

Reminiscences (Yaadein)

Dr. Vishwas Mehta IAS

Date : 18th September 2026

Time : 6:30pm

Venue : Hotel Shivalik View
Sector 17, Chandigarh



HAVOC IN NEPAL - MAJ. GEN. RAJ MEHTA

The weekly meeting of Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown was called to order by Sergeant-at-Arms PP Rtn. Prem Anand. The proceedings commenced with the National Anthem, rendered by Rtn. Maneesha Gupta and R'Ann Jyotie Sabharwal, followed by a thought-provoking invocation by Rtn. Ashok Puri.

President Rtn. Renu Chopra welcomed the members and took them through the highlights and activities of the week gone by. The meeting then moved to its key feature—the guest address by Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Raj Mehta, who was introduced by Director Club Services, Dr. I.S. Dua.

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Raj Mehta delivered an insightful and thought-provoking presentation on disasters, their far-reaching consequences, and the urgent need for preparedness and prevention. Drawing from major disasters across the world and closer home, he reflected on the events of 9/11 in the United States and shared inspiring stories of the unsung heroes who demonstrated courage and humanity during the tragedy.

The discussion then turned to the Himalayan region, with references to the devastating incidents at Kedarnath, Chamoli, Badrinath and Mana. The recent floods in Nepal were also highlighted as a reminder of the growing vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem. Particular attention was drawn to the risks associated with Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs) and the changing conditions of permafrost.

Maj. Gen. Mehta emphasised that disaster management must move beyond response and recovery towards a proactive and preventive approach. He stressed the importance of greater preparedness, timely sharing of critical data among government agencies, stronger coordination and reducing procedural red tape to ensure faster and more effective disaster response.

As a gesture of appreciation, the guest speaker was honoured with the Golden Jubilee Pin, presented by PP Dr. Balram Gupta. He was also presented with a sapling as a token of gratitude and a symbol of hope and resilience.

The lucky draw was won by PP Rtn. Pallav Mukherjee. Secretary Rtn. Suresh Dhawan announced the names of members who had celebrated their birthdays and anniversaries during the week.

The meeting concluded with a warm vote of thanks by Rtn. Maneesha Gupta, bringing an engaging and enlightening evening to a close.



THE FOUR WAY TEST

of the things we think, say and do

- Is it the **TRUTH**?
- Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



WEEK GONE BY

CELEBRATING EDUCATORS ON INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

To commemorate International Literacy Day, Rotary District 3080 Zone-7 Clubs organised a meaningful **Teachers' Training & Nation Builder Awards** Programme at Blue Bird Senior Secondary School, Sector 16, Panchkula. The programme brought together educators from across the Tricity to celebrate their contribution to education and recognise the vital role they play in shaping the future of society.

The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of the prestigious Nation Builder Awards to 79 outstanding teachers from Tricity schools. The awards acknowledged their dedication, commitment and sustained efforts towards nurturing young minds and strengthening the foundations of education.

The programme commenced with Vande Mataram, the National Anthem, ceremonial lamp lighting and Sarasvati Vandana, creating an atmosphere of respect and inspiration. This was followed by a series of engaging and enriching training sessions designed to address the evolving needs of educators and students.

The sessions covered relevant contemporary themes including resilience and growth mindset, Gullak, AI literacy, stress management and understanding students in the digital era. The discussions encouraged teachers to look at education beyond textbooks and examinations, while equipping them with perspectives and tools relevant to today's rapidly changing educational environment.

The Award Ceremony was graced by Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) Arun Grover, Former Vice Chancellor, Panjab University, and Guest of Honour District Governor Dr. Rita Kalra. Prof. Grover addressed the gathering and shared valuable insights into the evolution and development of the education system in India.

The programme concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks, followed by fellowship lunch. The event was widely appreciated by the participating educators and Rotarians alike, making it a memorable celebration of teachers—the true Nation Builders, whose knowledge, values and dedication continue to shape generations.



