



Rotary
CLUB CHANDIGARH



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3080

Open Hand

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

CHARTER 15227 | CHARTERED ON 10TH MAY 1958

ISSUE 29 | 20 JANUARY 2025

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

Celebrations on Lohri

The Rotary Club Chandigarh celebrated the festival of Lohri with great enthusiasm and warmth during its Monday meeting, which fell on 13th January. This special occasion brought all members together, enhancing and strengthening relationships within the club while fostering a sense of unity and togetherness. The meeting was called to order, marking the beginning of an evening filled with festivity, joy, and camaraderie.

The event commenced with a brief explanation of Lohri, its cultural significance, and the traditions associated with the festival. Lohri, known as the harvest festival of North India, especially Punjab, is a time for thanking nature for a bountiful harvest and seeking blessings for prosperity. To make the session interactive, an engaging quiz about Lohri was conducted, which added a fun element to the evening and kept everyone involved. Members eagerly participated, answering questions about the origins of Lohri, the rituals, and the importance of the bonfire, making it an enjoyable and enlightening experience. The highlight of the celebration was the ceremonial lighting of the Lohri bonfire, a moment that brought everyone together

in the true spirit of the festival. This auspicious ritual was led by PRIP Rtn. Raja Saboo jee and President Rtn. Jatinder Kapur. As the flames flickered, members gathered around, tossing sesame seeds, peanuts, and rewari into the fire, symbolizing the offering of gratitude and prayers for happiness and prosperity. The warm glow of the bonfire set the perfect ambiance for the evening. Adding to the celebratory spirit, Rtn. G.P. Mallik set the mood with the traditional Lohri song "Sunder Mundriye", which was met with enthusiastic participation from the audience. This was followed by a melodious performance by Rotarian Mona Dhiman and Rotarian Mrs. Khanna, who sang a beautiful Lohri song, filling the air with warmth and joy.

The musical celebration continued as Rtn. Santosh Gupta and Rtn. Dr. Roma Uppal took turns singing melodious songs, making the evening even more delightful. The entire venue resonated with music, laughter, and cheerful conversations. Members swayed to the music, clapping and singing along, creating an atmosphere of unity and camaraderie.

The spirit of Lohri was further enhanced with the traditional treats of popcorn, moongfali (peanuts), and rewari, which were relished by all attendees. The crunchy snacks were enjoyed as everyone shared stories, laughter,



memories of past Lohri celebrations.

A special mention must be made of the lavish and delicious festive feast, generously arranged by President Nominee Rtn. Teena Virk. The exquisite spread of traditional delicacies, including makki di roti and sarson da saag, added to the festive charm and ensured that everyone left with happy hearts and full stomachs. The food was a perfect blend of flavors, bringing a sense of nostalgia and warmth to the evening.

As the evening progressed, members expressed their gratitude to the organizers for putting together such a well-coordinated and enjoyable event. The joyous gathering was a reminder of the

strong bonds shared within the Rotary family and the importance of celebrating traditions together. The Lohri celebration was not just about festivity but also about strengthening relationships and building deeper connections among members.

The Lohri celebration at Rotary Club Chandigarh was indeed a splendid evening—one filled with laughter, music, camaraderie, and delicious food. It was an occasion to remember, reflecting the true essence of togetherness and joy that Lohri brings. The club looks forward to continuing this beautiful tradition in the coming years, strengthening the spirit of unity and festivity.

Rtn. Sartaj Lamba



NEXT MEETING

PDG Rtn Praveen Goyal talks to us on Recent Visit to Srilanka on 27th January, 2025 at Rotary House at 6 pm.

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

-Rotary Club Chandigarh, in association with Rotaract Club of Chandigarh distributed 40 blankets in sector 20 computer market to those who were sleeping in the corridor of the market in the early hours of morning. Despite the thick fog and early hours, our rotaractors showed extraordinary dedication and compassion. These blankets were donated by our Rtn Harvinder Kaur Babbi ji.



-In a heartwarming gesture of kindness and community spirit, the student members of the INTERACT CLUB AKSIP 45 Smart School organised a donation drive to spread joy and positivity. The initiative was driven by the values of sharing and caring, as students came together to extend their support to Chandigarh



Child and Women Development corporation. The donation drive witnessed enthusiastic participation, with students and faculty contributing generously to make a difference in the lives of children in need.

