

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY OBASSG

Presented at the 23rd Annual General Meeting held on 27 November 2021 at Guwahati

Good morning everybody. Honorable President of today's meeting, Anowar Hussain Saikia, President OBASSG; Chief Guest of today's meeting, Shri Jishnu Barua, IAS, honourable Chief Secretary of Assam; Cap (IN) A Muthuraman, Principal, Sainik School Goalpara; esteemed life members; respected members and guests. I extend my heartiest welcome to you all to the 21st AGM of OBASSG. I hope that all of you will have a very fulfilling day.

I begin by first recording my sincere thanks and gratitude to the august House that had assembled in this venue almost three years back and had shown faith in my abilities by electing me the General Secretary of OBASSG. I hope my report will justify the faith reposed. Actually, the term of this Executive Committee was supposed to end in 2020. But because of the prevailing restrictions due to the COVID pandemic, the 22nd AGM had to be held in the month of February this year. The august House decided to let the existing EC continue for the intervening period since February this year. Hence, though this report would primarily focus on activities since February 2021, there would be flashes of the entire period.

Since the 22nd AGM on 27 February 2021, four regular meetings of the Executive Committee and one online meeting have been held. Besides, members have been informally meeting and interacting at different places to discuss ways to take OBASSG and our Alma Mater forward.

WITH INDOOR PATIENTS AT GOVT. AYURVEDIC COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

Since last some years, OBASSG has been organising a pre-Rongali Bihu celebration with the underprivileged sections of our society. This has afforded many of us some precious hours spent in the company of orphans, old age people and other such people. On 10 April this year, we organized a courtesy visit to the indoor patients at Government Ayurvedic College and Hospital at Jalukbari, Guwahati. In the presence of our honourable President, around ten members interacted with some of the indoor patients and enquired about their treatment and their well-being. Food packets were also distributed on the occasion. We record our sincere appreciation of the authorities at the hospital for making this possible for us.

CANCELLED EVENTS

The COVID pandemic has been harsh on humanity in general. It has been no different for us. Two of our signature annual events, the Manash Borah Memorial Debating Competition on 30th May every year and the annual Blood Donation Camp on Independence Day, has been the worst hit. Though we wanted to have something to mark the occasion, we had to first postpone, and subsequently cancel both the events in the last two years. It feels really sad that the two events that uphold the social aspect of our Association has been cancelled in the last two years. We are hopeful that full vaccination of the entire population of the nation will allow us to resume our normal social commitments.

58th School Raising Day

SSG holds a special place in our hearts and this was proved by the huge turnout of old boys during the Golden Jubilee of our Alma Mater. 12 November is a special day for all of us. There are many of us who can forget their personal birthday, but not the School Raising Day. Since last some years, this day has also been marked as the OBA Meet with a congregation of old boys and their families within the precincts of their Alma Mater. As last year, restrictions in place due to the pandemic, did not allow us to visit our school on the cherished day. However, there is a silver lining in that the school authority has promised to welcome batches of old boys as and when the situation normalises.

The EC celebrated the day this year in the presence of some senior members from the first two batches at Guwahati. Members also assembled at Kajalgaon, Chirang to celebrate the occasion. The Meghalaya chapter organized a voluntary Blood Donation Camp to mark the occasion.

Help in distress

Friends, one of the purposes of any Association is to come forward in times of the need of its members. OBASSG has been doing this for long. Though we do not have any institutional and constitutional mechanism in place, this has not hindered our members from contributing towards the need of those in distress. The President and the General Secretary has been issuing appeals to our members from time to time to help out the needy members, I will offer two such cases this year. Jahidul Islam, a young brother of ours had met with an accident this year in Barpeta and had to be put on life support system at a hospital in the city. We issued an appeal for financial help and many members donated in the designated bank account. Without taking any names, I would like to record that our Manipur Chapter had contributed an amount of Rs. 15,500 collected from their members towards the treatment of Jahidul. Unfortunately, Jahidul, and we also, lost the battle.

One of our most active members, Sourav Senapati, was hit by a vehicle from behind at Raha on 30 October 2021. He had to be immediately operated upon and he is still recuperating from his injuries. We wish him speedy recovery. In response to calls for help from the EC, members have donated generously. This gesture has also been extended in case of the family members as in the case of father of young brother Devesh Kumar from Bihar. Besides, there are numerous instances of individual batches helping their mates in distress.

As an Association, we also have a larger role to play that takes us beyond our immediate members. Last year, in April, we donated more than Rs. 2 Lakh by handing over a cheque to the then honourable Health Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma towards the Arogya Nidhi Fund. Moreover, our members have also been contributing directly to the central and state funds. I think it's time we put an institutional mechanism in place. I request the august House today to discuss the matter.

Life Members

Dear members, one of the strongest pillars of our Association is the Life Members. I am pleased to announce that in this short intervening period since February this year, Bikramjit Nath, 2959/Lohit and Muid Zaman Ahmed, 3238/Udaygiri have been inducted as life members. The current strength of life members is 130. We need to strategise in proper ways so that life membership of our Association can be made more attractive.

Database

We have also initiated a process of building a database of our members. Nearly sixty percent of phone numbers of our members from the first to the fiftieth batch has been collected. We hope that the database will be in place before the next AGM. The database will greatly help in disseminating information to our members.

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. We hope it materializes this year so that we have not only our permanent office complex, but also a training centre to train and prepare youths from the state o joint NDA and other similar institutions.

12 A Registration

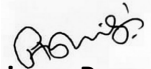
This is another unfinished agenda on our hands. Because of the prevailing pandemic, the process has got delayed but I hope that 12 A Registratuin will be completed this year so that we can apply for 80G.

On 24 November 2018, 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 in these three years to do justice to the faith you had reposed in me. It is for you to judge. In these two years I have been guided and helped by many of our members, from within and outside, the EC. 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 our Honourable President, Anowar Hussain Saikia and to Girija Kanta Barman for constant support and for everything. I also deeply thank the office bearers and members of our EC who were always available with suggestions and assistance. Whatever we have achieved is team work. The shortcomings, if any, are entirely mine. We also express our sincere gratitude to and appreciation of our valued sponsors.

Dear friends and brothers, my long association with OBASSG has made me realise that as the alumni association of a very reputed school, we have miles to cover. While the bonding and camaraderie between batchmates is something to be envious of, the same spirit is not reflected at the level of the Association. The irony is that the strength of the parts does not get translated into the strength of the whole. We need to seriously look into this aspect of our Association. Last year has taught us that advances in technology can actually overcome physical barriers of distance. I exhort all of you to stay connected with each other. It has become more imperative now because in two years' time, we would be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of OBASSG and in 2024, the Diamond Jubilee of our alma Mater. Therefore, I exhort all of you to deepen the bond, to bring more and more members on board. Let today's be the springboard for both these events.

Today's house will elect a new Executive Committee for a two year term. I pledge my full and unstinted support to the next committee. I am sure that under a new dispensation we will grow and evolve as a socially relevant entity. Cheers to the spirit; long live SSG; long live OBASSG.

27 November 2021
Guwahati


Abhigyan Prasad
General Secretary, OBASSG