

# SARAIGHAT

Volume:47, Issue:8, Feb 2026

Monthly Bulletin of

## R C Gauhati West

Rotary



February is Peace and  
Conflict Prevention Month

**UNITE FOR GOOD**



## Let Action Define Us

Let action define us. At last month's International Assembly, President-elect Olayinka "Yinka" Hakeem Babalola called on members of the Rotary world to live out our presidential message for the 2026–27 Rotary year: Create Lasting Impact. This February, as we observe Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention Month, we have an opportunity to channel Yinka's call to action into real change. Peace is not simply the absence of war. A life free from conflict but marked by hunger, instability, or the inability to care for one's family is not true peace.

Peace requires liberty, opportunity, and respect for human dignity. Yet fear often blocks that path — fear of change, of cultural loss, of people we don't understand. Fear isn't defeated through avoidance or aggression. Knowledge is the first step toward peace. Rotary embraces this idea. Our Rotary Peace Centers and their peace fellows, along with other peace education initiatives, demonstrate how knowledge builds trust and helps communities find solutions to conflict. In Colombia, decades of conflict have left deep wounds. The 2025 Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale awardee, Pathways to Peace and Prosperity, partners with the United Nations World Food Programme to expand opportunity, improve conflict resolution, and connect people with social services. Its goal is to break cycles of violence, poverty, and food insecurity so peace can take root. In Maharashtra, India, People of Action honoree Swati Herkal built peace through prosperity. Her project confronted farmers' declining soil health, rising debt, and illness caused by chemical fertilisers. She and her Rotary partners launched a regenerative agriculture programme that revitalised the land, lowered costs, and restored stability. More than 1,100 farmers now participate and over 50 villages have adopted the model. Rotary also advances peace by restoring dignity. In Chad, Rotary Peace Fellow Domino Frank discovered that more than 1,500 women who fought in a rebellion had been erased from reintegration programmes. His advocacy led to Chad's first Rotary Foundation global grant and the creation of Corridors of Peace. More than 100 women — triple the goal — completed literacy and vocational training and formed a cooperative to support their families. From Colombia to India to Chad, the lesson is clear: Peace is not a dream. It is the result of sustained action with a focus on true, lasting impact. To replicate these successes, Rotary clubs can take three steps: Learn from peace fellows and other peace experts in our organisation, apply a peacebuilding lens to community assessments, and prioritise impact over ceremony. In a world filled with fear, Rotary cannot be satisfied with half-measures and empty words. If we are truly people of action, then action must define us. Together, we can Create Lasting Impact — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Francesco Arezzo  
Rotary International

Dear Rotarians,  
February is a time to reflect on fellowship, service, and our role in building a more peaceful world. I sincerely appreciate all members who attended the District Conference at Shillong from 9th–11th January. Your participation and engagement showcased the strength and spirit of our club, and such gatherings inspire us to serve with renewed enthusiasm.

We also marked Republic Day with a warm breakfast meeting at our club premises. The occasion reminded us of our responsibilities as citizens and Rotarians. We paid tribute to late Minati Khound, the noted violinist felicitated by our club in 2018, honoring her valuable contribution to art and culture.

February is Rotary's month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. Our club's work may not always be visible in headlines, but its impact is real and lasting. These consistent grassroots efforts quietly strengthen the social fabric and contribute meaningfully to peace.

The International Assembly highlighted Rotary's future direction, with the 2026–27 Presidential message focusing on creating lasting impact. This aligns with what we already strive to do — focusing on meaningful, continuous, and community-based service. What we build today will grow stronger in the years ahead. Let us move forward with unity and purpose, continuing to serve and create a positive difference.

Warm Rotary regards,  
Rtn. Krishna Baruah, President,  
RC Gauhati West





## 40-fully funded fellows at first Rotary Peace Centre in South Asia at Symbiosis Pune

• Rotary International's peace efforts have transformed from a post-WWI initiative to a proactive strategy integrating grassroots service with global and diplomatic actions.

• The emphasis on "positive peace" focuses on addressing root causes of conflict, such as poverty, discrimination, and lack of education.

• 1910s–1920s: Formation of peace commitment post-WWI; adoption of a resolution for peace influence and amendment of constitution to include international peace and goodwill.

• 1930s–1940s: Launch of "Institutes of International Understanding" in 1934; focus on post-war cooperation during WWII and involvement of Rotarians at the 1945 UN Charter conference.

