

Rotary



Serving Together

Chowrenghee

TIMES

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SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES


**ROTARY CLUB OF
CALCUTTA CHOWRENGHEE**

Rotary International District 3291

President: **VIKRAM TANTIA** • Secretary & Editor: **ROHIT KEDIA** • Jt Editor: **ABHENA KHETTRY**

RI President, 2021-22

Shekhar Mehta

 Shekhar Mehta, has been a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar, since 1985 and is the 4th Indian and the 2nd from Kolkata to be the President of Rotary International. His theme for the year 2021-22 is **"Serve to change lives"**.

He was the District Governor of 3291 in the year 2019-2000 and part of the Rotary Board as a Director in the period 2011-2013. Has held many positions in the International level, prominent among them being Chairmanship of Strategic Planning committee of Rotary International, Joint Committee of Partnerships of Rotary International and Rotary Foundation, Literacy India mission, Rotary Foundation India and Rotary India centennial celebrations. He is a Trustee of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada based organization.

He has helped Rotary to unfold in Bhutan and Maldives.

Keenly dedicated to service, Shekharji has initiated several projects for social development. Some of these are as follows:

He constructed 500 homes during the tsunami at Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Started the Shelter Kit programme in India for disaster relief and has distributed more than 10000 shelter kits, helping about 50000 disaster victims.

'Healing Little Hearts' has done more than 1500 heart surgeries for children all over India.

He has conceived, designed and scaled up the Rotary India Literacy mission by starting the TEACH program. More than 3000 Rotary clubs participate in this program making it one of the largest program of literacy and education by Rotary in the world.

Responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national call, he has helped to set up nearly 5000 toilets in rural Bengal, benefitting 30,000 people.

He has been Instrumental in setting up 15 Eye Hospitals across India serving nearly 50,000 eye operations each year.

He started a scholarship program called UDAAN for marginalized children over last 10 years. More than 1000 scholarships have been given so far.

Shekhar Mehta is spearheading a National Program under Rotary India Humanity Foundation, to do India-wide projects in collaboration with the Government of India, in the areas of Water, Sanitation, Literacy, Healthcare, Environment and Disaster Management. The result of these programs will be "Rotary's Role in Nation Building in India".

He is the recipient of Rotary International's Service Above Self and The Rotary Foundation's Distinguished Service and Meritorious Service Awards.

Shekharji's guiding mantra is **"Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth"**.





District Governor

RID-3291, 2021-22

Prabir Chatterjee

Prabir Chatterjee's life, energy, time and even the people he surrounds himself with is guided by the premise: Every Human Life is of Equal Value.

If humanitarianism can be called a sport, Prabir is the master of it. He has displayed the passion and fervour in everything he has done at Rotary since becoming a member in 1999.

Presently he is a member of Rotary Calcutta Majestic.

Born to the famous Chatterjee family, he has always known the importance of using one's privileges to help the society. This alumnus of St Xavier's College went on to become a first-generation entrepreneur after completing his B.Sc. followed by a Diploma in Electronics & Video Technology.

Through his work he wanted to create a positive impact on people's lives and founded TEEVEETRONICS POLYTECHNIC PVT LTD In 1984. Till date his company has helped millions progress in their lives through Vocational Skill Development, Training & Computer Management. Between 1986 and 1997 he was associated with Tata Steel, developing and conducting several training programs in Dhanbad, Jamshedpur and West Bokaro.

Prabir has held various positions in Rotary District 3291 after completing his Presidentship in 2007-08. He is a Rotary Leadership Institute faculty member since 2015 and a recipient of the Vocational Service Leadership Award from Rotary International in 2014. Through his immaculate leadership skills he believes in building a better community one step at a time, along with his Rotary family.

Amid all this, Prabir still makes time for his passion as a travel photographer and avid thrill seeker. In 2016 he drove from Kolkata to Jaisalmer and covered a total distance of 5,219 kms.

Rubina, his spouse, is a professional dancer and currently the Senior School Co-Curricular Coordinator at Sushila Birla Girls' School, Kolkata. She is a Rotarian and a member of Rotary Calcutta Majestic since 2012. Daughter Kathakali has completed her Masters in Public Relations & Event Management from Amity University, Noida in 2020 and is presently engaged with a reputed PR Agency in New Delhi.



Message

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

RI District 3291

Dear Change Maker President Vikram ji,

Rotary Greetings! I hope this finds you having a great Rotary year as a President of your club. It will be an awesome year for Rubena and me as your District Governor and would like to congratulate the respected and ever enthusiastic Rotary Calcutta Chowrenghee family on this wonderful occasion of Installation Ceremony.

Vikram Ji, you have been selected by the members of your Rotary Club to guide its affairs during the coming year and as a President of your club, you need to be thinking ahead to the coming year(s) as well that will help and shape your club's future.

This continuing Covid 2 pandemic has a lot of dark sides but the world has survived all pandemics of the past are alive and more populous than ever is proof to that. Let's not forget that we should make the best of what the crisis gives us. I believe the best days of Rotary are ahead, because the Rotarians always keep on looking at the brighter sides of life, the longer the crisis lasts, the larger the opportunities.

I wish all the very best to you along with your members for a fruitful Rotary year and assuring my unending support to Serve to Change Lives.

Yours-in-Rotary,



Prabir Chatterjee

District Governor, 2021-22

I believe the best days of Rotary are ahead because Rotarians always keep looking at the brighter side of life.



RI Director

2019-21

Dr Bharat Pandya

***Dr Bharat Pandya is our
Chief-Guest-of-Honour
at the Installation***

Bharat Pandya is a practicing general and laparoscopic surgeon. He and his wife, Madhavi, a gynecologist, own a private hospital in Mumbai. He is a fellow of the International College of Surgeons and has served on the board of the Jan Shikshan Sansthan vocational training institute, sponsored by the Indian government.

Pandya joined Rotary in 1989 as a charter member of his club. During his year as governor of District 3140, his district contributed over \$2 million to The Rotary Foundation, making it the top contributor worldwide for 2006-07. He has led numerous projects, including water and sanitation projects funded by Foundation grants that installed check dams so that villagers no longer needed to walk up to four miles per day to collect water.

