



Mahanagar

Date: 05th January, 2024

VOLUME No. XXXIII ISSUE No. 14



VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

JANUARY

RI President: Gordon R McNally
District Governor: Hira Lal Yadav

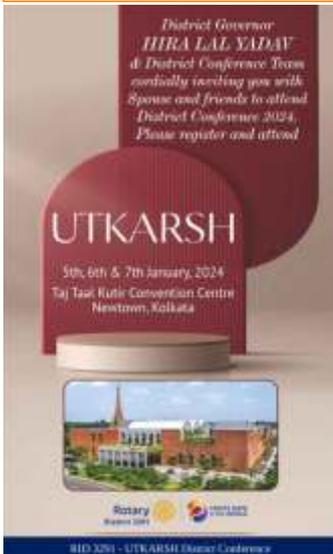
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UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

6-7th January, 2024



NEXT RWM

18th January 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear friends,

"Celebrate endings—for they precede new beginnings". As the clock of time comes to a full circle, we add years to our life. Every end signifies a new beginning. Wish you all a very Happy New year -2024!! May this new year bring the fresh winds of Hope and Happiness.

Friends, half of our tenure is over. It gave us a fantastic opportunity to organise four major fundraising events to serve mankind. Now next six months is an action time to use these resources to create Hope in the world. Thank you one and all for shouldering responsibilities and consistent support in organising projects and fellowships that enable us to accomplish so much.

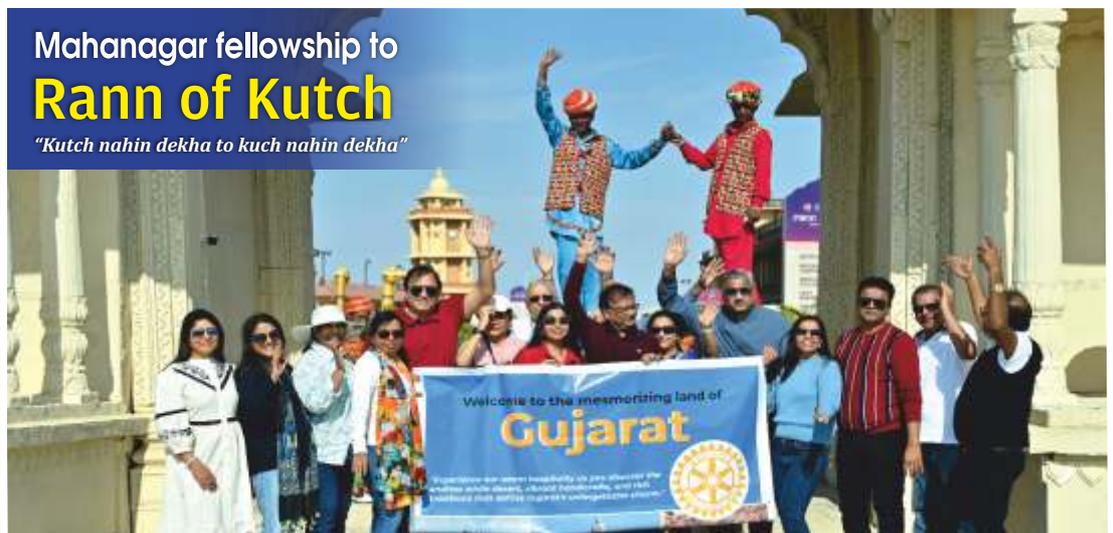
January is a special month for Mahanagar as the foundation of our Club was laid on 2nd January 1991. The seed sown 33 years ago bloomed into a beautiful tree with firm Roots. Our club is the third largest club in the District 3291 and one of the most prestigious one. A big salute to all Past Presidents and Senior members who nurtured this tree with dedication and passion and taking Mahanagar to a glorious height.

January is also a month dedicated to Vocational service. Paul Harris wrote: "Each Rotarian is a connecting link between the idealism of Rotary and their trade or profession". Vocational Service is the way Rotary fosters and supports the application of the Ideal of Service to the pursuit of all vocations. As Winston Churchill said "The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible and achieves the impossible". Welcome this new month with a grateful heart and open arms. Embrace the opportunities that lie ahead!