• 1947: Establishment of Rotary Foundation Scholars post Paul Harris's death, providing fellowships for cross-cultural understanding.

• 1980s: Introduction of scholarships for international relations and launch of PolioPlus program, which facilitated humanitarian ceasefires in conflict zones.

• 1999–Present: Launch of Rotary Peace Centers in 1999, beginning training of Peace Fellows in 2002, offering degrees and certificates in peace and conflict resolution.

• Modern Era (2010s-2025): Partnerships with the Institute for Economics and Peace to cultivate "Positive Peace Activators" focusing on eight pillars of peaceful societies.

• Key Current Initiatives:

- Rotary Peace Fellowships: Over 1,800 trained fellows act as peace catalysts across various sectors.

- New Centers & Regions: Establishment of a center in Uganda (2021) with plans for additional centers in Turkey and beyond by 2030.

- Intercountry Committees (ICCs): Building partnerships between clubs in different nations to foster friendship and collaboration, notably in the Mediterranean.

- Programs of Scale: Initiatives like "Paths to Peace and Prosperity in Colombia" aiming to disrupt cycles of violence.

• Rotary persists in promoting peace both locally through club initiatives and globally through its Foundation, underlining that lasting peace encompasses justice, equity, and opportunity.

Up to 40 fellows will be selected for a fully-funded year-long postgraduate diploma at South Asia's first Rotary Peace Centre recently inaugurated at Symbiosis International University in Pune. The diploma program, currently offered at eight peace centres globally, will be offered in Peace and Development Studies.

The program has been designed for mid-career professionals aged 35 to 45 working in different sectors of peace and development either within Asia or Asian communities. Symbiosis was one of the two institutions selected out of 17 that had applied for this programme, the other one being in South Korea.

Responding to a question by The Indian Express about how the course prepares peace scholars to deal with modern challenges, like International Criminal Court judges facing sanctions over the arrest warrant issued for Israeli PM Netanyahu or cases filed against people in India for donning the Palestinian flag, Prof Anita Patankar of Symbiosis said that the course would help bring incremental change amongst policy makers.

She explained, "We had a judge who had done the fellowship after 12 years as a family judge. And when she came back she looked at her work and role and people from a very different angle... Education looks at slow change but very deep and abiding change. The kind of people who apply for this programme are Ministers, Collectors, Educators, Judges, the idea is that they will come here and the programme will transform their way of looking at what is conflict. These are the people who will go into the system. Today the system is becoming a barrier for many changes."

### PEACE SCHOLARS FROM INDIA & RID3240

NAME	YEAR	STATE	INSTITUTION
01. Luish Aind	2012	Assam	Chulalongkorn Univ
02. Ankur Bharali	2009	do	do
03. Rajiv Bora	2003-2005	do	Univ of California
04. Rashmi Rekha Borah	2015-17	do	Intl Christian Univ
05. Dibyajyoti Borkotoki	2010	do	Chulalongkorn Univ
06. Banamallika Choudhury	2012	do	do
07. Bibekananda Das	2013	do	do
08. Swapnaneel	2010	do	do
09. Akhil Dutta	2009	do	do
10. Akashitara Dutta	2016	do	do
11. Stephen Ekka	2014	DD	do
12. Samprity Goswami	2014	do	do
13. Rajib Handique	2006	do	do
14. Sangeeta Kakoty	2013	Do	do
15. Nani Gopal Mahanta	2002-04	do	Univ of California
16. Bhaskar Pegu	2012	do	Chulalongkorn Univ
17. Jadav Pegu	2012	do	do
18. Prasanta Rajguru	2015	Do	do
19. Jayanta Sarmah	2012	Do	do
20. Sagarika Sarmah	2012	do	do
21. Rozy Rani Sarmah	2016	Do	do
22. Swapan Singha	2014	do	do
23. Arnab Chakraborty	2014	Do	do
24. Triveni Goswami	2008	Telangana	do
25. James Hosanna	2006	Manipur	do
26. Virender Malik	2009	Uttarakhand	do
27. Michelle Maxon	2016-18	Assam	Uppasala Univ
28. Narayan Chetry	2029-2022	Assam	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC)
29. Ms Limabenja Jamir	2018-2020	Nagaland	Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center