Pandya has held many roles in Rotary, including regional RI membership coordinator, training leader, and member of RI's Membership and Convention Promotion committees and of the India PolioPlus Committee.

He has received the Service Above Self Award, the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and the Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award. He and his wife Madhavi are Level 2 Major Donors to the Foundation.

Messages Past District Governors



Dear President Vikram,

Ballari joins me in congratulating you as you take up the responsibility of leading your club in following the theme for the year, ‘**Serve to Change Lives**’. District looks up to your club for some meaningful service to the mankind. I’m sure under your able leadership Rotary Calcutta Chowrenghee would

gift a memorable year to the district. It is more so, this being the Year, our own Shekhar Mehta is the Rotary International President; a proud moment for Rotary in India and specially for our District.

As we have stepped into the second century of Rotary Service, strengthening our clubs, our very roots, has become the order of the day! To retain members and strengthen our clubs, we must keep in mind, every Rotarian joined Rotary to contribute something for a cause and has some expectations from the Rotary Club; to retain members, make sure that every member of the club is involved and satisfied. General Secretary of Rotary International & The Rotary Foundation, John Hewko, urged Rotarians to think out

of box, embrace flexibility, focus on engagement rather than attendance! We need to change!

You and your team will also have to deal with a new challenge, that’s COVID-19! You would have to device a new way to run and manage the club; a new thought, how to take up Service Projects!

I wish you and your team a great happening year ahead.

Yours-in-Rotary Service,

Yours truly,

Rajani Mukerji

District Governor, 2013-14

District Trainer 2021-22

*Member, Executive Committee,
Rotary India Literacy Mission*



Dear President Vikram,

My personal greeting to you, it is very heartening to know that you are taking Mantle of your esteem club for next year.

Leadership in Rotary is the manifestation of compassion, forbearance, generosity, humility, courage and

willingness to sacrifice for the common good. You need not to do much to inculcate this qualities, just their awareness is good enough to be a good leader. Be one world need you. RC Calcutta Chowrenghee during its long journey has positioned itself as one of the most vibrant & potential club under Rotary International. This prestigious position is achieved by implementing large & very meaningful projects which has touched thousands of lives. The commitment & the dedication of each member for the cause has resulted in such great success.

RI president has given a very thought provoking theme of this year. Let us share our expertise & resources to

make a difference in the community to justify “Serve to change Lives”.

2021 – 22 is the significant year in the lives of all the Rotarians of this sub-continent as the world leader, Rtn. Shekhar Mehta is from our district & country. In order to offer our respect, we must engage with maximum number of humanitarian services.

I wish you and your entire Board a very successful Rotary year.

Thanks with warm regards,

Yours truly,

Anirudha Roychowdhury

District Governor, 2007-08

DRFC 2021 - 22

Messages Past District Governors



Dear President Vikram,

I extend my hearty congratulations to you and your dynamic team for taking up the reins of a renowned club like Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee. Many adversities have dogged our

steps in the last 15 months. Even so, our spirits have not flagged, nor our resolve weakened.

Your predecessor Deepak has been an absolute treasure as president. My congratulations to him for being a formidable warrior in a most challenging time for the club.

Along with Deepak, the past presidents, each one a gem, will form a resource pool for you.

Vikram, having known you for over 25 odd years, I am confident that with your meticulous ways and an immensely likeable disposition, you too will ensure that the momentum of service and fellowship will brook

no barriers in 2021-22.

Among the major tasks that the club has in hand is the Gift of Water project, perhaps the biggest project it has conceived. With the support of the already sanctioned Global Grant, I eagerly look forward to see this project taking shape during the year, God willing, since we are still embattled by corona.

Mamta joins me in wishing each of you all the best for 2021-22.

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES!!

Yours-in-Rotary,

Ajay Agarwal
District Governor, 2019-20



Dear Vikram,

I am extremely happy to know that you will be taking over the mantle of leadership of your club. Your Club has a team of dedicated volunteers who are always ready to Serve to Change Lives. Even during the pandemic, Rotarians worldwide have shown the power of Rotary and have reached out to those in need.

May the family of Rotary Club of Chowringhee continue their dedicated service to humanity under your guidance. Wishing you an enjoyable and rewarding tenure as President of your Club.

Best wishes,

Nayantara Palchoudhuri
District Governor, 2008-09



Dear Changemaker President Vikram,

You are taking office in the second century of Rotary in India when our Shekhar Mehta will be taking over as Rotary International President.

We are in Rotary for hands-on service projects. I am sure you will take up meaningful sustainable projects based on 7 Areas of Focus and also stress upon three important Verticals namely Public Image, Membership and Foundation.

My Trailblazer President Deepak has risen to the occasion during a full year of pandemic. I am sure you will hold a candle to your predecessor under the leadership of DG Prabir Chatterjee. Trailblazer President has blazed the trail by Opening Opportunities and it is up to you as Change Maker President to Serve to Change Lives.

Sudip Mukherjee
District Governor, 2020-21

Messages

Past District Governors



Dear President Vikram,

You are among the fortunate club leaders who will have a dynamic Indian as the Rotary International President. It comes rarely but when it does the ethos of the Indian philosophy comes to the fore and is embedded in the stones of the Rotary history and the Past RI Presidents from India Raja Sabooji & Kalyan Bannerjee have shown us this. "Look Beyond Yourself" was the clarion call of Raja ji to the Rotarians across the world

and the message reflected the need to look into the community and the surroundings to serve their needs and keep the self interest & egos away. Then came Kalyanda with his theme in 2011-12 - "Reach within to embrace Humanity" - a philosophy asking you to search within you & motivate yourself to open your arms & reach out to the masses, the humanity and treat everyone as equal and help those in need. Powerful messages from enriched Presidents who both claim to have had their roots in Kolkata.

