

# THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

President: Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi | Secretary: Rtn. Shalini Agarwal | Editor: Rtn. Radhika Sahni  
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## " Let's Make a Difference" - Serve with Rotary!

August is Membership & Extension Month, it is time to celebrate our club, our members, and the countless opportunities to make a difference. Rotary enables us with the power to help those in need. Service before Self. As a club of the future, Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown reflects its strength through diverse perspective and members. Join us, get involved.



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### 75 years of Independence



### The Colours & The Chakra

- Saffron indicates the strength & courage of the country
- White indicates peace & truth with Dharma Chakra
- Green indicates the fertility, growth and auspiciousness of the land.
- Navy blue Chakra with 24 spokes indicates that there is life in movement and death in stagnation

India will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day in a few days' time, let us revisit the history and the several interesting facts associated with our Flag.

The first Indian National flag with 3 horizontal stripes of red, yellow and green was hoisted on August 7, 1906, at Parsee Bagan Square, Kolkata. The first variant of our current national flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya in 1921. The Current flag with saffron white and green stripes with 24 spoke Ashok Chakra was officially adopted on July 22, 1947, and hoisted on August 15, 1947.

Did you know that on 15, August the flag is tied at the bottom of the pole, it is raised to the top of the pole and then **Hoisted**. To symbolise the struggle for Independence.

Whereas on 26<sup>th</sup> January it is **unfurled** as India became an Independent Republic on that day.

### Happy Independence Day and #Flag Hoisting

## Pilgrimage / Picnic or both?

A report by Rtn. Ankush Khanna

Our visit to the Blind Boys academy was articulated by our Rtn. Biman as a pilgrimage, while the Inner Wheel president called it a picnic.

Rtn. Ankush Khanna said that could there be a better situation in life when a pilgrimage feels like a picnic!

We had wonderful speeches delivered by Swami ji , the current principle and the past principle who also was a ex-student of this very academy . The underlying message in all the speeches was " Aatmo deepo bhava ".

Our Rtn Biman Ji and the Inner Wheel President also delivered their speeches.

Our job in the Blind boy's academy is to be enablers. In that spirit, 20 Sony Dictaphones were, lots of Horlicks biscuits etc were gifted to the principal to be further distributed to deserving candidates.

Further, cash prizes were also gifted to the top performers in the Madhyamik and Higher secondary exams 2022.

This was followed by a scintillating and interactive music session by Ann Bindu Dani. Not only did she light up the afternoon with her own charm, she sang beautifully while all the children clapped and sang with her.

Soon after the energised program by Ann Bindu, the members continued onwards for the tree plantation ceremony.

Serval trees including " 12 month " Mango trees were planted by the RCCM members. The meeting was followed by lunch.



[Click here](#)

[Our RKMBA Project uploaded on The Rotary International website](#)





“Imagine how we can grow Rotary when we focus on the comfort and care of our Rotary family”.

Jennifer Jones RI President 2022-23

## Meet Susan & Jaideep Singh



"I am a career banker, and I quit the banking business on 2021, after spending almost 3 decades in the business, working for various international banks. I grew up in Calcutta, and spent the first 25 years of my life here, before leaving the city in search of greener pastures. My career took me to various places, but I spent the bulk of my career time in Mumbai. I also had a stint of 5 years in Jakarta, Indonesia.

I returned to Kolkata in 2020, after leaving in 1993, after 27 years! Our home is in Alipore. Now that I don't work actively anymore, I take up occasional consultancy assignments. More leisure time means that I can pursue other passions and interests. I am very keen on golf and spend a lot of my leisure time on the golf

course. I also play other sports like squash, snooker and lawn bowls. I decided to join the Rotary to find ways to get involved in social work. I am hoping Rotary Midtown Kolkata will be the right place for me in this regard.

My wife, Susan, also belongs to Kolkata. We met and were married in 1996. She has been a Teacher in International Schools, teaching English to middle school students. We have 2 lovely children. Our son Vikram is a data science professional. He completed his Masters in Economics and Data Science in Singapore, and now works in Bangalore. Our daughter Nikita is studying Psychology in London. She hopes to be a Clinical Psychologist in future.

