



Udayan



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

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ROTARY HISTORY



Chesley R. Perry:
Rotary's first General Secretary

Chesley Reynolds Perry, a Spanish-American War veteran and former Chicago Public Library employee, served as Rotary's first secretary and is known as "the builder of Rotary International."

While Rotary's president changes every year, only 12 people have served as general secretary, a role that's equivalent to a chief executive — and at 32 years, Perry served the longest.

In August 1910, the newly formed National Association of Rotary Clubs (now Rotary International) unanimously selected Perry for the role then known as secretary. He accepted the part-time position at \$100 per month, with an agreement that the amount of time he'd devote would remain unspecified. By 1912, the job had evolved into a full-time executive role, and Perry's pay was increased.

From the Editor



During the last few months we have been reading and hearing of little else but the corona virus. We have also been witnessing how it has impacted people's lives throughout the world.

The Covid 19 pandemic is a public health emergency that is causing a stressful and difficult time for everyone. The outbreak of communicable diseases very often causes fear and anxiety leading to prejudices against people and communities, social isolation and stigma. Such behaviour may culminate in increased hostility, chaos and unnecessary social disruptions. We have read of innumerable instances of frontline healthcare and sanitary workers being targeted by the general public. In fact, many doctors and paramedics have been even compelled to vacate their rented premises. And what about those infected by the virus? They are more often than not treated as outcasts, sometimes even by their own family members. This stigma associated with Covid 19 is basically based on three factors—first, lack of adequate information, secondly, fear of the disease and thirdly, rumours and misinformation.

The cumulative impact of these factors often results in a situation where people start concealing symptoms and hesitate to seek medical aid. It often leads to an increased sense of isolation, feeling of guilt and even depression in acute cases.

UDAYAN

Perry's own office on LaSalle Street in Chicago, Illinois, USA, served as the first headquarters of the association. By 1911, Rotary had established an office in the First National Bank Building at the intersection of Dearborn and Monroe in Chicago.

Perry concurrently served as editor and business manager of *The Rotarian* from 1911 to 1928, and he opened Rotary's first international office, in Zurich, Switzerland, in February 1925. He oversaw the expansion of Rotary as it grew during his tenure from 16 clubs in the United States to more than 5,000 worldwide. His title was officially changed to general secretary in 1941-42, his final year in office.

Perry had announced his plans to retire in 1940, but agreed to remain in his post while the organization trained his successor, Philip C. Lovejoy. A number of clubs sought to nominate Perry for RI president in 1942-43, but he declined, saying, "I am gratefully conscious of the high compliment thereby being paid to me."

After retiring, Perry remained a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, which he'd joined in 1908. But he wasn't done being a leader, and served as club president in 1944-45. In 1954, Rotary offered him the title "secretary emeritus" to honour his years of service, but he again declined, preferring the role of an ordinary Rotarian.

Perry died on 21 February 1960 at the age of 87.

Covid 19 is just another virus and it appears that it is here to stay until such time that a vaccine has been found. Vaccines take a long time... sometimes even years. So even though many countries are working on this virus and millions of dollars have been pumped into its research, no one is sure when it will be ready. Fast tracking human trials may not be the ideal thing to do and public health experts are concerned that vaccines might be approved with incomplete data and analysis. So it is apparent that we have to learn to live with the virus, at least for the time being. Addressing issues related to social stigma is, therefore, very important.

As rotarians and responsible citizens we must try to create an awareness among communities about the disease. The precautions that we need to take are simple... wearing a mask, frequently washing our hands, maintaining proper hygiene and avoiding crowded places. But how many are following these simple guidelines? Unless we ensure that they are followed by the people at large, we are unlikely to see any respite in the near future. As rotarians, it is our duty to do our bit in whatever way we can.

Rtn. Priyam Goswami



ROTARY'S WORK COMMEMORATED IN STAMPS

Countries around the world have honoured the work of Rotary with commemorative stamps since 1931, when Austria created an overprint — a later printing over an officially issued stamp — in honour of the Rotary International Convention in Vienna. Stamps have commemorated other Rotary Conventions, including those held in Havana in 1940; Tokyo in 1961 and 1978; São Paulo in 1981; and Munich, Germany, in 1987.

In 1955, for Rotary's 50th anniversary, 27 nations issued commemorative stamps. Many featured familiar Rotary images such as the gearwheel, which a Greek stamp

incorporated along with the number 50. Images of Rotary founder Paul Harris and common scenes from the issuing country also were popular.

