



# Friendship



President: Sharad Dugar • Secretary: Prashant Maheswari • Editor: Ajay Khanna

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## Know our District Governor and 1st Lady



A passionate philanthropist, *Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri* has dedicated his life to better health, education, and wellness for all. His journey in Rotary International began in 2006 with the Rotary Club of Calcutta Sun City, where he served as President for two consecutive terms (2009-2011). A Level 2 Major Donor, his commitment to service has led to impactful projects that transform lives.

**A Visionary in Thalassemia Eradication :** Recognized for his work in Thalassemia Awareness and Prevention, Dr. Homchaudhuri has conducted seminars, screening programs, and awareness campaigns across West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, and Bangladesh. His goal is to eradicate this 100% preventable genetic disorder through early screening and genetic counseling.

**Leadership and Recognition in Rotary :** In recognition of his service, Dr. Homchaudhuri was unanimously elected as District Governor Nominee and will assume office as District Governor of Rotary District 3291 in 2025-26. His vision includes expanding healthcare, strengthening education, and enhancing community welfare programs.

**A Distinguished Medical Career :** Despite his humanitarian commitments, Dr. Homchaudhuri continues to practice as a highly respected Orthopedic Surgeon. He holds degrees from Gauhati University (MBBS, 1970), Calcutta University (DGO), and Banaras Hindu University (MS – Orthopedics).

**Family: The Pillar of Strength:** Dr. Homchaudhuri is supported by his wife, Dr. Bandana Hom Chaudhuri, a renowned pediatrician and fellow Rotarian. She has served as President of Rotary Club of Calcutta Sun City and actively contributes to District 3291 administration. They are proud parents of a doctor daughter and a post-doctoral research scholar son in the USA.

**A Legacy of Service and Inspiration :** Dr. Homchaudhuri's life is a testament to selfless service, leadership, and humanitarian dedication. His ever-smiling, energetic persona continues to inspire, leaving a profound impact on countless lives.

**May is the Rotary Youth Services Month**

# ART FOR A CAUSE - THALASSEMIA AWARENESS

The Rotary Club of Belur is proud to sponsor the exhibition catalog for artist Raju Ghosh's solo exhibition, "A solo exhibition of soft washes," held from May 3rd to 9th, 2026, at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata. As seen in WhatsApp Image 2026-05-06 at 11.38.16 PM.jpg, the event was inaugurated by Sharad Dugar, President of the Rotary Club of Belur, and serves as a significant platform for Thalassemia awareness.

The catalog features a powerful message from District Governor Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri, who emphasizes that Thalassemia is preventable and calls upon the community to encourage screening to help "Make India Thalassemia Free Now". By supporting this fusion of art and advocacy, RC Belur continues its commitment to turning pain into possibility and hope into healing.



## MAKE INDIA THALASSEMIA FREE NOW

**AWARENESS PROGRAMME BY Rotary Club of BELUR**  
R.I. District 3291

**THALASSEMIA IS INHERITED. NOT CONTAGIOUS. GET TESTED. BE AWARE.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- A genetic blood disorder.
- A simple blood test can detect carriers.
- Early detection = Better life.

