

Friendship

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY



President: Anand Agarwal • Secretary: Sundeeep Kr. Choraria • Editor: Ajay Khanna

Vol. 58 no 17 • Saturday 8th March 2025

Minutes of 2546th Regular Club Meeting of Rotary Club of Belur held on Saturday 22nd February 2025, at 4.30 pm at HHI, Kolkata

President Anand Agarwal called the meeting to order and requested all present to rise for the national Anthem. He requested Rtn Manish Bhatte for invocation to God. Rtn Manish Bhatte recited a unique Mantra containing the 108 names of Lord Vishnu. Club Joint Secretary Rtn Prashant Maheshwari was then requested to conduct the club business. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and Rtn Prashant announced the birthdays and greetings of the members. He also informed the members about the forthcoming club programmes including the important Joint Fellowship dinner with RC Singapore our sister club, who are arriving with a strong delegation of 23 members to our city on 20th of March 25. He then handed over the mic to President Anand who informed the members about the District Diwali meet to be held on Monday 17th March 25 at eastern Metropolitan Bypass Club. President Anand then informed the members present about the various projects the club has undertaken during the current year. He also informed the members that during the current year, the Rotary Foundation has already approved 4 (Four) Global grant projects of the club, 2 more are under active consideration and 1 project of RC Singapore where we are the international partners, is ready to be approved. The total project amount is close to USD 200,000/-. He further informed about the various projects being undertaken by the trust under CSR initiative with support of Rashmi Ipsat at Jhargram where deep tube well has been constructed and expansion of a school building is underway.

President Anand thereafter invited PP Rtn Indra Goenka to introduce the guest speaker Rtn Subhajit Roy from Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City. Incidentally, this year, PP Rtn Indra Goenka is also the Assistant Governor of the Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City. Rtn Subhajit Roy then deliberated upon the Prevention and steps to be undertaken in identification and eradication of Thalassemia. We, as a club, agreed to join hands in the fight to prevent and early detection of Thalassemia and requested PDG Ravi Sehgal to take up the matter with DGE Dr Ramendu Homchaudhuri, together with PE Sharad Dugar and get another large project started. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by PP Rtn Shankar Ramalingam.

Prashant Maheshwari
Joint Secretary

Anand Agarwal
President

TODAY'S GUEST SPEAKER



SWETA JUTHANI

- Graduated in commerce from JD BIRLA INSTITUTE (Kolkata)
- Pursued MASTERS IN FINANCE in 2004
- Completed CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST in the year 2004
- 5 years of work experience in Equity Research
- Happily married to Samir Juthani (Chartered Accountant), a banker by profession
- Mother to two budding kids
- Completed a Diploma course in chocolate making from the "Chocolate World Academy"
- 10+ years of experience in baking, confectionaries, savouries, etc
- Aim to make Sioccolato (Brand owned by AS Creations) a household name and a pan India Brand



ALKA MEHTA

- Graduated in commerce from Shri Shikshayatan (Kolkata)
- Pursued Teacher's Training course in the year 2000
- 3 Years of experience in teaching young children
- Rendered 5 years of Honorary service at the Taratala Spastic Society
- Happily married to Rajiv Mehta, Expert in stationery and allied products for >5 decades.
- Proudly parenting a specially abled son and daughter-in-law

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month



Farewell to CHANDRA PRAKASH SINGHAL

A Tribute to a remarkable soul

Chandra Prakash Singhal ji was an upright person who lived life on his own terms, remaining true to himself regardless of external influences. Born and raised in a family of freedom fighters in the town of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, he moved to Kolkata in search of better opportunities after completing his law graduation. On arrival to Kolkata he established a factory to manufacture glass marbles later venturing into fabrication work.

In 1989, he was introduced to Rotary Club of Belur by none other than PDG Ravi Sehgal, marking the beginning of his passionate affiliation with Rotary. In the 1995-96 Rotary year, he had the honour of serving as the President of our club. Known as a man of action, CP ji as he was popularly known, was actively involved in numerous Club projects, including the notable Bangar Bustee and Bal Vikash Kendra initiatives.

