

# 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

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT  
2025-26

**Ravi Prakash**  
DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
RI DISTRICT 3080

**Abha Joshi Sharma**  
CLUB PRESIDENT

**Arun Aggarwal**  
CLUB SECRETARY

## 121 YEARS OF ROTARY: A LEGACY OF SERVICE AND IMPACT



Rotary International, the world's first service club, celebrated its 121st birthday with vibrancy and enthusiasm across the globe, and Rotary Club Chandigarh was no exception. On Monday, the club marked this momentous occasion with a special event at the Peace Monument at the Lake Club, highlighting the spirit of Rotary and its commitment to service above self.

The celebrations began with the National Anthem, setting the tone for a day filled with joy, camaraderie, and a sense of purpose. Little children added to the festive atmosphere by releasing beautiful balloons into the air, symbolizing the hopes and dreams of a

brighter future. The highlight of the event was the cake-cutting ceremony, which emphasized the spirit of Rotary and the values it stands for.

Rotary Club Chandigarh has been an integral part of the Rotary community, contributing significantly to various projects that have made a tangible impact on the lives of people in the region. From promoting literacy and education to supporting healthcare initiatives, the club has been at the

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**HAPPY HOLI** Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6pm  
**RasaDarshan Kavi Sammelan**  
Today's evening of Poetry Moderated by PP Manmohan Kohli  
looking forward to a delightful evening of in house poetic outburst

**HAPPY HOLI** Monday Meeting 2nd March 6.00 pm  
**FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** President Abha & Spouse Sanjay

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## 121 Years of Rotary: A Legacy of Service and Impact

forefront of creating positive change. Its efforts in environmental conservation and community development have also been noteworthy, reflecting the club's commitment to Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self".

PRIP Raja Saboo, President Abha, and esteemed Rotarians from Rotary Club Chandigarh and other clubs in the city came together to celebrate this milestone. Their presence underscored the club's dedication to the principles of Rotary and its resolve to continue serving the community.

As Rotary International enters its 122nd year, Rotary Club Chandigarh remains committed to making a difference. The club's projects and initiatives are a testament to the power of collective action and the impact that can be achieved when people come together with a shared vision of creating a better world.

The birthday celebrations at the Lake Club were a reflection of the club's vibrant spirit and its unwavering commitment to Rotary's ideals. As the club looks to the future, it does so with the same enthusiasm and dedication that has defined its journey so far.

In the words of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self", Rotary Club Chandigarh continues to embody the spirit of service, striving to make a positive impact in the lives of those around them. Here's to 121 years of Rotary and many more years of service, fellowship, and making a difference!

The club's upcoming projects include initiatives focused on water conservation, women's empowerment,



and youth development, further solidifying its commitment to creating a lasting impact. With its rich history and dedicated members, Rotary Club Chandigarh is poised to continue making a

difference in the community, upholding the values of Rotary International. The celebration was a testament to the club's unwavering dedication to service and its role as a beacon of hope in the community.

### CELEBRATIONS

#### Birthday Greetings:

**5 March** Anurag Chopra 9888111127

#### Anniversary Greetings:

**3 March** Amarpreet Singh Sandhu & Miankjeet 9888123506

**3 March** Arun Raghav & Bindu 9068844455

**8 March** Lalita Grover & R.K.Grover 9815514551

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## TB Packets Distribution Distribution of 218 food packets to TB patients was carried out today i.e 26/02/2026 at Mauli Jagran Dispensary.

Members attended

Rtn. Rosy Katyal (Director Community Services)

Rtn. Kiran Malhotra



## Celebrating 121 Years of Service: Rotary International Turns a New Page in History

On 23 February 1905, in a small office in Chicago, four visionaries led by Paul Harris came together with a simple yet powerful idea — to build friendships among professionals and use their collective strength to serve society. That meeting marked the birth of Rotary International, an organization that would grow into one of the world’s most respected humanitarian networks.

Today, as Rotary celebrates its birthday, it stands tall as a global force for service, peace, and community transformation.

From a Local Club to a Global Movement

What began as the Rotary Club of Chicago has now expanded to more than 1.4 million members across 200+ countries and geographical areas. Rotary members — business leaders, professionals, and community change-makers — are united by a common motto: Service Above Self.

Over the decades, Rotary has adapted to changing times while staying rooted in its core values of integrity, fellowship, diversity, and leadership.

### A Legacy of Transformative Achievements

#### 1. Polio Eradication – A Promise to the World

Rotary’s most historic contribution is its unwavering fight against polio. In 1985, Rotary launched PolioPlus, becoming the first organization to envision a polio-free world. Through its partnership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has helped reduce polio cases by over 99.9% worldwide.

Millions of children have been vaccinated because Rotarians believed that no child

should suffer from a preventable disease.

