

# Open Hand

WEEKLY CLUB BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB CHANDIGARH | ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3080 | INDIA

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HOME CLUB OF **Rajendra K. Saboo**  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
1991-92

**Francesco Arezzo**  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
2025-26

**Ravi Prakash**  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
RI DISTRICT 3080

**Abha Joshi Sharma**  
CLUB PRESIDENT

**Arun Aggarwal**  
CLUB SECRETARY

## TALK ON SPIRITUALITY

### Speakers

- Rtn Justice Shabihul Hasnain
- Rtn Dr. Ranjit Pawar an author an activist, a consular
- Rtn Nidhi Kapoor

The talk presents spirituality as a way of living rooted in the spirit rather than material possessions, bodily identity, or ritual performance. It emphasizes that spirituality is not an escape from life, but a conscious and balanced engagement with it. Rtn Dr. Ranjit Pawar shared vedies, Drawing from Sikh philosophy (Gurbani) and supported by insights from Islam, Vedanta, and Sufism, the speakers underline that one does not need to renounce the world, retreat to forests, or abandon responsibilities to attain spiritual growth. Instead, spirituality must coexist with everyday roles as a householder, professional, citizen, and human being.

Rtn. Justice Shabihul Hasnain a spiritualist at heart who is also well versed in sanskrit and had shared shlokas from "Ashtavak Geeta" during his talk.

A central idea is that worldly life and spiritual life are not opposites. Gurbani teaches that individuals can enjoy life's comforts while maintaining inner discipline and ethical limits. The problem lies not in possession, but in unchecked attachment and obsession with accumulation (maya). True spirituality requires knowing where to draw the line-living fully, yet responsibly. to draw the line-living fully,



### अष्टावक्र गीता

कथं ज्ञानमवाप्नोति कथं मुक्तिर्भविष्यति ।  
वैराग्यं च कथं प्राप्तमेतद् ब्रूहि मम प्रभो ॥  
मुक्तिमिच्छसि चेत्तात विषयान् विषवत्यज ।  
क्षमार्जवदयातोषसत्यं पीयूषवद्भज ॥

Couplets and Shlokas spoken by Rtn. Justice Shabihul Hasnain on his viewpoint on 5th January meeting

yet responsibly.

Rtn Nidhi Kapoor also very passionately shared her take on Vedanta explained that Across religions, the discussion highlights a shared metaphysical truth: the existence of a single supreme consciousness (Paramatma/Brahman) of which every individual soul (Atma/Jiva) is a part. Life is

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## Talk on Spirituality

understood as a journey of realizing this unity, and death as the merging of the individual soul back into the universal whole. From this realization flows compassion, not as pity (daya) arising from separation, but as karuna—an action-oriented compassion born from the understanding that all beings share the same consciousness. When another suffers, one feels compelled to act, because the suffering is not "other."

The panel strongly critiques the gap between religion's teachings and its social outcomes. Hatred, extremism, and "fringe elements" arise not from religion itself, but from loss of spirituality, ignorance, and misuse of religious identity for power. Rituals, scriptures, and symbols are meant to be tools for inner transformation, not ends in themselves. When ritual replaces realization, identity replaces compassion, and power replaces humility, religion loses its essence.

Education emerges as a key antidote. The speakers warn against superficial, distorted learning—particularly reliance on short, out-of-context messages—arguing instead for direct study, critical thinking, and ethical interpretation of spiritual texts. Knowledge, however, carries responsibility: one must pass it forward and help others grow.

The discussion concludes by emphasizing love, music, and lived humanity as universal spiritual languages that transcend doctrinal



boundaries. Spirituality is ultimately judged not by belief or ritual, but by how one lives—through compassion in action, courage to uphold truth, respect for others, and recognition of oneness.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Birthday Greetings:

**14 Jan** Rtn Pankaj Khanna 9815012864  
**16 Jan** Rtn Manmohan Luthra 9815301000

### Anniversary Greetings:

**14 Jan** PP Rtn Arvind Mahajan & Ann Rashmi 9876011457  
**16 Jan** Rtn Amit Kumar Sharma & Ann Anu Sharma 7837983800  
**17 Jan** PP Rtn Charanjit Singh & Ann Neeraj 9316133924  
**18 Jan** Rtn Nitin Peshawaria & Ann Tanisha 9814016187  
**18 Jan** Rtn Manish Gupta & Ann Archana 9878037993

With Best Compliments from  
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan

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## DIL SE... WHAT MORE TO FEEL PROUD

*Representing the Rotary International President at RID 3261 Conference, Raipur*

**P**DG Praveen Goyal and Ann Basu Goyal had the honour of representing Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and his spouse Anna Maria at the District Conference of Rotary International District 3261, held at Raipur.

