

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

Bharatnatyam a legacy : A story of steps and music...

The August 18 Monday meeting was a memorable one, filled with updates, welcomes, and a stunning cultural performance. Rtn. Nidhi Kapur called the meeting to order, handing over to President Abha J Sharma, who updated the members on ongoing projects. A significant highlight was the presentation of PHF (Paul Harris Fellow) by PRIP Rajendra K Saboo to three esteemed members Rtn Amit Jain and Rtn Paramjit Singh Gill contribute to the Rotary foundation, emphasizing its importance in their community service endeavors.

The club warmly welcomed new Rotarians and guests, including Mira and Leonardo Chaudhary guests of Rtn Rashi Adhlaka, R 'ann Neeruji, R'nnKohli, R'nnTaneja, Rtn. Tony Goyal, Rtn. Shabana Azam, Rtn. Ankur Garg, Rtn. Ardaas Sandhu,



and Rtn. Aradhana Gaghar. These new additions brought fresh energy to the club, and their presence was celebrated by all.

Rtn. Sartaj Lamba, the editor of the club bulletin, took a moment to announce the winner of the caption contest, congratulating Rtn. Manmohan Luthra on his victory. She expressed gratitude on behalf of the entire bulletin committee to members for their regular articles and encouraged more contributions, fostering a sense

of community and shared creativity.

The evening's theme was a breathtaking Bharatanatyam performance by Lakshman Vinayak, the talented grandson of Rtn. Vinod Kapoor and son of Rtn. Nidhi Kapoor. Lakshman's performance was a masterful blend of abhinaya (expression) and nrta (pure dance), captivating the audience with its beauty and depth.

He began with the Padam "Momu Jupara," a Telugu composition by Annamacharya, choreographed by Rama Vaidyanathan. Through evocative abhinaya, Lakshman brought to life the emotional turmoil of mother Yashoda as she realizes her beloved child Krishna's divine nature. The delicate expressions and nuanced storytelling drew the audience into her world, highlighting the Padam's central theme of maternal love intertwined with divine awe.

The performance concluded with a Thillana, "Paras Thillana," composed by Srinivasaa Aiyengaar and choreographed by the Upadhye School of Dance. This piece showcased Lakshman's rhythmic brilliance, with

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MONDAY MEETING

Venue : Rotary House
(#107-A, Sector 18 A)

Date : 25th August, Monday

Time : 6:00 pm

S. Tarlochan Singh Kohli Memorial Scholarships Awarded to Deserving and Needy students

You are invited to Bless & encourage the children

Education is not limited to the classroom. It's a lifelong journey.

Fellowship Host

25th August, 6 pm

Rotary House

Rtn Dr Upneet Lalli
+91 94645 41238



Green on Paper, Bare on Ground? Tricity's Tree Dilemma



Every monsoon, cities turn green with intent. Saplings appear in schools, parks and roundabouts; photographs are clicked, numbers celebrated. But once the applause fades and the rain recedes, a question persists: *What happens after the planting?*

In an age of erratic monsoons, shrinking water tables and endless construction, trees are no longer ornamental. They are climate shields, public health tools and social equalizers. The way a city treats its trees reveals the kind of future it imagines. Plantation drives timed with the rains make sense. Yet with climate change, rainfall is unpredictable—sometimes scarce, sometimes punishing. This demands more than seasonal rituals. Did we plant resilient native species? Match trees to soil and site conditions? Or simply chase numbers and photo-ops? Saplings alone don't secure tomorrow—wise, climate informed forestry does.

Mature trees, meanwhile, are irreplaceable assets. They cool the air, hold groundwater, shelter biodiversity and create rhythms of shade we take for granted. Yet they are often felled casually for road widening or "beautification," losses that rarely spark outrage—even in a city designed as a green lung.

Preservation doesn't photograph well, but it is where real climate action lives. Many saplings die not from weather, but from neglect—left unwatered, unguarded, forgotten. Technology like QR tagging and citizen adoption helps, but nothing replaces daily care and long-term commitment.

To grow trees is to accept inconvenience: slower traffic, longer shade, softer heat. Planting is easy. Nurturing is where a city proves what it wants to become.

-By...Aashna Ghakkar

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Bharatnatyam a legacy : A story of steps and music

intricate movements of the eyes, neck, and limbs. The pankti invoked the blessings of the Devi, reflecting the devotional and courtly dimensions of Bharatanatyam tradition.

