

# 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 MIDTOWN NEWS



40 toilets, nos. 81-100 & 100-120, under Project Dignity were inaugurated at Nimpith, Sundarbans today. Sanitation training of beneficiaries was completed earlier. Rotarians Ruchira, Preeti, Joydeep, Rakesh Sahni and president Neeraj attended the project. They divided themselves in two teams inspecting 20 toilets each and had a tough but adventurous time trudging through the marshy pathways and swampy fields. Inspection was followed by a kichidi subzi lunch at the Ashram.



Thanks Ruchira and Preeti for their 1st visit to Nimpith and to Rakesh and Joydeep for being there always in planning and execution of this project.



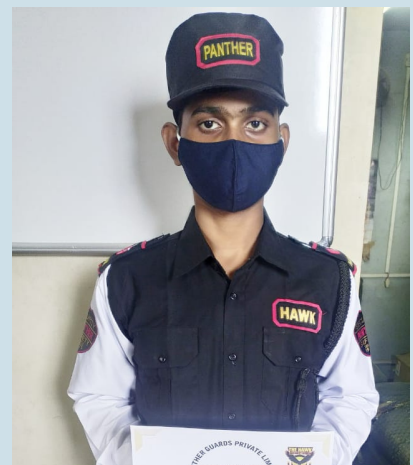
## A FEATHER IN OUR CAP

Immediate past president Rtn. Sahil Desai received the best E-Bulletin Award to Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown for last year from IPDG Sudip. Congratulations to all Midtowners and a big shoutout to Shalini for for her efforts in putting together one masterpiece after another!

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

The Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown launched a one week Certificate Course on Industrial Security and Safety, with assured placement to deserving candidates. It is an ongoing course with a nominal fees of Rs. 250/- and will be conducted in mixed batches of 15-20 candidates. Trainers can be sent to any location in Kolkata.

Till date three jobless people have been successfully trained and certified as Industrial security guards and have been offered jobs in the range of 14-15k with social security benefits by Rtn. Ankush's company. Further enquiries are being looked into. Whosoever clears the fitness test will be trained. Rotary assistant Mr. Subrata Sen has received numerous calls regarding this from individuals, NGOs and other Rotary clubs.



## ROTARY PROJECTS IN INDIA

### RC DELHI SOUTH LAUNCHES BETI SIKSHA

In Rotary year 2020–21, our club members spontaneously decided to take up a project to empower girls. because quite often they are neglected from birth and face discrimination, humiliation, and oppression; be it in her education or healthcare,” says Kriti Makhija, secretary (20–21) of Rotary Club of Delhi South, RID 3011.

Keeping in mind the kind of barriers that girls from lower-middle classes encounter, even when it comes to primary education, and adhering to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’, “and to further our commitment to the education and independence of women of tomorrow, we launched a project titled Beti ko Shiksha aur Samman. The project had the objective to give scholarships to 200 girls from



underprivileged families,” she says. The scheme involves paying the monthly fees of around ₹1,000 per child for 200 girls from marginalised families to ensure they remain in school and achieve their full potential.

### ROTARY FLAG FLUTTERS ON THE ANNAPURNA SUMMIT

Meet Bhagwan Chawale (39) who recently scaled the Mt Annapurna, the 10th tallest mountain in the world. He is a member of RC Pune Gandhi Bhavan, RID 3131.

This trek had two unique achievements – Priyanka Mohite, a mountaineer from Satara became the first Indian woman to scale this mountain and “we broke a record by having eight Indians reach the summit against an earlier record of four.”



## ROTARY PROJECTS IN INDIA



### ERODE ROTARIANS BUILD A RS.20 CRORE HOSPITAL IN A RECORD 45 DAYS

RI President Shekhar Mehta, RIDs Mahesh Kotbagi and A S Venkatesh at the hospital. I am absolutely awestruck and speechless... and am experiencing such a great feeling as I stand here before you at this wonderful hospital. A hospital that has been built and equipped at a cost of Rs.20 crore, and in just 45 days,” said RI President Shekhar Mehta, participating in an event where a 401-bed state-of-the-art Covid hospital built by Rotarians in Erode was handed over to the Erode Government Medical College Hospital. Totally overwhelmed at the magnitude, timing and lightning speed of the project, he told PDG Dr E K Sagadhevan, RID 3203, the moving spirit behind the project: “You have not made only my day, but my whole year as RI president. For it takes a lot of courage to embark on a project of this magnitude and to complete it with such finesse in such a short time is not only a Rotary feat but an engineering marvel.”

Mehta said that he was a builder by profession and “normally, just the foundation takes around 40–45 days in a building. But here you have constructed an entire building in 45 days. Not just the building, you’ve also equipped it as a hospital to the last oxygen supply level. This is simply remarkable and I am sure it will go into the annals of Rotary history as one of the best projects ever done. In my 36 years in Rotary, I don’t think I have seen a single project of this magnitude.”

