

## EDITORIAL



### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month

Water is the essence of life, yet its availability in a safe and sustainable form continues to remain a pressing global concern. As we observe March as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Month, it offers us a moment of reflection as well as a call to action—one that aligns deeply with our commitment to service and humanity.

The vision of \*Rotary International\* in prioritizing WASH as a core area of focus highlights the undeniable link between clean water, sanitation, and overall community well-being. Access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation is not merely a developmental goal—it is a fundamental human right. Without it, health, education, and economic progress remain severely compromised.

In many parts of our country, communities still grapple with challenges of water scarcity, inadequate sanitation facilities, and lack of hygiene awareness. Waterborne diseases continue to affect vulnerable populations, especially children. It is here that the role of organizations like the \*Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar\* becomes crucial—not only in providing infrastructure but also in fostering awareness and sustainable practices.

WASH is not just about building wells or toilets; it is about creating lasting behavioral change. A simple habit like regular handwashing can prevent life-threatening diseases. Efficient water management and conservation practices can ensure that future generations do not face scarcity. Education, therefore, becomes the most powerful tool in achieving long-term impact.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to influence change at both the grassroots and policy levels. Through community engagement, partnerships, and consistent service initiatives, we can help build healthier, more resilient communities. Every initiative—be it installing water purification systems, supporting sanitation drives, or educating school children—contributes to a larger mission of safeguarding lives.

This WASH Month, let us reaffirm our commitment to sustainable service. Let us advocate for responsible water use, promote sanitation with dignity, and spread awareness about hygiene practices in every sphere of our influence.

The true measure of progress lies not in what we achieve for ourselves, but in how we uplift those around us. Clean water, proper sanitation, and good hygiene are not privileges—they are necessities that define the quality of human life.

Let us continue to serve with purpose, ensuring that every drop counts and every life matters.

**Rtn. Bijoy Dash**

## FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rotary stands for service, compassion, and a commitment to improving the quality of life in our communities. At the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar, we continuously strive to identify meaningful service projects that address the real needs of society and create a lasting positive impact.

One of the most essential requirements for healthy living is access to safe and clean drinking water. In a rapidly growing city like Bhubaneswar, thousands of people move across the city every day for work, education, business, and other activities. During the hot summer months, access to clean and cool drinking water becomes even more important for the well-being of the public.

Keeping this in mind, our club has undertaken an important public service initiative of installing three Water Coolers with Purifiers at three different locations across Bhubaneswar for the benefit of the general public. These facilities will provide clean, safe, and chilled drinking water to pedestrians, students, daily wage workers, commuters, and visitors who often find it difficult to access potable water while on the move.

This initiative reflects Rotary's deep commitment to community welfare and public health. By providing access to purified drinking water, we are not only addressing a basic necessity but also contributing towards preventing water-borne diseases and promoting better health and hygiene in the community. We believe that even a simple act like providing a glass of clean water can bring comfort and relief to countless people every day.

Service projects like this are possible because of the collective spirit, generosity, and dedication of our members. The unwavering support and participation of our Rotarians enable the club to translate ideas into impactful community service. I extend my sincere appreciation to all members and partners who have contributed to making this initiative a reality.

As we move forward in the Rotary year, our club remains committed to implementing projects that create sustainable impact and strengthen our bond with the community. Guided by Rotary's motto "Service Above Self," we will continue to work together to make Bhubaneswar a healthier, more caring, and inclusive city.

**Rtn. Sanjaya Chaudhury**

**"What we do for ourselves dies with us.  
What we do for others remains and is immortal."**

## ***MANY MANY HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY***

### **BIRTH DAYS**

- 02 Apr : Rtn. Prahallad Karan  
02 Apr : Rtn. Surendra Kumar Sahoo  
05 Apr : Mrs. Sweta Spouse of Rtn. CA Anil Kumar Agrawal  
08 Apr : Mrs. Mamata Spouse of Rtn. Sudhamaya Bajpayi  
11 Apr : Mrs. Shital Spouse of PP Rtn. Suvendu Parida  
14 Apr : Rtn. Debendra Nath Biswal  
20 Apr : Rtn. Minakhi Ray Rath  
20 Apr : Mrs. Manasi Rani Spouse of Rtn. Abhimanyu Barik  
22 Apr : Col. Rohit Spouse of Rtn. Dr. Amrita Mishra  
23 Apr : Mrs. Tarvinder Spouse of PP Rtn. Rajinder Singh  
24 Apr : Mrs. Anupama Spouse of Rtn. Prasanta Kumar Jena  
27 Apr : Rtn. Munmun Das  
30 Apr : Mrs. Sanghamitra Spouse of Rtn. Biswajit Tripathy

