



# AHANA



RI PRESIDENT: RTN. SHEKHAR MEHTA | DISTRICT GOVERNOR: RTN. PRABIR CHATTERJEE

REGULAR CLUB E-BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

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*"If each member introduces one person to Rotary, our membership can increase to 1.3 million by July 2022."*  
– RIP Shekhar Mehta

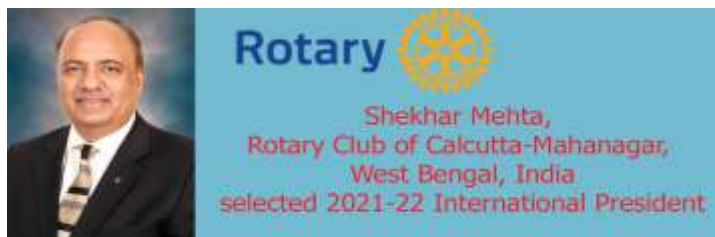
**Rtn. Shekhar Mehta elected as Rotary International President (2021-22) – another Indian after Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee (2011-2012)**

Rtn. Shekhar Mehta of Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar has been elected as the Rotary International President (RIP) for 2021-2022.

An active Rotarian since 1984, Mr. Mehta has served Rotary as Director, Member or Chair of several committees, Zone Coordinator, Training Leader, Member of The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisers, and District Governor. He is also the Chair of Rotary Foundation (India).

He has received Rotary's 'Service Above Self Award' and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for 'Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Awards'.

With regard to new memberships, Mr. Mehta maintains that membership development should be Rotary's highest priority. He believes that transitioning Rotaractors into Rotary Clubs, increasing diversity and female members in each Club, and focusing on regional plans could yield a 5% net growth in membership every year.



## ONE MAJOR AREA THAT RIP SHEKHAR MEHTA EMPHASIZES ON IS WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

RIP Shekhar Mehta has put a major emphasis on 'Women Empowerment'. He believes that "empowering girls and young women to have greater access to education, better health care, more employment, and equality in all walks of life should be embedded in every Rotary project we launch."



## Other Thrust Areas include

- Fighting COVID
- Increase membership from 1.2 million to 1.3 million in the next 1 year.
- Ending Polio
- Working on large impactful projects, including promotion of Literacy



From the very beginning, I knew that taking the baton of an Editor of AHANA from a Veteran like Sanjay da would never be easy! However, encouraged with a lot of enthusiasm by my Club Seniors, especially Kunal da, Aditi Ma'am, Sanjay da and Pausali di, I could finally take a dive.

All my very dear Rotarian friends.....please keep posting in your very valuable ideas, feedback and suggestions pertaining to the improvement of this publication. Ahana is incomplete without your support.

Thank you one and all for your constant guidance in this endeavor.  
-Souvik

*Happy Anniversary*

Rtn. Krishna Lakhani and Hemendra Lakhani – 20th July  
Rtn. (Dr.) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri and Dr. Debnath Chaudhuri – 25th July

*Wish you all many more years of marital bliss*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Rtn. Sanjay Ray – 16th July  
Mrs. Pratima Dutt (W/O Rtn. Samirendu Dutt) – 16th July  
Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Ray – 19th July  
Mr. Sougata Guin (H/O Rtn. Joyeta Ghosh) – 29th July

