

MONTHLY CLUB BULLETIN OF
R C GAUHATI WEST
SARAIGHAT

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UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary



**October is Rotary's
Economic and Community
Development Month**

RI President's Message for October

What community-led development looks like

October is Rotary's Community Economic Development Month, a time to spotlight our efforts to help communities build thriving, sustainable futures. This month's observance aligns perfectly with the Rotary core value of leadership.

Leadership means empowering people to guide their own progress. That is precisely what Rotary's economic development projects aim to achieve.

Take, for example, a recent initiative in southern India in which Rotary members unlocked the power of women of the Adivasi tribal groups through sewing training to earn a living and regain social inclusion. Historically, widows and abandoned women in this region lose social standing and are shunned by society or blamed for their misfortunes. Opportunities to support themselves or obtain training are minimal.

This year, the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, partnered with clubs in Districts 3203 and 3234 in India — and with the Indian organization Sevalaya Trust — to provide sewing machines and training to 80 Adivasi women. They learned to stitch saree blouses, kurta tunics, and salwar suits, enabling them to support themselves and their families. Each woman received a certificate for completing the program, and the sewing-machine provider offered free long-term maintenance for the machines. The project offered vital income and dignity to women ostracized by society after widowhood.

This story is one example of Rotary leadership in action: local people guiding solutions that address their community needs. Our role is not to deliver charity or to impose outside models, but to foster self-reliance by investing in leadership, skills, and sustainable enterprise.

This October, I invite Rotary members worldwide to reflect on economic leadership in their communities. Who is stepping forward to lead local economic initiatives? Where is there untapped talent that could be supported with training or mentorship? How can your club catalyze opportunity through partnerships with local businesses, vocational schools, or savings groups?

Leadership is not always about being visible. Sometimes it means listening, working collaboratively, and amplifying the voices of others. That approach lies at the heart of Rotary's philosophy and our lasting impact on economic development.

By building capacity — whether through microcredit groups, vocational training workshops, or entrepreneurship programs — we enable communities to lead their own transformation. When people take ownership of their progress, change becomes sustainable.

Let us lead with good intention and provide support with heart. By nurturing local leadership, we can create opportunities that ripple through communities, empowering individuals, families, and societies.

Together, we can support economies that work for everyone and enact community development projects that last.

FRANCESCO AREZZO

President, Rotary International



Words that Matter – President Krishna Baruah Writes

Dear Rotarians and Friends,

I hope all of you had a joyous and festive time celebrating Durga Puja with your loved ones. It is indeed a time of togetherness and celebration.

It is with a heavy heart that I share the loss of the legendary Singer Zubin Garg, the heartbeat of Assam. His passing leaves a void in the music world, and we will always cherish his contributions to Assamese culture.

Our Charter Day Celebration, initially scheduled for earlier this month, has been deferred to 25th October. We will continue with the planned program to commemorate Sudhakantha's birth centenary, an occasion that reminds us of the power of art and culture in our lives.

A heartfelt thank you to all members for the successful organization of Teachers' Day celebrations and the generous donation of sewing machines. These initiatives embody the true spirit of Rotary.

In October, Rotary focuses on Economic and Community Development, and I urge all of us to explore opportunities to contribute towards creating a more sustainable and equitable society.

Finally, wishing all Rotarians and their families a very Happy Dipavali! May the festival of lights bring peace, happiness, and prosperity to your homes.

Warm regards,

Rtn. Krishna Baruah

President, R C Gauhati West



Sudhakantha Dr. Bhupen Hazarika: The Bard of the Brahmaputra

মানুহে মানুহৰ বাবে

A Tribute on his Birth Centenary by RCGW

Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, born on September 8, 1926, in Sadiya, Assam, was a multifaceted artist whose talents spanned singing, composing, lyric writing, poetry, film-making, and journalism. The eldest of ten children, he was exposed to Assamese folk traditions through his mother and began singing at the age of 10. By 12, he had performed in the Assamese film Indramalati (1939). Hazarika pursued higher education at Banaras Hindu University, earning a Master's in Political Science, followed by a PhD in Mass. His artistic career was characterized by a deep intertwining of folk traditions, social messages, humanism, and communal harmony. Hazarika's notable songs, including "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" and "Bistirno Parore," transcended linguistic and cultural boundaries. He composed music for numerous films across various languages, winning prestigious awards such as the National Film Award for Best Music Director for the Assamese film Chameli Memsab (1975). His filmography includes works in Assamese, Bengali, and Hindi cinema, contributing significantly to the Indian film industry.

