

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY, OBASSG

Presented at the 24th Annual General Meeting held on 26 November 2022 at Guwahati

A very Good Morning to one and all present today. Honorable Chair of today's meeting, Chief Guest of today's meeting, respected guest of honour; esteemed EC members of OBASSG; respected members and guests. I extend my heartiest welcome to you all to the 24th AGM of OBASSG. I hope that we shall all be having a very fruitful and fulfilling day.

At the outset, let me begin by offering my sincere thanks and gratitude to the august house that had assembled in this venue a year ago and had shown faith in us, the Team EC, to carry forward the mantle of OBASSG till 2023. I hope this report will somewhat justify the faith reposed in us. Before even entering into the report, I would like to thank each and every member of the team EC for their excellent efforts, sincere hard work and dedicated focus. Actually, what we have been able to achieve this, is because the good work done by each one the team! For all successes, the team is to be credited and if anywhere, there's been any lacking, I take entire responsibility for it!

Since the 23rd AGM on 27 November 2021, we have had six offline and one online meeting of the Executive Committee to plan and discuss issues, event and activities of the association. And also, informally, members have been regularly meeting and interacting at different places to discuss ways to take OBASSG and our Alma Mater forward. I must admit, many non-EC members also have contributed immensely in such discussions, for sure.

During this period, from handing over the charges till date, a few activities and events have been organized by OBASSG. I would like to record some of them here, as below:

Celebration of Republic Day: On the auspicious day of 26th January, 2022. OBASSG celebrated Republic Day by hoisting the national tricolor at Rukminigaon Catholic Cathedral premises. Around 30 OBASSG members were present to mark the occasion.

Flood Relief and Health Camps: OBASSG, with the generous contributions from its members across the globe and with contributions from some well-wishers, conducted two flood relief camps and one free health camp in Kaihati, Chamata, in Nalbari district, one flood relief distribution activity in Karimganj district, with the help of South Assam Unit, especially Som Sankar Biswas da & his team. Another flood relief camp was organized by the 1993-2000 batch of SSG in Hazarikapara in Darrang District under the banner of OBASSG. We thank Mridul Deka and his batch mates for this wonderful work.

Blood Donation at Various Places on 15th August, 2022: Guwahati, Dhemaji, Nalbari, Goalpara, Jorhat and Shillong. On the occasion of Independence Day, for the 13th year, OBASSG organized voluntary blood donation camp at Dr. B. B. Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI). Besides, the various units and chapters of respective locations at Dhemaji, Nalbari, Tezpur, Goalpara, Jorhat and Shillong also organized such camps. A total of 120 units of blood were donated by the members of OBASSG. We would like to thank HDFC Bank for being the refreshment partner of the Blood Donation Events. Along with the event at BBBI, food packets were also distributed to the inmates of the hospital. The food packets were contributed by Mr. Sachindra Kumar Das da. We thank Dr. A. C. Kataki, the director of BBBI for his encouragement and continuous support to carry on the event, year after year.

Felicitation of new Principal, SSG: This year, our Alma Mater welcomed a new principal, Col. Y S Parmar. We OBASSG formally felicitated him on 3rd September, 2022 at Guwahati and had discussions about broad issues where OBASSG and SSG can work together for the benefit of the school in particular and for the society, as a whole.

Late Manash Borah Memorial Debating Competition: After a Covid-induced gap of two years, the prestigious Manash Borah Memorial North East Inter Institutional Debating Competition was once again organized this year on 31 May 2022. The competition attracted a huge number of participants from across the state. As usual, the competition was open to students from Class XI to PG. The topic for this year's competition was, in the opinion of the House, "India's stand on Russia-Ukraine Conflict is a matter of choice, not compulsion". Honorable Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly graced the event as chief guest and inaugurated the event. In his inaugural address, he praised OBASSG for being socially responsible and carrying out various quality activities. I would like to thank Dr. Shehnaz Rahman bou, Managing Trustee, Manash Borah Memorial Trust and Mr. Masidur Islam da along with his team for conducting the event so very graciously and making it a huge success.

6MSME supported career counselling and motivational lecture: MSME in association with OBASSG organized and conducted counselling and motivational sessions at Sainik School Goalpara and Nalbari College.