*Many Many Happy Returns of the day*

**MINUTES OF THE 2055th VIRTUAL CLUB MEETING OF RC CALCUTTA JADAVPUR HELD ONLINE ON WEDNESDAY, 30th JUNE 2021 AT 7 PM**

- ◆ Acting President Rtn. (Dr) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri called the 2055th meeting of RC Calcutta Jadavpur to order.
- ◆ The National Anthem was led by Rtn. Sikha Mukherjee.
- ◆ Then Acting President Rtn. (Dr) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri announced:
  - That our club is one among 58 clubs of Dist. 3291 selected for RI Citation.
  - That Rtn. Dr. Souvik Roy has taken over as the Editor of the club bulletin AHANA. President Dr. Aditi praised past Editor Rtn Sanjay Ray for his excellent job and dedication for which the club got the 3rd prize in 2018-19 and 2nd prize in 2019-20.
  - That on 26th June, RCC Assembly was organized by the district (RID 3291). Emphasis was given on Literacy and Women Empowerment. Adult Literacy, Zero Cervical Cancer and Zero Thalassaemia were decided to be the key focus areas of action. In this context, Dr. Aditi suggested that we could repeat a project like 'Our Daughter' as done in 2017-18.
  - That on 27th June, a seminar was held on Grant Management. Mukul Sharma delivered lecture. The key points to be noted were (i) To apply for a Global Grant, 15% of the total amount of the project would have to come from International Partner, and (ii) 80% would come from RI instead of 100% matching value as was the norm earlier.
  - Acting President Dr. Aditi said that a visit to Chittaranjan National Cancer institute (CNCI) would be made on 1st July (Doctor's Day). Protein supplements would be given to the in house patients of the paediatric ward of CNCI. Storybooks, drawing books and crayons would be given to the other paediatric patients. In addition, the doctors and nurses would be felicitated with mementos on this special day. Another memento would be given to Sanjeevani - an NGO associated with the paediatric department of the hospital.
  - The Board of Directors of the club for RY 2021-22 was declared.
  - It was informed that Half Yearly Subscription bill would be generated and notified to all.
  - That on 14th July, two potential new members, Dr. Subrata Chakraborty and Koyeli Dutt, would be inducted to the club.
  - PP Rtn. Partha Sarkar talked about a possibility of a rehabilitation centre in Kultali. He said that a lady named Prabhati Mandol suggested about Candle Making. It was decided that Rtn. Partha Sarkar along with Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta would visit the place soon.
  - Hony. Rtn. Prof Indrajit Ray was requested to deliver a lecture on 11th August on economic development in the hard-hit areas of 24 Parganas and scope of economic growth in those areas. It was suggested by PP Rtn. Samirendu Dutt to make it an interactive session.
  - Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta suggested that she could arrange a lecture by eminent Dr Partha Basu of cervical cancer prevention possibly on 14th July, 7.30 pm. PP Rtn. Samirendu Dutt suggested Paromita to request Dr Basu's wife, Nandini Basu, to accompany him in the session.
  - That on 28th July, the lady Officer-in-Charge of Barrackpore Police Station, Anusua Chakraborty, would attend the club meeting on 28th July to talk and demonstrate about Sukanya, a West Bengal project on women empowerment.
  - Dr. Aditi made a few proposals to the members of the club: (i) she made a presentation on the project done earlier in the tribal villages on Bel Pahari on Literacy and Women Empowerment; (ii) She proposed that July being Environment Month, we could arrange to donate 50 more saplings to that area as before and suggested Rtn Dr Krishnendu Das to talk to Shri Patrango Basu for the arrangement of

delivery of these saplings; (iii) Dr Aditi also suggested that RCCJ could think about making a happy school in that area. Rtn. Samirendu Dutt appreciated the suggestion and asked to make a subcommittee for the purpose; (iv) It was also decided that to request Patrango Basu to attend the RCM on 14th July to talk about the probability of having vocational training on utilization of Babui grass in that area. She suggested that RCCJ could consider paying the trainers fees in this project. Rtn Paromita suggested that her daughter, who is currently attached to an NGO would like to participate in this project and work hand in hand. It was decided that Paromita's daughter would be invited to the RCM on 14th July during the session with Patrango Basu.

- That the next RCM of the club is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 14th July.
- ◆ Next, Rtn. (Dr) Krishnendu Das, the Club Secretary conducted the club business. He announced and greeted Rtn. (Dr) Jharna Ray for her upcoming birthday on 11th July, and Rtn. Sambhu Narayan Banerjee and Krishna Banerjee for their marriage anniversary falling on 7th of July. All the members joined in to convey their best wishes for the upcoming birthday and anniversary of our fellow Rotarians.
- ◆ The minutes of 2054th meeting was confirmed. The meeting ended with thanks to everyone attending the meeting.

