

## FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH (RI DIST 3240)

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Volume : 72

Sl. No. 6

30th September 2025

Editor : Rtn Anurekha Barkakoti

### *From the Editor's Pen ...*



The Messiah of the masses.....

Last time I talked about September melodies and how a culture defines a community.

Little did I know that an even bigger cult phenomena would identify a human race in the same month.

I am talking about the untimely passing of an iconic music legend, a Messiah of the masses, Zubeen Garg.. a name uttered by every axomiya with such immense love, adulation and respect that he is immortalized by his passionate and ardent fans, young and old alike.

September 19th 2025 was a dark day for Assam not only in our music and creative world but in our world of humanity where people grieved together in an ocean of mourners as if to hold on to what they have lost, to not believe and to not let go, with cries of "Joi Zubeen Da" and as if to say "Come back, we need you!".

In RCGS we are shell-shocked, unable to process the loss of a philanthropist surpassing even the ideals of Rotary. We did not have the state of mind to congregate for our RWM that day...our Rotarylet, in the field of art and culture and cinema closely associated with Garg, expressed her emotions on National TV. Rtlit. Plabita Borthakur was interviewed to express her thoughts on this unparalleled loss, with choked emotion she shared what the icon meant to her, to Assam.

Rotarians who knew him closely shared their personal memories with Zubeen in tribute at our next RWM. His iconic number 'Mayabini' resonated with tearful Rotarians joining in unison.

In death he made us realise what he was...



He unified us as a state bereft of all political, economic and ideological divides because he did not believe in these man-made differences. He was a true maverick.

This mass hysteria of crores over five days in our State was never witnessed before and never will be in decades to come...

Rest in peace ZG...you lived a life of hundred years in half the time you really had on earth. In death you left a lifetime of learning for all of us. You had a method in your madness, you were an extraordinary Destiny's child with a heart of gold, one in a million.

Durga Puja is in the air with it's soft sunny winds spreading divinity all around. May the Divine Goddess reside within us to embrace us with strenght and courage to endure all that life offers, to destroy the evil and embrace the good that abides in all of us.



# Report on RI Zone-6 TRF Symposium

19<sup>th</sup> September 2025, Siliguri

Rtn Paramesh Dev Choudhury

Zone-6 consists of 10 Districts (namely Districts from Bhutan, Eastern India, Nepal) -3030, 3100, 3110, 3120, 3240, 3250, 3261, 3262, 3291, 3292. TRF Symposium on Zone basis was held for the first time in RI-3240, hosted by all Rotary Clubs of Siliguri. It was a great pleasure & experience in attending the symposium. RI-3240 was truly blessed to have a gathering of galaxy of eminent Rotary Leaders in Siliguri. We were honoured by the presence of Trustee Chair PRIP Holger Knaack from Germany, along with Trustee PRID Dr Bharat Pandya (India).

The programme started with the National Anthems of Germany, Nepal, Bhutan & India. Both RI Leaders (Trustee Chair PRIP Holger Knaack & Trustee PRID Dr Bharat Pandya) spoke very well and RRFC Dr Debasish Das (Shillong) gave a very brief but informative and impressive presentation of TRF followed by an Update on Polio Plus by PDG Uttam Ganguly.

Various Awards were presented to Rotarians who have notable contribution to TRF. Our district RI-3240 got the 'Annual Fund Early Achiever Award'. In between, 3 very brief colourful cultural items were presented. Representing RCGS, I presented Phoolam Gamocha to Madam Susanne Holger, Trustee Chair Holger, Trustee Dr Pandya & gave a copy of my book 'Insights Into Rotary'. Altogether 188 participants gathered from India, Nepal and Bhutan.

There were 6 participants from Guwahati. The program was conducted flawlessly with excellent fellowship and dinner at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel under the leadership of PDG Rtn Subhasish Chatterjee.



## Minutes of the 2359th Weekly Rotary Meeting

25th September 2025

### Awareness and Understanding of Dementia: Treatment, Care, and Lifestyle Strategies

**Date:** 25th September 2025

**Venue:** Rajdhani Regency Hotel

The President called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Following the National Anthem, the President welcomed all Rotarians, Annes, and guests present.

A one-minute silence was observed in tribute to the legendary singer **Zubeen Garg**. Rtn. Manjushri Baruah shared a few words on his legacy, followed by a five-minute **musical tribute** with a group rendering of the song "Mayabini Ratir Bukut Dekha Palu Tumar Sobi." Members also paid floral tribute by offering garlands, and flowers. A few members shared personal memories of meeting Zubeen Garg.