I am looking forward to making some new acquaintances and friends in Rotary Midtown. All have been very welcoming so far, for which I am thankful."

### Star of the Month:

#### SUCHI NARULA

A relatively new member but most Interested In projects. She as a convener of the Matrishakti project takes her responsibility very seriously and one never has to follow up if she is told to do something. Definably a future good Project Convenor.

- Mayuri Modi Doshi





## The Story of Ubuntu

“An anthropologist studying the habits and customs of an African tribe found himself surrounded by children most days. So, he decided to play a little game with them. He managed to get candy from the nearest town and put it all in a decorated basket at the foot of a tree. Then he called the children and suggested they play the game. When the anthropologist said “now”, The children had to run to the tree and the first one to get there could have all the candy to him/herself. So, the children all lined up waiting for the signal. When the anthropologist said “now”, all of the children took each other by the hand and ran together towards the tree. They all arrived at the same time divided up the candy, sat down in a circle and began to happily munch away. The anthropologist went over to them and asked why they had all run together when any one of them could have had the candy all to themselves. The children responded: “Ubuntu. How could any one of us be happy if all the others were sad?” Ubuntu is a philosophy of some African tribes that can be summed up as **“I am what I am because of who we all are.”**

## Passed to higher service

Viji Iyengar, Past President RCCM 1992-93



“Deeply grieved and very saddened at the passing away of Viji. Viji has always been an Inspiration to everyone he touched. May God give his family, Friends and all the people he so closely associated with strength, courage and fortitude to bear this loss. Everyone he touched will feel the Void.

This void will remain but we can lessen the pain by recalling his many noble qualities, emulating his value-based leadership and celebrating his life. He was a Gentleman in the true sense, a friend philosopher and guide who lived life fully and made a huge difference to society. He truly lived and passed Rotary’s 4 Way Test with flying colours. May God Bless his soul”.

Sudhir Chand



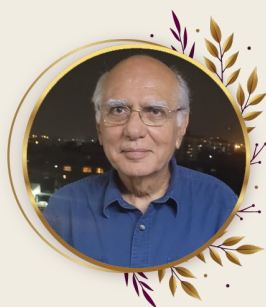
"Cheers to another wonderful year"

**HAPPY**  
Anniversary!

Nina & Rakesh Khanna



**15<sup>th</sup> August**  
Sanjay Choudhary



**21<sup>th</sup> August**  
Sudhir Chand



**Puzzles & Chuckles**



**21<sup>th</sup> August**  
Ruchira Bhawalka



**21<sup>th</sup> August**  
Nirmal Agarwal



1. What can be driven although it doesn't have wheels, sliced but stays whole?
2. Can a polar bear catch up with a penguin?
3. What did the first vending machine dispense?
4. Many have heard me, but no one has seen me, and I will not speak back until spoken to.  
What am I?

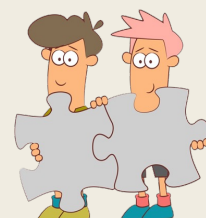


**Editor-Speak**

As we salute our nation on its 75th Independence Day. Let us do our bit by further investing our energies into driving the change through our various projects. It has indeed been a fulfilling fortnight for us at Midtown and look forward to many more.

**Radhika Sahni**

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# Minutes of the Meeting

## ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

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



### President (2022-23)

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## 2101<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting for the year 2022-2023 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown, held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 7.00 PM at Saturday club.

**Meeting called to order:** President Mayuri Mody Doshi called the 2101<sup>th</sup> continuous and 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 2022-2023 to order. She welcomed all the members, Annes, new member Rtn Jaideep Singh, prospective Dhanish, and special guest Rtn. Aiesha Guptoo from Roatry Club of Calcutta to the meeting.

- The, 2100<sup>th</sup> continuous and 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes for the year 2022-2023 were passed and seconded by Rtn Yugal Sikri and Rtn Neeraj Agarwal respectively.
- **National Anthem:** The National anthem was sung by all present.
- **Appointment of Sergeant-At-Arms:** Rtn. Sahil Desai was appointed as sergeant for the evening.
- **Address by President Mayuri Mody Doshi:**
  - **Matrishakti project:** On 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2022 , Rtms Dr. Kalyan Sirkar, Chetan Narula, Suchi Narula, President Mayuri Mody Doshi and Ms.RUMA had gone to Hingalganj for the project. With Dr. Sarkar's help, rules and processes were set for streamlining the selection of candidates for the project, as under.