### **ANNIVERSARY**

- 17 Apr : Rtn. Dr. Benudhar Sutar and Dr. Smita  
23 Apr : Rtn. CA Anil Kumar Agrawal and Mrs. Sweta  
23 Apr : Rtn. Kalyan Sunder Chhotoroy and Mrs. Mamata  
23 Apr : PP Rtn. Sabita Swain and Mr. Sarang  
29 Apr : S.P. Singhdeo and Mrs. Jaishree



## Minutes of the 34th Weekly Speaker Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 2nd March 2026 at 6.30 pm at Rotary Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Sanjaya K. Chaudhury. He requested all members to observe a one-minute silent invocation for world peace, followed by the Vedic chanting of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah."

### 2. Welcome Address

The President warmly welcomed all Rotarians to the Pre Holi Celebration meeting and shared the importance of Holi celebration in Hindu community and also invited PDG Rtn N K Mishra to the dais. He acknowledges the presence of Inner wheel members and guest to the Holi celebration.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes & Secretary's Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra read out the minutes of the 33rd Weekly Meeting held on 23rd February 2026. The minutes were unanimously approved by the House.

### 5. Activities Report

Secretary briefed members on ongoing and upcoming club activities and encouraged active participation in all initiatives.

### 6. Felicitations

Members celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries were felicitated with warm greetings and applause, led by Rtn. Madhuri Patnaik.

### 7. Address by the in house Speaker

PDG Rtn. N. K. Mishra shared his insightful views on the significance of Holi in Sanatan Dharma. He explained how the festival is deeply connected with the divine love of

Lord Krishna and Radha, symbolizing joy, devotion, and spiritual harmony.

He highlighted that since ancient times, Holi has been celebrated as a festival of colours that strengthens the bond of love, brotherhood, and unity in society. The celebration transcends social barriers and brings people together in a spirit of happiness, goodwill, and togetherness.

Rtn. Sajjan K. Sureka shared some beautiful humour and light-hearted anecdotes on the eve of the Holi celebration, bringing smiles and laughter to the gathering and adding a joyful spirit to the occasion.

Rtn. Sivananda Ray briefly spoke about the Holi celebration in the context of Jagannath Sanskriti, explaining how the three deities- Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, and Devi Subhadra- symbolically represent all races of human life and reflect the inclusive and universal philosophy of our culture.

Rtn. Sudhamaya Bajpayee shared his thoughts on Holi as the divine Leela of Radha and Krishna, highlighting the spiritual essence of the festival and its message of love, devotion, and harmony.

### 8. Attendance Report

Sgt-at-Arms Rtn. C. C. Sonny presented the attendance details:

- Members Present: 28, Inner Wheel Members: 06, Guests: 05
- Total Attendance: 39

### 11. Vote of Thanks

Rtn. Saroj K Mohapatra proposed the vote of thanks, expressing sincere appreciation to all members for their presence. He also

thanked Rtn P K Dixit and Rtn Abhimanyu Barik for hosting the fellowship snacks.

## 12. National Anthem & Adjournment

The President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem, after which the meeting was formally adjourned.

Members celebrated Holi among themselves with colours and flowers, spreading happiness and togetherness. The celebration created a lively and cheerful atmosphere, filling the environment with fun, joy, and the true spirit of the festival.

Minuted by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra**  
SECRETARY



## BLOOD DONATION CAMP

A Blood Donation Camp was successfully organized by the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar on 9th March at the Central Reserve Police Force Campus on the occasion of CRPF Day.

