



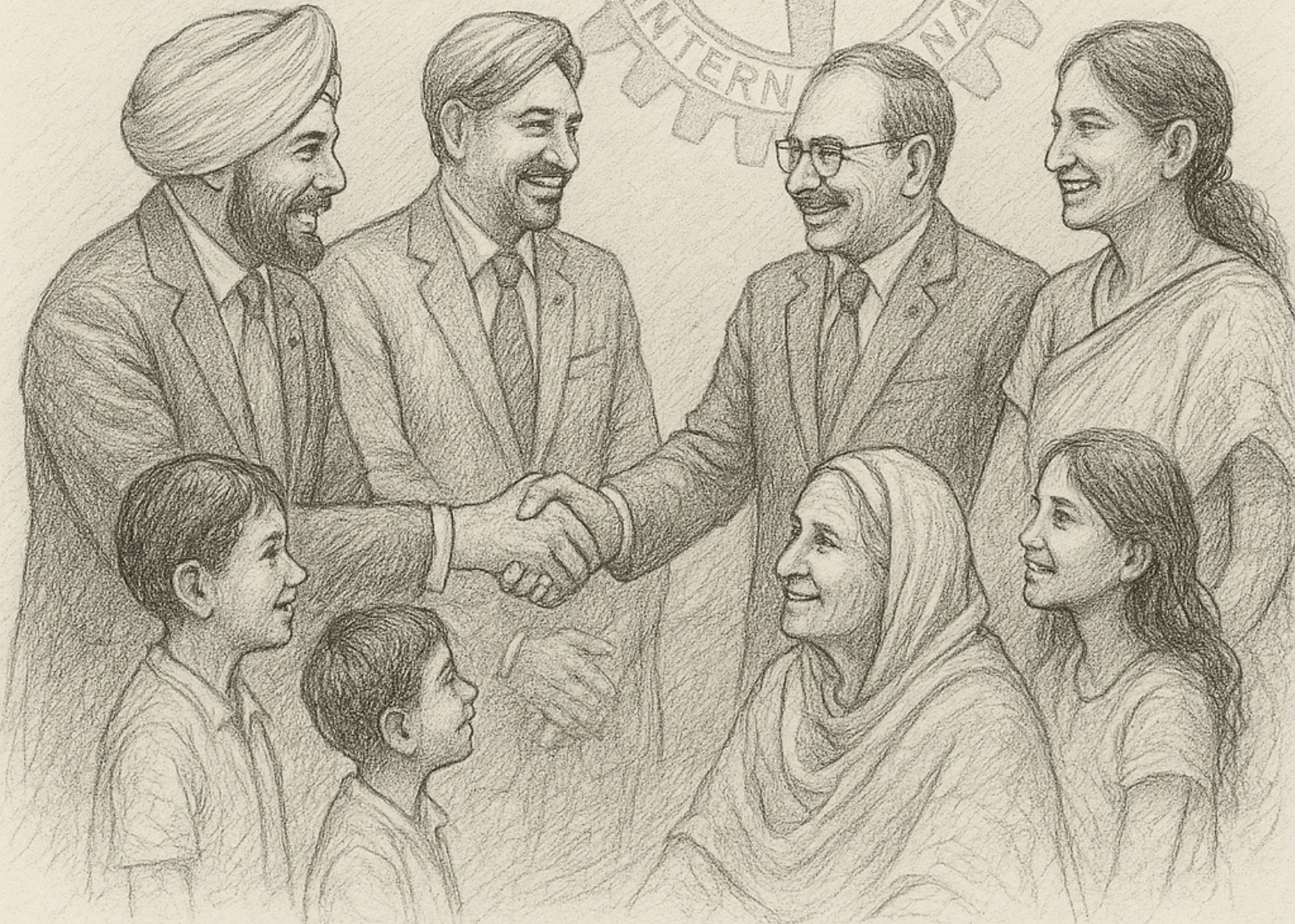
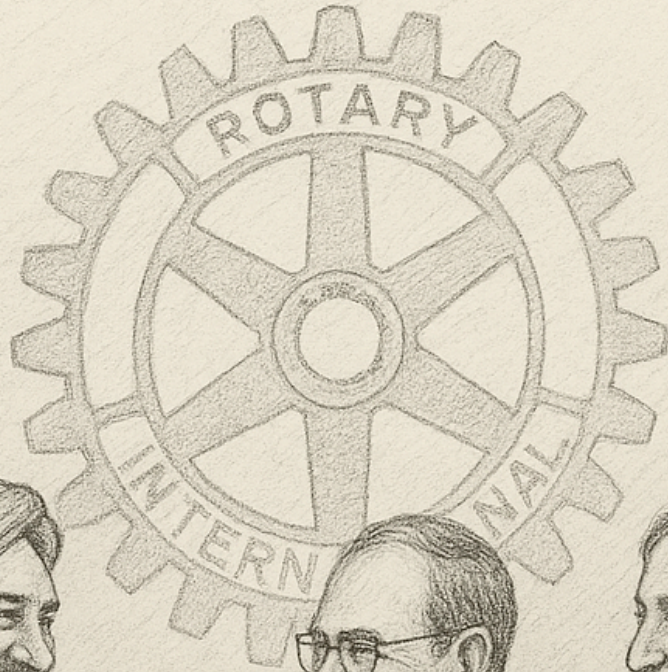
**"YOU ARE THE
LIGHT
OF THE WORLD..."**

