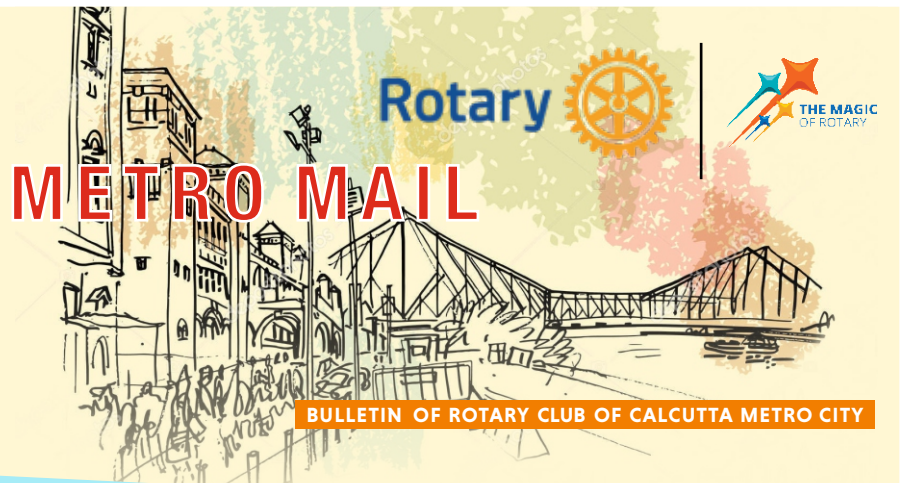


RI President: Rtn. Stephanie Urchick
Dist. Governor: Dr. Krishnendu Gupta
Club President: Rtn. Sunando Sen
Club Secretary: Rtn. Dipu Mullick
Club Editor: Rtn. Subhojit Roy

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Timely payment of Membership dues and adhering to laid guidelines are essential pillars of a thriving Rotary club. Membership dues fund the diverse initiatives that define Rotary's service-oriented mission. They enable the club to support local and global projects, conduct impactful events, and maintain the operational efficiency required for sustainable service. These contributions fuel the very heartbeat of Rotary's community welfare activities as well maintaining its commitment to Rotary International.

Equally critical is the adherence to Rotary's guidelines, which provide a roadmap for ethical and impactful action. These guidelines ensure that each member embodies the principles of "Service Above Self," fostering unity and a shared purpose among Rotarians. Active participation and responsibility strengthen the club's reputation, inspire trust, and magnify its influence in the community.

As Rotarians, our commitment to these elements ensures we remain a cohesive force, transforming lives while honouring Rotary's enduring legacy of service.

Every Rotary clubs finds a few individuals who tend to falter due to various reasons, some justified and on many occasions not, and overlook the basic tenets of the movement and one finds several clubs face a stress on making timely payments to respective offices.

Subhojit Roy

Rotary International

RI President's Message - December 2024



To adapt, as laid out in Rotary's Action Plan, we must occasionally step out of our comfort zone and try something new. Here are two examples of clubs that adapted — one with heart and one through critical thinking and strategy.

The Rotary Club of Chandigarh Mid Town, India, led with heart earlier this year. To engage members and grow membership, Club President Nitin Kapur personally called every former member of the club and invited them to a gathering billed as an alumni meetup.

Eight former members attended, and the results were stupendous. The visitors had a chance to connect once more — not only with current members but with the sense of camaraderie and belonging that membership gave them. By the end of the evening, the club welcomed six of the former members back into the Rotary family.

Club President Kapur showed courage when he reached out to the alumni. Not only did he adapt and try something new but he had the strength of character to show the club's alumni how much they still meant to the family of Rotary. That bravery paid off.

People want to feel needed and appreciated. People want to feel that they belong. And they might never feel that way if we don't have the courage to tell them.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Seoul-Hansoo, Korea, has been experimenting with different club models to great effect. Over the past four years, Seoul-Hansoo has created and maintained four satellite clubs — a service club, an interest-based club for musicians, a cause-based club that mentors professionals, and a club for college students.

These satellite clubs are part of a five-year plan the Seoul-Hansoo club implemented to increase membership through innovation.

What's the secret to founding and maintaining so many satellite clubs? Membership between Seoul-Hansoo and its satellite clubs is fluid and synergistic. Many members of the satellite clubs attend the sponsor club's meetings. And many of the sponsor club's members participate in the satellite clubs.

Additionally, the focus of each satellite club is no accident. Each one appeals to different interests of people in the sponsor club and in the community, attracting existing and potential members. This is an excellent strategy to both retain and attract members because it offers flexibility. If someone is interested in joining but they can't make it to the sponsor club's meetings, they have plenty of options to choose from.