Now comes another Rotarian of Kolkata - our own District 3291's pro-active member Shekhar Mehta who has proven to be a shaker & a mover who reached the helm by practicing & living up to his wonderful theme "**Serve to Change Lives**". It is a challenge to each Club President & his/her team to do projects that significantly change lives. My friend Shekhar's message

comes at a crucial time when the world is suffering & yet getting united to save lives in these times of pandemic.

President Vikram - your time has come to show your club members that you truly deserve this mantle and you have the capacity to motivate your members to serve, to raise funds to do larger projects and most of all you can change the lives of the people that you serve. Margaret Mead had said: "*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has*"

So go forth to serve & prove to the Rotary World that RC Calcutta Chowrenghee shall Serve Lives & Change Lives!! My best wishes to you & the Club in your journey of Service in this historic year.

Yours-in-Rotary,

Ravi Sehgal
District Governor, 2000-01



Dear Rtn Vikram,

I am delighted that you are taking over as President of RC Calcutta Chowrenghee from 1st July 2021. You are so fortunate to be a part of this wonderful club! Over the years, your past presidents have worked very hard to serve the community very successfully, in diverse fields.

We are going through terribly difficult times due to the COVID 19 pandemic which has changed our lives completely. Kudos to you for rising to the occasion and accept the leadership position during such times! The pandemic has thrown challenges at us but those challenges can easily be converted to opportunities. Our world leader Shekhar Mehta gave us the beautiful theme, "**Serve to Change Lives**." He wants us to be involved in projects that have measurable and sustainable impact.

Rotary International has taken up the Diversity Equity Inclusion policy, and our leader has given a clarion call for empowering the girl child. His other emphasis is on "Each One Bring One". Hopefully, by the end of the Rotary year, there will be 1.3 million Rotarians

across the globe. Please do remember that Polio remains our central focus, as we have reached a point where we are on the brink of eradicating this disease. Remember, all of us need to challenge and fight COVID 19 too!

Does all this sound very daunting? You will find you are so absorbed in your service and fellowship activities, that this year as leader will remain a great memory in your life! Albert Einstein said, "Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living." So live well, work hard with your club and its associates and enjoy the experience as you Serve to Change Lives.

With all my good wishes,

Shyamashree Sen
District Governor 2016-17
EPNC Zone 6 (2020-23)

Thank You

President Deepak Saraf

for a wonderful 2020-21



About Vikram Tantia

President, 2021-22



Vikram's journey in Rotary started as a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta Central. He then moved to become a member of Chowrenghee in the year 2006. With the responsibility of Fellowship Chair in the year 2017, his role as a Rotarian began to develop. He was the Foundation chairperson during 2019-20 and was involved with other team members in planning the first Global Grant of Chowrenghee as the Host Club. He continued with his role of Foundation Chair and became the Club Secretary under the Presidentship of Deepak Saraf.

He now prepares himself to become the 22nd President of Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee for 2021-22

Soon after college he joined the family business but the urge was to do something else. With no experience or much guidance he started his own business in 1991 to export silk textiles. The Company is now 29 years in existence, as a leading Export House. Vikram has also represented his Industry as the President of Silk Association of India for 5 years and as a Committee Member of the Indian

Silk Export Promotion Council. He is also actively involved as part of the Committee of Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC). The Youth Business Forum of BCC was started in 2019 with Vikram playing a key role in its formation and development.

He has always lived in a joint family and continues to do so. Three generations of six families living together. He is grateful that this kind of living has taught him the art of adjustment and to live in harmony with others.

Vikram is married to Shruti and is blessed with two children, Yashraj and Aastha. Shruti is associated with a school for the less privileged called Basha. She is a member of the Inner Wheel of Rotary Club of Calcutta Central. Yashraj finished his graduation from Emory University, Atlanta, and is now in business. Aastha is a Fine Arts student in Central Saint Martins, London.

Social work is in Vikram's genes. It comes from his late mother. He has seen this dedication towards service, since childhood. It was now time that he followed her path.

He firmly believes that Selfless Service to others, brings humility in one's life, a path to reduce one's ego. Rotary gives an excellent platform to develop this and make your life meaningful.

President

Says

DG Prabir Chatterjee, Past District Governors from 3291, District officials, Rotarians, Members of Chowrenghee, Distinguished Guests & Friends.

Thank you for giving me this honour to become the 22nd President of this wonderful Club. Chowrenghee is not just a Club, it is a Family.

It has been a real pleasure to serve as the Club Secretary under Immediate Past President Deepak Saraf. Thanks Deepak, for giving me full liberty to explore and learn the working of Rotary in various capacities. I now take on a bigger responsibility. My sincere thanks to all the past presidents of Chowrenghee and our members, for believing in me and giving me this opportunity. Thank you PP Nita for convincing me two years back for this position. I really learnt a lot during this period.

During the last one year, I had the opportunity to introduce myself to some of the Past District Governors from 3291. I thank the District for their continued support to Chowrenghee. DG Prabirda has left an indelible impact on all the Presidents of 2021-22. His motivation, brilliant planning and above all his friendship has charged us to take 3291 to greater heights. Thank you Prabirda. We look forward to this year under your guidance.

For us at Chowrenghee the year 2021-22 has an emotional connect as well. Our Club was chartered by RI President Shekhar Mehta in the year 2000 who was then the DG of 3291. We all from Chowrenghee congratulate Shekharji, to take up the highest post in Rotary and wish him a very successful year.

I don't know, if God has a role to play but someone would be very happy to see me here today. My late Mother spent more than 40 years of her life serving society. For her, service became a religion in life which she pursued with full dedication and passion. As a youngster, I never liked to share my mother with her NGO. Today I realise the great work, she has done. What I saw as a youngster is now becoming my life. Rotary changed me as a person. It has given me a new dimension.

Someone said 'A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen and a hand willing to help others'. During a recent visit to a village in Uluberia, it was very disturbing to see the lives of people in rural Bengal. We are very fortunate at our end. Let us share some of this with those who really need our help. Very correctly said 'Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.'

Following is the vision and goal for the year 2021-22. This year we focus



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on Medical projects, Upliftment of a village, environment development and women empowerment.

During the PRE PETS at Kolaghat, DG Pabirda asked all President Elects, to do one project in the coming year which was close to their heart and he coined the term “Dil Se”.

