



# Udayan



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

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### *From the Editor's Pen ...*



'Freedom...a beautiful word we earn for ourselves by sheer hard work, tenacity and grit. Freedom of self from all constraints, freedom of the mind from all prejudices, freedom of thought and speech from all negativity. That is how one looks at freedom. To be able to make the choices that elevate us to a better version of ourselves.

In the broader context, we reiterate the implication of freedom every year in the month of August. We talk about our free India. Freedom from foreign oppression and subservient selves. We continue to bow in reverence to our myriad of freedom fighters, our martyrs, our brave soldiers and sentinels as we step into our 79th year of Independence.

Let us never forget what price was paid, how many lives were sacrificed at the altar of this revered word called FREEDOM.

Let us understand what it means to be free to be able to breathe and live in a free country that does not talk of war, mayhem and bloodshed but dreams of universal brotherhood and peace.

Rotary gives us this platform to propagate this time-tested vision as we incorporate the ideals in our motto, Unite For Good, in our thoughts and actions.

Udayan of this issue brings to you some memories of pre independent India and the euphoria of 15th August 1947.

As Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore gave us the beautiful thought to let out a prayer in our hearts and understand every word of his iconic poem 'Where the mind is without fear....', let every Indian today resonate these immortal words in their hearts, minds and souls to understand the true value of freedom.

Long live Free India!

### **“Flag Hoisting”**

Rtn Minoti Barthakur

The terms “Flag Hoisting” and Flag “Unfurling” may sound synonymous, but they involve distinct techniques and significance. The two terms are used to describe different flag ceremonies of the Indian Independence Day (August 15) and Republic Day (January 26) respectively.

On Independence Day the flag is hoisted and positioned at the base of the pole. The tricolor is then raised from the bottom to the top by the Prime Minister. Hoisting symbolizes the Nation's freedom from Colonial rule, marking the significance of the historical moment.

Key Differences of Independence Day and Republic Day.

The flag is hoisted (Raised from the bottom) and the Ceremony is led by the Prime Minister of India. It symbolizes India's independence from British rule. In contrast the Republic Day flag is tied first at the top of the pole. It is then unfurled or revealed by the President of India, which signifies the establishment of India as a Sovereign, Democratic Republic under its own Constitution.



## A Cherished Family Memory of India's Independence

I am honored to share a deeply cherished anecdote from my family's history that beautifully captures the spirit of India's independence.

My grandmother often recounted, with vivid emotion, the unforgettable day of August 15, 1947, in her village in Assam. The entire community had gathered — united in joy and hope — to celebrate the dawn of a free India. Patriotic songs filled the air, the national flag was proudly hoisted, and tears of joy were shared among villagers who had long yearned for this moment.

Her memories — of resilience, struggle, and renewed hope — have always been a source of inspiration for me. That day was not just a historical milestone; it was the birth of a new identity, a new purpose, and a collective dream.

As we commemorate our freedom, her story serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made and the values we must continue to uphold. I am grateful for the opportunity to share this personal piece of history.

Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika

### Personal anecdotes of pre-independent India...

My grandfather who resided in Dibrugarh, was a principled man of virtue. His personal life had challenges but the support of a joint family helped him to raise six children without his wife...my grandmother, passed away at her prime leaving my mother, the eldest child, a mere 16 year old or so and the youngest child, just a baby. Her father was involved passionately in the freedom movement spending time in and out of prison.

An interesting fact is that when my mother got married in 1944, she was made to wear khadi bridal attire...banning any foreign fabric into the household. Ma married Deuta at the age of 19 and one interesting episode she used to relate to us is that, special permission was sought to release her father on parole to give away his daughter's hand in marriage.

'Gora Paltans'... British officers wanted to come and see the bride at the wedding. It was an order met with some consternation and disapproval from the family but nothing could be done about it. Quiet compliance was the only way to maintain peace. This was probably to check if the reason of his parole was genuine.

Ma grew up in the ideals of Gandhiji which stayed with her all her life. Such were the days of pre-independence in India at the time.

We only have memories....mostly bitter but now given to enjoy the fruits of freedom to be valued for eternity.

Rtn Anurekha Barkakoti



My grandfather had met SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE at the DC's Bungalow on his visit to Gauhati way back on 31.8.1938.

He met him along with Late Gopi Nath Bordoloi and few other eminent persons from Gauhati to delve on crucial issues concerning Assam's threat of status as a part of India. Pakistan was eyeing the annexure of Assam during that time.

