

ROTARY YEAR 2025-2026

Rotary



Denzong **Khorlo**

official bulletin of
Rotary Club of Gangtok
R.I. Dist. 3240, Club No.16168

July - September 2025



Editor : Rtn. Prakash Mundra

2025-2026

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Rtn. Naresh Agarwal

Secretary:

Rtn. Rajesh Somani

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I.P.P.:

Rtn. Manoj Agarwal

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Rtn. Prakash Mundra

Editorial

Dear Rotarians

A new year brings with it fresh enthusiasm and zeal to do what we are best at – Service to mankind – while also cherishing the fellowship and camaraderie that bind us together as Rotarians. I am confident that we will continue to achieve great things in the coming quarter of this Rotary year.

It is very pleasing to see our Club focusing more on member engagement rather than only on projects. Rotary is not just about external work but also about the strength we build within. Engaged members are the lifeblood of a vibrant Club, and this shift will bring long-lasting benefits.

At the same time, we must acknowledge the commendable projects already completed this year, which stand as proof of our commitment to service. Much credit, however, goes to our Secretary for instilling discipline, clearing pending matters, and guiding the Club back to following rules and regulations. His dedication is helping the Club regain its rhythm and strengthen its foundation.

With this momentum, let us step into the next quarter with optimism, unity, and determination. Together, we can make this Rotary year even more impactful – for our members, for our community, and for Rotary as a whole.

Enjoy Rotary.....

Rtn. Prakash Mundra
Editor (2025 – 2026)

R. I. President 2025 - 2026



Rtn. Francesco Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, has been selected by the R. I. Board as President for 2025-26 following the resignation of President-elect Mário César Martins de Camargo on 8 June.

An orthodontist in private practice, he is active internationally as a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations. He also serves as Vice President of the National Association of Italian Dentists (Ragusa), and was the founder and head for seven years of the delegation for Ragusa of the National Trust for Italy. He is a Knight of Honor and Devotion in Obedience within the Sovereign Order of Malta.

A Rotary member for over 30 years, Arezzo has served as R. I. Director, Vice Chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, Learning Facilitator, and District Conference Representative.

Arezzo is a Major Donor and Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation. His partner, Anna Maria Criscione, is an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two children.

Projects Undertaken Between July To Sept. 2025

Installation Ceremony – 27th July 2025

The Rotary year 2025–26 began with the Installation Ceremony on 27th July 2025 at Hotel Ramada, Gangtok, where Rtn. Naresh Agarwal was installed as President along with his team of officers and directors. Outgoing Vice President Rtn. Mohan Lal Sarda expressed gratitude to members for their support during 2024–25, while outgoing Secretary Rtn. Noor Jahan Khatoon presented a comprehensive report of the Club's projects and achievements. In his acceptance address, President Naresh Agarwal emphasized this year's theme, *"Unite for Good"*, and expressed his vision to build stronger partnerships and deliver impactful service. The ceremony also paid a warm tribute to outgoing President Rtn. Manoj Agarwal for his leadership and dedication.

Charter Day Celebrations – 22nd August 2025

On 22nd August 2025, the Club celebrated its **57th Charter Day** at a local hotel in Gangtok. Members and guests reflected on more than five decades of humanitarian service since the Club's charter in 1968. The celebration also witnessed the induction of a new member, Rtn. Sherab Choden, marking a fresh chapter of growth. The evening was filled with fellowship and renewed commitment towards service in the fields of education, health, sanitation, disaster relief, and sustainable community development.

Fan Donated to Shanti Sthal (Jalipool Crematorium Ground) – 29th August 2025

Continuing its tradition of meaningful service, the Club on 29th August 2025 facilitated the **donation of eight ceiling fans** to the Ranipool Shanti Sthal Committee for installation at the cremation ground in Jalipool. This contribution, made by Shri Pankaj Agarwal and his family in memory of his late father, Mr. Balkishan Agarwal, adds to the Club's earlier project of constructing a waiting shed at the same cremation site. The initiative was warmly welcomed by the Committee and stands as a lasting gesture of dignity and comfort for bereaved families.

