

Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown

The Saga of 35 Years of Service

(1977 – 2012)

By PP B.L. Ramsisaria

June 6, 1977 was a golden letter day in the history of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown. On this day the charter dated May 18, 1977, Club No. 15228 was presented by the then District Governor Rtn. Rajendra K. Saboo to our first President Rtn. Dr. B.D. Gupta and Secretary Rtn. Jawahar Gupta (Now Chief Justice Retd.).

The chief commissioner Shri T.N. Chaturvedi was the chief guest on this colourful function and 38 charter members were inducted by DG Rajendra K. Saboo. Since then the Club has grown by leaps and bounds to reach the membership of 108.

Club was sponsored by R.C. Chandigarh. President Rtn. Lalit Suri as GSR provided all assistance in settling the club on a sound footing.

Thirty-five years of dedicated efforts by Rotarians committed to the cause of the humanity and the well-being of the community they live in, have resulted in giving education, healthcare and smiles to the downtrodden, have-nots and leprosy-affected patients.

From small beginning to big achievements, that in essence is the hallmark of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown.

The highlights of 35 years in service are :

Roll of Honour :

2007-2008 District Governor Shaju Peter

Club Presidents :

1977-78 Charter President Dr. B.D. Gupta

- Received Club Charter dt. 18th May 1977 through the then Distt. Governor Rajendra K. Saboo.
- Set up a LIBRARY & READING ROOM in the Industrial Workers' Colony in Sector 30, Chandigarh.
- Organized PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) at Conference Room at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

- Hosted Youth Exchange Team of 7 girls, 2 boys and their leader from USA, Australia and Canada.
- Organized a Cancer Awareness Camp and Information Centre.
- Two members became Paul Harris Fellows.

1978-79 President Late Maj. Gen. R.N. Dogra

- Organized Malaria Eradication Awareness Camp.
- Donated 104 Nos. HDP Tents and Clothings in flood-hit village Kalera, District Ambala.
- Organized Free Eye Operation Camp and Blood Donation Camp.
- Sponsored one student to visit R. I. District 633, USA under R.I. Youth Exchange Programme.
- Tree Plantation done

1979-80 President J. L. Gupta (Now Chief Justice High Court Retd.)

- Organized Free Medical Camps.
- Organized Yoga Camp at Lajpat Rai Bhawan, Sector 15, Chandigarh.

1980-81 President B.L. Ramsisaria

- Adopted Lepers' Colony in Sector 47, Chandigarh: Free dispensary set up for the inmates. The project was internationally recognized and the report was published in "The Rotarian" magazine of R.I.
- Organized Declamation Competition and an Awareness skit on Voluntary Blood Donation movement
- Tree Plantation done at Industrial Workers' Colony, Sector 30, Chandigarh.
- Hosted GSE Team from R. I. District 526, USA.
- Received Outstanding President award from Governor O. P. Vaish.

1981-82 President R.S. Chandgothia

- Organized Blood Donation Camp at Plaza, Sector 17, Chandigarh.
- Hosted welcome event for R. I. President Stan McCaffrey and R.I. Gen. Secretary Herbert A. Pigman jointly with R. C. Chandigarh.
- Hosted GSE Team of six members from R. I. District 676, Tennessee State of U.S.A.
- Celebrated a Gala Function of Ladies' Night with music, songs, and dances by Anns in colourful bridal dresses.

1982-83 President M. L. Sarin

- Hosted Welcome event for R I President Hiroji Mukasa jointly with R.C. Chandigarh.

- Hosted visit of R I President Elect Bills Skelton, who inaugurated Dispensary Buildings at Lepers' colony, a project initiated by PP B.L. Ramsisaria.

- Rotaract Club of Chandigarh Midtown Chartered.

1983-84 President Late B. S. Bindra

- Inter District event on "National Integration" hosted by the club when President of India Giani Zail Singh was the Chief Guest and a record number of 800 people attended the meeting.
- Constructed Pucca Community Kitchen Building at Lepers' Colony by donations from Rtn. Tejee Jauhar.

1984-85 President S.L. Vohra

- Hosted First District Conference of newly formed R I District 308.
- Constructed 8 pucca Huts in the Lepers' Colony (Club's ongoing project).
- First Interact Club of Chandigarh Midtown was established.
- R I President Elect M. A. T. Caparas visited the Club and inaugurated first block of eight Huts in Lepers' Colony.

