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

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From the Editor's Pen ...



September melodies...

A culture defines a civilization, a society, a community. The month of September, every year, is significantly important in the sense it reminds us of our cultural identity.

This year September is very special as it celebrates the 100th birth year and our affinity with the iconic bard, Dr. Bhupen Hazarika which needs no deliberation. The creativity and compassion in his works speak volumes about the iconic personality, the thinker and philosopher who is rightly conferred the Bharat Ratna.

RCGSians take pride in the fact that he belonged to one of us as an Honorary Rotarian of our Club. Many accolades have been showered on him and will be so for ages to come, because a Dr. Bhupen Hazarika is born only once perhaps, in our lifetime if not more.

Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu Guru Devo Maheswara... the mantra resonates in our souls and September is also the month when we reiterate our obsequence to our gurus, our teachers. To pay tribute to the one in a million teacher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, we observe his birthday on 5th of September as Teachers Day as he willed it.

RCGSians paid their respects to member and Anne teachers on that day in a befitting manner.

September also heralds autumn...the golden beauty of all seasons with festivity in the air. Reminders of the advent of Pujas are also abound and the spirit soars high.

As a prelude to wintry days, September is indeed a month for gaiety and celebration. A month to remind us that we bond as a community a cohesiveness that gives meaning to our ideals of working towards mankind with compassion, solidarity and belief in one another to build a stronger society, a productive and contributing community.

Isn't that what Community Service in Rotary is all about?...

Nigerian to become second African to lead Rotary International

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola will serve as President of the global membership organization in 2026-27.

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been elected to serve as President of Rotary International for the 2026-27 term. He will take office on 1 July 2026.

Babalola, a Rotary member for more than 30 years, will become the second African to lead Rotary International, following Jonathan B. Majiyagbe of the Rotary Club of Kano, Nigeria, who served in 2003-04.

"Rotary transforms lives – not only through the projects we deliver, but through the hope we share, the meaningful relationships we build, and the shared purpose we inspire," said Babalola. "In a world that urgently needs dialogue and understanding, I'm committed to helping Rotary advance peace, expand opportunity, and support communities – and each of us – to grow and thrive."

Babalola has championed peace building and worked to strengthen community development efforts across Africa throughout his time in Rotary. He has been actively involved with Rotary's Peace Center at Makerere University in Uganda – the organization's first on the continent – where he has helped Peace Fellows apply their training through local initiatives.

Minutes of the 2357th Weekly Rotary Meeting held on 5th September 2025

The 2357th Weekly Rotary Meeting was held on 5th September 2025 at the Rajdhani Regency Hotel. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM by President Rtn. Priyama Goswami. Following the National Anthem, the President welcomed all Rotarians, Annes, and guests present and extended warm wishes to all teachers on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

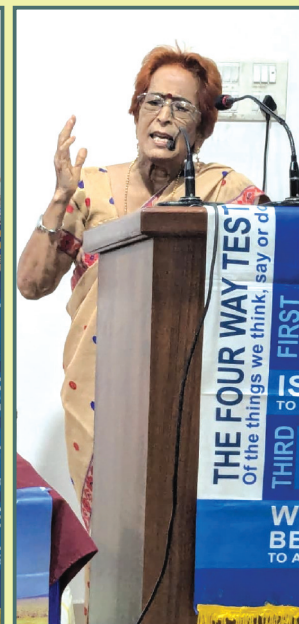
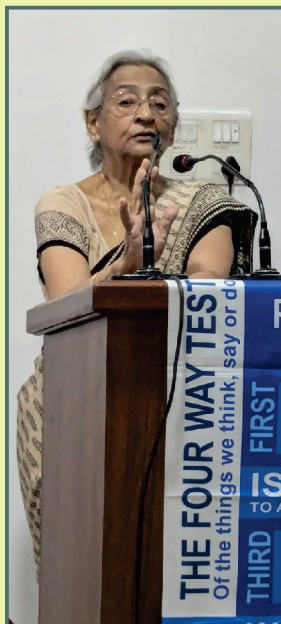
The President felicitated Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya and Rtn. Arman Ahmed for offering the fellowship. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Dr. Millie Kakati and Rtn. Dr. Amrit Pal Singh.

Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury then shared details of the HTFI Program held on 3rd September 2025 at the Department of Education, Handique Girls' College.

