

MONTHLY CLUB BULLETIN OF
R C GAUHATI WEST
SARAIGHAT

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Message of
RI President
Francesco Arezzo
September 2025

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is Unite for Good. "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's Unite for Good by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, we Unite for Good.

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all members for your growing participation in our regular weekly meetings. Your presence and enthusiasm are the lifeblood of our club's spirit. Due to the recent heavy downpour, our last meeting had to be rescheduled to 4th September—thank you for your understanding and flexibility.

A special note of appreciation to all Service Chairs and Sub-Committee Convenors for the vibrant and forward-looking discussions during our Club Assembly on 21st August. Your dedication is shaping the roadmap for impactful service. With your unwavering support, we successfully completed three meaningful programs in August, including the establishment of a Recreational Center for Physically Challenged Children. This initiative holds deep significance, and we now shoulder the responsibility for its sustenance and ongoing care.

As we step into September—Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have several inspiring initiatives lined up: Felicitating teachers of NPME High School with comfortable chairs, generously sponsored by the Gayatri Memorial Fund; Launching two Adult Literacy Centers: One for the urban homeless population; Another in Changsar, Kamrup rural district; Establishing a Rotary Community Corps (RCC) in Changsari to support the operations of the ALC and address local needs. I earnestly seek your continued attendance and active involvement in these upcoming programs. Together, we can make a lasting difference.

Wishing everyone joyous celebrations and warm greetings for the upcoming Durga Puja Festival.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Rtn Krishna Baruah

President, RC Gauhati West



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY - PROGRAM OF RI

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That's 17 percent of the world's adult population.

Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. We support education for all children and literacy for children and adults.

HOW ROTARY MAKES HELP HAPPEN

We take action to empower educators to inspire learning at all ages.

• 500 adults raised their reading levels by three grades in Detroit



MENTORING STUDENTS

Rotary club pairs students and CEO mentors for success.

TEACHER TRAINING

We share our knowledge and experience with educators and other professionals who work with vulnerable population.

ADULT LITERACY

Rotary members fight adult literacy by working with local advocates to offer community literacy program.

• \$100 mil in grants to get clean water in Lebanese schools

Our impact on education

The Rotary Foundation supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world.

Rotary members make amazing things happen, like:

Opening schools: In Afghanistan, Rotary members opened a girls' school to break the cycle of poverty and social imbalance.

Teaching adults to read: Rotary members in the United States partnered with ProLiteracy Detroit to recruit and train tutors after a study showed that more than half of the local adult population was functionally illiterate.

New teaching methods: The SOUNDS program in South Africa, Puerto Rico and the United States teaches educators how to improve literacy by teaching children to recognize letters by sounds instead of names.

Making schools healthy: Rotarians are providing clean, fresh water to every public school in Lebanon so students can be healthier and get a better education.

Enhancing educational systems: In Kenya, Rotary clubs are working with the Global Partnership for Education and local and national governments to advance life-long learning opportunities for poor and marginalized children. Learn more.

*When you teach somebody how to read, they have that for a lifetime.
It ripples through the community, one by one.*

Literacy - A Concern of RID 3240 and the Clubs

In India as of the 2023-24 period, the overall literacy rate is 80.9% for individuals aged seven and above, according to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), with this figure projected to be the scenario for 2025.

Projected Scenario of literacy rates in the Administrative States of RID 3240

STATES	PROJECTED LITERACY RATE
MIZORAM	100%
TRIPURA	95.6%
MEGHALAYA	94.2%
ASSAM	87%
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	82.93%
SIKKIM	81%
NAGALAND	79.55%
WEST BENGAL	76.26%

The Projected literacy rate in Assam is 87% a remarkable progress. Kamrup Metro has 88.71% while Kamrup Rural's literacy rate is bare 75.55%. These figures are provided for taking serious action by clubs and also by our home club for opening at least some Adult Literacy Center.

Rotary Youth Activity –

The 1st Late Rtn. Jayabrata Banerjee Memorial Debate Competition was successfully organized at the New Academic Building, Gauhati University, on 7th August 2025. This youth-centric event was initiated by the Rotaract Club of Rongali Guwahati in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Gauhati West, as a tribute to the memory of Late Rtn. Jayabrata Banerjee, a respected Rotarian and passionate supporter of youth engagement and intellectual discourse.

The topic of the debate was: "In the Age of Social Media, Activism is Becoming Performative Rather Than Impactful."