The contrast between the narrative Padam and the rhythmic Thillana created a beautiful conversation, leaving the audience inspired by Lakshman's artistry and promise. The performance was a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Bharatanatyam and the talent nurtured within the Rotary community.

As the evening drew to a close, PP Manmohan Kohli proposed a heartfelt vote of gratitude to Lakshman Vinayak for his mesmerizing performance. He

eloquently emphasized the importance of excellence in art, highlighting that it is through dedication and passion that we can take our cultural legacy forward. PP Manmohan Kohli's words resonated deeply with the audience, underscoring the significance of nurturing and preserving our artistic traditions.

In addition to thanking Lakshman, PP Manmohan Kohli also extended his appreciation to Rtn. Sartaj Lamba for organizing the sumptuous fellowship, which had added to the warmth and camaraderie of the evening. The vote of gratitude was met outstanding ovation, as members expressed their appreciation for the evening's enriching experience.

- **Government Middle School Burail Chandigarh**
- **Government Model Middle School Sector 49**
- **Government Model High School Sector 49 D Chandigarh**



Wash & WINS Project

Date - 19 August 2025

Government Model Senior Secondary School RC-1 Maloya



10 nos EWASTE boxes which have been started to be sent to Interact schools. They have been sent to Bhavan Vidyalaya Sector 27 Chandigarh and Guru Harkrishan Public School Chandigarh.



CELEBRATIONS

Birthday Greetings:

20 Aug	Rtn Sanjeev Juneja	9812435676
22 Aug	Rtn J S Kandhari	9814087904
22 Aug	Rtn Sartaj Lamba	8725005444
25 Aug	Rtn Vinod Chadha	9779377377

With Best Compliments from
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan

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Projects

Independence Day and Janamashtami celebration at Bal Bahar

The children presented beautiful dances on patriotic songs and Krishna bhajan. They were also guided on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, and soaps and handkerchiefs were distributed to 55 children. This program was kindly sponsored by Medha Dewan. Sunila Garg gave refreshments to the children. Usha Khaitan ji sent chocolates.



Tiranga Yatra 2025- Service, Gratitude and Growth

As a part of Tiranga Yatra organised by Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh, the Interact and Eco Club took a small initiative at Hussainiwala Border, Ferozpur on 15 August 2025.

The students planted an Ashoka tree and several saplings in the campus of Hussainiwala Border, paying tribute to the martyrs. They also offered heartfelt respect at the Shahidi Samarak of Sukhdev, Rajguru, and Bhagat Singh. In addition, the students rendered selfless service (seva) at a local Gurdwara, embodying the spirit of humility and community service.

Handwritten letters prepared by Classes IX and X were presented to Border Security personnel as a gesture of gratitude.

The Yatra beautifully blended patriotism, service, and environmental awareness, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.



APPEAL

Contribution towards Sweets to the Jawans under

"AAP HAIN TAU HAM HAIN"

Dear Rotarian,

As we approach DIWALI The Diwali Sweets project for the 9th year is once again endeavouring to send "Sweets to the Jawans" under the name "Aap Hain Tau Ham Hain"- A unique project conceptualised by our Respected PRIP Saboo ji and Ann Usha ji. We offer our tribute to our jawans at the borders through a heartfelt expression of gratitude and respect for the soldiers who protect our nation's frontiers. This tribute emphasizes the importance of recognizing their selfless service and the debt of gratitude owed to them

– To convey to them that we remember and pray for them. We celebrate Diwali with our Jawans on the border who are not able to join their families.

This year we have set the target of sending 7000 Boxes to the Jawans deputed on the borders of Leh and Ladakh. Each box costs around Rs. 500/- and we humbly request you for your contribution.

QR code in the flyer kindly scan for donations.

We request you through this APPEAL to contribute graciously please



NUTRITION PACKETS FOR ANTE NATAL MOTHERS:



Rtn Dr
Bhavneet
Bharati and
Team
distributing
the
Nutrition
packets

sponsored by PRIP Rajendra K Saboo and Usha Mam.



111 Food packets distributed at DOTS center Civil dispensary Sector 45.



The District Membership Seminar of District 3053 was held in Bikaner with PDG Parveen Goyal as a speaker and Zone 4 Plan Lead Membership Chair, focusing on membership growth strategies and community engagement initiatives for Rotary clubs.



