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International assembly at Orlando

Experience by DGE Dr Rita Kalra and PP Dr Sanjay Kalra



Celebrating the 90th Birthday of Rtn Dr Indu Luthra

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY AT ORLANDO EXPERIENCED BY DGE DR. RITA & DR. SANJAY KALRA

Date : 23rd January 2026

Time : 06:30 AM Onwards

Venue : Hotel Shivalikview,
Sector 17, Chandigarh

A DISCUSSION ON - TOXICITY IN OUR LIVES TODAY

The Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown had the privilege of hosting a truly distinguished evening at Shivalik View, marked by intellectual depth, positive energy, and inspiring fellowship. The meeting was further enriched by the presence of our eminent guest speaker, Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh, whose life journey and body of work reflect an exceptional commitment to global peace, governance, and democratic accountability.

Mr. Ravinder Pal Singh holds an MPhil in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His illustrious career includes serving as a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi. Awarded the prestigious Ford Fellowship at the University of Maryland, he conducted in-depth research on United States politico-security decision-making processes, followed by the McArthur Grant for his pioneering work on security sector governance. His expertise led to his inclusion as a panel member of United Nations non-governmental experts involved in developing the UN Arms Register on Transparency.

As Project Leader at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), he spearheaded an extensive twelve-country comparative study on accountability in arms procurement decision-making across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America. This monumental research culminated in two authoritative volumes published by Oxford University Press in 1997 and 2001. Subsequently, he was invited as a Founding Member and Senior Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces, where he worked extensively on parliamentary oversight of the security sector and served as a consultant to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He also led the UNDP Mission on Security Sector Reforms in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Singh has lectured, researched, and published across more than thirty countries, addressing critical global challenges such as security sector reforms, gender empowerment, corruption in arms trade, confidence-building measures in South Asia, and democratic governance.

As Senior Fellow at Stockholm University (2003–2005), he was awarded the SASNET Grant and facilitated Track-II India-Pakistan dialogue on common security. His contributions include a chapter in the Carnegie study "Getting India Back on Track" and presentations at the UN Arms Trade Treaty Review Conferences in Geneva. His current work focuses on advancing constitutionalism for social cohesion through state assemblies, with recent publications by Policy Watch, New Delhi.

The session was thoroughly enjoyed by all present, with members listening in rapt attention to the thought-provoking insights shared. The evening was further enlivened by interactions with new faces and enthusiastic prospective members, whose eagerness to join the Rotary family added a refreshing and inspiring dimension to the gathering.

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to PP Rtn. Pallav for his unwavering support and efforts in making this evening truly memorable and enriching.





GLIMPSES OF WEEKLY MEETING





Rotary 360 | The official blog of Rotary International

4 CORNERS INDIA DRIVE STRIVES FOR HPV - FREE INDIA

10 DECEMBER 2025 3-4 MINUTES

By Dr. Rita Kalra, Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown, Haryana, India, A member of the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors

I still remember the morning of 26 July 2025, as if it were yesterday. Chandigarh was bright and buzzing, but for me, the excitement wasn't just about the day — it was about the mission. As District 3080 coordinator for HPV vaccination under Project Aastha, I have one clear goal: to wipe out cervical cancer from our community. That day felt like one giant step closer to it.

The 4 Corners India Drive team had travelled hundreds of kilometres to bring the message of HPV vaccination to different corners of our country. When they reached Mohali, our Rotarians, friends, and young volunteers welcomed them with open hearts and open arms. For me, the most beautiful sight was seeing 50 young girls roll up their sleeves and receive the HPV vaccine right there. Each one was a future safeguarded. Each one was a silent victory.



Rotary members in Chandigarh, India, during a rally to raise awareness of cervical cancer. About 50 girls received the HPV vaccine.

We didn't stop at the clinic. A rally of colourful, flag-bearing cars rolled out towards the heart of Chandigarh. I had the honour of leading the drive, sitting in the first car, feeling both pride and responsibility. We wanted people to turn their heads, to read the banners, to ask questions. And they did. Curious pedestrians stopped, shopkeepers stepped out, and the message "Cancer-Free India" began to ripple through the city.