Distinguished Personalities Present:

Speaker of the Debate: Dr. Hari Prasad Sharma, (Retd. HoD, Dept. of Environmental Science & Retd. Rector, Gauhati University)

Judging Panel:

1. Rtn. Dr. Mantu Paul
2. Mr. Tawhid Alom Laskar (Advocate, Gauhati High Court)
3. Mr. Dhiman Chakraborty (Past General Secretary, Assam Royal Global University)

ACTIVITIES OF AUGUST 2025

Debate Competition in memory of late Rtn Jayabrata Banerjee on 7th August



The competition witnessed a rigorous and thought-provoking exchange of ideas from both sides of the motion. After an intense and high-quality debate, the team speaking against the motion was adjudged the winner. Total 33 participants Results:

Best Team Award: Jeet Pathak & Geethartha Bora (Cotton University)

Second Best Team: Gaurav Kashyap (J.B. Law College) & Rahul Rohan Paul (Tezpur University)

Third Best Team: Jananajay Deb (Assam Royal Global University) & Shivash Poddar (Delhi University)

Individual Awards:

Best Debater: Tridip Bhagawati (Gauhati University)

Second Best Debater: Agastya Kashyap (J.B. Law College)

Special Guests:

Mr. Mintu Deka (Debate & Symposium Secretary, Gauhati University)

Rtn. Sanjib Kalita (Vice President, Rotary Club of Gauhati West)

Rtn. Utpal Gohain (Asst. Governor, Zone 10, RID-3240)

Rtr Subhankar Dey (President Rongali Guwahati)

and Members of Rotaract & Rotary Club.

Tribute to Jayabrata on his 1st Death Anniversary



In the evening of 7th August in regular club meeting, in memory of late Jayabrata for his one year of death. Sanyasis from Gouria Math chanted Hari nama sankirtan and delivered some religious talks from Bhagabat. After that regular meeting was called to order for which Rtn Minati Barthakur of R C Gauhati South was invited to speak about Jayabrata. PDG Prabhat Kedia and some members also spoke on the occasion. Members from other clubs also attended the meeting.



Independence



The flag hosting by Padmashree Ajoy Dutta, followed by his lecture. A Family meet program from 8.30 Am of 15th August. Two Rotarylets were felicitated for their excellence in Public Examination. Home made breakfast was also served to all.

ACTIVITIES OF AUGUST 2025

Doing Good for Specially-abled Children on 16th August



Recreational centre for specially-abled children opened

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Aug 19: A new recreational centre for specially-abled children was inaugurated at Kalyani Nivas here recently.

The initiative, undertaken by the Rotary Club of Guwahati West under the leadership of president Krishna Baruah, was

sponsored by Indira Carbon, SRL and Round Table India in collaboration with the Assam Child and Women Welfare Society (ACWWS).

The centre was formally inaugurated by retired IAS of

Retired Pawan Kumar Baruah, who commended ACWWS for its sustained work and expressed gratitude to the Rotary

Club and partner organizations for their contributions.

Designed to support the holistic development of specially-abled children, the centre will provide physiotherapy, speech therapy, and education through play-based methods for both day boarders and residential students.

The inauguration ceremony

was anchored by Krishna Baruah, secretary of ACWWS, featuring cultural performances, including a 'Bojore' Purnima Rong, an item by Ashwini, and a modern event was attended by members of the supporting organizations, children from Assam and Kalyani Nivas.

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ROTARY WEEKLY MEETINGS OF AUGUST

RWM 2107 dtd 1st August

After the meeting was called to order one minute silence was observed in memory of late Pushpa Devi Agarwal, mother of Rtn Sanjay Agarwal who expired on 30th July.

To commemorate the death anniversary of late Jayabrata, Rotaract members proposed to organise a debate competition at GU University on 7th August with cooperation of RCGW. The club agreed to the proposal.

Also President proposed to call a memorial prayer on the evening of 7th August inviting some members from other clubs of Guwahati.



RWM 2108 dtd 7th August



Hari om sankirtan was chanted by sadhus of Gourio math for about an hour after which regular meeting started. The Chief Guest was Rtn Minoti Borthakur. Flowers were placed by Chief Guest and other guests and members before the portrait of Jayabrata. CG, Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharjee, President of RC Guwahati Icon and some members spoke on the meeting. Shibani, wife of late Jayabrata was also present. At the end, the Club bulletin of August was also released by the chief guest.