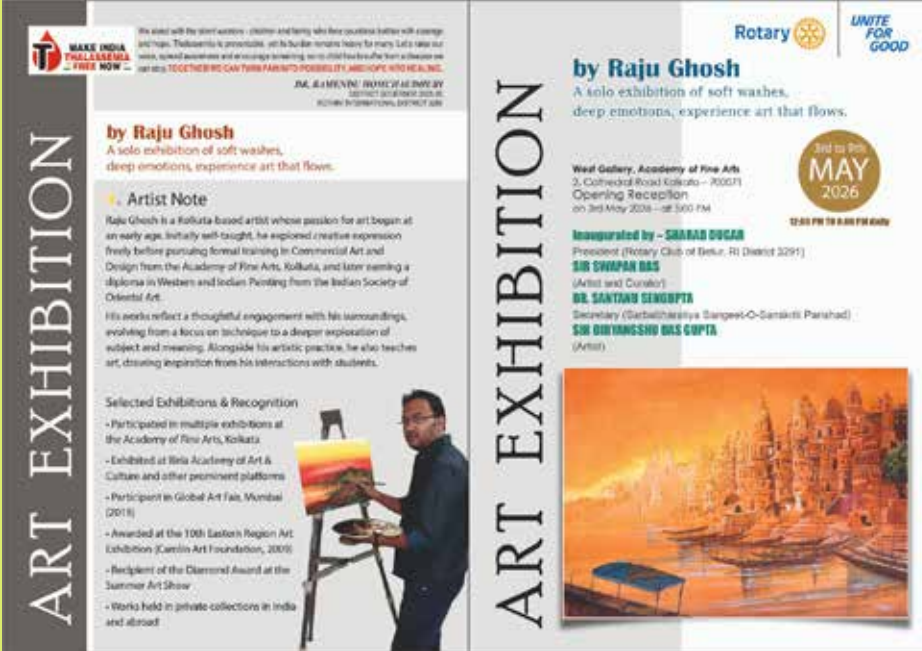
**BE A HERO:**

- Donate blood
- Get tested
- Educate others



**JOIN THE FIGHT. SPREAD THE WORD. SAVE A LIFE**

ART EXHIBITION



**by Raju Ghosh**  
A solo exhibition of soft washes, deep emotions, experience art that flows.

**Artist Note**  
Raju Ghosh is a Kolkata based artist whose passion for art began at an early age. Initially self-taught, he explored creative expression freely before pursuing formal training in Commercial Art and Design from the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, and later earning a diploma in Western and Indian Painting from the Indian Society of Oriental Art.

His works reflect a thoughtful engagement with his surroundings, evolving from a focus on technique to a deeper exploration of subject and meaning. Alongside his artistic practice, he also teaches art, drawing inspiration from his interactions with students.

**Selected Exhibitions & Recognition**

- Participated in multiple exhibitions at the Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata.
- Exhibited at India Academy of Art & Culture and other prominent platforms.
- Participant in Global Art Fair, Mumbai (2018).
- Awarded at the 10th Eastern Region Art Exhibition (Carnati Art Foundation, 2009).
- Recipient of the Diamond Award at the Summer Art Show.
- Works held in private collections in India and abroad.

ART EXHIBITION



## THALASSEMIA AWARENESS - "MAKE INDIA THALASSEMIA-FREE NOW"

A meaningful Thalassemia Awareness Programme was successfully organised on 6th May 2026 at Baghbazar Sarada Prathmik Vidyalay (NGO Run School), Baghbazar, jointly by Rotary Club of Belur, District 3291 and Concern for Earth, with the support of Rashmi Ispat. The programme was organised just ahead of World Thalassemia Day observed on 8th May, with the objective of spreading awareness among school children, guardians, and society regarding Thalassemia, its symptoms, preventive measures, and the importance of timely blood testing before marriage. The initiative aimed at spreading awareness at the grassroots level so that prevention and early understanding can help build a healthier society. As part of the awareness initiative, a small awareness rally was also conducted within the locality and school surroundings, where students participated holding placards carrying messages related to Thalassemia awareness and prevention. The rally helped in spreading the message visually among local residents and passersby.

The programme mainly focused on awareness through visual communication and distribution activities, and no formal verbal interaction session was conducted. The event also carried a humanitarian touch as school bags (courtesy Rtn. Rashmi Patwari), snacks, and fruits were distributed among the students by members of Rotary Club of Belur. The joy and enthusiasm among the children made the programme truly memorable and meaningful. Members and volunteers from Rotary Club of Belur and Concern for Earth actively participated in the programme and supported the smooth conduct of the event. The initiative reflected Rotary's continued commitment towards community health, child welfare, awareness, and social responsibility under the spirit of "Unite for Good." The organisers expressed heartfelt gratitude to the school authorities, supporters, volunteers, and all participants for making the programme successful and impactful.