Thereafter, the President invited MOC Anne Runima Musrikin to conduct the proceedings of the Teachers' Day Celebration. The evening began with a soulful Invocation – *Saraswati Vandana* by Anne Mahmuda Begum, which was deeply appreciated by all. On this special occasion, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South organized a felicitation ceremony to honour 19 distinguished teachers and 11 Annes. In addition, Rtn. Dr. P. M. Goswami personally felicitated them with a pen and writing pads in recognition of their outstanding dedication and contributions to the field of education. The event was conducted in a warm and respectful atmosphere, emphasizing the vital role of teachers in shaping society. Several of the honored teachers shared their personal experiences, reflections on their profession, and the challenges and rewards of guiding students throughout their careers. Their heartfelt words added immense value to the celebration and inspired everyone present.

The Secretarial Report was then presented, recording the attendance of 37 Rotarians, 6 Annes, and 2 Rotarylets, making a total of 45 participants. The Sunshine Collection amounted to Rs.750. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi. The meeting concluded at 8:10 PM with the rendition of the *Jatiyo Sangeet*.





"Teachers' day was celebrated every year in our club in my forty years of Rotary life . However my feeling is that today we had the best teachers' day ever. I thank President Rtn Priyama Goswami and her team for such a wonderful evening. Every Rtn spoke so well. The gifts given to us were wonderful. I also thank Rtn P M Goswami for his loving gifts for us and Anne Mahmuda's soulful rendering of Mangalacharan.. Cannot forget Anne Runima for her beautiful commentary. Last of all heartfelt thanks to Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharyya and Rtn Arman Ahmed for the wonderful fellowship provided."

Rtn Dr Minati Barthakur

HTFI at Handique Girls' College

On 3rd September 2025, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South successfully conducted the HTFI (How to Face an Interview) programme in collaboration with the Department of Education, Handique Girls' College, Guwahati. The event began with a warm welcome by Mrs. Sangeeta Das, Head of the Department of Education. Rotary Club President Rtn. Priyama Goswami then gave a brief introduction about Rotary, highlighting its diverse projects and activities. The programme featured two in-house resource persons: Rtn. Tarun Chandra Bordoloi, who delivered an insightful talk on "AI for Your Career: An Exciting Future Awaits." He demonstrated how AI can assist candidates in preparing resumes, open new career opportunities, and emphasized the importance of using AI responsibly and ethically. Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury, who conducted a lucid session on interview preparation in today's evolving landscape. He also shared valuable tips on how to effectively prepare for online interviews. The session witnessed enthusiastic participation.

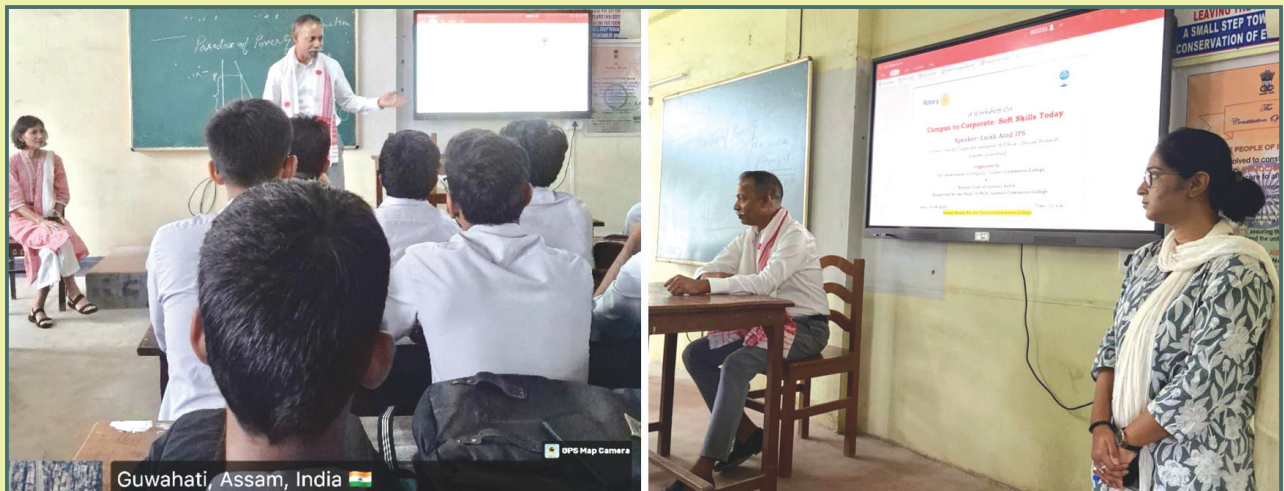


Workshop on Soft Skill at Guwahati Commerce College

On 15th September 2025, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, in collaboration with the Department of English, Gauhati Commerce College, successfully organized a workshop on "Campus to Corporate: Soft Skills Today".

