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

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*The two most important days in your life are the day you
are born and the day you find out why."*

-- Mark Twain

From the Editor

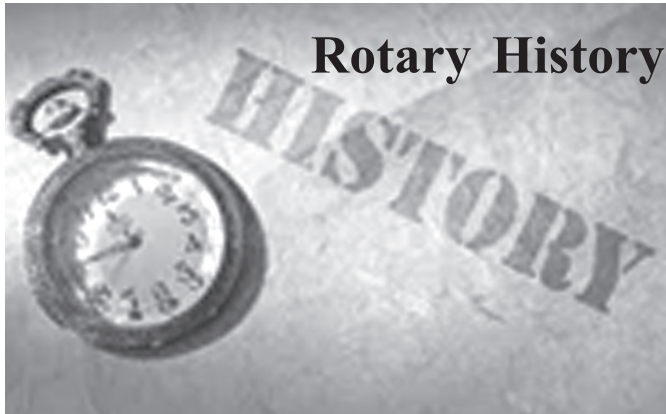


As we step into the 78th year of independence, it is time for some introspection. We have indeed come a fairly long way, both literally and metaphorically. The green and white revolutions, development in science, technology and space research, enhancement of legal rights and the digital revolution, among others, have undoubtedly made us proud. But we also face serious challenges. Rampant poverty, illiteracy, homelessness, inadequate healthcare facilities, unemployment and underemployment, and corruption, for instance, are all major issues that require attention. The digital age has also brought along with it its own challenges. Issues like data privacy, cyber security, and the digital divide are becoming increasingly relevant. India's journey towards freedom is not just about breaking the chains of colonialism; it is also about building a society based on equality and justice. How far have we succeeded in this?

Another pressing issue of our times is the environment. As we celebrate our independence, we must remember that true freedom also means living in harmony with nature. Climate change, pollution, and the depletion of natural resources, are causing havoc across the world. We only have to look around our own city to realise this.

But the government alone cannot be expected to take up all these marathon tasks and effectively solve all the problems. It must be remembered that rights come along with responsibilities and as responsible citizens, we have to put in our efforts as well. It has been seen that in partnership with the government, organisations such as Rotary can contribute positively to the community. Rotary in India has grown dramatically since the establishment of the first club in 1920. By continuing what we have been doing in terms of community service and by upscaling our activities, we can certainly make a difference.





Rotary History

A HOME FOR HEADQUARTERS

The idea that Rotary should own its headquarters dates back at least to the 1920 convention, when Albert Adams, 1919-20 Rotary president, told attendees that he hoped to someday see the headquarters in a beautiful building of Rotary's own.

The National Association of Rotary Clubs — now Rotary International — formed in 1910 and had its headquarters in the Chicago, Illinois, USA, office of its secretary, Chesley R. Perry. In March 1911, Rotary's headquarters moved to rented space in the First National Bank Building, one of many downtown Chicago rentals.

In 1914, Rotary set up its headquarters in the Karpen Building on South Michigan Avenue. Citing increasing rent after World War I, Rotary moved to the Atwell Building in 1923, then to several more buildings after that.

After so many moves, some Rotary leaders began to call for a world headquarters that RI itself would own. Delegates at the 1921 convention attempted to pass a resolution to purchase a site for a building of Rotary's own, but they were unsuccessful. The 1928 convention delegates adopted a similar resolution, which had two notable conditions: There would be no increase in the per capita tax or assessment on clubs, and the site was to be in Chicago.

Finally, in 1943, the debate over sites got underway when the RI Board appointed a headquarters committee consisting of 1939-40 RI Director Roy Weaver from Colorado, 1942-43 RI Director Fred Haas from Nebraska, and 1935-36 RI President Ed Johnson.

The 1944 convention delegates approved expanding the headquarters search beyond Chicago. Many rotarians however reinforced the connection between Rotary and the city, noting that "Chicago business and civic leaders have a justifiable pride centered in the fact that Rotary is an offspring of Chicago."

Rotary leaders gathered at 1600 Ridge Avenue for a groundbreaking ceremony in 1953, and the building opened in August of the following year. In that first month, 250 Rotary members and friends visited to see it for themselves. Despite initial room to grow and a later addition, Rotary eventually outgrew that space. In 1987, Rotary purchased the building on Sherman Avenue in Evanston from Baxter Travenol Laboratories. Known today as One Rotary Center, that building is still home to Rotary International World Headquarters and welcomes more than 2,000 visitors a year.



TREE PLANTATION PROGRAMME

A Tree Plantation Programme was organized on August 9th at the College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati, in the presence of District Governor Rtn. Sukhminder Singh, the First Lady, and Assistant Governor zone IX Rtn. Pranjal Kr Mena. Around 50 saplings, of various avenue, fruit bearing and commercial trees were planted in the Campus of veterinary Colleg.

Ceremonial plantation was done by DG Rtn. Sukhminder Singh, the First Lady, AG Pranjal Mena, and several other Rotarians of Rotary club of Gauhati South as well as Rotaractors from Rotaract club of South Guwahati.

