



# Udayan



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

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*"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity".*

**-- Douglas Adams**

## From the Editor

*"What is the value of one child saved? No one will ever know, but if the child were our own the price tag would be marked: Not for sale – this life is invaluable".* RI President James L. Bomar Jr. (1979-80)

Maternal health refers to the health of women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period. Each stage should be a positive experience, ensuring that women and their babies reach their full potential for health and well-being. However, every day mothers across the world risk their lives giving birth, and millions of children die each year from treatable, preventable causes.

At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. The most common direct causes of maternal injury and death are excessive blood loss, infection, high blood pressure, unsafe abortion, and obstructed labour, as well as indirect causes such as anaemia, malaria, and heart disease. Most maternal deaths are preventable with timely management by a skilled health professional working in a supportive environment. In Rtoray, Maternal and Child Health is an important area of focus and In the Rotary calendar, April is designated as Maternal and Child Health Month.

Rotary provides **education**, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease. The Rotary Foundation reaches mothers and children in need by giving communities the help and training they need to take control of their own maternal and infant health care. For instance, in many areas mobile prenatal clinics are set up. Rotarians in Chennai arranged for a mobile cancer screening unit and awareness trainings in areas around the city where there is a high mortality rate of women with breast and cervical cancer due to late diagnosis. Rotary has also provided fully equipped medical Jeeps to volunteers and midwives to reach mothers and children in remote areas. In Nigeria, Rotary members launched a \$3 million, five-year pilot to save lives of mothers and children during home deliveries. They also repaired 1,500 obstetric fistulas — 500 more than their initial goal — restoring dignity and hope to vulnerable mothers.

As Robert Zinser, co-founder of the Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development and retired president for Asia at chemical giant BASF has observed, "If mothers are empowered and healthy, so are their families, leading to an alleviation of poverty and hunger." Ending preventable maternal death must remain at the top of the global agenda. At the same time, simply surviving pregnancy and childbirth can never be the marker of successful maternal health care. It is critical to expand efforts reducing maternal injury and disability to promote health and well-being.



## ROTARY NEWS

### WHY VACCINATION IS IMPORTANT

According to the World Health Organization increasing awareness about the power of vaccines and closing immunization gaps could protect millions of people worldwide from vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio. **World Immunization Week**, 24-30 April, is an opportunity to focus on that work, and the robust polio eradication infrastructure built by Rotary and our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

The GPEI estimates that polio vaccines have saved an estimated 20 million children around the world from paralysis. When Rotary helped launch the GPEI in 1988, the disease paralyzed more than 1,000 people worldwide every day, most of them young children. Since then, Rotary and its partners have reduced the number of polio cases by 99%, and so far in 2025, there are just eight cases of polio caused by the wild poliovirus. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where the wild poliovirus remains endemic.

The progress against polio is the result of the efforts of countless volunteers and health workers who immunize children in hard-to-reach communities and establish real-time global surveillance and outbreak response mechanisms. The polio eradication infrastructure has been used to fight other infectious diseases and undertake crucial health interventions, including supporting COVID-19 prevention and vaccination efforts.

With our decades of experience in bringing polio to the brink of eradication, Rotary has been able to highlight the power and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines. Since the pandemic began in 2020, Rotary members have helped health authorities communicate lifesaving information about COVID-19, dispel misinformation, and support fair and equal access to vaccines.



## ROTARY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MEET

**Arnold R. Grahl**

Representatives from Rotary districts around the world gathered for the 2025 Council on Legislation, voting after much debate, to approve a dues increase and also deciding to allow clubs to be chartered with fewer members. The Council, held 13-17 April in Chicago, Illinois, USA, is where Rotary members meet every three years to discuss and vote on proposals to move the organization forward.

By far the most-debated items this session were the dues increase, designed to keep up with rising costs, and a proposal to make annual district conferences optional. Rotary International President Stephanie A. Urchick set the tone for the Council on the opening day, stressing the cross-cultural and cooperative nature of Rotary.

“This Council represents the heart of Rotary’s democratic process and the best of our international spirit,” Urchick

said to about 480 representatives and the Council observers. “The gathering is one of Rotary’s most powerful expressions of multiculturalism. Here, voices from every corner of the globe come together – not to compete, but to collaborate.”

Representatives approved a US\$3.50 increase in the dues that every Rotary member pays to Rotary International, which means that dues will increase from US\$82 for 2025-26 to US\$85.50 for 2026-27. The dues would increase by another US\$3.75 in each of the following two years.

A five-year financial forecast, presented to representatives at the beginning of each Council, projected that without any increase, RI would have a US\$42 million deficit by 2029-30. The organization’s policies require it to have a balanced budget.

“Dues are the primary funding source for everything we do,” Trichur Narayan “Raju” Subramanian, a member of the RI Board of Directors, told the Council. “It provides essential services to your clubs, members, and districts. As inflation continues to drive costs up, we must make sure dues keep pace.”

“The world needs Rotary more than ever,” Subramanian concluded. “It’s in your hands to protect the future of our organization.”

Supporters of the dues increase also insisted that RI has and will continue to cut costs as the organization finds new ways to be efficient. The dues increase, which amounts to about 4% each year, is below the 2024 global rate of inflation.