District 3080 Team 2026-27

Rotarians from our club part of District 3080's 2026-27 team will contribute to impactful projects and leadership development initiatives, aligning with Rotary's mission to unite individuals for positive change and community service across multiple regions.



Subject: Nominations to Zone 4 Learning Facilitator - Rotary Year 2026-27

Dear Rtn. Vinod Kumar

It is with great pleasure that I extend to you our heartfelt congratulations on your nomination as Zone 4 Learning Facilitator (Zone 4) for the upcoming Rotary Year. This nomination is a reflection of your leadership, commitment to learning, and ability to inspire others through knowledge and mentorship.

As Zone Learning Facilitator, your efforts will ensure that our leaders are nurtured, inspired, and equipped with the tools they need to serve with passion and purpose. Key responsibilities include:

- Collaborate closely with the District Trainer to plan and implement dynamic training programs for members.
- Assist in developing engaging training materials that educate and inspire.
- Organize orientation and induction sessions for new members at the club and social levels.

To maximize your impact, we encourage you to:

- You are an active Rotarian in good standing for at least three years.
- You have served a full term as Club President.
- You possess experience in training or leadership development.

To maximize your impact, we encourage you to:

- Complete the District Committee Rules and District Training Committee Orientation training given in Rotary's Learning Center.
- Participate in district team building sessions to align with strategic goals and best practices.

We trust that you will find this role both challenging and rewarding, and we look forward to your continued leadership in the service of our members and the community.

With warm regards and appreciation,

Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra

District Governor 2026-27

Rotary District 3080



Chief Patron District 3080
Rotary Year 2026-27
PRIP RAJENDRA K. SAROO
Rotary Club Chandigarh



CLUSTER COORDINATOR
CHANDIGARH
ROTARY YEAR 2026-27
RTN. SARTAJ LAMBA
Rotary Club Chandigarh

MEMBERS UPDATE

Get Well Soon Wishes

- PP Surinder Kaur had a fall two months back. She has been advised bed rest. The members of the club wish for her speedy recovery and good health.
- PP Darshan Mahendru had sometime back twisted his ankle he is recovering well. We send him loads of good wishes.



Heartiest congratulations to IPP Jatinder Kapur and Team 2024-25 for the Excellence Award bestowed on the Club.

DIL SE... Déjà Vuby Rtn RK Taneja

Last year, in the month of November, I visited the Terrace Garden in Sector 33-C, Chandigarh, to enjoy the beautiful exhibition of Chrysanthemum flowers displayed in creative models, figures, and thematic arrangements. In one corner of the park, an artist, well-trained in pencil sketching, was attracting a large crowd. People of all ages, men, women, young and old queued patiently for their turn to have a live sketch made by him. For a modest fee, the artist would spend nearly half an hour capturing the likeness of the person seated before him. The result never failed to thrill, filling the subject's heart with joy as they saw their reflection come to life on a simple sheet of paper.

The most striking part of the process was the intimacy of the experience. The client had to remain seated for about thirty minutes while the artist traced each feature, line by line, occasionally seeking suggestions to perfect the profile. In that span, a silent bond formed between the artist and the subject, an unspoken collaboration aimed at producing a portrait both truthful and charming. Onlookers would inevitably applaud, while the customer's heart swelled with happiness, for the sketch was more than

an image; it was a symbol of care, attention, and artistry, crafted lovingly with every stroke of the pencil.

As I watched this scene unfold, I was suddenly overcome by a strong sense of déjà vu, as though I had lived this very moment before, or experienced it in another time and place, with the same emotional intensity. Puzzled, I searched within my memory until I realized its source. It was a couplet by Mirza Ghalib, one that had long ago captured the very essence of what I was witnessing:

"Seekhte hain hum taqir ka fun unse,
Kuch to ba-har-e-mulāqat chahiye musavvir se."

Ghalib, ever the ingenious lover, had devised to train himself as a portrait artist so he might have the perfect excuse to call upon, or sit with, the moon-faced maiden he adored. By sketching her likeness, he could gaze upon her freely, under the guise of art, and no one could take offence after all, he was only performing a professional service, as was the practice of those times.

-Edited by Rtn Aradhana Ghakkar

