

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 PROJECTS IN INDIA



Recycling floral waste to protect river water



Members of RC Nasik Godavari with collection drums to collect used flowers

Tonnes of used flowers removed from idols and unsold flowers from the market are dumped into the river, polluting it. Pesticides and insecticides used to grow these flowers make the river water highly toxic,” says club president Rakesh Singhal. The Saibaba temple gets at least 800kg of flowers daily as obeisance from devotees,” says Singhal. The club has employed few women to segregate the collected flowers. “They separate the petals from the flowers which are then sun-dried and powdered, and used to make charcoal-free agarbattis, dhoop and dyes. The stalks and the not-so-fresh flowers are collected in composters to make vermin compost.”

All the produce from the recycled flowers is sold in the market and the money generated is used to meet the project expenses, including paying the women engaged in this activity, says the club president. “This project also benefits marginalised women, giving them not only a financial benefit but also dignity and respect. At the same time, the environment benefits too,” he smiles. The club is all set to scale up this initiative, by including nearby villages soon.

In the temple city of Nashik on the banks of the River Godavari. dried flowers used in weddings and places of worship are now finding a new use thanks to an initiative of RC Nasik Godavari, RID 3030. The club has installed collection drums at various places for people to drop used or unsold flowers from flower markets or flower farms. These flowers are recycled and used to make eco-friendly incense sticks, dyes and as organic vermicompost.

A hygiene awareness rally in Hyderabad



Volunteers carrying a 150m national flag as part of the rally

In a major initiative against spitting in public places, RC Jubilee Hills, RID 3150, organised a mega awareness rally, in partnership with Rotaract and Interact clubs, Toastmasters, Jaycees and Freemasons, at Tank Bund, an iconic spot

Rotary Economic and Community Development Month, is a great opportunity to leverage your vocational skills to help meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 8: promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment, and decent work for all.

Empower members of your community through jobs and entrepreneurship

Provide training in skills and leadership

- for young people and women.
- Host an event for business networking and professional development.
- Send a vocational training team to teach business leaders in developing communities how to create a business plan and maintain accurate financial accounting.

off Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad. The highlight of the rally, staged on Independence Day, was the 150-metre national flag which was carried by volunteers. Placards and banners were also taken to create awareness on hygiene and public health by the marchers.

The Stop India Spitting (SIS) campaign was first started by environmentalist Odette Katrak, cofounder of Beautiful Bengaluru (now known as Beautiful Bharat), a citizen-led movement for clean, green and safe city. DG K Prabhakar flagged off the rally with club president P Suresh Gupta coordinating the event with other NGOs. "The SIS will be a multi-year campaign to spread awareness on the dangers of spitting in public places. It seeks inclusion of this hygiene habit as part of the Covid protocol by the GoI," said K Sesha Sai Kumar, former president, RC Jubilee Hills.

The rally got a wide coverage in the local media and it was a major PR exercise for the Rotary club. "Several organisations and NGOs have expressed interest to join as partners in this Rotary initiative," added Kumar.

OCTOBER IS ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"If we can make a difference in the life of one person in a community, it is a small yet significant step to empowering a whole community."
Loshini Naidoo

TAKE ACTION: Join Rotary, Get Involved

Rotary



Mending little hearts, the Sanjeevani way

Vivek Gour is one of the three trustees of the Sri Sathya Sai Health and Education Trust, which runs three dedicated paediatric heart surgery centres in India. Named the Sri Sathya Sai Sanjeevani Centres for Child Heart Care, these are located in Raipur, Chhattisgarh; Palwal, near Faridabad in Haryana; and Navi Mumbai.

Gour, a Rotarian, and a member of RC Gurgaon Harmony Iberis, RID 3011, says this without any swagger, while explaining that a few years before his death, the Sai Baba had asked his devotee C Sreenivas to set up five heartcare hospitals to provide completely free heartcare to children. "Sunil Gavaskar, and I, also his devotees, joined Sreenivas to realise this dream. We have already set up three centres, and will be putting up two more," he adds. All of them have contributed towards setting up these hospitals, which provide totally free medical treatment to children born with congenital heart defects (CHD).

Totally, about ₹150 crore has been invested in the three hospitals, with money coming from "philanthropists, Rotary clubs including global grants, and CSR funds." He estimates that around \$2.5 million has come from Rotary, for



RI Director Mahesh Kotbagi visits an operated child

surgery." It is estimated that each year 3 lakh children are born in India with CHD and thanks to the dearth of healthcare facilities, and poverty, 1 in 4 of these children do not see their first birthday. A child with a CHD stays at these hospitals for two weeks, and "her parents can enter without a single paisa in their pockets get their child diagnosed, treated, operated and leave the hospital with no tension about money for subsequent treatment if required. Often, several procedures are needed to cure the child. And with only three trustees, decisions are made fast."

