



DECEMBER IS DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH



HOLGER KNAACK
Trustee Chair 2025-26

Trustee Chair Message December 2025

As 2020-21 Rotary president, I shared our hopes for a new initiative: Programs of Scale. The seeds we planted then are now bearing remarkable fruit.

After the success of Rotary's first Programs of Scale grant recipient, Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, the Gates Foundation and World Vision approached us to do more and bigger projects. They know

Rotary can make great things happen. From that partnership grew the Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge, now Rotary's most significant disease prevention initiative after polio eradication.

The Healthy Communities Challenge aims to combat pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases, the leading killers of children under 5 in many parts of Africa. Despite progress, these diseases still claim 1 million young lives annually.

This strategic partnership between The Rotary Foundation, the Gates Foundation, World Vision, and PATH, a global nonprofit dedicated to health equity, is now saving lives in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia.

Let us not forget that our partnerships are made up of people — volunteers, Rotary members, and professionals — striving to make a difference. One of them is Gisela Bettencourt Mirção, of the Rotary Club of Chimoio-Planalto, Mozambique, Healthy Communities Challenge national coordinator and assistant governor for District 9210, who reports:

In Mozambique, preventable diseases remain leading causes of death of children. With support from our partners, District 9210, and the Ministry of Health, the Healthy Communities Challenge mobilizes resources, technical expertise, and volunteers to strengthen community health systems in two provinces in the country's west.

Community health workers are trained to deliver lifesaving education, prevention tools, and early treatment to families in hard-to-reach areas. The program expands access to testing, diagnosis, and treatment, ensuring children receive timely care. Rotary coordinates advocacy, procures essential supplies, and ensures local ownership alongside government health structures. In its first year, the Healthy Communities Challenge reached thousands of households across four districts, supporting more than 4,400 community health workers to protect children.

I have been involved since the planning stages, but I hadn't grasped the true impact until seeing it firsthand. Through the Healthy Communities Challenge, Programs of Scale, and polio eradication, Rotary proves that partnerships, community engagement, and vision can transform global health and save lives. Your support of The Rotary Foundation makes you part of this life-changing work.

DECEMBER

DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH

“By recognizing that infectious disease is not some faraway exotic issue but a global problem, and by sharing the responsibility for its prevention, diagnosis, and control, the whole world will be a lot safer.”

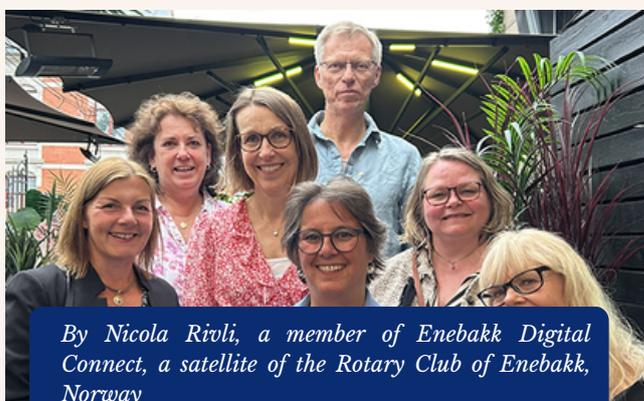
Seth Berkley

Rotary



Belonging starts with listening. Rotary clubs thrive when every voice is heard and valued. Intentional connection builds stronger, more inclusive communities.

Norwegian Rotarians go online with Digital Connect



By Nicola Rivoli, a member of Enebakk Digital Connect, a satellite of the Rotary Club of Enebakk, Norway

Our journey began during a sunset in June 2024 on the island of Jeløya. As I was holding a glass of wine in my hand, I was approached by Hanne Bergersen, the membership chair of District 2260 (Norway), who asked me if I would be interested in starting our district's first online club. I said yes.

Having been involved in Rotaract in England in the 90s and later in Oslo, I knew the power of Rotary's community. Many of the people I met through Rotaract are now part of the project group that helped build this club from scratch.