RWM 2109 dtd 15 August

It was the deferred club meeting of 14th August to celebrate ID from 8.30 AM. Padmshree Ajoy Dutta was the Chief Guest who hosted the national flag and spoke on the occasion. It was also a family meet and felicitation of 2 Rotary lets Prithwis Roy SO of Rtn Krishnendu and Miss Bipakshi Goswami DO of Rtn Jita Barua, for their remarkable academic excellence. Annes and members came with home-made breakfast and were served at the end of the meeting.



ROTARY WEEKLY MEETINGS OF AUGUST

RWM 2110 dtd 21 August



Assembly cum RWM started as usual and Rtn Budhin Borthakur, the club Trainer took the lead to get feedback from all the chairs of different committees and sub-committees. The Club Info of this year was used as guide for them. It is praiseworthy that most of committee chairs and sub-committee convenors were present to place their plan.

The Club Administration Chair Rtn Surajit Deb spoke about the regular holding of RWM with increase of attendance. Club dues were collected and sent by the treasurer. The Secretary and he himself calling the members for attendance and Greetings Sub-committee convenor Rtn Amal carrying out the task religiously. Rtn Maheshji, fellowship Committee convenor is already in the field to show his expertise. Rtn Krishnendu Roy, Rtn Deepjyoti and Rtn Bibhash Sir taking care of CMR despatch in time and uploading of Club's Goal in Club Central. The monthly Club bulletin is also coming out in time courtesy the editor.

Rtn Subrata Sarma, Membership Chair spoke about decision to approval of induction of 7 new members on the charter day. Also the steps taken for retention by regular contacting the members.

Club Foundation Chair, Rtn Anurag Jain reported about our annual fund contribution of US\$ 853 by the end of July. The proposals for converting the club to EREY, annual giving of \$5000, 2 new PHFs and 2 new Major donors. Also working for a grant from the district.

Rtn Shyamal, chair Service project highlighted fulfilling all the services that were set in our annual goal along with the permanent projects Rtn Vinita spoke, chair of Basic Education and literacy spoke about opening adult 2 literacy centers by the month of September.

Rtn P K Chowdhary, chair Public Image spoke about regular coverage in media and proposed for 2 holdings at prominent places of Guwahati

RWM 2111 dtd 28 August
Postponed to 4th September due to heavy downpour.

CLUB NEWS

23rd August District Award Ceremony (2024-25)



District Award & Recognition (2024-25) was held at Siliguri on 23rd of August. Two Rotarians and their Annes represented the club. IPP Amal Das was recognised as Outstanding President of Zone X and two certificate of appreciation were also received.

Fellowship with members on their time of bereavement.

Club members attended Prayer meeting as well Dwadasha Shradha on 11th August for the demise of dear mother of Rtn Sanjay Agarwal.

Members also attended annual Shradha Ceremony of Gayatri Das Purkayastha wife of Rtn Bibhash C Das Purkayastha on 17th August and annual Shradha of Mother of Rtn Krishna Baruah on 31st August.

Forth Coming Programs of September 2025

5th September - Teachers Day: The Club proposes to gift 15 cushioned chair to the teachers of NPME High School of Pandu to felicitate teachers from 9 AM

19 September: Some members are expected to attend Zonal Foundation Seminar at Siliguri.

22nd September: Celebration of 47th Charter Day of the club in grand manner. Club's History book -A Chronicle of R C Gauhati West will be updated and published on the occasion. DG Dr Kameshwar Singh Elangbam is expected to be present in the event. Some new members is proposed to be inducted in this program

In the first week of September it is being proposed to visit Changsari to explore the possibility of opening an RCC there and to run an adult literacy centre. Dr Gnanda Nath, a past Vocational Awardee of the club was contacted for this purpose.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International president



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been chosen as Rotary International's president for 2026-27. Born in 1988, Babalola began his Rotary journey as a Rotaractor and joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi six years later. He has held leadership roles in the oil and gas industry, including district governor, vice president, and member of the RI Board. Babalola is an attorney with a university degree in engineering and has worked in the oil and gas industry for 25 years. He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Services Ltd. and Lead and Change Consulting. Babalola is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals, and the Association of Change Management Practitioners. He supports The Rotary Foundation and is a trustee of ShelterBox UK and director of the Safe Solid Africa project. The president of Rotary International serves a one-year term, presiding over the Board of Directors and providing inspirational leadership.