Udaan – The Flight of Creativity, jointly organised by Rotary Club of Gangtok & Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok – 31st August 2025

One of the major highlights of the quarter was **Udaan – The Flight of Creativity**, jointly organised with the Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok at the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology, Majhitar, on 31st August 2025. Now in its 12th edition, Udaan witnessed enthusiastic participation of nearly 1,800 students from 120 schools across Sikkim, including remote areas such as Mangan, Chujachen, Soreng, and Pelling. Competitions were held across Junior, Middle, and Senior categories, covering Spell Bee, Quiz, Creative Writing, Poster Making, Monoact, Maths Magic, Projects, and more. **The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Sikkim, Shri Prem Singh Tamang (Golay), as Chief Guest**, who praised the initiative for nurturing talent and providing a platform beyond classroom learning. He also released a souvenir to commemorate the 12th edition and reiterated his government's commitment to educational empowerment and holistic development of students. The event was attended by several dignitaries including:

- Shri Raju Basnet, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Sports & Youth Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs
- Shri Sanjeet Kharel, Hon'ble MLA
- Shri Jacob Khaling, Political Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister
- Smt. Tshering Palden Bhutia, Deputy Mayor of Gangtok Municipal Corporation
- Shri Sandeep Malu, Councillor of GMC

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- Shri Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha, Assistant Political Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister (East)
- Shri Chopel Sherpa, Chairman of the Students Welfare Board
- Shri Tashi Chopel, Secretary, Education Department, Government of Sikkim
- Shri Rohan Agawane, District Collector, Pakyong
- Ms. Paru Ruchal, Senior Superintendent of Police, Pakyong
- Ms. Sujata Subba, SDM, Rangpo
- Dr. Sangita Jha, Director in-charge of SMIT

After a day of vibrant competitions, the Champions of Champions trophies were awarded to St. Francis School, Jorethang in the Junior category, and Manjushri Public School in both Middle and Senior categories.

World's Highest Bio-Toilet Installed and Inaugurated by Rotary Club of Gangtok at Old Baba Mandir, Kupup, East Sikkim – 6th September 2025

Another landmark achievement was on 6th September 2025, when the Rotary Club of Gangtok inaugurated the **world's highest bio-toilet installed by a Rotary Club** at Old Baba Mandir, Kupup, East Sikkim, at an altitude of 4,110 metres. This project stands as a symbol of sustainable sanitation and environmental stewardship. The facility was inaugurated by Brig Jha, Mr. Tashi Wangyal, IGP, Law and Order, and Club President Rtn. Naresh Agarwal, in the presence of Rotarians, Army officials, dignitaries, and local community representatives. The bio-toilet will directly benefit soldiers, pilgrims, and tourists visiting the revered Baba Mandir, ensuring hygiene in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem. The project, executed with relentless efforts by Rtn. Aswin Oberoi, Rtn. Gurpreet S. Dhunna, and supported by Rtn. Dr. Arijit Banerjee, was formally handed over to the Indian Army for maintenance and use. This initiative has brought pride not only to Rotary Club of Gangtok but also to Rotary worldwide, reinforcing the vision of creating impactful, eco-friendly solutions in challenging terrains.

Contributions:

Contribution of USD 100 was made by Rtn. Prakash Mundra and USD 200 on behalf of the Club to the Rotary Foundation.

Rtn. Anil Gupta contributed Rs. 5000 Shanti Stahl Jalipool crematorium.

Photographs speak volumes



Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated human rights purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.





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CALM
AND
JOIN
ROTARY





START WITH ROTARY
AND GOOD THINGS
HAPPEN



JOIN US



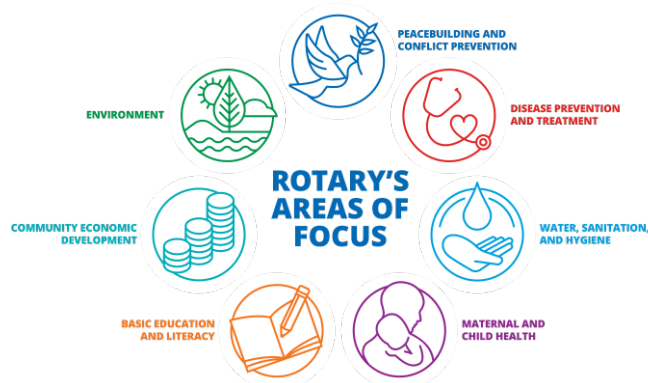


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POLIO
NOW**

Rotarians



Changing Lives



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

Rotary



We Cannot Do Without The Press

New team of Rotary Club of Gangtok

SE Report

GANGTOK, July 28: The Rotary Club of Gangtok has announced the installation of its new president, Rtn. Naresh Agarwal, along with the incoming team of officers and directors for the Magic Rotary Year 2025-26.