Subhash Chandra Bose with the support of Abul Kalam Azad resolved the issue.

Rtn Rajesh Bhatra



VOICE OF THE NATION  
**ORGANISER**



**When Muhammad Sadullah Government ruled Assam, the Muslim League tried to include Assam in future Pakistan. When Netaji, President of the National Congress, heard about the secret planning of the inclusion of Assam with Pakistan, he immediately sent a senior leader like Abul Kalam Azad to chalk out the situation and solve the problem. Azad returned and reported to Netaji that the possibility was significantly less and unable to solve it. In this state of affairs, Netaji was bound to come to Assam to tackle the crisis**

Subhash Chandra Bose  
সুভাষ চন্দ্র বসু  
31.8.38

Original autograph given to Late Shankar Lal Sharma, grandfather of the compiler conserved by the Bhatra family

## Minutes of the 2352nd Weekly Regular Meeting of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South held on 1-8-2025

The 2352nd Weekly Regular Meeting of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South commenced with warm and cheerful fellowship at 6:30 PM, generously sponsored by Rtn. Dilip Sarkar. At 7:00 PM, President Rtn. Priyama Goswami formally called the meeting to order. The evening opened with the dignified rendition of the National Anthem.

In her welcome address, President Rtn. Priyama Goswami extended cordial greetings to all present, including fellow Rotarians, Annes, and honoured guests. A token of appreciation, consisting of a rose and a chocolate, was presented to Rtn. Dilip Sarkar in recognition of his kind sponsorship of the fellowship.

Anniversary greetings were offered to Rtn. Dilip Sarkar and Anne Lipika, with warm wishes for their continued happiness.

The President then made an important announcement regarding a Free Cervical Cancer Vaccination Camp to be held on 2nd August 2025 at 8:30 AM. This health initiative is scheduled to take place at Sanjivani Hospital, Maligaon and KGMT Hospital, Hatigaon. The programme is jointly organised by the Rotary Club of Guwahati Luit, reflecting the Club's continued commitment to community health and service.

The guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Manidipa Baruah, Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, Gauhati University, was then introduced by Rtn. Kalpana Roy Singha. Following the introduction, Dr. Baruah was felicitated with a traditional Assamese gamusa and a souvenir as a mark of honour and appreciation.

Dr. Baruah addressed the gathering on the theme: "Seeking Professional Aid Can Significantly Help in Dealing with Challenges on Life, Mental Health, and Well-being." She shared profound insights into the importance of mental health and the role of professional guidance in navigating life's complexities. She also provided a concise overview of business psychology. Her talk was both informative and deeply engaging.

Following the address, Secretary Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh presented the Secretary's Report, sharing the meeting's attendance statistics as follows:

- Rotarians – 26, - Annes – 8, - Guests – 4, - Rotaractors – 2, Total Attendance: 40

A sunshine collection of ₹300 was recorded.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn. Rupali Kalita, who extended gratitude to the speaker, the evening's sponsor, and all present for their valuable presence and contributions. The meeting concluded with the melodious rendering of the Jatiya Sangeet, and President Rtn. Priyama adjourned the meeting.



## Minutes of the 2353 rd Weekly Rotary Meeting of the RCGS held on 08-08-2025

The meeting was called to order at 7.04 pm by the President Rtn Priyama Goswami. In absence of the regular Secretary, Rtn Dipak Bhagawati officiated as Secretary.

The National Anthem was rendered.

The President welcomed all the Members, Annes Rotaractors and Guests.

The President then announced that a special Soap Making training to the local women residents of Kharghuli area will be held at 4pm on the 10 th August in collaboration with the *Pragya Mahila Samaj* at Beltol, Kharghuli. Attendance of Rotarians were solicited.

The President also announced that as part of the Independence Day celebration, the national flag hoisting ceremony will be held at RCGS's Happy School Nandi Mikir School at Chachal at 8.30 am on the 15 th August 2025 followed by a musical programme by the IFRM Guwahati.

Certain salient resolutions of the Board of Directors' meeting were also spelt out for appraisal of all members:

i) The monthly rent of Hotel Rajdhani Regency was hiked to Rs. 12980/- from Rs. 11800/- by the hotel which was agreed by the BOD considering it reasonable.

ii) The family of the Thalassemia patient which was supported by RCGS in the last two years is facing acute financial hardship. It was decided by the BOD that, out of the Thalassemia fund, RCGS will provide a Fast Food Cart to the family to carry out a small business to relieve them of their hardship to some extent.

