

THE MIDTOWNER

Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

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From Editor's Desk

This month, as I sit to write my note, my thoughts keep returning to someone who brought an irreplaceable spark to our Midtown family — Rtn. Ankush Khanna.

Ankush was one of those rare people who carried sunshine with him. He was full of energy, full of joy, and undeniably the life of every party. Wherever he went, laughter followed. He had an effortless way of lifting the mood, breaking the ice, and reminding everyone what togetherness truly feels like.

I joined Rotary just a year ago, and even in that short span, Ankush made a lasting impression on me. He was among the first to welcome me with warmth and genuine kindness. I will always remember him



dancing, smiling, and spreading happiness wherever he went. He had this beautiful ability to make everyone feel included, valued, and at home.

Though I met him for a short time, I saw how deeply he cared for the people around him. He was always there when someone needed him — supportive, cheerful, and full of heart. Some people don't need years to leave an impact; Ankush was one of them

In the stories and memories shared over the past days, one thing stands out consistently: Ankush made people feel happy. That was his gift — simple, powerful, unforgettable.

As we move forward as a club, may we carry a little bit of his joy, his warmth, and his unstoppable zest for life within us. Because people like him don't fade... they continue to live in the spirit they leave behind.

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



My Fondest Memories of Rtn. Ankush Khanna

I had known Ankush since my Round Table days back in 1998–99. He was then a young, charming, always-smiling tabler at Round Table 38—full of warmth, enthusiasm, and an easy grace that drew people to him. His sudden and untimely passing has been a personal shock.

As President of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown (2023–24), Ankush led from the front despite facing serious health challenges. His passing at the young age of 48 is an irreparable loss to the Rotary Midtown family, the Rotary fraternity at large, and to all whose lives he touched with his kindness, dedication, and unwavering spirit.

Despite the pain and agony he silently endured, Ankush never allowed his struggles to overshadow his work or burden those around him. His commitment to service remained steadfast. He championed initiatives that uplifted young minds and brought hope and dignity to vulnerable groups. Through these efforts, he truly embodied the Rotary ideal of Service Above Self.

His vision, energy, and optimism inspired members to unite in building a more inclusive and compassionate society. Rtn. Ankush Khanna leaves behind a legacy that will continue to guide and motivate us. His memory will remain a shining light for our Club and for all who had the privilege of working with him.

We honour him with deep respect and gratitude. May his noble soul rest in eternal peace, and may we continue to carry forward the light of service he so passionately upheld.

Rtn. Hitesh Dani
President
Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown



Midtown Remembers Rtn. Ankush Khanna

In a solemn and heartfelt meeting dedicated to the memory of Rtn. Ankush Khanna, the members of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown gathered to share their reflections. What emerged was not only grief, but also admiration — for the strength, dignity, joy, and generosity with which Ankush lived his life. Each speaker brought forward a different facet of the man we all knew and loved.

Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor

"I have known Ankush ever since he joined Rotary Midtown, and in that short tenure he left a lasting imprint on every heart he touched. He was positivity personified — always eager to do everything yesterday, as if he intuitively knew time was precious. His larger-than-life spirit, his ability to keep worries at bay, and his habit of moving forward with grace continue to inspire us. He leaves behind not just memories, but a way of living we all aspire to emulate."

Rtn. Surinder Kapoor

"It is with profound sorrow that we record the untimely passing of Rtn. Ankush Khanna, President of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown (2023–24), at 48. Despite his health challenges, he led with warmth, dedication, and unwavering spirit. Under his stewardship, the Club delivered impactful health care and education projects, the Matri Shakti Project, the Miyawaki plantation drive, and contributions to The Refuge—each reflecting his vision for a compassionate and inclusive society. He exemplified Service Above Self, and his legacy will continue to inspire us. We honour his memory with deep respect and gratitude. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Rtn. Preeti Agarwal

"In Loving Memory of Rtn. Ankush

Ankush fought his battle with cancer with extraordinary courage and an unwaveringly positive spirit. He was always full of life, ideas, and enthusiasm—qualities that defined him both as a remarkable President and as an exceptional human being. I still remember the day he came as a speaker when I was the Editor of the club. His presentation on cyber security left me in complete awe—so articulate, insightful, and engaging. That was Ankush—brilliant in every role he took on. Deeply inspired by his passion for cancer-related projects, I felt compelled to take that legacy forward through our cervical cancer vaccination initiative. His presence, energy, and warmth will be truly missed."

