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

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Volume : 72

SI No. 18

27 March 2026

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"There are two ways of spreading light: to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it".

--Edith Wharton

RCGS ACCORDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO **RTN. DR KAMESWAR SINGH ELANGBAM** DISTRICT GOVERNOR RI District 3240



Our District Governor, Rtn Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam, hardly needs any introduction. Over the past few weeks we have had occasion to see his dynamism as well as his dedication and commitment to work. Good leaders find a balance between foresight, performance and character. They have vision, courage, integrity, humility and the ability to plan strategically. Rtn Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam has all of these attributes, and we believe that by the end of this Rotary year, our district will have achieved a great deal under his leadership.

Rtn Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam, originally from Imphal, is now permanently settled in Shillong, Meghalaya. He earned his MBBS degree from Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, followed by a DOrtho degree from Aligarh Muslim University and an MSOrtho from AIIMS, New Delhi.

Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam's Rotary journey, which commenced in 2007 with the Rotary Club of Shillong, exemplifies a deep seated dedication to service above self. His commitment is reflected in his significant contributions and leadership roles within the club and the district. He is a major donor Level III, a Paul Harris Society member, a Polio Plus Society member, a Multiple Fellow of 3240 District Foundation, a Benefactor and an End Polio Fellow, demonstrating his substantial financial and personal investment in Rotary's philanthropic endeavours.

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During his Presidential tenure, particularly as the Diamond Jubilee President, Rtn Dr. Elangbam championed and executed several transformative community service projects. One of his most notable projects was the development of the Seng Khasi School at Mawphlang and the collaborative efforts with the Seng Kynthei, a rural women's self help group specifically designed to promote economic empowerment within the community. His sustained engagement with the school, the Seng Kynthei and the local Durbar in the elaka of Hima Mawflang, has been pivotal in reinforcing Rotary's positive public image in the region.

Rtn Dr Elangbam has attended RI Conventions in Seoul, Atlanta and Hamburg and has also participated in significant global events such as the 11th Water Summit and the Presidential Peace Conference at Beirut. His visits to the Rotary Institutes in Kuala Lumpur and Yogyakarta underscores his engagement with global rotary initiatives and peace building efforts. His commitment extends to impactful international service partnerships as well. His involvement in the Bhutan community toilet construction projects, (2017), and Sri Lanka water filtration project to address the serious issue of renal failure caused by ground water pesticide pollution, is proof of this.

In essence, Rtn Dr. Elangbam's journey, both as a medical professional and a Rotarian, is a powerful narrative of leadership service and a relentless pursuit of betterment for humanity.



From the Editor

We extend a hearty welcome to our District Governor, Rtn Dr. Kameswar Singh Elangbam. We are confident that his extensive experience, dedication and passion for service will take Rotary to new heights in the District. We, the members of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, look forward to his guidance and help in all the activities of our club.

March marks a time of renewed dedication and fervour within Rotary as we turn our focus towards Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH). This theme is not merely a slogan; it is a beacon of hope, a call to action, and a testament to our unwavering commitment to humanity.

The significance of this focus cannot be overstated. Clean water is not just a convenience; it is a lifeline. It is the difference between sickness and health, between despair and opportunity. Consider this ironical truth: more individuals possess a cell phone than access to a toilet. Figures by the World Health Organization, UNICEF and International Telecommunications Union reveal that there are more people in the world with access to a mobile phone than to a toilet. 1 in 3, that is 2.3 billion people, do not have access to a toilet, with a staggering 892 million people defecating in the open, putting their health and safety at risk.

For billions of people, not having access to a toilet can be incredibly dangerous and comes with many risks, with nearly 1 million people being killed by water, sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases each year. Moreover, research has shown that women who defecate in the open are twice as likely to experience sexual violence.

In a world where technology thrives, basic necessities like clean water still remain out of reach for millions. As we strive for progress, we cannot ignore the interconnectedness of our endeavours. Water sanitation is not just about health; it's about eradicating diseases like polio. The transmission of polio thrives in environments lacking proper sanitation, posing a grave threat to communities worldwide. We have made strides, but the battle is far from over. So complacency is not an option and we must remain vigilant and united in our efforts





RTN. NITISH CHANDRA LAHARRY : THE FIRST INDIAN RI PRESIDENT

The first person of Asian origin to be elected as the President of Rotary International was Rtn Nitish Chandra Laharry (1892–1964). He was an Indian lawyer, social worker and film producer from Kolkata, and it was during his presidency that Rotary International started its Youth wing, Interact Club.

Rtn Nithish Laharry was born in 1892 in Kolkata, where he had his education. He obtained his graduate and master's degrees in English literature from St. Xavier's College and the Scottish Church College. Later, he also secured a degree in law from the University of Calcutta, winning the J. M. Tagore Medal for Law for academic excellence. He started his career as a lawyer at the Calcutta High Court and worked for four years, only to abandon the career to turn to film industry. He founded a studio and produced a motion picture about the Bengali diaspora in England, the first motion picture produced in Bengal, Bilat Ferat.