Larry A. Lunsford selected to be 2027-28 Rotary International president



Larry A. Lunsford, a member of the Rotary Club of Kansas City-Plaza, Missouri, is the nominating committee for Rotary International's president for 2027-28. Lunsford attended Truman State University on an academic scholarship and has held positions on the boards of the Kansas City Spirit Festival, Variety Club, and the Epilepsy Foundation for the Heart of America. He has served on the Rotary Foundation's Executive Committee, Finance Committee, and Participant Experience Committee. Lunsford has been awarded The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award, The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and the RI Service Above Self Award. The Nominating Committee for the 2027-28 President of Rotary International includes Ann-Britt Asebol, Mahesh Kotbagi, Basker Chockalingam, Jose Sepulveda Fayad, Hans-Hermann Kasten, Muhammad Faiz Kidwai, Katerina Kotsali-Papadimitriou, Roger Lhors, Chi-Tien Liu, Anne Matthews, Pat Merryweather-Arges, Akira Miki, Julio Silva-Santisteban Ojeda, Vicki Pultz, Nicki Scott, Elizabeth Usoviz, and Young Suk Yoon.

Rotary partners with Symbiosis International University to establish peace center in India

Rotary has partnered with Symbiosis International University to create The Rotary Peace Center. This center will offer a one-year professional certificate fellowship program aimed at training peace and development professionals from Asia. The program will address important issues such as land disputes, climate change, and community development. Students will gain knowledge in peacebuilding through academics, field visits, and a project in their community. Graduates will receive a postgraduate diploma in peace and development studies and learn about various topics like social justice and diplomacy.

DISTRICT NEWS



This Symposium is scheduled to start from 3.30 PM. Venue and registration etc are yet to be announced.



EDITOR'S COLUMN

At the very outset, I feel it appropriate to acknowledge the invaluable support and advice I received from our members in bringing out the publications released during our installation. Four significant booklets—including our monthly bulletin—were published with collective effort. My sincere thanks to Rtn. Tilak Das for preparing the Strategic Plan of the club and to all members who contributed their thoughtful suggestions during discussions. Special mention must be made of Rtn. Krishnendu Roy—fondly called the “Google of the club”—for providing photographs and reference material for all our publications. I must also recognize Rtn. Anurag Jain for his singular initiative in publishing the amended version of the Club By-laws. Above all, these achievements were made possible by the active encouragement and support of our President, Rtn. Krishna Baruah.

This month, we look forward to releasing the updated version of our Club's history—A Chronicle of R.C. Gauhati West—on our Charter Day, 22nd September. This task has been greatly facilitated by Past President Rtn. Surajit Deb, who during his tenure (2021–22) conceived and published a comprehensive history of the club on its 43rd Charter Day. As one of the senior members, I have once again been entrusted with compiling and upgrading this valuable record.

September is also Rotary's month for Basic Education and Literacy. In keeping with this focus, we plan to initiate two Adult Literacy Centres—one in the city to benefit marginalized individuals and another in Changsari. Additionally, we aim to form an RCC (Rotary Community Corps) at Changsari with the support of our past vocational awardee, Dr. Gnanada Nath. On 5th September, Teachers' Day, our club—supported by the Gayatri Memorial Fund—will felicitate the teachers of NPME High School and present them with comfortable chairs as a token of appreciation. Since our District has decided to discontinue working under the aegis of ILM, our club too has chosen to chart its own course in the area of literacy. Drawing from our past experience with RILM, we are now taking independent initiatives to eradicate illiteracy and improve the quality of school education. We are optimistic that these steps will lead to innovative projects not only in education but also across other Rotary focus areas.

Before I conclude, I appeal to all readers to share their feedback to help improve our publications, including this monthly bulletin. I especially thank Rtn. Krishnendu Roy for his constructive suggestions regarding the upcoming updated edition of our Club's history—such contributions deserve recognition from this column.

As the month draws to a close, Durga Puja will be celebrated across our state with joy and devotion. I extend my heartfelt greetings to all fellow Rotarians and their families and pray for everyone's happiness, health, and well-being.

Bibhash Chandra Das Purkayastha
Editor, Saraighat

Birth Day Greetings

01st Sep. Rtn Sanjay Agarwal
02nd Sep. Rtn Joydeep Bhuyan
an Rtn Amal Das
06th Sep. Rtn Pankaj Agarwal
25th Sep. Rtn Krishnendu Roy
30th Sep. Rtn Bhaskar Jyoti Sharma.

Wedding Anniversary

27th Sep. Rtn Manas Jyoti Bhuyan and Papori

Don't Be Serious - It's Joke



Syllabus- 80GB

We study- 80MB

Retains in mind- 80KB

Write in exam- 80Bytes

Result comes in binary digits

i.e.

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Rotary Club of Gauhati West meets
every Thursday at 7/7.30 PM
at Rotary West Community Hall, Kamarpatty,
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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