Rotary's 75th anniversary was honoured with commemorative stamps from Benin, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Ghana, and others.



The postal service of the Netherlands Antilles issued several postcards and stamps, as well as a postage cancellation stamp in the shape of the Rotary emblem. The Maldives issued a series of stamps based on Rotary's Health, Hunger, and Humanity Grants.

Here are a few samples.



INAUGURATION OF AUDIO TOOLS: A REPORT

Rtn Nawajyoti Sarma

A virtual meeting was organised by our club on 10 August, 2020 at 1.30 pm for the inauguration of an Audio Tool on Assamese Grammar consisting of eight chapters for visually impaired school students. We requested the Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities, Government of Assam, Ms Punam Rao Bora, ACS, to inaugurate the tools as Chief Guest, which she agreed. PDG Dr.N.N.Dutta was the Guest of Honour. Mr. Bhriгу Borthakur and Ms Sumpi Devi, who have developed this tool, were also present. President RCGS in her welcome address expressed gratitude to both Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour for sparing their valuable time to attend this virtual meeting.

The meeting started with a Saraswati Vandana by Rtn. Anjana Choudhury Saikia to mark the auspicious beginning of the event which was followed by a Sanskrit Sloka by Anne Mahmuda. The President then requested the Guest of Honour PDG Dr.N.N.Dutta to say a few words on this occasion. Rtn Dutta in his speech thanked the RCGS for inviting him to this meeting and stated that he always felt

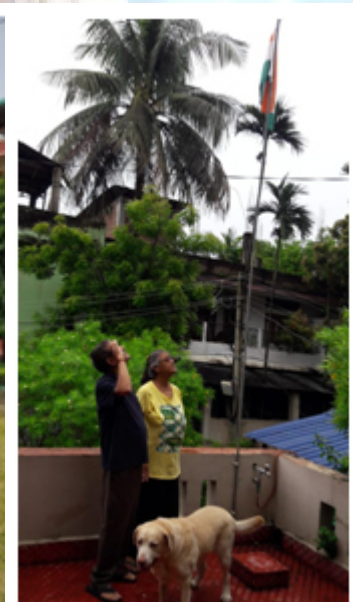
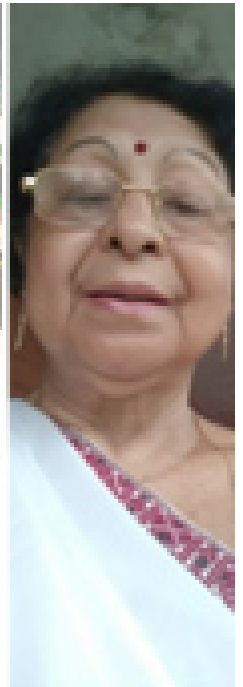
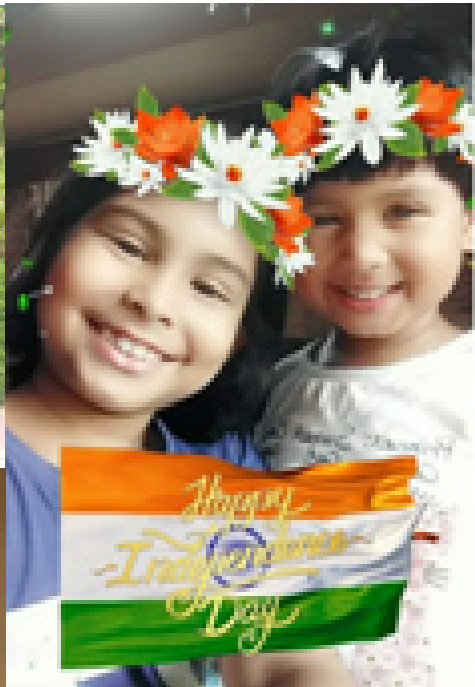
at home with the members of our club. He highly praised the initiative taken by our club for the benefit of the visually impaired students through this audio tool.

