



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:

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.
Nelson Mandela.

When we speak of change makers and unconventional heroes, we realize that most of their resolve stems from their own struggles. Their path to success is often lined with failures and limited means, and it is in such situations that education comes to the fore.

Hailing from a country where, not too long ago, the literacy rate stood as low as [42 per cent](#), is perhaps what drove a few pathbreakers to make a difference. In the pursuit of knowledge, many have gone on to achieve big dreams for the larger good and have taken the world with them.

Education can be a harbinger of change. It has been used time and again to drive social change in times of crises, to alleviate poverty, fight climate change, for law enforcement and cultural dissonance.

Today, the consistent efforts of several change makers have ensured steady growth, which has escalated India's overall literacy rate up to [77 per cent](#). Education has played an integral role in positively transforming the community.



JAYKUMAR VAIDYA

From Mumbai Slums to NASA

Meet Jaykumar Vaidya, From the slums of Mumbai to a scientist at NASA, this Indian scientist has won three national awards and four state awards in robotics.

Jaykumar is currently involved in fine-tuning mass spectrometers for Mars, the Moon, and the Earth's upper atmosphere.

He grew up in a small Mumbai slum with his mom in an 8×10 room in Kurla, lived on vada pav and studied under streetlights. His father left his mother when she was pregnant making her the sole breadwinner of the family.

They struggled to pay for his schooling, and some even suggested he become a driver. But Jaykumar loved science, inspired by space shows on TV.

Graduating in Electrical Engineering from KJ Somaiya College of Engineering, he won accolades in Robotics, securing an internship with Larsen and Toubro. Working odd jobs like soldering and teaching online, he managed to pay off debts and save for his family.

Joining the prestigious Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) as a researcher, Jaikumar juggled odd jobs, including soldering and online teaching for international students, to support his education and family.

During his time at the TIFR, the budding scientist published two scientific papers in reputed international scientific journals in 2017 and 2018 respectively. These papers caught the attention of the University of Virginia where Vaidya joined as a graduate research assistant.

In 2022, when Jaykumar Vaidya was about to start a new job after leaving Goddard, NASA offered him an amazing opportunity.

Now, he's an engineer there and at the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He works on making sure machines for Mars, the Moon, and the Earth's sky work well. He's part of the big group working on the NASA Mission 2023 program.

His vision is for India to evolve into an independent hub for manufacturing technology. Jay wishes to start a research hub in India that focuses on harnessing the advantages of emerging electronic devices to create a non-volatile, low-power, fast switching memory.

Jay is like a lighthouse and has become a beacon of hope to others. He has taken a resolve to educate underprivileged children and fulfil their potential.

Our Rotary club with help of generous members, financially supporting and mentoring few bright students.

Minutes of the 2154th Continuous Meeting and 8th Regular for the year 2024-25 of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown held on Saturday, 9th November, 2024 at Hotel Niharika at 7 PM.

Meeting called to order: President Rtn. Preeti called the 2154th Continuous and 8th Regular meeting to order.

National Anthem: Rtn. Samir Prasad led the Anthem and everybody joined in.

Welcome: President extended a hearty welcome to all the members, anns and guests and expressed her joyousness after a delightful festive session. She exclaimed to continue the spirit of togetherness at the Diwali Celebration beautifully organized by the fellowship director Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi.

Confirmation of previous meeting minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were floated over WhatsApp. They were proposed to be passed by Rtn. Dr. S.K. Kapoor and seconded by Rtn. S. Ravi.

Cervical Cancer Vaccine Last Batch: President apprised that we are approaching an important milestone in our cervical cancer vaccination initiative! She said that on Saturday, 16th November, we will be administering the vaccine to our final batch of 60 beneficiaries at Saroj Gupta Cancer Centre and Research Institute from 12 noon to 2 pm. This impactful project is a joint effort with our Inner Wheel, and we are honored to have our District Governor AKS Rtn. Dr. Krishnendu Gupta joining us to witness this meaningful work. She also updated that the district secretary Rtn. Amitava Chakraborty had shared his data of Cervical Cancer vaccines. A total of 500 vaccines have been bought by district 3291 from Serum. Our club alone has bought 160 of them. It's a matter of utmost pride for us. She requested members to be present in good numbers and add to the strength of this project.

Health Camp at Diamond Harbour: President apprised that we're excited to host our first health camp at Diamond Harbour on Sunday 24th November, where our team of doctors will identify babies with cleft lip and palate who need treatment. They'll also check in on previous patients and provide speech therapy to help with their progress. Starting from 10th November,

the health workers will be sharing pamphlets and making announcements around the area to spread the word. This will help more families bring their children for the treatment they need. She requested members to be present for the project.