1985-86 President Rtn. T. S. Anand

- Hosted PETS at Yadavindra Garden, Pinjore.
- 16 Huts were added to the Lepers' Colony.
- Organized Free Eye Operation Camp at Satsang Bhawan, Sector 26, Chandigarh.
- "Pankaj Udhas" Night was organized for entertainment and fund raising for Club projects.
- Contributed Rs.25,000 to PGI Creche.

1986-87 President T. S. Doabia (Now Justice High Court Retd.)

- Established Rotary Legal Aid Center in Sector 17, Chandigarh.
- Play – "A Klown Kompanie" by a French couple was enacted to raise funds for the club projects.

1987-88 President Anil Mehan

- Organized First Lok Adalat.
- 9 Club members became PHFs (Paul Harris Fellows)
- First Rotary Village Corps (RVC) was established by the Club near Zirakpur.
- A Magic Show by a French magician – Jacques Delord was organized for fund raising in aid of PolioPlus programme.

1988-89 President D. P. Khandelia

- 10 numbers of huts added to complete the Lepers' colony project initiated by PP B.L. Ramsisaria.
- Keys of 42 huts, community kitchen and multipurpose hall were handed over to the inmates in a function organized at PGI.
- Donated Rs. 15,000 to PGI for control of Rheumatic fever.
- Contributed Rs.20,000 to Rotary Club Chandigarh for construction of RVTC building project.
- Half truck load of old clothes were handed over to Punjab Governor and Administrator, UT Chandigarh for flood-affected.

1989-90 President Late Dr. O.N. Mathur

- First all-weather shed constructed at cremation ground, Sector 25, Chandigarh.
- Organized family planning camp at Dera Bassi where 100 Tubectomies were performed and each operated person was given a blanket as incentive.
- Received "Outstanding President" award from the District Governor.

1990-91 President K.T.S. Tulsı

- Set up a Drug De-addiction center in Police Hospital, Sector 26, Chandigarh.
- Organized Community Kitchen, in Sector 8, Gurudwara for daily wage earners rendered jobless because of curfew imposed owing to terrorist problem.
- "Gurdas Mann Night" was organized to raise funds in aid of club projects.

1991-92-President Harish Sethi

- Donated a fully equipped Cardiac Van to General Hospital, Chandigarh.
- Hosted PETS and SETS.
- Organized District Conference in collaboration with four other local Rotary Clubs.
- Rtn. Suraj Handa received "Service Above Self" award from R I.

1992-93 President Shaju Peter

- 69 successful cataract operations were done with IOL implants in two separate camps aided by RC Wollaton Park, UK, RI District 1220 and The Rotary Foundation, the first WCS project of the Club.
- Donated a Refrigerated Centrifuge imported from USA for Rs. 4.25 lacs aided by Rotary Club of Lee, USA, District 7890 and the Rotary Foundation to the Blood Bank Society, PGI, Chandigarh under WCS Programme.
- Hosted District Assembly.

- Club declared Best Club in the District by the Distt. Governor Arun Honi.
- Received the “Best President” award from the District Governor.

1993-94 President Late Justice Surinder Singh

- Constructed RCC canopy for pitcher breaking ceremony at cremation ground, Sector 25, Chandigarh.
- “Home for the Aged”, Sector 15, Chandigarh was adopted.
- Organized Medical Camps in Kumhar Colony, Sector 25, Chandigarh.
- An Interact Club was formed.
- “Literacy Gate” at Kumhar colony was constructed.
- Received “Outstanding President” award from the District Governor.
- Club Bulletin “The Midtowner” was adjudged best in the District and received Best Club Bulletin Award.

1994-95 President Subhash Bindra

- Donated a Blood Mobile Van costing about Rs.5.00 lacs to Blood Bank Society of Chandigarh to promote voluntary blood donation.
- Hosted Miss Wendy from Australia and Mr. Henrick from Denmark under the Youth Exchange Programme.
- US \$ 8,100 was contributed to The Rotary Foundation and six members received PHF recognitions.
- Hosted District Interact Meet.
- Organized Medical Camps in Kumhar Colony, Sector 25, Chandigarh.
- ‘Vandana Malik’ and ‘Vishnu Kumar Gupta’ Memorial Declamation Contests was organized.
- ‘The Midtowner’ edited by Rtn. Shaju Peter received recognition as one of the best Club Bulletin in an All India Contest
- Our Club and the members received nine awards from the District Governor.

