

GMA ACTIVITIES REPORT 2020- 21

2020-21 has been a rough year for all . The uncertainties of the future because of the prevailing CoVID-19 Pandemic and observation of protocol announced by the Govt from time to time threw everything out of gear. GMA is no exception in these circumstances and had to put on hold/cancel many of it's activities scheduled as per it's action calendar, barring a few which were organized through strict observance of CoVID protocol and as mentioned here under.

EVENTS ORGANISED (2020-21)

(1) Name of Event : GMA Condolence meeting

Venue : GMA Conference Room

Date of Event : 20.05.2020

Time : 11.00 AM

Present : 15 Nos.

A condolence meeting of the GMA Board of Directors chaired by Shri S B Sarmah, President GMA was held on 20th May, 2020 in the Conference Room of the GMA office at Guwahati to condole the demise of Late Shri Digendra Nath Barua, immediate Past President who passed away on 16th of May, 2020 at the age of 98 years. A total of 15 Directors including office bearers attended the meeting and where floral tributes were paid to Late Shri Barua whose immense contributions towards building a strong foundation for GMA and leaving behind a strong legacy for us to carry forward was also acknowledged. One minute silence was observed by all present as a mark of respect to the departed soul. This was followed by adoption of a condolence message which was sent to members of the bereaved family.



Paying homage to Late D N Barua by Mr Bibhuti Dutta , Jt. Secretary GMA

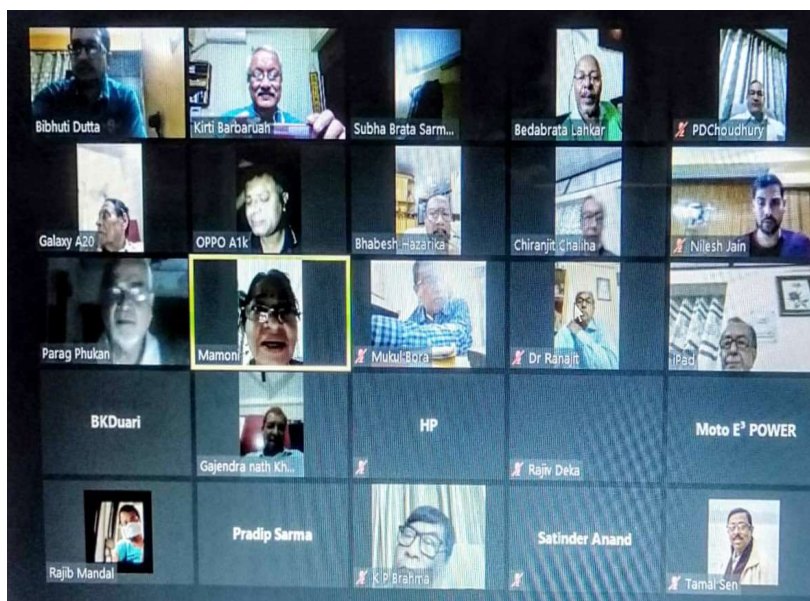
(2) Name of Event : Cloud HD Video Meeting through Zoom-“(Tribute to Late Mr. D N Barua (Immediate Past President GMA))”

Date of event : 26th May, 2020

Time : 6.00 PM to 7.00 PM

Participants : 48 members

A Cloud Video Meeting amongst the members of Guwahati Management Association was held on 26th May, 2020 to mark the occasion of the Adya Shardha Ceremony of Late Shri Digendra Nath Barua (Immediate Past President of GMA) who passed away on 16th May, 2020 at the age of 98 years. Rich tributes were paid to the departed soul by the members. The contributions of Late Shri Barua towards the development of GMA during his tenure as President from 2007 to 2019 were recalled by members participating in the meeting. Mr. Chiranjit Chaliha and Mr. Shantikam Hazarika both Advisors to GMA were the appointed speakers who presented a vivid picture on the life sketch of Late Shri Barua. Shri S B Sarmah, President GMA followed by some other members , also spoke on the occasion.



