

ROSEC



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

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President : Navaneet Manaksia

Secretary : Lalit Mittal

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Meet Rotary's New President, Shekhar Mehta, envisions Rotary's next chapter – and is ready to make it a reality



Shekhar and Rashi Mehta at their home in Kolkata. Rashi painted the picture Mother and Child, behind her.

Over the years, I caught glimpses of Shekhar Mehta when he came to One Rotary

Center in Evanston, Illinois, for Board of Directors meetings. I met him formally during one of the days of back-to-back meetings with various staff members that every incoming Rotary president participates in. During the session I attended, he was the most relaxed person in the room, despite being the only one suffering from jet lag. He was alert, patient, and asked perceptive questions — not surprising for someone as successful as he is in his professional and philanthropic life. I kept thinking that he was assessing each of us to see how we could be recruited to help him achieve his dreams for Rotary.

I was lucky to have met Shekhar in person back when we could meet in person. We are now well into the second year of the global COVID-19 pandemic, and as I write this, India is in the depths of a tragic outbreak. Rotary has had to make adjustments, but the business of Rotary goes on.

In a normal year, one of the Rotary editors would have traveled to Kolkata, where Shekhar lives with his wife, Rashi. We would have spent time with him, his family members, and his friends and fellow Rotarians, exploring how his upbringing and adulthood in India have shaped his perspective on life and on Rotary. This year, of course, no one was able to travel — so instead, we asked the people who know Shekhar best to tell us about him in their own words.

In the following pages, members of Shekhar's family, some of his oldest friends, his personal assistant, and his presidential aide share anecdotes and talk about the man they know, in order to help Rotary

members everywhere feel that they know him, too. Many of you will, of course, meet him yourselves — virtually, if not in person — over the course of the coming year.

Shekhar Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, has been a Rotarian since 1985. He trained as an accountant and founded a real estate development company, Skyline Group, which he also chairs. But his professional title tells only a small part of the story of who he is. He is also a director of the India arm of Operation Eyesight Universal, a Canada-based nonprofit focused on preventing avoidable blindness. He helped establish more than 15 eye hospitals, in several Indian states, that together carry out nearly 50,000 surgeries each year. And he started Saving Little Hearts, a project that has facilitated more than 2,500 heart surgeries for children from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and some African countries and that is now an India-wide program.

As you'll read in these pages, he also has been actively involved in disaster relief work. Among other undertakings, he helped build 500 homes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

At the International Assembly this year, Shekhar talked about how he and some fellow Rotarians decided to start a local version of ShelterBox, a Rotarian-founded organization based in the UK. "We named it Shelter Kit and put 52 items of daily need in a large trunk," he told the incoming district governors. "Over the last 15 years, in every major disaster in India, Indian Rotarians have volunteered to bring Shelter Kits to areas struck by disasters." The program already has served about 75,000 people. Shekhar also served on the ShelterBox board of trustees.

And he is also the architect of the TEACH program, which aims to do nothing less than end illiteracy in India. Although Shekhar is skilled in the business arts, he prefers to engage his other fluencies. He told me that, after so much studying and reading during his career, he now favors learning by talking to people. He added, "I hate accounting." It all follows his belief that we would do well to think from our hearts as much as our minds.

ROSEC - Board 2021-22

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ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR

Rtn Shayak Gupta

Plans and Objectives for RY 2021-2022

1. Service Projects under Seven Areas of Focus

Area of Focus: Basic Education and Literacy

- Outside Plaster for the newly constructed portion 1. of the school at Goalbati
- A library is planned in the school once the schools becomes fully functional post pandemic which will stack the study materials and books

Area of Focus: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- A Sanitary Napkin dispensing machine is planned to be installed for girls student that will also cater to the needs of the local women
- A water filter will be installed once the school re-opens post pandemic

Area of Focus: Supporting Environment

- The club will continue to conduct more such drives under 'Avoid Honking' Project at different locations throughout RY 2021-2022

Area of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment

- The club plans to do more Covid-19 vaccination drives (around Goalbati area this time) as still a lot of people are still without vaccination. We will take support from fellow Rotarians for this

2. District Sports for Rotary Public Image and Fund Raising

Area of Focus:

Peace Building & Conflict Prevention

1. We plan to arrange Intra District Cricket tournament around February/March 2022, if Covid situation is under control and no adverse government norms are there
 3. Net membership growth of at least 25% by the end of RY 2021-22
 4. Foundation Support of at least US \$ 500
 5. Physical Club Fellowship Meet and Participation in District Projects and Programmes
 6. Community Economic Development
- We would provide vocational training like sewing and also making of cane baskets

Anniversary Greetings
Mrs and Rtn Pravin Jha
on 4th July



Mrs & Rtn. Kandarpa
Kanti Das
on 5th July



Mrs & Rtn. Vivek
Kejeriwal
on 8th July



Birthday Greetings
Rtn. Sitansu Banerjee
on 1st July



Rtn. Naveen Goenka
on 3rd July



Rtn. Navneet Krishna
Sharma
on 25th July