These are just two examples of how we can adapt with our hearts and minds. Every club is different, so I encourage you to reach out to members of your club and of the community around you. Ask them about the club experience and what you can do to improve.

Talk to enough people and you might find ways that you can adapt and spark *The Magic of Rotary* in your club.

Stephanie A. Urchick
President 2024-25

A Rotarian astronaut lives her out-of-this-world dreams

*Samantha Cristoforetti longed for space travel since she was a kid.
Now she's sharing the cosmic awe with her fellow earthlings*



Cristoforetti brought the Köln am Rhein Rotary club banner to the International Space Station

On a serene Monday evening, the Rotary Club of Köln am Rhein gathered in Cologne's iconic Kranhäus, eagerly awaiting an extraordinary speaker. That night, their club member, Samantha Cristoforetti, appeared not on stage but floating live from the International Space Station (ISS). Four months into her mission aboard the ISS, Cristoforetti amazed attendees with cosmic views and anecdotes about life in space, her hair defying gravity in spectacular fashion.

Born in a quaint village in the Italian Alps, Cristoforetti's love for exploration was ignited in her childhood through outdoor adventures and bedtime stories of Marco Polo and Moon landings. Her fascination with space led her to Space Camp in Alabama as a teenager, where she first "played astronaut." With unwavering determination, she pursued engineering, became a fighter pilot in

the Italian Air Force, and ultimately fulfilled her dream when the European Space Agency selected her as an astronaut in 2009.

After years of rigorous training, Cristoforetti embarked on her first ISS mission in 2014, staying 200 days and setting a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman at the time. Her second mission in 2022 saw her become Europe's first female ISS commander.

In space, every experience is a "first." Cristoforetti vividly recounts free-floating in her phone booth-sized quarters, savoring scrambled eggs mid-air, and tackling unique challenges like recycling urine into drinking water. Her days involve scientific research, maintenance tasks, and exercising to combat muscle and bone loss—all while marveling at Earth through the station's cupola.

Cristoforetti's milestones include the first spacewalk by a European woman. She describes the experience as overwhelming yet awe-inspiring, working on a robotic arm and deploying nanosatellites. Moments of wonder, like spotting noctilucent clouds after months in space, reminded her of the sheer beauty of her work.

Through it all, Cristoforetti embodies resilience, curiosity, and a passion for pushing boundaries. Her journey, marked by rigorous preparation and groundbreaking achievements, continues to inspire her Rotary peers and countless others around the globe.

As she floated away from the camera that night, leaving the Rotary banner gently suspended in zero gravity, Cristoforetti reaffirmed her place not just among the stars but in the hearts of dreamers everywhere.

By **Diana Schoberg**

Excerpts from this story originally appeared in the December 2024 issue of **Rotary** magazine.

Program launches to fight deadly diseases in Africa

Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge will strengthen health systems in four countries

By **Etelka Lehoczky**



The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge, a three-year, US\$30 million program to combat disease in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Nigeria, and Zambia, has officially launched. Rotary International is partnering with the Gates Foundation and World Vision to target pneumonia, malaria, and diarrheal diseases, which are among the leading causes of death for young children and other vulnerable populations in these countries.

"Our goal is to empower communities by strengthening their health systems, ensuring that every child has access to life-saving care," says Larry Mapani, the program's lead in Zambia and a member of the Rotary Club of Kitwe, Zambia. "This program not only addresses urgent health challenges but also lays the groundwork for a healthier future, where all children can thrive and reach their full potential."

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge aims to reach an estimated 3.5 million people in 700,000 households. In addition to treating the targeted diseases, it will engage communities, raise awareness about the importance of treating disease early, and improve the collection and management of data. The latter are essential for accurate health reporting and informed decision making.

"This initiative marks a significant milestone in our shared fight against childhood health challenges," says Marc Nosbach, World Vision's national director for Zambia. "It demonstrates the power of united values and collective dedication when it comes to creating sustainable, lasting change for those most in need."

Despite substantial declines over the last 20 years, malaria, lower respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases remain among the leading causes of death for children under five in sub-Saharan Africa. These three diseases killed about a million children in the region in 2017 alone, according to a 2021 study.

The Rotary Healthy Communities Challenge uses an approach similar to that of **Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia**, the highly successful recipient of Rotary's first **Programs of Scale award**, in 2021. Like that program, the Healthy Communities Challenge will collaborate with local partners to strengthen existing health systems. It will train, equip, and deploy thousands of community health workers to reach children where they live.

