

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

Teej Colors and Vibrancy: A Joint Meeting to Remember!

On 28 July, Rotary Club of Chandigarh and Inner Wheel Club of Chandigarh came together for a vibrant joint meeting, immersing themselves in the festive spirit of Teej. The atmosphere was electric, with girls from Vidya Sadan applying mehndi on palms of the members, and the theme colors of green, red, and yellow adding to the vibrancy. The meeting was a celebration of unity, service, and community, showcasing the clubs' commitment to their shared values.

The meeting began with Sergeant-at-Arms, Rtn Rashi, calling the gathering to order and introducing the President, Abha J Sharma, Inner Wheel President Kavita Arora, and IW Club Secretary Poonam Sharma. The President welcomed all members of visited the club and shared updates on various projects, showcasing the club's commitment to service and community. This was followed by a special address by Rtn Dr Wassila Taha from RC Cairo Nile Egypt, District 2451, who

visited for the fourth time. She was once again impressed by the warmth and love extended by the club.

Rtn Dr. Taha's visit was significant, as she facilitated a twin club exchange program between the two clubs. She exchanged flags with our club President and gifted a beautiful Egyptian painting, while also presenting a gift to the President. Additionally, she gifted a pharaoh to PP Rtn AP Singh. Her enthusiasm and dedication to fostering international relationships were evident, and she extended an invitation for a reciprocal visit to her club.

Another highlight of the meeting was PPRtn Anil Chadha's sharing of his experiences from the Rotary Convention at Calgary and a recent vacation, where he exchanged flags with the Rotary Club of Drumheller. This



exchange showcased the global connections and camaraderie that Rotary embodies. Regular birthday greetings were sent by Rtn Lalita Grover, demonstrating the club's thoughtfulness and care for its members.

The evening took a cultural turn with Inner Wheel President Kavita Garg taking the stage. The ladies dazzled with a beautiful Punjabi tappa performance by Roma Malhotra and Poonam Sharma, followed by an energetic gidda performance that had everyone foot-tapping. The energy and enthusiasm of the performers were infectious, and the audience was thoroughly entertained.

The meeting concluded with tokens of appreciation handed out by Rtn Usha Saboojee to the participants, acknowledging their contributions to the evening's success. The Teej celebrations wouldn't have been complete without a delicious fellowship, expertly managed by Rtn Ruchi Singla and Inner Wheel members. The joint meeting was a resounding success, filled with camaraderie, cultural exchange, and joy.

A special mention must be made of the tireless efforts of PP Rtn Manmohan Kohli, Rtn Seema Gupta, Rtn Lalita Grover, and dear Rtn Babbijee,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Rotary
DISTRICT 3080

"The World needs More Rotarians"

Hon'ble Governor of Punjab
Shri Gulab Chand Kataria
said to the Rotarians at the Installation function of Rotary Club of Chandigarh on 14th July 2025.

Let's Bring More Hands to Serve!

Rtn. Charanjit Singh
REGIONAL MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
PUNJABI & CHANDIGARH

NEXT Monday Meeting

Are we Eating Right?

An interactive session with
Renowned Nutritionist **Ms. GAGAN ANAND** on 4th August at Rotary House at 6 pm. fellowship host
Rtn Rohit Seth

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Teej Colors and Vibrancy: A Joint Meeting to Remember!



who curated a truly beautiful program. Their dedication and hard work made the evening truly unforgettable. A heartfelt thank you to Inner Wheel President Kavita Arora and all members for making

the evening memorable. Your contributions to the success of the meeting were invaluable.

As the evening drew to a close, members departed with big smiles, having enjoyed

the festivities and each other's company. The joint meeting of the Rotary Club of Chandigarh and Inner Wheel Club of Chandigarh was a testament to the power of collaboration and community.

DIL SE...

Inspiring a Brighter Future

District RYLA Chair PN Teena Virk inspires young minds and nurtures compassionate leaders through valuable life skills and community service. Her passion and dedication positively impact her community, setting an excellent example. With RYLA, she's shaping the next generation of changemakers, focusing on empathy and kindness. PN Teena Virk is a true role model, inspiring young individuals to make a difference and empowering them to become their best selves through her impactful work.



Pictures of RYLAs

CELEBRATIONS

Birthday Greetings:

29 July	Rtn Nagina Bains	9814204840
30 July	Rtn Brijesh Kumar	9878023500
31 July	Rtn Rohit Seth	9814011898
31 July	Rtn Abhishek Verma	8146770044

Anniversary Greetings:

29 July	Rtn Pawan Kumar Pahwa & Geetu	8872799908
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With Best Compliments from
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan

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Projects

Kargil Vijay Diwas

The Rotary Club of Chandigarh paid homage to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Kargil War. On July 26, Kargil Vijay Diwas, a delegation led by Rtn. Abha J Sharma (President), Rtn. Jatinder Kapoor (IPP), Rtn. Arun Aggarwal (Secretary), Rtn. Rajender Kaur (Vice President), Rtn. Rashi Adlakha (Co-chair Rotaract Committee), Rtn. Shivya Sehgal (Director Youth Services), Rtn. Prem Mahindru (Director Club Services), and Rtn. Manmohan Luthra (Chair Rotaract Committee) visited the Western Command Headquarters at Chandimandir. The visit aimed to honor the sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during the 1999 Kargil War. The delegation paid tribute to the bravery and dedication of the soldiers who defended the nation. This solemn occasion served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the armed forces to protect the country. The Rotary Club of Chandigarh's tribute to the martyrs reflects its commitment to honoring the nation's heroes. The visit was a poignant reminder of the importance of remembering and honoring the bravery of those who served.



