

# THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

President: Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal | Secretary: Rtn. Madhur Jhawar | Editor: Rtn. Richa Shah

CLUB NO. 16155 | DIST : 3291 | CHARTER DATE : JUNE 16, 1975

## CLUB TURNS MASKS TO BRICKS

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with a new environmental challenge. Every month, more than 120 billion disposable masks and gloves are being thrown out, with some of them polluting our land and water.

Our Rotaract club, like many, is concerned about the environment. Emboldened by Rotary's newest cause, protecting the environment, we decided to do something about this problem. We began a recycling effort which we called our Clean Earth project to collect masks that were littering our streets, parking lots, and other common areas and find a way to reuse them. A member of the club collects discarded masks. Medical experts have said that the virus can survive up to three days on an object. We place the masks that we pick up in a locked room for three days. Then we bleach them

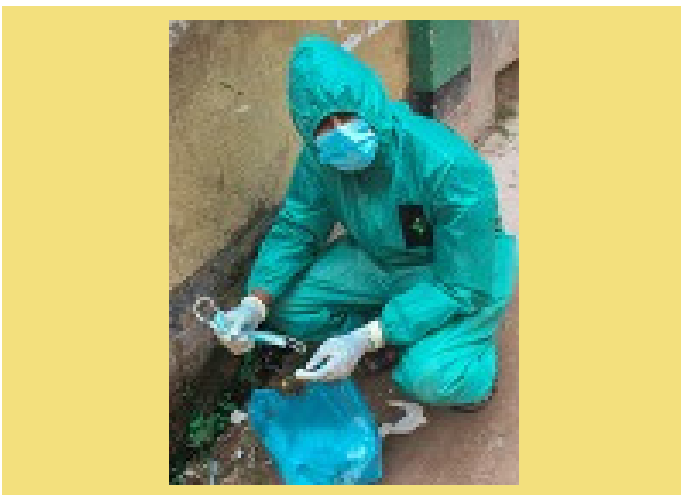


The Rotaract Club of Dhaka Orchid has been collecting and cleaning used masks and gloves to mix with cement and create new products from the waste.

and wash them with detergent over a period of 24 hours. We dry them in sunlight, then tear them into smaller pieces and mix them with cement. We use this mixture to create planting containers filled with soil, which we plant trees inside. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented us with a new environmental challenge. Every month, more than 120 billion disposable masks and gloves are being thrown out, with some of them polluting our land and water.

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A member of the club collects discarded masks.



## WHY THE ROTARY YEAR BEGINS 1 JULY

Ever wonder why 1 July is the beginning of the Rotary year? Rotary's first fiscal year began the day after the first convention ended, on 18 August 1910. The 1911-12 fiscal year also related to the convention, beginning with the first day of the 1911 convention on 21 August. The next August, the Board of Directors ordered an audit of the International Association of Rotary Clubs' finances. The auditors recommended that the organization end its fiscal year on 30 June to give the secretary and treasurer time to prepare a financial statement for the convention and board, and to determine the proper number of club delegates to the convention. The executive committee agreed and, in April 1913, designated 30 June as the end of the fiscal year. This also allowed for changes to the schedule for reporting club membership and payments. Even The Rotarian changed its volume numbering system to correspond to



*Attendees at Rotary's first convention in Chicago in 1910. Rotary's first fiscal year began the day after the convention ended.*

the fiscal year (beginning with Volume 5, No. 1, in July 1914). continued to hold its annual conventions in July or August until 1917. Delegates to the 1916 event in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA, approved a resolution to hold future conventions in June, mainly because of the heat in cities where most of them occurred. The next one was held 17-21 June in Atlanta, Georgia.



