



Friendship

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

President: Amar Kr. Malhotra • Secretary: Suresh Ch. Khunteta • Editor: Ajay Khanna



Vol. 57 no 18 • Saturday 24th February 2024

Minutes of the 2516 RCM of the Rotary Club of Belur held at HHI on Saturday, 13th January at 4:30 PM.

The meeting was attended by 23 members. President Amar Malhotra called the meeting to order and requested members to rise for the national anthem. Invocation was conducted by PP Hare Krishna Prasad.

The President shared details of the recently concluded program of the club and highlighted the contributions made by club members to the success of the District conference. Secretary Suresh Khunteta announced upcoming birthdays, anniversaries of club members, and shared details of forthcoming club programs.

Birthday greetings and felicitations were extended to Ann Heena Ved and PP Rakesh Bhatia. The program featured a talk show with Dr. Ranjit Chakravorti from R.C. Danville DS160 USA, facilitated by PP Vishnu Dhandhania. R.C. Danville is our international partner in Wash Projects. Dr. Chakraborty shared his life journey, including education, professional life, and his extensive experience in rotary. He also discussed challenges faced during project execution, and members greatly benefited from his experiences.

Rtn Tanwai Sawant from Panaji Rivera Dist. 3170 was a visiting Rotarian in the meeting. She introduced her club and elaborated on the project for specially-abled children taken up by her club, inviting our club to collaborate.

The vote of thanks was given by IPP Amitabh Mohan, who effectively summarized the essence of the talk show. PE Anand Agarwal assured Rtn Tanvi of our club's full support to her club.

President Amar Malhotra concluded the meeting as there were no further agenda items, and requested all to join for fellowship.

Rtn Amar Malhotra, President
Rtn Suresh Ch. Khunteta, Secretary



TODAY'S SPEAKER



Anvar Saeed

**Topic : CLIMATE CHANGE AND
BIO-DIVERSITY LOSS.
"What Rotarians can do"**

Born in an illustrious family of writers, journalists and social activists, ANWAR SAEED is an English Hons. Graduate from St. Xavier's College, Kolkata and later pursued a career as a journalist in various newspapers. Of late, bearing in mind veracity of the issue of Climate Change/Biodiversity Loss, two most important issues of Mankind today, he has taken upon himself to highlight it through science journalism. His involvement goes beyond words and as he is impassioned on the subject and feels his talk would motivate the audience/s mind and at the same time touch their hearts.



Minutes of the 2517th Joint RCM of the Rotary Club of Belur, held at Conclave on 7th February at 7 pm.

This was a joint meeting with the Rotary Club of Ayyanna. The meeting was attended by 16 members of Ayyanna and 20 members of Belur.

President Mandira Mukherjee of Rotary Ayyanna requested the members to rise for the national anthem. President Amar Malhotra appraised the members about some of the projects carried out by the Rotary Club of Belur and highlighted the scope of joint initiatives. Similarly, the president of Ayyanna described the recent projects undertaken by their club. The club secretaries of both clubs conducted their club business respectively.

The Treasurer of Rotary Ayyanna introduced the guest speaker, Ms. Shakuntala Raha, Manager Fund Development and Donor Services for TRF in RISAO office, New Delhi. The speaker suggested members discuss Rotary's activities within their social circles and encourage others to join and contribute to Rotary projects. She recommended identifying small goals and motivating members to achieve them. She explained the concept of the Name Endowment fund and urged members to create a Name Endowment fund of \$25,000 USD in the name of their parents or grandchildren by contributing to the TRF. She also appealed for contributions to be made on birthdays and anniversaries.





Additionally, she discussed the CSR INDIA GRANT model for corporate contributions to the foundation for conducting projects. The speaker was felicitated by the presidents of both clubs.

PP Vishnu Dhandhanian conducted the vote of thanks. The President of Rotary club of Avyanna concluded the meeting and invited members to join for fellowship.

A Rotarian – In and Out

Rtn. (Dr.) Ranjit Chakraborty and Sunanda Boudi graced our Club with their esteemed presence on Saturday, January 13th. Dr. Chakraborty, a distinguished individual, engaged in a captivating talk show with Rtn. Vishnu Dhandhanian, shedding light on his academic and Rotary journey.

Graduating from Jadavpur University in 1961, he attained an M.Tech degree in 1962 from IIT Kharagpur, and later, in 1973, earned his Ph.D. from the University at Buffalo, USA, focusing on Adsorption technology crucial for water and air purification.

