

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

Rotary   *RESET & Rise*

Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

Club No: 16155 | District No: 3291 | Charter Date : 16/06/1975

Rotary Day of Service for Visually Impaired Child






Donation of smartphones to 17 students of Class X, Ram Krishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy, Narendrapur. 7th August, 2021

MIDTOWN NEWS

Friends, we completed our Annual Pilgrimage to RKMBBA, on the 7th of August. This time to give smartphones to class X students. THE Principal and Maharaji were present. WE handed over 17 mobiles and are delighted to inform that we received donations for phones from the following people:

1. Sameer Jadhav, Toronto - 7 phones
2. Raman Khemka, Ludhiana - 1 phone
3. Shailja Khemka, Ludhiana - 1 phone
4. Ruby Agarwal - 1 phone
5. Virbala Mehta - 1 phone
6. Rina Poddar - 2 phones
7. Vinod Agarwal - 2 phones

Rotarians present were:

- Bhupesh Kapoor
- Yugal Sikri
- Preeti Agarwal
- Neeraj Agarwal
- S Ravi



MIDTOWN BAGS BAG FULL OF AWARDS

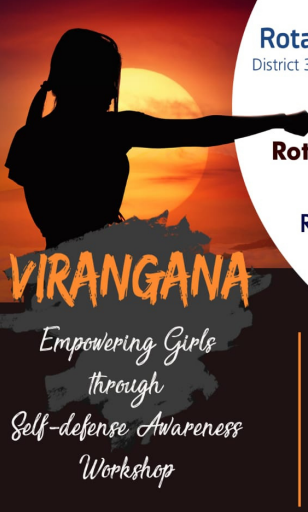


The 2020-21 Rotary Awards Ceremony was held on Sunday, 8th August and Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown bagged a total of 6 Awards / Appreciation from the District. We received awards for the following:

- Outstanding President- Rtn Sahil Desai
- Outstanding Zonal Secretary- Rtn. Sanjay Choudhry
- Membership Growth- 3rd prize
- Net Membership Growth- 2nd prize
- Water & Sanitation- 3rd prize
- Low Cost Toilets- 3rd prize

Congratulations to every proud Midtowner for this outstanding achievement!





Rotary
District 3291

An Initiative of
Rotary International District 3291

Organised by:
Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

Supported by:
Shri Gandhi Vidyalaya

10th & 11th August, 2021
Kolkata

VIRANGANA
Empowering Girls
through
Self-defense Awareness
Workshop

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Technically supported by:
Aikido INDIA



SELF DEFENCE

Our club arranged 'Virangna', a two-day self defence training course for fifty girls of Class X at Shri Gandhi Vidyalaya, Entally, on Tuesday, 10th August from 10am to 1 pm.

This was a two day course which included psychological and dietician counselling for young girls. The district sent their trainers and Dr. Samapika conducted the 2nd session on Psychological counselling for the young girls.

USHA SEWING CLASSES RESUMED FROM 5TH AUG.



FREE DISPENSARY AT RCC, THAKURPUKUR

Free Dispensary at RCC Thakurpukur, Park Circus, started. A total of 12 patients came for checkup on the 1st day of chamber on August 3rd 2021.



ROTARY PROJECTS IN INDIA

ROTARY BUILDS A BRIDGE FOR FARMERS

Yeulkhed is a hamlet with around 950 people, located at Shegaon taluk. Over 70 per cent of its population are small farmers cultivating crops on their agricultural land across a stream called Unaad naala.

For over three decades the villagers were riding their bullock carts over a rugged, kutcha “bridge” to cross the stream. Now, with the intervention of RC Shegaon, RID 3030, a new, pucca bridge has been laid, making the journey easier for the villagers.



JAGDALPUR ROTARIANS DELIVER MEAL BOXES

In April 2021, RC Jagdalpur, RID 3261, set up a Rotary Rasoi in Jagdalpur in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh. “Our aim was to provide food to home quarantined people and others who are unable to cook such as the elderly, destitute, bedridden patients, migrant labourers and beggars,” says project chairman Ashok Lunkad. Freshly-cooked and neatly packed, the meal boxes included roti, sabzi, dal and chawal. “On the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr some sweets were added to the meals,” he adds.