### YOUR GIFT AT WORK

*The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives close to home and around the world. By giving to the Annual Fund, you make these life-changing projects possible so that together, we can keep-Doing Good in the World.*



**John F. Germ**

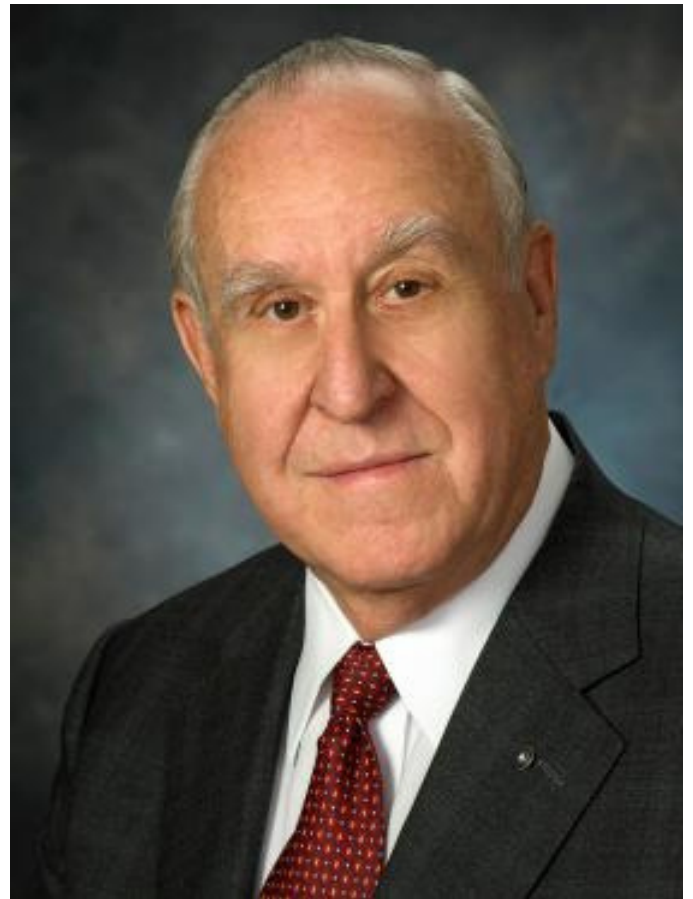
Trustee Chair 2021-22

July 2021

July is the most exciting month in Rotary, a time for fresh starts and new beginnings. For many, it's an opportunity to take on new leadership roles. Rotarians brim with optimism, thinking about the good we can do for humanity in the 12 months ahead.

"The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." How profound that a woman who was blind taught us such a powerful lesson about the difference between sight and vision. Indeed, it is one thing to see the world as it is, but entirely another to envision it as it could be. The Rotary Foundation is all about envisioning possibilities – and making them happen.

As we begin this Rotary year, I ask: what is your vision for the next 12 months? Could a community or region you know benefit from a grant from the Foundation? One probably could, and, as you read these words, many people in that community are waiting for our help and leadership.



We are still reeling from the challenges of serving the world during COVID-19, but we cannot let that or anything else stop us. Many educational and health care needs have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. The world needs us.

Beginning 1 July, you can apply for Foundation grants supporting Rotary's new area of focus: the environment. July also brings changes, such as the financial restructuring of the World Fund, that have been implemented with an eye toward sustainability. We are just beginning a year when we will continue our first Programs of Scale grant in Zambia, seek a home for our next Rotary Peace Center, and plan and implement district and global grants that will make positive impacts for generations to come. Rotarians love a good challenge, so here's one for us all: let's challenge ourselves to think bigger this year and enlarge our vision of what we can and will do.



**MAKE THE FOUNDATION A PART OF YOUR VISION FOR A BETTER WORLD, AND YOU WILL SEE THE WORLD, AND YOURSELF, CHANGE.**



# WHAT IS RFE?

## ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

Friendship Exchange is an international exchange program for Rotary members and friends that allows participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs.

Participants may travel as individuals, couples, families, or groups, and may be Rotary members or not.

Benefits of an exchange

- Broaden international understanding
- Explore a profession or job in a different context
- Build enduring friendships
- Establish a foundation for peace and service
- Gain opportunities for active project involvement and support
- Learn about a region's people, food, languages, customs, and history
- Find partners for grants

Choose a destination

Explore our Exchange Finder Map to view current exchange locations and the districts that serve them. Connect with the district's Rotary Friendship Exchange chair for help finding potential international hosts and planning your itinerary.

