

Udayan

43rd Installation, 2020-2021, 3 July 2020

Souvenir



Rotary Club of Gauhati South
RI District 3240

Rotary theme 2020-21



RtnHolger Knaack, revealed the 2020-21 presidential theme, Rotary Opens Opportunities, to incoming district governors at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA, on 20 January, 2020.

Rotary isn't just a club for people to join, but rather "an invitation to endless opportunities," said Knaack. He emphasized that Rotary creates pathways for members to improve their lives and the lives of those they help through service projects.

"We believe that our acts of service, big and small, create opportunities for people who need our help," Knaack said. He added that Rotary creates leadership opportunities and gives members the chance to travel the world to put their service ideas into action and make lifelong connections. "Everything we do opens another opportunity for someone, somewhere," said Knaack.

UDAYAN



ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH RI DISTRICT 3240

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION ON THE 43rd INSTALLATION OF
ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH (2020-21)

3 July 2020

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Rtn. Atanu Choudhury

Rtn. Swapanjyoti Sarma



PAUL P. HARRIS
1868-1947

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ROTARY

These principles have been developed over the years to provide Rotarians with a strong, common purpose and direction. They serve as a foundation for our relationships with each other and the action we take in the world.

Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Avenues of Service

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of

Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

- Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.
- Community Service encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.
- International Service exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
- Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as [Rotaract](#), [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#).

Rotary has designated months to help clubs Develop meeting agendas, projects, or public image campaigns based on these special occasions.

The Concept is to give all the clubs of the District a Ready Reckoner of the types of Service Projects, which could be indulged, during the Year, and help plan the activities of the year, mostly based on the Rotary Calendar i.e. Rotary Designated Months.



*Members of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South pay their
respectful homage to the memory of*



Rtn. Digendra Nath Baruah
1922-2020



Rtn. Justice Arun Chandra Upadhyay
1951-2020



Rtn. Aruna Sarma
1948- 2019



Anne Gauri Talukdar
1945- 2020

This SOUVENIR

*has been
Sponsored
By*

*The Members of
The Rotary Club of
Gauhati South*

Contents

● Message : Governor		9
● Message : President, Rotary International		10
● Message : Dr Bharat Pandya		11
● Message : Subhasish Chatterjee		12
● Message : Rtn. Debashish Das		13
● Message : Rtn. PDG Debasish Mitra		14
● Message : Rtn. Abhishek Jitani		15
● Introducing Rotary International President 2020-21		16
● Introducing Rotary District Governor, 3240, 2020-21		18
● Introducing Our Chief Guest		20
● A Few Lines From The Outgoing President	Rtn Dr.Amrit Pal Singh	23
● From the Editor's Desk	Rtn. Priyam Goswami	27
● Know Your Incoming President	Rtn Giti Bujarbaruah	29
● Know Your Secretary	Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma	31
● Secretary's Report For Ry 2019-2020	Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati	33
● Office Bearers : Rotary Club Of Gauhati South Rotary Year: 2020-21		40
● Roll Of Presidents And Secretaries		46
● Rotary Goes Virtual	Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya	48
● Lockdown : Its Impact On School Children	Rtn. Manjusri Baruah	50
● Proactive Rotary And Covid 19	Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi	53
● Panacea for the Global Economic Crisis	Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma	56
● Focusing On A & C Verticals Of Teach	Rtn. Dr R N Mazumder	64

● All In A Dream	Rtn. Malatee Barua	69
● Changing Status Of Women	Rtn. Millie Kakati	70
● A Pioneer Of <i>Atma Nirbhar</i>	Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury	75
● বসুন্ধৰাৰ কথাৰে	ৰটাৰীয়ান ড° ৰেণু গোস্বামী	78
● পঢ়াশালিত এগৰাকী মৰমিয়াল মাতৃ	বিশ্বদীপ বৰুৱা	80
● Snippets of Some Activities of ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH		85
● ROTARY CALENDAR		89



Prof. Jagdish Mukhi

RAJ BHAVAN
GUWAHATI



Message

I am happy to know that the 43rd Installation Ceremony of the Rotary Club of Guwahati South is being held on 3rd July, 2020 and a souvenir is going to be published synchronising with the event.

Rotary Club has its rich legacy of putting in humanitarian services with far reaching affect. I am sure Rotary Club of Guwahati South will take up the mettle in carrying forward the humanitarian functions to touch the lives of everybody who really need them.

My best wishes to the new band of office bearers of the Rotary Club and the editorial team of the souvenir all success in their endeavour.

Dated: June 16, 2020


(Prof. Jagdish Mukhi)



Holger Knaack

President, 2020-21
Rotary International

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MESSAGE

13 June 2020

Rotarian Giti Bujarbaruah

Dear Rotary Club of Gauhati South Officer,

I congratulate you on your installation as a club officer for 2020-21.

I hope the upcoming year will be challenging, yet fulfilling. Your leadership team will collaborate to build a strong, engaged club dedicated to strengthening your community, both locally and globally. You will use your years of experience as a Rotarian and as a leader to provide inspiration, motivation, and guidance as we work together to achieve our goals for Rotary.

Use this opportunity to grow your membership, to work closely with Rotaractors, and to continue to improve our virtual meeting skills. Now is the time for change in Rotary to meet the world's challenges.

In Rotary, we are not afraid to confront some of the world's most critical and widespread humanitarian issues. When we vaccinate an infant against polio, teach a young adult how to read, or bring water to a village by building a well, we are creating a better world for future generations. We serve the global community, and we're just getting started.

It is honor to work beside you as we guide our fellow Rotarians to another successful year. I am relying on you as *Rotary Opens Opportunities* in 2020-21.

Sincerely,



Holger Knaack
President, Rotary International 2020-21

Dr Bharat Pandya

RI Director



MESSAGE

I am happy to share some thoughts with you all through this souvenir. Our clubs are where the good work of Rotary happens. The true strength of Rotary is the Rotarians working sincerely in their clubs and communities. I salute the Rotarians of Gauhati South for the good work that they do.

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought home the fact that good Health is our most precious possession. The pandemic has caused casualties and grief and has sent economies on a downward spiral. But “This too Shall Pass” If we look at the positive side virtual meetings have become the new norm. Sitting in our houses we are still connected socially. Of course “Physical Distancing” is here to stay for a long time.

The time has come for Rotary to think about working together. I see Joint meetings and projects between Rotary Clubs, partnerships with government & other NGOs as a good way forward for Rotary. Joint projects can result in far more being accomplished and can create more positive impact in the community. I urge Rotarians to focus on Membership growth, retention and carry out need-based, meaningful service projects.

I am sure that the club will continue to reach greater heights in the coming year. My best wishes to the President & President-Elect and all the Rotarians and Rotary Family for the year ahead. Be The Trailblazers as Rotary Opens Opportunities.

Enjoy Rotary Enjoy Yourself

Dr Bharat Pandya

RI Director, 2019-21.



Subhasish Chatterjee

District Governor
RY 2020-21, District 3240

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subhasish18@gmail.com

July, 2020

Dear Rotarians,

Welcome aboard to Rotary year 2020-21. A year in which Rotary will give us the opportunities to Serve, to Expand, to Grow and many more and thus our world leader for 2020-21 Holger Knaack has given us the theme "**Rotary Opens Opportunity**".

Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher said, "Change is the only constant in life" & In the year 2020-21, we have changed our way of operations a lot from the traditional way due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is suffering from.

With my years of experience with this wonderful and most trusted organization, I can confidently say that nothing can stop us to perform our best in keeping the Rotary Flag high under whatever circumstances we might be in, POLIO is an instance, in which we Rotarians have played a key role in almost eradicating it from the entire globe (except two countries) and I am quite confident that we together will have lots and lots of opportunities to serve the mankind in fight against COVID-19 as well.

We Rotarians are known to be "People of Action" and as such the priority in our Plan of Action should be the following :

- 1) Increase Our **Impact** - People of Action are effective problem-solvers
- 2) Expand Our **Reach** - People of Action activate and inspire one another.
- 3) Enhance **Participant Engagement** - Strive to understand the needs of others.
- 4) Increase Our **Ability to Adapt** - People of Action are inventive, entrepreneurial, and resilient.

Pooja joins me in congratulating the entire team of 2019-20 under the leadership of a dynamic outgoing President that we could Connect the World and my best wishes to the new team of 2020-21 which will find ways to Open New Opportunities.

Looking forward to an eventful year ahead with you all.

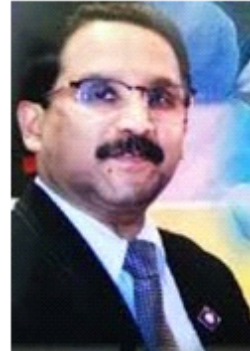


Subhasish Chatterjee (Raja)
District Governor, 2020-21 II Zone 6 II IN

Rtn. Debashish Das

District Governor 2019-20

RID 3240



MESSAGE

Greetings to all my fellow Rotarians of Gauhati South,

I hope that this message finds you all in the best of health and spirits. Another tenure winds down and that signals the beginning of another Rotary Year. So it is that time of the calendar when we reflect on what has been achieved while looking ahead at the next batch of leaders.

It will be your 43rd installation ceremony and that shows that the club has many tales to tell. Gauhati South is known for its passion and zeal when it comes to Rotary work and over the last four decades, it has entrenched itself as the pillar of the community. I congratulate the new batch of club leaders –President Giti and her team. You will be continuing a well-known legacy and you have inherited a great reputation. I also wish you good luck as you take the mantle in these most tumultuous of times. I am confident that it will bring out the best in you all. The ideals of Rotary are in your veins and I am sure that the club will lift itself to even greater heights.

To the team of 2019-20, I thank you on behalf of the District leadership for everything you have initiated and achieved in the past twelve months. It has not been an easy year but you can rest assured that you have tried your best and helped the club move forward despite the challenges that the world threw upon us.

We shall meet again and I look forward to the interactions and conversations that we will have,

Warm Regards

Debashish



PDG Debasish Mitra

National Committee Member-India National Polio Plus Committee
D 3040, 3240, 3261, 3262 & 3291
District Membership Chair 2019-22



MESSAGE

President
Rotary Gauhati South
R I District 3240
2020-2021

Dear President Giti Buzarbaruah,
Greetings!

My hope in sharing this note with you is that it will inspire and motivate you to be all that you can be; that even when you face challenges to persevere; to encourage you to set your goals and stay focused on achieving them; and a reminder to realize that you are born to succeed. And, most importantly as you work to achieve your goals enjoy life!

With the awakening of a new dawn on 1st July 2020 the Team 2020-21 will commence its journey onto the world of service ceremoniously under your dynamic leadership. Work hard in silence & let success make the noise.

I am reminded of those wonderful words of Emily Dickson “If I can stop one heart from breaking I shall not live in vain – If I can ease one life the aching or cool the pain or help one fainting robin into its nest again – I shall not live in vain.”

Papia& I wish you and the Members of your Club a great journey ahead as you celebrate the Mantra for the year – Rotary Opens Opportunities.

Stay Safe – Stay Blessed.

Warm regards

Debasish

Rtn. Abhishek Jitani

Assistant Governor, Zone – VII, 2020-21

R.I.District. – 3240

Home Club : Rotary Club of Guwahati City

Cell : 99542 37862, 70023 36862

Email : rtnabhishekjitani@gmail.com



Date : 11th June' 2020

Dear Rotarians,

Warm Rotary Greetings,

It gives me immense pleasure in penning down a few words for the special edition of the annual souvenir to commemorate the Installation Ceremony of Rotary Club of Gauhati South.

My best wishes to the new set of officer bearers under the leadership of Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah, who will not only Serve but will lead, inspire and encourage more volunteers to join in all activities and endeavors that the club plans.

Challenge yourself to make a difference this Rotary Year 2020-21, something that will hold a special place in your memories. Make it memorable that will make you proud of, a life experience that gives you a fantastic feeling.

Increase our membership, identify and invite potential Rotarians not only for recognition purposes but members that will understand, appreciate and are willing to be part in the pursuit of Rotary Goals and Objectives. As saying goes, “There is strength in number and in unity guarantee more Opportunities to Open to Club’s SUCCESS”.

Give your best, create strategies that will retain membership, inject Vitamin “C”- CARE, CONCERN AND COOPERATION. This is the best formula that strengthens bonding and harmony that drives camaraderie and unity.

Many congratulations to Rtn. Amrit Pal Singh and his team for the magnificent work in the Rotary Year 2019-20.

Yours – in – Rotary,

Rtn. Abhishek Jitani

Assistant Governor–2020-21

Zone–VII, R.I.Dist.-3240

INTRODUCING ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT 2020-21



Rtn Holger Knaack

Holger Knaack is a member of the Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Mölln, Germany. A Rotary member since 1992, Knaack has served Rotary as Treasurer, Director, Moderator, Member and Chair of several committees, Representative for the Council on Legislation, Zone Coordinator, Training Leader, and District Governor. He is an endowment/major gifts adviser and was co-chair of the Host Organization Committee for the 2019 Rotary International Convention in Hamburg.

Knaack is the CEO of Knaack KG, a real estate company. He was previously a partner and general manager of Knaack Enterprises, a 125-year-old family business. He is

a founding member of the Civic Foundation of the City of Ratzeburg and served as president of the Golf-Club Gut Grambek. Knaack is also the founder and chair of the Karl Adam Foundation.

Knaack has urged members to embrace change so that Rotary can expand and thrive. Rather than setting a specific target for increasing the number of members, Knaack said he is asking clubs and districts to think about how to grow in a sustainable and organic way. He wants clubs to focus on keeping current members engaged and adding new members who are the right fit for their club. “We need to stop thinking of new members as people we can mark down as statistics and then forget about,” Knaack said. “Every new member changes us a little bit. That person brings a new perspective, new experiences. We need to embrace this constant renewal. We will grow stronger as we learn from new members.”

Knaack pointed to Rotary’s Action Plan as a compass that can guide clubs as they evolve. He recommended that every club have a strategic plan meeting at least once a year. At that meeting, clubs should ask where they want to be in five years and how they can bring more value to their members.

Knaack also wants to see more women in leadership roles and see Rotaractors play an integral role in how new clubs are formed and run. He encouraged district leaders to create new club models and rethink what it means to be in Rotary, and allow young people to be the architects of these new clubs.

“We have to be open to new approaches, and creating unique clubs for younger people is just part of the solution,” said Knaack. “Let Rotaractors decide what kind of Rotary experience works best for them. These young people are bright, energetic, and they get things done.”

In stressing the need for Rotary members to embrace change, Knaack noted that time won’t slow down for Rotary: “We will not let rapid change defeat us. We will capture this moment to grow Rotary, making it stronger, more adaptable, and even more aligned with our core values.”

Knaack and his wife, Susanne, are Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation and members of the Bequest Society.



INTRODUCING ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR, 3240, 2020-21



Rtn Subhashish Chatterjee

Rtn. Subhashish was born in a traditional Bengali family. After his initial education at Darjeeling from he was graduated, he did his post graduation in Computer Applications from Delhi University with distinction. As a student, he was an active member of Rotaract and had served his Home Rotaract Clubs and District in various capacities.

In 2001-02 he was nominated by Rotary Club of Siliguri to represent Rotary District 3240 as a Team Member of a Group Study Exchange (GSE) to District 2040, Italy. The following year he joined the Rotary Club of Siliguri.

A popular face in District 3240, he has served his club and district in various important positions and has discharged his duties very diligently. He has been an active facilitator and trainer in several President Elects Training (PETS) and Assistant Governor Training Seminar (AGTS)P on Rotary online tools. Rtn Subhashish has visited many clubs outside district 3240 as an invited guest speaker. Popularly known as “cyberman” in his home district, he was invited as a trainer on Rotary online tools for DGE’s training seminar for zone 6A (old) at Kolkata 2015-16. He has served at the national level as an active member of the Promotional Committee of the Literacy Hero Awards National under RILM

for two consecutive years, 2015-16 and 2016-17, and was also an active member of organizing committees of Rotary South Asia Summit held at Hyderabad in 2013 and RI Presidential Conference in Kolkata, 2016.

Professionally, Subhasish is a software developer. Having initially set up his own entrepreneurship at Siliguri, he shifted his base office to Kolkata and is currently engaged in Hyderabad in projects of Google India.

Apart from Rotary, his interests are travelling, cricket, photo shooting and motor rallying. He represented the Bengal under 19 Cricket Team at the national level. Associated with many organizations, he is a founder member of Computer Society of India, (Eastern India Chapter), Life Member of Indian Red Cross and International Youth Hostel Society, among others.

A great supporter of Rotary Foundation, Rtn Subhasish believes in contributing to it and availing grants from it for sustainable community based projects. He is a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow. He is married to Pooja, also a Paul Harris Fellow, and a scholar from Kalyani University, and a teacher by profession. Anne Pooja is also the recipient of “Rotary International Spouse Support Award” in Rotary Year 2014-15. This couple aspires high to serve the community through Rotary.



*Watch your thoughts; they become words.
Watch your words; they become actions.
Watch your actions; they become habits.
Watch your habits; they become character.
Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.*

INTRODUCING OUR CHIEF GUEST



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 3291 INDIA
GOVERNOR 2006-2007
PDG DEBASISH MITRA Major Donor
ROTARY CALCUTTA DHAKURIA, INDIA
NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER-
INDIA NATIONAL POLIO PLUS COMMITTEE
District Membership Chair D 3291 2019-2022

Rotarian Debasish Mitra, born in a reputed family in Kolkata, West Bengal, did his schooling from the St Paul's School, Darjeeling. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Science from the University of Calcutta with distinction. After Post-Graduation in Business Management, he completed a Diploma in Interior Designing. He is the Chief Executive of Mitra Technical Service a firm that undertakes Turnkey Interior Designing & Furnishing projects for MNCs & Indian Corporate. The firm also imparts training to Interior Designing students from reputed Institutions. He is also the Director of MitraWebtechPvt Ltd a firm engaged in Stock Broking & Financial Investments. He is a member of the Interior Decorators Association-ABID, Builders Association of India & the Eastern Chamber of Commerce.

He joined the Rotary movement 33 years back in the year 1987 as a Charter Member of Rotary Calcutta Dhakuria D 3290 India. He served as Club President in 1996-97 & achieved a record membership growth of 120% for his Club. He served the District twice as the Asst. District Secretary in 1995-96 & 1997-98, Dist Chairman-Matched Clubs in 1998-99, Zonal Representative in 1999-2000, the only District Secretary during 2000-2001 & served as Assistant Governor for four consecutive years 2001-2005. He served as District Governor during 2006-2007 of the then District 3290 India/Nepal, the largest District in the Rotary world. During his Governorship the District raised an all-time record contribution of 5, 08,000 USD to TRF. He is recipient of RI Membership Award & Four TRF RI Zonal Awards for his contribution. The District achieved a net 8% growth in membership & added six new Rotary Clubs in India & Nepal. He initiated the first Medical

Mission to Africa from the District to Sierra Leone in 2007 & has been active in organizing a number of such Medical-Missions to Africa.