We started planning in autumn 2024, inspired by conversations with Rotary members in Denmark and Finland who had experience with e-clubs.

“Why Digital Connect?”

We saw a need for flexibility. Whether you're constantly travelling, live far from a physical club, haven't found the right fit, or simply prefer not to attend in-person meetings — Digital Connect offers a solution. Personally, I wanted to be part of Rotary, but not in the same club as my husband.

Our goal is to end every meeting a little wiser than when we joined. We believe digital meetings are a part of Rotary's future, and we're proud to be involved in that evolution.

Successes so far

We've grown to 12 members — nine women and three men — and hosted three information meetings and 10 speaker events. We've held two hybrid gatherings at Deichman Library with dinner in Oslo, which received great feedback. Two of our members have participated in the President Elect Learning Seminar (PELS), Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI), and we've attended the district conference.

Our meetings are structured and consistent: every other Tuesday, starting with half an hour of social time at 19:30, followed by updates, a short member presentation, and a guest speaker. We use Google Meet, and communicate actively via Facebook, LinkedIn, and email.

Challenges and learnings

Digital platforms aren't always intuitive, especially for less tech-savvy speakers. Recruiting members is ongoing, and we're aiming to become a full club by February 2026 with 20 members. We're constantly refining our outreach and welcome tips — whether it's family, friends, or frequent travelers who might be interested. We were mostly women in the beginning and found out it is harder to recruit men. But we are talking with five former Rotarians, all men, who will likely join our club soon to give us a better balance.

How we differ from our sponsor club

While Enebakk Rotary meets in person, we operate entirely online, though we maintain a close connection. Our program is even linked to theirs, allowing members to join seamlessly. We also represent a different demographic and energy, rooted in our shared Rotaract history.

Advice for other districts

Start with a strong project group. Ours was built on long-standing relationships and shared values. Embrace flexibility, structure your meetings well, and communicate actively. Most importantly, create a space where members feel they grow with each meeting. We pretended to be a fully established Rotary club from day one, even though there were only seven of us. Line up programs at least three months in advance, because with a great program, you can more easily attract people who hopefully will want to join.

We're excited about what's ahead and grateful for the opportunity to share our story. If you're considering starting a satellite club — especially a digital one — contact us. We're happy to share more about how we are growing our club.



Happy Birthday

Honorary Member Rtn. Debasish Kumar
falling on December 22

Dr. Ratna Chattopadhyay, spouse of Honorary Member
Rtn. (Dr.) Dhruvajyoti Chattopadhyay
falling on December 27

Dr. Suvra Sil, spouse of Rtn. (Dr.) Asim sil
falling on December 28

Mr. Debasis Pal, spouse of PP Rtn. Pausali Paul
falling on December 29

Ms. Ranju Pal, spouse of Rtn. Sitaram Pal
falling on January 01

ROTARY CLUB OF CALCUTTA JADAVPUR

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS FOR R.Y. 2026-27

- President: Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir
- Vice President: Rtn. (Dr.) Iharna Ray
- President Elect: Rtn. Manas Kumar Ghosh
- Secretary: Rtn. Manas Kumar Ghosh
- Jt. Secretary: Rtn. (Dr.) Dr. Mainak Sengupta
- Treasurer: Rtn. Chandan Das
- Sgt. at Arms PP Rtn. Swapan Chakraborty and PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee
- Editor: PP Rtn. Sanjay Ray
- Strategic Planning Chair: PP Rtn. Jaydeb Banerjee

DIRECTORS/CHAIRS

- Medical: Rtn. (Dr.) Soma Banerjee
- Non-Medical: Rtn. Koyeli Dutt
- TRF: PP Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Ray
- Administration: PP Rtn. Pausali Paul
- Literacy: PP Rtn. (Dr.) Chitra Mandal
- Public Relations: PP Rtn. Partha Sarathi Sarkar
- Youth Service: Rtn. Subrata Kundu
- Vocational: Rtn. (Dr.) Sharmila Sengupta
- Mother and Child Care: PP Rtn. Paramita Das Dutta
- Peace and Conflict Management: Rtn. (Dr.) Sitaram pal
- CSR: Rtn. Manab Paul
- Environment, Water and Sanitation: Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti
- Membership: PP Rtn. (Dr.) Partha Roy
- Membership: PP Rtn. (Dr.) Partha Roy
- Club Learning Facilitator: PP Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Roy
- Club Advisor: PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty

Kharagpur to California: IIT alumnus pledges \$1 million to develop 1st desi low-cost MRI



KOLKATA: A former student at IIT Kharagpur, now based in California, pledged to donate a seed fund of 1 million dollars (about Rs 8.5 crore) to his alma mater for developing the country's "first indigenous low-field bedside MRI system".

Jyoti Chatterjee graduated from the mechanical engineering department of IIT Kharagpur in 1977. The initiative is a tribute to his father, Biswanath Chatterjee, who was a teacher at IIT Kharagpur's metallurgical engineering department, and his mother, Nilima Chatterjee.

"Though I was born in Kolkata, I spent the first six months on the IIT Kharagpur campus. We then shifted to Durgapur as my father took up a job with Durgapur Steel Plant. It gives me immense satisfaction to be back in IIT Kharagpur and foster this collaboration as a tribute to my parents," Chatterjee shared.

IIT Kharagpur has also signed an MoU with xImaging Inc, led by alumnus Chatterjee.

IIT Kharagpur director Suman Chakraborty said, "With the confluence of indigenous deep-tech innovation and visionary alumni support, we are poised to create the world's first ultra-low-cost MRI — a disruptive leap from high-end laboratories to the hands of those who need it most.

This initiative embodies our mission to democratise advanced healthcare — blending cutting-edge physics,

device innovation, and AI to create a self-reliant, affordable MRI solution for the bottom of the pyramid. The alumni endowment has ignited this long-awaited transformation at a defining moment IIT Kharagpur stands ready to make healthcare imaging universally accessible."

The IIT Kharagpur alumnus, who was awarded the prestigious Henry M Chance Research Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania, has been an engineer and entrepreneur for over four decades. Chatterjee was also awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship by the govt of the US. He co-founded Research Engineers Inc, an engineering software company based in Orange, California, US, and also led the IPO of Research Engineers Inc. Chatterjee was the president and CEO of the Asian Division of Holtec International, the world's largest designers and manufacturers of nuclear power plants.

"The main aim is to strengthen and transform the MedTech ecosystem with solutions that are integrated with AI. The AI-enabled low-field bedside MRI system is a first-of-its-kind product that will make advanced medical imaging more accessible, affordable, and portable for healthcare facilities ranging from tertiary hospitals to rural clinics," Chatterjee said, adding that he is immensely grateful to his wife and sons for their support.

"Chatterjee shared that he is ready to contribute more funds, if necessary, for the development of this useful solution. IIT Kharagpur and xImaging are also jointly planning to raise an additional 5 million dollars to accelerate prototype development and commercialisation.

FOR LOW-COST BEDSIDE MRI SYSTEM



The best of academic and business minds are working on it to develop a timely product that will have societal impact. It has immense scope for commercialisation and will be in the market by the last quarter of 2026 or first quarter of 2027

Jyoti Chatterjee | GRADUATED FROM IIT-KGP MECHANICAL ENGG DEPT IN 1977



By: Dipawali Mitra

timesofindia.indiatimes.com :: November 02, 2025



What an energizing day at the #UN80 celebration in San Francisco. Speaking on the same stage where the United Nations founding documents were signed was a powerful reminder of how far global cooperation has come, and how much opportunity lies ahead. I am beyond grateful to all who contributed to such a meaningful gathering.

*John Hewko, General Secretary - Rotary International
:: facebook.com :: December 13, 2025*

Minutes of the 2162nd RCM of RC Calcutta Jadavpur held on December 03, 2025, Wednesday at Casa Broadway, Kolkata at 6.30 PM.

