GOVERNOR'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

PARAMOUNT

FEBRUARY 2026

Rotary International District 3240

Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240 2025-26

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary

PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Rotary

RID 3240

UNITE FOR GOOD

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EDITORIAL

Peace and Conflict Resolution

"It isn't enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn't enough to believe in it. One must work at it."

– Eleanor Roosevelt

Jashoda Chettri
Associate Editor

The Rotary theme for February is Peace and Conflict Resolution. The theme could not have been more apt given the current global circumstances and uncertainties. Peace is the most cherished human aspiration. Peace is not just limited to peace between countries. Peace starts from the inside. We live in a challenging era where there is so much of conflict within and without. Peace and conflict resolution go hand in hand. Focus on negotiations through dialogue and no violent means can be helpful to foster peace and resolve conflict (s).

Rotary as an organization and Rotarians as individuals have fostered peace throughout the world in different ways. Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations.

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to promote the practice of peace and conflict prevention/ resolution by:

1. Training leaders, including potential youth leaders, to prevent and mediate conflict
2. Supporting peace-building in communities and regions affected by conflict
3. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution

Leaders of Rotary International and Symbiosis International University gathered in Pune, India, to inaugurate a new Rotary Peace Center at the university. Supported through The Rotary Foundation, the center will provide experienced peacebuilders from across Asia with one-year professional development certificate fellowships to study subjects such as conflict transformation, sustainable development, and social change.

"With India's rich diversity and complex social landscape, the peace center will offer unique opportunities for cultivating leaders who can navigate conflict with empathy and innovation," says Bharat S. Pandya, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation and member of the Rotary Club of Borivli, Maharashtra, India. "This center will nurture a new generation of leaders in Asia who are dedicated to strengthening dialogue, understanding, and sustainable peace."

The new center will host up to 40 Rotary Peace Fellows per year to earn a postgraduate diploma in peace and development studies. The program is designed for midcareer professionals with experience working in peace and development fields, including within governments, non-governmental and community organizations, educational institutions, media outlets, and international agencies.

Symbiosis International University's motto, Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, or The World Is One Family, reflects a commitment to internationalism and cultural understanding that dates to its founding. Established in 1971 as a cultural exchange center for students from other countries (particularly Africa) who were experiencing discrimination, Symbiosis today has more than 55,000 students from at least 85 nations.

Rotarians all over the world time and again have demonstrated the need and importance for peace through cooperation and a spirit of humanity. Rotary will continue to touch lives and inspire and motivate.

Jashoda Chettri

Associate Editor

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

February 2026

Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240 2025-26

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month – February

Conflict does not begin on battlefields. It begins where listening stops.

That is the context in which we mark February.

We are living in a time when positions harden quickly, conversations collapse early, and disagreement too easily becomes personal. Peace, therefore, cannot remain an idea we merely endorse—it must become a practice we consciously adopt.

Rotary's relevance lies precisely here.

Across our district, your work already reflects this commitment. Service projects that restore dignity, initiatives that bring diverse groups together, and sustained engagement with communities—these are not isolated acts. They build trust. And trust is the first condition for peace.

As an orthopedic surgeon, I understand peace through the lens of repair.

A fracture cannot be wished away. It must be identified, aligned, stabilized, and allowed to heal. If alignment is poor, the outcome is compromised. If stabilization is weak, the fracture reopens.

Communities function no differently.

Where there is division, we must first acknowledge it.

Where there is misalignment, we must correct it with care.

Where there is strain, we must create stability through meaningful engagement.

Superficial fixes do not hold—whether in bone or in society.

This is where Rotary must be intentional.

Membership is not just growth; it is capacity. Each new member strengthens our ability to influence dialogue, build bridges, and act with credibility.

Service is not just delivery; it is connection. Well-designed projects do more than address immediate needs—they reinforce confidence that cooperation is still possible.

The Rotary Foundation is not just support; it is scale. It enables structured, sustained interventions that endure beyond individual efforts.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

February, therefore, is not symbolic—it is directional.

We must create spaces where disagreement does not lead to disengagement.

We must strengthen relationships before they fracture.

We must engage early, not after damage is done.

This requires discipline.

To listen without interruption.

To engage without escalation.

To lead without polarizing.

Peace is not passive. It is constructed—deliberately, consistently, and often quietly.

The question before us is simple:

Are we building that capacity within ourselves and within our clubs?

Because peace, like healing, depends on what is done before the break worsens.

And that work begins with us.

Dr K S Elangbam
District Governor,
Rotary District 3240
Rotary Year 2025–26

KNOW YOUR ASSISTANT GOVERNOR

Rtn. Birendra Jain

Assistant Governor -Zone 15
District 3240, 2025–26

A leader forged in service, defined by dedication.

Hailing from the vibrant town of Nagaon, Assam, AG Rtn Birendra Jain has always believed that values shape the path one walks. As the son of Shri Mangat Mal Jain and Smt. Saroj Devi Jain, he was raised with a strong sense of responsibility, humility, and purpose—principles that continue to guide him in every aspect of life.

With a background in B.Com (Hons) and a deep inclination towards service, he began his Rotary journey on 15th August 2014. Over the years, this journey has not merely been about holding positions, but about growth, learning, and meaningful contribution. From serving as Secretary in 2021–22 to leading as President in 2023–24, he has worked alongside dedicated individuals to achieve significant milestones. Under his leadership, the club received 11 prestigious awards, including the Best Secretary Award (2021–22) and Best President Award (2023–24).