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CLUB MEETING (RCM) NO. 2573

DATE: 2ND MAY 2026 TIME: 4:30 PM VENUE: HOTEL HINDUSTAN INTERNATIONAL (HHI)

The Rotary Club of Belur held its RCM No. 2573 on 2nd May 2026 at Hotel Hindustan International, commencing at 4:30 PM. The meeting was called to order by President Rtn Sharad Dugar, followed by the National Anthem and a soulful invocation of God by Rtn Divisha Banthia. The minutes of the previous meeting, RCM 2572, were formally approved by PP Indra Goenka and seconded by PP Alope Kanodia. During the business session, the club announced significant milestones, including the vaccination of 5,000 girls against cervical cancer and progress on the "Art for a Cause" project for Thalassaemia. This project was noted for its unique use of scan codes that open educational videos. In a moment of recognition, the Assistant Governor (AG) and Zonal Secretary (ZS) handed over PHF pins and certificates to deserving members, and the club felicitated RC Calcutta Presidency with a Cervical Cancer Vaccination Memento.

Following the introductions by Rtn Chitra Das and Rtn Nivedita Mohan, Zonal Secretary Rtn Yogita Kichlu addressed the floor. She lauded the club for its life-changing community projects and promised to attend future meetings when invited. Assistant

Governor Dr. Rina Malpani then shared her remarks, highly appreciating the efforts of the President and the club in cervical camps and global grant projects. She specifically praised the joint school transformation project, which earned accolades from the District Governor for providing students with a bright future through new infrastructure.

While expressing her overall satisfaction with the club's performance, AG Dr. Rina Malpani offered several strategic suggestions. She encouraged the club to increase membership, particularly by inducting more lady members, and urged the club to donate handsomely to the Foundation given its reputation as a premier club in the district. Additionally, she advised each member to bring at least one visitor to meetings to assist with retention and requested that all pending projects be uploaded to the Rotary India site immediately. After the final announcements and a mutual exchange of appreciation between the club and the district officials, the meeting was adjourned for Hi-Tea.

**Rtn Sharad Dugar**, *President*

**Rtn Prashant Maheshwari**, *Secretary*



# BELUR –Project & Events (July 2025- April 2026)

Since its charter on August 5, 1967, with 30 founding members, Rotary Club of Belur has built a multi-generational legacy of humanitarian service. This long-standing commitment to community welfare has culminated in a period of transformative growth during the 2025–26 Rotary year. The club has maintained a schedule that included 19 Regular Club Meetings, 3 Board Meetings, a Trust Meeting, and over 20 participations in District events.

A defining cornerstone of this current term has been the club's "Healthcare Revolution," which builds upon a historic success of completing 5000 Cervical Cancer Vaccines. The flagship HPV Vaccination project reached a monumental milestone of 163 camps, providing life-saving immunizations girls and conducting vital awareness sessions for guardians. This initiative was complemented by the innovative "Art for a Cause" 7 projects, through Art Camps, Live Art workshops, sponsoring brochures and catalogs of exhibitions for Thalassemia Awareness.. The club's medical outreach further extended to a Polio awareness car rally, blood donation drives, and "Wheel Chair Project," ensuring a comprehensive and sustainable approach to community wellness.

Furthering the focus on organizational health and sustainability, a significant Membership Seminar was held at Rotary Sadan, specifically designed for new members who have joined over the last few years. This vital initiative, spearheaded by Membership Chair PP Indra Goenka and PP Shankar Ramalingam, aimed to deepen the integration of newer Rotarians. By providing a dedicated platform for education and engagement, the seminar ensured that the club's recent growth—now reaching a strength of 93 members—translates into an active, long-term commitment to Rotary. A total of 10 Members were inducted in 2025-26.

Empowerment of the next generation remained a core priority through the continued support of Bal Vikas Kendra, a school for special children that has served the community since 1999. BalVikas Kendra recently hosted a grand Annual Function showcasing the vocational and artistic talents of over 30 students, supported by a curriculum offering specialized speech and music therapy. Simultaneously, youth engagement flourished with the formation of 1 Interact Club. These

efforts were mirrored in essential infrastructure projects, such as the maintenance of a Ladies Toilet and Child Care Centre, which emphasized community dignity and maternal health.

