

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

TRF : A MONUMENT OF LOVE FOR HUMANITY

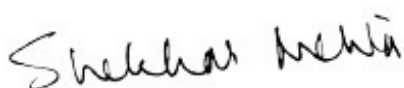


RI President Shekhar Mehta

There is no better time of the year to be reminded of generosity than November, which is Rotary Foundation month. As the charitable arm of Rotary International, TRF is the engine that powers so many Rotary projects throughout the world. The Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives. It is the Foundation that helps us to get closer to our goal of eradicating polio, to show more people how we promote peace through tangible actions, and to demonstrate the impact our projects have in our areas of focus. Mehta likes comparing The Rotary Foundation to the Taj Mahal, a monument

of one man's love for a woman. The Foundation is a dynamic monument of our love for all of humanity. This month Mehta is asking all Rotary clubs to attention to the Foundation. It is what connects all Rotarians worldwide and transforms our collective passions into projects that change lives. Visit rotary.org/donate; once there, you will have an opportunity to give directly to the programme you're most passionate about.

'Thank you for giving your all to Rotary. You are the reason that Rotary is able to do more and grow more. Let's continue to represent that important legacy this month, this year, and beyond as we Serve to Change Lives.



Shekhar Mehta
President, Rotary International

ROTARY PROJECTS OF MIDTOWN

Diwali plantation drive



Tree plantation in Burtulla police station area by Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown on Diwali. Subrata Sen, our Club assistant was present during planting.



So far about 500 saplings have been planted in the heart of the city, in the most densely populated areas of North Kolkata in Kakurgachi, Manicktala and Burtalla Police stations. Saplings of 6-8 feet height have been planted and will be followed by one year's maintenance so that the mortality rate of these trees is kept to the minimum.

580 trees will be planted in ASHARI, an animal shelter in Mukundapur, south Kolkata, off EM Bypass.



ROTARY PROJECTS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Transforming two tribal villages in Gujarat



Leelaben addressing a gathering of Rotarians including RI District 3060 PDG Pinky Patel


It's time to revisit Leelaben, the woman from Katarvad, a tribal village in Gujarat. Especially as the flavour in Rotary these days is the empowerment of women. To recap... with RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060, implementing a GG project worth Rs.65 lakh, her tribal village of Katarvad, about 130 km east of Vadodara in Gujarat, had been totally transformed. In the process, it had also thrown up a self-confident and smart woman leader. Thanks to the Rotary project run in partnership with the Shroff Family Charitable Trust which runs a farm school in the region. After having undergone

undergone training herself at this farm, she was then training other farmers. With great confidence she had explained to us the concept of SRI (systematic rice intensification), vermicomposting and biofertilisers. The main project undertaken by the Rotarians was augmentation of water resources in the village to help the farmers.

“Now, our club has undertaken another global grant, this time for Rs.85 lakh and we are going to transform two tribal villages – Chilliyavant and Sanada, in Chhota Udepur district, about 120 km away from Vadodara,”

says PDG Pinky Patel, a member of RC Baroda. Leelaben was all praise for Rotary and said that thanks to Rotary's intervention her villages are able to grow two crops in a year and migration to the city has stopped.




As in many parts of India, the farmers in these villages are also totally dependent on rainwater to irrigate their land. So we are going to level the land to prevent soil erosion by the gushing rainwater, build check dams, bori dams, community wells and implement other measures to ensure that the water table in the area comes up so that the villagers have water throughout the year,” says past RI director Manoj Desai, also a member of this club.

Rotary   ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD

NOVEMBER
ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

The **Rotary** 
Foundation

Doing Good In The World

DONATE TO ROTARY FOUNDATION & CONNECT THE WORLD

RC Ambala Midtown — RID 3080

Forty desk-benches were donated to the Government Senior Secondary School, Sultanpur, which will benefit 80 students under a district project which targets 10,000 dual benches for schools this year.



