



# Udayan



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

RI PRESIDENT Rtn Dr Francesco Arezzo	DISTRICT GOVERNOR Rtn Dr Kameswar Singh Elangbam	PRESIDENT Rtn Priyama Goswami	SECRETARY Rtn Dipanwita Ghosh
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### From the Editor's Pen ...



Comfort zone....a space in everyone's life that calls for addressing its significance. It is that area which brings a sense of peace and security, an assurance that tells you, all is well. Very few an adventurous heart would opt for stepping out of this comfort zone and deal with circumstances that are alien, challenging and seem a threat to one's peaceful existence. It happens when situations change in one's day to day living. A job transfer, a new admission to a school or college, a medical issue, relationship turmoil, family upheavals, marriage, divorce and the list goes on which forces an individual to step out of the comfort zone and adapt to the new changes.

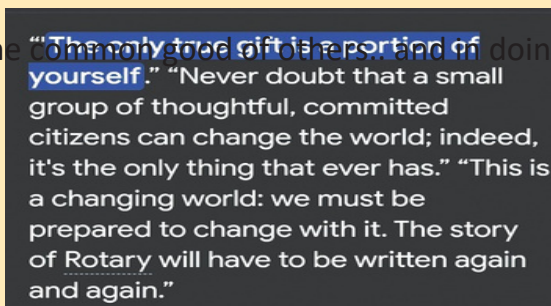
We become so smug in our routine hassle- free day to day living that we tend to become reluctant and even lazy, to make the effort to re-adapt to our next comfort zone which, if lucky, we get it without much ado or delay.

It is only the initial endeavour that we need to overcome to bring in that change in our lives. Change being the only constant, it brings along with it growth and self improvement and at the end of the day, it becomes all worthwhile.

So next time you meet such a crossroad, do not overthink, just go with the flow and eventually everything will fall into place.

RCGS has been making numerous such efforts of urging members to step out of their familiar environment, their comfort zones and take part in outdoor projects, field trips, picnics and charity programmes sacrificing that one day of the week which goads them to come out of

their homes and give their time and effort for the common good of others. And in doing that, our members are very generous.



# Minutes of the 2378th Weekly Rotary Meeting

The 2378th Weekly Regular Meeting (WRM) was held on 6th February 2026 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the President, Rtn. Priyama Goswami.

After the rendition of the National Anthem, the President warmly welcomed all members and attendees.

A token of love and appreciation was presented to Rtn. Atanu Kumar Chowdhury for graciously offering fellowship. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Rupali Kalita and Rtn. Biswadip Barooah.

The President briefed the house on the Flag Exchange with RI District 3292, Nepal, and discussed proposed collaborative Rotary initiatives, including the formation of a Sister Club and preparation for an MOU. Other proposed collaborations included an HTFI Webinar, Terrace Gardening Webinar, RYE Programme, Microfinance Programme, and Friendship Exchange Programme.

Peace Committee Chair Rtn. Priyama Goswami briefed members on the upcoming Peace Panel Discussion, scheduled to be held on 27th February 2026 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. Additionally, it was informed that

the proposed visit to Parijat Academy, Natun Garbhanga, has been rescheduled to 13th February 2026.

Rtn. Nibedita Barua then introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr. Biswajit Goswami, Area Manager, Tata Chemicals (NE). Following the introduction, the Guest Speaker was felicitated. In his address, Mr. Goswami highlighted the design and implementation of awareness programs on safe drinking water, the installation of Tata Swach Tech Jal Community Purifiers in educational institutions and interior villages, and the provision of safe drinking water without electricity. He also spoke about the development of NGO partnerships, including major collaborations with Tata Trusts, aimed at serving rural communities.

Thereafter, the Secretary, Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh, presented the secretarial report. The total attendance was 32, comprising 23 Rotarians, 5 Anns, 1 Guest, and 3 Rotaractors and sunshine collection was Rs 150/-



# Flag Exchange with RI District 3292

On 6th February 2026, the club deliberated on the proposed Flag Exchange with RI District 3292, Nepal, aimed at strengthening international Rotary fellowship and cooperation. During the discussion, members explored various avenues for collaborative Rotary initiatives, including the formation of a Sister Club and the preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize future engagements. Additional areas of collaboration were proposed, such as organizing an HTFI Webinar, a Terrace Gardening Webinar, implementation of the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Programme, and joint initiatives in Microfinance to support community development. The possibility of a Friendship Exchange Programme was also discussed to promote cultural exchange and mutual learning between the two districts.



Rtn. Kaushalendra Kumar Das of R C Balaju (Nepal) RI Dist. 3292 and Anne Seen Here with our President, Priyama Goswami, Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra, Anne Rajshree, and Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika at Guwahati during the Flag Exchange Programme.



