

# The Midtowner

Rotary  
Chandigarh Midtown



2019-20

Club No. 15228  
R.I. District 3080

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown  
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**Meetings cancelled as per orders of Prime Minister of India and State Governments  
And also Rotary International and Rotary District directives**

## Formation of the Second Club in Chandigarh – Past Rotary International President Rajendra K. Saboo



**Rajendra K. Saboo**  
Past President (1991-92)  
Rotary International



**'Look Beyond Yourself'**

**K A M L A C E N T R E**  
SCO 88-89, SECTOR 8-C, CHANDIGARH 160009, INDIA

20 April, 2020

### FORMATION OF THE SECOND CLUB IN CHANDIGARH

In 1976-77 I was Governor of then R.I. District 310, one of the 12 districts in India. Our district included J&K, Punjab, Himachal, Haryana, Delhi and Western U.P., from Srinagar to Chandausi and from Mussorie to Bhatinda. During that year Emergency was imposed.

I could see the challenging situation and I also saw the possibilities ahead. Chandigarh was growing. Rotary Club of Chandigarh had reached membership to 112 and we certainly needed another club in the city.

Lalit Suri was President of our club and he was convinced of another club. In fact, he helped preparing the list of charter members. We chose Dr. B.D. Gupta a Senior Professor in the Radiation Department of PGI and an ardent Rotarian. Senior Advocate then Jawahar Gupta, again a very keen Rotarian from our club was chosen to be the Secretary of the new club. It was a loss to the existing club but then we needed to have strong leadership in the new club to make it a club that would be worthy of our city. The name was given Midtown and if I remember correctly the charter was presented in May 1977.

I am very happy that Chandigarh Midtown rose to new heights and became an adult soon promoting new clubs. Today both Rotary Club of Chandigarh and Rotary Club of Midtown can have a sense of pride for the growth of Rotary in this city and in the region. I was only a part of the process. The time had come and I just happened to be there. The credit goes to Lalit Suri and all those who were part of the birth of Midtown.

**Rajendra K. Saboo**

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### 1980-81 : My year as President of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown – PP B.L. Ramsisaria

Moved with their plight of inhuman sufferings by the Leprosy patients, our club came forward in 1980-81 when I had made several visits to the colony situated at outskirts of sector 47, Chandigarh. I discussed the project with Mrs. Usha Saboo who immediately encouraged and motivated to take up this project. In the first phase we established a Medical Dispensary in a mud hut. and met all costs of the equipment, running expenses of medicines dressings etc. Our Doctor Couple Rtn. Subhash and Rekha Anand regularly examined and treated them.

Lepers Colony had become an ongoing project of the Club for several years and we continued to nurture this project with utmost dedication. Many members of our Club contributed generously towards this project.

In his keynote address by Past R.I. President and Past Chairman of Trustees of The Rotary Foundation Raja Saboo at Rotary International Assembly exalted "How Rotary transformed the lives of the people" by giving example of this project by PPT with photo visuals of the living conditions of the inmates of the colony before and after the completion of project.

The Leprosy project was also reported and found its mention two times in the magazine "THE ROTARIAN". I was bestowed with Rotary International's Highest Award 'SERVICE ABOVE SELF' for my service to leprosy Patients.

In addition to above, various other projects were carried out during my tenure as President. We organized Declamation Competition and an Awareness skit on Voluntary Blood donation movement. Tree plantation was done at Industrial Workers Colony in Sector 30, Chandigarh. We also hosted GSE Team from RI District 526, USA. I also received outstanding President Award from Governor O.P. Vaish.



### 1985-86 : My year as President of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown – PP Trilochan Singh Anand

I remember so clearly the day of our Installation in 1977 when, then DG Raja Saboo, pinned us at a meeting in the Institute of Engineers. Dr. B.D. Gupta was the Charter President. I was only 27 years old at the time but this membership was going to open a new world of opportunity to service our community in the four avenues of service.

I learnt the ropes while serving as Secretary for one and a half terms with President Ram Swaroop Chandgothia in 1981-82 and then with President M.L. Sarin in 1982-83. In 1984-85 was Vice President with President B.S. Bindra.

At that time we were a small club with around 35 members with slow and steady growth over the years. But the outstanding feature of those years was the camaraderie and fellowship which developed between the members. Most of us were young and starting in our careers and businesses. We worked with small budgets but we still got things done.