The President then presented a **token of appreciation** to Rtn. Dr. Pritam Mohan for sponsoring the fellowship, and greeted both Rtn. Giti Bujorbaruah and Rtn. Dr. Pritam Mohan.

The President has informed about Prosthetic Hand Donation Camp scheduled for **8th October 2025**.and the MBA Awards scheduled for **9th October 2025**.



IPP Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa presented a **memento to Rtn. Priyam Goswami** in recognition of her dedication and contributions during the Rotary year 2024-25.

The thematic session on **Dementia and Alzheimer's** commenced with a brief introduction by **Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan**, who explained the subject and introduced the Guest Speaker, **Ms. Anusuya Borkotoky (Psychologist)**. After her felicitation, Ms. Borkotoky delivered an insightful talk on *"Awareness and Understanding of Dementia: Treatment, Care, and Lifestyle Strategies."* The session was highly engaging, and attendees actively interacted with her.

Secretary **Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh** presented the meeting statistics: Attendance: 22 Rotarians, 6 Annes, 2 Guests, and 1 Rotarylet — Total **31 persons** present, and Sunshine Collection: **Rs. 400.00**

The meeting concluded with the rendition of the **Jatiyo Sangeet**, and was adjourned at 8:25 PM.





Some Rotarians of RCGS have had the good fortune of meeting the legend Zubeen Garg on a personal level. We feel proud to present their stories and photos which are cherished by them

## Remembering Zubeen Garg: A Tribute

Rtn. Dilip Sarkar



The passing of Assam's beloved son, Zubeen Garg, is a loss beyond words. For me, it is also the loss of a dear friend and brother, with whom I shared more than 25 years of fond memories.

I first met Zubeen in the late 1990s at a friend's residence in Ganeshguri, Guwahati, where he used to reside. That place was a hub of creativity where he and his companions composed and practiced music. It was here that timeless numbers like Maya, Mayabini etc were first born, and where I came to know him personally.



In 2000, during the Centenary Celebration of Cotton College, Guwahati, my firm, Dallas Advertising, was appointed as the official advertising agency. I was given the responsibility to invite an artist for the cultural evening, and I proposed Zubeen's name. He gladly accepted, and his performance became one of the highlights of the celebrations.

My last meeting with Zubeen was on 26th August 2025 at ITA, Machkhowa, during a show by the Fashion Fraternity of Assam. I was invited as Guest of Honour and felicitated on stage, and Zubeen too was honoured that evening. We stood together on stage, sharing that proud moment—never knowing it would be our final one.

I pray for eternal peace to his beautiful soul. His music and friendship will live with me forever.



Rtn Anjana Saikia with Zubeen Garg at College of Veterinary Science, Khanapara during promotion of his film KANCHANJANGHA ( 2019)

Memorable moments - Rtn Bibekananda Saikia and Rotarylet Pahi with Zubeen Garg ( 2025)



## My chance meeting with Zubeen Garg : An Uncontained Jewel

Rtn Biswadeep Borooah

It was sometime in early 2010 when I was flying from Lucknow to Guwahati with a stopover in Kolkata. The Lucknow–Kolkata leg of the journey was thinly occupied, and I found myself sitting alone in my row. Suddenly, a stylish young man came and sat beside me. I was absorbed in an Assamese novel (though I cannot recall exactly which one).



Noticing the Assamese book, the young man struck up a conversation. Until then, I had not paid much attention to him. But the moment he spoke, his voice instantly caught my attention—it was the same melodious voice that had mesmerized the entire nation with songs like “Ya Ali” and countless timeless Assamese classics. It was none other than Zubeen Garg sitting next to me, speaking to me.

I was dumbstruck for a while, but Zubeen's easy and friendly manner and our conversation about the book helped break the ice. One topic led to another, and soon we were talking about many things—most of all, about Assam and its culture.

Then a thought struck me, and I felt this was the perfect opportunity to share something I had always wanted to tell him. There is no doubt that Zubeen was one of the greatest blessings ever bestowed upon Assam—an artist so rare that we may not see another like him for at least a few centuries. Yet I had always felt that his immense talent and the influence he commanded over Assamese people needed to be properly channelized.