In the realm of public service, Assam Legislative Assembly from where he was recognized through Padma Shri (1977), Sangeet Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1992), He was posthumously awarded highest civilian honor. themes of social justice, unity, and groups, effectively introducing the folk into the mainstream. Influenced by his experiences abroad, he embraced a sense of universalism, drawing inspiration from notable figures like Paul Robeson. As 2025 marks the centenary of his birth, a series of commemorative events and observances have been planned, including a year-long celebration approved by the Government of Assam. A commemorative silver coin has been authorized, and a biography detailing Hazarika's life is to be distributed widely. Cultural concerts, seminars, film screenings, and tributes are among the planned activities to honor his legacy.



songs continue to be celebrated and utilized in educational and cultural contexts, promoting messages of peace and community closeness. The centenary celebrations aim not only to commemorate his contributions but also to ensure that his music and ideals remain accessible and relevant for future generations.

Bharat Ratna Awards 2019



Front Side



Back Side



Pranab Mukherjee, Nanaji Deshmukh & Bhupen Hazarika Awarded

Zubeen Garg: Assam's Musical Heartbeat and Humanitarian Force

a tribute to Zubeen by the Club

মায়াবিনী ৰাতিৰ বুকুত

Zubeen Garg, one of Assam's most beloved cultural icons, passed away on 19 September 2025 in Singapore at the age of 52. Known for his prolific musical career and deep commitment to social causes, Garg left behind a legacy that transcends entertainment and touched the lives of thousands.

A Voice That Echoed Across India

Zubeen Garg rose to national fame with the Hindi hit "Ya Ali" from the film *Gangster*, but his influence was most deeply felt in Assam and the Northeast. Over a career spanning decades, he recorded an estimated 38,000 songs in more than 40 languages and dialects. His work ranged from Assamese film music and pop to Bollywood playback singing, and he was also a composer, actor, and poet. Garg's concerts drew massive crowds, and his music helped bring Assamese culture into the national spotlight.

A Nation Mourns

His sudden death—reportedly due to drowning after swimming—sparked an outpouring of grief across Assam and among Assamese communities worldwide. Public memorials, mass gatherings, and musical tributes marked the days following his passing. State honours were accorded during his cremation, and fans organized donation drives and remembrance events in his name.

A Life of Giving

Beyond the stage, Zubeen Garg was a tireless philanthropist. Through the Kalaguru Artiste Foundation and other efforts, he provided flood relief, distributed medical supplies, and organized benefit events such as charity football matches and concerts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he opened his resources to those in need and actively participated in relief drives.

His influence extended to artist welfare and youth empowerment. Inspired by his example, fans and volunteers set up donation boxes at his memorial site to continue supporting causes he championed—mental health, underprivileged youth, and struggling artists.

Guardianship and Compassion

One of the most poignant aspects of Garg's legacy was his role as a guardian to underprivileged children. Alongside his wife Garima Saikia Garg, he cared for 15 children, providing them with shelter,

education, and emotional support. These children were not biologically related to him but were treated as family.

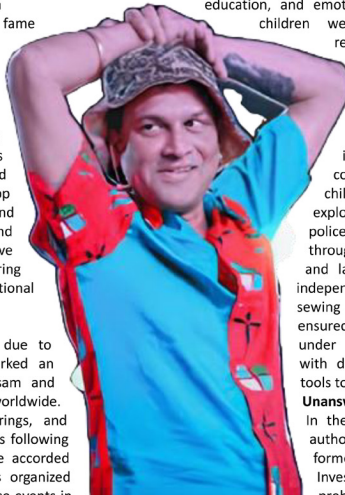
Among them was a young girl named Kajali, whom Garg rescued in 2014 from abusive conditions involving child labour and sexual exploitation. He filed a police case, supported her through legal proceedings, and later helped her gain independence by gifting her a sewing machine. His efforts ensured that the children under his care were raised with dignity and given the tools to thrive.

Unanswered Questions

In the wake of his death, authorities in Assam formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances surrounding the incident. Cooperation requests were made to Singapore for access to CCTV footage and other evidence. Media reports have also highlighted scrutiny of financial transactions involving some of Garg's associates, prompting public calls for transparency.

A Legacy Etched in Melody and Humanity

Zubeen Garg's life was a symphony of art and altruism. He was more than a performer—he was a mobilizer of compassion, a cultural ambassador, and a guardian to the vulnerable. His music will continue to echo through the hills and valleys of Assam, but it is his quiet acts of kindness that will remain etched in the hearts of those he touched.