## SPECIAL FEATURE ARTICLE

### RCCJ & YAAS RELIEF - Part I



**Rtn. (Dr.) Mainak Sengupta**  
Chair, Youth Service, RCCJ

To support, YAAS Victims at the Mousuni Island, in South 24 Pargana, on 30-May-2021, I represented Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur in distributing aids to the residents there. This program was done in collaboration with an energetic philanthropic organization Naba Bikash

Club of Asansole. Me and my friend Supriyo Banerjee accompanied a large team of dedicated young men from Naba Bikash and reached the island at around 6.30 am. A total of about 400 people were served among which supplies were given for 100 people from Rotary Club of Calcutta Jadavpur.



We distributed rice, pulses and other ingredients to start a community kitchen there and a bag full of dry foods to each person to run for a few days. The image of devastation by cyclone was all too evident including almost complete decimation of many houses. Rtn Manab Paul made the initial liaison with Naba Bikash members, IPP Rtn (Dr.) Aditi Nag Chaudhuri took care of logistics along with Manab, the President Rtn (Dr.) Kunal Ray along with the other enthusiastic members provided background support.

## মেঘ মুখোশ



**Rtn. Partha Sarathi Sarkar**  
Director, Public image, RCCJ

কতদিন তোমার আঙুল ছুঁয়ে দেখিনি  
পড়ন্ত রোদ ফেলে হাঁটিনি ফুল বরা পথে  
দেখিনি কি ভাবে তোমার ঠোঁটে কথা ফোটে

পানকৌড়ি কেমনই লাভ ডুব জলে  
শুলুক পাতার গালে ভ্রমরের চুম্বন  
জলফড়িং তিরতির দাগ কাটে জলে  
কোথাও নিষেধাজ্ঞা নেই বলা চলে।

যখন আর কতদিন এই বিলাপে মগ্ন  
আকাশ মুখ ঢাকে মেঘমুখোশে  
আলোর বলকানি, বজ্র নির্যোষে  
বর্ষা এল। পথ ঘাট নিভৃত বাসে।

চুপকথা (২)

## Presidential Message

Rtn. Shekhar Mehta: RIP: 2021-2022

“Namaste. Hello, the movers and shakers of Rotary around the world. You, the DGEs, are the movers, and I am Shekhar. Today you are taking a very important step in your journey of service and leadership. The forthcoming 17 months will be the most amazing, fruitful months in your life. You can turn this period into the most satisfying period of your life. During this period, I urge you to dream big, guided by our shared vision for Rotary. You will plan and set goals, inspire and motivate Rotarians to reach goals — goals to expand the reach of our organization by increasing membership, and goals to increase the impact of Rotary by serving the world. And in this journey, you will play a stellar role as you share your goals with Rotarians and Rotaractors in your district and inspire them to “do more and grow more.”



Friends, this will be our guiding mantra. “Do more” as in bigger and impactful service projects, and “grow more” as in increasing our membership and expanding the participation. Membership, friends, continues to be our biggest challenge. For the last 17-plus years, our membership has been at 1.2 million. Together let us change that over the next 17 months. My dear change-maker governors, here is your opportunity to make the biggest change in Rotary history as far as membership is concerned. What we have not accomplished in the last 17 years, I challenge you to accomplish in 17 months. But that's too big a dream, you may say. Well, if I ask you to dream big, I have to lead from the front. One of my inspirations comes from what George Bernard Shaw said. He said, “You see things; and you say 'why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?'” So, friends, the dream is to increase our membership to 1.3 million by 1 July 2022! How can we reach that incredible goal? The answer is each one, bring one — ask each Rotarian to bring one member to Rotary in the next 17 months. Just one member in 17 months is all you need to ask of every Rotarian in your district. You can ensure this by leading by example and having your club presidents lead by example as well. As Rotarians in every club do this, they too will become change-makers, as they will change for good the lives of each person that they make a Rotarian.