District Governor was Jagdish Rana and he was based in Shimla and would send all his communications written in long hand by himself. He and his charming wife Bhuvan I remember very fondly and we kept in touch for many years. He visited us on a number of occasions and recognized me as one of four Outstanding Presidents.

We took part in all avenues of service. The most outstanding projects that come to mind are the hosting of the PETS program in the Yadavindra Gardens of Pinjore.

We carried forward the construction of the Lepers Colony with the addition of 16 new huts. A number of Community Service projects were initiated including the organization of eye Camps and a Library in a Labour colony.

We hosted a GSE team from California, USA. Two of our candidates were selected for the GSE team that went to UK which had PDG Yoginder Diwan as the Team Leader. Our own PP Pallav Mukherjee was one of the selected candidates who came back to become a member of Chandigarh Midtown.

The highlight of the year was a fund raiser for which we had invited the noted ghazal singer Pankaj Udhas for a recital. It would be very remiss of me if I did not remember the exceptional contribution of our past Rotarian Rakesh Mohunta, PP Mac Sarin and Rtn. Tejee Jauhar. I remember Rakesh calling me every morning with discussion on some aspect of the planning and the help I got from Mac and Tejee for the selling of the tickets. A part of the proceeds (Rs. 25,000/-) was donated to the PGI.

It was a year of great happiness and participation for both my wife Preety and myself.

### 1988-89 : My year as President of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown – PP Devi Prasad Khandelia

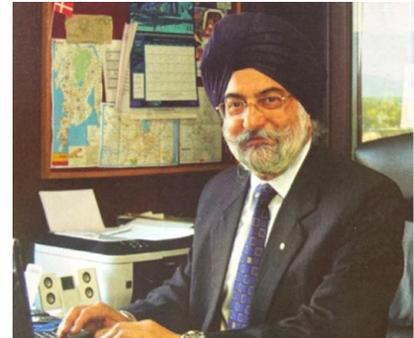
Presidential Color for 1988-89 was handed over to me by PP Anil Mehan in the presence of then Chief Commissioner Mr. Ashok Pradhan and Rotary's Bhism pitamah Rtn. R.K. Saboo. During the year our club completed 40 two rooms set and keys of these were handed over to inmates of Lepers Colony by Mr. Ashok Pradhan.

The year Punjab faced worst Flood of the century. Our club contributed numerous clothes for the needy and helped PGI financially for control of Rheumatic fever.

Our club contributed for construction of RVTC Building Project at Sector 18 Chandigarh.

During the year club was addressed by prominent dignities viz: Mrs. Swaroop Krishan, K.P.S. Gill, Chief Justice Rama Swami, Kiran Bedi, Shri Pranav Mukharjee and many more.

Our Club organised Blood Donation Camp, Picnic, Fashion Show, Qwali and Visit to Pakistan. A get together was arranged on the very first day of nomination of Raja Saboo as President Elect of Rotary International.



### 1991-92 : My year as President of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown – PP Harish C. Sethi

I joined Govt. Service in Punjab in 1962 as Sub Divisional Officer and was posted at Khanna. In 1963 new Rotary Club was being established in Khanna. Leading Industrialist Mr. N.S. Bakshi was selected as President of Rotary Club. He had invited the first Rotary International President from India, Nitish Lahiri to officially start the Rotary Club in Khanna. I joined Rotary in September in 1963 and never looked back. Being in Govt. service I had to work in different cities and there were gaps in between.

I joined Chandigarh Midtown in May 1986. PP Tochi Anand, my golfing friend proposed my name. In June 1991 I was elected President of Chandigarh Midtown. Raja Saboo was the RI President for the year 1991-92. Major Som Dutt was the District Governor. We had 5 Rotary Clubs in the Tricity Chandigarh. RI President Raja asked all the 5 Presidents to elect Suitable Community welfare project, which had to be completed within our term.

Being a keen golfer I used to interact with the leading professionals. I used to meet Dr. Dalbir Singh Bakshi, Director Health Service, Chandigarh. He suggested to me to purchase a Cardiac Van for the General Hospital, which is meant to take patients in emergency to Hospital. I discussed my proposal with RI President Raja Saboo and DG Major Som Dutt and they both agreed. I got Approval of Board and we started working on the project.