The grand installation ceremony was held on July 27 at a hotel in Gangtok, celebrating not only new leadership but also a continued commitment to Rotary's enduring motto — 'Service Above Self'.

A press release informs that the evening began with gratitude, as outgoing vice president Rtn. Mohan Lal Sarma thanked members for their wholehearted support during 2024-25. Outgoing secretary Rtn. Noor Jahan Khatoun presented a detailed report of the impactful projects and activities undertaken in the past year, highlighting the Club's dedication to community service.

The spotlight then turned



to president Rtn. Naresh Agarwal, a seasoned Rotarian known for his vision, compassion, and commitment.

In his acceptance address, he shared his enthusiasm for the year ahead, stating: "I am honoured to serve as president during this Magic Rotary Year. Guided by Rotary's spirit and this year's theme — 'Unite for Good' — we aim to build stronger partnerships, bring innovative ideas to life, and deepen our impact both within our community and beyond."

Joining president Naresh on this exciting journey is a dynamic team of officers and directors including vice

president Noor Jahan Khatoun, secretary Rajesh Somani, treasurer Umesh Agarwal, and IPP Manoj Agarwal.

The evening also featured a heartfelt tribute to outgoing president Rtn. Manoj Agarwal, whose leadership and tireless service over the past year were warmly acknowledged and applauded.

With fresh leadership and a united vision, the Rotary Club of Gangtok is all set to embrace a year filled with purpose, partnerships, and progress — all under the inspiring theme 'Unite for Good', the release mentions.



Rotary Club of Gangtok celebrates 57 glorious years of 'Service Above Self'

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 23: The Rotary Club of Gangtok, chartered on 22 August 1968, proudly celebrated its 57th Charter Anniversary on August 22 at a local hotel in Gangtok.

The celebration brought together Rotarians, dignitaries, and friends of Rotary to honor more than five decades of humanitarian service, fellowship, and community leadership, a press release informs.

The evening was further enriched with the induction of a new member, Rtn. Sherab Choden, whose joining marks a fresh chapter of growth and vitality for the club.

The 57th anniversary celebration was filled with reflection, gratitude, and a renewed pledge to serve. Members shared stories of impact and reiterated the club's guiding principle of 'Service Above Self'.

Looking ahead, the Rotary



Club of Gangtok is committed to deepening its engagement in education, health, sanitation, disaster relief, and sustainable community development, ensuring that its service reaches the most vulnerable sections of society.

For 57 years, the Rotary Club of Gangtok has been a pioneer in initiatives that uplift lives, strengthen communities, and bring sustainable change in Sikkim. Over the decades, it

has carried out impactful projects in education, healthcare, sanitation, and disaster relief, touching countless lives across Sikkim and beyond.

From setting up classrooms, libraries, and biotoilets in schools and tourist places, to supporting disaster relief during landslides, flash floods, and the COVID-19 pandemic, Rotary Gangtok has consistently addressed

pressing community needs. Signature initiatives such as Udaan, WinS, and CALMED showcase its focus on empowering youth, improving health, and promoting sustainable practices. With its strong legacy and active presence, the Rotary Club of Gangtok continues to inspire positive change and community development in the region.

The Rotary Club of

Gangtok, chartered on 22nd August 1968, is one of the oldest and most active non-governmental service organizations in Sikkim. Formed under the guidance of Rotary International District 325, the club brings together professionals, business leaders, and community members committed to the Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self', the release mentions.

Rotary Club of Gangtok contributes fans for Jalipool Cremation Area

SE Report

GANGTOK, August 30: The Rotary Club of Gangtok handed over eight ceiling fans to the Ranipool Shanti Stahl Committee for installation at the cremation area in Jalipool on Friday.

The fans were donated by Pankaj Agarwal and his family to the Rotary Club of Gangtok in loving memory of his late father, Balkishan Agarwal, informs a press release.

The Club, recognizing the need for basic amenities at the cremation ground, facilitated the handover so that these fans could be installed for the comfort of families and visitors who gather to perform the last rites of their loved ones.