Screen shot of the Cloud HD Video meeting

(3) Celebrating World Environment Day

Date & Place : 5th June 2020, Amchang Reserve Forest (Near Sonapur , Guwahati)

Occasion : World Environment Day

Chief Guest : Mr Swapnanil Barua, IAS (Retd), Member GMA

Participants : 14 Members physically present; 92 members through virtual platform (zoom)

Summary of the Event :

Members of Guwahati Management Association celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June 2020 at Amchange Reserve Forest around 20 kms from Guwahati city. Mr Swapnanil Barua, IAS (Retd) was the Chief Guest. He stressed on preservation of forests and migratory birds. Mr Bhabesh Hazarika, Hony General Secretary GMA, Mr BK Duari, Vice President GMA also spoke on the occasion which was followed by planting of saplings by members present. The proceedings of the meeting was also covered live in Zoom platform for other members who could not physically attend due to prevailing CoVID – 19 protocol . The vote of thanks was offered by Mr Bibhuti Dutta, Joint Secretary GMA.



Mr B K Duari (centre) Vice President GMA addressing the gathering .

(4) Monthly Meeting

Date & Place : 27th June 2020, 4:30 PM , GMA Office

Topic : Think Global, Act Local (Lecture cum inter action session))

Speaker : Mr Parag Phukan

Participants : 38 members virtually present

Summary of the Event :

Guwahati Management Association organised members monthly meeting through Zoom virtual platform for the first time on 27th June 2020 at 4:30 PM. The meeting was addressed by the President GMA Mr S B Sarmah with a welcome address by the Hony General Secretary Mr Bhabesh Hazarika. Mr Parag Phukan, Director GMA delivered an interesting talk on "Think Global, Act Local" which was appreciated by all members . This was followed by an interactive session between the Speaker and members . The formal vote of thanks was offered by Mr Bibhuti Dutta, Joint Secretary, GMA.



Screen shot of the virtual meeting

(5) Date and Place: 27th June 2020, 5:30 PM , Kolkata

Topic : Catalizing Change in Education; Essence of Future Readiness (Webinar)

Speakers:

Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury , VC Assam Downtown University, Guwahati .

Dr D K Nath , VC Assam University, Silchar,

Dr D Chottopadhyay , VC Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata

Dr A K Srivastava , VC RKDF University , Ranchi,

Calcutta Management Association in association with Guwahati Management Association, Ranchi Management Association and Silchar Management Association , organised a webinar on 27th June 2020 on the topic "Catalizing Change in Education; Essence of Future Readiness".

Mr Chiranjit Chaliha, Advisor Guwahati Management Association, Mr I Ubhedha, President of Silchar Management Association, Ms Ima Bose of Calcutta Management Association and Mr Sushil Kumar, GS Ranchi Management Association , spoké a few words about their own Associations and introduced Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury Vice Chancellor, Assam Downtown University, Dr D K Nath Vice Chancellor Assam University, Silchar, Dr D Chottopadhyay Vice Chancellor, Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata and Dr A K Srivastava, Vice Chancellor RKDF University, Ranchi, respectively.

After the introduction , all four VCs spoke on the theme "Catalizing Change in Education; Essence of Future Readiness" from different angles. After a brief Q&A, Prof Ashok Banerjee summed up the discussion and closed the webinar with thanks to all participants

The webinar was moderated by Prof Ashok Banerjee, IPP, CMA



Screen shot of the webinar

(6) Event: Monthly Web Meeting of G M A .

Date & Time : 25th July at 5.00 PM.

