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Shoki Wafula did not know what to expect when he was forced to leave his birth country of Uganda for South Africa. What he found was a Rotary community that welcomed him with warmth and friendship.

That experience inspired him to help create a Rotaract e-club where young leaders from around the world

could connect, develop their skills, and serve together. Today, that community includes members across multiple continents who collaborate on leadership development, peacebuilding, and service initiatives. For Wafula, the experience reinforced the lesson that meaningful service begins with people who feel connected, valued, and empowered to lead.

His story reminds us why Youth Service Month is so important. Through Rotaract and programs like Rotary Youth Exchange, young people build leadership skills, develop global understanding, and discover the impact they can make through service.

Rotary's Action Plan calls on us to enhance participant engagement. At its heart, that goal asks a simple question: How can we ensure that participation in Rotary is meaningful and fulfilling for everyone? Youth programs and Rotaract provide a powerful answer.

When clubs mentor Rotaractors, host exchange students, or support youth leadership initiatives, they create opportunities for members to share their experience in ways that feel personal and rewarding. These connections deepen members' sense of purpose and strengthen the bonds within our Rotary family.

They also create lasting pathways into Rotary. Thousands of young people complete Rotary programs each year, and they carry those experiences with them throughout their lives. Many remain eager to stay connected.

Organizations such as Rotex International, an association of former Youth Exchange students, help Rotary program alumni continue serving as mentors, leaders, and advocates for our youth programs. As

and activities, we strengthen the continuity of Rotary across generations.

During Youth Service Month, I hope every Rotary club reflects on how youth programs can enhance engagement for new and longtime members. Collaborate on service projects and invite youth voices into your planning and decision making.

Rotary's message to the world is that we can Unite for Good. Youth programs show us how that happens in practice — when generations come together, share ideas, and work side by side in service.

When we invest in young people, we are not only shaping future leaders. We are building a stronger, more connected Rotary today.

From the Editor



As we welcome another vibrant edition of *Adarsh*, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect upon a month filled with purpose, compassion, and meaningful service.

This month, the Rotary Club of Digboi continued its commitment to service and community upliftment through a series of meaningful initiatives. An awareness program on domestic violence held at Margherita highlighted the importance of dignity and safety in every home. We proudly recognized excellence through our vocational awards, celebrating dedication across professions. Our outreach at Adarsh Seuj Prakalpa promoted sustainable living with an engaging session on organic farming. The vibrant spirit of Bihu was shared with children of Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Center and within our club, fostering joy and inclusion. Together, these efforts reflect Rotary's enduring motto—Service Above Self.

Wishing you all an inspiring read.

Bhaskar Chaudhuri



Kameswar Singh Elangbam Dist. Governor 2025-26

Kameswar Singh Elangbam is an esteemed orthopaedic surgeon and the current District Governor of Rotary District 3240. Originally from Manipur and currently based in Shillong, Meghalaya, he possesses an extensive medical background, including an MBBS from Assam Medical College and an MS Ortho from AIIMS, New Delhi. He further specialized as an AO Fellow in Germany and underwent complex trauma training in Switzerland. After a distinguished tenure with the Government of Meghalaya, he transitioned to private practice at Kamber Clinics. Dr. Elangbam resides in Shillong with his wife, Dr. Berylda, a radiologist. He belongs to a family of medical professionals, including his daughter, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law, while his son is an entrepreneur.

In the early years, when Dr Kameswar Elangbam joined Rotary, professional commitments limited his participation. He observed a senior Rotarian “who, despite immense responsibilities, never missed a Rotary meeting or service project. That quiet dedication inspired me to reassess my role,” he says.

He strongly believes in the power of small contributions to TRF. “Even \$20 or \$30 can change lives across continents.” As the district’s foundation secretary in 2021–22, he introduced a culture of donor appreciation by recognising every contributor, regardless of the amount. The district’s TRF target is set for \$1 million.

CSR contributions were affected due to mandatory requirements (CSR Form 1 compliance and valid 12A and 80G registrations). To ensure -continuity, the district “is coordinating with compliant clubs to support the continuity of CSR projects.” The district added 150 new members and chartered one new Rotary, 10 Rotaract and 11 Interact clubs.

A GG to provide 5,000 smokeless chulas to rural homes is being contemplated. District projects include a CSR-funded floor at the Silchar Cancer Hospital and an electric crematorium complex in Ukhra.