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– Shekhar Mehta, RI President



### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

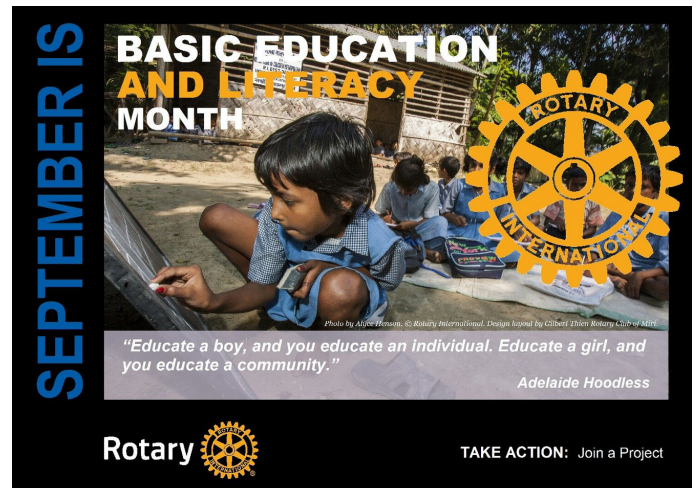
RI President Shekhar Mehta met PM Narendra Modi at Delhi and discussed, over a 45-minute meeting, various development programmes, where Rotary can work with the GoI. Rashi Mehta, Rajya Sabha MP PDG Vivek Tankha (RID 3261) and PDG Ashish Desai (RID 3054) were also present.

## REMOVE BARRIERS TO EDUCATION OF GIRLS

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month in Rotary. Enhancing literacy skills is critical in our pursuit of reducing poverty, improving health and promoting peace. In fact, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, it would result in a significant cut in global poverty rates.

Without education, illiterate children become illiterate adults. Today, 14 per cent of the world's adult population – 762 million people – lack basic reading and writing skills. Two-thirds of that group are women. Literacy and numeracy skills are essential to obtain better housing, healthcare and jobs over a lifetime.

Especially for girls and women, literacy can be a life-or-death issue. If all girls completed their primary education, there would be far fewer maternal deaths. And a child is more likely to survive past age 5 if he or she is born to a mother who can read. Improving outcomes for more people worldwide is possible only if countries remove barriers to education for girls. The economic argument



for doing so is clear: In some countries where schooling is geared toward boys, the cost of missed economic opportunity is more than \$1 billion per year. In India, the TEACH-programme, a successful collaboration between the country's Rotary clubs and its-government, has demonstrated how to scale up literacy efforts to reach millions of children. And at a time when schools across India were closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme's e-learning component reached more than 100 million children through national television.

Literacy is the first step out of poverty. As Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai has noted, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."

## ROTARY PREZ ANNOUNCES RECOGNITION FOR MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Setting a three-point working agenda for Rotarians in zone-4, 5, 6 and 7 (Indian subcontinent) for his presidential year, RI President Shekhar Mehta declared that EOBO (Each One Bring One) pins and 'thank you' certificates will be given to those who bring in new members. The thank you note will be signed by Mehta and RI general secretary, and those who bring 25 new members will have their photos displayed in the Virtual Hall of Fame at the RI headquarters in Evanston. This year the focus is on Membership Growth, and our target is to take it to 1.3 million members. Rotary India has specially designed Membership Award Pins for members, clubs and districts based on their performance. For this, each club has to get enrolled and enable membership Data Sync from Rotary.org to Rotaryindia.org by selecting Roster on Wheels as a vendor in rotary.org.

Who can sync data: Club president/secretary/executive secretary is authorised to enable this feature in rotary.org

## THE AMER FORT, JAIPUR - AN ARCHITECTURAL MARVEL



The fort is a pearl on the crown of Jaipur. Amer Fort flaunts a colourful architectural design. The fort is a marvellous example of Rajputana architecture. It was built with red and white sandstones. It is a perfect amalgamation of Hindu style architecture and Mughal finesse.

The carvings on the walls and ceilings are one of the key attractions in the palace. The palace is divided into four sections; each is called a courtyard. Rajput sculptures beautifully designed the entry gates of the courtyards in the palace, giving a unique architectural element to each of them.

The palace features many buildings and awe-inspiring structures Sukh Mandir, the famous Ganesh Pol, Sheesh Mahal and others. When you visit the Diwan-i-Khas(The house of minister) and the Diwan-i-Aam(The house of Public), you'll enter the world of glorious Rajput kings and Mughal emperors.

Many vibrant and illustrative paintings of famous Rajput rulers and ancient hunting styles adorn the walls of the palace. The study of these paintings gives us a deep understanding of the prevailing Rajput culture of ancient times.

