

# 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

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING AT MIDTOWN

We distributed food and sweet packets at Purbapally village, Garia to 200 children on 15th August.



## REFUSE REDUCE REUSE RETHINK RECYCLE

### Are you still left with soft polythenes???

These are all your single use polythenes which enter our biosphere. They find their way into the local dump bins and enter the bodies of the cows which turn fatal. They mix with the soil and leave their mark as micro plastics into the soil, which eventually enter our body via plants . They enter the streams and clog the drains , they enter the major water bodies and destroy the aquatic life. Meet our speaker for today- Miss Yogini Bapat. Presently I am working for Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividhi. It's a pan India organisation and I am a member of the central team.

Our organisation works in spreading awareness about Waste management, Water conservation and Harit Ghar through our six Karyavibhags.. Dharmik, Shikshan Sansthan, Narishakti, IT and NGOs, Social Media and Sampark.

We also conduct online social internship programs for students of universities across India .



Ecobricks is one of the way in which we can divert these single use soft plastics from entering the biosphere. Let's together try and not let these tiny bits of polythene destroy our ecosystem. Join us to learn to make Ecobricks in a proper way.



Trees unloaded at Rtn. Sanjay Choudhary's factory to be planted next week in Kolkata.

## ROTARY PROJECTS IN INDIA



### A SCHOOL COMES TO LIFE

A school should look inviting and warm enough to ignite interest in children to step in and, more importantly, sustain their interest to pursue education, says Amit Marodia, President of RC Siliguri Central, D 3240.

Moradia was instrumental in the club's recent success in bringing to life the Buddha Bharti Bhuban Mohan Vidyamandir, a government school in Siliguri, that was in a bad shape. "Every morning, on my way to office, as I pass by this school, I would be struck by its pitiful sight, until one fine day, we decided to do something about it. Soon the school donned a new look with a freshly erected compound wall, the whole building painted in bright blue, flooring redone, library refurbished with books, classrooms done up with green boards, colourful charts and new benches and desks for children. The playground was cleared off the wild growth, new play equipment were added and two toilets and handwash stations constructed with adequate water facility. The Rotarians set up a computer lab to help the children with digital literacy. The renovation cost of ₹5 lakh was pitched in by the members and from the club fund.

### NO TO A BIG FAT WEDDING

Newly weds Arul Pranesh and Anu donate a portion of their wedding savings to TRF. Indian weddings are known for their extravaganza and pomp, but Rotarian Arul Pranesh and his bride Anu chose to celebrate a simple marriage and donated ₹38 lakh saved from the wedding towards Covid relief. "We had initially budgeted ₹50 lakh for our wedding. But due to the pandemic, both our families agreed to scale it down to ₹13 lakh. Our wedding was solemnised at a local temple," says Pranesh, a member of RC Tirupur West, adding that his father, Arul Selvam, a member of RC Tirupur Smartcity, was his inspiration. "Selvam is known for his generosity," says-Ragupathy, president of RC Tirupur West. The newly-weds directed ₹11 lakh to the new Rotary hospital being constructed at the Perundurai government hospital campus in Erode, ₹8 lakh towards the ICU facility being set up by RC Tirupur West at the Palladam Government Hospital, ₹5 lakh to the Rotary Corona Care Centre in Tirupur, ₹2 lakh to an old age home run by RC Punjai Puliampati, and ₹7 lakh to eight families affected by the pandemic. "We have the blessings of so many good souls. We couldn't ask for a better start to our new life," smiles Pranesh.



## ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Rotary Youth Exchange builds peace one young person at a time.

### What are the benefits?

Exchange students unlock their true potential to:

- Develop lifelong leadership skills
- Learn a new language and culture
- Build lasting friendships with young people from around the world
- Become a global citizen

### How long do exchanges last?

Long-term exchanges last a full academic year, and students attend local schools and live with multiple host families.

Short-term exchanges last from several days to three months and are often structured as camps, tours, or home stays that take place when school is not in session.

### What are the costs?

Room and board are provided, as well as any school fees. Each program varies, but students are usually responsible for:

- Round-trip airfare
- Travel insurance
- Travel documents (such as passports and visas)
- Spending money and any additional travel or tours

### How can I apply?

Candidates are ages 15-19 and are leaders in their schools and communities.

Contact your local Rotary club to see what exchange opportunities are available and what the application process involves.