Drawing an analogy from the mighty Brahmaputra, or Burha Luit as we lovingly call it, I explained my perspective. This great river holds incredible potential if we embank its sides— it can harness its energy and power, flowing smoothly and nourishing the surrounding landscape. But if left un-embanked, the Brahmaputra is like a thousand wild horses galloping without direction, capable of causing havoc. If “not bound” the river's power can become chaotic, causing destruction and chaos in its wake.

I told him that his power and charisma were very much like this river. Just as the Brahmaputra is inseparably close to every Assamese heart, Zubeen too was the heartbeat of every Assamese—young or old. He had the power to inspire and influence millions. I urged him to be like the embanked Brahmaputra—channeling his immense talent and energy in ways that would leave the deepest, most positive impact on Assamese society.

He listened deeply taking in my every word. Later, I heard from my nephew Sumon Dowerah (ace cinematographer from Assam) that Zubeen narrated this story to him that same night after arriving in Guwahati. In fact, Zubeen was so happy that he personally helped to collect my baggage at the arrival terminal.

Today I say, Farewell Zubeen. [Thank you for the memories and the music. Till we meet again.](#)



Rtn Devajyoti Hazarika in a memorable discussion with the legendary Zubeen Garg at Brindaban Mart on August 6, 2022, regarding a cultural function and Ceragem-related initiatives.



Rtn Devajyoti Hazarika and Rtn Bhupendra Nath Das along with a delegation of retired Assam Government officers paid their respects and offered Shradhanjali to the family of Zubeen Garg. Besides condoling Zubeen's father Shri Borthakur, on the day of Doha, they also handed over a condolence message to Smt. Garima Saikia Garg, legendary Zubeen Garg.

## THE LAST TIME

**Rtn Dipak Bhagawati**

In the wee hours of the 7th September 2025, we arrived at the waiting lounge of the LNB Airport en-route Mumbai, the flight scheduled at 6am. We were to attend the Bhupen Hazarika Centenary Celebration the same evening at the NCPA Tata Theatre Mumbai, where music legends like Usha Mangeswar, Anup Jalota, Suresh Wadekar, Zubeen Garg, Kalpana Patowary and others were to perform. In the lounge, I met Debojit Bhuyan of Prag News and speaking to him, when all eyes turned to the entrance as a flamboyant person in colourful attire made his appearance. He was the great sensational Assamese singer Zubeen striding into the hall in his trademark gait. His smile across radiated an unusual warmth matching to the emerging morning light.

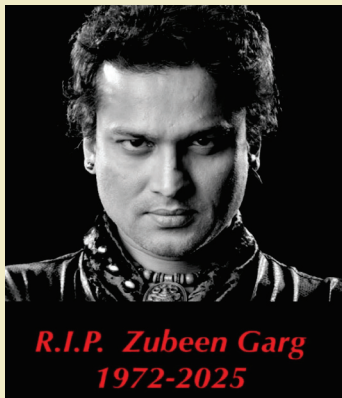




He was happy when my wife Loni told him that we were also on the way to Mumbai for the same event and wished him success. At the Mumbai airport, as we alighted a buggy to the luggage belt, Zubeen waved at us as he was walking behind. That was the last eye contact we had with the great sensation.

Although I was not a die-hard Zubeen Garg fan earlier, only now after listening to his voice, his compositions, his service to the underprivileged, his love for Mother Earth have I realised what an iconic cultural power was he in his mission to bind the masses in humanity. His name ZUBEEN means “the man who touched the sky”! He rocketed to have 38,000 songs to his credit! A week or so later, he had travelled to Singapore to attend the North East Festival where he was scheduled to perform. Alas as destiny would have it, his pure soul was snatched from all of us in an accident at Lazarus island at Singapore. The rest is “mystery”. Adios Zubeen!!

**Rtn Millie Kakati**



Miss Zubeen a lot as he passed out from my B.Borooah College. Being his Vice Principal, I found him to be very obedient, shy at your service type of boy who refused to go for songs initially but loved to play instruments only. Me, Dr Arunima Bharali, Dr. Sujata Borthakur Baideo and many more amongst us pestered Zubeen to sing only with his soulful golden voice. Today, he could place Assam onto the higher heels in the international entertainment arena, and could achieve such an incredible, amazing and immemorable recognition Assam has bestowed upon him that makes all of us proud. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF DURGA PUJA

**Rtn Priyam Goswami**



The demon is always within.  
The goddess is always within.  
The battle too, is always within.  
And so is the triumph of one, over the other.  
Which one, over which one?  
That choice is also, somehow always within.