The camp was inaugurated by Amitendra Nath Sinha, Inspector General of CRPF, in the presence of Manoj Tripathy, Rotary District Governor, along with members and volunteers of the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar.

A total of 150 units of blood were collected during the camp. The initiative aimed not only at collecting blood but also at spreading awareness about the importance and life-saving impact of voluntary blood donation.

Speaking on the occasion, Community Service Director Dr M P Rout elaborated on the health benefits and importance of regular blood donation and encouraged people to come forward for this noble cause.

The blood collection was conducted with the support of the medical team from Capital Hospital Blood Bank, who ensured smooth and safe management of the camp.

It was a great success, I express my gratitude to the CRPF authorities, the medical team, Rotarians, and all donors for their enthusiastic participation and support in making the event meaningful and impactful.

The organizers emphasized that such initiatives help strengthen awareness about voluntary blood donation and contribute significantly to saving precious lives in the community.



## Minutes of the 35th Weekly Speaker Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 9th March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Rotary Bhawan

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Sanjaya K. Chaudhury. He requested all members to observe a one-minute silent invocation for world peace, followed by the Vedic chanting of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah."

### 2. Welcome Address

The President warmly welcomed all Rotarians to the Women's Day Celebration meeting and highlighted the importance of women in today's society across every sphere of life. On this significant occasion, the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar recognised seven distinguished women professionals who have achieved remarkable success through their hard work, dedication, and visionary leadership.

He then invited the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mayor Ms. Sulochana Das, to the dais and presented her with a bouquet as a mark of respect and warm regards. He also invited PDG Rtn. D. N. Padhi (IAS Retd.) and Rtn. Madhumita Chand to the dais.

### 3. Lighting of the Sacred Lamp

The President requested the Chief Guest to kindly light the sacred lamp to mark the auspicious beginning of the Women's Day Celebration.

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes & Secretary's Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra read out the minutes of the 34th Weekly Meeting held on 02nd March 2026. The minutes were unanimously approved by the House.

### 5. Activities Report

The Secretary briefed the members on the ongoing and upcoming club activities and

encouraged everyone to actively participate in all the initiatives of the club. He also shared that the mega blood donation camp held at the CRPF campus was a grand success in the presence of the DIG and IG. On the occasion, 150 units of blood were successfully collected. He expressed his sincere thanks to all the Rotarians who participated and contributed to making the event successful.

### 6. Felicitations

Members celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries were felicitated with warm greetings and applause, led by Rtn. Munmun Das.

### 7. Address by Rtn. Madhumita Chand

Rtn. Madhumita Chand briefed the gathering about the significance of Women's Day and elaborated on the importance of celebrating the achievements, strength, and contributions of women in various fields of society. She highlighted how women continue to play a vital role in shaping families, communities, and the nation through their dedication, resilience, and leadership. She also appreciated the initiative of the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar in recognising and honouring outstanding women professionals on this special occasion. She then requested Rtn. Subhra Sahoo Patra to conduct the further proceedings.

### 8. Felicitations of Women Achievers

Rtn. Subhra Sahoo Patra invited the distinguished dignitaries to the dais by introducing them to the gathering. She then requested the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mayor Ms. Sulochana Das, to felicitate the awardees with a memento and Uttariya as

a mark of honour and recognition. Following the felicitation ceremony, each of the awardees shared their inspiring journeys—from their humble beginnings to their present achievements. They spoke about their passion, struggles, perseverance, and hard work that enabled them to overcome challenges and reach great heights in their respective fields.

The six women professionals honoured on the occasion were:

- a. Mrs. Sanjukta Pradhan - Social Worker
- b. Mrs. Bibharani Patra - Mountaineer
- c. Mrs. Mina Rani Prusty - Pala Singer
- d. Mrs. Manjubala Das - Writer
- e. Ms. Gouri Mohanty - Karate Player
- f. Mrs. Kabita Kundu - Weaver

The programme was grand and inspiring, creating a strong public image in society and encouraging women to pursue their dreams with passion and determination.

#### **9. Introduction of Chief Guest**

Rtn. Ishani Das Gupta introduced the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Mayor Ms. Sulochana Das, highlighting her contributions to public service and leadership.