But opponents said that dues increases discourage membership, which itself is the lifeblood of Rotary. Several also argued that the information RI has provided to representatives has not been detailed enough and said they want greater transparency.

“For the past 10 years, membership has been decreasing,” said Shobee Tone, representing District 2650 (Japan), who noted that a loss of members resulting from dues increases hurts smaller clubs the most. He said RI needs better efficiency, with fewer people on staff.

The dues increase prevailed after 45 minutes of debate and a failed attempt to postpone the decision for up to three months.

The Council also approved a measure that will allow clubs to be chartered with as few as 15 members, instead of 20. Supporters said the change will remove barriers to starting new clubs and help Rotary grow and expand its reach by trying innovative club models.

Ken Schuppert, the Council chair, thanked the representatives for their hard work, saying the measures they approved will make Rotary stronger.

“They reviewed and voted on legislation that will change and lead Rotary into the future,” he said.”

In other action, the Council:

- Voted, after extensive debate, to make holding an annual district conference optional.
- Defeated a pair of measures to set an age limit for Rotaractors. Opponents cited the low number of current Rotaractors over the age of 40 in arguing that limits were unnecessary and said such restrictions could force members out of Rotary.
- Rejected limiting the number of honorary members a club can have to 5% of the club’s active membership. Opponents noted that many clubs use honorary membership to stay in contact with former members, such as longtime Rotarians with valuable expertise to offer.
- Approved a measure allowing the Board to test additional new governance models beyond those that were approved three years ago. Those are currently in progress in Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, as well as in New Zealand and Australia. Supporters noted that the system of governors overseeing districts dates back to the early days of Rotary. They say that trying new governance models can help Rotary adapt to future needs and train and develop new leaders.
- Agreed to allow the Board to consider culture and language in addition to the number of Rotarians in deciding zone boundaries.
- Voted to require that the five-year financial forecast presented at the beginning of each Council include updates on specific process improvements and cost-reduction measures made by RI. In a similar measure, the Council approved commissioning a regular professional analysis of processes and cost structures in RI’s administration.
- Approved renaming the presidents-elect training seminar as the presidents-elect learning seminar and the district training assembly as the club leadership learning seminar. The measure is part of a shift in culture from training to learning to engage and empower people. Related names are being updated.



## MINUTES OF THE 2333rd WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 28th March, 2025

The 2333rd WRM was held on 28th March 2025 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. The President called the meeting to order at 6.35pm. After the National Anthem, the President welcomed all the Rotarians, Annes and guests present. The president honoured Rtn. R.M. Hazarika and Anne Purabi Hazarika for offering the fellowship and the birthday greeting card was presented to him by Rtn. Minoti Borthakur. The President also informed the house about the ensuing Medical Camp to be held on 30<sup>th</sup> March in Kalyani Niwas of Rupnagar area of Guwahati and requested members to attend the same. This was followed by introduction of the new member to be inducted, Mr. Anjan Chakravarty and his spouse Mrs. Sushmita Sarma Chakravarty by Director Membership Rn. Ranjan Bhuyan. The oath taking ceremony was conducted by Rtn. Gayatri

Bhattachajee. The rotary member's file and pin were ceremonially handed over to him by Rtn. Anil Mahanta. This was followed by the speech by Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma on the topic "Managing self." His captivating speech made the audience spellbound. Everyone was able to relate themselves with the content of the speech and got lot of scope for introspection on their day to day lives. It was a thought provoking deliberation.

This was followed by secretarial report. 24 Rotarians, 7 annes, one rotarylet and three guests were present. The sunshine collection was 370/-

After this the vote of thanks was offered by Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.37 pm after the rendition of the *Jatiya Sangeet*







## MINUTES OF THE 2334th WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 4th April, 2025

The 2334th WRM was held on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. The President called the meeting to order exactly at pm. After the National Anthem, the president welcomed all the Rotarians, Annes and guests present. The President honoured Rtn. R.N. Mazumder for offering the fellowship. The President also informed the house about the ensuing Pre Bihu celebrations to be organised on 11 April 2025. He also apprised the members regarding the free health camp which was organized in the campus of Kalyani Nivas, Rup Nagar on 30th of March 2025. The President informed the house about the District grant proposal which was submitted to the district for approval of a Smart Class room in Nandi Mikir LP School located in Sachal area of Guwahati.

Rtn. Priyam Goswami introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr. Rangam Rajkhowa, who is the Associate Professor at Deakins University Australia. Dr. Rangam Rajkhowa, in

his speech, narrated in detail about his work in the University on various aspects in the field of fibre. He explained how a carbon fibre which is very light can be utilized in the manufacture of aircrafts and cars and its replaceable parts. These are very strong and are priced reasonably. He also informed the house about development of tympanic membrane in his laboratory from silk fiber which is now in intensive clinical trial. Their work on recovery of colour from textile waste as perpetual pigment got the attention worldwide and bagged the H&M Foundation Global Change Award. It was a very interesting conversation with lots of interaction from the audience.

This was followed by the secretarial report. There were 21 Rotarians, 2 Annes and 1 guest with total of 24 numbers. The sunshine collection was Rs 360/-. The *Jatiya Sangeet* was rendered after the Vote of Thanks was offered by Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati.



