



THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

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From Editor's Desk:

In the year 2012 during a road construction project in Gujrat, hundreds of trees were being cut down, a bird's nest and eggs fell along with them. The cries of helpless birds stayed with Radhakrishnan Nair who painfully watched.



This became the turning point in Nair's life.

"The sounds of the crying birds made me realise that I had to create a forest for them," said Nair in a documentary.

Originally from Kerala's Kasargod, Nair moved to a village near Mangaluru, Karnataka, when he was four. Surrounded by [nature and greenery](#), he grew up with a deep sense of responsibility to protect the environment.

Later, he moved to Mumbai in search of work, securing a position in the textile industry. After getting promoted, he was posted in Umargam, a coastal village in Gujarat.

After a decade in this role, he founded Shree Paurnika Exports Private Ltd, a business dealing in readymade shirts. However, his experience during the road construction project in Gujarat led him to a new path.

Determined to take action, he started with the work. He bought a piece of land with a partner and planted 1,500 trees using the Miyawaki method, developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. This method draws inspiration from natural ecosystems to create dense forests in a short span of time.

Since then, he has been creating thriving urban forests to restore ecological balance in Indian cities. One man army grew over 80 forests across 12 states using this innovative method.

The approach is supposed to ensure that plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.

Our club has also made a modest beginning of creating small patches of urban forests around Kolkata. Our first such project commenced in August 23 in New Town.



Minutes of the 2157th Continuous Meeting and 11th Regular for the year 2024-25 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown held on Thursday, 19th December, 2024 @ Room No. 1, The Saturday Club.

Meeting called to order: President Preeti called 2157th continuous and 11th meeting of the year 2024-25 to order.

National Anthem: National Anthem was rendered by all.

Welcome: President Preeti extended a hearty welcome to all the members, Anns and prospectives to the meeting

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes: The previous meeting minutes were proposed to be passed by Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor and seconded by Rtn. Narinder Gulati.

Sanitary Napkins Update: President updated that brochures and pamphlets for Sanitary Napkins have gone for printing and will be distributed in and around Refuge after Christmas.

CCU at Vivekananda Hospital on 29/12: President apprised that the inauguration of Critical Care Unit at Vivekananda Hospital will be done on Sunday, 29th December at 10.30 am. She updated that we are donating an Elisa Reader which will complete the basic set-up of the CCU as ABG Analyzer has already been given by our Inner Wheel. She requested members to be present for this important project.

Cleft Lip Surgery Project Update: President apprised that 4 children were admitted at Narayana Hospital on 18th December 2024 who were identified in the health camp. They got operated on 19th December and will be able to lead a dignified life. All thanks to Rotary, ABMSS and our honorary member Dr. Chatterjee. The floor asked to get the video of the parents stating their happiness and applauded for this wonderful initiative.

Sports Meet at Subodh Mallick Square: President updated that we are having our First Sports Meet on Saturday, 18th January 2025 at Subodh Mullick Square. She asked members to mark their dates for this. She announced that our literacy director Rtn. Shalini will update the floor on this, closer to the date.

Kolkata Kettle 6.0: President announced that the Kolkata kettle has turned into a thrilling cricket match with 15 stalls to sell in 21 days. She asked members to imagine this as the final stretch, where every shot counts, each sale adds value and every stall sold, takes us closer to the victory. She said that the energy is high, the field is set and it's time to bring our A-game to the pitch. She asked members to turn these 21 days into a power packed chase and create a buzz for the event in the city. She also said that the team went to Radha Mohanpur on Sunday 15th December to organise a Craft Workshop and get artisans for our event.

District Conference: President announced the District Conference is scheduled for 3, 4 and 5th January 2025 at East Side Pavilion. The registration per head is Rs. 6500/-. She asked members to register for the same.

Elections for the post of DGND 2027-28: President also apprised that this year we have nominations of 2 members for the post of DGND 2027-28. One is Rtn. Somnath Banerjee who's a distinguished member of Higher Judicial Services and a member of Rotary Club of Arunoday Howrah. The other nomination is of Rtn. Purnendu Roy Chowdhary, who's a member of Rotary Club of Calcutta. The other nominations are for the post of RI Director 2027-29. That is of Rtn. Ajay Agarwal and Rtn. Brojo Gopal Kundu.

Any other matter: President welcomed prospectives Mr. Rudraksh and Ms. Simran Gupta and requested Rtn. Sahil Desai to introduce them. President announced that the celebration meeting today was hosted by 4 Rotarians- Rtn. Hitesh Dani, Sanjay Chaudhury, Mayuri Mody Doshi and Rakesh Sahni.

Secretary's report: Secretary announced the birthdays and anniversaries and reported the attendance at 50%.

Celebration of 2 stalwarts: President had planned a celebration for Rotarians Sudhir Chand and Bhupesh Kapoor as they had completed 25 years of service to Rotary Midtown. She had composed a poem for both the stalwarts and presented a short power point presentation. A small gift and flowers were presented to them. It was a great evening and all the members enjoyed. It was followed by drinks and dinner.

Meeting Closed: President Preeti closed the meeting.

Minuted by:

Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka

Secretary 2024-25 RCCM

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work!”

Rotary  **THE FOUR-WAY TEST**
Of the things we think, say or do:

first

Is it the **TRUTH**?

second

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

third

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

RCCM Meeting on 19th Dec at Vivekanand Seva Samity Hospital and donation of Elisa Reader medical instrumental.



Extremely successful Kolkata Kettle exhibition On 10th-11th Jan, exhibiting Laapata Sarees



Impassioned shopping at Kolkata Kettle



RCCM Members at Kolkata Kettle



Birthday's

"Cheers to another wonderful year"



Rtn. Sahil Desai (11th January)

Anniversary



Neerja & Sudhir Chand
16th January



Minal & Manoj Kedia
21st January



there's no wifi in
the forest

but i promise you'll find a
better connection