He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award & RI Presidential Citation for outstanding performance as District Governor. He has also received RI Presidential Recognition for Membership Growth & Four Avenues of Service Citation. He was instrumental in the organizing of various major International Events & has taken an active role in the organizing of RI Peace Conference 1999 as Chair-Hospitality, the Centennial Rotary Institute 2004 in Kolkata as Chair-Cultural Events, Promotion Committee Member for 100th RI Convention Birmingham, Institute Secretary-2010 Rotary Institute Bangkok & as Chair–Accommodation 2011 Rotary Institute Kolkata. He was Secretary for the Rotary South Asia Conference on Literacy at Kathmandu & Member-Promotion Rotary Institute Hyderabad 2012, Chair-House of Friendship Rotary South Asia Summit Hyderabad, Chair-Publication Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit 2013 New Delhi, Chair- Venue Management Presidential Conference 2016 Kolkata & many other events in the Rotary World.

Debasish is currently serving as National Committee Member-India National Polio Plus Committee for 5 Rotary Districts, DMC 2019-22 for his District D 3291, TRF Stewardship Special Advisor D 3262 & Chair Indo-German Rotary Inter-Country Committee. Served TRF as ARRFC 2014-16 Zone 6A, as ARC Zone 6A, during 2010-11, ZC - Rotary India Literacy Mission 2014-18. He has served as RI Zone 5 & 6A as the Zonal Coordinator-East for the Heart to Heart Committee & Member Advocacy Task Force National Polio Plus Committee. He served as Trainer for DGNs Training Seminar at 2008 RI Institute, Agra & for District Trainers Training Seminar at 2011 Rotary Institute Kolkata. He was selected by TRF to serve the Arch Klumph Society Resource Committee for India as a member during 2009-10, Member – Reach Out to Africa Committee in India & Member-200 Million \$ Challenge Committee for India. Debasish was selected as a Member-Nominating Committee for Selection of RI Director 2011-13 Zone-6..Served as Member–Editorial Board of Rotary News 2009-12. He was DRFC 2009-13, DMC 2008-09 for his District 3291, Trustee & Stewardship Chair- Eastern India Rotary Welfare Trust. He has received several invitations from other Rotary Districts across the country & abroad as Speaker & Trainer. He is Ethics Committee Member of RN Tagore International Institute of Cardiac Sciences & Honorary Member of MahaveerSevaSadan.

Debasish&Papia successfully represented RI President & the First lady as RIPR to

D 3132 India, RIPR to D 3500 Taiwan & RIPR to D 3281 Bangladesh. They were also Aide to PRIP Sakuji Tanaka, PRIP Wilf Wilkinson, PRIP DK Lee, PRIP Ron Burton & PRIP Kalyan Banerjee during their visits to Kolkata D 3291 on various occasions.

Debasish represented his school & college teams in Cricket & also participated in various other cultural events. He is a member of the Calcutta Club, Calcutta Rowing Club & Dalhousie Institute. He has traveled all over the world & has attended RI Conventions & Global Peace Forum Berlin.

Debasish&Papia are a Major Donor couple. Papia is working as Director of MitraWebtechPvt Ltd a firm engaged in Stock Broking & Financial Investments. She has served as Moderator & Speaker at District Assembly, District Conferences & at Rotary Institute Spouses Session. Served as Member – HOF Committee Rotary South Asia Summit Hyderabad, Publication Committee Rotary South Asia Literacy Summit New Delhi & Venue Management Presidential Conference Kolkata. They are blessed with only son Avishek married to Dipthi both MBAs & working in Melbourne Australia.



A FEW LINES FROM THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

As I sit down to pen my experiences as President of Rotary Club of Gauhati South for the year 2019-20, hundreds of thoughts and moments rush through my mind. The tension of a Friday evening, framing the agenda for the meeting before hand, reaching the venue on time during the rush hour (I am probably the one who has to cover the maximum distance to reach the venue), welcoming members, waiting for the Guest speaker to arrive, the sumptuous fellowships by members, especially the home made *larus* and *pithas* during the Bihu season, wearing the Presidential collar, singing of the National Anthem with pride, greeting members on their birthdays and anniversaries week after week, listening to the views and suggestions of members, also sometimes a song or poetry or a pep talk by the guests, members or Anne's, and then the chit chat which continued even after the meeting got over. Great bon homie indeed among the club members.....

Beautiful moments indeed. But then, all good things must come to an end.

However before I start, at the very outset let me pay my homage to three Rotarians of our club who left us for their heavenly abode, namely, Rtn. Aruna Sharma on 2nd August, 2019, one of our senior most members Rtn. DigendraNathBaruah on 16th May, 2020, and Rtn. Arun Chandra Upadhaya on 2nd June, 2020. May God grant eternal peace to their souls.

As my Presidentship comes to an end, let me put in perspective the highlights of some of the major activities of our club during this term. We had a gala installation night on the 26th of June, 2019, where I was handed over the charge of Presidency from the outgoing President, RtnDilip Sarkar. The chief guest for the occasion was Prof Dipak Kumar Sharma, the noted Sanskrit Scholar and Vice Chancellor of Kumar Bhaskar Varma Sanskrit and Ancient Studies University, Nalbari. Immediately after taking over, the first thing we did was to provide relief to the flood affected people in the Panikhaiti/

Chandrapur area on the 21st of July, 2019. We also sponsored 10 shelter kits (each kit costing Rs. 6,000 each) for the flood victims in various parts of the state. Here I must thank not only the Rotarians, but also their family members from all corners of the globe for contributing liberally towards the relief measures undertaken by our club to help our unfortunate brethren in various parts of the state.

As part of our TEACH program our club organised a skill development programme on 25th July, 2019, for Neo Literates under Rotary India Literacy Mission (RILM) in association with Handique Girls' College and SrimantaSankardeva Sangha, Silpukhuri, Guwahati, where 25 women from under privileged families were taught the art of candle making by Mrs ChitralePhukan, a professional candle maker.

The official visit of the District Governor (DG) is a big occasion for a club. We were fortunate to have Rtn. Dr Debashish Das, the DG of RI Dist. 3240 with us on 16th August, 2019. In his address to the members he expressed his happiness and appreciated the work done by Rotary Club of Gauhati South, it being the second oldest club in Guwahati, and hoped that the club would attain greater heights in future by helping the under privileged sections of the society by implementing the ideals of Rotary.

A plantation programme was held on 16th November, 2019, on the Gauhati Medical College Campus which was inaugurated by the Principal of GMC. The function was well attended by a number of Rotarians. Thanks to the initiative taken by Rtn Dr. Rabindra Nath Mazumder.

In between, we had some wonderful guest speakers in our club. These included Dr. Bobbeeta Sharma, a well known name in Assamese television and films, the great mega star of yester years Mr Nipon Goswami, Mr. Rupam Talukdar, a famous accordion player and music arranger for the legendary bard of Assam the late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, Dr. Ilias Ali, a surgeon who was conferred the **Padma Shri** in 2019 by the President of India, for his contribution towards raising awareness about family planning and birth control measures in the backward areas of Assam, Rotarylet Rakesh Kakati, a student counsellor from IIT, Guwahati, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Rekha Devi, a plastic and cosmetic surgeon of Gauhati Medical College, Dr. HiteshBaruah a well known name in the healthcare industry in the North Eastern Region and the CEO cum Managing Director of North East Medical Care and Research Centre (NEMCARE), Mr. Alok Kumar, Project Manager(PM), NHAI, and many others. The contribution of our own members was no less. Here special mention must be made about Rtn. Minoti Barthakur, Rtn. P. D. Choudhury, Rtn. Dr. Rabindra Nath Mazumder the Club Trainer, Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi, Rtn. Atanu Kumar Choudhury, Rtn. BiswadipBarooah, Rtn. BhupendraNath Das, Rtn. Dr. Ranjan Kumar Bora, Rtn. Jayanta

Madhab Baruah, Rtn Dr, Manoj Kumar Choudhury, Rtn. Dr. Sunil Saikia and many others for their wonderful thoughts on various issues and subjects of common interest.

The Late Nitin Barua and the Late Rtn. D. K. Kakati and Anne Nirmali Kakati Vocational Awards were given away on 31st January. The Chief Guest on the occasion was Prof. Dr. Mukulesh Baruah, Director, Assam Institute of Management. It was also attended by Dr. Purnima Baruah, Dept. of Microbiology, Jorhat Medical College & Hospital. Special thanks to senior Rotarian Rtn. Dr. Malatee Barua and Rtn Dhiraj Kakati.

On 2nd February, 2020, a Free Mega Health Check Up & Cancer Detection Camp was organised at Charipukhuri M.E. Vidyapeeth, Barhata, near Baihata Chariali in Kamrup District. Special thanks to Rtn. Dr. Anil Kumar Mahanta and his colleagues from Gauhati Medical College for making the camp a great success.

As part of the Happy School Project initiated by our club, Rotary Club of Gauhati South took up New Gauhati Adharsha Prathamik Vidyalaya at Bamunimaidam, Guwahati as its Happy School Project in 2019- 20. With a collection of Rs.1, 17,000/ from members and Rs.2 lakh from Premier Cryogenics Ltd. (PCL) owned by Mr. Abhijit Barua, the club successfully turned the school into a Happy School. Apart from two class rooms measuring 20ft by 20 ft, 12 toilets (for both female and male students) were also constructed. Books, furniture, toiletries and playing equipment for children were handed over to Mr. B. Mahajan, Headmaster and Mr. GirinLahkar, G.B. member on 15 February 2020 by the President of the club and CLC, Rtn. Indira Bardoloi in the presence of the Assistant Governor Zone 7, Rtn. Rohini Pran Changkakoti, Director, PCL, Mrs. Anamika Choudhury and other Rotarians of the club.

On 8th March, 2020, an Animal Health Camp was organised at Tribeni Chowk which was led by Rtn. Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia and his colleagues from the Veterinary College. A number of Rotarians were also present on the occasion.

With great pleasure I would like to inform you all that during the year three new members namely Rtn. Ranjana Gogoi, Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan and Rtn. Probin Borthakur were inducted into our club. A few more prospective persons were identified but unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control, they could not be inducted during the current Rotary year. I hope the new President shall make efforts to induct them as early as possible.

And then the pandemic struck the world. From early February, 2020, there were reports of a virus infecting people across the world and taking a heavy toll of lives. We in India were initially not affected much, but gradually as the virus spread a complete lockdown

was declared by the Government from 25th March, 2020, bringing normal lives almost to a standstill. Our last physical meeting was held on 13th March, 2020. However we Rotarians took this up as a challenge and on the 3rd of April, 2020, we had our first E-meeting attended by 18 members and 3 Annes. Even during these challenging times our club was able to provide relief to about 220 families at 3 villages in Rani near the Assam Meghalaya border. Here I would like to thank Rtn. Sweta Pegu and her friend Mr. P. Mahanta for his help and assistance in transportation and the smooth distribution of relief materials.

Here it would be in the fitness of things to thank all the members of the Board of Directors, Rtn. Dhiraj Kakati Vice President, Rtn. Dr.Chandan Rajkhowa, Rtn. Jayanta Goswami, Rtn. Manjusri Baruah, our Secretary, Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati, Rtn. Nawajyoti Sarma, the Treasurer, Rtn. Millie Kakati our wonderful editor of our souvenir and bulletin “Udayan”, and our Sergeant- at-Arms Rtn. M. C. Deka. Special thanks to Rtn. Arman Ahmed, Rtn. Dr.Tejudra Bardoloi, Rtn. Bijay Ketan Barua, Rtn Rajesh Bhatra, Rtn Dr. Bhupen Baruah, Rtn. Kaberi Bhuyan, Rtn Tultul Bora, Rtn George Chacko, Rtn. Adib Ahmed, Rtn Anamika Choudhury, Rtn Dr. Balendra Kumar Das, Rtn. Dr. Purnananda Das, Rtn Anjana Goswami, Rtn. Ram Mohan Hazarika, Rtn Subhas Ch Goswami, Rtn. Pradeep Jain, Rtn. Ranjana Bhuyan Lahkar, Rtn. Sahenshah Akbar Musrikin, Rtn Dr. Nareswar Sarma, Rtn Swapan Jyoti Sarma, Rtn Priyama Goswami and Rtn Gitanjali Kalita.

Finally before I end, I would like to offer my gratitude to Rtn. Raj Kamal Bhuyan, Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharyya, Rtn Renu Goswami, Rtn. Anjana Buragohain, Rtn Satinder Anand, Rtn Prasanta Kumar Das, Rtn Dr. Priyam Goswami and Rtn Sweta Pegu (my guardian Angel, Mentor and Guide) for their constant suggestions, advice and guidance. I would like to thank my parents (unfortunately my father passed away on 19th August, 2019), my wife and First Lady Dr. Satinder Kaur, my children Angad and Amrita. As I pass over the baton to our new President Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah, I wish her and the new team all the very best for the coming Rotary year 2020-21. May our club shine under her leadership and attain greater heights in fulfilling the principles of Rotary. My best wishes to all.

Jai Hind.

Rtn Dr.Amrit Pal Singh

President, RCGS

18.06.2020

From the Editor's Desk



As we usher in the new rotary year, we do so with mixed feelings. In the midst of extraordinary challenges and countless personal tragedies, an air of uncertainty looms over our heads. Covid 19 caught the world totally unprepared and came as a shock to societies, health systems, economies and governments worldwide. This unprecedented pandemic has thrown up several insights about our current reality. The fact that as human beings we are all connected and that a virus knows no borders has been amply demonstrated. But even as we are all connected, we are not equally vulnerable. We have seen how structural injustices and distributional inequalities have impacted resilience, among others. This is as true of first world countries like the US where it is disproportionately affecting the poor and the vulnerable or indeed in India where we have seen migrant labour under tremendous distress. The Covid19 crisis has brought the issues of health and social security to the forefront and it is bound to reshape our world as it continues to unfold. While the fallout from the crisis is both amplifying familiar risks and creating new ones, change at this scale also creates new openings and we will hopefully find new ways to build a better world order.

Experts tell us that the virus is here to stay...at least until a vaccine or a cure is available. But in the meantime, life has to go on, and in the prevailing situation, we have no option but to adapt ourselves to the changing circumstances and adjust to the new norms.

One of Rotary's main areas of focus is fighting disease. As such, we already support efforts to promote proper hand washing techniques, teach people other ways to stay healthy, and supply training and vital medical equipment to health care providers. At a time such as this, the importance of safe sanitation and hygiene to prevent diseases and live a healthy and fulfilling life is more obvious than ever before. Rotarians worldwide are helping health authorities communicate lifesaving information about COVID-19 and donating protective

gear and other supplies to clinics and hospitals that are under strain because of the pandemic.

Significantly, The Rotary Foundation offers several options that Rotarians can use to help care for and protect people in their own communities and others around the world. Rotary’s disaster response grants provide a fast and effective way to respond to local events. The Rotary Foundation recently added COVID-19 projects to its list of eligible activities for these grants. Each district can apply for one grant (of up to \$25,000) to address COVID-19, depending on the availability of funds. Disaster response grants are funded by the Rotary Disaster Response Fund to help districts around the world respond to disasters. Further, global grants remain an excellent way to make a transformative impact in a community. If medical equipment is needed in order to respond effectively to COVID-19, global grants can help pay for these items. The Foundation is waiving the 30 percent foreign financing requirement for any new global grant that addresses COVID-19.

Adapting to the changing circumstances, Rotary clubs worldwide are using technology to remain active. Although clubs and districts are cancelling or postponing their in-person meetings and events, they are still finding ways to keep up their fellowship, reimagine their service efforts and respond to the pandemic through online portals. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that *Rotary Connects the World* in innovative ways.

We welcome our new office bearers with warm wishes, and as RI President has said, with concerted effort “we will capture this moment to grow Rotary, making it stronger, more adaptable, and even more aligned to our core values”.

I am immensely grateful to all who have sent us their goodwill Messages, all our members who have spared their valuable time to contribute meaningful articles for this souvenir, the members of the Editorial Board for their help, and the advertisers for their continued support. Finally, our thanks are due to Shri Ganesh Printers for getting this volume ready within such a short time.

Rtn. Priyam Goswami

KNOW YOUR INCOMING PRESIDENT

Rtn Giti Bujarbaruah



Rtn Giti Bujarbaruah joined the Rotary Club of Gauhati South in 2009. Initially she was not very regular in attending the club sessions, but her experience of global Rotary fellowship at the Rotary International Convention at Bangkok in 2012, brought about a change in her. She was awestruck by Rotary's incredible potential and she could visualize the clear reflection of how Rotary is moving forward in its second century with renewed vigour and energy. Back home, she has started taking active part in Rotary activities.

Giti Bujarbaruah has done her Master's degree in philosophy and worked as a college teacher for a brief period. But hopping from one place to another because of her husband's transferable postings, she could not continue her career as a teacher.

Giti Bujarbaruah is a prolific writer, writing both in English as well as in Assamese. Her passion is to work for the upliftment of the rural underprivileged communities. Apart from arranging to impart primary education to the children of these communities in several places, she has also been instrumental in providing medical aid to women and children in these areas. She has also facilitated free cataract operations of more than 1600 elderly people at Shankardev Netralaya, Guwahati. Over the years she has also arranged multi specialist medical camps in the rural areas. She has also been trying to reach out to the youth in rural areas by arranging training for them in several skill development programmes like farming and fishery development.

Giti Bujarbaruah looks after the elderly section of the communities with the help of the Geriatrics doctors of Help-Age, an international organisation. She also initiated the

establishment of the North Eastern chapter of Help-Age India, by inviting them from India's head office in Delhi and starting the office at her own residence. The North East has immensely benefited from the work done by this organisation. Whenever she visits London, she works for the elderly with Help-Age in their International Head Office, London.

Giti Bujarbaruah is a life member of Heart Care Society, Guwahati Chapter and ARDSI, Guwahati Chapter.

Her hobbies are Interior Designing and floral arrangement. She has been judging flower arrangement competitions all over Assam since the last 20 years and has also been giving demonstrations on flower arrangements.

So far Giti Bujarbaruah has attended 5 International Rotary Conventions in various Continents, where she has had the opportunity of making new acquaintances, opportunities for networking and world understanding and of course, opportunities for her own personal growth.