RID 3291, Zone-16
Rotary
Garden Reach



2332nd RWM

The
Rotary
FOUNDATION





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Greetings on Birthday

Nov 12th : PP Sanjay Bhatt

Nov 14th : Suhit, Son of Rtn. Tanmoy Das Mahapatra

Nov 16th : Shreyas, Son of PP Sanjay Bhatt

Dr. Astha, Daughter of PE Dr. BN Jha

The Impact of Cohesiveness among Rotarians in Strengthening Membership and Advancing the Mission of The Rotary Foundation

-PP Tanu Roy, Club Editor

Cohesiveness among Rotarians is a fundamental element that significantly influences the strength, sustainability, and reputation of Rotary as a global humanitarian organisation. When members work together in a spirit of unity, mutual respect, and shared purpose, the organisation is better positioned to achieve its mission of Service Above Self. Such cohesiveness not only enriches the internal culture of Rotary clubs but also contributes to greater engagement, stronger membership retention, and enhanced support for The Rotary Foundation.

Firstly, cohesiveness fosters a sense of belonging and mutual trust among members. Rotary is built on the values of fellowship and service, and when these values are actively practiced, members develop meaningful professional and personal relationships. A cohesive club creates an encouraging environment in which every member feels recognised, supported, and motivated to contribute. This strengthens member satisfaction and encourages continued participation in club activities, ultimately promoting membership stability and reducing attrition.

Moreover, strong internal unity serves as a powerful attraction to prospective members. Individuals seeking purposeful engagement are drawn to organisations where collaboration and goodwill are clearly visible. A cohesive Rotary club projects an image of professionalism, reliability, and collective commitment. This positive perception enhances recruitment efforts by demonstrating that Rotary is not merely a service group but a community of leaders working together with dignity, integrity, and shared vision.

In addition, cohesiveness directly contributes to the success and sustainability of service projects—many of which are supported by **The Rotary Foundation. Effective collaboration enables clubs to plan and implement initiatives with higher precision, efficiency, and long-term impact. When Rotarians unite around a common service goal, they are better able to mobilize resources, coordinate efforts, and overcome challenges. This not only results in more impactful humanitarian outcomes but also reflects positively on The Rotary Foundation's role in advancing global goodwill and improving quality of life across communities.**

Furthermore, unity among Rotarians encourages a culture of philanthropy. When members share a collective understanding of Rotary's humanitarian mission, they are more inclined to contribute to The Rotary Foundation with confidence and pride. They recognise that their contributions support vital programs such as disease prevention, education, water and sanitation, peace-building, and the on-going effort to eradicate Polio. A cohesive club is therefore more effective in strengthening financial support for the Foundation's work locally and internationally.

