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RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam  
District Governor RID 3240



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## Rotary's commitment to Peace and Conflict Resolution

**W**e live in a time when the air is heavy with the threat of war, and yet the silence between bombings is often mistaken for peace. Headlines speak of ceasefires, but not of healing. Treaties are signed, but hearts remain torn. And amid all this, one question echoes with urgency: 'What is the true role of peacebuilders in a world where both good and evil are human?'

Rotary International has long stood as a symbol of global service, leadership and peace. But today, our mission must go deeper. Peace cannot be defined by the absence of violence- it must be understood as the awakening of human conscience, the deliberate act of choosing compassion in a world capable of cruelty. It is not about erasing the shadow, but integrating it with light.

In such a scenario, Rotary's legacy is more than just service, it's a moral commitment. From sponsoring schools in refugee camps to convening peace scholars in universities, Rotary's commitment to Peace and Conflict Resolution has touched every continent. But what distinguishes Rotary's peace efforts is not only the scale it is the spirit. Rotarians do not work for applause. They work for alignment- with justice, with truth, with dignity.

### About the Author :

**Adhik Kadam** is the founder of Borderless World Foundation, working extensively in conflict regions of Jammu and Kashmir for the last 27 years. Through orphanage care, mobile medical services, and educational programmes, his work reflects the philosophy that peace begins with dignity. He collaborates closely with Rotary and believes that healing the world begins by awakening the human spirit.

## EKANBHA: A true inspiration to emulate



**I**n October 2024, Ekanbha was born out of a vision by Ferdinand Lyngdoh Marshallong, a determined individual with a hearing impairment. His dream was simple yet powerful: to create a space where persons with disabilities could unlock their potential while also promoting sustainability through eco-friendly products.

With this mission, Ekanbha began its journey with a small team of 12 skilled artisans, all persons with disabilities. Together, they transformed natural fibers into beautiful, functional creations — from jute conference bags and lifestyle totes to hand-painted bags and home décor pieces. Each product carried not only creativity but also a message of empowerment and environmental care.

The impact of Ekanbha quickly caught attention. In 2025, it was honored as one of the Top 75 Startups in the Chief Minister's E-Challenge, and also celebrated as one of the Top 10 Startups from North East at the Prakriti Incubation Launchpad hosted by IIMCIP Kolkata. These recognitions affirmed that inclusivity and sustainability can go hand in hand to build meaningful change.

Yet, the journey has only begun. Ekanbha continues to seek the support of society to reach rural communities, where it hopes to provide free skill training to empower more persons with disabilities. With every bag stitched and every stroke of paint, Ekanbha tells a story — a story of resilience, creativity, and hope for a more inclusive and sustainable future.

It is his honesty and plain speaking which set apart Ravishankar Dakoju, DG-elect, RI district 3192, from many others in the Rotary world. After getting a number of alerts in my mailbox on projects such as *Dakoju Dhanyavad*, *Rotary Koti Nati*, *Narahari Dhanyavad*, all of them associated with planting of trees in different places and different states, and with one common factor — Dakoju's involvement

Our generation, through sheer greed and thoughtless indulgence, has caused an environmental disaster and messed up our planet. A good portion of his bumper donation of ₹100 crore to The Rotary Foundation, pledged in 2018, is going towards greening our planet.

## Rooting for a green and gorgeous planet



The title *Koti Nati* translates to planting one crore saplings; so what kind of a transformation has this endeavour brought in the lives of individuals, I ask Dakoju. He says candidly, “You can't expect magic or life transformation through such a project in just two or three years. We have planted various kinds of trees... fruit trees, and a special kind of bamboo which is used for making *agarbattis* and which is now being imported from China. One tonne costs around ₹8 lakh. We want the tribal women to benefit through the massive ongoing 1,501-acre afforestation project at Challakere in Chitradurga district, about 195km from Bengaluru. Self-help groups will be formed, and livelihood activities such as beekeeping will be introduced. But for all this to happen the trees, including fruit trees, have to grow... animals have already come in... about 100 deer, as well as peacocks, rabbits, wild boar etc, but the impact on human life and its transformation will take a few more years.” In the cyanide dumps of the Kolar Gold Fields near Bengaluru, Dakoju, along with the other passionate advocate of environmental protection Neil Michael Joseph, has already carried out a massive greening

project, over the last few years.

This idea blossomed into *Dakoju Dhanyavad*. Working along with him in this greening mission are a bunch of passionate Rotarians. The journey that began with the revival of the cyanide dumps in KGF, where poisoned, mining-ravaged land was brought back to life through sustained afforestation, grew into a thriving partnership that translated into the ambitious venture of *Rotary Koti Nati* (one crore saplings across India), in a large-scale effort to combat desertification and restore 8,000 rural livelihoods.

“It's a movement that kept growing; last year the afforestation drive spread to Goa and Maharashtra, and along the way Dakoju's business partner Narahari joined too. So one component became *Narahari Dhanyavad* which is also a greening mission, mainly in the spiritual centre of Mantralayam, Kurnool, AP,” adds Joseph.

[Source Rotary News- Rasheeda Bhagat]

## Congratulations to RC Shillong



### Certificate of Appreciation

Rotary International District 3240

Presented to

Rotary Club of Shillong

In Recognition of their unwavering support and highest  
Contribution to the Annual Fund for August 2025

S Mukherjee

Sujata Mukherjee  
District Secretary Foundation 2025-26

Dr kameswar Elangbam

Dr kameswar Elangbam  
District Governor 2025-26

## UPCOMING CLUB ACTIVITIES

1. **Swasth Nari Sushakt Parivar** programme on 24th September 2025. Health camp with NEIGRIHMS at Mawkasiang. Rotary Club of Shillong will pitch 2 Tents as discussed in the last weekly meeting.
2. **Blood Donation Camp at NEIGRIHMS Blood Bank** on 26th September 2025.

Details will be shared and updated soon.

[inputs form Rtn. David Umdor]

## GREETINGS

Rtn. Deepak Singla celebrates his birthday on 20th September.

Rtn. Ramesh Agarwalla celebrates his birthday on 22nd Sept.

Rotary Club of Shillong wishes you both  
many happy returns of the day