RC PUNE CENTRAL LAUNCHES MOBILE VACCINE CLINICS

In a novel initiative, RC Pune Central, RID 3131, flagged off five mobile vaccine clinics, redesigned vans, to administer Covid doses in partnership with Vaccination on Wheels (VoW) and the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad municipal corporations. “The mobile clinics will reach out to underserved people who do not have access to government hospitals and who are hesitant to get vaccinated due to apathy, ignorance or old age, combined with the fear of visiting vaccination centres,” said Ajay Dubey, club president.



INDIA CELEBRATES 75TH INDEPENDANCE DAY ON AUG 15, 2021

WHAT IS INDIA'S FULL NAME?

India, officially the Republic of India. In Hindi: Bhārat Gaṇarājya.

SEVEN LESSER KNOWN FACTS ABOUT INDIA'S INDEPENDANCE

- The Indian National Anthem Adopted only in 1950
- The Indian Flag Was First hoisted in 1906
- Lord Mountbatten chose 15th August as the date of Indian independence as it coincided with the date of Japan's surrendering to the Allied Forces after World War II.
- The Radcliffe Line Was Officially Published on 17th August 1947
- 'Jana Gana Mana' was assigned as India's national anthem only 3 years after Independence
- The Partition was announced on August 17, though the Boundary Award was ready before August 15
- The tricolor India used was not always orange, white and green

DID YOU KNOW THESE ABOUT YOUR TIRANGA

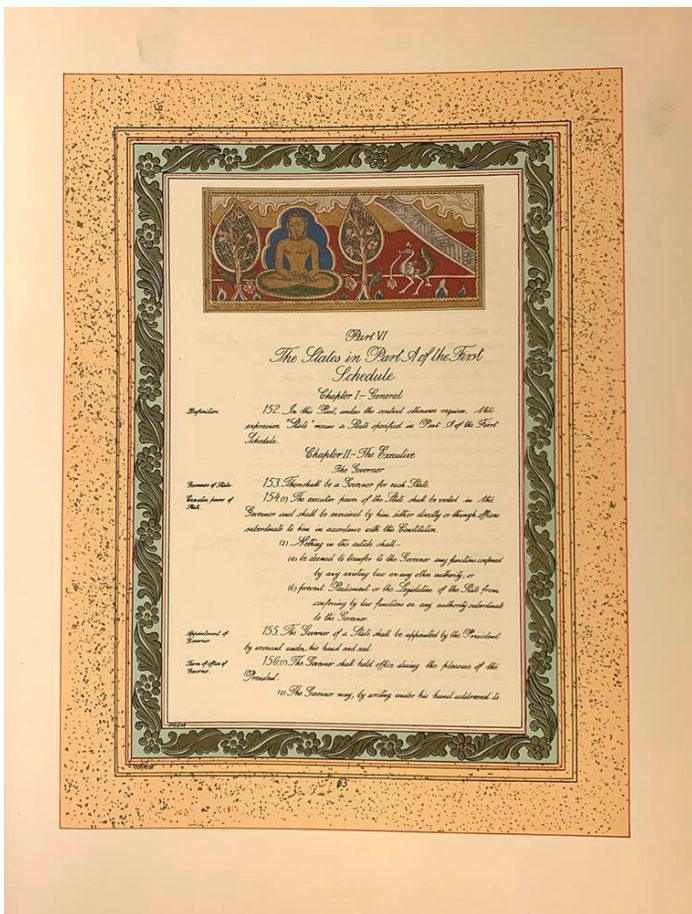
The current flag has three colours in it. The top strip saffron stands for **courage and sacrifice**; the middle portion white for **peace, truth, purity** and green for **faith, fertility and chivalry**. The Ashok Chakra at the centre of the flag – **righteousness**.

The only authorised unit in India to manufacture and supply national flags – the Karnataka Khadi and Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangh (Federation) (KKGSSF) – is located in Bengeri village in Dharwad district. The flags are made according to standards set by BIS. According to KKGSSF' website, "Production of national flags as per strict guidelines of BIS is not an easy task, because, any defect in the flags such as colour, size, thread count, strength of yarn, fastness of the colours used for dyeing, etc. will be considered as a serious offence and is liable for a fine or imprisonment or both, as per the provisions of Flag Code of India 2002."