Define your purpose

Friendship exchanges are organized around at least one of three themes: culture, service, and vocation.

Fund your exchange

All exchanges are paid for by the participants or their districts. Hosts are not expected to assume a significant financial burden. Club or district funds may be available to offset the costs of exchanges that have a vocational emphasis.

The 2020 pandemic has been a difficult challenge for everyone in every corner of the world. Even though the virus closed many doors with people locked down at home, online solutions provided new opportunities for safe interactions that had not been considered before. Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) is no exception to utilizing these online solutions.



Experience different cultures and build international friendships through Rotary Friendship Exchange

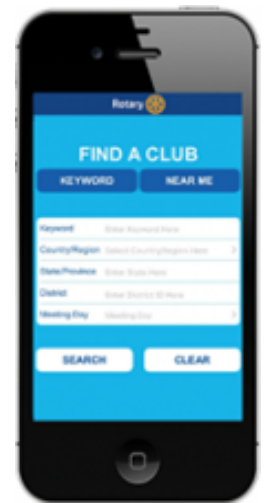
[Click here to view Rotary International RFE Exchange Locator Map](#)

## DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE LOCATOR APP

Find the information you need, wherever you are, with Rotary’s official mobile apps. Whether you’re looking for a club to visit while traveling or friends to meet up with at this year’s convention, our mobile apps make it easy to find all this and more on your smartphone or tablet.

Find Rotary clubs worldwide with our free Rotary Club Locator app. You can search for clubs by keyword, country, state or province, district, and even meeting day. Or simply use the “Near me” feature to find clubs close to your current location.

Note that when you search for nearby clubs, the map won’t display e-clubs. Use a keyword search to find information on e-clubs.



**CLICK ON APP FOR INFO**

### Features:

- Display a club’s location on a map
- Search for clubs by keyword
- Search for clubs within 1 to 100 miles of your physical location
- Save your search results
- Add a club to your contact list
- View club officer information (available only to Rotarians and Rotaractors)
- Update club data

Make sure people can find your club! If Rotary doesn’t have your club’s current location, ask a club officer to update it, either by entering the information online or by sending it to [data@rotary.org](mailto:data@rotary.org).

Download the Rotary Club Locator app here:-

[Apple App Store for iPhone and iPad](#)

[Google Play for Android](#)

[App for Windows Phone Store](#)

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Rotary



Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

Rotary's Vision Statement



### SIGNIFICANCE OF GURU PURNIMA

**"Gu means darkness, Ru means dispeller. One who dispels your darkness is a Guru."**

The first full moon after the summer solstice in the month of Ashadha (July-August), is known as Guru Purnima. This sacred day marks the first transmission of the yogic sciences from Shiva – the Adiyogi or first yogi – to his first disciples, the Saptarishis, the seven celebrated sages. Thus, the Adiyogi became the Adi Guru or first Guru on this day. The Saptarishis carried this knowing throughout the world and even today, every spiritual process on the planet draws from the spine of knowing created by Adiyogi.

A Guru dispels the seeker's ignorance, allowing him to experience the source of creation within. The day of Guru Purnima is traditionally the time when seekers offer the Guru their gratitude and receive his blessings. In India, the Guru-Shishya bond is seen as a pure connection that helps the student achieve greater heights. The Sanskrit verse – Mata Pitah Guru Daivam – clearly positions the role of a teacher before that of God. In India, the teacher is referred to as the Guru.

**Vyas Purnima** - Krishna Dwaipayana Vyasa or Ved Vyasa, who wrote the epic Mahabharata was born on Guru Purnima, therefore it is also his birth anniversary.