Governors-elect, we need to grow more to do more. I have always hugely been inspired by the motto of Rotary — Service Above Self. It has taught me to care for others and share with others. Service, to me, is about thinking of others even before I think of myself. On thinking about others, let me share one of my Rotary moments. I had just joined my Rotary club, and the club organized a limb camp. Here we were, distributing calipers, artificial limbs, and hand cycles. Every member was given some responsibility and so was I. I was to check if the beneficiary of the hand cycle had enough strength in his hand to ride the tricycle by his hands. And I was to do this by asking the beneficiary to pull my hand, so that I could fathom the strength in his hands. As I stood in my designated spot, waiting for the beneficiary to come, I saw him crawling towards me. He had no legs, so he had to crawl towards me. I stretched my hands to hold his, and I'll be honest, in that moment, I was thinking about me and not about him. I was thinking about my cleanliness, my health. I did not want to hold his hand. But I did it and kept thinking of myself for the second and third set of hands. But suddenly after the sixth, seventh set of hands, my empathy towards their plight grew and soon enough I could feel their pain, their challenges, and I was thinking more about them than I was thinking of myself. It was at that moment, friends, when from being just a member of my Rotary club, I became a Rotarian. Soon I started attending more club projects. As a Rotarian, when I had first gone out to the rural areas of India 35 years back, I truly understood the plight of my brethren. They had no toilets in their homes, the water they drank was from the same pond that they bathed in, the schools were in the shade of a tree, and the black painted wall was the only blackboard in the school. The nearest health center was a few miles away with basic

### RCCJ BOARD MEMBERS 2021-2022

- **IPP:** Dr. Kunal Ray
- **President:** Dr. Kunal Ray
- **Vice President:** Sambhunath Kar
- **President Elect:** Dr. Krishnendu Das
- **Secretary:** Pausali Paul
- **Jt. Secretary:** Dr. Jharna Ray
- **Treasurer:** Swapan Chakraborty
- **Sgt-at-Arms:** Tapati Bhattacharyya
- **Editor:** Dr. Souvik Roy
- **Club Trainer:** Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri

### DIRECTORS

- **Club Admin.:** Gautam Chakravarty
- **Public Image:** Partha Sarathi Sarkar
- **Membership:** Samirendu Dutt
- **Community service:**
  - (a) Medical: Paromita Das Dutta
  - (b) Non-Medical: Dr. Partha Pratim Roy
- **Vocational service:** Dibyendu Chakraborty
- **Foundation:** Jaydeb Banerjee

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- **Literacy:** Dr. Aditi Nag Chaudhuri
- **Environment:** Dr. Chitra Mandal
- **Sanitation & Hygiene:** Sonia Gupta
- **Youth Service:** Dr. Mainak Sengupta
- **CSR:** Prasenjit Chatterjee
- **Disaster Management:** Manab Paul

facilities. And then, through my Rotary club, we helped set up toilets, provided clean drinking water, enhanced the education system, and set up world-class health facilities, not just in my community or my city, but in my country. Rotary kindled the spark within me to look beyond myself and embrace humanity. Service became a way of life for me, and my life's guiding philosophy became, "Service is the rent I pay for the space I occupy on this earth." And I want to be a good tenant of this earth. I am sure each of you also has found your opportunity to serve. You too may have provided eyesight to the blind, food to the hungry, homes to the homeless. They may have been small opportunities for service or large projects. More than just the size, it is the attitude that defines service. Gandhi was once getting up on a train. Even as he was getting up on the train, the train started moving, and one of his slippers fell off. Gandhi's immediate reaction was to throw his other slipper to where the previous one had fallen. His friend was traveling with him and asked him, "Why did you do that?" Gandhi said, "Someone will find that slipper. What good will be one slipper to him? So I threw the other." Friends, it was a small act of service, but I think it was a big attitude of service. Are we also ready to think of others before we think of ourselves? As Rotarians, we can do just that.