Primarily PDG Ravi alongwith CP ji initiated the Bangar Bustee project a place few dared to visit. CP ji was committed to transforming it and he often donned gum boots, visiting this challenging environment frequently, dedicating himself to converting this once-infamous garbage dump into a model dwelling, complete with roads, sanitation,

drinking water, and lighting—a remarkable achievement accomplished under extreme conditions.

Our club's signature project, Bal Vikash Kendra, commenced in 1999 at a location in Round Tank Lane, Liluah, Howrah, with CP ji as one of the pioneering members vital to its running. Recognizing the limitations of the original site, he wisely approached late Shyam Sunder Kejriwal ji, requesting a more suitable space at MCKV for the Kendra. An ardent Rotarian himself, Shyam Sunder Ji graciously granted this request, allowing Bal Vikash Kendra to flourish and serve an increasing number of specially-abled children even today.

Beyond his business and community service, CP Singhal ji also embraced a significant spiritual journey. He participated as a Kar Sevak braving bullets in the renowned Ram Janm Bhoomi movement of 1992 in Ayodhya and later joined the Chinmaya Mission, dedicating several years to the study of the Vedas.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Santoshji, son Bhaskar, daughters Shefali and Manjari, along with a host of relatives, friends and well-wishers who will fondly remember him.



ROTARY CLUB OF BELUR

Expands its Fight Against Cervical Cancer

Cervical cancer claims the lives of more than 200 women in India every day, despite being a preventable disease. According to recent medical data, 80,000 women in India succumbed to cervical cancer, contributing to 16% of the global burden, making it the second most common cancer among women. Alarmed by this crisis and aligning with the WHO's initiative to eliminate cervical cancer by vaccinating all girls aged 9-14 within the next five years, The Rotary Foundation has taken a similar pledge. Rotary has prioritized regions with high incidences, such as Africa and South East Asia, including India, where ignorance and social taboos hinder prevention.

The Rotary Club of Belur, and several partner clubs, have committed to vaccinating 5,000 girls aged 9-14 over three years through multiple Global Grant projects. Launched in June 2024, the initiative has already conducted awareness sessions in 17 government schools and communities across Howrah, Hooghly, and South 24 Parganas, vaccinating 700 girls under the first project, with 500 more scheduled for next few months.

The second phase of the initiative was inaugurated on February 22, 2025, at Sibpur Bhabani Balika Vidyalaya in Howrah under the Urmila Devi Agarwal Memorial Cervical Cancer Vaccine Program. This project is generously sponsored by our own Rtn Bhagwan Das Agarwal (Bhanu babu) in memory of his late wife, whom he lost to cancer. His Rs. 65 lakh donation will provide free vaccinations to 2,000 girls, ensuring them a healthier and safer future.

The inaugural awareness camp was attended by several Rotary dignitaries, including District Governor Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, a renowned gynaecologist, who shared how he ensured his daughter was vaccinated as early as 2008. He urged parents to do the same, reinforcing the importance of prevention. Bhanu Babu expressed his firm belief that "prevention is better than cure," and if this initiative saves even

one girl, it will have served its purpose.

Project Chair Vishnu Dhandhanian stated that this awareness camp will be followed by first dose vaccination camp in March and second dose six months thereafter.

Other distinguished attendees included PDG Ravi Sehgal, President Anand Agarwal, Co-chair Tarun K Pal, and several members of the club.

The project's medical partner, Narayana Hospital Howrah, was represented by Dr. Supraja TV and Santosh Gupta. The Rotary Club of Belur presented a plaque to the school in appreciation of their partnership, while Headmistress Srabanti Pan, who played a key role in the program's success, voiced her strong support for the cause.