The mysterious Kailasa temple located in Ellora Caves of Maharashtra, is the largest monolithic building in the world. We can safely say, it is one of the planet's most stunning sights. no one knows how or when this particular temple was constructed. The temple complex is cut from solid basalt rock leaving this impressive structure that boggles the mind completely and it is only one of the 34 cave systems that have been excavated. Astonishingly, it took just 18 years to complete the temple. It is estimated that a

### KNOW YOUR CULTURE

total of 300,000 to 500,000 tons of rock was quarried out of the vertical cliff and another mystery is where did the basalt go? It seems to have vanished without a trace along with the tools used to build the temple. If you consider the following hypothesis based on the commonly accepted facts, if people worked twelve hours a day every day for 20 years to build the temple, they would have had to dig no less than 20,000 tons of hard basaltic rock in a year, equivalent to 1666 tons a month or 55 tons a day or four to five tons every single hour, and then, of course, the residual rocks had to be disposed and the remaining exposed rock had to be intricately carved. Many who have researched it believe that the structure has been excavated vertically so that the final result could be achieved, the way we see it today.

# Birthday Greetings



18th July

2nd Aug

5th Aug

5th Aug

11th Aug

**HARDEEP**

**CHANDRANI**

**PRAMILA**

**UDAYENDU**

**CHANDAN**

## DID YOU KNOW ?

The idea of a World Friendship Day was first proposed on 20 July 1958 by Dr. Ramon Artemio Bracho during a dinner with friends in Puerto Pinasco, a town on the River Paraguay about 200 miles north of Asuncion, Paraguay.

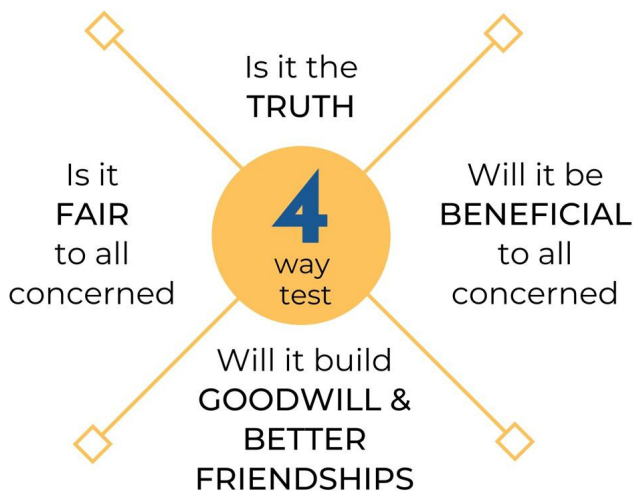
Friendship Day is celebrated every year on the first Sunday of August to mark the importance of the most beautiful relationship in the world,

In honor of Friendship Day in 1998, Nane Annan, wife of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, named Winnie the Pooh as the world's Ambassador of Friendship at the United Nations. This year, World Friendship falls on Sunday, 1st August.

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Life literally exists on the virtual platform for many of us ! Work from home, school from home, shop from home. With Friendship Day and Sindhara round the corner, we have something to look forward to and celebrate. Wishing all of you a Happy Friendship Day ! Party, revel, enjoy and above all, stay safe. Do share an account of how you celebrated these occasions. Cheers !

Rtn. Richa Shah  
richashah4@gmail.com





# MEETING MINUTES

## ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

Club No. 16155 || Charter Date: 16/06/1975



### President (2020-21)

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## Minutes of the 2076th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 24th of the Year 2020-21 held on 24th June, 2021 over Zoom Platform at 7.00 pm

- **Meeting Called to Order:** President Sahil Desai called the 2076th continuous and 24th meeting for the year 2020-21 to order.
- **National Anthem:** Rtn. Preeti Agarwal played the National Anthem and shared the screen over zoom.
- **Confirmation of Minutes:** Minutes of the 2075th continuous meeting was circulated and confirmed.
- **Proposed by:** Rtn. Rakesh Sahni
- **Seconded by:** Rtn. Sudhir Chand
- **Welcome by President:** President extended his warm wishes and thanked the members for their unstinted support and motivational spirit throughout the year. He expressed his gratitude to all the young and senior members who had applauded the team's marvellous work through their heart-rendering messages. He apprised that the 24th meeting would be a brain storming session and everybody was asked to give suggestions on the way forward for the upcoming year. He asked for the feedback of the year gone by so that if any drawbacks were felt, they could be handled efficiently.
- **Sergeant-at-Arms:** President appointed Rtn. Udayendu Das as the sergeant for the meeting.
- **Agenda:** The following agenda was discussed at length in the brain storming session.
- **Attendance:** Rtn. Pramod Agarwal congratulated President Sahil and complimented the 3 super ladies Shalini, Sonali and Preeti for their magnificent support. PDG Rtn. Kamal Seth also congratulated President and team for the phenomenal work executed in these trying times. But Attendance is the one thing to be pondered upon. Some action to improve the same should be taken. Various options were discussed:-