The conference was marked by vibrant fellowship, thoughtful deliberations, and a strong reaffirmation of Rotary's core purpose—to unite people and take action to create lasting change. On behalf of the Rotary International President, two addresses were delivered to the delegates, reflecting Rotary's global vision and its evolving role in a rapidly changing world.

DG Rtn Amit Jayaswal and Ann Rtn Pallavi welcomed the the representative and other Guests Former Chief Minister of Chhatisgarh and reigning Speaker of Vidhan Sabha Dr Raman Singh and PDG Dr Vivek Tankha Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). The entire Council of Governors and a record number of 1200 delegates were present.

The deliberations highlighted the state of Rotary worldwide, emphasizing Rotary's strength as a dynamic, inclusive, and forward-looking organization, with growing engagement of Rotaractors, innovative club models, and an increased focus on sustainable and measurable service. Particular appreciation was expressed for the impactful community projects undertaken by RID 3261, especially in the areas of water, sanitation, vocational skills, and youth empowerment.

The addresses also candidly acknowledged the challenges faced by clubs and districts globally—membership growth and retention, leadership fatigue, and the need to balance tradition with innovation—while underlining that these challenges are opportunities to remain relevant, vibrant, and impactful.

A strong emphasis was laid on peace and harmony, both globally and within our personal and Rotary lives. Rotary's commitment to peacebuilding, including through its



Peace Centres, was reiterated, with a reminder that peace begins with respect, understanding, and compassion in our everyday interactions.

Finally, the essence of Rotary leadership was reflected upon—leadership rooted in service, integrity, mentorship, and collective

purpose rather than position or title. The District Conference of RID 3261 stood as a fine example of Rotary in action—united for good, inspired by service, and committed to lasting impact—reinforcing confidence in Rotary's bright and purposeful future.





## Lohri Greetings

As the bonfire of Lohri crackles and dances under the winter sky, may it burn away all sorrow and illuminate our hearts with hope, courage, and compassion.

Let this festival remind us that just as the earth tilts toward the sun, we too can turn toward light — toward kindness, toward unity, and toward the dreams that warm our souls.

May the harvest of your efforts be bountiful, your relationships be rich with love, and your spirit remain ever radiant.

Happy Lohri to you and your loved ones!

Let's celebrate with joy, gratitude, and the promise of brighter days ahead.

PP Vivek Gupta

### Rotary Youth Exchange Candidate from RID 3080

Milano Olympic Camp 2026  
28<sup>th</sup> February to 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2026



Rtn. Nandini Miglani  
Club Trainer  
Rotaract Club Chandigarh Shivalik  
India

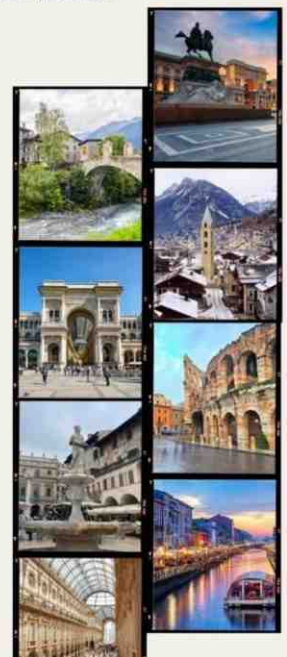
Sponsoring Club:  
Rotary Chandigarh Shivalik  
RID 3080

Host Club:  
Rotary Club Milano Aquileia  
RID 2041

Grateful to:  
Rtn. Ravi Prakash, District Governor  
Rtn. Amrit Pal Singh Dhiman, District Chair- RYE  
for this wonderful opportunity

*"Thrilled to embark on this wonderful journey and represent my country's culture as well as learn about different religions, cultures, ways of living and peace building as per Rotary norms. I am looking forward to having the honor of being a part of the Milano Olympic Camp, RID 2041 and widening my perspective about the various ways in which Rotary works in different parts of the world."*

Nandini Miglani



## MEMBERS UPDATE

On 5th January PP Rtn Kapil Gupta RC of Yamunanagar after attending as Chief Guest the MBCT Girls Hockey Match accompanied Rotarians PP Hassan Singh Mejie, PP Jaspal Sidhu, Manmohan Luthra, Mr Akeem Robinson spouse of Alba Smeriglio Deputy High Commissioner DHC UK in Chandigarh & Mr Thakur Mejie to the residence of PDG Late Satish Saluja to pay their respect & offer condolences on behalf of RC of Chandigarh. We met his son PP Rtn. Raman Saluja and his



gracious wife Sameera Saluja. Rtn Raman Saluja shared that his father lived a great life and lived to the fine age of almost 90. Let us also celebrate life of late PDG Satish Saluja who dedicated his life on Rotary Principle to "Service above Self".