#### **10. Address by the Chief Guest**

Hon'ble Mayor Ms. Sulochana Das addressed the august gathering and shared her views on how women today are excelling and leading in various fields—from being dedicated homemakers to achieving great milestones as professionals, leaders, and even astronauts. She emphasised that women are no longer confined to traditional roles but are actively contributing to the growth and development of society in every sphere.

She appreciated the initiative taken by the Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar in recognising

and honouring women achievers, stating that such recognition motivates many other women to follow their dreams and work towards their goals. She also highlighted how various government schemes and initiatives are empowering women and supporting them in their professional and entrepreneurial journeys, helping them become more confident, self-reliant, and successful in their respective fields.

She concluded by encouraging women to continue pursuing their passions with determination and assured that society and the government are always there to support their growth and aspirations.

#### **11. Attendance Report**

Sgt-at-Arms Rtn. C. C. Sonny presented the attendance details:

- o Members Present: 41
- o Rotaractor: 1
- o Guests: 23
- o Total Attendance: 65

#### **12. Vote of Thanks**

PP Rtn. Sabita Swain proposed the vote of thanks, expressing sincere appreciation to all members for their presence. She also thanked Hon'ble Mayor Ms. Sulochana Das for gracing the occasion and inspiring the awardees. She further thanked Rtn. Nishikant Kar and Rtn. Sikha Khuntia for hosting the fellowship snacks and dinner.

#### **13. National Anthem & Adjournment**

The President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem, after which the meeting was formally adjourned.

Minuted by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra**  
SECRETARY

**Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar**  
Celebrates  
**INTERNATIONAL Women's Day**

In recognition of the strength, achievements, and contributions of women in our society, Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar is celebrating International Women's Day.

Seven distinguished professional women will be recognised and honoured for their remarkable contributions in their respective fields.

**Chief Guest**  
**Mrs. Sulochana Das**  
Mayor, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation

**Date:** 9th March 2026  
**Time:** 7:00 PM  
**Venue:** Rotary Bhavan, Bhubaneswar

Let us come together to celebrate womanhood, leadership, and inspiration.





The Rotary Club of Bhubaneswar celebrated International Women’s Day with great enthusiasm at Rotary Bhawan by honouring seven distinguished women who have excelled in their respective fields and made significant contributions to society.

The event was graced by Sulochana Das, Mayor of Bhubaneswar, as the Chief Guest. In her address, she appreciated the initiative of the Rotary Club for recognizing inspiring women who are making a difference in society and motivating the younger generation.

During the ceremony, seven outstanding women were felicitated for their achievements in different fields:

Sanjukta Pradhan- Social Worker, Bibharani Patra– Mountaineer, Mina Rani Prusty – Pala Singer, Manjubala Das – Writer, Gouri Mohanty – Karate Player, Kabita Kundu – Weaver, Ananya Aditi Lenka– Startup on Urban Green

The program was attended by Rotarians, distinguished guests, and members of the community, who appreciated the initiative of the Rotary Club in celebrating women achievers and promoting the message of equality and empowerment.

The program was coordinated by Rtn. Madhumita Chand, Chairperson of the event, who highlighted the importance of celebrating International Women’s Day\*and recognizing women who have excelled in different fields. She emphasized that honouring such inspiring personalities encourages society to respect, support, and empower women. Under her leadership and coordination, the program was conducted smoothly and successfully.

I thanks from my core of the heart to each and every individuals joined in this event, contributed, support and made this event successful.



**8th March'26 distributed New & rare used Sarees in Budha Mandir on occasion of Women's Day**

Rotary 3262 CITATION OF HONOUR UNITE FOR GOOD MIRACLE MAKERS

**ROTARY WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE**

**Rtn. Sikha Khuntia**  
ROTARY WOMAN OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Conferred upon Rtn. Sikha Khuntia on the occasion of International Women's Day, 8th March 2026, in proud recognition of her distinguished and meritorious service to society, rendered with unwavering dedication, ethical conviction and compassionate leadership.