RC Bibwewadi — RID 3131

The club will be providing 250 computer tabs, four lakh sanitary napkins, 12,500 self-help booklets, 2,500 bottles of vitamin medicine and 1,250 bottles of pepper spray to girls through the year.



RC Alleppey Greater — RID 3211

New clothes worth Rs.50,000 were given to 100 underprivileged women at two villages adopted under district project Ente Gramam on the eve of Onam festival.



RC Jaipur Bapu Nagar — RID 3054

Club president Narendra Mal Mathur-sponsored a cardiac surgery (Rs.75,000) on a young girl whose father is a construction labourer at Jhunjhunu. Mathur has funded six paediatric surgeries so far.

Romance of the Bamboo Reed

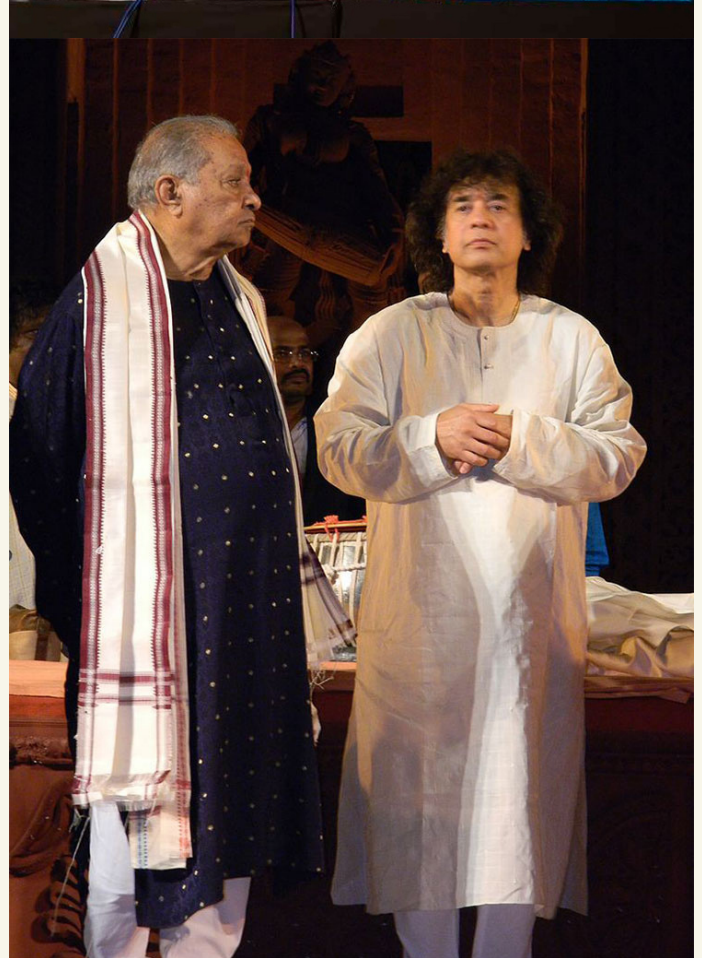
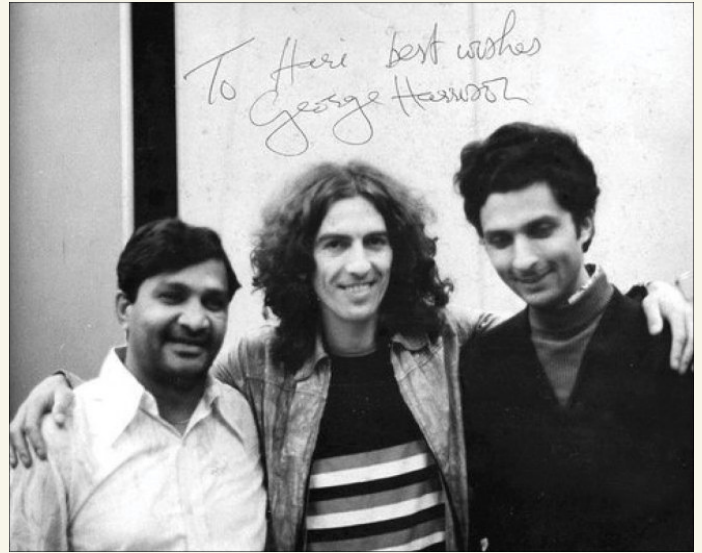
Creating magic with the bansuri Hariprasad Chaurasia