Topic : 'Look East- Act East Policy' of the Govt of India (Lecture session)

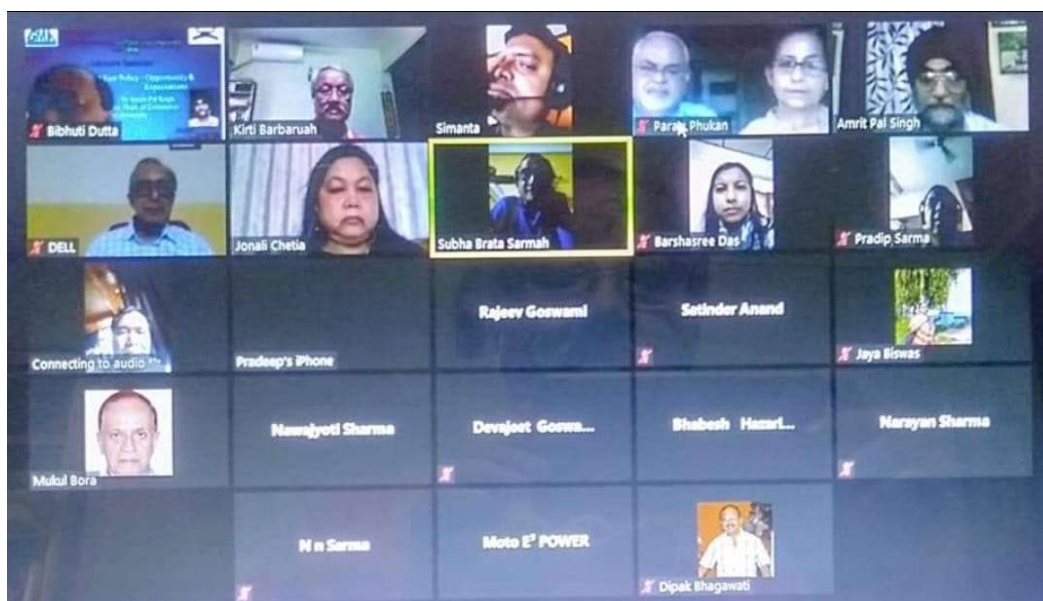
Guest Speaker : Prof Amritpal Singh , Gauhati University

Attendance : 59 members on Zoom virtual platform .

The welcome address of the meeting was delivered by Mr S B Sharma President G M A.

Guest speaker Prof Singh , started the talk in the historical perspective, starting from the 20th century when the Govt of India' s foreign and economic policies were fully preoccupied with relations of our neighbours in the north like USSR, China and with western powers. Early in the 21st century, Govt of India realised the growing economic muscle of the ASEAN block in the East and accordingly at that time, the Look East Policy was conceived with a view to engage with the ASEAN block and consequentially , trade relations with this Block increased to some extent.

Few years later , the Govt rechristened it as 'Act East policy' and envisaged some fast tract initiatives, in which the N E Region became the main conduit. Prof Singh named some roads and river connectivity projects , a few of which had already started functioning, and also elaborated how this region could be heavily benefitted from those. Q &A session followed between the members and the guest speaker which ultimately led to the conclusion of the meeting with a vote of thanks by Mr Bibhuti Dutta , Jt. Secy , GMA .



Screen shot of the virtual meeting

(7) 51st Foundation Day of the Guwahati Management Association

Date 29th August '20

Venue ; On line operated from the Bangladesh High Commission at Guwahati

Chief Guest: **H.E Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur Asst. High Commissioner
Bangladesh Asst. High Commission Guwahati**

51st Foundation Day of Guwahati Management Association was organised in the Bangladesh Asst. High Commission premises ,Guwahati . The function was held in both physical and virtual (ZOOM App.) and was attended / viewed by 79 guests and members.

H.E Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur Asst. High Commissioner Bangladesh Asst. High Commission Guwahati graced the occasion as the Chief Guest . Mr Bhabesh Hazarika , Hony. General Secy. GMA introduced and welcomed the Chief guest. Other guests and members witnessing the function were also welcomed by Mr S B Sarmah President, G M A who also gave a brief address covering GMA's objectives and activities .Mr Shantikam Hazarika , Advisor GMA also gave a brief presentation about GMA since it's inception in 1970 and the journey forward during the last 50 years .