His commitment to The Rotary Foundation has been deeply personal. Becoming a Paul Harris Fellow in 2019–20, progressing to PHF+1 and PHF+2 in subsequent years, committing to the Paul Harris Society, and becoming a Benefactor in 2025–26 through contribution to the Endowment Fund—all reflect his belief in sustaining service beyond one's lifetime. As he steps into the role of Assistant Governor for 2025–26 and serves as Club Foundation Chair, he views this not as a position, but as an opportunity to strengthen the spirit of giving, leadership, and collaboration across the district.

Rotary has shaped him in profound ways. It has taught him that leadership is not about authority, but about responsibility—about showing up consistently, doing the work, and putting others before self. It has broadened his perspective, enabling him to connect with people from diverse backgrounds and truly appreciate the power of empathy and collective effort.

On a personal level, Rotary has given him lifelong friendships, mentors, and a deep sense of belonging. It has instilled discipline, strengthened his values, and continually reminded him that even small efforts, when undertaken with sincerity, can create lasting impact.

In today's world, he believes that being a Rotarian is more important than ever. Rotary brings people together with a shared purpose, transcending boundaries and differences. It provides a platform where individuals can contribute meaningfully and become part of something larger than themselves.

For him, Rotary is not merely an organization—it is a way of life. It stands as a constant reminder that true leadership lies in serving others, and that the impact created through service is the legacy one leaves behind.

Rtn. Birendra Jain

DISTRICT IMPACT DASHBOARD

At a Glance — February 2026

Metric	Value	Notes
TRF Collection Foundation	$13327 USD	Contributions to The Rotary
No. of Service Projects	246	Across all clubs in District 3240
Total Cost of Projects	₹112,88,531	Approx. ₹1.3 Crore
Total Beneficiaries Reached	125714	Direct beneficiaries served
Reporting Month	December 2026	Vocational Service Month

These figures represent the collective effort of all clubs reporting to CMR collated in February 2026.

SIGNATURE PROJECTS

A Century of Service, A Future of Healing

A Global Grant Project was successfully carried out by Rotary Club of Asansol at Ramakrishna Mission with the objective of strengthening medical facilities for the community. Medical equipment worth USD 32,000 have been donated under this project. The initiative was made possible with the valuable partnership of the Rotary Club of Turtle Creek, District 7305 (USA). This project reflects the spirit of international cooperation in Rotary International, aiming to improve healthcare services and benefit the people served by Ramakrishna Mission. Through this collaboration, essential medical equipment will help enhance patient care and support the mission's ongoing humanitarian service.

Happy School Inauguration

Acharya Prafulla Chandra Primary School has been developed and inaugurated as a Happy School by **Rotary Club of Siliguri Uttorayon**. The club has provided basic amenities to ensure a better and joyful learning environment for the children.

Rotary Club of Durgapur Smart City organised a camp for the second dose of HPV Vaccine to all the 50 girl child those who had received their first dose in the month of July at Jemua Bhadubala High School.

Rotary Club of Nagaon has upgraded its ambulance into a fully equipped Mobile ICU featuring advanced life-saving equipment like ventilators and cardiac monitors. This initiative strengthens regional emergency preparedness, providing critical care and stable transport for patients across Nagaon and surrounding areas.

Supported by a District 3240 Foundation Grant, **Rotary Club of Asansol Greater** installed a Smart Class at Jamuria Namopara F P School on 8th February, 2026 to benefit 140 underprivileged students. Inaugurated by DG Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam, the facility has significantly enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes through visual education.

Birthday Bash

Rtn. Sandip Samanta organized a community welfare program featuring health and eye check-up camps alongside a children's drawing competition on 17th February, 2026. The event marked the anniversary of Asansol Energy Fuel Station. Attended by several Rotarians, the event successfully combined business celebration with impactful social service and health awareness for local residents.

Rotary Club of Imphal celebrated the 121st Anniversary of Rotary International on 23rd Feb'2026 by visiting the Senior Citizen's Home at Kongba, Imphal East and having lunch with the inmates of the home and giving gifts. Past President Rtn. Pramod Jaiswal donated 21 phanek with towels for the inmates. Four members of RC Imphal, PP Rtn. Devkumar ($1198), PP Rtn. Rabichandra ($350), PP Rtn. Pramod Chhabra ($100) and PP Rtn Pramod Jaiswal ($100) contributed $350, $ 100 and $ 217to the Rotary Foundation on the occasion.

Clubfoot Camp (Permanent Project)

Rotary Club of Mango City Malda successfully organized its 4th Club Foot Camp of RY 25-26 on February 15, 2026, at IMA Bhawan Malda. The event was graced by the presence of the esteemed past AG Rtn Sameer Kundu along with Assistant Governor 25-26, RID- 3240, Zone-IV, Rtn. Dr. Himachal Das, as the distinguished guest. This initiative by RC Mango City Malda brought together both Rotarians and non-Rotarians to support children affected by clubfoot. The club extends its gratitude to all individuals who contributed to the events success, which resulted in the distribution of 27 splinter shoes.

Rotary Club of Guwahati Luit, in collaboration with Kokila Vikas, distributed seven wheelchairs to paralyzed and underprivileged individuals in Gohpur on 21st February, 2026. This initiative restored mobility and independence for beneficiaries from economically weaker sections, reflecting the club's ongoing commitment to "Service Above Self.

A Sewing and Tailoring Training Program for Women was successfully organized by **Rotary Club of Malda** on 13th February, 2026 with the aim of empowering underprivileged women through skill development and self-employment opportunities. The project focused on providing practical, hands-on training in basic sewing and tailoring techniques, enabling the participants to learn garment stitching and the proper use of sewing machines. Around 25 women actively participated in the program and showed great enthusiasm and dedication throughout the training. With guidance and support, the participants were able to prepare different types of simple garments and clothing items on their own. The training helped them gain confidence and motivated them to use these newly acquired skills to support their families and create small income-generating opportunities.

