

# 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

## ROOTS OF ROTARY: HONOURING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Rotary Club of Chandigarh marked its Monday meeting with a memorable evening dedicated to honouring its veteran members who have completed 30 years of distinguished service. The gathering was not just another club meeting, but a celebration of time, dedication, and hearts that chose service again and again. As the evening's anchor reminded everyone, "They didn't just join Rotary. They built it. Nurtured it. Strengthened it. Like strong roots beneath a flourishing tree, our veterans are the reason we stand tall today."

After President Abha J Sharma shared the regular club project updates, PP Neenu Vij and Rtn Seema Gupta took charge of the proceedings. They conducted the felicitation with grace, giving a beautiful and personalised tagline to each veteran before presenting them with a token of love. The tributes captured decades of commitment in a single line.

PRIP Rajendra K. Saboo was hailed as "The temple of Rotary... our pride. Mentor, a pillar of strength and foundation of our club." Rtn Pawan K. Katia was recognised as "A disciplinarian, setting standards in hosting and serving." Rtn Jagesh Khaitan was celebrated for being "Humility personified. Rock solid, strong, steady, dependable. His actions



are much louder than his voice." RTN Man Mohan Khanna was remembered as "A wise, kind and humble Rotarian who we wish should come more regular." PP Kewal K. Seth drew smiles as "Too punctual, smiling, always helpful and guiding every president. The best sergeant in arms!" PP Maj. B. M. Singh was called "A man of discipline and dignity, the spirit of Rotary, ever smiling Rotary Santa, distributing smiles always."

The honours continued: PP Ashok

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**Monday Meeting— 13th April  
6:00pm**

**From Soil to Self Reliance**



**Devinder Sharma**  
*Country's leading voice on  
Food and Agriculture*

at  
Rotary House, 107 a sector 18a Chandigarh

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**Monday Meeting— 13th April  
6:00pm**

**Fellowship Host**



**Rtn Kumar Shray**

at  
Rotary House, 107 a sector 18a Chandigarh





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## Roots of Rotary...

Khanna\* – “This veteran’s journey is marked by quiet and consistent contribution.” PP Abhilash Kapoor – “A valued presence, strengthening the Rotary bond.” PP J. B. Bhasin – “Graceful in service, steady in commitment. Well versed with Rotary finances.” Rtn Krishan Kumar – “The man with the hat which has many feathers! His service to society is remarkable.” PDG\*Madhukar Malhotra\* – “The ‘never says never’ personality, a true man of action. Guide and mentor for all members.” PP Ramesh G. Bhatia – “Silently supportive, yet deeply impactful.” PP Darshan C. Mehandru – “Graceful in demeanor, powerful in presence.” Rtn\*Kanwaljit Singh Sekhon\* – “A strong pillar, always there when needed. Wish we see him more often.” Rtn Dr. Pardaman Singh\* – “Service with compassion, truly inspiring. Soft spoken and humble. PDG Praveen Chander Goyal\* – “The dictionary of Rotary, store house of knowledge and guidance personified.” PP Vijay Wadhawan\* – “Saintly and elite, a blend of grace, service and dignity.” PP\*Arvind K. Mehan\* – “Always there with a helping hand, embracing everyone in his warmth and genuine compassion.” Rtn\*Dr. S. P. S. Grewal\* – “A passion for service, especially in medical missions.” PP\*Vivek Kumar Gupta\* – “Feels Rotary truly from the heart. A dependable man. The club is enriched because of his passion to serve.” Rtn\*Nandani Khanna\* – “Elegance personified, adding grace to Rotary. My pakizah girl.” PP Partap K. Aggarwal\* – “A generous donor with a giving spirit. And genuine kindness.” \*



Rtn J. S. Kandhari\* – “Not always present, but always supportive.” PP Anil Khanna\* – “Financial wisdom that strengthens the foundation. Rtn Ashwani K. Chopra\* – “Wise, supportive and committed Rotarian.” The evening moved to an engaging “Rotary Round” where 27 questions were asked to the veterans, drawing out stories, laughter, and wisdom. Questions ranged from “In whose term were you most active?” to “If Rotary were a family, what role do you think you play?” The most memorable answer came from PDG Madhukar Malhotra. When asked

“Who was the most well dressed Rotarian when he joined?”, he replied with a twinkle, “Himself.” The room erupted in applause at his trademark confidence and wit. Fellowship was hosted by PP Neenu Vij and Rtn Seema Gupta, which was delicious and nutritious, adding warmth to an already special evening. The meeting closed on a note of gratitude during “Musical Arms”: “As we honour these incredible journeys today, we don’t just celebrate the past, we carry forward a legacy. To our veterans, thank you for your time, your wisdom, and your unwavering dedication.”