The club undertook partnering with Concern for Earth spearheaded by Rtn Santosh Mohta and Rtn Rashmi Patwari, many Plant Distribution, Plantation of Medicinal Plants drive. One more area of service was food distribution Every Sunday in front of Bhootnath Temple at Burrabazar with Friends and family of Secretary Prashant Maheshwari. Another project undertaken was clothes and Blanket distribution throughout winter months in various parts of the city.

As for fellowship this year witnessed the Hidden talents of Members and Spouses in Belur through various cultural programs undertaken by 1st Lady Anu Dugar with the help of many rotarians and spouses. Charter day saw the cooking talents of male members, Navratri brought together the family for a soulful evening at Sachiya Mata Temple, Diwali saw the burst of talents through the Play Ramayana enacted by Members, their spouses and children from seniors to juniors participating with much enthusiasm. A play which was inaugurated by District Governor and 1st lady Dr Bandana Homchoudhuri. Enacted in 15 episodes this was a memorable day to enjoy the fellowship and talents within the club. Many such fellowship programmes were held during the year.

Financially and strategically, the club has consistently exceeded its established benchmarks, ensuring the longevity of its humanitarian mission. Contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Annual Fund reached an impressive \$11,454 USD, far exceeding the \$8,000 goal. This financial health currently supports 10 active Global Grants for large-scale sanitation and infrastructure projects, often involving international partnerships like the club's sister-club relationship with R C Singapore. As the club enters the final quarter of the year, its blend of dedicated service, financial stewardship, and strong fellowship leaves it on a powerful trajectory for the upcoming official District visits in May 2026.



Anand Garg	13 <sup>th</sup> May	Dr. Shahul Hameed	14 <sup>th</sup> May
Ammit Bhutoria	14 <sup>th</sup> May	Shankar Ramalingam	16 <sup>th</sup> May
		Pratima Saraf	24 <sup>th</sup> May
		Aloke Kumar Kanodia	29 <sup>th</sup> May
		Ashim Kumar Mitra	29 <sup>th</sup> May

Together Through the Years:



Ammit & Preeti Bhutoria	14 <sup>th</sup> May
Anil Kumar & Susmita Jhawar	23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Pramod Kumar & Santosh Sharma	29 <sup>th</sup> May



<b>UPCOMING CERVICAL CANCER VACCINATION CAMPS</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> District Learning Assembly at Hyatt Regency
12.5.26 (Tuesday) - 2nd dose vaccination at Kalikapur	<b>29<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b>	<b>4.30 pm</b> – Regular Club Meeting
Basanti Devi Balika Vidyalaya (H S) (11:30 AM)		



# BELUR HISTORY

The Rotary Club of Belur stands as a distinguished beacon of service and fellowship, a journey that began with a visionary dream on August 5, 1967. Chartered with 30 dedicated members under the leadership of Charter President M. L. Agarwal, the club has spent nearly six decades weaving itself into the social fabric of the community. From its earliest days, marked by the practical contribution of bus stand shelters, the club quickly scaled its ambitions to address critical humanitarian needs. Its historical legacy is defined by massive health initiatives, most notably in sight preservation where it facilitated over 10,000 IOL surgeries, alongside relentless efforts in polio immunization and the establishment of comprehensive Medicare centers offering dental, eye, and homeopathic care. A crowning jewel of its service history is the "Bal Vikas Kendra," a school of Special Children founded in 1999, which continues to provide essential support and education.

As the club stands on the threshold of its landmark 60th anniversary next year, it has evolved into a robust and diverse organization of 93 active members and 4 honorary members. This growth has been accompanied by a progressive shift in demographics, with lady members now comprising a significant 22% of the club's total strength. The spirit of giving remains central to the club's identity, evidenced by its 11 Major Donors (Levels 1 and 2) and the distinction of having the first Arch Klumph Society (AKS) member from Belur, Rtn. Bhagwan Das Agarwal, who is one of only three in the district. This

financial commitment translates directly into large-scale action, with 10 Global Grants currently in operation, fueling projects that range from rainwater harvesting in arid regions like Purulia and Bankura to advanced cervical cancer vaccination drives.