Flute maestro Hariprasad Chaurasia, a world renowned musician born to a wrestler father and a homemaker mother who never went to school. The mother died young, when the boy was barely four, and the father dreamt of his sons becoming wrestlers and earning name, wealth and fame through exploits in the akhada. Hariprasad however, joined the chorus of devotional singing in a nearby temple, encouraged by the family's neighbours and the temple priests who loved his sweet voice. Not long afterwards, he fell under the spell of the bamboo flute, when he followed a street child playing a plaintive tune on his humble bansuri. Hari actually stole the flute from his pied piper! Soon Hariprasad was singing solo at the temple.

Hariprasad earned a college degree in the arts stream eventually.

Alauddin Khan in his hotel room during one of these conferences, and he advised him to enrol himself in his famous gurukul at Maihar to learn from his daughter Annapurna Devi, the surbahar expert. Annapurna Devi was then leading the life of a recluse after the breakup of her marriage to sitar maestro Ravi Shankar. Chaurasia just refused to take no for an answer, and besieged her house with his never ending attempts to win her approval. When the nod came, it was accompanied by stern demands: to unlearn a great deal of what he knew before learning anew; to play with greater sustain rather than in staccato phrases; to go deeper into individual ragas rather than indulge in virtuosity.

Hariprasad even switched to playing left-handed as a token of his reverence to his guru. Thus embracing the Maihar gharana as he did, Chaurasia also added several new dimensions to bansuri music, incorporating both the gayaki and the gatkari styles of flute playing, revolutionizing the way the instrument was treated by the artist.



Birthday Greetings

23rd Oct

YUGAL SIKRI



29th Oct

YOGESH GUPTA

30th Oct

KAMAL SETH

6th Nov

BHUPESH KAPOOR

9th Nov

JOYDEEP SANYAL

10th Nov

RAVI DHAVAN

29th Oct

YOGESH GUPTA

15th Nov

MANISH & POOJA

16th Nov

MADHURR & S. K. MEHRA

Anniversary Greetings



1st Nov

S. RAVI & SHOBHA

20th Nov

SANJAY & RASHMI

21st Nov

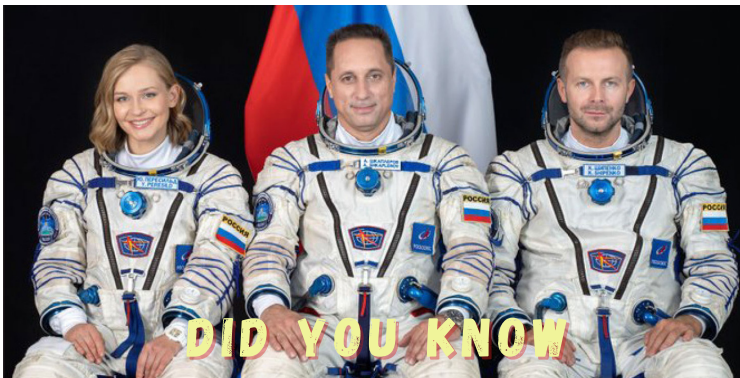
YUGAL & RUBY



Rotary's 4-Way Test

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

Rotary District 3291



DID YOU KNOW

A Russian female actor and film director returned to Earth on Oct 16th after spending 12 days on the International Space Station (ISS) for shooting a space film. The three-person crew comprising actor, director and cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov stepped ahead of a NASA-led project that aims to shoot for a Mission Impossible sequel.