Grounded in a tradition of generosity passed down from his father and grandfather, Ranjit da discovered a platform to continue this legacy within Rotary. Joining the local club in the San Francisco area, he became an enthusiastic and project-oriented Rotarian, immersing himself in detailed project management for the betterment of mankind.

Ranjit da's global involvement in managing Rotary projects, with a total cost exceeding a billion dollars, speaks volumes about his commitment. His dedication commenced with a modest yet impactful project with RC Inner City, installing a tube well for drink-

ing water supply at a clinic in Joka, exemplifying Rotary's commitment to community welfare.

Emphasizing the importance of community service projects, he highlighted his local club's initiatives, such as providing breakfast to 1000 homeless people and distributing gift packages during Christmas. His first-hand experience at the campsite, cooking and serving meals for thousands of beneficiaries from four in the morning, revealed the profound impact on their lives.

Inspired by Rotary, Ranjit da utilized his professional skills for societal benefit, co-founding Bay Area Prabasi, a community social organization in the San Francisco Bay area, in 1974. In its 50th-year anniversary, Prabasi recently completed WASH projects in two schools in the Amtalla area near Kolkata, implemented by RC Belur in partnership with Rotary Clubs of Calcutta Chowringhee, South City Towers, Salt Lake South, and Danville/Sycamore Valley (D-5160).

He also co-founded the Global Jadavpur University Alumni Foundation (GJUAF). In 2022 and 2023, GJUAF participated in projects for 10 departments in JU, focusing on the operation and maintenance of laboratories. Recent initiatives, such as the Integrated

Circuits Center of Excellence and a Sabda Kalpa project for the Bengali language at Jadavpur University, showcase his fusion of professional expertise and a desire to contribute.

Acknowledging the crucial role of his supportive wife, Sunanda, Ranjit da shared his mantra for effective leadership within Rotary. He emphasized continual learning, the application of soft skills, and the importance of teamwork for successful projects.

Discussing the future of Rotary, he underscored the significance of membership diversity and the involvement of younger generations. Ranjit da expressed gratitude for the strong partnership with

RC Belur, specifically mentioning valuable collaborations in eye care, ambulance projects, and the WASH project.

Reflecting on impactful experiences, Ranjit da remembered the profound impact of an eye camp in Berhampur, emphasizing Rotary's transformative nature. He concluded by highlighting the transformative journey of joining a Rotary Club and becoming a Rotarian, where one can have fun while making a meaningful impact.

Immediate Past President (IPP) Amitabh Mohan conveyed a well-deserved vote of thanks, and a token of appreciation was presented by our oldest charter member, Rtn. Sri Gopal Daga.

WINTER Picnic

The winter picnic of the Rolay club of Belur was organized on 26th January 2024 at Nalban, Kolkata.

Attended by 80+ members their family, it was a great fun & entertainment. Games, Antakshari, singing, Dancing and housie had a lot of participation and everyone enjoyed thoroughly. To top it all there was sumptuous Lunch for every one as an icing over the cake.

As always it was wonderful belur picnic with full entertainment & Dhamaka, thanks to the efforts of president Armer and first lady swati Malhotra well supported by secretary Suresh Kumtheta , joint secretary sandeep Choraria and wonderful participation of all.





“GANGA ABHAYAN PROJECT

RCB Belur and Rotary Calcutta members cond a primary survey at Pathak Ghat and Dewan Gazi Ghat in Belur with Dr. Niladari to assess pollution under the “Ganga Abhayan Project” and taking measures to rectify its impact on environmental conservation.



CERVICAL CANCER PREVENTION PROJECT

The media launch of the Cervical Cancer Prevention Project took place on January 17th at 12 pm at the Press Club of Kolkata, in collaboration with Narayana Hospital Howrah and in association with Young Indians. The project is led by the Rotary Club of Belur in partnership with R.C. Calcutta Chowranghee, R.C. Hooghly, R.C. Calcutta Visionaries and R.C. of Chandan Nagar.

The event was graced by the presence of DG Hira Lal Yadav. President Amar Malhotra delivered the welcome address, while the keynote address was given by Project Chair PP Vishnu Dhandhan. A cervical cancer awareness session was conducted by

Dr. Kaustuv Basu and Dr. Pushan Kundu of Narayana Hospital.

