



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

STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
2024-25

RAJPAL SINGH
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
RI DISTRICT 3080

JATINDER KAPUR
CLUB PRESIDENT

PREM MOHINDRU
CLUB SECRETARY

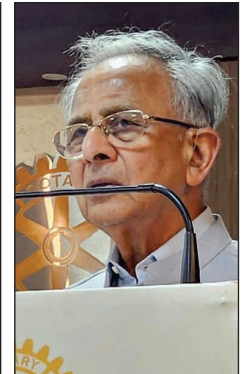
Unfolding Past memories

Past Rotary International President, Rtn. K R Ravindran, rated Rotary Club Chandigarh as one of the best clubs in this part of the world while addressing a regular meeting during his trip to Chandigarh. "You look at great membership, producing good people, fabulous projects, and having good fellowship. The club's strength is judged by the friendships among the members. Members must want to come to the club. It is not just for fun or socializing but to look forward to presence, as friendships are lifelong connections," he emphasized. "The second thing I say is we must be able to do business with each other. Rotary members are doing business with each other as you are architects, lawyers, doctors, dentists, travel agents, and so on. The third thing is that you must be able to support and help each other as a family during personal crises, when there are problems in the community, during floods, devastation, or when the community is suffering. The fourth thing is that you bring together a powerhouse of expertise in all areas of vocations. All these four aspects exist in Rotary Club Chandigarh. This is my 50th year in Rotary, and I am sharing my experiences."

"This visit to Chandigarh is primarily to meet Rtn. Raja Saboo and spend time with

him," he shared, narrating various occasions where he met with Rtn. Raja Saboo and expressed his good experiences. "It's interesting how I became President. It was a Council on Legislation, and during the break, I went with both for lunch with Usha ji. They said, 'You know, Ravi, I think you should put your name for President.' And then between them, they were talking and said, 'But he hasn't been a nomination committee member. I think first he should be a nomination committee member, then he can put his name for President.' Usha ji was listening to this, she held my hand and said, 'Ravi, don't listen to these two old men. You put your name in now.' And I said, 'Okay, I'm putting my name in now.' And I got picked as President of Rotary International."

During the address of PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Bannerjee, he said, "It was Raja who visited me at my home in Bombay and said, 'Kalyan, get well soon. You must be ready to become the president of Rotary International.' After that, there was no turning back. Yes, it's been 45 years or more. Raja and I together. It's all about being together, and the bond is getting stronger and stronger than ever. Thank you, Raja. If I had to name my most unforgettable person, it would be Raja Saboo." He narrated



how he cancelled a big business deal at the right ethical advice of PRIP Raja Saboo, where the Government of India was involved.

PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Bannerjee and PRIP K.R. Ravindran visited PRIP Rtn. Raja Saboo on 29th July 2024 to wish him



on his coming 90th birthday and to renew their family bonding. Our club was blessed when both of them accepted our invitation to attend our Monday meeting on 29th July, given their presence in Chandigarh. Above all, in the presence of three past Rotary International presidents, we got the opportunity when Rotary International Director Elect Rtn. K.P. Nagesh and DGN RI Dist. 3190 Rtn. Ravi Shanker Dakoju accepted our invitation to attend our meeting during their visit to Chandigarh. It was a great opportunity to meet DGN RI

Dist. 3190 Rtn. Ravi Shanker Dakoju, who became the first Indian national to announce the single largest community development fund of over INR 100 Crores to the Rotary Foundation, an inspiration to all Rotarians.

29th. July, 2024 was the big day for Rotary club Chandigarh when PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Bannerjee, PRIP K.R. Ravindran, Rotary International Director Elect Rtn. K.P. Nagesh and DGN RI Dist. 3190 Rtn. Ravi Shanker Dakoju visited Hall of fame located in Rotary House wherein recognitions of Past Rotary International President Rtn. Rajendra K Saboo are displayed.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

NEXT MEETING

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) K.J. Singh PVSM AVSM War (Veteran) talks to us on India's Strategic outreach to Middle East and Central Asia