Rotary Club of Gauhati South Donates Swargarath to Kalia Kanai Smashan Samiti

Rotary Club of Gauhati South (RCGS) donated a Swargarath to the Kalia Kanai Smashan Samiti at Bhetapara in a solemn ceremony held on the premises of Kalia Kanai Smashan on 28th February, 2026.

The handing-over ceremony witnessed the presence of around 63 attendees, including Rotarians, members of the Smashan Samiti, and local residents. Rtn Priyama Goswami, President of RCGS, led the delegation of club members at the event. Also present were AGM, SBI, Sri Sujit Dey; Foundation Chair of Rotary District 3240, PDG Rtn Prabhat Kedia; and AG Zone 9, Rtn Vikash Bajaj.

The Swargarath van was procured through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds received from the State Bank of India (SBI) the total Amount sanction was Rs 14,31071/-(fourteen lakhs thirty one thousand seventy one only). The initiative aims to provide dignified and timely funeral transportation services to the local community.

Members of the Smashan Samiti and the public present lauded the efforts of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South for addressing a vital community need. Following the meeting, the Swargarath was formally flagged off by SBI officials and Rotarians, marking the commencement of its service for the benefit of the people of the area.

Rotary Club of Asansol came together in a joint effort to support the education of a needy student, Debraj Mitra, by contributing towards his Class 10 CBSE examination and school fees. With the generous support of club members, an amount of Rs 13,200 was collected to ensure that the student could appear for his examinations without financial stress. This small but meaningful initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to supporting education and helping young students continue their academic journey with dignity and hope. Sponsor Club: RC Asansol Beneficiary: Debraj Mitra Amount supported with a generous amount of Rs 13,300.

Tree Plantation Camp

Rotary Club of Siliguri Midtown, in association with the Interact Club of Narayana School and Narayana School, Fulbari, organised a Tree Plantation Camp on Sunday, 15 February 2026 at the Narayana School campus. Inspired by the Rotary theme "Unite for Good," the initiative aimed to bring members and the community together to promote environmental sustainability and contribute towards a greener future. this collective effort was a step towards protection of the environment for a healthier tomorrow.

Under our Permanent Food Bank initiative, the **Rotary Club of Silchar** organized a cooked food donation drive at the club premises on 8th February. Nutritious meals were served to 180 underprivileged individuals, including many daily wage earners. This compassionate act reflects the club's continued commitment to community service and hunger relief, ensuring that no one is left behind. Together, we serve with a selfless heart.

On 23rd February, **Rotary Club of Durgapur Smart City** donated a tricycle to ta needy person in the presence of the District Governor and Assistant Governor during the 262nd regular weekly meeting cum Rotary's 121st Birthday celebration.

Extension and Renovation of Seng Khasi Lower Primary School

On 28th February, the **Rotary Club of Shillong Heritage** marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of two meaningful projects at Seng Khasi Lower Primary School, Mawiong, Diengpasoh - the extension and renovation of the school building and the WINS (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Schools) Handwashing Project. The projects were formally inaugurated by the District Governor, Rtn. Dr. K.S. Elangbam in the presence of District Secretary Rtn. Amit Sharma. The occasion was further dignified by members of the School Managing Committee, the President of Seng Khasi L.P. School, the President of Seng Khasi Diengpasoh, Rotarians of the club, parents, teachers, and enthusiastic students. The extension and renovation work has provided improved classroom facilities, creating a safer, brighter, and more conducive learning environment for the children. The upgraded infrastructure reflects Rotary's commitment to supporting education and investing in the future of young minds.

Rotary Club of Borderland Karimganj distributed science laboratory materials to Saraswati Vidya Niketan, Nilambazar on 1st February2026 in presence of District Governor thus fulfilling a much needed requirement for the school as the school was running short of science laboratory items. The materials will be a boost for the students to do better to enhance and upgrade their knowledge and skills.

Rotary Club of Naharkatia distributed 500 packets of sanitary napkins among the underprivileged women in the interior areas of Naharkatia constituency and also counselling of the women regarding the usage of sanitary napkins was also provided.

On 13th February, **Rotary Club of Guwahati South** organised a Storytelling and Learning Session at Parijat Academy. Members of RCGS visited Parijat Academy in Natun Garbhanga to conduct an interactive learning session for 85 underprivileged and orphaned students.

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention /Resolution

On 19 February 2026, the **Rotary Club of Aspiring Agartala** organised a seminar on the occasion of the Rotary February Project "Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention / Resolution". The guest speaker of the program, Dr. Santanu Ghosh, delivered an inspiring motivational speech. The program concluded with the felicitation of Dr. Santanu Ghosh by the Club Secretary Smt. Jhumur Banik Sengupta on behalf of Club the club members. More than 150 people participated in the seminar.

Free Health Camp on Ortho, Neuro, General Medicine

The **Rotary Club Duliajan** organized a two-day Health Camp on 14th and 15th February 2026 in association with Avyana Hospital, Chennai. Specialist doctors provided consultations in orthopedics, neurology, and general medicine to the local community. More than 100 patients received free check-ups, tests and expert medical advice. The camp was successfully conducted with strong community response and the dedicated efforts of Rotary members and volunteers.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL CLUB VISIT

Rotary Club of Asansol Greater

The District Governor's Official Visit to the Rotary Club of Asansol Greater was held on 8th February 2026 at Asansol Greater Club Ltd.

In the morning, the District Governor visited the Adult Literacy Centre at the FEED Campus and inaugurated a Smart Class at Jamuria Namopara F.P. School, supported by the club.