This was followed by a very interesting and informative presentation by in house guest speaker Rtn Jamuna Prasad Sarma. His topic was "A Visit to Sadhguru Ashram Isha Foundation, Coimbatore." His excellent deliberations on his experience kept everyone spellbound. He was assisted by Miss Anuradha Musahary and Mr. Hridayanshu Das, both from the Isha Foundation. There were elaborate interactions on the topic by the Rotarians.

The Secretarial report was then presented: Rotarians present: 23, Ann: 3, Rotaractors: 4, and Guests: 2. Sunshine Collection: Rs. 540.00

The Vote of Thanks was deliberated by Rtn Pritam Mohan with special mention of the in house speaker's presentation.

This was followed by rendering of the *Jatiya Sangeet*. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8.05 pm.



## Minutes of the 2354th Rotary Weekly Meeting held on 15th August 2025

The 2354th Rotary Weekly Meeting (RWM) was held on 15th August 2025 at Rajdhani Regency Hotel. The President, Rtn. Priyama Goswami, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM. Following the National Anthem, the President warmly welcomed all Rotarians, Annes, and guests present.

On the occasion of Independence Day, the President extended heartfelt greetings to all attendees. She also conveyed anniversary wishes to Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta and honored him with a rose for offering the fellowship. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan.

The President then apprised the house of the Skill Development Training Programme organized on 10th August in collaboration with *Pragya Mahila Sora*. A Handmade Natural Soap-Making Training Workshop was conducted at their premises in Kharghuli, near *Beltola Shiv Mandir*, Guwahati. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of 53 attendees, including Rtn. Dr. P. M. Goswami, Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati, three Rotaractors, and 12 members of *Pragya Mahila Sora*.

The President also highlighted the successful Independence Day Celebration and Flag Hoisting Ceremony held earlier that morning at Nandi Mikir Primary School, Sachal Six Mile, Guwahati.

The proceedings were then handed over to the Master of Ceremony, Rtn. Kalpana Roy Sinha. On this occasion, Rtn. Dr. Pritam Mohan delivered a brief address on Independence Day, recalling the celebrations of earlier years, including free screenings of patriotic films. He also emphasized that true freedom must mean freedom from hunger, disease and suffering.

A melodious chorus was then presented by members and Annes, led by Rtn. Dr. P. M. Goswami and Anne Loni Bhagawati. The highlight of the cultural segment was a patriotic dance performance by senior Rotarian Minoti Barthakur, which deeply moved the audience—many attendees were seen with tears in their eyes.

Following this, Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra introduced the Guest Speaker, Brigadier Ranjit Borthakur. He was felicitated by Rtn. Sarat Chandra Oza, after which Brigadier Borthakur addressed the gathering. In his speech, he shared memorable experiences from his army life and recounted a few incidents from his tenure, which were greatly appreciated by all present.

A visiting Rotarian, Rtn. Rekha Goyal from RCJaipur Pearl, also addressed the house and shared a few words about her club's activities. The Secretarial Report was then presented, which mentioned the attendance statistics as follows: Total attendees: 61, Rotarians: 40, Annes: 8, Rotarylets: 1, Rotaractor: 1, Visiting Rotarian: 1. The formal Vote of Thanks was offered by Rtn. Gayatree Goswami. The meeting concluded with the singing of the Jatiya Sangeet, after which the President, Rtn. Priyama Goswami, adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.



## Independence Day Celebrated

The Rotary Club of Gauhati South celebrated Independence Day with a Flag Hoisting Ceremony on the morning of 15th August at Nandi Mikir Primary School. The event witnessed the participation of enthusiastic school children, parents, dignitaries, and members of our club, including Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra, Rtn. Manjusri Baruah, Secretary Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh, President Rtn. Priyama Goswami, along with several Rotarians, Rotaractors, Rotarylets, and many residents from the nearby areas.

The programme commenced promptly at 8:30 a.m. with the Flag Hoisting Ceremony, followed by patriotic performances by the school children. Their spirited participation and vibrant energy added a special charm to the celebration.

As part of the day's activities, RCGS distributed chocolates among the children, spreading joy and reinforcing the spirit of togetherness.

The event concluded on a note of collective pride and a renewed commitment to the ideals of freedom, unity, and service that define both our nation and Rotary's values.



