



THE MIDTOWNER

BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA MIDTOWN

President: Rtn. Preeti Agarwal | Secretary: Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka | Editor: Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor
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From Editor's Desk:

Bollywood celebrated success of [Akshay Kumar](#) starrer 'Padman' but Chhattisgarh has its own secret 'Padwoman' who has vowed not only to spread awareness among young girls and women about menstruation hygiene but also manufactures and distributes sanitary pads free of cost in slum areas of twin cities Bhilai-Durg and state capital of Chhattisgarh.

After suffering from menstruation infection for three years followed by three surgeries, a documentary on TV based on menstruation stigma among tribal girls, struck her senses and she decided to extend as much help to them. Till date she has distributed more than 60,000 handmade pads to needy girls and women.

Speaking to TOI, 45-year old Dimple Kour from Bhilai said that it was an eye-opener for her and she felt extremely empathetic towards poor girls and women on learning that they have to use ash, leaves, dried dung to soak up on their menstrual blood.

While I was already under too much stress for three years as I suffered from profuse bleeding during periods, I realized this can happen to anyone. And such health problems don't check your financial status before hitting upon you. I had the money to get safe sanitary napkins but what about poor girls and women, I wondered?" Dimple said.

Dimple had to remove her uterus in 2014 after suffering for three years.



She added that stories of women suffering from diseases caused due to unhygienic menstrual conditions, sent shivers down her spine and she vowed to step out of the house and as a charitable practice begin her NGO.

Anubhuti Foundation was formed in 2016 and I asked all my acquaintances and relatives to give away their old, unused clothes to me. I would wash them properly and stitch them into pads. At least they were better than those used by poor women. I eventually improved the quality by adding cotton to them and continue to improve for its longevity,” Dimple said adding that it was every Sunday she would visit slum areas and distribute pads wrapped in newspaper packets for free.

Now, she has started procuring cotton from Haryana in abundance and has hired seven “needy” women to help her make pads in large quantity “without using chemicals”.

Demands have started pouring in from tribal areas of Bastar and for girls’ residential hostels for supply of pads at nominal price. Dimple is now trying for a tie-up with government to reach out to every poor women and facilitate them.

A much needed step in right direction by Midtown to procure sanitary pads made by village girls, packed by visually challenged individuals and sold to poor girls at heavily subsidised rates. This will also help in cervical cancer prevention and provide means of some earning to visually challenged.

Minutes of the 2152nd Continuous Meeting and 6th Regular for the year 2024-25 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown held on Saturday, 28th September 2024 at Rtn. S.K. Mehra's house.

Meeting called to order: President called the 2152nd continuous and 6th regular meeting of the year 2024-25 to order.

National Anthem: National Anthem was rendered by all.

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

Cleft Lip Surgery Update: President apprised that 3 babies got operated for their cleft lip, cleft palate and side cut cleft lip respectively. Various tests were performed a day prior to the surgery at Narayana Super-speciality Hospital. The surgeries were done by our honorary Rotarian Dr. Siddharth Chatterjee. The babies will now be able to lead a healthy and dignified lives.

Project Dignity Update: President Preeti informed that toilets nos. 161-180 of Project Dignity under Global Grant No. 1872799 were inaugurated at Nimpith on 13th September 2024. The Completion report of the grant will be sent to TRF and the host clubs of Mississauga soon.

Computer Classes: President apprised that computer classes are going on in full swing at the Refuge. 10 students per batch are learning with 2 batches a day and 5 days in the week. She also informed about her surprise visit to the class and was delighted to see the efficient learning by students.

Kolkata Kettle 6.0: President Preeti apprised that the 6th edition of Kolkata Kettle has been booked by the convenor Rtn. Samir Prasad. The venue is a revamped Ballygunge Maidan by Erwin Bart and the dates are 10th & 11th January 2025. President requested the members that since Kolkata kettle is our flagship event, its time for us to come together and give it our best.