At City Plaza in Sector 17, the atmosphere shifted from festive to deeply moving. A crowd gathered, and together, we spoke about cervical cancer — the disease too many ignore until it's too late. We explained how a simple vaccine can save lives and how regular Pap smear tests are a safety net every woman deserves. The nukkad natak (a form of street theater in India performed in public spaces to raise awareness about social issues) by children stole the show. Watching them perform, with their innocent yet powerful voices, I thought, if they can understand and spread the word, why can't we all?

Then came a moment that will stay with me forever. Mrs. Mangat, a cancer survivor, stood in front of everyone and shared her journey. Her voice was steady, but the pain she had endured was clear in her eyes. When she finished, the silence in the crowd said everything. This wasn't just a health campaign. This was a fight for lives, for families, for futures.

The spirit of Rotary shone brightest when, right there on the spot, six Rotarians stepped forward to sponsor HPV vaccines for more girls. That's the magic of our work — it's not just about talking, it's about doing.

By evening, we gathered for a joint meeting of participating clubs. We exchanged club flags, shared stories from the day, and promised to keep working together. It wasn't just a meeting — it was a pledge of unity, a reminder that when we join hands, even the biggest challenges shrink.

That day was more than an event. It was a statement. A statement that we will not sit quietly while cervical cancer claims lives. That we will talk, we will vaccinate, we will educate, and we will keep moving until no girl is left unprotected.

If you're reading this, I invite you to join this mission. Talk to your friends and family about HPV vaccination. Share this story. If you can, sponsor a vaccine for a girl who needs it. Every small action is a thread in the safety net we are building.

Let's dream of an India where our daughters, sisters, and mothers are free from the fear of cervical cancer — and let's make it real, together.

Rotary Shiksha Pathshalas

An unsung hero leading from the front | Rtn Salil Chopra

In keeping with Rotary's timeless motto, **Service Above Self**, Rotary continues to touch young lives and strengthen communities through its impactful initiative, **Rotary Shiksha Pathshala**. Designed especially for children from underprivileged and government schools across Northern India, this program goes beyond conventional learning to instill values that form the foundation of responsible and compassionate citizenship. Rotary Shiksha Pathshala focuses on value-based education at an early age, recognizing that character building is as important as academic learning. The sessions emphasize key social and personal values such as **Swachh Bharat**, personal hygiene, environmental and water conservation, respect for parents and grandparents, and the inspiring belief that every day is Teacher's Day — a reminder to respect knowledge and those who impart it.

What makes this initiative truly distinctive is its storytelling-driven approach. Led by Rtn. Salil Chopra, the sessions use simple, relatable stories drawn from everyday life to convey powerful messages. These stories resonate deeply with children, making learning joyful, meaningful, and long-lasting. The interactive and age-appropriate format ensures that children not only understand these values but are also encouraged to practice them in their daily routines.

The success of Rotary Shiksha Pathshala is best reflected in the heartfelt response of the children. They eagerly look forward to Rotary's visits, greeting the speaker with



enthusiasm and affectionately calling him "Rotary Uncle." This warm bond highlights the trust Rotary has built within the community and the positive influence it continues to have on young minds.

Through this initiative, Rotary strongly reinforces its commitment to **Basic Education and Literacy, Environmental Sustainability, and Community Development**. By empowering children with values, awareness, and confidence, Rotary Shiksha Pathshala plays a vital role in shaping character and nurturing future citizens who are mindful, responsible, and compassionate.

Rotary firmly believes that **lasting change begins with education rooted in values and empathy**. Sometimes, a simple story told with sincerity can ignite inspiration that lasts a lifetime. Through Rotary Shiksha Pathshala, Rotary continues to sow the seeds of a better, brighter, and more humane tomorrow.

Rtn Salil Chopra is a proud member of RC Chandigarh Midtown and District Advisor CSR for Rotary year 2025-26.



Congratulations



Our Pride with the Pride of Rotary International for the Year 2026-27.

Celebrating Birthday's & Anniversary's

Birthday – Spouse	
Jan 19	R'Ann Seema Sehajpal
Birthday - Rotarian	
Jan 17	Rtn. Mohinder Singh Kamra
Jan 20	Rtn. Indu Luthra
Wedding Anniversaries	
Jan 17	Rtn. Ashish Singla and Sangeeta Singla



PP Rtn Salil Chopra

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