The Midtowner

Weekly Bulletin of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown

Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

UNITE FOR GOOD

2025-26 | Club No. 15228 | R.I. District 3080

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Deepawali Festival of Lights

Diwali Celebration & Alumni Meet – Lighting Up 50 Glorious Years of Rotary Chandigarh Midtown

As Rotary Chandigarh Midtown steps into its Golden Jubilee year, the Diwali celebrations this year shine brighter than ever — symbolizing not just the triumph of light over darkness, but also five decades of service, fellowship, and compassion.

The 50 Years Celebration is an inspiring initiative of DGN Rtn. Dr. Rita Kalra, whose vision and leadership have set the tone for a memorable year ahead. The Diwali evening was graciously hosted by PP Rtn. D.P. Khandelia and Rtn. Sandhya Khandelia, whose warm hospitality created an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie.

Adding a golden touch to the occasion was a special Alumni Meet, where several distinguished past Rotarians joined the festivities — Rtn. Mac Sareen along with his gracious spouse, Rtn. Saroj Jhawar, Dr. Nitin Mathur and Rtn. Archana Gupta, Rtn. R.K. Goyal, Rtn. Kund Bala, and Rtn. Lalit Azad and Rekha Azad. Their presence rekindled fond memories and strengthened the enduring spirit of Rotary fellowship.

The evening came alive with laughter, music, and heartfelt conversations about upcoming 50th-year initiatives — from the Rotary House project to the Golden Signature Projects and heritage and fellowship picnics. The radiant diyas and festive décor reflected the essence of both Diwali and Rotary — spreading light, love, and hope in the community.

The Rotractors displayed Rangoli Colors and Diya's made by our Interactors of Sorem School which were purchased with full enthusiasm by Rotarians.

As the celebrations concluded on a high note, one could feel the pride and promise that defines Rotary Chandigarh Midtown. Here's to 50 years of "Service Above Self" — and to many more years of lighting lives and spreading joy!

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From the Desk of Rtn. Dr. Balram K Gupta

Humility At Its Best

Maj Gen Vijay Jagtap reminisces about handling two eminent Parsis, on his watch:
This happened back in 2002. I had been posted in Mumbai, and one day I received a special order in my hand. When I opened and read it, I was stunned with surprise and overwhelmed with joy.It read: "You are appointed as the Security Officer during the visit of India's greatest soldier — Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw — to Mumbai.
"I was deeply moved by the trust my seniors had placed in me. Soon, the weight of responsibility dawned on me, and I gathered myself.I called up Field Marshal Manekshaw's office to get details of his itinerary. He was scheduled to arrive in Mumbai soon. The Parsi community had arranged a felicitation event for him. For two whole days, I was assigned to escort the legendary Sam Bahadur in his car and during all his engagements. It was a dream come true — an experience of a lifetime.
At that time, his charisma was unmatched — his personality magnetic.
I had met him briefly earlier, when our conversations had touched on World War II, the 1971 War, the valor of the Rajputana Rifles, and the Gorkha Regiment.
Now, I was eagerly awaiting his arrival in Mumbai. The day arrived. He landed at Mumbai Airport. I gave him a crisp salute and took on the responsibility for his security. Sitting beside him in the car was an unforgettable feeling — my eyes were scanning everywhere, one hand resting on the pistol holstered at my waist.
That evening, the Parsi community had organized a grand event at NCPA, Nariman Point, where India's Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was to be honored.
We reached the venue. The outer area was crowded. I carefully escorted him through the crowd into the hall. Inside too, the auditorium was packed, buzzing with cheers and Parsi songs. Someone was already speaking on stage.As soon as we entered, the announcer stopped and declared the arrival of Sam Bahadur.
The hall fell silent for a moment — then erupted in thunderous applause. Everyone rose to their feet, chanting "Sam! Sam!" in unison.A welcome song began, sung by the entire gathering. He was led to the chair placed at the center.People began crowding around him — trying to touch him, to shake his hand, to speak a word or two with love and respect. Among them were some of the most eminent Parsi families of India.
I was acutely aware of my duty — gently but firmly requesting people to move back, trying to create space around him.
And then I witnessed something extraordinary.
A tall, graceful man — over six feet — came forward. He quickly knelt down on one knee on the floor, held Sam's hand lovingly in both of his, touched it to his head and lips, and began speaking softly, humbly, seated right at the Field Marshal's feet.I politely asked the man to move aside, but he looked up at me kindly and said with quiet assurance, "Don't worry, son. Sam is ours. We will take care of him."His eyes were filled with compassion, respect, love, and confidence. Even his gaze conveyed honor toward the uniform I wore.
I stepped back instantly and replied, "Yes, sir."I looked around the hall — the audience was filled with legendary families: Godrej, Wadia, Poonawalla, Bhabha, Mistry… It struck me what a remarkable community this was — what immense contributions they had made to our nation's greatness.
The smallest of minorities — yet from business to defense, from social work to science — their service to India was unparalleled. Without reservations or expectations from the government, they had given so much to the country.
Then I wondered — where was the jewel of this Parsi community? Where was the head of the Tata family?
And at that very moment, it struck me.
My eyes welled up. My posture straightened unconsciously — spine erect, chest forward, feet together — and from my heart, I offered a crisp salute.
The man kneeling at the feet of India's greatest soldier, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw, was none other than Ratan Tata himself!
Yes — the great Ratan Tata — one of India's most respected industrialists.
His eyes overflowed with reverence for the Field Marshal.
It was a moment where the emperor of Indian industry saluted the emperor of the Indian Army — a tribute of pure respect and humility.
That moment remains the most inspiring of my life.
Though Ratan Tata and Sam Bahadur never met again, both remain forever at the highest peak of my memories.
Even today, I can still see that reassuring gaze and hear that gentle voice echoing in my ears:
"Don't worry, son. Sam is ours. We will take care of him."