Chief guest H.E Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur in his address , dealt extensively on trade relations between Bangladesh and N E states . He pointed out that , according to survey of one Indian University, till recently only 30 % of the trade was through formal channel. Now after many new trade routes being opened , the same has gone up to 50%.. He also emphasised the need for formalising the trade as much as possible for benefit of both sides. He also spoke about various new prospective trade possibilities between Bangladesh and the North Eastern states. Prior to the start of his deliberations . the Chief Guest was felicitated by Mr. Bhabesh Hazarika, Hony. General Secretary , on behalf of GMA.

At the end of the meeting , mementos were exchanged and vote of thanks offered by Mr. Bibhuti Dutta, Jt Secy, G M A. This was followed by high tea hosted by the Chief Guest , in the High Commission premises .



H E Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur Asst. High Commissioner ,Bangladesh Asst. High Commission Guwahati (Center) delivering his speech

(8) Monthly Meeting (lecture cum Q & A session)

Date 29th August 2020 .

Venue: Guwahati (Virtual meeting through Zoom app .)

Guest Speaker: Mr Bhrigu Barthakur, Social Entrepreneur

Topic : 'Atmanirvar Assam and its prospects in the rural sector.'

Number of Participants : 35 Members

Mr S B Sarmah President G M A welcomed the members and guests and in his Presidential address , emphasised the possibilities of promoting local industries .

Guest speaker Mr Bhrigu Barthakur dealt upon the vast possibilities in the rural economy . He appreciated the good work done by the Assam Rural Livelihood Mission in sectors like fisheries, animal husbandry , poultry etc . Also he made mention of the good works of undertaken by ARTFED in the handloom and handicraft sectors. Regarding the help needed in marketing of rural products, he hoped that the recent agreement of Govt of Assam with Flipkart will go a long way in promoting the cause .

After the lecture , there was a separate lively session of question and answers followed by conclusion of the virtual meeting with a vote of thanks from Mr Bibhuti Dutta, Jt. Secy GMA .



Mr Bhrigu Barthakur, Social Entrepreneur and guest speaker in the virtual meeting .

(9) Submission of Report to the Govt of Assam by GMA containing recommendations for revival of state economy – post CoVID-19

Date : 6th August '20

Venue : Office of the Chief Secy Assam, Civil Secretariat, Assam Dispur, Guwahati

The Guwahati Management Association constituted a sub- committee comprising of Mr Swapnanil Barua, IAS(Retd), former Commissioner, Commerce & Industry, Govt of Assam as the Chairman with Mr. Chiranjit Chaliha, Advisor GMA and Mr. Satinder Anand, Mr. O P Dahima, Dr. Basanti Baroova, Mr. Nilesh Jain, Mr. Ranjit Baruah as members with Mr. Bibhuti Dutta , Jt. Secretary GMA as the Convenor. The terms of reference of the Committee was to examine and recommend steps to be taken by the Govt of Assam for revival of Assam's economy post CoVID- 19 pandemic .

A GMA team comprising of Mr Swapananil Barua IAS (Retd), Chairman of the Sub-Committee , Mr. S B Sarmah, President GMA and Mr Bibhuti Dutta, Jt. Secretary GMA submitted the report of the recommendations to Kumar Sanjay Krishna I A S, Chief Secy. Assam, in a brief ceremony on 6th August'20. A copy of the report was also submitted on the same day to Mr. Shantanu Bharali, Law Advisor to Chief Minister , Assam who accepted it on behalf of the Chief Minister.

(10) Name of Event : Monthly Meeting (lecture cum Q & A session)

Resource Person : Dr. Rajnish Barua, Member GMA & Advisor, Global

Service Partners,, Delaware, U S A

Topic : 'Unlocking Mysteries of your Electricity Bills.'

Date & Venue : Virtual meeting on the 26th September, 2020 at Guwahati .