## Glorious Past of the RC Gauhati South

### Part - 2

Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya

During the 2002-03 Installation ceremony, late Rtn. Umesh Goswami announced that the Club had added another feather to its already highly decorated cap. The Club had received the very prestigious Special Achievement Award from RI for its unique "Project Blue Revolution".\*

At the Silver Jubilee Inaugural function held on 18th August, 2002, the State Governor, General (Retd) S.K. Sinha inaugurated another ambitious 'ongoing project' we plan to work on in the coming years. It was the "BLUE, WHITE, AND GREEN REVOLUTION", - blue for water, white for milk, and green for environment and agriculture.

A very important step was the inauguration of a Rotary Trust Office in an apartment donated by Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan.

(THE GAP BETWEEN THIS AND THE LATER YEARS SHOULD BE FILLED UP, SO THAT THERE IS A CONTINUATION OF OUR HISTORY) The Rotary Club of Gauhati South is now in its forty eighth year, and many more very significant projects have been carried out, and many awards won. The writer was also awarded the RI SEVEN AVENUES AWARD. I will be failing in my duties if no mention is made of the very commendable work being done during the last few years by our TEACH COMMITTEES. Another recent project is providing clean and hygienic water to a large number of schools in the greater Nalbari area under a very big Global Grant. Finally, the MOST IMPORTANT FEATHER IN OUR CAP came when our Rtn. MINOTI BORTHAKUR WAS AWARDED the highly prestigious RI SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD a few years back, bringing laurels not only to herself, but to the Rotary Club of Gauhati South as well. Thus, it is clear that the RC Gauhati South has always tried its best to live up to the high ideals of Rotary. We are sure that, with the above record, we can confidently look forward to more significant work in the years to come.

SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH DURING ITS EARLY YEARS:-

- Polio Vaccination camps at Dispur Govt. Health Centre (1977) and Ulubari Urban Health Centre (1978).
- Adopted Barpathar village, Basistha (1977-78), and Sishugram Children's Home North Guwahati (1983-84).
- Implemented a WCS project, - Project Water and Sanitation- under a Matching Grant with a RC in Canada, RID5050, and the Canadian International Development Agency, Rotary International, and the Rotary Club of Gauhati South, (1986-87). Ten deep tube wells and 155 Low Cost Sanitary Latrines were provided at Bonda and Maloibari. The Matching Grant was Rs. 800,000. In the year 1992, Rtn. N.B. Barthakur was honoured for this with a Special Award handed over to him personally by RI President Clifford Dochterman at Bangalore. A Toilet Block was constructed by the Club for the Maloibari Girls' High School in the year 1987-88).
- The club exceeded its share of contribution to Polio Plus, fixed by RI, by 134.08%. The Club was specially honoured for this by RI in the Asia Regional Conference held in New Delhi in 1987.
- Inducted the first Lady Rotarian in RI District 3240.
- Late Anne Nirmali Kakati had the unique distinction of being awarded the prestigious Jean Harris Award. (1997-98).
- Donated 3 Computers with all accessories to local T. C. Girls' High School under a Matching Grant from a Rotary Club of U.S.A. (1999-2000).

## Rotary Club of Gauhati South Undertakes Fingerling Release Drive

Rotary Club of Gauhati South Undertakes Fingerling Release Drive at Deepor Beel Guwahati, July 30, 2025. As part of its annual environmental and ecological conservation initiatives, the Rotary Club of Gauhati South once again reaffirmed its commitment to preserving natural ecosystems by organizing a fingerling release drive on 30th July 2025. The initiative was spearheaded by Rtn Dr. Balendra Kr. Das, who has been a consistent advocate for sustainable biodiversity efforts in the region.

In a dedicated effort to enhance aquatic biodiversity and support the regeneration of native fish populations, the club released 5.5 quintals of fingerlings into Deepor Beel, a renowned freshwater lake located on the outskirts of Guwahati. The released fingerlings included a mix of Rohu, Catla, and several other native fish species, chosen for their ecological and economic significance.

Deepor Beel, a Ramsar-listed wetland, plays a crucial role in maintaining the ecological balance of the region, acting as a habitat for numerous aquatic and avian species. This initiative aims not only to replenish fish stocks for local communities that depend on the wetland for livelihood but also to strengthen the ecological resilience of the lake itself. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from Rotarians and local stakeholders, underlining the importance of community-driven conservation actions. The Rotary Club of Gauhati South reiterated its ongoing commitment to protecting Assam's natural heritage through such sustainable and impactful programs.-



## Skill Development Project

We are pleased to share that our Skill Development Program held on 10th August 2025, was a resounding success!

