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

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*"If you light a lamp for somebody, it will also
brighten your path".*

--Gautam Buddha

From the Editor

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.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: TRAINING ON HERBAL SOAP MAKING AT CHAPAIKANG VILLAGE

Rotary Club of Gauhati South organized a hand-on training programme on herbal soap making in collaboration with the NSS wing of Guwahati Commerce College at Chapaidang, Bonda, Kamrup on 3 March 2025. Seventeen women from the village and members of few self help groups participated in the training programme which was conducted by Ms. Tamanna Shehnaz.

The resource person demonstrated the method of making herbal soap with rose petals, turmeric paste and lemon slivers. The participants keenly observed and participated in the soap making process and assured the house that

they would try to use this skill to market the product through their self help groups. The training programme was immensely successful. Rtn Renu Goswami, Rtn Manjushri Baruah, Rtn Priyam Goswami, Rtn Sweta Pegu, Rtn PM Goswami, along with the President Rtn Chandan Rajkhowa and Secretary Rtn Priyama Goswami, attended the programme.

On behalf of RCGS, Rtn. Manjushri Baruah and Rtn Sweta Pegu donated two ceiling fans to the authorities of the Chapaidang L.P. School.





SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: TRAINING ON HERBAL SOAP MAKING AT NO.2 KHARGHULI GAON RAJABARI

On 4 March, 2025 Rotary Club of Gauhati South organized a hands-on training programme on herbal soap making in collaboration with NSS wing of Guwahati Commerce College at No.2 Kharghuli Gaon Rajabari, Panikhaiti. There were 24 women participants in the training programme conducted by Ms. Tamanna Shehnaz.

As in the earlier programme, Ms Shehnaz demonstrated the method of making herbal soap with rose petals,

turmeric paste and lemon slivers. The participants keenly observed and participated in the soap making process and assured the house that they would try to use this skill to market the product through their self help groups. The training programme was immensely successful.

Two Rotarians and three students of NSS wing of Guwahati Commerce College were also present at the programme.





SKILL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME: TRAINING ON CANDLE MAKING AT KAMARKUVHI VILLAGE, RIBHOI DISTRICT

Under the skill development programme of Rotary club of Gauhati South, a two-day candle-making hands on training programme was conducted on March 11th and 12th March 2025, at Kamarkuchi Village, Ribhoi District, Meghalaya. The training sessions was conducted by Rtn Priyama Goswami, Secretary of the club, who acted as the resource person. 18 lady participants were trained in these two sessions. Expressing satisfaction at being trained in this unique programme, the participants hoped to start production of candles commercially. They said that they looked forward to future guidance and help from RGCS.



MINUTES OF THE 2328th WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY, 2025

The 2328th Weekly Rotary Meeting commenced promptly at 6:30 PM. The evening began with a fellowship hosted by Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika. The meeting was chaired by President Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa and started with the National Anthem, followed by a warm welcome extended to all Rotarians, Annes, Rotaractors, and guests.

The President expressed gratitude to Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika for graciously hosting the fellowship and presented him with a token of appreciation. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Nibedita Barua, while anniversary wishes were conveyed to Rtn. Dipak Bhagawarti and Anne Loni Bhagawarti, as well as Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa and Anne Chayanika Rajkhowa. Rtn.

Indira Bordoloi provided an update on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, which was observed on 11th February at TC Girls' School.

Visiting Rotarian Rtn. Kirthi from RC Bangalore West was felicitated by the President, followed by a flag exchange. AG Pranjal Mana also participated in the flag exchange with Rtn. Kirthi. PDG Prabhat Kedia addressed the gathering and welcomed Rtn. Kirthi, who then

introduced herself and shared the purpose of her visit to Assam, mentioning also that her in-laws hail from the region.

Following this, Rtn. Dipak Bhagawarti gave a brief introduction of the Guest Speaker, Mr. Rajesh Banik, a paracyclist. After his felicitation, Mr. Banik shared his inspiring journey—how he lost a leg in an accident, attempted suicide in despair, but ultimately chose to rise above his struggles. He spoke about his determination to make a positive impact on society, his journey as a paracyclist, and the challenges he faced while travelling across various countries. He concluded by expressing his aspiration to cycle to Moscow.

Meeting Statistics as presented by Secretary RtnPriyama Goswami were: 18 Rotarians, 2 Annes, 3 Visiting Rotarian, 1 Guest; Total:24 participants .Sunshine Collection:Rs. 230

The Rtn Kaberi Bhuyan concluded the meeting with a formal vote of thanks. The proceedings ended with the rendition of the *Jatiya Sangeet*. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.





MINUTES OF THE 2329th WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY, 2025

The 2329th WRM was held on 21 February 2025 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. The President called the meeting to order at 6.40PM. After the National Anthem, the President welcomed all the Rotarians, Annes and guests present.

Following this, the president requested the Rotarians for donation to the Paracyclist, Mr. Rakesh Banik. and informed the house that the collected amount would be deposited in his account by 26th or 27th February .

Anniversary greetings were offered to Devajyoti Hazarika and Anne Jayashree Hazarika by Rtn. Renu Goswami .

Rtn. Manjushri Baruah introduced Mrs. Banasri Hazarika, who visited the club as guest speaker. She is a young entrepreneur engaged in promoting her own wide range of tea products branded as *Bonfresh*. Mrs. Hazarika narrated her journey as entrepreneur in the field of marketing tea and the hurdles she faced and how she

mitigated challenges to overcome the hurdles. She also gave a power point presentation depicting wide range of issues related to her product and marketing of tea through her new startup business which has a retail outlet named as Bonfresh at Six Mile. Her husband, Mr. Pankaj Baishya, also shared some information on business of tea in today's context. It was a very informative and engaging talk.

Rtn. Manjusri Baruah presented the statistics of the meeting in the absence of secretary. Thirteen Rotarians, two Annes, and 3 guests with a total of 18 persons were present in the meeting and the sunshine collection was Rs.250.00.

The President adjourned the meeting at 7.30 PM after vote of thanks offered by tn. Devajyoti Hazarika and rendition of Jatiyo Sangit

A simple fellowship was offered by the club at 6pm