1995-96 President Col. A.J.S. Gill

- Club donated one EMP-EG system imported from USA for Rs. 7 lakh to detect auditory, visual and neuro muscular disorders under a WCS project with Rotary Clubs of Grand Prairie, Alberta, Canada, Rotary Club of Townsontowne, USA and the Rotary Foundation as partners.
- Club initiated a Micro Loan project under WCS in association with the Rotary Club of Milano Sud-Est, Italy and the Rotary Foundation with a total outlay of US \$ 10,000/-.
- PP Shaju Peter chaired the District Conference Committee with members drawn from local clubs in Chandigarh.
- Col. A.J.S. Gill received the Best President Award from District Governor

and Editor PP Harish Sethi received the Best Bulletin Award for “Mid-Tower”.

1996-97 President J. L. Mahajan

- Rehabilitated 65 handicapped persons at Nevedac Prosthetic Center with artificial limbs, calipers tricycle etc.
- Boundary wall constructed in front of Lepers’ Colony at sector 47, Chandigarh.
- A get-together of Rotary Foundation alumni of the region was organized at Nevedac Center.
- Club celebrated 1000th weekly meeting.
- A WCS “Prosthetic Project” initiated for handicapped patients with an outlay of US \$ 16000.
- Adjudged No.1 Club in Distt. 3080 in Annual Programme Fund Giving. Contributed US \$ 9982 to The Rotary Foundation.

1997-98 President Ajit Gulati

- Distributed US \$ 10,000 under Millano Sud-Est. Micro Loan Project to needy entrepreneurs under WCS.
- The WCS “Prosthetic Project” initiated by IPP J.L. Mahajan was completed with 360 handicapped patients receiving prosthetics with an outlay of Rs.6.5 lakhs.
- R.I. President Glen Kinross also visited “Nevedac Prosthetic Center” where wheel chairs were presented to the handicapped patients.
- R.I. President Glen Kinross visited Club’s Permanent Project of Lepers’ Colony, where a grand function was organized.

1998-99 President Keshoram Gupta

- Installed “Potable Water Supply” system in Village Billa with piping and taps under a “WCS Project” in association with Rotary Club of Sarandi, District 4910, Argentina and the Rotary Foundation.
- Hosted GSE Team from R.I. Distt. 9500 from South Australia.
- 140 children were immunized with Hepatitis Vaccine.

1999-2000 President Capt. Manmohan Singh Kahlon

- Literacy and Numeracy programme for illiterate women implemented in Village Billa
- Under WCS Programme a new “Micro Loan Project” began.
- Under “Children’s Opportunity Grant” of The Rotary Foundation, a Mid- Day Meals consisting of milk, cakes or sweets given to poor children of Little Flower School, Manimajra. Project cost: Rs. 6.5 lakh.

- Hosted PETS & SETS.
- Opted for foster parenting of a Kargil martyr's child.

2000-2001 President Dr. Mrs. Vanita Gupta

- Organised a rally on awareness of human rights.
- Adopted the Sarangpur village as the focus of Club's community service. Constructed Community Toilets Block.
- Started a Night School for slum children, and established Vocational Training Center.
- Organized an Eye Camp with IOL under Avoidable Blindness.
- Hosted Distt. Intercity Meet "Adharshila". Donated Woolen Blankets worth Rs. 1 lakh to Gujarat earthquake victims.
- Hosted a Youth Exchange Student from Canada for 1 Year.
- Organized Health camps for Leprosy detection, Hepatitis B Immunization.

2001-2002 President Indrajeet Sengupta

- WCS Project of "Braille Equipment" completed at Institute of Blind, Sector 26, Chandigarh.
- A school-based Interact Club was formed.
- Hepatitis B Immunizations camp for children of Little Flower School organized.
- Hosted Inter-Club Golf Tournament and First Distt. 3080 Youth Programme Enrichment.
- Homeopathic treatment of inmates of lepers' colony.
- Education for the disadvantaged programme continued at village Sarangpur.
- A WCS project "Data Processing Centre" initiated for disabled youth.