Rtn. S. Ravi- apprised that maybe members are finding it difficult to attend zoom meetings as Pandemic has changed the entire scenario of Physical Meets. So, a



feedback was requested to take from the members who were constantly absent. He also suggested to make the time constraint of 45 minutes for the meetings.

Rtn. Ashish Bhuwalka: He gave the idea of having a hybrid meeting wherein Rotarians living in the same area get together with their laptops and have a fellowship before and after the meeting. The idea received a warm welcome and it was decided to ask those Rotarians to host the meetings who are unable to attend them. It was also discussed to call up members who could not make for 3 consecutive meetings.

Rtn. Nirmal Agarwal: He affirmed for the hybrid meeting and suggested that fellowship can be done at 2 places where a group of 5-6-7 members with spouses get together. The hosts can be members who are unable to attend.

Rtn. Vikash Choudhary: He cited that the timing of 7 pm for the meeting could be a reason for members not joining the meeting coz they are heading towards home from work at that time.

Rtn. Yogesh Gupta: He asked for a reminder message just before the meeting.

Rtn. Rakesh Khanna: He suggested to have meetings on Sundays.

Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor: After affirming for hybrid meeting, he focused more on getting good speakers, good projects to discuss and good fellowships to follow after the meeting.

Rtn. Dr. S.K. Kapoor: He apprised that PE Neeraj should interact with members who are not attending and main inclination should be on getting good speakers.

Rtn. Narinder Gulati: He apprised that the time duration of meeting should be specific and made known to the floor.

- **Membership:** PE Neeraj apprised that we should look for more members with diverse backgrounds. Various ideas were floated regarding induction process.

Rtn. Vikram Poddar: He gave the idea of setting up of a meeting with 3-4 members both young and senior along with prospective and his spouse and know the purpose of his joining the movement. The induction process should be made more precise.

Rtn. Sudhir Chand: Asked the team to create a self-fulfilling prophecy and put some passion in the recruitment procedure. President Sahil and Rtn. Rakesh Sahni spoke in favour of this and suggested that a prospective should attend 6 meetings before getting inducted. Rtn. Vikash also seconded this and suggested a senior to be appointed as the head of the membership committee to motivate them.

Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor: Suggested to have a screening committee which is a little stringent in inducting members. But Rtn. Udayendu said instead of this we should give responsibility to members to find out in which field he's good at.

Rtn. Nirmal Agarwal: He suggested that we should re-look at the Membership Documents created by him, Ankush and Vikram and formulise methodology to take it forward.

Rtn. Pooja Doshi: asked for induction of more women members to which Rtn. Richa added that generating interest should be the priority.

Rtn. Sanjay Chaudhury: added that we can have future Presidents talking in the alternate meetings.

Rtn. Dr. S.K. Kapoor: Suggested that Club Constitution and Bye-Laws should be re-looked upon and the module designed by Nirmal should be referred.

PDG Rtn. Kamal Seth: Apprised that instead of more inductions, we should look at the members who are unable to attend and ask them the reason and if possible, motivate them.