The process of making the flag is quite difficult. It requires six steps: Hand spinning, hand weaving, bleaching and dyeing, chakra printing, stitching and toggling. The National Flag should be rectangular and with a ratio of 3:2, according to the Flag Code for India (FCI). But they are made in nine different sizes, each meant for different displays. For example, the 450X300 mm size flag is to be used by aircraft on VVIP flights, the 225X150 mm flag is meant for motor-cars and 150X100 mm size is for table flags. The biggest one is hoisted on bigger buildings with high mast.

Our current national flag had a number of iterations. The version you know today was made by Pingali Venkayya at Bezwada in 1921.

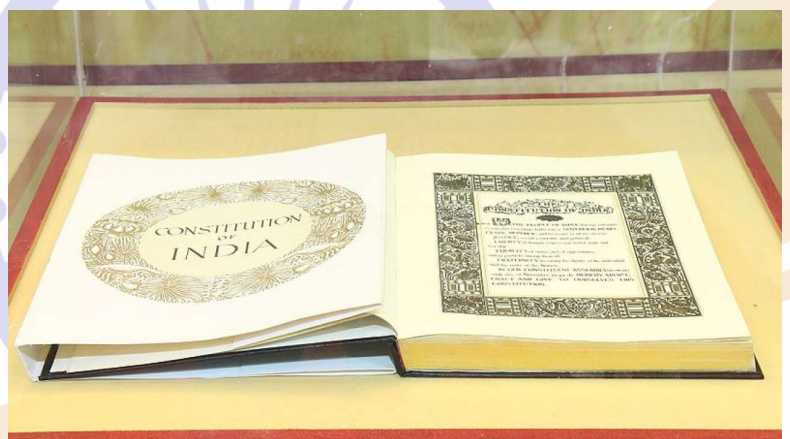
THE HANDCRAFTED CONSTITUTION IS A WORK OF ART



Bound in black leather and embossed in patterns of gold, the Constitution has been intricately calligraphed and illustrated by Nandalal Bose and Prem Behari Narain Raizada. One of the longest written Constitutions for any sovereign state in the world, each of the 22 parts of the Indian Constitution begins with an illustration. Chronologically, Bose and his team chart the history of India, from Mohenjo Daro to the national freedom struggle. While the Preamble page has intricate patterns sketched by Beohar Rammanohar Sinha, and bears his signature, Dinanath Bhargava sketched the National Emblem, the Lion Capital of Ashoka. Rendered largely in miniature style, there are influences of Ajanta cave paintings and the Bagh murals in its borders and illustrations. While the Vedic period in the Constitution is

represented by a gurukul scene that features in the section on citizenship, the part on directive principles of state policy begins with a scene from the Mahabharata, with the discussion between Arjun and Krishna before the onset of the war. For fundamental rights, the artists turned to the Ramayana, drawing a sketch of Ram, Lakshman and Sita returning home after the battle in Lanka. Interestingly, it is reportedly on the basis of this that in 1993 in the Vishwa Hindu Adhivakta Sangh v/s Union of India case, the Allahabad High Court pronounced that Ram is a “Constitutional entity, and, admittedly, a reality of our national culture and fabric and not a myth”. “When asked how much he would charge, he said, ‘Not a single penny... By the grace of God, I have everything, and am quite happy with my life’,” says Saxena. Raizada’s only request was to have his name on each page and alongside his grandfather on the last.

Placed in a special helium-filled case in the Indian Parliament Library, the pages of the handcrafted Indian Constitution are bound in black leather, embossed with patterns in gold. So, while each word was carefully calligraphed by Prem Behari Narain Raizada, the task of illustrating the book was assigned to artist Nandalal Bose and his team from Kala Bhavana, Santiniketan.



ROTARY'S MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS IN 2021-22



August is Membership Month, which means it's time to celebrate your Rotary club, your members, and the good you do in your community and around the world. We also need to let others know about all the wonderful work Rotary does. Each of you is a Rotary brand ambassador, so use social media, local media, and your club's website to show your community — and the world — how you and your fellow Rotary members are people of action.