The programme was supported by the Department of BCA, Gauhati Commerce College. The Resource Person, Shri Luish Aind, IPS (Former Deputy Inspector General of Police, Special Branch, Assam), engaged with the students on the importance of soft skills in today's world, illustrating his insights with valuable experiences from his own professional journey.

The workshop witnessed the participation of 67 students, 6 faculty members from the Department of English, and 4 Rotarians including President Rtn Priyama Goswami, Secretary Rtn Dipanwita Ghosh, Rtn Giti Buzbaruah, and Rtn Sweta Pegu.



Guwahati, Assam, India

Minutes of the 2358th Weekly Rotary Meeting held on 12th September 2025

The Meeting commenced with a delightful fellowship hosted by Rtn. Giti Buzarbaruah. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM by President Rtn. Priyama Goswami, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem. President Goswami warmly welcomed all members and extended her heartfelt gratitude to Rtn. Giti Buzarbaruah for hosting the evening's fellowship, presenting her with a token of appreciation. Birthday wishes were extended to Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya.

The President updated members on the status of upcoming projects, including the Food Cart, AC Coffin, CSR initiatives, and the Artificial Hands Project.

The President handed over the proceedings to the MOC for conducting a tribute to celebrate Bharat Ratna Awardee Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's Centenary. Rtn. Bhupendra Das delivered an insightful tribute, sharing Dr. Hazarika's life journey up to his years in Kolkata. The evening's proceedings were gracefully conducted by the MOC, Rtn. Kalpana Roy Sinha. A series of soulful musical performances followed, with contributions from Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi, Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh, Rtn. P.M. Goswami, Anne Suravi, Rtn. Jayanta Barman, Rtn. Nivedita Barua all presenting memorable songs of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika.

Rtn. Anurekha Barkakoti led an engaging round of Antakshari based on Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's songs, which was enjoyed by all attendees. A special dance performance by Rtn. Gayatree Goswamee further enriched the evening.

Secretary's Report: Presented by Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh, Attendance included: Rotarians – 32, Annes – 12, Rotarylets – 1, Roctractor – 1. Total participants: 46. A sunshine collection of Rs.560/- was recorded. The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn. Rupali Kalita.

The session concluded with the *Jatiya Sangeet*, after which President Rtn. Priyama Goswami officially adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM





Rotarians in Action

On 11th September, President Rtn. Priyama Goswami, along with her spouse Mr. Bhishan Rai, Rotarylet Anmol Rai Goswami, and Treasurer Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika, undertook a significant visit to two important project sites. The first stop was the Ice Coffin factory, where they reviewed the progress of an ice coffin unit that will soon be donated to the Bhetapara Cremation Ground by Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra in cherished memory of his late father.

The team then proceeded to the Food Cart factory, where preparations are underway for a cart that will be handed over to the mother of a thalassemia patient. This initiative is especially impactful, as it will empower her with the means to earn a sustainable livelihood while caring for her child. The project reflects Rotary's commitment to both humanitarian service and the principle of dignity through self-reliance.

During the visits, advance payments were made, and detailed updates were obtained from the manufacturers regarding the quality, progress, and expected timelines of delivery. The engagement ensured transparency, accountability, and personal involvement in these meaningful service projects, which are expected to bring lasting benefits to individuals and the wider community.



Veterans Speak

While gathering data from our veteran Rotarians, responses were collected based on the following queries

- i. ● Years completed in RCGS ii. ● Senior Rotarians who inspired/influenced you iii. ● Takeaways from Rotary over the decades particularly highlighting self improvement in quality of life. iv. ● Motivation factor in RCGS v. ● Feeling of gratitude to be able to follow ideals of Rotary such as Service Above Self and put into practice vi. ● How Rotary as an International Organisation has helped to be a better version of self and take pride in being a Rotarian.