Prabirda, this would be my ‘Dil se’

Project “Utthan” would develop and uplift the lives of people living in a village called Shivtala Purbopara in Uluberia having 150 homes and 700 beneficiaries. There would be installation of Tubewells, Private Toilets and Solar Lights. Training camps would be arranged to educate residents on garbage disposal, clean environment, hygiene and nutrition. In order to increase source of income, women self help groups would be formed. There are plans to set up puffed rice units, develop fishery and poultry and organic farming. Primary education for the children at Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya which is close by. Some internal road repairs with the assistance of the local Panchayat and Corporation. This village would be developed in two years as a model village.

Project ‘Jeevan Jyoti’, Under this project, medical check ups would be done in the three RCC areas, Uluberia, Amtala and Sunderbans. Total number of beneficiaries would be around 2000. Basic parameters would be checked, along with children vaccination and women’s medical issues. There will be periodic visit of Doctors and all medical records shall be maintained of the beneficiaries. Critical or serious cases would be referred to Government Hospitals and assistance provided as possible.

Project ‘Van Vaibhav’, An afforestation drive is planned in sizeable tracts of vacant land in rural Bengal.

The club would open their third

Interact Club at BDM International, Kolkata. Our recently chartered second Interact Club at Indus Valley World School, would have their first year of running in the year 2021-22

Our club would be supporting Rotary Club of Mahanagar in project Urja and have confirmed the dialysis treatment of four patients to be carried out at Sankarnath Dialysis Center, Kolkata. We hope to treat further more patients, through this project.

A project on artificial mobility aids is under the planning stage and we hope to have it finalised.

Expanding the Rotary Family, is a key goal for all Clubs. We have committed to add at least five new members. Today four new members would be joining the Chowrenghee Family.

The Club would continue on its focus in Literacy and Water-Sanitation programs

Project: ‘Gift of Water’, This Global Grant Project, was approved by the Foundation in February 2021. The project size is over US\$ 200,000. The work on the project started in April 2021. Through this project, 28 tubewells, 450 private toilets and 16 community baths will be installed in 17 villages, covering 8 areas/districts of West Bengal for nearly 20000 beneficiaries. This project would be completed by March 2023.

Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya, at Uluberia, We continue to impart primary education to nearly 300 children till Grade Four. Further computer coaching and online digital classes would be expanded. We plan to increase the classes to Grade 5 and beyond, depending on the pandemic situation.

Covid has shaken the world. Many have lost their dear ones and many are still suffering. We as Rotarians have a responsibility and a role to play. Some good work was done last

year. We shall continue our services in this fight over covid.

Our list of service should not end here. We have a lot more to do.

My request to all my friends in Chowrenghee, that let us set high goals and serve together to those who need us. God has been kind to us. Let us share some part of that kindness with others. Requesting members to please come forward and participate in club projects. Donate for a good cause. We assure you that your contributions would be well spent and you would feel proud to be associated with the projects. Covid has affected our regular mode of fund raising through Parampara. Let this situation, not affect our good work and new ideas. The club needs your support and contribution to keep all its projects on. Friends, let us create a meaning to our lives and jointly serve together.

Shekharji, beautifully said, during the launch of the annual Logo & Theme

Live for others

Care for others

Serve Others

Change their lives

This is the best way to live our lives

Let us follow his dream and rotate the wheel as we “Serve to Change Lives”. We at Chowrenghee shall do this.

Chapter 18 of Bhagwat Gita says

Datavyam iti yad danam

Diyate nupakarine

Dese kale ca patre ca

Tad danam sattvikam smrtam

Charity given out of duty, without expectation of return at the proper time and place, and to a worthy person is considered to be in the mode of goodness.

Thank you again for this honour and let us continue this beautiful journey of serving others and making our lives meaningful.

About Rohit Kedia

Club Secretary & Editor, 2021-22



Born and brought up in Kolkata, Rohit did his schooling from La Martiniere for Boys and graduated with a B.Com (Honours) degree. He has no siblings. He is a second-generation Rotarian with his father being a past member of the first club of District 3291, Rotary Club of Calcutta for more than 20 years.

Traditionally, his family has had business interests in jute and tea. However, with the recent paradigm shifts in the business landscape and evolution of new technologies, the desire was to explore something contemporary. With that in mind, he set up a new company that forayed into telematics, a promising new science that lies at the intersection of telecommunications, the internet and vehicular engineering. It is mainly used to provide tracking solutions to commercial fleet vehicles.

In his leisure time, Rohit can be found immersed in a book or an engrossing series on any of the OTT channels.

He is married to Radhika. Together, they share a love of travelling to new places and enjoying a meal cooked to perfection.

In this Rotary year, he takes on the dual roles of Club Secretary and Editor. This will be his third consecutive year as Editor.

Club Secretary *Says*

It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I take on the responsibility of Club Secretary this year. I joined Chowrenghee in 2001 in its second year and have been witness to the efforts by its past leaders that have gone far beyond mere tokenism and have created a tangible and tremendous difference in the lives of the disadvantaged by way of community development, critical medical intervention, vocational training and not to forget, the landmark fundraiser exhibition Parampara, which is the fountainhead of all these endeavours.

Any club that carries such a rich legacy will surely have demanding

standards for the succeeding teams to emulate. However, I have no worries on that front. In Vikram, Chowrenghee has found a leader who is not just a meticulous planner and organizer but also a model of sincerity and commitment. Despite being a close friend I can vouch for this with absolute objectivity and not a hint of bias as I have worked with him closely in the last few months on planning this year. I can also testify to his attention to detail while not losing sight of the macro picture.

My thanks to Vikram for including me in his team. I do look forward to working closely with him this year as we attempt to give shape to RI President Shekhar Mehta's, and closer home, DG Prabirda's vision.

I would like to quote Shekhar Mehtaji who echoed the great philosopher Swami Vivekananda in his theme address.. Swami Vivekananda said: "When you help someone, do not think that you are obliging him or her. In fact, it is he or she who is obliging you by giving you an opportunity to give back something to this world from where we have received so much. In life, take the position of the donor or the server, and yet be so humble in giving and serving that let the donor or server kneel down and ask: 'May I give? May I serve?'"