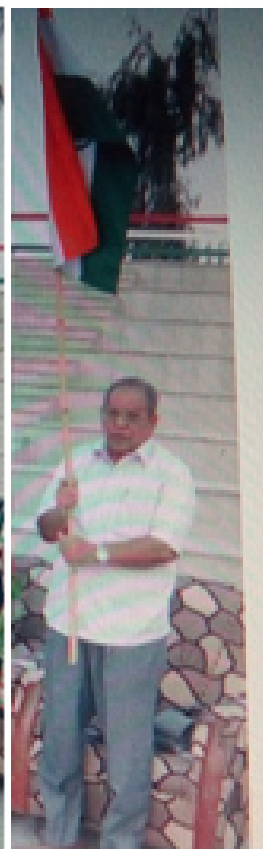
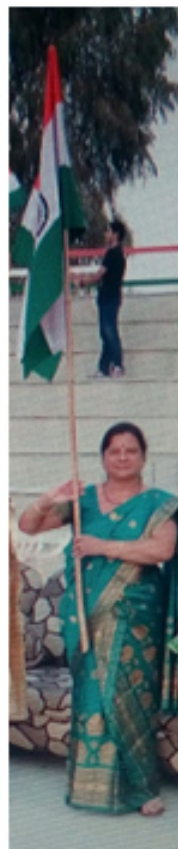
In his speech Mr. Bhriгу Borthakur said that he gained great satisfaction in preparing this learning tool with his other colleagues and hoped that this would be of immense help to the visually impaired school students as an alternative to the brail system of learning. In her speech the Commissioner of Disabilities, Mrs Punam Rao Bora, applauded the efforts made by our club and hoped that such tools for other subjects may also be developed gradually which will of great help for the students to carry out their studies well. She then virtually inaugurated the audio tool which was played for a few minutes for listening by the members present in the meeting.

After this Rtn Sweta Pegu offered a formal vote of thanks to all who were present on this occasion. The meeting ended with the President offering her thanks again to all, especially the Chief Guest, for attending the meeting.



OUR TRICOLOUR MOMENTS





*OUR
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MINUTES OF THE 2109 WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 14TH AUGUST, 2020

1. The 2109th Weekly Regular Meeting, specially to mark the celebration of 74th Independence Day of India was held on 14th August, 2020.
2. The meeting was called to order by the President at 6.30pm. which was followed by the National Anthem.
3. After welcoming the members the President offered anniversary greetings to three couples of our club namely Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta & Rtn Navneeta Mahanta, Rtn Priyam Goswami & Binode Goswami and Rtn Ranjan Bhuyan & Aparajita whose wedding dates fall on 15th and 16th August respectively. The President welcomed the Special Guest, Rtn. Bibhas Ch. Das Purukayastha, who was invited by us to grace the occasion.
4. The President stated that as we are all in a patriotic mood so every one of us should take a photograph with Tri-colour Flag while hoisting in our respective homes or any other activities with the tri colour and post the same in our whats App group for onward transmission to the District who would select 3 best photographs (one male rotarian., one female rotarian and one rotarylet) and give attractive prizes.
5. The President then requested Rtn. Dr. R. N. Mazumder to conduct the pre independence day programme. Dr. Mazumder began the celebration by requesting one of our senior Rotarians Gayatri Bhattacharya to say about her experiences of the time when India got independence on 14-15th August, 1947. Gayatri Baidew very nicely narrated her memories as a small child at that time in Shillong where she was born, when other members of her family were enjoying by hoisting the tri colour flag in their compound and went to witness the ceremonial parade in the Polo ground field where she saw tri colour balloons were flying in the sky after the function was over. The next item of the evening was a patriotic song of Rupkonwar Jyoti Prasad Agarwala, "Biswa Bijoyee Na Jowan.." , by Rtn. Gitanjali Kalita. This was followed by an Address of our Special Guest Rtn. B.C.D. Purukayastha. He started his speech with offering best wishes and regards to all on this pre independence day celebration and stated that as he was a very small child he could not remember much about the moments India was independent in 1947. However, he remembers many stories of freedom movement from his own uncle who was a freedom fighter and was jailed for 11 times by the British. He also said his many experiences while meeting a number of other freedom fighters including Padmashree late Hema Prava Bharali of Guwahati. He narrated how he was instrumental in declaring the Pandu college premise as tobacco free zone while he was Principal of that college and his role in trying to include history of Assam in the text books of NCERT when he was a member of that organization. He emphasized that there should not be any barrier between patriotism and language and religion. He ended his speech with an Assamese poem. After the very interesting speech there was a beautiful recitation by Rtn. Indira Bordoloi of a poem written by Late Dr. Nirmal Prava Bordoloi named "Moi Janu". Rtn Nibedita Baruah then entertained with a recitation of a patriotic poem of Late Nalini Bala Devi. The last item of the function was a Quiz on Indian Independence related topics conducted by Quiz master Rtn. Dr. R. N. Mazumder. Several questions were asked and the members took part very enthusiastically. Rtn. Biswadip Baruah and Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta were ahead of others in correctly answering the questions.
6. After this very entertaining quiz which was full of learning experiences, President requested the Secretary to give his report.
7. Secretary in his report stated that a total of 36 participants were there in the meeting out of which

32 Rotarians, 2 Annes and 2 Rotarylets.

8. The vote of thanks were offered by Rtn Biswadip Baruah to all members for their wonderful

participation including our Special Guest of the evening Rtn. B.C.D.Purukayastha. 9. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 8.0 pm.



