



Friendship

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY



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

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RID 3291 Vibrant Club Workshop for Membership Growth on April 5, 2025 at Rotary Sadan, Kolkata

KEY SPEAKERS : RI Leaders PRIP Shekhar Mehta, RID Anirudha Roychowdhury, Dist. Leaders DG AKS Dr. Krishnendu Gupta, DGN Tapas Bhattacharya, DGND Purnendu Roychowdhury, PDG Ajay Agarwal, DMC Ravindra Sehgal, Incoming DMC Debi Prosad Basu, DCH Member Attraction Anand K Sharma.

Welcome address was given by RC Belur President Rtn Anand Agarwal

KEY PARTICIPANTS : Club Presidents, President Elects, Club Membership Chairs

KEY TAKEAWAYS :

- Actively approach non-Rotarian family, friends, relatives, and colleagues.
- Form Satellite Clubs (min. 8 members) with independent operations under a parent club, even in different towns with separate bylaws.
- AG Admins to take greater ownership in club membership growth.
- Encourage hybrid meetings for wider participation.
- Senior Rotarians to engage with potential leavers to address concerns.
- Utilize the remaining 75 days with the "Each One Bring One" strategy.
- Prioritize inducting lady members and individuals from diverse communities and religions.
- Proactively establish new clubs in unserved cities and towns, including within gated communities.
- Promote Satellite Clubs to cater to the digital communication preferences of the younger generation.
- Organize Vibrant Clubs Workshops more frequently to maintain momentum.



TODAY'S PROGRAMME

RCM

and an Open session on
Our ongoing project

 **CERVICAL
CANCER
PREVENTION**



- Implement recognition mechanisms for Rotarians who sponsor new members at club, district, and RI levels.
- Club Presidents to enhance meeting engagement through varied timings, venues, speakers, and social events.
- Schedule regular (bi-monthly) meetings with non-Rotarians to showcase projects and successes.

The workshop concluded positively with a commitment to future similar events and appreciation for the sponsoring Rotary Clubs of Calcutta, Belur and Chowringhee and a Vote of Thanks by Calcutta President Rtn Gaurav Gupta.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT *Belur - Singapore Friendship*

A 20-member delegation from Rotary Club of Singapore visited our club on 22nd March 2025. A joint Rotary Club Meeting (RCM) was organized over dinner at the Bengal Club, attended by around 35 members from RC Belur.

During the meeting, ongoing collaborative activities between our clubs were discussed. Rtn. Manoj Agarwal presented the history of our Global Grant projects over the past 12 years, highlighting key milestones, including the formalization of the Sister Club agreement.

The Singapore team was led by President Tom of RC Singapore. Distinguished among the visitors were DGE Shahul Hameed, Mohan Ji Vaswani, and Tapan Rao – all Honorary Members of RC Belur. DGE Shahul shared warm sentiments and pledged his full support during his tenure as District Governor (2025-26). Also present was our incoming DGE for District 3291, Rtn. Raamendu Hom Choudhury, accompanied by his gracious spouse. He spoke at length about the issue of Thalassemia and its significant impact on the community.

Prior to the main meeting, a smaller informal dinner was held on 20th March at Calcutta Club, attended by about 10 members from both clubs. Discussions revolved around future activities and potential collaborations.

On the same day, two members of the visiting delegation were taken to Dakshineswar Temple by our incoming Secretary Prashant Maheshwari and his spouse Namrata. Later that evening, they were joined by Rtn. Shankar Ramalingam and his spouse Sujata for an informal dinner at the Saturday Club.

Reported by Rtn Vishnu Dhandhanian



- 26th April, Saturday - AG and ZS visit RCM at HHI
- 2nd May, Friday - Inaguration of Jadavpur University Library.
- 3rd May, Saturday - DG visit at HHI
- 10th May, Saturday - Joint meeting with JC on at HHI - Cyber Crime
- 24th May, Saturday - COTS - details to follow.



Madhu Todi	12 th April
Sunita Agarwal	14 th April
Pramod Kr Sharma	15 th April
Susmita Jhawar	22 nd April



Amar & Swati Malhotra 16th April
 Seema & Sailash Choudhury 17th April
 Pratima & Anirudh Saraf 20th April

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Its Impact in India

Understanding HPV

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a widespread infection, with a significant number of sexually active individuals encountering it. HPV is responsible for nearly 5% of all cancers worldwide, with cervical cancer being the most common HPV-associated cancer.