Giti Bujarbaruah's spouse late Dr. R. D. Bujarbaruah was a well known surgeon. They are blessed with a daughter, Dr. Pallavi Bujarbaruah, who is a Consultant in the National Health Service, London.



❖ "Ideas have unhinged the gates of empires."

Paul Harris

KNOW YOUR SECRETARY

2020-21

Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma



Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma was born at Guwahati and studied at M.C.M.E.School,Uzanbazar, and Cotton Collegiate Higher Secondary School, Panbazar, before graduating in Civil Engineering from Assam Engineering College,Jalukbari, Guwahati. He did his Post Graduation in Watershed Management and Flood Control from the Assam Engineering College.Subsequently, he has acquired a Post Graduate Diploma in Water Resources Engineering from the University for Foreigners in Rome, Italy.

RtnNawajoiti started his service career in 1979 as Assistant Engineer (Civil) in the Assam State Electricity Board and served in various Central Government departments on deputation until he took VRS in 2012. He served in the Brahmaputra Board for 9 years and National Water Development Agency for 5 years. Both of these are under the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. As an Executive Engineer, he was posted at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. Prior to his retirement, he worked in theNorth Eastern Council, Shillong, under the Ministry of DoNER as Adviser, Irrigation Flood Control & Water Management, Power & Health, for 5 years and later as a Consultant for one year till his retirement.

After the retirement he joined an International NGO, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage(ICID), at NewDelhi as Consulting Engineer for one year. Subsequently, he joined a Danish company, Danish Hydraulic Institute (India)Water& Environment based at NewDelhi, and was posted at Guwahati as Regional Manager to act as Institutional Strengthening Consultant for the Water Resources Department, Assam under an Asian Development Bank Funded project. He was engaged in this project for nearly four years.

He then served as Advisor(Water Resources) toGeoKNO,a company from Hyderabad

responsible for conducting Aerial and LiDAR survey . Presently he is engaged as River Training Expert and Project Monitoring Consultant in the Brazilian company, SYSTRA, which is responsible for the construction of the new extra dozed cable stay bridge over the Brahmaputra at Guwahti, a project under PWD, Assam, funded by National Development Bank formed under BRICS countries.

He is married to Binita a post graduate in Anthropology from Dibrugarh University and B.Ed. from Guwahati. They are blessed with a daughter who is presently serving as Lecturer in the Groningen University, Netherlands, after acquiring her PhD from the Indiana University, Bloomington, USA. Her husband, Dr. Abhimanyu Bhattacharya, is also serving as an Assistant Professor in Marketing Management in the same University.



With Best Compliments From



SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR RY 2019-2020



The change of guards of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South for the Rotary Year 2019-2020 took place at the 42nd Installation Ceremony on the 27 June, 2019. Outgoing President Rtn. Dilip Sarkar and his team handed over the baton to the new President, Rtn. Amritpal Singh, ceremoniously in the hall of the Hotel Rajdhani Regency while Mr Dipak Sarma , Vice Chancellor, Kumar Bhaskar University, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The new team of office bearers for 2019-20 comprised of the following Rotarians:

President	-	Rtn. Amritpal Singh
Secretary	-	Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati
Directors	-	1.Rtn. Sweta Pegu 2.Rtn. Chandan Rajkhowa 3.Rtn. Manjusri Baruah 4. Rtn. Bibekananda Saikia 5. Rtn Jayanta Goswami
Treasurer	-	Rtn. Nabajyoti Sarma
Seargent-At –Arms	-	Rtn. Mahim Ch. Deka

Moreover Rtn. RN Mazumdar was assigned as the Club Trainer, Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan the Foundation Chair, Rtnindira Bardaloi to continue as the Chairperson of TEACH and Rtn. Millie Kakati as the Editor for the coming year.

The membership figure at the beginning of the term stood at 67 Rotarians. The Rotary Club Of Gauhati South lost three eminent Rotarians during the year. 2 August'19 was the day when Rtn. Aruna Sharma, active member and former senior teacher, Don Bosco, left for her heavenly abode. On 16 May, 2020, RCGS lost the most prominent and eldest member of RCGS, Rtn. Digendra Nath Baruah, who was the first Chemical Engineer from Assam. Another Rotarian, Justice Arun Chandra Upadhaya (Rtd.) of the Gauhati High Court breathed his last on the 2June, 2020. All RCGS members join hands for the peace of the departed souls.

Three members, viz., Rtn. Ranjana Gogoi, Rtn. Probin Borthakur and Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan took oath as new members during the year.

1. During this session, amidst the turbulence of various situations prevailing, altogether 48 regular meetings could be held, of which only 35 physical meetings were held and 13 virtual meetings had to be held through video conferencing. The average attendance of the members in the meetings was above 50%. Interesting topics were discussed by both the in-house members and the guest speakers. A Club Assembly was held on 16th August and six Board meetings were held during the year.
2. A galaxy of non Rotarian Guest speakers adorned our meetings this year. On 25-7-2019, we had speaker SmtiBobeeta Sharma who gave a vivid journey of her life and her upbringing as an economically independent woman. She also shared her experience in the field of art and cinematic, teaching, her interaction with the various strata of society. On 1.8.19, Mr. Jayanta Sarma, Heritage Conservation activist, gave a scintillating picture of the rich heritage of the Northeast in various fields and the methods of conservation. He covered the fields of architecture, culture, fabric, oil, etc. , Mr. Dibyajyoti Saikia, social activist, on 23-8-19 gave a picture of a section of the society where the minds of ignorant simple people are infested by superstition which lead to serious wrong belief and crimes such as witch hunting, lynching etc. He shared his experience in reaching out to the victims in the remote areas and giving a healing touch to those in need. He elaborated how some exploit these people for their vested interest .

Mr. Sarat Das CEO of Gramin Sahara, on 6.9.19 spoke extensively on Social mobilization, Institution Building and Capacity Building. His presentation included Agro-Horticulture based livelihood promotion and Irrigation facility creation. He also spoke on how GS promotes Livestock and Animal Husbandry, Skill Development, Spice Promotion, and how the agro based people are benefitted by Micro finance. When on 27.9.19, Dr. Anjanjyoti Chowdhury, eminent physician, humourist, dramatist, singer took the dias, the members were enthralled with the wit and humour dissipated by him, and laughter and applause reigned the hall. He was given a standing ovation and all members joined him in singing Bhupen Hazarika's *Manuhe Manuhor Baabe*. Speaker Mrs. Eli Changkakoti on 11.10.19 spoke of the effect of Reiki and how Reiki has benefitted those who have

experienced the process. A very interesting personality Mr. Gobin Bordoloi a physically handicapped person due to a severe electrical accident was a guest on 18.10.19, emphasised, on a mother's selfless sacrifice and dedication in raising the family in spite of many odds. This inspired him and he has started a mission "MAA" to honour all such mothers. He has also rehabilitated young men with ill habits and motivated them to lead honourable livelihood. On 01.11.2019, we were fortunate to have Group Cptn Atul Baruah amongst us, who is a retired Air Force officer and now have opened an old age home 'Seneh'. Other eminent guest speakers were the Karyakarta of Vivekananda Kendra on 8.11.19 on "Ek Bharat Vijayi Bharat". On 15.11.19, Mr. Alok Kumar, Regional Officer, NHAI spoke on the progress of the Highway. Dr. Anup Das, Oncologist enlightened the members by his Power Point Presentation on 27.12.19, Alpana Banikya on 3.1.20 spoke on the necessity of insurance. Moreover Mr Rakesh Kakati, an experienced Students' Counselor in the IIT Guwahati, put up a very interesting presentation 'Scope of Psychological Counseling in the present times' and kept the house enthralled. Eminent Plastic Surgeon and Burn Specialist Dr. Seemarekha Baruah spoke on Awareness & prevention of Burn Injuries on 29.11.19. Other prominent guests that kept the members entertained were Nipon Goswami, on 10.1.19, veteran actor of Assam noted for his various roles in films like Dr Bezbaruah, Koka-Deuta Nati Hati and many more, Dr. Hitesh Baruah, on 13.3.2020, Managing Director of Nemcare Hospitals and successful music director, singer, lyricist and actor.

3. In many of our Regular Weekly Meetings, in-house deliberation on interesting topics on science, literature, social causes, current affairs, art and culture was a regular affair. Travelogues were shared by Rtn Satinder Anand on his visit to Manilla, Rtn. Sweta Pegu on Sri Lanka and another one on Turkey (PPP: Love You Turkey), Rtn. Manjusri Baruah on Egypt (PPP: Egypt: a Tourist's Delight), Rtn. Jayanta Madhav Baruah on his experience in Argentina and Rtn. Atanu Chowdhury on Orissa which was devastated by Cyclone. PD Chowdhury stressed that proper club etiquette should be maintained. Rtn. Minoti Borthakur a devout inspirer for cancer patients spoke on her works, and proposed to take up a project on Cancer against Global grant. An award winning 25-minute documentary film on her dedicated works was screened specially for the club members. A Power Point presentation was put up by Rtn Ranjan Bora as he spoke on Plant Tissue Culture. Rtn. Priyama Goswami was a designated speaker on International Women's Day. With the onset of COVID-19,

related topics on the pandemic virus snowballed and were discussed at length. Medical topics were put up by Rtn AK Mahanta, Rtn. RN Mazumdar and Rtn. MK Chowdhury, and the topics on social economy by Rtn. Atanu Chowdhury, Rtn Rajesh Bhatra, Rtn Satinder Anand, Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan, Rtn Tarun Bardaloi and many others.

Rotarylets were also not behind in the club activities. Rotarylet Tamanna Ahmed gave a short talk on “The World we wish to see” followed by a short video film. Rotarylet Adhisree recited her self-composed poem “Traffic”. Rotarylet Angad Singh was enthusiastically helpful while distributing flood relief in Panikhaiti.

4. Amidst the usual business, Rotarians did not lag behind in celebrations that came in from time to time. FAMILY FRIDAY was celebrated on 25.10.19 where Rotarians, Annes and Rotarylets took part with their talents in singing, recitation, jokes etc. Kati Bihu was celebrated on 18.10.19 with members enlightening on the significance of the celebration. Rich tributes to Dr. Bhupen Hazarika were offered on 8.11.19. Pre Magh Bihu celebration was held on 10.1.20 with mouth watering ethnic snacks. *Silpi Divas* on 17 Jan was celebrated remembering Rupkonwar Jyotiprasad Agarwalla. As part of the Independence Day Celebration, a Health Check up Program was conducted for the inmates of Kalyani Nivas, a destitute girl shelter home. It was a lively program with girls singing patriotic songs, punctuated by quiz on matter related to independence, culture and sports. The Rotary Club of Gauhati South donated 50 schoolbags, 50 pairs of socks besides fruits and edibles. This followed a Health Check up of inmates numbering 73

5. TREE PLANTATION: Rtn. Dr RN Mazumdar and President Rtn. Amritpal Singh led the successful execution of the Tree Plantation programme held on 16th November at the Guwahati Medical College campus at Narakasur hill. Participation of 13 Rotarians alongwith the faculty of GMC including the Principal and Vice Principal was very encouraging. 400 saplings of Nayantara, Chandni, Aricapalm and Dwarf Croton were planted.

6. PROMINENT ROTARIANS’ VISIT : The 2061st meeting marked the District Governor 3240 Rtn. Dr Debashish Das’s visit to RCGS. The evening comprised of the Club Assembly followed by the Regular Weekly meeting. Addressing the gathering, the District Governor spoke on a spectrum of works and projects that need to be taken up in the coming Rotary year. He suggested erecting WINS and gender segregated toilets in schools. He stressed for active participation in utilizing the Global grant for a Blood bank

and Eye Hospital at Chatribari, and in District grant for vending machines and incinerators of sanitary napkins. He also stressed on the role of the club in RI citations, Foundations, etc and advised to set a target for the coming Rotary year. RCGS was also honoured to have the District Governor elect RtnSubhashish Chatterjee in a meeting on 22.11.19. A visiting Rotarian from RC South Minneapolis, US, Milind Dutta also attended a meeting on 20.12.19.

7. RI LITERARY MISSION ACTIVITIES : The TEACH Project Activities (RCGS)during the year was very encouraging.

- a. Nation Builder Award (NBA): 11 Teachers from 11 schools were felicitated on 13.08.2019
- b. Adult Literacy Programme : RCGS arranged a Skill Development Program on 25 July 2019 for 24 nos. of neo-literate women where training for Candle Making was imparted. The training was conducted by Ms ChitraleePhukan, a well known entrepreneur in this field. The trainees later manufactured candles on their own and marketed them successfully.
- c. *New Guwahati Adarsha Prathamik Vidyalaya* located in Bamunimaidam, Guwahati, was selected for the HAPPY SCHOOL Project. The following works were done in the said school:

Two Class Rooms of 40 ft X 40 ft, and a verandah 5.5 ft X 40 ft have been constructed. 15 nos. of toilets for teachers, girls, and boys have been cleaned and painted. A white board, two black boards, 14 pairs of Desk benches, 10 chairs, a steel Almirah for Library books, a steel rack for the Teachers' Common room, 100 nos. of Library books and magazines, Plastic buckets, mugs, Phenyl, Soaps, Harpic etc. Play materials such as a) Foot Ball 2nos. b) Carrom Boards 2 nos. c) Skipping Ropes 6nos. d) Ludo 2 nos. e) Chinese Checker 1 no. f) Discuss Throw Disc 1 no. have been handed over to the school authority

Hand Washing system with basins have been set up.

8. VOCATIONAL SERVICE

- a. RCGS even sent its feelers to faraway Rajasthan to implement Rotary service. A Legal Aid Camp was held in Sikar, Rajasthan on the 24th Dec '19 organized jointly by the Rotary Club of Sikar (District 3054) and Rotary Club of Gauhati South. A *'Menstrual Hygeine and Sanitation Awareness Program* was also held in a school

in *Sikar*. Both the events were represented by Rtn Rajesh Bhatra from RCGS.

- b. Candle making training imparted to 24 Neo-literates of Guwahati.
- c. Award day was 31st January, 2020. This year's Late Devakanta Kakati Vocational awardee was Mr GobinBordoloi of Lakhimpur and Late Nirmali Kakati Vocational awardee was Mrs. Jumi Deka Chowdhury of Guwahati. The Late Dr. Nitin Barua Memorial Award which is being conferred to the one excelling in MD (Microbiology) every year went to Dr.PirboxRafiqul Hussain.

9. COMMUNITY SERVICE

- a. This year, the floods in Assam were unprecedented and devastating. On the 21st July 2019, Flood Relief was distributed to 300 families in Bonda and Panikhaiti areas with Dry food packets comprising of *Cheera*, *Satu*, baby food etc and Sanitary napkins. The villagers came in large numbers to receive the packets
- b. SHELTER KITS: As second phase, RCGS members sponsored 10 nos. of 'Shelter Kits' costing Rs 6000.00 per kit comprising of tarpauline, steel trunk, bed clothes, apparels, towels, mosquito nets, Utensils, stove, toiletries etc to the affected people through our District Disaster Team.
- c. A Medical Camp was held at Panikhaiti on 25th Aug 2019 as a post relief to the flood victims of that area. Rtn. Dr Anil Mahanta led a team of doctors and treated 204 patients on that day.
- d. A Mega Health Check up and Cancer Screening Camp that was held on 2nd February 2020 at Charipukhuri M.E Vidyapeeth Barhata by RCGS in collaboration with the HardattaBirdattaJyesthaNagarikSantha, GauhatiMedical College Hospital, B. Baruah Cancer Institute and Archana Phukan Memorial Cancer trust. The camp had a team of 28 Doctors from different Hospitals. Altogether 246 patients were examined. A Menstrual Hygiene talk By Archana Phukan memorial Cancer Trust team was also delivered and Sanitary Napkins among the young girls were distributed. Rtn. MinotiBarthakur, gave a very lively presentation on Cancer awareness and motivated the patients to lead a tension free life.
- e. The Animal Welfare Camp held on the 8th March Sunday at Tribeni Chowk near Baihata Chariali received tremendous response. A total number of 230 cows and 25 goats were vaccinated against Diseases and were administered de-worming drugs.

Fight Against Covid-19:

- f. On 9th April 2020, RtnSwetaPegualongwith President Rtn Amritpal Singh braved the Covid-19 atmosphere and visited Gorh Khonia village near Rani in the Assam Meghalaya border and also another village near Dharapur to distribute groceries to the needy villagers amidst lockdown. Their effort was acclaimed by all.
- g. On 17th March 2020, in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, RCGS donated 100 pieces of PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) kits to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital for the health workers in the current situation. The items were handed over in presence of the Principal and the Superintendent of the institution.
- h. On 27-04-2020, as part of prevention of spread of Covid-19 RCGS handed over 1000 masks, 480 nos of sanitizer bottles and 800 soap pieces to the Commissioner of Guwahati Municipal Corporation under the District Disaster Relief.
- i. On 30-04-2020, RCGS distributed food (Rice, Atta, etc.) items alongwith other essentials to the girl inmates of the Navajeebon Shelter Home at Borihat near Mirza as part of relief for the needy during the current pandemic situation.
- j. June 2020 saw another bout of flood for which RCGS was quick enough to launch relief in the villages in Bonda area. Again braving the Covid, Rtn Rajesh Bhatra and RtnSwetaPegu distributed relief materials to the affected villagers on 13-06-2020.
- 10. BULLETINS: During the reporting year the editor published 16 fortnightly regular bulletins, but owing to the pandemic restrictions 4 issues of E-bulletins in soft form had to be published. One Installation Souvenir was also published.
- 11. ELECTIONS 2020-21: Rtn PD Chowdhury, the Election Officer of the club conducted the elections for the Rotary year 2020-21. All nomination papers were found valid. The results are confirmed thus:

(a) President-Elect for RY 2021-22: Rtn Dhiraj Kakati (b) Vice President for the RY 2021-22: Rtn Rajesh Bhatra (c) Secretary for the RY 2021-22: Rtn Nawajyoti Sarma (d) Treasurer for the RY 2021-22: Rtn Prasanta Kumar Das (e) Directors for the RY 2021-22: Rtn Dr. Anil Kumar Mahanta, Rtn Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia, Rtn Tarun Chandra Bordoloi, Rtn Dipak Bhagawati and Rtn Rajkamal Bhuyan.

I take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all members of the Rotary Club of Gauhati South for guiding me on various occasions and steering the club smoothly during the RY 2019-20 despite all odds due to the pandemic Covid-19 and other such issues.

Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati

OFFICE BEARERS
ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH
ROTARY YEAR: 2020-21

PRESIDENT	: Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah
VICE PRESIDENT	: Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra
PRESIDENT ELECT	: Rtn. Dhiraj Kakaty
SECRETARY	: Rtn. Nawajyoti Sarma
TREASURER	: Rtn. Prasanta Das
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Rtn. Dr. Anil Kumar Mahanta Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati Rtn. Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia Rtn. Tarun Chandra Bordoloi Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	: Rtn. Dr. Amritpal Singh
SJT-AT-ARMS	: Rtn. Anjana Goswami
EDITOR, SOUVENIR & BULLETIN	: Rtn. Dr. Priyam Goswami

CLUB COMMITTEES–2020-21

A. CLUB MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairman	: Rtn. Dr. Bibeka Nanda Saikia
Vice-chairman	: Rtn. Atanu Choudhury

SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Recruitment:

Convenor	: Rtn. Mahim Ch Deka
Members	: Rtn. Bhupendra Nath Das Rtn. Anamika Choudhury

2. Retention :

Convenor : Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya
Members : Rtn. Jayanta Goswami.
Rtn. Anjana Buragohain
Rtn. Ranjana BhuyanLahkar.

3. Classification :

Convenor : Rtn. P. Dev Choudhury
Members : Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma
Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan

4. Orientation and Education :

Convenor : Rtn. Dr. Renu Goswami
Members : Rtn. Anjana Buragohain.
Rtn. Biswadip Baruah

B. CLUB ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Chairman : Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati
Co-Chairman : Rtn. Prasanta Das

SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Attendance, Fellowship & Weekly programme

Convenor : Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi
Members : Rtn. Dr. Minoti Borthakur

2. Invitation and coordination of speakers

Convenor : Rtn. Dr. Indira Bodoloi
:

3. Bulletin& Souvenir:

Convenor : Rtn. Dr. Priyam Goswami
Members : Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury
Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma
Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya
Rtn. Tarun Ch Bordoloi.

4. Sergeant at Arms: : Rtn. Anjana Goswami

C. CLUB SERVICE PROJECT COMMITTEE

- Chairman** : Rtn. Dr. Anil Kumar Mahanta
Co Chairman : Rtn. Dr. R. N. Mazumder

SUB-COMMITTEES

(Convenors to select their own members)

- 1. RCC** : Convenor Rtn. Dr. Balendra Kumar Das
- 2. Animal Welfare** : Convenor Rtn. Dr. B.N.Saikia
- 3. Curative and preventive medicine** : Convenor Rtn. Dr. Manoj Choudhury
- 4. Environment** : Convenor Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan.
- 5. Community Service Project** : Convenor Rtn. Biswadip Barooah
- 6. Vocational Service** : Convenor Rtn. Bijay Ketan Baruah

D. PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Chairman** : Rtn. Tarun Ch Bordoloi
Co-Chairman : Rtn. Ram Mohan Hazarika

SUB-COMMITTEES

1. New Generation, Ryla etc.

- Convenors : Rtn. Jayanta Madhab Barua,
Rtn. Manjushri Barua
- Members : Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita
Rtn. Ranjana Gogoi
Rtn. Dr. Sweta Pegu

2. Media Relations,

- Convenor : Rtn. Dr. R. N. Mazumder
Members : Rtn. Dilip Sarkar
Rtn. Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa

3. Advertising marketing etc.:

- Convenor : Rtn Nawajyoti Sarma
Members : Rtn. Sunil Saikia
Rtn. Akbar Musrikin

4. Web and Social media

- Convenor : Rtn. Tarun Ch Bordoloi

Members : Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma
Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra

5. International Relations & Special events

Convenor : Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
Members : Rtn Gayatri Bhattacharyya.

6. Art and Culture

Convenor : Rtn. Priyama Goswami
Members : Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra
Rtn. Arman Ahmed
Rtn. Tarun Ch Bordoloi

E. ROTARY FOUNDATION COMMITTEE

Chairman : Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan

SUB-COMMITTEES

1. Global grant/ District grant:

Convenor : Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
Members : Rtn. Kaberi Bhuyan
Rtn. Dr. Balendra Kr. Das

2. Peace scholarship, GSE & others:

Convenor : Rtn. George Chako

3. Foundation Contributions:

Convenor : Rtn. Dhiraj Kakaty
Members : Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury
Rtn. Bijay Ketan Baruah

4. Pulse Polio Programme :

Convenor : Rtn. Dr. R.N. Mazumder
Members : Rtn. Dr. Purnananda Das
Rtn. Dr. Manoj Kr. Choud

5. International youth & Family exchange :

Convenor : Rtn. Anamika Choudhari
Members : Rtn. Caushiq Kashyap Bezboruah **6.**

Club Signature Programme

Chairman : Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma

Members: Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi.
Rtn. Jayanta Madhab Baruah
Rtn. P. D Chowdhary
Rtn. Atanu Chowdhary

F. LITERACY COMMITTEE

Chairman : Rtn. Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa

Co chairman : Rtn. Dr. Renu Goswami

Members : Rtn. Gyatri Bhattacharyya

Rtn. Jayanta Goswami

Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati

Rtn. Manjushri Baruah.

Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita.

Rtn. Anamika Choudhury

Rtn. RanjanaLahkar

Rtn. Ranjaana Gogoi

Rtn. Nivedita Baruah

Rtn. Dr. Bhupen Baruah

Rtn. Kaberi Bhuyan

Co-Ordinator Adult Litteracy : Rtn. Dr. Millie Kakoti

Co-Ordinator TEACH : Rtn. Manjushri Baruah

New Verticals : 2020

1. Disaster Management :

Chairman : Rtn. Akbar Musrikin

Co- Chairman : Rtn. Satinder Anand

Members : Rtn. Dr. Tejendra Bardoloi

Rtn. Adib Ahmed

Rtn. Jayanta Goswami

Rtn. Arman Ahmed

Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan

Rtn. Ram Mohan Hazarika

2. Sanitation and Water Mission

Chairman : Rtn. Arman Ahmed

Co-Chairman : Rtn. Dr.Indira Bordoloi
Members : Rtn. Probin Barthakur
Rtn. Dipak Bhagowati
Rtn. Akbar Musrikin
Rtn. Priyama Goswami
Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita

3. Environment

Chairman : Rtn. Ranjan Bhuyan
Co-Chairman : Rtn. Biswadip Barooah
Members : Rtn. Kaberi Bhuyan
Rtn. Tultul Bora
Rtn. Dr. Purnananda Das
Rtn. Ranjana Gogoi
Rtn. Dr.Tajendra Bordoloi

4.CSR.

Chairman : Rtn. Rajesh Bhatra
Co-Chairman : Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
Members : Rtn. George Chako
Rtn. Nawajoyti Sarma
Rtn. Dhiraj Kakati
Rtn. Satinder Anand
Rtn. Adib Ahmed

1. Health Preventive and Health Curative

Chairman : Rtn. Dr. Manoj Choudhury
Co- Chairman : Rtn. Dr. Anil Kumar Mahanta
Members : Rtn. Dr. Rabindra Nath Mazumder
Rtn. Dr. Nareswar Sarma
Rtn. Prasanta Das
Rtn. Atanu Choudhury
Rtn. Dr.Purnananda Das.
Rtn. Bhupen Das

ROLL OF PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

Sl. no.	Rotary Year	Name of President	Name of Secretary
1.	1977-78	Rtn. S.K. Bhattacharya	Rtn. Bijoy Goenka
2.	1978-79	Rtn. S.K.Bhattacharya	Rtn. Bijoy Goenka
3.	1979-80	Rtn. B.K.Bhuyan	Rtn. B.N.Dasgupta
4.	1980-81	Rtn. D.N.Agarwalla	Rtn. Bedabrata Goswami
5.	1981-82	Rtn. D.K.Kakati	Rtn. L.B.Sarma
6.	1982-83	Rtn. B.D.Sarma	Rtn. N.C. Deka
7.	1983-84	Rtn. Bijoy Goenka	Rtn. M.L.Sikaria
8.	1984-85	Rtn. Bedabrata Goswami	Rtn. R.G. Harlalka
9.	1985-86	Rtn. R.G. Harlalka	Rtn. Dr. Samir Todi
10.	1986-87	Rtn. R.C. Gupta	Rtn. R.C.Das
11.	1987-88	Rtn. N.C.Deka	Rtn. N.B.Barthakur
12.	1988-89	Rtn. G.C.Das	Rtn. R.C.Gupta
13.	1989-90	Rtn. B.D.Sarma	Rtn. Jadav Bhuyan
14.	1990-91	Rtn. N.B. Barthakur	Rtn. Kaushik Das
15.	1991-92	Rtn. Jadav Bhuyan	Rtn. Ms Minoti Barthakur
16.	1992-93	Rtn. Col.(retd) TBB Lahkar	Rtn. P.K. Mozumdar
17.	1993-94	Rtn. Ms Minoti Barthakur	Rtn. A.K. Chowdhury
18.	1994-95	Rtn. Digen Baruah	Rtn. George Chacko
19.	1995-96	Rtn. Kaushik Das	Rtn. M.N.Borah
20.	1996-97	Rtn. H.C.Goswami	Rtn. Devdas Kakati
21.	1997-98	Rtn. Dr Malatee Barua	Rtn. HareswarTakukdar
22.	1998-99	Rtn. George Chacko	Rtn. A.P. Singh

23.	1999-2000	Rtn. Gayatri Bhattachryya	Rtn. Prasanta Kr. Das
24.	2000-01	Rtn. Mahim Ch. Deka	Rtn. Anjana Buragohain
25.	2001-02	Rtn. U.C.Goswami	Rtn. Bibekananda Saikia
26.	2002-03	Rtn. Hareswar Takukdar	Rtn. Rita Mazumdar
27.	2003-04	Rtn. Col(retd) Monoranjan Goswami	Rtn. Dilip Sarkar
28.	2004-05	Rtn. Biswadip Barooah	Rtn. Anjana Buragohain
29.	2005-06	Rtn. Anjana Buragohain	Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
30.	2006-07	Rtn. S.C. Goswami	Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan
31.	2007-08	Rtn. H.N. Das	Rtn. Bibekananda Saikia
32.	2008-09	Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury	Rtn. Prashanta Goswami
33.	2009-10	Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan	Rtn. Prashanta Goswami
34.	2010-11	Rtn. Dr.A.K.Mahanta	Rtn. Dr. R.N. Mazumder
35.	2011-12	Rtn. Prashanta Goswami	Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma
36.	2012-13	Rtn. T.C. Bordoloi	Rtn. Sweta Pegu
37.	2013-14	Rtn. Dr Rabindra Nath Mazumder	Rtn. Mrinmoyee Goswami
38.	2014-15	Rtn. Paramesh Dev Choudhury	Rtn. R.M.Hazarika
39.	2015-16	Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia	Rtn. Dr. Priyam Goswami
40.	2016-17	Rtn. Bhupendra Nath Das	Rtn. Arman Ahmed
41.	2017-18	Rtn. Sweta Pegu	Rtn. Rajesh KumarBhatra
42.	2018-19	Rtn. Dilip Sarkar	Rtn. Dr.Tejendra Bordoloi
43.	2019-20	Rtn. Dr. Amrit Pal Singh	Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati



ROTARY GOES VIRTUAL

Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharyya

In the wake of the sudden onslaught of the deadly Covid 19, the entire world has come to a standstill, and world leaders are grappling with the question of how to cope with the economic and social crisis this has brought about.

Government agencies, Corporate houses and other organizations and educational institutions around the globe have recently taken recourse to the ‘work from home’ culture, online classes, and Virtual meetings etc, in an effort to tide over the crisis.

The vast Rotary International organization too, with its more than 1.2 million members spread over 33000 clubs, in more than 22 countries, has turned *virtual*. The seven story building at Evanston, Illinois, that houses the international headquarters of the organization is always abuzz with activity in normal times, trying to run the multi -faceted business of this extensive and all- embracing organization. Faced suddenly by the catastrophe of the Covid 19 pandemic, Rotary International , including the Rotary Foundation, like many other vital organizations, has been taken unawares, and has had to take recourse to the virtual mode, in an effort to carry on its vast and varied works around the globe. The amount of funds The Rotary Foundation handles every day is mind boggling to other people, and the sheer number of people from all corners of the world depending on RI for their welfare is equally mind boggling. To suddenly have to deal with all this virtually must be, to say the least, extremely challenging. But as usual, Rotary is rising valiantly to this task too. The smooth change over from the physical to the virtual mode is typical of the way Rotary works, and already in the brief two months or so, most things apparently seem almost normal.at the headquarters. Now, not only is the RI Board of Directors meeting on line,, the Directors themselves are conducting their businesses virtually too. The RI President is meeting whomsoever he needs to meet on line. We are now hearing that the RI Convention, which is the most important meeting of Rotary by far, attracting thousands of Rotarians and guests from all around the world, will be held virtually this year! How RI intends to do this is in itself a mystery to most

of us. But it will definitely be done.

On the District and Club level, there have already been a number of virtual meetings, seminars etc. connecting clubs, and RI districts with the Rotary headquarters. Even as I am writing, an online virtual meeting is going on with Past RI President, 2017-18, Rtn. Ian Risely, hosted by our DG Elect Subhasish Chatterjee. We have already had two such meetings with RI Past Presidents and also with the current RI President. Such meetings present an incredible opportunity to listen to our RI leaders, and interact with them. These have widened the horizon of Rotary almost beyond imagination.

Again, it is because of these Zoom meetings that even we in the far north east corner of India can think of inviting someone from the international headquarters to preside over our important meetings, like the Installation. Also, it is found that the attendance is higher in virtual meetings, maybe because one can sit comfortably at home while attending the meeting. There is no difficulty in conducting the regular business either, and members do interact. Thus, everything is fine with the Zoom meetings, - except for the fact that there is no scope for the unique ‘fellowship’, which is one of the basic concepts of Rotary.

Another point that is somewhat worrying is the provision that a person must attend at least three Rotary meetings/ projects before he/she can be inducted as a Rotary member. Will attending a virtual meeting be the equivalent of going to a physical meeting or project? A face to face regular Rotary weekly meeting, gives the provisional member an opportunity to meet and talk with the other Rotarians of the club, to get a first hand idea of the unique Rotary concept of ‘fellowship’ and friendship, over a cup of tea and snacks. This of course is not possible in a virtual meeting. So perhaps it will be difficult for the aspiring member to get a “feel” of the particular club he seeks to be a member of, to know whether the ambiance and mindset of the members will be conducive to his expectations. This of course remains to be seen.

Now having said all this, we must remember that the virtual method is only temporary, and hopefully things all around will return to normal in a few months. In the meantime, we must all do our best to help our parent organization in its untiring efforts to carry on its good works and bring succour to all in need.



LOCKDOWN : ITS IMPACT ON SCHOOL CHILDREN

Rtn. Manjusri Baruah

“Baideumoiekubujipuanai.Bujaidiokna” (Madam, can you please explain this chapter?) These are the words of Rakesh, son of Indra the vegetable seller. Rakesh studies in class eight in the local Government School. After school, he often comes to me in case he finds it difficult to understand a particular topic in school. With the nationwide lockdown in force and with it the closure of all educational institutions, Covid-19 has definitely brought forth many unbelievable challenges to students all across. It is believed that over 320 million students across India are today struggling because of the lockdown. Many schools are today offering online classes to partially fill the gap that this global pandemic has created.

In today’s context, online classes are the best option available. However, this option is not uniform across different sections of the society. This may be easy to connect to only one section of the student community who are technically savvy, have the internet and a smart phone but unfortunately only 14.9 % in rural areas and 42 % in the urban areas have an access to the Internet. Thus only a few private schools could adopt on-line teaching methods and many especially the government run schools are not able to adopt this method. Herein comes the digital divide. Another problem that has arisen is that most teachers are ill equipped for on-line teaching. This way of teaching may be the easy way to continue with our teaching process but it is not smooth sailing specially for students belonging to the marginalised class, for students like Rakesh, the son of the vegetable seller.

When we, the members of our Club, visited some local government run schools regarding our TEACH programme we could see that most of the students come from a deprived section of the society. Most children were least interested in their studies and for many the attraction to school was the mid-day meal. For most students it was the sole meal of the day. With the closure of schools, the meals have also stopped and in all probability they are having to go hungry. No longer do these children look forward to the free meals

and on the other hand they are now in a constant worry for the next meal and consequently they are under-nourished. For them perhaps, the lack of on-line facilities comes much behind their other worries.

We can thus surmise that for those belonging to the marginalised class, suspending physical classrooms and shifting to online classes has not been easy and smooth. These students, in addition to missed opportunities are subject to economic and social stress. Parents of these children have been asked to facilitate these students and create a learning atmosphere at home, but they are not at all prepared, and this is impossible as they are poor and most of them are uneducated. On the other hand these parents, being at a loss, may ask their wards to work and generate additional income and help the family. As money comes into their hands they will feel good and when God wills and school reopens they will be reluctant to go back to their schools. This may lead to an increase in child labour. We may see a still darker picture when these school drop-outs take to unsocial activities like stealing, drug addiction, exposure to violence of exploitation. For Girls there will be early marriages, sexual exploitation, unwanted teenage pregnancies. Again working parents may leave their children alone at home thereby exposing them to all kinds of risky and abusive behaviour. The sad story goes on and on.

We all know that “ The classroom with all its limitations, remains a location of great possibilities” and it is our duty, in this time of crisis , to bring about effective educational practice for these young minds and explore the possibilities. Here Teachers play a very meaningful role. Those teachers who were not well trained in online teaching have been helped by their fellow teachers and they are no longer behind. Responsible members of our community along with the teachers, knowing that many students’ families had lost livelihoods, had no savings have helped to provide rations. Government relief measures have also come forward to help these under privileged. it is good to see that many volunteers have come forward to help these students. Teachers along with the volunteers, used voiced messages, text messages and phone calls to reach the students. The school closure has taught us an important lesson about the role of our community in teaching our children.

The Government has come forward to go to the villages, to go to the deprived class in the urban areas with food packets and other essential groceries. Relief has also come from many social organisations. Once these basic needs are taken care of Teachers,

Socially Committed organisations, responsible citizens have somehow managed to connect with the students through whatever digital means available.

Another laudable effort is from our local TV Channels. Pratidin ,a local channel which has very sincerely launched a programme named PratidinPathsala where important lessons on Maths ,Science and English are regularly telecast by some renowned teachers . Another step to help the students is the Academic TV Channel brought out by the Education Department of the Government of Assam. GyanVriksha is the new TV channel which is being launched to compensate for the academic losses incurred by the Covid 19 pandemic. It would contain study material from Class 1 to Class 12 under Assam Government SamagraSikshaAbhiyan. It will be available in BiswaBidya and Assam You tube Channel. Coming from the Government it is indeed a very noble effort .Once the students get the study material on the TV it will definitely go a long way to ease the problem being faced by the students of the lower income group.