Friends, let us all join hands. Together, let us **Serve to Change Lives**

Rohit Kedia



When you help someone, do not think that you are obliging him or her.

Meet the New Additions to our Family



ADITI SARAOGI

Aditi first trained under Mansimran Singh of Andretta Pottery and later under Ray Meeker and Deborah Smith of Golden Bridge Pottery. Later, she has been the artist-in-residence with Isabelle Roux, France and thereafter in the Yueji Kiln International Ceramic Art Centre in Dehua, China; Sandra Black, Australia and Ange Peter, India. Nature and her myriad moods inspire her. The sheer abundance of it is overwhelming at times. Along this path, however, she does pause to smell the flowers! She works with porcelain and earthenware.

Aditi also is one of the pioneers behind AFSA- Fired Arts in Kolkata, which promotes fired arts such as ceramics, glass and metal through various events. She has also curated many shows (Delhi Blue Pottery in 2018 and Gallery Sanskriti 2015); been part of residencies (Global Art Festival 2020 and Tata Steel Art Residency 2018) and worked on many commissions for hotels, corporates, restaurants and private individuals.



GAURAV HIMATSINGKA

I am a 3rd generation industrialist, passionate about the stock market and finance, love sports, especially cricket, enjoy travelling. Born and educated at Mumbai and UK, I found Operational Research and Accounting/ Finance most interesting. Was a gold medalist and on the merit list while graduating my Bachelor's in Commerce. Set up a manufacturing unit catering to fabricated structure requirements in power plants, steel plants, bridges, airports, highrises etc. Married to Payal and have 2 children, Arushi and Ayushmaan. Payal is a housewife. Arushi studied Economics and Data Analytics at Singapore before completing her Masters in Data Science from NYU and is now working on her start up. Ayushmaan is an Industrial Engineer from Purdue University and has just joined the family business.



ANIL KISHOREPURIA

I am a businessman operating in the manufacturing and real estate industries. Born in Bhagalpur, I was raised in Kolkata where I did my schooling and my undergraduate education was at St. Xavier's College. I am passionate about music, social service and love to eat out at new places. I am also a regular practitioner of Satyananda yoga and meditation.

I am married to Shruti, a homemaker. I am a father to two children, Karan and Krishnav who are avid sports and startup enthusiasts.



GAURAV KUMAR GUPTA

Born and brought up in Kolkata I completed my schooling at La Martiniere for Boys and graduated from St Xavier's College with a B. Com (Hons.) degree, with also a Diploma in the Business Case Study from Harvard University, USA, before joining our family business of Tea. Our family which has been in tea since 1920, owns a tea estate in Assam and I am a third-generation entrepreneur in this business.

I am a passionate music lover and have learnt vocal Indian Classical music for many years. I also enjoy Hindi and Urdu Literature, an interest which I have been pursuing since the past few years. I am currently also involved with organizations like the Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad and the Calcutta Heritage Collective. I also enjoy travelling and meeting new people.

My wife, Ritu and I have two sons, Pranav & Akshit. Ritu had been involved with the setting up and management of the Add Life Gym & Spa, before moving on to retailing curated tableware. She is currently pursuing her passion for floral decorations and has participated in international events. My sons returned to India having graduated from USA and are currently working with me.

BOARD 2021-22



Vikram Tantia
President



Deepak Saraf
Imm Past President



Manisha Srivastava
President Elect



Rohit Kedia
Secretary & Editor



Sadhana Agarwal
Treasurer



Alka Didwania
Sergeant-at-Arms



Sangita Todi
Club Trainer



Abhenav Khettry
Jt Editor



Jayshree Sanghvi
Dir, Club Administration



Nita Sethia
Dir, Community Service



Dr Pradeep Saraf
Dir, Community Service (M)



Ritu Almal
Dir, Membership



Urmi Basu
Dir, TRF



Neeraj Kanoria
Dir, International Service



Rajeev Ginodia
Dir, International Service



G M Kapur
Dir, Public Relations

MANAGING COMMITTEES

CLUB PROGRAMS	
Chair	Manisha Srivastava
Committee	Sangita Todi, G M Kapur, Bharat Gupta, Abhenav Khettry, Leena Kejriwal
WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA	
Chair	Ritu Almal
Committee	Deepak Saraf, Rohit Kedia, Manisha Srivastava
ATTENDANCE	
Chair	Nutan Jayaswal
Committee	Neeraj Kanoria, Jayshree Sanghvi, Alka Jain, Rajni Jhunjunwala,
FELLOWSHIP	
Chair	Rita Punwani
Committee	Leena Jairath, Divya Jalan, Ravi Kajaria, Archana Chitlangia, Sangeeta Sood
MEMBERSHIP	
Chair	Ritu Almal
Committee	Manoj Saraf, Bharat Gupta, Rajeev Ginodia, Sanjeev Ajmera, Sanjeev Daruka

FUNDRAISING	
Chair	Deepak Saraf
Committee	Pawan Kejriwal, Rajiv Jindal, Manoj Saraf, Himanshu Ajmera, Rajeev Ginodia
LITERACY	
Chair	Sangita Todi
Committee	Deepak Saraf, Nita Sethia, Meena Bansal, Rajni Jhunjunwala, Nutan Jayaswal, Sangita Patodia,
VOCATIONAL	
Chair	Meena Khemka
Committee	Meena Bansal, Leena Jairath, Alka Chopra, Kavita Himatsingka
WATER & SANITATION	
Chair	Urmi Basu
Committee	Nita Sethia, Vikram Tantia, Rajiv Jindal, Neeraj Kanoria, Piyush Agarwal
NEW GENERATION	
Chair	Sudeshna Roychowdhury
Committee	Nita Sethia, Abhenav Khettry, Alka Jain, Nutan Jayaswal, Ruchira Prasad

Vision 2021-22

In the year 2021-22, the Club would focus on:

- ◆ Medical projects
- ◆ Women empowerment
- ◆ Environment
- ◆ Development of a model village

Utthan

We develop a village called Shivtala Purbopara in Uluberia. This village has 150 homes and total beneficiaries are around 600.