- Urna

Durga Puja, one of the most celebrated festivals of India, especially in Eastern India, is more than just a religious celebration. Its essence lies in the combination of spiritual devotion, cultural expression, and social harmony. At its core, the festival symbolizes the victory of good over evil, the triumph of righteousness, courage, and justice over arrogance, cruelty, and falsehood. Spiritually, Durga Puja represents the invocation of divine energy. The Goddess is seen as Shakti, the supreme power who protects humanity and restores balance in the world. The rituals—starting from Mahalaya and culminating in Vijayadashami—signify the cycle of creation, preservation, and destruction, reminding devotees of the transient nature of life and the eternal presence of the divine.

Beyond its spiritual significance, it brings people together in joy and devotion, uniting families and communities through



rituals, music, art, and festivity. It is a time when creativity flourishes in the form of grand pandals, cultural performances, and traditional practices. Durga Puja is not just a festival—it is a celebration of life itself, where devotion blends seamlessly with art, culture, and human connection.

The image of the Goddess is more than a mere artistic creation. It is a profound symbol of faith, philosophy, and cultural identity. Her ten arms, each bearing a divine weapon, represent unified power, while the lion signifies courage and control over untamed forces. With a serene face amid battle, she reflects grace with strength, and the slaying of Mahishasura embodies the victory of righteousness over arrogance and injustice.

Above all, the essence of Durga Puja lies in its message of positivity, renewal and hope. The Goddess inspires devotees to awaken their inner power, fight negativity, and uphold truth in everyday life. Indeed a stark reminder of the values we need to uphold.

## Veterans Speak



**Rtn Dilip Sarkar**

### **RCGS: A Journey of Service, Legacy, and Lifelong Inspiration By PP. Rtn. Dilip Sarkar. PHF. The Beginning: A Young Interactor's Dream**

My Rotary journey began not in a boardroom, but in the classrooms and corridors of Don Bosco School, Guwahati, where in 1975, as a young Interactor and Director of Social Service, I joined the Great Rotary Movement. A year later participated at the Interact District 329 Conference held at La Martiniere College for Boys, Calcutta, I received the Best Social Service Project Award—a moment that planted the seed of lifelong service believing in the Swami Vivekananda's sayings "Service to mankind is Service to God".

Years later, destiny brought me full circle. In 1997, just two years after my marriage, I was officially inducted into the Rotary Club of Gauhati South (RCGS), RID 3240 during its 19th Installation Ceremony held at Vivekananda Kendra, Uzanbazar, Guwahati, at the kind invitation of Rtn. Atanu Kr.

Chowdhury, my school classmate, the nephew of Rtn. Ramesh C. Chaudhuri. I still remember attending a felicitation programme at R.G. Baruah Guest House, Nehru Stadium shortly after returning from Calcutta, and being mesmerized by the speech of Rtn. Ramesh C. Choudhury, the first District Governor of Rotary District 329 from the Northeast. His words inspired me deeply, and I silently prayed that someday I too would be part of this prestigious club. That dream came true—and today, I proudly mark 28 years of active membership in RCGS.

**The Rotary of the 1990s:** An Era of Serious Values Those were the days of very serious Rotary. Each Rotarian carried themselves with high ethical and moral standards, upholding the Rotary Four-Way Test not just in words, but in practice. Every meeting was an opportunity to learn from different highly knowledgeable speakers, every senior, a torchbearer of character, humility, and service.

**Senior Rotarians Who Inspired Me the Most Throughout my journey,** I have had the privilege of being mentored and inspired by many great souls:

**Rtn. Bhabhani Bhuyan, Rtn. Debakanta Kakati, Rtn. Jadav Ch. Bhuyan** – whose dedication and quiet leadership shaped our club's foundation.

**Rtn. Col. T.B.B. Lahkar, Rtn. Nikunja Bihari Barthakur** – models of discipline and Rotary spirit

**Rtn. Hem Chandra Goswami, Rtn. Hareshwar Talukdar, Rtn. Umesh Ch. Goswami, Rtn. M.C. Deka, Rtn. Mahendra Nath Bora** – known for their unshakable commitment to community welfare.

**Rtn. George Chacko, Rtn. Prasanta Das, Rtn. Satinder Anand** – for their infectious enthusiasm and joyful engagement.

**Rtn. Amritpal Singh, Rtn. Digendra Nath Barua, Rtn. Ramesh Chand Gupta** – whose global perspectives made local service more visionary.