Rtn. Radhika Sahni

"It is difficult to put into words what Ankush meant to me and to all of us at the Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown. His spirit of fellowship, kindness and his unwavering dedication will always remain close to our hearts. I have had the privilege of knowing Ankush and Chetna for many years now and I have witnessed firsthand, time and time again, his ability to encourage and inspire those around him. I still remember the day he invited me to be Secretary during his Presidency; though I was initially sceptical, his gentle conviction and faith in my abilities made me see what I could be capable of. Even when facing personal health struggles, Ankush never let his positive outlook or commitment to service be dampened. Over the countless conversations at his home and on the phone, he always spoke about giving back to society. His generosity and thoughtfulness were matched only by his infectious excitement. There are few as brave and strong as Ankush, and his memory stands as an inspiration to all who knew him."

"These memories capture the spirit of a man who gave wholeheartedly, lived joyfully, and inspired everyone around him through his courage and kindness."

Minutes of the 7th Regular Meeting for the Year 2025 - 2026 and the 2176th Continuous Meeting of Rotary Club of Calcutta Midtown

Date : 10th November, 2025 | Time : 7.00 PM | Venue : Royal Golf Club, 9th Bar

Presiding Officer: President Hitesh Dani | Attendance: 46% (23 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. Surinder Kapoor and seconded by Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor.

3. Appointment of Sergeant at Arms

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

4. President Hitesh announced that he would want to defer all official matters due to the sad demise of Rtn. Ankush Khanna.

He said he will inform the successful Fund Raiser, the Golf Event accounts in the forthcoming meeting.

He briefly informed the floor about the Cervical Vaccine Camp held on 12th October where 200 Girls were vaccinated.

The Cleft lip camps are going on well. The last one was on the 9th October 2025 at Bagnan.

He also mentioned that he is in conversation with the Royal Golf club for vaccinating the Caddies children and Serum institute will do an awareness Camp on a forthcoming Monday when the Club is closed and on the same day the consent form will be signed.

He also mentioned that three other institutions are being approached for the vaccine also.

5. Secretary's Time

Attendance: 46% (23 members present)

Birthdays for the Month

- Rtn. Bhupesh Kapoor on 6th November
- Rtn. Ravi Dhawan on 10th November
- Rtn. Mayuri Mody Doshi on 15th November
- Rtn. Madhur Jhavar on 16th November
- Rtn. S.K Mehra on 16th November
- Rtn. Narinder Gulati on 23rd November

Anniversaries

- 20th Nov Rtn. Bhupesh and Anne Suman Kapoor
- 20th Nov Rtn. Sanjay and Rtn. Rashmi Choudhry
- 21st Nov Rtn. Yugal and Anne Ruby Sikri
- 24th Nov Rtn. Nitesh and Anjana Agarwal.

6. Remembering our Dear Rtn. Ankush

The President requested everyone to rise for a 1minute silence for the sad demise of Rtn. Ankush Khanna who left us on 8th of November 2025.

He then opened the floor to all present and whoever wanted to speak about Rtn. Ankush.

President spoke first. He said he knew Ankush since his Round Table days. He said Ankush was always smiling and cheerful. He and Chetna were an amazing couple. Last year even though he was not well he had joined Hitesh and others for a trip to Thailand. He always lived life to the fullest and it is unbelievable that he would leave this world so fast.

Rtn. Bhupesh Spoke about Ankush, he said he did not know him for a long period but he was always full of life. Very spirited person. He wanted to achieve everything. Even when he took up Presidentship he wanted to do every project possible and his zest for life showed even in his tenure as the President of Midtown.

Bhupeshji said he also had very good contacts with the Rotary District and so on his induction there were many District officials who were present. He said 48 is no age to leave this world and his sad demise is very very unfortunate.

Chetna is very strong lady and he wished her all the strength to bear this loss.

Rtn. Surinder Kapoor said his association with Ankush was when he joined Rotary. He was full of life. He is a person to learn from him how to live life. Every time he asked Ankush how he is, his reply was always I am fine. In spite of his ill health his commitment to Rotary was commendable. He spoke about how Ankush focused on the Mother and Child project and ensured that the pregnant women were provided nutrition. He would go all the way to Hinglegunj in spite of his health. He will always be remembered in Midtown as a Dynamic President

Rtn. Nirmal said that he echoed what everyone spoke but his take away from Ankush's life was his love for life and his zest for living. He mentioned about the time Ankush had joined them at Thailand and how he did not sleep for three nights that he was with them saying that he did not know when he could travel like this in future. Nirmal said he takes inspiration from everything he planned with his Family knowing his condition. We should all learn from him and live our life as if we have only one year in hand.

