



Rotary  
CLUB CHANDIGARH



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 3080

# 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

## Rotary Seminar at Colombo

The Monday meeting on 27th January 2025 was delivered by PDG Rtn Praveen Goyal. Being a popular member of the club, it was thought he required no introduction (fallouts of fame, as he later jokingly pointed). He briefed the audience about his recent trip to Colombo, Srilanka, to attend the Assistant Governors' and Assistant Learning Facilitators' Seminar from 16th to 19th January 2025. The incoming Governor Rtn Ravi Parkash and incoming District Learning Facilitator, Rtn Ajay Madan, were convenors of the seminar. The event was organized to reinforce the significance of teamwork and active Rotary interactions. A total number of 140 delegates, including faculty members, incoming Assistant Governors, incoming ALFs, district secretariat members participated in the seminar.

All four participants from our club, PDG Praveen Goyal, PDG Madhukar Malhotra, PP Anil Chadda and Rtn Suchita Luthra were accompanied by their spouses.

The delegation flew by Sri Lankan Airlines from Delhi and reached Colombo in about three hours. The venue of the seminar was hotel Cinnamon Lakeside, although meals were organized at exquisite places, for instance, at the Lotus Towers, the highest tower in the country that stands at 1153ft. The major discussions and learning programs were lined up for the second day; past Rotary International President KR Ravindran, who belongs to Srilanka, delivered an inspirational address. Rtn Malhotra and the speaker spoke on membership and teamwork issues respectively. The seminar truly set the ball rolling and geared up the participants to take on responsibilities for the incoming year. The speaker informed the audience that the next Learning Seminar, to be



attended by our club President elect and Secretary elect, will be held at Agra from 28th February to 1st March 2025. An interactive session with members of the oldest club (1929), district 3220, revived memories of collaborative global grant projects with our club in 2018. The tourist events were scheduled for the third day. An excursion to Bentota resort town included boat rides, water sports, and visits to the turtle hatchery and its pristine beaches, with a cruise/casino being the evening options. Rtn Goyal also summarized the tourist scenario of Srilanka emphasizing its stunning beaches, engrossing wildlife, lush green tea plantations, ancient ruins and temples. The Yala National Park, Rock Fortress at Sigiriya (UNESCO world heritage site), Sacred Tooth relic at Kandy, the Galle Fort, and packages offered to visit religious places were specifically highlighted. He reported that in 2018 nearly 2.5 million tourists visited Srilanka pumping 5.6 billion US

dollars into the economy. Tourism has incrementally increased post Covid-19 and the grave economic slowdown. A vibrant culture, bustling streets, fragrant spices, colourful crafts, clean roads and welcoming hotels are the USP of the place. Additionally, what makes the visit economically viable is the fact that INR fetches three Srilankan rupees.

Members of the audience made interesting comments related to currency, cleanliness, cinnamon and, of course, Ravanna. Rtn Er PS Gill formally thanked the speaker for taking the audience on a virtual trip to Srilanka. The fellowship was hosted by the speaker and his wife Ann Basu as an extension of their wedding anniversary celebrations.

**Rtn. Maninder Sidhu**



**NEXT MEETING**

Rtn. Anu Narula (Settled in USA) talks to us on Education as a tool of empowerment on 10 February at Rotary House at 6 pm.

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



## YOUTH SERVICES



-On 31st of January 2025, Rotaract Club Chandigarh, RAC Midtown & RAC SGGS College, co-hosted and completed, project AROHI. At Govt. Model High School, Hallomajra, they donated stationary and uniforms to three

students from economically weak backgrounds and promised to help them in any further requirements for their studies.

-ROTARACT CLUB HSJ DENTAL COLLEGE, PU, celebrated NATIONAL GIRLS DAY on the 25th of January 2025. The aim of the event was to influence and encourage the underprivileged girls towards inculcating the importance of study and knowledge in life! Coloring books and colour boxes were distributed to underprivileged girls. A team of 5 members carried out the event. The group interacted with a few girls under

the age of 10 years who studied in the Government school, PU. They talked about what they want to be when they grow and it was great to hear their big dreams. The kids were also taught about the importance of dental hygiene and regular dental check up.



## PROJECTS

### TB elimination in chandigarh



Food packets distribution at Maulijagan. This center has 215 TB patients undergoing treatment which is the highest among the 14 centers being catered by us. Today's event was carried out together with the support of Inner wheel Club Chandigarh. The total number of food packets distributed during the month of January at 14 centers was 904 which is the highest for any month.



## NEWS

-Sardar Satbir Singh Kohli left for abode due to heart attack while he was on the walk in the morning. He was regular donor to Rotary Club chandigarh and instrumental in starting the project on scholarship to the students of 10th and 12th from last five years in the memory of his father. Pray God for his soul rest in peace.



-February is dedicated to promoting peace and preventing conflict worldwide. Rotary plays a vital role in fostering dialogue, understanding, and solutions to create a more peaceful future. Together, we can build bridges, resolve differences, and ensure a world where harmony prevails.

-Rtn A P Singh has been invited by Rtn. Stephanie A. Urchick President Rotary International to share the experience as a speaker at the 2025 Youth Exchange Officers Preconvention, which will be held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada from 20-21 June 2025.

-World forum on accountants was organized at Yashobhoomi, New Delhi by Institute of chartered accountants of India wherein more than 7000 delegates across the globe participated. The objective was the sharing of current technologies adopted in the accounting profession, professional opportunities in the various countries for the accountants and networking. The event was inaugurated by Sh. Rajnath, union defense



minister who shared his words of wisdom and the contribution made by chartered accountants on nation building in India. The event was participated by Rtn. Anil Khanna and Rtn. Anil Chadda.

-Rtn. Hasan Singh Majie along with his better half Harkiran were attending The Jaipur Literary Festival 30 Jan to 4th Nov. venue Clarks Amer on Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg. On 2nd morning as they went out for early morning walk saw the road totally free of vehicular traffic and lots of people running. Sign posted Jaipur Marathon 33Kms 2nd February 2025 .we joined other slow runners and ran walked 5kms. It gave us a wonderful feeling to have participated in the Jaipur Marathon and that too on spouse's birthday.



With Best Compliments from  
Rtn Jagesh Khaitan



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