



# Udayan



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

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## From the Editor



The World Health Organization announced on 25 August that transmission of the wild poliovirus has officially been stopped in all 47 countries of its African region. This is indeed an important and historic milestone in the journey towards global eradication of polio, which is Rotary's top priority.

In 1996, 75,000 children were paralyzed by the disease in Africa. Since then, countless Rotary members from across Africa and around the world have raised funds, immunized children, and promoted vaccinations, enabling the GPEI to respond to and stop polio outbreaks. More than 9 billion doses of oral polio vaccine have been provided throughout the region, preventing an estimated 1.8 million cases of paralysis.

Decades of hard work have eventually paid off and Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) viz, WHO, U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the vaccine alliance — are proclaiming the milestone an achievement in public health. They offer it as proof that strong commitment, coordination, and perseverance can rid the world of polio. Now that the African region is free of wild poliovirus, more than 90 percent of the world's population, are now free of the disease.

But Polio caused by the wild virus is still endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The GPEI's challenge now is to eradicate wild poliovirus in these two countries. Additionally, routine immunization in Africa must also be strengthened to keep the wild poliovirus from returning and to protect children against circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus, which is rare but continues to infect people in parts of the African region.

Global health officials and experts say that sustained fundraising and advocacy are still crucial, not only to protect gains in Africa, but to reach the ultimate goal of a world without polio. Rotary members still have a critical role to play. As RI President Knaack has observed, "This is a big step in our journey to a polio-free world, but the fight is not over yet. We still need the support of our Rotary members, donors, and heroic effort of health care workers to finish the job."

**Rtn. Priyam Goswami**

## ROTARY HISTORY

### Rotary's two official mottoes

In 1911, the second Rotary convention, in Portland, Oregon, USA, approved *He Profits Most Who Serves Best* as the Rotary motto. The wording was adapted from a speech that Rotarian Arthur Frederick Sheldon delivered to the first convention, held in Chicago the previous year. Sheldon declared that "only the science of right conduct toward others pays. Business is the science of human services. He profits most who serves his fellows best."

The Portland gathering also inspired the motto *Service Above Self*. During an outing on the Columbia River, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, talked with Seattle Rotarian J.E. Pinkham about the proper way to organize a Rotary club, offering the principle his club had adopted: Service, Not Self. Pinkham invited Rotary founder Paul Harris, who also was on the trip, to join their conversation. Harris asked Collins to address the convention, and the phrase Service, Not Self was met with great enthusiasm.

At the 1950 Rotary International Convention in Detroit, Michigan, USA, two slogans were formally approved as the official mottoes of Rotary: *He Profits Most Who Serves Best* and *Service Above Self*. The 1989 Council on Legislation established *Service Above Self* as the principal motto of Rotary because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service. *He Profits Most Who Serves Best* was modified to *They Profit Most Who Serve Best* in 2004 and to its current wording, *One Profits Most Who Serves Best*, in 2010.





Rotary Club of Gauhati South donated foot pressed sanitiser stands to Kahilipara Hillside Namghar, Jyotinagar Namghar, Ganesh Mandir, Shirdi Sai temple Radhanagar, Shirdi Sai temple Byrnihat, Satya Sai temple, Jorpukhuri, and Rajdhani Masjid, Hatigaon,

Food Bank items were given to NGOs World Vision India, Don Bosco Snehalaya and Assam Centre for Rural Development for distribution.

The gesture was hugely appreciated by all the recipients.

## MINUTES OF THE 211<sup>th</sup> WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

1. The Weekly meeting of RCGS on 28th August, 2020 was called to order by the President at 6.30 pm.
2. All members present rendered the National Anthem soon after.
3. The President first welcomed all the members and our young talented Guest Speaker of the day, Dr. Namami Sharma, Asstt. Prof., Department of Social Work, Tezpur University. President also offered Birthday greetings to IPP Rtn. Dr. Amrit Pal Singh and wished him a healthy long life.
4. President requested Rtn. Priyam Goswami to give a formal introduction of the guest speaker who has been invited by our club to speak on the topic of "Minimalism: Its Relevance in Current Times."
5. But before she began, all members observed one minute silence in memory of the Assamese legendary singer Late Archana Mahanta w/o Late Singer Khagen Mahanta, who passed away for heavenly abode the previous day.
6. After the brief introduction, Dr. Namami Sharma started her speech with a power point presentation. She began with a very familiar slide showing large numbers of banners with red sign depicting 50 to 70% sale on all garments inside a mall during festive times. Similar signs/hoardings very commonly seen in big bazars and many other shops and malls to attract consumers. The result is that the consumer who goes to these shops to buy essential items end up buying some non-essential items as well. According to her, this is how the market operates and consumerism culture comes in. While talking about minimalism, she explained various urges of the people to fulfil their requirement in different countries like Germany, USA etc. where it is found by the Global Ecological Footprints network that