The club's influence extends far beyond its immediate local projects, having fostered a deep-rooted culture of leadership and international cooperation, our club has supported international clubs like RC Singapore, and RC Guildford (UK) for projects in their communities.

One of our Signature International project was of Heart surgeries for Nigerian Children in collaboration with various clubs of Dist. 9125 of Nigeria. Having fostered a deep-rooted culture of leadership and international cooperation. In 1968-69, it sponsored its first Interact Club at Don Bosco, Liluah, and later established an Inner Wheel Club in 1988, ensuring that the spirit of Rotary reached all generations and family members. Its commitment to ethical standards is personified by the prestigious 4-Way Test Award, an initiative started by Rtn. Gauri Shankar Sharda that famously presented its inaugural award to IPS Kiran Bedi in 1994. Having produced its first District Governor, Rtn. Ravindra Prakash Sehgal, in the year 2000-2001, and maintaining a sister-club relationship with the Rotary Club of Singapore since 2014, the Rotary Club of Belur continues to honor its past while dynamically expanding its global footprint for the future.

## Thalassemia Awareness Programme at MCKV Institute of Engineering Hosted by Rotary Club of Belur

Date- 8th May 2026, 11.30 am No of Students - 230

On Thalassemia Service Day, the Rotary Club of Belur hosted a significant awareness program at M.C. Kejriwal Vidyapeeth. Aimed at the mission to "Make India Thalassemia Free Now," the event brought together students, teachers, and an esteemed panel of Rotary leaders, including international guests, to instill a sense of health responsibility in the younger generation. President Sharad Dugar gave a welcome speech and distributed Thalassemia Awareness cards to the students which carried a Video Scan Code.

The **District Governor, Dr. Ramendu Homchaudhuri**, delivered a technical session detailing how Thalassemia affects the body and the critical importance of identifying the carriers.

Supplementing this, PRID Anirudha Roychowdhury and PDG Rajani Mukherji addressed the gathering, motivating everyone to bring greater awareness to society and break the silence surrounding the disorder.

The presence of international guest PDG S Shaukat, further highlighted the global scale of this health mission.

A major highlight of the event was the generous contribution by Mr. Kishan Kejriwal, Chairman of MCKV. To ensure the awareness translated into immediate action, he offered all students free blood testing at the MCKV clinic.



# Career Guidance Program & Quiz for Interactors



On Thursday, \*May 7th, 2026, a highly impactful Career Guidance Program & Quiz was organized for Interactors at the iLead Campus, Topsia. This collaborative initiative brought together Rotary Clubs from Zones 13, 19, and 27, including Belur, Calcutta Chowringhee, Kolkata Urbana, Calcutta Presidency, Calcutta Pointers, and Calcutta South East.

The event, aimed to provide students with professional insights and a platform to showcase their intellectual mettle. The program commenced with a streamlined registration process, followed by a warm Welcome Address and an inspiring District Governor's Address to the students and an awareness on Thalassemia and how to prevent the disease was explained.

The core of the morning was dedicated to Career Counselling, featuring a panel of eminent speakers who shared their expertise across various fields: Mr. Pradip Chopra, Rtn Prakash Nahata, Rtn Arindam Sil, Rtn Dr. Amitabh Mohan, Brig Yajuvender Singh

Additionally, a specialized presentation by iLEAD offered students a deeper look into modern educational pathways and entrepreneurial opportunities.

## **THE COMPETITIVE EDGE: QUIZ ROUNDS**

The event also focused on mental agility through a multi-stage Quiz competition conducted by quiz partner VYANA. A rigorous 1-hour final round held after the break, where teams battled for the top honors. The day concluded with a Presentation Ceremony to reward the quiz winners and acknowledge the contributions of the speakers. A formal Vote of Thanks expressed gratitude to the participating clubs, the host venue, and the organizers for executing a flawless and meaningful program for the Interactors. The session successfully dispersed at 2:00 PM, leaving the young participants with clearer career perspectives and a renewed sense of motivation. The program was attended by PDG's and District officials. The event saw a gathering of 200 plus interactors, teachers and Rotarians.