- ◆ Tubewells will be installed to provide clean drinking water.
- ◆ There will be solar energy lights, to meet the electricity requirements.
- ◆ Private toilets will be installed in those houses not having any such facility.
- ◆ Training camps would be arranged to educate residents on garbage disposal, clean environment, hygiene and nutrition.
- ◆ In order to increase source of income, women self-help groups would be formed. There are plans to set up

sanitary pad and puffed rice units, along with organic farming and mosquito net stitching.

- ◆ Primary education for the children shall be arranged in Chowrenghee Vidyalaya in Uluberia which is close by.
- ◆ Internal road repairs would be done along with the assistance of the local Panchayat and Corporation.

Jeevan Jyoti

Medical check ups would be done in the three RCCs at Uluberia, Amtala and Sunderbans. Total beneficiaries would be around 2000. Basic parameters would be checked along with children vaccination and women's medical issues. There will be periodic visit of doctors and all medical records would be maintained

of the beneficiaries. Critical cases would be referred to government hospitals and assistance would be provided as possible.

Van Vaibhav

An afforestation drive is planned in sizeable tracts of vacant land in rural Bengal.

New Interact Club

The club would launch its third Interact Club at BDM International, Kolkata. Our recently chartered second Interact Club at Indus Valley World School, would have their first year of running in the year 2021-22.

Dialysis Treatment

Our club would be supporting this project of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar and have confirmed the dialysis treatment of four patients to be carried out at Sankarnath Dialysis Center, Kolkata. We hope to serve more patients, through this project.

Artificial mobility aids

This project is under planning stage and we hope to have it finalized shortly.

Existing Projects

Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalaya, Uluberia

We continue to impart primary education to nearly 300 children till Grade 4. Further, computer coaching and online digital classes would be expanded. We plan to increase the classes to

Grade 5 and beyond, depending on the pandemic situation.

Gift of Water

This is a Global Grant Project, approved by The Rotary Foundation in February 2021 with an outlay of over US\$

200,000. Work began in April 2021. 28 tubewells, 450 private toilets and 16 community baths will be installed in 17 villages covering 8 areas/districts of West Bengal for nearly 20000 beneficiaries. Target time of completion would be March 2023.

2020-21 *Revisited*

CLUB SERVICE

The raging pandemic necessitated all meetings to be held online

Installation

Board 2020-21's installation was held online on 4th July. RIPE Shekhar Mehta was the Chief Guest of Honour and DG Sudip Mukherjee, Guest of Honour. It was a proud moment for the Club to have the presence of RIPE Shekhar Mehta as he had been the DG during the Charter of the Club in 2000-2001.



DG Sudip Mukherjee at his official visit

Two new members, Abhinav Khettry and Rajeev Ginodia were officially inducted into the club.

Club Assemblies

Club Officers' Training Seminar (COTS) was held on 20th June. It was attended by AG Girish Ganeriwala, ZS Sanjay Chowdhury and board members. Projects for the year were discussed.

Club Assembly was held on 25th July. AG Girish Ganeriwala was present. He gave his valuable inputs on the planned projects.

AGM was held on 18th December. The au-

dated accounts for 2019-20 were circulated amongst members and subsequently passed. Incoming President Vikram Tantia announced his Board for 2021-22.

DG visit was held on 3rd April. This was the first offline meeting after a gap of ten months.

Meetings

We had 2 joint meetings: The first was with Rotary clubs of Bombay Worli and Delhi Regalia. The second was with Rotary Club of Calcutta.

We had a diverse range of speakers:

- ◆ Sailesh Haribhakti, a senior finance professional from Mumbai spoke on the intriguing topic-Mindsets, Moonshots and Tech Innovations.
- ◆ Shri Jayant Sinha, a former Union minister detailed a radical development model for India.
- ◆ The Hero's Journey: Our own members took centrestage. In the first of the series, our veteran members, Rtns. Neeraj Kanoria, Jayshree Sanghvi and Nita Sethia gave a detailed account of their life's experiences and events that had shaped them.

In another meeting, we had the oldest and the youngest ie. Praduman Jain and Abhenav Khettry too did the same.

- ◆ Yuki Elias – on leadership.
- ◆ Monica Bhargava – on solar energy.
- ◆ Salil Acharya – a popular RJ from Mumbai, he spoke on the disrupting trends in the media during the pandemic.



RJ Salil Acharya



Namrata Mirchandani

Amita Sahaya

- ◆ Namrata Mirchandani – on Sujok therapy
- ◆ Amita Sahaya – on her book "The Shaadi Story"
- ◆ Dr. Pradyumna – on Ayurveda
- ◆ Our own Varda Goenka – on diamonds.

New Generation

A second Interact Club was launched at Indus Valley World School, the first being at Sri Sri Academy. The charter of the club was formally handed over to the school during the DG visit.

Fellowships

The confinement to online meets brought out the creative edge of the Fellowship team:

◆ “Songbola”, an inventive spin on the popular Housie. The tickets had titles of songs printed instead of numbers. As popular tracks were played, members had to cross off the titles of the songs that appeared in their tickets.

◆ “We can grow our money by investing in the Indian equity market” was the topic for our in-house debate. For the motion were Rtns. Piyush Agarwal and Himanshu Ajmera. Against it were Rtns. Sanjeev Ajmera and Abhenav Khettry.



◆ A detective game was played over Zoom. A bank robbery was staged and members had to identify the offender by interviewing the suspects who came in turn-by-turn in virtual Zoom rooms. All the suspects’ alibis had to be tallied with each other and based on it, the scene of the crime was reconstructed and the offender identified.

◆ A quiz based on popular Bollywood



numbers was conducted by Rtn. Abhenav Khettry.

Finally after a long gap we had 2 physical meets at Tolly Club and The Salt House, a popular lounge.

