

# Open Hand

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

CHARTER 15227 | CHARTERED ON 10TH MAY 1958

ISSUE 35 | 9 March 2026

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

## HOLI IN FULL BLOOM

Rotary Club Chandigarh's Meeting No. 3496 blossomed on March 2, 2026, with twilight magic. As petals of laughter unfolded at 6:00 pm, Rtn. Nidhi Kapoor woked harmony with the national anthem. President Rtn. Abha J Sharma warmly welcomed Dr. Kapil Mehta from Houston, USA, and spotlighted noble endeavors – blood-donation camps on 7th & 8th March weaving threads of hope.

Beneath Holi's vibrant hues, poetry danced like confetti:

- Rtnn Neha Nupur waving two festive verses
- Rtn Shabana Azam's lyrical bloom in dual notes
- Rtn. Santosh Gupta's tender recitation
- President Abha J. Sharma's Soulful celebrating Holi through her poem
- PP Manmohan Kohli's spell weaving colors
- PP Neena Singh & Rtnn Naheed's melodic Holi song

In this symphony of mirth, Rotary's spirit shone – compassion, connection, and Holi's joy entwined. As laughter lingered, dreams took root: projects sowing smiles,



hands joining in service. In Chandigarh's embrace, Rotary's heartbeat pulsed – alive with purpose.

The evening drifted, a fragrant garland: memories woven with threads of duty, delight, and shared Holi magic with sumptuous fellowship.





## District Conference



DG Ravi Prakash and Rtn Shalini Prakash



### Ganga's Grace at Haridwar

Rotary District Conference Kshitij unfolded at Haridwar, echoing 'Service Above Self'. Delegates gathered by the Ganga, where spirituality met service. DG Ravi Prakash inspired with visionary leadership, setting the tone for impactful projects and sustainable growth. Sessions sparked passion: Rtn. R.K. Jain's keynote ignited discussions on making a difference. The highlight of the event was Acharya Balkrishnaje, MD Patanjali, sharing wisdom on holistic service, blending ancient philosophy with modern Rotary values.

The business session was highly interactive, with PDG Madhukar Malhotra handling the proceedings immaculately and with precision. Our President Abha J Sharma shared insightful views, emphasizing our club's commitment to Rotary's mission. PP Hassan Meije efficiently moderated the afternoon session, keeping discussions

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### CELEBRATIONS

#### Birthday Greetings:

- 9 March** Vinay Kumar Aggarwal 96464 05166
- 12 March** Dr. S. Marriya 9814036072

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on track. Workshops lit fires of innovation, while our club members attended in great numbers, amplifying camaraderie and networking.

Cultural night: soulful bhajans and vibrant folk dances transported attendees to India's spiritual heart. Ganga Aarati sealed bonds, as Rotary's heartbeat pulsed – compassion, connection, community. Amid sacred ripples, Haridwar's serenity woked dreams: projects sowing smiles, hands joining in service.

Feedback echoed success: "A symphony of Rotary Leaders, interactive sessions, great food, planned events, and laughter. Built comradeship with fellow rotarians." Kudos to DG Ravi Prakash, Rtn Shalini Prakash, and the genius team! PDG Madhukar Malhotra's stage regulation was exceptional. PRIP Raja Saboo's presence added a feather in Rotary's cap, appreciated by all, including RI representatives Mahesh Kotbagi, Gurjeet Singh Sekhon, and fellow Rotarians.

The conference drifted, a fragrant garland: memories woven with duty, delight, Rotary's spirit. As we carry home wonderful memories, we're reminded of Rotary's power to transform lives .



## DIL SE...

Day 1 of the District Conference in Haridwar featured Chief Guest Acharya Balkrishna, CEO of Patanjali, where Harkiran and I presented a specially crafted Phulkari-embroidered silk gents' shawl. This shawl holds particular significance: only two such exclusive pieces were created by the rural artisans of the Self Help Group Phulkari Makers Bassi Pathana, supported by the Mehar Baba Charitable Trust. One shawl was made for the Prime Minister, and the second was presented on Saturday, 28 February 2026, to Acharya Balkrishna during the RID 3080 District Conference hosted by Rotary Club of Haridwar. The shawl showcased the rich cultural heritage of Punjab and the exceptional craftsmanship of rural artisans, highlighting the trust's commitment to empowering local communities. This gesture not only honoured Acharya Balkrishna but also brought attention to the talented artisans of Bassi Pathana, underscoring the importance of preserving traditional crafts and supporting rural development. The event was a testament to the power of collaboration and community-driven initiatives. Grateful to Rotary for providing me with a very beautiful platform.