# Minutes of the 2379th Weekly Rotary Meeting

The 2379th Weekly Regular Meeting (WRM) was held on 13 February 2026 at Parijat Academy, Nangun Garbhanga since many Rotarian and Annes were present all decided to have the WRM there. The meeting was called to order by the President, followed by the National Anthem. The President extended a warm welcome to all members, Annes, and guests. Birthday greetings were conveyed to Rtn. Nibedita Barua, and anniversary greetings were extended to Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati & Anne Loni Bhagawati, and Rtn. Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa & Anne Chayanika. The President then presented the pending Teachers' Day memento to Rtn. Dr. Balendra Kr. Das. This was followed by a detailed discussion among members on the upcoming eye camps and CSR projects. After the Secretarial Report, it was noted that a total of 18 members were present. The meeting concluded with the rendition of Jatiya Sangeet, after which the President adjourned the meeting.



# Report on Visit to Parijat Aca

On 13th February 2026, RCGS organized a meaningful and heartwarming visit to Parijat Academy, Natan Garbhanga, a residential school for underprivileged that provides shelter and education to 85 students, including several orphans. The institution functions with very limited resources, being managed by only two teachers and one dedicated caretaker who collectively shoulder all responsibilities for the children.

As part of the TEACH Programme, RCGS conducted an engaging Storytelling and Learning Session aimed at nurturing curiosity, moral values, and scientific temperament among the students.

The session began with Rtn. Gayatri Borthakur, who introduced the students to the Plant Kingdom, with special emphasis on common algae and fungi. Her interactive narration sparked enthusiasm and curiosity among the young learners.

The Literacy Chair, Rtn. Dr. Indira Bardoloi, delivered a fascinating scientific presentation on magnets, highlighting their various uses in daily life along with a brief history of their discovery. The presentation was both informative and captivating, making science enjoyable for the students.

Rtn. P. D. Choudhury then enlightened the students about oil and aviation, explaining how aircraft use fuel to fly and sharing insights into oil exploration in Assam. He spoke about the historic Digboi Refinery, the world's oldest operating oil refinery, commissioned on 11th December 1901, and explained how Digboi derived its name—an account that greatly intrigued the students.

Adding an environmental perspective, Rtn. Jyoti Das spoke about the importance of plantation at home and shared her personal experience of nurturing birds in her mini garden, explaining how feeding birds contributes to a healthy ecosystem.

The President, Rtn. Priyama Goswami, captivated the children with a beautiful story of the crocodile and the monkey, conveying the moral that one should always use wisdom and presence of mind in times of danger.

The storytelling session concluded on an inspiring note with Rtn. Dr. Balendra Kumar Das, who shared profound and meaningful lines from the Mahabharata, highlighting a conversation between Lord Krishna and Arjuna. The students thoroughly enjoyed the lesson and absorbed its timeless values.

Following the session, Rtn. Dr. Balendra Kumar Das and President Rtn. Priyama Goswami distributed chocolates to all the students, bringing smiles and joy to their faces.

RCGS members also extended generous support through donations. A significant number of old clothes were donated by the members. Notable contributions included:

- Rtn. Jayanta Barman – 40 steel plates and Rs 5,000/-
- Rtn. Gayatri Borthakur – reusable clothes and a pressure cooker
- Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika – a new blanket, rice, and clothes
- Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati – a ceiling fan and Rs 1,000/-
- Rtn. Manjusri Barua – Rs 5,000/-
- Rtn. Nibedita Barua – Rs 3,000/-
- Rtn. Rupali Kalita – Rs 3,000/-
- Rtn. Dr. Indira Bardoloi – Rs 1,000/-

A total cash donation of Rs 18,000 (Rupees Eighteen Thousand only) was collected .

After completing the visit, all members proceeded to a scenic waterfall located nine miles from the school premises. The group enjoyed the serenity of nature, captured beautiful moments through photographs, and concluded the day with a delightful lunch together.

The visit was a deeply enriching experience, filled with learning, compassion, joy, and fellowship reinforcing RCGS's commitment to service and community upliftment.



# Rotary February Theme

The Rotary monthly theme for February is Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. This month highlights one of Rotary's seven key areas of focus, encouraging clubs to promote understanding, address root causes of conflict, and support peace projects, education, and peace centers.

## **Key elements for February include:**

**Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution:** Focuses on mitigating conflicts, supporting refugees, and promoting peace through education.

**World Understanding Month:** February is recognized as a time to emphasize international friendship and peace, marking the anniversary of the first Rotary meeting on February 23, 1905.

**Action Items:** Districts and clubs focus on donating to peace building initiatives, hosting workshops, and supporting Rotary Peace Fellowships.