AUGUST IS

MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"Rotary's strength lies in the sincerity of purpose of its members."
Estes Snedecor, Rotary Club of Portland, Oregon - 1921 Rotary Convention

Rotary  **EACH ROTARIAN: REACH ONE, KEEP ONE** www.rotary.org



The House of Friendship (HOF) is a special place where the Rotary world comes together to share ideas, tips, and project successes. ... Shop for Rotary-licensed merchandise, including pins, shirts, and banners. Meet with Rotary staff to learn about programs and services.

THE HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP

The House of Friendship is the ultimate destination for Rotarians to gather the tools and resources needed to make an impact around the world. When you're there you can:

- Expand your global network of humanitarians and people of action
- Share best practices, ideas, and successes for projects and club efforts from around the world
- Shop a marketplace of wares from Rotary Licensed vendors, local artisans, and Rotary partners
- Meet Rotary International staff that will provide updates, support, and guidance on programs and services
- Register for the 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas, USA.

Global Network

The perfect place to meet up with old friends and make new connections, the House of Friendship offers the opportunity for Rotarians to come together to strengthen and grow your global network. Learn from others best practices, share ideas, and motivate each other to continue the charge to create lasting changes.

Projects, Rotarian Action Groups, and Fellowships

Stay informed on the latest updates and successes of Rotary projects and Rotarian Action Groups and find ideas you can implement in your own area. Learn and share the stories of Rotarians efforts worldwide and connect with others that share your interests.

Marketplace

Explore the Rotary Marketplace and discover new tools from Rotary partners that make a difference, hand-crafted wares from local artisans for gifts and memories, and Rotary Licensed merchandise to show your support.

Rotary International Hub

Rotary International booths: Resource Center, Ribbons, PolioPlus, Virtual Reality, Social Media, Rotaract, YEO, and more, will all have staff on-hand to answer questions, provide updates, and assist you with everything you need to know about Rotary.

Host Committee

In addition to these many resources, you will be able to enjoy local entertainment, food, and special events to celebrate the spirit of Rotarians.

[CLICK HERE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE HOUSE OF FRIENDSHIP AT THE INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CONVENTION 2022 AT HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA](#)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

THE MOST HAUNTED FORT IN THE WORLD

Tales of the beautiful princess Ratnavati, who was the daughter of Chatr Singh. She was the jewel of Rajasthan. Ratnavati was much younger than her step brother Ajab Singh, and was as universally liked as he was disliked. Tales of her beauty and delightful temperament spread far and wide and she received many marriage proposals. A tantrik priest, who was well versed in black magic, fell in love with her. But knowing that he didn't stand a chance with the beautiful princess, he tried to cast a spell on her. Seeing the princess' maid buying perfume for her in the village, he cast a spell on it so that Ratnavati would fall in love with him. Ratnavati came to know of this and threw the bottle. It turned into a boulder and hit the tantrik. He was crushed under its weight, but



before he died, he cursed the princess, her family, and the entire village. The next year, a battle was fought between the forces of Bhangarh and Ajabgarh, which led to the death of Ratnavati and most of the army.

It was due to this curse that no one in the village or fort could be reborn; it is forever condemned to desolation and is inhabited by ghosts. If any villager tries to build a roof, it apparently mysteriously collapses.

Why do jeans have tiny pockets?



It's been called everything from a coin pocket to a ticket pocket, but here's the true story.

The small pocket is actually called a watch pocket because it was originally intended as a safe place for men to store their pocket watches. It dates back to Levi's first-ever pair of jeans, which hit the market in 1879.

According to the Levi Strauss blog, originally there were only four pockets on a pair of blue jeans, the watch pocket included.

So next time you find yourself standing nonchalantly with your thumb hooked in that small pocket, know that it was originally used to store a pocket watch.