In Participation : 45 Members and Guests

The meeting started with an welcome address by Mr. S B Sarmah, President, GMA . Mr.Bhabesh Hazarika , Hony. General Secy , GMA introduced and welcomed the speaker Dr. Rajnish Barua, who also is the Director of the Delaware Public Services Commission in the state of Delaware, USA which regulates all public utilities including power

Dr. Barua explained the scientific way of preparing an electric bill which is same everywhere including in India based after taking different components into account. He also explained how the capital investment and variables are computed into our electric bills. Dr Barua also compared power tariff in between India and his state in the USA. While in India it is Rs. 8 per kwh, in Delaware , USA the rate is about Rs. 12 per kwh . But what is of serious concern is that in USA , one spends 4% of his salary for power while in India it is between 15% to 20% .

Dr. Barua also gave the break up of the source of power generation in the USA in between coal, NG, Nuclear , hydro and wind/-solar. He also observed that the use of coal have not come down as desired due to various technical reasons which is a disturbing factor as cheap and cleaner natural gas is available in abundance.

After a brief Question & Answer session, the meeting ended with a vote of thanks offered to Dr. Barua by Mr. Bhabesh Hazarika, Hony General Secretary, GMA



Dr. Rajnish Barua, Member GMA from U S A delivering his talk in the Monthly Meeting

(11) Name on of Event : G M A Monthly Meeting (lecture cum Q & A Session)

Date and Venue : 31st Oct ' 20 , Guwahati (VIRTUAL MEETING IN ZOOM PLATFORM)

Resource Person : Dr Pranab Baishya , Institute of Co-Operative Management, Guwahati .

Participants : 30 G M A members and guests

Topic : 'Role of cooperatives in Rural Economy'

Mr S B Sharma President , G M A presented the welcome address . In his address , Mr Sharma highlighted his experience with cooperative societies in his service career.

Guest speaker Dr Pranab Baishya first explained what is a cooperative society and how it differs with other voluntary associations. To become a cooperative society, the association must fulfill seven charters of the International Cooperative Alliance (I L A). The charter conditions are ownership of members of the society , resource mobilization , minimum number of ten persons to form a society and voluntary nature of the association .. He also gave a brief glimpse of the cooperative movement in India with few examples and then dealt about its impact on rural economy of Assam . Although there are a few very successful societies in Assam , on the whole the state's cooperative movement is lackluster . The state Govt in the mid 70's had taken a bold initiative to cover the entire rural population under the cooperative sector by forming Gram Panchayat Samabay Samiti (GPSS) covering all households including family members per Panchayat under the GPSS scheme but those have gradually become Govt bodies to dole out freebies, and politicians have crept into.

After the talk, there was a brief Q & A session followed by vote of thanks from Mr Bibhuti Dutta , Jt. Secy , GMA .



Screen shot of the virtual meeting

(12) Name of Event : Monthly Virtual Meeting (zoom platform)

Date and Place: 28th Nov 2020 ; Guwahati .

Theme of the Meeting : 'Mushroom Cultivation as a Social Enterprise'

Resource Person:: Mr Pranjal Barua General Secy. Mushroom Dev Foundation

In Attendance : 42 Members and Guests

At the outset , Mr Bhabesh Hazarika, Hony General Secy , welcomed the members and guests participating in the event. He also emphasized the need for participation of more members in the webinars, as such participation had been coming down lately.

Mr Pranjal Barua , General Secretary , Mushroom Development Foundation , Assam began his talk by apprising the members about his endeavour in promoting mushroom cultivation from way back in 1994. His motivation to make it a social enterprise came from two factors:

a) India ranks at lowly 74th in global nutritional survey conducted by the WHO, which is quite below that of neighbouring Pakistan and Bangladesh.

b) Contribution of women in the country's G D P is extremely low .

With these objectives in view, the Foundation had taken the initiative, as Mushroom is the most nutritious vegetable protein. Unlike animal protein, it is low in carbohydrate and cholesterol and high in amino acid. Also it can be very easily be grown by the women folk in their kitchen gardens. He had displayed some slides of the Foundation's work in villages of Meghalaya, and how the village folks are benefited. Mr Barua demonstrated how Mushroom can be tastefully cooked.and also talked about participation of the Foundation in various expositions in India and outside where raw mushrooms are sold and cooked products well received.