The venue and the layout have been done by the core committee led by Samir, Sanjay, Rashmi, Ruchira, Hitesh & Sahil. She asked members for their support, energy and enthusiasm.

Sanitary Napkins Project: The project to source sanitary napkins from Turnstone Global, which are made by the village girls and packed by visually challenged individuals, has been approved by the board. This initiative promotes cervical cancer prevention while creating employment for the visually impaired. The napkins will be sold to institutions or via kiosks near The Refuge, combining health advocacy with social empowerment.

Recognition of our honorary member Lalita ji: President addressed that our honorary member Dr. Lalita Seth has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the East Zone Meet 2024-25 by Inner Wheel District 325, for her extraordinary contributions. She said that it is our privilege to honor Dr. Seth, a truly remarkable individual who exemplifies the spirit of Friendship and Service. Her lifelong dedication to society, pursuit of excellence, and commitment to our shared causes have left a lasting impact on all of us. President expressed that Lalita ji's service and dedication continues to inspire us, and we are deeply grateful for all she's done. She asked members to give her a standing ovation.

Celebrating PDG Kamal ji's life: President apprised that it's our beloved PDG Rtn. Kamal Seth's 2nd death anniversary. It's a day to celebrate the greatness of his life, a legacy which he left, and made a way with each step of his. Talking about his selfless service, she dedicated a poem to him.

Any other matter: There was nothing reported.

Secretary's report: Birthdays & anniversaries were announced & the attendance was reported as 23 members present making it 50%.

Meeting Closed: President Preeti closed the meeting and declared the fellowship open.

Minuted by:

Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka

Secretary 2024-25 RCCM

Rotary Midtown meeting at Rtn. S.K Mehra's Residence



Fellowship after meeting with Karaoke music and Dance



Rotary Club of Calcutta donated four Sewing Machines to be given to the beneficiaries identified by Rotary Midtown.



Second dose of Cervical Cancer Vaccine administered to 15 girls of second batch at Refuge on 3rd Oct.



Birthday's

"Cheers to another wonderful year"



Rtn. Rina Makharia (11th October)

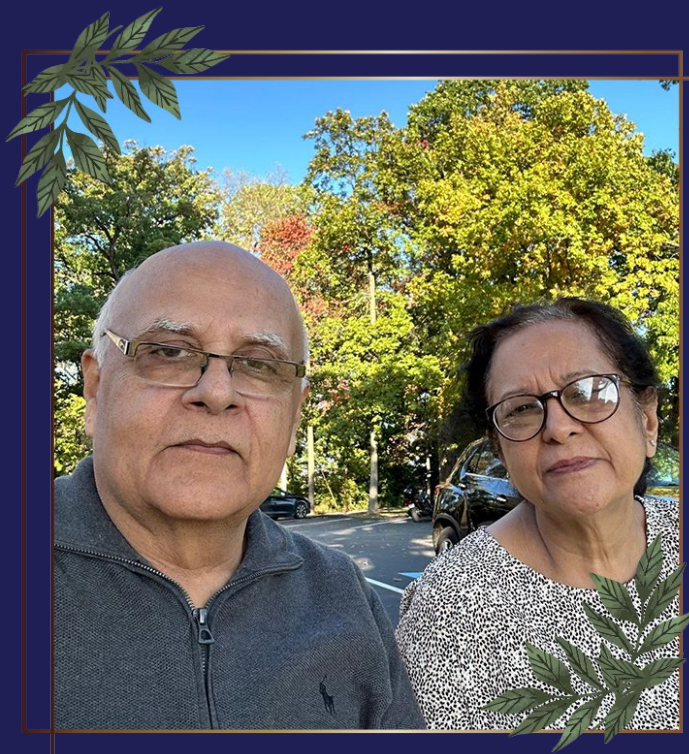


Rtn. Atul Makharia (16th October)