Rtn. Sahil spoke about Ankush as his association with him was for many many years. He would call Ankush shooter and he told the floor why he did that. He said in spite of knowing him for so many years he did not know that he had cancer and when he came to know it was astonishing as no one could make out his suffering from the dreaded disease. Rtn. Sahil called him a daredevil, he wanted to do so much even in Rotary. He believed in living life. Hats off to Chetna for her strength and wishes for his family in these tough times.

Rtn. Rakesh Sahani said he was told that sometime he would have to stand in front of the floor and speak about Ankush and it is one of the most unpleasant moments. He said he know Ankush for a long long time, Drama together, Tabler together etc etc. He said when life is good all of us we can manage everything but when the cards are not in our favour and then to have the strength to take up Rotary Presidentship.

Rtn. Rakesh had asked him if he really wanted to take up the presidentship with his health condition and he said he would manage. He would go to Tata Cancer for chemo and then next day come for the meeting, that was his strength. No one could make out he was ill. There is so much to learn from him. At times like this God should be questioned. Hats off to Chetna who is so brave but the Tunnel is too dark.

Rtn. Samirr said he had a chance to meet Ankush last September 2025 and the first thing Ankush said when he entered his room, that he is fed up of this hospital food and with the Doctors permission had got an Air fryer in the room. He asked Samirr if he would like to eat Egg Fry. He was living in the moment. Let me live for Today was his motto. He had told the Doctor to release him and he would organise a hospital bed. There is lots to learn from him. It's very sad that such a dynamic person should leave us too fast.

Rtn. Nirmal Nahata spoke about how well Ankush would sing English songs. He wanted to hear him singing again and again. It is too sad but then we cannot fight God.

Rtn. Bimanda said though he did not know Ankush so well but he knew his Father much more. Ankush's father had solved all the problems which existed in the complex they lived in. He said he did not know that Ankush had Cancer. All his respects for Ankush.

Rtn. Samirr suggested that for someone like Late Ankush we should celebrate his life maybe after a month or so.

Rtn. Manoj Kedia said that everyone had covered all the points. 48 is no age to go specially for someone who loved and lived life to the fullest. He spoke about God's strength and that he is sure that in a few years both Ankush's children will be doing very well in life. With God's strength and Ankush's blessing Chetna and the children will bounce back.

Rtn. Yogesh said he was extremely sad with this terrible untimely death. In fact, Yogesh had convinced Ankush to take Presidentship. He had given his security guards to Yogesh's Factory and he realised that in the past years Ankush had started handing over his business to Chetna and Reeth. He suggested that we should involve Chetna in Rotary after some time..

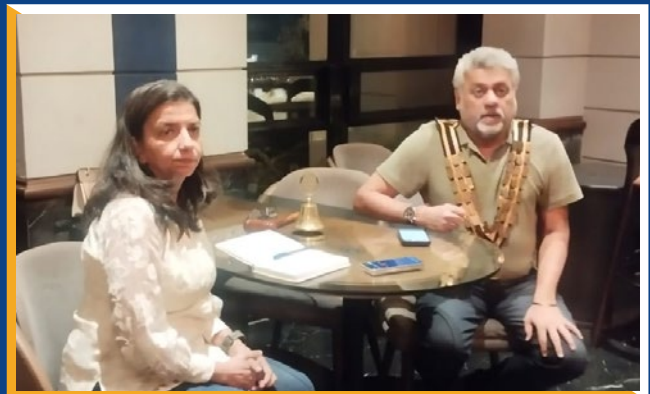
7. Sergeant's Time.

The Sergeant waived off all fines.

8. Meeting was closed by the President

Reported by Mayuri Mody Doshi (Secretary 2025-26)

Regular Rotary Midtown meeting held on 10th November



Project

Cleft Lip Health Camp held on Sunday,
9th November at Bagnan.

9 new patients for surgery | 6 for speech therapy
6 for nutrition | 1 for orthodontics



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?



Honoring

a friend's death is truly
about honoring their life.

You may feel despair over
what may have been, but try
to hold onto the wonderful
times you shared.