In conclusion, cohesiveness among Rotarians is essential to the vitality and impact of both Rotary membership and The Rotary Foundation. It enhances member engagement, strengthens club identity, enriches service outcomes, and promotes a shared commitment to philanthropy. By fostering unity, respect, and collaboration within Rotary clubs, the organisation is better equipped to uphold its mission and continue serving as a global force for positive change. Cohesiveness is not merely a cultural attribute—it is a strategic asset that ensures Rotary's enduring strength and humanitarian legacy.



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Undeniable impact

-Holger Knaack, TRF Trustee Chair

Many of you will remember the theme I chose as RI President in 2020–21: **Rotary Opens Opportunities**. I remain passionate about these opportunities and I know you do too.



As we celebrate Rotary Foundation Month, let's reflect on the many ways the Foundation makes the world better. Rotary is extraordinary, and the Foundation amplifies that impact.

I encourage all of you — in Rotary and Rotaract clubs — to discover this for yourselves. Go beyond the local level and engage with The Rotary Foundation globally. You can partner with clubs to boost literacy in Guatemala or fight malaria in Zambia. You can make a difference with clean water initiatives reaching millions or maternal health programs saving lives across continents.

It doesn't stop there. Through major impact projects like Programs of Scale, we're pursuing bold initiatives that push Rotary's potential to create lasting change further. Greater impact and greater visibility: this is our path forward.

Many of you have asked about the status of Rotary's biggest impact project in history — our long-term commitment to polio eradication. Recently, RI President Francesco Arezzo, International PolioPlus Committee Chair Michael McGovern, and I met with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the army leadership of Pakistan. Everyone is fully committed to eradicating polio once and for all. We were absolutely convinced by the work of Pakistan's emergency operations centres, where experts plan and coordinate vaccination.

While some governments scale back support for polio eradication, Rotary remains committed to its pledge to raise \$50 million again this year. This meeting reaffirmed our unwavering commitment to finishing this historic mission.

What excites me most is seeing how each of us can make a real difference through our Foundation. I urge everyone — especially newcomers to Rotary — to explore these opportunities. Find your passion among our areas of focus and discover projects to support, especially through global grants.

We members fund, sustain and deliver these projects. That's why the Foundation consistently earns top ratings from Charity Navigator. If you don't want to lead a project, you can still be part of the Foundation through annual support.

Our fundraising goal for 2025–26 is an ambitious \$500 million. Your gift this month will create countless opportunities.

We have incredible opportunities before us, and the impact we achieve together through The Rotary Foundation is exponential. The proof is undeniable.

RID MMM contributes \$250,000 for renovating Paul & Jean Harris home

At a special dinner hosted in Evanston by Rotary International and the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation on Oct 13, RI Director M Muruganandam was recognised for his contribution of \$ 250,000 towards the renovation of the home of Rotary's founder Paul Harris and his spouse Jean in Chicago. For over a hundred years now, this home is revered as a landmark that symbolises Rotary's roots and enduring values.

The Paul & Jean Harris Legacy Society honour "the generosity and service of members who seek to preserve the iconic home and legacy of Rotary's founder and his wife. At the meeting attended by RI President Francesco Azzero, President Elect Olayinka Babalola, RI General Secretary John Hewko and several RI Board members, Muruganandam was honoured as the first member of the Paul & Jean Harris Legacy Society, who has contributed \$250,000 for the renovation of the Paul Harris home. This Legacy Society is an exclusive circle limited to 23 contributors' people who will contribute this amount for this mission.



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GOOD IN
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Give to TRF this festival season

-Bharat Pandya, TRF Trustee

In an uncertain world, The Rotary Foundation stands as a beacon of hope. Hope for mitigating suffering, healing wounds and hope for peace and goodwill in our world.