- Rtn. Jyoti Mahipal

Mahanagar fellowship to Rann of Kutch

"Kutch nahin dekha to kuch nahin dekha"



HIGHLIGHTS

President's Message | Mahanagar Fellowship | Editor's Note | Last RWM | Proud Moment | Charter Day | Rann of Kutch | Projects Adhigam Bhoomi | Test Your Knowledge | Answer for Puzzle 11 | Minutes | Spotlight | A Poem | Birthdays & Anniversaries

Editor's Note



Here's to a Party Season!

The New Year is a time for looking back and for looking forward. Some people make resolutions to break bad habits, create new ones or maintain existing ones. The editorial team of Mahanagar Bulletin today also has a resolution it intends to keep: we promise to continue to collect engaging images, and photo galleries related to Rotary Mahanagar and to keep you, our dear readers, informed about projects and fellowships.

Six months and 13 issues in, and I am beginning to wonder where all the time has gone! I would like to thank all those who have stuck with us through this wonderful half year journey. When I started Editor post few months ago, it started as a passion. There was no plan, there was no budget, and there weren't even any expectations. But today, when I look at the response the bulletin has received, it has filled me with more than I ever thought possible. From chasing for project reports, spotlight, fellowship pictures, keeping track of puzzle answers, we have managed to deliver the best of everything—from wonderful president message, to project reports, speaker introductions and all minutes of meeting. Time, they say, is the best judge and teacher, so today, having withstood the test of time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of my team –Editorial, Reporters and Design, without whom this would not have been possible... I would also like to thank our advertisers for their undeterred support.

In this issue, we are switching puzzles to Rotary Quiz, which will give you more insight of your own rotary history, glimpses of our fellowship trip to Rann of Kutch, and Know you past presidents.

Do let us know if there are any topics you would want us to include or if you have any other queries. Tell us what you love, tell us what you hate! We would love to hear from you irrespective!

On that note, lets welcome 2024 with a bang and to not just be great, but awesome this year!

Last RWM

Meeting was declared open by club president Jyoti Mahipal. After National Anthem, a visual recap of the recently organized Kutch trip was presented, eliciting expressions of appreciation from the President.

During the meeting, PRIP Shekhar Mehta, shared the club successfully raised 36 lacs through SAFGR fund raiser event. Fund raised will be utilized for various impactful projects, including Adult Literacy, Back to School initiatives, and Byju's scholarships benefiting 500 students. Rs. 2 lacs were earmarked for our flagship project 'Udaan'.

PRIP Shekhar Mehta also took the opportunity to introduce Pramila Dugar as the President Elect for Rotary Year 2024-25, and she, in turn, introduced her board members.

To add a festive touch to the meeting, Christmas Housie was played, and the winners of the Christmas lucky draw were announced. Additionally, the winners of the previous week's puzzle, Pradeep Agrawal and Shweta Chowdhury, were acknowledged.

The meeting concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony to celebrate the birthdays of members during the week. As the President expressed gratitude to all participants and contributors, the meeting terminated on a positive note, leaving a lasting impression of camaraderie and achievement.

-By Manju Agarwal



Proud Moment

Our PRIP Rtn Shekhar & Rashi Mehta had the pleasure of meeting the Hon' ble Governor of West Bengal Shri CV Ananda Bose.

Rtn Mehta briefed him about the good work Rotary is doing. Shri Bose was very appreciative and was quite interested in the programs and projects of Rotary. There were extensive discussions on various development initiatives of his interest like Literacy, Empowering Girls, Dialysis etc.

Hon' ble Governor presented his book to Rtn Shekhar Mehta and has invited us to join him in Serving to Change Lives.



CHARTER DAY

Mahanagar celebrates Charter Day every year for the day it was founded and received Charter certificate from Rotary International. On the day, we celebrate by cutting a ceremonial cake and honoring our Past Presidents who had dedicated their valuable time and money for club and community development.

**LET'S MEET
THE PILLARS
OF MAHANAGAR**

They are not born,
they are made.