It is our duty now to apprise the students of the facilities available and how best to work on it. We should join hands with the teachers and connect ourselves with the students. We should also join hands and pray that the we will all overcome this dark phase in our life and take our dear students to their schools for “A school is not a paradise. But school is a place where paradise can be created”.



❖ “Personality has power to uplift, power to depress, power to curse, and power to bless.”

Paul Harris

PROACTIVE ROTARY AND COVID 19

Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi

COVID 19 has dealt the human species the severest knockout punch and has emerged as the greatest disruptor to its evolutionary process. Scientific community world over is grappling with its nightmarish exploits. No one is certain how this is going to pan out in the long run. But there seem to be a convergence of emerging sentiments that the life for the human species is not going to be the same again. Society needs to brace up to reconcile to a new normal. In that backdrop, may be, Rotary would do well to step back and take a fresh look at itself. It may be an opportunity for ushering in a new era for Rotary as well. While big think tanks may already be at work it will certainly be a refreshing experience to see this great organization acting proactively in picking up and putting together the remnants of a society in total wreck. After all the human society has been evolving over time and so has Rotary.

Human society is and will continue to face mammoth challenge on multiple fronts while groaning to emerge from the trail of wreckage left behind by the COVID 19 on rampage. Rotary can facilitate its leadership skill to empower the policy makers who would be struggling a way forward. After all it has served such roles in the past, post World War II, to be precise. Rotary and the United Nations have a shared history of working toward peace and addressing humanitarian issues around the world. After the Dumbarton Oaks conference, Rotary published “What Can Rotarians Do Following Dumbarton Oaks?” It included the proposed charter, talking points, and suggestions for discussing with club members how the United Nations would relate to Rotary’s goal of advancing international understanding. It also emphasized the importance of having a plan ready for when the war ended, rather than waiting until the fighting stopped. It will perhaps not be far fetching to assume that Rotary is recognized as a potentially powerful multifaceted compound cohesive amalgam of some of the brilliant successful professional minds in the planet. They are capable of volunteering themselves with all their might, whenever called upon to do so. There could never be a better moment to claim its rightful place in the

scheme of things in the global stage in providing the right direction to the humanity in dire straits grappling to find its bearings in an emerging new world. Without any doubt it can facilitate its acumen playing a powerful supplemental role. I do not mean only providing various services to the community in usual sense. **What is most important at this juncture is to provide thought leadership with a vision for the century ahead.**

Maybe Rotary could focus on a few key areas directed towards the bottom strata of the pyramid having mastered all their might, which would help a demolished societal structure labouring to stand on its feet. It might require a restructuring of the current priorities suitably. Best part is that the mission of The Rotary Foundation “to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty” could have never been more relevant to the perceived needs of the society.

It is fully appreciated that Rotary certainly cannot assume the role of any Government. Having said that it certainly can play a key effective role in charting a way forward with all its resourceful brains at its disposal with a clear vision volunteering insight it has gained from its involvement with the grass root communities world over for 115 years. This is where it must showcase its achievements in multiple fronts, not just Polio eradication, in the past, with credible data to earn credibility of the policy makers and the beneficiaries as well. Let us not forget that we are a 115 years old largest International Service Organisation and we are sure to be having billions and trillions of data to show case our achievements world over. It would do us a world of good to remember that we are wading through a data driven world.

I feel it would be perfectly in context to take note of the following extract from a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation paper –

“To bring about the kinds of changes that will help people live healthier and more productive lives, we seek to understand the world’s inequities. Whether the challenge is low-yield crops in Africa or low graduation rates in Los Angeles, we listen and learn so we can identify pressing problems that get too little attention. Then we consider whether we can make a meaningful difference with our influence and our investments, whether it is a grant or a contract.

All our strategies—more than two dozen across the foundation—have emerged through this process of identifying what we want to accomplish for people and where we can have the greatest impact. Once we commit to an area of need, we define our major goals and identify a clear path to achieving them.

The issues we engage in are wildly disparate, but they share the characteristics of being deeply rooted, dynamic, and complex. None will be solved easily and quickly, and none will be solved through our efforts alone.

We do all our work in collaboration with grantees and other partners, who join with us in taking risks, pushing for new solutions, and harnessing the transformative power of science and technology. We strive to engage with our grantees and partners in a spirit of trust, candid communication, and transparency. Our collective efforts also depend on the support and resources of governments, the private sector, communities, and individuals.”

In my opinion whenever we as Rotary engage ourselves with a community through any project it should be seamlessly tied to a proper scientific follow up impact study over a period to generate sufficient data. These isolated projects are, necessarily a model approach to address a generally existent issue. If the subsequent data suggest a definite positive impact of the project, at that stage, it could perhaps be adopted as a model to be espoused with the larger body of the policy makers working in tandem. Perhaps Rotary can consider this as a model of engagement with the community.

In conclusion I am strongly of the opinion that the 115 years old Rotary must have earned the credibility to induce and initiate epoch-making policy decisions to steady a rocking ship. Rotary’s contribution in Polio eradication and its initiative in laudable projects like Rotary India Literacy Mission has earned many an accolade, but, we as human species are in the threshold of confronting mammoth challenges of the proportion never experienced before. These are different times. This may be the window of opportunity for daring to reaffirm to the world that the **Humankind is the soul of Rotary**.



PANACEA FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Rtn. Swapan Jyoti Sarma

The International Monetary Fund in its quarterly World Economic Outlook published in April 2020 projects global growth in 2020 to fall to -3 percent. This is a massive 6.3 percent fall from its projection made a mere three months earlier, in January 2020. Gita Gopinath, the India born Chief Economist at the IMF, says that the Great Lockdown is the worst recession since the Great Depression (1929-39), and far worse than the Global Financial Crisis (2007-08). The cumulative loss to global GDP over 2020 and 2021 from the pandemic crisis could be around 9 trillion dollars. Income per capita is projected to shrink for over 170 countries. Countries reliant on tourism, travel, hospitality, and entertainment will be hit the hardest. Developing economies like India face additional challenges of possible massive reverse flow of capital as global risk appetite diminishes in the face of currency pressures and limited scope of fiscal manoeuvrability.

To find answers on the way out of the present economic crisis let us have a look at how the US grappled with and overcame the Great Depression.

During the 1920s, the U.S. stock market underwent rapid expansion, reaching its peak in August 1929. Wild speculation on stocks was rampant. From millionaires to the working class, everybody was trading in shares. In the midst of the apparent boom, production declined and unemployment rose, leaving stocks in great excess of their real value. This was aggravated by low wages, high debts, a struggling agricultural sector and excessive large bank loans that became non-performing assets (NPAs).

The New York Stock Exchange saw rapid fall of stock prices and on October 29, 1929, Black Tuesday, investors traded some 16 million shares on losing billions of dollars and wiping out thousands of investors. US and the rest of the industrialized world spiralled into the abyss of the Great Depression (1929-39), the deepest and longest-lasting economic downturn in history. In the US, by 1933, almost 13 million, representing 25 percent of the

workforce were out of work. Those still employed took massive pay cuts. More than 5000 banks collapsed.

The Great Depression was a global phenomenon. The tenuous economies of Germany, Brazil, Poland, Argentina, Canada and countries of Southeast Asia were soon in the throes of the depression. It may be mentioned that before the First World War, most developed countries had adopted the gold standard with a fixed exchange rate between the national currency and gold—and therefore between national currencies. In World War I, European nations went off the gold standard to print money resulting in price inflation. United States, and a few countries, remained on the gold standard without altering the gold value of the dollar. Investors and others who held gold sent their gold to the United States, where gold maintained its value as a safe and sound investment.

Herbert Clark Hoover, the Republican 31st President of the United States (1929-33), had had to face the catastrophe of the Great Depression soon after taking charge. He has been criticised for his inept handling of the crisis. Initially President Hoover held his belief in minimal government interference in the economy, and a conviction that direct public relief to individuals would weaken individual character, turn people away from the work-ethic, and lead them to develop a dependency on government handouts. By 1931, Hoover reversed his earlier approach and embraced government intervention in the economy. The 1932 **Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC)** authorized the lending of \$2 billion to banks, railroads, and other privately held companies, and in July 1932 the federal government appropriated \$300 million for the nation's first relief and public works projects including construction of the **Hoover Dam** on the Colorado River. Policies were implemented for stronger protections for labour and substantially increased federal subsidies for agriculture. Unfortunately it did not make much of an impact. To his credit though, it is said that it was these measures that laid the basis for Roosevelt's New Deal.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt was elected president in November 1932. A Democrat, he won a record four presidential election and held office from 1933 till his death in 1945. In his presidential campaign, Roosevelt asserted that he would help “the forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid,” and pledged himself to “a new deal for the American people.” In his First Inaugural Address, in March 1933 he said the famous lines “The only thing we have to fear is...fear itself.” He pointed out, “This is no unsolvable problem if

we face it wisely and courageously..... . We must act and act quickly.”

The New Deal is often summed up by the “Three Rs”: Relief for the unemployed, Recovery of the economy through federal spending and job creation, and Reform of capitalism, by means of regulatory legislation and the creation of new social welfare programs. Roosevelt’s New Deal reshaped American political culture around the principle that the government is responsible for the welfare of its citizens. The economic policies of *laissez faire* were quietly buried and the national discourse revolved not around the question of whether the federal government should intervene in the economy, but how.

The First New Deal (1933-34) was called “The First Hundred Days” during which US Congress passed legislation aimed at boosting agricultural prices; providing government funded employment; providing federal grants to states for salaries of government workers; running soup kitchens and direct aid to the poor programmes; setting down prices and wages and allowing workers to form unions; guarantee that money deposited by individuals in banks would be repaid by the federal government if the bank went out of business.

The Second New Deal (1935-38) focused on increasing worker protections and building long-lasting financial security for Americans. For instance The Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed millions of Americans in public works projects, from constructing bridges and roads to painting murals and writing plays.

The New Deal was the practical implementation of the theories of British economist John Maynard Keynes to energise the economy through deficit financing in order to stimulate consumer demand, and thereby promote economic growth. It was held that government spending put money in consumers’ hands which would allow them to buy products made in the private sector. Then, as employers sold more and more products, they would have the money to hire more and more workers, who could afford to buy more and more products, and so on. Roosevelt believed that this was the way to reverse the downward economic spiral .

It is now accepted that the New Deal was only partially successful. The US Supreme Court ruled against several New Deal initiatives , frustrating Roosevelt’s efforts. Ironically, it was another catastrophe, the World War II (1939-45) that enabled the United States to recover from the Great Depression due to massive military spending.

Despite similarities, it will not be fair to compare the Great Depression with the global recession brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic. One reason being - we are not yet out of the recession. We cannot hazard a guess about the full impact of the present crisis- how big a hole the world economy finds itself in, how much time and effort will be required to claw out of the hole and take steps towards prosperity.

China's GDP which has been on an upsurge for the last 40 years, has declined for the first time, by a massive 7%. China however, believes that the impact is temporary and its economy has great resilience and potential to bounce back to the growth path. China is not too keen to spend on a stimulus package. Its debt load of 60% of its GDP has also limited its ability to spend.

Germany which expects a contraction of 6% of its GDP, is allocating 350 billion euros to prop up its economy. The German government is bailing out struggling businesses by providing unlimited loans and taking equity stakes. Nearly 5 lakh German companies have applied to have their employees join short term government work programmes to avoid job losses. Germany can afford to spend aggressively as its finances are in good shape. Its debt to GDP ratio has improved from 80% in 2010 to 60% at present. Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "We're doing whatever is necessary....and we won't be asking every day what it means for our deficit."

Japan's export driven economy expects a fall of 3%. The postponement of the economy boosting Summer Olympics is a big setback. Japan is in course to infuse \$ 1 trillion relief package. Measures include cash payments to individuals and small businesses, interest free loans, delayed tax payments and travel & tourism coupons. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said, "We will protect employment and life at all costs".

UK, struggling with the post Brexit negotiations, was already facing a recession when Covid19 struck. With Prime Minister Boris Johnson himself affected by the virus, the country faced with uncertainty. Rishi Sunak, the billionaire Indian origin British banker turned politician, at age 39, took over as Chancellor of the Exchequer in PM Boris Johnson's cabinet in February 2020. The measures announced by the UK government included pledge to pay 80 percent of workers' salaries for several months to prevent loss of jobs; offer to reimburse self-employed workers for lost wages; deferred tax payments; increased

unemployment benefits; loan program for small and midsize companies; and provided rescue aid to charities. All these could add up to 400 billion pounds which is 15 percent of the UK GDP.

Italy, one of the earliest countries to be hit by the virus, and therefore among the most affected, expects that the economy will contract by at least 8% this year. Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte, who heads a coalition government announced an emergency sum of 25 billion euros in March, amounting to roughly 1.4% of the country's GDP. Measures to support employment and workers included tax deferrals, and postponement of mortgage payments and utility bill payments. This was followed by a 55 billion euro stimulus package in May which includes a mix of grants and tax breaks and offers help to families, including subsidies for childcare and incentives to boost the ravaged tourism sector.

In the USA, the Trump administration has been mired in controversies and contradictions. The handling of the pandemic has been chaotic but steps to manage the economy have been more coherent. The US Federal Reserve has cut interest rates close to zero, reduced bank reserve requirements to zero, purchased \$2 trillion in Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities, bought corporate and municipal debt, and extended emergency credit to nonbanks. Congress passed a \$2 trillion stimulus package in March including direct payments of up to \$1200 to individuals, hundreds of billions of dollars in loans and grants to businesses, increases to unemployment benefits, and support for hospitals and health-care providers. This was followed by a second stimulus package in April worth \$500 billion to help small businesses and hospitals.

The international organisations have also stepped up their efforts. The European Union agreed to a 500 billion euro package to provide emergency lending and other assistance to member countries, businesses, and workers. The International Monetary Fund has set aside \$100 billion to lend to member countries that are facing acute financial crises because of Covid19, with preference given to emerging economies. World Bank committed more than \$150 billion to counter the pandemic's effects. Till now India has received the largest loan at \$1 billion.

In India, as early as March 26, Prime Minister Modi announced an Economic Relief Package under worth Rs 1.75 lakh crore (roughly 0.8% of the GDP). Benefits included

free foodgrains to poor and cash to poor women and elderly, cooking gas and cash transfers to selected sections of the lower-income households, insurance coverage for workers in the healthcare sector and wage support to low wage workers in terms of benefits for those currently working, as well as those who might lose their jobs. On March 27, RBI announced Repo rate and Reverse Repo rate reduction to 4.4% and 4% respectively in order to boost liquidity into the system. This was followed by the announcement on 13th May of a total Rs 20 lakh crore stimulus package—close to 10% of the Indian GDP. The figure of Rs 20 lakh crore is also very similar to the entire tax receipts of the central government for FY21. The package includes Rs 1.7 lakh crore announced in March, as well as the Reserve Bank's liquidity measures and interest rate cuts. Over five consecutive days of interaction with the country's financial media, FM Nirmala Sitharaman provided the break-up of the stimulus. The package focussed on cottage industries, MSMEs, small businesses, labourers and migrant workers - both in the organised and unorganised sectors, salaried class, middle class and industry.

In absolute terms India's stimulus packages is a lot less than the developed countries. However, in comparison other developing countries with similar per capita GDP, the Indian response to Covid-19 is a very large as a % of its GDP. Across the world, country stimulus responses vary from 1% of GDP to 12%. Rich countries stimulus packages amount to 5% to 10% of their GDP and developing countries have announced smaller packages of 2% to 5%. The Indian government may have studied many such models and has tried to create its response within constraints. However, lakhs of migrant workers facing uncertainty, were desperate to return to their homes, sometimes over thousands of kilometres. The resultant misery to the workers caught both the central and state governments on the wrong foot. Critics and pundits like Arvind Subramanian, Abhijit Banerjee, Amartya Sen, etc., have constantly called for more action from the government.

What is apparent is that the steps taken by most countries to deal with the Economic Crisis is reminiscent of New Deal of President Roosevelt. The focus has been on unemployment, healthcare small businesses and the those sectors of the economy which have been worst affected. But when the world economy gets back to its pre Covid 19 status and steps on the growth trajectory is a matter of speculation. The possibility of social and political upheaval across the globe cannot be ruled out and fraught with grave

dangers. The loud voices on the questions of China's complicity in the spread of the virus or its desire for global economic hegemony, does not bode well. A cornered China will wait for the opportunity to retaliate. History is witness to the fact that Germany's rise of nationalistic self pride and belligerence leading to World War II had its seeds at the conclusion of World War I. A defeated Germany had to face the humiliation of the punitive terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

Since time immemorial whenever humanity has faced an existential crisis, the panacea has been an all encompassing holistic approach –much like Noah's Ark- with concern and place for everybody. To find the way forward, let us see what great leaders of various fields, did in the past. Perhaps therein lies the panacea for the present crisis.

1. Engagement. Do what you can do best. In 1915, Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton's expedition ship The Endurance became stuck in the ice. He realized that he and his crew would have to wait out the brutal winter on a floating iceberg. Shackleton insisted that each man maintain his ordinary duties: sailors swabbed decks; scientists collected specimens; others were assigned to hunt for meat. He knew that daily routines and tasks, including manual labour, would help establish order and thus ground his men in uncertain time that was filled with danger.

2. Open channels of communication. When faced with a crisis, ordinary citizens find themselves in a state of shock and confusion. It is necessary to provide them credible information. During his Presidency, Roosevelt, starting March 12 1933, delivered thirty live radio 'fireside chats' in the years of the Great Depression as well as World War II. He spoke about the unfolding crisis and explained the actions he and Congress had taken to address them. His tone was reassuring and his words were plain spoken language.

3. Keep Faith. As the United Kingdom was threatened by the Nazi war machine in the World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill encouraged his people to keep faith, "We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."

4. Give people a role and a purpose. During the civil rights movement in the late 1950s and early 1960s, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr, asked his followers to sit in,

march, and otherwise protest racial discrimination. On August 28, 1963, he delivered the iconic speech “I have a dream ..” from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C which resonated across the 250,000 civil rights supporters gathered there and beyond.

5. Innovate, experiment and learn. When confronted with ambiguity and chaos, strong leaders do not lose their bearings but quickly adapt and get comfortable with the situation. They commit themselves and their followers to navigate through the turbulence, adjusting, improvising, and re-directing as the situation changes and new information emerges. Courageous leaders also understand they will make mistakes along the way and they will have to unlearn and relearn. In 1985, Steve Jobs was fired from Apple, the company he created. He took the opportunity to reassess himself and start from scratch with new projects such as NeXT and Pixar. Eventually, he re-entered Apple and became CEO, showing that passion can be stronger than failure.