EDITOR'S CORNER

We are back after a refreshing month long break of Durga puja and Diwali. I hope you all had a happy time with family and friends. Wishing you all Happy Diwali and joy & prosperity in life. With covid cases on the rise again in our city, do take precautions and 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 2083rd 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 2083rd continuous and 7th meeting for the year 2021-2022 to order.
- **National Anthem:** Rtn. Madhurr Jhaawar requested all members to Sing National Anthem by playing the same on zoom.
- **Welcome by President:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal welcomed all members to the online meet.
- **Minutes Confirmation:** Confirmation of minutes of the 2082nd meetings was proposed by Rtn Bhupeshji and seconded by Rtn Biman da.
- **Address By the President:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal acknowledged the Overwhelming response of the last Physical Meeting held at Punjab Club which was attended by members in great numbers. The enthusiasm among members was praiseworthy.
- **Polio Vaccination:** 1825 vaccination of Polio was done on 26th September 2021'. KMC people came at 2pm owing to covid protocol and hence in less than 3 hours 1825 vaccination could be managed.

- RCC Work:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal mentioned that minor repairs of the RCC roof has been done. False Ceiling repairing cost estimation was taken to be approx. Rs 16,000/- and for same approval needs to be taken from the club. Some immediate expense is required for maintaining RCC. Rtn Bhupeshji enquired on the budget of Repair and Maintenance of RCC which was notified to be Rs 30k/40k for the year. It was further suggested to do same expense from TRUST account by Rtn. Biman Da. Rtn. Ankush Khanna suggested to have a lumpsum budget for the repairs and was notified that same was done last year for Staircase for Rs 50,000/-. In same context approx. Rs 60,000/- budget is taken into consideration for the year over RCC for various repairs which can be done progressively. Likewise, RCC contribution for the same structure will also be taken for completion of the estimated repairs. It was also enquired whether the source of Income of RCC was justifiable for contributing proportionate expense for repairs. (like during Staircase repairs RCC contributed Rs 40,000/-). This was clarified by stating that Space of RCC is rented out during the year for various local events which generates Income to run and maintain RCC. Apart from same, RCC Members also bring in contribution as and when required. The Main source of Income is the 2000 Sq Feet hall which is rented for various events. Rtn. Bhupeshji also enquired for the list of Charitable work done by RCC through the source of money generated by renting space which is apart from ROTARY support. A report on same was called upon by Rtn Ankush Khanna. Further it was also clarified to members that RCC area was given to ROTARY club for conducting various charitable activities and that the same area is neither owned nor rented by Rotary Club. Hence Like Staircase repair cost was shared at a ratio of 35%: 65% (65% ROTARY), similarly further repair costs be discussed with RCC and contribution be confirmed before carrying on the repairs. Further Rtn Bhupeshji and Rtn. Mattuji discussed some important projects for functioning of the RCC and raising funds for supporting Rotary activities. President Mentioned that a Medical camp is due to be organised after DIWALI and during the same project members may visit the RCC. Further request was received by Dr. Mittal of RCC who mentioned that Mednipur People are in Misery owing to devastating floods in the area. He is in process of confirming a Medical Camp at the sight to help needy people. Rtn. Biman Da mentioned that if the club is to participate the HOARDING of the Club should be held at the place. It was mentioned that the food area is inconvenient and less accessible he shall be taking alongwith him a set of volunteers to distribute Emergency Needs to people.
- Addressing Medical Emergency requested by INNER WHEEL:** - Inner Wheel Member Mrs.Malti Kothari requested a Medical Emergency expense of which the need and cost was vetted by Rtn. Bhupeshji and Rtn. PDG Surendraji. It was notified that Corpus of past Rotarian Baba Kothari was with club and the amount requested is genuine for which the same funds can now be used. It