.....With blessings  
PP Hassan Meije



### Featured in GML

#### A Champion Of Change Honored

Past President of Rotary Club Chandigarh, Rtn. Hassan Meije was conferred the Republic Day Award for Social Work on 26th January by District Administration of Fatehgarh Sahib.

Mr. Hassan Meije, who is the Managing Trustee of Mehar Baba Charitable Trust (MBCT), at Basis Pathana, District Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab, under which he has adopted 187 villages

The recognition is a reflection of Mr. Meije's commitment to making a difference in the lives of others and his passion for serving humanity.

Mr. Meije'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.

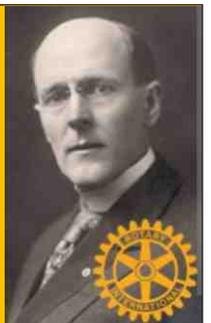
With a focus on rural development, the Trust has been working tirelessly to improve the lives of people in Fatehgarh Sahib and surrounding areas.



*Rotary changes us and those we serve.*

*I believe we can change the world one life at a time.*

*Paul Harris*



## Blood Donation Camp

Voluntary Blood Donation Camp

Date: 07 March 2026

Organized by: KDDL Derabassi in association with Rotary Club Chandigarh.

A total of 100 employees registered, of which 81 were eligible to donate blood.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the KDDL & Rotary Club Chandigarh leaders for their invaluable support.

TeamRotary & BBS Resource CentreSector-37, Chandigarh



Rotary meeting Rotary Shimla attended by PP Hasan Mejie & PP Jatinder Kapoor and PP Jaspal Sidhu. Rotary Club Flags were exchanged .They also paid respect to PDG VP Kalta Sahib and met their members.

## Short term Rotary Youth Exchange

Dear club leaders

Please find suitable candidates for the camp in Rome, Italy from 3rd July to 12th July, 2026.

Participants: Maximum 8 participants. One participant from each country.

Age: 18-21 years

It is a great opportunity for youngsters to meet and make friends from different countries and experience the wonders of Rotary.

Please contact me for further assistance and help in completing the formalities for a potential candidate.

Rtn. AP Singh Dhiman  
District Chair  
Rotary Youth Exchange

## Rotary Building Communities... A different project.

### Japan

The Rotary Club of Tokyo Hiroo embarked on a melodic mission in October, collaborating with the Rotary Club of Beverly Hills in California to bring the music therapy program **Music Mends Minds** to people with Alzheimer's. Over several visits, club members brought drums, cowbells, and other percussive instruments to care facilities and

encouraged participants to clap along as the Rotarians struck up tunes. "Music Mends Minds helps older adults with memory loss reengage," says Miyuki Ochi, president of the club. "Watching older adults' faces light up through music is one of the greatest joys of our service."

This story originally appeared in the March 2026 issue of *Rotary* magazine.

## Rotary International Projects creating an impact

### Global Projects & Impact

- **Polio Eradication:** Rotary has contributed over \$2.9 billion to protect more than 3 billion children, with ongoing efforts in polio eradication.
- **Heart-to-Heart Project (Vietnam):** The Rotary Club of Saigon International, with partners, has funded heart surgeries for
- **Sustainable Water (Mexico):** The Rotary Club of Ciudad de México, partnering with a Kansas club, distributed water filters to 110 families in a drought-stricken area, focusing on long-term sustainability.

100 Vietnamese children, aiming to reduce congenital heart disease in low-income families.

## 75.Mind Your Ego

Ego pollutes the pure soul. It is the finite and limited thinking of the mind influenced by the Ego

which is an obstacle in the way of the development of the self to enjoy the infinite and unlimited powers of the universe. This is the reason for the sufferings of mankind.



J.K.Kapur  
9356077111