The event saw 300 parents actively participating in the awareness session. Project Manager Alopekarna Ghosh delivered a presentation on cervical cancer and its prevention, followed by an interactive Q&A session led by Dr. Supraja. The program ended on a positive note, with most parents expressing their willingness to vaccinate their daughters.

Among them was Antara, the mother of a Class VI student, who shared her personal battle with cervical cancer. With surgery scheduled in the coming months, she stated, "I do not want my daughter to suffer like me. I will get her vaccinated and encourage my family and friends to do the same."

MARCH, 2025

The following camps are already scheduled in March, which may be announced:

- Wednesday, 12th March - Oxford High School, Howrah - 1st Dose
- Tuesday, 18th March - Sibpur Girls' School - Awareness
- Wednesday, 19th March - Magra Prbhavati - 2nd dose. (RC Hooghly)
- Thursday 20th March - Swaika, Liluah - 2nd dose.
- Sunday, 23rd March - Gangnapur Girls', Nadia - Awareness (RC Dumdum)
- Friday, 28th March - Dharamtollah - 2nd Dose (RC Chandannagar)



Visit to Regular Club Meeting of RC Chadstone East Malvern, Melbourne Australia by President Anand Agarwal and First Lady Rtn Chhaya Agarwal

On Wednesday, 5th March 2025, President Anand Agarwal along with First Lady Rtn Chhaya Agarwal attended the Regular Club Meeting of Rotary Club of Chadstone East Malvern in the city of Melbourne, Australia. He met with President Rtn Ms Kathryn Noble and presented her with the Club flag, Club bulletin and the wooden Peace Pole replica handcrafted by Rtn Chhaya Agarwal. He also gave a brief about our club to the members present. RC Chadstone East Malvern is in its 50th year and has 42 members at present. The guest speaker for the day was Dr David Grodski, a very well known author and winner of various awards, who spoke about *The Wisdom of Wellness*, which is also one of his renowned books. The meeting ended with exchange of pleasantries. President Anand extended an invitation to the members of the club to visit India and especially Kolkata and our club.



Presentation of Club flag to President Kathryn

Presentation of Peace Pole to President Kathryn



President Anand giving an overview of our Club to the members of RC Chadstone East Malvern

President Anand, First Lady Chhaya with Guest speaker Dr David Grodski and President Kathryn - RC Chadstone East Malvern



CSR Funds

The club is delighted to share some exciting news with the Belurian community. Rtn Suresh Khunteta has successfully secured corporate grants that will help support and expand the club's philanthropic activities, marking a crucial milestone in strengthening their projects. The details of the grants are as follows:

- Vidula Consultancy Services Ltd – Rs 7.50 lacs (under CSR)
- G D Birla Memorial Foundation – Rs 7.50 lacs (donation)

These donation cheques were received in person by IPP Amar Malhotra and Rtn Swati Malhotra, and have since been forwarded to the Trust office for processing into the club's Trust account.

The entire contribution has been allocated to the Cervical Cancer Prevention Project, and the club is committed to ensuring that these funds are utilized effectively to further this important cause.

This accomplishment is significant, and it is acknowledged that Suresh Ji has invested immense effort over the past few months to engage and persuade the donor organizations. The club extends its sincere congratulations and heartfelt appreciation to him for his invaluable contributions toward enhancing the project's activities.



Rotary Club of Belur
Varanasi and Ayodhya Trip – 26th March to 29th March



Ashok Kumar Kedia	8 th March
Sundeeep Kr. Choraria	8 th March
Anju Mitra	11 th March
Sujatha Ramalingam	11 th March
Kavita Jain	12 th March
Khushboo Agarwal	14 th March



15th March 2025 Regular club meeting with Holi Milan - time 4 pm, place to be decided.

Joint meeting with RC Singapore on Saturday 22nd March 2025.

22nd March 2025 Contributory Fellowship Dinner with RC Singapore Time 7 p.m. at Bengal Club.



Rakesh & Kiran Almal 10th March
Rakesh & Geeta Bhatia 11th March

For Private Circulation only

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