The Rotary Vocational Service Excellence Award is designed to recognize an individual who surpasses expectations for exemplary vocational service. These are employees who demonstrate one or more of the following attributes:

- Goes above and beyond to serve others with a positive and willing spirit.
- Demonstrated leadership or an ability to motivate others in pursuit of excellence.
- Considered situations and problems from novel and diverse perspectives; addressed challenges in an innovative manner.

RCD proud to present the vocational Service awards to two outstanding personalities whose work truly reflects the spirit of service above self.



First we recognise Sri. Hiten Sarma Sir for his invaluable contribution in the field of education. His dedication towards shaping young minds & strengthening the foundation of our future generations is truly commendable. His efforts have not only educated students but have also inspired them to dream bigger & achieve more.



We also honour Md. Faraq Ali for his courageous & selfless work in snake rescue. His commitment to protecting both human lives & wildlife is extraordinary. Through his efforts he has created awareness reduced fear & promoted coexistence with nature an example of true environmental responsibility.

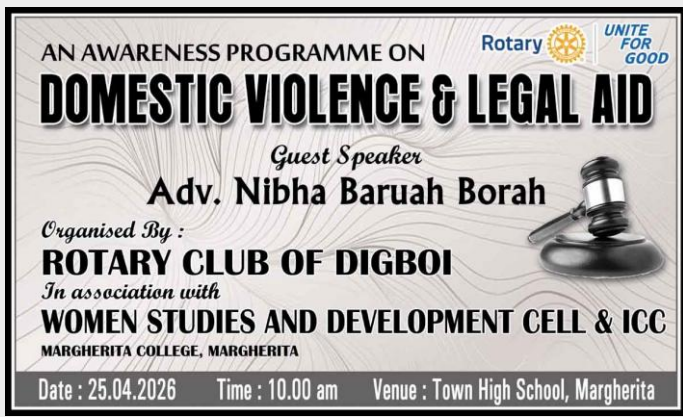
Vocational Service is the essence of Rotary. It is the way Rotarians bring their professions into service, using their careers as a means to make a difference. It is about:

Demonstrating high ethical standards in business and professions

- Advancing professional development through mentorship and education
- Encouraging integrity and fairness in workplaces and communities
- Applying professional expertise to address societal challenges

At the heart of Vocational Service is The Four-Way Test, a simple yet powerful ethical guide that ensures our actions are rooted in honesty, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all.





Rotary Club Digboi in association with Women Studies and Development Cell and ICC , Margherita College has organised an outreach Awareness Programme on "Domestic Violence and Legal Aid" at Town High School, Margherita, on 25th April, 2026.



Adv. Nibha Baruah Bora, an alumni of Margherita College was the speaker. The convenor of the cell Deepasree Das Sarkar initiated the process of discussion by delivering the necessity, pros and cons of Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The speaker highlighted the issues like mental physical, emotional harassment, dowry related issues,

cybercrime, pocso act, in house threat to the children, safety of the girl child from much known familer persons, societal stigma and so on. She has also highlighted various helpline numbers and the role of the NGO's in this matter.



Domestic violence is one of the most widespread yet underreported forms of gender-based violence in India. For decades, women had limited legal options – mostly confined to criminal provisions like Section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, which focused on punishment rather than protection. That changed in 2005, when India enacted the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA).

This law shifted the focus from criminalizing abusers after the fact to providing immediate civil remedies and safety for survivors. It recognizes physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, and economic abuse, and it creates a structured framework through which women can access protection, housing, financial support, and custody orders.

The Act protects any woman who is or has been in a domestic relationship with the respondent. This includes wives, live-in partners, mothers, sisters, widows, and daughters – anyone who has lived in a shared household with the person against whom the complaint is made. The law applies regardless of marital status, and the relationship need not be ongoing at the time of filing. Importantly, the PWDVA was enacted in line with India's constitutional guarantees under Articles 14, 15, and 21 – the rights to equality, non-discrimination, and life with dignity.



Rtn. Shantanu Roy, President, Rotary Club, Digboi delivered the vote of thanks with the assurance to organize this programme in Digboi also. From Margherita College Dr. Madhumita Deb, Dr. Rinkumoni Gogoi, Mayurakshi Ojaha participated in the programme. We convey our sincere thanks to the Headmaster Mr. Biswajit Bhattacharya, all the teachers and students of Town High School for their support and cooperation.