A SILENT YET STEADFAST FORCE WITHIN ROTARY, SHE STRENGTHENS EVERY INITIATIVE THROUGH HER QUIET DEDICATION AND UNWAVERING RESOLVE. A TRUE PILLAR OF SUPPORT, HER RELIABILITY AND SELFLESS SERVICE FORM THE BACKBONE OF MANY SUCCESSSES, WHILE HER TIRELESS EFFORTS IN PROMOTING ROTARY'S IMAGE ACROSS DIVERSE PLATFORMS SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTE TO ITS GROWTH, GOODWILL, AND ENDURING IMPACT. HER DEEP LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO ROTARY NATURALLY INSPIRE AND ATTRACT MANY YOUNG LEADERS TO ALIGN WITH ITS NOBLE OBJECTIVES, EMBRACING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP.

Her contributions exemplify the enduring Rotary ideal — Service Above Self.

Presented by Rotary International District 3262 (GML Wing) with sincere appreciation and warm wishes for a long, fulfilling and cherished life ahead.

(Manoj Ku. Tripathy)  
District Governor, RID 3262

(Dr. Srinibas Mahapatra)  
GML Chair, RID 3262, Ph: 94370 60621

82/GML/WG2/12/26

**Dist Citation of Honor  
Rtn Shikha Khuntia**

## Minutes of the 36th Weekly Speaker Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 16th March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Rotary Bhawan

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Sanjaya K. Chaudhury. He requested all members to observe a one-minute silent invocation for world peace, followed by the Vedic chanting of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah."

### 2. Inviting the Guest to the Dais

The President welcomed the Guest Speaker, Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand, and requested Rtn. Munmun Das to escort him to the dais. He was greeted with a floral bouquet.

### 3. Welcome Address

The President warmly welcomed all Rotarians to the special speaker meeting on "Viksit Bharat and Union Budget 2026" by Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand. He also thanked everyone for their unwavering support in all club activities.

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes & Secretary's Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra read out the minutes of the 35th Weekly Meeting held on 09th March 2026, which were unanimously approved by the House.

He also presented the report of the previous week's activities and upcoming programs. He thanked PP Rtn. Tanmay Mohanty (District Training Facilitator) for attending the DLF training.

### 5. Felicitations

Members celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries were felicitated with warm greetings and applause, led by Rtn. S. Nivedita Prasad.

### 6. Introduction of Guest Speaker

PP Rtn. Ashok K. Panda introduced the Guest Speaker. Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand is a

distinguished leader in the mining and metals sector with over 35 years of experience, including serving as CMD of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).

He has also served as Chairman of Khanij Bidesh India Limited and held key leadership roles in Vedanta Aluminium Limited and Bharat Aluminium Company Limited. A gold medalist from Utkal University, he has received D. Litt. and several national honors. His books on aluminium were launched by Narendra Modi.

### 7. Address by the Guest Speaker

Dr. Chand, in his opening remarks, emphasized that Rotarians are true messengers of service. Speaking on "Viksit Bharat and Union Budget 2026," he reflected on India's long journey as a developing nation and expressed optimism about its future.

Under the visionary leadership of Narendra Modi, he noted that India is progressing towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

He highlighted the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Samruddha Odisha 2036, supported by structured frameworks-1 Vision, 2 Missions, 3 Kartavyas, 4 Priorities, 5 Principles, 6 Pillars, 7 Propellers, and 8 Enablers-aimed at holistic national growth. He further mentioned that the Government of Odisha is working towards transforming the state into a \$500 billion economy by 2036 through 36 focused programs. The session was highly insightful and thought-provoking.

### 8. Open Forum

Rtn. Pradeep Patnaik, Rtn. Purnendu Ray,

and Rtn. Dr. Soumya actively participated in the open forum with relevant questions. PP Rtn. Sajjan K. Sureka shared his observations on the session.

### 9. Felicitation of the Guest Speaker

The President requested Rtn. R. G. Agarwal to felicitate the Guest Speaker with an Uttariya and a memento.

### 10. Special Announcements

Rtn. Surendra K. Sahoo announced a family get-together scheduled for 28th March at a resort and invited all members to participate. Further details will be shared soon.

