



# THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

President: Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi | Secretary: Rtn. Shalini Agarwal | Editor: Rtn. Radhika Sahni  
CLUB NO. 16155 | DIST: 3291 | CHARTER DATE: JUNE 16, 1975

## Rotary - 118th Birthday

“Imagine.....  
peace the world over”



On February 23 Rotary turns 118 years, a day that is also known as World Understanding and Peace Day.

February 23, 1905, Paul Harris and his three friends met in room 711 of the Unity Building in Chicago.

At the time they did not realise how the ethos of Rotary would spread. Rotary International has come a long way, since then, but we still have a long way to go to achieve goodwill, peace, and understanding among all people of the world.



## THE FIRST ROTARY MEETING

February 23, 1905



## History of Rotary in India

Calcutta was the home town for the first Rotary club in Asia. R.J. Combes, the manager of a steel products company while on a business trip to the U.S.A. was so impressed by the “Friendship, fellowship, and service” aspects of the movement called Rotary that he wanted to introduce the idea to his friends in West Bengal too. Without any difficulty, he convinced people for the first meeting on 26 September 1919. The new club was chartered just after three months of the first meeting, on the new year day of 1920 to be exact. All the twenty charter members were non-Indians.

The Rotary Club of Calcutta became the first Rotary club chartered in India on 1 January 1920. Today, more than 3,000 clubs operate throughout India,

R.J. Coombes is credited with starting India's first club. But Canadian James Wheeler Davidson is largely accredited for Rotary's growth in the country.

As a member of the Rotary International committee that explored extending the organization into other countries, Davidson departed in August 1928 to help establish clubs in Asia and the Middle East. His trip turned into a two-and-a-half-year odyssey that resulted in the chartering of 23 clubs in 12 countries.

Only two clubs held charters in India at the outset of Davidson's journey: Calcutta and Lahore Arriving in Bombay in February 1929 with his wife and daughter, he was intending to start a club there.

Three attempts had failed prior to his arrival. But in March of that year, Davidson successfully formed a club in Bombay that would receive its charter on 8 May.

He organized a club in Delhi next, before visiting Rotarians in Calcutta, where Nitish C. Laharry was serving as club secretary. Laharry would become the first RI president from India in 1962-63.



### **The Four-Way Test** of the things we think, say or do.

- 1. Is it the truth**
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

# Birthday

"Cheers to another wonderful year"



Shalini Agarwal  
5<sup>th</sup> March

# Anniversary



Abha & Debojit Halder  
26<sup>th</sup> February



Lipika & Dr Kalyan Sarkar  
26<sup>th</sup> February



Sonali & Yogesh Gupta  
11<sup>th</sup> March



Sonal & Sahil Desai  
12<sup>th</sup> March



Mayuri & Samirr Doshi  
14<sup>th</sup> March



Poonam & Anirudh Tikmani  
16<sup>th</sup> March

## Editor Speak



While reading about all the work being put in by Rotary the world over I thought why not Celebrate Rotary's commitment to conflict resolution and building peace this month that's when I came across. Rotary's Four Roles in Promoting Peace. Rotary and its members are:

**Practitioners:** Our work fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving the health of mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies directly builds the optimal conditions for peaceful societies. **Educators:** Our Rotary Peace Centers have trained over 1,300 peace fellows to become effective catalysts for peace through careers in government, education, and international organizations. **Mediators:** Our members have negotiated humanitarian ceasefires in areas of conflict to allow polio vaccinators to reach children who are at risk. **Advocates:** Our members have an integral role as respected, impartial participants during peace processes and in post-conflict reconstruction. We focus on creating communities and convening groups that are connected, inclusive, and resilient.

## Minutes of the Meeting

### ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

DISTRICT 3291

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



#### President (2022-23)

Rtn Mayuri Mody Doshi  
Asha Apartment, Flat 1A/15,  
93 Deshpriya Sashmal Road  
Opp. R.S.V. Hospital  
Kolkata 700033  
Mobile 9830562313  
Email: mody@subsurface.in  
poojaexportsinternational@gmail.com

#### Secretary (2022-23)

Rtn Shalini Agarwal  
South City Apartments,  
Oak-8c/d  
375 P.A. Shah Road,  
Kolkata 700068  
Mobile : 91 9830067387  
Email: shels\_1973@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer (2022-23)

Hitesh Dani,  
Fort Royale  
Flat 10C & D  
28 Prince Anwar Shah Road,  
Kolkata 700033  
Mobile: 9830025335  
Email: hiteshdani66@gmail.com

**Minutes of the 2114th Continuous Meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> for the year 2022-2023 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown held on Thursday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 at 6.30 pm in Room no. 1, The Saturday Club.**

**Meeting called to order:** President Rtn Mayuri Mody Doshi called the 2114<sup>th</sup> continuous and 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for 2022-2023 to order.

**National Anthem:** The National Anthem was sung by all.

**Confirmation of previous meeting minutes:** The 2113<sup>th</sup> continuous and 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes for the year 2022-2023 were passed and seconded by Rtns Bhupesh Kapoor and Dr. Surinder Kapoor respectively.

**Attendance:** 17 Members / 33% attended the meeting.

**Address by President Rtn Mayuri Mody Doshi:** She started by remembering Lal Hiranandani. She said that losing him was a huge loss to Midtown, as he was a dear friend and one of the most enthusiastic Midtowners. She requested everyone to stand up and maintain 2 minutes of silence in his memory.

She went on to add that he will always be remembered as forever young, enthusiastic, smiling and always ready to help. Meetings or any other event at Midtown would be incomplete without his help, and to commemorate him, a big spread of snacks has been organized, just the way he would have liked it. Lal Hiranandani will live in the hearts of Midtowners forever.

She requested members to come forward and say a few words about Lal Hiranandani.

**Rtn Dr. Surinder Kapoor:** He spoke about his sensitivity towards all the members and ready to help attitude. During the last few years, despite having trouble with his vision and falling health, he remained his active and cheerful self. His zest for dressing up for the different themes and fancy-dress events was commendable. He went on to wish Ms. Hiroo Nandani speedy recovery.

**Rtn Bhupesh Kapoor:** He was one of those who never accepted defeat. He lived life king size as he enjoyed every moment to the fullest. He faced some tough times in his life but still he would portray as though all was good. He was an inspiration to all.

**Rtn Ashish Bhuwarka:** He spoke about how he had met him as a small boy and had known him for 45 yrs. They had been neighbors since then. He had wonderful memories of their times together and how Lalji had helped him during his tough times. He was like a father figure for him.

**Rtn Rakesh Sahni:** He spoke about how he had known him long before he had joined Rotary. He aged gracefully and conducted himself beautifully, and how young he was. One must learn from him that it's all in your mind. Attitude is all that matters.

**Rtn Dr. Biman Chakraborty:** He had known Lal Hiranandani in Rotary for the last 35 years. And lovingly he would call him lallelalji while Lal Hiranandani always addressed him as my only dear friend. Rtn Dr. Biman Chakraborty spoke about how Lal Hiranandani was always in charge of managing all events. He recalled how during his installation once again Lal Hiranandani oversaw the event, even though his young son had passed away. That showed how dedicated he was towards his commitments.

**Rtn Sahil Desai :** He spoke about he had known him at Saturday Club long before he became a Rotarian and how he had always been extremely warm and forthcoming. The important thing was that he had taught us all that we should live life to the fullest. Let's all celebrate life together.

President Mayuri Mody Doshi went on to say that Lal Hiranandani would always be with all of us. And on this note she closed the meeting.

**Minuted by-**

**Rtn. Shalini Agarwal**

**Secretary**

**2022-2023**