DG Hira Lal Yadav also addressed the media representatives present at the event. The vote of thanks was given by Mr. Ashim Kumar, Faculty Director of Narayana Hospital Howrah. The event saw the attendance of PDG Ravi Sehgal, PE Anand Agarwal, Secretary Suresh Khunteta, and many other members of the club.

The project is of 1100 cervical vaccinations under Global grant. The programme was widely covered by print and news media.



PURI TRIP

Every President comes with a dream for his members, he comes with a drive to bring and move all together. This was one dream fulfilled by Rotary Club of Belur (RID3291) President Amar Kr Malhotra by organising a blessed and leisure trip to Puri and Konark by Vande Bharat, from 2nd~ 4th Feb'24. A total of 37 members with spouses came back home with sweet memories and blessings.

On 2nd Feb all who were scheduled, reached Howrah station and boarded Vande Bharat, Coach 2, the train left at 6.10am and reached Puri at 12.35pm, all were transferred to Hotel Shakti International by a luxury bus. After a quick freshen up all joined in for a lunch and thereafter were driven in local transports to Shree Jagannath Mandir. President Amar had arranged our Darshan under local Police escort and each felt the blessings of the Gods - Jagannath, Subhadra and Balabhadra. Special packed dry prasadam was arranged for all to take back home. In the evening all were again blessed with the divine bhog from the Jagannath mandir kitchen served in the hotel's hall exclusively for the Belurians. Thereafter some left for local shopping, others to the beach area.

On 3rd morning after breakfast, all boarded a luxury bus for Konark beach which was a 45 minute drive. We reached the Eco retreat luxury deluxe swiss cottages facing the magnificent Bay of Bengal. This place - SEEING IS BELIEVING. Luxurious tents equipped with Air Conditioners and heaters, attached toilets with continuous warm water flow tempted all to refresh themselves again. Many rushed to the sea and all let loose their inner child on the beach. The lunch was lavish. Thereafter a group left for Konark Sun-temple. In the evening, all reassembled together to witness a cultural program with local tribal dance and fire show arranged by the resort authorities. It was now party time for all...this was a real beach party which many will never forget. An elaborate dinner was laid in the huge tent.

4th early morning, we were surprised to see each other walking on the beach, after a late night, none wanted to miss the sunrise. It was an amazing sight. There were water sports lined up too, The breakfast was elaborate. Another surprise was in for all, President had arranged Rotary logo on the sand and a memorable picture was clicked, all wearing a smile t shirt gifted again by the President. As all good things comes to an end this too ended as we boarded the 2 buses for Puri station, the train left at 1.50pm and reached Howrah at 8.30pm.

Enjoy Rotary!



Bal vikas Kendra picnic



Rotary Club of Belur, Bal Vikas Kendra had their annual picnic celebrated in style. Fun food games were the flavour of the day.

Smiles on faces of our specially abled children was invaluable.

PDG Ravi Sehgal took an initiative to revive our connection to an old RCC of our club at Uluberia.

The local people surprised us with an arrangement on Netaji birthday. A meeting was held after to discuss the needs and work scope in the area.



Treatment at Club Clinic in September 2023

Total patients treated at Club Clinic LILUAH HOWARH

● January 2024- 310 Beneficiaries

- report by PP Kishan Kejriwal

EVENTS

- 3rd March - District Polio Rally
- 8th March - WOMEN 's Day Celebration. Chair chhaya Agarwal
- 9th March - A G Visit

Solar cell phone chargers help Ukrainians

Members of the Rotary Club of Lander with the first batch of solar chargers.



Contributed by Rtn Rakesh Bhatia



- 28th February : Ann Pooja Tibrewala
- 1st March : Rtn Govinddas Agrawal
- 1st March : Rtn Vikash Kumar Agarwal
- 5th March : Rtn Anirudh Khemka
- 5th March : Rtn Dr. Ratish Ch. Paul
- 6th March : Rtn Amarnath Choudhary

8th March :
Rtn Ashok Kr. Kedia

8th March :
Rtn Sundeep Kr. Choraria



- 5th March : Gouri Shankar and Puspa Sarda
- 24th February : Shashi and Minoo Seth
- 7th March : Nirmal Kumar and Ava Saha

For Private Circulation only

Edited by: Rtn Ajay Khanna, e-mail: ankoorkolkata@gmail.com on behalf of Rotary Club of Belur, RID 3291