### 11. Attendance Report

Sgt-at-Arms Rtn. C. C. Sonny presented the attendance:

- Members Present: 34

- Guests: 3
- Total Attendance: 37

### 12. Vote of Thanks

Rtn. Promad Das proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to all members for their participation and special thanks to the Guest Speaker for his valuable time and insightful address. He also thanked Rtn. Biswajit Patra for hosting the fellowship snacks.

### 13. National Anthem & Adjournment

The President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem, following which the meeting was adjourned.

Minuted by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra**

SECRETARY





## KNOW YOUR SPEAKER

Dr. Tapan Kumar Chand is an Indian mining veteran, top executive and author having more than 35 years of rich experience in Mining and Metal Sector, out of which 8 years are at the helm of affairs as Director in Coal & Steel sector. He was the Chairman cum Managing Director of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Navratna CPSU. NALCO is the largest integrated aluminium unit in Asia and is also one of the largest aluminium complexes of the world. He was instrumental in making NALCO the lowest cost producer of Bauxite and Alumina in the world. Apart from this, he has also served as the Chairman of Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) securing strategic minerals for the country, Independent Director of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), President of Vedanta Aluminium Limited, One of the biggest Aluminium Plant of the World.



At Present Dr. Chand is the MD- Odisha Special Grade Alumina Project, Director-TATA DISCOM, Member of Odisha Govt Water Supply & Sewerage Board.

The books titled 'Aluminium: The Future Metal' and 'Aluminium: The Strategic Metal' were authored by Dr. Chand which were launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. These books give focus on entire value chain of aluminium industry and promoting the strategic use of aluminium in all sectors.

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## Minutes of the 37th Weekly Speaker Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 23rd March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Rotary Bhawan

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Sanjaya K. Chaudhury. He requested all members to observe a one-minute silent invocation for world peace, followed by the Vedic chanting of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah."

### 2. Inviting the Guest to the Dais

The President cordially invited the in-house Guest Speaker, PP Rtn. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda, to the dais.

### 3. Welcome Address

The President warmly welcomed all Rotarians to the weekly speaker meeting on "Hard and Soft News: A Critical Analysis." He also expressed his sincere appreciation for the unconditional support and active participation of members in all club activities.

### 4. Confirmation of Minutes & Secretary's Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra read out the minutes of the 36th Weekly Meeting held on 16th March 2026, which were unanimously approved by the House. He also presented a brief report on the previous week's activities and highlighted the upcoming programs like Social Gathering and DG's official club visit.

### 5. Felicitations

Members celebrating their birthdays and wedding anniversaries were felicitated with warm greetings and applause, led by Rtn. Nikhil Palai.

### 6. Introduction of Guest Speaker

Rtn. Simi Agarwal introduced the in-house

speaker, PP Rtn. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda, and eloquently highlighted his distinguished journey as an accomplished speaker in the domain of media and public relations. She spoke about his vast experience across diverse public and corporate platforms, where his insights and expertise have earned him wide recognition and respect.

She further emphasized his exemplary contributions as a committed Rotarian, underscoring his deep-rooted belief in Service Above Self. His continuous efforts towards community welfare and his compassionate initiatives for the upliftment of the less privileged stand as a testament to his dedication and humanitarian spirit. His inspiring journey serves as a motivating example for all members present.

### 7. Address by Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda

Speaking on the topic "Hard News and Soft News: A Critical Analysis," PP Rtn. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda delivered a thought-provoking and insightful address on the evolving landscape of news in both electronic and print media.

He critically examined the current scenario, highlighting how news channels and publications often present contradictory and conflicting narratives, which may lead to confusion among the public. He elaborated on the growing concerns of misinformation, disinformation, and conflicting information, emphasizing their significant impact on shaping public perception in today's media environment.

Dr. Panda explained that while hard news is fact-based and appeals to the intellect, soft news has increasingly become

multimedia-driven, tailored to audience preferences, and designed to evoke emotional responses-touching the heart rather than the mind.

He further observed that in many instances, news today tends to carry an underlying intent of disruption rather than balanced reporting. He also touched upon the role of government support to media houses and its possible influence, thereby adding depth to the discussion on media independence and credibility.