November is TRF month; a time for learning and dedication to the Foundation and its many worthwhile programmes. A time to focus our attention on the pillar which gives real internationality to Rotary — TRF.



From a tiny beginning in the mind and heart of Arch Klumph as an Endowment Fund “for doing good in the world”; today it has evolved into one of the foremost agencies of humanitarian service — a Foundation which is respected, transparent, increasingly nimble and one of the best managed foundations in the world, which has been given the highest Four Star Rating by Charity Navigator on multiple parameters ranging from efficiency to transparency for 16 years in a row.

Through the various programmes and projects, TRF is truly improving lives and transforming communities. The impact of global grants happens across the world and district grants allow us to meet local needs. And we are closer than ever to a Polio-free

world. All this depends on our support to TRF. It is important that we support all 3 funds.

Our support to the Annual Fund today helps us to do global grants tomorrow; Endowment fund support ensures a bright future for TRF. And it is important to support our End Polio Now Fund. Join the PolioPlus Society in your district and engage all members in this historic moment when we are so close to ending polio forever. And remember, the Gates Foundation continues to amplify Rotary’s donations to polio eradication with a 2-to-1 match for every dollar.

The University of Notre Dame’s Science of Generosity Project defines generosity as “the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly.” When we think deeply about this definition, three parts stand out clearly. Generosity is giving good things, freely and abundantly. That’s what we do when we give to TRF. We give good things — our time, talent and our treasure to fund the various programmes of TRF that change lives close to our homes and across the world.

As we celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights and look forward to Christmas, the Festival of Joy, let us continue investing in TRF to keep doing good in the world.

From Silence to Smiles

-Mrs. Nandita Sisodia, a Spouse from Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

What seemed like indifference to many was in fact a hidden struggle. For years, Parwati, a domestic help in her 40s, was thought to be inattentive or forgetful. The truth was far more heart-breaking — she was hard of hearing. Misunderstood by neighbours, employers and even family, she lived in a world of muffled silence.

When I spoke with her, I realised the depth of her struggle. An ENT specialist confirmed the need for a hearing aid for her. But the cost was far beyond her means. With her modest income and family responsibilities, affording such a device was impossible.

That’s when Rotary stepped in. After discussing the matter with my husband, Pradeep Sisodia, Vice-President of the Rotary Chandigarh Midtown, RID 3080, we reached out to our Rotary fraternity. The response was immediate and overwhelming — members opened their hearts, and within a day, the funds were arranged.

Parwati was soon tested and fitted with a hearing aid. The transformation was instant and moving. As soon as she heard clearly, her face broke into a radiant smile. With tears in her eyes, she whispered: “Didi, you have changed everything in my life.”

Today, Parwati works with a newfound confidence. Her employers and family are amazed at the change. She communicates with ease, follows instructions and participates in conversations with joy.

This heart-warming story is a reminder of what Rotary stands for — compassion in action. When individual kindness combines with collective effort, miracles happen. Together, we didn’t just restore Parwati’s hearing; we restored her hope, confidence and dignity.



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Rotary's History in Korea

The first Rotary club in Korea was chartered in Seoul on 10 November 1927. Since then, Rotary members in Korea have maintained their commitment to fellowship, service, and leadership through difficult times — growing membership, leading our organization, offering hospitality to the Rotary world, and showing themselves to be people of action.

Early years

Rotary members expressed interest in starting a club in Korea as early as 1922, but action was deferred while Rotary focused on expanding in countries that already had clubs.

The idea was reignited in 1926 when two clubs in the United States contacted Rotary leaders about Americans living in Korea who could organize a club. A club in the state of Kansas suggested an honorary member who was doing missionary work for the Presbyterian church. From Iowa came the recommendation of a man who was working for the YMCA.

James Davidson, who organized the first Rotary clubs in Australia and New Zealand, and other leaders who were guiding Rotary's efforts to establish clubs in new countries hesitated to change course quickly. They also had reservations about giving this responsibility to people with little Rotary experience.