Regular Weekly Meetings of September & Activities

RWM NO 2111 Dated 4th Sept 25:

1. Meeting started with national anthem. President introduced the prospective member Mr Subrata Roy.
2. Sharing minutes of past meetings
3. Celebration of Teachers Day on 5th September at NPME School of Adabari area was informed. It was also communicated that 15 Comfortable chairs for Teachers Common room will be gifted along with some copy books, pencil, rubber etc will be presented.
4. Doantion of Sewing machine at Prapti Centre run by ACWWS was also conveyed to the club member.
5. Kitty party lottery game was held with annes and members

Winner- Ann Lipi Bhattacharjee



RWM 2112 dtd 11. Sept '25

Meeting held at hotel Prag continental . Called to order as usual.

PP Shyamal Bhattacharjee informed about the CSR grant by India Carbon and the projects under taken from his tenure to till date.

Donation of 3 sewing machines at Prapti Centre run by ACWWS was also informed.

The meeting discussed about RC Gauhati West Charitable Trust fund for Burachapori Project and others. Informed the house about continuing aforestation at Pragiyotish Viswavidyalaya pending approval by the Board of the university.

It was decided that Charter Day celebration along with Birth Centenary of Dr Bhupen Hazarika will be held on 21st September at Hotel Prag Continental with Manisha Hazarika as Chief Guest.

Reported about the Teachers Day Celebration and about the other service projects. Two participants for RYLA will be sponsored by the club.

It is also decided that on Charter Day two new members will be inducted.

Fellowship with Glittering stars



RWM 2113 dtd 25. Sept '25

RWM was held at Hotel Prag Continental Silence was observed for sad demise of Heart Throb Zubeen Garg. The Charter Day Program has to be postponed and decided to be held after Durga Puja on some suitable date date of October.

Informed about Club's contribution to Durga Puja Committee.

Some discussion was held about the service projects on October and November like health Camps. It was also informed about the attendance f 4 members in Foundation Symposium at Siliguri on 19th Sempتمبر..



Teachers Day Celebration

On 5th September, National Teachers Day was observed by the club at NPME School felicitating 11 teachers and gifted them with 15 Chairs for teachers common room curtesy Gayatri Memorial Fund. Some essential study materials were also gifted and food and drinks are provided. Attended by President Rtn Krishna, Rtn Purkayastha, Rtn Maheshji and Rtn Prem Kantji



Activities of September

शिक्षक दिवस के मौके पर



गुवाहाटी, 6 सितंबर (र.सं.)। रोटरी जून और गुवाहाटी चैर और गारो बार्डरलैंड के एक्जिक्यूटिव के बीच शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। कार्यक्रम में शिक्षक दिवस के अवसर पर एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया।

प्रातः २९ सितंबर-०७-०९-२०२५



Four members of our club attended RI Zone 6 TRF Symposium at Courtyard Marriott, Siliguri on 19th September. Members had the opportunity of taking few snaps with PRIIP and present Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Holger Knaack. Also contacted with PDG Basudeb Golian of Dist 3292, Nepal for future cooperation for Global Grant. Met some DGs and PDGs as well.

5th September 3 sewing machines were donated by the club to Praprti Centre run by ACWWS curtesy India Carbon



19th September at RI Zone 6 TRF Symposium at Siliguri



Rtn B C Das Purkayastha visited R C Silchar and two Clubs of Karimganj

Rtn B C Das Purkayastha visited R C Silchar on 12th September at the club premises. Also visited R C Karimganj and R C Borderland Karimganj in a joint meeting held at the club hall of R C Silchar on 13th September. It is worth mentioning that Rtn Biraj Nath of Borderland hosted him at his house and done all the arrangement of conveyance for the visitor showing true sense of fellowship



Rotary International News

Rotary's international convention in June 2026

Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo has announced that over 30,000 members from over 120 countries will convene in Taipei, Taiwan, from June 13-17, 2026, for the annual international convention. The event, originally canceled due to the COVID pandemic, is expected to contribute approximately US\$50-55 million to the local economy, benefiting Taipei's hotels, restaurants, and tourism sectors. The conventions aim to foster connections among members, enabling them to share insights on addressing community issues while promoting health, peace, and prosperity globally. The event will take place at the Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center and Taipei Dome, where attendees will explore over 100 humanitarian projects and listen to renowned speakers. Taipei City Mayor Wan-An Chiang has extended a warm welcome to the Rotary members, while local chapters are eager to showcase Taipei's rich culture, exceptional cuisine, and the remarkable impacts of Rotary's initiatives. Rotary members are actively involved in sustainable, community-based projects globally, including science education programs for rural schools, support for Indigenous communities, computer refurbishing to tackle e-waste, and companionship services for senior citizens.