WE MEET EVERY MONDAY AT ROTARY HOUSE AT 6:00 PM

Know Your Member

Rtn. Pradeep Kumbhat

Pradeep Kumbhat began his professional career after earning an MBA in Finance from Jodhpur University in 1988. Over the past 36 years, he has built a distinguished career marked by expertise across



various sectors. Mr. Kumbhat's career began at Modern Syntex India Ltd, where he managed critical functions including MIS, budgeting, overhead

control, and the export of PV Yarn. His subsequent work with the Rajasthan Government focused on enhancing oilseed production and establishing cooperative societies, reflecting his dedication to both corporate and social responsibilities. Mr. Kumbhat was appointed State Head for Business Development, managing all commercial and legal activities, significantly contributing to the retail expansion across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir. In 2023, Mr. Kumbhat retired from Reliance to establish Pradeep Kumbhat Advisory Services. He married Vineeta Bhandari on January 21, 1990, and they have two sons. Their elder son, Arpit Kumbhat, is a postgraduate from Ashoka University and now serves as the CEO of his digital marketing startup, Bhasad. The younger son, Kshitij Kumbhat, a postgraduate from Oxford Brookes University, UK, currently works in Reading. Mrs. Vineeta Kumbhat is an avid dancer, while Mr. Kumbhat is a blogger, video maker, and influencer.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthday Greetings:

5 Aug
Rtn. Dr. B B Goel 9815449898

5 Aug
Rtn. Shrigopal Sarda 9463962787

6 Aug
Rtn. Baljit Singh Gill 9356865058

7 Aug
Rtn. Maninder Sidhu 9876300666

11 Aug
PRIP Rtn. R K Saboo 9814096755

11 Aug
Rtn. Varun Rao 9915000007

Anniversary Greetings:

10 Aug
PP Rtn. Neenu Vij & Parveen Vij 9814396299

TB Elimination in Chandigarh

In continuation of our campaign on TB elimination in Chandigarh since 2022, our club distributed diet nutritional kits to 380 patients in five locations in association with three clubs from Chandigarh. The association with other clubs was done last year to promote more visibility in the community and integration of resources among the various clubs. Rotary Club of Chandigarh Shivalik took responsibility at Indira Colony to distribute 35 kits. Rotary Club of Cosmopolitan took responsibility at Manimajra and distributed 55 kits, and Rotary Club of Chandigarh Uptown took responsibility at Village Kishangarh and distributed 35 packets. The other two locations, Maulijagran and Dariya, saw the distribution of 235 and 20 kits, respectively. Rotarians present from our club included Pres. Rtn. Jatinder Kapoor, PP Rtn. Vinod Kapoor, and Rtn. Gurvinder Saggu.



Human Milk Bank

This World Breastfeeding Week, under the theme "Closing the Gap: Breastfeeding Support for All," UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) are emphasizing the need to enhance breastfeeding support as a crucial step toward reducing health inequity and safeguarding the rights of mothers and babies to survive and thrive. In a joint initiative to optimize the breastfeeding ecosystem, AIMS Mohali and the Rotary Club Chandigarh are taking significant steps under the Dr. B R Ambedkar State



Institute of Medical Sciences. Their collaborative efforts aim to provide comprehensive breastfeeding support and create a nurturing environment for lactating mothers. In January 2024, the Rotary Club provided support amounting to 38 lakhs to set up the Comprehensive Lactation Management Center (CLMC) Human Milk Bank to provide pasteurized donor human milk for vulnerable preterm babies. In continued support, the Rotary Club Chandigarh facilitated the renovation of a dedicated breastfeeding room in the Outpatient Department (OPD) for lactating mothers with the generous support of Rtn. Jagesh Khaintan. This facility was inaugurated today by Ms. Sonam, ADC Mohali, who was the chief guest of the function, along with Director Principal Dr. Bhavneet Bharti and SMO Dr. Vijay Bhagat. This initiative ensures that mothers have a private and comfortable space to breastfeed their babies during hospital visits, promoting a supportive atmosphere

for breastfeeding.

Furthermore, Ms. Sonam ADC recognized and honored the contributions of individuals who support breastfeeding initiatives. A special commendation was given to Ms. Davinder, who generously donated nearly 3 liters of milk to the Ashneer CLMC at AIMS Mohali. Her donation underscores the community's role in supporting breastfeeding mothers and ensuring that all babies receive the nourishment they need. Following her example, another donor mother, Jyoti, is also contributing excess milk to the Human Milk Bank.