## RWM of JANUARY 2026

**Minutes of RWM 2122 dtd 01.01.2026** Place: Piccadilly Restaurant, Panbazar Guwahati.

1. Meeting call to order at 19:30 followed by national Anthem.
2. Experience shared by Rtn Subrata Sarma of our Club Picnic held at Chandubi Tourist lodge on 25.12.26. Courtesy: Rtn Deba Kr. Mishra.
3. Discussion regarding Community service project Blood Donation Camp and Distribution of Sewing machine at PRAPTI under ACWWS with the Money that has been collected during Club picnic.
4. Payment of Rotary News Trust has been cleared from our end to Rotary News trust office on 31.12.25.
5. Rtn Krishna Baruah has been entrusted to caste the Vote of Election for DGND & For COL- Representative for RI (Council of Legislation) in Pratidhwani at Rotary District Conference- Shillong on 9th, 10th & 11th of Jan'2026.
6. A proposal of service project regarding Solar Panel installation at MPME school Pandu on 03.01.26. Primary Initiative shall be done by RCGW in collaboration with Gayatri Memorial Foundation. A wide amount of contribution will done our Club President.
7. The Club anonymously decided to handover the committed money of Rs. 50,000/- (approx) that has been raised for Rotaract District Conference in the form of Cheque against Rotaract District Council. Account details shared to our Club treasurer.
8. Meeting adjourned at 09PM9. Members present- 06 Nos.



**Meeting No. 2123 dated 08.01./026-RWM1.** Meeting Call to order followed my National Anthem.

2. Discussion of Rotary District Conference-Pratidhwani to be held by Shillong. How and where to start for . Co-ordinator- Rtn Amal Das.
3. As this a Vocational Month- January, The club has decided to open to all members to decide whom to give the vocational awardees along with fact finds and from which background. Proposed date of program (Tentative) 26.01.26
4. 03 nos of sewing machine shall be donated to PRAPTI by ACWWS from the our Club.
5. Solar Panel has been installed at MPME school, Pandu from RCGW & Gayatri Memeorial Foundation.
6. we club members has been overwhelmed by our Former Club Secretary, a past Rotarian Mr. Suparna Dey Purkayastha & Rajlakshmi Dey Purkayastha of their gracious presence. We had good fellowships and past moment shared by they.
7. total number of members present- 08 members & Guests-02 nos.
8. Meeting adjourned at 08:55 pm



**Minutes of 2124 dated 26.01.26.** 1. 77th Republic Day was celebrated at our Club premises successfully. RWM of today's meeting was organised. Total nos of member present was 12 and 02 nos of guests. Total 14.2. Discussion of Vocational Excellence Program shall be organised in next upcoming month.3. The most important project to be held on 30.01.26 (Friday) at PRAPTI by ACWWS at Kalyani Niwas. 03 nos of Sewing machine needs to be distributed at PRAPTI on Friday. Note: The money has been contributed by Our senior most Rotarian and Club Director of RY/ 25-26 Rtn Deba Kr. Mishra on Club picnic 2025.

# CLUB ACTIVITIES JAN

## PRATIDHWANI 36th DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT SHILLONG 9-11 JANUARY 2026



The 36th District Conference, held at Shillong from 9th to 11th January, was attended by eight Rotarians, two spouses, and the brother of Rtn. Mahesh Santani. The conference was excellently organized, with a well-chosen spacious venue, warm hospitality, an impressive conference kit, and delicious food. The ambience inside the auditorium, coupled with the serene natural surroundings outside, was truly spellbinding. All the speakers, drawn from diverse fields, were highly reputed, and each session was engaging and memorable. Apart from RIPR PDG Dr. S. Nagendra, the Chief Guest of the inaugural session on the first day was Shri Pradyot Bikram Manikya Deb Barman. In the first plenary session, participants had the privilege of listening to Padma Shri Patricia Mukhim and legendary footballer Shri Baichung Bhutia. On 10th January, the early morning session was addressed by DRR Shivam, followed by an inspiring talk by Dr. Mazda Turel. The session titled "Why I Am a Rotarian" was presented by representatives from each zone. This was followed by the promotion of next year's district conference.

The third plenary session comprised the business session along with the presentation of District Accounts for 2024-25. In the fourth plenary session, participants benefited from insightful addresses by Prof. Sanjoy Mukherjee of IIM Shillong and Shri Paul Lyndoh. On 11th January, Mr. Anand Ranganathan captivated the audience with his powerful oratory and depth of knowledge. In the valedictory session, RIPR PDG Dr. S. Nagendra was the principal speaker. The conference concluded with closing remarks by the Conference Chair and District Governor Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam. Cultural interludes featuring music and dance beautifully showcased the rich heritage of the North-Eastern region and Bengal. In summary, PRATIDHWANI was a story of complete success, attended by nearly 1,000 Rotarians.



## ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY 2026

1. Attended RID 3240 Dist Conference at Shillong by members report of which was given in the previous page.

### 2. TRIBUTE TO LATE MINOTI KHOUND

IN April 2018 the club celebrated Bihu Festival with famous violinist Smt Minati Khound and also felicitated her. Renowned Assamese violinist and musician Minoti Khaund passed away on January 18, 2026, at the age of 85, in a private hospital in Guwahati following a cardiac arrest.



Visited the house of late Minoti Khounds and offered tributes to her son n daughter. ..Shri Pabitra Khound and Sunita Bhuyan on 25th January 26, Sunday.



### 3. CELEBRATION OF 77TH REPUBLIC DAY:

The 77th Republic Day was celebrated at the club premises like other years. The national flag was hoisted by the senior Rotarian Dr B C Das Purkayastha. He also explained the significance of the day and role the Rotary playing in upholding justice, equality, fraternity and democracy. It was breakfast meeting, member brought items and happily shared with all. This was followed by club assembly.



## PRVANCHAL PRAHARI 31 JAN 26

रोटरी क्लब ऑफ गुवाहाटी वेस्ट के एम्बेसडर का अमरीका दौरा, क्लबों के बीच मैत्री व सहयोग को मिला नया आयाम

**गुवाहाटी:** रोटरी क्लब ऑफ गुवाहाटी वेस्ट के एम्बेसडर एवं पंचिका-विजित अधिकारी डॉ. डेब कान घोषी ने अपनी बहो पुरी मेरुती की झा के साथ अमेरिका विश्व रोटररी क्लब ऑफ गुवाहाटी की स्वागतिक बैठक में स्वागत को। पूर्वी एशियाई कार्यक्रम के तहत क्लब के अध्यक्ष डॉ. डेब ने उनका गर्मजोशी से स्वागत कर परिचय कराया। इस अवसर पर डॉ. घोषी ने रोटररी क्लब ऑफ गुवाहाटी के वेब और भी पूर्ण डिजिटल गवर्नर गैरी रिटोरी तथा क्लब अध्यक्ष को असमिया पारंपरिक पुरातन गामोड पेंट कर समर्पित किया। साथ ही दोनों क्लबों के मध्य झंडा आदान-प्रदान किया गया, जो रोटररी परंपरा में आपसी मैत्री, सहयोग और अंतरराष्ट्रीय बंधुत्व का प्रतीक माना जाता है। उपलब्ध-गवर्नर डे कि रोटररी क्लब ऑफ गुवाहाटी अपने स्वागत के 90वें वर्ष में प्रवेश कर



पुत्रा है। यह बैठक लॉन मॉडिंग के रूप में आयोजित की गई, जो अत्यंत सफल और रोहनपूर्ण रही। इसने एक दिन पूर्व डॉ. घोषी ने अपनी पत्नी शीमली कल्पना घोषी एवं पुरी संसुती श्री झा के साथ रोटररी क्लब ऑफ क्यूबर्टो की बैठक में भी भाग लिया। वहाँ क्लब अध्यक्ष केरो रेडरा तथा पूर्वी डिजिटल गवर्नर ऑरिन महोनी को असमिया पुरातन गामोड

के समर्पित कर झंडा आदान-प्रदान किया गया। दोनों बैठकों के दौरान रोटररी के स्वगत झंडा परिवर्तनकों को लेकर समकालिक एवं सांख्यिक चर्चा हुई। डॉ. डेब कान घोषी ने सभी रोटरियन साधियों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि इस प्रकार के अंतरराष्ट्रीय संवाद से सेवा परिवर्तनकों को बढि दिखत और मजबूती मिलती है।

## ROUNDUP OF ROTARY NEWS



Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola called on members to Create Lasting Impact at Rotary's International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 12 January. He urged members to make their clubs more welcoming, carry out impactful projects, and allow their Rotary experiences to transform them personally. "If we can change ourselves, we can change our districts," he said. "If we can change our districts, we can change the communities we serve. And if we can change our communities, we will change the world."

