



CONCORD

The Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tinsukia

Vol. -101 No-9 | March, 2025

Celebrating Diversity, Unity, and Empowerment

As we step into the vibrant month of March, Concord magazine wishes its readers a joyous and colorful Holi, a blessed Eid, and a happy International Women's Day.

This month, we come together to celebrate the triumph of good over evil, as embodied by the festive spirit of Holi. We revel in the beauty of colors, the sweetness of gujiyas, and the warmth of togetherness. As we splash colors and laughter, let us remember the true essence of Holi – unity, love, and the victory of righteousness.

As we look forward to the holy month of Ramadan and the festive occasion of Eid, we are reminded of the values of compassion, empathy, and generosity. Eid is a celebration of the human spirit's capacity for resilience, self-reflection, and kindness. Let us embrace the spirit of Eid and strive to build bridges of understanding and peace.

March 8th marks International Women's Day, a day dedicated to recognizing the invaluable contributions of women to our society. It is a day to celebrate women's empowerment, to acknowledge their struggles, and to reaffirm our commitment to creating a world where

women can thrive without barriers or biases. Let us honor the women in our lives – mothers, sisters, daughters, and friends – who inspire us with their strength, courage, and love.

As we celebrate these significant occasions, let us remember that our diversity is our strength. Our differences are what make us unique, and our shared humanity is what unites us. Let us strive to create a world where everyone can live with dignity, respect, and freedom.

In this issue of Concord, we bring you stories of hope, resilience, and triumph. We feature inspiring women who are breaking barriers and pushing boundaries. We highlight the selfless work of individuals and organizations who are making a difference in their communities.

As you read through these pages, we hope you will be inspired to make a positive impact in the world around you. We hope you will be reminded of the power of unity, the beauty of diversity, and the importance of empowering every individual to reach their full potential.

Happy Holi, Eid Mubarak, and Happy International Women's Day!

Rtn Vikash Jalan
Editor 'Concord'

VIEWPOINT



VACCINATION CENTRE

Every
2nd & 4th
Sunday
of the month
3 To 5 PM

OPENED BY
ROTARY CLUB OF TINSUKIA
R. I. DIST. 3240



VENUE:

ROTARY COMMUNITY CENTRE

BORDOLOI NAGAR, NEAR ARUNACHAL IB, TINSUKIA, CONTACT : 9435035189, 8638560539, 8812817360

President Message

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we step into the vibrant month of March, I am filled with excitement and gratitude. This month, we celebrate not one, but two significant events: Pre-Holi Celebration and International Women's Day.

As we gear up to celebrate the colors of Holi, let us remember the true spirit of the festival - unity, joy, and renewal. Let us come together with our families and friends to revel in the beauty of colors and the warmth of togetherness.

International Women's Day is a poignant reminder of the incredible contributions women make to our lives, our communities, and our world. Let us take a moment to appreciate the women who inspire us, motivate us, and make a difference in our lives. In this month's bulletin, you will find updates on our upcoming events, projects, and initiatives. I encourage you to participate, engage, and contribute to our efforts.

Thanking you, and looking forward to your continued support and participation.

Happy Holi and Happy International Women's Day!
Warm regards,

Rtn Niraj Agarwal
President
Rotary Club of Tinsukia



HISTORY OF ROTARY

In November 1908, San Francisco, California, became the second city to establish a Rotary club, expanding the movement beyond Chicago. Pictured is an early emblem of the Rotary Club of San Francisco, circa 1911.

AN EARLY ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO EMBLEM, CIRCA 1911.

SANDIP AGARWALLA - DISTRICT GOVERNOR D3141 (22-23)

Rotary's commitment to international service allows us to bridge cultural divides, promote peace, and foster understanding among people from **different parts of the world.**

Ian Riseley
Past President, Rotary International

Rotary **In a few words:**

- Acquaintance
- Fellowship
- Connections
- Ideas
- Opportunity
- Expertise
- Action
- Fair
- Respectful
- Ethical
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Honor
- Diversity
- International
- Understanding
- Youth
- Peace
- United
- Health
- Service
- Membership
- Commitments
- Community
- Education
- Vocational
- Economy
- Club
- Scholarship
- Friendship
- Relationships
- Development
- Leadership
- Sincere
- Responsible
- Professional

Rotary

WORLD ROTARY DAY FEB. 23RD

Rotary

Rotary **CREATE HOPE IN THE WORLD**

BIG NEWS

India's 1st & World's 9th Rotary Peace Center to be set up in Pune at Symbiosis University

Proposal put up by IPPDG Manjoo Phadke & DRFC PDG Dr Shailesh Palekar from RID 3131 and Dr Anita Patankar & Dr Sulakshana Sen from Symbiosis during 2023-24, has been approved by RI.