The initiative by the club is aimed at continued endeavor to serve the community and improve public facilities.

The initiative also resonates deeply with the



club's longstanding association with Shanti Stahl.

The Rotary Club of Gangtok had constructed a waiting shed at the cremation ground, one of its significant community service projects at the time.

Representatives of the Rotary Club of Gangtok expressed gratitude to Pankaj Agarwal and his family for their thoughtful contribution.

The Ranipool Shanti Stahl Committee welcomed the

initiative, appreciating the support, which will greatly improve the environment at the Jalipool cremation area, especially during large gatherings in the summer months.

The Rotary Club of Gangtok remains committed to its mission of "Service Above Self" and will continue to work hand in hand with local institutions, donors, and community groups to address needs that touch the lives of citizens, the release mentions.

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Rotary



SIKKIM EXPRESS, TUESDAY, 02 SEPTEMBER, 2025, GANGTOK 8

1800 students compete in UDAAN inter-school scholastic meet

PAKYONG, August 31 (IPR): The finale of UDAAN – A Flight of Creativity, an interschool scholastic and cultural festival under the banner of TEACH, concluded today at the Sikkim Manipal Institute of Technology (SMIT) in Majhitar. Jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Gangtok and the Inner Wheel Club of Gangtok, the festival began on 18th August 2025 and brought together students, teachers, parents, and officials from across the State to celebrate education, talent, and innovation.

The first session of the event was graced by the presence of Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, who also serves as the chief patron of the event.

The closing ceremony had the presence of Minister of Education, Sports & Youth Affairs, Law and Parliamentary Affairs department, Raju Basnet; MLA Sanjeet Kharel; Political Secretary to CM, Jacob Khaling; Additional Political Secretary to CM, Tshering Wangchuk Lepcha; Deputy Mayor, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Tshering Palden Bhutia; chairman of Students Welfare Board, Chopel Sherpa; secretary Education department, Tashi Chopel; director cum in-charge SMIT, Dr Sangita Thak; officials from various departments.

Designed as a State-level platform to encourage both academic and artistic excellence, UDAAN aimed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and healthy competition among students from government and private schools across rural and urban Sikkim. The festival was divided into three categories: Junior (Classes II–V), Middle (Classes VI–VIII), and Senior (Classes IX–XII).

Participants showcased their talents in a wide array of



scholastic competitions, including word power, spelling, general knowledge quiz, debate, elocution, mathematical puzzles ("Maths Magic"), extempore speaking, creative writing, and model making.

In addition to academic contests, the event also featured a vibrant lineup of performing and visual arts. Students participated in monoacting, thematic skits addressing social issues, dance performances, singing, and poster making. These events highlighted not only talent but also the social consciousness and creativity of the youth. Special fun-based events like quizzes, crosswords, Sudoku, and puzzle-solving sessions were organised, making the event more inclusive and community-oriented.

A major attraction of the event was the visit by dignitaries to the project exhibition area, where students presented their innovations aligned with the theme "One Family, One Entrepreneur." The projects reflected entrepreneurial ideas and problem-solving capabilities, encouraging the spirit of self-reliance and creativity among the young participants.

More than 120 schools from across the State, including remote areas such as Mangang, Chujichen, Soreng, and Pelling, came together for a large-scale inter-school event celebrating student talent. A record-

breaking 1,800 students from Classes II to XII competed in various intellectual and creative contests, grouped into three levels: Junior, Middle, and Senior.

The event featured a diverse set of competitions tailored to each group:

- Junior (Classes II–IV): Spell Bee, Let's Converse, Speed Maths, and Quiz
- Middle (Classes V–VIII): Monoact, Maths Magic, Word Power, and Sports Quiz
- Senior (Classes IX–XII): Poster Making, Creative Writing, Quiz, and Project Presentation

Demonstrating excellence across events, St Francis School, Jorethang, clinched the Champions of Champions title in the Junior category. Manjusri Public School emerged victorious in the middle and senior divisions, securing top honours and establishing itself as a frontrunner in the academic and creative arenas.

The festival culminated with a grand prize distribution ceremony. Awards were presented to winners and notable participants in various categories, applauding their hard work, intellect, and creativity.

The organisers expressed their hope that UDAAN will continue to serve as a launchpad for nurturing young talent and fostering academic curiosity and creative excellence across Sikkim.