With the active support of our Rotarians, particularly Rtn. Ajit Gulati who was the Secretary, we were able to raise funds within 3 months and we purchased the Van through Rtn. R.S. Chandgothia. We handed over the Van after equipping it with Cardiac Monitor to Hon'ble Governor Mr. Surendera Nath in the presence of RI President Raja Saboo, well before the end of our term. We also completed another Project of Providing Sulabh Shaushalaya in Industrial Area on the advice and guidance of Raja Saboo. It was the first of its kind in Chandigarh.

As Rotary International President for 1991-92 Raja Saboo had given a unique Theme, "Look Beyond Yourself", which was very meaningful. PRIP Raja elucidated the theme in such a way that it would encourage you to use in all Avenues of Service.



**A function showing Presentation of Cardiac Van to Director Health Services, DG Major Som Dutt and other officers of administration. Second photo shows Foundation Laying Ceremony of Sulabh Shauchalaya at Industrial Area. Senior Rotarians attended the function**

### 1992-93 : My year as President of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown – PDG Shaju Peter

October 24, 1968. Hotel imperial, Calicut, Kerala. The Rotary club of Calicut had organized an Inter-collegiate debate in its weekly meeting venue to commemorate the UN day, an annual project of the club, I was declared the best debater and the running trophy for the best team went to my college, REC, Calicut where I was doing my fifth and last year of engineering. That was my first brush with Rotary. I was 21.

Almost 20 years later I became a Rotarian, thanks to the inspiration given by late Suraj Handa who was my next-door neighbor in Sector 18, Chandigarh. Rtn. Chander Mohan Khera who was my sponsor and went on to become the President of the Rotary Club of Wollaton Park, Nottingham years later.



**Shaju Peter as President, Rtn. Dr. Jawahar Luthra, Lovy and Former Director of PGI Dr. P.N. Chutani at the inauguration of the eye camp**

One thing led to the other and I became the Club President in 1992-93, product of a bitterly contested election. Subhash Bindra served as the Secretary and till date to Nancy my daughter, Subhash and Veena remain Chacha and Chachi. Lovy and I never felt that we didn't have any of our blood relatives here, for the club was our family.

Rotary had conceived World Community Service and Matching Grant, now rechristened as Global Grant, as far back as 1965 but our club never had one to its credit. The first was the Eye Camp in collaboration with Wollaton Park, where 69 IOL implantations were done. The second was the donation of a Refrigerated Centrifuge imported from USA to the Blood Bank Society of PGI in collaboration with Rotary Club of Lee, USA.

The picnic in Kansal Village, Late DGP K.P.S. Gill in the tub as our guest speaker and lifelong friendships I built as the president are a few of the memories I would cherish for the rest of my life.

The year ended and DG Arun Honi declared ours as the best club of the District and yours truly as the best president! Thank you Midtowners!

### Rotary Chandigarh Midtown donates Rs.35,75,149/- for Rotary Humanity Foundation / PM Cares

President Salil Bali thanks all members of our Club for their generous contribution of Rs.35,75,149/- for Rotary Humanity Foundation / PM Cares.

On behalf of the Club, the Board places on record deep appreciation for PP Rtn. D.P. Khandelia / Khandelia Oil and General Mills Pvt Ltd for donating Rs.34,06,149/- and Vice President Rtn. Salil Chopra / R EH CE DE Enterprises Pvt Ltd for donating Rs. 48000/- towards the PM Cares fund directly.

### Rotary Midtown donates PPE kits, sanitiser to UT police

**CHANDIGARH:** Rotary Midtown Chandigarh handed over six personal protection equipment (PPE) kits and 600 bottles of sanitisers to deputy inspector general of Chandigarh Police, Omvir Singh Bishnoi, on Sunday. President Salil Dev Singh Bali said police officers on the ground are at maximum risk and need all the protection they can get. *Hindustan Times dated 20.04.20*



**PPE Kits and Sanitizers handed over for Jail Staff and Traffic Police to DIG Omvir Singh Bishnoi in presence of SSP City Ms. Nilambari Jagdale and SSP Traffic Shashank Anand on 18.04.20. President Salil Bali was accompanied by Vinod Nagpal of our RCC for Disabled Persons**

### PP Rtn. Er. R. K. Luther

M. Tech. (London), M.B.I.M. (London)



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