Heartfelt gratitude to TRF Trustee PRID PDG Dr Bharat Pandya, Past Trustee PDG Gulam Vahanvaty and Rtn Rajendra Rula for guiding us.

Manjoo Phadke
District Governor

Dr Shailesh Palekar
Past District Governor

March is recognized as WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Month. Sadly, one in three people worldwide lack access to clean water. Rotary has invested over \$148 million in water projects globally.

MARCH IS WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE MONTH

Rotary

Happy Birthday

Rotary

120 years of 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF'

23rd February 2025

Rotary

#Vaccines Save Lives

Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 123 countries from this paralyzing disease.

END POLIO NOW

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Welcome to District Team 25-26 # 3240

PDG Dr Mohan Shyam Konwar
R C Tinsukia
Vice Governor
6900233677 (M)
Email: mohanskonwar@gmail.com

Congratulations

Wild Poliovirus updates as of 26 February 2025

One WPV1 case was reported this week, from Sindh in Pakistan.

Total cases in 2024: 99

Total cases in 2025: 04

Total cases in 2025 - 04
Total cases in 2024 - 99
Total cases in 2023 - 12
Total cases in 2022 - 30
Total cases in 2021 - 06
Total cases in 2020 - 180

Rotary

Rotary

WOMEN

In 1907, the Rotary Club of Chicago, under the leadership of Rotary International Founder Paul Percy Harris, initiated the first Rotary public service project: creating a public comfort station (also known as a public toilet).

Rotary **THE MAGIC OF ROTARY**

Pre-Holi & International Women's Day Celebration

Saturday, 8th March 2025
Time: 7.00 pm onwards

ROTARY CLUB OF TINSUKIA
R.I. Dist. 3240

Rotary Community Centre

The Sky is the Limit: Story for Women's Day

The theme for this year's International Women's day is #BreakTheBias highlighting the individual and societal biases against women. These biases lead to deeper gender inequality in society. For years, women in different parts of the world have struggled and are still struggling to be heard.

This is a short story for women's day 2022, that someone have penned. Sometimes, all one needs to do in order to break free, is take the first step. It may seem scary and may not be easy, but then is it easy to live a caged life?

The Sky is The Limit is my tribute to all the brave girls and women who have taken the first step, uttered a word in protest, raised their voice to be heard, done anything to #BreakTheBias

When Shalu was born her father cried. They didn't want a girl again. Her mother looked at her two other girls sadly and handed over the new baby to them. She didn't have the time to recover from childbirth and had to return to work at once.

Shalu's parents worked at a bird sanctuary. Cleaning, feeding the birds, cooking, caring for sick or injured birds, was a lot of work but the money was not enough for their growing family.

Shalu's father had this strange feeling that their life would get better the moment they would be blessed with a son. The family unquestioningly repeated this prayer every night before bed. 'Bless our home with a boy.'

Shalu's sisters handled the work at home and looked after her. Pretty soon, she too started sharing responsibilities. She loved helping out at the sanctuary.

She was often found enjoying the company of the birds. One day, as she was staring at a chattering group of birds, she turned to her mother and said, 'I love the stories these birds exchange. Some talk about a new fruit they've tried while others discuss new places for food. But, you know ma, which stories I love the most,' she continued without waiting for her mother to ask, 'the ones where they talk about distant lands. Did you know some of these birds have travelled more than a thousand miles to be here?'

Shalu's mother nodded and was about to say something when her father rudely barged into the conversation. 'What is this nonsense you are talking about? Birds can't talk. Stop feeding your head with stupid things.' He scolded

A tear escaped Shalu's eyes as she gazed at her mother sadly. 'I swear, they talk ma. I can understand them. I promise.'

Time went by, and, at last, happiness came into their lives – or so they believed! They were blessed with a boy. Shalu saw her father laugh for the very first time. Deep down, she felt a pang of jealousy. What was so special about this baby that made her father so happy?

At times, Shalu felt angry at her brother. Things were clearly unfair. Sometimes she got the urge to hurt him but how could she? Each time he wrapped his tiny fingers around her hand, her

heart melted. How could she be angry with him when he generously gifted her with hugs, kisses, and love?