A Rotary gift for 124 children, costing ₹2 crore

RID Mahesh Kotbagi, who visited the Sanjeevani hospital in Raipur, along with RI President Mehta, was so impressed by the ethos of the Sanjeevani hospitals... "can you imagine that they do not turn away a single child, and have the concept of walk-in patients"... that he spontaneously made a far-reaching announcement. "Our president, Shekhar Mehta, turns 62 this October. The best gift I can give him is sponsoring 62 free heart operations to celebrate his birthday. Shekhar was very touched, and he said if Mahesh is doing 62, I will match with another 62 sponsored surgeries."



RI President Shekhar Mehta and Rashi visit a child at the hospital

The spiritual importance of the nine days

“Navaratri is dedicated to the feminine nature of the Divine. Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati are symbols of the three dimensions of the feminine. They also represent the three basic qualities of existence – tamas, rajas, and sattva. Tamas means inertia, rajas means activity and passion. Sattva, in a way, is the breaking of boundaries, dissolution, melting and merging. Among the three celestial objects, with which the very making of our bodies is very deeply connected – the earth, the sun, and the moon. Mother Earth is considered tamas, the Sun is rajas, the Moon is sattva,”

Mahalaya is celebrated as Goddess Durga defeated demon Mahishasura. It marks the end of pitripaksha also known as the fortnight of the forefathers. During these 16 days, the Hindus pay homage to their ancestors. This marks the beginning of Durga Puja for the Bengali community.

According to Hindu mythology, Goddess Durga comes to her paternal house, Earth on Mahalaya. As per popular beliefs, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh were the creator of Maa Durga to kill and destroy the demon Mahishasur. The demon was very powerful and neither devatas nor human beings were able to kill him. Devatas staged a tough fight but were lost to the powerful and hideous Asura. Devaloka was ruled by Mahishasur. To protect themselves from the demon, devatas and Lord Vishnu worshipped Adi Shakti. Their prayers were heard and Goddess Durga emerged adorned with weapons. For 9 days, she fought ferociously with Mahishasur and on the 10th day, Goddess Durga successfully killed him. This marks the beginning of Navratri and Durga Puja. In the morning of Mahalaya Amavasya, the first ancestors bid adieu and bless Maa Durga to go to earth.



Devi Puja: Honoring the Omnipresent Energy

Devi represents the omnipresent cosmic Energy. The whole Creation is permeated by this Energy. The prosperity that we enjoy in our daily lives is a manifestation of Devi. Mother Divine serves us in so many forms. The forms of our mother, father, friends, husband, wife, son, daughter and also the Guru. The revolving planets and the moon is Devi performing aarti to us. Through puja we say, “Oh Mother, whatever you give to me I give back to you. Devi Puja is an expression of expanded consciousness showing reverence to the whole Creation. The puja that we perform during the 9 days of Navratri is a way of honouring the Devi and showing our gratitude to the Mother Divine. While attending the puja we give up all our worldly activities for a while and enter into deep meditation.

Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar says, “There is Devi energy (Shakti) within all of us. Devi is not somewhere else, not in some other world. If we sit deep in meditation, the glow within the body will brighten, and will expand and spread outside. This is Devi Puja.”

Birthday Greetings



8th Oct

**HITESH
DANI**

16th Oct

**ATUL
MAKHARIA**



18th Oct

**SREEKANT
PASARI**



Anniversary Greetings



11th Oct

**RAVI &
RENU**

20th Oct

**NEERAJ &
PREETI**

love

Rotary's 4-Way Test

- Is it the **TRUTH**?
- Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Rotary District 3291



Around 400 million years ago the earth used to be covered with giant mushrooms that were 24 feet tall and three feet wide, instead of trees, known as Prototaxites!!

EDITOR'S CORNER

Today marks the beginning of nine days of festivities, fasting, meditation, spirituality and victory of truth over untruth. Let us do what we can to harness the divine cosmic energy which can lead us to abundance, prosperity and joy. happy travels to those of you going on vacation. Have fun, eat, pray, love and whatever else you do, don't forget to stay safe! 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 (2021-22)
Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal
M/s Anant Fasteners Pvt. Ltd.
194/3, G. T. Road, Salkia
Howrah- 711106
Mobile: 9830164231
neeraj.agarwal71@gmail.com

Secretary
Rtn. Madhurr Jhawar
Jayshree Polytex Limited
1D, Cruze Garden Lane
Serampore, Hooghly- 712203
9051387093
madhur_jhawar@hotmail.com

Treasurer
Rtn. Vikash Choudhary
Vitarich Agro Food India Ltd.
1, G. C. Avenue, 5th floor
Kolkata- 700013
9874029108
vchoudhary.kol@gmail.com

Minutes of the 2082nd Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown and 6th of the Year 2021-2022 held on 23rd September, 2021 at Regal room, Punjab Club, Ballygunge at 6.45 pm