Dr. Anuradha, Assistant Professor of Community Medicine, informed about the continuing month-long celebrations to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding in the

community. She called upon healthcare providers, policymakers, and communities to unite in providing robust breastfeeding support. By closing the gap in breastfeeding support, we can make significant strides in improving maternal and child health outcomes worldwide. Mr. Jatinder Kapur, President of Rotary Club Chandigarh, said that their club would ensure that every mother and baby has the opportunity to thrive through optimal breastfeeding support and will work in close collaboration with AIMS Mohali to promote community awareness.

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Introductory meet for AG's and ALF's at Roorkee



Rtn. Anil Chadda attended the introductory meeting for AG's and ALF's for the year 2025-26 at Roorkee hosted under the leadership of District Governor elect Rtn. Ravi Parkash. It was a brainstorming interactive session to form the plans as well as calling the suggestions from the participants all over the district 3080. Rtn. Anil Chadda has been designated as Asstt Learning facilitator (Asstt. Trainer) for the year 2025-26 for Zone 5 and Zone 6 consisting of 10 clubs.

Multidistrict Deepam Meet

A warm welcome from all the Rotary clubs of Thiruvannamalai, District 3231, to all the Rotarians across the globe. Come to experience the divinity in friendship and fellowship at Thiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, when the world-famous Deepam is glowing atop the mountain Arunachala on 21st and 22nd of December 2024. Come and get a tinge of spiritual awareness in a perfect Rotary style. You can meet and greet fellow Rotarians from all over the world, sign Sister Clubs Agreements, exchange flags, witness classical entertainment, and treat your palate with authentic North and South Indian cuisine, experiencing another mini-conference flavour. Engage your weekend with a purpose and go back with divine memories. Come on! Rtn. Dr. Sai Prasanna, Chairman, Rotary Clubs of Thiruvannamalai, District 3231.

YOUTH SERVICES

Installation of Rotaract Club Chandigarh University

Rotaract Club of Chandigarh University held its installation ceremony at Rotary House on 1st August 2024. Chartered last Rotary year by Rotary Club Chandigarh in partnership with Rotary Club Kharar, it boasts nearly 120 members. President Saarthak Perti, Secretary Siddharth, along with 15 other board members, were



collared and pinned by the dignitaries present. DGN Rita Kalra, the chief guest, spoke about the Rotaractors benefiting from the well-entrenched Rotarians supporting them and that Rotaracts are the future leaders and must continue to work with passion in all avenues of social relevance. DRR, Shashank Kaushik praised the focus and commitment of Rotaract President Saarthak and how he is the only serving president in the board constituted by Shashank. President of Rotary Club Chandigarh, Rtn. Jatinder Kapoor, wished all great luck to work diligently based on the principles of truth, commitment, and hard work. Rtn. Teena Virk, Director of Youth Services RCC, helped Rotaractors with all arrangements. Rotarians



PP AP Singh, PP CJ Singh, Madhu Marwaha, Co-Chair RCC Rotaractor Committee, Jt. Sec. Arun Aggarwal, PE Abha Sharma, Dr. Roma Uppal, and Dr. Ruchit Uppal were a strong group from Rotary Club Chandigarh, present at the event. Nearly 60 Rotaractors attended the ceremony with their teacher in charge, Wing Commander Dr. Minhas.

Van Mahotsav

The Interact Club and the Eco Club of Sacred Heart Sr. Sec. School, Sector 26, Chandigarh, celebrated Van Mahotsav with great enthusiasm. The chief guest, Rotarian Jatinder Kapoor, President of Rotary Club Chandigarh, and Rotarian Teena Singh, Director of Youth Services, were joined by other distinguished guests, including Mr.