PP Sanjay & Reena Bhandari
You Are The Key
(1985-86)



PRIP Shekhar & Rashi Mehta
Look Beyond Yourself
(1991-92)



PP Mahendra & Uma Mohta
*Act With Integrity, Serve
With Love, Work With Peace*
(1995-96)



PP Rajendra & Shashi Makharia
*Build The Future With
Action And Vision*
(1996-97)



PP Nisheeth & Sarla Totla
Mankind Is Our Business
(2001-02)



PP Pradeep & Sudha Rawat
Sow The Seeds Of Love
(2002-03)



PP Ajay & Lajo Lodha
Lend A Hand
(2003-04)



PP Anand & Jyoti Sureka
Service Above Self
(2004-05)



PP DR. R.P. & Anu Vidhawan
Lead The Way
(2006-07)



PP Mahesh & Saroj Shah
The Future Of Rotary Is In Your Hands
(2009-10)



PP Rita Jhawar
*Reach Within To Embrace
Humanity* (2011-12)



PP Satish & Pushpa Bansal
Peace Through Service
(2012-13)



PP Harkesh & Neena Gupta
Engage Rotary, Change Lives
(2013-14)



PP Vikram & Rashmi Doogar
Light Up Rotary
(2014-15)



PP Rakesh & Rashmi Jain
Be The Gift To The World
(2015-16)



PP Deepak & Ritu Choudhury
Rotary Serving Humanity
(2016-17)



PP Sanjay & Pramila Dugar
Rotary Making Difference
(2017-18)



PP Chitra & Manoj Agarwal
Be The Inspiration
(2018-19)



PP Vinod & Jyoti Mahipal
Rotary Connects The World
(2019-20)



PP Pranay & Neena Agarwal
Rotary Opens Opportunities
(2020-21)



PP Ashok & Usha Agarwal
Serve To Change Lives
(2021-22)



PP Manish & Aparna Biyani
Imagine Rotary
(2022-23)

Rann of Kutch contd...

We started this wonderful journey on 17th of December as the entire group arrived in Ahmedabad early in the morning. Our first stop was the serene Sabarmati Ashram, a place of remarkable beauty. Following a delightful lunch at an exotic local restaurant, we boarded a flight to Bhuj, our gateway to the magnificent Tent City. After a two-hour journey, we finally arrived at the Tent City. The sprawling, well-appointed tents offered every comfort, providing a refreshing respite. After some rest, we gathered for dinner and joined in the festive activities, including engaging in spirited Garba dances and capturing memorable moments.

The next morning, we embarked on a bus journey to witness the splendour of Kala Dungar, or the Black Hill, a renowned landmark in Bhuj. This elevated point, the highest in Kutch, treated us to breath-taking vistas and lush greenery after a short trek and an invigorating camel ride. Following this, we visited Gandhi Nu Gam, a quaint village, for a traditional Gujarati lunch and indulged in shopping for exquisite local handicrafts. Our much-anticipated destination, the White Rann, awaited us next. The sight of the expansive white sands stretching as far as the eye could see left us in awe. Engaging in activities such as horse riding, paragliding, and quad biking amidst this ethereal landscape was truly exhilarating. As the day wound down, we returned to the Tent City for more festivities, dancing, and a delightful stand-up comedy show.

The following morning, bidding adieu to the Tent City, we resumed our journey back to Bhuj. En route, we explored two intriguing attractions: the Smriti Van Earthquake Memorial Museum and the Vande Mataram Memorial Complex. The Earthquake Memorial Museum, a poignant tribute to the 2002 Bhuj earthquake victims, offered an immersive experience. Subsequently, at the Vande Mataram Memorial Complex, we marvelled at exquisite miniature renditions of iconic national monuments. It included vivid animations and video depictions narrating the entire independence movement. The day concluded with a mesmerizing light and sound show, followed by a wholesome dinner, before departing Bhuj by train for our next destination.

On the penultimate day, our itinerary included a visit to the Statue of Unity and the Valley of Flowers. The grandeur of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel statue and the engaging activities, including a captivating light and sound show, left us enchanted. After an eventful day, we gathered for an evening of lively music and a sumptuous dinner organized at the hotel.

The final day began with a leisurely breakfast before boarding the bus to the airport. During the journey, cherished memories were shared, and favourite moments recounted. As we reached home in Kolkata, each of us departed for our respective homes, concluding a tremendously successful and enjoyable trip.

