We need your bold and ambitious vision to build a better future for girls."

Uniquely MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya is home to India's only native carnivorous pitcher plant, *Nepenthes khasiana*. Endemic to the Khasi, Jaintia, and Garo Hills, the endangered plant uses pitcher-shaped leaves filled with digestive fluid to trap and consume insects. You can find it in the wild or at the Baghmara Pitcher Plant Sanctuary near Bangladesh. Known as *tiew-rakot* (demon-flower) by the Khasi people, *memang-koksi* (basket of the devil) by the Garos, and *kset phare* (lidded fly net) by the Jaintias.



It is an endangered and protected state plant. Collectors are legally prohibited from harvesting them from the wild.

ACTIVITIES OF RCS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26



ACTIVITIES OF RCS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26



KNOW YOUR BOARD MEMBERS - 2026-27



Rtn. Gurmeet Singh,
Vice-President



Rtn. Sunil Arora,
Secretary



Rtn. Akash Chirania,
Treasurer



Rtn. Amit Saraf,
Sergeant-at-Arms



Rtn. Jashoda Chettri,
Editor



Rtn. Sarad Bawri,
Learning Facilitator



Rtn. Amit Sharma,
Club Administrator



Rtn. Abhishek Singhania,
Service Projects



Rtn. David Umdor,
Rotary Foundation



Rtn. Deeya Rathore,
Membership



Rtn. Santaram Joshi,
Public Image



Rtn. Skhemjingmut Law,
New Generation Services