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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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*"No act of kindness, no matter how small,
is ever wasted."*

-- Aesop

From the Editor



Basic education and literacy are one of The Rotary Foundation's areas of focus. More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. That is, 17 percent of the world's adult population. We are aware that basic education and literacy are essential for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development, and promoting peace. Rotary International has, therefore, designated the month of September as Basic Education and Literacy Month. Rotarians worldwide are committed to supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning.

Research has shown that if all women completed primary education, there would be 66% fewer maternal deaths. A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of five. If all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty, which would be equivalent to a 12% cut in world poverty.

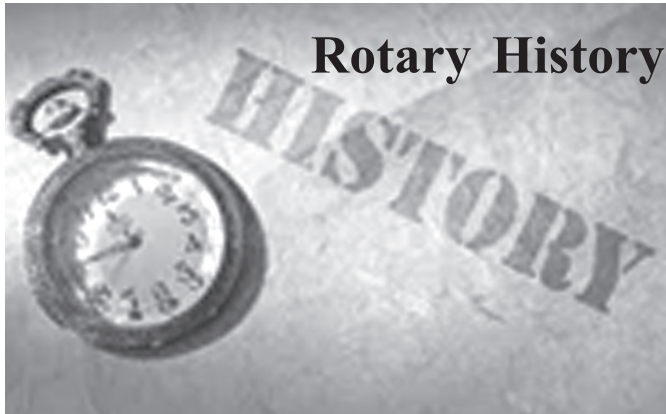
Rotary's goals include strengthening the ability of communities to support literacy and basic education, increasing adult literacy, reducing gender disparity in education, and supporting education for all children. Rotary in India through the Rotary India Literacy Mission has embarked upon a mission to achieve total literacy and quality education through T-E-A-C-H: T – Teacher support; E – E-learning; A – Adult literacy; C – Child development; H – Happy school. These programmes are inter-linked in objective and content, resulting in improved learning outcome. Our club has been very active in almost all aspects of TEACH ever since the inception of the programme.

The combined efforts of hundreds of Rotary clubs, together with their partner organisations, have added up to large scale results. Over an estimated 7 million children are benefitting from RILM's teacher training component alone.

However, much still remains to be done. Worldwide, almost 60 million children are still out of school. Even after 4 years of primary schooling, as many as 250 million children cannot read or write. Today, almost 800 million adults are still illiterate. Yet there is hope, and with determined and concerted efforts, we should be able to inch forward towards our goal.

An old proverb says: "If you want one year of prosperity, grow seeds, if you want 10 years of prosperity, grow trees, if you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people". "Growing people" is Rotary's long term goal.





THE ORIGINS OF PAUL HARRIS FELLOW RECOGNITION

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

Rotary established the recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only programme, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships. The first Paul Harris Fellows included past RI Director Allison G. Brush, who served during the 1937-38 Rotary year, and longtime RI Treasurer Rufus F. Chapin, both for donations made in 1946. Mrs. Adan Vargas was the first woman to receive the recognition, for a gift made in 1953. Mrs. Harry L. Jones was the second, and one of only five people recognized for contributions actually made in that inaugural year.

Early Paul Harris Fellows received a certificate of recognition. In 1969, the Foundation unveiled the first Paul Harris Fellow medallion at the Rotary Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Japanese metal artist Fiju Tsuda created the piece under the direction of former Foundation Trustee Kyozo Yuasa. Today, Paul Harris Fellows receive a certificate and pin. They are also eligible to buy a Paul Harris Fellow medallion.

Rotarians also have a tradition of supporting the Foundation by honouring others. Ida LeTulle Taylor became a Paul Harris Fellow in 1978 when her husband, Vann Taylor, who was serving as a district governor, made a donation in her name in honour of their 34th wedding anniversary. The gift also made her the 25,000th Paul Harris Fellow.

At the International Assembly in 1979, incoming RI President James Bomar challenged each Rotary club to make one non-Rotarian a Paul Harris Fellow. The Rotary Club of Pikesville, Maryland, USA, responded by making a donation in the name of Mother Teresa in 1980. The entertainer Pearl Bailey also became a Paul Harris Fellow through a joint effort of the Rotary clubs in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Many other notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

Currently there are around 15,00,000 Fellows.

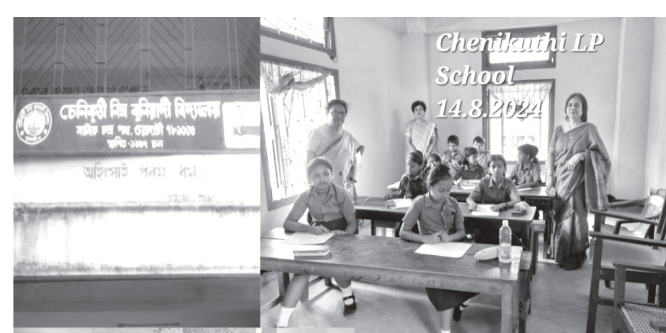
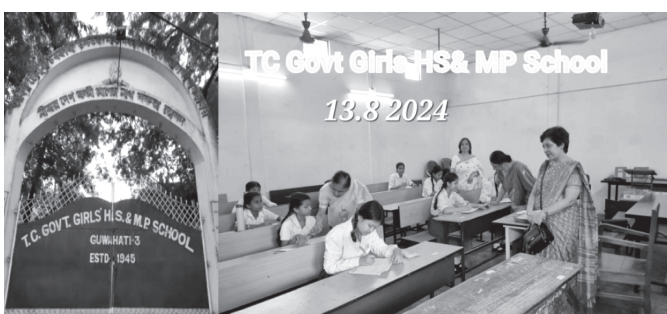