Instead, work began in earnest in 1927, when members of the Rotary Club of Tokyo, Japan, advocated founding a club in Seoul. Hachisaburo Hirao of the Rotary Club of Osaka, Rotary's special commissioner for Japan, oversaw its organization. At the time, Korea was under Japanese rule, and the new club included both Japanese and Korean members.



The Seoul club received visitors from near and far. It joyfully reported an occasion in 1931 when Rotarians from the United States attended a club meeting when their cruise ship docked nearby at Incheon. The club also hosted annual family outings; 1934's took place on the grounds of the Chosun Beer Company, where guests hunted for chestnuts and enjoyed food from different cultures.

The Rotary Club of Seoul was the only club in Korea until Rotary chartered clubs in Busan in May 1935, Pyongyang in July 1937, and Daegu in June 1938. This growth was short-lived. All clubs in Korea disbanded in 1940 as Japan adopted a strong nationalist stance opposed to Westernization and entered World War II. The clubs' membership in RI officially ended in December of that year.

Rotary returns to Korea

The Rotary Club of Seoul was formally re-established on 15 March 1949 with 25 members. When Seoul was occupied by the North Korean Army in 1950, club members were among those forced to flee. Some went to Busan, about 325 km (200 miles) southeast of Seoul, where they began helping other refugees and holding meetings that echoed their former Rotary club meetings. As a result of their efforts to make connections and serve the community, the Rotary Club of Busan was officially re-established on 3 January 1952.

In January 1961, Rotary International placed the 10 clubs in the country in an administrative group known as a Rotary district. Although it was unusual for a district to have so few clubs, Rotary leaders believed that the organization's growth in Korea would be more successful using this approach than it would if clubs were grouped with clubs in other Asian countries. Indeed, by Rotary's centennial in 2005, Korea boasted more than 1,200 Rotary clubs and 48,900 members. Twenty years later, it had more than 1,600 Rotary clubs and 64,000 members.

Rotary Presidents

It is a great honour to be elected to lead Rotary International, and members from Korea have twice been selected to serve



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as president of the global organization.

Dong Kurn **"DK"** Lee of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang was president in 2008-09. Reflecting at the start of his term on Rotary's growth in Korea, he noted that the country was very poor during and after the Korean War of 1950-53. "Many international organizations and governments helped build the economy back up. Now our economy is booming, and all Koreans want to give back some of what was given."

SangKoo Yun of the Rotary Club of Sae Hanyang, Seoul, was chosen to serve as president for 2026-27. Yun, a consummate Rotary leader and businessman, died in September 2025 before taking office.

Host to the Rotary world

Building on the tradition begun by the first club in Seoul, Korean members continue to host visitors from around the world. They welcome guests, participate in Rotary Youth Exchange, and host large-scale events.

Rotary's 1979 Asia Regional Conference in Seoul drew nearly three times more participants than any other regional Rotary conference at the time. The opening ceremony had to be split into two sessions because the audience was so large. James L Bomar Jr., the 1979-80 RI president, called the occasion "a significant tribute, providing great visibility to the growth of Rotary" in Asia and Korea.

The 1989 Rotary International Convention was held at Olympic Park in Seoul, the site of the 1988 Summer Olympics. Prime Minister Kang Young-hoon gave the welcome address. At the time, it was the second-largest convention in Rotary history, with 38,000 participants. The 2016 convention in Seoul attracted 44,600 participants, becoming the new second-largest convention.

People of Action

Korean members have shown themselves to be people of action over the decades. In a country that once primarily benefitted from service projects initiated by clubs in other countries, today's Rotary members are proud to lead positive change in their own country and beyond.

In 1963, nearly all 600 Rotary members in Korea led a reforestation effort in the mountainous region west of Seoul. The area was heavily deforested during World War II when trees were used for fuel because of electricity and coal shortages, and more were damaged during the Korean War. The project protected the few trees that remained and planted more, in hopes that the seedlings would "grow as high as the sky."