In the evening, the official Club Assembly commenced at 8:00 PM following leadership interactions. Vocational Service Awards were presented, and ₹9,000 was handed over for the Adult Literacy Centre.

Rotary Club of Kulti

The Official Club Visit commenced on 7th February 2026 at Fern Hotel, Asansol.

The District Governor reviewed club records and discussed membership growth, service impact, and TRF contributions. The club committed to becoming an EREY club.

Rotary Club of Asansol Green City

On 9th February 2026, the District Governor visited the Maa Kali Mandir project site.

The club constructed a 24x7 toilet block and a drinking water kiosk. The Governor appreciated the sustainability and encouraged greater TRF contributions.

Rotary Club of Asansol

The visit included a Global Grant project review with medical equipment worth ₹32 lakhs donated to Ramakrishna Mission, Asansol. The club was commended for its exemplary performance and strong Rotary Foundation participation.

Rotary Club of Raniganj

The District Governor reviewed service initiatives and administrative progress.

Members were encouraged to expand impact through sustainable projects and stronger engagement.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL CLUB VISIT

Rotary Club of Tagoreland

On February 24, 2026, the club hosted District Governor Rtn. Kameswar Singh Elangbam for a highly successful official visit. Following a meticulous administrative audit, the DG commended the club's adherence to protocols while advocating for enhanced public image and greater project visibility. The subsequent Club Assembly and General Meeting celebrated the 121st Anniversary of Rotary International alongside significant fellowship milestones. The evening culminated in a powerful call to action by the DG, inspiring members toward continued service excellence. The proceedings concluded with a formal dinner, marking a distinguished chapter in the club's current Rotary year.

Rotary Club of Raiganj

The District Governor's visit was attended by 27 Rotarians and their families, strengthening fellowship

Rotary Club of Guskara

On 21st February 2026, the Club Assembly was held at Tilottama Lodge. A tricycle was donated to a beneficiary.

Rotary Club of Asansol Royal Bengal

The club organised a film screening with refreshments for residents of an old age home, promoting fellowship and care.

Rotary Club of Durgapur Central

On 25th February 2026, the District Governor inaugurated a Four-Way Test board and inspected a laparoscopic unit funded by a Global Grant.

The club's impactful work was highly appreciated.

Rotary Club of Durgapur Elite

The District Governor attended the club assembly, verified records, and conducted the RWM.

One new member was inducted, and a wheelchair was donated.

District TRF Seminar 2026 –

Hosted with Pride by Rotary Club of Greater Silchar

Rotary Club of Greater Silchar had the proud privilege of hosting the District TRF Seminar on 31st January 2026 at the elegant Sagarika Resort, Rongpur, Silchar, in an atmosphere filled with grace, warmth, inspiration, and true Rotary spirit.

After the registration every participant was welcomed with heartfelt hospitality—traditional *uttoriyo* and beautifully curated gift bags filled with thoughtful essentials and souvenirs, making each guest feel truly special from the very first moment.

The programme was wonderfully anchored by Tanushree Deb, and the meeting was called to order by the District Governor, Rtn. Dr. Kameshwar Singh Elangbam. The National Anthem, presented beautifully with playback, set the tone for the event. The lighting of the ceremonial lamp was done by the esteemed dignitaries: DG Rtn. Dr. Kameshwar Singh Elangbam, DRFC PDG Rtn. Subhasish Chaterjee, PDG Rtn. Sunil Mehra, PDG Rtn. Nilesh Agarwal, DGE Rtn. Dr. Ashim Kanti Adhikari, DGN Rtn. Dr. Danny Dutta, and DGND Rtn. Dr. Pallavi Maji, marking a powerful beginning to a meaningful evening.

The gathering was warmly addressed by Event Chair Rtn. Budhmal Baid and Club President Rtn. Dr. Rajat Deb, whose welcoming words beautifully reflected the spirit of fellowship and gratitude.

A truly soul-stirring highlight of the seminar was the breathtaking "Jugalbandi Performance" by two specially-abled girls who happen to be Rotaractors, one visually impaired, who sang with pure emotion, and the other an amputee, who danced gracefully with inspiring confidence. Their extraordinary performance created a pin-drop silence in the hall and left every heart deeply moved—an unforgettable reminder that courage and talent shine beyond all limitations.

The seminar was further enriched by highly impactful and motivating speeches with PPT presentations by all dignitaries, spreading awareness and strengthening commitment towards The Rotary Foundation. The keynote speaker PDG Rtn. Sunil Mehra was introduced in an elegant manner by our club member Rtn. Debojyoti Ghosh, adding special charm to the session.

The proudest moment of the event came with an outstanding TRF commitment of $2.06 lakh, including $1 lakh through CSR, reflecting the powerful spirit of giving and the strong dedication of Rotarians towards creating lasting change.

The event concluded with a heartfelt and gracious vote of thanks by Event Co-Chair & IPP Rtn. Joyjit Biswas, acknowledging all dignitaries, guests, Rotarians, and every individual who contributed to making the seminar a grand success.

The evening ended on a delightful note with a memorable dinner, and a vibrant musical programme by a renowned band—celebrating fellowship, joy, and Rotary unity.

Overall, the District TRF Seminar 2026 was a grand, inspiring, and memorable occasion—truly reflecting Rotary's mission of "Doing Good in the World" through service, generosity, and commitment.

Rotaract 3240 initiated the district Project for February - The Rotaract Dialogue. It comprises conducting a Model United Nation along with the Peace Talk series, serving the month of February. The Project was carried out at different institutions of our district.