RYLA 29th July 2025 - PML SD Public School

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) was held on

29th July 2025 at PML SD Public School in collaboration with Rotary Club Chandigarh. 220 students attended, inspired by Rotarians Preident Abha J Sharma Rtn Rajender Kaur Vice President. PN Teena Virk District Chair, RYLA, Hassan Meiji Chairman, RYLA, and Kumar Shray Co-Chair, Youth Exchange. Their motivational words left a lasting impression.

Under Principal Mrs. Monica Sharma and Club Advisor Mrs. Rajni Kanwar's guidance, with support from Rotarian Shivya Sehgal, Director Youth Services, the event thrived. Dr. Simi Waraich's session on ADHD and mental health emphasized



self-awareness. Rtn. Geet Rao's emotional intelligence session resonated deeply. Mr. Jasjeet Suri shared stress-management acupressure tips through magic tricks. President Abha J Sharma's light-invoking meditation technique was powerful.

A stage play on mobile phone usage highlighted digital overuse, while a musical performance added emotional depth. RYLA 2025 was a transformative journey, empowering students to lead with purpose and embody the Solivagant spirit. With renewed determination, students are ready to walk their paths with confidence. The event was a tremendous success, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Rotary Club Chandigarh and PML SD Public School. RYLA 2025 will be remembered as a day of growth, self-discovery, and inspiration.



Installation

On July 30, 2025, Delhi Public School, Chandigarh, hosted the Early Act and Interact Installation Ceremony. The event featured a Nritya Natika performance, "Aamrapali - the Awakening of a Soul," by Class XI students. Rotarians, including President Rtn. Abha J Sharma, Secretary Rtn. Arun Aggarwal, IPP Jatinder Kapur, PP Rtn. AP Singh, PP Rtn. Vinod Kapoor, District Chair RYLA Rtn. Teena Virk, Vice President Rtn. Rajender Kaur, Rtn. Kewal Seth, Director Youth Services Rtn. Shivya Sehgal, and Rtn. Rashi Adlakha, attended. School Director and Principal Mrs. Reema Dewan complimented achievers and appreciated participants' hard work. President Abha J Sharma encouraged students to develop life-skills and emphasized the power of service. The ceremony motivated students to make a difference and showcased the essence of Rotary's values.



"HARI CHAYA"

The EarlyAct Club of AKSIPS 45 Smart School celebrated Van Mahotsav under the "HARI-CHAYA" programme. Students and staff planted trees, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. A green pledge wall was created, and School Principal Mrs. Pamila Kaur emphasized that planting trees is a responsibility towards future generations. The event aimed to instill environmental responsibility and promote a greener future. By participating in the tree plantation drive, students learned the importance of protecting the environment. The celebration was a success, with everyone contributing to the cause and taking a step towards a more sustainable tomorrow.



Message from DG Ravi Parkash



August is Membership Development Month in Rotary – a time to unite, inspire, and grow!

Let's rise together to showcase the incredible work Rotary is doing around the world. Every service project, every act of kindness, and every life touched is a testament to our collective strength.

This month, let's reach out with passion and purpose—spread the word about Rotary's impact, invite new members to join our mission of service, and inspire others to be part of something greater.

*Together, we can expand our reach, amplify our impact, and create a brighter future. **Let's make this Membership Development Month a catalyst for growth and transformation!***

Join hands, share the vision, and bring more hearts into Rotary. The time is now!

MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success."

HENRY FORD

AUGUST

Rotary

AUGUST

MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH

Our primary focus must be on cultivating a vibrant, committed, and passionate membership base—because it is the foundation of a thriving Rotary District.

Rtn. Ravi Parkash
District Governor

MEMBERS UPDATE



Heartiest congratulations to Rtn Sangeet Sharma for this great achievement



2nd Place
summer solstice the busker plays a tune from home
Neena Singh
Chandigarh, India

Heartiest congratulations to PP Neena Singh for the well deserved award at the Japan Fair Haiku Contest 2025.

PRIP Rajendra K Saboo's article in Indian Express is an interesting read.

Chandigarh's claim of being 'slum-free': The real clean-up begins now

By Rikardo

As the city of Chandigarh celebrates its 50th anniversary, it is also the time to reflect on the challenges it has faced. One of the most significant challenges has been the presence of slums. Despite the city's reputation as a planned city, slums have persisted, often in the shadows of modern buildings. The city's claim of being 'slum-free' is a bold statement, but the real clean-up begins now. It requires a commitment to address the root causes of slum formation, such as lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities. The city must take a holistic approach, focusing on both the physical and social aspects of slum clearance. This involves not just demolishing slums but also providing alternative housing and support for the residents. The real clean-up begins now, and it requires the collective effort of the city, the government, and the community.

