

# Open Hand

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

CHARTER 15227 | CHARTERED ON 10TH MAY 1958

ISSUE 47 | 25 May 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

## ROTARY IMPACT SPRINT WORKSHOP DRIVES ACTIONABLE COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS AT ROTARY CLUB CHANDIGARH

President Rtn. Abha J Sharma opened the club meeting with a comprehensive update on ongoing club projects and extended heartfelt thanks to the fellowship committee for hosting a sumptuous fellowship that added warmth to the evening.

The highlight of the meeting was the Rotary Impact Sprint Workshop, skillfully facilitated by Rtn. Maneet Dewan. Designed as an action-oriented platform, the workshop moved members and guests beyond discussion into solution-mode, focusing on creating tangible, measurable impact for the community.

The energy in the hall was palpable as around 50 enthusiastic participants from diverse professional backgrounds came together with a shared commitment to social impact. Doctors, educators, entrepreneurs, architects, and homemakers collaborated as equals, embodying Rotary's ethos of Service Above Self.

To encourage structured problem-solving and cross-sector thinking,



participants were divided into six teams. Each team was assigned a specific social sector: Education, Health, Environment, Food & Hunger, Women & Child Development, and Community Welfare. What followed was 90 minutes of intense, guided brainstorming.

Facilitator Maneet Dewan led the groups through a sprint process – identify ground realities, define one


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Monday Meeting - 25th May  
 6pm

**Let No Elder Feel Alone**

Project SEWA



**J M Balamurugan**  
 IAS

at Rotary House. 107 a sector 18 Chandigarh



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## Rotary Impact Sprint Workshop Drives Actionable Community Solutions at Rotary Club Chandigarh

core challenge, ideate practical solutions, and draft a preliminary action plan with timeline, resources, and impact metrics. The room buzzed with ideas as sticky notes filled charts and debates turned into consensus.

The Education team proposed a weekend bridge-learning program for government school students using Rotary volunteers. Health focused on preventive screening camps in urban areas. Environment pitched a “One Home, One Sapling” community plantation drive. Food & Hunger conceptualized a community kitchen model. Women & Child Development worked on menstrual hygiene awareness + skill kits. \*Community Welfare worked on civic projects.

The workshop strongly emphasized teamwork, leadership, innovation, and community engagement. By the end, all six teams presented not just ideas, but clear 30-60-90 day action plans ready for execution through collective Rotarian effort.

President Abha J Sharma lauded Maneet Dewan’s facilitation and said, “This is Rotary in action – ideas backed by intent and teamwork. These sprints will now feed into our club’s service pipeline.” She also thanked all participants



for their time and the host team for flawless coordination.

The Impact Sprint proved that when passionate minds collaborate with structure, solutions emerge

quickly. Rotary Club Chandigarh now has six project blueprints ready to transform into sustainable community impact, truly demonstrating the power of Rotary to create lasting change.

### CELEBRATIONS

- 25 May** Rtn Paramjit Singh Gill
- 26 May** Rtn Bipin Kumar Oberoi 9876711145
- Anniversary Greetings:**
- 29 May** Rtn Ankur Garg 9214300518  
& Ann Rashmi
- 30 May** Rtn Neena Singh & 9316032266  
Mr. Prith Pal Singh

With Best Compliments from  
**Rtn Jagesh Khaitan**



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## Orientation cum Installation Interact Club

**Dass and Brown Experiential Learning School, MDC, Panchkula**

19th May 2025

The 2nd Interact Club was installed with a very keen and eagerly bunch of students.

So many of them raised their hands to convey the kind of passion they had to do community work. They wanted to work towards saving the environment and protection of wild life. Thanks to Dear VP Rtn.

Rajinder Kaur, Secretary Arun Aggarwal, PE Tina Virk, Rtn. PJ Singh, Rtn. Arvind Mehn and Rtn. Ripudaman Vats for being a part of the event.

## Orientation cum Installation Interact Club

**Strawberry Fields High School, Sector 26, Chandigarh**

22nd May 2025

The 3rd Interact Club was installed with a very happy and enthusiastic bunch of students. A big thanks to Rotary Partner Ms. Neha Singh for coordinating in the formation of the club.

Thanks to Dear VP Rtn. Rajinder Kaur, PE Tina Virk, Rtn. PJ Singh, Rtn. Arvind Mehn and IPP Jatinder Kapoor for being a part of the event.



## Being Rotarians Means Being Tolerant - A Precursor To Achieving Peace

"If by interposition of Providence I some day were to find myself standing on a platform in some great Coliseum looking into the eyes of every living Rotarian, and were to be told that I could have one word to say, without an instant's hesitation and at the top of my voice, I would shout "Toleration!"

Reproduced above is the first line of Paul Harris's message to Rotarians in the first ever issue of The National Rotarian in 1911.

Golden words, don't you think?

Relevant then, even more relevant now.