Zone	District	US Dollars ($)
6	3030	$254
6	3240	$446
6	3250	$56
6	3262	$1000
6	3292	$266
7	3020	$20
7	3131	$334
7	3150	$20
7	3170	$124
7	3191	$310
7	3192	$149

Zone	District	US Dollars ($)
18	3271	$10
4	3011	$202
4	3040	$363
4	3060	$102
4	3080	$300
4	3141	$585
5	3000	$25
5	3203	$2
5	3204	$100
5	3206	$260
5	3220	$726
5	3231	$100
5	3233	$2
5	3234	$75,045 (Highest in the World)

Rotaract 3240 has been placed 2nd in Zone 6 and 5th in South Asia in the overall TRF contribution as on dated Feb 04,2026. It really emphasizes how Rotaractors are dedicated towards the Rotary Foundation bringing impactful service in the society.

ROTARY VOICES

Rotary's Role in the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccination Program in India

PDG Dr Yogesh Verma

Rotarians can be proud of the fact that the Government of India has taken up the challenge of introducing HPV vaccination and becoming one of the few countries in the Developing world. 70% of 9-14 year old girls live in countries without the Vaccination program.

Immunization of all girls aged 14 years as part of the National Immunization program will prove to be a game changer in Cervical cancer prevention.

India continues to face a high burden of cervical cancer with nearly one lakh new cases and around fifty thousand deaths reported every year making it one of the leading cancers affecting women. Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers because of the availability of an effective vaccine and good screening tests .

World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal of eliminating cervical cancer by 2030 with the targets being set that 90% 0f girls up to the age of 15 years are fully vaccinated , and 70% of the women are screened with an HPV test at 35 and 45 years and 90% of women receive treatment with cervical disease .

The vaccine has been proven to be safe with only mild and temporary side effects and does not affect fertility and overall health .

Few Rotary Clubs in India have been taking up vaccination in their communities but now the Government of India will be providing the vaccination to all girls at the age of 14 from its health facility across the country free of cost . For Rotary Clubs to sustain HPV vaccination was a challenge because of the high cost of the vaccine .

We all know Rotary has been an effective partner with the Government and stood shoulder to shoulder in the battle against Polio.

Now there is another opportunity for the Rotarians to support the Government .

The challenge which is expected is the coverage of all the girls and getting them to the health facility at the age of 14. Generally, all immunization activities cease by the age of 9 years and getting the children to the health facility at the age of 14 will be a crucial. Here Rotarians can play a major role.

Rotary can play a vital role in providing advocacy so that not a single girl is deprived of the vaccine. Large number of false propaganda is spread by anti-vaccine groups and individuals against the efficacy of the vaccine. The benefit of this vaccine has been proven beyond doubt by scientific evidence and long term clinical trials.

We need to educate girls and their parents about the benefit of vaccination, the women about the benefit of screening with a HPV test and the importance of seeking treatment if diagnosed with cervical disease .

The goal set by WHO for eliminating cervical cancer by 2030 is achievable and Rotarians can help achieve this target by being a facilitation partner to fulfil this target.

PDG Dr Yogesh Verma

Rotary Club of Gangtok

District 3240

ROTARY THINK PIECE

Before the First Shot: Where Wars Truly Begin

There are moments in history when the world does not merely drift into conflict—it chooses it. And in those moments, the question is not who is right, but who is willing to stop being wrong first.

We are living through such a moment.

Across continents, wars are no longer distant abstractions. They are intimate—played out in real time, in our hands, on our screens, in our conversations. The theatre of war has expanded beyond borders; it now occupies the human psyche. We have become spectators to suffering, analysts of destruction, and, disturbingly, sometimes even partisans of violence.

Peace, then, cannot remain a slogan we dust off every February.

It must become a discipline.

What strikes me is not merely the persistence of conflict, but the failure of imagination that precedes it. Every war is first a collapse of dialogue. A hardening of narratives. A refusal to hold complexity. When identities become non-negotiable and positions absolute, conflict is not an outcome—it is an inevitability.

And yet, Rotary asks of us something far more demanding than charity. It asks us to become architects of understanding.

This is uncomfortable work.

Peacebuilding is not about neutrality; it is about engagement without hostility. It is the courage to enter spaces where disagreement is sharp, history is heavy, and emotions are raw—and still choose to listen. Not to respond, not to rebut, but to understand without the compulsion to win.

In a world that rewards outrage, this is radical.

But let us be honest. We, too, are not immune. In our own circles—professional, social, ideological—we draw lines. We curate agreement. We disengage from discomfort. And in doing so, we rehearse, in miniature, the very patterns that scale into global conflict.

Peace is not lost on battlefields. It is lost in everyday conversations that never happen.

So what, then, is our call?

It is to move from projects to processes.

Not just funding initiatives, but fostering cultures of dialogue. Not just responding to conflict, but pre-empting it through understanding. Not just speaking of peace, but practicing disagreement with dignity.

Imagine if every Rotary meeting became a space where opposing ideas could coexist without hostility. Imagine if we trained ourselves—not just in leadership or service—but in the craft of listening. Imagine if we saw conflict not as something to avoid, but as something to navigate with intelligence and empathy.

This is not idealism. This is strategy.

Because the future will not be shaped by those who shout the loudest, but by those who can hold the most complexity without collapsing into division.

The wars we see today will eventually end. They always do. But what will remain is the quality of peace that follows. And that is not determined by treaties alone—it is determined by the human capacity to rebuild trust.

That work begins far from the battlefield.

It begins with us.

Not as Rotarians alone, but as individuals willing to ask a difficult question:

In a world preparing for conflict am I preparing for peace?

If the answer is uncertain, then February is not a theme.

It is an invitation.

And perhaps, a responsibility we can no longer postpone.

Rtn Amit Saraf

Rotary Club Shillong

GUEST WRITES...

