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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 ...



Friends today's piece is dedicated to kindness as a very important human quality. In our race for winning the best life for ourselves in this material world, we forget the finer qualities that make us human. Our Rotary ideals teach us to be selfless in love and kindness to serve others. This inspiring narrative is

borrowed from our good old WhatsApp but I don't hesitate to share it with you fellow Rotarians to help

us keep motivated in our mission. Enjoy reading although for some of you it could be a repeat. Nevertheless, it is shared with my perspective. 'My name's Veronica. I'm 80. I live alone in a small apartment above a hardware store in Brighton. I don't have much, but I get by. Pension. A little savings. My garden on the balcony, mint, thyme, and one stubborn tomato plant. Every Friday, I go to the same supermarket. Same time. Same cart. I buy tea, bread, canned soup, and always... always a chocolate bar. My treat.

One rainy afternoon, I was in line behind a young woman. She had two toddlers with her. One was crying

softly. The other was holding a stuffed rabbit missing an eye.

She put everything on the belt, milk, eggs, rice, frozen peas, diapers. Her hands were shaking.

When the cashier said the total \$38.76, she froze....

She pulled out a card. It declined.

She tried another. Declined.

She whispered something to the cashier. "Can I take the milk and bread out?" Her voice broke.

That's when I did something without thinking.

I handed my card to the cashier. "Put it all on mine."

The woman turned. Eyes wide. "No, I can't"

"You can," I said. "We all need help sometimes."

I smiled. Grabbed my small bag. Left before she could thank me.

I didn't do it for thanks.

I remembered being young. Broke. Scared. Raising my son after my husband left. I once stood in a line just like that... and no one helped.

So I paid. And went home.

But here's what I didn't know. That woman, her name is Leila wrote about it on a community Facebook group that night. "A stranger paid for my groceries today. An older lady with grey hair and kind eyes. She didn't lecture me.

Didn't ask for anything. Just paid. And walked away. I cried in the car. My kids ate dinner that night because of her. If you know her, tell her... thank you isn't enough." Someone commented "Wait - was she wearing a yellow raincoat?" Another "She lives above Thompson's Hardware, right? I see her watering plants every morning." Within hours, people started showing up at my door. Not reporters. Not cameras. Neighbors. They brought flowers. A jar of homemade jam. A hand-knitted scarf. One teenager left a note "You paid for her. I'll pay forward, I'm tutoring kids at the youth center free now." Then came the letters. A nurse "I stayed late to comfort a patient last night. Because you reminded me kindness matters." A man recovering from addiction "I returned a wallet I found. Thought of you." And Leila? She visited me last week. Brought her kids. We sat on my balcony. Drank tea. The little one gave me the one-eyed rabbit. "He likes you," she said.

I still go to the store every Friday. Now, sometimes, someone pays for my chocolate bar. And I let them. Because kindness doesn't end. It just waits ... for someone brave enough to start it. And if you're wondering you don't need money to give hope. You just need to see someone. Really see them. And say, without words, "I've been there. I'm with you."

That's how the world gets better. Not in big speeches. Not in headlines. But in quiet moments. Between ordinary people. Who choose to care."

Let this story reach more hearts ... I don't know where this story has originated nor do I know if the 80 year old Veronica of Brighton even exists but I do know for a fact that social media via WhatsApp has succeeded in tugging at the heartstrings of millions and stirred humanity to ponder and wonder that the world, after all, is also a kind place.

February is peace and conflict resolution month

February is designated as Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month in the Rotary calendar. During this month, Rotary clubs worldwide focus on projects that foster understanding, address the root causes of conflict, and promote peace through service, education, and community-driven initiatives.

Key aspects of February's Rotary focus include:

Theme - Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention:

Emphasizing that peace is built through action, dialogue, and addressing issues like poverty, inequality, and lack of education.

Rotary's Birthday: February 23rd marks the anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting in 1905, often celebrated as Rotary Day.

Support for Peace Centers: Highlighting the work of Rotary Peace Centers, which train professionals to prevent and resolve conflict.

Action-Oriented Projects: Clubs are encouraged to engage in initiatives that promote community harmony and international understanding.

It is a critical time for clubs to strengthen their commitment to creating a more peaceful world.

Minutes of the 2380th Weekly Rotary Meeting

The 2380th Weekly Rotary Meeting commenced with a warm and delightful fellowship graciously offered by Rtn. Rupali Kalita.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Rtn. Priyama Goswami, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem. The President extended a heartfelt welcome to all members and expressed sincere appreciation to Rtn. Rupali Kalita for offering the evening's fellowship, presenting her with a token of gratitude. Anniversary greetings were conveyed to Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika and Anne Jayashree.