As of December 2020, we are now a 100% MPH club.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Chowrenghee Vidyalaya: The school was closed till January 2021 due to the pandemic. Very few children managed to somehow come in January. The School resumed normal classes in February. The school celebrated Saraswati Puja, organized a Sit & Draw competition and Sports Day.

During the pandemic, some of the members and their spouses gave online classes to some students in handicraft, painting, music, etc.

Water & Sanitation: Four tubewells were constructed, mainly in Sunderbans area. This was in collaboration with Bees Trees & Water. Good cleaning water was provided to nearly 5000 beneficiaries.



Gift of Water: This is the club’s first Global Grant project as the Host Club. Also it was the largest Global Grant project sanctioned by District 3291 in 2019-20. This project was initiated in 2019-20 but was finally approved in February, 2021, the delay occurring due to the lockdown. Through this project, 28 tubewells, 16 community baths and 450 private toilets are to be installed in 17 villages of rural West Bengal, aiding 15000 beneficiaries. This project commenced in April 2021 and would be completed by March 2023.

WINS: This is an ongoing Global Grant project where the Host Club is RC Calcutta Belur and Chowrenghee is one of the partners. Through this project, Chowrenghee

would make hand washing, drinking and sanitation facilities, in six schools. Work has been done in 2 of the schools in Uluberia. Work is in progress in 2 schools in Kalighat and 2 schools in Murshidabad.

Blanket Distribution: Nearly 600 blankets were distributed, during the winter months of December & January to beneficiaries living in Uluberia, Amtalla, Suderbans



COVID: Medicines and medical equipment donated to Ishwara Sankalpa (NGO).

2000 masks, 450 washing soaps distributed in Sunderbans through Missing Link (NGO). 100 Covid relief homeware kits distributed in Medica Super Speciality Hospital, 100 kits through CREDO (NGO). 20 kits distributed in Uluberia. A Ventilator costing 10 lakhs has been donated to Bharat Sewashram, Joka. (a hospital serving the less privileged who are COVID afflicted)



*A moment of remembrance
for 2 of our cherished family
who left us,
Sandeep Jalan
(spouse of Rtn Divya Jalan) and
Ravi Kejriwal
(spouse of PP Leena Kejriwal).
You will forever be missed*

Reminiscences

Four Past Presidents look back on their enduring memories of Chowrenghee



Good times become good memories. And through my Rotary years I have so many of them. Sometimes we live through a moment, not knowing it's value, until it becomes part of your very special loved memory. Taking on the initiative to form a new Rotary club is one such special memory. After some

deliberations and some insistence by my good friend Meena Bansal, I took on the initiative.... a decision that laid out a path for beautiful friendships and heart warming service.

Among the very fond recollections are the day we had our first meeting on 9.9.99 at my residence; the first meeting that was held at The Park Hotel with so much enthusiasm; the day we were handed over our club's Charter in a beautifully organised ceremony at the Taj Bengal; the joy and satisfaction felt when giving the first cheque towards community service to Dr Chand Bhargava for the medical care of a child; the opening day of 'Apanalaya', the vocational center we started with so much passion and hard

work; the heartrending day spent interacting with families of 4 villages that we adopted in Bhangur; the jubilant day I received Sangeeta Sood's email (while holidaying in Alaska!) informing about our club receiving 12 trophies at the District award ceremony and of course the enjoyable fun filled fellowships are some of my fondest recollections of Year 1 in Rotary.

Down the years each project we have done has been so special. Generosity makes us human and keeps life going, and our continued acts of giving will keep creating good memories as the years go by.

Sangita Todi
Charter President, 2000-01



My Fond Memories of Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowrenghee

- ◆ First club meeting in September 1999 at the residence of Rtn. Meena Khemka and mentored by Rtns. Ratan Arora and Santosh Arora.
- ◆ Every single meeting of the club

was mentored by the late Rtn. Deepak Atal. Formation of the foundation of the club.

- ◆ The club's Charter presentation ceremony. The Charter was presented by the then DG Shekhar Mehta (now RI President) in March 2000.
- ◆ The first fundraiser was an art exhibition organized by Rtn. Ambica Beri.
- ◆ I was the Club's first Editor of the bulletin Breakfast News.
- ◆ The very first Parampara held at Ice Skating Rink in the year 2000.
- ◆ My tenure as the Club's President in 2001-02 and the association with Dominique Bonte, the then President of Rotary Club of Troi,

France, with whom we did a number of matching grants.

- ◆ The annual awards ceremony of the District held every year at the end of June.
- ◆ All the Installation ceremonies of the club.
- ◆ The efforts put in by all the Presidents of the club and the team members.
- ◆ The Rotary Chowrenghee Vidyalay at Uluberia.
- ◆ Generous contributions of the club members towards annual giving and the various community projects.

Praduman Jain
President, 2001-02



Rotary Club of Calcutta Chowringhee was chartered on 15th March, 2000, at a glittering event at the Taj Bengal. It was a night to remember what with our Charter President and members pulling out all stops to make it a memorable one. Members who have joined recently may wonder why we spell our name Chowringhee rather than the well-worn Chowringhee. The

secret is in numerology and I can assure you that this has certainly stood us in good stead. The Charter night had the who's who of the district's Rotary World in attendance. PDG Ravi Sehgal as well as our own Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta who gave us the Charter took great pride in predicting that this would be one of the most happening clubs of the district. We had a stalwart like Rtn. Deepak Atal as the Governor's Special Representative. It is unfortunate we have lost Rtn Deepak recently. His continued advice laid the foundation of our club's growth and activities.

Chowringhee certainly turned out to be a real vibrant and vivacious club. We worked hard and played hard. We had a variety of projects with all our

members actively participating which unfortunately is not so now. I do hope happy days will be here again and we will have more members take active interest in the club. Our fellowships were the talk of the town. We had a real variety entertainment programme. Of course, that aspect of our club's activities continues with great vigour.

Every club goes through its ups and downs. While we have seen some degree of lassitude in the past, we are delighted to see our new team in place and we are sure the club will get injected with the necessary energy to take us back to its original vibrant mode.