The palace overlooks the Maota Lake, and a beautiful lush green garden adds to its charm. The construction of Mughal gardens influenced the garden in Amer palace. There is not one but many wonderful structures and objects of artistic pleasure in the magnificent palace of Amer.

### **AMER FORT LIGHT AND SOUND SHOW:**

The show relives the glorious history of Rajput kings who built this marvellous fort. The entire fort is awash with mesmerising lights at night. The beginning of the show recites the tale of its formation. It goes on to describe how royal kings lived and ruled in the fort.

The story is replete with inspiring stories of grit and grandeur of the Rajput kings. What makes it even more iconic is the signature voice of Amitabh Bachhan as the narrator. The story is beautifully weaved into words by none other than Gulzar.

Another remarkable feature of the show is the high-quality HD surround sound that will give you an unforgettable experience. As you sit in the open-air terrace, you'll be in a trance. The music is composed by great singers like Sultan Khan and Shubha Mangal. The show runs for one hour approximately and ends at the description of its opening to the Public. The story is available in English as well as Hindi. If you happen to visit the Amer Fort, the show will be an added pearl to the multitude of memories you'll take with you.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT...



### Grapes light on fire in the microwave.

Back in 2011, a physicist at the University of Sydney went viral after he placed a grape in the microwave and filmed the fiery aftermath. And oddly enough, scientists couldn't explain the phenomenon until quite recently. A March 2019 study published in Proceedings of

the National Academy of Sciences reported that the fruity fireball occurs as a result of the loose electrons and ions that cluster to form plasma when grapes get hot. According to physicists, when two grapes are close to one another in a microwave, the waves they absorb bounce back and forth in the close quarters between them, creating an increasingly powerful electromagnetic field.

## JANMASHTAMI AT THE SHAH HOUSEHOLD



# Birthday Greetings



11th Sept

15th Sept

**NUPUR  
PRASAD**

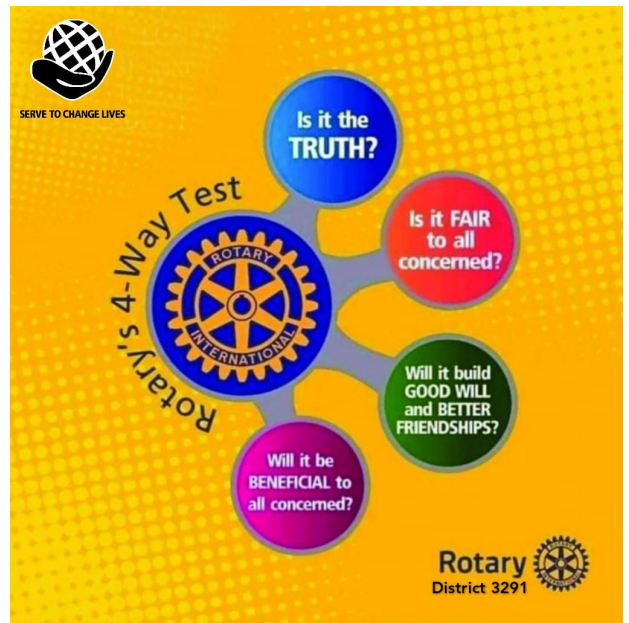
**P. K.  
BOSE**

# Anniversary Greetings

10th Sept

**LAL HIRANANDANI  
& HIROO**

love



## DID YOU KNOW



It only takes six minutes for alcohol to affect your brain. Just one drink can quickly go to your head, whether you feel it or not. So even if you don't feel tipsy right away, you're definitely not totally sober either!!

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Like every year, Janmashtami was both fun & hectic at our household, what with celebrating Gopala's birthday with a theme! This time it was a village. With Puja madness in full swing at malls & eateries, Kolkata is buzzing with activity and festive vibrations. Enjoy the spirit & 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



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### Minutes of the 2080th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 4th of the Year 2021-2022 held on 26th August, 2021 over Zoom Platform at 6.45 pm

- **Meeting Called to Order:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal called the 2080th continuous and 4th 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, Guest Kamal Agarwal and Rotaract's Kavya and Sourav to the meeting.
- **Minutes Confirmation:** Confirmation of minutes of the 2079th meetings were proposed by Rtn Dr. Biman Chakraborty and seconded by Rtn Narinder Gulati
- **Address By the President:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal welcomed Guest KAMAL AGARWAL, and asked him to introduce himself to the club. Kamal Agarwal mentioned that he is in the travel business. He stays in common locality as with Rtn Yogesh Gupta, Rtn Ankush Khanna and others. He looks forward to participate in ROTARY events and contribute for the betterment of society. President then moved to the next agenda of the meeting.
- **Security Guard Training Program:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal acknowledged the efforts of Rtn Ankush Khanna and Subrata Sen who took keen participation in making the Security Guard Training Program successful. President mentioned that good response was generated from other Rotary Clubs for this program. The 1st Batch of 3 Security guards are duly trained and are fit for placement. President also suggested to have a batch for training at RCC. A big round of applause was given to Rtn Ankush Khanna for his efforts along with Subrata Sen who had been constantly in touch for the program.