The President announced the upcoming Eye Camp scheduled for 7th March 2026 at S.B. Deora College and shared updates regarding the Peace and Conflict Panel Discussion to be held on 27th February 2026. The President then invited Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati to present a briefing on the club's recent visit to Parijat Academy, Natun Garbhanga (13th February 2026).

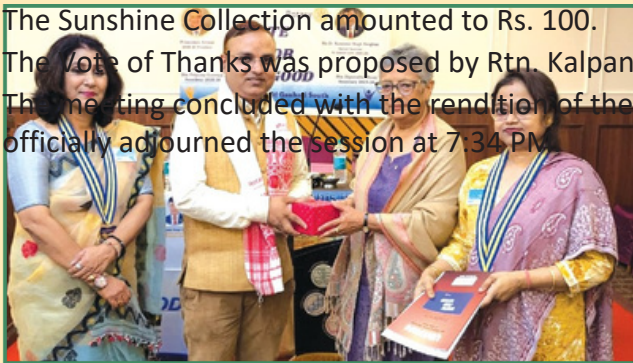
Rtn. Rupali Kalita introduced the Guest Speaker, Prof. Shri Manas Das, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University. Following his felicitation, Prof. Das delivered an insightful address on the topic, "From Smog to Heatwaves: The Twin Threats to Our Future," highlighting critical issues related to climate change and environmental challenges.

The session concluded with an engaging interaction between the speaker and attendees. The Secretary's Report was presented by Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh. Attendance included 26 Rotarians, 3 Annes, 1 Rotarylet, 3 Rotaractors, and 3 Guests, making a total of 36 participants.

The Sunshine Collection amounted to Rs. 100.

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn. Kalpana Roy Singha.

The meeting concluded with the rendition of the Jatiya Sangeet, and President Rtn. Priyama Goswami officially adjourned the session at 7:34 PM.



Minutes of the 2381th Weekly Rotary Meeting

The 2381st Weekly Regular Meeting of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South was held on 27th February 2026 at Hotel Rajdhani Regency. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM by the President, followed by the rendition of the National Anthem.

The President warmly welcomed the guests, Rotarians, and Rotarylets, and expressed sincere appreciation to Rtn. Nibedita Barua, Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika, and Rtn. Mohim Ch. Deka for hosting the evening's fellowship. Birthday greetings were extended to Rtn. Nibedita Barua, Rtn. Devajyoti Hazarika, and Rtn. Mahim Ch. Deka.

The President informed the gathering about the upcoming CSR project, the formal handing over of **Swargarath** to Kalia Kanai Smashan Samiti, Guwahati, scheduled for 28th February 2026, and requested members to be present. She also announced the Eye Camp to be organized on 7th March at S.B.

Deorah

College at 10:00 AM.

The Secretary's Report was presented by Rtn. Dipanwita Ghosh, reporting the attendance of Rotarians 36 and Annes 5. A formal Vote of Thanks was proposed by Rtn. Manjusri Baruah. The meeting concluded with the rendition of the Jatiya Sangeet and was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

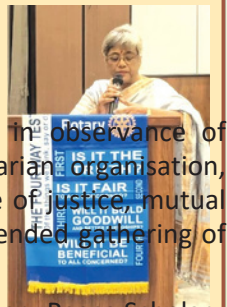


Panel Discussion

The Rotary Club of Gauhati South organised a Panel Discussion on Contemporary Challenges to Peacebuilding at Hotel Rajdhani Regency on 27 February 2026. The programme was held in observance of Rotary's Peace and Conflict Resolution/Prevention Month. As an international humanitarian organisation, Rotary International affirms that peace is not merely the absence of war, but the presence of justice, mutual understanding, and opportunity. The event was organised in this spirit and drew a well-attended gathering of members, professionals, and invited guests.