Environmental concerns were again a priority in 2008, when members in Korea and Mongolia used a grant from The Rotary Foundation to counter desertification and erosion in the Gobi Desert. People involved in the multiyear initiative planted trees, built infrastructure, and worked with farmers to find solutions to overgrazing by livestock.

In 1989, members of the Rotary Club of Seoul purchased winter clothes, shoes, and medicine to support Vietnamese refugees in Busan. One club member donated new clothing from his textile company. The project helped almost 300 refugees endure the winter in a climate they were unaccustomed to.

Rotary clubs in South Korea have long supported North Korean defectors by building schools, offering scholarships, and providing health screenings. The Rotary Club of Ulsan Freedom, started by immigrants in 2016, combines personal experience and the Rotary network to help immigrants from the North who don't have family or friends nearby adapt to an unfamiliar economic system and culture.

Members also seek to help people outside Korea. The Rotary Club of Yeongju Moran and District 3630 in Korea collaborate with U.S. Rotary members on a job training program near Chicago, Illinois, USA, for Korean, Asian American, and Pacific Islander people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Rotarian: "Joining Rotary is like joining a family."

New Member: "So... there will be food, long discussions, and no one agrees on anything?"

Rotarian: "Exactly! Welcome!"



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Minutes of the 2331st RWM held on November 4th, 2025 at BNR Officers' Club, Garden Reach

- 1. The President Bandaru called the meeting to order and requested the members to rise for the National Anthem.**
- 2. The President updated the members regarding the Semi Annual Dues (SAD). As on date, dues from only seven members are pending. The President assured that all payments are expected to be received by the end of November 2025.**
- 3. The Bijoya-Diwali Meet is scheduled on November 21st, 2025 at "Hastings Court Community Centre", 96 Garden Reach Road from 6:30 pm onwards. The event budget and expense plan will be presented in the next RWM.**
- 4. A request has been received from Rotary Club of Calcutta for contribution towards a Drinking Water System under the project "Prandhara" at RCC Joypur. The required amount is 47,958. If all members contribute, the cost will be approximately 1,300/- per member. Members are requested to participate so that the donation is made from Rotary Garden Reach under the restricted Global Grant fund. PP Dr. Arabinda Ray has already contributed 1,500.**
- 5. The Club has received a donation of 40,000 from a well-wisher through a senior member, for the procurement of a 90 L Blood Storage Refrigerator (Brand: Terumo). An additional 10,000 donation is expected. The cost will be shared: 50% Grant from EIRWT and balance amount by the Club.**
- 6. HPV Vaccination Camp is tentatively scheduled at Sanghamitra Vidyalaya, BNR on November 18th, 2025. Consent forms are to be obtained from Serum Institute. Coordinators: PE Dr. BN Jha; Team: PP Dr. Arabinda Ray, PP Dr. Sumanta Dasgupta, Rtn. Dr. Subrata Lahiri and PP IWCGR. Dr. Sharada Ray.**
- 7. A Thalassemia Awareness Seminar will be held at Joypur Panchanan Roy College on November 26th, 2025 at 12 pm. Speaker: PP Dr. Arabinda Ray. All members are requested to attend. Logistics will be arranged based on confirmations.**
- 8. The Medical Camp is scheduled on December 14th, 2025 with 150+ beneficiaries expected. ECG and CBS equipment will be collected from Ekbalpore Nursing Home. Medicines need to be procured. Coordinator for procurement: Rtn. Amar Saha.**
- 9. As suggested by PP Tapan Roy, a Joint RWM & Cricket Match with Rotary Calcutta Megacity is proposed in December. The President will coordinate with the President of Rotary Calcutta Megacity to finalise arrangements.**
- 10. Club Secretary, Rtn. Shubhayan, conducted the club business.**
- 11. President Bandaru confirmed the minutes of the last meeting and terminated the meeting.**