#### 2. The Rotary Foundation – Doing Good in the World

Established in 1917, The Rotary Foundation has invested billions of dollars in sustainable projects worldwide. From building schools and hospitals to providing clean drinking water and sanitation, Rotary’s humanitarian footprint spans every continent.

The Foundation supports initiatives in:

- Peacebuilding and conflict resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Community economic development
- Protecting the environment

#### 3. Promoting Peace Through Education

Rotary’s commitment to peace is reflected in the Rotary Peace Centers, which have trained thousands of peace fellows who now serve in governments, NGOs, and international institutions, contributing to global harmony and understanding.

#### 4. Youth Empowerment and Leadership.

Through programs like Rotaract, Interact, Youth Exchange, and leadership development initiatives, Rotary nurtures the next generation of leaders — empowering youth with values of service, ethics, and global citizenship.

#### Rotary in India – A Beacon of Service

India has been one of Rotary’s strongest pillars. Indian Rotarians have led impactful campaigns in healthcare,

literacy, women empowerment, rural development, disaster relief, and large-scale immunization drives. From polio-free certification to mega blood donation camps and school transformation projects, Rotary in India exemplifies service at scale.

#### More Than an Organization – A Way of Life

Rotary is not merely an institution; it is a movement of compassion. It connects people across cultures, religions, and professions, building bridges of goodwill. In a world often divided, Rotary continues to demonstrate that shared values and collective action can bring lasting change.

As Rotary celebrates its birthday on 23rd February, it is not just a celebration of years — it is a celebration of impact, friendships, and millions of lives touched.

#### Looking Ahead

The challenges of the future — climate change, public health crises, inequality — require united global action. Rotary is poised to lead with innovation, collaboration, and renewed commitment.

As Rotarians around the world mark this special day, they reaffirm the timeless promise made in 1905 — To serve humanity with dedication, integrity, and love.

Happy Birthday, Rotary International. May the spirit of Service Above Self continue to illuminate the world for generations to come.

Courtesy- PDG Parveen Goyal



# Rotary helps build a more peaceful world

For over a century, Rotary has played a significant role in promoting peace, understanding, and reconciliation around the world. Rotary International has identified Peacebuilding as one of its seven Areas of Focus, recognizing the critical role that peace plays in creating a more just and harmonious world.

Through its peacebuilding initiatives, Rotary aims to address the root causes of conflict, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education and resources. Rotary clubs and districts worldwide engage in various peacebuilding activities, including promoting cultural understanding, supporting education and economic development, and providing humanitarian aid.

One of Rotary's key peacebuilding initiatives is the Rotary Peace Fellowship program. Established in 2002, this program provides academic and practical training in conflict resolution and peacebuilding to outstanding individuals from around the world. To date, over 1,500 peace fellows have graduated from the program

at different Rotary Peace Centres around the world, going on to become leaders in their communities and making a positive impact on global peace efforts.

Furthermore, Rotary International has collaborated with other organizations, such as the United Nations, to advance peace and conflict resolution. Rotary has also been involved in various international peace initiatives, including drawing up the UN Charter and the "Rotary UN Day" which promotes the United Nations' mission and values.

In addition, Rotary's youth programs, such as Youth Exchange, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Rotaract and Interact, empower young people to become leaders and agents of peace in their communities. These programs teach valuable skills such as conflict resolution, communication, and problem-solving, helping to build a more peaceful and harmonious world.

The Rotary Action Group for Peace (RAGFP) promotes peace and conflict resolution worldwide. RAGFP supports Rotary's

peacebuilding initiatives, empowering communities to resolve conflicts peacefully. The group provides resources and expertise to Rotary clubs, districts, and peace fellows, fosters partnerships with organizations promoting peace, justice, and human rights, advocates for policies supporting peace, tolerance, and understanding, facilitates dialogue and collaboration among Rotary members, peace experts, and community leaders, inspires and empowers Rotary members to become peacebuilders and ambassadors for peace in their communities.

In conclusion, Rotary International plays a vital role in promoting peace and conflict resolution globally. Through its peace fellowship program, community-based initiatives, and international collaborations, Rotary is helping to build a more just, peaceful, and harmonious world.

**PP Rtn. AP Singh Dhiman**  
District Peace Chair  
District Chair Rotary Peace Fellowships Subcommittee

## Epic picnic vibes on 22 Feb 2026 at Rtn PJ Singh & Rtn Rajwinder Kaur's farm house

Huge turnout, loads of fun & memories! Big thanks to Rtn PJ Singh ,Rtn Rajwinder Kaur for being such warm,welcoming and gracious hosts .It was a blast with great company, good food, and lovely surroundings.GratITUDE to President Abha J Sharma and PP Neenu Vij for putting together the event.