Rotary Club of Gangtok installs world's highest bio-toilet at Kupup

SE Report

GANGTOK, September 7: The Rotary Club of Gangtok on Sunday marked a historic milestone by inaugurating the world's highest bio-toilet facility installed by any Rotary Club anywhere in the world, at Old Baba Mandir, Kupup, East Sikkim, situated at an altitude of over 4,110 metres above sea level.

This pioneering initiative is not only a matter of pride for Rotary in India but also a global benchmark in sustainable sanitation and environmental stewardship, a press release informs.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Brig Jha, Tashi Wangyal, IGP (Law and Order), Sikkim Police, and Naresh Agarwal, president (2025-2026), Rotary Club of Gangtok, who jointly inaugurated the bio-toilet block for public use. Distinguished dignitaries, members of the armed forces, local community representatives, Rotarians, and visitors had gathered to witness this landmark achievement.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Yogesh Verma (Past District Governor) of Rotary Club of Gangtok emphasized

the significance of the project.

"This bio-toilet stands as a testament to Rotary's commitment towards sustainable development, public health, and environmental conservation. To achieve this at such a high altitude, in difficult terrain and challenging climatic conditions, reflects the dedication and perseverance of our team specially Rtn. Aswin Oberoi & Rtn. Gurpreet S. Dhuanna. This project will benefit thousands of soldiers, pilgrims, and tourists who visit this revered site every year," said Dr. Verma.

According to Rotary Club

of Gangtok, this installation has officially become the highest bio-toilet ever set up by any Rotary Club in the world, symbolizing Rotary's ability to break new frontiers in service.

The Old Baba Mandir, dedicated to the revered soldier Saint Baba Harbajan Singh, attracts both pilgrims and tourists throughout the year. It is also an important post for the Indian Army. The bio-toilet will directly support soldiers and civilians in maintaining hygiene in this remote location, said the Rotary Club of Gangtok.

Unlike conventional toilets, the bio-toilet system ensures

waste decomposition through bacterial processes, preventing water contamination and preserving the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.

By addressing sanitation concerns at a popular tourist destination, this project will enhance visitor experience while safeguarding public health, said the club.

The project was the culmination of years of planning, coordination, and dedication. Rotary Club of Gangtok worked tirelessly to overcome logistical challenges, including transporting materials to high altitudes, adapting the design to

withstand extreme temperatures, and liaising with the Indian Army and local administration for smooth execution.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the project was formally handed over to the Indian Army posted at the Old Baba Mandir, ensuring its proper use and long-term maintenance.

Special acknowledgment was given to Rtn. Aswin Oberoi & Rtn. Gurpreet S. Dhuanna (Rotary Club of Gangtok) and Rtn. Dr. Arijit Banerjee (Ramaeis Realty Pvt. Ltd, Kolkata) whose relentless efforts made the

project a reality.

The Rotary Club of Gangtok has consistently worked towards impactful community service projects in Sikkim, ranging from healthcare and education to environment-friendly initiatives. This project reinforces Rotary's vision of creating sustainable solutions that improve lives while protecting nature.

The club announced that similar eco-friendly sanitation facilities will be explored at other high-altitude locations to further promote hygiene and responsible tourism in the Himalayan region.



Greetings

Birthday:

Rtn. Dr. Yogesh Verma – 11th July

Rtn. Dr. R. N. Deokota – 13th July

Rtn. Dr. Choden Norbu – 23rd July

Rtn. Prakash Mundra – 25th July

Rtn. Anup Thirani – 7th August

Rtn. Sherab Choden Bhutia – 20th August

Rtn. Jiwan Dabriwal – 23rd August

Rtn. Umesh Agarwal – 26th August

Rtn. Amit Bansal – 4th September



Anniversary Wishes:

Rtn. Amit Bansal – 8th July

Rtn. Dr. Noor Jahan Khatoon – 16th August

Rtn. Jorgay Namkha – 28th September

Congratulations Rtn. Bhikham Periwal for his son's engagement





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THE FOUR WAY TEST

FIRST IS IT THE TRUTH?

IS IT FAIR
TO ALL CONCERNED?

THIRD WILL IT BUILD
GOODWILL
& AFTER FRIENDSHIP?

WILL IT BE
BENEFICIAL
TO ALL CONCERNED?

SECOND

FORTH

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