

Friendship Bulletin

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President : Alope Kumar Kanodia

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2

minutes ... 4

Anniversaries 4

Birthdays ... 4

 Human Wisdom 3



JANUARY IS VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

Polio Awareness Drive



31 January 2021 : Rotary Club of Belur, RID 3291 under the able leadership of President Rtn Alope Kanodia proved that Business and pleasure can go together. Members with families were motivated by declaring the day as Picnic-cum- Polio awareness drive, as announced by Club Secretary Rtn Amar Malhotra.

Around 36 members with their spouse and children, many in a chartered bus, some in their personal vehicles drove down from Kolkata to Sreerampore with the cars having posters of Keep India Polio Free pasted on it.

The strong message on Polio immunization NID to all was – Keep giving the Polio drops to all children till the age of 5 as a preventive measure even though India is Polio free but Polio is yet to be eradicated from the world. Soon the world will be Polio free and as such we must keep this drive on.

Members and families actively participated in this awareness drive, which was followed by a sumptuous lunch, fun and games.

~ A Report by PP Rtn Rakesh Bhatia, Chairman Polio drive.

Today's
SPEAKER



Shubha Churiwal
Sanskriti Parichay

Topic:
Life Lessons from Epics

Shubha Churiwal is daughter of our own member Vishnuji, and wife of industrialist Shri Nivedan Churiwal. After graduating in Maths Hons from St Xavier's, Shubha took upon herself the responsibility of propagating the education of Indian Heritage and Culture.

She founded Sanskriti Parichay with an objective to imbibe Indian Sanskriti and Heritage amongst young children who are primarily exposed to the western conditions in today's world and have hardly any opportunity to become acquainted with the Indian Culture.

Shubha is a gold medalist in Bhav Sangeet and Indian classical guitar from Rabindra Bharati University. She has made several online presentations on YouTube, Saavan, Gaana and many more. A trained Odissi dancer; she has actively been associated with theatre.

Sanskriti Parichay has students not only within India but also countries like Singapore, Bahrain etc. Her current student count is 250 even during the pandemic, and over 4000 students have already benefited.

More recently, she has been nominated to the prestigious Hindi Sahitya Academy of West Bengal Government by Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee.

A philanthropist, Shubha has also contributed generously to the recent Covid Global Grant of Rotary Belur.

PICNIC 2021 "Every day is a picnic when you're with friends."



Snippets







And finally our club decided upon the long waited picnic. It was held on Sunday the last day of January 31, at Sreerampore, (venue courtesy PP Kishan Kejriwal) with bright sunshine shining ☀️ in cold winter making it a beautiful day. Members, spouses and children all made a beeline to venue for an eventful day of fun, frolic and mouth watering food.

Own vehicles older than 15 years? You may have to scrap it soon :



New Delhi: If you own any vehicles which are older than 15 years you might have to take it to the junkyard soon.

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari on Friday said that his ministry submitted the proposal for vehicle scrappage policy which is likely to get government nod soon.

The policy entails scrapping of commercial and private vehicles older than 15 years in order to spur demand for newer vehicles which are compliant with pollution norms.

"We have submitted the proposal and I am expecting to get an approval as soon as possible," said Gadkari who also heads the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) ministry.

While addressing Atmanirbhar Bharat Innovation Challenge 2020-21 event, Gadkari said the policy entails scrapping of vehicles such as cars, buses and trucks which are 15 years or older.

Gadkari's statement ahead of the Union Budget 2021-2022 is significant as the much-awaited policy to scrap old cars might be announced on February 1, 2021, by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The move will boost demand for new automobiles by phasing out old and polluting vehicles.

A final decision on the matter will be taken by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Gadkari claimed that India will become a hub for automobile industry once the policy is cleared. This will lead to a reduction in prices of vehicles as the recycled material from scrapped vehicles can be used to make new automobiles thereby reducing input costs.

"We will take scrap from all over the world and here we will make an industry where we can use all new material and cost will be less and industry will be more competitive," he added.

The size of the automobile industry is Rs 4.5 lakh crore out of which Rs 1.5 lakh crore are exports, the minister pointed out.

Earlier, FM Sitharaman too pointed out that the policy for old vehicles is in the works and will be announced as it is ready for implementation.

Industry players and traders' bodies have long demanded incentive-based scrappage policy which they claim will boost demand in the heavy & commercial vehicle segment.

It is to be noted that the government had floated a draft Voluntary Vehicle Fleet Modernisation Programme (V-VMP) earlier which proposed to take as many as 28 million vehicles off the road. However, a committee of secretaries (CoS) recommended to the ministry redesigning of the scheme for greater participation of states with partial support from the Centre.