6. Empowerment and diversity. There is the need to listen and take counsel from a wide group of people , even from your critics, which can result in the winning edge. During the Kurukshetra war, a crucial difference between the Pandavas and the Kauravas was that there was empowerment and diversity in the Pandavas, whereas the Kauravas were dogmatic and uniform. It is interesting to note that during the war, the Pandava camp took advice from their women, notably Kunti, Draupadi, Hidimba (Bheema’s wife) and Subhadra (Arjuna’ wife), relying on their problem solving skills during crisis management. Moreover the Pandavas had a diverse team of warriors consisting of unusual fighters like Ghatotkacha and Shikhandi.



FOCUSING ON A & C VERTICALS OF TEACH

Rtn. Dr R N Mazumder
.DLCC, 2020-21

According to “*Education for All Global Monitoring Report, 2013-14: Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All*”, published by the UNESCO, India has the highest population of non-literate adults at 287 million, amounting to 37% of the global total. In addition to this following facts are alarming so far as literacy scenario of our country is concerned :

- * 47.78 % out of school children are girls.
- * India has the world’s largest population of illiterates.
- * 32 million children (6 to 13 yrs) in India never attended any educational school, 78 lakhs children are forced to earn livelihood even as they attend school while 8.4 crores do not attend school at all (census 2011).
- * 92% government schools are yet to fully implement the RTE Act.
- * India is ranked 123rd out of 135 countries in female literacy rate.

Crores of children are out-of-school in India and may never get a chance to study.

Literate Adult:

Although the Government of India launched the *Saakshar Bharat Programme* in 2009, which aims to introduce, in rural areas, a variety of teaching-learning programmes for non- literates and neo-literates between 15-35 years of age, the issue of illiteracy among the large number of non-literate adults in the urban areas remains to be addressed.

As it is a Herculean task, for India Government alone to tackle and achieve its goal of total literacy with its own effort, without the active involvement of other organisations, Rotary India decided in 2014, to extend its helping hand and to work hand in hand to attain

the much desired but difficult goal of total literacy and quality education.

Hence, emerged the noble and ambitious mission, **Rotary India Literacy Mission (RI LM)** Project. Under this mission is **TEACH** where T stands for Teacher support, E for E- learning, A for Adult literacy, C for Child development and H for Happy school, thereby covering all aspects of literacy. Out of these five verticals/components, adult literacy (A vertical) & child development (C vertical) are, to us, a the most important areas which demand far more emphasis, if we really want to reduce the number of illiterate people from this large chunk of population of illiterate adult and children and thereby increase the level of literacy and inch forward toward total literacy. While the other three verticals will contribute to quality education, they will not enhance the number of literates significantly.

Latest update of TEACH as to date :

- T – Achievement — 70,941 (Teacher support 47,439 & Nation Builder award 23,502)
- E – Achievement — 16,069...22,12,200 children to be benefitted
- A – Achievement — 87,870, Centres - 880
- C – 37,436 Children identified & enrolled in the Asha Kiran programme through 32NGOs from 13 states and 1 union territory of India.
- H – Achievement—3,098 Libraries set up— 3,004

ADULT EDUCATION:

1. DIKSHA - One-to-One Approach

In this approach student-volunteers from schools/colleges are engaged in providing functional literacy classes to non-literate adults (15+ age) over a period of 45-60 days. The learners are advised to appear for the NIOS examination at the end of the project, which takes place in March and August every year. On clearing the examination, the learners are certified as functionally literate. It is important to note that the ideal time to implement DIKSHA is during vacations (session break/summer vacation) as the students would have time to engage in extra-curricular activities. However it can be implemented at other times of the year as well, depending on the willingness of the school authorities.

2. SWABHIMAAN – Dignity through Education

Swabhimaan envisions setting up of Swabhimaan Centres (SC) across India, in

centralized locations, to impart functional literacy to non-literate adults (15+ years). A maximum of 30 learners can be enrolled per batch and multiple batches can run in one SC. The main resource person for this intervention is the teacher, who is solely responsible for coordinating the project, tracking and reporting the progress of the learners. It can directly be implemented by Clubs or by NGOs identified either by Clubs and/or RILM Office.

The learners appear for the NIOS examination at the end of the course.

Basic Literacy Assessment under National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)

The National Institute of Open schooling conducts a Basic Literacy Assessment every year in March and August. The learners enrolled in our Adult Literacy programme appear in this examination at the end of the literacy course. The learners need to be registered on the RILM website two months prior to the examination date. The learners are certified by the government as literate on clearing the Basic Literacy Assessment.

Rotary India Literacy Mission signed an agreement with the National Institute of Open Schooling on 31st July, 2017 at the NIOS office in Delhi, which will ensure the conducting of Basic Literacy Programme (BLP) Assessment in accordance with the NIOS equivalency programme for non-literate adults, above 15 years of age, who have undertaken the literacy course under RILM's Adult Literacy Programme.

Achievements : Under the Adult Literacy programme 87,870 adults have been made literate through *Diksha* and *Swabhimaan* and 880 centres for adult education established.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT:

Child Development programme aims to bring/send back out-of-school children to state funded primary/elementary schools from vulnerable communities, who have never been enrolled at any school or have dropped out from school (or irregular in school), or laggard children are mainstreamed/regularised ensuring their retention in schools after required grooming. Sending a child back to school costs Rs.2500/- a year at present.

Besides the huge population of India being a vexed problem, illiteracy is another. The Census 2011 data has revealed two alarming facts establishing the fact that illiteracy and poverty are interlinked: as many as 78 lakh Indian children are forced to earn a livelihood even as they attend schools while 8.4 crore children don't go to school at all.

Several attempts are currently being made across the country to combat this situation

and make India totally literate. States got selected on the basis of concentration of highest number of never enrolled and drop out children. In the initial phase, intervention has been made in Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. There were other need based interventions like in the states of Karnataka and Delhi and the union territory of Chandigarh where *Asha Kiran* involved children of migrant labourers who stayed in urban slums and were deprived of education.

Salient Features

Asha Kiran... a ray of hope

The main objective of *Asha Kiran* is to bring out of school children back to the mainstream school system.

Who are Asha Kiran Children?

- a) Children in the age group of 7 – 14 yrs,
- b) Who have never been to schools,
- c) Children not attending school but enrolled, irregular or absent for more than 45 days
- d) Who are laggard in comparison to her/ his age or class,
- e) Who could be children at risk, such as children of inmates, conflict with law, runaway children, children of sex workers, migrant workers, HIV positive parents, victims of child labour practices, HIV positive children, orphans & children in need of ‘special care & protection’.

As per comprehensive report of R I L M from January 2015 to March 2018, the project has been implemented in 13 states and 1 Union Territory of India. RILM has implemented the project along with 32 implementing partner NGOs. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 32 partner NGOs was made for 43,617 children and till March 2018. Through partner NGOs R I L M has been able to reach out to 34,236 children. The rest 9,381 children are proposed to be covered in the next phase. The majority of children under *Asha Kiran* project who are part of the intervention are Dropout 22,367 (65.33%), followed by Laggard children 7,874 (23.00%) and rest are Never Enrolled 3,995 (11.67%). Majority of the children under *Asha Kiran* project have been mainstreamed into government

and government aided schools.

As of March 31, 2018 the project cycle was successfully completed for 22,236 children. The project cycle for 12,000 children is under process / on-going.

The breakup regarding status of 22,236 children is as below:

Out of 22,236 children 20,835 (93.70%) children are successfully admitted into schools by partner NGOs.

Out of 22,236 children 1,401 (6.30%) children were unable complete the project cycle. The major reason for them not completing the project cycle was their families have migrated in pursuit of better livelihood.

The visits to schools where children are admitted in those schools monitoring visits were done 3 months after the approved project is period are over.

Out of 20,835 children only 16,208 (77.79%) children were found present in the schools.

Achievement: 37,436 enrolled in Asha Kiran, out of which nearly half of them have been mainstreamed in schools and more than half are in the process of sending back to school.

(Data & info source: rotaryteach.org)



ALL IN A DREAM

Rtn. Malatee Barua

Nowadays I dream a lot.
More so, on bizzare thoughts.
During Lock Down days
One night I dreamt
Of a very tall person in front of me.
He claimed to be God.
I did not recognise him.
Was he Vishnu, Jesus or Allah?
But I saluted all the same.
“What do you want?” He asked me ,
“Your blessings, *Karuna*, Sir”, I replied
I thought he would be happy.
“So be it. Tathastu.” He replied.
And the very next day he sent the corona virus
Misunderstanding my Assamese pronunciation, perhaps.
I wanted to correct it,
But He never returned.
I took solace in thought that
“Whatever God does, He does it for the best”.
At least the hands which were digging for gold
Became clean.
The new staircases and elevators of Dispur capital
Will be saved from the red, frothy, white and creamy sticky spit.
Road dividers will look new.
At least our Dr. Kochi will be
Happy in his grave.

CHANGING STATUS OF WOMEN

Rtn. Millie Kakati

Women have always been treated and misled by the imposed ideal of womanhood. Gender inequality is often treated as natural e.g. there are no biological reasons that can explain why so few woman are found in position of public power - nor can nature explain why woman generally receive a smaller or no share of the family properties in most societies. Gender is also a form of social exclusion like caste or class. Be it her gentle manners and natural tenderness or her lack of physical strength she has always found herself hidden behind a mist of illusion, fenced in from all sides and forced away from the real world in to the seclusion of a helpless and dispossessed life. It is the unfair system that fostered the absurd notion that she has no place in the world of work dominated by the “stronger sex”. Her domain has been demarcated around her home and she is consistently reminded of it. Man is the maker of the outside world and woman’s duty is to make a home. Some measure of freedom for woman is clearly stated in the “RIGVEDA” that a woman free to choose her life partner. A woman could make advances towards a man with impunity, sexual aberrations were openly admitted, and illicit lovers of both sexes (jara&jarini) find frequent mention in ancient literature. But when nomadic tribal values gave way to conservative ethos of settled agriculture, this free and open relationship between man and woman became a thing of the past. AS a result of racial miscegenation, woman lost her right to ritual initiation or upanayana which was mandatory for formal education. Rituals for woman from then on were without mantras. Interestingly only the courtesans had the right to form education. While they were trained in the 64 arts listed by Hinduism, that too at the states expenses, other woman were trained in housework and at the most in music and dancing. Around this period marriage became mandatory for girls and the entire marriage system was oriented towards the man’s happiness and pleasure with the wife vowing to obey husband’s wisheswithout any questions. She (the wife) could run the household in her husband’s absence but could not give anything away in charity. She had no right to wealth or even to her own bodyand that she had no economic freedom. During the ancient days, the sabha and samiti the twopopular political assemblies did not permit woman to participate in the matters of ofjurisprudence. They soon lost the right to

choose their partners and the situation became worse when the Aryans settled down in India, making farming their main occupation. Woman had no right economically or politically and while the social norms allowed polygamy to men as their inherent right, women were not allowed to practice polyandry. The tradition of giving away woman as gift in sacrifices along with other material goods was practiced in India in earlier times. Women were also given away as gifts for entertaining guests and as dowry to priests' and kings. Giving away girls to temples as Devadasis was considered to be a matter of pride.

The bulk of colonial writings in India had focused on the barbaric practices pertaining to woman. Scottish historian James Mill stated that the Hindu civilization was crude from the beginning and belonged to the lowest depths of crime and immorality. He highlighted the position Hindu society accorded to its woman. If comparisons are made between 19th century house hold manuals and ancient prescriptive texts like the Manusmriti, the first point of difference between the two is that while the ancient texts are based on exclusions and prohibitory injunctions against woman, the 19th century texts relate more to the unprecedented possibilities in the conditions of woman's existence and less to strategic control. Mughal and Maratha history offers gallant stories and biographies of queens and strong courageous woman like Shivaji, Jijabai, Rani Ahilyabai Holkar and the Rani of Jhansi of Madhya Pradesh. Medieval history focusing on the Gupta period and Buddhist history hardly mentions the position of woman during those times.

A turning point came when the woman's involvement in the nationalist movement took place that reflected Woman's position and status. The most outstanding achievement by the 1920s were the mass demonstrations and shop and court picketing by woman challenging Indian and colonial gender stereotypes. They had established the fact that the ancient Hindu women were free mobile and intellectual persons. In 1905 women took part in the Swadeshi agitation following the partition of Bengal. The non-cooperation movement in 1920-21 and civil disobedience in 1930 drew women out of their private space into the public domain to actively participate in mass movements. The leadership under Mahatma Gandhi relayed that women were condemned to slavery. The women were urged to give up the purdah and to liberate themselves from their family centered rules to participate in the country's struggle for freedom. In the first non-cooperation movement, women were called to participate within the limitation of their social conditions and Gandhi placed emphasis on spinning because it could be carried out within the home and women were encouraged to tear down veil, come out to attend street meetings and join processions. As many as

1000 women marched in a procession in Bombay to oppose the visit of prince of Wales in November 1921. In 1928, in the Bardoli satyagraha, women outnumbered men in political gatherings and even held their own separate meetings. In the year 1930 the civil disobedience movement started by breaking the salt law. The walk took place from the Sabarmati ashram to Dandi, a deserted village on the sea coast 200 miles away to make salt on the beach and women were everywhere on the way to greet him and hear him speak. On 10th April, 1930 there were 2000 women in an audience of 5000 at Abhrama. There were about 560 women to receive him at Dandi. On 23 rd April, a grand procession of khadi-clad women assembled at Ahmedabad and this procession stretched to half mile and was managed by saffron coloured saree clad volunteers of Videshi Kapade Bahiskar Samiti. On 1 st June 1930, 11 women took part in the Wadala raid organized by the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, in which Lilavti Munshi took an active part and often, they were all arrested and detained in the salt prevention office at Wadala. Gandhi ji held that women were not inferior to men but their role was different. Political participations were not to be at the cost of dominating duties. Servile to her husband, family and country was woman's primary duty. Dr. Sushila Nayar and Ushalen Thakkar are examples of Gandhian advice who remained unmarried for the cause of freedom. For couples who were similarly dedicated, Gandhji advised celibacy and no children. Acharya J. B. Kripalani and his wife Sucheta followed this ideal to the letter. Legally speaking, Gandhi ji made it clear that he was uncompromising in the matter of women's right to divorce, systematize marriage, give protection in case of desertion, grant them guardianship of their children, and make it possible for females to obtain a share in the family property. Gandhi ji was a catalyst in bringing women in to the nationalist movements on a mass scale. He recognized the power of the women and Lower castes and contained it for the cause of independence, uniting the nation behind the freedom struggle at the expense of injustices within casteless and gender relation. All this sums up Gandhi ji's ambivalence on the political role of women in pre independence India. Govind Pelkar sums up by saying that in the Gandhian context it emphasizes the social constrict on gender based on disparities and hierarchies in the family and in the community. In the 1930s and 40s there was an uneasy alliance between feminism and nationalism. Women's organizations univocally admonished the Congress leadership and pointed out that political participation has a restricted meaning in a sterilized patriarchal society when women merely endorse the decision made for them and don't determine their own actions, roles, institutions and socio-economic environment. Right to vote was structured into the Indian constitutions during the formation of Indian Democratic Republic

in. 1950. Article 14 of the Indian constitution states that all persons, male and female are equal before the law and shall get equal protection. Article 15 states that there shall be no discrimination against any person on ground of sex. Article 16 guarantees equality opportunities in matters of public employment irrespective of sex. The MTP act was enacted in 1971. The main difference between women's struggle during the freedom movement and today is that earlier the struggle was for the democratic and political rights of women and today women have moved beyond the framework of legal reforms to work towards emancipation of women which includes the fight against women's subordination to men within the home, against their exploitation by the family, against their continuing low status at work, in society and within cultural and religion practice. From the mid-1970s, small women's groups emerged in big metropolitan cities and subsequently smaller town and villages and play an active part in political parties, trade unions, and student unions and get registered as NOOS. The first notable groups that drew attention were Saheli of Delhi, Sachetana in Calcutta, the woman's centre, Stree Sangathana and the Forum against the oppression of women in Mumbai, Vimochana in Bangalore and Stree Shakti sangha in Hyderabad. Mahila Dakshatasamiti is known for having followed up cases of dowry murders that were hushed up as suicides or accidental deaths. It was since 1975 that every year many of the most repressive and barbaric nations across the world celebrates 8th March as international woman's day completely oblivious to the contradiction that lies in this celebration and the real life experiences and status of woman in these countries. "Dowry murders" — deaths of married women caused by filial pressures have been the focus of woman's groups for several years now. The anti-dowry act (1961) was reinforced in 1982 to make room for (a) capital punishment of the offenders (b) to place the onus of proof of innocence on the accused and (c) to extend protection of the law to the complainants.

The reservation of seats for women in village panchayats and in urban municipal councils affected through the 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments apparently placed power in the hands of one million Indian women for the first time in the history. Educated urban women in a slightly higher position in the job market also suffer from invisible inequalities with their men on all fronts. Women in Assam find themselves marginalized in the process of decision making. To make interventions aimed at restoring place in the area, they negotiate small spaces else when forming groups like Anchalik Mahila Sajagata Samiti, Pradeshik Mahila Samiti. Women have been at the fore front of several movements aimed at arresting deforestation. Among these are the Bhoomi Sena movements in Maharashtra, the Jharkhand

movement in Bihar and Appiko movement in Kanataka and Chipko movement in UP.

Women's question arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century middle class social reform movements. They were often inspired by the democratic ideas of the modern west and by a deep pride in their own democratic traditions of the past and both were used to fight for women's right. Pioneers in women's movements were Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Jyotikala Phule against "Sati". In the 1970s the emphasis was on modern issues such as the rape of women in public custody, dowry murders, the representation of nude women in popular media etc. As we extend to the 21st century new sites of gender injustices were emerging that became evident in the sharp fall in child sex ratio and the implicit social bias against the girl child. They have been outstanding personalities like in the political arena. Women's Bill had been the bone of contention. The names like Smt. Basundhara Raje, Smt. Mayawati, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Path, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury have been closely associated with women empowerment. Smt. Barkha Dutta being well versed in the realm of mass communication. The name Mrs. Hillary Clinton can't be denied upon in the political arena.

At the end, I would like to mention that all the changes right from the pre Independence period till modern era with regard to the status of women are indicative of the fact that women are now breaking the shackles of narrow conservative social ideologies and can walk alongside and even surpass men at times.