Prashnam, the open quiz: Open Prize Money Quiz Competition was successfully organized on 9 November 2022 at Prgjyoti ITA, Machkhowa, Guwahati. The competition was presented jointly by Old Boys Association, Sainik School Goalpara (OBASSG) and Axel Public Scxhool, Guwahati. PVSLN Murty, the CMD of NEDFI was the Chief Guest and formally inaugurated the event. The competition was ably conducted by Quizmaster Dr. Upakul Sarmah, a well-known name in the quizzing circles and currently the Deputy Registrar of TISS. Altogether 85 teams from various parts of the state took part in the Prelims. The highlight was participation of five teams from Sainik School Goalpara. There was a total of Rs. 75,000/- as Prize Money on offer with 25,000, 20,000 and 15,000 for the first three teams and 5,000/- each for the losing finalists. Besides there were trophies, certificates of merit and gift hampers for the finalists. The audience also had a great time grabbing attractive gifts like Radio, glucometer, perfume sets and packets of organic tea. The modalities of prize distribution were done by a team comprising, among others, Brig (Retd.) Ranjit Borthakur, President, OBASSG and Prashanta Choudhury, Secretary, Axel Public Society. The event was sponsored by Oil India Limited and State Bank of India and the partners were *The Assam Tribune*, News Live, NENOW and EON Services. The entire event was ably hosted by Dr. Abhigyan Prasad, the Organising Secretary. I would like to thank each of our partners and associates for standing behind like solid rock and making the event such an astounding success.

PRIZE WINNERS: Winning Team - Chilarai (Sayan Mazumdar, Bishwayan Bhattacharjee), 1st Runners Up Team - Aniruddha (Souvik Bhattacharjee, Sandipan Goswami), 2nd Runners Up Team- Ekalavya (Kumar Aditya Narayan Deb, Priyanuj Parashar) and Other Finalists were Ashwani Kumar Sharma, Arunabh Sarma, Dilip Kumar Sharma, Dipankar Kaushik, Shaheen Ahmed, Chiranjit Gam.

59th School Raising Day: We all are extended family members, courtesy SSG! As such, it holds a special place in our hearts and may be because of this School Raising day considered a very special day by all of us. Since last some years, school authorities decided to hold OBA Meet with a congregation of old boys and their families by the authorities at SSG on special day. However, due to Covid pandemic, the event wasn't hosted by SSG. But this year, when it started again, we could witness a huge turnout of old boys at the school on the 12th November 2022. The day is special for OBASSG for another reason also, OBASSG formally presents few scholarships / prizes to some outstanding achievers of the school, instituted by members of OBASSG in memory of their family members. We are thankful to Mr. Loken Das da, OBASS life member, for instituting 'Nagendra Chandra Das memorial scholarship' to be given eve

year to the topper of SSG entrance Examination from vernacular medium background. We are thankful to 1993-2000 batch for awarding another scholarship to the student bagging highest marks in the school in PCM at AISSE and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Ananta Bhuyan da for awarding a scholarship to the topper from the school at AISSCE. Making this year's raising day special, the 1990-97 batch presented two high resolution telescopes to the school. My sincere thanks and gratitude to all the members of the said batch. I feel, we all can get inspired by this gesture and can carry on from here.

Teachers' Day: This year on Teachers' Day, as a mark of respect to the contribution of our respected teachers in shaping our lives, teams from OBASSG visited many of our respected retired teachers, felicitated them and also interacted with them.

Now, let us discuss about few important issues which have somewhat bigger impact on the association:

Life Members: Dear members, one of the strongest pillars of our Association is the Life Members. I am pleased to announce that Col. Retd. Pranab Ch. Malakar da (364), Durjoy Rabha (2151), Col. (Retd.) Balen Das da (258) and your truly, registered as life members this year. Next year being the silver jubilee year of OBASSG- AGM, we shall pursue aggressively to bring in more and more members in this fold.

Website revamping: One of the major tasks that we undertook after taking over the reins was this. We realized that in this digital era, any association or firm can't sustain without a robust digital support system. With a dedicated team, led by Pranab Jyoti Barman, Panchal Baruah and Dhriti Mohan Sarmah, the process of revamping our website took place and the new look website with many additional features is already live. The new revamped website is full of new and interactive features supported by social platforms and payment gateway integration. We hope that this interactive website with the facility of mobile application, payment gateway and many other features would be a great help in attracting and engaging more and more members to and with the OBASSG. We hope and appeal each member to put good use of this platform and bring in maximum participation to the association and its activities.

Plot of Land: Our long-cherished dream, a plot of land at a suitable location in Guwahati, has not yet materialized. The file is still in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metropolitan District. The team lead by Brig. (Retd.) Ranjit Borthakur da, honorable President, OBASSG has been continuously pursuing the matter and even we did meet and apprised the matter to Hon'ble Chief Minister. However, factors beyond control are playing a spoilsport in this regard. We hope, with the help of some luck, we shall be won this ever-elusive plot-of land this coming year. Lt. Gen. Rana Kalita da is also consistently supporting us in this endeavor.