Sanitary Napkins Project Update: President apprised that with the complete dedication of Rtn. Nirmal Nahata, the Sanitary Project has taken a very good shape. We've selected the name "Aashaa" for our sanitary napkins, and placed an initial order of 1,000 pieces with Turnstone Global, with stickers bearing both our and their names currently being printed. We have exclusive rights to promote these pads, starting with a small stall outside The Refuge, supported by banners, leaflets, and announcements. The quality of the pads is tested and is at par with the branded ones. Once sales begin, we'll engage with other beneficiaries and organizations to broaden the project's reach. This can grow into a flagship project. She said she'll update the floor once the kiosk is set.

Kolkata Kettle 6.0 Update: President laid importance and stress on getting the event in shape. She updated some exciting activities about our upcoming fundraiser, the Kolkata Kettle. Our team, led by Samir Prasad, has been working hard to take it to the next level. She asked members to support Samir in best possible ways. Some points highlighted were:

1. Spread the Word: She asked members to share the teasers on WhatsApp and other social media platforms.
2. Reach Out: She asked members to tap contacts who could be interested in participating.
3. Add Some Flair: She said that we're open to ideas on how we can make this event even more memorable and classy. Whether it's the décor, activities, or guest experiences, let's brainstorm ways to elevate it together.
4. Support for Bloggers: She apprised that if anyone has suggestions for small tokens of appreciation for bloggers, that would be wonderful, too.

She asked members to be involved as this will make all the difference. She summed it up saying that Kolkata Kettle is not just an event—it's an experience!

Any other matter: President apprised that we have received an email from DG asking for nominations for the post of DG nominee for the year 2027-28 and also for the post of RI Director Elect. She also apprised that we have received PHF certificate and pin for Rtn. Nirmal Nahata as he contributed 1000 \$ to TRF. She announced our Rotary Assistant Subrata's son's wedding on 27th November and asked members to attend the same.

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Secretary's report: Birthdays and anniversaries were announced. Attendance was announced as 36%.

Meeting Closed: President Preeti closed the meeting.

Minuted by:





Rtn. Ruchira Bhuwalka

Secretary 2024-25 RCCM

"I am lucky that whatever fear I have inside me, my desire to win is always stronger." <http://rccalcuttamidtown.rotaryindia.org>

FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do

-  1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
-  2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
-  3 Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
-  4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

9th November Rotary Meeting followed by fellowship



Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown, in collaboration with Inner Wheel Club, successfully conducted Cervical Cancer Vaccine Project at SGCCRI on 16th November. Vaccines were successfully administered to 58 girls.



Birthday's

"Cheers to another wonderful year"



Rtn. Mayuri Medy Dasgi
(15th November)



Rtn. S.K. Mehra (16th November)



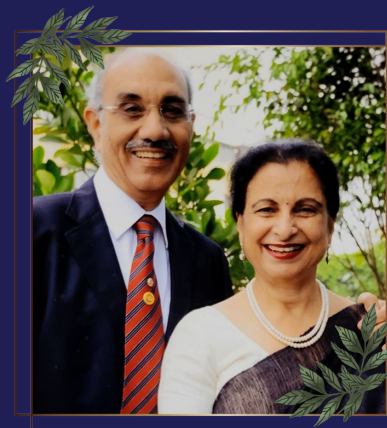
Rtn. Suman Kapoor (20th November)



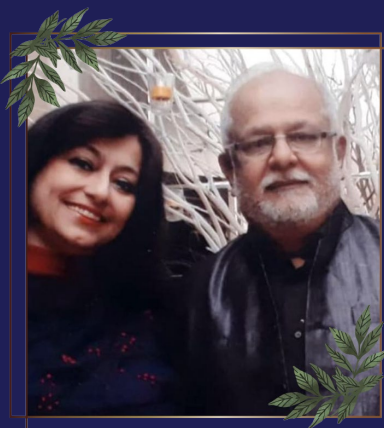
Rtn. Narinder Gulati (23rd November)



Rashmi & Sanjay Chowdhary
20th November



Suman & Bhupesh Kapoor
20th November



Rubi & Yugal Sikri
21st November

Anniversary



Anjana & Nitesh Agrawal
24th November

A child with short brown hair, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt and light-colored pants, sits on a tall stack of books. The child is looking towards the right. The stack of books is composed of many books with various colored spines, some appearing to glow. In the background, a tall, multi-tiered lighthouse tower with a glowing top and windows is visible against a dark, starry night sky with a prominent galaxy. The scene is illuminated by a warm, golden light from the lighthouse and a low sun or moon on the horizon, creating a dreamlike atmosphere. The foreground shows some autumn leaves on the ground.

**Education is a
Light House
A movement from
dark to light**