1. Must belong to the BPL category certified by the ASHA Workers.
2. Candidates should be in between their 3<sup>rd</sup> month and 5<sup>th</sup> month of their pregnancy.
3. Candidates to be physically present at the time of disbursement.

It was further decided that the grocery to be procured from the food store which gave proper bill with GST as per the Rotary billing guidelines. During the last camp one candidate had been removed from the program as she had not been coming to collect instead some family member would come and collect on her behalf. Another candidate had delivered her baby and thus no longer qualified for the benefit. Two new candidates were added to the group of beneficiaries. Since it's a long-term project a roster has been prepared by Rtn Suchi Narula for the members to visit in rotation, which would be shared shortly. She requested the members to follow it as best

as possible. In case, due to unavoidable circumstances, a member was unable to go on their designated day, they would have the responsibility to ask someone else to go in exchange in their place. Total number of beneficiaries as of now is 35. Next visit will be on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. Maharajji has been requested to call the ASHA workers in the next camp to discuss about the candidates and felicitate them for all their help.

- **Model High School:** Rtns. Dr. Surinder Kapoor, Samir Doshi and she had visited The Model High School on Sarat Bose Road. Due diligence was carried out with the head master and records checked to a certain extent. The school has given a proposal and is looking for help with the upgradation of infrastructure. Rtn Dr. Kapoor summarised that it was a govt aided school but they were getting very little funding from the govt, they needed financial help to make the school more attractive for more children to join. They need to get more students in order to get more aid from the government. They have collaborated with ICT and have got 10 computers from them and the computer teacher's salary is also being sponsored by them. Basically we need to improve and brighten up the building and this project would qualify under the Rotary TEACH program. For this aspect, the school would come under 'H' which is happy school. A happy school means to have a happy environment where the children look forward to coming to the school and not drop out. This would be a long-term project. The district also has a literacy program. The discussion on how we could help the school would be taken up further at the board meeting.
- **The Alipore Correctional Home:** They have finally consented to let us resume work there, so the plan is to start a beautician course, embroidery and spoken English classes. For this we need to give them a proposal along with the details of the volunteers for the permission. She requested lady members and Annes to come forward and give their names for volunteering to monitor and supervise the course. These classes would be held once a week. Rtn Priti Agarwal, Anne Kiran Kapoor and Anne Susan Singh have enthusiastically opted for helping with the project.
- **The Mangrove project:** Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor, Sonali Gupta and she had attended a talk on planting of mangroves organised by the Rotary Club of Benevolence. NGO KSCH have shared the permission Papers for plantation of mangroves given by the Govt to them and also the completion certificate issued to them by different organisation with whom they have worked. This was discussed in details. Ms Guptoo also spoke about her club's experience of planting mangroves. She suggested that a system needs to be identified through which the locals have a sense of ownership to take care of it. Some suggestions were made by other members also. It was decided to constitute a task force which will scrutinise and give a proposal as to the viability of the project to the board for further discussion.
- **Navneer Old Age Home:** Rtn Vikram and she had visited Navneer Old Age home. They have built a new building and are doing a lot of work for the street children. They have made two classrooms. In one of them they are wanting to make a computer classroom in order to teach the older children basics of using computers, so that they can be gainfully employed in boutiques stores, etc. They have sent a proposal for three new computers, a printer and salary for the teacher every month. The cost of the project would be shared for further discussion in the board meeting. Rtns Dr. Kapoor and Dr Biman Chakraborty reminisced about how Midtown had been associated with Navneer in the past.