Varda Shah's family was asked by a friend to host an exchange student two years ago in Mumbai. At first, family members were reluctant. "We were like, he's a boy, he's German, I don't know how this is going to work," says Shah. "But we decided to take a chance, and I never would have thought I could grow so close to someone in three months. We still Skype and connect through social media constantly and are always in touch."

Shah decided she wanted her own exchange experience. She stayed with three host families in New York, learning about camping, tailgating at sports events, and ice hockey. But the biggest change was to her self-confidence. "Before, I would never be able to make a conversation with a person I didn't know," she says. "Now, I can proudly say it isn't like that anymore. I can go up to people. I have become more open, more mature."



# INCREDIBLE INDIA...



## **Kedarnath, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand**

At a distance of 8 km from Kedarnath, Vasuki Tal or Vasuki Lake is an enchanting lake situated at an altitude of 4135 m in the beautiful hills of Kedarnath in Uttarakhand. It is also a famous place among Uttarakhand Treks.

Vasuki Tal is surrounded with very high mountains and provides a beautiful view of several peaks of the Himalayas. This is the lake where Lord Vishnu is believed to have bathed in ancient times. Crystal clear water flowing through the lake, revealing the rock stacks inside, is an amazing view in Vasuki Tal. This beautiful lake provides a charming view of the neighboring Chaukhamba

peaks. There are several beautiful, colorful flowers around the Vasuki Tal, and one of the famous flowers is Brahma Kamal. During winter, the lake is completely frozen.

Vasuki Tal is quite large in size, and also the trekking is difficult. The total distance of the Vasuki Tal trek is about 8 km from Kedarnath. The trek from Kedarnath to Vasuki Tal is a continuous ascent along a narrow track. To get to the lake, one has to cross the Chaturangi Glacier and Vasuki Glacier. These glaciers are filled with ravines, and crossing them demands good fitness. Trekking enthusiasts usually form a group of at least six members and start the trek. A trekking guide is a must for the Vasuki Tal trek.

The best time to visit Vasuki Tal is from May to October, when the weather is mild and pleasant. So if you are the adventurous type, the next time you are in Uttarakhand, do plan a trek to this heavenly hideout!

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

### SOME FACTS ABOUT YOUR FELINE FRIENDS

- Cats have 3 eyelids.
- Cats only meow as a way to communicate with humans.
- Unlike humans, cats cannot detect sweetness—which likely explains why they are not drawn to it at all.
- Despite imagery of cats happily drinking milk from saucers, studies indicate that cats are actually lactose intolerant and should avoid it entirely.
- A cat's cerebral cortex contains about twice as many neurons as that of dogs. Cats have 300 million neurons, whereas dogs have about 160 million. See, cats rule, dogs drool!
- Cats only sweat through their paws and nowhere else on their body.
- A cat has the ability to rotate their ears 180 degrees—with the help of 32 muscles that they use to control them.
- A group of cats is called a clowder.



**And that's all folks! If you have a feline friend, do share its cutest picture with me at [richashah4@gmail.com](mailto:richashah4@gmail.com).**



### SHOPPING WITH CRYPTOCURRENCY

An anonymous buyer has bought a pear-shaped, 101-carat diamond using his \$12.3 million cryptocurrency. The gemstone dubbed The Key 10138 has become the most expensive jewel ever purchased with cryptocurrency, according to the auction house Sotheby's. The diamond was sold for the equivalent of \$12.3 million, after the auctioneer announced it was also accepting offers in bitcoin and Ethereum.