- **RCC Work:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal explained the purpose of RCC as it was established to serve the local community by doing various charitable works for Needy people and upliftment of Society. He also mentioned that Roof Repair work was completed with an expense of mere Rs 4,000/- to Rs 5000/-. Sewing Classes for 4/5 Girls was continuing. He also mentioned that in regular there are 10/12 patients twice weekly for Doctor Chamber at RCC. It was also pointed out that a BANNER of the CLUB SIGNAGE and Activities should be placed at RCC for having more IMPACT on people. Rtn Hardeep Singh also pointed out the absence of RC Midtown Board at RCC while the Photos of the Events were taken. The same was clarified by President and said it would be corrected soon.
- **Food Packet Distribution Program:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal mentioned that food packet distribution for 200 hundred children was done at GARIA Purbapally Shree on 15th Aug. Last year the club donated C-19 essential items to this club. President suggested that it could be a good place to make another RCC during the year.
- **TREE plantation and Donation Drive:** President further mentioned that the Nursery has supplied TREES for plantation drive. Overall 2000 trees to be planted near Manicktalla Area. Exact location of plantation will be known by the Govt. officials in a couple of days. A team of gardeners, under the supervision of Rtn. Sanjay Chowdhary, has been given the contract for planting and maintenance. District is also doing a Tree Plantation drive under the name 'Hariyali'.
- **Toilet Project:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal mentioned about Project Dignity. Toilet no. 81 to 120 under Global Grant no.1872799 must be inaugurated as their construction is complete, hence a visit is scheduled on 29th Aug. President also requested members and Prospect KAMAL AGARWAL to join in for the Sunday visit for monitoring the project.
- **SAKSHAM Project:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal mentioned about the Project SAKSHAM launched by another Rotary Club in which the LIMBS be donated to the needy and disabled people. The Club has invited Rotary Clubs to nominate needy people requiring artificial limbs.
- **PLASTIC FREE Initiative:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal then welcomed the guest Speaker Mrs Yogini Bapat for conducting session on " REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE , RECYCLE" . Rtn Mayuri introduced the speaker and her ongoing projects for sustainable living and reducing plastic pollution. The speaker mentioned about the techniques of segregating Dry and Wet waste. She mentioned that only Dry Waste be used for making ECO BRICKS which largely would reduce in plastic wastage. She mentioned about types of Dry Plastic Waste, how to handle same, how it needs to be disposed and where all it should be disposed. She highlighted the areas of impact by SINGLE USE plastic pollution and how photo-degeneration is effecting humans indirectly. She then mentioned how ECOBRICKS would curtail such pollution and help society in need. She demonstrated methods of making ECOBRICKS and use of Multilayer Plastics, Cling Wraps, Plastic Threads in clothes, etc to be stored

in PET Bottles use of STICKS by force and making sure that the dry PET bottles does not contain any food element to avoid any cracks owing to formation of GAS. She later showed her duffle bag made out of such plastic waste which was very attractive and affordable. President thanked the Guest Speaker YOGINI BAPAT for her session which was later followed by Q & A by members. Time remaining short the same was pushed offline by the speaker. Rtn Mayuri Doshi then delivered a Thank you note for the speaker and appraised her of the social work she been doing for so long. Members applauded the guest speaker for her wonderful thought proving and enriching session.

- **Fellowship:** President mentioned that some 15/16 Rotarians got together to celebrate the Awards Won by the Club for the preceding year at WABI SABI for BRUNCH on 15th August 2021'. He also encouraged other Rotarians to join in next time for such fellowships.
- **Any other Matter:** President acknowledged the efforts of Rtn Richa Shah for presenting the club with her MIDTOWNER Bulletin which had amazing content. The activities of the club was duly covered and lot of insights were presented on the various intriguing subjects. It was a delight to read the same. All members applauded for the efforts given by Rtn Richa Shah in making the bulletin whole heartedly.
- **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar announced the following:
  1. The next meeting would be announced in due course of time.
  2. Attendance was announced at 37%
  3. Birthday Greetings were extended to 15th Aug: Sanjay Chowdhary, 21st Aug: Nirmal Agarwal and Sudhir Chand, 1st Sep: Neeraj Agarwal & Dr. Biman Chakravorty, 4th Sep: O P Agarwal, 7th Sep: Debojit Halder, Anniversary Greetings 31st Aug: to Ann. Mrs. Kiran Kapoor & Rtn. Dr. S.K Kapoor.
- **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