"Rotary is committed to improving health outcomes by empowering communities," says Aloysius Dele Balogun, the program lead in Nigeria and a member of the Rotary Club of Agege, Lagos State, Nigeria. "Through this initiative, we are equipping our community health care workers with the tools and training necessary to deliver life-saving services right where they are needed the most."

By training health workers and bolstering medical resources at the local level, the program is expected to yield benefits for each country far into the future.

"Community health workers are the heart of a resilient health system. Empowering them with the right tools and information can transform lives," says Abigail Pratt, senior program officer at the Gates Foundation. "This next phase of our partnership with World Vision and Rotary International will help ensure these dedicated individuals have the resources they need to protect children and build healthier communities."

E-learning & Vocational Support for Tribal Girls School in Jhargram



On 8th December, our club members PP Rtns Subhojit Roy, Sunetra Dasgupta, Dipu Mullick, Rtn Atreya Roychodhury (who joined all the way from Germany) and President Sunando Sen made a long journey by road and visited the Nayagram Thana Balika Vidyapeeth in Jangal Mahal, Jhargram, a Government sponsored school for Tribal Girls, to donate to the school 4 sewing machines (received from RC Calcutta) for Vocational Training of the students, and 2 Desktop

computers for E-Literacy of the students as part of the District Eazy School 3.0 Project. The sewing machines will help about 80 girl students of the school to learning stitching, and the computers will help about 1300 students in e-learning each year.

Both computers were set up in the school's computer room, made operational and used by some of the students. One of the four sewing machines was set up, made operational and used by one of the girls. The students were happy to receive both the items as it will help them in their future growth. The smiles on their faces made our visit worthwhile.

On the way and back to & from the school members had a great fellowship.

Overall it was a wonderful day spent in doing projects and fellowship. President Sunando thanked those who could make the time to attend the project and those who contributed towards the purchase of the computers.



Seminar on Financial Literacy



Rotary Club of Calcutta Metro City and Rotary Club of Calcutta Inner City jointly in association with Calcutta Club Ltd organized an Investor Awareness Program under Financial Literacy at the Calcutta Club Lt premises, the program was supported by National Stock Exchange, Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh and Rotary Club of Calcutta Amory.

The entire session was moderated by veteran journalist and PP Rtn Pradeep Gooptu and the speakers included Chinmaya Mallick-Manager, Arbitration, NSE, Kolkata, Soumi Saha, Manager, Investor Services Cell, NSE and Mohini Mukherjee- Manager, NSE, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The speakers provided insight and valuable information about the basics of stock market, how to prevent online scams and frauds and also provided a guideline as to how to invest wisely and the fact checks required to do so.

The overwhelming participation of 95 guests mostly senior citizens and the highly interactive question and answer made the evening highly successful and served the purpose of the program.

The two Club Presidents, Rtn Tunir Chakraborty and Rtn Sunando Sen made the opening remarks and offered the formal vote of thanks. President of Calcutta Club Ltd gave the welcome address and the program was also graced by PDG Shyamashree Sen.

The entire program was facilitated by PP Rtn Chandrani Chakraborty, RC Calcutta Inner City and PP Rtn Subhojit Roy, RC Calcutta Metro City, while PP Rtn Partha Sengupta, RC Calcutta Amory coordinated with the speakers of NSE.

Forthcoming Program

18th December'24 - Felicitation and Interactive program with the differently abled cricketers of Bengal in association with British Deputy High Commission and IBSA.

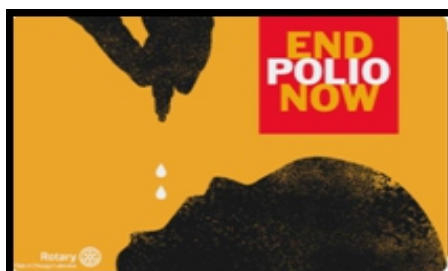
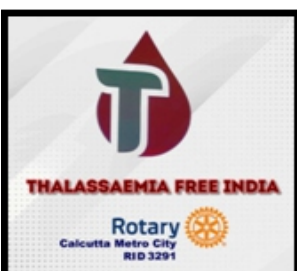
SAMMELAN - Annual District Conference of RID 3291- January 3rd-5th '2025, Nicco Park, East Pavillion - Members are requested to register alongwith their spouses/guests.

Greetings

Anniversary greetings to Devasruti & Biswarup for 6th December!!!

Anniversary greetings to Namrata & Preetam Ghosh for 10th December!!!

Happy Birthday to Sandip Kar for 25th December!!



Edited & Published by PP Rtn Subhojit Roy

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