- **Meeting Called to Order:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal called the 2082nd continuous and 6th meeting for the year 2021-2022 to order.
- **National Anthem:** Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar requested all members to Sing National Anthem lead by Rtn. Preeti.
- **Welcome by President:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal welcomed all, senior and honorary members of the club to the first physical meeting of the year 2021-2022.
- **Minutes Confirmation:** Confirmation of minutes of the 2081st meetings were proposed by Rtn. S. Ravi and seconded by Rtn Biman Chakraborty.
- **Address By the President:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal was thrilled to see an overwhelming gathering of fellow Rotarians after a long time. He congratulated Rtn. Richa Shah for the wonderful Bulletin 'Midtown' which had been appreciated by many Rotarians from the club and outside.
- **RCC Work:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal mentioned that National Immunization Day be organised at RCC on 27th September 2021. Information has been exchanged by KMC and letters been sent. The timing for same be from 9am to 4pm. The beautician course at RCC will be started after Pujas. First batch of 20/30 Girls shall take up the course. The tenure of the same be of ¾ months. A nominal fees will be charged from each student and certificates be given after the successful completion of course.

- **Sponsorship to Medical Student:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal further mentioned about the importance of expanding the reach of Rotary for Increasing Impact. He had visited a Center in SODEPUR which provided Medical help to Elderly. Adequate in-house services was provided for their healthcare. Then centre also provides PARA-MEDICAL training to girl students under tie-ups with training institutes for 6 months to 1 year. President suggested we could have one joint medical camp with them. He further mentioned about the visit to Bishnuanand Hospital assisted by Dr. Lalit Agarwal. There was a need of Dialysis Machine. The hospital was found to be running professionally, wherein 3rd floor area was dedicated exclusively for dialysis. Each Patient being charged Rs 1000/- for the dialysis. Rtn. Yogesh had already donated 2 machines through CSR of LaoPala. It was suggested to have this program associated with GLOBAL GRANT. The Club can work jointly with a corporate on the same initiative. Rtn. Sanjay Chowdhary and Rtn. Sanjay Agarwal suggested to bring in sponsorship from other people.
- **TREE plantation and Donation Drive:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal mentioned that coming week the tree Plantation drive dates will be confirmed and notified to all.
- **Any other Matter:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal further mentioned that:-
 1. 29th September – marked as WORLD HEART DAY – Rtn. Dr. Kalyan Sirkar who was connected with Cardiologist shall share tips for Healthy heart over a talk show. He shall also mention about the techniques of Saving Life during Emergency. Rt. Hardeepji suggested that the session can also reflect on techniques of saving life or 1st procedure to apply on victim of Cardiac Arrest. PDG Surendraji mentioned that other Rotary and Rotractors can also be invited for participating in the event.
 2. He further invited Rtn. Preeti for speaking on how to make ECO-BRICKS and provide demo of the LIVE use of the same. Rtn. Preeti showed the ECO BRICK she had made and gave demonstration of the ways to make same. This was a follow-up of the previous session held at our club over zoom meeting by conservationist YOGINI BAPAT. All members applauded her efforts.
 3. He then called upon Rtn. Richa Shah who spoke on the evolvement of membership structure of Rotarians and the journey of woman Rotarians in the ROTARY INTERNATIONAL. She mentioned that during 1918 – only Men were members of Rotary International. Later in 1978 -Rotary International Club of California asked 3 Woman to join Rotary Club, which decision was challenged in court. This act was supported by US Courts who upheld the verdict that Rotary is a Charitable Trust and hence Woman Membership was allowed. Thus in 1979, Woman Members were inducted in Rotary International. IN 1980 Calcutta Midtown proudly inducted 2 women members as Fellow Rotarians.
 4. President further announced the recognition of awards which were displayed to all members that the club had received in the tenure of IPP Rtn.

Sahil Desai. He welcomed Past President to do the honors and make all fellow Rotarians aware about the awards won. PP Rtn. Sahil Desai then acknowledged:

- * Outstanding Zonal Secretary: - Rtn. Sanjay Chowdhary
 - * 2nd Prize- New Membership Growth Award
 - * Membership Growth on Absolute Numbers Award
 - * Outstanding President Award- Rtn. Sahil Desai
 - * Project Award-Water and Sanitation/Toilet- Rtn. Sanjay
 - * Bronze Award- Sponsoring SAMAGAM
 - * Low Cost Toilet- Exide – Award
 - * E Bulletin- Rtn. Shalini
 - * Yashpal Das Golf Tournament Award- Rtn. Nirmal Agarwal
- **Vote of Thanks:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal gave vote of thanks to all the members of the club and Guest for attending the meeting.
 - **Secretary's Report:** Secretary Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar announced the following:
The next meeting would be conducted on 7th of October 2021', over Zoom platform online.
Attendance was announced at 66%
Birthday Greetings were extended to 15th Sep- Rtn Pradip Bose, 14th Sep- Rtn. Chetan Narula and Anniversary Greetings were extended to 10th Sep- Rtn. Lal Hiranandani
 - **Seargent's Act:** Rtn. Rakesh Sahni did a wonderful Sargenting Act. The collection over same was Rs 1,400/- under Project A/c and Rs 12,850/- under Sunshine Account.
 - **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