# Birthday Greetings



1st Sept

**NEERAJ  
AGARWAL**

1st Sept

**BIMAN  
CHAKRABORTY**

4th Sept

**O. P.  
AGARWAL**

7th Sept

**DEBOJIT  
HALDER**

9th Sept

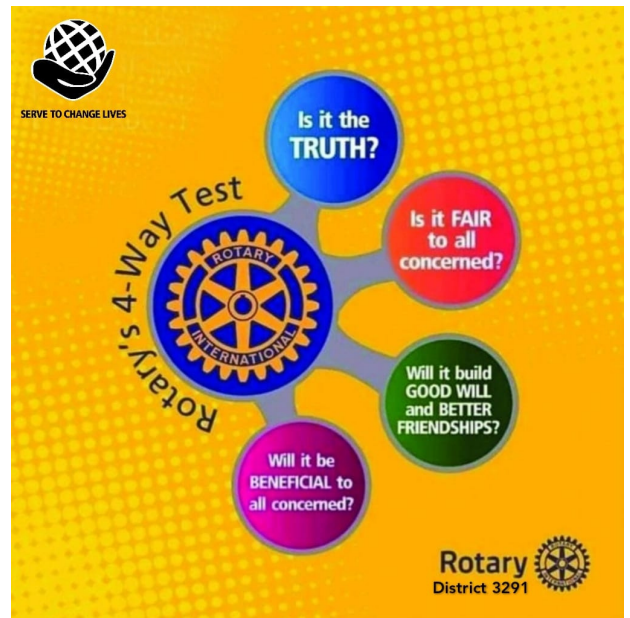
**ANIRUDH  
TIKMANY**

# Anniversary Greetings

31st August

**DR. S. K. KAPOOR  
& KIRAN**

love



## DID YOU KNOW



Spaghetti, confetto, and graffito are the singular forms of spaghetti, confetti, and graffiti.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

With Raksha Bandhan and Independence Day just gone, the festive season continues as we look forward to Janmashtami on Aug 30th. Please share your experience of Janmashtami celebration along with some pictures to be published in the next bulletin. Till then- Stay safe. Cheers!

Rtn. Richa Shah  
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# 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 2079th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 3rd of the Year 2021-2022 held on 12th August, 2021 over Zoom Platform at 6.45 pm

- Meeting Called to Order: President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal called the 2079th continuous and 3rd 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 Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal welcomed all the members and sung praises as the National Anthem was played in Tokyo '20 Olympics. President congratulated IPP Sahil and his team for winning loads of accolades at the Award Ceremony. The members applauded for the great efforts of the team. The following awards were announced:
  - Membership Growth
  - Net Membership Growth percentage
  - Water & Sanitation
  - LowCostToilets
  - Outstanding President
  - Outstanding Zonal Secretary-Sanjay Chaudhary
  - Best Editor- Shalini Agarwal
- Minutes Confirmation: Confirmation of minutes of the 2078th meetings was proposed by Rtn. Dr. S.K. Kapoor and seconded by Rtn Rakesh Sahni
- Address By the President: The following agenda was discussed:
- RCC: President updated that staircase at the RCC is complete but needs a railing. Roof work needs to be done immediately. The RCC secretary Mr. Gopal has been asked to give the estimate of the paint and the internal balcony repair. President also updated that sewing class and dispensary have been resumed there.



- Donation of Smart Phones: President apprised that 17 smart phones- Redmi-9A have been given to the visually challenged students of RKMBBA. Out of the 17 given, 13 have been sponsored and commitment for 2 has come. Rotarians Bhupesh Kapoor, S. Ravi, Yugal Sikri, Preeti Agarwal and Neeraj Agarwal were present.
- Veerangana: President updated that 50 girls of Gandhi Vidyalaya have been imparted self defence training, low cost nutritional diet under the Veerangana initiative by the District.
- Food Packs at Purbapally, Garia Village: It was decided to send food packets to the 200 children of Purbapally Garia village on 15th August.
- Advertisement in the District Magazine: President updated about issuing an advertisement in District Directory. Rs. 15,000/- was sanctioned for the same and it was also decided to highlight a major project in the advertisement.
- Security Guard Training: President apprised that lots of enquiries are coming from the District regarding this portfolio. Rtn. Ankush mentioned that shortly one batch will be trained in Paddupukur and one in our RCC too.
- Global Grant: Rtn. Rakesh Sahni apprised that under Project Dignity, toilets 81-120 need to be inspected and we need to start 121-140 toilets. 29th August was tentatively fixed for the viewing and inspection at Nimpith.
- Fellowship: Rtn Sonali announced a fellowship on 15th August over breakfast at Wabi Sabi to celebrate the Awards won at District level.
- Happy Hearts Project: Rtn. Rakesh Sahni apprised that considering the worthiness of the project, we should continue with this. He asked the President to get in touch with the Vidyanjali school and also mentioned that art camps can be conducted in the school.
- Bank Signatories: President apprised that bank signatories have been changed and are in place.
- Sergeant at arms: Rtn. Samirr Doshi presented a hilarious act to entertain the members.
- Secretary's Report: Since secretary Rtn. Madurr was absent, Past Secretary Rtn. Preeti Agarwal announced the following:
  - The next meeting would be announced in due course of time. Attendance was announced at 44%.
  - Birthday & Anniversary Greetings were extended to the members.
- Closure of the Meeting: President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal closed the meeting by thanking everyone being present for the same.

Minuted by:

Rtn. Preeti Agarwal