GM Kapur
President, 2003-04



RI had an international program called Group Study Exchange GSE. Every year 6-10 selected young professionals under a team leader from a RI District would be hosted by a District of another country. Rotary clubs of that Dist would by turn volunteer to be their hosts for a few days.

Whenever our club was host for the GSE team, I enjoyed interacting with these young enthusiastic, intelligent minds.

My most special memory was of the team that came from Netherlands in 2013 when I was President of our club. This was also the last time RI was organising GSE programs.

I accompanied the team almost everywhere for the entire 4 days they were our club's guest. We visited our school RCV Uluberia & they distributed blankets there. Rollick Icecreams hosted lunch for us at their factory. We also attended the 2 day Dist Conference where they gave a presentation. They attended our club meeting at the Park.

Apart from work they had a lot of fun cultural experiences also. They got to taste different Indian cuisines. They danced to the Bhangra beat at a Lohri nite.

They had the good fortune to attend the mehendi & wedding of PP Ravi Kajaria's son. They were enamoured by the whole glamour which inspired the girls to try their hand on wearing a saree.

2 girls of a team of 6, stayed at my house. We struck a great friendship together which continues till today even after all these years!

Nita Sethia
President, 2012-13, 2019-20

Then & Now



Late Rtn Deepak Atal whose guidance at time of our club formation was instrumental. He will always be missed.

1st Meeting (Preliminary) at No 2, Green's Park on 9-7-99 at

Members Present:

- 1) Amar Agarwalla
- 2) Sadhana Agarwal
- 3) Neera Bafna
- 4) Ambica Bera
- 5) Archana Chatterjee
- 6) Dr. Pooja Dey
- 7) Alka Jain
- 8) Naitan Jayaswal
- 9) Praduman Jain
- 10) Neeraj Karora
- 11) Meena Khanna
- 12) Dr. C.S. Mukherjee
- 13) Sushila Mishra
- 14) Manuora Monge
- 15) ~~Vidya Mohan~~
- 16) Riti Punjani
- 17) Jagjiti Todi

Guests from Rotary Club, Victoria

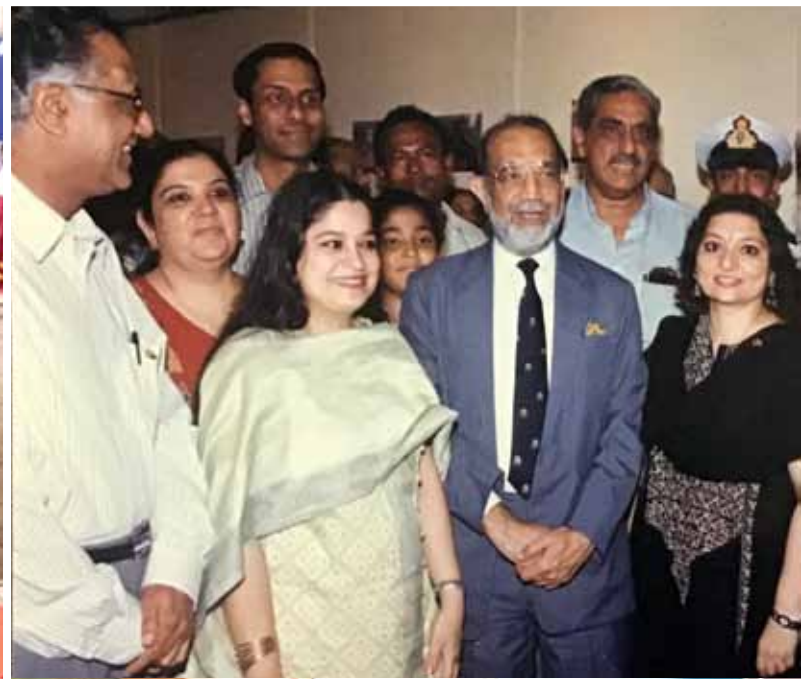
- 1) Rtn. Isha Bhosale
- 2) Rtn. Renuka Ghosh - Secy
- 3) Rtn. Mansi Baral

Guest Speakers

- 1) Rtn. Chandramohan } on Rotay
- 2) Rtn. Pradip Chatterjee

The 2nd Meeting which was scheduled for 24th September '99 at 2, E was not held due to floods in the city.







Members on the RI Theme



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Helping one community might not change the whole world, but it could change the world for that community.

- VIKRAM TANTIA

Service changes the life not just of the receiver but also of the giver. So join hands and change the lives of human beings.

- PRADEEP SARAF

Rotary has given me the opportunity to serve mankind. To make a difference, bring about a positive change in a less fortunate person's life.

- NITA SETHIA



With the Covid pandemic spreading globally and the havoc it is creating coupled with natural disasters, shortage of drinking water, medicines, food scarcity, Rotary around the world is doing its fair share to "serve to change lives"

- NEERAJ KANORIA

Rotary is an international movement which never fails to serve to change lives be it polio eradication, natural calamities or pandemics.

- JAYSHREE SANGHVI

We can really change the World if we care enough. Let's change our thought and we will end up changing the World.

- SUDESHNA ROYCHOWDHURY

Serving others is an opportunity that one should be grateful for

- DEEPAK SARAF

100%

Attendance in 2020-21

- Sangita Todi
- Jayshree Sanghvi
- Vikram Tantia
- Neeraj Kanoria
- Nita Sethia
- Rohit Kedia
- Ritu Almal
- Manoj Saraf
- GM Kapur
- Urmi Basu
- Sadhana Agarwal
- Sudeshna Roychowdhury

Birthdays

July

- 4th Prasad Ruchira
- 10th Basu Urmi
- 12th Gulati Sangita
- 14th Jairath Leena
- 18th Khanna R K

September

- 1st Neotia Dinesh
- 2nd Chopra Alka
- 4th Kanoi Nisha
- 7th Jain Alka
- 14th Todi Sangita
- 27th Chitlangia Archana
- 30th Modi Meenakshi

August

- 7th Didwania Alka
- 12th Himatsingka Kavita
- 20th Agarwal Piyush M
- 20th Baid Rohini



Anniversaries

July	9th	Agarwal Anita	Nirmal Kr
August	15th	Khanna R K	Maria