SURVEY OF SCHOOLS FOR NATION BUILDER AWARD

Rtn Anjana Saikia

During the last few weeks, a team of several members of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South visited 12 Government Schools to carry out the evaluation process for Nation Builder Awards under RILM's T-E-A-C-H programme. Rotarians and Annes involved in the evaluation process were Rtn Renu Goswami, Rtn Priyam Goswami, Rtn Jyoti Das, Rtn Chandan Rajkhowa (President), Rtn Gayatree Goswamee, Anne Nandini

Choudhury, Anne Manisha Sharma, Rtn Manjushri Baruah, Rtn P.M. Goswami, Rtn Priyama Goswami (Secretary), Rtn Indira Bordoloi and Rtn B.N. Saikia. These awards, which are to given to outstanding Teachers, is an important vertical of the Teachers Support vertical of the T-E-A-C-H programme. Photos of the 12 Schools that were evaluated are given below.









MINUTES OF THE 2307TH WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 30, 2024

The 3007th Weekly Meeting was held on August 30th, 2024, at the Rajdhani Regency Hotel. It started with a delightful fellowship hosted by Rtn. Satinder Anand at 6.30 PM. At 7 PM, Vice President Rtn. Dipak Bhagawarti called the meeting to order, followed by the National Anthem. The Vice President extended birthday greetings to Rtn. Satinder Anand, who was honoured by Rtn. Minoti Barthakur, and to Rtn. Dr. Amrit Pal Singh, who was honoured by Rtn. Renu Goswami. The Vice President then presented Certificates received from the District to Rtn. Gayatree Goswamee and Rtn. Manjusri Baruah for their outstanding initiative in the Mental Health Program held in International Schools Guwahati in 2023. The Certificates were presented by Rtn. Tarun Bardoloi and Rtn. Satinder Anand.

Rtn. Priyam Goswami gave a brief introduction of the Guest Speaker, Dr. Akashitora, a media personality and Rotary Peace Fellowship achiever in 2016. This was

followed by the felicitation of the Chief Guest, Dr. Akashitora, with a Gamosa, weekly bulletin “_Udayan_”, and the club souvenir. The Guest Speaker then delivered her talk on the importance and influence of the books. She emphasised the importance of reading books to enrich the knowledge and thereby uphold the dignity and foundation of society. She also mentioned about the books she had authored.

The Secretary, Rtn. Priyama Goswami, presented the meeting statistics: 23 Rotarians, 5 Annes, and 2 guests, totalling 30 attendees, with a Sunshine Collection of Rs. 1020/-.

Rtn. Pritam Mohan delivered the formal Vote of Thanks, and Vice President Rtn. Dipak Bhagawarti adjourned the meeting with the rendition of the Jatiya Sangeet at 8:05 PM.



MINUTES OF THE 2308TH WEEKLY REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

The 3008th Weekly Rotary Meeting was held on 6th September 2024 at the Rajdhani Regency Hotel. The meeting began with a delightful fellowship hosted by Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya at 6:30 PM. At 7:00 PM, IPP Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma called the meeting to order, starting with the National Anthem. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya, who was presented with a beautiful flower bouquet and a memento from Anne Kalpana Bordoloi. A token of appreciation was also given to her for hosting the fellowship.

IPP Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma then provided an update on the upcoming Running Water Project on 14th September 2024 at Navajeen Rehabilitation Home in Borihat, Mirza, and requested members' presence for the project.

The in-house speaker, Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta, delivered an excellent presentation on the "Rotary Peace Fellowship." He elaborated on the vision of the program, highlighting its goal of building a global network of peace-building leaders committed to preventing and resolving conflicts. He also explained the eligibility criteria for the fellowship and the online application process.

Secretary Rtn. Priyam Goswami presented the meeting statistics: 17 Rotarians 4 Annes, 1 Rotarylet. Total: 22 attendees. The Sunshine Collection amounted to Rs. 620/-.

Rtn. Tarun Chandra Bordoloi delivered the formal Vote of Thanks, and IPP Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma adjourned the meeting with the rendition of the Jatiya Sangeet at 8:00 PM.



INSPIRING QUOTES BY FAMOUS ROTARIANS

“Few men during their lifetime come anywhere near exhausting the resources dwelling within them. There are deep wells of strength that are never used.” -Richard E. Byrd

Richard E. Byrd (1888-1957) was a naval aviator and explorer of both the Arctic and Antarctica who became famous in 1926 as the first man credited with flying to the North Pole. His saying reflects Rotary’s belief in the potential of every individual to contribute significantly to society. Byrd belonged to the Rotary Club of Winchester, Virginia.