Where the women are honoured, there the gods rejoice, but where they are dishonoured, all activities become fruitless. (Manusamhita-3, 56)



A PIONEER OF *ATMA NIRBHAR*

Rtn. Atanu Kr. Chowdhury

In his fifth address during the nation-wide lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asked India's citizens to be *AtmaNirbhar* in the battle against Covid-19. Not only India, the whole world is afflicted by this dreaded virus, which has turned pandemic. He stated: “*When the world is in crisis, we must pledge – a pledge which is bigger than the crisis itself. We must strive to make the 21st century India's century. And the path to do that is self-reliance.*”

For those of us in Rotary Club of Gauhati South, the word ‘*AtmaNirbhar*’ is not new and it brought in fond memories of one of our most loved members, Late Kaushik Das. In the prime of his career, he chose to change track and decided to build up a grassroot organisation for the welfare of the specially challenged.

Kaushik *da* used to visit *Sishu Gram* along with the members of our Rotary club on the third Sunday of every month. It is an orphanage, situated at *Abhoypur*, North Guwahat, near the present LPG bottling plant. The club took it up as a project to enhance the inmates' social interactions. Kaushik *da* became their favourite *mama*, he never missed a visit if he was in town and they eagerly waited for him. In one such visit, in early 1996, he told me that he would give up his tea-broking job and start a voluntary organisation. I was taken aback and urged him caution. He seemed determined.

He used to drive his biscuit-coloured maruti van and more often than not, along with my wife, Arunima and my kids, I used to accompany him. There were also others – members and guests of Gauhati South. I distinctly remember, one day, enroute to *SishuGram*, he told us that he has arrived upon a name for the organisation. A name not familiar, and never heard of but it sounded meaningful and purposive – *AtmaNirbharEk Challenge*. An organisation not only geared to be self-reliant but also a recognition of the fact that it is a challenge to sustain it. A challenge to be self-reliant for an organisation yet to be born was certainly a tall order. Indeed, perplexing and even mind-boggling. The name encompasses different languages – Assamese, Hindi and English. Cosmopolitan

and innovative indeed and remember this was a decision taken in 1996. It reflected Kaushik *da's* character and his well thought-out strategy. For any organisation, and more over for a charitable organisation, it was important to stand on its own feet. And Kaushik *da* seemed to make things clear right from the beginning.

The organisation was inaugurated on 1 May, 1996 at his residence at Gopinath Nagar, opposite TB hospital. The two main personalities present were - Late Natwar Thakkar of *Nagaland Gandhi Ashram* and Shri Prasanna Kumar Pincha, blind since his birth, who went on to become the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Government of India. Both reminded Kaushik Das of the struggles ahead. Iconic songs like *Ham hongekamyab* and Rabindranath's *Eklachalo re* set the tune for an organisation which had set the bars high. Renditions of national and state anthem revealed where his heart lay. The true heart of an *AtmaNirbhar* soul.

Kaushik *da* used his long expertise in the field of tea broking and marketing to set up the NGO as a tea blending and packaging unit. Later spice packaging, paper-bag making, rental of ornamental potted plants and taking up of job contract work of grocery packaging for different retailers were added to supplement the income. What was amazing was that all these works were carried out by the physically and mentally challenged, when hardly any employment opportunities for such fellow-citizens existed. He wanted them to live as dignified bread-winners and not on false piety of others. The vision was not only to give an opening for them but also to make the organisation self-reliant— *atmanirbhar* to use the term currently in vogue.

AtmaNirbhar – Ek Challenge (ANEC), right from its birth, never ever strayed from its path, despite enormous challenges. The greatest was the tragic passing away of Kaushik *da* in 2013. It continues to employ specially abled persons, continues packaging of aptly named '*NavJeevan*' tea and spice packets, continues to provide one rupee highly subsidized lunch to every worker, continues celebrating foundation day on every May Day which for many of us is an annual pilgrimage, and so on. The foundation day meeting honours a specially-abled achieving person along with a distinguished person in any field. The organisation was honoured by the NCPEDP-Helen Keller Award,2000 and National Award,2004(presented by the then President APJ Abdul Kalam) at the national level and Best Community Action Award for Development,2012 by Assam government. Rotary District-3240 honoured Kaushik *da* at the District Conference at Durgapur, West Bengal in 2009. It is the most transparent NGO, with an able Board under the leadership of

BhaskarBarua, former Secretary, Agriculture, Government of India, it continues to function effectively.

Starting with 5 employees, today it employs 48 specially abled persons. A significant step was enrolling all its beneficiaries under the Government's Provident Fund Scheme for social security and the ESIC programme by which beneficiaries and their families have become eligible for free medical treatment. If such an organisation can tread successfully for more than 24 years, the challenge of *AtmaNirbhar* can be met headlong.

We need more visionary social entrepreneurs like Kaushik *da*. The real challenge, for all able-bodied persons, is to wake up to ANEC's potential and do something for our specially abled brethren. Is it too much to seek and buy a packet of *Nav Jeevan*? You will not only have a refreshing cup of garden-fresh tea but will also refresh an organisation built to meet a challenge way back in 1996. The real challenge lies there - the challenge of *Atma Nirbhar*!



Lao-Tze

- ❖ The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes. **Marcel Proust**
- ❖ Every man dies. Not every man really lives. **William Wallace**
- ❖ But what is happiness except the simple harmony between a man and the life he leads? **Albert Camus**
- ❖ Happiness depends upon ourselves. **Aristotle**

বসুন্ধৰাৰ কথাৰে

ৰটাৰীয়ান ড° ৰেণু গোস্বামী

হঠাৎ পৃথিৱীখন নিতাল মাৰিলে। বসুন্ধৰাই শান্তিৰে এঘুমুটি মাৰিছে। উঃস কিমান দিনৰ পাছতযে তেওঁ এনেদৰে জিৰণি ল'বলৈ অৱকাশ পাইছে। মানৱ নামৰ এই জীৱশ্ৰেষ্ঠহঁতৰ উৎপীড়নৰ পৰা কিছু নিষ্কৃতি পাইছে। কি কৰা নাই সিহঁতে? তেওঁৰ বুকুত লালিত-পালিত হোৱা পাহাৰ, গছ-গছনি কাটি খাষ্টাং কৰিলে। প্ৰকৃতিৰ মাজত উপজি ডাঙৰ-দীঘল হোৱা তেওঁৰেই জীৱকুলৰ পৰা বাছি বাছি বন্য জন্তু, চৰাই-চিৰিকটি, কেৱল নিজ স্বাৰ্থ সিদ্ধিৰ বাবেই হত্যা কৰিছে। আচলতে মানৱ নামটোৰ ঠাইত দানবহে হ'ব লাগিছিল- বসুন্ধৰাই মনতে ভাবিলে।

চীন বোলা দেশ এখনৰ মানুহবোৰে হেনো সাপ, বেং, কেকোৰা, বাদুলি, বান্দৰ, সাপ আদি সকলো জীৱ-জন্তুকে আহাৰ হিচাপে ভক্ষণ কৰে। কি আচৰিত! এতিয়া পিছে পোটকতো পাইছে নহয়! বেছ হৈছে। বসুন্ধৰাই ক্ষোভ উজাৰিলে।

মানুহবোলা প্ৰাণীবিধে তেওঁক ক'তো শান্তিৰে থাকিবলৈ দিয়া নাই। ইহঁতৰ আন আন প্ৰাণীৰ তুলনাত বুদ্ধিতো বেছি বাবে অধীক ভয়ঙ্কৰ। কতযে নতুন নতুন বস্তুৰ উদ্ভাৱন কৰিছে। সিহঁতৰ আৰাম আৰু সুবিধাৰ বাবে ভিন ভিন ধৰণৰ বাহন উলিয়াইছে। সেই সমূহৰ পৰা নিৰ্গত হোৱা বিষাক্ত গেছে যে তেওঁৰ বুকুখন হেঁচা মাৰি ধৰিছে তালৈ কিন্তু ভ্ৰক্ষেপেই নাই। কেৱল ন ন আহিলা আৱিষ্কাৰতেই ব্যস্ত। প্লাচটিক বোলা পদাৰ্থ এবিধ উলিয়াই কমবোৰ আহিলা তৈয়াৰ কৰিলেনে? সেইবোৰ আকউ সহজে তেওঁৰ বুকুত লীন নেযায়। ফলস্বৰূপে দম-দম প্লাচটিকৰ আবৰ্জনাই তেওঁৰ উশাহ-নিশাহ বন্ধ কৰাৰ উপক্ৰম কৰিছে। বসুন্ধৰাই দীঘলকৈ উশাহ এটা টানি লবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিলে।

তেওঁৰ বুকুখনৰ ওপৰতযে অটবোৰ বৃহৎ বৃহৎ অটালিকা গঢ়ি উঠিব বসুন্ধৰাইতো কেতিয়াও কল্পনা কৰা নাছিল। কেতিয়াবা তেওঁৰ মন যায়, ভয়ঙ্কৰ ভাৱে শৰীৰতো জোকোৰি সেইবোৰ ঠান-বান কৰি পেলাবলৈ। একেবাৰে নকৰাও নহয় পিছে - বহুবছৰৰ মূৰে মূৰে তেওঁৰ প্ৰচণ্ড খঙতো উপশম কৰিবলৈ নকৰিবলগীয়া কামো কৰিছে। বৰভুঁইকপ, কলেৰা মহামাৰী, প্ৰলয়াঙ্কৰী বানপানী আদি তাৰেই উদাহৰণ। পিছে মানুহ নামৰ জীৱবিধে এই বিলাকৰ পৰা শিক্ষা নলয়। ফলস্বৰূপে দুঃস্বাৰ্থ্যৰ পৰিণাম ভূগে।

ইমান ধুনীয়া ধুনীয়া সুস্বাদু ফল-মূল তেওঁৰ বুকুতেই বস সুহি দেশৰ বিভিন্ন প্ৰান্তত উৎপন্ন হয়।

সেই সমূহ ভগৱানৰ নৈবেদ্যত আগবঢ়োৱাৰ উপৰিও মানুহে ভক্ষণ কৰি নিজৰ শ্ৰীবৃদ্ধি বঢ়াব পাৰে। কিন্তু মানৱৰূপী এই জীৱবিধে সুমিষ্ট ফলমূলৰ ওপৰতো অত্যাচাৰ চলাই আহিছে। কল এঠোক স্বাভাৱিক ভাৱে পকিবলৈ দিয়াৰ পৰিৱৰ্ত্তে ৰাসায়নিক গেছ প্ৰয়োগ কৰি অকালতে পকাই বজাৰত মেলি দিয়ে অধিক মুনাফা লাভৰ আশাত। এনেকৈয়ে মানুহে মানুহৰ ক্ষতি কৰে এচাম অতি লোভী ব্যৱসায়ীয়ে। যিকোনো এবিধ ফল পুৰঠ হোৱাৰ পাছত বেছিদিন সতেজ হৈ নেথাকে। সেইটোৱে স্বাভাৱিক কথা, প্ৰকৃতিৰ নিয়ম। বসুন্ধৰাই শুনিছে - আপেল নামৰ ফলবিধ হেনো দেখাত সতেজ আৰু চিক্‌চিকিয়া কৰি ৰাখিবলৈ মানৱ কুলৰ এচাম বুদ্ধিমান কিন্তু ধূৰন্ধৰ লোকে আপেলৰ ওপৰত মমবাতিৰ প্ৰলেপ সানে। অকল ফলমূলেইনে? মানুহৰ দুই নম্বৰী ধান্দাৰ অন্ত নাই। প্লাষ্টিকৰ চাউল, কণীও উলিয়াইছে হেনো। কথাবোৰ দেখি শুনি বসুন্ধৰাৰ শাওপাত দিবৰ মন যায়। এই দুষ্ট মানুহ বোৰক ভালকৈ এশিকনি দিবলৈও ইচ্ছা হয়। পিছে উপায় বিচাৰিহে পোৱা নাই।

বসুন্ধৰাক আচৰিত কৰি হঠাতে এটা উপায় আবিৰ্ভূত হ'ল। সেয়া দুষ্ট বুদ্ধিৰ মানুহৰেই সৃষ্ট নে আন কিবা, তেওঁ নেজানে। কিন্তু পৃথিৱীত নিজকে অতি উন্নত আৰু শ্ৰেষ্ঠ বুলি ফিটাই মৰা লোকো ইয়াৰ দংশনৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিব পৰা নাই। এক কথাত কবলৈ গলে এচাম মানুহৰ নগুৰ-নাগতি হৈছে। মাতৃ হিচাপে বসুন্ধৰাৰ মনত কিছু দুখ লাগিছে। কিন্তু তেওঁ জানে এয়া অৱশ্যভাৱী। কলি যুগৰ শেষ হৈ আহিছে নেকি? ক'ৰনা নামৰ ভয়ঙ্কৰ জীৱানুটোৱেই কঙ্কি নেকি? হবও পাৰে। নহলেনো বিশ্বৰ ৰজা-প্ৰজা, ধনী-দুখীয়া, উচ্চ-নীচ, বিভিন্ন ধৰ্মাৱলম্বী কোনোৱেই ইয়াৰ প্ৰভাৱৰ পৰা হাত সাৰিব পৰা নাই কিয়? বসুন্ধৰাই মনতে ভাবিলে....।



পঢ়াশালিত এগৰাকী মৰমিয়াল মাতৃ

বিশ্বদীপ বৰুৱা

“There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread, but there are many more dying for a little love.

- Mother Teresa

চাকৰি সূত্ৰে গুৱাহাটীলৈ অহাৰ পাছৰে পৰা মোৰ পৰিবাৰ সুৰভিয়ে যোৱা প্ৰায় একুৰি বছৰে এখন স্কুলত শিক্ষকতা কৰি আহিছে। তাৰ আগতে নামৰূপত থাকোঁতে তাত তেওঁ এখন সংগীত বিদ্যালয়ত নাচ-গান শিকাইছিল। এখন মন্টেছৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী ৰূপে এতিয়া কণমানি শিশুসকলক জ্ঞানৰ পোহৰ বিলাই দিনটোৰ আধাখিনি সময় কটাই তেওঁৰ মনটো শিশুৰ দৰে সৰল আৰু আনন্দমধুৰ হৈ থাকে - তেওঁ সেই সময়খিনি খুব উপভোগ কৰে। পঢ়াশালি, মহাবিদ্যালয় বা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত পাঠদান কৰাতকৈও, আখৰৰ লগত প্ৰথম চিনাকি হ'বলৈ অহা কণমাণি শিশুহঁতক শিক্ষাদান কৰাটো শিক্ষকসকলৰ বাবে অধিক কষ্টকৰ যেন মোৰ ভাব হয়। মন্টেছৰী পদ্ধতিৰে পাঠদান কৰা আৰু অধিক কষ্টসাধ্য। সেই পদ্ধতিটো আয়ত্ত কৰাৰ লগতে শিক্ষকগৰাকীক লাগে অসীম ধৈৰ্য আৰু এখন মাতৃৰ হৃদয়। সেই কণ কণ শিশুহঁতৰ মাজত এনে বহুতো দুৰ্ভাগীয়া শিশুও থাকে, যাৰ অধিক প্ৰয়োজন শিক্ষা লাভৰ উপৰি এখন মাতৃ হৃদয়ৰ উত্তাপ।

আমাৰ দিনৰ কথা আছিল সম্পূৰ্ণ বেলেগ। তেতিয়া শিক্ষক-অভিভাৱক সকলোৱে বিশ্বাস কৰিছিল- ‘চেকনিৰ আগত বিদ্যা’। প্ৰাথমিক বিদ্যালয়ত পঢ়োঁতে শিক্ষকৰ পৰা খোৱা বেতৰ কোবকেইটা এতিয়াও মনত পৰে। আমাৰ কুমলীয়া হাতত বেতৰ কোব পৰি তেজ ক'লা পৰি সেৱা পাতি যোৱা দিনৰ কথা এতিয়া একোটা দুঃস্বপ্ন যেন লগা হ'ল। এতিয়া পঢ়াশালিত চেকনিৰ কোব দুৰৰ কথা, টানকৈ এষাৰ কথাও ক'ব নোৱাৰি। আনকি স্কুলৰ Progress report ত বেয়া বুলি লিখিবও নোৱাৰি।

আমাৰ বৰ বাইদেউ প্ৰয়াত নীলিমা বৰুৱায়ো আজীৱন শিক্ষকতা কৰিছিল। তাৰ পাছৰ গৰাকী

অঞ্জলি বাইদেৰেও শিক্ষকতা কৰিয়েই অৱসৰ ল'লে। সৰু বাইদেউ বস্তিয়েও কিছুদিন শিক্ষকতা কৰিছিল। মোৰ ভনী জয়শ্ৰীয়ে ডিব্ৰুগড় বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ৰ পৰা Applied Geology ত M.Sc. ডিগ্ৰী লৈও পাছলৈ কিন্তু চাকৰি-বাকৰি নকৰি গৃহিণী হৈয়ে কটালে। আমাৰ জীয়াৰী সংহিতায়ো শিক্ষকতাৰ সোৱাদ লৈছে। শিক্ষকতাৰ দৰে মহান জীৱিকা এটা সঁচায়ে বৰ প্ৰশংসনীয়। মানুহ গঢ়াৰ লগতে দেশৰ সু-নাগৰিক একোজন গঢ়ি তোলাত তেওঁলোকৰ অৱদান অতুলনীয়।

শিক্ষক বুলি ক'লে আমাৰ শিৰ এতিয়াও দোঁ খাই যায় — যি সকলৰ অৱদানে আমাক মানুহ হোৱাত সহায় কৰি গ'ল। যোৱা ২০১৫ চনৰ মাৰ্চ মাহত আমাৰ স্কুলীয়া শিক্ষা সাং কৰাৰ অৰ্ধশতিকা পূৰ হ'ল। আমি শিৱসাগৰ চৰকাৰী বহুমুখী বিদ্যালয়ৰ ছাত্ৰ আছিলোঁ। বহুদিনৰে পৰা মনতে ভাবি আছিলোঁ এই সোণালী জয়ন্তীবৰ্ষ পালন আমি কৰিম আমাৰ মাজত এতিয়াও থকা শিক্ষকসকলৰ শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলি জনোৱা এটি অনুষ্ঠানৰ যোগেদি। ইয়াৰ যোগেদিয়ে বিশ্বৰ সকলো শিক্ষকলৈ আমাৰ কৃতজ্ঞতা আৰু শ্ৰদ্ধা জ্ঞাপন কৰা হ'ব। সেইমতেই যোৱা ২০১৫ চনৰ নৱেম্বৰ মাহত সেই অনুষ্ঠানটি সুন্দৰকৈ শিৱসাগৰৰ আমি এৰি এহা বিদ্যালয়খনত পালন কৰা হ'ল।