It was time for her little brother to go to school. Shalu was livid, she and her sisters were never given this opportunity. They looked at his new bag and books with awe. She touched and smelt the pages of the books. She longed to find out what was written in them. So, she struck a deal with him. He would go to school, learn how to read and write and come back home and teach her. He agreed.

In the meantime, her sisters got married. Their weddings drilled a huge hole in the family's savings. Soon there wasn't enough money to even manage the daily meals. Everyone's portions were reduced, except her brother's. He still got his two rotis while the others ate only onions and pickle. It's a different thing that he always saved a roti for her that they shared later at night.

Soon, Shalu's mother had to take up more work. She began working as a domestic helper in three homes apart from her work at the sanctuary. The workload took a toll on her health and she fell terribly ill. The family was now scrounging for food and money. Shalu was asked to fill in for her mother.

'I will work at the sanctuary but I won't work at anyone's home. Please ma, please.'

But, the choice wasn't hers.

A few days later when her mother recovered, Shalu thought she would resume her duties at the three homes. They didn't want her. They were happier with a younger and swifter helper. They wanted Shalu to continue.

One night, as her mother was clearing up the dishes, Shalu went over to her. Careful not to speak too loudly, she whispered, 'The birds have asked me to fly with them. They have been asking me every year but I was too scared to go. They say, the clouds show them the way, the moon sings to them and the wind carries them when their wings get too tired. And, when everything seems dark the sun shows them the light.'

Shalu's mother looked at her daughter sadly. She never had much to say, but, tonight, she said, 'I know.'

Shalu smiled. That night, she hugged her brother really tight.

She woke up just before sunrise and went to her mother's bedside. She gently stroked her mother's cheek. Her mother was awake but she didn't open her eyes. Although she pined to hold her baby in her arms and tell her how much she loved her. She didn't. She kept her tired eyes tightly shut.

She didn't even open them when she heard Shalu's light footsteps as she disappeared into the dark.

Shalu's mother finally woke up at daybreak. As she stepped out and the sun pierced her eyes, she looked up and spotted a flock of birds flying towards the sun. She smiled and said, 'Fly high my baby. Fly free. The sky's the limit.'

MARCH 2025

BIRTHDAY

- Rtn Sikha Gogoi 1st March
- Rtn. Gauri Sankar Gogoi, 30th March
- Rtn Rajkumar Agarwal 4th March
- Rtn Sushil Modi, 4th March
- Rtn Nishant Goel, 6th March
- Rtn Dr Snehil Bukalsaria, 13th March
- Rtn Nakshatra Bijoy Choudhury, 17th March
- Rtn Ankit Modi, 18th March

ANNIVERSARY

- Rtn Sunil Agarwal 13th March
- Rtn Manoj Bajaj 13th March
- Rtn Vishal Third 11th March

Rotary Trivia

The basics

1. In what year was Rotary founded?
Ans : 1905
2. On what date was Rotary founded?
Ans : February 23rd
3. In what city was Rotary founded?
Ans : Chicago
4. Who was the Founder of Rotary
Ans : Paul Harris
5. When was the "Service Above Self" motto first adopted by Rotary?
Ans : 1911

A little more info

6. What was the first Rotary Club community project?
A "comfort station" in downtown Chicago. Public restrooms were typically found only in saloons at that time, and unaccompanied women were not permitted to enter saloons.
7. Who can you blame for introducing singing to Rotary Club meetings and what was his profession?
Harry Ruggles, printer.
8. How much were annual dues at the first Rotary Club?
There were no dues at the first Rotary Club. The group voted there would be no dues and all club expenses would be paid from 50-cent fines.

Some interesting info

9. For how long was Rotary primarily a friendship and business reciprocity organization?
Only about two years; then the club added a third objective to perform civic service.
10. The first five Rotary Clubs were in?
Chicago, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle and Los Angeles.
11. What is the greatest distance from Chicago that a Rotary Club banner has been displayed?
Astronaut Frank Borman, of the Rotary Club of Space Center Houston, took a club banner on his orbit around the moon in Apollo 8.

More interesting info

12. What were the four original avenues of service in Rotary?
Club, Community, International and Vocational Service
13. What is the fifth avenue of service in Rotary?
Service to Youth (Initially New Generations)
14. When was the fifth avenue of service introduced to Rotary?
2010
15. Who introduced Rotary to the 4 Way Test
Herbert Taylor (during Great Depression)
16. In what year was the 4 Way Test officially adopted by Rotary as its standard of ethics
1942