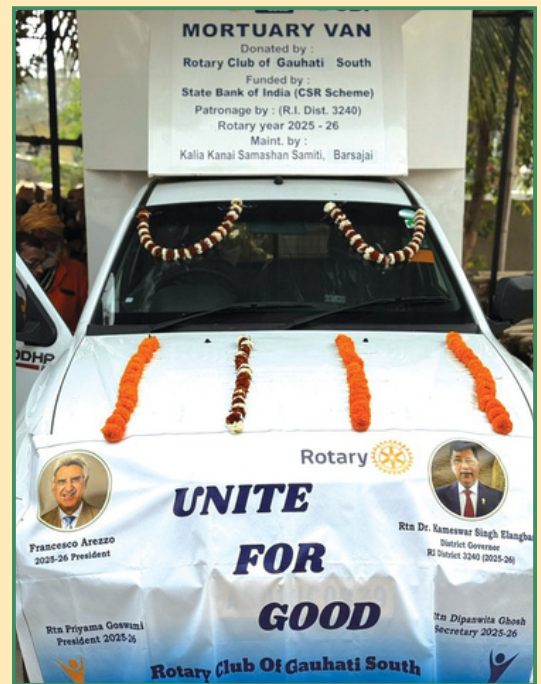
The discussion was moderated by Sri Prasanta Rajguru, Editor-in-Chief of Prag News and a Rotary Peace Scholar. The distinguished panel comprised Rtn Manas Chaudhuri, Past District Governor, Dist 3240, and Padma Shri awardee from Shillong; Prof. Shiela Bora, two-time Fulbright Scholar and former Professor of History, Dibrugarh University; Brig Ranjit Barthakur (Retd.), Indian Army veteran, author and columnist; and Rotaractor Babita Paul, a young lawyer.

The panel deliberated on multiple dimensions of contemporary peacebuilding, offering diverse perspectives shaped by experience in journalism, academia, public service, the armed forces, and youth leadership. The discussion was both thought-provoking and engaging, followed by a lively interaction with the audience. The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering dialogue, understanding, and sustainable peace initiatives within the community.



RCGS in collaboration with SBI

The Rotary Club of Gauhati South (RCGS) in collaboration with State Bank of India (SBI), formally handed over our CSR initiative, **Swargarath**, to the Bhetapara Cremation Ground on 28th February, 2026. The occasion marked a truly significant and meaningful milestone for our club. Top officials of SBI and a number of Rotarians of RCGS graced the occasion.



THE PELS and AGLS in Bolpur, Santiniketan 21 st

Rtn . Manjusri Baruah

PELS and AGLS was held on 21 st and 22 nd February 2026 at Bolpur , Santiniketan. The President Elect Seminar was truly a Learning Seminar because all members , we were were about 30 members, were apprised of our duties and responsibilities of a President in a Club.

On the 21 st morning DG Dr. Kameswar Sing Elangbam welcomed all present. DLF PDG Nilesh Agarwal gave an interesting speech WHY WE ARE HERE . The RI President 's message was also read out by DGE Ashim Kanti Adhikary. Next was an interesting and very impressive address by the Chief Guest , Sri Chandra Sekhar Ghosh, Founder and MD of Bandhan Group. District Membership Chair, Rtn. Ramesh Garodia gave an interesting talk on attracting and engaging new Members, Retention and extension and New Member Education.

On the Plenary Session DRE PDG Subhashish Chatterjee spoke on TRF and Grants. DGN Dr. Danny Dutta spoke on how strategic planning create lasting impact. District 3240 Foundation Rtn. Debajyoti Ghosh, District Chair , CSR, spoke on Empowering Communication through Responsible Partnership. District Chair DEI, Rtn. Nikhilesh Upaydhaya spoke on awareness to action. DGND Dr. Pallavi Majhi said on Financial Obligations Of Clubs DAY 2 started with a photo session.

Then the session started with DRFC PDG Subhashish Chatterjee telling us about District and Club Bye Laws. Rtn. Rtn. Sujoy Mitra spoke on District Publication and Bye laws. DRCC Abhijit Choudhury and DRR

Pintu Sharma spoke on Rotaract The Next Gen Leaders of Rotary. Rtn. Didhita Singha said on Youth Exchange and building bridges across borders. Rtn. Pawan Suhasaria spoke on the District Budget . Rtn, Abhishek Dokania, District Chair RYLA spoke on RYLA, The Leadership Launchpad.

With the Valedictory Session where Certificates were given the PELS Two Day Seminar came to a close.



National Science Day, 2026 celebration

Doordarsan Kendra, Guwahati arranged a live discussion program on 28th February at 5-30 pm on the occasion of National Science Day celebration. They invited Rtn Dr Indira Bardoloi, the Chairman of Literacy Com of RCGS and Dr Pranayee Dutta, Retd zProfessor of Gauhati University for the discussion, wherein Mr Mrinal Hazarika anchored the program. The theme of the discussion was "Women in Science : Biksit Bharat".

During National Science Day, 2026 celebration, Guwahati Planetarium invited Rtn Dr Indira Bardoloi, the Chairman of Basic Education & Literacy Committee of RCGS to deliver a lecture on "Women in Science: Biksit Bharat". Rtn Indira delivered the presentation with some scientific slides. Students from Cotton University, Handique Girls' College, Jatiyo Vidyalaya, Pub Guwahati High School and other public were present there.