Contributed by PP Rakesh Bhatia

Presidential Theme 2021-22

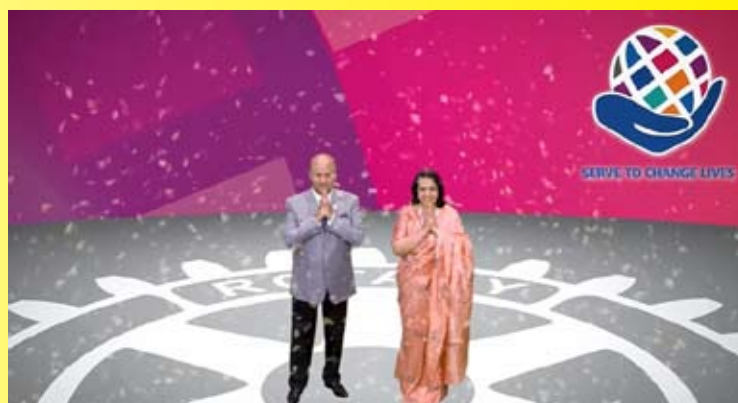


Incoming Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta revealed the 2021-22 year theme, "Serve To Change Lives" as the tradition goes, on 1st February in the presence of incoming District Governors during the Rotary International Assembly.

The assembly finally took place virtually from New Delhi, India because of COVID-19, which was otherwise planned to take place in the USA. He spoke from his heart about how Rotary truly transformed him and has given his life a direction.

RIPE Shekar Mehta requested all Rotarians to work towards improving the lives of girls as well as life of people in general. He also stressed upon increasing membership alongwith continuing the fight against Polio and COVID-19.

Reported by PE Indra Goenka



CLUB EVENTS



13th February, 2021

Physical RCM at HHI at 5 pm
Details to be announced soon

20th February, 2021

Physical RCM at HHI at 5 pm
Details to be announced soon

Anniversaries

- 📅 Subhas and Prava Agarwal on 05th February
- 📅 Alope and Anita Kanodia on 06th February
- 📅 Manoj and Ruby Agarwal on 10th February

Birthdays

- 📅 Subhas Agarwal on 9th February

Minutes of 2429th E- RCM of Rotary Club of Belur held on 16th January, 2020 at 5pm at Hotel Hindusthan International.

On 16th January 2021, first physical RCM in a long time was called to order by President Alope Kumar Kanodia at 5pm at Hotel Hindusthan International club's regular meeting venue.

Meeting had well attended by 28 members and a guest Kushal Jasoria. In the absence of Club Secretary Asst. Secretary Manju Banthia conducted club business. PP Rtn. Shankar Ramalingam introduced the guest speaker in a fascinating manner. An Introduction session of members who had joined since last two years was also conducted.

Guest Speaker Rtn. Sunil Sobti conducted the session on the subject "Shampoo Your Mind" which was appreciated by all the members present therewith.

Some highlights of the session are mentioned below :

- World is Shrinking, but are you expanding in the serial (unfreeze, change, refreeze)
- Creativity: be curious should be Imagination, Invention and Innovation
- Choose Happiness, Love, Peace in the life.
- Always look for improvements

Overall an interesting session which was well organised by Rtn. Sunil Sobti.

Meeting had terminated by President Alope after a hearty vote of thanks by club trainer PP Rtn. Manoj Kumar Agarwal

Rtn Alope Kanodia, President **Rtn Manju Banthia**, Protem Secretary



Total 414 patients were treated in the month of December 2020.
Total 394 patients were treated in the month of January 2021.



STARLINGS MIGRATION EUROPE

Starlings Migration is a phenomenon also called the Black Sun wherein these small birds in flocks fill the sky of Denmark on their way to the winter grounds in England. Starlings are small to medium-sized passerine birds (perching or song birds having three toes pointing forward and one back which facilitates perching). Hard weather forces Starlings in groups, some being more than 8.00 Lakhs, to migrate west in search of food. In spring the migrant starlings return to Eastern Europe, while resident birds set up breeding territories at home. Most have flown across the North Sea from Belgium or the Netherlands, after travelling across northern Europe. Migrating Starlings gather over the roosting site and perform their wheeling stunts before they roost for the night. It is a breathtaking mass aerial ballet, very pleasing to witness - thousands of birds all swooping and diving in unison. The mass flight creates ever-changing mesmerizing shapes of cloud, birds, trees or even whales or anything that one could look at and imagine the shape to be. Grouping together offers safety against predators such as falcons who find it hard to target one bird in the middle of a hypnotising flock of thousands.



Know the World



Obituary



Shreekant Rajgarhia

We often say that the hour of death cannot be forecast. When one says this we feel this hour would be in a distant future. None of us ever imagined we would be thinking about **Shreekant Rajgarhia** in memoriam.

On 17th January 2021, Shreekant Rajgarhia left us all in a shock and still feeling a bit unreal. Yes, it came a little soon.

We all have different memories of Shreekant Rajgarhia but one thing they all have in common is his gentle manners and understated but warm presence at our club events.

He had joined Rotary Club of Belur in the year 2007 and was pretty regular attendee of our Regular Club Meetings.

A Chartered Accountant by profession he was associated with a reputed corporate group at a senior position. Shreekant was a dedicated person and had very good knowledge of Corporate and Tax laws, besides being diligently service oriented in respect to any project wherein he was involved.

Shreekant Rajgarhia was the only son of his parent and is survived by wife Usha and 2 academically brilliant children, son Shreyasan MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad and daughter Vani who is pursuing her Chartered Accountant course.

Farewell, Shreekant Rajgarhia! May your soul rest in peace!