Birthday Greetings



15th July

**SANJAY
CHOUDHRY**

21st Aug

**NIRMAL
AGARWALI**

21st Aug

**RUCHIRA
BHUWALKA**



21st Aug

**SUDHIR
CHAND**

Anniversary Greetings

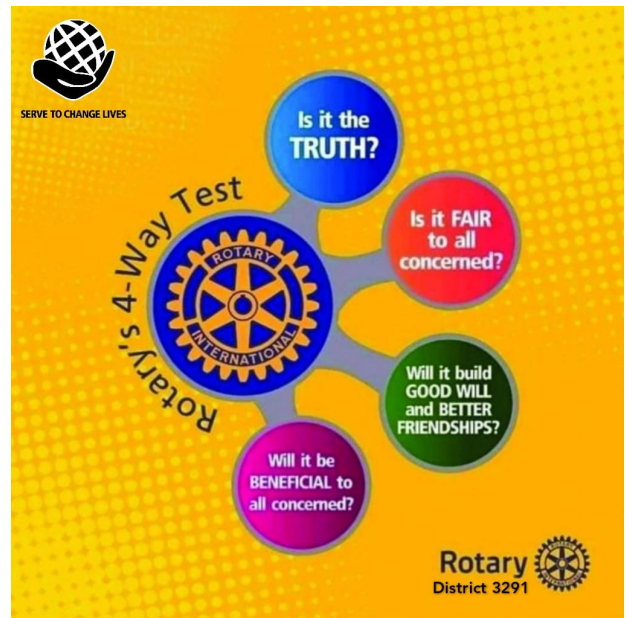
12th Aug

**RAKESH
NINA**

31st Aug

**S. K. KAPOOR
KIRAN**

» love «



DID YOU KNOW



Water bottle expiration dates are for the bottle, not the water. After a while, the plastic will start leaching into the liquid.

EDITOR'S CORNER

I hope this newsletter brings a smile to your face in these unprecedented times. Putting it together is so much fun knowing that my new friends in Rotary are looking forward to reading this. Wishing all of you a Happy Independence Day. May there always be love and light in your lives. Cheers!

Rtn. Richa Shah
richashah4@gmail.com

MEETING MINUTES

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

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



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Minutes of the 2078th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 2nd of the Year 2021-2022 held on 29th July, 2021 over Zoom Platform at 6.45 pm

- **Meeting Called to Order:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal called the 2078th continuous and 2nd meeting for the year 2021-2022 to order.
- **National Anthem:** Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar played the National Anthem and shared the screen over zoom.
- **Welcome by President:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal welcomed all the Members after the wonderful Installation meet.
- **Minutes Confirmation:** Confirmation of minutes of the 2076th and 2077th meetings were proposed by Rtn. Dr. Biman Chakraborty and seconded by Rtn. Yugal Sikri.
- **Address by the President:** President made aware all the members of the appreciation the club has got from the DG for wonderfully hosting the 47th Installation meet online. He appreciated Installation chair PP Rtn. Rakesh Sahni for the impeccable and flawless planning and conduct of the meeting. He further opened the session for discussion on various activities of the Club.
- **Security Guard Training Program:** President updated on various aspects of the ongoing program of training Security Guards. He mentioned that Rtn. Ankush Khanna has been actively involved in looking after the project and has given enough support to execute same properly. He further mentioned that few batches of the trained lot of Security Guards would be placed soon in few weeks. PP Rtn. Rakesh Sahni suggested that we should set parameters for the selection criteria of candidates and have the name of Rotary printed on certificates.
- **RCC Work:** President mentioned that most of the work on RCC for repair and maintenance has been completed and now RCC can be reopened after almost 1.5 years. The clinic operations can be started and Dr. Mittal

is following up on the same. Upcoming Sunday Morning is proposed for the RCC visit. Further it was proposed that certain activities can be carried out like Eye Check Up camp, Sewing Machine class, Beautician Course, Security guards training, etc. Activities can be showcased on one of such days at RCC in order to make people aware of its re-opening and spreading the news by word of mouth. Rtn. Biman Chakraborty suggested to also add another program for training Woman Drivers. Rtn. Rakesh Sahni provided his suggestion on Action plan. Rtn. Sanjay discussed the utility of medical dispensary at RCC and mentioned that lot of Govt. Medical services are being provided free of cost and being in vicinity of the city, free distribution of Medicines and camp for same would be of less importance now. The discussion on same was made with proper reasoning for continuation of same by Rtn. Rakesh Sahni and President. It was agreed that a review would be done on monthly basis and on the upcoming Board Meeting all updates would be taken from Subrata Da who otherwise would be following up for the project taking Inputs on the basis of Ground Reality.