Types of HPV and Their Risks

There are over 200 variants of HPV, with 13 classified as high-risk for cancer development. Among these, HPV 16 and 18 are the most prevalent, accounting for the majority of HPV-related cancers.

The Burden of Cervical Cancer in India

India accounts for approximately 25% of the global cervical cancer burden, with HPV types 16 and 18 playing a dominant role. The country records an estimated 200 deaths of women every day due to this cancer.

Challenges in Prevention and Screening

Awareness about HPV and access to preventive measures remain limited in India. While HPV-based screening has gained momentum in certain regions, a nationwide, organized screening program is still needed to maximize early detection and treatment.



HPV Vaccination: A Proven Preventive Measure

HPV vaccination is a well-established method for preventing HPV-related cancers. The Indian government has taken significant steps to introduce the HPV vaccine as part of a national immunization program, targeting girls aged 9–14 years. However, the rollout has been slow. Recognizing the urgency, Rotary has stepped in to provide free vaccinations.

HPV Vaccines Available in India

India offers multiple HPV vaccines:

Gardasil 4 and Gardasil 9, produced by Merck, priced at over Rs. 10,000 per dose.

Cervavac, developed by the Serum Institute of India, which is equally effective and costs approximately Rs. 2,000 per dose.

We administer two doses as per WHO guidelines.

Addressing Awareness and Vaccine Hesitancy

Public awareness about HPV and its associated cancers remains low, particularly in rural areas. Myths and misinformation about vaccine safety have also contributed to hesitancy, with targeted misinformation campaigns negatively impacting vaccination rates.

Our Role in HPV Awareness and Vaccination

We organize educational camps led by medical professionals. A gynecologist from Narayana Hospitals is always present to address medical concerns. We encourage mothers to consult their family doctors before signing consent forms. Over the past nine months, we have administered 1,000 vaccinations, with another 1,000 scheduled by June.

Positive Impact of HPV Vaccination

Early data suggests that HPV vaccination is leading to a decline in abnormal cervical screening results among vaccinated women, reinforcing its effectiveness in cancer prevention.

Global and National Efforts to Eliminate Cervical Cancer

In 2020, the WHO launched a global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health issue, aiming for fewer than four new cases per 100,000 women in every country. The strategy sets a target of 90% of girls being fully vaccinated with the HPV vaccine by age 15.

The Road Ahead for India

With coordinated efforts from healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities, India has the potential to significantly reduce its HPV-related cancer burden in the coming years. Strengthening awareness, ensuring vaccine availability, and expanding screening programs will be key to achieving this goal.

ROTARY CLUB OF BELUR - Holi Meet

The Holi meet organised by our club was a lively celebration filled with joy and friendship, held on the 15th of March, 2025, at Hotel Swagath. It was thrilling to have nearly 65-70 enthusiastic members and their families in attendance, all gathered to participate in the festive spirit of this lovely festival.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the captivating Dhap performance, which mesmerised the audience and brought a festive atmosphere to life. Interspersed with lively Holi songs, the performance had everyone entranced, setting the perfect tone for the celebration. As the Abhir colours hovered in the air, members joyfully danced, immersing themselves in the rhythm of timeless Holi and folk melodies.

The infectious energy of laughter and celebration filled the hall as everyone came together to create unforgettable moments. During the event, Seema Choudhury was inducted as the newest member of our vibrant club by Club Membership Director PP S Ramalingam.

Adding to the delights of the evening, the delicious spread of traditional delicacies, accompanied by refreshing thandai, further enriched the experience. The delightful flavours and the festive mood combined to create a truly memorable evening, reflecting the essence of Holi—unity, love, and the joy of togetherness.



Varanasi and Ayodhya Trip

26th - 29th March, 2025

Rotary Belur embarked on a historic trip to Varanasi and Ayodhya with a contingent of almost 60 members, their families, and friends. What unfolded was an enchanting and fun-filled excursion, where spirituality and festivity were present in equal measures.

The four days spent together were a celebration of friendship and community, reminding us all of the beautiful bonds we share. We Belurians certainly look forward to many more such joyful outings in the future!



For Private Circulation only

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