

## 70<sup>th</sup> Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Shillong



The Rotary Club of Shillong on Friday installed its new leadership team for the 2026-27 Rotary Year during its installation ceremony held on 10th of July 2026. Rtn Osmand Nongbri was installed as the new President, succeeding the outgoing President, Rtn. Chandana Das. In his inaugural address, Rtn. Nongbri highlighted the Club's legacy and stated that its initiatives would be guided by the global Rotary theme for 2026-27 - Create Lasting Impact. He emphasised the Club's commitment to service projects designed to bring meaningful and sustained change to the community. Along with the President, the new Board of Directors were also installed. At the outset, the outgoing President delivered her valedictory address, presented the Annual Projects and Activities Report and also recognised and acknowledged the members for their service in the past year. Former Indian Ambassador Riewad V. Warjri attended the event as the chief guest.

### ROTARY NEWS

#### 10% of Tamil Nadu MLAs are Rotarians

The 2026 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has witnessed a historic milestone — 23 of the 234 elected MLAs are Rotarians, making up nearly 10 per cent of the House. They were recently felicitated by RI director M Muruganandam. Congratulating the ministers and MLAs, he said, "When your thoughts, words and actions travel in the same straight line, you can achieve wonders. If all of us, irrespective of who we are, follow Rotary's Four-Way Test, our action will ultimately lead to positive outcomes."

## MYTH BUSTED: Area 51 and the Bermuda Triangle Separating the Legends from the Science

*"The truth is rarely pure and never simple." Oscar Wilde*

I was that kid in Class 4 who sat glued to a screen watching explanation videos about Area 51, the Bermuda Triangle, Egyptian pyramids, every myth, every anomaly, every "what if." That curiosity never went away, and honestly, it shouldn't. So let's go back to two of the biggest legends of our childhoods not to kill the excitement, but to find what's actually hiding behind the curtain. The truth doesn't make these places less fascinating. It makes them infinitely more so.

Area 51, officially the Nevada Test and Training Range has been the alien-headquarters of internet mythology forever. Flying saucers, alien autopsies, mysterious lights. But what was actually flying over that desert was something cooler than any UFO classified military aircraft that the public had absolutely no framework for. The U-2 spy plane, the SR-71 Blackbird, the F-117 Nighthawk were all tested there, flying at heights and speeds nobody outside the military knew were even possible. When ordinary pilots spotted these metallic objects moving impossibly fast at impossible altitudes, their brains had no explanation. So they reached for the most dramatic one available. The mysterious lights? The Nevada desert creates alternating layers of scorching hot and cool air, which bends and distorts light from aircraft and flares into shapes the human eye simply doesn't recognise. Not aliens, just physics. The radiation zones conspiracy theorists love? Area 51 borders a site where the U.S. tested nuclear weapons until 1992. Documented, explained, and entirely unrelated to extraterrestrials.

Now the Bermuda Triangle is the one that genuinely kept me up at night as a kid. Ships vanishing. Planes disappearing mid-flight. Compasses losing their minds. Here's the fact that should've ended this myth decades ago: Lloyd's of London, the

world's most respected insurance market, doesn't charge higher premiums for ships crossing the Bermuda Triangle. The people whose entire job is identifying real risk looked at the data and found nothing unusual. The legend was always bigger than the evidence.

The real science, though, is wilder than any ghost story. Massive methane deposits sit frozen beneath the ocean floor there. Pressure and temperature shifts cause these to suddenly release, sending enormous gas bubbles surging to the surface. When one hits a ship from below, the water density drops so fast the vessel loses buoyancy and sinks before a distress signal can even be sent. For aircraft overhead, methane clouds can kill engines completely mid-flight. No curse needed just the ocean floor being catastrophically unpredictable. The Caribbean also generates violent storms with almost no warning, and rogue waves reaching 30 metres tall can swallow a ship whole in seconds. And here's the stat nobody mentions: the Bermuda Triangle is one of the most trafficked stretches of ocean on the planet. More traffic, more incidents. It was never a mystery. It was always just numbers.

Going from that Class 4 kid watching conspiracy videos in the dark to actually understanding what was really happening in these places is different. The real stories of secret aircraft, methane eruptions, light bending into hallucinations are stranger than anything the conspiracy theorists ever came up with. The truth was always the wilder option. We just had to look past the myth to find it.

**By Rotarylet Kovidh Bajoria**

*Proud Parents Rtn Rohit Bajoria & Anne Pallavi*

### Uniquely MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya's **living root bridges** are natural bioengineering marvels grown by the indigenous Khasi and Jaintia tribes. Created by intertwining the aerial roots of the Indian rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*), these sustainable, living structures span rivers and gorges, lasting for centuries. Two of the most famous living root bridges are Umshiang Double Decker Root Bridge (Nongriat) located near Sohra, this famous 200-year-old bridge features two stacked levels of intertwined roots. The *Riwai Living Root Bridge* (Mawlynong) is easily accessible single-decker bridge is estimated to be over 300 years old.



### RCS Board of Directors for 2026-27

|                          |                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| President                | – Rtn Osmand Nongbri     |
| President-Elect          | – Rtn Sunil Arora        |
| Vice-President           | – Rtn Gurmeet Singh      |
| Immediate Past President | – Rtn Chandana Das       |
| Secretary                | – Rtn Sunil Arora        |
| Treasurer                | – Rtn. Akash Chirania    |
| Sergeant-at-Arms         | – Rtn Amit Saraf         |
| Editor                   | – Rtn. Jashoda Chettri   |
| Learning Facilitator     | – Rtn Sarad Bawri        |
| Club Administrator       | – Rtn. Amit Sharma       |
| Service Projects         | – Rtn Abhishek Singhania |
| Rotary Foundation        | – Rtn David Umdor        |
| Membership               | – Rtn. Deeya Rathore     |
| Public Image             | – Rtn Santaram Joshi     |
| New Generation Services  | – Rtn Skhemjingmut Law   |



### WORD OF THE WEEK

**Verisimilitude** - Lifelike authenticity



### HANDY TIP

Throw a few ice cubes or a wet washcloth in the dryer with your wrinkled clothes. As the ice melts and the water turns to steam, it will remove the wrinkles. This trick isn't as effective with heavier clothing but is a miracle for lighter fabrics.



**Rtn Deeya Rathore and Amar** celebrate their anniversary on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.  
*RCS wishes them Happy Anniversary and a lifetime of love and happiness.*