শিক্ষক বুলি ক'লেই মনলৈ আহে সেইজন প্ৰাতঃস্মৰণীয় গুৰুলৈ, যাৰ জন্মদিন আমাৰ দেশত আজিও পালন কৰা হয় 'শিক্ষক দিৱস' ৰূপে। পৰম শ্ৰদ্ধাৰে সুঁৱৰিছোঁ সেই মহান দাৰ্শনিক পণ্ডিত ড° সৰ্বপল্লী ৰাধাকৃষ্ণনক, যি আমি পঢ়ি অহা 'কাশী হিন্দু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়'ৰ উপাচাৰ্য আছিল। আমাৰ শিক্ষাগুৰু প্ৰয়াত ড° গোপাল ত্ৰিপাঠী, যি আমাক কেমিকেল ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিঙৰ “Transport Phenomena” পঢ়াইছিল — তেখেতকে আদি কৰি আমাৰ সমূহ শিক্ষাগুৰুলৈ এই সুযোগতে আমাৰ সশ্ৰদ্ধ প্ৰণিপাত জনাইছোঁ।

আজি এটা মনপৰশা কাহিনী মনত পৰিছে এগৰাকী শিক্ষয়িত্ৰীৰ। ক'ত কেনেকৈ কাহিনীটো পাইছিলোঁ মনত পৰা নাই— কিন্তু কাহিনীটো ইমান মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী যে আমাৰ পাঠক সমাজৰ যিসকলে এই কাহিনীটো শুনা নাই তেখেতসকলে ভাল পাব পাৰে বুলি ভাবিয়েই ইয়াক আগবঢ়ালোঁ।

এখন স্কুললৈ এগৰাকী শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী নতুনকৈ আহিল। শিক্ষয়িত্ৰীগৰাকী খুব অভিজ্ঞ আৰু মৰমিয়াল। তেওঁৰ নাম মিছেছ থম্পছন। প্ৰত্যেকদিনা শ্ৰেণীকোঠাত সোমায়ৈ পাঠদান আৰম্ভ কৰাৰ আগতে তেওঁ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলক সন্মোখি কয় — ‘মই তোমালোক সকলোকে খুব ভাল পাওঁ।’ দুদিনমান পাৰ হৈ গ'ল। মুখেৰে তেনেকৈ কয় যদিও মনৰ ভিতৰত তেওঁৰ এটা অপৰাধবোধে কাম কৰিছিল। কাৰণ তেওঁ জানিছিল যে তেওঁ সম্পূৰ্ণ সঁচা কথা কোৱা নাই। মিছেছ থম্পছনে অনুভৱ কৰিছিল যে সেই শ্ৰেণীৰ ভিতৰৰ এটা উচ্ছৃংখল, জধলা আৰু অন্যমনস্ক হৈ থকা ল'ৰাক সঁচাকৈয়ে তেওঁ ভাল পাব পৰা

নাই। ল'ৰাজনৰ নাম টেডী। টেডীৰ গাত এনেকুৱা কোনো এটা গুণ তেওঁ বিচাৰি পোৱা নাই, যিটোৰ কাৰণে ল'ৰাজনক ভাল পাব পাৰি। ল'ৰাজনৰ প্ৰতিটো কাম, প্ৰতিটো কথা তেওঁ কেৱল দোষেই দেখা পায়। ল'ৰাজনৰ ঋণাত্মক কামবোৰৰ কাৰণে তেওঁ ল'ৰাজনক সম্পূৰ্ণ অৱহেলা কৰা হ'ল। তিনি মাহ পাৰ হ'ল। তিনিমহীয়া প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্ট দিব লাগে। স্কুলখনত এটা নিয়ম আছিল যে প্ৰত্যেকখন প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্টত প্ৰিন্সিপালৰ স্বাক্ষৰ লাগে।

টেডীৰ প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্ট দেখি প্ৰিন্সিপালে মিছেছ থম্পছনক মাতি পঠিয়ালে আৰু ক'লে যে প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্টত অলপ হ'লেও প্ৰগেছ দেখা পাব লাগে; নহ'লে অভিভাৱকসকল সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰাশ হৈ যাব। মিছেছ থম্পছনে উত্তৰ দিলে যে তেওঁৰ কোনো উপায় নাই। টেডী নামৰ ল'ৰাজনৰ গাত কোনো এটা ভাল গুণ তেওঁ দেখা পোৱা নাই, যিটো প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্টত তেওঁ লিখিব পাৰে। লগে লগে প্ৰিন্সিপালে অফিচৰ সহায়কজনক মাতি টেডীৰ পুৰণা প্ৰগেছ ৰিপ'ৰ্টবোৰ বিচাৰি মিছেছ থম্পছনলৈ পঠিয়াই দিবলৈ ক'লে। পুৰণা ৰিপ'ৰ্টবোৰ চাই তেওঁ হতবাক হৈ পৰিল। থাৰ্ড ষ্টেণ্ডাৰ্ডৰ ফাইনেল ৰিপ'ৰ্টত লিখা আছে যে ক্লাছৰ ভিতৰত আটাইতকৈ উজ্জ্বল ছাত্ৰজন হ'ল টেডী। তাৰ পাছৰ বছৰতো তেওঁৰ খুব ভাল ৰিজাল্ট। কিন্তু তাৰ পাছৰ পৰা টেডীৰ ৰিপ'ৰ্ট পৰা বুজা গ'ল যে ক্ৰমান্বয়ে টেডীৰ পৰীক্ষাৰ ফলাফল অৱনমিত হ'ব ধৰিলে। গম পোৱা গ'ল যে টেডীৰ মাক দুৰাৰোগ্য কেঙ্গাৰ ৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত আৰু তেওঁ টেডীৰ পঢ়া-শুনাত আগতে যি ধৰণেৰে চোৱা-চিতা কৰিছিল সেয়া কৰিব পৰা নাই। ফলত টেডীৰ পঢ়া-শুনাতো তাৰ প্ৰতিফলন ঘটাবলৈ ধৰিলে। 6th ষ্টেণ্ডাৰ্ড পাওঁতে টেডীয়ে মাকক হেৰুৱালে আৰু লগতে সিও হেৰাই যোৱাৰ উপক্ৰম হ'ল। এই সময়ত টেডীক যদি যত্ন লোৱা নেযায়, সেই কণমাণি ল'ৰাটি চিৰদিনলৈ হেৰাই যাব। ৰিপ'ৰ্টবোৰ দেখি মিছেছ থম্পছনৰ দুচকু চকুলোৰে ভৰি পৰিল। তেওঁ ঠিক কৰিলে তেওঁ কি কৰিব। অৰ্থাৎ তেওঁ জানে তেওঁ কি কৰা উচিত। এখন মমতাৰে ভৰা অন্তৰৰ গৰাকী মিছেছ থম্পছনে পাছদিনাখনৰ পৰাই টেডীৰ প্ৰতি তেওঁৰ ব্যৱহাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সলনি কৰি পেলালে। আন দিনাৰ দৰেই ক্লাছত সোমায়ৈ তেওঁ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলক সম্বোধি ক'লে – 'মই তোমালোক সকলোকে খুব ভাল পাওঁ।' কিন্তু সেইদিনা তেওঁ অনুভৱ কৰিলে যে আন সকলোতকৈ টেডীক বেছি ভাল পাবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিছে। অসীম কৰুণাৰে তেওঁ টেডীৰ সকলো কামৰ প্ৰতি যত্ন ল'বলৈ ধৰিলে। সকলো ভাল কথা, ভাল কামতে তেওঁ টেডীৰ নাম ল'বলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰিলে।

চাওঁতে চাওঁতে বছৰটো শেষ হ'ল। ক্লাছৰ শেষৰ দিনটোত প্ৰত্যেকজন ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীয়ে শিক্ষয়িত্ৰীগৰাকীলৈ একোটা উপহাৰ লৈ আহে। মিছেছ থম্পছনলৈকো প্ৰত্যেকেই একোটা উপহাৰ লৈ আহিছে। তাৰ মাজতে দেখা গ'ল পুৰণা খবৰ কাগজেৰে মেৰিয়াই অনা এটা টোপোলা। তেওঁ অনুমান

কৰিলে যে সেইটো আন কাৰো নহয় -- টেডীৰ উপহাৰ। তেওঁ প্ৰথমেই সেই উপহাৰটো গ্ৰহণ কৰি খুলিবলৈ ল'লে। ভিতৰত দেখিলে এটা আধা ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা পুৰণা পাৰফিউমৰ বটল আৰু এডাল পুৰণা খাৰু, য'ৰ পৰা দুটামান বাখৰ ইতিমধ্যে সৰি পৰিছে। লগৰ ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰে উপলুঙা কৰি হাঁহিবলৈ ধৰিলে।

লগে লগে মিছেছ থম্পছনে সেই খাৰুডাল পিন্ধিলে আৰু পুৰণা পাৰফিউমৰ বটলত থকা আতৰ অলপ নিজৰ গাত সানি ল'লে। টেডীয়ে উলাহতে ওচৰলৈ আহি ক'লে -- তুমি এতিয়া মোৰ মাৰ নিচিনা গোন্ধাইছা।' এইটোৱেই মোৰ মাই মোক এৰি যোৱাৰ আগতে ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা শেষ পাৰফিউম। আৰু মোৰ মাক কফিনত ভৰোৱাৰ আগতে তেওঁৰ গাৰ পৰা খুলি ৰখা শেষৰ বস্তুটোৱেই হ'ল এই খাৰুপাত।

বছৰটো শেষ হ'ল। মিছেছ থম্পছনৰ মেজৰ ওপৰত এখন চিঠি --- মই বহুতো শিক্ষকক লগ পালোঁ। কিন্তু মই পোৱা সকলো শিক্ষকৰ ভিতৰত তুমিয়েই হ'লা আটাইতকৈ ভাল শিক্ষক --- শ্ৰদ্ধা আৰু মৰমৰে টেডী। স্কুলৰ শিক্ষা শেষ নোহোৱালৈকে প্ৰত্যেক বছৰৰ শেষত মিছেছ থম্পছনে টেডীৰ পৰা সেই কথাখিনি লিখা এখন চিঠি পাই আছিল -- 'তুমিয়েই সকলোতকৈ ভাল আৰু মৰমৰ শিক্ষক।

বছৰ বাগৰি গ'ল। উচ্চ শিক্ষাৰ বাবে টেডীও সেই চহৰ এৰি আন ঠাইলৈ গুচি গ'ল। তেওঁলোকৰ যোগাযোগ নাইকিয়া হৈ গ'ল। ইতিমধ্যে মিছেছ থম্পছনেও অৱসৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে। কেইবছৰমানৰ পাছত এদিন হঠাৎ মিছেছ থম্পছনে এখন চিঠি পালে। চিঠিখনৰ তলত চহী কৰিলে এজন ড° থিয়েডৰ, পি. এইচ. ডি। তাত লিখিছে 'মই জীৱনত বহুত মানুহ লগ পালোঁ। কিন্তু, মিছেছ থম্পছন তুমিয়েই সকলোতকৈ বেছি মৰমীয়াল আৰু শ্ৰেষ্ঠ মোৰ দৃষ্টিত। অহা মাহত মোৰ বিয়া। তোমাৰ উপস্থিতি অবিহনে এই বিয়া পতাৰ কথা মই ভাবিবই নোৱাৰোঁ।' টেডী ইতিমধ্যে পি. এইচ. ডি. ডিগ্ৰী লাভ কৰি এজন সফল ব্যক্তিকৰূপে পৰিগণিত হ'ল। চিঠিখনৰ লগত অহা-যোৱা কৰা বিমানৰ টিকট গাঁঠি দিছে।

লগে লগে মিছেছ থম্পছনে বিয়ালৈ যাবলৈ মন থিৰ কৰিলে। যদিও সেই পাৰফিউমটো ইতিমধ্যে শেষ হৈছিল--- বাখৰ এৰোৱা খাৰুপাত তেওঁ পিন্ধি ল'লে। বিয়াৰ দিনা যথা সময়ত তেওঁ নতুন চহৰখনত উপস্থিত হ'লগৈ আৰু বিবাহ সম্পন্ন হ'ব লগা গিৰ্জাঘৰটো পালোগৈ। তেওঁ গৈ মনে মনে শেষৰ বেঞ্চত বহি পৰিল। কিন্তু তেওঁ অহাৰ কথা গম পায়ই টেডীয়ে তেওঁক সন্মুখলৈ আদৰি আনিলে। তাত একেবাৰে সন্মুখত এখন বিশেষ আসন ঠিক কৰি থোৱা আছিল আৰু তাত লিখা আছিল-- 'মোৰ মা'। টেডী আগবাঢ়ি আহি তেওঁক সেই আসন গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰি কাণে কাণে ক'লে যে তুমিয়েই মোৰ মাৰ পাছত মোৰ আটাইতকৈ ঘনিষ্ঠ ব্যক্তি। মোৰ জীৱনৰ সফলতাৰ গুৰিতেই তুমি -- তোমাৰ অৱদানৰ

অবিহনে মই আজিৰ এই অৱস্থালৈ আহিব নোৱাৰিলোহেঁতেন।

বিবাহ সম্পন্ন হৈ যোৱাৰ পাছত টেডীয়ে নৱবিবাহিতা পত্নীক চিনাকি কৰি দি মিছেছ থম্পছনৰ বিষয়ে সেই কথাই ক'লে যে তেওঁ অবিহনে টেডীৰ আজিৰ সফলতা সম্ভৱ নাছিল। কথাকেইটা কওঁতে টেডীৰ দুচকু সেমেকি গৈছিল।

মিছেছ থম্পছনেও উত্তৰত ক'লে যে টেডীৰ অবিহনে তেওঁ এটা ডাঙৰ সত্য উপলব্ধি কৰিব নোৱাৰিলেহেঁতেন যে এগৰাকী শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী এটি শিশুৰ জীৱনত প্ৰথমে এগৰাকী শিক্ষয়িত্ৰী এটি শিশুৰ জীৱনত প্ৰথমে এগৰাকী মাতৃ ৰূপত ধৰা দিয়া উচিত— তাৰ পাছতহে শিক্ষক। মিছেছ থম্পছনে লগতে ক'লে যে প্ৰত্যেক ক্লাছতে হয়তো একোজন টেডী থাকিব পাৰে আৰু মাতৃ হৃদয়ৰ মৰমে সেইজন টেডীৰ জীৱনৰ সুঁতি সলনি কৰি দিব পাৰিব আৰু এইদৰেই এখন নতুন পৃথিৱী গঢ়ি উঠিব।

(‘নিয়মীয়া বাৰ্তা’ নামৰ দৈনিক বাতৰি কাকতৰ ৪ চেপ্তেম্বৰ ২০১৬ চনত প্ৰকাশিত।)



Snippets of Some Activities of
ROTARY CLUB OF GAUHATI SOUTH









ROTARY CALENDAR

JULY IS



NEW LEADERSHIP MONTH

"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."
—Winston Churchill

Rotary  www.rotary.org

AUGUST IS




MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"Rotary's strength lies in the diversity of people of the world."
—Gus Kirby, 1964-65 Rotary International President



Rotary   www.rotary.org

SEPTEMBER IS



BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

"The more you read, the more things you know. The more you know, the more places you'll go."
—Dr. Seuss

Rotary   www.rotary.org

OCTOBER IS



ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"By the sweat of your hand you shall eat bread."
—Genesis 3:19

Rotary   www.rotary.org

DECEMBER IS



DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

"The greatest of threats today is one of the most important factors in the life of humankind."
—Clara Barton

Rotary   www.rotary.org

NOVEMBER IS



ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

"I'll use my company space, my own company's facilities."
—Walter Dill Scott

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JANUARY IS



VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

"Rotary's greatest strength will always be the individual Rotarian. No other organization has such 'down-to-earth' assistance."
—Paul H. Patterson, Club 41, Kansas, 1957-58

Rotary   www.rotary.org

FEBRUARY IS



PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

"Imagine all the people living life in peace."
—John Lennon

Rotary   www.rotary.org

MARCH IS



WATER AND SANITATION MONTH

"Clean water, the source of life, bears through for everyone, not just those who are in need."
—Dr. Seuss

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APRIL IS



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."
—Mahatma Gandhi

Rotary   www.rotary.org

MAY IS



YOUTH SERVICE MONTH

"The secret lies within the youth service program, and that is 'service'—not money or titles."
—Walter Dill Scott

Rotary   www.rotary.org

JUNE DESIGNATION IS



ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

"This foundation upon which Rotary is built is fellowship. All we have left to do is build it more and more."
—Paul H. Patterson, 1957

Rotary   www.rotary.org

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WITH GOLD DISTINCTION**



Awarded to the Rotary Club of

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for helping Rotary **be the inspiration** in the lives of people all over the world.

Barry Rennie
President, Rotary International

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- Indian oil corporation Ltd, (IOCL, LPG)
- Oil India Ltd, (OIL)
- BT Guwahati
- Neepco, Teral Hydro Electrical Project
- Tea Gardens
- Airforce / Army
- Railway
- National Highway Project
- PWD Bridge Project

Wakil Infrastructure, Hyderabad

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ROTARY'S WHEEL EMBLEM

The Rotary emblem is a trademark owned by Rotary International and is protected throughout the world by the international association. The first design was made by Chicago Rotarian, Montague Bear, an engraver who drew a simple wagon wheel, with a few lines to show dust and motion. The wheel was said to illustrate "Civilization and Movement." Most of the early clubs had some form of wagon wheel on their publications and letterheads. Finally, in 1922, it was decided that all Rotary clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of the movement. In 1923, the present geared wheel, with 24 cogs and six spokes, was adopted by the Rotary International Association. A group of engineers soon advised that the geared wheel was mechanically unsound, and would not work without a "keyway" in the centre of the gear to attach it to a power shaft. So the keyway was added at the 1929 International Convention and the design which we now know was formally adopted as the official Rotary International Emblem.



**Dr. John Weisburger, Director Emeritus
American Health Foundation says**

"Current research shows tea contains specific antioxidants & health promoting ingredients, lowering the risk of heart disease, stroke & certain type of cancer like oral, pancreatic and prostate".

There is scientific evidence to prove that Antioxidants promote heart health, prevent Cancer, help combat & guard against most diseases like Diabetes, Blood Pressure, Tumor, Ulceration. Inflammation, Intestinal problems, Dental decay and a lot more.

Tea, Fruit & Vegetables are known to be the richest sources of Antioxidants, where Tea tops the list in its richness.

Assam Branch Indian Tea Association