-A pious 11 Kundiya Yajna was organised in the portals of Sanatan Dharam Temple, Sector 15 , Chandigarh by the staff, NSS unit and the students of INTERACT CLUB of DAV Model School, Sector 15, Chandigarh to mark the beginning of New Year. Mrs Anuja Sharma, Principal of the school emphasised that the main purpose of Yajna is to awaken the consciousness of students towards Indian culture and Vedic rituals. She wished all present with her warm wishes for Indian New Year. Acharya Ramesh Shastri- discussed the importance of yajna for the purity



of universe. After the sacred yajna, the teachers of the music department, along with the students, recited a

mesmerizing bhajan . NSS Volunteers and students of Interact Club distributed the community langar.



-Rotary Club Chandigarh, in collaboration with Viraasat -e- Karmayogi, distributed blankets to the needy street vendors with families, in different sectors of the Tri-City on 14th January, 2025. This is the first drive for distribution out of 100 blankets which were donated by Rtn Harvinder Kaur Babbi ji for distribution to the needy. Rtr Sanyam Yadav took the initiative under able guidance from *Rtn. Teena Virk.



Pravah

The training program of Assistant Governors and Assistant learning facilitators of District 3080 for the rotary year 2025-26 under the leadership of DGE Rtn. Ravi Parkash was organized in Colombo from 16th. January, 2025 to 19th. January, 2025. The whole arrangement was done at Hotel Cinnamon Lakeview, Colombo Sri Lanka with name of the program as "Pravah" be the flow wherein more than 120 members of team participated in the event. The journey started on 16th. January, 2025 with the arrival of all delegates in Colombo in the morning with breakfast served on the way to Hotel. After settling all the delegates for stay in Hotel, a lunch was organized in a Restaurant followed by a city tour to various local attractions.

17th. January, 2025 was the day for the business sessions wherein the inauguration program was modulated by Rtn. Mujeeb Malik and Rtn. Ajay Madan, District Learning facilitator, who address the participants on the purpose of the event. All the delegates were well dressed as per the dress code with beautiful jackets and ladies' spouses in the beautiful sarees gifted by first lady Rtn. Shalini. District Governor elect RID 3220 Rtn. Delvin Pereira expressed his views on the role of Rotary in eradication of Polio across the globe and the service projects undertaken by the Rotarians with focus on the economic upliftment and community development. District Governor elected Rtn. Ravi Prakash RID 3080 shared his vision for the year 2025-26 in his address to the participants. He unfold his agenda for the year which include Women health, water and hygiene, environment, increase in the membership in the District by 1000 with more women participation, contribution towards The Rotary foundation by half million and enhancing the public image of Rotary in the community.

The chief guest of the event was PRIP Rtn. K R Ravindran who shared his words of wisdom with the participants. In his address he stress on the time management of the event which create the interest of the participants. He quoted as "If you are disagreeable to some points One should put before the others the disagreeable points in an



agreeable manner". It will not only settle the issue but also create the lifelong bonding besides the issue of creating a politics. In rotary, every member is equal but one must follow the protocols for maintaining the discipline in the organization. In rotary we come together, reason to stay together for the cause to serve our community. One should not mess-up the family or business with responsibility in the rotary but to manage the same by assigning the priorities. With these words he appreciated the DGE Rtn. Ravi Prakash for the well-designed programme and released the handbook for the information to AG and ALF.

The program was well participated by RI officers who shared their experiences during their leadership in district 3080 which include Rtn. Dr R S Parmar who spoke on the projects to be taken by the clubs which create impact in the community and Rtn. Manmohan Singh shared his views on the contribution made by the members towards the rotary foundation. All AG's and ALF's were awarded the certificate of participation. In the afternoon session there were breakout sessions separately for AG's and ALF's together with discussion on the case studies. 18th. January, 2025 was the day of excursion for the delegates which includes trip by ferry to cinnamon gardens, water sports, play in the beaches and shopping in the malls. The

delegates got the opportunity to meet and get to know each other which will excel the enjoyment while working for the community and formation of teams at club levels. The day concluded with a gala dinner on the Cruze. 19th. January was the day of travel, where all the delegates return to their respective homes after taking the good memories.

-Rtn. Anil Chadda