- **Health Care:** PE Neeraj apprised that since Health is the main area of focus of our Movement, we should look into having more health camps, explore tele-medicine, look into supplying of medical equipment like dialysis machines and more. It was well supported by Rtn. Dr. Biman Chakraborty.
- **Supporting the Environment:** PE apprised about Tree Plantation and Plastic Recycling with some well-known facts regarding the swelling up of our Mother Earth by land-fills and vandalism of trees. He spoke about 2 organisations called “Let’s Tree” headed by Ms. Mallika Jalan who’s a renowned Environmentalist and helps in tree plantation in the city along with their 2 years maintenance at the cost of Rs. 650/- per tree. The second was “Go-Sewa” who help in planting fruit trees in villages which in turn help in providing livelihood to farmers in the long run. The cost of these were Rs. 1500 for 30 trees. A detailed discussion about this took place and members were convinced about tree plantation. The various ideas like crowd-funding, adopting a village and providing E-Education, Sanitisation, Health Care were discussed upon. PP Rakesh Sahni suggested that going ahead with a project through an organisation working in that particular field will be helpful. PE was asked to get more details about the NGO working on tree plantation.
- **Fellowship:** Rtn Sonali was applauded for doing a fantastic job and more fellowship ideas were asked from the floor. Various ideas were floated:
  - **Good Speaker:** PE asked Rtn. Nirmal to get good speakers for the meetings.
  - **Secretary’s Time:** Secretary Preeti announced the following:
  - **Health Care:** PE Neeraj apprised that since Health is the main area of focus of our Movement, we should look into having more health camps, explore tele-medicine, look into supplying of medical equipment like dialysis machines and more. It was well supported by Rtn. Dr. Biman Chakraborty.
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    - [Monthly Morning Walk](#)
    - [Calcutta Heritage Walk](#)
    - [North Calcutta Walk](#)
    - [Tram Ride](#)
    - [Zoom Fellowships](#)
    - [Hybrid Meetings](#)

- **Good Speaker:** PE asked Rtn. Nirmal to get good speakers for the meetings.
- **Secretary's Time:** Secretary Preeti announced the following:  
Attendance was announced at 53%  
Birthday and Anniversary Greetings were wished.  
Joint Board Meeting was announced for Monday, 28th June at 6 pm.
- **Sergeant's Time:** Rtn. Udayendu presented a hilarious act and did a good sergeanteeing. Rs. 6250/- was announced as the fine from all the members.
- **Closed the Meeting:** President Sahil closed the meeting.

Minuted by:

**Rtn. Preeti Agarwal**

Secretary 2020-21-RCCM



# MEETING MINUTES

## ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

Club No. 16155 | Charter Date: 16/06/1975



**President (2021-22)**  
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### Minutes of the 47th Installation meeting and 2077th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 1st of the Year 2021-22 held on 14th July 2021 over Zoom Platform at 6.30 pm

- **Welcome Address:** Was provided by Installation Chair PP Rtn. Rakesh Sahni.
- **Meeting Called to Order:** President (20-21) Rtn. Sahil Desai called the 47th Installation Meet, 2077th Continuous Meet and 1st meeting for the year 2021-2022 to order.
- **National Anthem:** Rtn. Preeti Agarwal played the National Anthem and shared the screen over zoom.
- **Welcome by President:** President (20-21) Rtn. Sahil Desai welcomed all the Members, Dignitaries and was overwhelmed with the good attendance.
- **Establishment of Quorum & Confirmation of Meeting minutes:** Secretary Rtn. Preeti Agarwal confirmed that the Quorum of Meeting is established. The Minutes of the previous meeting was confirmed by Rtn. Dr. Surinder Kapoor and Seconded by Rtn. Yugal Sikri.
- **Appointment of Sergeant at Arms:** Rtn. David was appointed as Sergeant at Arms.
- **Acknowledgement by Installation Chair:** PP Rtn. Rakesh Sahni as installation chair, acknowledged the efforts of President (20-21) Rtn. Sahil Desai and his team for the phenomenal work done by the Club under his tenure.
- **Address by President:** President (20-21) Rtn. Sahil Desai, started with an acknowledgement of wonderful effort given by his team members during his tenure. He mentioned that headboard team of 20-21 did wonderful work and activities touching various facets of ROTARY, with special mention of Rtn. Shalini Agarwal, Rtn. Sonali Agarwal, Rtn. Preeti