the average Germans have minimum 3 urges and the Americans have 5 urges. When people buy more than their requirements there is an indirect effect on environment and bio diversity. This is the rule of the market which sometimes dictates people to buy what is needed and what is not. Minimalism is a part of an art movement which started after the World War II. In this movement, the main concept was to strip to essentials, like in a music removing background noises and keeping only the essential chords which is found, for example, in "Monotone Silence Symphony". Similarly, in painting also when only minimum colours are used to depict a picture- the word minimalism comes in. Minimalism and Consumerism are both interrelated, that means we spend more to have less minimalism. She cited one example of a young rich man who initially was very crazy in buying things for his home and later realized that he does not require most of the things and distributed the things among others keeping only the bare minimum things which he actually requires and started a minimalist life style. In this context she referred to a book named "Radical Simplicity" by Jim Merkel, where there is a story of a rich American Arms seller who after the biggest environmental disaster resulting from oil spills in Alaska, USA decided to live a simple life by leaving his huge earning business, which is called a Minimalist living or Sustainable living. In other words, minimalist living is the living with lesser ecological footprint i.e. the quantity of nature that is required to fulfil human demand and absorb waste. She said mother nature gives us many things but we are not giving back any good thing except the waste. She also explained how consumerism is also responsible for making the situation of Pandemic. In this context, she referred

to an article written by Jeff Tollefson in a Journal called "Nature" on 7th August, 2020, how deforestation and extinctions lead to pandemic by increasing a number of viruses. According to her, human nature is to earn more and buy more, thereby harming the natural environment through unconscious consumption and generation of waste as a result. To save the mother earth, we should follow the practice of conscious consumption with five Rs- Recycle, Reuse, Reduce, Refuse and Rot. She ended her speech with a quote from Dalai Lama, "We must change within ourselves...if there were another method that was easier and more practical, it would be better but there is none."

7. Immediately after her speech which was acknowledged with huge applause from all, President requested Rtn. Dr. Mazumder to speak about the End Polio Campaign of Rotary and Polio free Africa declared recently. Dr. Mazumder spoke in length, how and when the campaign of Polio free world was started and who were the pioneers in

this campaign in chronological order. Finally he congratulated all the Rotarians of the world to make it polio free except two countries namely Pakistan and Afghanistan, which he hopes shall be able to eradicate this disease from their country soon.

8. After the speech of Dr. Mazumder, Rtn. Nivedita Baruah presented a song of Late Archana Mahanta as a mark of respect and homage to her who passed away a while ago.
9. President then requested the Secretary to give his report. In response Secretary informed that there was a total of 30 participant Rotarians in the meeting and one guest.
10. Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi offered the formal vote of thanks to all and mentioned special gratitude and thanks to Dr. Namami Sharma for her wonderful talk accompanied by a beautiful power point presentation.
11. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 7.35 pm.



*Guest Speaker*  
**Dr. Namami Sharma**

## MINUTES OF THE BOD MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2020

The 2nd BOD meeting of RCGS was held on 19th August, 2020 on virtual platform to discuss about 3 Agenda points circulated by the President. These are- (1) Proposed Neuro Rehab Centre in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra, Guwahati (2) Online competition on Innovative Agricultural Technologies to promote farming and ethical agriculture and (3) Food bank project.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and the members present are as below:-

1. Rtn. Giti Bujarbaruah.
2. Rtn. Nawajyoti Sharma
3. Rtn. Ralkamal Bhuyan.
4. Rtn. Tarun Ch. Bordoloi.
5. Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta.
6. Rtn. Dr. Chandan Rajkhowa.
7. Rtn. Dr. Bibekananda Saikia.
8. Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati.
9. Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharya
10. Rtn. Dhiraj Kakati.