Why else have Rotarians spent billions of dollars and volunteer hours over the last 35-plus years to eradicate polio and serve mankind? Why else have we set up thousands of schools, hundreds of hospitals, provided water in parched villages, brought dignity to people by providing toilets in their homes, given the gift of life to tens of thousands of children by doing their heart surgeries? Rotarians keep serving because we want to change lives. One project in Nepal changes the lives of a few thousand people, the family health program in Africa has served millions of people, a water project in Haiti has changed the lives of more than 10 million people. Back home in India, the T-E-A-C-H program of literacy and education has impacted the lives of millions of children. Many of you have been an important part of similar service projects, and you have changed the lives of people. There was a need to serve, and you served. Today the need to serve has become even more necessary and apparent. So, my dear change-maker governors, in the coming Rotary year, I request you, urge you, cajole you to serve people and help to change their lives. So, my dear governors, our theme for the year 2021-22 is Serve to Change Lives. I urge you to lead by example and inspire Rotarians and Rotaractors to participate in projects that have a sustained impact. Join hands with other Rotarians, other organizations, corporations, and do projects that impact your community, your city — projects that can change lives of people across the country and around the world. At the end of your term as district governor, you should feel that because of your leadership, because of your inspiration to the Rotarians and Rotaractors, the world has changed for better because of the service done by them during the year. As we all serve, we change

the lives of not only others; we change our lives, too. Vivekananda, one of India's greatest philosophers, said, "When you help someone, do not think that you are obliging him or her. In fact, it is he or she who is obliging you by giving you an opportunity to give back something to this world from where we have received so much." Also, he added beautifully, "In life, take the position of the donor or the server, and yet be so humble in giving and serving that let the donor or server kneel down and ask: 'May I give? May I serve?'" Friends, to live for others, to care for others, to serve others and change their lives is the best way to live our own lives. Just as Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile." And friends, as we go about our service initiatives, our special focus this year will be on empowering girls. One of Rotary's core values is diversity. We have a public statement that outlines our belief in DEI — diversity, equity, and inclusion. It is important that we empower the girl as we all find that more often than not, the girl is disadvantaged. We will serve all children, but our focus will be specially on the girl. There are many issues that girls face in different parts of the world, and you as leaders will ensure that we try and mitigate the disadvantage of the girl that they may have. Friends, to do more and grow more, we have designed some presidential initiatives.

There will be seven presidential conferences across the world focusing on the seven areas of focus. And for every Rotary and Rotaract club to be able to organize and engage Rotarians and Rotaractors, and the public at large, we will have Rotary Days of Service. Do participate in the presidential conference closest to home, and do encourage every club to participate in a Rotary Day of Service. Let them join Rotaractors and Interactors. Let us showcase our work the world over through thousands of Rotary Days of Service by Rotary clubs. Dear change-maker governors, ending polio, fighting COVID, working on large impactful projects, and increasing our membership to a never-before 1.3 million — the task ahead is challenging. And that should excite you. Rotarians love challenges. A ship is safe in the harbor, but that is not what ships are meant for. They need to go out in the high seas. Life, my dear change-makers, is about adventure and not maintenance. Let me end with what I have penned for our theme: The biggest gift we are given is the power to touch a life To change, To make a difference In the circle of life. If we can reach out With our hands, heart, and soul The magic will begin to happen As the wheel begins to roll ... Let's turn the wheel together So all humanity thrives We have the power and the magic To serve ... to change lives ... At this moment, I urge you, wherever you are seated, to put your hand on your heart and pledge with me:

WE HAVE THE POWER AND THE MAGIC TO SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES So, my dear change-makers, are you ready? Are you ready for the big challenges? Are you ready to serve? Are you ready to change lives? I am, and I'm sure you are too. Together, let us Serve to Change Lives."



**RIP Rtn. Shekhar Mehta  
with Wife Rashi Mehta**

### Ideas, Feedback & Suggestions



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**DG Rtn. Prabir Chatterjee  
with Wife Rubena Chatterjee**

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