



Francesco Arezzo
RI President 2025-26



Dr. Kameswar S. Elangbam
District Governor RID 3240



Chandana Das
President, Rotary Club of Shillong



24th October was World Polio Day. Rotary club of Shillong celebrated the Day by organising an inhouse awareness talk on Polio. Two talks were delivered on the day, one by Rtn Dr A K Das, who spoke in detail on the disease aspects. The other was delivered by Rtn Dr Debashish Das, who spoke on role of Rotary International in control of Polio all over the world specially in the developing country. He apprised the house that the first project was taken up in Philippines for which the contributions came mainly from Bill Gates Foundation.

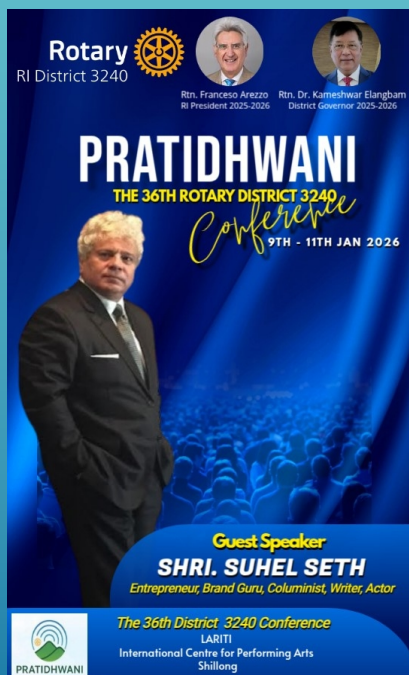
Talent is equally distributed in India, but opportunities are not

By Jaishree

At the Lead25 Rotary Leadership Conclave, Rajya Sabha MP and movie icon Kamal Haasan was recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his 'service to humanity through art'. Kamal Panpaattu Maiyam, the social and cultural foundation led by Haasan, signed an MoU with Rotary to empower youth with leadership and vocational skills, and encourage innovation, entrepreneurship and environmental stewardship.

Haasan thanked Rotary and the audience for their warmth. "My education has been extramural, so I am not used to much formality. But I admire the remarkable service that Rotary, this great international family, is doing." He drew a parallel between the Rotary Wheel and the Ashoka Chakra. "Rotary's wheel is not just symbolic; it is a virtuous cycle. Like the wheel of Dharma, it must always keep turning in the right direction, without breaking the axle between virtue and vice."

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Glimpses of the Seng Khasi School Project at Mawphlang

Talent is equally distributed in India...

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Quoting Jawaharlal Nehru's famous "tryst with destiny" speech, Haasan said, "That midnight of 1947 is long past. Today, in 2025, it is dawn. Our nation is ready to fulfil its destiny." For him, true progress is not measured by money, but "by how wisely it is invested — in education, service and in building a virtuous cycle of growth."

He believes that the next revolution for India must be in skill development. "Skilling India is extremely vital, and Rotary is already leading this change," he noted. He praised the country's industrial pioneers like G D Birla, J R D Tata, and Ratan Tata for giving back to society, alongside freedom fighters, observing that their legacies endure because of their sense of responsibility.

Cinema had been his tool for social change, he noted. "In every script I write, society, not just one hero, is the protagonist. My fan clubs transform into volunteers for social service. I learnt this from Rotary," he said, recalling with pride his connection as a Paul Harris Fellow.

"Talent in India is equally distributed. But opportunities are not," he said. The pact being signed at the conclave was "an effort to balance that equation, to incubate innovation, nurture ethical leaders and create civic solutions. When service-minded people collaborate, the impact multiplies exponentially."

Turning to the subject of awards, Haasan wryly commented: "I get worried whenever people call something a Lifetime Achievement Award. Does that mean my life is already over? But I see it differently. Life is divided into quarters. This is just my quarterly report. I am in my second quarter, and I hope to come back for another report in the next phase too." (Source: Rotary News)

