



Rotary  
CLUB CHANDIGARH



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3080

# Open Hand

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HOME CLUB OF RAJENDRA K SABOO  
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1991-92

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PREM MOHINDRU  
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## INDIA'S STRATEGIC OUTREACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA

**L**t. Gen. (Dr.) K.J. Singha decorated, eminent, self-made scholar-warrior and Soldier's General, Former Western Army Commander who has been awarded the PVSM, AVSM, and Bar to AVSM for his distinguished service in the Army over a span of 50 years. Highlighting all his achievements, he was warmly introduced and welcomed by Dr. Sandeep Rana.

Lt. Gen. Singh made the Rotarians present at the meeting aware of India's deep-rooted bond with the region by emphasizing India's strategic outreach to maintain political, economic, and historical ties. He also spoke extensively, enlightening everyone about the phases of India's relationship with Bangladesh, the current situation in Bangladesh, and India's approach to tackling such state of affairs.

Breaking down the complex concept into parts, he began by explaining what constitutes the Asian region, which includes:

- Eurasia: A combination of parts of Europe and Asia
- Near East: Middle East and West Asia
- Central Asia
- South Asia
- Southeast Asia
- Far East

- Indo-Pacific  
Referring briefly to the Eurasian Heartland Theory developed by British geographer and politician Sir Halford Mackinder in 1904, which states that whoever controls the Eurasian landmass will have the power to dominate the world, he also mentioned the Rimland Theory. Later, the region was categorized as the Near East and Far East. However, recognizing the need for a neutral perspective rather than a Eurocentric one, the Near East came to be known as the Middle East and West Asia. He pointed out that the above-stated classification is not universally sacrosanct but is largely agreed upon.

Highlighting the regions constituting the Middle East and West Asia, he emphasized that as Indians, we are more closely related to West Asia because trade takes place through the sea. If we go around Africa, trade takes 34 days, but through the Suez Canal, it takes only 26 days, making India's relationship with West Asia significant. India has also deployed naval forces to ensure smooth trade through these seas.

India's outreach to West Asia is important for the following reasons:

- Balancing relations between Israel and Arab



nations

- The 3 Es: Energy Security (60% of India's energy needs are fulfilled by West Asia), Economic Engagement, and Expatriate Welfare (9.5 million Indians work in West Asia)
- Connectivity (50% of exports and 30% of imports are affected)
- Engagement with international organizations like the OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)
- Strategic partnerships like I2 (India and Israel) - U2 (UAE and USA) and IUSA (India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and the USA)
- The Pak-USA factor
- Balancing Sunni-Shia relations (India must maintain balanced relations with all factions)

Further, pointing out the countries forming Central Asia, also known as the "Tan countries," he noted that Turkmenistan does not participate in any international deliberation. India is countering China's influence in various ways by developing coastal facilities in Central Asia through ports like Kandla, Gwadar, Chabahar, and Bandar Abbas. He briefly described the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC). He then enumerated the importance of India's outreach to Central

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**NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Hardeep Singh Chandpuri  
Limca Record Holder talks to us  
on Communicating through Radio

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



The Rotary Club Kharar celebrated our Raja's 90th birthday on August 11 by holding a Blood Donation Camp, contributing 1,100 blood units. This was its first Blood Donation Camp, and it was a special one as the 200 units of blood collected by PIMS (Punjab Institute of Medical Sciences, Jalandhar) are being used for the treatment of Thalassemia patients—a unique sentiment in itself. **Rtn. PDG Manmohan Singh.**



The first Interact Club of this year, led by the Rotary Club of Nahan Sirmour Hills, has been chartered. Congratulations to President Amit Dahri.



The installation of RC Cosmopolitan Chandigarh saw Col. P.S. Randhawa installed as the President on August 11, 2024. DG Rajpal Singh, DGE Ravi Prakash, PDG Praveen Goyal, and AG Jaspal Singh Sidhu were the Guests of Honour. President Jatinder Kapur attended the ceremony. Mr. Amit Kapoor, son of Rtn. Vinod Kapoor, spoke on the current Indian economic scene. To watch the interview, go to the link: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QkZ93Z44Is](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QkZ93Z44Is). **Rtn. Vinod Kapoor.**



Rtn. Aman Bhatia was awarded the State Award by His Excellency the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of UT, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria.