- **DONATION of Mobile Phones for Visually Impaired Children from Ramkrishna Mission:** Rtn. Bhupendraji proposed to donate 16/20 mobile phones to Blind Students of Ram Krishna Mission as he had received enquiry on same from the school authorities. The floor discussed the same and approved the same. The budget of approx Rs 5,500/- (+/- 500/-) each handset was proposed for the same entailing a total expense of about Rs. 1 lac only. President was asked to get the project ratified by the Board.
- **TREE plantation and Donation Drive:** President extended thanks to Rotarians, Tablers, Sq Legs, 41ers, Inner Wheel members, their family and friends for supporting the cause of Tree Plantation by contributing generously. The target of 2000 trees of Deodar as requested by the Govt has almost been fulfilled and plantation drive would start soon. Rtn. Sanjayji had been carefully monitoring the project. He explained the costs involved in the Tree procurement to plantation. The Cost of each Tree would be Rs 60/- for procurement, Rs 40/- for Plantation support and bamboo, Rs 100/- for Maintenance and Rs 50/- for transportation and misc. exp. Hence Rs 250/- for each tree was budgeted as Procurement and plantation cost. Rs 20,000/- advance has already been given to the Nursery in Medinipur because that's the place from where the Deodar trees can be procured. Rtn. Rashmi suggested to have an inauguration drive on 15th August 2021' on Independence day and if not then anytime in 3rd or 4th week of August 2021. Further Rtn. Rakesh Sahni supported the idea and also suggested to make a different CELL for promoting Rotary events in Social Media, Print Media and Outdoor Media. He also suggested name of Abhishek Kejriwal of Balaji Ads, as he has been supported enough to provide free space in town with just a generic installation and printing cost of approx. Rs 12/- per feet of the size of Hoarding.
- **CROWD Funding:** President mentioned that the club is deliberating idea to understand and create a platform to get Crowd Funding from overseas apart from getting contribution through International Credit Cards of Foreign supporters. He mentioned that FCRA registration may be required and

understanding of same would be sought from Chartered Account and Legal advisors.

- **PLASTIC FREE Initiative:** President acknowledged the efforts of Rtn. Preeti Agarwal and Rtn. Rashmi for taking up the project and encouraging members to pledge plastic free lifestyle. The use of Shopping bags made of JUTE or fabric be replaced with Plastic Bags. Rtn. LAL HIRANANDANI was acknowledged for his support of the cause and his initiative to collect his Outside ordered food from restaurant to be provided in his house Tiffin Box and to avoid any external packaging thereby reducing Usage and wastage of plastic and packaging items. Rtn. Preeti also played a small video presentation showcasing his good work. All members applauded the efforts of Rtn. Lal Hiranandani and got inspired by him. Further Rtn. Rashmi mentioned about the initiative to responsibly disposing off the home plastic. She introduced BINTEX.com to the members and spoke about the Plastic Waste Collection from house by such Social Entrepreneurs. It was proposed that through ROTARACT, School Children can be encouraged to campaign for the initiative and in this way they shall get educated. Many members placed their opinion on same and discussed the initiative in length.
- **Announcement for Fellowship Event:** Rtn. Sonaliji extended Invitation for participating in Club Antakshri to members and requested those interested may submit their names to her for formation of Teams. Her ideas excited members who showed eager participation for the event. The Event would be conducted in next Club meet as to mark the Month of Friendship.
- **AOM: PROPOSAL of Sanitary Pad Machine:** Rtn. Rashmi proposed the installation of Sanitary Pad machine in Girls School as she had received request for the same from an Underprivileged School. However, the proposal was put down for now as the machines donated earlier were defunct now.
- **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar announced the following:
 - a. The next meeting would be announced in due course of time.
 - b. Attendance was announced at 40%.
 - c. Birthday Greetings were extended to Hardeepji- 18th July, Chandraniji 2nd Aug, Pramilaji and Udayendu ji for 5th Aug' and Chandanji for 11th Aug'
- **Closure of the Meeting:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal closed the meeting by thanking everyone being present for the same.

Minuted by:

Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar

Secretary 2021-22-RCCM