The saplings were provided by the Forest Department, Government of Assam. The initiative was spearheaded by Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia and Rtn.

Dr. Pritam Mohan, who provided all the logistic support to prepare the ground for plantation. The programme was followed by a fellowship of high tea offered by Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia.

The event was attended by DG Rtn. Sukhminder Singh, the First Lady, AG Rtn. Pranjal Mena, AG zone X Rajesh Bhatra, IPP Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma, Rtn. Biswadip Barooah, Rtn. Priyam Goswami, Rtn. Renu Goswami, Rtn. Minoti Barkhakur, Rtn. Manjusri Baruah, Rtn. Priyama Goswami, Rtn. Rammohan Hazarika, Rtn. Dipak Bhagawarti, Rtn. P.M. Goswami, Rtn. Dipankaar Roy, Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia, Rtn. Pritam Mohan, and Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika. Rotaractors present were President Rtr. Sashanka Bhachariya and Secretary Rtr. Pankaj Kumar Prasad of Rotaract club of South Guwahati.



MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S OFFICIAL VISIT AND THE 2304TH WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON 9th AUGUST 2024

The meeting Board of Directors and other club officials commenced at 5:30 PM at Hotel Rajdhani Regency in the presence of District Governor (DG) Rtn. Sukhminder Singh, Assistant Governor (AG) Rtn. Pranjal Mena, Immediate Past President (IPP) Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma, Vice President Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati (in the absence of the President), Secretary Rtn. Priyama Goswami, and Treasurer Rtn. Apurba Misra.

During the preliminary session, DG Rtn. Sukhminder Singh reviewed all the official documents and suggested few minor rectifications. Following this, the DG met with club officers and new office bearers of 24-25. Club Service Committee Chair Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia narrated in detail about upcoming projects to be undertaken during 24-25 including the one i.e. Animal Cremation Centre. Rtn. Priyam Goswami apprised the members about the initiatives taken with regard to the TEACH programme. Membership Chair Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan discussed several queries, which were clarified by the honourable DG. Rtn. Gayatree Goswamee also contributed her insights on mental health programme which was appreciated by DG.

THE REGULAR WRM AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH THE DG

The WRM started at 6:45 PM with the rendition of the National Anthem. Vice President Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati then requested all attendees to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Rtn. Jayabrata Banerjee. He extended a warm welcome to DG Sukhminder Singh and AG Pranjal Mena and greeted all present attendees. He also S Chandra Oza with a rose. After the proceedings were handed over to the Master of Ceremonies (MOC), Anne Nandini Choudhury.

DG Rtn. Sukhminder Singh was felicitated with a traditional Gamosa by Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika, and the First Lady was honoured by Rtn. Priyam Goswami. AG Rtn. Pranjal Mena was honoured by Rtn. Bani Kanta Das. The dignitaries were then invited to light the ceremonial lamp, assisted by Pallabi Sarma Bordoloi. This was followed by a beautiful invocation by Anne Mahmuda.

On behalf of President Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa, Vice President Dipak Bhagawati delivered the

Presidential Address. Secretary Rtn. Priyama Goswami then presented the Secretary's report, highlighting the projects completed to date.

AG Rtn. Pranjal Mena addressed the gathering as the guest of honour. Following this, Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan introduced the new member, Dr. Pritam Mohan. The DG administered the oath and inducted Dr. Mohan, who, along with his wife, was felicitated with a Gamosa, gift hamper, and roses.

Rtn. Deepankar Roy provided a brief introduction of DG Rtn. Sukhminder Singh, who then addressed the attendees. In his speech, the DG expressed his gratitude to Rtn. Dipankar Roy for his efforts and hospitality extended to the DG and the First Lady. He also praised and honored Rtn. Minoti Barthakur exemplary dedication, despite health challenges. As a token of appreciation, the DG presented a gift he had brought from the US.

The DG, along with other dignitaries, then released a souvenir. To honour the occasion, Rtn. Dr. Hitesh Baruah sang two songs dedicated to the DG.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Rtn. Gayatree Goswamee. A total of 51 participants attended the meeting, including 37 Rotarians, 9 Annes, 2 Rotaractors, 1 Rotarylets, and 4 guests. The sunshine collection was Rs. 1,070. The meeting ended with the rendition of the *Jatiya Sangeet*. The vice president adjourned the meeting at 8.20 PM.

Fellowship dinner, was sponsored by Rtn. Dr. Hitesh Baruah, Rtn. Biswadip Barooah, Rtn. Sarat Chandra Oza, Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan, and Rtn. Anamika Choudhury. Everyone enjoyed the sumptuous dinner.





MINUTES OF THE 2305TH WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 16, 2024

The 2305th weekly regular meeting took place on August 16, 2024, at the Hotel Rajdhani Regency, commencing at 7:00 PM. The meeting began with the National Anthem, after which President Rtn Chandan Rajkhowa welcomed all attendees.