was brought to the notice of the members that Past Rotarian Baba Kothari contributed generously to the Club's social activities and his Generosity was in few lacs of which a small contribution to the portion of Interest Accrued should be Provided for the cause. The total Money required for the Brain operation is to the tune of Rs 4 lakhs out of which a small contribution would be noteworthy specially when the enquiry has come from the family of past Rtn. Baba Kothari and the case is genuine. It was notified that operation would be done at MEDICA HOSPITAL and hence the costs cannot be further negotiated although MEDICA authorities would be supporting in any which ways possible. In comparison with Government hospitals the costs can be brought down but owing to time restraints and post monitoring of the patient the same needs a retrospection. Further President mentioned that a token amount of Rs 30,000/- (Sum accrued out of Interest portion of the BABA KOTHARI deposit amount) can be given and Rtn. Sanjay Chowdhary seconded the same.

- **Request from other Rotary for a Senior Citizen Program:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal further mentioned about the request received from SALT LAKE Rotary Club requesting for co hosting the a Senior Citizen Program wherein the Senior Citizens will be taken for a PUJA PANDAL hopping or ride. Rtn Sanjay mentioned that such requests are made quite often from other rotary clubs and a budget needs to be ascertained or the same. President Mentioned that a Budgets Co hosting expense of Rs 10,000/- is requested by SALT LAKE Club.
- **TREE plantation and Donation Drive:** President Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal mentioned that on 2nd October, Tree Plantation drive was inaugurated and the efforts of Rtn Sanjay was praiseworthy. The same was done at Kankurgachi and Manicktala Areas and continued for 3 days. Owing to Pujas a slight delay was made and more news is expected during weekends. President also extended thank you note for Ms. Shreya Pandey, social worker, who could bring in Media and Crowd(within C-19 Protocols)which was well appreciated by Rtn Bhupeshji and Rtn Samirr and some other Rtns who were there at the venue. It was discussed that after Pujas Placards would be put on trees that had been planted which would bear signage of Midtown Club. Form 80G would be provided to each of the contributing members.
- **Any other Matter:** President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal further mentioned that:-
 1. The E -Waste project could be taken to another level wherein the training can be done at Schools and Complexes. He mentioned that Government is also very supportive towards curtailing plastic pollution. A good publicity can be made in which involvement of KMC can be done. Rtn. Bhupeshji mentioned that Involvement of Schools will be good idea to propagate the Project. Also a project in support of Children of various schools was done for distributing RICE/Pulses to the needy and same can now be restored. He further mentioned that regarding training to parents who could teach their children proper use of Plastics and its responsible disposals. Rtn. Sonali mentioned the training camp can be started at RCC. A team was decided

Rtn Sonali and Rtn. Shalini for compiling a report for the campaign. The same can be done after PUJAS with involvement of KMC which would add up to the seriousness of the Motive. Rtn. Sanjay also suggested that Eco Bricks made out of Plastics can be sold, an idea which was seconded by Rtn Preeti. Rtn. Preeti mentioned that she is in touch with YOGINI BAPAT who had given a training on Eco Bricks project and said that bricks can be sold through proper channels at a cost of Rs 5/- per piece.

2. Further a Bijoya/Diwali meet is under planning and members will be notified in due course. A card fellowship is also been considered at the house of Rtn Sanjay after 25th October. It could be a Pot-Luck party with contribution towards drinks. A Confirmation line shall be send later by Rtn Sanjay for date and availability of the community hall.
 3. Members desired to have an outbound trip to Raichak or Mandarmani which could be budgeted to Apprx Rs 3500/- per head inclusive of meals and same can be planned around end of November. Rtn Ankush mentioned that visiting earlier is a possibility and Rtn Samir mentioned that all members can visit collectively in a bus.
- **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 date and time be announced in due course.
 - * Attendance was announced at 34%.
 - * Birthday Greetings were extended to 8th Oct- Rtn Hitesh Dani, 16th Oct- Rtn Atul Makharia, 18th Oct- Rtn Srikant Pasari, 23rd Oct- Rtn Yugal Sikri and Anniversary Greetings to President Rtn Neeraj Agarwal and First Lady Rtn Preeti Agarwal for 20th of October.
 - **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