When the Queen came up Panka bari!!!

A light-hearted linguistic joyride through Gorkhali, tea gardens, and words that went on holiday and never quite returned the same

Siddarth Pradhan

There are many ways to measure history in the hills. Some look at monasteries, some at tea bushes, some at old dak bungalows that creak like they remember the British personally. But if you really want to understand the Darjeeling hills, Kalimpong slopes, or the Dooars plains—you listen.

Because here, language is not spoken. It is *brewed*.And like a good second flush, it is complex, aromatic, and occasionally—utterly confusing.

Chapter 1: When English Came a Visiting… and Never Left!!

English arrived in the hills like an overdressed tourist—boots polished, hat stiff, and vocabulary tightly packed. But somewhere between the *burra bungalow* and the *labour lines*, it loosened its collar, picked up a few habits, and decided to stay.

The result? A gloriously confused, utterly charming dialect where English words wear Nepali jackets and Gorkhali expressions sip tea with British accents.

Take for instance:

- **"Est'coat"** – sounds like a colonial official, but is simply a humble *waistcoat*
- **"Kerchef"** – the elegant fall of "handkerchief" after a long trek uphill
- **"Shock-up"** – not an emotional experience, but your car's suspension crying on a *kutcha bato*

And then comes the masterpiece:

"Sisi Kuku" – the pressure cooker.

Somewhere, deep in linguistic heaven, the English language is still trying to process this one.

Chapter 2: Tea Garden English – Where Words Work for a Living

Nowhere is this linguistic *jugalbandi* more alive than in the tea estates.Because tea gardens didn't just grow leaves—they grew vocabulary.

Here, English wasn't just spoken. It was **assigned a job**.

- The **Burra Sahib** wasn't just a title—he was the CEO, mayor, judge, and occasionally, marriage counselor
- The **Bawarchi** ruled the kitchen like a Michelin-starred general
- The **Paniwalla** ensured water flowed more reliably than estate gossip
- The **Munshi** knew everything—accounts, attendance, and who took *toilet leave* suspiciously often

And yes, **"Toilet Leave"**—a phrase so beautifully practical, it deserves global recognition. Four days off to build your toilet. Somewhere, HR departments worldwide are taking notes.

Even food wasn't spared:

- **Chota Hazri** – a "light breakfast" that could easily defeat lunch
- **Burra Hazri** – a breakfast so grand it required a lawn, an umbrella, and possibly a nap afterward

And then the most poetic of all:

"Phalang ko chai" – bed tea.

Because in the hills, you don't wake up and then drink tea.You drink tea *to wake up properly*.

Chapter 3: Words That the English "Borrowed"… and Forgot to Return

Now let's flip the story. Because while English was busy getting Gorkhalized, it was also quietly… *looting*.Yes, the empire didn't just take land and tea—it took words.

And some of them are now so "English" that even the English have forgotten their origin story.

Take:

- **Bungalow** – straight from *bangla*, meaning a Bengal-style house. The British loved it so much they exported it globally. Today, a Californian real estate agent says "bungalow" with no idea it once had a ceiling fan and a *phankawalla*
- **Loot** – from Hindi/Urdu, but now used worldwide with great enthusiasm
- **Dooars** – from *duar*, meaning gateway. Ironically, the British used it as a gateway… to stay permanently

And then there are the subtle infiltrations:

- **Veranda**
- **Punkah → Phankawalla (the human air conditioner)**
- **Khaki, Jungle, Shampoo**—all proudly desi exports

Language, it turns out, was the original global trade route.

Chapter 4: The Poetry of the Hills (Also Known as Everyday Conversation)
Now imagine a perfectly normal day in the hills: You wake up in your **bungalow**, sip your **phalang ko chai**, ask the **paniwalla** why water is late, shout for your **kerchief.** On the way, your vehicle hits a pothole and you mutter:
"*Shock-up gaya re baba…*"
You reach the estate, where the **sardar** is already at **ganti dara**, the **munshi** is making notes, and someone casually informs you: "*Maila daju under the matti ho gaya.*"
Which, for the uninitiated, sounds like gardening news. But is actually… not.

Chapter 5: The Great Linguistic Equalizer
What's fascinating is that in the hills, language is not about correctness. It's about **comfort**.
Nobody pauses to ask: "*Is this English or Nepali or Hindi?*"
Because here, words are like tea blends. You don't question the ingredients—you enjoy the flavour.
A sentence might start in English, take a detour through Nepali, pick up a Hindi idiom, and end with a British shrug.
Example: "*Kal burra hazri ke baad kaamjari hai, so don't be late hai*!"
Try diagramming that sentence in an English grammar class. You'll need therapy afterward.

Chapter 6: Lost in Translation… Happily
Of course, misunderstandings happen. A tourist once asked for a "light breakfast" and was served a **chota hazri** that could feed a cricket team.
Another asked what "under the matti" meant and was advised—gently—not to worry about it just yet.
And then there are moments of pure linguistic genius:

- "Settop the light!" (Switch off)
- "Ghumaiga?" (Another round?)
- "Bamdobast ho gaya?" (All arrangements done?)

These aren't mistakes.They are **evolution**.

https://historum.com/t/colonial-gora-sahib-and-their-indian-servants.126874/

Chapter 7: Why This Matters (Even If It's Funny)
Beneath the humor lies something deeper.This hybrid language is not broken English.
It is **lived history**.
It carries:

- The footsteps of tea planters
- The resilience of workers
- The rhythm of Nepali, Hindi, and English living side by side

It is what happens when cultures don't just meet—they **settle down together**.