2002-2003 President Dr. Balram K. Gupta

- In a WCS Project of "Avoidable Blindness" 998 persons medically examined and 127 persons operated and provided Intra Ocular lenses.
- Artificial limbs provided to handicapped persons.
- Established a Vocational Training Center (Cutting & Stitching) for women at Village Dhanas.
- International Family Exchange Program was organized
- RI President Bhichai Rattakul visited Chandigarh

2003-2004 President Dr. S.K. Sharma

- "Data processing" Centre established for eight (65-85%) disabled youth under a WCS project initiated by PP Indrajeet Sengupta.

- 1000 Improved cooking stoves (Chullah) installed in 20 Villages.
- Free medicines were regularly supplied to critical poor patients at PGI under "Life Line Project" an initiative of Rotarian Om Prakash
- Organized Eye Operation Camp; Intra Ocular Lenses provided to 50 poor patients.
- A Coffee Machine installed at Cheshire home.
- Orthopedic footwear provided to 30 leprosy-affected patients.
- Multidisciplinary medical camps organized for senior citizens.
- Water conservation and sanitation projects taken up.
- Artificial limbs and rehabilitation project.
- Organized Blood donation camp.

2004-2005 President Pallav Mukherjee

- PP Shaju Peter was unanimously elected as District Governor of R. I. District 3080 for 2007-2008.
- Target of contribution of US \$ 100 by Every Rotarian Every Year completed.
- Contributed more than Rs. 4.00 lakh to Tsunami Relief Fund.
- Celebrated Rotary's Hundredth Anniversary on an Internet platform by chatting globally with club presidents in Hungry, USA, Australia and Ambala.
- Club adjudged as 'Best Club' of the District.

2005-2006 President Er. R.K. Goyal

- Organized a plumbing training course for 15 unemployed needy young boys of village Khudda Ali Sher and surrounding villages.
- 15 girl students from underprivileged families were educated and trained in "Home Care Nursing and First Aid".
- A WCS project of providing free School Text Books to approx. 5000 needy students with a total outlay of US\$22,000/- in collaboration with Rotary Club of Gold Coast, New York, RID 7250 was drawn up and registered with The Rotary Foundation and was completed in 2006-2007.
- An all-girls Rotaract club was chartered in Dev Samaj College for Women, Sector 45, Chandigarh.

2006-2007 President. Dr. V.J.S. Vohra

- RI President Elect Rtn. Wilfrid Wilkinson inaugurated the WCS Literacy project on 15th May 2007 in which 16000 text books worth Rs. Ten Lac were distributed to the needy students of Govt. Schools (project initiated by IPP R. K. Goyal in 2005-2006).
- For the first time an RI Director namely Rtn. Noraseth Pathmanand was the Guest of Honour for the Installation Ceremony in July 2006.

- Computer Training Centre was established at Saket Rehabilitation Centre, Chandimandir by giving 6 computers for training 72 handicapped students.
- Help to provide jobs to 31 computer trained handicapped persons at Call Centres in Chandigarh and Mohali.
- Vocational Training Centre (Sewing and Tailoring) was resumed at village Khuda Ali Sher.
- Eye Camps for cataract surgery project in collaboration with 2 Rotary Clubs of UK, Wollaton Park and Castle Donnington were held.
- For the first time all 52 issues of our weekly bulletin, 'The Midtownner' was updated on our club website.

2007-2008 President Sandeep Sandhu

- Hosted District Conference –*Conference of Sharing* on 23 - 24 February 2008 at newly built Auditorium, Inder Dhanush, Panchkula.
- Contributed US \$ 11,000 to The Rotary Foundation and record number of 28 persons became Paul Harris Fellows and 6 members became Multiple Paul Harris Fellows. Target of contribution of US \$ 100 by Every Rotarian Every Year completed.
- Organized free eye camp in collaboration with Rotary Club Wollaton Park, Nottingham, Distt. 1220, UK, where 176 persons were screened and 19 operated.
- Organized Blood Donation Camp at village Khuda Aliser and Health Check-up Camp at Rtn. Dr. Col. V. K. Kapur's KUC Super- speciality Surgical Centre.
- Club sponsored Ms. Deepika Walia to participate in International "RYLA" organized by RID 1060, Birmingham, UK.