Adarsh Seuj Prkalpa, is an organic demonstration garden and resource center at Digboi, Assam, India. It was initiated in 2005-06 by Rotary Club of Digboi in collaboration with Fertile Ground: East/West Sustainability Network, Canada and Rotary Club of Strathcona Sunrise, Canada under the guidance of Rtn Peggy Carswell. The project is located on two acres of land in Muliabari area at the town of Digboi, on an abandoned plot of land that had previously housed living quarters for workers of Digboi Refinery

In a little more than two years, two full-time gardeners and a host of volunteers- from the local neighbourhood and from Canada- transformed an unsightly site littered with garbage and building materials to a model organic garden and resource center. The site is regularly visited by farmers, small tea growers, educators, agricultural extension staff and students, and has attracted guests from as far away as Australia, Nigeria, Germany and the USA.

The project focuses on promoting organic farming practices, providing training, and serving as a resource for local farmers. It also hosts various events and workshops.

A skill enhancement programme on Organic Farming was organised at Adarsh Seuj Prkalpa on 27th & 28th April for Students of Digboi College.



Rtn Arup Goswami, Past AG from our club was the resource person for this event in presence of Club president Rtn Santanu Roy & Past Secretary Rtn Mamoni Sarma



Rtn Goswami explained the benefits of organic cultivation and simple steps for starting the activities at one's kitchen garden in a very simple way.

He also explained the demerits of using chemical fertilisers' and pesticides in farming and its effects in human body.



There are many simple ways and means for organic solutions for saving the harvest from pests without using chemical pesticides, which are not only effective but also less expensive.





On the eve of Rongali Bihu Rotary Club of Digboi celebrated this festival organized at Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Center, reaffirming its commitment to community service.

Earlier we had organised an art competition amongst the children of Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Center on 23rd February 2026.



Established in 1999, Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre is a dedicated voluntary organization based in Duliajan, Assam, working to empower children and individuals with disabilities. With a deep commitment to inclusion, dignity, and independence, we provide special education, therapy, vocational training, and rehabilitative care—enabling them to lead meaningful lives and become part of the mainstream society.

Now the Organization has crossed Twentysix years in the service of these people with relentless effort of the members, volunteers, staff, parents and well-wishers. Mrinaljyoti is marching ahead in the service of mankind — The Special Children of our Society for their education, treatment, intervention and rehabilitation.



Rotary Club of Digboi is also associated with Mrinaljyoti Rehabilitation Centre for almost 10 years by way of extending financial assistance of Rs. 24,000/-, generously sponsored by Rtn. Pankaj Baroi, as a gesture of continued support towards the welfare of the children.



Today Rtn Rajib Bhuyin and Anne Dipmala arranged for lunch packets for all the students.



The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

Since it was founded more than 100 years ago, the Foundation has spent more than \$4 billion on life-changing, sustainable projects.

Together, we can make an impact in your community and around the world.

Our mission

The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

What impact can one donation have?

- \$3 is the average cost to fully protect a child against polio.
- \$50 can maintain water filters to help fight waterborne illness.
- \$200 to develop work opportunities by replacing livestock for people impacted by disasters.

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service. Members have a long track record of addressing challenges in their communities and around the world.

“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”

- Paul Harris - Rotary founder

Our ongoing commitment

That commitment endures today through an organization that remains truly international. Only 16 years after being founded, Rotary had clubs on six continents. Our members now span the globe, working to solve some of our world's most challenging problems.

We're not afraid to dream big and set bold goals. We began our fight against polio in 1979 with a project to immunize 6 million children in the Philippines. Today, polio remains endemic in only two countries — down from 125 in 1988.

Did You Know?





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Bohag Bihu, also known as Rongali Bihu, is the most vibrant and widely celebrated festival of Assam, marking the Assamese New Year and the arrival of spring, usually around April 14th. It ushers in a time of joy, renewal, and agricultural hope, deeply rooted in rural life and seasonal cycles. The festival spans several days filled with rituals, music, dance, and community gatherings. It reflects Assamese identity, unity, and cultural richness, blending spirituality with everyday life. From traditional songs to festive foods like pitha and laru, Bohag Bihu creates an atmosphere of renewal, gratitude, and collective happiness across villages and towns alike.

We at Rotary Club celebrated Rangali Bihu on 20th April 2026 at our Club Premises with lots of Fun and Food. Past President Purna Borah and Anne Pompi like previous years celebrated their anniversary this year also by way of sponsoring the Bihu program.



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