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

RI PRESIDENT
Rtn Stephanie A. Urchick

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
Rtn Sukhminder Singh

PRESIDENT
Rtn Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa

SECRETARY
Rtn Priyama Goswami

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Editor : Rtn Priyam Goswami



*There are two ways of spreading light: to be the
candle or the mirror that reflects it”.*

-- Edith Wharton

RCGS ACCORDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO DG RTN SUKHMINDER SINGH, DISTRICT 3240



Our District Governor, Rtn.Sukhminder Singh, hardly needs any introduction. Over the past few weeks we have had occasion to see his dynamism as well as his dedication and commitment to work. Good leaders find a balance between foresight, performance and character. They have vision, courage, integrity, humility and the ability to plan strategically. RtnSukhminder Singh has all of these attributes, and we believe that by the end of this Rotary year, our district will have achieved a great deal under his leadership.

Rtn Sukhminder Singh, son of Late Sewa Singh and Late Gurmit Kaur, was born and brought up in Burdwan West Bengal. He completed his schooling and higher

secondary from Burdwan Municipal High school in Bengali medium. He took admission in the commerce stream of Raj College for further studies, but the untimely passing away of his father compelled him to leave college and join his family business in spare parts. Having taken over the responsibility at a young age to save his family, he successfully overcame all hurdles with his dedication and hard work.

A Rotarian since 1998, Sukhminder joined RC Burdwan Greater as a charter member and became the Club President in 2004- 05. He served the club in all positions with great responsibility. He also served the District in various positions as District Chair. Later, he

joined RC Amenity Bardhaman. Sukhminder has visited several international Rotary club meetings and has spoken at length about the activities of RID 3240.

He is the first Major Donor Level 1 and 2 from Zone 3. He is also a member of the Paul Harris Society and a great supporter of the Polio fund. Sukhminder is a Multiple Fellow Plus of District 3240 Fund. All the members of his family are Paul Harris Fellows.

Sukhminder is happily married to Sumita. They are blessed with a son, Vishal, who lives in Edinburgh, Scotland, and is happily married to Lynette, a Scottish girl.

Sukhminder and Sumita are proud grandparents of two lovely grandchildren, Alysha and Ariyana.

Sukhminder strongly believes that leaders are not born and that leadership can be developed through proper orientation. In this context, he is of the opinion that Rotary is one of the best organisations which helps develop leadership qualities. Being actively involved with Rotary leadership Institutes, he believes that that RLI has helped him tremendously in getting the opportunity to lead his district.

Our best wishes to Rtn Sukhminder Singh for a very successful and fruitful Rotary Year 2024-25.



From the Editor

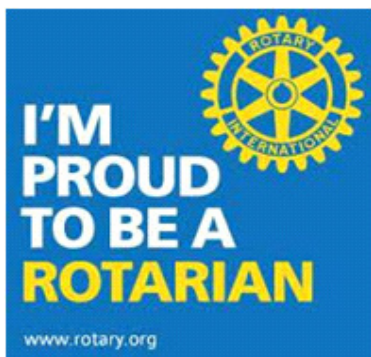


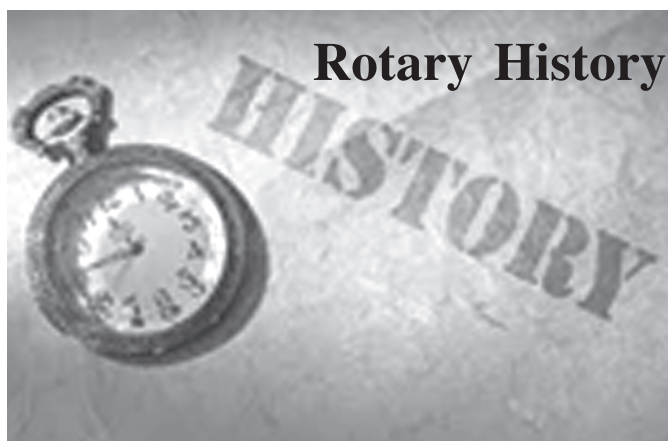
We extend a hearty welcome to DG Rtn Sukhminder Singh to our club. We are confident that his extensive experience, dedication and passion for service will take Rotary to new heights in the District. We, the members of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, look forward to his guidance and help in all the activities of our club.

In the Rotary calendar, August is Membership and Extension Month when Rotary clubs around the world focus on the important issues of membership recruitment and retention. However, it is important to remember that Membership and Extension are part of the ongoing process of being a Rotarian and, therefore, we cannot confine our efforts to the month of August alone.

In recent years we have seen that in many countries membership has declined. The problem lies not only in induction but also in retention. Retaining current club members is just as important as bringing in new ones. For this, it is essential to make sure that club meetings, service activities, and social events are interesting, fun, and worthwhile. It is also very important to initiate more hands-on projects so that the club members feel that they are making a difference. As far as induction is concerned, we must ensure that what we have to offer is attractive. Further, there is also a need for flexibility in certain areas, like attendance, for example, if we want to induct younger members.