**Rtn. Kaushik Das, Rtn. Devdas Kakati, Rtn. Dr. Md. Iftekhar, Rtn. Biswadip Barooah, Rtn. Niren Barua** – whose intellect and humility elevated every meeting.

**Rtn. Dr. Utpal Bhuyan, Rtn. Tarun Kamal Bora, Rtn. H.N. Das** – for their thoughtful leadership and empathy.

**Rtn. Nagendra Chandra Deka, Rtn. Col. Manoranjan Goswami, Rtn. Dr. Anil Kr. Mahanta** – who taught that true leadership is rooted in humility.

**Rtn. Tarun Chandra Pathak, Rtn. Bedabrata Goswami, Rtn. N.R. Srinivasan, Rtn. Ashok Kr. Jain** – ever-energetic and always devoted to Rotary's mission.

### **The Women of RCGS—**

**Rtn. Ms. Tilottama Barooah, Rtn. Mrs. Minoti Barthakur, Rtn. Dr. Malatee Barua, Rtn. Mrs. Gayatri Bhattacharya, and Rtn. Anjana Buragohain** – whose grace, resilience, love, affections for everyone and their leadership made them true role models.



## RCGS: A Club Like No Other

At RCGS, we are more than Rotarians—we are a family. The gracious and ever-loving and caring Annes played an integral part of RCGS. The Rotarylets of RCGS were always a part of joy and happiness for RCGS. Members from all vocations bring their unique strengths, yet we are bound by love, respect, and mutual encouragement. Our regular fellowships were very homely. Seniors learn from juniors and juniors from seniors. It is this unity, integrity, and solidarity that makes our club unparalleled among all Rotary clubs.

### Milestones of Service:

A Glimpse into Impact Our club has always been proactive, impactful, and visionary. Some initiatives that stand out include:

- Polio Eradication Drives
- Tree Plantations Drives
- Eye Check-up, Women's Health, and Animal Health Camps
- Horticulture & Floriculture Training at RCC Hajo
- Pisciculture & Dairy Culture Promotion
- Sishu Gram Orphanage Support
- Rainwater Harvesting Awareness
- Career Guidance Sessions: How to Face Interviews
- Health Awareness Programmes across communities
- Independence Day and Republic Day Celebration at the Cancer Institute
- Flood Relief Programs in affected areas

**A defining moment in my Rotary journey** came during my tenure as Club Secretary in 2003-04, under the inspiring leadership of President Rtn. Col. Manoranjan Goswami, when we conferred Honorary Rotarianship upon the legendary Dr. Bhupen Hazarika—the “People’s Artist,” a cultural icon whose humanitarian vision perfectly resonated with Rotary’s ideals.

**Personal Transformation** Through Rotary Rotary has helped me evolve into a better version of myself. It taught me to lead with empathy, speak with confidence, act with integrity, and serve with humility. It expanded my world—connecting me with global initiatives while grounding me in local realities. It gave my life a purpose beyond profession.

Gratitude and the Rotary Spirit I feel immensely grateful to live the Rotary motto: “Service Above Self.” Every service project, fellowship, and meeting has been a step toward self-growth and societal contribution.

RCGS gave me mentors, memories, and a mission. It gave me a life that is meaningful, impactful, and fulfilled. In Conclusion From an Interactor in 1975 to a Rotarian in 1997 and served RCGS in different capacities like Director, Jt Secretary, Secretary, President 2018-19 and Co-chaired twice in District 3240 Public Relations Committee—and now a lifelong member of a club I hold dear—this journey has been my life’s most cherished legacy. As we continue to walk the path of Rotary, may we carry forward this flame of unity, compassion, and service, and may we always remain proud members of the great Rotary family.

*Long Live RCGS, Long Live Rotary.*

The poster features the Rotary logo and text: "Rotary RID 3240 Zone VI". It announces a session on "Awareness and Understanding of Dementia: Treatment, Care, and Lifestyle Strategies" on 25th September 2025, featuring guest speaker Ms. Anusuya Borkotoky. It also mentions the District Public Image Committee (RY 25-26) and the motto "Service Above Self".



For October 2025, Rotary International's monthly theme is Community Economic Development. This focus area encourages Rotarians to engage in projects and initiatives that promote local economic growth and support community well-being.