This month serves to remind Rotarians that promoting peace is fundamental to resolving

~~issues like poverty, poor health, and instability~~

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# Rotary in News

In February 2026, Rotary International is heavily focused on peacebuilding, launching a new Peace Center at Symbiosis International University in India and promoting digital literacy and health initiatives, including new pathology labs and bio-toilets in rural areas. Key 2026 updates include the election of a new Rotary Foundation Trustee for 2026–30 and high-level visits to Nigeria focusing on polio eradication.

**New Peace Center:** The Rotary Peace Center in Pune, India, inaugurated on January 26, 2026, focuses on training development professionals across Asia.

**Health and Infrastructure:** Rotary clubs in India are implementing projects such as the SVNRM Rotary Pathology Laboratory (RID 3060) and installing eco-friendly bio-toilets in high-altitude regions.

**Leadership Updates:** G.K. Venkatesh has been appointed to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Trustees for the 2026–2030 term.

**Global Initiatives:** Rotary International President Francesco Arrezzo visited Nigeria in February 2026 to emphasize ongoing vaccination efforts against polio.

**Community Projects:** Ongoing projects include supporting local education, youth chess tournaments, and, as shown in this Facebook video, the Belize Children's Project providing specialized medical care.

# Knowledge is Human

Bijin Jose

Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales remains optimistic about the future of human-curated knowledge, even as AI-generated content spreads online. He remains optimistic about the future of human-curated knowledge, even as AI-generated content spreads online.

About 25 years ago, Jimmy Wales did something that had never been seen on the internet. He introduced an online encyclopedia to the world and asked strangers to build it together. Today, Wikipedia is the go-to website for over a billion people and is quietly powering much of what artificial intelligence (AI) knows, or at least thinks it knows. At a time when the use of large language models (LLMs) are proliferating, unprecedented viral misinformation, and AI systems concocting a book's ISBN number with absolute confidence, Wales continues to be an optimist. The Wikipedia co-founder is not concerned with AI replacing Wikipedia. However, he is more apprehensive about what happens when the humans who verify, debate, and curate information begin to slowly disappear from the equation.

On the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit 2026, we sat down with the co-founder of one of the internet's great public institutions to discuss truth, trust, and why, in the age of AI, the most radical thing one can do is cite their sources.

*Wikipedia is built on the idea of free human knowledge. In the age of AI, where AI models generate instant answers, what does 'free knowledge' actually mean?*

**Jimmy Wales:** Well, for us, the concept of free knowledge has always meant two things. Free of cost, which the AIs are; well, many of the models are free, but the better ones are usually not. So free of cost, but also free in the sense of being freely licensed to be redistributed, reused, and shared by anyone for any purpose. That hasn't changed. Obviously, the information ecosystem is changing -in some ways for good, in some ways for bad.

*AI models are trained on Wikipedia at a massive scale. Does that make Wikipedia, in essence, the backbone of the AI economy or the infrastructure that's quietly propping it up?*

**Jimmy Wales:** Definitely. For many years I've said that at Wikipedia we feel a really strong and heavy responsibility, because Wikipedia has become part of the infrastructure of the world. Now, LLMs are clearly part of the infrastructure of the AI world. And I think it's really important that human-curated knowledge, "knowledge is human" is actually one of our themes for this year, remains central. It's important in no small part because AIs can have terrible problems with accuracy and facts.

I continue to be amused when I reflect on this: what if you had asked me 25 years ago, at the founding of Wikipedia, what the first AIs would be like? I think we all would have said, 'Oh, they'll be completely uncreative, very fact-bound, very matter-of-fact.' It turns out they're really bad at facts, and they're actually quite creative. You can ask them to brainstorm ideas. Because of that, we think that for a very long time, human oversight and curation will be really, really important.

*You've always maintained that AI should support human editors and not replace them. Where exactly do you draw that line, and who gets to enforce it?*

**Jimmy Wales:** For us, everything is enforced by the community through established processes, along with a great deal of deliberation, discussion, and debate. That work is ongoing, particularly as we think about which kinds of tools are useful and which are not.

I really enjoyed one recent story. A German Wikipedia named Matthias came to me and said, "Jimmy, you should see what's been happening on German Wikipedia." He had written a bot, not an AI bot, that scanned German Wikipedia for ISBNs, the international identification numbers for books, and checked them against a database to verify they were correct.

*(Edited excerpts from the conversation with Jimmy Wales, co-founder of Wikipedia by Bijin Jose, at the AI Summit - New Delhi, writing for Indian Express, online edition, Compiled by Rt. Atanu Chowdhury, member, Editorial team RCGS)*

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