-By Pranav Choudhury

(Son of Deepak-Ritu Choudhury)







Project Bloodline

During this period (13.12.2023 to 20.12.2023).

Our Club Carried out 2 Blood Grouping Camps and registered 116 SOS donors for our Bloodline.

We also met need for 04 Patient.



Bloodline App

Bloodline App awareness camp and registration done on 22nd December at Hazra Road, Kolkata.



Distribution of Meri Kitaab

On 18th December, we distributed **MERI KITAB**, chocolates, biscuits, stationery items and Christmas caps at school for hearing impaired at Oral School for deaf children at 4B, Short Street, Kolkata.



Project Food Bank

- On 21st December, we distributed 60 ration kits to the needy people under project Food Bank. Each kit amounting to Rs 1600 was of 27 kgs (including rice, atta, dal, chana, oil, haldi and salt) and was sponsored by Protiviti. Around 15 volunteers from Protiviti were present during the distribution process.
- On 26th Dec, we distributed Oreo biscuit and 5 Star Cadbury to 225 students of our Happy School (South Calcutta National School). The joy on the face of students was unbelievable.
- On 30th Dec, we visited Ishwar Sankalp, organization for mentally challenged homeless women in Chetla and served Maggi, food items from our food bank.



Annadaan Mahadaan

- On 29th December, we conducted 2 Projects of Annadaan Mahadaan at Chetala Hanuman Mandir and Chitaranjan Hospital, Hazra, sponsored by Rtn Lavesh & Sangita Poddar and Rtn Pawan & Kusum Goenka respectively. It benefitted nearly 500 people.
- On 30th December, another Project was conducted where we distributed cooked food at Chetla Hanuman Mandir to 300 people sponsored by Rtn Praveen & Veera Jain.





Project Dignity

Under Global Grant 2236224, 65 new lot of toilets are under construction.



Netralaya

From 1st July to 31st December 2023, 90 Paid and 1800 free surgeries were done at our Mahanagar Eye Hospital, costing around Rs. 5,40,000 and Rs. 37,80,000 respectively.



Project Paediatric Cancer

On 4th January, our Member & Volunteer Rtn Sanghamitra Ghosh, distributed Fruits and Toys to the beneficiary children of our project Paediatric Cancer at SSKM Oncology ward. We appreciate her kind gesture.



A visit to School ADHIGAM BHOOMI

It's always inspiring to be a part of someone's journey of making dreams come true. Such was the opportunity for our club as we visited a new upcoming school at Pailan in Joka area. The concept of this school is quite unique. The dreamer Mukti Gupta along with six more enlightened friends, are building a school, where they shall give education to 1000 girls from far flung village areas. The idea is to train them in such a way that when they go back to their respective villages, they will implement the same concept in their locality for sustainable Eco-friendly living. This will generate income for them and also help them in maintaining healthy lifestyle. The architectures of school are quite unique in the sense that all the materials used in construction, are nature friendly and sustainable. The complex has two buildings, one for boarding facility and another for education, spread over 2 acres of land. The estimated cost of the project is 42 crores. Rotary India Literacy trust has done initial contributions of 5 crores for the project.

Many eminent businessmen from the society have contributed for this noble cause. The school will open for students from 16th January'24. On Saturday, 30th December, few of our members including PRID Shekhar Mehta visited the school. We wish them all the success in their noble endeavour.

-By Rtn Sanjay Dugar



Test Your Knowledge of Rotary and Win

1. When was Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar chartered?
2. What was the original name of Rotary Club of Calcutta Mahanagar?
3. Who were the President & Secretary of Mahanagar during Rotary Centennial Year?
4. Who among the existing members is the senior-most (not by age) Past President of Mahanagar to have served for a full term?
5. Who was the first lady member of our club and in which year did she join Mahanagar?