### 8. Open Forum

PDG Rtn. D. N. Padhi, IAS (Retd.), and Rtn. Sajjan K. Sureka actively participated in the open forum, raising pertinent questions and engaging in meaningful discussion.

### 9. Felicitation of the Guest Speaker

The President requested PDG Rtn. D. N. Padhi, IAS (Retd.), to felicitate PP Rtn. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda with an Uttariya as a token of appreciation.

### 10. Special Recognition

Rtn. Sikha Khuntia and Rtn. Simi Agarwal were felicitated by Rtn. Madhumita Chand in recognition of their contributions towards

women empowerment and their active role as Rotarians of the club.

### 11. Attendance Report

Sgt-at-Arms Rtn. Nikhil Palai presented the attendance:

- Members Present: 20
- Guests: 1
- Total Attendance: 21

### 12. Vote of Thanks

Rtn. Promad Das proposed the Vote of Thanks, expressing gratitude to all members for their active participation. He conveyed special thanks to PP Rtn. Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda for his valuable time and enlightening address. He also appreciated him for hosting the fellowship snacks.

### 13. National Anthem & Adjournment

The President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem, following which the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra**

SECRETARY





## KNOW YOUR SPEAKER

Dr. Ashok Kumar Panda is a renowned motivational speaker, media analyst, and corporate coach with expertise in Journalism, Public Relations, and HRD. He has conducted numerous faculty development programmes and training sessions for prestigious organizations including Indian Railways, NTPC, SAIL, Indian Oil Corporation, NALCO, and State Administrative and Police services.

He holds a Ph.D. in Development Communication and a Postgraduate degree in Journalism from Banaras Hindu University, and was a university topper from Berhampur University. He has served as Visiting Professor at Ravenshaw University and has international exposure as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Oxford and Visiting Scholar at the University of Minnesota, USA.

Dr. Panda is currently Chairman of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Rourkela Kendra, Adjunct Professor at Birla Global University, and Professor Emeritus at Bhavan's Centre for Communication and Management, Bhubaneswar. He is also Odisha State Head of PRCI.

He has received several accolades including PRCI Chairman Award (2016), PR Hall of Fame recognition, Biju Patnaik Global Excellence Award (2015), and Kalinga Gaurav Samman. He edited "Turn Around India," released by Shri Narendra Modi.

A dedicated Rotarian, he is a Rotary Journalism Scholar and former Assistant Governor of Rotary District 3262. He currently serves as Editor of MBC Television and Financial News, Bhubaneswar.



## Minutes of the 09th Board Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 25th March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Rotary Bhawan

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Rtn. Sanjaya K. Chaudhury, who extended a warm welcome to all Board Members and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their continued support and valuable contributions to the club's activities.

### 2. Confirmation of Minutes of the 6th Board Meeting

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra placed the minutes of the 8th Board Meeting held on 21st February 2026 for confirmation.

He briefed the house point-wise on the discussions held earlier and the actions taken by the club. After thorough deliberation on the Action Taken Report, the house unanimously confirmed the minutes.

### 3. Activity Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra presented the activity report for the month and thanked all Board Members for their wholehearted participation and cooperation. On 2nd of March Pre holi celebration was celebrated at Rotary bhavan. On 9th march Blood donation camp at CRPF and Womens day celebration at Rotary Bhavan was celebrated. Eminent women entrepreneurs from different field were recognised for their contribution to the society. He requested continued support for the upcoming Environmental Month in the month of April. Secretary read out the activities of the month of March and upcoming events of April.

### 4. Points of Discussion

- a. Installation of Lift - It was decided that by April 1st week, all formalities to be completed and the construction work to be

started as per the requirement and to see that lift is installed very soon.

- b. RCSP election to be completed as per the protocol and necessary steps should be taken to complete it. PP Rtn Pravat Satapathy noticed all the formalities in the notice board.
- c. DG's official Visit will be held on May 18th 2026 and necessary committee to be done for the smooth functioning of the DG's official visit to our chapter.
- d. The SOAHM project at Asha Building will be inaugurated by our DG Manoj k Tripathy and other dignitaries from the district.
- e. Water Purifiers will be installed for the public in 3 different places of Bhubaneswar keeping in mind the scorching hot summer for the trespassers.
- f. An amount of 2 lakh has to be deposited on behalf of 7 lakh raised by the municipality. A FD of RCSP will be surrendered to do the needful.
- g. it was also decided to meticulously spend for the activities and projects.