Toleration means the practice of tolerating something, in particular the differences of opinion or behaviour. Enduring fellow humans and their opinions, sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from or conflicting with one's own or simply the act of allowing something would mean you tolerate. It's a virtue in today's world.

One should accept everyone's opinions without fighting. To tolerate is very necessary for a peaceful and loving environment. Those people who do not have the ability of tolerance often get angry on conflicting issues, different perspectives and destroy the tranquility of the place.

Rotary's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement somewhere carries forward this message of Paul Harris specially when we have so many social media platforms for instant communication and there is always a chance of reacting to something without being tolerant. Moreover, the world is continuing to face challenges based on race, religion and nationality. Polio eradication efforts would not have succeeded without toleration. Growth of Rotary the world over through different eras would not have happened without toleration. Tolerance is the cornerstone of everything positive and good. It is the basis of our Four Way Test.

If you are tolerant, your ability to make friends increases manifold. You will be easily accepted in society or an organisation. You will be more suited to resolve conflicts and serve the needy. You will help create congenial atmosphere wherever you go. It will be easier for you to look at things from the perspectives of others.

To be tolerant means you respect different opinions and points of view in addition to respecting the other person/s. It means you are flexible in your thoughts to accommodate ideas conflicting with your own. It means you make an effort to understand others and accept if they are right. Sometimes truth can

have different meanings for different people depending upon their angles of view. Equality among all beings was true for some but so was slavery for many.

Service and fellowship are the basis of Rotary. And tolerance is the key to both. The worlds will have lesser problems if more people are tolerant. This is why Rotarians have to step up and show the world how communities around the world are served, how friendships across boundaries are developed, how peace is achieved, all with a bit of tolerance.

Developing tolerance is not difficult. It is your ability to handle those who disagree with you. Have patience, control your emotions, be understanding, be inquisitive, be open to learning more and new, check your ego and accept change.

In the end I want to emphasise that when we proudly say "The world needs more Rotarians", we are somewhere saying we need, among other things, more tolerance in the world.

**AP Singh**  
District Peace Chair  
District Chair Rotary Peace Fellowships  
Subcommittee  
RID 3080  
India



## MEMBERS UPDATE



*Heartiest congratulations to Rtn Pratap Aggarwal for being nominated by CII to the elite group accompanying PM to Norway.*

*Get well soon*

*Rotary Club Chandigarh welcomes back Rtn. Lalita Grover after foot surgery, wishing her speedy recovery.*

HANWASH and Partners  
Named Recipient of Rotary's  
2026 Programs of Scale Grant



The scaled-up effort, *Collaboration for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Systems in Haiti* – led by Rotary clubs in Haiti and the Caribbean in partnership with nonprofits and government bodies including Haiti Outreach and Direction Nationale de l'Eau Potable et de l'Assainissement (DINEPA) – aims to improve access to clean and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene while strengthening demand, governance, and sustainable use for approximately 70,000 people in Cavallon, Ferrier, and Pignon by 2030.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the groundbreaking “Collaboration for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Systems in Haiti” initiative — the 2026 Rotary International Programs of Scale Grant Recipient!

This incredible effort will improve access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene for nearly 70,000 people across Haiti while building sustainable, community-led systems for the future. Proud to see Rotary District 7020, local Rotary clubs, and partners leading transformational change that will improve health, strengthen communities, and Create Lasting Impact for generations to come.

This is Rotary at its best — creating sustainable, systems-level change through partnership, leadership, and service above self.

04 city

### GOLDEN MILESTONES



**Industrialist Rajendra K Saboo's 50 years with Rotary Club chronicle his dreams, challenges, achievements**

*By Rtn. Sartaj Lamba*

It is a significant milestone for the Rotary Club of Chandigarh as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of its founding in 1972. The club has grown from a small group of enthusiasts to a vibrant community of members who have made significant contributions to the city and beyond. The club's activities range from social events to community service projects, all aimed at promoting the Rotary ideal of service above self. The club's success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of its members, who have worked tirelessly to build a strong and sustainable organization. The club's 50th anniversary is a time to reflect on the achievements of the past and to look forward to the future with optimism and hope. The club's members are proud to be part of a team that has made a difference in the lives of many people in Chandigarh and in other parts of the world. The club's 50th anniversary is a time to celebrate the club's history and to honor the members who have made it what it is today. The club's members are proud to be part of a team that has made a difference in the lives of many people in Chandigarh and in other parts of the world. The club's 50th anniversary is a time to celebrate the club's history and to honor the members who have made it what it is today.

**You are cordially invited to attend**

**Orientation cum Installation  
Interact Club  
Dbels  
Dass & Brown Experiential Learning School**

**Sector 6, MDC PANCHKULA**

**Date : 20th May 2026  
Time: 11:00 am**

**Team 2025-26  
Rotary club chandigarh**



**BEWAJAH  
KHUSHIYAAN  
LUTAO  
COCA-COLA  
PILAO**

Musings by Rotary ICON PRIP Raja Saboo on completing 50 year's as a member in 2011