Initiating the discussion Rtn. Tarun Bordoloi stated that the subject to promote innovative Agricultural technology to help the farmers is very interesting and we should encourage the young people of the village to grow interest in agricultural farming instead of running to the city in search of a petty job. Rtn. Dipak Bhagawati observed that we can also seek modern technological ideas to promote the animal husbandry sector like piggery rearing and marketing pork meats etc. However, a few members suggested to focus on the Agricultural sector only and opined that Rtn. Bibekananda Saikia with Dr. Chandan

Rajkhowa should prepare a concept note soon, as how our club can take up this idea to help the farmers to produce and market their product by using the modern tools and technologies.

Regarding the setting up of the Neuro Rehab Centre in collaboration with the Vivekananda Kendra, the members after going through the draft MoU prepared by the Kendra, suggested some changes and sought clarification on the raising of fund to run and maintain the centre and the formation of the Management Committee and also its role in detail. Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan stated that as a non-profit organization Rotary club alone cannot be involved in the financial matters rather would like to request the V.Kendra to take the responsibility of running and operating the centre as many other institutions like Hospitals, Yoga centre etc. are run by them. Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta said that he would soon meet the officials of V.Kendra for the modifications of this draft MoU after clarifying our points and come back with a fresh MoU for discussion in the next BOD meeting.

As regards the Food Bank Project, Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan informed that he had recently visited 4 schools near Kalapahar area of the city along with the World Vision officials and was satisfied and hoped that these schools can be included in our project of improving their infrastructure and distribution of food to the students through food bank project. He further added that the final communications from the District is still awaited. Rtn. Bhuyan again raised the issue of the need of a good storage facility for keeping the food materials which is yet to be resolved.

The meeting ended with thanks to all by the President.



## MINUTES OF THE 2112 WEEKLY MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020

1. The Weekly Regular Meeting was called to order by the President at 7.00pm.
2. Members present rendered the National Anthem soon after.
3. President welcomed all and informed that three respected teachers of 3 well-known schools of Guwahati would be honoured on 8th September, 2020 ie. on World Literacy Day and invited Dr. Alak Kr. Buragohain, the former Vice Chancellor of Dibrugarh University as Chief Guest on that occasion. President then requested Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharya to speak on the Eradication of Polio in Africa.
4. Rtn. Gayatri Bhattacharya started her speech by saying how people panicked when about 75000 children were paralyzed in 1996 due to polio in Africa. Many Children also died in some remote places where no health care facilities are available. After this incident, the government, with the help of Rotary, took up the matter seriously and started taking steps to eradicate polio and after almost 24 years of hard work it has been possible to completely eradicate polio from all the 47 countries of Africa this year. This grand success was celebrated by the Rotary along with GPEI recently in a virtual platform which was attended by the President of Nigeria, RI President, Bill Gates and many others. She also spoke about how our club took initiatives in the fight for eradication of Polio in our country as a whole and in and around the city in particular.
5. After her speech, Rtn. Dr. Anil Mahanta gave a talk on “Rotary and Global Eradication of Polio”, accompanied by a power point presentation. He spoke of the Core Partners of Rotary like WHO, UNICEF, CDC, Bill Gates Foundation etc. in forming a global coalition to eradicate polio from the world. He narrated the history and major milestone of polio eradication programme starting from the year 1894 till August 2020 when it was declared polio free world except Pakistan and Afghanistan through “End Polio” slogan. During his talk Dr. Mahanta informed that polio was present on earth (in Egypt) since 1400 BC. It was sporadic till 18th Century and became epidemic in early 19th Century and became most feared epidemic of 20th Century. Rotary initiative started in Philippines through GPEI when 6 million children were immunized. Till the date of end polio, about 2.5 billion children were immunized in 122 countries (1.8 billion only from Rotary) and cases reduced up to 99.9%. Through this end polio programme, Rotary has broadened the horizon of service. Dr. Mahanta concluded his talk by informing about his experiences in performing polio corrective surgery in a Mega Camp organized in 2003 in Faizabad, UP, in 2004 in Diamond Harbor, West Bengal and in 2005 in Patna & Bihar Sharif.
6. After the talk of Dr. Mahanta, Rtn. Rajkamal Bhuyan briefly stated about the food items that were received and given to the NGOs like World Vision India, Donbosco, Snehalaya & ACRD for distribution among the children.
7. President requested the Secretary to give his report where it was informed that the total number of Rotarians present in the meeting was 29.
8. President requested Rtn. Manjushree Baruah to offer the formal vote of thanks. She thanked Dr. Mahanta for his wonderful presentation and Rt. Gayatri Bhattacharya for her informative talk.
9. President adjourned the meeting at 8.30 pm



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

**- Paul P. Harris**