The webinar ended with a vote of thanks by Joint Secretary Mr Bibhuti Dutta.

(13) Name of event : INDUSTRIAL VISIT

Date : of event : 10th Jan '2021

Place of visit : Elephant Friendly Echo Tourist Resort

No: of Team Members : 18

Highlights: Opportunity for Tourists to view wild herds in the Indo Bhutan border

A team from Guwahati Management Association as part of it's Industrial Visit program , organized a visit to the well known echo park and tourist destination near the Indo Bhutan border in the district of Udalguri , Assam which has been developed by a young entrepreneur Mr Tenzing Bardosa.

The G M A team had a meeting with Mr Bardosa , where he explained the reason and motivation to develop such a centre.. He also elaborated how he had overcome the numerous difficulties on the way towards establishing this project .

After the meeting , Mr Bardosa took the members around the different important areas of the park, including the famous Tree Houses from where tourists can stay and have a night glimpse of the movement of wild animals and their play games .

The members highly appreciated the initiative of this promoter of this project that has also been able to attract tourists from different parts of the world .



GMA Team on Industrial Visit to Elephant Friendly Echo Tourist Resort, Indo Bhutan Border

(14) Name of Event : Monthly Meeting

Date and Venue : 30th Jan '21; G M A conference hall .

Appointed speaker : MR Swapanjyoti Sharma, Founder , Abhinav Solutions

Theme of discussion : “ Design Thinking ; way of business

Members and Guests present : 51

For the first time, since the Covid lockdown in March '20, the Guwahati Management Assn. had organized a physical meeting on this day. The response from members and guests were resounding. One of the highlights of the meeting was that as many as 10 new members of the Association were welcomed and formally introduced to the gathering by the Hony. General Secy. Mr Bhabesh Hazarika ,

Mr S B Sharma , President of G M A presided over the meeting and welcomed the guests. He spoke a few words about the difficult period which GMA faced during the lock down, and also reminded members about the ensuing A G M next month in which a new executive body will be elected .

The theme speaker in the meeting Mr Swaponjyoti Sarma who is a well known corporate trainer and a motivational speaker In his theme address described how businesses had undergone change during lockdown due to Covid and how some of those businesses had undergone permanent change.

He also emphasized the need for approaching the new environment with new thoughts.

Mr Bibhuti Dutta , Jt. Secretary G M A , offered the vote of thanks on behalf G M A, and the meeting ended with a high tea



Mr. Swapanjyoti Sharma addressing the members of GMA

(15) Event : Formal Closing ceremony of Golden Jubilee Year celebrations of G M A

Venue : MAIRAS Resort on the outskirts of Guwahati;

Date : 21st February , 2021

Honored Guests ;

Mr H. S. Das, I A S (Retd),Ex Addl . Chief Secy to the Govt of Assam & Chief Information Commissioner, Assam

Mr S S Devbarman Regional Director India Tourism , Guwahati .

Attendance : 83 GM A members and guests

G M A concluded it's Golden Jubilee Year with a seminar on revival of tourism in North Eastern India - post Covid- 19 pandemic . At the outset, Mr. D. Gohain , Chairman Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee welcomed the guests and others present . In his inaugural address , Mr Gohain narrated about how the Jubilee Year started with a big fanfare and subsequently the abrupt interruption on account of to CoVID -19 pandemic badly affecting the celebrations from March 2020 onwards . Also , he threw a glimpse on the early years of G M A and all about it's journey during the last 50 years.

