



# 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

## SKIN DONATION: A GIFT BEYOND LIFE

The Rotary Club Chandigarh hosted an inspiring awareness session on skin donation on Monday, reaffirming their commitment to saving lives and serving humanity. Dr. Pramod, Professor of Plastic Surgery, PGIMER Chandigarh, shared the lifesaving role of skin donation for burn victims and trauma patients. Did you know? Skin donation can help save 4-5 lives, and it doesn't disfigure the body or delay last rites.

The session debunked common myths, emphasizing that skin donation is a respectful, dignified, and medically safe procedure. Ms. Abha Sharma Joshi, President, Rotary Club Chandigarh, highlighted that organ and skin donation is a meaningful form of service, allowing a person's life to continue through others even after death.

You can make a difference! Pledge your skin donation by scanning the QR code, visiting the NOTTO portal, or filling a simple online form. Rtn Dr. Bhavneet Bharti beautifully summarized, Skin donation is not just a medical act – it is an act of humanity. It transforms pain into hope, despair into healing, and loss into life.



Monday 9th February  
6pm

NEUROSCIENCE OF YOGA AND SPIRITUALITY



Dr Akshay Anand  
Prof. Incharge, CCRYN Collaborative Center  
for Mind Body Intervention through Yoga  
PGIMER, Chandigarh

Rotary House . 107a , sector 18a, Chandigarh

Monday 9th February  
6pm

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS



Rtn Sushil Gupta & Rtn Rina  
Rotary House . 107a , sector 18a. Chandigarh

The evening was made even more special with sumptuous snacks and warm fellowship, graciously hosted by Rtn Aman Aggarwal. Let's spread awareness and guide citizens on how to pledge. Join Rotary Club Chandigarh in making a difference.

## CSR INITIATIVE

**IOCL donates an Automatic Component Extractor worth Rs. 36 lakhs to Rotary & Blood Bank Society Resource Centre (RBBSRC) in Chandigarh.**

February 4th, 2026

The state of the art equipment was generously provided by IOCL, Chandigarh, as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

Chief Guest Ms Rashmi Govil, Director- HR inaugurated the new addition to the stand alone blood bank on February 4th, 2026. She was accompanied by Mr Bhabutti Ranjan Pradhan, Executive Director - Coordination & CSR, Mr Ashutosh Gupta, Executive Director & State Head Punjab, Mr. Udit Jain, Executive Director HR and Mr Arif Akhtar, General Manager - HR & CSR.

The ceremony was also graced by Guest of Honour District Governor Ravi Prakash along with District Chair CSR Deepak Sood, Executive District Secretary Pankaj Pandey and District Action Plan Champion Mujeeb Malik. Assistant Governors, club presidents and Rotarians from local zones also attended the event.

Automated component extractor is used for separating Plasma, Buffy Coat and RBCs. It will increase the availability of leuko reduced components at the blood Centre.

Rotary's strength as a credible and dependable organisation comes to the



fore when big corporations like IOCL considers requests for help under CSR initiatives.

Rotary & Blood Bank Society Resource Centre is a non profit stand alone blood

bank providing excellent service to the community. We appreciate the efforts of Rtn. Deepak Sood in spearheading the CSR projects in the District 3080.

**Rtn. AP Singh**

### CELEBRATIONS

#### Birthday Greetings:

10 Feb	Rtn Jagesh Khaitan	9810095802
11 Feb	Rtn Aman B Aggarwal	9872416002
15 Feb	PP Rtn Charanjit Singh	9316133924
<b>Anniversary Greetings:</b>		
9 Feb	Rtn Shuchita Luthra & Sandeep	9814612391
10 Feb	Rtn Sahibjit Singh Sadhu & Sunder Preet Kaur	9815921371
11 Feb	PP Rtn Sukhjit Singh Gill & Dr Kamaldeep	9356065058
12 Feb	Rtn Dr Rana Sandip Singh & Dr Avneet Kaur	9803036602
14 Feb	PP Rtn. Vinod Kapoor & Rekha	9872400651
15 Feb	Pres. Rtn Abha Joshi Sharma & Sanjay Sharma	9814861054

With Best Compliments from  
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan



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## Why Youth get addicted

A podcast on Punjab Drug Crisis with Rotary Ardaas Sandhu



*A Fruity & Intellectual Talk on NarcoTerrorism & Mental Health on a Recent Podcast that is Brilliant and Insightful worth for Everyone to watch easy and for everyone to understand.*

*Very Well spoken by Dr Ardaas! This is a sensitive topic which is handled brilliantly. It is very informative and helpful.*

*According to him The 3 A's ,AWARENESS - ACCEPTANCE- ACTION are the steps we need to take. It was heartening to hear him address the core issue. It is very necessary that we keep on bringing up such interactions at various levels and forums.*

**SD College organised a Creative Writing Workshop on 4th February, where PP Neena Singh shared a presentation on “The Art of Haiku.”**



*The interaction and active participation of the postgraduate students and faculty of the Department of English was enjoyable. It was heartening to see them write and workshop their haiku. This creative spark will inspire these bright youngsters to embark on the journey of Japanese short forms of poetry.*



Youth Exchange Program  
Flanders Summer Camp 2026

Antwerp, February 2026

*New Dates!*

Dear friend

District 2140 invites you to send 1 or 2 young persons from your country to the annual