Epilogue: A Toast with Bed Tea
So the next time you're in the hills, don't just admire the Kanchenjunga sunrise or sip your Darjeeling first flush.
Listen.
To the **bawarchi** calling out orders,To the **dakwala** cycling past, To someone asking, "Ghumaiga?" with a hopeful smile.
Because in those words lies a story far richer than any dictionary can capture.
A story where English came as a ruler…Stayed as a guest…And eventually became just another local.
With a slightly funny accent.
And a deep love for tea.

And remember:
In the hills, language is like tea. It's best enjoyed… slightly mixed. *"Wanna Cuppa Darjeeling?"*

Siddarth Pradhan is a Kalimpong based tourism expert and the North East Projects Coordinator for Association for Conservation & Tourism (ACT) an NGO working in the Eastern Himalayas for sustainability and empowerment of communities. He swapped boardrooms for mountain passes. Armed with a History degree and an MBA in Sales & Marketing, Siddarth ventured into the world of tourism, further honing my expertise at I.I.T.T.M and I.I.T-Kharagpur. His academic pursuits laid the foundation for a career dedicated to eco-tourism and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROTARY UPDATES

Within hours of deadly floods and landslides that struck Mexico in October, Rotary members were responding. In hard-hit Poza Rica, Rotary and Rotaract members brought residents to safety, plowed mud-laden streets, and moved house to house to clean properties. The effort was supported by clubs throughout District 4185 and by neighboring districts and others abroad. The Rotary Club of Poza Rica joined the nonprofit Planet Water Foundation to install four water towers and a water block in the neediest area and deliver purified water elsewhere. The club also coordinated with World Central Kitchen to provide hot meals. Still, "we desperately need help to get back on our feet and return to our normal lives," says club member Pepe Badillo. "The houses were a total loss. Everything was destroyed, from a single plate to the bedrooms on the second floor."

Rotary International is excited to announce that we are innovating our process for connecting prospective members and referrals with clubs by empowering candidates with the knowledge they need to find their home in Rotary and connect them to a club right away.The new prospective member management system both streamlines the process for prospective members and reduces the number of administrative tasks for club and district leaders.Our modernized system will make it easier, faster, and more intuitive for club leaders to follow up with the candidates who have expressed interest in becoming a member of their club. District leaders will be empowered to support where needed, allowing them to focus on opportunities to support club health and new club development.Reported club and district officers can visit pmm.rotary.org/admin to access the new platform.

Barcelona, Spain, has been selected to host Rotary's international convention, which is often described by attendees as a mini-United Nations conference, on 26–30 June 2027 at the Fira de Barcelona. This decision enables the city to bring the Rotary community together two years sooner than was recently announced in March.Based on previous events, the Rotary convention is expected to attract up to 20,000 participants from over 140 countries and generate more than €68 million for the local economy. The Rotary convention in 2027 was originally scheduled to take place in Dubai. Rotary postponed it to a later year due to the current uncertainty in the region. Leaders of the global membership service organization expressed gratitude to its partners in Barcelona for their flexibility and collaboration in accommodating this change."With enthusiasm and energy, we are prepared to pivot quickly to host the international convention in 2027," said Sergio Aragón, chair of the Barcelona Host Committee and a member of the Rotary Club Barcelona Diagonal. "We look forward to welcoming our international guests and delivering an exceptional experience."

At first it just seemed like a bad flu.

The illness struck Danielle Stanisic while she was in New York for a research gig, her first time living away from home in Australia. It was her lab mates, though, who grew alarmed and insisted she get tested. It turned out Stanisic, who had traveled to Papua New Guinea six months earlier, had malaria.The next week in the hospital was a blur of suffering, but looking back 20 years later, Stanisic's overriding feeling about the ordeal is how lucky she was. "I had access to rapid and effective care in a hospital," she says. "I didn't have to worry about the drugs being counterfeit. I didn't have to worry about them not having enough IV fluids. I didn't have to worry about any of that. That's not the way it is in malaria endemic countries."