दैनिक सवेरा राइम्स

79 शिक्षकों को मिला नेशन बिल्डर अवॉर्ड



नेशन बिल्डर अवॉर्ड समारोह में सम्मानित शिक्षक और रोटरी पदाधिकारी।

सवेरा न्यूज़/संतोष पंचकुला, 8 सितंबर : इंटरनेशनल लिटरसी डे के अवसर पर रोटरी डिस्ट्रिक्ट 3080 के जेन-7 क्लबों की ओर से सितंबर-16 तिथि तक चले 79 शिक्षकों को नेशन बिल्डर अवॉर्ड प्रदान किया गया। समारोह में ट्राईस्टी के विभिन्न स्कूलों के 79 उत्कृष्ट शिक्षकों को शिक्षक और समाज के प्रति उनके उत्कृष्ट योगदान के लिए सम्मानित किया गया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत श्री महाराम, संप्रदाय, दीप प्रज्ज्वालन और सरस्वती वंदना से हुई। शिक्षक प्रतिभागियों में शिक्षक और प्रमुख शिक्षक, गुरुकुल, एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन, न्याय प्रबंधन और डिजिटल युग में शिक्षकों को सम्मानित करने वाले विषयों पर जानकारी दी गई। समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि प्रो. (डॉ.) अरुण ग्रोवर, पूर्व कुलपति, पंचकुला विश्वविद्यालय और विशेष अतिथि डिस्ट्रिक्ट गवर्नर डॉ. रीता कलरा मौजूद थीं। प्रो. ग्रोवर ने शिक्षकों को संबोधित करते हुए भारत में शिक्षक व्यवस्था के विकास से जुड़े महत्वपूर्ण विचार साझा किए।

PROJECT ANNAPURNA – NOURISHING BODIES, INSPIRING MINDS AT MAAJRI CHOWK, PANCHKULA



Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown organised Project Annapurna at Majri Chowk, Panchkula, bringing together the spirit of service, compassion and education for 120 children of Samarpan. The initiative was not only about serving a wholesome meal but also about spending meaningful time with the children and sharing values that can guide them in their journey towards a better future.

A warm and nutritious meal was served as langar to all 120 children, along with a few mothers present at the centre. President Rtn. Renu Chopra, Rtn. Prem Anand, Rtn. Salil Chopra, Secretary Rtn. Suresh Dhawan, Joint Secretary Brig. Dr. J.S. Sabharwal, and R'Ann Madhu Dhawan actively participated in serving the children. Their presence added warmth and personal involvement to the service initiative, reflecting Rotary's belief that true service is best experienced by being personally present among those we serve.

The Annapurna initiative was complemented by a session on moral values and education conducted by Rtn. Salil Chopra. After a long gap, reconnecting with the children was an especially touching experience. The teachers shared that the children had missed his stories and remembered the earlier sessions with affection. Their enthusiasm and eagerness to listen once again demonstrated how stories can become powerful tools for learning and character-building. The central story of the day was titled "What Does the Cow Give?" When asked the question, the children immediately responded, "Milk!" The story of a father and his three sons then took the discussion deeper. The children were made to understand that a cow does not simply "give" milk on its own. It has to be cared for, served and milked, often requiring considerable effort, discipline and even waking up in the early hours of the morning. Without that effort and care, the expected milk would not be obtained.

The simple story carried a powerful message: nothing worthwhile comes automatically in life. Whether it is education, success, financial independence or a better future, one has to work for it. The children were encouraged to develop the habit of working hard, learning continuously and taking responsibility for their own future.

The programme concluded with smiles, interaction and a renewed sense of connection. Project Annapurna was therefore much more than a meal—it was an effort to nourish both body and mind, while planting seeds of confidence, discipline, hard work and self-reliance in young lives.



PROJECT SAKHA – A GESTURE OF COMPASSION

Under Project Sakha, Rotary Club Chandigarh Midtown organised a nutritional support distribution drive at the Government Dispensary, Hallo Majra, extending care, compassion and encouragement to patients undergoing treatment for tuberculosis (TB). The initiative focussed on the important role of nutrition in supporting patients during their treatment journey. A total of 70 TB patients from Hallo Majra, Raipur Khurd, Ram Darbar and Behlana were covered under the project. While 45 patients were present at the dispensary, 25 packets containing Protinex and other nutritional supplements were handed over to the Dispensary Incharge for distribution among the remaining beneficiaries.

The presence and support of President Rtn. Renu Chopra, Rtn. Salil Chopra and Rtn. Naveen Agarwal added warmth and significance to the initiative. Their participation reflected the Club's continued commitment to reaching communities that need support and ensuring that service goes beyond material assistance.

Project Sakha is not merely about providing nutritional supplements; it is about reminding patients that they are not alone in their journey. Through such initiatives, Rotary seeks to combine nutrition with empathy, dignity with care, and assistance with hope.

The drive reaffirmed Rotary's belief that meaningful service is created through consistent efforts to stand beside people in times of need. By supporting TB patients with essential nutritional supplements and compassionate outreach, Project Sakha continues to strengthen the spirit of community care and responsible citizenship.



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- अपने स्वयं अग्रणी की ओर प्रभावशाली बनने में
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"Rotary Hands for Nepal - Flood Relief."

Last date of September 20, 2026.
Clubs donating 1 Lakh and more shall get a special recognition from District at 13th Seminar at Regina, Atlanta.

*Celebrating Birthday's
& Anniversary's*



	Birthday - Rotarian
Sep 08	PP Dr. Sanjay Kalra

PP Rtn Salil Chopra

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