Rotary has plenty to offer. Rotarian Andro Bottse from the Rotary club of Amsterdam-Arena once said, "Enrich your life by meeting people from different backgrounds". This underlines Rotary International's statement on diversity. A club that reflects its community with regard to professional and business classification, gender, age, religion and ethnicity is a club with the key to the future. Tremendous opportunities exist within our organization; this is not just about the international opportunities but also about what exists within our own community. The key to retention and extension is therefore about adapting and changing.





Rotary History

RTN. NITISH CHANDRA LAHARRY : THE FIRST INDIAN RI PRESIDENT

The first person of Asian origin to be elected as the President of Rotary International was Rtn Nitish Chandra Laharry (1892–1964). He was an Indian lawyer, social worker and film producer from Kolkata, and it was during his presidency that Rotary International started its Youth wing, Interact Club.

Rtn Nithish Laharry was born in 1892 in Kolkata, where he had his education. He obtained his graduate and master's degrees in English literature from St. Xavier's College and the Scottish Church College. Later, he also secured a degree in law from the University of Calcutta, winning the J. M. Tagore Medal for Law for academic excellence. He started his career as a lawyer at the Calcutta High Court and worked for four years, only to abandon the career to turn to film industry. He founded a studio and produced a motion picture about the Bengali diaspora in England, the first motion picture produced in Bengal, *Bilat Ferat*.

Rtn Laharry joined the Calcutta chapter of Rotary International in 1926 and became its secretary the same year. His business travels took him to Mumbai in 1935, but he continued his association with Rotary by becoming a member of the Bombay chapter, and, on his return to Kolkata in 1939, he rejoined RC Calcutta and became its president in 1944. The Bengal famine of 1943 had already set in by that time and the organization, under his leadership, set up food canteens and free medical camps for the people affected by the famine. He also served as the Vice Chairman of the Armed Forces Entertainment during World War II and, after the war, managed disbursement centres for

the Government of India. In 1953, he was elected as the second Vice President of Rotary International. He served as the Rotary Information Counselor during 1955–56, and chaired the *Asia Regional Conference*, in 1958, at Delhi, which had over 2900 participants from 21 countries, reportedly the largest till then. He was elected as RI President of the organization in 1962, thus becoming the first Asian to hold the position. The Government of India awarded him the third highest civilian honour of the Padma Bhushan in 1963.

Nitish Ch Laharry was also a recipient of the National Order of Merit (France) and Order of Merit (Chile) and honorary doctorates from California College of Medicine and Baylor University, Texas. He passed away on 21 July 1964. The Rotary Club of Calcutta has honoured him by naming their children's library as *Nitish Chandra Laharry Children's Library*.



Rtn T.C. Bordoloi & Anne Kalpana at the Rotary Club of Natick, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.



Rtn T C Bordoloi at the Rotary Club of Charlotte,
North Carolina, USA.



Rtn Chandan Rajkhowa and Anne Chayanika at the
Rotary Club of Buffalo, USA



Rtn Nibedita Barua at the Rotary Club of Abingtons and the Rotary Club of Scranton, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.



Rtn Amritpal Singh at the Rotary Club of Calgary East, Canada.



Rtn Priyam Goswami at the Rotary Club of Bellaire, Houston, Texas.



MINUTES OF THE 2303rd WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2024

The 2303rd weekly regular meeting was held on 2nd August 2024 at the Rajdhani Regency Hotel, starting at 7:00 PM.

Before the meeting commenced, the fellowship offered by Rtn. Anjana Goswami was enjoyed by all members present from 6:30 PM onwards. President Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa called the meeting to order at exactly 7:02 PM, beginning with the National Anthem.

After welcoming all the Rotarians, Annes, and guests, the President informed the house about the upcoming tree plantation programme to be held during the DG's visit on 9th August 2024 at the Veterinary College campus. He also requested members to be present during the tree plantation programme and the DG's visit to the happy school premises. Furthermore, he encouraged members to donate to the Rotary Foundation so that 100% of our members become donors.

Following this, Rtn. Manjushri Barua introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Prakash Mahanta, and narrated the history of his journey from a farmer to a journalist.

Mr. Prakash Mahanta, the Associate Editor of Asomiya Pratidin and the guest speaker of the evening, captivated the audience with his insightful discussion on the topic "Journalism and the Role of Civil Society for Healthy Journalism." His talk was so engaging that all participants remained until the conclusion of his speech. He addressed the challenges journalists face in exercising their duties in the present-day scenario.

Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra, appreciating the speaker's excellent speech, informed the house about the DG's desire to visit ailing old Rotarian Mrs. Anjana Buragohain during his visit to the club on 9th August. Dr. R.N. Mazumder also expressed his appreciation for the guest speaker's thought-provoking speech. After the Secretary's report, Rtn Swapan Jyoti Sarma offered the Vote of Thanks.

There were 29 Rotarians, 7 Annes, 2 Rotaractors, 2 Rotarylets, and 6 guests, totalling 46 participants. The total sunshine collection was Rs. 1450.00. After the rendition of Jatiya Sangeet, the President adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.







INSPIRING QUOTES BY FAMOUS ROTARIANS

“If we worked on the assumption that what is accepted as true really is true, then there would be little hope for advance” . Orville Wright:

Orville Wright (1871-1948) was an American aviation pioneer generally credited with inventing, building, and flying the world’s first successful aeroplane. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Ohio. His quote embodies the Rotary spirit of innovation, growth, and improvement.