Rtn Laharry joined the Calcutta chapter of Rotary International in 1926 and became its secretary the same year. His business travels took him to Mumbai in 1935, but he continued his association with Rotary by becoming a member of the Bombay chapter, and, on his return to Kolkata in 1939, he rejoined RC Calcutta and became its president in 1944. The Bengal famine of 1943 had already set in by that time and the organization, under his leadership, set up food canteens and free medical camps for the people affected by the famine. He also served as the Vice Chairman of the Armed Forces Entertainment during World War II and, after the war, managed disbursement centres for the Government of India. In 1953, he was elected as the second Vice President of Rotary International. He served as the Rotary Information Counselor during 1955–56, and chaired the *Asia Regional Conference*, in 1958, at Delhi, which had over 2900 participants from 21 countries, reportedly the largest till then. He was elected as RI President of the organization in 1962, thus becoming the first Asian to hold the position. The Government of India awarded him the third highest civilian honour of the Padma Bhushan in 1963.

Nitish Ch Laharry was also a recipient of the National Order of Merit (France) and Order of Merit (Chile) and honorary doctorates from California College of Medicine and Baylor University, Texas. He passed away on 21 July 1964. The Rotary Club of Calcutta has honoured him by naming their children's library as *Nitish Chandra Laharry Children's Library*.



A GLIMPSE OF SOME OF OUR ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR



Flag Hoisting Ceremony on 15th August at our Happy School, Nandi Mikir Primary School.



On July 20, 2025, Rotary Club of Guwahati South, in collaboration with Save Bharalu Abhiyan and Faguna Rabha High School, organized a successful tree plantation drive at the school's Jaya Kahilipara Road campus. Over 50 varieties of fruit-bearing and medicinal plants were planted to promote ecological awareness and enhance green cover.



On 30 July 2025. In a significant step towards enhancing aquatic biodiversity, a total of 5.5 quintals of fingerlings-including Rohu and Catla, along with several other native varieties-were released into Deepor Beel, a prominent freshwater lake on the outskirts of Guwahati. This initiative of RCGS aims to boost the population of these economically and ecologically important fish species in one of Assam's largest and most vital wetlands.



On 10th August 2025, a Workshop on Natural soap (Skill Development Programme) making was organised in collaboration with Pragya Mahila Sora, at their premises in Kharghuli, near Beltol Shiv Mandir, Guwahati. The workshop witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 53 attendees and was a grand success.



On 3rd September 2025, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South successfully conducted a How to Face an Interview programme in collaboration with the Department of Education, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati.



On 10 October another HTFI programme was held at Pandu College, Guwahati



Teachers' Day Celebrations at the club.



On 15th September 2025, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, in collaboration with the Department of English, Gauhati Commerce College, successfully organized a workshop on "Campus to Corporate: Soft Skills Today".

Rotary **WORLD ALZHEIMER'S** **UNITE FOR GOOD**

Francesco Arezzo
2025-26 President
Rotry International

Rtn Dr Kameswar Singh
Elangbam District Governor
RI District 3240 (2025-26)

Anusuya Borkotoky
(psychologist)

ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH
is organizing an Awareness and Understanding Dementia: Treatment, Care, and Lifestyle Strategies program

JOIN US FOR AN ENLIGHTENING SESSION WITH ANUSUYA BORKOTOKY ON DEMENTIA AND ITS IMPACT

On 25th September 2025,
Venue: Hotel Rajdhani Regency,
Time: Fellowship 6:30 Meeting 7:00PM to 8:00PM

A talk on Awareness and Understanding of Dementia: Treatment, Care, and Lifestyle Strategies, was delivered by Anusuya Borkotoky on 25 September 2025.

On 8 October 2025, RCGS, in association with Symbica IIT Research Centre, Guwahati, organized an awareness programme on battery-powered prosthetic hands. During the event, prosthetic hands were donated to individuals who had tragically lost their limbs in separate accidents.



RCGS donates Food Cart to Thalassaemia Patient at Guwahati, October 14, 2025



Formal Handover Ceremony of Ice Coffin to NGO Om Shanti. Date: 17th October 2025



On 2 November, 2025, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, in collaboration with Save Bharalu Abhiyan, organized a Human Chain Programme to promote awareness on protecting and restoring the Bharalu River-one of Guwahati's lifelines.



Flag Exchange with RI District 3292, Nepal, on 6 February 2026



Story telling programme at Parijat Academy, Natun Garbhanga, on 13th February 2026



On 7 March 2026, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South organized a Free Eye Check-up cum Screening Camp at S.B. Deorah College in collaboration with the Health Care Committee of the college and with support from Centre for Sight Eye Hospital, Guwahati.



On February 28, 2026, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South (RCGS) donated a Swargarath to Kalia Kanai Smashan Samiti at Bhetapara



A panel Discussion on Contemporary Challenges to Peace Building was held on 27 Feb 2026.

INSPIRING QUOTE BY A FAMOUS ROTARIAN

“If we worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true really is true, then there would be little hope for advance” . Orville Wright:

Orville Wright (1871-1948) was an American aviation pioneer generally credited with inventing, building, and flying the world’s first successful aeroplane. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Ohio. His quote embodies the Rotary spirit of innovation, growth, and improvement.