Tariff shield for pharma, electronics

By Rikardo

The Indian government has announced a tariff shield for pharmaceuticals and electronics. This move is aimed at protecting these sectors from foreign competition and ensuring the availability of essential medicines and electronic goods. The tariff shield will be in place for a period of five years, during which the government will monitor the market and make adjustments as needed. This is a significant step towards supporting the domestic industry and ensuring the welfare of the citizens. The government's commitment to protecting these sectors is a testament to its dedication to the growth and development of the country.

विश्व पब्लिक स्कूल कहा 11वीं का वर्ल्ड पब्लिक विद्यालय एवं गैरी-डरहैम स्थापना समारोह आयोजित

By Rikardo

A significant event was held in Chandigarh to mark the establishment of the 11th World Public School. The ceremony was attended by dignitaries and community members, highlighting the importance of education and the role of public schools in shaping the future. The school's establishment is a testament to the commitment of the community and the government to provide quality education to all. The event was a success, and it is expected that the school will play a vital role in the development of the region.

World lung cancer day

By Rikardo

World Lung Cancer Day is observed annually to raise awareness about lung cancer and the importance of early detection. This year's theme is 'A key tool in fighting lung cancer'. The day is marked by various activities, including seminars, workshops, and health check-ups. The goal is to educate the public about the risks of smoking and the benefits of quitting. Early detection and treatment are crucial in fighting lung cancer, and this day serves as a reminder for everyone to take care of their health.

BULLETIN BOARD

Highlight from the June 2024 Rotary Foundation Trustees Meeting

The Rotary Foundation Trustees Meeting was held in June 2024, and it was a successful one. The meeting focused on the future of the Rotary Foundation and the role of the trustees. The trustees discussed various issues, including the financial health of the foundation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the future of the foundation's programs. The meeting was a testament to the commitment of the trustees to the foundation and the global community.

विश्वार

Public Image & Membership Development Seminar
Luxuria Farms, Canal Road, Dehradun
Sunday, 31 August 2025

REGISTER BEFORE 5th AUGUST 2025
AND ENTER THE ADDITIONAL
EARLY BIRD LUCKY DRAW

PRIZE: Marshall Emberton II

Rtn. Raman Vohra | Event Chair | 94123-19212
Rtn. Sudhir Jolly | Registration Chair | 78955-19612

Host: Rotary Club Dehradun Central

Sadako Ogata, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (1991-2000)

was the first woman to hold that post and was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar at Georgetown University in 1958.

UNHCR

Leadership Communique RI President 2025-26

Take action to CREATE lasting change

UNITE FOR GOOD

Two weeks ago, I was in my living room playing with my grandchildren. A few days later, I was on a plane to Calgary, suddenly carrying the responsibility of leading this incredible organization. Life comes fast, but so often, it brings us exactly where we're meant to be.

We begin this year with a clear message: Unite for Good. It is a simple phrase, but a powerful one. Because behind every successful Rotary effort, every act of service, every new member welcomed, every global challenge met—there are two things that matter most: friendship and trust.

This is how we build strong clubs. It's how we create meaningful partnerships and transform global problems into local solutions. It's also how we lead—not through titles or applause, but with humility, humanity, and heart. But let me be honest with you: this kind of leadership is not always easy. We're human and yes, we make mistakes. We sometimes disagree, but in Rotary, we are called to something greater. Let us reflect on the full vision of Rotary:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change—across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

The last part is essential, because transformation doesn't start with strategy. It starts with character and the way we treat one another. It starts with how we listen, how we support, and how we serve.

This year, I ask you to lead with that spirit. To grow Rotary

through relationships. To make your clubs more welcoming, more flexible, more open to new ideas. To think big—but also to think beyond one year. Our term is short, but our impact can be lasting if we plan and act with continuity and vision.

Let us remember our key priorities: membership, polio and peace. We are closer than ever to ending polio. We cannot stop now. We must keep the promise we made to the children of the world. And as for peace—Rotary has been building it for over a century. Every clean water system, every youth exchange, every maternal health project is a step toward peace.

I joined Rotary as a young professional, eager to help but terrified of public speaking. My fellow Rotarians believed in me and encouraged me to take on new roles, and in doing so, Rotary changed my life. It gave me courage and purpose, but above all, it gave me you: my friends, my team, my family around the world.

So now, my friends—take out your dreams tucked away in a drawer, especially those you thought were too big or bold to achieve. Let's bring them into the light. Let's unite for Good—for our clubs, our communities, and our world. And let's make this a year not only of service, but of joy, of connection, and of love.

Francisco Arrezzo
President,
Rotary International – 2025-26

BOUNDLESS ROTARY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

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BEWAJAH KHUSHIYAAN LUTAO COCA-COLA PILAO