Anniversary greetings were extended to Rtn Ranjan Bhuyan and Anne Aparajita, as well as Rtn Dr.

Anil Kr Mahanta and Anne Nivaneeta, although they were not present. A token of appreciation was presented to Rtn Arman Ahmed and his family, and Rtn Apurba Misra and his family, with roses, honored by Rtn Devajyoti Hazarika and Rtn Satendra Anand for providing excellent fellowship.

The in-house speaker, Rtn Tarun Ch Bardoloi, shared a wonderful experience of his and his wife's visit

to two Rotary Clubs, Natick, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. and Charlotte, North Carolina. He highlighted key takeaways from the club meetings, noting their strict adherence to timing and their business-like yet enthusiastic conduct. He emphasized the excellent networking opportunities that these meetings provide, creating connections that transcend borders. He also mentioned the CART initiative, which stands for Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, where attendees contribute spare change to support research efforts aimed at finding a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease.

Following this, Rotarylet Miss Tasmin Ahmed, gave a presentation on the *"Importance of Public Speaking and the Role of Student Leadership in a Young Adult's Life."* She shared how her leadership qualities were

nurtured through her early exposure to Rotary Clubs with her parents. She also expressed her dismay over the recent case of a Kolkata doctor's rape and murder, which she found deeply disturbing and disheartening. She lamented that many young people did not celebrate Independence Day, reflecting on the ongoing issues of women's safety in the country. Her talk moved the audience, and she concluded by singing a school song.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Rtn Dipak Bhagawarti. A total of 24 participants attended, including 17 Rotarians, 5 Annes, and 2 Rotarylets. The sunshine collection amounted to Rs. 390/-. The meeting concluded with the rendition of *Jatiya Sangeet* and was adjourned by President Rtn Chandan Rajkhowa at 8:20 PM.





MINUTES OF THE 2306TH WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 23, 2024

The 3006th Weekly Rotary Meeting was held on August 23, 2024, at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. The event began at 6:30 PM with a pleasant fellowship hosted by Rtn Dr. Anil Mahanta, which was enjoyed by all attendees. At 7 pm, President Rtn Chandan Rajkhaw called the meeting to order, starting with the National Anthem.

The President extended birthday wishes to Rtn Dr. Balendra Das, who was honoured by Rtn Tarun Bordoloi, and belated anniversary wishes to Rtn Ranjan Bhuyan and Rtn Dr. Anil Mahanta, honoured by Rtn Minoti Barthakur and Rtn Renu Goswami, respectively. A token of appreciation for the fellowship was also presented to Rtn Dr. Anil Mahanta. The President then updated the members on a request for assistance received from the Assam Child and Women's Welfare Society.

Following this, Rtn Dipak Bhagawarti introduced the Guest Speaker, Mrs. Jaba Chakravarty, a renowned Assamese folk artist and an exponent of *Goalporia Lok Geet*. The President and Secretary honoured the Guest Speaker with a Gamosa, a rose, and a token of appreciation.

Mrs. Chakravarty shared insights into her singing career and performed a few beautiful Assamese Goalporia folk songs, engaging the attendees. Rtn Gayatree Goswami, Rtn Dr. Balendra Das, and Rtn Dr. Anil Mahanta joined her in the performance.

Rotaractor Abhinash then informed the members that he had been selected for the RYE program in Pune

and requested assistance with his travel expenses due to financial difficulties. Rtn Deepankar Roy generously offered to sponsor his flight, and several other members also provided financial support.

Secretary Rtn Priyama Goswami presented the meeting statistics: 22 Rotarians, 10 Annes, 4 Guests, 1 Rotarylet, and 4 Rotaractors, totalling 41 attendees, with a Sunshine Collection of Rs 820/-.

IPP Rtn Nawajyoti Sharma delivered the formal Vote of Thanks, and President Rtn Chandan Rajkhaw adjourned the meeting after the rendition of the *Jatiya Sangeet* at 8:25 PM.





INSPIRING QUOTES BY FAMOUS ROTARIANS

"I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine".

-Neil Armstrong

Neil Alden Armstrong (August 5, 1930 – August 25, 2012) was an American astronaut and aeronautical engineer who, in 1969, became the first person to walk on the Moon. He was also a naval aviator, test pilot, and university professor. A Rotarian belonging to the Rotary Club of Wapakoneta, Ohio, his quoteresonates with Rotary's philosophy of making every moment count in the service of humanity.

INTERESTING TRIVIA



Before 1920, it was actually possible to send children through the U.S. Postal Service, but certain conditions had to be met. The children needed to weigh under 50 pounds, and stamps were attached to their clothing as payment. Surprisingly, this method was often more affordable than buying a train ticket. During the journey, the children would ride in the mail car of a train, where they were supervised and provided with food by the mail clerks. One remarkable instance of this unusual practice involved a child travelling over 700 miles from Florida to Virginia, with just 15 cents worth of stamps.