12 A Registration: I am happy to let you know that that 12 A Registration has been completed this year and we are in the process of applying for 80G. Thanks to Sachindra Kumar Das da for his relentless efforts which has resulted into this.

On 27 November 2021, I was given the mandate by this august house to lead our Association. Given that all of us have our own professional commitments, I tried my best to do justice to the faith you had reposed in me. It is there for everyone to judge. In the road of carrying out my responsibilities, I am lucky to have an able and highly supportive team at the EC who have been guiding and helping me in every steps. I am sure, in the coming year too, I shall be blessed with their continuous guidance, support and cooperation. There are many of our members, outside the EC too, without whose guidance, support and help, we would not have been able to do many things. I wish to record my sincere gratitude and appreciation for all those esteemed members for the smooth conduct of events and programmes. I express my special gratitude to each of the executive committee members lead by our Honorable President,

Brig. (Retd.) Ranjit Borthakur da. Special mention is for Nripen Choudhury da, Lt. Gen. Rana Kalita Da, AVM (Retd.) Sanjib Bordoloi da, Sachin Das da, Ashokananda Das da, Anil Sarma da, Anowar Hussain Saikia da, Girija Kanta Barman da, Utpal Parashar, Masidur Rahman da, Siddhartha Sankar Baruah da, Abhigyan Prasad, Kishori Medhi, Mridul Deka, Alakesh Barman, Muid Zaman, Mansh Gogoi, Diyu Bharali, Panchal Baruah, Pranab Jyoti Barman, Dhritimohan Sarma, Deepjyoti Deka, for constant support and for everything. I would also like to record our sincere thanks and appreciation for our various chapters and units for their activities during the period.

Outside the EC, special mention must be made for Som Sankar Biswas da, Dr. Sashanka Baruah da and team, Subhash Das da, Dr. Rajjyoti Das da, Bharadwaj Gogoi, Rupam Sarma, Anirban Choudhury, Devajit Kalita da, Tapash Ghosh, Biswajit Kakoti, Parag Saikia, Loken Das da, Debojyoti Dutta da, Prasanta Choudhury da, Deep Roy and others. My sincere apologies for missing some names as my memory is betraying me, at the moment. Whatever we have achieved is team work. The shortcomings, I realize, so many! are entirely mine. We express our sincere gratitude to and appreciation of our valued sponsors and partners of all the events and activities.

Dear friends and brothers, with my association with OBASSG for so many years, I have realized that as the alumni association of Sainik School Goapara, the kind of reputation that school and its alumni have, we shall need to work harder and harder and have miles to cover. One hard fact which needs to be thought about is, how do we bring the similar sort of bonding and camaraderie at the level of the association, which is therewithin batchmates? It's an irony that we have not been able to leverage this strength of bonding and camaraderie that we share among batchmates to the level of our association. Use of technology may help in this regard and therefore, we now have implemented a new digital strategy in the form of revamped website, social media integration etc. to try and overcome physical barriers of distance and time. I would appeal everyone to exploit the features of websites, social media tools and other digital means to remain connected with each other, keep giving feedback on activities and works of OBASSG. All kinds of constructive criticism are most welcome and I assure you all that we would accept such constructive suggestions with open mind and work on those.

As we all are aware that, Silver Jubilee of OBASSG AGM would be celebrating in 2023 and the Diamond Jubilee of our alma Mater in 2024, I would appeal everyone to take active part in planning, deciding, supporting and executing of events and activities to celebrate both. If we want to make OBASSG stronger and sustainable, we need to deepen the bond, to bring more and more members on board and have larger participation.

Many a times, for all good work done are credited to the team EC of OBASSG, but I would like to openly confess that there are much more non-EC active OBASSG members without whose constant support and cooperation, it wouldn't be possible to carry out any activity, let alone be make a success out of it! Therefore, I, from core of my heart, would like to express my thanks and gratitude to all such members for being there. You all are not just a huge support but also a constant source of inspiration.

As GS, on my personal behalf and on behalf of the entire team, the people behind the screen and all others present here, once again, I express my thanks and gratitude.

Cheers to the SSG spirit; long live SSG; long live OBASSG. Jai Hind!

26 November 2022
Guwahati

Jagadish Nath
2030/ Chilarai