In collaboration with *Pragya Mahila Sora*, we hosted a Handmade Natural Soap-Making Training Workshop at their premises in Kharghuli, near Beltol Shiv Mandir, Guwahati. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 53 attendees, including Rtn. Dr. P. M. Goswami, Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati, President Rtn Priyama Goswami, 3 Rotaractors, and 12 members from *Pragya Mahila Sora*.

Our resource person, Ms. Tamanna, expertly demonstrated the process of making two varieties of natural soap – Aloe Vera and Rose. The hands-on learning experience was met with great excitement, and many participants expressed their desire for similar workshops in the future.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to making this program a success, and to all participants for their active involvement and enthusiasm.



# 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 Gayatri Bhattacharyya

- *I have been a Rotarian of RCGS since 1993, and an Anne since 1973, when my husband joined the Rotary Club of Shillong.*
- *I was inspired initially by my father, who was a member of RC Shillong. In spite of the fact that we the Rotarylets did not usually attend rotary meetings, once when I was in my senior class in school my father took me to a Rotary meeting. The Guest Speaker that evening was the then US Ambassador to India, Mr. John Galbraith. I was greatly impressed by the ambience of the meeting and its strictly formal atmosphere of dresses and regulations. It was quietly punctual. The Guest Speaker was far beyond my expectations, and that speech was probably my first impression of the true strength and influence of RI in the world.*
- *After that I did not see a Rotary meeting until my husband joined the Rotary Club of Shillong in 1973, by which time Rotary regulations had slackened a bit, and the Annes too sometimes attended the meetings and projects. It was then that I was once again inspired to join Rotary. But we women had to wait until 1989 to be allowed to join as Rotarians*
- *After that, I met many District Governors and Past DGs, and attended many District Conferences, and four Rotary International Conventions, which were truly motivating and inspirational.*
- *So far as the RCGS is concerned, I always say that my fellow members and friends have been of great benefit to me, and that it is Rotary that has kept me young at heart !*
- *It is truly wonderful to be a Rotarian, and it gives me a great sense of pride that I have had the privilege to join this worldwide movement which is committed to bring world peace, health and education to all.*



Rtn Amrit Pal Singh

1994 – 2025, MY 31 YEARS IN ROTARY

- *Every time I went to the late Dr Pratul Ch Goswami's house at Six Miles in Guwahati, my gaze would always go to the mementoes neatly placed in their drawing room. Most of them were from Rotary for the wonderful work being done by Goswami Uncle, both as a Doctor and a Rotarian. (By the way Dr Goswami was one of the earliest members of the Rotary Club of Guwahati). And from here the seeds of Rotary were sown in my mind.*
- *Rotarian. (By the way Dr Goswami was one of the earliest members of the Rotary Club of Guwahati). And from here the seeds of Rotary were sown in my mind.*
- *The turning point came when the late Rtn Kaushik Das who was a regular in our house proposed that I join his Rotary Club as a member.*
- *That set in motion the minimum of three meetings which a prospective member had to attend before his name was finally approved by the BOD. Finally in September, 1994, I was inducted as a proud member of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South and since then the journey continues.*
- *Since I was new in Rotary I knew that I had to learn the ABC of Rotary. I must mention a few names that greatly influenced me at that point of time in our club. The first and foremost was Late Rtn. B. K. Bhuyan. Ah, what a fine soft spoken gentleman, whose words were like honey to the ears. Others who had a great influence on me in Rotary were Lt. Rtn. D. Kakati, Rtn. Ramesh Gupta, Lt. Rtn Jadab Ch. Bhuyan, Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharyya, Rtn Minoti Barthakur. The list is endless.*
- *Being a member of Rotary gives one a global perspective of service, but makes one deeply rooted to one's own area of activity. It's more like "thinking global acting local". Rotary has given us an opportunity to serve the community in many ways. From health camps, eye checkups, administering of polio drops to having animal camps, the list goes on and on.*
- *I believe Rotary has made me a better person by inculcating in me human values of kindness, love, truth, right conduct, peace and non violence. The Four Way test is a perfect guide for us Rotarians to conduct ourselves as citizens of the world.*