2008-2009 President Mrs. Saroj Jhawar

- 2 RCCs (Rotary Community Corps) were formed.
- Hosted Intercity Meeting on the occasion RIPE John Kenny's visit to Chandigarh.
- A fully equipped Computer Lab was set up at Shikhya School, Sector 46, Chandigarh at a cost of Rs 12.22 lacs, a Matching Grant project in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Madison, 7980, USA. His Excellency A. R. Kidwai, Governor of Haryana inaugurated the project.
- A shelter for caretakers of patients at GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh was constructed at a cost of Rs.15 lacs. The project named "Aasra", a Rotary Sarai, was inaugurated and dedicated to the society by His Excellency S. F. Rodrigues, PVSM, VSM, Governor of Punjab and Administrator

Chandigarh in a colourful ceremony.

- Plastic bottles half black painted for disinfecting drinking water were distributed to the poor people living in slum areas. Report published in Rotary News and local Newspapers.
- Initiated scholarship programme for girl students for professional studies in partnership with Italian Rotarians.
- After Screening 100 handicapped patients, 20 patients were fitted with Artificial Limbs and assistive devices. Report published in Rotary News.
- Club received the Best Club of the Zone Award.
- PP B. L. Ramsisaria received 4 Avenues of Service Award from Rotary International.

2009-2010 President Gurdeep Singh Deep

- M.G. Project of providing rain water harvesting in 8 Government Schools of Chandigarh with a total outlay of Rs.12.00 lakh in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Madison, District 7980, USA was approved.
- Organized vocational training courses in electrician's trade and supported ongoing projects of sewing and embroidery training.
- Medical Kits were distributed to Girls students from under privileged families, who were educated and trained in Home Care Nursing and First Aid, a project run in collaboration with Dr. Vikrant Gupta Memorial Foundation and Inner Wheel Club Chandigarh Midtown.
- Developed and re-energized 3 RCCs of which two essentially consist of physically challenged persons.
- Distributed scholarship to girl students for professional studies in partnership with Italian Rotarians.
- Distributed micro-loans to candidates recommended by the Rotary Clubs of Kasauli, Panipat Midtown, Parwanoo and SAS Nagar and scholarships for girls for higher technical education.
- President Gurdeep Singh received the 'Best President amongst large clubs Award' besides 20 other awards for the Club from the District Governor.

2010-2011 President Prem Anand

- Established a canteen in "Aasra" Shelter at GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh. Provided 14 Beds and installed Two big size Desert coolers in the facilities. Project established in the year 2008-09.
- Hosted District Team Training Seminar (DTTS) at Chandigarh as District Project.
- Organized Vishnu Kumar Gupta Memorial Debate.

- WCS project of Rain Water Harvesting approved in 2009-10 was executed in 8 Govt. School of Chandigarh. TRF Chair, PRIP Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar visited the project.
- Medical Kits were distributed to 20 Girls students from under privileged families, who were educated and trained in Home Care Nursing and First Aid, a project run in collaboration with Dr. Vikrant Gupta Memorial Foundation and Inner Wheel Club Chandigarh Midtown.
- Our Club received 16 awards from the District including President Citation Award with Distinction to President Prem Anand, Best Secretary Award to Rtn. Deepak Sood and Best Treasurer Award to PP B. L. Ramsisaria.
- 35 teachers from the families of Rotary members were felicitated with certificates.

2011-12 President Raj Kumar Luther

- Set-up 3 Libraries in Govt. Schools of U.T. Chandigarh under Rotary Foundation Project DSG-72260
- Distributed 100 Nos. TATA Swatch Water Purifiers to the needy from 5 different walks of life under 'Clean Drinking Water Project' supported by TRF and RID-7770 USA.
- Upgraded facilities at 'Aasara-Rotary Sarai' at GMCH, Sector 32, Chandigarh, RI President Kalyan Banerjee visited and highly appreciated the project.
- Distributed 11 Micro-Loans of Rs. 2,75,000/- to the needy for self-employment.
- 5 Scholarship totaling Rs. 2,50,000/- were given to poor Girl Students pursuing Engineering.
- Our Club nominee Ms. Palika Monga selected by District, visited RID-1140, U.K. as GSE Team Member.
- Hosted 3 Couples under Family Friendship Exchange Team from RID-9320, South Africa. 3 Couples from our club visited South Africa in exchange program.
- Distributed medical kits to girl students of Home Care Nursing & First Aid Training. Re-started Sewing & Tailoring Training at village Faida.
- 15 unemployed youth were trained in the vocation of Plumbing with the support of our District 3080.