- Agarwal, Rtn. Vikram and all the rest. He further announced that 15 members of the club had 100% attendance in the Meetings for the year 20-21. President also felicitated Mr. Subrata Sen for his marvellous work in assisting in club activities. Thereafter his speech, outgoing President Installed Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal as President for the year 2021-2022 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown. All the members present online applauded the gesture and sent congratulatory messages on ZOOM CHAT.
- **Secretary Presentation report:** Secretary Rtn. Preeti Agarwal presented report for the year 2020-2021 covering activities for the whole year. The same was applauded by every member present in the meeting.
- **Inviting newly Installed President to address:** Installation Chair Rt. Rakesh Sahni then invited President (2021-2022) to address the gathering.
- **Address by Newly Installed President:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal then addressed the online gathering by acknowledging presence of District and Senior Members, District Dignitaries, President and Members of Rotaract and other Rotary Clubs and Guests. He then Introduced the THEME of the Year “RESET & RISE”, explaining the same in context to rise again by uplifting ourselves against the mammoth pandemic. President then Introduced the Team of year 2021-2022 to all members. He briefly introduced the Board Members and Honorary Members of the club. The MIDTOWNER Issue was Launched which was appreciated by all members.
- **Acknowledgments:** President then invited various distinguished members of ROTARY to speak a few words acknowledging club efforts. Some of them honoured the Club with their kind words namely PDG Kamalji, Inner Wheel President Debjyaniji, Rotaract President Rtr. Kavya Srivastava, Global Grant partner Rotary Club from Ann Arbor Rtn. Manish Mehta with whom our club has done Project Dignity, Rtn. Anirudha Roy Chowdhary-DRFC, Exide CSR Head Saswati Bose, Dr. Rtn Kalyan Sarkar, PDG Rtn. Rajani Mukerjee, DG Nominee Rtn. Hiralal Yadav, DGE Rtn. Ajoy Kumar Law and PDG Rtn. Anshuman Bandopadhyay.
- **Address by Chief Guest:** DG Rtn. Prabir Chatterjee then addressed the floor. He mentioned about the true meaning of Rotarian. “We are there to serve to Change Lives”. He stressed on Increasing Club membership and bringing youth to action. He emphasised that club should continuously make effort to promote Rotary Activities in Social Media and Engaged Rotaract members on such activities. Histhree directional views on “Empower Girl, Empower Family and Empower Nation” strike the right chord towards belief in Rotarian Ethos. He mentioned that the team of 4000 members from Rotaract, Inner Wheel and RCC (1500 are Rotractors, 1000 Interactors and 1500 RCC Members) bring lot of strength to ROTARY Clubs and their potential should be utilised by engaging them in club activities more often. He emphasised on making compliance with My Rotary Registrations. Further he suggested to observe “ROTARY DAY of SERVICE” likely on 15th August and do a social Impact project on same day on Women Empowerment. He announced dates of RLI Part 1 and VIRANGANA and requested all to participate.

- **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar announced the following: The next meeting would be announced soon, and due notice shall be circulated in the group well in advance. Attendance was announced at 63% with 35 members out of 56 members attending the Meeting. He also acknowledged the presence of all the distinguished members, District Officers and all members of other clubs, affiliate clubs and Guest for attending the meeting and maintaining the decorum throughout the period.
- **Sergeant's Act:** Sergeant at Arms Rtn. David presented his report with fines on outgoing Headboard Members and other members and Rs 1100/- voluntary from Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar.
- **Vote of Thanks:** Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi gave Vote of thanks to all the distinguished members, District Officers and all members of other clubs, affiliate clubs and Guest for attending the meeting.
- **Closure of the Meeting:** Installation Chair Rtn. Rakesh Sahni acknowledged Rtn Mayuri Mody Doshi as President Elect and completed all the Agenda of the installation Meet. President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal then formally closed the meeting and announced online fellowship to begin.

Minuted by:

**Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar**

Secretary (2021-2022)