MINUTES OF THE 2110 WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 21ST AUGUST, 2020

1. The 2110 weekly meeting of our club was held on 21st August, 2020 on virtual zoom platform at 6.30 pm.
2. After calling the meeting to order, members rose for the National Anthem.
3. President then welcomed all and offered greetings to Rotary let Disha Sarkar for her great achievement in bagging the first prize in an online debate competition on Banning the Chinese Apps and also congratulated her parents Rtn. Dilip Sarkar and Anne Lipika Sarkar for their daughter's success. She also greeted Rtn. Satinder Anand and Rtn. Dr. Balendra Das for their birthdays on the previous day.
4. Rtn Priyam Goswami was requested by the President to speak about her daughter and son-in-law's experiences as a Covid + patients. They live in Hyderabad at present. She narrated the heartwarming response of their neighbours and medical fraternity that they experienced during their period of home isolation. She emphasized that senior citizens who live alone or with their partners need support from others while facing such pandemic challenges and a Covid patient care committee in every apartment complex or locality is the need of the hour. She addressed the issue of social stigma associated with the pandemic and how it was very necessary to overcome it. Medical facilities vary from place to place as also from hospital to hospital, She informed about the existence of very good medical facilities in Hyderabad but said it may not be the same in all places. There is difference between the government and private medical care everywhere and it is no different in Guwahati, which was evident from the experience faced by the daughter and son-in-law of Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharya. After the members suggestion it was decided that our club should form a committee of Rotarian Doctors and Non Doctors to help the senior club members who lives alone or have no close relatives nearby. The Committee's job will be to provide help to our members to get themselves tested and arrange for their treatment in the hospital, either government or private in case hospitalization is needed. In case of home isolation, the committee will make arrangements for supply of food and medicines at the doorsteps either in person or through online facilities. It was decided that the President would announce the names of the committee members soon.
5. After this the President invited Rtn. Atanu Choudhury to speak on *The Advantages and Disadvantages of Working from Home*. Rtn. Choudhury quoted a statement of Prof. Nicolas Bloom of Strand Univeforduniversity America in an interview with BBC that working from home is a time bomb which is a new normal concept growing fast during this pandemic. Prof. Bloom had done a study based on his survey since 2014 that working from home became very popular and in high demand in many developed countries as it saves both time and money. He informed that about 42% of workers in USA is working from home, 33% not working and 26%

works in business premises itself. Working from home is not only economically essential but it is a critical weapon to fight against Covid 19 and future pandemics. Earlier stigma of working from home has been disappeared and it is extremely common now though under very challenging conditions. In some surveys it is indicated that working hours of certain business firms are now thinking of increasing working from home hours almost 3 to 4 times than they had earlier. Working from home needs a fast and better internet connectivity, a good environment and space at home, which sometimes not available to all. It is true that most of the work say about 50% of work cannot be possible to do from home. During pandemic where social distancing is a must to prevent spreading of the virus, working from home is the only solutions. According to the survey people are now accustomed with the practice of social distancing and it will continue to remain even after the vaccine for this pandemic is available. Many business houses are now planning to avoid dense offices in future and encourage working from home practice more and more. In India working from home has some disadvantages as the internet is much low compared to many other countries whereas the cost per GB is higher and not affordable to common

people. Therefore in India only 1/3rd students can access the facility of online classes now being conducted by many educational institutions. Since this pandemic situation is not going to end in immediate future, our Govt. should work faster in improving the internet accessibility to the common people mostly living in rural areas so that every student can take the advantage of online learning and the workers can perform their duties from their homes whoever being asked to do so by their employer. Although there are some ill effects of working from home like some health related issues resulting from continuously sitting in a place for long hours and remained inside a room without being exposed to sunlight etc. even then the working from home culture is considered to be a time bomb.

6. After this very interesting and time relevant talk by Rtn. Choudhury, Secretary presented his report by saying that there were 30 participants in the meeting, out of which one was rotarylet.
7. Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati offered the formal vote of thanks to all.

The meeting was adjourned by the President at 7.45 pm.