Both Chief Guest Mr Himangshu Sekhar Das IAS (retd) former Chief Information Commissioner , Assam and the Guest of Honor Mr S S Devbarman , Regional Director , India Tourism , Guwahati , spoke about the difficult period faced by tourism worldwide on account of the CoVID pandemic situation . Consequently , it has heavily affected the Tourism sector not only in Assam but the entire North East . They all emphasized on what needs to be done by the Govt and the Tour Bodies to bring stability to the industry. To put the industry back on it's track , revival measures in the form of promoting Rural tourism , Homestay tourism , Heritage and Cultural tourism and other similar sectors , needs to be undertaken immediately by the Govt as well as other line agencies . Existing tourist circuits should be further improved and new circuits identified and developed in order to attract not only local tourists but also from other parts of the country as well as abroad . Mr Shantikam Hazarika , Advisor GMA also spoke on the occasion .

Before the end , Mr S B Sharma President G M A also spoke about GMA's activities as a whole. At the end , formal vote of thanks was offered by Mr Bibhuti Dutta Jt. Secretary GMA and followed by a well organized luncheon party .



{ Chief Guest Mr H.S Das, IAS(Retd) addressing the audience }



{ Mr. S.S. Devbarman, Regional Director, India Tourism addressing the audience as the Guest of Honour }

(16) Event : A G M of the Guwahati Management Association

Venue: Mairas Resort , (Near Sonapur) Guwahati .

Date : 21st February, 2021

Members Present : 65

Highlight: Election of new office bearers and new Board of Directors for 2021-23

Outgoing President of G M A Mr. S. B. Sarmah welcomed the members and delivered the Presidential address .

Mr. Bhabesh Hazarika, Hony General Secretary presented the Secretarial report for 2020-21 highlighting the activities of GMA during his tenure and thanked the members for giving him the opportunity to serve the Association. After the Secretary's report , Mr. Bibhuti Dutta i/c Treasurer

presented the Profit loss accounts and Audit Report for the period 2019-20 , and which were formally approved by members present in the AGM ..

The above was followed by election of new office bearers and Directors for constitution of the new Board as statutorily required . Mr. K. Ahmed, Director GMA , acted as the Presiding officer in conducting the polls. Consequently a new Board was elected with Mr. Chiranjit Chaliha, as the new President .

With the elections being over and results declared , the meeting felicitated with presentation of a phulam gamocha by newly elected Director Ms Sunita Deka to Mr Bhabesh Hazarika , the outgoing General Secy , as a mark of appreciation of his services rendered to GMA during his two year tenure . Thereafter , the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks offered by the newly elected Jt. Secretary Mr Simanta Goswami .



(Mr S B Sharma , President GMA , addressing the A G M)



(Cross section of GMA members in the AGM)



Mr. Bhabesh Hazarika, out going Hony. General Secretary, GMA being felicitated by Ms. Sunita Deka new elected Director

(17) Event : AIMA Foundation and the National Management Day.

Date : 22nd February , 2021

Venue G M A's Conference Hall

Theme : 'Transformation for Continuity' (Lecture cum Q & A session)

Attendance 50 members and guests .

Guest Speaker Prof. Mukulesh Barua, Director, Assam Institute of Management , Guwahati .
and ONGC Chair Professor

The event started with introduction of the guest speaker Prof. Mukulesh Barua and presentation of mementos to as many as eight new members of GMA . The introduction ceremony was conducted by Mr Bhabesh Hazarika , Hony. General Secy. GMA.

Mr. D. Gohain, Vice President G M A who presided over the meeting also welcomed the guest speaker Prof. Mukulesh Barua , members and the guests. He spoke about the many occasions when Prof Barua associated himself with G M A's activities and also acted as a resource person in G M A's seminars and workshops . Also the significance of the AIMA Foundation Day was explicitly elaborated by him .

Prof Barua in his lecture as the appointed speaker , presented a vivid presentation on what transformation really means and how it differs from just change. Also he emphasized how reformation is transforming every aspect of business and industry.

After a brief Q&A session the event ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Bibhuti Dutta , Hony. Jt Secy , GMA .



Mr. D. Gohain, V P , G M A, welcoming Prof Mukulesh Barua (guest speaker) on the occasion .

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