

THE MIDTOWNER

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

President: Rtn. Hitesh Dani | Secretary: Rtn. Mayuri Doshi | Editor: Rtn. Simran Gupta

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From Editor's Desk

Malala Yousafzai – The Power of One Voice, The Light of Education



Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi showing their Nobel medals & diplomas during the Nobel Peace Prize Award Ceremony

In a remote valley of Swat, Pakistan, where fear once silenced hope, a young girl dared to speak. Malala Yousafzai was born in 1997 into a world where extremist forces sought to suppress the most basic of human rights — the right to education, especially for girls.

At the tender age of 11, Malala began writing a courageous blog for the BBC, shedding light on the struggles faced by girls under the Taliban regime. Her words were more than just stories; they were acts of defiance against injustice. In a place where many were too afraid to speak, Malala's voice stood out — clear, strong, and unwavering.

In 2012, her activism nearly cost her life when extremists targeted her in an attempt to silence her. But instead of succumbing to fear, Malala rose stronger. Her recovery was not just physical but deeply symbolic — proof that the spirit of determination and hope cannot be broken. She co-founded the Malala Fund, tirelessly advocating for every child's right to quality education, particularly in regions where such a dream remains distant.

Her unwavering efforts earned her global recognition in 2014, when she became the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate at just 17 years of age.

Malala's story is far more than personal success. It is a testament to the profound truth that one voice, one choice, and one act of courage can ripple across the world and inspire change. She reminds us that education is not a privilege but a fundamental right, capable of dismantling ignorance, poverty, and extremism.

For us as Rotarians — committed to the ideals of service, peace, and community, Malala's journey is a beacon. It calls us to believe in the power of individual action, to invest in the education of the next generation, and to stand firm for justice even when the world turns a blind eye.

As we move forward in our mission to unite for good, may her story inspire us to take bold steps, however small, that leave an indelible impact on the world around us.

“Because in Rotary, as in life, no story is too small to be told.”

Malala Yousafzai

Yours in service,
Simran Gupta
Editor
Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

Minutes of the 4th Regular Meeting for the Year 2025 - 2026 and the 2173rd Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

Date : 31st August, 2025 | Time : 10:30 AM | Venue : Wabi Sabi Cafe, Kolkata

Presiding Officer: President Hitesh Dani | Attendance: 34% (17 members present)

1. Call to Order

President Hitesh Dani called the meeting to order.

Everyone rose for the National Anthem.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed by Rtn Manoj Kedia and seconded by Rtn Preeti.

3. Appointment of Sergeant at Arms

President Hitesh appointed Rtn Bhupeshji as the Sergeant at Arms for the meeting.

4. Fundraiser Update

President Hitesh Dani gave everyone the good news that the Mayor has agreed to inaugurate our Mega Fund Raiser along with our main Sponsor Mr Ajay Dattani from Mumbai and that he is also trying to get Leander Paes for the same. R.C.G.C. has agreed to provide the Golf Course free of cost for the Fund Raiser Golf Tournament and in return our club has to vaccinate the Caddies and Staff Children free of charge. Even Tolly club is charging only 60% for the Golf Course. As of now 35 registrations for the Tournament are already confirmed and paid and another 35 expected after which people who register will be on waitlist. Planning to have our Regular meeting also on same day after the Inauguration. We have already Raised 65 lacs and the expense for the Tournament is approximately 30/35 lacs so we can easily manage to get 1000 vaccinations.

5. Blind Boys Visit at R.K.K.M.B.S

President Hitesh spoke about visit to R.K.K.M.B.S and said it was a very satisfying Project. Midtown Donated a cheque of Rs.90,000/- and Inner wheel also made Donations. A cultural programme was organised by the Boys followed by Lunch.

6. Puja Parikrama for the Blind People

President Hitesh spoke about the Puja Parikrama which is organised by Midtown every year for 50 Blind People. We provide the Air-condition Bus and some Food Packets and the Blind People along with Volunteers are taken to some main Pandals. The programme starts at 9.30am and ends by 5pm.

7. Cleft Lip Awareness Camp at Maheshtala

Rtn Preeti informed everyone present about this Project where 10,000 pamphlets are distributed before the Camp Date and 21 Babies were identified for the Cleft Lip Surgery which Midtown Funds. The Health Camp costs Rs 25,000 and the surgery costs 40,000/-

8. Subscriptions Pending

4 members subscriptions are still pending.

9. Introduction of Prospective

Kuldeep Nayyar was introduced to everyone present and asked to speak about himself. Kuldeepji spoke about himself, his spouse and his business. President Hitesh requested Kuldeepji to attend one more meeting and a project and a NOC will be needed before his induction is done.

10. Secretary's Time

Attendance: 34% (17 members present)

Birthdays for the Month

- 29th August : Dr. Lalita Sheth
- 1st September : Dr. Biman Chakravarty
- 1st September : Rtn Neeraj
- 4th September : Rtn O.P.Agarwalji
- 9th September : Rtn Anirudh Tikmani

Anniversary for the Month

- 31st August Dr. Surinder and Kiranji Kapoor

11. Announcement of Awards

Rotary club of Calcutta Midtown under the able leadership of PP Preeti Agarwal has won 14 awards for the year 24-25

- 1st prize for Newsletter – Credit goes to the Editor 24-25 Rtn Bhupeshji
- 1st prize for Disease Prevention and Treatment
- 2nd prize for Water and Sanitation
- 2nd prize for Cervical Cancer Awareness and Vaccines
- 2nd prize for Maternal and Child Care
- 2nd prize for Eye Care
- 3rd prize for District Programme Support
- 3rd prize for Club Services
- 3rd prize for Public Image
- Citation Award for Rotary International
- Outstanding President Award
- 2nd prize for Membership
- 2nd prize for Membership Growth
- 3rd prize for Foundation

Many Congratulations to PP Preeti Agarwal and her Team.

12. Scholarship Project Time

Scholarship was handed over to Student Sourav Kumar Mondal who is a student of Management in the Final Year in Nopany Institute of Management Studies the Cheque of Rs. 1 lac was handed over to Sourav by Rtn Sonali Gupta who donated the amount. Second scholarship was handed over to Abhishek Jha again Final year student from Nopany Institute of Management Studies. The cheque of Rs. 80,000 /- was handed over by Rtn Anirudh Tikmani who donated the amount.

13. Sergeants Time

A collection of Rs.5000/- was collected.

The President closed the meeting on this Note.

Recorded by
Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi
Secretary 2025-2026

Regular Rotary Midtown meeting held on 31st August



Project

Health camp of Cleft Lip and Palate is scheduled for Thursday, 18th September at Majilpur

42 babies and children identified for treatment

21 for surgery | 12 for speech therapy | 5 for nutrition
4 for orthodontics, bone grafting.



The 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 goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Birthdays



8th Oct

Hitesh Dani



23rd Oct

Yugal Sikri



29th Oct

Bapu N Malla



29th Oct

Yogesh Gupta

Anniversaries



11th Oct

Ravi & Renu Dhawan



11th Oct

Neeraj & Preeti Agarwal



20th Oct

Deven & Bina Shah