### 6. Attendance Report

Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn. Nikhil Palai reported the attendance of 24 Board Members in today's meeting.

### 7. Vote of Thanks

Rtn. Pramod Das proposed the Vote of Thanks. The meeting was adjourned thereafter.

He also thanked Rtn. Nikhil Palai and Rtn. Surendra k Sahoo, Rtn Subhra Sahoo Patro and IPP Rtn Gyanaranjan Rath for hosting the fellowship dinner.

Minutes by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra, SECRETARY**

## Minutes of the 38th Weekly Business Meeting of the Rotary Year 2025-26 held on 30th March 2026 at 7.00 pm at Rotary Bhawan

### 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Rtn. Saroj Kumar Mohapatra. He requested all members to observe a one-minute silent invocation for world peace, followed by the Vedic chanting of "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah."

### 2. Welcome Address

The Vice President extended a warm welcome to all Rotarians present. He acknowledged the presence of Major Donors Rtn. R. G. Agarwal and PP Rtn. Pravat Kumar Satapathy.

He briefed the House on key decisions taken during the 9th Board Meeting held on 25th March 2026:

- a. PP Rtn. B. K. Sharma will submit his final report on the lift Installation at Rotary Bhavan during the first week of April 2026.
- b. PP Rtn. Pravat Kumar Satapathy, Election Officer of RCSP (2026-29), informed that the election notice has been displayed on the Rotary Bhavan Notice Board and explained the election process:
  - Last date for submission of nomination papers: 28/04/2026 (by 5:00 PM)
  - Date of scrutiny: 29/04/2026
  - Last date for withdrawal & declaration of valid nominations: 30/04/2026 (by 5:00 PM)
  - Date & time of election: 04/05/2026 at 7:30 PM
  - Posts open for Election: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer
- c. The Official Club Visit of District Governor Rtn. Manoj Kumar Tripathy is scheduled on 18th May 2026.

d. The inauguration of Sunlit Odisha Autism Healing Mission (SOAHM) under the Autism Skill Development Programme at Asha Building will be held on 6th April 2026 at 4:00 PM by District Governor Rtn. Manoj Kumar Tripathy in the presence of dignitaries and club members. Rtn. Soumya Ranjan Patnaik briefed the project.

e. PP Rtn. Sajjan Kumar Sureka suggested sending a reply to Bhubaneswar Municipality regarding the holding tax of Rs. 7 lakhs levied on Rotary Bhavan. It was decided to pay Rs. 2 lakhs as an advance.

f. Rtn. Sudhamaya Bajpayee briefed about the construction of the boundary wall of the Kateni RCC Project. Members were requested to contribute Rs. 1 lakh collectively under the "Joy of Giving" initiative.

g. Rtn. Bikramaditya Nayak informed about an upcoming Odia movie on organ donation and requested members to watch and promote it with family and friends.

h. Rtn. P. K. Dixit was requested to arrange awareness camps in schools and colleges on Environment as month of April is designated month of Environment.

i. Members were informed that contributions collected on the demise of the father of Sri Ganeshwar Barik, caretaker of Rotary Bhavan, will be transferred to him online immediately.

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes & Secretary's Report

Secretary Rtn. Biswajit Patra read the minutes of the 37th Weekly Speaker Meeting held on 23rd March 2026. The minutes were unanimously approved.

He also briefed members on ongoing and upcoming activities and encouraged active participation in all club initiatives.

#### 4. Felicitations

Members celebrating birthdays and wedding anniversaries were felicitated with warm wishes and applause, led by Rtn. C. C. Sonny.

#### 5. Attendance Report

Sgt-at-Arms Rtn. C. C. Sonny presented the attendance:



- Members Present: 21
- Total Attendance: 21

#### 6. National Anthem & Adjournment

The Vice President requested all present to rise for the National Anthem. The meeting was thereafter formally adjourned.

Minutes by

**Rtn Biswajit Patra**  
SECRETARY