Rtn. Dr. Balram K Gupta

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The Power of Appreciation

Sir Richard Branson said, "As a leader of people, you must be a great listener and a great motivator. People are no different than flowers. When you water flowers, they flourish. If you praise people, they flourish. And this is a critical attribute of a leader."The sweetest of all sounds is praise, Appreciation actually allows people to feel that they are needed and that their talents are valued.

I recently read a wonderful blog on the power of appreciation and gratitude.

Jonathan Pettit, the Director of Engineering at Qualcomm, was once asked, 'What is the best advice your mother ever gave you?'"I was about ten. My mom had just finished creating one of her amazing meals, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Later, as I was washing the dishes, my mom came up to me. "Sorry, dinner was so awful again," she said.

I was shocked. "What? No, it was great, I loved it.""Really?" she said, with a mock surprise,"You always eat so quietly, never saying anything, You've never told me you liked my cooking, so I thought you hated it.""No, you're the best cook I know.""Then you should tell me that," she said. "Whenever someone does something nice for you, you should thank that person. If you don't, then she might think she's not appreciated & stop doing those nice things."Something clicked right then. From that day onward, I thanked everyone for literally everything. If anyone did something that even vaguely helped me, I thanked that person profusely. It became a habit, something I didn't even think about, and that's when the magic started happening.

People liked me more. They talked to me more, shared with me, and were more friendly.

In my first year of high school, during the final week, I came home and found a giant freezie (a kind of sweet frozen snack) waiting for me. "Thanks, mom!" I said instinctively."This isn't from me, she said. "This is from your bus driver." He had been driving that bus for years, and my siblings and I were the first people to ever thank him as we got dropped off. Those two simple words made a huge difference, so much so that he went out of his way to tell our mom and give us a present."That's the power of appreciation. When you have it, all is right in the world, but when it's missing life is empty. My mom taught me many things, but taking two seconds to say 'thank you' every time, in any situation, was the best."In life, You would have met people who call themselves as good critics but have you ever met a person who says I am good at appreciating others? Isn't that a sad part of our society?

Let's start appreciating people more frequently especially people who are close to us, because they are the ones we take for granted and miss saying thanks to most often.

Communication, appreciation and understanding are the building blocks of any successful relationship

And more the gratitude and appreciation we show, the more we get to be grateful and appreciative of.

Leonardo da Vinci Walking Challenge – A Remarkable Achievement!

We are delighted to share an outstanding achievement by Rtn. Salil Chopra in the Leonardo da Vinci Walking Challenge — a global event promoting health, consistency, and endurance.

Starting on 17th September and concluding on 12th October, he covered an incredible 338 kilometres in just 25 days, accomplishing the feat in half the allotted time of 50 days.

As appreciated by the organisers, "His consistency, determination, and fitness spirit earned him an impressive 5th rank among 1,865 participants — a truly inspiring feat of discipline and dedication."This remarkable achievement stands as a shining example of perseverance, self-motivation, and the Rotary spirit of leading by example.

Heartiest congratulations to Rtn. Salil Chopra for this exceptional milestone!

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Up Coming Events

The Rotary Foundation Seminar District 3080

Celebrating Birthday's & Anniversary's

	Birthday – Spouse
Oct 13	R'Ann Pritpal Gulati

	Birthday - Rotarian
Oct 13	PP Amarjit Singh
Oct 15	PP Prem Anand

	Wedding Anniversaries
Oct 11	Rtn. Mohinder S. Kamra and Sushma Kamra
Oct 14	Rtn. Anurag Sharma and Rtn. Manjushree
Oct 16	PP Sanjay Bhatia and Rtn. Ritu Bhatia