Answer for Puzzle 11

65292

1st digit is $3 \times 2 = 6$

3rd digit is $5 - 3 = 2$

4th digit is $5 + 4 = 9$

$6 + 5 = 2 + 9 = 9 + 2 = 11$

Members who participated are:
Nikhita Shah, Kamlesh Agarwal,
Pushpa Bansal, Pradeep Agarwal

And the winners are:

1. Nikhita Shah
2. Kamlesh Agarwal

MINUTES OF THE 1357TH WEEKLY MEETING OF ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MAHANAGAR HELD ON 22ND DECEMBER 2023 AT HOTEL HINDUSTHAN INTERNATIONAL

1. President Jyoti Mahipal called the meeting to order.
 2. National Anthem led by Suman Kedia was rendered by all.
 3. Minutes of the last weekly meeting were confirmed by Rtn Deepak Choudhury.
 4. President spoke about the recently concluded excursion "RRR - Rann Utsav Retreat" and presented glimpses of it via presentation. She expressed special gratitude towards Raj Somani, PP Deepak Choudhury, and Pawan Goenka for their special initiative and contribution towards the success of the excursion.
 5. President informed the members about the incoming event - the district conference, which will be held from 5th to 7th January 2024, and requested members to register for the same.
 6. President invited Rotarian Pramila Dugar to introduce her board for the year 2024-25.
 7. Club Business was conducted by Club Secretary Rita Choudhury.
 8. Hero of the week award was given to Rtn PP Deepak Choudhury.
 9. The Puzzle winner of the last week Puzzle were Pradeep Agarwal and Sweta Choudhury.
 10. The meeting concluded with the cake cutting session for all the birthday boys and girls who celebrated their birthday in the last one week or will be celebrating till the next meeting.
 11. President announced that next meeting will be held on 5th January 2024, which will be merged with Charter Day Celebrations.
 12. Spouse Jyoti Sureka conducted Christmas games such as Tambola and a Lucky draw contest.
- There being no other business meeting was terminated.

Happy Birthdays

06th Jan - Rtn. Binod Dalmia
08th Jan - Seema Sonthalia
09th Jan - Pooja Bagrecha
14th Jan - Rtn. Pradeep Biyani
16th Jan - Rtn. Vimal Dolawat
17th Jan - Rtn. Pradeep Rawat

Happy Anniversaries

01st Jan

Rtn. Sanjay & Deepali Bhandari

A Poem by Rtn Monolina Dutta

*In the realm where time takes flight,
 A year anew, bathed in hopeful light.
 Welcome 2024, with open arms wide,
 May joy and success
 be your constant guide!*

*Friends, let's stride this path together,
 Through every season,
 in fair or foul weather;
 May laughter echo, and friendships grow,
 In the garden of moments,
 let happiness sow.*

*Cherish memories, both old and new,
 Embrace challenges,
 for strength they'll imbue;
 May success dance to your
 determined beat,
 And love be a melody, oh, so sweet!*

*As the clock strikes twelve bringing a
 brand-new start,
 Let dreams take flight,
 fueled by the heart.
 Here's to joy, to love, to paths untold,
 Happy New Year, dear friends,
 let's unfold!*



PP Raakesh Jain

SPOTLIGHT

Rashmi and I, Raakesh Jain joined Rotary Mahanagar in 2003, and since then Mahanagar has become an extended family for us. We had served in many boards and committees under various Presidents over the years, learning a lot from each one of them, before becoming Club President in the year 2015-16. Not to forget my super supportive wife who stood by me through it all and at times did more than her share of duties.

The Rotary Year 2015-16 embossed with the theme "Be a Gift to the World" under RI President K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran was one of the most memorable years of our lives. It became extraordinary as each member, spouse and child in Mahanagar in some way or other came forward and touched the lives of ones in need around us. Special mention of the E-Learning & Rural Toilet projects which were covered far and wide, felicitation series of Past Presidents at RWMs, Moulin Rouge (Diwalimeet) and Holi fellowship and the visit to RI convention at Seoul. The guidance of Shekhar bhaiya & Rashi bhabhi & support duo of Vinod Mahipal - Vikash Tibrewal made the year sail by smoothly.

We are blessed with a son Yashvardhan (Computer Science Graduate) and a daughter Varidhi (doing her undergrads at NUS, Singapore). We are into family business of Financial Markets (Member BSE, MSEI, NSE), Mutual Funds, Insurance; parallely into Real Estate development and marketing; and with a FMCG new venture Paras Kesar dealing in saffron, almond, cashew and walnuts.

-By Rtn Raakesh Jain

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