**ESRAG**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

**SOUTH  
ASIA**

**Rtn AKS M Muruganatham**  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT  
Rotary Year 2026 - 2027

CONGRATULATIONS

### Nomination period open for Distinguished Service Award

The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service Award honors Rotarians and Rotaractors who have demonstrated exemplary service to the Foundation and received the Citation for Meritorious Service at least four years prior. Each Rotary year, district governors may nominate one candidate from their districts to receive this award by submitting an online nomination form in January.

## RI DISTRICT 3240 NEWS

### Election of DGND (RY28-29)

Rtn (Dr) Pallavi Maji was elected District Governor Nominee Designate of RID 3240 in the election held on 10th of January 2026 at the District Conference - Shillong. R C Gauhati West members congratulate for the assignment.



### Election of COL Representative(26-28)



PDG Subhash Chatterjee was elected COL representative in the same election with PDG Dr Debasis Basish as an alternative member. We congratulate and convey our good wishes to both of them.

Rotary

## ROTARY CLUB OF GREATER SILCHAR

# TRF SEMINAR

# Samarpan 3.0

ON **31** JANUARY 2026

At SAGARIKA RESORT  
Rongpur, Silchar

**Rotary**  
DISTRICT 3240

PDR. Kalpana Khanna has been nominated by the Board of Directors of The Rotary Action Group for Elders' Empowerment to lead one of the five program committees worldwide...the committee for Economic Enhancement and Security...to increase the opportunities and capacities for girls to reach economic security

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS DAY 2025  
16th JAN 2025

**Rotary**  
DISTRICT 3240

SAMPAN 2.0

Multi District Public Image Seminar

8th March 2024 | 3:00 pm onwards

Early Bird  
Registration Charge (8:30 am - 24)

Rn. 1111-

Rotary Club of Siliguri Uttarakhand  
Project Chairman: Rtn. Binj Mohan Jeng

Rtn. Dr. Ananya Jha  
+91 98864 44855

Rtn. Ratan Kumar Chh  
+91 97738 08582

## CLUB AMBASSADOR IN USA

Rtn P K Choudhary, Ann Kalpana and their daughter visited R C Cuperitino of RID 5170, USA exchanged club flag and felicitated President Kathy Yates with Assamese gamocha on 28th Jan 26. This visit is arranged by Rtn Rina Roy and make it possible to interact with two Rotarians of the club of Indian origin (Rtn Shamoli Banerjee, Rtn Orin Mahoney and Rtn Ram Mohan.)



On February 29, 2026, Rtn P K Choudhary went to the Rotary Club of Santa Clara with his daughter, Sansriti, to exchange club flags with President Rtn. Easy Perez, in the presence of former District Governor Rtn. Garry Citi. He offered the traditional Assamiya Fulam Gamchha, which was warmly received. The Rotary Club of Santa Clara, founded in 1936, is well-known for its dedication to "Service Above Self" and has launched numerous community initiatives, including Steps for Success and scholarship programs. As the club approaches its 90th anniversary, its legacy of service is admirable. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Santa Clara for its excellent history and continued achievements.



## [GREETINGS]

### Birth Day Greetings

7th. Dr Ashish Sharma  
7th. Debarati Dutta Choudhury  
9th. Niraj Bhimsaria  
15th. Liza Garg  
19th. Deba Kumar Mishra  
21st. Sanjib Kalita

### Wedding Anniversary

4th. Alok Roy- Seema  
4th. Dr Ashish Sharma- Sneha  
21st. Dr Sanjib Medhi- Barnali

### FUNNY JOKES



#### New Fathers

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse goes up to the first man and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of twins." The man says, "That's odd. I work for the The Kurian Twins!" Another nurse goes up to the second man and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!" The second man laughs and says, "That's weird. I work for the TRI!" A third nurse goes up to the third man and says, "Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets!" He says, "That's strange. I work for the Quad Global Solutions!" As soon as he says that, the last man starts groaning and banging his head against the wall. "What's wrong?" the others ask. The man says, "I work for 7Up."

Rotary Club of Gauhati West meets every Thursday at 7/7.30 PM at Rotary West Community Hall, Kamarpaty, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati - 1  
President: Rtn Krishna Baruah  
Secretary: Rtn Deepjyoti Das  
Treasurer: Rtn Samir Choudhury  
Bulletin Editor: Rtn (Dr) B C Das Purkayastha  
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