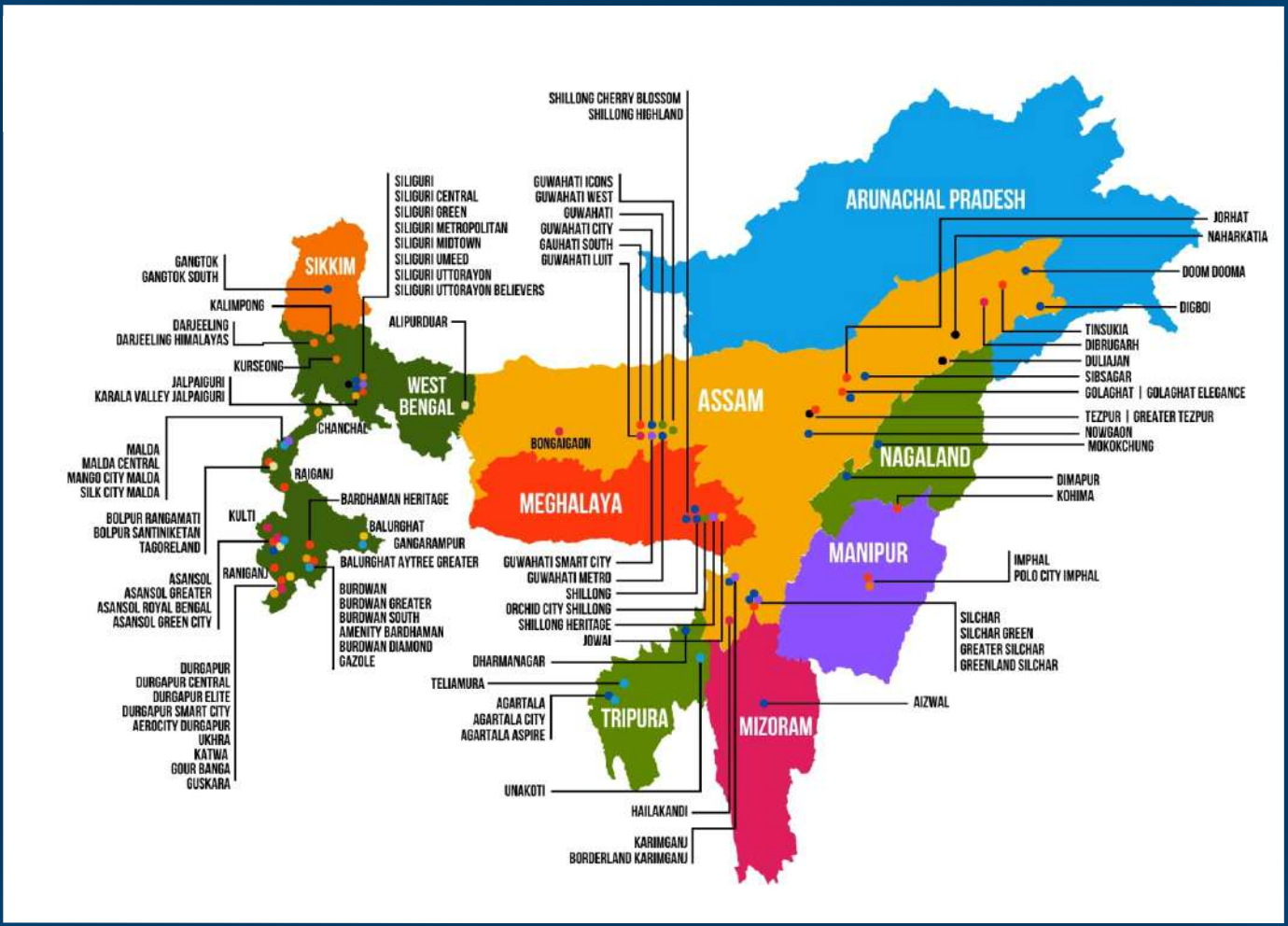
Today, Stanisic is a veteran immunologist specializing in defeating parasites. Atop her hit list is the biological invader that causes malaria, a killer of around 600,000 people each year, most of them in places offering little of the luck that she had accessing care.

Malaria has bedeviled humankind for millennia. Caused by a mosquito-borne parasite, the disease has afflicted generations stretching back to the likes of Alexander the Great, believed to have been killed by the illness on the banks of the Euphrates. Traces of malaria parasites have been found, too, in mummified remnants of Tutankhamen's blood.Today, though the disease is preventable and treatable, malaria remains a deadly and destructive force in large swaths of the world, nowhere more so than in Africa, home to 95 percent of cases and deaths. In 2024, malaria is estimated to have sickened 282 million people and killed 610,000, about 75 percent of them under the age of 5.The disease is spread to humans through the bite of some female Anopheles mosquitoes. The most common symptoms are fever, headache, and chills. If left untreated, the infection can lead to severe illness with fatigue, seizures, and difficulty breathing, and may cause coma or death in as little as 24 hours from the onset of symptoms. Though malaria is not contagious or spread directly from person to person, mosquitoes feeding on an infected person's blood can pick up the parasite and spread it to other people.In the first two decades of this century, the risk of malaria gradually dropped in affected areas, with the biggest factor by far being the adoption of preventive measures like bed nets treated with insecticides that can last three years or more and spraying interior walls with similarly long-lasting insecticide. Aided by such measures, 47 countries have been certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization, including Egypt, China, and, most recently, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in 2025. Antimalarial drugs also saved lives.Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, case counts have grown again. And global cuts to aid funding could trigger a further devastating reversal of the progress. "A perfect storm of climate change, rising drug and insecticide resistance, trade disruptions, and global insecurity further undermine the efficacy of malaria interventions and threaten to reverse the hard-won progress that has been made since 2000," warns a 2025 report by the intergovernmental African Leaders Malaria Alliance and the nonprofit Malaria No More UK. Last year's round of pledges to the Global Fund partnership, which raises money to fight malaria, AIDS, and tuberculosis, produced less than the previous round, in 2022. The report's authors predict that failing to match the earlier level of funding will result in an even greater increase in the number of malaria cases and deaths.The WHO's approval starting in 2021 of two breakthrough vaccines for malaria — the first ever against parasites — is giving hope that this dire forecast can be averted and even that the disease could be eradicated. Dozens of other possible vaccines are in the pipeline. Among them is a promising candidate being developed by Stanisic and her team in Australia.For decades, scientists have puzzled over how to train the body's immune system to fight malaria more effectively.

The philanthropic and government sectors are awash with debate over which public health campaigns and tools to back with limited resources and which hold the most promise. Some governments are reducing commitments across the board. Stanisic is blunt in her assessment that scientists face what they call "valley of death" funding gaps that cause promising technologies to die.Early on, her team turned to Rotary for support. Stanisic regularly spoke to a group of Australian Rotary members focused on eliminating malaria, and in 2015 she joined a new Rotary satellite club based at Griffith University. After she appealed for funds to buy a piece of lab equipment, Rotary members enthusiastically raised the money in a week. One of them, Sandra Doumany, immediately saw the potential for Rotary clubs to get more involved. "What that showed was the power of Rotary," says Doumany, a member of the nearby Rotary Club of Hope Island and a past district governor. "The fact that we could respond within the week, to me, that was the power of Rotary."

MAP OF RI DISTRICT 3240

[UPDATED AS ON 20/01/2026]



In the June Edition of GML, few Clubs were not featured in the map due to some inadvertent glitch.

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