Rtn Rajkamal Bhyan

A soft spoken Rtn Prashanta Das introduced me to Rotary in 1996 and soon afterwards I joined RCGS. Stalwarts of our club in those days Late BK Bhuyan, Late D K Kakati and forever young Late Col (retd) TBB Lahkar, and others like Gayatri Baideo, Minoti Baideo, and Anjana Baideo were in the forefront of our club in my initial Rotary days, in late nineties Those days, as was the norm, on my induction day, my entire family, wife and both children were with me as I took the oath. Though I was a bit shy in those early days in our Rotary club meetings, the love and affection of these leaders, and with constant encouragements from Late Hareswar Talukdar, Late N B Barthakur and late D N Baruah, I soon began to enjoy the RWM and club activities.

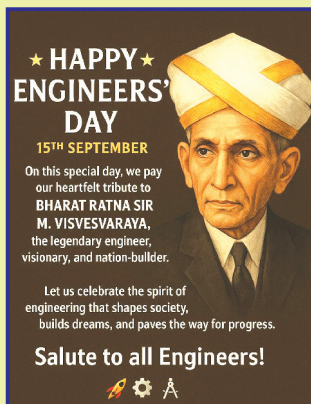
I have always held that to be a Rotarian, one must be bitten by the Rotary bug, and today I can proudly announce that I was bitten by a swarm of them. The Four Way Test guides you as you take a plunge into the rotary world. The Rotary fellowship and this unique nature our membership criteria, whereby people from different walks of life join Rotary and try to bring cheer to the downtrodden and poor people in the society we belong to. This is something unique and extraordinary. We relish this camaraderie and strive to bask in its glory and at the same time try to give something back to the society we live in.

There are many Rotary moments in my personal journey in our club, I am so happy that my wife too joined Rotary in a week in 2008, when I donated a small hall for our Board of Directors meeting, in fond memory of my Mother with whom I walked barely 23 years of my life. This hall later became our Welfare Trust meeting place too.

The Rotary Centenary year 2005 celebration, and our visit to Chicago was a watershed moment for me, as I listened with rapt attention to the voices of Rotary World leaders and I got some insight into the workings of the Rotary Foundation Grants. One particular leader Past RI President, Frank Devlin, spoke about the hierarchy of rotary leaders that stuck with me till today. He said *"You are A District Governor, A Club President today, but in the next year as you relinquish that post, you start afresh your next journey as a Rotarian only."* This is the essence of Rotary, a true Rotarian relinquishes his/her official post happily, but never relinquishes his / her duty as a Rotarian, in the numerous rotary club activities, among the needy and marginalised. That the Rotary we are so proud of.

A few other watershed moments that I cherish, if I may, is the inauguration of RCGS Global Grant project of providing Arsenic free water in 17 schools of Nalbari District, where my very close friend Late Prashanta Goswami was a constant companion on our numerous visit to Nalbari schools, the execution of the Rotary District Water and Sanitation projects in 8 North East Capital Cities, Inauguration of Rotary Welcome Signage Project of *Xorai* at Jalukbari, Flyover NHAI Rotary Uddyan four years back, Providing Water and Sanitation projects in 8 schools near Jyotikuchi during the difficult Covid days, involving myself in our club in a humanitarian project of providing Covid 19 vaccination to 9700 persons, when everyday my wife and daughter feared that this guy will bring Covid to our doorstep, being out of home everyday in those dreadful containment days.

In conclusion, I consider myself fortunate to be a part of our glorious club which will soon see the 50th anniversary, a few years from now. May Rotary Club of Gauhati South live long.



In recognition of all the contributions of Technocrats and Engineers of Rotary Club of Gauhati South we offer our warm greetings on the occasion of **Engineers' Day.**

RCGS conveys warm greetings to all Birthdays in September :

Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya	-	6th Sept.
Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra	-	16th Sept.
Rtn. George Chacko	-	20th Sept.
Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah	-	21st Sept.
Rtn. (Dr) Pritam Mohan	-	21st Sept.
Rtn. (Dr) Gayatree Goswamee	-	27th Sept.
Rtn. (Dr) Anil Kr. Mahanta	-	27th Sept.
Anniversary :		
Rtn. George Chacko	-	19th Sept.