### Flanders Summer Camp

**Saturday 8 August (arrival) - Friday 21 August 2026 (departure)**

*In the heart of Europe lies Flanders, a region packed with history, heritage and arts. The cradle of cycling and the breeding ground for an unparalleled culinary culture. A place full of stories that stretch back centuries, thanks to our pioneering craftsmanship. Flanders may be modest in size, but that's exactly why it's wonderful to discover by bicycle, for example. Discover the gems of heritage in their green, natural regions. Flanders is perfect for exploring cities such as Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels and Mechelen. A multitude of arts, heritage, gastronomy and other highlights at just a stone's throw from each other. You will be welcomed with open arms in Flanders.*

**The Program:** A journey “where you arrive as an individual and leave as a team”. Based in the heart of Antwerp, you will discover the city in its many facets. You will enjoy day trips to cities such as Bruges - the Venice of the North -, Brussels and Mechelen. You will participate in team building activities, savour Flemish delicacies and do much more, accompanied by different Rotary Clubs of the Antwerp Area. You will stay in a Youth Hostel with the other participants. More information will be sent to selected participants, and a detailed program will be shared by the end of June 2026.

**Camp Fee:** Participants need to pay a camp fee of **350 EUR**. This fee covers full accommodation of the participant in a Youth Hostel in Antwerp, and includes all meals as provided by Rotary District 2140 and the participating Rotary Clubs of the Antwerp Area.

*Some activities during the 2025 Flanders Summer Camp:*



The Camp fee does not cover your travel costs to and from Brussels Airport (BRU) or Antwerp Central Train Station, where you will be welcomed by Rotarians. If you fly to or from Brussels South Airport (CRL) or Charleroi Airport, you will need to make your own arrangements to travel from there to either Brussels Airport (BRU) or Antwerp Central Train Station.

The Flanders Summer Camp is open to **20 participants** between **18 and 24 years old** that meet the following requirements:

- You need to apply for the Flanders Summer Camp with the official Rotary Application Form;
- Your application needs to be supported by a certified Rotary Club and your Rotary District;
- You need to have a good working knowledge of English;
- You should be in good physical shape, be comfortable to ride a bike, and not have a fear of heights (so you may climb some of Flanders' beautiful towers);
- You must have insurance against illness, accident and third-party damages according to Rotary International recommendations. Proof of insurance must be sent after acceptance of the candidate and must be presented before arrival.
- Unfortunately we can not cater to all special food requirements. We hope you will like our Flemish and European food. Vegetarian alternatives are possible if you let us know upfront.

**Camp applications:** If you are interested, please apply by sending in the following:

- The official Rotary application form (pages 2 to 9), properly completed. Your sponsoring and certified Rotary Club must send it to the responsible person of your Rotary (Multi-)District. The responsible person of your Rotary District can forward your application to us at [hep.flanders@gmail.com](mailto:hep.flanders@gmail.com).
- Let us know if you have already participated in Rotary Summer Camps, or in other Short Term or Long Term Exchanges with Rotary.

Applications are closed on **30 April 2026**. We will let you know as soon as possible if you have been selected. Once informed of your selection, we will provide you the payment details, and you will need to pay the camp fee and provide proof of insurance by 1 June 2026 at the latest.

If for some reason you are not able to join the Flanders Summer Camp after you have applied or have been selected for the Flanders Summer Camp, please inform us as soon as possible so we may give another candidate the opportunity to enjoy the Flanders Summer Camp.

If you have any further questions or remarks, please do not hesitate to contact us by emailing us at [hep.flanders@gmail.com](mailto:hep.flanders@gmail.com).

We hope to welcome you this summer in Flanders!

## CHAMPION OF CHANGE HONORED

### Hassan Mejie Conferred with Republic Day Award for Social Work

In a grand ceremony held at the district headquarters of Fatehgarh Sahib, Mr. Hassan Mejie, Managing Trustee of Mehar Baba Charitable Trust (MBCT), was conferred with the prestigious Republic Day Award by the District Administration of Fatehgarh Sahib.

The District Administration of Fatehgarh Sahib recognized Mr. Mejie's outstanding work and awarded him the Republic Day Award for his exceptional service to society. This achievement is a reflection of Mr. Mejie's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others and his passion for serving humanity.

Mr. Mejie's dedication to serving

humanity is evident through MBCT's various initiatives, including healthcare services, education, and women empowerment programs.

Under his leadership, MBCT has been working relentlessly to bring about positive change in the lives of people, particularly in rural areas. The Trust's efforts have not only improved the health and well-being of the community but also empowered women and promoted education.

MBCT is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving humanity through various initiatives, including healthcare services, education, and women empowerment programmes, besides running a



Hockey Academy.

With a focus on rural development, the trust has been working tirelessly to improve the lives of people in Fatehgarh Sahib and surrounding areas.

## Above The Limits: The Buddy Mobility Care Film wins Special Jury Award for Best Short Documentary at RIFF 2026

The film, directed by National Award-winning director Ojaswhee Sharma and produced by Sartaj Lamba, was recognized for its impactful storytelling and contribution to social development. This campaign film is based on the initiative of Sartaj Lamba's Buddy Mobility Care, aiming to raise awareness and offer practical solutions for accessible mobility. The award was presented on February 4, 2026, at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur.

The documentary highlights Buddy Mobility Care's integrated service model, focusing on accessible mobility for users with wheelchairs, elderly care, and persons with disabilities. Featuring Somya Thakur and para-athletes, it showcases real-life stories of dignity, personalized care, and customized mobility solutions.



## MEDIA COVERAGE