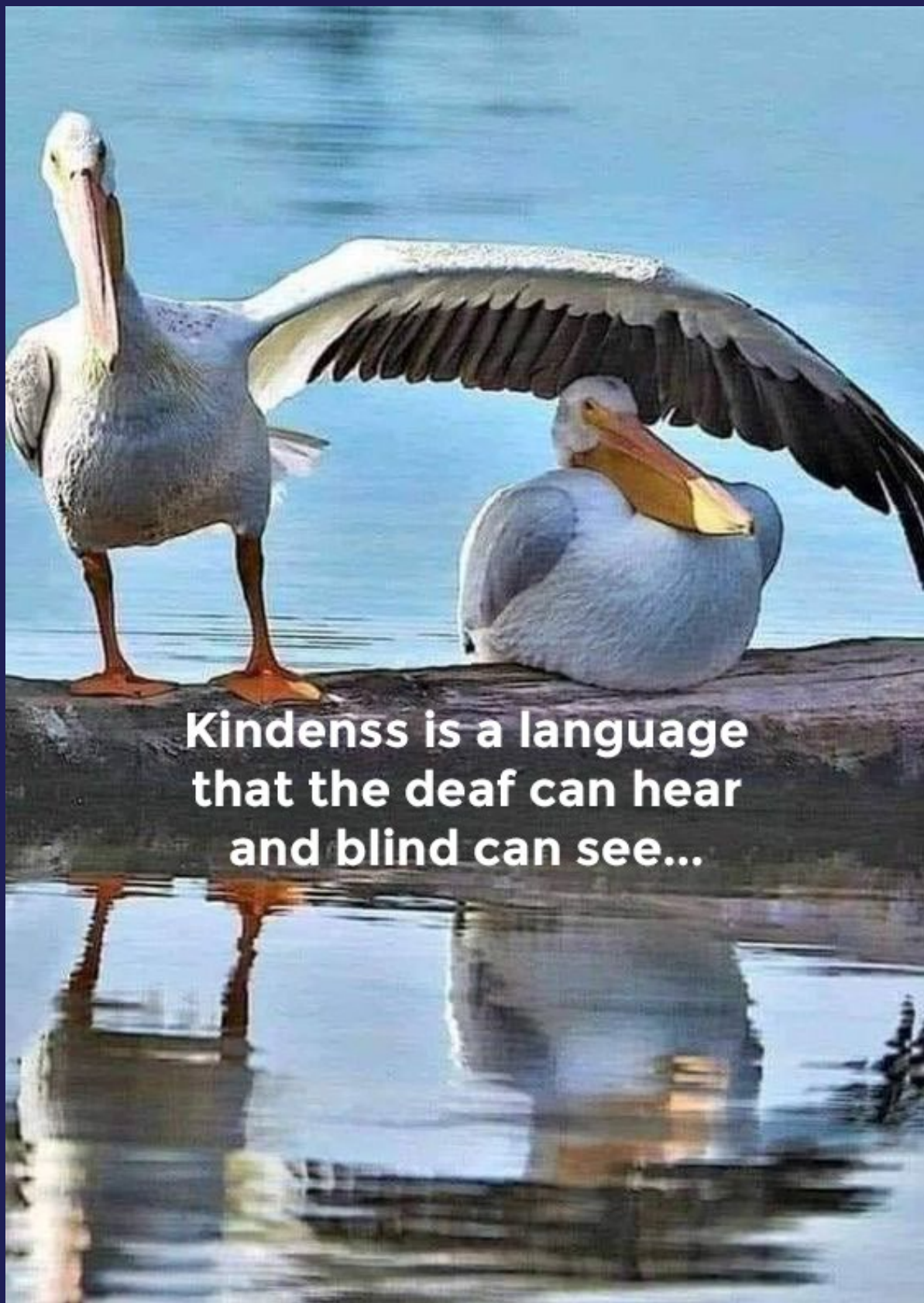
Rtn. Suchi Narula (17th October)

Anniversary



Ravi & Renu Dhawan

31st August



**Kindenss is a language
that the deaf can hear
and blind can see...**