- President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests and the members present.
 - National Anthem was led by PP Rtn. Paromita Das Dutta and sung by all.
 - President Rtn. Sudipta welcomed the guests PP Rtn. Shampa Ghosh, PP Rtn. Eva Gupta, Rtn. Nilkamal Saha from Rotary Club of Suncity and also the members present.
 - President Rtn. Sudipta requested our guests to talk about the upcoming District Conference of RI District 3291. Representatives from RC Calcutta Suncity urged all members to register for 'Ramdhanu', being held during January 09-11, 2025, at East Side Pavilion, Nicco Park, Kolkata and reminded of early bird registration up till December 15, 2025 for a discounted registration charges. To this PP Rtn. Dr. Kunal

proposed if club members Can register together after confirmation from all the willing members. PP Rtn. Partha S. Sarkar enquired if LBC could be provided a stall in the conference and that way LBC team members can join and the LBC Brand Ambassador Ms. Rituparna Sengupta might as well join the Conference.

- This was followed by flag exchange between RC Calcutta Jadavpur and RC Calcutta Suncity.
- Then, President Rtn. Sudipta briefly talked about few projects that have been carried out, in between:
 - The next batch of beautician training course in Sarenga village has already been started and few willing and enthusiastic members from the previous batch also been participating in the new session.
 - The next batch of tailoring training course in Sarenga village has already been started and few willing and enthusiastic members from the previous batch also been participating in the new session.
 - LBC project works have also been going on well based on its regular action plan and needs.
- President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu called the meeting to order and welcomed the guests and the members present.
 - The club would be taking part in the 'Book Fair' organized by Sonarpur Railway Colony Club during December 14-19, 2025 and would conduct 'Shobdojobdo' lead by Rtn. Manas Ghosh and might as well take part in the science exhibition. It was proposed if club could make arrangements for the prizes for science exhibition as well. PP Rtn. Dr. Kunal Ray proposed if we could invite some former scientist from IICB for the exhibition, who has been a part of this kind of activity, earlier.
 - The club proposes to start graphic designing course at Santospur Rishi Arobindo Balika Vidyapith soon.
 - It was proposed that out of the two Sewing machines donated to our club by RC Calcutta, one could be used for the Tailoring training course at Sarenga Village, Bankura and asked for opinions from the members about the best use of the second one.
- **Regarding Election of Club Officers for RY 2026-27:** President Rtn. Sudipta Kundu requested PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty, the Presiding Officer for the election, to declare the Club Officers elected for the Rotary Year 2026- 2027. PP Rtn. Gautam Chakravarty announced the complete board structure for the upcoming Rotary Year, which was welcomed by everyone present.

- President Rtn. Sudipta declared that nomination for DGND/COL, is open and the last date for the same is January 09, 2026 and requested members totake note of it and do the needful accordingly.
- President Rtn. Sudipta also informed that he has completed RLI training and felt it as very helpful and effective in understanding the motto of Rotary, the work ethics and practices. He requested members to go for the same, whosoever can make it.
- Secretary Rtn. (Dr.) Saiful Anam Mir conducted the club business and extended birthday greetings to Rtn. Samirendu Dutt falling on December 03, Rtn. (Dr.) Asim Sil falling on December 11, Rtn. (Dr.) Dipankar Chakraborti falling on December 12, Rtn. Emili B. Bhattacharyya falling on December 14, Mrs. Sanchari Chowdhury, spouse of Rtn. Sourav Ghoshal falling on December 16. He further extended anniversary greetings to Rtn. Manasij Bandopadhyay & Rtn. Amrita Bhattacharya falling on December 06, PP Rtn. (Dr.) Kunal Ray & Rtn. (Dr.) Jharna Ray falling on December 07, Honorary Member Rtn. (Dr.) Arup Ratan & Dr. Soma Dutta & Rtn. (Dr.) Arunava Das & Mrs. Rimpa Majumda both falling on December 08, PP Rtn. Gautam & Mrs. Debi Chakravarty falling on December 12.

Minutes of the 2161st meeting, was confirmed by the members present and the meeting was concluded, with thanks to all the attendees.