Sandeep Ghoshal, Field General Manager of Indian Bank, Mr. Sankar Raju V, Zonal Manager of Indian Bank, Rev. Sister Anupa, the School Manager, Rev. Sr. Venita, the School Principal, and Rev. Sr. Elvina, Headmistress of the primary wing. All dignitaries planted plants. Rotary Club Chandigarh gifted 12 hanging baskets for plants to the Interact Club. The event commenced with a solemn prayer invoking the blessings of the Lord, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the esteemed guests. A presentation highlighting the accomplishments of the school's eco-projects, activities, and contributions of the school's eco-champions charmed the guests. A riveting Nukkad Natak, performed by young thespians, delivered a powerful message on afforestation and the preservation of natural resources. A talk show featured

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Rtn Jagesh Khaitan



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Unfolding Past memories



On 30th. July, 2024 PRIP Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee and PRIP Rtn. K R Ravindran along with PRIP Rtn. Rajendra K Saboo visited Human milk bank at Mohali which was setup and started by club in January, 2024 in association with BR Ambedkar State Institute of Medical sciences. The Project chairman Rtn. Dr Bhavneet Bharti demonstrated how this project was conceived last year and within the span of six months implemented and handed over to the institute. Rtn. Bharti also shared her experiences on the initial problems which was set right in consultation with the experts and now the project is in the second phase to create the awareness in the community to motivate more donor's mother to express their surplus milk and beneficiary children to take the benefit of this project. This visit was also well participated by President Rtn. Jatinder Kapur, Rtn. Madhukar Malhotra, Rtn. Anil Chadda and President elect Rtn. Abha Joshi.



a student portraying environmentalist Jadav Payeng, the Forest Man of India.

Annaseva



In a remarkable display of community spirit and generosity, Rotaract Club Legis Social and Rotary Club Chandigarh, in collaboration with the Utkarsh Rotaract Club, Rotary Club Midtown, successfully conducted their monthly food drive "Annaseva" at Maharishi Dayanand Bal Ashram, Cheema Chowk, Airport Road, Mohali, on 29th July 2024, under the able leadership of President, Rtr. Riya Sood and Secretary Rtr. Mayur Kansal. Fourteen volunteers participated in this heartwarming initiative, demonstrating their commitment to serving the community. The volunteers served kheer. The children's reaction was one of pure delight. Their excitement upon the volunteers' arrival and their enthusiastic participation in the event underscored the profound impact of such charitable gestures.

Prakash

Rotaract Club Legis Social and Rotary Club Chandigarh on 2nd August collaborated with RAC City Beautiful, Panchkula, to distribute essential stationery among children from economically weak sections of society at Sector 38 West. This was under the district



project, 'Prakash.' To encourage education and learning, notebooks, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, rulers, etc., were distributed among these kids. Nearly 20 Rotaractors participated under the leadership of Rotaract President, Legis Social, Riya Sood, and Secretary Mayur Kansal. The excitement among the children beneficiaries was palpable.

Threads of Hope

Rotaract Club Chandigarh and Rotary Club Chandigarh successfully organized the "Threads of Hope" initiative. This noble endeavour aimed at providing much-needed clothing to the underprivileged, distributing



over 100 pairs of clothes to those in need. The event, held at the colony opposite the cremation ground in Sector 25, Chandigarh, benefited children from the initiative Education First by Kanwar Pal, which focuses on providing free education to children from economically weak sections of society. The distribution was carefully planned to ensure equitable access, allowing every individual to receive clothing with dignity. Refreshments were arranged by Rotary Club Chandigarh, consisting of packets of peanuts, juice, and bananas for nearly 60 children. Event Chairperson, Rtr. Dr. Manu Gupta meticulously planned the event under the leadership of Rotaract President, Moin Khan, and Secretary Ishita. Twenty Rotaractors participated. Rtn. Teena Virk, Director of Youth Services, participated to support the children.

Paris Olympics 2024, India vs. Australia Men's Hockey

Justice Shabihul Hasnain, Allahabad High Court and Chairman PITNDSPA Board, Punjab, was the Chief Guest, and the Guests of Honour were Gen. H J Singh and PP Rtn. ManMohan Singh for the live screening of the Hockey Men Match at MBCT Community

Development Centre, Bassi Pathana, from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. It was indeed a nail-biting match with both sides equally matched and dangerously raiding each other's D. The hall resounded with clapping and screams of joy every time India scored a goal or Australia missed converting a penalty corner. But this time, to the relief and delight of all, India managed to defeat Australia 3-2 after a gap of 52 years (since the last win in 1972). Justice Hasnain, while writing in the MBCT Visitors Book, 6 minutes before the end of the match, had already declared India's win. This was indeed a perfect judgment. Rtn. Hassan Singh Majie