**CELEBRATIONS**

**Birthdays Greetings:**

- 20 August**  
Rtn. Sanjeev Juneja 9812435676
- 22 August**  
Rtn. J.S. Kandhari 9814087904
- 22 August**  
Rtn. Sartaj Lamba 8725005444
- 25 August**  
Rtn. Vinod Chadha 9779377377

**Anniversary Greetings:**

- 23 August**  
Rtn. Ripudaman Vats 9915523556 & Namarta

**ROTARY VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM**

The day came on August 11, 2024, when a contingent of 25 delegates from the Rotary Vocational Training Team started their 25th mission to Africa and the fourth one to Ethiopia, carrying 45 boxes of medical supplies and equipment. We received a warm welcome at IGIA, New Delhi, where a Manager from Ethiopian Airlines



supported the team during check-in and boarding for their journey to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Upon arrival, President Kalifa Manneh of Rotary Club Addis Ababa, accompanied by Rtn. Ibrahim, Rtn. Irmias Mekonnen, and many more members from the club, welcomed our team with beautiful colourful flowers. Our team experienced no delays or hassles in clearing luggage through customs or obtaining visas on arrival. Every step was meticulously planned and executed by local Rotarians, with the help of representatives from the Ministry of Health, to ensure full comfort for the



visiting team.

An introduction of our team was made during the club meeting of Rotary Club Addis Ababa by President Kalifa, in the presence of PDG Teshome, PDG Azeb, Rtn. Ruth Dresseign Deneke, and other club members. Our team consists of 18 doctors specializing in fields like urology, pediatric urology, dermatology, cosmetic reconstructive surgery, orthopedics, anaesthesia, and laparoscopic surgery. Their mission is to conduct training



sessions for doctors in three hospitals in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, while also performing critical procedures as required by the local hospital teams, supported by seven volunteers. Our team was led by Rtn. Madhukar Malhotra as Project Chair and Rtn. Kuldeep Dhawan as Medical Director. August 11 was a special day, marked by a cake ceremony to celebrate the birthday of Rtn. Rajendra K. Saboo, past Rotary International President.

The mission commenced simultaneously in three hospitals: St. Paul Millennium Hospital, Alert Hospital, and Black Lion Hospital, where medical supplies and equipment were officially handed over to



the hospital authorities. Daily, the team started work at 7:30 AM, visiting their respective hospitals to conduct procedures and lead training sessions. Within a few days, our doctors encountered a number of critical procedures, which had never been performed in the country, and shared their expertise with the local teams. The objective was to transfer knowledge and skills, utilizing the latest equipment donated during the visit. A few reported cases include:

1. A five-year-old child diagnosed with a stone in the abdomen underwent a laparoscopic orchidopexy procedure. The local team had never performed or assisted in any laparoscopic procedures for such conditions. This was the first time such a procedure was conducted in Ethiopia, where even private hospitals do not offer this service.

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*With compliments*  
*from*  
**Rtn P S Matharoo**  
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## Interact Club of DAV School, Sector 15, Chandigarh



On August 12, it was an invigorating morning spent at Access Life Centre, which supports young cancer patients in Sector 23, Chandigarh. Accompanying us Rotarians, Teena Virk and Arun Aggarwal, were 30 Interact students from DAV School, Sector 15, led by their charming leaders President Vanisha Rana, Vice President Harsimrat Kaur, Secretary Aushka Sehgal, and Event Director Eva. They sang, they danced, they played music to the delight of the young patients, ranging from six months to 14 years old. After the camaraderie, the children gifted the 20 beneficiaries with Rakhi, diaries, pencils, and a packet of fruits each. Rotarians gave dry fruit packets to the children suffering from cancer.

## Rotaract Club of SGGs College

On August 17, under the district community guidelines, the Rotaract Club of SGGs College, in collaboration with RAC UIET and Rotaract Chandigarh Shivalik, organized a Rakhi celebration with the brave personnel of Police Lines, Sector 26, Chandigarh. The event was graced by members of the Rotary Club Chandigarh, including Jt. Secretary Arun Aggarwal and Rtn. Madhu Marwaha, adding to the significance of the occasion. The event aimed to acknowledge and appreciate the selfless service of our police force, who tirelessly work to ensure our safety and security. The Rotaract members tied rakhis on the wrists of the police personnel, symbolizing the bond of protection and respect. The police personnel expressed their gratitude for this thoughtful gesture, which reminded them of the love and support of their families and the community.