## CELEBRATIONS

### Birthdays Greetings:

13 April Kumar Shray 9507036476, 7979954710  
15 April Thakur Singh Mejie 7856000007  
19 April Col. Alok Batra 9988878214

### Anniversary Greetings:

13 April J. S. Kandhari & Gurvinder 9814087904  
13 April Darpan Kapoor & Nishi 9872800051  
14 April Kiran Malhotra & Rama 7087476553  
14 April Dr. G.P. Malik & Neelam 98140 74000  
16 April Vivek Gupta & Promila 9876313333  
19 April Jagesh Khaitan & Usha 9810095802

With Best Compliments from  
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan

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# ROTARY CLUB CHANDIGARH - 4th APRIL 2026

We are at Rotary Club Chandigarh once again Blessed to be welcoming Rotary International President Elect Olayinka Hakeem Babalola and RID K.P Nagesh alongwith DG 3080 Ravi Prakash at Rotary House. A visit to the HALL OF FAME and a round of RVC. They visitor Book was signed by RIPE with the comment :

"Sometimes I feel PRIP Raja is not an earthly being. That he is some sort of a spirit roaming the world and bringing the doing of good.

As a minimum he is a LEGEND. I am inspired by what I have seen here today."

"WHAT A LEGACY."

Later he was taken to visit the ROTARY PEACE MONUMENT at Sukhna Lake, Chandigarh.



## ROTARY CLUB CHANDIGARH FELLOWSHIP and FRIENDSHIP

I have always felt proud of being a part of the most prestigious Club and further blessed to be leading it. It was always a fond desire to bring together our veterans members who have been doing wonderful work and passed on the baton of treasures to us. The regular Monday meeting of our club on 6th April was dedicated to all those members of our club who have been part of this journey for more than thirty years. Their dedication and commitment to the club over the years have made it one of the most prestigious institutions we proudly cherish today. Their dedication and commitment to the club over the years have made it one of the most prestigious institutions we proudly cherish today. As we look back, our hearts are filled with gratitude and admiration—what they once nurtured as a small sapling has now grown into a flourishing tree, rich with the fruits of love, compassion, and service.

They are the ones who have created the legacy and handed it over to us. Infact they are also a part of the legacy and it is not just the work and projects-- it is our senior members too. They were gifted with pink flowers symbolical of our love and respect for them.

We are immensely proud of them and of our club. Few messages recieved as appreciation of the event are worthy of being shared.

President  
Abha Joshi Sharma

## Rotary Peace Pole Unveiled



On the occasion of Multi District Rotary Peace Summit in Panipat on 9th April, 2026, a Rotary Peace Pole was unveiled at Panipat Institute of Engineering and Technology (PIET). DG Ravi Prakash of RID 3080 and DG Bhupesh Mehta of RID 3090 did the honour of unveiling the peace pole. Rotarians from Chandigarh, Panipat and Bhiwani were present.



On way to Peace Summit at Panipat

## MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION

Last evening Raja came back from meeting very happy & appreciative of your special initiative to recognise & honor senior members over 30 years & more in club

Congrats & thanks Abha  
Keep doing good in the club .

**Rt'nne Usha Saboo**

Great great evening President Mam and her entire team... I am sure everybody especially the Veterans alongwith all the members really enjoyed the evening coordinated by you all... it surely left a lot of memories and further strengthened the Rotary familial Bond that we all share learning from the Veterans and Stalwards of our club...

**Rtn Pankaj Katia**

President Abha ji, Neenu ji and Seema ji We 30+ years in Rotary are obliged for recognition of our services and continuity. It was so thoughtful of you all for this kind gesture which we enjoyed. Thanks also for a nice gift and welcome with beautiful flowers.

**PP. Ramesh G Bhatia**

Dear President Abha ji,  
Grateful for such a soul lifting and thoughtful message.

We all are very proud of you for making our Club as one of the best amongst the best of the Rotary Clubs ; you have taken it to great heights. It's all due to your hard work and perseverance. Hats off to you.

I also further join the compliments and convey my gratitude and heart full thanks to our great President and Neenu ji.

Thanks for the wonderful present.

I couldn't join the function due to some preoccupations.

**Rtn. Darshan Mehndru**

Well said, Ramesh ji. You saved me from repeating many words. My compliments to President Abha di, PP Neenu di and Rtn. Seema for organising such a unique and thoughtful event. The beautiful bouquets, gifts and above all the aptly chosen word titles for each of us were par excellence. I feel you as President have managed to take our club to an "exalted" status that we all seniors feel so proud of. Of course I was humbled to be recognised so well, as I think that some of our past presidents and members much "younger" than our category of 30+, e.g., PP Neenu Vij and many others have managed to achieve much more than some of us collectively. So, it's not just the "years" put in but the "heart & soul" that matters which all three of you ladies have portrayed!

**PP Arvind Mehn**



Rotary then in 1964

Rotary club of Old Saybrook , Conn. USA