District Events and Appeal



Rotary
DISTRICT 3240

END POLIO NOW

Polio Eradication

Let us make the promise of a polio-free world to our children

Join the \$10 Club

Donate \$10 from every member

Your \$10 is matched by the Gates Foundation to become a \$30 donation!

Scan to Donate!

24
World Polio Day

Rotary
District 3240
Nov 21st - 23rd 2025
Bardhaman

UDAAN
Rise. Lead. Inspire.

RYLA 2025
rotary youth leadership awards

An intensive leadership development program developed in 1971 by Rotary International for young leaders.

Age: 18 to 30 years, 31st Nov

Magnum Global School, Bardhaman

- Develop leadership skills through experiential and fun activities
- Boost self-confidence and enhance teamwork skills through participation in challenge course exercises
- Learn proper social and business etiquettes
- Learn about the purposes and objectives of Rotary
- Learn about the Rotary Four Way Test
- Participate in a community service project
- An introduction to a variety of issues, people and perspectives
- An opportunity to make new friends.
- RYLA is FREE!

NOV 23

Community Economic Development, India

During the early stages of a global grant project to support mothers and their children, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Rotary Club of Hiranandani Estate in Maharashtra state to reimagine the enterprise. Rotarians pivoted to organize vaccination camps, distribute emergency food, and establish basic health care. The three-year effort reached more than 6,000 people across four communities in the city of Navi Mumbai. The club partnered with the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Lubbock, Texas, on the nearly \$50,000 global grant, which also provided 12 industrial sewing machines and offered training in their use. Namrataa Srivastav, project director, lauds the program as a "milestone, opening doors for future collaborations between Rotary and prestigious social service institutions."



Pulse of the Month: Editorial by Bulletin Editor Rtn. (Dr) B C Das Purkayastha

October brings us the theme of Economic and Community Development, a core pillar of Rotary's mission to create lasting change in communities worldwide. This theme invites us to reflect on the ongoing efforts in our club and beyond, where we strive to make a difference—especially in our own community.

Among our recent initiatives, we've seen significant strides, such as supporting old age homes, setting up recreation centers for specially-abled children, and providing care for destitute girl children. These are vital efforts, addressing some of the most vulnerable sections of our society. However, as we take pride in these successes, we must also ask ourselves: Is this enough? There is no doubt that our initiatives are impactful, but the scope of community development is vast, and our work cannot be limited to just these few projects. To truly foster an inclusive and sustainable community, we need to think beyond traditional models. A few suggestions could include: Skill Development Programs: Empowering the underprivileged with job skills can provide them with sustainable livelihoods. Programs tailored for youth, women, and elderly could help bridge the economic gap.

Health & Hygiene Awareness: With increasing health challenges, especially in rural areas, it is crucial to set up outreach programs focusing on basic healthcare, hygiene, and nutrition.

Green Initiatives: Rotary clubs could be instrumental in promoting environmental sustainability, from urban green spaces to waste management projects, creating cleaner, healthier communities for all.



In Lighter Veins

Collaborative Partnerships: Building partnerships with local governments, schools, and businesses could amplify our reach and impact, creating more avenues for sustainable development.

While we continue to do wonderful work, the need for innovation, continuous effort, and community collaboration cannot be overstated. Let's not just aim for the immediate impact, but build a framework for long-term change that will uplift the community as a whole. Your thoughts and suggestions are always welcome as we strive to make a real, lasting difference. Let's continue to embody the true spirit of Rotary in all that we do.

B'DAY AND ANNIVERSARY OCTOBER

BIRTH DAY GREETINGS

1ST OCT: Rtn Budhin Borthakur

5th Oct: Rtn Praveen Maskara

15th Oct: Rtn P K Goel

16th Oct: Rtn Krishna Baruah

18th Oct: Rtn Bhupesh Ch Das

26th Oct: Rtn Tilak Das

30th Oct: Rtn Surajit Deb

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

9th Oct: Rtn Bhupesh Ch Das

15th Oct: Rtn Jita Baruah

29th Oct: Rtn Tridib Sarma

PROGRAMS OF OCTOBER

25th October

Charter Day Celebration at Hotel Prag Continental from 6 PM

Induction of two new members (RWM of 23rd is being postponed to 25th October)

Also tribute to Zubeen Garg and Celebration of Birth Centenary of Sudhakantha Bhupen Hazarika.

24th October

Polio Day Awareness

<p>Economic Growth</p> <p>The fruits of development—still out of reach!</p>	<p>Community Meeting</p> <p>Everyone has a voice... and all are on loudspeaker!</p>	<p>Project Launch</p> <p>Development inaugurated. Details coming soon!</p>
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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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