## Rotaract Club Chandigarh and Interact Club St. John School

On August 15, 2024, the Rotaract Club Chandigarh, in synergy with the Rotary Club Chandigarh and hand-in-hand with the Interact Club of St. John High School, held a toy donation drive named "Little Smiles" and celebrated Independence Day with young patients at Hansraj Dharamshala in Sector 12, next to PGI, Chandigarh. The children were happy and excited to celebrate Independence Day with everyone present and to receive



toys. A total of 100 different toys were distributed by a team of 10 volunteers from Rotaract Club Chandigarh, under the leadership of President Moin Khan, Secretary Ishita, and Event Incharge Japneet. Members of the Interact Club, St. John's High School, led by President Prabhav Bansal,

participated fully, making the event a huge success. It was commendable to watch the young patients perform songs and dances with full enthusiasm. Rtn. Madhu Marwaha added more cheer by distributing laddoos in celebration of her son's birthday. We are grateful for the participation of Rtn. Arun Aggarwal, Rtn. Gen. Paramjit Singh, and Rtn. Teena Virk.



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## INDIA'S STRATEGIC OUTREACH TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND CENTRAL ASIA...

Asia due to:

- Historical ties
- Energy resources
- Connectivity
- Counterterrorism efforts
- Chinese influence
- Engagement with the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Concluding his talk, Lt. Gen. Singh highlighted India's relationship with Bangladesh, stating that Bangladesh is strategically important for India, as we share the longest border of over 4,096 kilometers with it, bordering five sensitive states of India. He also emphasized Sheikh Hasina's, the former Prime Minister of Bangladesh, relationship with India and her role in helping her country grow. He pointed out that it is time for India to reevaluate its neighbourhood, be patient, and maintain balanced relations with everyone.

President Jatinder Kapur conducted the meeting. Rtn. Paramjit Singh proposed a formal vote of thanks. Rtn. Roma Uppal and Rtn. Dr. Rachit Uppal hosted the fellowship.

**Rtn. Shivya Sehgal**

## An Evening with Friends



An evening with friends hosted by Rtn. Pawan Katia at his residence wherein Rtn. Sushil Gupta, Rtn. Aman Bhatia, Rtn. Vinod Kapoor, Rtn. K K Seth, Rtn. Ripudaman Vats, Rtn. Pawan Kumar Pahwa and Rtn. Pankaj Katia with Anns joined the fellowships together with interactions with newly inducted members.

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## ROTARY VOCATIONAL TRAINING TEAM...

2. A tracheostomy procedure was performed on a two-month-old child. Special emphasis was placed on performing laparoscopic orchidopexy in a single stage, a first in this country. Additionally, the posterior urethral valve fulguration was done using a neonatal cystoscope donated by our team. This is the smallest-sized cystourethroscope available globally, now introduced in Ethiopia by Rotary.

3. A 35-year-old morbidly obese woman, weighing over 100 kg, had a complex left renal stone (staghorn calculus with multiple stones in all calyces) and underwent staged PCNL in two



and continued their work in all three hospitals. This was a way of celebrating by doing their jobs in the respective hospitals, demonstrating solidarity towards their committing to the cause. This action was well-appreciated by H.E. Anil Rai, Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia, who spent two hours in St. Paul Millennium Hospital with our team and the patients treated there.

(...to be continued)  
**Rtn. Anil Chadda**

sittings. This was the first procedure of its kind in this hospital. Remarkably, we were able to completely remove the stone (100%) in a single hospital admission. Despite multiple punctures during the PCNL, she did not require a single bottle of blood transfusion. Her renal functions are good, and she is scheduled to be discharged two days after the surgery.

A technician from our team repaired equipment in all three hospitals, valued at \$100,000, which had been lying idle in storage due to a lack of knowledge and skill. The technician also configured existing equipment to achieve maximum efficiency.

August 15, 2024, was a special day when our team celebrated Independence Day with a flag ceremony at the Indian Embassy in Addis Ababa