- **Ram Krishna Mission Blind Boys Academy:** The RKMBBA visit is on Sunday, July 31, 2022, and she requested the new members to try and visit. The club was planning to provide 20 Dictaphones to the boys studying IT and Agriculture, as well as 40 gross of braille sheets for the year. Additionally, Mr Ayush Sarada is also sponsoring 5 cartons of Horlicks and 3 cartons of Biscuits to be provided to the academy. Anne Bindu Dani is going to enthral the children with some patriotic songs. The program for the day has been floated among the members. Since she would be travelling, VP Rtn Ankush Khanna would be leading the program, Rtn Yugal Sikri would coordinate the logistics, and Rtn Shalini would help oversee all tasks. She informed the floor that it had been a norm to felicitate the boys who have come 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> in Madhyamik and Higher Secondary exams every year. The top three kids in both the categories of Madhyamik and Higher Secondary would be given cash prize, for which Rtns Ankush Khanna, Sanjay Chowdhury, Jaideep Singh and Narendra Gulati have come forward to sponsor to a total of Rs14000. A sum of Rs.12000 was donated on behalf of Late Baba Kothari by Mrs. Malti Kothari, and the balance would be paid from the club. The braille sheets costing Rs 36000 have also been sponsored by a donor Mr. Samir Jadhav which has been organised by PP. Rtn. Neeraj Agarwal. Furthermore, Mr. Viresh Kapoor too gave Rs 3000 towards the project.
- **EGM:** The EGM had to be postponed as the modification which the lawyer submitted at the last minute were not satisfactory. The next date would be finalised soon and a new notice would be circulated in due course.
- **RCC Thakurpukur:** She requested Rtn. Priti Agarwal to give an update on the progress at RCC. Rtn Priti informed that she, Rtn.Samir Doshi, Rtn. Neeraj Agrwal and President Rtn Mayuri Mody Joshi had gone to RCC to meet the teachers on Sunday 24 July, 2022. They spoke to the sewing and the beautician course teacher and asked them to give a list of the candidates. Both the Beautician and Sewing Classes have seen 16 girls enrol in each. The teachers would share the list of the candidates so we can check that no old candidate is repeating the same class. Sewing class is a one-year program and beautician is a six-month program. For yoga 20 candidates have been identified. The yoga teacher was all set to start the classes and would go on Monday to identify as to who would be better suited for yoga or physiotherapy classes. Regarding the making of clothes bag which had been discussed in the last meeting the factory people she spoke to did not have waste fabric big enough to make the bags. Another option was to buy fabric from the market and make, but that would be very expensive. Rtn Sanjay Choudhury has offered to speak to a manufacturer of nonwoven fabric to procure it at reasonable rates for the bags.
- President Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi invited Rtn Aisha Goptu from Rotary Club of Calcutta to address the gathering.
- **Rtn Aisha Guptoo:** She thanked us for inviting her to the club and was delighted to be there with us. She went on to say how her family had a very old connect with Midtown. Her father Mr. R. Guptoo was an ex-President of Midtown and her brother had also been a Midtowner in the past. She has grown up with Rotary was a third generation Rotarians. She went on to speak about her club and how they were doing a project called Akriti wherein they were providing Prosthetic limbs to the underprivileged people of any age groups free of cost, and if we could identify anyone who needed it they were willing to help out.



- **Secretary's report:** Birthday greetings were announced  
August 5, 2022: Rtn Udayandu Dass
  
- **Attendance:** 31% members Present.
  
- **Any other matter:** Rtn Dr, Biman Chakraborty suggested that Midtown had a history of being involved in sports upliftment and we should think about it again.
- Rtn Ankush Khanna suggested that we could also look at the underprivileged caddie golfers
- Rtn Priti Agarwal spoke about organizing Sports day for the underprivileged children.
  
- **Sergeant's Time:** Rs 1000.00 was collected.
- President Mayuri Mody Doshi closed the meeting and requested all the members to stay back for the Fellowship, a fun 'bingo with a difference' round which had been organized by Rtn Richa Shah but unfortunately, she couldn't make it. So Rtn Shalini and she would help conduct the game.

Minuted by  
Rtn Shalini Agarwal  
Secretary  
2022-23

## Solutions:

1. A golf ball.
2. No. Polar bears are found in the Arctic, not the Antarctic. That's why polar bears and penguins will never meet.
3. Holy water.
4. An Echo.